



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, December 2, 2021

Luverne to celebrate Winterfest

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne's annual Winterfest celebration returns this weekend, live and in person following last year's pandemic restricted events.

"We haven't done it for a year, and people have kind of forgotten what to do," said Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere. "But we've had a lot of people step up, and we have added things to do."

Many traditional Winterfest offerings will be on deck, including arts and crafts, Santa at school, the nutcracker scavenger hunt, Christmas Cantata, Hinkly House displays and others.

However, several new offerings join the Winterfest lineup this year, Lanphere said.

"Hats go off to the businesses and organizations - we've had people step up this year who haven't before," she said. "It's nice that people are adding things to do."

For example, St. John Lutheran Church will have a "Festival of Nativities," Take 16 will host Vinyl Night and hotdish cookoff, the Eagles Club is adding a soup supper to its annual cribbage tournament, and Blue Mound Liquor will sponsor a Jack and Jill Beard Contest with its wine and beer tasting.

Lanphere said the pandemic prompted the loss of many long-time traditions, but it inspired new ones, such as the cookie contest and the library's virtual puppet show.

"It's wonderful to live in a community where we have everyone rowing the same direction and willing to give their time and talents," she said. "We're pretty blessed."

The full lineup of Winterfest events with times and locations are listed in the back-page ad and at luvernechamber.com. The phone number is 507-283-4061.



Lori Sorenson photos/1202 santa at train station, park lighting and fireworks
In the photo above left, Santa and Mrs. Claus (Pat and Katie Baustian) pose for photos with the "Santa Squad," Ross, Gavin and Veronica Loosbrock as they rode in on the decorated and lighted Ellis and Eastern train. At right, a 20-minute fireworks show preceded the simultaneous lighting of holiday displays in the Luverne City Park. At lower left, a lighted Ashby Memorial Trail guides visitors to the displays.

Christmas arrives by train, fireworks and lights

By Lori Sorenson

Christmas officially arrived Sunday with Santa, festive train engines, fireworks and dazzling lighted displays.

"It was awesome," said Luverne Chamber assistant Amber Lais. "I thought it was an outstanding turnout. It was a perfect day. The weather was perfect. I don't think it could have gone any better."

A festively decorated Ellis and Eastern train engine transported Santa and Mrs. Claus through communities in Nobles and

Rock counties. They stopped in Rushmore, Adrian, Magnolia and Luverne where the jolly couple (Pat and Katie Baustian) greeted more than 400 children and posed for photos.

After a gathering with families at the Omaha Depot, the train brought the Clauses to Luverne City Park for fireworks and simultaneous lighting of Christmas displays.

According to information from the Luverne Area Chamber, nearly 50 organizations decorated lighted displays and park equipment, and 170 cars paid admission to

enter the park for fireworks and a first chance at viewing the displays.

"I didn't know if they're going to stop coming," Lais said about the procession into the park. "I couldn't believe how many cars we fit in the park."

Families in the vehicles received locomotive bells, cookies and milk. By the end of the night, Lais said the Chamber had distributed 450 of each.

Train, fireworks, lights/see page 3A

Tofteland proposes housing near gun club

By Mavis Fodness

The Rock County Board of Adjustment granted a variance Monday night for the proposed construction of three cul-de-sacs in Luverne Township.

Dean Tofteland of Luverne is proposing construction of a rural residential subdivision for 20 lots of an acre or more in size.

He owns the 60 acres for the subdivision located east of Luverne along 111th Street between the Rock County Sportsman's Club and the River Road Campground.

The requested variance allows Tofteland, in consultation with DGR Engineering of Rock Rapids, to exceed the city of Luverne's

building code that restricts cul-de-sacs to 500 feet long.

The area is divided in half by the Christopher Ashby Memorial Recreation Trail and is bordered by the railroad tracks to the north. Due to this topography, putting in longer streets to the cul-de-sac

Tofteland housing/see 2A

Cold storage warehouse planned near PMP

By Lori Sorenson

Property near Luverne's industrial park will soon have a 235,000-square-foot cold storage warehouse for food products requiring temperatures ranging from -20 to 45 degrees.

Lineage Logistics is proposing to purchase two tracts of land owned by the Luverne Economic Development Authority along the Minnesota Southern Railroad.

The purchase price of the city land, totaling 5.43 acres, is roughly \$118,265. The LEDA will consider the sale of the property at a Dec. 13 public hearing at 8 a.m. at the Luverne City Hall.

According to plans shared with city leaders, Lineage will acquire additional, larger tracts of property from Driftless Meats near Premium Minnesota Pork in a separate private transaction.

Lineage has indicated it will create up to 75 new "quality paying" jobs in the community to support the operation.

The warehouse, with an estimated construction value of more than \$50 million, will be roughly the size of four football fields and will contain approximately 31,000 pallet positions. For illustrative purposes, the

average grocers' semitrailer is 53 feet long with a capacity for 26 standard 48-by-40-inch pallets.

The company plans to break ground in early 2022 and complete construction early in 2023.

About the company

Lineage Logistics, headquartered in Michigan, is the world's largest refrigerated warehousing company and logistics solutions provider.

It handles more than 8 percent of the global food supply through its network of over 400 facilities totaling over 2 billion cubic feet of capacity spanning 19 countries across North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific.

Lineage's expertise in end-to-end logistical solutions, along with its real estate network and technology, is said to make product distribution more efficient and thereby minimize supply chain waste.

The company is also a visionary partner of Feeding America, a nonprofit network of more than 200 food banks nationwide that feed more than 46 million people through food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and other community-based agencies.

RCO introduces new leadership team

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County Opportunities is operating under a new leadership team since former director Elizabeth Schear left for a position in Marshall this summer.

Co-directors Adria Benson and Danielle Landberg joined forces with longtime staff members David Vis and Kristy Goemmel to take the helm.

In discussing how to fill the director's position, they considered their shared experience and decided to team up on the job.

"When Beth left, neither of us felt like we wanted the whole job, but Danielle said she could handle one piece of it, and I said I could handle another," Benson said.

"So, we thought, what if we teamed up at it? Instead of hiring one brand new person, we could use all of our skills and talents together."

Benson was RCO's executive assistant, having worked with Schear

RCO leadership team/see 2A



Lori Sorenson photo/1202 RCO leadership team

The leadership team at Rock County Opportunities includes co-directors Danielle Landberg and Adria Benson (center, from left) and designated coordinator Dave Vis (left) and staff supervisor Kristy Goemmel.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Rock County Association of Townships annual meeting is at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 3, at the Rock County Library.

Parkinson's Support Group will meet at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, at Poplar Creek in Luverne. Masks are required. Call Diane Karlstad at 507-530-3307 with questions.

Springwater Township Board will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, at the town hall.

Beaver Creek Township Board will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6, at 7:30 p.m. in the township hall.

American Legion Auxiliary Post #123 will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the Pizza Ranch. Bring an item for the food shelf. Call Dianna Tomlinson 283-1934 with questions.

Mobile dental clinic Dec. 1-2

#LuvLuvAll's Rock County Oral Health Task Force has organized a mobile dental clinic in Luverne on Wednesday, Dec. 1, and Thursday, Dec. 2, at the Rock County Health and Human Services building community room. These clinics provide dental care for ADULTS and children of all ages. Call 612-746-1530 to schedule an appointment. All forms of insurance are accepted.

Hospice tree lighting Dec. 2

Hospice Tree Lighting Ceremony will be at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 2, at the corner of Main Street and Highway 75 in Luverne. A special candle lighting will be part of the ceremony as submitted names are read in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Hot cider and cookies will be served. Call 507-283-1805 with questions.

Library virtual puppet show

The Rock County Library personnel will premiere an original puppet show, "The Prize Trip to the North Pole," at 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3, on the library's Facebook page. The virtual show kicks off Luverne's Winterfest activities.

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.

Holidays at the Hinkly House

Hinkly House committee members Diane Jauert, Shirley Harrison and Janet Burger will host a Holiday Open House at the Victorial Luverne home for two weekends, from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4, and from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11. The holiday displays this year are paper glitter and music boxes.

Game Plan 4 Hope Dec. 7

An open house is planned from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 7, for the Team E Fieldhouse of Hope at 312 W. 3rd St. in Hills to celebrate meeting area, volunteer center and equipment workshop that were combined into one building. Game Plan 4 Hope is a non-profit organization that supports families undergoing life-altering events.

SYS Angel Trees

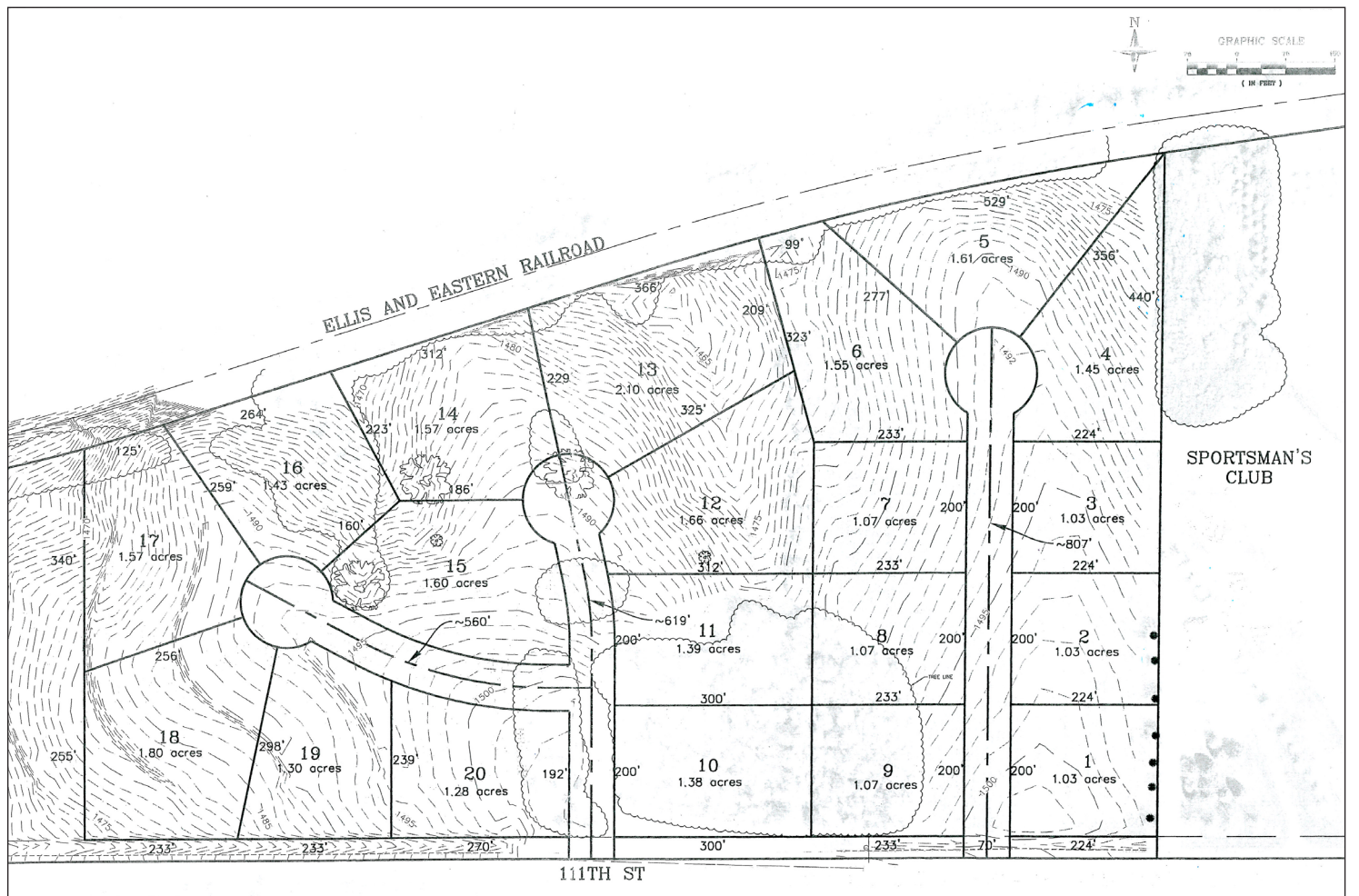
The annual Southwestern Youth Services Angel Trees are available at Lewis Drug, Bomgaars and in the SYS front lobby, south door in Magnolia. Cards are on the trees with requests from residents who are away from family during the holidays. With community support, separation is made a little easier. The SYS Facebook page has an Amazon wish list. Call 507-283-4425 with questions.

Bell ringers needed

Volunteer bell ringers are needed for the 2021 Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign now through Dec. 24 at Sunshine Foods in Luverne. Sign up for two-hour increments between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Use the link <https://signup.com/go/ARwFTiC> or call Carrie Soto, 507-220-8897 with questions.

Snowmobile safety

Luverne Community Education will offer **Snowmobile Safety** class on Dec. 11 for ages 12 and older by Dec. 31. Register by Dec. 1. Call 507-283-4724 or visit the website: comed.isd2184.net.



Tofteland proposes housing near gun club/continued from page 1A

bulbs minimizes grading of the area and the removal of existing trees.

Tofteland's proposed layout of the 20 rural residential lots provides for access streets extending 807, 619 and 560 feet from the gravel road.

The board unanimously approved of the variance,

which will now go to the county commissioners for final approval.

More than 20 people attended the public hearing with questions that fell outside the variance in question.

Land Management Director Eric Hartman explained to those in atten-

dance that the project will undergo several additional steps that will allow more public input and answer more questions about the proposed rural subdivision.

As stipulations to the variance, Tofteland's project must be reviewed and approved by the city of Luverne along with design

approval from the Luverne Fire Department.

Hartman also stated that the project will undergo another public hearing to re-zone the current agricultural land to residential before the project can proceed to the construction stage.

No date has been set for the rezoning hearing.

RCO introduces new leadership team/continued from page 1A

on administrative duties.

Landberg has experience with programming, licensing and staffing to support personnel.

"I think we took all of our strengths and what we excel at and took the opportunity to go with it," Landberg said.

"The leadership team has always been here, but we're coming at it as a collaboration."

The two women have similar backgrounds but bring their own credentials to the job.

Landberg has 13 years in the field and holds a degree from South Dakota State University, Brookings, in human development and family studies. She started with HSI in Marshall as a direct support professional (DSP) and then a team lead assist and team lead.

Benson also has more than 15 years of experience in the field and holds a social work degree from Winona State University. She's a 2002 Luverne graduate and is the daughter of Diane Sherwood.

The team is rounded out by Vis, a designated coordinator with seven years at RCO, and staff supervisor Goemmel who's been there 25 years.

They all still do their same jobs, but they're sharing the leadership duties.

The team proposed the new leadership plan to the RCO Board, which approved it Oct. 1.

Open house Dec. 8

To celebrate the transition and introduce the team to the community, RCO will host an open house from 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Schear takes job at Marshall facility

By Lori Sorenson

Elizabeth Schear was the director at Rock County Opportunities for over 15 years, building clientele and community jobs and improving program offerings.

