



# Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, December 3, 2020

## Students, teachers long for in-person class

By Mavis Fodness

On Monday, Luverne Middle School teacher Jodi Rops faced her empty classroom.

Her computer was pointed to the smartboard so that her logged-in students could view the lesson as though they were sitting at their desks.

Rops, a 19-year veteran of the classroom, is educating herself on computer apps that offer immediate student feedback.

"I liked the interaction with the students," she said. "They can ask questions, participate, almost like in a classroom."

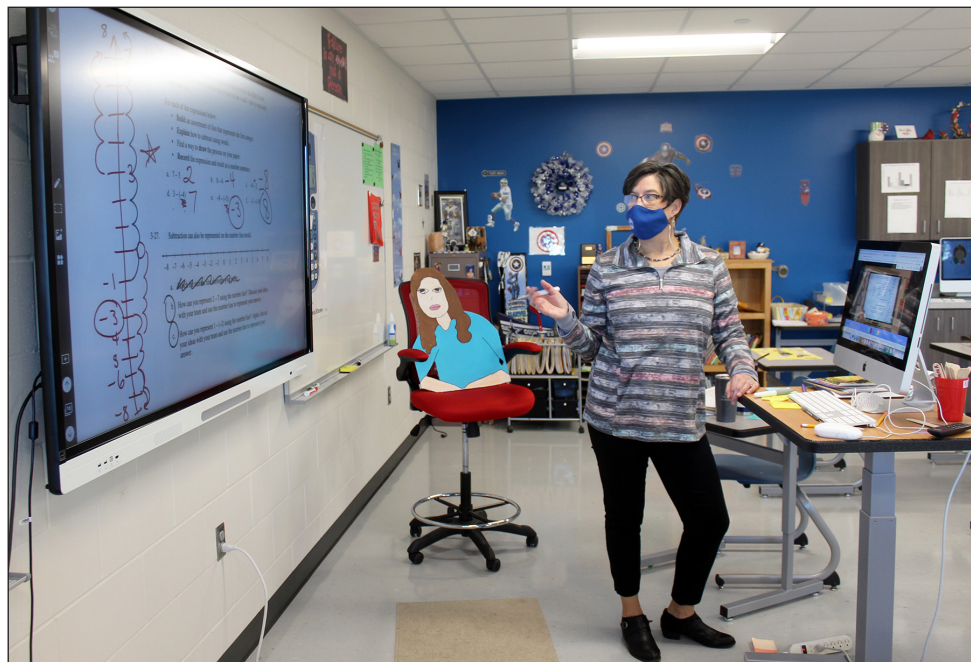
Technology helps, but Rops said it's not the same as in-person connections. "It's totally not the same," she said. "But it's better than not seeing them."

One student made a cardboard cutout of herself and the drawing sits in one of the student desks.

"So I actually have a 'student' in my room," Rops said.

But the normal noise from 650 sixth- through twelfth-grade students in the hallways is missing. The building is eerily silent.

"It is really, well, weird to have hardly any students in the building — there are about two seventh-graders in the building a day. I miss the commotion and the noise."



Mavis Fodness photo/1203 LHS Distance Learning Fall 2020

Middle School teacher Jodi Rops "live-teaches" her seventh-grade math students attending virtually via Google Classroom Monday with a cardboard cutout student.

### Distance learning different this fall

Last spring, when the coronavirus pandemic forced all Minnesota students to learn through technology from home, Rops did what many teachers did in the two weeks

of preparation — learned a totally new way of teaching called distance learning that began in late March.

Learning model/continued on page 2

## Latest Covid-19 data affects district's learning models

By Mavis Fodness

For the past three weeks, the Luverne teachers and students have been diligently following a hybrid learning model of younger students in class and distance learning for older students.

Based on COVID-19 case numbers, district officials will announce on Friday how learning will proceed next week.

"What we see that's happening in school reflects the public (numbers)," said Superintendent Craig Oftedahl at the Nov. 24 school board meeting.

Community case numbers factor into school decisions, but learning models are based on virus spread among students and staff.

As of last week, there were 150 active absences in

*"We feel like our families have been very good about reporting those things and we have been able to track all of that, which is an important part of what we are trying to do. Our ability to track gives us the most accurate data."*

Principal Jason Phelps

Data affects learning models/continued on page 2

## Rock County may penalize buffer parcels in violation

By Mavis Fodness

Owners of 19 Rock County parcels recently received letters that they're out of compliance with the state's buffer law.

Since the notifications were sent in October through the Rock County Land Management Office, one parcel has been brought into compliance, leaving 18 parcels whose owners will receive letters of corrective action through the Rock County Attorney's office.

These landowners will have 11 months to comply with the ordinance or face potential enforcement penalties.

Commissioners were informed of the non-compliance letters at their Nov. 24 meeting.

County Attorney Jeff Haubrich said several of the landowners have plans on paper, but have not actually completed the vegetative plantings.

"All of these people have been talked to in the past and several of them have plans in place ... a few had other issues that kept it from getting started," Haubrich said.

Due to the contract with the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, local officials need to follow a timeline, which means setting a final compliance deadline.

"If they don't want to do it, they may be charged," Haubrich said. "There are penalties involved and eventually they have to do it whether voluntarily corrective action within 11 months ... otherwise there are other avenues we have to pursue."

The buffer law, adopted by state legislators in 2017, requires landowners to plant vegetation along cropland that borders ditches, streams, rivers and lakes.

The buffers help filter phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment from cropland run-off before it reaches public waters.

Landowners who fail to install buffers by November 2021 may face fines, administrative orders or both.

