



# Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, November 18, 2021

## Removing pillars will return river to natural course

### Joint project involves private landowners, city, county, state and federal agencies

**By Mavis Fodness**

A joint public-private project will restore a portion of the Rock River back to its natural course.

The city of Luverne and two private land owners are working with state and federal agencies to remove six former railway pillars in the Rock River south of the Luverne City Park.

Planning began in 2018 and work will be completed this fall.

The Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are also involved.

Partners for Fish and Wildlife is funding the majority of the \$25,000 project. The DNR is funding the rest.

"We want the stream to do what the stream naturally wants to do," said Scott Ralston with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Windom.

"Unfortunately, some human structures get in the way."

Officials estimate the existing pillars in the early 1900s supported a railroad bridge over the Rock River.

The railroad ceased to exist in the 1940s, and while the decking and the rails were removed, the sandstone pillars remained.

The current railway bridge is 130 feet north of the abandoned pillars, which have multiple owners.

The pillar in the center of the Rock River is owned by the DNR. Three pillars to the west of center are owned by the city of Luverne, and the two remaining eastern pillars are owned by Mike and Karen Mensen.

Together, the pillars have caused a sandbar to develop in front of the central pillar, which now directs water toward the river's eastern bank.

It's creating a "scour hole" that is gradually eroding the river bank adjacent to land owned by the Mensons and neighbor Robert Verhey.

Doug Bos of the Rock County Land Management said the sandstone pillars have for decades prevented sand and other debris from freely traveling down



Mavis Fodness photo/1118 Rock River Bank Project

Pillars in the Rock River south of the Luverne City Park are reminders of a former railroad bridge that was abandoned in 1940. While the rail and decking were removed years ago, the sandstone pillars remained and have impeded the river's flow for decades, prompting sandbars.



The Rock River splits around former railroad pillars and into the earthen banks. The banks, especially the eastern side, are eroding at a fast rate. Experts hope removing the pillars and repairing the east bank will improve the river's natural flow.

the river.

During weather events the pillars create a "fire hose effect" that blasts water into the riverbank. "It's a project that needs to be done," Bos said. "It's good for it to be done."

Stone from the pillars will be used as riprap along the scour hole area to lessen the soil erosion along the river banks.

The pillars are blocks of stone and are arranged in configurations that are 6 feet wide and range in length from 17 to 24 feet and are about 3 to 4 feet below the lowest point in the Rock River.

The estimated 298 cubic yards of stone may be enough to complete the 150 feet of riprap on the river's eastern bank.

A sandbar that developed as a result of the pillars is expected to be used to get equipment up to the sandstone structures. With the pillars gone, nature will reclaim the sandbar

**Rock River pillar removal/see page 2A**

## Veterans Day speaker shares analogy of wolves, sheep and sheep dogs

**By Lori Sorenson**

Community members, veterans, students and staff gathered in Luverne Middle School-High School Thursday afternoon for a Veterans Day program in the Performing Arts Center.

Minnesota National Guardsman Jeff Thacker spoke about military service and what it means to serve.

Thacker, who has been deployed numerous times overseas, shared an analogy of wolves, sheep and sheep dogs.

He said the wolves are predators, much like ISIS, al-Qaeda or the Taliban, and the sheep are defenseless civilians.

The sheep dogs, he said are there to defend the flock. "Military members are like sheep dogs, willing to lay down their lives for the defenseless," Thacker said.

"They have a powerful willingness and desire to serve something greater than themselves."

He said veterans are the sheep dogs, the heroes who have stood guard to keep those they love safe.

**Veterans Day program/see 2A**



Lori Sorenson photos/1118 veterans day at school

Minnesota National Guardsman Jeff Thacker takes the microphone at Thursday's Veterans Day Program in the school Performing Arts Center.

## City installs cameras at park, Redbird Field and other areas

**By Lori Sorenson**

The city spent more than \$38,000 on security cameras for Luverne city park and surrounding areas.

The camera systems were purchased from Computer Clinic in Luverne, and the price doesn't include labor.

Cameras will be placed at the park, the power plant, the wastewater treatment plant, west and south substations, Redbird Field and the downtown parking lot.

The security camera investment was prompted in part due to thousands of dollars worth of vandalism to Christmas displays at the park last year.

Vandals were caught and prosecuted; however, the council discussed the need for cameras there and in other areas of town.

"We're entering the age of, yes, we want to know what's going on," City Administrator John Call explained at the Oct. 26 meeting.

"We've invested a lot of money in the wastewater plant and a lot of money in the electric plant, and we have a wonderful city and chamber event down at the city park this winter."

The security system recently approved by the council will have the capability of allowing users to review camera footage to see what activity was previously captured.

The camera installation comes as businesses, individuals and organizations are beginning to put up their Christmas displays at the park for the Nov. 28 fireworks and park lighting event.



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Meetings

**Rock County Caregivers Support Group** will meet at 4 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 23. For information call Linda Wenzel at A.C.E. of SW MN, 507-283-5064.

**Blue Mound Cemetery Association** will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, in the home of Dick and Dolly Remme.

### Free food offered Nov. 18

New Life Celebration Church will offer free food at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Generations Building on East Lincoln Street in Luverne. Vehicles should enter the west parking lot from Lincoln Street and drive to the double glass doors on the west side of the building where volunteers will load groceries into cars. Walkers receive their pre-packaged groceries on the east side of the building. Call 507-283-4366.

### Free food for seniors Nov. 18

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 and older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SW MN will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, as a drive thru distribution in the parking lot at 319 E. Lincoln, Luverne. Pre-registration is required. Call Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064.

### Free Thanksgiving community meal Nov. 24

The United Methodist Church in Luverne will host a free Thanksgiving community meal at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 24. A pickup option available. All are welcome.

### Festival of Nativities Dec. 4

St. John Lutheran Church will host a Festival of Nativities from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4. More than 100 handcrafted nativities of every size and shape — international, children's sets and more — will be on display to walk through and enjoy. Refreshments will be served, and commemorative gifts will be handed out while supplies last. Free admission and handicap accessible. Location is 803 N. Cedar St., Luverne.

### Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection week is Nov. 15-22, and boxes can be ordered online at [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org) or picked up at the American Reformed Church where they can be dropped off Nov. 15-22. Call Karen Bosch, 605-413-9676, or Charla Sandbulte, 507-227-1722.

### De-Light-Ful 5K/1 Mile run

The De-Light-Ful 5K/1 Mile run will be at 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 27, at the Luverne Armory Race day registration is from 5 to 5:30 p.m. or online <https://runsignup.com>. Contact Dave at [dduffy@daymon.com](mailto:dduffy@daymon.com) or 507-920-3345.

### Community Ed offerings

Luverne Community Education will offer the following classes and activities. Call 507-283-4724 or visit the website: [comed.isd2184.net](http://comed.isd2184.net)

**Men's Basketball** meets Wednesday nights through February. Fee is \$45 for the 4 months.

**Bread Baking** on Dec. 11 shows how easy it is to make your own bread at home. Fee is \$10. All supplies furnished.

### Library happenings

For more information call 507-449-5040 or email at [rockcountystaff@gmail.com](mailto:rockcountystaff@gmail.com)

**Trivia Night** is at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of every month at Take 16 in Luverne. Team registration begins at 6 p.m.

**Reminiscence Kits** are available featuring various topics such as gardening, pets, baking, sewing, farming and hunting. The kits are designed to use with a loved one experiencing memory loss, encouraging the loved one to open up about activities they once loved in the past.



Lori Sorenson photo/1118 big top tents and events ribbon cutting

## Big Top Tents and Events celebrates ribbon-cutting

Big Top Tents and Events celebrated a ribbon-cutting event Saturday night with an open house event that included food and live music by the Sioux Falls cover band, 10 Miles From Nowhere. Pictured at the ribbon-cutting are (from left) Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere, Andrew Hamann, Jordan Smidt, Baylee Smidt (with scissors), Chamber assistant Amber Lais, Stacey Smidt, Jeris Niemeier, Belle Smidt, Makayla Sterrett, Kaden Erickson and Chamber board member Cris Oeltjenbruns. Jordan and Stacey Smidt bought the tent business from Mike Jarchow in 2015 and in 2019 expanded to include portable bathroom rentals. In 2020 the business moved into the former Bomgaars building where it expanded to offer indoor event space and a 40-by-40-foot outdoor patio. Renovations were completed this year.

## Veterans Day program/from 1A

In his address Thursday, Thacker recognized sacrifices military families make when loved ones are deployed.

"These deployments have a profound impact on families," he said, listing "firsts" and major events that deployed service people miss back home.

And he encouraged people to consider service to others.

"It doesn't have to be in the military," he said. "It may be as a volunteer fireman, law enforcement officer, paramedic, EMT, doctor, nurse or a teacher. There is no better way to live a life of purpose and in that purpose their meaning and joy."

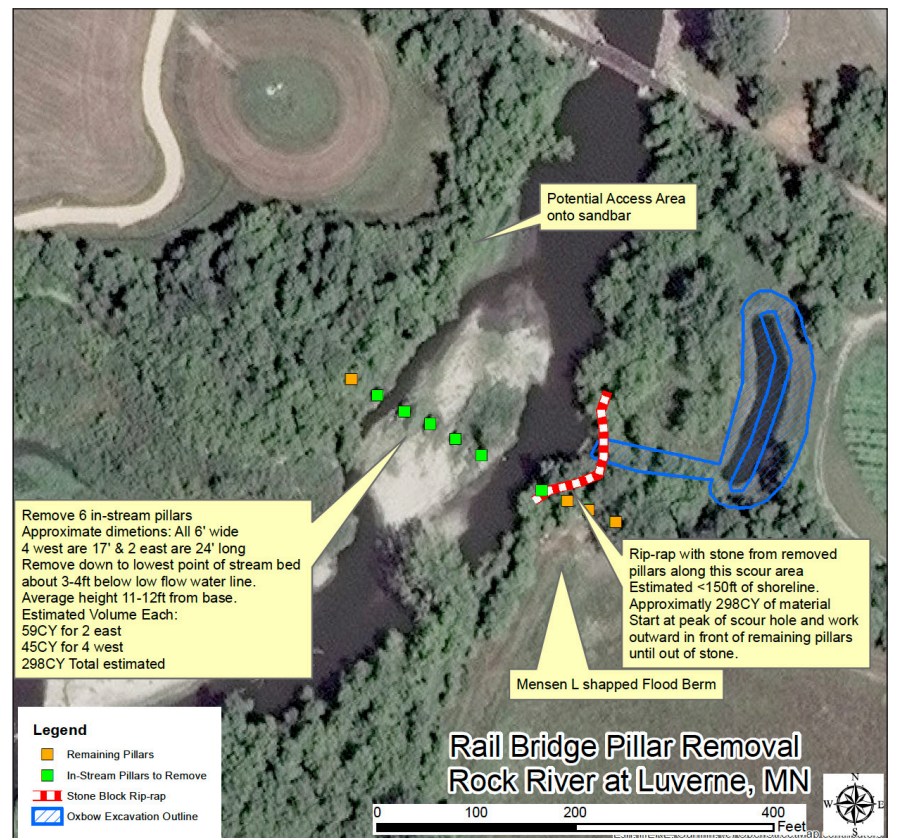
He encouraged people to thank veterans and to visit with them about their service in the military.