"I'm handing over my baby... 15 years of hard work," she said in August, just before leaving for a career change.

"I've worked really hard here, and I'm really proud of what I've done here."

When she started in 2005, RCO (then the Developmental Achievement Center) had 28 clients.

"At one point before Covid, we were up to almost 60 clients. So we more than doubled

the clients that we had," Schear said.

In that time the cash reserves also doubled, providing for RCO's long-term sustainability.

"We've grown very solid, with

immense programming here that's top-notch for the southwest corner of Minnesota for people with disabilities," Schear said.

"RCO is in a really great place. They've got a lot to work with. They've got a great stable, well-liked program. People come from all over southwest Minnesota to come down here."

Schear said she

Schear/see page 5A



Thursday, Dec. 8. "We want to build those connections ourselves and show what we can do," Benson said. "Some people still don't realize what we can do."

The new leaders represent new faces at the helm, but they say business is continuing on track as far as clients, customers and day-to-day operation.

"We want to make some connections and show people what we do," Benson said.

"People don't always think of us as a resource or option, but we're doing cleaning, shredding, mass

mailings. There are little custom jobs that maybe you need someone a couple of hours a week, and we can help you."

She said the RCO laundry service continues to thrive and grow with work coming in from surrounding communities.

RCO provides training and employment opportunities to 34 disabled adults with in-house work and supervised community jobs.

In addition to the four leadership team members, there are nine DSPs and a contracted accountant for bookkeeping and payroll.

"We have a really good group," Benson said. "Many of them have been with RCO for three to 10 years. Longevity is pretty good."

She said it's getting easier to hire and retain RCO employees with recent wage increases. "I think where our raises are now, they're real competitive, and even on the high end," she said.

Starting pay is \$15 per hour with guaranteed yearly raises plus cost of living increases.

"Plus, the hours are 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, which is great if you have kids in school," Benson said. "There are no nights, no weekends and no holiday hours."

Vis, who is a designated coordinator, said he likes the new arrangement.

"It's going really well," he said. "I think it's important for people to know we're still here and more than ready to provide services in the community. We provide quality work, especially with cleaning."

He said it was difficult when Schear left, but he said the strong "team mentality" kicked in.

"Everyone genuinely cares about all the clients and workers here. It's a good group," Vis said.

Goemmel said she's enjoying her role on the leadership team, but mostly she just enjoys her work at RCO.

"I absolutely love this job. It's very fulfilling. It's like a second family here," she said.

"They see so many people come and go in their lives, and you feel like a stable person in their lives. ... It's hard work, but it's so rewarding."

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Students request cheerleading program for winter sports

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School Board members have received another student request for basketball cheerleading after a 16-year hiatus.

Senior Syndal Pick made the request, both written and in person, for the activity's return.

"I am asking for basketball cheerleading — because with only one season of football cheerleading — not a lot of girls have an option to join," she said at the school board's regular meeting Nov. 23.

"A lot of these girls who want to join have been in a fall sport and can't join."

Accompanying Pick at the meeting were six other students and one parent in support of cheerleading at home basketball games for both the girls' and boys' teams.

Pick explained six cheerleaders would make up one squad, based on the space in the gym.

The fall football cheering squad had a dozen members.

Leah Radisewitz, the football cheerleading coach, has said she is willing to be the adult adviser for winter cheerleading.

She also outlined what participating in a team activity has meant to her.

Pick said she was invited to join the football cheerleading squad three years ago and said cheerleading offered friendships, a sense of belonging to a team, and determination, confidence and patience.

She credited the 13 years of experience coach Radisewitz brings

to cheerleading for her continued participation in the cheer program.

"She has taught me everything I know and has made this sport or activity important to me and to all these girls who are also here with me," she told board members.

Pick said the cheerleaders received new uniforms and pom-poms this year for the football season, and the uniforms would be used during the basketball season as well. Signs to decorate hallways and the gym would also be supported from the fall season's supplies.

"We have the girls, a coach and the equipment needed," she wrote. "We just need your approval."

Because the matter wasn't on the board's agenda, no formal action was taken. But consensus from the six members present (clerk Reva Sehr wasn't in attendance) supported reinstating the winter activity.

"There is a different (more upbeat) atmosphere with cheerleaders there," said vice chairman Tim Jarchow.

Cost for the football cheerleading adviser was \$1,470.

An informal petition with 70 signatures from students and staff was presented to the School Board members at the Nov. 21, 2017, meeting.

At that time, senior Ashlee Boltjes and junior Jacinda Hustoft asked board members to reinstate cheerleading as a winter sport; however, the Board took no formal board action on the matter.



Lori Sorenson photos/1202 santa at train station, park lighting and fireworks
Santa and Mrs. Claus (Pat and Katie Baustian) pose for photos with hundreds of children lined up at the Omaha Depot in Luverne to greet the jolly couple as they rode in on the decorated and lighted Ellis and Eastern train.

Train, fireworks, lights usher in Christmas/continued from 1A

Prizes were awarded for Most Creative Display (Star Herald was first and Bantam A Hockey second), Best use of Polar Express Theme — Rock River Community Church was first and St. Catherine Confirmation Class second) and Brightest Display (Buffalo Ridge Insurance was first

and First Farmers and Merchants Bank second).

Hundreds of vehicles, counting the ones already parked, inched their way, bumper-to-bumper, around the park and were at times lined up on East Main Street back to Blue Mound Avenue.

Pyrotechnician Jonathon Kurtz, assisted by Seth Miller and Jen Wiebe, produced the fireworks show, which was launched from the south bank of the Rock River and sponsored by dozens of local businesses.

"It was a good day," Lais said. "Everything was great."



Above, Addison Johnson captures photos from her perch in the car sun roof. At right, Pastor Harry and Marilyn Flanagan admire Rock River Community Church's lighted display in the Luverne City park Sunday night.



Board superintendent evaluation results in 'accomplished' rating

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School Board members gave Superintendent Craig Oftedahl a final grade of "accomplished" for his performance in the 2020-21 school year.

Each of the seven board members scored Oftedahl on a four-point scale in six areas.

Four dealt with district goals and two were about personal goals.

A 4 is "distinguished," 3 is "accomplished," 2 is "satisfactory" and 1 is "unsatisfactory."

Board members met in an Oct. 28 closed session with Oftedahl for a final evaluation interview.

Board Chairman Eric Hartman delivered a message to Oftedahl at the Nov. 23 board meeting.

"I want to personally thank you for your leadership, your guidance, under less-than-ideal circumstances in the last year especially and the last few years," Hartman said.

"Covid and a building project — is there anything else we could have added to the mix of things?"

The construction and remodeling project started with long-range planning in 2016 (Oftedahl was hired in July 2015) with the actual construction beginning in 2019 and is in the finishing stages this fall.

The \$31 million project is coming within budget, according to business manager Tyler Reisch, who reported on the construction budget at the Oct. 28 meeting.

As of the Nov. 23 meeting, \$730,107 remains in the construction account.

Other district goals and Oftedahl's score in each include:

- provide leadership for the district during the COVID-19 pandemic, 2.86.
- provide leadership in the area of finances, 3.14.
- continue to cultivate community partnerships, 3.71.

The overall score toward district goals was 3.35.

For the personal goals the score include:

- strengthen communication on a consistent

basis, 2.71.

- lead the process to improve efficiency of the district, 3.29.

Overall personal score toward district goals: 3.0.

In other business at the Nov. 23 meeting, the board approved the following personnel:

- hired Savannah Siebenahler as middle-high school paraprofessional beginning Nov. 29, Tara Sudenga as middle school girls' basketball coach, and Mike Gonnerman as middle school boys' basketball coach.
- transferred Danielle Ganun from middle-high school paraprofessional to preschool paraprofessional.

•accepted the retirement of Brenda Fodness as middle-high school cook effective Nov. 30.

- approved the following volunteers: boys' hockey, Kaden Erickson; gymnastics, Cody Gehrke; and wrestling, Joel Evans, Lance Ripka, Matt Fodness and Jeremy Hough.

Christmas Season is approaching...

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Notice is hereby given to all townships having elections in March that the terms of one clerk and one supervisor will expire March 2022.

You must file with your Township Clerk between Dec. 28, 2021 to Jan. 11, 2022.

Teresa Kramer, Secretary
Rock County Township Association

Did Murray the Moose make it back home? Let's hope so

After nearly a month of roaming Rock County, a wayward moose may be gone.



RUMINATIONS

By Mavis Fodness, Reporter

I write “may be” because I don’t want the last social media post about a young male moose lying in a ditch near Tea, South Dakota, to be the same young male moose that’s been roaming Rock County.

Sightings of the Rock County moose began around Halloween when the first pictures of the young moose surfaced. The most startling sighting was a video of the young moose trotting down Highway 75 near the Luverne Farm Store a day or two later.

Every four to five days since then, pictures of the moose were shared. At one point, a spotter suggested naming the moose “Murray.” Murray wasn’t the only moose on the loose, so to speak.

On Nov. 5, news accounts showed a young moose roaming through the SDSU football stadium in Brookings, South Dakota. While it’s possible it could have been Murray, the distance may be a little too far, as the Brookings moose was reported heading west, farther into South Dakota.

Wandering moose are not unusual, said Barb Keller, the big game program director with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. A wandering moose in southwest Minnesota, while not out of the question, is a little unusual.

Keller suspects the moose may be from northwest Minnesota, where about 100 head are known to live.

Young males are more likely to take an excursion as they leave their native surroundings. While they usually

don’t wander hundreds of miles outside their birth places, it is not that uncommon for some moose to be more adventurous — say, complete a jaunt through southwestern Minnesota, which is a little more unusual.

Our Murray has been quite the traveler as he wandered to the Lismore area, only to be spotted back in the Hills area a week later. The Hills-Steen area seems to be his favorite place to be.

His wandering may be in search of food that he is more familiar with. Keller said the moose can subsist on an unusual diet of prairie grass and corn, but his usual diet is tree leaves and plant shoots found in the forested areas farther north.

More disappointing may be that Murray is suffering from brainworm, which affects an animal’s nervous system. Affected animals seek open areas for prolonged periods of time. They move in circles with a noticeable head tilt and apparent blindness. While brainworm is not likely to kill the moose, it makes the animal more susceptible to predators.

From the pictures and videos I’ve seen of Murray, he appears to be healthy. The last reported social media sighting of Murray was posted Nov. 23 in the Hills area.

This week would be the longest stretch between sightings since Murray first surfaced.

Let’s hope our mild weather convinced the heavy-coated young moose to travel farther north where it’s cooler and where other moose live.

Surviving the holidays

There might be a reason for bad behavior, and an act of kindness could help

GUEST EDITORIAL

By Sue Abderholden, director, Minnesota chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness

This is the time of year for celebrations with family and friends. We eat, we talk, we play games, we laugh, we hug.

Over 9,100 Minnesotans have died from COVID-19. There were 723 Minnesotans who died by suicide in 2020. Over 1,000 Minnesotans died from an overdose.

So, for many of us, the approaching holidays will be hard. Memories come flooding back, providing moments of immense sadness, not joy. When we gather and there is an empty chair, we are reminded of their death.

Having unexpectedly lost my husband of over 40 years in May, I am apprehensive as the holiday season approaches. We’ve spent the last 43 years celebrating holidays together so his not being here will have a profound impact.

There are also people who struggle during the holidays due to the impact of mental illnesses or substance use disorders. There’s ambiguous loss, reminders of what might have been.

There’s the difficulty of engaging when your symptoms are overwhelming. There’s the difficulty of trying to cope with a loved one’s symptoms and illnesses.

While we see the beautiful ads about wonderful holidays, they aren’t always wonderful, and we might feel even more pressured to make them wonderful and more disappointed when they aren’t.

I have no great words of advice for surviving the holidays. It is going to be hard. But here are several

things to keep in mind:

- Sit with the grief. Grieving takes time. It’s not about getting better, especially the first year; it’s about getting through it. Don’t try to “fix” someone. Sit by them; allow them to cry, to reminisce, to be sad.

- Reach in. Whether it’s grief or the symptoms of a mental illness, it’s hard to reach out for help. Reach in, offer something specific — a ride, a meal, some fresh flowers, a walk. Send a note that you are thinking of them.

- Let it go. Now’s not the time to complain, to talk about adhering to treatment plans, to fight over what should happen in the future. Just be a family member or a friend. There will be time to have those discussions in the future. But make these holidays a time to be a family that loves each other unconditionally — that truly cares about each other.

- Say “No.” Not all families are healthy. Abuse exists. It’s okay to say “no” to attending events that will be detrimental to your mental health and safety. We have families of origin and families of creation. Some people have to redefine their family.

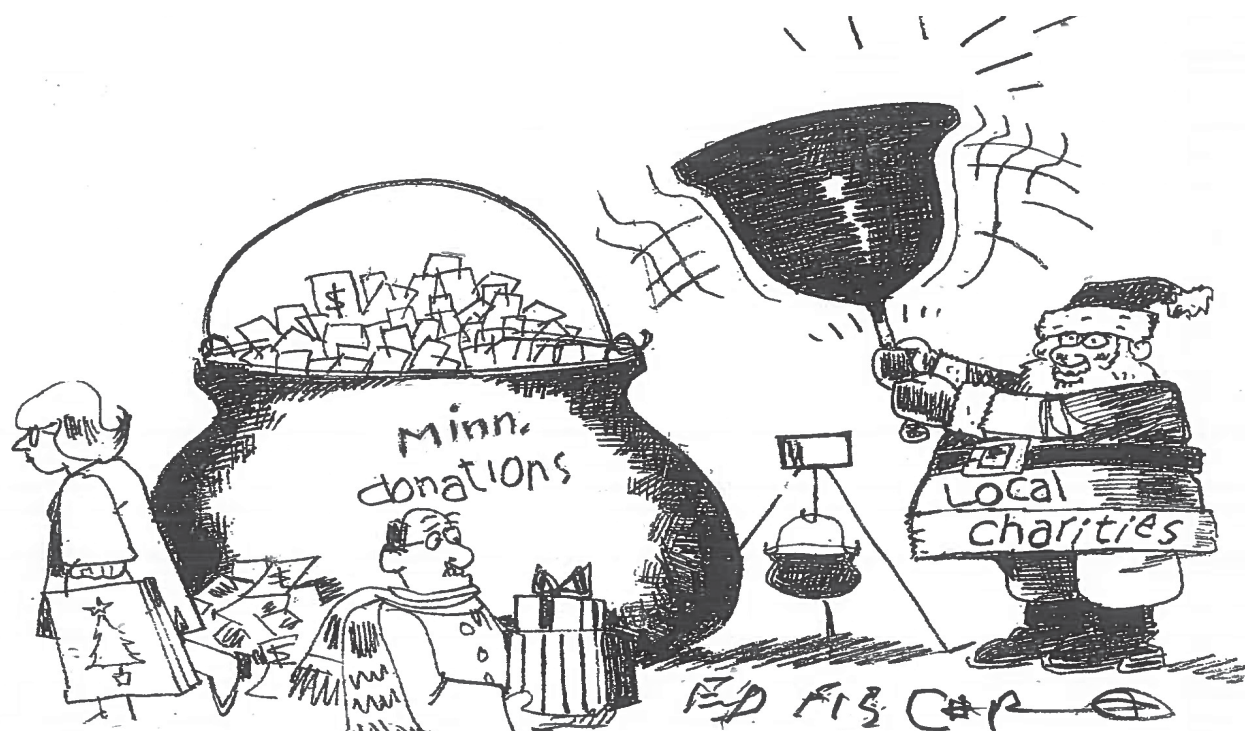
- Keep it simple. Ban perfection. It’s so easy to get stressed about hav-

ing everything be perfect — the gifts, meals, or the decorations. What do you remember most about holidays in the past? My guess is it wasn’t all the extra “stuff” but the people and the feelings and emotions.