The LMO office monitors the local compliance to the state law.

Three years ago, LMO identified 840 parcels in Rock County affected by the law and worked with landowners to bring parcels into compliance.

The non-compliant parcels are small in size. In most instances the parcels involve several hundred square feet and are too small to be eligible for conservation program enrollments.

## Fireworks show launches 'Love the Lights'



A 20-minute show of fireworks ushered in the 2020 Love the Lights celebration in Luverne's city park Sunday night.

Lori Sorenson photos/1203 love the lights

*City park was bright spot in holiday season marred by pandemic*

By Lori Sorenson

Dozens of holiday displays were illuminated simultaneously Sunday night for Luverne's Love the Lights celebration.

The city park came to life around 7 p.m. when the lights were illuminated on more than 70 displays set up by 39 businesses and organizations.

The park lighting followed a spectacular 20-minute fireworks show by local pyro-technicians who set off explosives from the west riverbank near the railroad tracks.

Spectators enjoyed the show from the warmth of their cars and honked their applause before getting in line to drive around the park to take in the sights and sounds of the holidays.

Before and after the show, motorists reported a long stream of traffic traveling Main Street to and from the park.

Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere said she was touched by the local response to her calls to light the park.

"The park is big and if everyone does their part it can really be something," she said. "Hats off to everyone who took the time to put their displays up."

She said Jodi Reverts and her staff and friends at the Howling Dog put up about two dozen displays on their own.

"Also a shout out to all the sponsors who helped donate money for the fireworks," Lanphere said. "We were about \$1,000 short, so the contributions by families and individuals really helped make it possible."

Jonathon Kurtz and Seth Miller

Love the Lights/see page 14

## 'Flannel Fest' continues with Take-Out Challenge, Shopping Bingo, Nutcracker Scavenger Hunt and Zoom with Santa

By Lori Sorenson

Covid-19 prevented Luverne's traditional Winterfest activities for this weekend, but the Luverne Area Chamber and volunteers organized Flannel Fest.

The festivities have been modified from original plans due to restrictions on gathering.

"Flannel Frenzy is going on and we encourage people to collect their take-out receipts and submit them over the next three weeks to win \$500 in dining gift cards that will be given away," Lanphere said.

To participate in the Rock Solid Take Out Challenge collect dining/beverage receipts during the week

and drop them off at the Chamber office or in the Chamber drop box by noon on Monday.

Every week five entries with the highest purchase totals will receive \$100 dining/beverage gift cards for a Rock County business of their choice.


A total of \$2,000 will be given

away by Dec. 21. The annual Nutcracker Scavenger Hunt is underway as it usually is with Winterfest.

Flannel Fest Shopping Bingo Card and Little Flannel Bingo Card (Luverne gift card prizes to winners) also continues as planned.

See the Chamber site, luverne-chamber.com, for details.





County	Total Cases	DAILY average in last 7 days	Percent Change
Rock	788	20.7	+17.1%
Pipestone	741	10.1	+10.4%
Nobles	3,099	19.9	+4.5%
Minnehaha (SD)	20,520	226	+8.0%
Lyon (IA)	1,053	12.4	+8.7%

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

Date Range	10/11-10/24	10/18-10/31	10/25-11/7	11/1-11/14
Rate	97.74	114.73	126.42	184.85

**According to Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan guidelines:**

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

**Based on this data, plans for area schools are:**

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

Current data as of December 1, 2020. Sources: MDH & The New York Times

**Sponsored by: Rock County Emergency Management**



Mavis Fodness photo/1203 LHS Distance Learning Fall 2020

Under Luverne High School's distance learning model, some elective classes cannot easily be taught virtually and meet in person. For the ag mechanics class, teacher Dennis Moritz (right) and junior student Jacob Hansen work on Hansen's 1941 Farmall H.

### Learning models teachers/from page 1

In her first experience teaching distantly, Rops videotaped herself presenting math lessons.

She then loaded the video into the Google Classroom app at 7:30 a.m. for her students to finish sometime during the day.

"I also posted a weekly agenda so they could potentially do all the work for the entire week immediately," she said.

"I know some students did that; they got up and just wanted to get their school stuff done."

To connect with students, Rops set up an optional Zoom meeting every day at 10:30 a.m.

The first day of distance learning had 30 students attending. As the days of distance learning progressed, fewer students attended, finally dropping to four to six students.

"Most of them didn't have math questions. They just wanted to chat," she said.

#### Hybrid learning opened the school year

When school resumed Sept. 8 for the 2020-21 school year, students at Luverne Middle-High School returned under a hybrid learning model.

In the hybrid model, half the students attended in-person classes two to three times a week. When students were not at school, they completed assignments via computer at home.

At first Rops taught the same lessons two days in a row, sometimes completing the same things eight times due to multiple class sections.

The repetition forced her to change how she teaches.

"Three weeks into school, I decided to go 'live' with all students. That meant those at home had to log in at their normal math class time to get the lesson," she said.

"This has gone much better for me, and the students say they like that, too — more structure for all of us."

Rops kept the same live lessons when the middle-high school moved to distance learning on Nov. 9.

For the past three weeks under this current model, students participate in live lessons by signing into their computers at the start of each of their class periods for Rops' live lessons.

School is in session from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

#### Student attendance has been high

Middle-high school student attendance has averaged 90-95 percent every hour, Principal Jason Phelps said during his administrative report at the Nov. 24 school board meeting.