"More important than asking what they did, ask how it changed them and formed them," Thacker said.

"You might be surprised to learn something about the sacrifices people are willing to make to serve the greatest country on the planet, the United States of America."

When it was pointed out that Thacker had served overseas and was not welcomed home as a hero, he received a standing ovation in order to provide that hero's welcome.

Thursday's program included music by the Luverne High School band and choir and posting and retiring of colors by the Rock County Color Guard, which included the Luverne and Hardwick American Legion and the Rock County VFW.



Map courtesy of Rock County Soil and Water Conservation Service

This fall a joint project between landowners, city of Luverne, Rock County Soil and Water Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will result in the removal of six former railroad bridge pillars to improve the Rock River's natural flow.

## Rock River pillars/from page 1A

over time as the Rock River moves back to a more natural course.

Versteeg Excavating of Luverne was awarded the bid. His \$25,000 bid was the lowest of three submissions.

Other recent Rock River projects in this area include the 2010 low head dam removal and

construction of rock riffles to ease the water flow.

In 2019 an oxbow restoration project on the Verhey property eased flooding of farm fields.

An L-shaped flood berm was constructed on the Mensen property to protect their nearby residence.

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Mavis Fodness photo/1118 Amy Sahly TOY 2022

Amy Sahly explains she spent two years next to the construction of the new middle-high school commons and, ironically, she's the first Teacher of the Year recipient in the new facility.



Mavis Fodness photo/1118 Main Street Financial FOE 2022

Lucy Rofshus (far left), the 2021 LEA Teacher of the Year, presents the Friend of Education plaque to Nancy Van De Berg and owner of Main Street Financial Services for their continued support of public education. Also pictured with Van De Berg and also with Main Street Financial are Teresa Hup and David Riphagen.

## Sahly named 2022 LEA Teacher of the Year

By Mavis Fodness

Surprise and gratitude emanated from high school English teacher Amy Sahly as she accepted the 2022 Luverne Education Association Teacher of the Year plaque Monday afternoon in the new middle-high school commons.

"I was surprised," Sahly said after the ceremony. "We have so many great teachers in Luverne that every year it could be anybody."

The 2021 recipient, Lucy Rofshus, was matron of ceremonies for the annual event that honors teachers on the first day of American Education Week. The rest of the week is dedicated to other employee groups.

"Public schools are the cornerstones of our communities," Rofshus said. "During American Education Week, we celebrate public education and show our appreciation for the men and women who make a difference in students' lives every day."

As is tradition, the introduction of the new teacher honoree was made by reading comments from the nomination forms:

"They are a dedicated educator who knows her content well and also knows how to de-

liver the content in a way that is engaging for students."

"They build a culture of high expectations and respect for learning in her classroom and those expectations of excellence impact other classes and our school overall."

"Students enjoy her sometimes quirky passion for her subject matter and her fun, yet serious, personality overall."

Sahly, who grew up in Sioux Falls and graduated from Lincoln High School, knew at a young age she wanted to be a teacher, following in the footsteps of her mother and maternal grandmother.

"I liked how every day has both variety and routine — each class period is different, but each day follows the same structure," she said. "I like both the predictability and unpredictability, if that makes sense."

Originally, Sahly focused on becoming a French teacher, but in college the writing and speaking in English was easier and she switched her major.

Luverne High School has been her first and only school in which she has taught. She was hired 22 years ago and teaches grades 11-12 English and advanced placement literature classes.

"This was actually my first job interview," she said. "I was very fortunate to get this position right out of college and have always been happy with my decision to teach here."

As a child with an English teacher as a mother, Sahly developed a love of reading and "losing myself in other worlds and having experiences I could never have in real life." She tries to keep that level of energy and surprise when teaching.

"There is a certain amount of drama that I think helps get students fired up about literature," she said. "I have sort of trained myself to 'forget' what is coming next in whatever we are reading, so that if one character betrays another or someone unexpectedly dies, I can be surprised all over again with the kids, which makes it more interesting both for me and them."

Sahly takes the passion for teaching into her membership with the LEA.

"The LEA is so important because everyone has opinions on teaching, but the only people who really understand what it is like in the classroom are other teachers," she said.

"Whenever we needed to change gears for covid or construction and whatever else, everyone in the LEA pulled together and made sure no one got left behind, which really means a lot."

With her more than two decades in Luverne, Sahly now has colleagues, who are former students. She continues to be their teacher in becoming a mentor for the next generation of instructors.

"I have quite a few students in class now whose parents I had as students, which amazes me because I truly don't feel like I've been teaching for that long — I still remember being nervous and new and unsure of where things were or how to do things," she said.

Sahly also shares her love of quilting with students, offering a hand sewing enrichment flex option that most don't expect from an English teacher.

## Support to schools earns 'friend' award by Main Street Financial

By Mavis Fodness

The Luverne Education Association honored Main Street Financial Services as the 2022 Friend of Education.

An ice cream social Monday afternoon also revealed the 2022 Teacher of the Year (see related story) and kicked off American Education Week in Luverne schools.

Annually the LEA group nominates an outside individual or group who supports public education within the school district.

Nominations praised Main Street Financial and owner Nancy Van De Berg for many years of support for Luverne Public Schools.

"Main Street Financial has funded speakers in the past that have been at our school to enjoy," one person wrote in a nomination. "They are very willing to support Luverne Schools and help in any way."

For many years, Main Street Financial has given "thousands of dollars" to sponsor the annual kindness, respect and courage retreats, and Van De Berg herself is a second-year mentor in the high school's Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities program.

Van De Berg said her staff (which has two children in Luverne Elementary School and graduated 11 children from LHS) helps decide where donations are directed and have supported providing extra educational opportunities in Luverne.

"We are a supporter of positive role models and encouraging others to be the best that they could be,"

Van De Berg said.

"The programs we are sponsoring at school center on encouragement, being a positive role model, having the courage to step out of the box and also the courage to do the right thing — especially when it isn't popular — treating others with kindness and respect. These attributes have gotten me and our entire team to where we are today."

Van De Berg said education continues to be important to the business she purchased in 2016. Each of her staff brought to the business skills to be lifelong students.

"Much studying was required to obtain the insurance and securities licenses that each one of us holds, and each was gained to fulfill a need within our business," she said.

Van De Berg recalls as an LHS senior she participated in the school's vocational program, where she and two other students worked at Tri-State Insurance in Luverne.

The experience allowed Van De Berg to gain an interest in business. She wants to give that same experience to young people in her role as a mentor.

"There were many role models in my life and so much encouragement, and many life lessons were learned from each one," Van De Berg said.

"I want to give back and be able to encourage a young person to think out of the box, take chances they many not take, and gain a lifelong friendship."



Mavis Fodness photo/1118 Amy Sahly TOY 2022

Surprising Luverne High School English teacher Amy Sahly (center) as she received the 2022 LEA Teacher of the Year award Monday afternoon were her friends and family. Pictured from left are her brother, Eric Sahly, mom, Jane Sahly, dad, Steve Sahly, sister, Ann Sahly, sister-in-law, Alison Sahly, and friend, Susie Kosec (holding Seraphina).

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*Talking trash:*  
**What's in your wastebasket?**



**ON SECOND THOUGHT**

By Lori Sorenson, editor

I clearly can't be trusted alone in the office with leftover Halloween candy.

This was evidenced last week during general office cleaning when contents of our wastebaskets were emptied.

And apparently examined. And judged.

As it turns out, my trash speaks volumes about my willpower — or lack thereof.

Following the Nov. 1 Trunk 'N Treat event, the Star Herald ended up with leftover Halloween candy, which included chocolate.

Kit Kat candy bars are my favorite, as was evidenced by the dozen or so single-serving little red wrappers that accumulated in the wastebasket under my desk.

And, yes, I was publicly shamed by my office mates, some of whom confessed they, too, had candy wrappers in their waste baskets. But I won the prize for having the most wrappers, and thereby had likely consumed the most candy.

My co-workers often place their trash in the wastebasket while passing by my desk, which is centrally located in the office. I considered this defense amid the office teasing, but I knew what I had done.

One late Monday night on deadline, I hadn't planned for supper and hunger pangs got the best of me.

At first I ate one single-serving, individually wrapped, chocolate-covered cookie Kit Kat. Then two. Each time getting out of my chair and walk-

ing to the plastic bowl on the counter to retrieve more.

Then I somehow must have deemed it more resourceful to bring a handful to my desk.

I must have spent as much time opening wrappers as I did editing news.

It certainly wasn't a proud moment, especially when the evidence was laid bare later that week.

It got me thinking about forensic science and the role of garbage in cracking a case.

We've all seen the CSI episodes where gloved detectives sort through household trash and alley dumpsters to learn about their suspects.

I have since come to learn there is an entire field of study devoted to trash analytics.

Called "garbology" it's the "careful observation and study of the waste products produced by a population of people, in order to learn about that population's activities in areas such as waste disposal and food consumption."

Similar to archeology, garbology considers pieces of trash as "valuable and interesting artifacts from which many inferences about their source can be drawn."

What does your garbage say about you?

The lesson learned from my own experience is simple: Next time you succumb to a late-night chocolate binge, disperse the evidence in your co-workers' wastebaskets.

**It's Education Week; consider less criticism and more gratitude**

**STAR HERALD EDITORIAL**

Have you thanked a teacher lately? If not, you should. And while you're at it, you might thank a school administrator, support staff and school board member.

Few people are undertaking the challenges these folks face on a daily basis.

They literally have the lives of our children in their hands, yet we often don't consider what that's like and what it means for the individuals on the job at school.

This week is American Education Week, and given the pandemic atmosphere in our school hallways, classrooms and board rooms, it might be a good time for a little more gratitude and a little less criticism.

It's always a good thing to have parents and community members involved in students and contributing to discussion about the district's wellbeing.

We've watched the conversation about masks and vaccines unfold in local media and in public listening sessions, and it's clear that our parents and community members very much care about

our students.

But what about our teachers and staff?

How are they affected by the policies and decisions that affect their classrooms? Ultimately, they're on the front lines of pandemic-related outcomes, but it seems their voices in the discussion are relatively muted.

Rules are made and our teachers and staff implement them. ... and live with the consequences of dozens of students in close quarters wearing no face coverings. Despite vaccines, Covid exposures have sickened several teachers and staff, some of them for weeks at a stretch.

Would they have contracted the virus among a masked student body? Maybe, maybe not.

But caving to parents' demands

to remove a mask requirement in school was essentially a decision to increase teachers' exposure and their odds for being harmed.

Teachers' work is demanding enough outside of a pandemic environment. Many of us wouldn't last a day in their shoes. Expecting them to perform their duties — shaping the lives of our children — without basic protections is expecting a lot.

Our district leaders had reasons for the decisions they've made under pressure, so this isn't a time to lament water under the bridge.

During National Education Week, we can at the very least be grateful ... for caring and attentive teachers and staff and for sincere, well-intentioned administrators and board members at the helm of a ship in very stormy waters.