I know that the coming holidays will be very different and difficult for me. So, I’m planning ahead. I’m writing down the things and activities that will help my grief and my missing him. I’m going to try a SAD light, I’m going to take walks if it isn’t too cold, I’m going to journal, I’m keeping my expectations low and not doing a lot of decorating or gift buying. I’m connecting to the people who know me and help me.

However you are entering this season, just remember it’s not easy for everyone. Be kind to people who seem to be behaving badly or have a short fuse. There might be a reason that they are struggling during this time, and an act of kindness could help.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness is a non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of children and adults with mental illnesses and their families through its programs of education, support and advocacy.



Household debates bring preferences, compromises this holiday season

White lights or colored lights? Blinking lights or non-blinking lights? Real tree or artificial? Open gifts on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning?

These are the questions that are causing more than a few discussions or debates in our household, and yours as well, I suspect.

I’ll cut right to the chase. The Petersons prefer white lights, the non-blinking kind.



FOR WHAT IT’S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

The real tree/artificial tree debate ends up as a compromise with one of each, but mostly

artificial.

As far as gift opening, here again a little bit of both. A few get

opened on Christmas Eve but most are opened on Christmas morning.

It’s been a couple of years since the Peterson clan has come together on Christmas Day. Recently COVID-19, and before that, busy family and work schedules have made it difficult to gather on Christmas Day.

Again this year we will be celebrating Christmas while most of you will still be shopping for

presents.

For me it’s kind of like the lights, tree and gift-opening debate — or even the date. As long as you are celebrating Christmas with family, nothing else really matters.

Sorry this column is a little short, but I have to finish up my last-minute gift shopping.

This might be a little early for most of you, but Merry Christmas.

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Phone: 507-283-2333 Fax: 507-283-2335

Published Thursdays by Tollefson Enterprises
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 117 West Main, P.O. Box 837, Luverne, MN 56156. Periodicals postage paid at Luverne, Permit #33 and at additional mailing offices.

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Rock County
STAR HERALD
Rock County's newspaper since 1873

(ISSN 0889-888X)
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$74 per year in Rock County; \$91 per year all other areas. Single copies \$1.25

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Tollefson Publishing Roger Tollefson, publisher

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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. 19

•Complainant on W. Main Street reported someone broke into their home.

•School requested deputy assistance.

•MN Department of Corrections requested deputy assistance in Beaver Creek.

Nov. 20

•Assistance from another department was of service westbound on Interstate 90, at the Luverne exit.

•Complainant on N. Water Avenue, Hills, reported a subject with a warrant at location.

•Complainant on 30th Avenue, Hills, reported a mower on fire at location.

•Complainant on 60th Avenue, Hills, reported a subject with Rock County warrant.

Nov. 21

•Deputy out with parked vehicle at location on E. Barck Avenue and N. Blue Mound Avenue.

•Theft was reported at location on W. Interstate Drive.

•Complainant on E. Barck Avenue reported a scam.

•Complainant on N. Esty Street requested a deputy.

Nov. 22

•Complainant in Vermillion, South Dakota, requested information on a child custody matter.

•Complainant on Commerce Road reported a parking issue.

•Complainant on 2nd Street W., Jasper, reported a verbal dispute.

•Complainant in Luverne reported a check fraud.

•Subject on W. Mead Court with Rock County warrant.

Nov. 23

•Complainant on 40th Avenue, Beaver Creek, reported theft at location.

•Complainant on 131st

Street, Luverne, reported three to four vehicles driving on her land/property.

•Complainant on Main Street reported a driving complaint.

•Complainant on Highway 23, mile marker 6, Beaver Creek, reported a driving complaint.

•Deputy assisted state patrol on a vehicle search eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 13, Luverne.

Nov. 24

•Subject located on 1st Street NE, Austin, was arrested on Rock County warrant.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported stolen skid loader in Rock County.

•Complainant on E. Luverne Street requested to make a report.

•Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported threats from another tenant.

•Complainant on W. Mead Court reported a vulnerable adult situation.

•Complainant on W. Mead Court reported loud music.

Nov. 25

•Counterfeit money was received at location on S. Kniss Avenue.

•Outage at location.

Nov. 26

•Complainant on W. Church Avenue, Steen, reported harassing communication.

In addition, officers responded to 6 motor vehicle accidents, 2 deer accidents, 4 escorts, 17 ambulance runs, 3 paper services, 4 animal complaints, 2 fingerprint requests, 5 burn permits, 1 driver's license check, 1 gas drive-off, 2 alarms, 4 drug court tests, 5 purchase and carry permits, 11 traffic stops, 9 abandoned 911 calls, 2 tests and 1 follow-up.



Lori Sorenson photo/1202 manure tanker spill

Manure tanker rolls into ditch near Hills



Local emergency responders were dispatched Tuesday morning, Nov. 23, to a crash near Hills where a semi-truck hauling manure tipped over into the ditch.

No one was injured, but the driver, Derek Fick, was trapped in the cab until fire department personnel could help him out.

The truck was hauling 7,000 gallons of liquid manure, most of which spilled into the ditch. State and local environmental officials are determining a clean-up strategy. Fick's brother, Greg Fick, said he was concerned when he first arrived. "When I first looked at that cab, I didn't think I had a brother anymore," he said. Derek was taken in for medical evaluation.

Bakken elected to district Farm Bureau Board

Peter Bakken of rural Beaver Creek was elected to represent Minnesota Farm Bureau's District III during the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF) 103rd Annual Meeting on Nov. 19 in Bloomington.

County voting delegates elected Dan Glessing of Waverly in Wright County to a two-year term as president of MFBF to succeed former president Kevin Paap of Garden City in Blue Earth

County.

Elected vice president was Carolyn Olson of Cottonwood in Lyon County to fill the remaining year of the vice president's term.

Minnesota Farm Bureau is comprised of 78 local Farm Bureau associations across Minnesota. Members make their views known to political leaders, state government officials, special interest groups and the general public.

DNR seeks input on electronic license system

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is looking for input on how Minnesotans currently access the electronic license system, and what they want in the future as systems are modernized.

Feedback from current and potential users — including anglers, boaters, hunters and recreational vehicle operators — is critically

important. States throughout the nation are updating their license systems to take advantage of new technology and to improve customer experience.

To access the survey, visit the DNR's engagement page at mndnr.gov/ELS. The survey will be open from Monday, Nov. 29, to Monday, Jan. 31, 2022.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Schear leaves Rock County Opportunities for position at Marshall facility/continued from page 2A

feels like she's leaving the program in a good place.

"It's time for me to move on to the next project and the next challenge and develop something similar in another town."

That town will be Marshall, where she's accepted the director's position at Advance Opportunities. She'll continue living in Luverne and will commute full time.

"I've been helping them on an interim basis through the whole pandemic," Schear said. "They need some rebuilding. There's lots of opportunity for growth there that I'm looking forward to."

This is the sort of challenge she said she

embraced when she started in Luverne.

"When I started here, my mantra was, 'I don't even know what I don't know.' It is so complex; this field and industry is so complicated," Schear said.

"You have multiple government state agencies that you report to and have compliance to maintain with. And continually changing funding sources and rules and regulations. And needs and desires are constantly changing of your clients whose health needs change."

Also she said the workforce crisis affects programs like RCO's — like all other employers.

"When we're in the employment field for people with disabilities and

you've got a workforce crisis ... you rely on people to work to help others get work," she said.

"Those are the challenges — to find the right fit for the people who want to work, and to find the funding and the staffing to find the level of support that they need."

And there are continually changing political arguments, such as the current issue of sub-minimum wage and the need to protect disabled adults from being taken advantage of with jobs paying 30 cents per hour.

"That sounds horrible, but you have to look at the whole big picture and

understand what happens when we take away the in-house work here," she said.

"And there's a moratorium right now that people can only work here for three years. After that they're expected to get a job in the community."

The problem is not every building in town is handicapped-accessible or has the work or the space, and clients need one-to-one support staff.

"It costs taxpayers \$30 per hour to pay someone to help with a \$10-per-hour job," Schear said.

"Whereas in the building here, we bring in the work. We have everything we need here."

She mentioned the

lift and the large bathroom, the medical training and multiple staff with multiple eyes, to work in a group of one to four or one to five.

"It's a lot cheaper to support five individuals, plus they get the socialization that they're not necessarily going to get working somewhere in the community," Schear said.

Her new role in Marshall will present many of the same challenges, but she said she's ready for that.

"I want to lead an agency that provides top-

notch services for people with disabilities," she said. "For the next few years that will be in Marshall."

As for her family at RCO:

"It has been the privilege of a lifetime to serve the clients in this county for the 15 1/2 years that I did. I have learned so much from them," she said.

"I'm a completely different person from when I first started here. I have a much deeper appreciation of the challenges people with disabilities endure and face every day."

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A return to a community Christmas season

Mavis Fodness photos/Hills Community 2021

The traditional free community meal, pictures with Santa and lighting of the community Christmas tree returned to the Hills community Monday night after a yearlong pandemic hiatus. At the Hills Building Communities Stronger community club-sponsored event, a soup and sandwich dinner was served at the Hills American Legion, where Santa greeted children and took gift requests. Mild weather allowed residents to linger around the community Christmas tree decorated with ornaments from friends and relatives. The tree, located near the Hills Veterans Memorial, will stay lighted through the holiday season. **Above:** Hills Mayor Keith Elbers (standing center near the tree) leads the countdown to the tree lighting ceremony after Pastor Nita Parker (left) finished a holiday message with the question, "What do we love about Christmas?" Answer: "Seeing those we love." Below, left: Maybrie (left) and Malachi Bush (right) pose with Santa Claus (Charlie Sandager) as their mother, Kayla Bush, takes a quick holiday picture. **Below, right:** Kolten Wiersma, 3, asks Santa for several presents, including "lots of horses."



MENU

Monday, Dec. 6: Homemade chicken vegetable soup, meat sandwich, pineapple, cookie.

Tuesday, Dec. 7: Tater tot casserole, French cut green beans, warm peaches, dinner roll.

Wednesday, Dec. 8: Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, dessert

Thursday, Dec. 9: Turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes with gravy, squash, dinner roll, frosted cake.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Grace Lutheran Church.

Friday, Dec. 10: Barbecued pork on a bun, coleslaw, fruit salad, gelatin with whipped topping.

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.

EVENTS

Elementary concerts slated for Dec. 16 in PAC

Luverne Elementary fourth-grade students will present their music program, "It's Winter," at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, in the Performing Arts Center.

Second-grade students will present their music program, "The Nutcracker in 20 Minutes or Less," at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 16, also in the Performing Arts Center.

The public is invited to see both performances and if the second-graders can tell the Nutcracker story in under 20 minutes.

1905: Records set in number of social circles

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

**In Social Circles
Record of a Typical Mid-Winter Week
Serial Life In Luverne
Characterized by One
Continuous Round of
Pleasure—Dancing,
Card, Dinner, Birthday
Parties, Etc.—Wedding
next Wednesday**

This is continued from last week's publication

Miss Elsie Johnston proved herself a charming hostess Monday evening when she entertained the members of the Thursday Night club with a dinner party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. LaDue on North Estey street. The affair was undoubtedly the most enjoyable in the history of the club. Dinner was served at 7 o'clock in five courses, covers being laid for twenty people. All of the guests were seated about one large table, which was decorated with carnations. The special souvenirs of the dinner were crimson hearts, some of which were appropriately pierced by cupid's arrow. Later in the evening the guests devoted their attention to playing progressive Five Hundred. John M. Connell and Arthur M. Marsh tied for the honors, with Mr. Connell winning the tie.

Under ordinary circumstances a birthday club enter-



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,
president Rock County
Historical Society

tainment which occurred on the 21st ult. would be rather late for notice at this time, but inasmuch as the birthday of the guest of honor comes but one a year and the Kaeffe Klasche club meets only once a month, the Herald wishes to correct its oversight of last week. On the above date Mrs. C. O. Wright entertained the aforesaid club at her home on West Main street in honor of Mrs. A. E. Spalding.

Two social events, both in club circles, were held Tuesday evening, when the Neighborhood club was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ferguson at their home on West Main street, and the Ladies' Tourist club by Mrs. A. D. LaDue at her home on North Estey street. A large number of the members

Bits, go to page 7A

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2011)

Singer and songwriter Doug Spartz will bring his holiday show, "Almost Home, an Americana Holiday Concert," to the Historic Palace Theatre in Luverne Friday, Dec. 2. ...

Spartz, who has family ties to Worthington, performs with a seven-piece band, the members of which have their own deep roots in music.

Dawn MacArther began her career at age 4 and was featured at 11 years of age at Branson's Country Tonight Theater. Lonnie Knight is one of the Midwest's premier guitarists and vocalists. Lauren McArthur is a longtime member of the Whitesidewalls. James Plattes is an accomplished fiddler, mandolin and harp player. Reid Papke performs on bass, Gary Haberman on drums and percussion and Kenny Thompson on vocals and guitar.

25 years ago (1996)

On Monday, residents of the Hills-Beaver Creek school district will vote on a \$1.95 million bond to renovate the elementary school in Beaver Creek.

Voters can cast their ballots from 3 to 8 p.m. at the elementary school, the high school and at the Steen Community Hall.

The bond must pass by a majority vote of 50 percent plus one vote. If it passes, the money would cover costs for asbestos abatement and demolition of the existing facility, which was built in the 1920s. It also includes a new media center and commons area and improvements to the locker rooms and other physical education facilities.

50 years ago (1971)

Rock county farmers raised a record crop of corn this year, estimated to exceed 10 million bushels, which is three million bushels over the previous record.

Almost all of this corn is eligible for commodity loan at 99c per bushel, the ASCS says.

This loan program offers an opportunity to control the flow of corn into the marketing channels, offering producers an opportunity to take advantage of any future price rise and give them a chance to get much needed cash at marketing time, at a low interest rate.

County farmers have sealed 553,600 bushels of corn to date and are expected to seal another million bushels by spring. Producers also have sealed 145 thousand bushels of oats and almost 100 thousand bushels of soybeans to date.