Core classes, such as the math curriculum taught by Rops, have found

*"It is really, well, weird to have hardly any students in the building — there are about two seventh-graders in the building a day. I miss the commotion and the noise."*

— Jodi Rops,  
Luverne  
Middle School Teacher

a rhythm and the transition between one learning method to another has been smoother.

However, some special needs classes are conducted in person either individually or in small groups. Some elected classes can also meet in person because teaching is more effective.

One of those elective classes that didn't transfer easily to online instruction is the ag mechanics class taught by agricultural instructor and FFA adviser Dennis Moritz.

He cannot have more than 10 students at one time and they need to work at least six feet away from one another. Masks are worn at all times.

Moritz's other classes are conducted online.

"In my ag mechanics class I have five students that come in and work on their shop projects," he said.

On Monday, junior Jacob Hansen was the only ag mechanics student in the shop working on a project.

Both he and Moritz wore masks as they discussed repairs to Hansen's 1944 Farmall H.

"It's OK," Hansen said about distance learning. "As long as I get to come in and do the ag mechanics class."

Hansen returns home after his mechanics class and signs into his computer in time to complete his other classes online.

Phelps said the learning models are challenging, but teachers and staff are trying to keep learning safe and relevant.

"We are trying to find those experiences and doing as much as we can," he said.

"Everyone involved agrees being in person is the best case scenario."

### Learning models data/ from page 1

the district.

"Nov. 24 was our highest point for active cases," Middle School Principal Jason Phelps said Monday. "That was a high water mark for all of those things."

He cautioned that the numbers reflect cases reported by staff and families to the district nurse.

"We feel like our families have been very good about reporting those things and we have been able to track all of that, which is an important part of what we are trying to do," he said. "Our ability to track gives us the most accurate data."

School data is collected in 10-day segments, tracking positive test results, quarantines due to close contact, COVID-related absences, and those waiting test results among staff and students.

Oftedahl said that data is important when the incident command team, (health professionals, school officials and parents), meets weekly.

The state Department of Health indicated Rock County had 788 positive tests with 11 reported Monday. There have been nine deaths in Rock County since March, but no deaths have been reported in the county in recent weeks.

Wednesday the district team evaluated data for Friday's formal announcement about learning models going forward.

Oftedahl said there is not one piece of data that would allow Luverne to return to everyday, in-person learning, but a combination of factors, the largest of which is staffing.

"We need to have those absences spread out over the grade levels," he said.

Phelps said being able to pivot quickly based on current information leaves the door open for possibly bringing students back into the classroom.

"The tradeoff is we are always in a little bit of a limbo," he said.

"But in our mind the tradeoff is worth it if we can get students more in-person time."

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Meetings

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

**Vienna Township Board** will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 8, in the Kenneth Community Center.

### Zoom chat with Santa Saturday

The Luverne Area Chamber will host Zoom chats with Santa and Mrs. Claus at their North Pole workshop from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, Dec. 5. Children and families are encouraged to click the Zoom link on the Chamber's website and Facebook page to chat with Santa.

### Local businesses host Angel Trees

The annual Southwestern Youth Service Angel Tree in the front lobby will not be accessible to the public this year, due to pandemic restrictions.

Instead, Angel Trees will be located in Lewis, Bomgaars, Sunshine and the Magnolia Cafe. The trees are decorated with cards with requests from SYS students, and churches, families, individuals, organizations and businesses collect the cards to fulfill wishes.

Follow the SYS Facebook page and people can call SYS at 507-283-4425 for gift ideas. Gifts can be dropped off at the west door of the facility by pressing the doorbell for staff to accept the items.

### H-BC seeks reading tutor

AmeriCorps is seeking one reading tutor for the Hills-Beaver Creek School District. Application is open until Dec. 18 at readingandmath.net or by calling 866-859-2825. After training through the AmeriCorps program, the tutor will work in the school district helping students develop fundamental reading skills. For more information, visit [www.minnesotareadingcorps.org](http://www.minnesotareadingcorps.org).

### 'Read with McKenzie' Wednesdays

A work study student is available to help individual students with reading skills in 10-minute sessions on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. The literacy program is called "Read with McKenzie." Contact the Rock County Library, 507-449-5040, to schedule. Masks are required.

### Wednesday meals at Generations

Free, healthy meals are available through Lutheran Social Services at Generations thanks to a Covid-19 grant through the state of Minnesota. Anyone in Minnesota in need of nutrition can receive up to five meals plus snacks at each event on a first-come first served basis. Food can be picked up for others in a household at no cost. Meals are available Wednesdays Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 319 E. Lincoln. Call 507-283-9856.

### Share names for Tree of Lights

Remember loved ones during this Holiday Season by lighting a light on the Tree of Lights at Highway 75 and Main Street in Luverne. There will be no public ceremony this year, but names received by Dec. 7 will be printed in a Holiday Remembrance in newspapers at Christmas. Forms are available thru area churches, LACF and the Hospice office. Drop off or mail to Sanford Luverne Hospice at 304 N. McKenzie St. Luverne. (A \$5 per name donation is suggested) Call 283-1805.

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# Rock County chosen for digital pilot project

Survey for community-wide input accepted through Jan. 12

By Mavis Fodness

A pilot program through Purdue University aims to increase civic digital engagement in Rock County, one of three Minnesota counties selected for the university's Digital Ready Communities project.

"Rock County was selected because the Blandin Foundation suggested we reach out to them," said Roberto Gallardo, director of the Purdue Center for Regional Development. "They have an awesome group of leaders that are involved in other broadband/digital matters."

Other participating communities include Le Sueur and Koochiching counties.