**'If we see birds, that is a successful hunt in my book; a really successful hunt ...'**

This weekend marks the half-way point of the 2021 pheasant hunting season, so that means the really good hunting is about to begin.

So far, however, pheasant hunting in Rock County is about as good as this year as it has been in many years, if not better.

My 5-year-old English setter, Otis, and Hazel, my 12-year-old German Wirehair, have hunted three of the four new Rock County walk-in parcels and one WMA spot in Nobles County.

We have had success everytime out. In the spirit of full disclosure, my idea of success may be different from that of other hunters.

If we see birds, that is a successful hunt in my book. A really successful hunt is when my dogs point a bird, and if it's a rooster and when it flushes, I do my part to shoot the rooster, and the dogs find it and retrieve it.

A couple of weeks ago the dogs and I were hunting one of the new walk-in lands south of Magnolia. We had been hunting about an hour



**FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH**

By Rick Peterson, general manager

or so and had kicked up a few hens along the way.

Once the hens took flight, they landed a ways away on the other side of a waterway. I figured if they're landing over there, there might be a rooster or two on that side of the water.

To get to the other side of the water, we would have to make about a quarter mile walk back to the road to cross the water that way.

Keep in mind, Hazel is 12 and at this point in the hunt she was done and pretty much just following behind me through the tall grass.

About a quarter mile in on the other side of the water, now walking along some bean stubble next to the water, Otis looked up with a

rock-solid point.

I approached Otis from the downwind side, and once I was standing next to him, I gave him the release command. He lunged forward and a big rooster took flight.

Now it was time for me to do my part, and as luck would have it, with one pull of the trigger the rooster's getaway flight ended.

As bad luck would have it, the downed rooster landed about 20 yards on the other side of the waterway. I was pretty sure the bird came down dead, but in heavy cover. The waterway banks on both sides were steep and the current was moving along at a nice clip.

A quick conference with the dogs and the three of us decided

it would be best if we made the quarter mile hike back to the road to cross back over to the other side of the waterway, hike back in about a quarter mile, and try to find the rooster.

Even though Hazel was out of gas, she wasn't about to sit this one out. By the time we made it back to where I thought the bird might be, maybe 45 minutes had passed.

Hazel has always been my strongest find and retrieve dog, but at her advanced age I wasn't really counting on her help. We searched for maybe 20 minutes to a half hour for that bird to no avail.

It was starting to get dark and we still had to make the quarter mile hike back to the truck.

We had given it our best effort, but the bird was lost. I was going to give the dogs a drink of water before we headed back.

I looked down at Hazel and she was lying on the grass and really shaking. I thought she was having a seizure or a stroke. I called her name but she didn't look up at me.

It was like she was in a daze.

Then she stuck her head in a patch of grass right in front of her and brought the rooster out. I can't begin to tell you how awesome that was.

I put the bird in the game pouch in the back of my hunting jacket and we all started back to the truck.

Otis took the lead, still hunting until the end, and I followed him while bursting with pride and Hazel followed behind me.

As we neared the truck, I reach back to pull the bird out of my jacket only to find out it was gone. It must have fallen out somewhere along the way.

I turned around to go back and look for the bird, and again I noticed Hazel wasn't behind me. A couple of minutes later, about 15 yards away, Hazel appeared with the bird in her mouth. She looked up at me as if to say, "How many times do I have to find the bird?"

At her age that may well be the last bird Hazel retrieves, but it will be one I'll never forget.

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

## ON THE RECORD

### Dispatch report

**Nov. 5**  
 •Complainant on Blue Mound Avenue reported a camera outage.  
 •Complainant on S. East Park Street reported two abandoned bikes.  
 •Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported identity theft.  
 •Moody County Sheriff's office requested assistance with pursuit on 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Jasper.  
 •Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, exit 18, Magnolia, reported a cooler on the roadway.  
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a possible drunk driver.

**Nov. 6**  
 •Complainant on Blue Mound Avenue reported a camera outage.  
 •Complainant in Hills reported hearing an explosion in Hills.

**Nov. 7**  
 •Deputy out with two people on foot near location on S. Kniss Avenue.  
 •Complainant on E. Main Street reported a black Ford Mustang speeding.  
 •Complainant on 110<sup>th</sup> Street, Luverne, reported a child driving a vehicle.  
 •Complainant on Oak Drive reported suspicious activity.  
 •Complainant on S. West Park Street reported neighbor blew leaves into his yard.

**Nov. 8**  
 •Complainant on E. Warren Street reported a noise complaint.  
 •Complainant on W. Warren Street reported a runaway/probation violation.  
 •Complainant on Highway 75 and 131<sup>st</sup> Street, Luverne, reported a fire hydrant down at location.  
 •Complainant on Blue Mound Avenue reported security camera outage.  
 •Complainant on S. Freeman Avenue reported illegal burning.  
 •Complainant on W. Mead Court requested deputy to post notice.  
 •Complainant on Carol Street reported vandalism to her vehicle.  
 •Complainant on 111<sup>th</sup> Street reported vandalism at location.  
 •Complainant on Interstate 90, mile marker 12, Luverne, reported vehicle driving with no taillights.  
 •Complainant on N. Blue Mound Avenue reported blackmail.  
 •Complainant on 41<sup>st</sup> Street and 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hills,

reported railroad crossing arms down.  
 •Complainant on 61<sup>st</sup> Street, Luverne, reported active trespassing.

**Nov. 9**  
 •Complainant on W. Main Street reported a property ownership issue.  
 •Complainant on W. Main Street reported property damage.  
 •Complainant on County Road 6, Hills, reported nuisance ordinance violation.  
 •Complainant on 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported ditch fire at location.  
 •Complainant on 251<sup>st</sup> Street and State Highway 23, Jasper, reported a vehicle struck a power pole at location.

**Nov. 10**  
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a trespassing issue.  
 •Property was lost at location.  
 •Complainant on W. Main Street reported vandalism.

**Nov. 11**  
 •Complainant on Interstate 90, near Luverne, reported a semitrailer swerving on the roadway.  
 •Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 16, Magnolia, reported a vehicle with no taillights.  
 •Winter weather advisory was issued.  
 •Complainant west-bound on Interstate 90, mile marker 16, Luverne, reported a driving complaint.  
 •Complainant on W. Main Street requested to speak to a deputy.  
 •Extra patrol was requested on W. Main Street.  
 •Complainant in San Gabriel, California, reported fraudulent use of an account.  
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a suspicious vehicle.  
 •Complainant on Oak Drive reported a lost wallet.  
 •Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported suspicious activity.  
 •Complainant on E. Lincoln Street reported suspicious activity.

In addition, officers responded to 3 motor vehicle accidents, 7 deer accidents, 1 transport, 1 escort, 10 ambulance runs, 6 paper services, 11 animal complaints, 3 burn permits, 3 alarms, 3 drug court tests, 3 purchase and carry permits, 9 traffic stops, 16 abandoned 911 calls, 3 tests, 4 welfare checks, 2 reports of cattle out and 3 OPP's.

## Biomass facility to operate next to Gevo, will increase available feedstocks

Officials with Gevo Inc. announced Tuesday their intent to bring a new project to the Luverne processing site.

While plans are still at an early stage, they anticipate that Sweetwater Energy Inc. will co-locate a biomass processing facility on site in Luverne.

According to the memorandum of understanding, Sweetwater plans to build, own and operate a facility adjacent to Gevo's existing plant in Luverne.

It would produce high-value, plant-based products from cellulose and lignin while supplying Gevo with up to 30,000 tons of biomass-derived cellulosic sugars annually, with opportunities for expansion.

Sweetwater's anticipated plant-based products, derived from cellulose and lignin, is targeted for packaging, resins and other applications, while displacing petroleum-based products.

Gevo plans to use the offtake of the low-cost, cellulosic sugars co-produced by Sweetwater for the anticipated production of cellulosic alcohols and renewable hydrocarbons.

"We're very excited to work with Gevo," said Arunas Chesonis, chairman and CEO of Sweetwater Energy.

"This partnership fits perfectly with our goal for the company — replacing petroleum products with renewable solutions at a price point so low that making the right decision for the planet is also the right decision for our customers. This is the beginning of a collaboration that will pay very



Construction could begin as early as next fall on a new biomass facility next to Gevo in Luverne. It will increase the types of feedstock used in the Luverne Gevo plant to include qualified wood products and agricultural residues.

real dividends for present and future generations."

Gevo was the first company to demonstrate conversion of cellulosic sugars to make sustainable aviation fuel meeting the ASTM D7566 specification allowing it to be used for commercial flights.

The company expects it can be commercialized effectively when cost-effective sources of these sugars meet sustainability goals. In addition, cellulosic D3 RINs are high value and create an opportunity for Gevo to leverage its Luverne plant with anticipated better returns to make higher value products that are in demand in the marketplace.

Sweetwater plans to increase the types of feedstock used in the Luverne plant to include qualified wood products and agricultural residues.

Construction of the Sweetwater facility adjacent to the Luverne facility is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2022.

"Combining forces with Sweetwater is a great way to leverage the best technology and resources from both parties to expand our addressable feedstocks to produce cellulosic alcohols and energy dense hydrocarbon fuels and plant-based products," said Dr. Paul Bloom, chief carbon and innovation officer of Gevo.

"Working together, we anticipate delivering products to the market faster while decreasing risk throughout the value chain and lowering overall product carbon intensities. This is an important step to expand the portfolio of carbohydrates we intend to process to include cellulosic sugars that represent a huge amount of feedstock globally."

## 75 Diner named Pork Challenge winner

The Rock County Pork Producers announced the name of the 2021 We Love Pork Challenge at a reception for all the participating restaurants on Monday, Nov. 15, at Take 16 Brewing Company.

The winner this year is Codie Deutsch and her team at 75 Diner.

Their winning pork dish, "The Morning Oinker," featured hand-patties sausage drizzled with maple syrup, topped with brown-sugared bacon, shaved ham, American cheese and scrambled egg on grilled Texas toast. It was served with sides of homemade sausage gravy dipping sauce and hash browns.

Seven competing restaurants vied for the trophy, which was presented



Kevin Barnhart of the Rock County Pork Producers presents the We Love Pork Challenge trophy to Codie Deutsch of 75 Diner Monday night during an awards reception at Take 16 in Luverne.

Monday night by Kevin Barnhart.

During the competition (Oct. 4 through Nov. 8) over 500 pork meals were served to diners throughout the county, and they selected "The Morning Oinker" as this year's winner.

With support from the Rock County Pork Producers and the participating restaurants, 70 of those 500 pork meal diners received \$10 dining gift cards.

Other participating restaurants include the Green Lantern in Hardwick, Hidden Hills Cafe in Hills, the Howling Dog Saloon, Springbrooke Events, Sterling's Cafe and Vinnie's Dang Fine Dine.

## Thank you!

To everyone who has given during the Max Your Community event, our double hearts at LACF are filled with gratitude. **Together we raised \$75,000 of our \$100,000 goal.** We could not have done that without you. Donations were received from every community in the county. We hope that you had a chance to listen in to the live radio broadcast on KQAD 800 and understand that when you invest in the Luverne Area Community Foundation you are partnering with others to create impactful opportunities for the people who live here.