75 years ago (1946)

A few more days and Rock county's 1946 corn crop will be practically all husked and in cribs, County Agent Golla reports this week.

Since cold weather set in, and the ground has frozen, mechanical pickers have been operating steadily in all parts of the county. The county agent said that from what he has observed, the yield on a countywide basis will run from 60 to 70 bushels per acre on the average. Quality, however, is not as good as it could be because of the high moisture content.

Up to about a week ago, picking had been spotty through the county for a number of reasons. Many farmers are picking in order to utilize stalks as feed, even though the moisture content of the grain is a little high. Others feel that corn would dry better in the field than in cribs, and have held up operations. As a matter of fact, some farmers are reported to be waiting until spring to do their picking.

100 years ago (1921)

When the Luverne high school football season opened, Coach Lennox announced that he would award at the close of the season a gold watch charm in the form of a miniature football to the most valuable man on the team during the 1921 season and to the best student athlete. A board was appointed to determine the play during the year and to decide at the conclusion of the schedule to whom the honors would go.

Captain Roy Campbell has the honor of being adjudged the most valuable player on the squad. He proved to be the driving force behind the team's energy throughout the year and was without doubt the best defensive player on the team. Dell McCoy was a close contender for the honor.

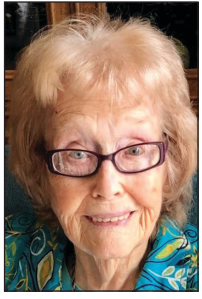
Albert Haakenson, center on the 1921 squad, received the gold football for being the best student athlete on the team. In addition to being of inestimable value to the team, Albert maintained exceptionally high grades in all studies during the season.

Boyd Shaffer has been chosen captain of the 1922 L. H. S. team and the squad will include Lloyd Ohs, Dell McCoy, Barthold Hadler, Henry Hanson, William Peterson, Henry White, Ralph Carstens, Merle Hunter, Bob VanHouse, Beryl Adams, Paul Parr, Edwin Ryan, Bob Hettlinger, Wilford Linnell, Edwin Mitchell, Donald Solberg, Donald Eberlein, Adolph Haakenson, Ellis Leslie, Clarence Dybedock, James Colby, Oswald Mannigel and Henry Colby.

OBITUARIES

Laura May Bosch

The sunset of Laura May (Doyle) Bosch's life on earth took place on November 26, 2021, at the Avera Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls surrounded by three generations of family members.



Celebration of Life service will be 10:30 a.m. on Monday, December 6, at the Reformed Church of Steen. Internment will take place at 9:30 a.m. at the Eastside Cemetery near Steen. Visitation will be from 4:00-6:00 p.m., Sunday, December 5, with the family present at the Jurens Funeral Home of Hills, Minnesota.

Laura May was lovingly welcomed into heaven by her Savior and greeted by her husband Dries, son Jeffrey, great-granddaughter Sarah and all the members of the Doyle and Bosch family along with many friends that preceded her.

The sunrise of Laura May's life began on April 26, 1927, to Edward and Caroline (Gibboney) Doyle in rural Luverne. The fifth of six children, she attended grade school in the country and graduated from Luverne High School in 1946.

Soon after, she met the love of her life, Dries, and they were married on January 9, 1948, at the First Baptist Church in Luverne. Initially, they lived in Sioux Falls, and in 1949 they moved to Steen in a house built for them where they raised their five sons. After 55 years in Steen they moved to their comfortable apartment at Bethany Meadows in Brandon, South Dakota. Dries passed away at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne on November 6, 2005.

Laura May had a strong faith in God which she openly shared with others. She was an active member of the Reformed Church of Steen for over 70 years during which time she taught Sunday school for many years, took leadership roles in women's ministry and participated in numerous church activities. After relocating to Bethany Meadows, she was a regular member of the faith

community there. Laura May was known to attend most Bethany Meadow church services, regardless of denomination. On Sunday morning she always tuned in to the broadcast of the Reformed Church of Steen.

Laura May had many favorite activities. On a daily basis, she conducted personal Bible study and devotions often times making written notes in the margins. She had a very large beautiful garden in Steen where her sons were always more than willing to do the weeding. Her love of gardening continued at Bethany Meadows where her patio was filled with potted geraniums, and the three flower beds surrounding her apartment were always planted with marigolds every summer.

Being the mother of five boys spanning 17 years, Laura May and Dries attended thousands of sporting events both at home and away. Dries always kept score and Laura May always packed lunch and treats for the bus ride home after the game.

Talk about voracious readers, there was a well-worn track in the carpet from her apartment to the library at Bethany where she read the paper daily. Laura May frequently was on the waiting list to obtain books from the Brandon Library and had the rare ability to read more than one book at a time.

Laura May's legacy will live on for generations through her five sons, Steve of Minneapolis (Janet Kay), Gregg (Anita) of Cedar Rapids, Paul (Diane) of Brandon, and Tom (Amy) of Sioux Falls; daughter-in-law Kelly of Walbridge, Ohio; 10 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; brother-in-law and special friend LeRoy Rust of Luverne; sisters-in-law Darlene Bosch of Brandon and Gert Hup of Hills.

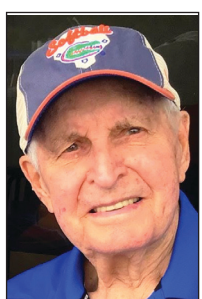
Memorials can be directed to Center of Hope, Sioux Falls in honor of Laura May.

Arrangements were provided by Jurens Funeral Home, www.jurensfuneral.com

(1202 V)

Cornelius Bosch

Cornelius Bosch, 94, formerly of rural Steen, died Friday, Nov. 26, 2021, at the Dougherty Hospice House in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Visitation will be at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 3, followed by a memorial service at noon, at Steen Reformed Church. Burial with military honors will be in Eastside Cemetery near Steen.

Memorials may be directed to the Sanford Children's Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Cornelius Bosch was born on Nov. 3, 1927, to Dick and Dena (Hoff) Bosch. He grew up in Steen and graduated from Hills High School in 1945. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Army. He was sent to Fort McCallum for basic training and served overseas in the Philippines until his honorable discharge in April of 1947.

He attended college in Brookings, South Dakota. Later that year he took a job at John Morrell's in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

On Feb. 23, 1950, Cornie married Darlene Rozeboom. The couple lived east of Steen until completion of their permanent home in Steen, where they raised their five children. Cornie continued working at John Morrell in management until he retired in February 1989.

In retirement the couple enjoyed spending time with their family and traveling with the Prime Timers. In 2002 they moved to Luverne, where they lived until moving in 2017 to Bethany Meadows in Brandon, South Dakota.

Cornie was a lifetime member of Steen Reformed Church, serving as deacon and elder, as well as many committees. He loved to at-

tend gospel concerts. His faith in God was his foundation. Cornie believed in hard work, being good to others and staying true to himself. His children and grandchildren fondly remember him saying, "Two wrongs don't make a right."

In addition to serving as Steen town clerk, Cornie also served on the Steen and Hills-Beaver Creek school boards. He enjoyed all sports, especially Minnesota Twins baseball, Minnesota Vikings football and Minnesota Gophers football. He enjoyed attending his children's and grandchildren's sports events. Cornie was a dedicated fan of the Florida Gators girls' softball team where his son, Mike, coaches.

Cornie is survived by his wife, Darlene Bosch, of Brandon; children Larry (Janet) Bosch of Vero Beach, Florida, Colleen Bosch (Wayne Ytebo) of Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, Nancy Hilbrands of Sioux Falls, David (Maria) Bosch of Tifton, Georgia, and Michael (Ellen) Bosch of Gainesville, Florida; 14 grandchildren, Adam, Clinton, Aaron, Moreen, James, Jeremy, Nathan, Nicole, Nolan, Rebecca, Matthew, Kendall, Carsten and Jacob; 18 great-grandchildren; and sister Gertrude Hup of Hills.

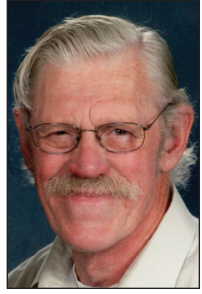
He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Dries Bosch; a sister, Betty Boeve; four infant siblings; sister-in-law Laura May Bosch; and brothers-in-law Dick Hup and Edwin Boeve.

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

(1202 F)

Gerald Utter

Gerald Ray "Jerry" Utter, 79, Portland, Oregon, died Monday, Nov. 15, 2021, at his home after a brief battle with cancer.



He will be laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

Jerry Utter was born on Oct. 9, 1942, in Astoria, Oregon, to Ray and Norma (Whitten) Utter. He graduated from Astoria High School in 1960.

He enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in 1963. He served six years on USCGC Yocona (WMEC-168) in Astoria, Oregon, Adak, Alaska, and USCGC Winona (WHEC-65) based in Port Angeles, Washington. He completed his service as an EM3 (E-4).

After his military service Jerry worked as a journeyman maintenance electrician at FMC in Portland, Oregon, Grey & Company in Forest Grove, Oregon, and Gunderson in Portland, Oregon. He was a member of the IBEW Local 48 electrician's union. Jerry retired in 2008.

Jerry married JoAnn Ahrendt, daughter of

Herbert and Esther Ahrendt (Deitermann) of Luverne, on Feb. 8, 1975, at St. Matthew Catholic Church in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Throughout his life Jerry enjoyed bowling, repairing electronics, train travel, card games, crosswords, sports, and his wife's baking. Jerry was a B.P.O.E. Elk for more than 52 years at Lodge #1862 in Hillsboro. He volunteered and made extensive charitable donations, habitually donated blood, and could be found serving meals or packing care boxes on most holiday mornings.

Survivors include his wife, JoAnn Utter, daughter Jennifer, and son John; sister Janet Stocker and her children Diane (Dean) Carter and Dan Stocker.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents and his son, Christopher Utter.

In lieu of flowers, please donate blood or send monetary donations to the Elks National Foundation, Oregon Food Bank, American Red Cross, or the charity of your choice.

(1202 F)

Milo Hamann

Milo James Hamann, 85, Luverne, died Tuesday, Nov. 16, 2021, at the Sanford Luverne Medical Center.



A funeral service was Saturday, Nov. 27, at Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne. Burial was at the Memory Gardens cemetery near Luverne.

Milo Hamann was born Aug. 22, 1936, in Luverne, to John and Alma (Ahrendt) Hamann. He graduated from Luverne High School in 1955.

He married Beatrice "Betty" McClure in 1956 at Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne. The couple has lived in the same house in Luverne for the past 58 years and just celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.

Milo has been an active member of Grace Lutheran Church his entire life. He was hard-working, loyal and passionate for what he believed in. He was an usher at church and participated in the couples club with Betty. He also made sure to bring the kids along to shovel snow before services at church.

Milo spent a lot of time farming and custom baling.

He was also employed at the Luverne IBP, Ketterling Services Inc., and Luverne Bumper in Brandon, South Dakota. He enjoyed conversations with family, friends and strangers. He always had a joke to tell and a witty sense of humor.

Milo is survived by his wife, Betty; five children, Douglas (Carolyn) Hamann, Rolla, Missouri; Deb (Ken) Dixon, Luverne; Tim (Carol) Hamann, Becker; Gerry Hamann, Luverne; and Terry (Veronica) Hamann, Luverne; eight grandchildren, Joshua Hamann, Naomi Hamann, Adam Hamann, Jenna (Jon) Schaeffer, Zach (Laura) Hamann, Rachel Snyders, Caitlyn Snyders, and Hailey (Hunter) Robinson; and two great-grandchildren, Marta Schaeffer and Eliana Schaeffer.

He was preceded in death by his parents; infant son Jimmy; daughter-in-law Connie Hamann; and son-in-law Greg Snyders.

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

(1202 F)

Francis Faber

Francis Faber, 95, Luverne, died Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021, at Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



A funeral service was Friday, Nov. 26, at the Christian Reformed Church in Luverne. Burial followed at Maplewood Cemetery.

Francis Faber was born June 13, 1926, to William and Roelina (Driesen) Faber and grew up on the family farm south of Rock Rapids, Iowa, near Lakewood Corner.

He was drafted into the Army Air Corps during World War II, and while stationed in Long Beach, California, met Audrey Hop of nearby Artesia. They were married on July 26, 1945, and after completing his military obligation, they moved to Artesia where Francis worked for a local dairy.

In 1951 the family moved to Madison, South Dakota, where Francis began his farming career. They moved one year later to a farm northeast of Inwood, Iowa, and five years later to a farm north of Lester, Iowa. In 1966 Francis and Audrey purchased their farm west of Luverne, where they remained until they retired.

In retirement they spent winters in Mesa, Arizona. In 2012 Francis and Audrey moved to Crown Point Senior Living Facility in Sioux Center, Iowa. Audrey died on July

20, 2016. Francis purchased a house and moved to Luverne.

Francis was a member of the Christian Reformed Church in Luverne and served on numerous committees. He was also a charter member of Maranatha Christian Reformed Church in Mesa, Arizona.

Francis is survived by his son, William "Butch" (Cathy) Faber of Pacific Grove, California; his daughter, Judi (Ed) Boersma of Minneapolis; 18 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law Darla Faber of Luverne; and son-in-law Dennis Vander Plaats of Sioux Center.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Audrey Faber; son Robert Faber; daughters Gloria Ackerman Vander Plaats and Crystal Faber; great-grandchildren, Breiton Ackerman, Kyle Faber and Christian Dodson; great-great-grandchild Paige Punt; grandson-in-law Robert Hall; brothers, Ronald, Harold and Wilbur; sister Harriet Faber; son-in-law Barney "Bud" Ackerman Jr.; and half-sisters Inez and Catherine.

Memorials may be directed to Hope Haven or the Luke Society.

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

(1202 F)

Bits/continued from page 6A

of the Neighborhood club were present and participated in progressive Five Hundred, and at the conclusion of the games dainty refreshments were served by the hostess. The meeting of the Tourist club was one of their regular events and the usual program, in which pleasure is combined with study, was carried out.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. C. Huntington and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Young united Saturday evening in entertaining the Freeman Avenue club at the home of the former. Four tables were set for progressive Five Hundred. Refreshments were served.

Vying with other social entertainments Wednesday evening was the meeting of the Cinch club which was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Kennicott.

The chief event of the week in social circles for those concerned was the dinner party given Sunday afternoon by Mr. and Mrs. Will McDermott at their commodious farm home at the Mounds. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Ryan, Mrs. Kate Brazzell, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. P. R. Kelley, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Beek, Mr. and Mrs. Harper Schaeffer.

Elmer Cunningham, of Beaver Creek, who is attending the High school in this city, entertained twelve of his boy friends at a card party Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Davis on West Warren street.

The marriage of Miss Laura Elizabeth Hinky to Mr. John Mitchell Connell, which is announced for next Wednesday will be not only the most important evening of the coming week but will also be the social event of the season. Invitations for the wedding were issued by the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Hinky, last week. Archbishop W. H. Knowlton, of St. James, will perform the ceremony which will take place in Holy Trinity church at 11 o'clock in the forenoon. From 11:30 until 2 o'clock a reception will be given at the bride's home, and the bride and groom will leave at 3 o'clock on a trip to Chicago and other eastern points.