The Rock County Library is finishing a two-year Blandin grant project to help the community to connect with and use the countywide broadband internet service effectively.

Library Director Calla Jarvie agreed to work through the steps developed by university personnel.

She recently outlined the digital readiness program to Rock County commissioners.

"It's a pilot program so we don't really have any idea how it's going to work — we have nothing to compare it to — but it's especially important now when so many of us are relying on online services versus in-person with COVID," she said.

A digital assets group was assembled for the pilot program that may last six to nine months

The group consists of various stakeholders in city and county departments, law enforcement, fire departments and Extension service. Each already has an online presence such as websites, social media or blogs.

"This group in turn will leverage digital platforms throughout the community to increase civic engagement, communication, responsiveness and ultimately trust," Gallardo said.

The group is conducting a community survey in order to create an engagement plan.

The survey asks how residents currently interact and network online.

"This will also provide valuable information to the digital assets group as they leverage digital platforms to increase civic engagement and trust," Gallardo said.

The 10-minute survey can be completed online at <https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/RockCountyDigitalSurvey>.

Paper copies are available at the library, city offices and at the Rock County Courthouse. Once completed, the paper copies can be returned to the same places.

Surveys will be accepted through Jan. 12.

# Beaver Creek Council approves contracts for Law Enforcement, refuse

By Lori Sorenson

Beaver Creek City Council members approved a new three-year contract with Ketterling Services, Luverne, for refuse and recycling pickup.

They had received a bid from Town and Country Disposal, Rock Rapids, Iowa, which would be less expensive and provide automated pickup and larger recycling bins.

The council discussed the fact that Ketterling doesn't use an automated "arm" to pick up garbage cans and completely empty them, and this leaves some refuse in the bottom of bins.

The council agreed to renew the Ketterling contract with a request for improved services and then revisit the Town and Country bid in three years if necessary.

## Rural water proposition

Beaver Creek maintenance manager Travis Helgeson told the council that Rock County Rural Water had approached him about becoming a rural water customer.

"I didn't know this, but we're the only city in Rock County that's not on rural water," Helgeson said.

Rock County Rural Water would charge \$2.63 per 1,000 gallons of water, which Helgeson said sounds expensive until the costs of operating a well are factored in.

"We've always been told that water is a moneymaker for

us, because we charge for our water," he said. "But if we went on rural water, we wouldn't have the expenses we have with our well."

He mentioned testing and well monitoring, cost of chlorine and electricity to pump the water and maintenance on the pump and other equipment.

"We'd have to know how much we spend and how much we make on our water," Helgeson said.

"I think it'll be closer than you think. I'm not saying rural water is a better option, but I think it's worth looking at."

## In other business, the council

- approved a one-year law enforcement contract with the Rock County Sheriff's Office for \$11,088. Last year's cost was \$10,560.

- reviewed the bill from MC&R, Sioux Falls, which installed the community splash pad at the park near the ball diamond. The council will wait to pay the entire bill until it's clear that equipment operates as it's supposed to.

- heard a report that the Luverne Area Community Foundation will grant \$5,034 to Beaver Creek's splash pad project.

Another \$1,500 donation for the splash pad that was previously committed from the Sportsman's Club was received.



Mavis Fodness photos/1203 School Build PAC

Workers secure a 56-foot precast concrete panel into place Monday for the new performing arts center at Luverne Public Schools. Weather has been ideal for crews to set the panels in place and finish the ironwork to fully enclose the structure.

# Performing arts center progresses

By Mavis Fodness

Gil Haugan Construction is taking advantage of continued mild weather this week as they move precast concrete panels into place for Luverne School District's performing arts center.

The project will complete the backstage wall and is one of the last major steps to fully enclose the building.

The addition will house the media center, kitchen and commons area as well as the 750-seat performing arts center.

A tentative timeline was released Nov. 24 at the district board meeting. Month and areas of completion are:

- February 2021, media center
- April 2021, kitchen
- May 2021, commons
- June 2021, performing arts center

"Right now we are going in the right direction," said Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

The \$30 million project, started in March 2019, has been fraught with delays to remodel and add to the middle-high school building.



Gil Haugan Construction workers push the 56-foot-tall precast concrete panel in place.

## MSHSL support fees

At their Nov. 24 meeting, the board agreed to pay \$7,000 in additional fees to the Minnesota State High School League. Revenues to league-sponsored events have suffered due to cancellations since the coronavirus pandemic started.

MSHSL officials presented additional bills to school districts to ease the budget deficit.

Superintendent Oftedahl said MSHSL officials assigned higher fees to outstate schools to lessen the deficit.

Area schools within the Big South Conference that includes Luverne sent league officials a letter about the disparity, but the new formula was not supported by the league.

Instead of the MSHSL Foundation, of which Oftedahl is a member, moved \$500,000 to the league, lessening the burden to schools. For Luverne, the addi-

tional fee dropped from the original \$11,200 bill down to \$7,000, to be paid in two installments.

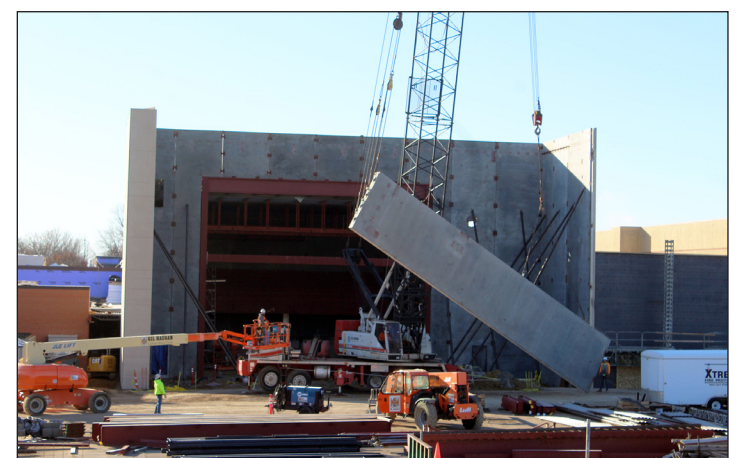
## In other business Nov. 24, the Luverne School Board:

- supported a grant resolution to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation for scholarship funds.