**If you didn't get a chance to Max Your Community there is still time. Let's hit that \$100,000 mark by the end of the year.** Look for the Max Your Community poster in the windows of local business that helped support our campaign. Thank them for investing in your community. Tell your friends that "I Maxed My Community" and it was great investment. Watch for the 2022 grant projects that grow from the gifts you gave this year.

Thank you to the volunteers of the former Rock County Red Arrow campaign who paved the way for community wide giving and have so graciously endorsed LACF to pick up where they left off.

Special thank you to Jay Kelly from K101/KQAD Alphamedia USA for his time and energy hosting our radio broadcast.

*With full hearts,*

Emily Crabtree LACF Executive Director and the LACF Board of directors Isaac Deboer, Mike Engesser, Sharla Reisch, Keith Elbers, Tammy Johnson, Jeff Haubrich, Jim Juhl, Kevin Thelen, Nancy Sandager, Gary Overgaard, Wayne Robinson and Ron Honken

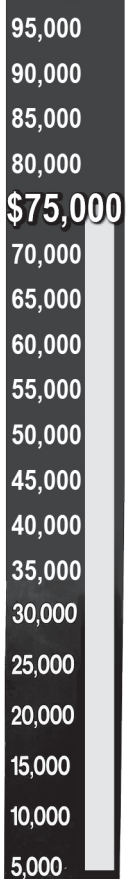
For more information about the Luverne Area Community Foundation go to [www.luvacf.org](http://www.luvacf.org) or Facebook - Luverne Area Community Foundation

**LUVERNE AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
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Lori Sorenson photos/1118 PMP loins

## Thank-you gifts for veterans

Travis Lang and Stephanie Bickerstaff (pictured, at right) with Premium Minnesota Pork worked with local volunteers to distribute 200 donated pork loins to local veterans on Thursday, Nov. 11, to thank them for their service on Veterans Day. Stationed at the History Center parking lot on East Main Street, they handed loins to people who drove up in their vehicles. Later, they distributed pork to the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne and to veterans at Mary Jane Brown-Good Samaritan Center.

**Above:** Bickerstaff (left), County Administrator Kyle Oldre and Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian greet veterans and their families as they drive up for free pork loins.

**Right:** Bonnie and Orv Sundem accept their Premium Minnesota Pork loin.



## CELEBRATIONS

### Open House

**Angela Vortherms** will celebrate her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday at 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 20, at Take 16 in Luverne. Come in your '50s or '70s attire! Food with dance to follow. *Shhh! It's a surprise!*

### Card Shower

**Ron and Anita Boyenga** will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Thursday, Nov. 18. Greetings can be sent to 1665 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Ellsworth, MN 56129.

**Stan and Connie Olson** will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary Thursday, Nov. 25. Greetings can be sent to 406 Elizabeth Ave., Apt. 4, Hills, MN 56138.

## MENU

**Monday, Nov. 22:** Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner roll, dessert.

**Tuesday, Nov. 23:** Beef chili with beans, romaine salad with dressing, corn muffin, blushing pears.

**Wednesday, Nov. 24:** Baked chicken, au gratin potatoes, broccoli florets, bread, dessert.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Ken and Phyllis Vos

**Thursday, Nov. 25:** Happy Thanksgiving—Closed!

**Friday, Nov. 26:** Closed!  
*LSS Dining offers well-balanced and affordable meals in a community atmosphere.*

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

*Gift certificates are available at the meal site or online at [www.lssmn.org/nutrition](http://www.lssmn.org/nutrition).*

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2011)

The record price paid for Rock County agricultural land at a public auction jumped to \$12,4000 Thursday, Nov. 10, as land owned by Robert Kitchenmaster was offered for sale.

The sale broke the \$9,050-per-acre record paid for 160 acres in Mound Township Aug. 24.

Ron Van Ruler was the successful bidder, buying 150 acres of prime farmland three miles east of Hills that had been in the Kitchenmaster family for 70 years.

This is exactly why auctioneer Chuck Sutton told the 50-some bidders, neighbors and onlookers that purchasing land is a chance buyers shouldn't miss.

"If land sells today, they'll tell you it won't be back on the market for 40 or 50 years."

### 25 years ago (1996)

Rock County, frozen under several layers of ice, could use a little sunshine.

After nearly a week of gray skies, freezing rain and a dusting of the white stuff, area residents are hoping to see sunshine soon.

According to Cliff Millsapps, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, this is the worst ice storm the area has seen for two decades. "Basically, I've been here for 15 years, and this is the worst I've seen since I've been here," Millsapps said. "If you talk to the old-timers, they'll tell you it's been longer than that."

Area schools have closed and run late starts since the weather turned ugly Friday. School buses and cars in ditches were good indicators of the wisdom of those cancellations.

### 50 years ago (1971)

Two hundred dressed turkeys, weighing about 8-10 pounds each, will be given away by Luverne business firms this week in one of the biggest pre-Thanksgiving promotions ever conducted by the Luverne Chamber of Commerce.

Registration will be conducted at 50 Luverne business

firms Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Each firm will be giving away from one to 10 birds. Drawing will be held at each individual store or business late Saturday afternoon, winners will be notified.

### 75 years ago (1946)

D. W. Danforth, Luverne, is the new president of the Rock County Fair Association. He was elected at the annual meeting of the organization's directors Monday night of this week. He succeeds L. D. Long who has held the position for the past several years.

Officers re-elected were F. F. Michael, vice president; H. R. Cleland, treasurer, and Herbert Moeller, secretary.

It was reported at the meeting that the new grandstand built this year is valued at \$9,500. This includes the \$1,000 worth of salvage lumber used from the grandstand which blew down in the storm a year ago this past spring.

Despite the fact that no fair was held this year, the debt of the fair association has been reduced from \$9,000 to \$6,500.

This year, checks issued for prizes to 4-H club members amounted to \$247.50. This amount will be returned to the association from state appropriations for this purpose.

### 100 years ago (1921)

R. P. Chase, state auditor, this week distributed \$3,387,129.75, the largest amount of special public school aid ever appropriated by a Minnesota legislature. The distribution is in accordance with Chapter 473 of the laws enacted by the last legislature.

The money is in aid of the various public schools and is distributed on certification of the state board of education under provisions of Chapter 467, Laws 1921. Every county in the state is participating, 242 high schools and special departments receiving \$1,334,566 while 269 graded schools receive \$440,301, consolidated school districts \$756,294, and rural schools \$855,968.75.

## 1905: 'Farmers' Day planned

The following appeared in *The Rock County Herald* on Feb. 3, 1905.

Day for Farmers

Important Meeting at Luverne Feb. 11

Three Sessions to be Held  
Four Speakers from State Institutions Will Discuss Questions of Interest to Farmers and Stock Breeders—Interesting Program Prepared for the Occasion

All arrangements for the "Farmers' Day" which, as announced in these columns last week, is to be held in this city under the auspices of the State Farmers' club on Friday, February 17, have been completed and the assignment of speakers and their topics has been made. The speakers and the subjects on which they will address the meeting are as follows: L. B. Bassett, foreman of the State Experiment Station, on "Rotation of Crops," E. K. Slater, member of the State Dairy commission, on "Dairying on the Grain Farm," D. A. Gaunmitz, professor in Animal Industry at the State Agricultural school, on "The Profitable Hogs," A. K. Bush, who is a former institute lecturer, on "Silo



## BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,  
president Rock County  
Historical Society

and Corn as Forage Crops." In addition to the above the following local speakers will give short addresses; C. E. Older, on "Managing Farm Horses;" L. C. Hodgson, on "Rock County Breeders' Association;" S. B. Nelson, on "Commercial Interests." The meetings will be held in the Opera house and will be divided into three sessions, the first being at 10 o'clock a.m., the second at 1:30 p.m., and the evening session at 7:30. The committee in charge of the affair is now busy making arrangements for a musical program to be given at each session.

## One more gardening job before winter ... wrap trunks of those young trees

Last week's weather convinced me that I am finished with my garden for the 2021 season.

I managed to get 225 new tulip bulbs planted in areas where I wanted more early spring color. I used my cell phone camera to make a video of my flower beds early last spring so when I was ready to plant this fall, I knew exactly where the open spaces were. It will be fun to see that effort rewarded next spring.

As our season moves into winter mode, let me remind



## KNOW IT AND GROW IT

By George Bonnema,  
Luverne Horticulturalist

you to wrap the stems of newly planted trees, particularly smooth bark trees like maples and lindens.

The bark on these trees is very easily damaged by sun scald during the winter. That problem is caused by the

sun reflecting off the snow during cold weather and warming the bark enough to allow moisture to "transpire" out of the tissue. The roots cannot replace that moisture because the ground is frozen. The affected bark tissue dries

out and dies. In spring, when the tree begins to grow, the dead bark cannot expand to accommodate that growth and it splits open, exposing the heartwood beneath.

This damage always shows up on the south or southwest side of the tree.

Wrapping the trunk with paper tree wrap or spiral tree protectors from the ground up to where the branches start will prevent the problem. This protection is necessary particularly for maples until the bark matures enough to develop furrows.

If you have a tree that has experienced this damage, it is especially important to protect the new bark that is trying to close that wound. The tree has an amazing ability to heal itself but will need your help for a few years to avoid the new bark getting sun scald just as happened before.

Another young tree to protect for winter is a flowering crab or apple tree. These trees have bark that is a favorite for rabbits when we have a heavy snow cover and their food options are

limited. They will strip the bark off the trunk without asking permission. That is called girdling and is a death sentence.

Girdling can also be caused by male deer polishing the velvet off their antlers. Their activity shreds the bark and the result is the same. I prefer the plastic or vinyl spiral tree wraps because they are inexpensive, super easy to put on, and can be reused for many years.

*Bonnema is a gardening enthusiast and can be reached at [flowergb@iw.net](mailto:flowergb@iw.net).*

## OBITUARIES

### Tanya Fey

Tanya Lynn Fey, 38, rural Woodstock, died Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021, as the result of a horse accident on the farm.



A funeral service was at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, at the Peace United Methodist Church in Pipestone. Interment will be in the Woodstock Cemetery.

Tanya Lynn Fey was born on Aug. 30, 1983, to Alan and Kelly (Kepler) Jones in Pipestone. She was baptized and confirmed at Peace United Methodist Church in Pipestone where she was a member throughout her life. She grew up in Pipestone and had a love for animals. At the age of 10 years old, Tanya started showing horses in 4-H. Tanya graduated from Pipestone High School in 2001 with a 4.0 GPA.

Tanya attended Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Worthington, where she studied to become a medical lab technician. She did her internship at Tyler Health

Care Center until 2005 when she went to work at Pipestone County Medical Center.

Tanya married Wyatt Fey on June 9, 2007, at the Peace United Methodist Church in Pipestone. They made their home in rural Woodstock and were blessed with three children. In 2013 Tanya started her own home day care and continued it for seven years before beginning to work at Farm Service Agency in Pipestone on March 1, 2020.