In addition to the events of Tuesday evening noted above, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fritz entertained a number of their friends and neighbors very pleasantly with a card party at their home on West Warren street.



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Mavis Fodness photo/1202 Brenda Fodness Retires

Fodness retires after 24 years serving school meals

Brenda Fodness hung up her kitchen apron and removed her hairnet for the last time Tuesday after serving breakfasts and lunches at the Luverne Middle-High School for the past 24 years. While working in the school's new cafeteria is more enjoyable than the basement kitchen she worked in for decades, Fodness said she decided to retire rather than battle another winter driving between Kenneth and Luverne each day. She began the job in September 1997.

The love of a young dog

By Scott Rall
Outdoors columnist

My newest Labrador, Ghost, is all grown up now at 1 1/2 years old. He makes No. 4 at my house with his superiors being 10, 7 and 5 years old. At full size he is the smallest dog I have ever had at a whopping 40 pounds.

I did all of the obedience and collar training on this dog starting at about 7 to 8 months of age. The puppy needs to grow up a little before you can expect their brains to be mature enough to grasp more challenging concepts. When you get to a certain point in the training process of a dog, you need a steady and constant supply of live birds to train with.

So I sent him to my partner and full-time training expert in Bemidji. For the past few months all he did was practice quartering and retrieving live birds. There are very few problems that any dog might have that cannot be fixed or perfected with enough live birds.

The last three weeks were spent working on a hunting preserve in Gettysburg, South Dakota. At a preserve there really is no limit to the number of birds you can shoot in a day.

He was able to make hundreds of retrieves over that three-week period. He came home on Nov. 3.

Hunting pen-raised released birds is very different from hunting the wild ringnecks of Minnesota. Pen-raised birds do not have the natural instincts of wild birds. They tend to sit pretty tight most of the time and most hunts take place in planted food plots with mowed areas around the edges. When a bird falls in the open, it's much easier to retrieve it.

The best thing you can do for an inexperienced dog is to take them hunting



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, Outdoors columnist

by themselves. I committed that Ghost would go hunting with me for two full weeks before I allowed him to hunt with my other three dogs.

This allows the dog to learn on their own what it takes to track, flush and retrieve a wild bird without competition from other dogs, and it builds confidence in the young dog.

It can be challenging for a die-hard pheasant hunter to leave the three other members of the "A" Team at home to hone the skills of the amateur. Ghost was successful in those early weeks, but my harvest rate was way lower. Tracking a wounded bird takes time and experience in the field. I did lose two birds during that first two weeks.

Another thing you need to do with a young dog is allow them to range out further without getting in trouble. If you make steady and repeated corrections to a young dog for being too far away, you risk the chance they may just say, "OK, Dad, I'll just stay right by your side and walk along. I can't get in any trouble if I do that."

As a result of a looser invisible leash, Ghost has flushed several birds out of gun range during that first two weeks. After the dog has had some success and the enthusiasm and drive is better developed, you can start to rein them in to the proper distance.

The way to keep a dog in gun range is a correction for failure to comply with a known command. In my world I use a whistle for several commands. One long blast on the whistle

means "sit." Tooting the whistle over and over means come to me. If the dog is getting too far away, I will use the whistle "here" command to come to me.

If the dog does not comply with the "here" command, I will give the whistle command again and then apply a small amount of stimulation to the training collar to enforce the known command here.

My challenge with Ghost is that he hunts like a rocket. It only takes a few seconds for him to cover an additional 40 yards and be too far away. Some dogs hunt slower and more methodically, and others run full speed and cover more ground. It is great to hunt these two styles together.

He is going to be a star pheasant hunter. He is now running with my other dogs, and they will need to be on the top of their games unless they want Ghost to get all the feathers in his mouth.

The season is more than half over and the hunting is getting much better as the birds start to bunch up a little.

When the dogs know their jobs and do them well, there is no prettier picture than four dogs following their noses all the way to pheasants in my vest.

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

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Farm input costs rising rapidly for 2022

By Kent Thiesse

Farmers in many areas of the United States, including several portions of southern Minnesota, are having a very good profit year in 2021. In the latest estimate, the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) is projecting total U.S. net farm income for 2021 at \$113 billion, which is at the highest level since 2013.

The higher levels of net farm income in 2021 are the result of better than average crop yields in many locations and the highest corn and soybean commodity prices since 2013, along with some extra government program payments early in the year.

However, as we end the year, rapidly rising crop input costs for 2022 will likely increase crop break-even costs, which could lead to much lower net farm income levels next year.

Almost every input expense for crop production will increase in 2022 compared to expense levels in 2021 and other recent years. Much of the focus has been in higher fertilizer costs for corn, which are expected to nearly double in 2022 compared to average 2021 fertilizer costs. Input costs are also expected to be significantly higher for crop chemicals, diesel fuel, propane, repairs, custom work and labor. As of late November, diesel fuel prices were 60 percent higher than a year earlier.

About the only inputs not expected to show major increases are seed costs and crop insurance expense.

The cost of farm equipment has also increased substantially from a year

earlier, which will likely increase depreciation and other overhead costs for 2022.

Many types of fertilizer products are now at record price levels, which is likely to have a big impact on corn break-even levels and could encourage more soybean acres next year.

Several phosphate and potash fertilizer products have increased by 15-20 percent since late September, while the cost of anhydrous ammonia, urea and other nitrogen fertilizer products has increased by approximately 50 percent in the past two months.

The rapid increase in fertilizer costs is being driven by high global demand, very tight supplies of many fertilizer ingredients, and by shipping issues at U.S. ports.

Following are the prices for some types of fertilizer in late November of 2021 compared to a year earlier in 2020 (based on DTN data and analysis):

- Phosphate (MAP) \$911 per ton compared to \$488 per ton (87 percent increase).
- Potash \$769 per ton compared to \$336 per ton (129 percent increase).
- Dry urea (nitrogen) \$859 per ton compared to \$358 per ton (140 percent increase).
- Anhydrous (nitrogen) \$1,220 per ton compared to \$571 per ton (114 percent increase).
- UAN32 (nitrogen) \$651 per ton compared to \$249 per ton (161 percent increase)

Fertilizer expense typically accounts for about one-third of a corn farmer's crop input costs; however, in

2022 that cost may rise to 45 percent or higher. An average corn fertilizer program in southern Minnesota is expected to cost about \$250 to \$300 per acre in 2022, as compared to an estimated \$140 per acre in 2021 and \$121 per acre in 2020, based on South Central College (SCC) Farm Business Management (FBM) data.

The 2022 fertilizer costs will likely top the average fertilizer expenses of \$194 and \$191 per acre respectively for 2012 and 2013, which are the current highest average per acre fertilizer costs listed in the FBM records for southern Minnesota.

In addition to increases in fertilizer costs and some other crop input costs, most farmers will also likely face increases in land rental rates in 2022. Most experts expect 2022 cash rental rates in the Upper Midwest to increase by 10 percent or more, meaning that rental rates that were \$225 per acre in 2021 will likely be \$250 per acre or higher in 2022. However, there have also been reports of land rental rates topping \$300 per acre or more in some areas.

Many of these significantly higher land rental rates for 2022 are being based on above average 2021 corn and soybean yield levels, the higher grain prices that we have experienced in the last 12 months, and crop input expense levels from 2021 or earlier.

The combination of significantly higher crop input costs and increasing land rental rates is likely to put more pressure on crop break-

even price levels for 2022. Using typical crop input expenses, other direct costs, average overhead expenses, together with a land rental rate of \$250 per acre and a targeted return to the farm operator of \$50 per acre, the break-even price to cover direct and overhead expenses for corn in 2022 would be approximately \$5.00 to \$5.50 per bushel.

If the cash rental rate increases to \$300 per acre, the break-even price jumps to about \$5.35 to \$5.85 per bushel. This compares to corn break-even levels of \$3.75 to \$4.00 per bushel in 2021.

The break-even soybean price to cover the cost of production and \$250 per acre land rent would be about \$11.50 to \$12.50 per bushel, which would increase to about \$12.50 to \$13.50 per bushel at \$300/acre land rent. This compares to soybean break-even levels of \$9.00-\$9.50 per acre in 2021.

Based on the monthly World Supply and Demand (WASDE) Report in November, USDA is estimating the U.S. average corn price for the 2021-22 year at \$5.45 per bushel and the average 2021-22 soybean price at \$12.10 per bushel. Crop price bids in south central Minnesota in late November of 2021 for the fall of 2022 at local elevators and processing plants have been near \$5.00 per bushel for corn and \$11.50 per bushel for soybeans. This will likely be close to the break-even level at crop insurance APH yield levels

LHS wrestling program's record holder eyes national title

Solomon Nielsen helped Augsburg University to team title, now focus is on himself

By Mavis Fodness

When Solomon Nielsen graduated from LHS in 2017, he achieved wrestling feats no one else in school history had reached.

There is, however, one wrestling feat he hasn't achieved — an individual championship — which he's set as a goal to accomplish this year at the college level with Augsburg University.

"It would mean a lot just because I've worked so many years and I've never won a state title but I was always close," he said. "I've always worked extremely, extremely hard and I feel I just never reached my full potential."

Nielsen felt he was on that path as a college senior in March 2020, until the coronavirus pandemic abruptly put a stop to the Division III National Championships.

"We were weighing in — warming up — we were down to weight and at 7 o'clock at night they canceled," he said. "I was pretty torn. I kind of felt the world was ending. All of a sudden 'bam.' We were set to repeat as national champions — we were ranked first — and then it was all just taken away from everyone."

As a consolation, the college coaches' association coordinated an individual event in 2020 under Covid restrictions. He finished second at 174 pounds.

Due to the interrupted 2020 season, Nielsen received another year of college wrestling eligibility.

The extra time allowed the torn LCL he sustained at the end of his junior



season more time to heal. The 2020 year of Covid tests and meet cancellations brings him into this season as a healthy athlete with a positive outlook.

After all, he didn't expect to be wrestling at the college level for a fifth year.

"(Wrestling has) taught me so many lessons about working hard and ignoring the 'what-ifs' and 'I can't's' excuses and base on just yourself," he said.

"If you want to get better, you've got to do it yourself."

Nielsen admits the transition from high school to college wasn't as smooth as he liked. Being away from home combined with time management issues led to an average freshman year on the mat.

He learned to plan.

With the help of the Augsburg coaches and teammates, he turned an average freshman season to winning records the last three years. His overall college record is 55-13 with the Auggies and a win percentage of 90, up from 78 percent as a freshman.

Nielsen, a three-time



Photos courtesy of Augsburg University

Solomon Nielsen ended the 2020 Division III college season as the No. 2 wrestler at 174 pounds. He hopes to end his 2021 wrestling career in the No. 1 spot with an individual Division III national championship.

state high school wrestling tournament qualifier, admits he didn't plan to wrestle at the collegiate level.

"I just liked wrestling and my goals just kept going higher and higher. I kept readjusting my goals and all of a sudden — in the middle of my senior (high school) year — I decided to go wrestle at Augsburg," he said.

Under the tutelage of coach Tony Valek, and with the support of his wrestling teammates, Nielsen is well on his way to finishing his K-6 physical education degree. Nielsen would like to finish his college wrestling career as well.

"Obviously I want to obtain the goal of national champion and again try to repeat as team national champions," he said.

He has four months before the Division III National Championships. Until then Nielsen will work toward his goal one match at a time.

"I am always looking to win each match," he said. "I always have winning the match in my head as I begin each match — how am I going to start and eventually it is like my fight-mentality kicks in and my training habits kick in and it's just like I don't really think. It is all reaction."

That reaction began

with the Luverne Youth Wrestling Program, when he was in elementary school. Neighbors to his grandparents, Jerry and Ann Rigney, invited him to a practice.

He stayed with wrestling through middle school and into high school, where he is Luverne's "winningest" wrestler with 144 wins.

"I was too stubborn to quit," Nielsen admitted.

He placed second in his junior and senior years at the Minnesota State High School League wrestling tournament.

At Augsburg as a sophomore, he helped the team win a national championship. In 2020, under

the coaches' association format, Nielsen reached individual All-American status, which he would like to retain this year as well as add another status as a national champion.

"It's not everything but it would mean everything," he said.

Augsburg University, located in St. Paul, began preparing for the 2020-21 wrestling in October. Nielsen opened his wrestling season Nov. 13.

Three weeks into the season, he is 9-0 in the 174-pound division. He is ranked No. 1 in Division III in the opening national wrestling coaches' poll.

Annual De-Light-Ful organizers release final results for Luverne 5K, one-mile races

More than 40 runners participated in the 19th annual De-Light-Ful 5K and 1-mile races Saturday, Nov. 27, in Luverne.

Participants started and finished at the National Guard Armory and traveled a race course on residential streets within Luverne.

Once finished, they were eligible for awards and prizes, pictures with Santa, a Bingo game and a meal and refreshments. Runners were encouraged to dress in holiday attire.

Twenty-one runners finished the 5K race.

Jennifer Recker of Adrian, running in the female 35-44 age group, completed the fastest 5K at 20:02.4.

Other 5K results include:

•**Female ages 1-14:** first, Raeligh George, Sioux Falls, 34:35.1; second, Audriana George, Sioux Falls, 35:49.

•**Female ages 15-24:** first, Morgan Sauer,

Lismore, 22:29.5.

•**Female ages 25-34:** first, Jennifer Recker, Adrian, 20:02.4; second, Megan Sauer, Lismore, 22:29.2; third, Alissa Sauer, Albert Lea, 22:41.4.

•**Female ages 35-44:** first Wendy Peters, Luverne, 29:29; second, Bobbi Dibbern, Sioux Falls, 33:16.7; third, Jessie George, Sioux Falls, 34:34.8.

•**Female ages 45-54:** first, Charon Doyscher, Round Lake, 36:51.7.

•**Female ages 55-64:** first, Cheri Bosman, Sheldon, Iowa, 31:30.3; Kathy VanMarel, Orange City, Iowa, 36:42.9.

•**Male ages 1-14:** first, Austin Bosman, Harrisburg, South Dakota, 22:30.9; second, Camden Dibbern, Sioux Falls, 33:13.0.

•**Male ages 15-24:** first, Joshua George, Sioux Falls, 28:00.4; second, Calvin George, Sioux Falls, 28:20.2.

•**Male ages 35-**

44: first, Lucas Peters, Luverne, 29:17.1; second, Jon George, Sioux Falls, 36:06.4.

•**Male ages 45-54:** first, Jeff Veltkamp, Sioux Falls, 25:16.2.

•**Male ages 55-64:** first, Brad Strom, Jackson, 22:29.2; second, Mike Erger, Sioux Falls, 25:22.6.

Twenty-two entered the **one-mile event:**

•from Luverne, Lauren Peters, Kristin Schomacker, Jon Schomacker, Kelby Schomacker, Maddox Schomacker, Stella Schomacker, Luci Rofshus, Michael Rofshus, Lori Nath, Scott Nath and Ingrid Peters.