Local school officials will use the grant to pay for athletic and activity fees for income-eligible students.

- accepted the resignation from Michelle Curtis, special services administrative assistant, effective Dec. 18.

- hired Lisa Remme as middle-high school para-professional beginning Jan. 4.



A 56-foot precast concrete panel is lifted into place Monday for the back wall of the performing arts center at the school. The addition is expected to be fully enclosed this month.

**CITY OF BEAVER CREEK REQUEST FOR BIDS**

Bids will be accepted by the City of Beaver Creek, MN until noon on Monday, December 7 for the following:

**1986 Chevrolet CB K30**

VIN #1GBJK34M2GJ130819. Bids should be clearly marked-FIRE RESCUE TRUCK BIDS and must include a phone number.

**Bids can be mailed to:** City Clerk, PO Box 74, Beaver Creek MN 56116. On December 9 at 7pm

The Beaver Creek City Council will open all bids and vehicle will be awarded to the highest bidder.

Winning bidder will be contacted by phone that evening. To make arrangement to view the truck, contact Maintenance Supervisor at 507-673-2266 or Fire Chief, Jason Rauk.

Jane Blank, City Clerk

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## Where will we be in 25 years?

*If our young people are right, we have reason for hope*

What will your life be like in the year 2045?

That's the question my ninth-grade students had the opportunity to think and write about recently.

What will life be like in 25 years?

What jobs will they have and where will they live?

How will the world be similar to and different from 2020?

The assignment to write two pages imagining life in 2045 is how we start the Careers Unit.

I learn so much about and from my students by reading these papers.

I find out which careers they are interested in, what their dreams are and which things are important to them.

I also get a glimpse of how they view the current world.

Many kids plan to be rich and live in a big house on a lake with their perfect spouse, two or three children and a dog.

And, of course, some plan to be famous and others have a much more realistic view.

All of that is natural and to be expected.

Honestly, I wouldn't want it any other way.

What's interesting, though, is there are also plenty of kids who imagine a life quite similar to that of their parents and the life they know now.

For as many future movie stars or professional athletes planning to live in a big city, there are just as many or more future farmers, nurses, or teachers who want to live in Luverne or a town like it.

It's not at all unusual for freshmen to envision careers similar to or the same as their parents and sometimes even living in the same home they are growing up in.

Some might say these students don't have as much imagination or haven't considered all the possibilities.

While in some cases that



## IN OTHER WORDS

By Jason Berghorst, reporter

*2020 might be the perfect time to think about 2045*

might be true, in most cases I think it's the exact opposite.

I think some young people know a good thing when they see it.

They appreciate the community and environment they are growing up in and want the same for their own kids.

That's a testament to their parents, extended families, churches, school and community.

Of course there were other interesting observations more unique to this year's papers.

In 2020 my students wrote about a future without infectious diseases.

That topic has never come up before.

More than usual, kids wrote about a more unified America with less political division in 2045.

Most students predicted new advancements that make our lives better and our environment cleaner.

In the end, these young people gave me more hope for our future and a reason to be thankful for our community and school.

In fact, the end of 2020 might be the perfect time to think about 2045.

According to my students, our country will be healthier, less divided and more prosperous.

And our community will be led by young people who are passionate about it and chose to live here.

And I'll be hopefully retired and able to enjoy it all.

## Not having your dream Christmas this year?

*Take a closer look; it might be the best Christmas ever*

We're not getting the Christmas we dream of this year, but that doesn't mean we're getting lumps of coal.

This year more than ever we need to count our blessings and watch for bright spots in the season.

On Sunday we watched our Luverne City Park light up with dozens of festive holiday displays decorated by local businesses and organizations.

They were ushered in by a 20-minute spectacular fireworks show set off just across the river made possible by local sponsors and donations.

Many people who later circled the park in the vehicles were heard remarking about how the event offered a bright spot in an otherwise pandemic-marred holiday season.

There was a definite spirit of joy that hung in the crisp night air Sunday while a beaming nearly full moon sought to compete with earthly electricity.

"This is just what we needed," one motorist said through a rolled-down window. "This feels like Christmas."

Know what else feels like Christmas? Taking care of the community

## STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

that takes care of us.

If we want to enjoy our favorite local dining establishments when the Covid crackdown is over, we could order our holiday meals to take out from local restaurants. It wouldn't feel as much like Christmas without a homemade meal, but many things won't be the same this year.

Our family gatherings will be smaller, so the take-out option is a perfect way to spend less time in the kitchen and more time with loved ones.

We could also ask if we ever get the Christmas we dream of.

What is a dream Christmas? The perfect gift? A perfect meal? Perfect tree? Magazine-worthy home decorations? If these are what we strive for, this might be a good time to shift priorities.