Tanya had a passion for horses. She was involved in the Pipestone 4-H, ranch rodeo and in the Pipestone Saddle Club. Tanya was an avid barrel racer and had countless wins and achievements. She also helped with 4-H horse training, taught kids how to rope and ride, and made beautiful tack for horses and for others. She enjoyed life on the farm whether it was doing chores, branding or cleaning the stalls. Tanya taught her children and friends her love of horses and life. She loved

spending time with her family and friends. Tanya was a very proud mother and loved her family.

Tanya is survived by her husband, Wyatt; her children, Josey, Hatty and Wiley; her parents, Alan and Kelly Jones of Pipestone; brother Matt Jones of Flandreau, South Dakota; grandparents Marlis Jones and Judy and Les Hakeneis; parents-in-law Sue and Bernie Uilk; sister-in-law Laisha (Matt) Winter; brothers-in-law Brett Westley, Troy (Jessica) Westley, Brian (Jessica) Uilk, Kevin (Kim) Uilk, Dan (Casey) Uilk, Tony (Christine) Uilk, and all of their families; nine nieces and nephews; many aunts and uncles from the Jones and Fey families; her day care family; and many cousins, other family, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Don Jones, Robert Kepler, and Max and Lloyd Bunker; and her father-in-law, Don Fey.

Arrangements were provided by the Hartquist Funeral Home - Pipestone Chapel, hartquistfuneral.com. (1118 F)

### Mary Anderson

Mary Anderson, 84, Rock Rapids, Iowa, died Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021, at Rock Rapids Health Centre in Rock Rapids.



Funeral services is at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 10, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Rapids. Burial is at Riverview Cemetery in Rock Rapids. Visitation is one hour prior to the funeral service.

Mary Peterson was born July 8, 1937, in Rock Rapids, Iowa, the daughter of Frank and Bernice (Brown) Peterson. She attended country school in Lyon County, Iowa. She then graduated from Rock Rapids High School in 1956.

Mary married John Anderson in Luverne on June 8, 1956. They lived on the Anderson family farm for a short time and moved to Sibley, Iowa. Mary went back to school and obtained her nursing certificate. They moved back to Rock Rapids and Mary began working at Restmore Nursing Home until she became ill with tuberculosis. She spent a

year hospitalized while recovering. She then worked at Super Valu Grocery until it was sold many years later. She kept the books for John's Plumbing & Heating and did various other jobs such as Casey's Pizza and Hope Haven. She also cleaned for Alta Stobener for many years.

Mary and John enjoyed square dancing and were involved with the square dancing club. Mary enjoyed baking, cleaning, crocheting, knitting, sewing and helping others whenever she could. Mary also enjoyed collecting things like Precious Moments, Beanie Babies, Boyds Bears and chickens.

Mary was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, active with the funeral committees, Quarter Lion's Club Luncheons and circle.

When Alzheimer's struck, she lived at Lyon Manor, Keelson Harbor before entering Rock Rapids Health Centre.

She is survived by her children, Rhonda (Lyle)

Olson of Steen and Tamara (Mark) Dillingham of Spirit Lake, Iowa; eight grandchildren, Jeremy (Stacy) Olson and their children, Ashley (Eric) Tieszen, Jakob, Rylee and Carly, Erika (Brad) Thedens and their children, Clay, Zack and Zoe, Hailey Olson, Heather Anderson and her children, Devin and Ryan, Meghan (Dave) Sierck and their children, Dawson and Gabrielle, Rachel Anderson, Landon Dillingham and Dylan (Danika) Anderson; a great-great granddaughter, Oaklee Tieszen; brother, Marvin Peterson of Rock Rapids; sister-in-law Lillian Peterson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and many nieces, nephews and other extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, John Anderson; son Randy Anderson; three sisters, Inez Korthals, Audrey Timmerman and Alice Buss; and brothers Alvin and Lee Peterson.

Arrangements are provided by Jurrens Funeral Home of Rock Rapids, www.jurrensfuneralhome.com. (1111 F)

### Gerald Wikstrom

Gerald Allen Wikstrom, 85, Coon Rapids, died Friday, Nov. 12, 2021.



A funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at Gearhart Funeral Home (11275 Foley Blvd. NW., Coon Rapids) Visitation will start at 11 a.m. Interment with military honors will be at Morning-side Memorial Gardens.

Gerald Wikstrom was born on March 11, 1936, to Julius and Evelyn Wikstrom.

He served in the Army and Army reserves from 1953 until his honorable discharge in 1961.

In 1954 he married Barbara Ann Crocker in Mas-

sachusetts and returned to Minnesota, landing first in Minneapolis and later moving his family to Coon Rapids. He worked at Durke Atwood in Redwing for many years and retired in 2002. He was treasured by family and friends and will be missed by all. His family was very important to him and this was shown by all the "kids" who were "adopted" into the family.

He is survived by his daughters, Evelyn (Danny) Kephart of Luverne, Deanna Gutzmer of Coon Rapids, and Lynn Marie Wikstrom of Madison, South Dakota;

son Jerry (Nan) Wikstrom of Blaine; son-in-law Alan VonBehrens; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Julius and Evelyn Wikstrom; six brothers; his wife, Barbara, in 2002; son Bobby in 1965; daughter Patricia Avey in 2014; and daughter Debra VonBehrens in 2021.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are requested to his family.

Arrangements are provided by Gearhart Funeral Home of Coon Rapids, www.GearhartFuneralHome.com. (1118 F)

### Lowell Thone

Lowell Kenneth Thone, 88, Mission Viejo, California, formerly of Beaver Creek, died Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021, at Pacifica Cottage in Mission Viejo.



Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. A funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Nov. 22, at First Baptist Church in Luverne. Burial will follow at Memory Gardens Cemetery near Luverne.

Lowell Thone was born on Jan. 22, 1933, to Arnold and Gladys Thone in Hull, Iowa. In 1937 he moved with his parents from rural Iowa to the family farm near Beaver Creek. Lowell enjoyed helping his father with farm work. He attended the one-room Pleasant View Country School from first through eighth grade. At Luverne High school as a freshman, Lowell was class president and played on the football team. But the following summer he contracted polio and was hospitalized for two months. He returned to school for the second half of his sophomore year, and friends carried him up and down the stairs.

He regained the ability to walk and graduated in 1951. Lowell earned a degree from the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture in 1953.

Lowell married Claudette Selness on March 5, 1955, in St. Louis Park. After full-time farming until the age of 30, Lowell attended Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis, receiving a degree in design engineering. He held mechanical engineering jobs in Great Falls, Montana, Golden Valley, Mountain Lake, and then worked 20 years as a building/heating inspector for the city of Eden Prairie.

When Lowell retired in 1995, he and Claudette moved back to the family farm. He took great pride in caring for the farmyard and also worked part time as a building inspector for the cities of Luverne and Pipestone. In 2008 Lowell and Claudette relocated to Mission Viejo, California, to be near family and benefit from living in a warmer climate.

Lowell enjoyed his family, the farm, working on home projects, gardening, and refinishing furniture. Lowell was

a longtime member of First Baptist Church in Luverne and also Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie. He served as a deacon, trustee, Sunday School superintendent and teacher over the years.

Lowell will be remembered for always giving his best, his great determination, and his strong Christian values and ethics.

Lowell is survived by his three daughters, Lynette (DeVon) Wiens of Trabuco Canyon, California, Marcia (Dale) Hummel of Chanhassen, and Sherri (Ron) Alden of San Juan Capistrano, California; nine grandchildren, Amber (Kevin) Grant, Amanda (Nick) Bockelman, Laura (Jeff) Senters, Benjamin (Sarah) Hummel, Bethany (Pablo) Lozada, Timothy Hummel, Brett (Lauren) Alden, Aubree Alden, and Spencer (Jessica) Alden; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Lowell was preceded in death by his wife, Claudette, eight months ago; his parents; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Arrangements are provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, hartquistfuneral.com. (1118 F)

### Dale Matus

Dale Herbert Matus, 87, Beaver Creek, died Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021, at the Sanford Sheldon Care Center.



A funeral service was at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 13, at Palisade Lutheran Church near Garretson, South Dakota. Burial followed at the Palisade Lutheran Church Cemetery.

Dale Matus was born May 24, 1934, to Frank and Amy (Aaker) Matus on a farm near Ruthton. When he was 7, his family moved to a farm near Beaver Creek, where he was raised and attended school. He graduated from Beaver Creek High School in 1952. After high school, Dale enlisted into the U.S. Marines and was active for nearly three years. After a short tour to Korea, he was stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

Upon returning to the Midwest, he worked as a teller at a bank in Chicago before moving back to Minnesota to become a farm hand. He earned extra money trapping.

He married Darlene Emery on Feb. 15, 1958, at Luverne United Methodist Church. Dale began farming with \$600 in his pocket

and worked hard to build a successful farm. He and Darlene worked together, raising three boys. Dale farmed until his retirement at age 65.

He and Darlene purchased a cabin in 1983 on Eagle Lake in Ontario, Canada. They made regular trips for fishing, moose hunting, snowmobiling and card games with friends and neighbors.

He and his Canadian neighbor, Len Suomo, planned a snowmobile trip to Churchill to see polar bears crossing the ice on the Hudson Bay. Dale led guided fishing trips through the years, many with his sons. On their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, the couple went on a snowmobiling trip to Jackson Hole Wyoming with their entire family.

Darlene preceded Dale in death on Nov. 28, 2018. He then moved to Sheldon, Iowa, where he resided at an assisted living center until his death.

Dale was a member of Palisade Lutheran Church in Garretson, South Dakota. He was a loving and caring father with high expectations

of his children. He was always glad to spend time with his grandchildren. He was known for working hard but also playing hard well into his older years.

Dale is survived by his three sons and their families, Todd Matus of Beaver Creek and his daughter, Heather Matus, of Carrollton, Georgia, and Todd's special friend, Tammy Makram of Luverne and her son, Mason Makram, of Los Angeles, California; Dan and Shanelle Matus of Sheldon, Iowa, and their children, Todd Helmers, Trista Helmers, and Tamsyn Matus, all of Sheldon; Tim and Lori Matus of San Antonio, Texas, and their children Derek Matus of New York City, New York, Luke Matus of San Antonio, Kyra Matus of Boston, and Lorin Burton, Lexi Burton, and Landon Burton, all of San Antonio; and his brothers, Charles (Dottie) Matus of Garretson, and Donald Matus of West Des Moines, Iowa.

Dale was preceded in death by his wife, Darlene Matus, and his parents.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, hartquistfuneral.com (1118 F)

## DEATH NOTICE

### Robert Veldkamp

Robert D. Veldkamp, 49, Edgerton, died Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021, at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage in Luverne.

Visitation will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17, at the Bethel Christian Reformed Church in Edgerton. A funeral service will be

at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Southwest Christian High School in Edgerton. Interment will be at the Hillside Cemetery in Edgerton.

Arrangements are with the Edgerton Burial Association. (1118 DN)

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## Patriots punch ticket to State



Samantha McGaffee photos/1118 H-BC Quarterfinals

The Hills-Beaver Creek defensive men (from left) Max Scholten (65), Cody Moser (75), Donovan Leenderts (86) and Casey Kueter (42) take down a Renville County West runner during the winter-like weather conditions Nov. 12 in the state quarter-final game at SMSU stadium in Marshall. The H-BC Patriot defense held the undefeated Jaguars to seven points.