•from Edgerton, Melissa Voge, Kya Voge, Moriah Moeller.

•from Iona, Shelbie Nath and Jared Smith.

•from Sioux Falls, Paige Nath.

•from Lismore, Kerry Sauer and Barry Sauer.

•from Fairmont, Anna Tenney and Eric Tenney.

•from Orange City, William VanMarel.

Deelstra and Austin Allen.

Max Scholten was also recognized as Line-man of the Year for the south nine-man, all-district team by the Minnesota Football Coaches Association.

Bork nets 100th career hockey goal as Cardinals win

By Matt Lais
For the Star Herald

Luverne senior standout Reghan Bork joined an elite group of Cardinal girls by scoring her 100th career goal Tuesday, Nov. 23.

She found the back of the net five times at Blue Mound Ice Arena to help give the Cardinal girls an impressive 10-0 win over Fairmont.

The Cardinals got on the board halfway through the first period with Bork getting the tip off a hard wrist shot from seventh-grader Macie Edstrom. Ella Apel also got the assist on the Cardinals' first goal.

Kamryn Van Batavia scored the next three goals for the Cardinals.

On Van Batavia's first, Payton Behr won the race to the puck in the corner, chipped the pass off the boards to Van Batavia, where she skated around two Fairmont defenders and finished the play herself.

Two minutes later it was Behr to Van Batavia again to make it 3-0. Van Batavia wasn't done yet.

Greta McClure fired a shot on Fairmont's goalie, Hadley Artz, who made the initial save, but Van Batavia was crashing the net hard to give the hometown Cardinals a 4-0 lead at the end of the first with Luverne goalie Cheyenne

Schutz making nine saves in the period.

Shots on goal for the period were 10-9 in favor of Luverne.

Five minutes into the second, Fairmont was whistled for a tripping penalty. It didn't take long for Van Batavia to find Bork to bury a beautiful back door pass at a sprawling Artz for the power play goal to give Luverne a 5-0 lead.

Midway through the period Luverne would catch Fairmont on a line change. Billi Connell took a breakout pass, slid it up to McClure where she found her linemate Ella Apel streaking down the middle of the ice. Apel took the neutral zone pass in all alone to make it 6-0.

The Cardinals were not finished yet. Fourteen seconds on a Payton Behr faceoff win, Van Batavia dropped a pass to Bork who hit Artz with a hard slap shot. The trio of Bork, Van Batavia and Bork did it again at the 13:10 mark of the second period, Bork getting another shot past Artz, and Luverne took an 8-0 lead into the second period intermission.

Shots on goal for the second period were in favor of Fairmont 11-7.

The third and final period started just like the previous two with Bork getting her fifth goal of the

game on assists from McClure and Zariah Holmgren.

The Cardinals had one more in them for the period when McClure would beat Artz with five minutes left in the game on a power play goal with assists from Bork and Mallory Nelson.

Schutz ended the game with 28 saves and her second shutout of the year.

Total shots were 28-20 in favor of Fairmont to finish the game.

Bork reflected on her 100 goals following the game.

"Scoring my 100th goal has always been something I've dreamed of doing after Makayla Sterrett earned hers," Bork said.

"I am very thankful to be in such a great program and have many great coaches who are there to help me along the way. It's truly an honor to be a part of Luverne hockey and put that jersey on every day."

She said the Cardinals are on a roll and enjoying their current success.

"We are a very young team, but we have a lot of determination," Bork said.

"We work hard every day and love each other like family. With all that being said, it makes my job as captain extremely easy. We have big goals to pursue this season and we'll work hard at them every chance we get on and off the ice."

H-BC students earn all-conference awards

The Red Rock Conference recently recognized nine Hills-Beaver Creek High School athletes for their performances during the Fall 2021 sports season.

The following students were recognized by sport:

•Volleyball: all-confer-

ence, sophomore Lanae Elbers; honorable mention, senior Kenadie Fick.

•Football: all-conference, seniors Casey Kueter, Max Scholten, Donavon Leenders and Cole Baker; honorable mention, seniors Ty Bundeson, Oliver

Star Herald CHURCH

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St. Catherine Catholic Church

203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; www.stscl.org
Monsignor Gerald Kosse, Pastor

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

Luverne Christian Reformed Church

605 N. Estey St., Luverne
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luverneccrc.com — office@luverneccrc.com

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

First Baptist Church

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

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

Grace Lutheran Church

500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — graceluverne@iw.net

Ann Zastrow, Pastor

Dave Christenson, Interim Pastor

Thursday, Dec. 2: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Sunday, Dec. 5: 9 a.m. Worship service 1st Grade Milestones. 10 a.m. Fellowship Coffee. 10 a.m. No Sunday School. 5 p.m. Worship service. Tuesday, Dec. 7: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Dec. 8: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. 3:15 p.m. Faithweavers. 5 p.m. Youth supper. 5:30 p.m. Bells rehearsal. 6:15 p.m. 6th-7th grade Confirmation. 7:15 p.m. 8th grade Confirmation. 8:15 p.m. 9th grade Confirmation. Thursday, Dec. 9: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online: Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church

720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

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

American Reformed Church

304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne
Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org

Friday, Dec. 2: 6:30 a.m. Community men's Bible study. Sunday, Dec. 5: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday School. Tuesday, Dec. 7: 12 p.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Dec. 8: 5:30 p.m. Midweek Meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs and youth groups. 8:15 p.m. Cantata rehearsal. Thursday, Dec. 9: 5:30 p.m. Tumbling Tikes. Services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

Rock River Community Church (formerly First Assembly of God)

1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4
Ph. 612-800-1255; email info@rockrivercommunity.church
Bob Junak, Pastor; Annette Junak, Assistant Pastor

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

United Methodist Church

109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529

Saturday, Dec. 4: 7 p.m. Christmas Cantata at LSM. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Sunday, Dec. 5: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 9:45 a.m. Coffee hour. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible study. 6 p.m. ALIVE youth group. Wednesday, Dec. 8: 3-6 p.m. Bison Feed pickup. 6:15 p.m. FUEL. 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Thursday, Dec. 9: 3-6 p.m. Bison Feed pickup. Live streamed on Facebook and radio.

First Presbyterian Church

302 Central Lane, Luverne
Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net — www.fpcluverne.com
Jason Cunningham, Pastor

Thursday, Dec. 2: PW Executive. Sunday, Dec. 5: 8-9:15 a.m. Pancake Feed. 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:30 a.m. Sunday school. Wednesday, Dec.

8: 5:30 p.m. Bells. 6:15 p.m. Choir. 7:15 p.m. Session. In-person Worship service and live on Facebook. Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

St. John Lutheran Church

803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 283-2316; email: stjohn@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Rev. Dr. Phil Boone, Pastor

Saturday, Dec. 4: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Festival of Nativities. 5:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, Dec. 5: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Adult Bible study; Christmas program practice. Monday, Dec. 6: 1 p.m. Quilting. 7 p.m. Elders meeting. Tuesday, Dec. 7: 6:30 p.m. Mom's Night Out. Wednesday, Dec. 8: 6 p.m. Advent worship service. 6:30 p.m. supper. 6:45 p.m. KFC/Confirmation. 7 p.m. Choir practice. 7:30 p.m. High School Youth Group. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org.

Living Rock Church

500 E. Main St., Luverne
Ph. 449-0057; www.livingrockswmn.org
Billy Skaggs, Pastor

New Life Celebration Church
101 W. Maple, Luverne
Ph. (605) 368-1924; email: newlifecelcbration@gmail.com
Food mission every third Thursday.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick
Ph. (507) 669-2855; zionoffice@alliancecom.net
Jesse Baker, Pastor

Sunday, Dec. 5: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Bible study. Wednesday, Dec. 8: 6 p.m. Confirmation. 7 p.m. Advent service. Worship service on Luverne cable at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

Ben Clare United Methodist Church

26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.
igtwlb@WOW.net
Bill Bates, Pastor

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662
Mark Eliason, Pastor
Sunday, Dec. 5: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10 a.m. Sunday school. Wednesday, Dec. 8: 7 p.m. Holden evening prayer service. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, even if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHDQwVxFcU4>

Palisade Lutheran Church

211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Mark Eliason, Pastor

Sunday, Dec. 5: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service. Wednesday, Dec. 8: 9 a.m. Quilting—Every Wednesday. 7 p.m. Holden evening prayer service at First Lutheran Church. Thursday, Dec. 9: 2 p.m. Palisade WELCA meeting. 7 p.m. Palisade Lutheran council meeting. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, even if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHDQwVxFcU4>

First Presbyterian Church

201 S. 3rd St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek
Ph. 507-935-5025
email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com

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

Magnolia United Methodist Church

501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
Ph. 605-215-3429
email: magnoliannumc@gmail.com
Nancy Manning, Pastor

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

Steen Reformed Church

112 W. Church Ave., Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270
Nita Parker, Pastor

Sunday, Dec. 5: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Home. 9:30 a.m. Sunday school. 10 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. 7-8:30 p.m. Youth group meets. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org. Tuesday, Dec. 7: 2 p.m. Tuff Home Bible study. 3 p.m. Tuff Village Bible study. Wednesday, Dec. 8:

The Good Shepherd

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Bob Junak, Rock River Community Church, Luverne

I remember as a kid I liked watching Saturday morning cartoons, like Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd and Sylvester and Tweetie. However, I remember how much I disliked Wile E. Coyote and Ralph Wolf, whether it was Wile E. Coyote trying to outwit the Roadrunner or Ralph Wolf trying to devise a diabolical plan to nab one of the sheep under the careful eye of Sam Sheepdog.

But the thing about Sam Sheepdog is he always kept his flock protected and safe from Ralph. He did whatever he had to do to make sure no harm would come under his protection.

Doesn't that remind you of someone else?

"I tell you the truth, anyone who sneaks over the wall of a sheepfold, rather than going through the gate, must surely be a thief and a robber! But the one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep recognize his voice and come to him. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice." John 10:1-5

The sheepfold was like a large pen which would keep the sheep in as well as wild animals and the robbers out. If someone or something would try to get in through the entrance, the doorkeeper would pull a "Sam Sheepdog" on him and BONK!

In the morning the shepherds from each family would go and

enter the sheepfold and call their sheep. Each sheep instinctively knew its shepherd's voice, even though there were other shepherds doing the same thing. However, the sheep would only respond to the voice they knew, their master.

What Jesus was trying to illustrate is that the Pharisees were the thieves and robbers. It was the Pharisees that were trying to mislead the people with deception, which is like trying to sneak in over the wall.

But Jesus tells us in John 10:14 and 16, "I am the good shepherd; I know my own sheep; and they know me. ... I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd."

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. We are His sheep and we should know His voice.

I believe too many of us listen to the Pharisees and in the cover of darkness sneak over the wall, believing their lies which we face each and every day in our current culture.

Let's listen to the Shepherd's voice (Jesus) and follow Him. Trust Him with your life, let Him lead you to green pastures, and rest in safety surrounded in His sheepfold and in His presence.

7:15 p.m. Wednesday night worship.

Hills United Reformed Church

410 S. Central Ave., Hills
Office Ph. 962-3254
hillsure@alliancecom.net
Alan Camarigg, Pastor

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

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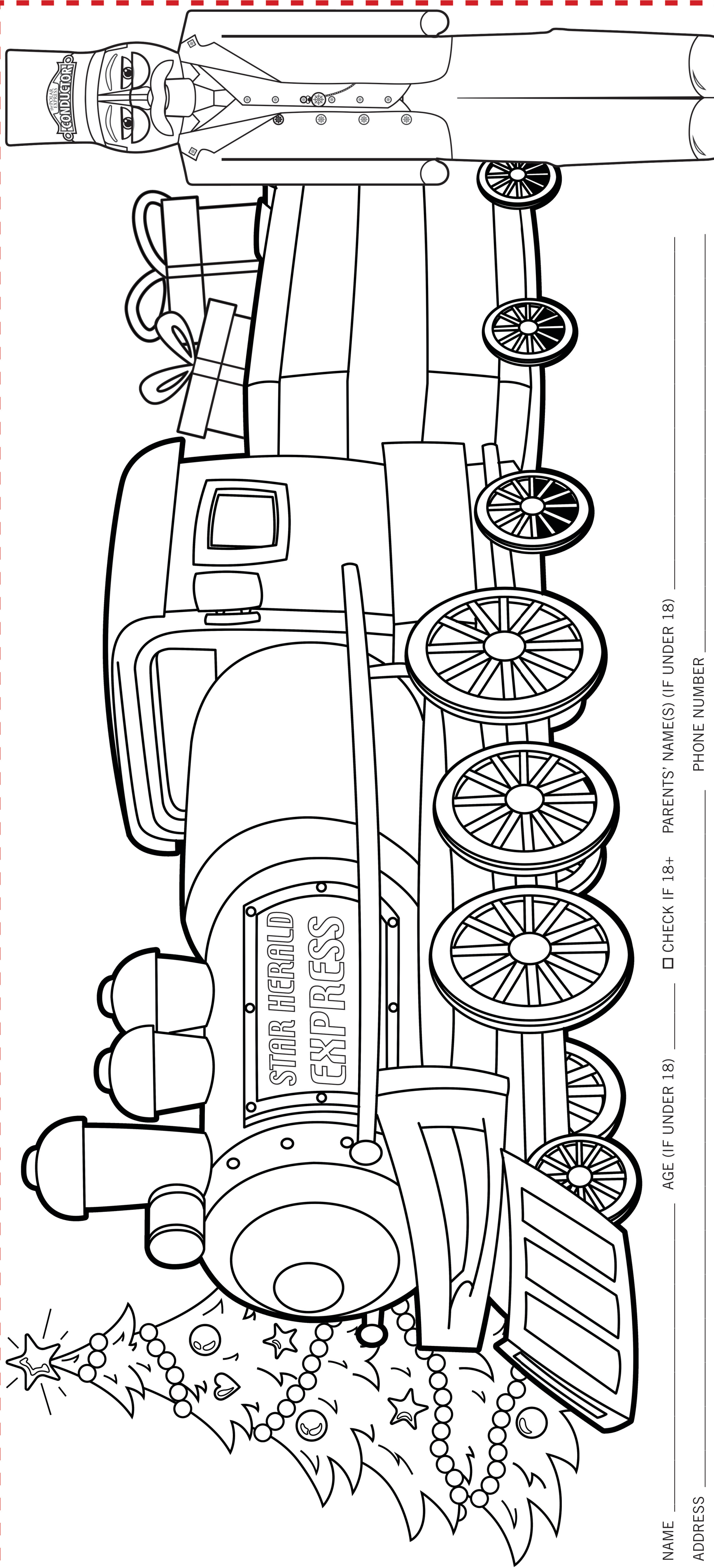
Rock County STAR HERALD coloring contest

PRIZES will be awarded in six age categories!
AGES 4&5, AGES 6&7, AGES 8&9, AGES 10-13, AGES 14-17 AND 18+
Winners will be announced in the
December 16th Star Herald and the December 18th Announcer.