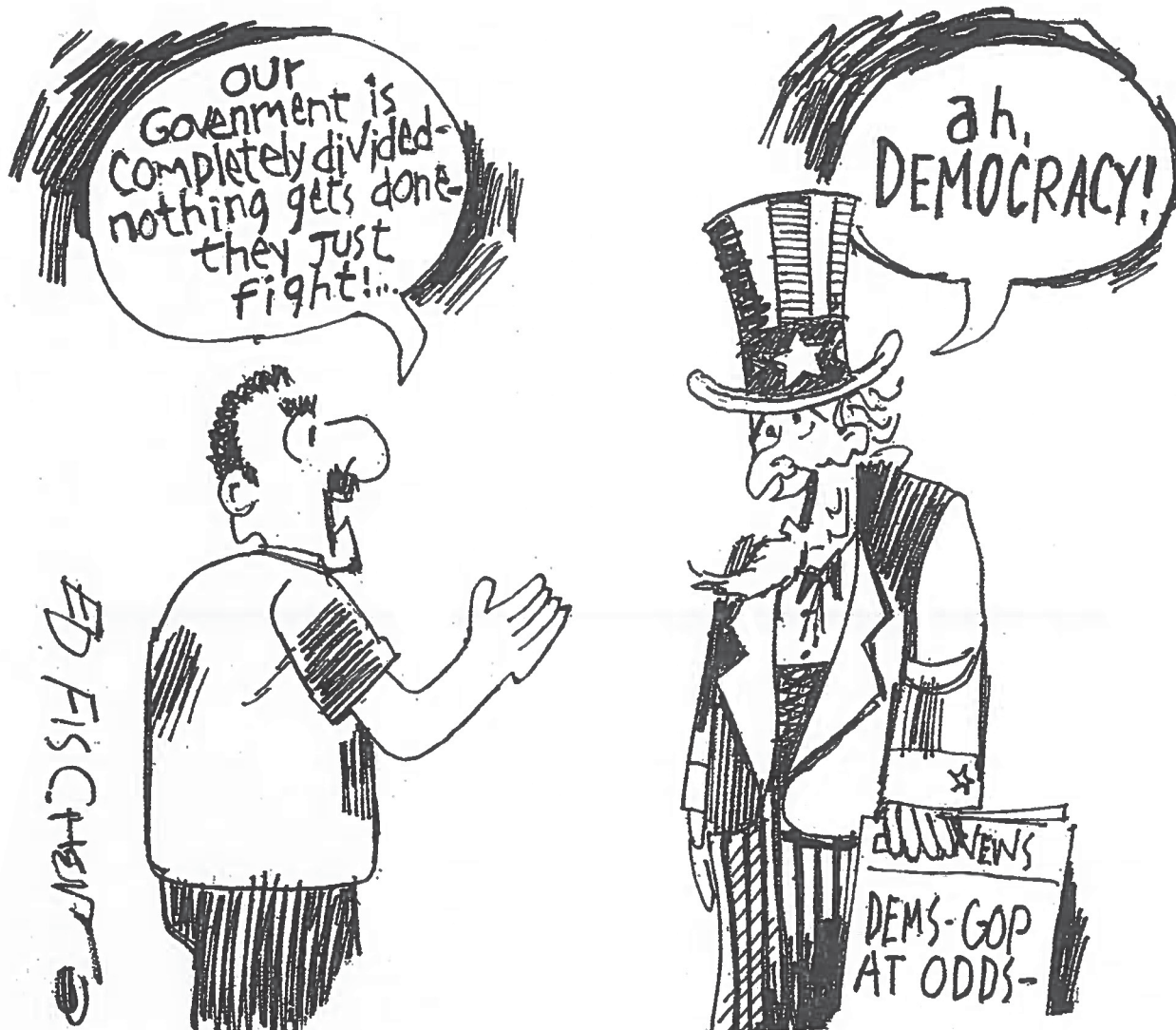
It's the loved ones in our lives

who add dream qualities to the holidays we dream of. We can't gather with them all this year, but there's no reason we can't connect with them. It might be an opportunity for more meaningful conversations than we might have in large gatherings.

Zoom or Facetime parties are fun, but don't overlook the common telephone as a means to reach out to individuals one at a time. It doesn't have to be a long call.

Think about what makes them special to you, and communicate that message clearly and directly. It only takes five minutes to warm a soul and produce a smile. Try it, and you might be surprised by the joy you find on your end of the call.

For other ways to share joy and support local businesses, see the Luverne Chamber website, [www.luvernechamber.com](http://www.luvernechamber.com).



## Light displays spectacular in Luverne and getting a laugh at ourselves

If you missed the fireworks this past Sunday night, sad for you. They were nothing short of spectacular.

There is a video on our Facebook page that will give you a sample of how great they were. The park was just as cool.

Kudos to the Luverne Chamber, City of Luverne Public Works Department, local businesses and churches and individuals that donated money for the fireworks and put up displays.

Once again Luverne shows why it's the standard other communities strive to achieve.

And while I am handing out kudos, the Cozy Rest Motel's Christmas light



## FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

display seems to get bigger and bigger each year.

If you have ever driven by when they are putting the lights up, it's a bit scary to watch. They put all those lights up with the aid of extension

ladder and poles.

The display has truly become a Highway 75 attraction.

\*\*\*

Network television programming has gotten so poor that the best things on TV are the commercials. One of my new favorites is the Progressive Insurance Company featuring Dr. Rick.

Dr. Rick is a Dr. Phil kind of guy that is helping to prevent mid-thirtyish adults from taking on habits of their older parents.

It's probably too late for Mary and me, but we could have used a little help from Dr. Rick.

We do a few things the same as our parents did. Eating supper shortly after 5 p.m. comes to mind. Or watching the Andy Griffith Show on MeTV instead of the latest show on Netflix.