## H-BC takes down Renville County West 30-7 in state quarterfinal playoff

By Dan Ellingson  
For the Star Herald

Although the Hills-Beaver Creek football team also won the Section 2 championship in 2020, the 2021 HBC football team went on to play in the quarter-finals of the Minnesota State Tournament for nine-man football for the first time since 2001.

The Section 3 Champions defeated the Section 2 Champions, the Renville County West Jaguars 30-7 in Marshall on a windy, cold and snowy evening Friday, Nov. 12, at the Southwest Minnesota State University Stadium.

After receiving the opening kickoff, the Jaguars were able to garner two first downs, but the Patriot defense stiffened and forced a punt.

The Patriots managed a quick first down on a Cole Baker run, but a fumbled snap on fourth down later in the drive gave the ball back to the Jaguars at mid field.

The rest of the quarter remained scoreless as each team fought against the other's defense and the winter-like conditions.

The Patriot defense held the Jaguar offense in check for the majority of the game.

Defensive linemen Max Scholten and Cody Moser and defensive ends Donavon Leenderts and Cole Baker continually stymied the Jaguar offense throughout the evening.

Meanwhile, the linebacking corps of Casey Kueter, Austin Allen and Brayden Metzger stepped up to fill the gaps and make the stops.

In the second quarter at 7:21, Baker took an option pitch over the right side from quarterback Oliver Deelstra and sprinted 75 yards for the first score of the game.

The two-point conversion was good on a nifty backward pass to Ty Bundesen, who then passed the ball forward to Andrew Harris camped in the end zone. This sprung the Patriots to an 8-0 lead.

After the score the Patriot defense continued their physical play and kept the Jaguars out of the end zone the rest of the half. A late first-half, Baker's interception of a Jaguar pass aided the

Patriots' first-half defensive efforts.

The third quarter began with the Patriots receiving the kickoff. However, on the first play, a Jaguar defender deflected a Deelstra pass and intercepted it deep in Patriots territory.

But the Patriots defense answered the call as Drew Leenderts scooped up a Renville County West fumble on the second play and rumbled 20 yards to their own 45-yard line.

The Patriots were soon forced to punt where the Jaguars took over at their own 20-yard line. Three plays later, Patriot nose guard Scholten used a swim move to get past the center and fall on the mishandled Jaguar snap.

H-BC's offense took over at the Jaguars' 17-yard line, but the Patriot drive fell short of the end zone, inside the one-yard line.

The Patriot offense again took over after a wind-shortened Jaguar punt.

On a critical fourth and five from the 30-yard line, Deelstra connected with tight end Kueter on a seam pattern up the middle of the field for a touchdown with

just one second remaining in the third quarter. The conversion attempt run was short, but the Patriots held a 14-0 lead going into the fourth quarter.

After a defensive stop by the Jaguars, the Patriots were punting from their own 49-yard line. Bundesen's was misjudged by the Jaguars' return man, and H-BC's Gideon Taubert pounced on the muffed ball at the 10-yard line.

Three plays later, Deelstra ran the ball in from the 5-yard line. Bundesen ran in the two-point conversion, and the Patriots' lead was extended to 22-0 with 7:31 left in the game.

Later, on defense, Austin Allen returned an interception to the 25-yard line. Six plays later, Kueter from the fullback position, powered the ball across the goal line from the five-yard line. The two-point conversion pass from Deelstra to Andrew Harris was good, and the score stood at 30-0 with 2:09 left in the game.

Renville County West was able to add a late score on a 40-yard pass. The



H-BC's Cole Baker carries the ball through Renville's defensive line. Baker ran for 169 yards against the Jaguars in the win.

successful extra-point kick ended the game's scoring at 30-7 with a Patriots win.

Hills-Beaver Creek will play undefeated Fertile-Beltrami in the state semi-finals on Friday, Nov. 19, at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. Game time is 9 a.m.

Patriot Head Coach Rex Metzger said the Patriots players will need to show up ready to play.

"Fertile-Beltrami is a physical team that will come at you with a lot of different things, under center and out of the gun," Metzger said.

"We will have to be disciplined but still have it on attack mode."

When asked about the Patriot players' anticipation

of playing in a state playoff semi-final game, Metzger said, "Our guys are looking forward to the challenge of trying to knock off a very good undefeated team."

**Team statistics:**  
HBC: 208 rushing yards, 30 passing yards, 238 total yards, eight first downs, 5 penalties for 45 yards, three turnovers.  
RCW: 102 rushing yards, 120 passing yards, 222 total yards, 11 first downs, 4 penalties for 40 yards, 5 turnovers.  
**Individual Statistics:**  
Rushing: C. Baker 20-169, O. Deelstra 9-24, C. Kueter 4-12, T. Bundesen 1-3.  
Passing: O. Deelstra 1-4 for 30 yards, C. Baker 0-1.  
Defense: T. Bundesen 10.5 tackles, C. Baker 6.5 tackles & one interception, C. Kueter 4.5 tackles, A. Allen 4.5 tackles & one interception.

## Fall seeding is tedious work, but in a few years it will result in great wildlife habitat

We are still chasing roosters when time allows, but I got committed to a large seeding project that has taken up most of my free time for the past few weeks, and it looks to last a few weeks more, doing it after my day job is finished.

Seeding conservation lands this time of year is challenging, but doing so after the ground temperatures are cold enough that none of the seed will germinate until next spring is the most successful way to do it.

Seeding native grass and flower species requires very specialized equipment. You can substitute some conventional farm equipment, but the outcomes are not usually anywhere as successful if you do.

There are two primary ways to seed native grass and flowers. The first is one most folks have at least heard of, and that is with a seed drill. They look much like a crop



### THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, outdoors columnist

planter but the seed boxes are different in order to get the fluffy seeds to fall where they need to. Most seed drills are 8 to 12 feet wide and are pulled with a tractor at about 4 miles per hour.

These work great and can be used in both fall dormant seedings as well as spring seedings done on or after May 1, depending in which state the seeding is being done. Most states also mandate that the seeding effort be complete by about the middle of June. This is a pretty narrow window.

The second method, and the one that I use, is called a pendulum seeder. These

look like the units that commercial businesses use to spread salt in a parking lot. A pendulum seeder has a spout that swings back and forth at pretty high speeds and is usually mounted on a three-point hitch on the back of a tractor.

They have very large agitators inside to ensure the seed does not bridge up and fail to disperse. I have converted mine to use a 5-horsepower Honda engine, and the unit rides in the back of my Polaris Ranger. I can go into tighter places than a tractor can and into wetter conditions where a tractor would most likely get stuck.

Properly set up, you can seed about seven or eight acres per hour. A drill has a narrower seeding width and runs at 4 mph.

Seeding in the fall allows the seed to be packed down by winter snow and improves the seed-to-soil contact. No packing is required in this situation.

If you seed in the spring, many operators will run a packer over the site when the seeding is complete. Using a broadcast seeder helps eliminate skips and there is no chance of getting the seed planted too deep.

This is an issue using a drill if the operator is not well versed in their operation. Native seed should be planted as deep as the thickness of the seed. This is as little as a few thousandths of an inch. Plant it a half-inch deep and little to none of that seed will ever become wildlife cover.

Native seed is expensive

and, depending on the Federal Farm Program practice, can run as little as \$65 for riparian buffers all the way to \$500 per acre if you want to supplement your pollinator areas.

I did a demonstration pollinator spot a few years back, with 95 different flower species. The seed was \$1,500 per acre for 18 acres.

There are not very many businesses involved in this effort. The equipment costs are quite high and the window for work is very short. Mobilization costs are also substantial.

You cannot haul a tractor 80 miles to plant a 10-acre spot very affordably. Many of these areas are not very big. You need to be close to the action to make it affordable to the farmer or other organization.

The job I landed was the biggest one I have ever done, and after five 10-hour days I am just a little over half done. I do have until June 15

of 2022 to finish, so there is no reason to fret.

You can do this work on top of snow if it is early enough in the winter season or late enough, say in mid-to-late March. In early winter and early spring, the sun angle is strong enough to warm up the seed and it will melt down into the snow. Seeding on a bitterly cold day in January will result in most of the seed just blowing away.

It really doesn't look like much when the seeding is complete, but just wait two to three years and you might just have some of the best wildlife habitat within a few hundred miles.

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





# Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

## Rock County hearing for variance request Nov. 29

### Notice of Public Hearings for Variance Request

Close Proximity Owners and Local Officials of the Rock County Board of Adjustment

Notice is hereby given that the Rock County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 29, 2021, at the Rock County Law Enforcement Center located at 1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, Minnesota, at 7:00 p.m. to act on the following applications:

**Property Owner and Applicant 1:** Justin and Sara Ilse  
Legal Description: Lots 12-14, Block 4, Village of Kanaranzi, Section 3 of Kanaranzi Township, T 101 N, R 44 W, Rock County, MN

Request for a variance to allow the construction of a garage, entry, and bathroom addition to an existing dwelling with the proposed addition being located no less than 35 feet from the centerline of the public right of way, Second Street.

**Property Owner and Applicant 2:** Dean Tofteland  
Legal Description: A 60.4 acre tract located in Section 12 of Luverne Township, T 102 N, R 45W, Rock County, MN

Request for a variance to allow the construction of 3 proposed cul-de-sacs, not to exceed 825 feet in length, as part of a rural subdivision to be proposed by Dean Tofteland.

All persons interested may appear and be heard at said time and place, or submit views in writing or by representative.

Dated: November 18, 2021  
By order of the Rock County Board of Adjustment  
Eric A. Hartman, Zoning Administrator  
311 W. Gabrielson Road  
Luverne, MN 56156  
507-283-8862

(11-18, 11-25)

## H-BC School Board meets Oct. 27

### Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671

#### Minutes Oct. 27, 2021

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 7:03 p.m. in the H-BC Secondary School Board room, 301 N Summit Ave, Hills, MN. Board members and Administration present were Bosch, Fransman, Gehrke, Harnack, Rauk and Rozeboom. Superintendent Holthaus and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance. Principal Kellenberger and Board member Knobloch were absent.

Motion by Harnack, second by Rozeboom, and carried to approve the agenda. Visitor to the meeting was Mavis Fodness with Star Herald.

**PATRIOT PRIDE:**  
-End of Regular Seasons for Jr. High Football and Volleyball  
-End of Regular Seasons for Varsity Volleyball and Football  
-US News and World Report recognizing H-BC Elementary as a top 50 elementary school in the state of MN.

Board Committee Meeting Reports:  
-Personnel/Finance Committee - 10/13, Community Education Advisory-10/27  
Motion by Fransman, second by Rauk, and carried to approve Consent Agenda:  
-Minutes—10/11/2021

-Bills and Imprest  
-Student Activity Accounts  
-Secondary Principal Contract for the 21-22 school year  
-Adjusting activity bus driver route pay to \$15/hour beginning November 1 and for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year  
**INDIVIDUAL ACTION ITEMS:**  
Motion by Bosch, second by Rozeboom, and carried to approve Cyber Security Contract with SWWC.