RULES

1. Contest is open to ages 4 through adult!
2. Color the picture below with paints, markers, crayons or colored pencils.
3. The decision of judges is final.

ALL entries must be returned to the Star Herald office no later than NOON ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9. Please return your colored entry to the Star Herald office rolled or flat - **DO NOT FOLD.**



NAME _____ AGE (IF UNDER 18) _____ CHECK IF 18+ PARENTS' NAME(S) (IF UNDER 18) _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

Page 12A December 2, 2021

Scott notice of hearing to creditors

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

In Re:Estate of: Court File No. 67-PR-21-278
Douglas C. Scott, Deceased

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR ADJUDICATION OF INTESTACY, DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATOR IN SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 20th day of December, 2021, at 8:30 O'clock A.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Courthouse, Luverne, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship and for the appointment of Bradley K. Scott, whose address is 1927 161st Street, Luverne, Minnesota 56156, as administrator of the estate of the above named decedent in supervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said administrator will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the administrator shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said administrator or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Date Filed: November 19, 2021 /s/ Terry S. Vajgrt
District Court Judge

/s/ Natalie Reisch
Court Administrator

(COURT SEAL)

Douglas E. Eisma
Attorney for Petitioner
Eisma and Eisma
130 East Main
Luverne, MN 56156
(507) 283-4828
I.D. #297550

(12-02, 12-09)

ISD #2184 School Board meets Oct.28

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2184, ROCK COUNTY, LUVERNE, MINNESOTA.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, ISD #2184, was held in the District Office on October 28, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, Reva Sehr, Jeff Stratton and David Wrigg. Absent: Jodi Bosch. Also present: Craig Oftedahl, Jason Phelps, Ryan Johnson, Stacy Gillette, Tyler Reisch, Brad Goemmel, Helen and Pat Saum, Jason Berghorst, Monica Facile, Lisa Dinger, Becky Rahm, Randy Saker and Mavis Fodness – Rock County Star Herald.

Chairperson Eric Hartman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted there is an addendum to the agenda. Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve the agenda with the addendum. Motion unanimously carried.

Lisa Dinger and Monica Facile, representing the Children's Remembrance Garden, reviewed their plans for the garden and requested a donation from the School District. Business Manager Tyler Reisch indicated it is not legal for a public entity (the school district) to make a direct monetary payment to a 501(c)3 entity (Children's Remembrance Garden). However, they are able to do something along the line of in-kind services or providing opportunities for employees to work with the Garden, etc. He will explore more of these options and visit with Lisa Dinger about them.

Administrative reports were given.

Motion made by Wrigg, second by Stratton, to approve the September 23, 2021, School Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried. There were no donations to report.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to approve payment of the school district bills as presented in the amount of \$569,348.12, payroll in the amount of \$958,253.46, construction project bills in the amount of \$2,051,355.22, and student activity bills in the amount of \$11,447.04. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Baustian, to receive the Student Activity report showing the balances as of September 30, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Middle School Principal Jason Phelps shared the Data Summary Report with the School Board. It was noted that our MCA test scores last Spring did not dip as largely as may have been anticipated with the disruption due to Covid. He also reviewed the World's Best Workforce report with the School Board. Motion made by Sehr, second by Stratton, to approve the World's Best Workforce report as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Wrigg, second by Baustian, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with Southwest Minnesota State University for student teacher placement in our school district. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to approve Matt McClure as volunteer girls hockey coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Baustian, to accept the resignation of Kim Stegenga as Paraprofessional effective October 20, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Jarchow, to accept the resignation of Susan Bullerman as 7th grade girls basketball coach effective October 4, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Wrigg, to approve a request from Augustana University for Hope VanMeeteren to complete student teaching with Amy VonHoltum and Deb Hoogendoorn from February 28 to April 29, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Jarchow, to approve the hiring of Judy Knutson as Middle/High School Paraprofessional effective October 25, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Wrigg, to approve a medical leave of absence for Amy Sahly, High School English teacher, from November 30 through December 31, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Stratton, second by Sehr, to approve the transfer of Meegan Ross from Preschool Paraprofessional to Middle/High School Paraprofessional. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to accept the resignation of Katie Kopp as BPA Advisor effective October 28, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Eric Arnold as BPA Advisor. Motion unanimously carried.

The administration presented a request to create two positions using ESSER funding. These two positions would be a Health Aide to work with School Nurse Phil Paquette and a full-time teacher substitute. Discussion was held. Motion made by Wrigg, second by Baustian, to table any action on these two positions. With a dissenting vote, a roll call vote was taken as follows: those who voted in favor of the motion: Wrigg, Stratton, Hartman, Baustian, and Jarchow; those who voted against the motion: Sehr. The motion passed.

The only committee report was the Personnel Committee has been meeting with the Luverne Education Association for contract negotiations. It was noted that the Policy Committee needs to meet. The upcoming meeting dates were reviewed.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Stratton, to move into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. in order to complete the Superintendent's Performance Appraisal. Motion unanimously carried. A summary report will be given at the November 23 school board meeting.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Stratton, to move out of executive session. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Dated: October 28, 2021

Reva Sehr, Clerk
(12-02)

Quiet title action

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ROCK

IN DISTRICT COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Case Type: Quiet Title Action
Court File: 67-CV-21-274

Benjamin Aukes, The Eitrem Family Farm Revocable Trust Agreement dated the 20th day of December, 2005, and Gregory Allen Fick and Natalie Jo Fick, Plaintiffs,

vs.
All heirs, known and unknown, of Severin R. Eitrem, deceased; all heirs, known and unknown, of Gladys Eitrem, deceased; all heirs, known and unknown, of Gene R. Eitrem, deceased; all heirs, known and unknown, of Earleen L. Eitrem, deceased; all heirs, known and unknown of Lloyd Vanden Bussche a/k/a Lloyd Thomas Vanden Bussche, deceased; Naomi Vanden Bussche; and all other persons unknown claiming any right, title, estate, interest or lien in the real estate described in the complaint herein, Defendants.

SUMMONS

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDENTS

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon Plaintiffs' attorney an Answer to Complaint, which is filed in the office of the Court Administrator of the above-named county, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgement by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. This action involves, affects, or brings in question real property, situated in the County of Rock, State of Minnesota, described as follows:

The Southeast Quarter (SE1/4) of Section Six (6), Township One Hundred Two (102) North, Range Forty-six (46) West of the 5th P.M., Rock County, Minnesota.

The object of this action is to remove, terminate and quiet any interest of the defendants to this action and to the real estate described above.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT NO PERSONAL CLAIM is made against any of the Defendants. If any Defendant unreasonably defends the action, then Plaintiff is requesting an order of the Court directing that said Defendant shall pay full costs to the Plaintiff.

Civil cases are subject to Alternative Dispute Resolution processes as provided in Rule 114 of the General Rules of Practice for District Courts. Alternative Dispute Resolution includes mediation, arbitration, and other processes set forth in the rules. You may contract the Court Administrator for information about these processes and about resources available in your area.

The undersigned hereby acknowledges that sanctions may be awarded pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 549.211.

Dated: November 16, 2021

/s/ Paul A. Vis, Eisma and Eisma, Attorneys at Law
130 E. Main
Luverne, MN 56156
(507) 283-4828; FAX (507) 283-9188
Attorney ID No. 297550

(11-24, 12-02, 12-09)

H-BC School Board meets Nov. 8

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671
Minutes
Nov. 8, 2021

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 7:04 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, Knobloch, Rauk and Rozeboom. Superintendent Holthaus, Principal Kellenberger and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance. Motion by Bosch, second by Rozeboom, and carried to approve the agenda. Proposed Addition to Agenda: 8.6
Visitor to the meeting was Mavis Fodness with Star Herald.

PATRIOT PRIDE:

- Veterans Day Program November 11, 9 a.m. at Secondary School
- Special Election Vote/Results
- Football team playoffs
- American Education Week November 15-19

Board Committee Meeting Reports:

-Staff Development 11/02

Administration of the Canvass Board Oath

Motion by Harnack, second by Rauk, and carried to approve Consent Agenda:

- Minutes—10/27/2021
- Bills
- City of Hills use of Hugo Goehle Gymnasium for Sunday Open Gyms beginning November 21, 2021 and ending March 27, 2022
- Assigning Amy Comp as Theater Director
- 21-22 Basketball Coaches Girls: Head: Dylan Gehrke, Assistant-Tyler Bush, Jr. High-Stephanie Bass, Boys: Head- Kale Wiertzema, Assistant- Chad Rauk, Jr. High- Rex Metzger

INDIVIDUAL ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Fransman, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve Resolution for MSHSL Foundation Form A.

Motion by Harnack, second by Bosch, and carried to approve Resolution for Canvass of November 2, 2021, Board Member Special Election results.

Motion by Bosch, second by Harnack, and carried to approve Resolution for Canvass of November 2, 2021, Operating Referendum Special Election.

Motion by Fransman, second by Bosch, and carried to approve Resolution authorizing certificate of election from the November 2, 2021, Special Election.

Motion by Knobloch, second by Harnack, and carried to approve Purchase of new Food Service Van and Lift.

Motion by Bosch, second by Rozeboom, and carried to approve Donation Resolution - \$1,200.00 for Elementary Student Council Student Account from HBC Elementary PTO.

DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:

- Secondary Principal Report
- Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, November 22
- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, December 13 (8 p.m.)
- Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, December 27

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk
(12-02)

City of Luverne sets budget public hearing for Dec. 14

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2021 TAX LEVY

The NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, by the City Administrator of the City of Luverne that a Budget Public Hearing will be held in the Council Chambers located in the City Offices Building, 305 East Luverne Street, Luverne, Minnesota, commencing at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 14, 2021.

All persons wishing to be heard should be present at the hearing or present written comments previous to the hearing to the City Administrator. Anyone needing reasonable accommodations or an interpreter should contact the City Clerk's Office, 305 East Luverne Street, Luverne, MN. (507) 449-9898.

John Call
City Administrator
(12-02)

City of Luverne LEDA calls public hearing Dec. 13

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public hearing has been called and will be held for the Luverne Economic Development Authority, on Monday, the 13th of December, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers in the City Office Building at 305 East Luverne Street, Luverne, Minnesota, to consider public input regarding the sale of Tract 1 in the SE1/4 Section 9-102-45 (.72 acres, PID 20-2129-000) and Tract 2 in the NE1/4 Section 16-102-45 (4.71 acres, PID 20-2133-000) in the City of Luverne, Minnesota to Lineage Logistics, LLC.

Citizens are encouraged to attend the hearing, ask questions, and/or give comments. Any citizen may also submit written questions or comments prior to the hearing by addressing them to the Economic Development Director, PO Box 659, Luverne, MN 56156-0659.

Anyone needing reasonable accommodations or an interpreter should contact the Economic Development Director, PO Box 659, Luverne, MN (507-449-5033).

BY ORDER OF THE LUVERNE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Patrick Baustian, President
Luverne Economic Development Authority
305 E. Luverne St.
Luverne, MN 56156
Phone: 507-449-2388

(12-02)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAXES

The Hills City Council will hold a public hearing on its budget and on the amount of property taxes it is proposing to collect to pay for the costs of services the city will provide in 2022.

All Hills city residents are invited to attend the public hearing of the City Council to express their opinions on the budget and on the proposed amount of 2022 property taxes. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, December 14th at 6:00 P.M. at the Hills City Office, 301 South Main Avenue.

Connie Wiertzema
City Clerk-Treasurer
City of Hills

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Ag prices /continued from 8A

for many Upper Midwest farm operators.

Many farmers are quite optimistic about crop prices going into 2022; however, commodity prices have been highly volatile in the past couple of years, so there is some uncertainty in the crop prices going forward.

Another way to look at the increases in fertilizer costs, cash rental rates, and other crop inputs is to calculate how many bushels of corn or soybeans it will take to cover those expenses at various crop price levels.

Based on data from the SCC FBM program, it is estimated that it will take approximately 64 bushels of corn to cover the input costs for seed, fertilizer and chemical in 2021.

Based on data from the University of Minnesota FINBIN program, it took an average of 69 bushels of corn in 2020 and 73 bushels per acre in 2019 to cover these crop input costs.

It is estimated that it will take 85-90 bushels of corn at \$5.00 per bushel in 2022 to cover the expected corn fertilizer cost of \$275 per acre, as well as seed and chemical costs.

This jumps to 100-105 bushels per acre at a corn price of \$4.00 per bushel.

The last time we had the ratio this high was from 2014 to 2017 when it took 83-88 bushels of corn to cover crop input costs.

These years were represented by fairly moderate fertilizer costs but much lower average corn prices than we have at the present time.

If a land rental rate of \$275 per acre is included with the estimated crop input costs for seed, fertilizer and chemical for 2022, it would take 140-145 bushels of corn at a price of \$5.00 per bushel and 175-185 bushels per acre at \$4.00 per bushel to cover those expenses.

Bottom line

Farm operators need to be aware of the rapidly rising costs for fertilizer, chemical, fuel and other crop inputs, as well as increases in land rental rates for 2022.

Strategies to address these higher input costs include having a strategic fertilizer plan that optimizes return from the fertilizer investment and looking at ways to reduce other crop input expenses.

Flexible land rental contracts that set reasonable base cash rental rates, which have the possibility of increasing at higher crop price levels, can also be a strategy to reduce risk during times of high input costs and uncertainty in crop prices.

In addition, farmers need to have solid estimates for their cost of production so they can take advantage of forward-pricing opportunities when corn and soybean prices are at profitable levels for the 2022 crop year.

For additional information contact Kent Thiesse, farm management analyst and sr. vice president, MinnStar Bank, Lake Crystal, MN; phone 507-381-7960; email kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com; website <http://www.minnstarbank.com/>

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HILLS BEAVER CREEK

GOING TO THE BANK

2021 STATE FOOTBALL

Patriots 'Go to the Bank' to take care of 'Unfinished Business'

H-BC's road to U.S. Bank Stadium paved with hard work, team spirit and drive to succeed

By **Lori Sorenson**
with **Dan Ellingson**

Hills-Beaver Creek head football coach Rex Metzger said the entire 2021 season was a rewarding experience with the team.

"I'm proud of our guys and the year that we had," he said. "It was a heck of a run through the playoffs, and to be able to play at U.S. Bank Stadium is something they will never forget."

The Patriots' road to state began with a highly successful season entering playoffs.

On a sunny Oct. 30 afternoon, the No. 2-seeded Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots hosted the No. 3 Edgerton Flying Dutchmen in a **Section 3 Nine-Man Section Semifinal** matchup.

They beat Granada-Huntley-East Chain/Truman by a decisive 47-0 on Oct. 26 in the first round of playoffs.

The Patriots went on to beat Edgerton 44-8 Nov. 5, earning a ticket to the Section 3 Championship game for the fourth time in four years.