When we take the interstate to see our grandkids in Hartford, I get passed like I am standing still. Then I realize I am driving only 65 mph in an 80 mph zone, and still I don't speed up.

Also, our nightlife isn't what it used to be, because when you don't like to drive after dark, it limits your options.

The Progressive Insurance commercials are more realistic than you think, which is probably why they're so funny.

They're a reflection on us. And if you can't laugh at yourself, you shouldn't laugh at anyone.

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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. 20**  
 •Scam calls were reported at location on E. Dodge Street.  
 •Complainant on County Highway 4 reported a driving complaint.  
 •Parking complaint was reported on E. Luverne Street.

**Nov. 21**  
 •Property was found at location on W. Hatting Street.  
 •Noise complaint was reported at location on E. Luverne Street.  
 •Suspicious activity was reported on 20th Avenue, Valley Springs.  
 •Property was found at location on W. Gabrielson Road.  
 •Deputy checked on motorist eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 13, Luverne.

**Nov. 22**  
 •Pedestrian was reported at location on 40th Avenue, Jasper.  
 •Complainant westbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 2, Beaver Creek, reported a driving complaint.  
 •Subject was arrested on Rock County warrant in Worthington.

**Nov. 23**  
 •Complainant on 80th Avenue, Hills, reported suspicious activity.  
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue requested to unlock something.  
 •Complainant on N. Church Avenue, Hills, requested information on a dog at large.  
 •Complainant on County Highway 4, Beaver Creek, reported a vulnerable adult.  
 •Complainant on N. Kniss Avenue reported a disorderly subject.  
 •Complainant on 20th Avenue and County Road 13, Hills, reported semis blocking road.  
 •Complainant on 60th Avenue and 161st Street re-

ported a trailer rolled.  
 •Complainant on E. Lincoln Street reported door open after hours.

**Nov. 24**  
 •Complainant on W. Hatting Street reported trespassing issues.

**Nov. 25**  
 •Driving complaint was reported at location on State Highway 23, mile marker 14, Luverne.  
 •Parking issue was reported at location on Crawford and McKenzie.  
 •Threats were reported at location on S. Kniss Avenue.  
 •Suspicious activity was reported on County Road 9.  
 •Suspicious activity was reported on N. Cottage Grove Avenue.  
 •Trespassing issue was reported at location on S. Kniss Avenue.  
 •Pipestone County Sheriff's Office reported pursuit on U.S. Highway 75, Pipestone County.  
 •Assistance from another agency was provided eastbound on Interstate 90, just east of mile marker 14, Luverne.

**Nov. 26**  
 •Complainant reported subject in Dickenson County with Rock County warrant.

**Nov. 27**  
 •Complainant on Johnsen Road, Rushmore, reported a vehicle fled from a traffic stop.

In addition, officers responded to 5 motor vehicle accidents, 5 deer accidents, 8 escorts, 22 ambulance runs, 1 parking violation, 5 paper services, 3 animal complaints, 4 fingerprint requests, 2 burn permits, 1 gas drive-off, 2 alarms, 9 purchase and carry permits, 7 traffic stops, 1 abandoned 911 call, 1 test, 3 welfare checks and 1 follow-up.

## Take caution around open water, newly formed ice

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone that lakes and ponds across the state have started to freeze, and ice thickness is highly variable at this time of year.

Even where there isn't ice, the water is so cold that an unexpected fall into water can be deadly. It is vital to talk with children about staying safe.

Anglers and others who recreate on the ice should stay on shore until there's at least 4 inches of new, clear ice. Anytime people are on the ice, they should check its thickness every 150 feet.

Each year, unexpected falls into cold water lead to serious injury and death. Wearing a life jacket is the best way to avert tragedy, since the initial shock of falling into the cold water can incapacitate even strong swimmers.

Carrying a good set of ice picks can help a person get out if they fall through the ice, and a cell phone, whistle or other communications device makes it more likely they will be able to call for help.

### General ice safety

No ice can ever be considered "safe ice," but follow-



Esther Frakes photo/1203 thin ice on veterans pond

A thin sheet of ice forms on the surface of the Veterans Home Pond Saturday morning.

ing these guidelines can help minimize the risk:

- Always wear a life jacket or float coat on the ice (except when in a vehicle).
- Carry ice picks, rope, an ice chisel and tape measurer.
- Check ice thickness at regular intervals; conditions can change quickly.
- Bring a cell phone or

personal locator beacon.

- Don't go out alone; let someone know about trip plans and expected return time.
- Before heading out, inquire about conditions and known hazards with local experts.

### Minimum ice thickness

### for new, clear ice:

- 4 inches for ice fishing or other activities on foot.
- 5-7 inches for a snowmobile or all-terrain vehicle.
- 8-12 inches for a car or small pickup.
- 12-15 inches for a medium truck.
- Double these minimums for white or snow-covered ice.

## LUVTV - Luverne's Local Cable Access Channel



The City of Luverne's cable access channel, LuvTv, livestreamed the Nov. 20 Luverne football championship game.

## City helps school with livestreaming capabilities

By Lori Sorenson

The City of Luverne will help the Luverne School District improve its technology for live-streaming school activities, according to action at a recent council meeting.

The council approved a resolution to increase the loan amount for PEG access equipment.

LUVTV, the city's online streaming services, was modernized with new programming equipment and cameras in 2017 with broadcast of live City Council meetings.

At the time, the council created an internal loan fund to pay for the upgrades to the channel and implemented a 95-cent per month PEG fee that all cable subscribers pay. At that time the original loan was \$67,825.93.