Motion by Bosch, second by Harnack, and carried to approve Canvass of November 2, 2021 Special Election results at regular Board of Education meeting, November 8, 2021.  
Motion by Harnack, second by Fransman, and carried to approve

purchase of new riding lawn mower.  
Motion by Bosch, second by Rauk, and carried to approve purchase of 10-passenger van.  
Motion by Fransman, second by Harnack, and carried to approve setting 15 2017 MacBook Pros as excess district property and direct administration to sell.  
**DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:**  
•Secondary Principal Report - Mr Kellenberger absent  
•Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report  
**AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER:**  
-District Special Election, Tuesday, November 2, 2021- 8 am-8 pm NO School Activities 6 p.m.-8 p.m.  
-Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, November 8  
-Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, November 22  
Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk  
(11-18)

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**Responsibilities include:** Assess customer's employment and training needs, develop plans and identify recommended services. Organize and conduct job seeking skills workshops; weekly job clubs with a group or one on one; provide assistance with goal-setting and resume preparation. Provide complete case management for customers, which includes case notes and all necessary paperwork for program requirements.

**Benefits:** Health, dental, vision, long term disability & life insurance, 401K, vacation, sick and holiday time. Salary – DOQ.

**Position is available immediately in Pipestone (Pipestone County) and Luverne (Rock County) MN.** Please send a letter of interest and resume by Noon on Monday, November 29, 2021 to Mary Mulder via e-mail at [mmulder@swmpic.org](mailto:mmulder@swmpic.org)

An Equal Opportunity Employer/Provider. Diverse candidates are encouraged to apply. A Proud Partner of the American Job Center Network. Upon request, this information is available in alternate format.

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

## MANLEY NOW HIRING

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SANFORD HEALTH



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

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Deadline for the November 27 issue of the **Luverne Announcer** for advertising will be

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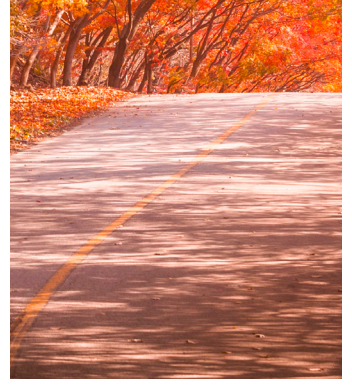
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## A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian *We're All in This Together*

First grandma and grandpa could get vaccinated, next mom and dad, then young adults and soon after that our teenagers lined up for the shot. Now our children age 5 and up can get vaccinated. A tip-of-the-hat goes to Sanford for offering after school shot clinics so parents don't have to interrupt their children's school day to get vaccinated. Also, the state of Minnesota has offered up some great incentives for young people to get vaccinated. Let all do our part and get vaccinated.

### Special clinic times for youth

Sanford Luverne is scheduling and administering the COVID-19 vaccine to children ages 5 - 11. The Pfizer vaccine for children is a two-dose vaccine, given 21 days apart and is a third of the dose given to adults.

- The vaccine is encouraged even if your child has had a COVID-19 infection.
- As a parent, you should also receive your vaccine to help stop the spread of COVID-19 to your children.
- While you or your child could get COVID-19 even after vaccination, the illness will be less dangerous, and some people may never know they had the virus due to lack of symptoms.

### COVID-19 vaccine clinics

**Thursday, November 18**  
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Kids Deserve a Shot! | Oct. 18 - Nov. 30, 2021 | mn.gov/covid19

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Mayor Patrick T. Baustian

# State Cross Country Tournament 2021

November 18, 2021

*Rock County Star Herald Special Commemorative Edition*



**Girls**  
**Conference Champions**  
**Section 3A Champions**  
**Third-place state Class A**

**Boys**  
**Conference Runner-up**  
**Section 3A Runner-up**  
**Ninth-place state Class A**



The Luverne High School boys' and girls' cross country teams posed for a team picture Oct. 19 after earning the runners-up and champion Big South Conference small school titles respectively. Weeks later, the teams earned the same honors at the Section 3A championships in Madison, qualifying both teams to the state cross country tournament in Northfield. The tournament berths were the fourth time in school history and the first since 2011 that both the girls' and boys' team competed. Pictured on the cover are members of the 2021 Luverne High School cross country teams that includes (in front, sitting, from left) Tiana Lais, Kayla Bloemendaal, Ella Schmuck, Brynn Boyenga, Grace Ingebretson, (kneeling) Makena Nelson, Jenna DeBates, Tenley Nelson, Andrea Luitjens, Olivia Lund, Khloe Visker, Kianna Winter, Maddy Schepel, Mariah Knorr, Maria Rops, (back) Marcus Papik, Riley Ripka, Camden Janiszski, Leif Ingebretson, Logan Ommen, Ryan Fick, Carson Tofteland, Sage Viessman, Pierce Cunningham, Griffen Jarchow, Owen Janiszski, Eli McLendon, Ethan Rahm, Camden Hoven, Kaleb Hemme and Zach Brown.



*Congratulations*  
**TO THE BOYS' AND GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS**



Pictured are Tiana Lais (front), Maria Rops (left), Kianna Winter, Kayla Bloemendaal, Jenna DeBates, Tenley Nelson, Ella Schmuck, Khloe Visker, Grace Ingebretson, Brynn Boyenga, (back) Pierce Cunningham, Kaleb Hemme, Leif Ingebretson, Ryan Fick, Carsen Tofteland, Owen Janiszski, Camden Janiszski, Griffen Jarchow, Sage Viessman, Camden Hoven, McKenna Nelson and Ethan Rahm.

**GIRLS**

**SECTION 3A CHAMPS**

**STATE MEET 3RD PLACE**

**TENLEY NELSON 2ND PLACE**

**JENNA DEBATES 3RD PLACE**

**BOYS**

**SECTION 3A 2ND PLACE**

**STATE MEET 9TH PLACE**

**CAMDEN JANISZESKI 15TH PLACE**

**OWEN JANISZESKI 17TH PLACE**

# ‘Stay humble. Stay hungry.’

## Luverne’s cross country teams find year-end success at the finish line

Stories and photos by Mavis Fodness

At the Nov. 4 pep fest for the Luverne High School girls’ and boys’ cross country teams, coach Pete Janiszkeski was quick to turn the spotlight from his runners to other student groups.

“We are blessed in Luverne with a lot of activities,” he said. “We had fall play put on a great production. We had a marching band with a good season. Tennis, volleyball and football with great seasons. Best wishes to the volleyball team as they play for their sub-section championship.”

While the volleyball players came up short against the No. 1 seed, the cross country runners were fresh off winning the Section 3A girls’ team championship and the boys’ team turning in a runners-up performance.

The school’s 650 sixth- through 12<sup>th</sup>-graders gathered for a pep fest in the school’s new performing arts center in a celebratory send-off for runners competing at the Nov. 6 state tournament.

For only the fourth time in school history — and the first time since 2011 — both the girls’ and the boys’ cross country teams qualified for the state tournament.

The girls’ team was returning for their eighth-consecutive state tournament appearance.

The boys’ team was returning after a nine-year absence.

“This crew has had a great season,” Janiszkeski said at the pep fest. “They accomplished a lot of things, but that is probably not what got them here — if they focus on accomplishments, they miss the meaning of things.”

“Stay humble. Stay hungry.” is the mantra Janiszkeski instilled in his runners for 2021.



Luverne Cross Country Coach Pete Janiszkeski (standing) addresses middle and high school students gathered in the school’s performing arts center Thursday afternoon, Nov. 4, for a pep fest that sent both the girls’ and boys’ cross country teams off to the state tournament. Team members included (from left) Kaleb Hemme, Leif Ingebretson, Owen Janiszkeski, Carsen Tofteland, Ethan Rahm, Griffen Jarchow, Khloe Visker, Ella Schmuck, Kianna Winter, Maria Rops, Brynn Boyenga, Makena Nelson, Kayla Bloemendaal, Jenna DeBates, Grace Ingebretsen, Tiana Lais, Tenley Nelson and assistant coach Jodi Nelson. Missing is senior Pierce Cunningham.

**Team mantra: ‘Stay humble. Stay hungry.’**

“If the competition won’t humble you, then life will humble you,” continued Janiszkeski. “We

really try to keep ourselves humble, which leads up to staying hungry and challenge ourselves and each other to strive for excellence and be a better version of ourselves — that really

helps us accomplish the things that they’ve accomplished.”

The goal for both teams was to return to the state cross coun-

CC, continued on page 4

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Luverne's Tenley Nelson (700, far left) is among the top three runners during Saturday, Nov. 6, state cross country meet on the campus of St. Olaf College in Northfield. Amanda Overgaauw (706) from Murray County Central won the race. Nelson was second and Jade Rypkema (653) finished fifth. The sunny weather and high 50-degree temps made good running conditions.



Luverne junior Camden Janiszkeski (509) paces himself during Saturday's state cross country meet in Northfield. Janiszkeski earned all-state honors for his 15<sup>th</sup> place finish out of 159 runners.

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try meet conducted annually at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

At this state tournament, Janiszkeski challenged his runners to best the finish of previous Luverne teams.

For the boys' team, they were to best the eighth-place team finish of 2004. None of the current boys' runners had previous state experience.

The team had eight out of its nine former members returning in 2021, including Griffen Jarchow, a senior.

After finishing his first state race, Jarchow congratulated his younger teammates while looking toward the future.

"It's good for you guys to get that experience," he said.

The boys' team finished ninth out of 16 teams in Class A with 159 runners completing the 5,000-meter course over rolling hills.

Thousands of people cheered from the sidelines.

"At first, it is a little overwhelming — especially for your first run," said Camden Janiszkeski, a junior.

Camden came into the state meet as top runner from the Section 3A championships. His brother, Owen, was second.

The brothers made school history this year when they finished 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> individually at the state meet. It was the first time LHS had two runners earn All-State accolades in the same year.

Besting previous team's state finishes

Goals for the girls' team were similar to the boys': to best previous teams' performances.

That meant the girls' aim was to reach the top of the awards podium as winners of the Class A race.

In 2019 the girls' team finished second, after finishing in fourth place (and off the podium) for three straight years (2015 to 2018).

Unlike the boys' team, the girls' team had several returning runners with state tournament experience.

Leading the team was senior Tenley Nelson, who has been a member of the team since 2016. Individually she's placed third (2019) and fifth (2018) at the state tournament.

This year she placed second and led the LHS

CC, continued on page 6

# LHS boys' team state tournament 2021



**Above left:** Sophomore Ryan Fick (505) runs with teammate freshman Sage Viessman (513) during the Saturday, Nov. 6, state cross country meet in Northfield. **Above right:** Freshman Leif Ingebretson finished in 124<sup>th</sup> place. **Below left:** Griffen Jarchow (511), a senior, ran his last high school cross country race at the state tournament. Jarchow helped the Luverne High School team to a ninth-place finish. **Below right:** Camden Hoven keeps pace with runners during the 2021 state boys' cross country meet in Northfield. Hoven finished 149<sup>th</sup>.