The No. 2-seeded Patriots went on to face the No. 1-seeded Mountain Lake Area Wolverines in the **Section 3 Nine-Man Championship game**. The game was staged Friday, Nov. 5, at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

It was the fourth year in a row the two teams had met in the section finals.

The Wolverines had won two of the last three section titles, and they beat the Patriots earlier in the season by a 24-6 final score on Oct. 8.

"Anytime you get a chance to play for a section



The H-BC Patriots enjoyed the indoor climate of U.S. Bank Stadium on Nov. 19 following a cold, windy and snowy game in Marshall on Nov. 12 when they beat Renville County 30-7 to advance to state semi-finals. (Samantha McGaffee photos)

"I'm proud of our guys and the year that we had. It was a heck of a run through the playoffs, and to be able to play at U.S. Bank Stadium is something they will never forget."

— **Rex Metzger**
Head Coach,
H-BC Football



Above, Coach Rex Metzger gives quarterback Oliver Deelstra (No. 3) a play call with No. 84 Andrew Harris during the quarterfinal-round game in Marshall Nov. 12.

At right, Section 3A coordinator and H-BC athletic director Steve Wiertzema (right) presents H-BC Head Football Coach Rex Metzger with Section 3A championship trophy.



championship is a great opportunity for our kids," coach Metzger said ahead of the Nov. 5 game. "We look forward to the challenge."

As it turns out, the Patriots were more than

up to that challenge, this time claiming the section championship with a score of 36-9.

Coach Metzger praised his defensive line and physical play of the entire team in securing the win.

"We were able to get after them and put them in a position they weren't used to being in," Metzger said.

"I thought we made some big plays when we needed to in the third quarter. Mountain Lake is a real

solid team, and for us to get the lead early coming out of halftime was big."

The 2021 football season is the second time in two years the Patriots became Section 3 Nine-Man Champions.

This year, however, the HBC team was able to make an appearance in the state quarter-finals.

Last season's state tournament was not played

Continued on next page



6 - 2 SEASON

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9-Man
Champions**

**Quarter Final
State Playoff
Winner
advancing to
State
Semi-Final**

Congratulations

HILLS-BEAVER CREEK FOOTBALL



Samantha McGaffee photo/H-BC Section Champs

(front row, from left) Gideon Taubert, Donavon Leenderts, Max Scholten, Ty Bundesen, Oliver Deelstra, Casey Kueter, Cole Baker, Austin Allen, (second row) Cody Moser, Luke Fuerstenberg, Troy Durst, Drew Leenderts, Andrew Harris, Brayden Metzger, Cole Rozeboom, Riley Tage, manager Logan Susie, (back) Coach Rex Metzger, Coach Dalton Bass, Jamesyn Klosterbuer, Cooper Gehrke, Sawyer Bosch, Justin Roelfs, Jackson Gacke, Beau Bakken, Blake Leenderts, Talon Steensma, Alex Harris, Cameron Allen, Jack Moser, Brock Harnack, coach Jason Rauk, Collin Schoneman, coach Chris Harnack and coach Eric Harnack.



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Hills-Beaver Creek football players enjoyed a heroes' send-off ahead of their Nov. 12 clash with Renville County in Marshall. In the photo at left are (from left) Austin Allen, Donavon Leenderts, Andrew Harris, Gideon Taubert, Oliver Deelstra and Brayden Metzger. At right are Riley Tatge and Talon Steensma. (Samantha McGaffee photos)

H-BC's road to state paved with hard work, team spirit and drive to succeed/continued from page 1B

because of Covid. Therefore, the 2021 opportunity was H-BC's chance at "Unfinished Business," which was printed on team and fan T-shirts.

The 9-2 Patriots were looking to avenge an early season loss to Renville County West as they took on the 8-3 Jaguars from Section 2.

The state quarter final game was staged on a cold, windy and snowy Friday, Nov. 12, at the Southwest Minnesota State University stadium in Marshall.

The result was a satisfying win for the Section 3 champions who defeated the Section 2 champions 30-7.

This set the stage for the Patriots to advance to **state semi-final action the following week at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.**

Patriots football fans went nuts, and the community rallied for a "Going to the Bank Send-Off" Nov. 18.

T-shirts, rally rags, posters and more carried the slogan as the hometown team departed for the Nov. 19 showdown in the cities.

H-BC would face undefeated Fertile-Beltrami in the state semi-finals on the artificial turf of an indoor field, minus the cold and wind they had fought to get there.

Coach Metzger knew his Patriots players would need to show up ready to play.

"Fertile-Beltrami is a physical team that will come



Patriots football fans and the community rallied for a spirited send-off ahead of the quarter-final game in Marshall and the semi-final playoff in Minneapolis.

Pictured above, Karson Metzger and Stephanie and Madelyn Bass cheer the football team as the buses leave Hills for Marshall Nov. 12. **At right,** Brooks and Briggs Metzger wave at the players.



at you with a lot of different things, under center and out of the gun," Metzger said after beating Renville County. "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, he said, "Our guys are looking forward

to the challenge of trying to knock off a very good undefeated team."

On game day, the Patriots indeed showed up ready to play at the 9 a.m. start time.

H-BC drew first blood on a two-yard Cole Baker run with 5:28 left in the first quarter. The two-point conversion run failed, but

the Patriots held an early 6-0 lead.

The scoring drive was the result of the H-BC offense marching down the field alternating between runs of Baker and Oliver Deelstra. Fertile-Beltrami answered with a 19-yard touchdown pass to even the score. The Patriots defense held on the conversion run

to keep the score tied 6-6.

The second quarter saw both defenses come up with timely stops, forcing the other's offense to turn the ball over on downs.

However, late in the second quarter, the Patriots' offense went back to work, mixing the run and the pass.

With just 19 seconds left in the half, quarterback Oliver Deelstra threaded the needle on a pass to wide out Drew Leenderts, who jumped above the Falcons defender and hauled in a 19-yard touchdown pass with just 19 seconds left before halftime.

Fullback Casey Kueter bulldozed his way for the two-point conversion, and the Patriots held a 14-6 lead going into the half.

Fertile-Beltrami dominated the third quarter, scoring with two touchdown runs of five and 30 yards. They were successful on both two-point conversions to take a 22-14 lead going into the final quarter.

The Patriots' offense came back on the next possession, which culminated in a touchdown run by Baker of five yards with 10:28 left in the game. A Baker-to-Gideon-Taubert two-point conversion pass brought the Patriots back to tie the Falcons at 22.

Later in the fourth quarter, the Falcons came back to score a touchdown on a three-yard run, then added the two-point conversion to extend the lead to eight, 30-22.

The Patriots' offense was not able to score again during the game.

The defense did make the Falcons turn the ball over on downs with less than a minute to play deep in Patriots territory. But with no time-outs left and over 90 yards to cover, the Patriots' offense was not able to move the ball and was on the field when time expired.

Patriots coach Metzger reflected on the game afterward.

"Fertile-Beltrami was a real good football team that did a lot of things really well both on offense and defense," he said. "They threw the ball a little more than expected and hurt us a few different times."

The Patriots finish the season 10-3 and are the two-time defending Section 3 9-man champions.

Team statistics for playoff game
HBC: 217 rushing yards, 72 passing yards, 289 total yards, 21 first downs, five penalties for 40 yards.

F-B: 147 rushing yards, 136 passing yards, 283 total yards, 15 first downs, three penalties for 35 yards.

Individual statistics

Rushing: C. Baker 25-118 yards, C. Kueter 9-42 yards, Ty Bundesen 3-30 yards, O. Deelstra 12-27 yards.

Passing: O. Deelstra 8-10 for 72 yards, C. Baker 0-1.

Receiving: Drew Leenderts 1-19, one touchdown, C. Baker 2-17 yards, C. Kueter 1-15 yards, T. Bundesen 2-12 yards, Andrew Harris 2-9 yards, Gideon Taubert one extra point.

Defense: Austin Allen 8 tackles, C. Kueter 7.5 tackles, Drew Leenderts 7 tackles, O. Deelstra 4.5 tackles.



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The 'Voice of the Patriots'

Star Herald contributing sports writer Dan Ellingson reflects on H-BC football 2021 season

Former Hills-Beaver Creek head football coach

Dan Ellingson was the Star Herald's contributing writer for the 2021 Patriots football season. By all accounts, he captured the spirit and energy of the games along with recording the game highlights and team stats.



Did you imagine you'd be covering the team all the way to state?

This group had outstanding linemen, on both sides of the ball, that were athletic, had a good work ethic and did not need individual accolades.

In my experience as a head football coach, the linemen were a huge reason for any success we enjoyed, and it still rings true today.

This group of players put in many hours in the weight room during the off-season. They also spent many hours in camps and summer practices.

They were successful, but I don't think it was a big surprise to them or their coaches. All that hard work will produce positive results, and this year proved it.

Were you able to observe team dynamics from the sidelines? How would you describe the relationships of the players with each other and with the coaches?

Although I am not at



The 9-2 Patriots were looking to avenge an early season loss to Renville County West as they took on the 8-3 Jaguars from Section 2. The state quarter final game was staged on a cold, windy and snowy Friday, Nov. 12, at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. Section 3 champions easily defeated the Section 2 champions 30-7. (Samantha McGaffee photos)

their practices, I am in contact with the coaches and I see the players every day in school. They are a determined group of players and they have a very positive dynamic within their team.

I see seniors talking and interacting with underclassmen on the team in a positive way. This is one reason why they play so well together.

That positive attitude and interaction starts with the coaches and is continued by the players to each other and back toward the

coaches.

Looking back on the season, what's the most striking thing you've observed about this 2021 H-BC team?

Another thing that stands out with this team is the quality of players they had to replace from last year's Section Championship team.

The 2020 team had many outstanding football players that graduated. At the beginning of the 2021 season there were many key

positions open — quarterback, running back, center and line and linebackers on defense.

Credit goes to the coaching staff for filling those positions with the right personnel this year and credit to the players for "answering the call" and playing to the potential that the coaches felt they could compete at their best.

From your perspective, what was the recipe for success for these guys?
Hills-Beaver Creek

football had not played in the state tournament since 2001, and they had not played in the state tournament semi-finals since 1994.

This is a special year for the coaches, players, school and our communities.

Seeing the excitement of the K-12 students at the pep fest, and having community members, parents and even fire trucks show up for the send-off ... We saw the school and community uniting for what was a memorable experience for all. Go Patriots!

The community has enjoyed your writing and game recaps. What was it like being the "Voice of the Patriots" for the season?

I wanted to share the 2021 Hills-Beaver Creek football season with readers of the Star-Herald and also give the players themselves something to remember each game of the season as the years go by.

Years from now the players will remember certain plays and situations, but looking at the article in the future will help the players remember the high and low points of each individual game.

•What was most challenging? What was most rewarding?

One of the most challenging aspects of writing the football articles was trying to mention some player positions that are usually not in the spotlight.

The offensive and defensive lines are usually the reason for the team's overall success, but they are not the ones who usually get their names in the paper.

I tried to mention linemen by name in many of the articles or at least give them credit as a group.

At the start of the season we knew H-BC had a good chance of advancing in playoffs.



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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 SAWYER BOSCH | 32 ALEX HARRIS |
| 3 OLIVER DEELSTRA | 34 BEAU BAKKEN |
| 4 COLLIN SCHONEMAN | 42 CASEY KUETER |
| 5 GIDEON TAUBERT | 50 BRAYDEN METZGER |
| 6 DREW LEENDERTS | 54 AUSTIN ALLEN |
| 7 JAMESYN KLOSTERBUER | 61 TROY DURST |
| 8 BLAKE LEENDERTS | 65 MAX SCHOLTEN |
| 9 JAMES VANDENBOSCH | 71 JACK MOSER |
| 10 JUSTIN ROELFS | 75 CODY MOSER |
| 11 BROCK HARNACK | 81 TY BUNDESEN |
| 13 COOPER GEHRKE | 82 RILEY TATGE |
| 17 COLE ROZEBOOM | 84 ANDREW HARRIS |
| 21 LUKE FUERSTENBERG | 86 DONAVON LEENDERTS |
| 22 COLE BAKER | 87 JACKSON GACKE |
| 28 CAMERON ALLEN | 88 TALON STEENSMAN |

COACHES - REX METZGER JASON RAUK DALTON BASS
ERIC HARNACK CHRIS HARNACK SCOTT HARNACK

MANAGERS - LOGAN SUSIE JAMIN METZGER MICAH BUSH BRIDIE METZGER

T-shirts list players, coaches and staff under the "unfinished business" slogan referencing last year's Covid-canceled state playoffs that H-BC qualified for, but didn't get to play in.

Dear H-BC Patriots and coaches, Thank you for an incredible run

Patriots Football fan Dan LaRock shared the following remarks on Facebook after H-BC's final game Nov. 19:

Seniors, as the days, months and years pass, you will think about this football team, these playoff wins and this final game. Believe me, you will think about it. Forever.

Knowing you will, I want to offer these as a few key play-off run memories for you to add to your own ...

#3 Oliver Deelstra threading the needle on a perfect strike to #6 Drew Leenderts who made his Best Catch of the season for a go-ahead touchdown vs the Falcons.

#5 Gideon Taubert recovering a key fumble

versus Renville County and hauling in the "must-have" two-point conversion to keep the game tied versus the Falcons.

#22 Cole Baker grinding and churning, hauling no less than three tacklers an extra seven yards on his own to secure essential first downs ... Cole did it at least four times during the playoffs. Plus, the TDs.

#42 Casey Kueter crushing opposing running backs, rushing for huge first downs and catching the touchdown pass which turned the tide in the State Quarterfinal vs RCW.

#54 Austin Allen making an early TFL to set the tone against the Falcons and making a huge interception



Erin Metzger (left), Kristi Metzger, Ross and Heather Metzger show their team spirit in U.S. Bank Stadium during the semi-final game Nov. 19. (Samantha McGaffee photos)

to help seal the playoff win against RCW.

#61 Troy Durst was virtually flawless on his center snaps and made a huge TFL towards the end of the game against the Falcons inside our 10-yard line.

#65 Maximus Scholten DOMINATED the Wolverine, Jaguar and Falcon defensive and offensive linemen he faced throughout the entire playoffs and made key blocks and TFL's in the process. His play was incredible.

#81 Ty Bundesen making bone crunching tackles all game long versus RCW and hauling in two key sweep passes, back-to-back, against the Falcons to help us secure a needed scoring drive.

#84 Andrew Harris catching a key first down pass to extend a scoring drive versus the Falcons and catching two-point

conversions from Bundesen and Deelstra following TDs vs RCW.

#86 Donovan Leenderts establishing a "no-run zone" literally anywhere he was lined up for huge parts of each playoff game - including stopping a Jaguar runner cold on a key fourth down in the quarterfinal.

These plays and performances are what I'll remember about the Patriot seniors during their historic playoff run.

And, just in case those memories are not enough to make you proud of your accomplishments, I've got one more for you.

There are 59 teams in Minnesota 9-Man football this year.

56 of them wish they were you.

56 of them.

Let that sink in. May God Bless You All. This was a Great Run!



Jesse • Thomas

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