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**Above:** Luverne junior Camden Janiszkeski (509) also earned all-state honors for his 15<sup>th</sup> place finish out of the 159 runners competing in the Class A event. **Below:** Owen Janiszkeski (510) finishes as the 17<sup>th</sup> overall individual. His finish earned the LHS freshman an all-state distinction at the state tournament.



Photo courtesy of Angie Janiszkeski  
Owen and Camden Janiszkeski

## Janiszkeski Brothers

Three letters describe the atmosphere the Janiszkeski brothers, Camden and Owen bring to each other on the Luverne High School cross country team — F-U-N.

“It’s just fun,” said Camden, a junior. “I love pushing him. He’s got some special talent so it is fun watching that develop and push him to be his best.”

The brothers were among four LHS cross country members who achieved All-State status for their performances at the state tournament Nov. 6 in Northfield. The feat (with girls’ runners Tenley Nelson and Jenna DeBates) was a first in school history.

Family is credited in the brothers’ running success.

The Janiszkeskis grew up around the sport of running with their dad (and cross country coach), Pete, being influential in their decision to take up cross country.

However, Pete wasn’t the only influence in their running lives. Uncles Kevin and Chad (Pete’s brothers), who also have a passion for the sport, also competed in track and cross country during their high school years.

“Both boys have been spectators at the state cross country meet since they were

babies,” their mother, Angie, said. “Camden attended his first state track meet in utero when Chad was the 3,200-meter champion and placed second in the 1,600-meter run.”

The brothers have also been around LHS runners for most of their lives and enjoy the running atmosphere.

“Both of us love the sport so much and we are students of the sport,” Camden said. “I love watching races, college races and all that — going back we study races sometimes.”

The brothers were already studying the state course, watching the AAA portion of the state meet after running their own 5,000-meter race over the same terrain.

A desire for improvement has permeated from the years of being around the LHS teams during their dad’s 20-year career.

“Everybody pushes everybody every day,” Owen said. “If someone has an off day, we try to push them.”

Earlier this season, Camden was the one having off days. He struggled with what he describes as a “nagging Achilles injury and little stuff” that kept him from running at his best.

His mother noticed Camden’s struggles.

“Camden didn’t finish his first race this season due to pain in his Achilles area and then for the next few races he had to stop to stretch 2-4 times during the race — something he’s never done before.”

Camden’s strength improved at the end of the season, while Owen continued to improve.

At the Section 3A meet in Madison, Camden overcame his injuries and finished first in the race that brought the boys’ team to a second-place finish and a berth in the state tournament for the first time since 2011. Owen was right behind in second place.

The accomplishment wasn’t lost to their dad/coach.

“It is so rewarding to watch their passion for running and competing blossom,” Pete said. “Watching their love for the sport, their selflessness towards their teammates, and their respect for their competitors grow — as well as the conversations and experiences we get to share with each other — has been unbelievable and is something I cherish.”



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**TOP NOTCH**



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**CC, continued from page 4**

team to a third-place finish.

The experience left the senior in tears. "It's kind of hard to put into words," Nelson said. "It just means so much because for so long it was hard to get on the podium."

School history was achieved when two girls' runners earned individual medals for finishing in the Top 10.

Joining Nelson on the awards podium was Jenna DeBates, a sophomore, who finished third. Her previous best state finish was 18<sup>th</sup> in 2019.

Success, DeBates said, comes from the team building and continued support among the teammates throughout the season.

Pulling together to reach the state podium again this year wasn't an easy one.

"It was so special for us (as a team) because we lost four or five of our top nine runners. It was like coming into the year as a fresh team," DeBates said.

In addition to the usual loss of members due to graduation, injury forced senior and veteran runner Brooklyn Versteeg out for the season.

**Team support leads to strong program**

Team building begins each summer during a summer running camp for both the girls' and boys' teams.

Unlike other sports, cross country has boys and girls traveling and competing on the same courses.

For senior runner Nelson, the boys' team qualifying for the state meet this year had extra meaning.

"I think it is really cool and makes it more special," she said. "Because not only are we close as a girls' team, we are also close as an entire team."

DeBates said when she first joined cross country as a seventh-grader three years ago, the older runners were encouraging but Nelson took on an extra role.

"She was probably the first person I would look to if I had a question," DeBates said. "As soon as I cross the finish line — no matter what type of race she had — she'd reach over and help me."

That support was also shown by graduates of the LHS cross country program as they cheered from the sidelines at the state event.

Nelson said she noticed the familiar faces of program graduates.

The remembrance of the cheers brought additional tears to Nelson. "It means a lot," she said.

The team support is emphasized by Coach Janiszkeski and remembered by the

**CC, continued on page 7**

# LHS girls' team state tournament 2021



**Above left:** Luverne junior Tiana Lais (699) heads to the back portion of the state cross country course. Lais finished the 5,000-meter course in 105<sup>th</sup> place out of 159 runners in Class A. **Above right:** Khloe Visser (702) competes in her first state cross country tournament. Visser finished 92<sup>nd</sup>. **Below left:** Sophomore Jenna DeBates runs an easy pace Saturday on her way to a third-place individual finish. **Below right:** Junior Grace Ingebretson (698) pushes herself Saturday, Nov. 6, in the state cross country tournament at St. Olaf College, Northfield.



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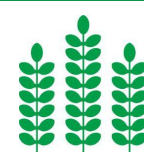
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**Above left:** Ella Schmuck (701) and Kayla Bloemendaal (696) come down the final stretch before turning uphill to the finish line. Schmuck finished 60<sup>th</sup> and Bloemendaal 63<sup>rd</sup> in Saturday, Nov. 6, state race. **Above right:** Senior Tenley Nelson heads into the final stretch run to the finish line at the state tournament. Nelson placed second individually in the Class A tournament. **Below left:** The Luverne girl's cross country team gather together minutes before the start of the state tournament. **Below right:** Final high-fives before the tournament start.



**CC, continued from page 6**

runners that include his son, Camden.

"We always get the analogy at the beginning of the year that we're one link in a big chain and that we're as strong as our weakest link," Camden said.

Coach Janiszkeski talked to each of his teams after their respective meets. He congratulated each of them for reaching all of this year's goals but the last ones — to best previous LHS teams at the state meet.

"When you shoot for the moon sometimes you hit the stars and today you were the stars," he said. "This has been one of the best days in Luverne cross country ever."

**Boys', girls' state tournament results**

The boys' cross country team placed ninth (with 222 points) out of 16 teams competing at the state tournament. There were 159 individual runners.

Winning the Class A boys' race was Jacob McCleary, a senior, from Perham high school in a time of 16:09.64.

Nova Classical Academy was the first-place team with 122 points.

Placing and times for the Luverne team runners were as follows:

- 15<sup>th</sup>, junior Camden Janiszkeski, 16:59.04.
- 17<sup>th</sup>, freshman Owen Janiszkeski, 17:02.54.
- 94<sup>th</sup>, senior Griffen Jarchow, 18:00.58.
- 117<sup>th</sup>, freshman, Sage Viessman, 18:25.28.
- 124<sup>th</sup>, freshman, Leif Ingebretson, 18:39.23.
- 136<sup>th</sup>, sophomore Ryan Fick, 18:41.49.
- 149<sup>th</sup>, junior Camden Hoven, 19:53.28.

In the girls' Class A race, Murray County Central High School junior Amanda Overgaaau won the 5,000-meter race with a time of 18:09.13. There were 156 runners in the Class A girls' race.

Staples-Motley High School won the team trophy with 103. Luverne, at third place, finished with 117 points.

Placing and individual times for the Luverne team runners are as follows:

- 2<sup>nd</sup>, senior Tenley Nelson, 18:47.00.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>, sophomore Jenna DeBates, 19:06.82.
- 60<sup>th</sup>, eighth-grader Ella Schmuck, 20:47.18.
- 63<sup>rd</sup>, sophomore Kayla Bloemendaal, 20:52.12.
- 72<sup>nd</sup>, junior Grace Ingebretson, 21:05.95.
- 92<sup>nd</sup>, seventh-grader Khloe Visker, 21:45.94.
- 105<sup>th</sup>, junior Tiana Lais, 22:07.90.

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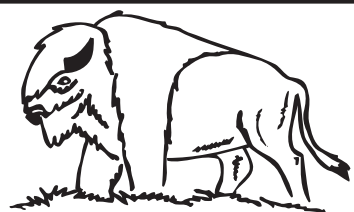


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# Awards podium state tournament 2021



**Above:** Tenley Nelson (left) placed second individually while teammate Jenna DeBates (right) placed third individually. **Right:** The team poses with their third place trophy. Pictured is (front, from left) Tiana Lais, Tenley Nelson, Jenna DeBates, Ella Schmuck, Coach Pete Janiszkeski, (back) assistant coach Jodi Nelson, Brynn Boyenga, Kianna Winter, Khloe Visker, Kayla Bloemendaal and Grace Ingebretson. **Below:** Coach Pete Janiszkeski gives his team their third-place medals.



## 2021 Luverne Cross Country

**Girls Conference Champions**  
**Girls Section 3A Champions**  
**Girls State Class A – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

**Boys Conference – Runner-Up**  
**Boys Section 3A – Runner- Up**  
**Boys State Class A – 9<sup>th</sup> Place**

### Individual Accomplishments

#### Conference

- Tenley Nelson - 1<sup>st</sup> – All Conference
- Jenna DeBates - 3<sup>rd</sup> – All Conference
- Kayla Bloemendaal - 4<sup>th</sup> – All Conference
- Ella Schmuck - 5<sup>th</sup> – All Conference
- Grace Ingebretson - 9<sup>th</sup> – All Conference Honorable Mention
- Camden Janiszkeski - 5<sup>th</sup> – All Conference
- Owen Janiszkeski - 6<sup>th</sup> – All Conference
- Griffen Jarchow - 9<sup>th</sup> – All Conference Honorable Mention

#### Sections and State

Girls	Sections	State	Boys	Sections	State
Tenley Nelson	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Camden Janiszkeski	1 <sup>st</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>
Jenna DeBates	3 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Owen Janiszkeski	2 <sup>nd</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
Ella Schmuck	11 <sup>th</sup>	60 <sup>th</sup>	Griffen Jarchow	12 <sup>th</sup>	94 <sup>th</sup>
Kayla Bloemendaal	14 <sup>th</sup>	63 <sup>rd</sup>	Sage Viessman	24 <sup>th</sup>	117 <sup>th</sup>
Grace Ingebretson	20 <sup>th</sup>	72 <sup>nd</sup>	Ryan Fick	42 <sup>nd</sup>	126 <sup>th</sup>
Khloe Visker	24 <sup>th</sup>	92 <sup>nd</sup>	Leif Ingebretson	44 <sup>th</sup>	124 <sup>th</sup>
Tiana Lais	29 <sup>th</sup>	105 <sup>th</sup>	Camden Hoven	64 <sup>th</sup>	149 <sup>th</sup>
Kianna Winter	ALT	-	Carsen Tofteland	ALT	-
Brynn Boyenga	ALT	-	Kaleb Hemme	ALT	-

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