The Luverne School District made the request to the city to be reimbursed for a live-streaming camera system so that live school events (sports,

drama, music, etc.) could be broadcast and archived on the access channel.

The city approved the request and reimbursed the school district \$13,059.88 for the camera system.

The money for the live-streaming camera system will come from the PEG access fees, and the cost of the camera will be added to the existing balance in the fund.

"The community now has broader access to live and archived school events, which is a real positive for LUVTV and its users," City Administrator John Call said.

### Law enforcement contract

At the Nov. 10 meeting, the Luverne City Council approved a one-year contract for law enforcement services.

Since 1998 the City of Luverne and Rock County have been partners in Law Enforcement with the City of Luverne contracting with the

Rock County Sheriff's Department for the services.

This is the fourth signed agreement between the two entities, and this contract is for one year (2021) and the cost is \$937,135. That's a 5-percent increase from 2020.

"The agreement has worked well for the city and county," Call said. "And there are no substantial changes to the contract."

The contract covers all aspects of law enforcement including dispatch services, 911 and emergency communications services, traffic control, criminal investigation, patrol services and enforcement of city ordinances.

### Electrical improvements

In other business at their Nov. 10 meeting, the council took action to document IRS guidelines related to bond regulations for electrical upgrades.

The city recently autho-

rized an \$8.5 million project that includes adding 6.2 MW of generation to the power plant building.

It also includes various improvements to the East Substation area to modernize the existing 1960s-style switch yard.

Engineers from DGR are working on the plans and specifications of the project and also the air quality emissions permit that will be needed from MPCA for the project.

The bonds for the project will not be issued until sometime in 2021, and expenses for the project are underway and ongoing now — before the debt issuance is completed.

The IRS has issued regulations that allow for the city to be reimbursed for expenses incurred prior to the issuance of the bonds.

The council's action Nov. 10 documents the step toward following IRS guidelines.

## Christmas Haus now open Fridays and Saturdays through Christmas!

The Christmas Haus gift store in the Rock County History Center is now open, even though the History Center must be closed by state order.

The store, with its collectible ornaments and nutcrackers, will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Christmas. The phone number is 507-283-2122.

### St. John Lutheran Church

*Advent - Christmas  
Worship Schedule*

<p><b>December 6</b> 6:00 p.m. Advent Service <i>(no Advent meal)</i></p> <p><b>December 9</b> 6:00 p.m. Advent Service <i>(no Advent meal)</i></p>	<p><b>December 16</b> 6:00 p.m. Advent Service <i>(no Advent meal)</i></p> <p><b>December 24</b> 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service</p>
---	--

St. John Sunday School Christmas Program/Movie "3 Magi and a Baby": 7pm viewing for congregation and community on December 20. Space is limited - must call church office to reserve a seat 507-283-2316

Visit our website:  
stjohnlutheranluverne.org for a link to our services online. The Christmas Program will also be made available to view online.

803 N. Cedar Luverne

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Get tested if you  
have any symptoms.

Answer if your health  
department calls.

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Screen shot photo

Fifteen Luverne High School students recite the National Honor Society pledge Nov. 23 during a recorded virtual ceremony. Current NHS member Lauren VerSteeg (bottom, far right) administered the pledge to (top row, from left) Trista Baustian, Rozilyn Oye, Zachary Ahrendt, Simon Boyenga, (second row) Peter Baustian, Olivia Huisman, Griffen Jarchow, Olivia Wieneke, (third row) McKenzie VanGrootheest, Gracie Zewiske, Brooklynn VerSteeg, Rylee Gee, (bottom) Elise Jarchow, Luke Thorson and Casey Sehr.

## ‘I pledge myself to uphold...’

*LHS graduate encourages National Honor Society inductees to just ‘do’*

### By Mavis Fodness

Fifteen Luverne High School juniors and seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society Nov. 23 in a recorded ceremony that replaced the traditional in-person event.

New junior inductees are Trista Baustian, Olivia Huisman, Griffen Jarchow, Casey Sehr, Luke Thorson, Brooklynn VerSteeg and Olivia Wieneke, and seniors are Peter Baustian, Zachary Ahrendt, Simon Boyenga, Rylee Gee, Elise Jarchow, Rozilyn Oye, McKenzie VanGrootheest and Gracie Zewiske.

They joined current senior members Ethan Beyer, Xavier Carbonneau, Regan Feit, Ainslie Robinson, Lauren VerSteeg and Cade Weninger.

### Guest speaker is LHS grad

Eric Dinger, Class of 1999, spoke with students in a pre-recorded message from his home in Lincoln, Nebraska,

where he has lived since attending the university there.

As with previous guest speakers, Dinger named each Honor Society value — scholarship, service, leadership and character — and how these values can be demonstrated in the inductees’ lives.

He said he had a unique take on scholarship as an entrepreneur. He has seen people with little or no education and those with multiple college degrees equally, especially when it came to creating and selling businesses.

Dinger himself created and sold two businesses, the most recent of which was Powderhook, sold last year. He sees a common value in those exceeding at scholarship.

“The most important thing you can do for yourself is to ‘do,’” he said.

“Rather than wait for someone to give you permis-



Screen shot photo

Eric Dinger delivers the message to the new National Honor Society Luverne Chapter members Nov. 23 via recorded video. Dinger graduated from LHS in 1999.

sion to ‘do’ the thing you want to do ... just start doing it. The more quickly you find out what you do and don’t like, the better you will make your education.”

Along with determining

a career path, Dinger also encouraged students “to wait for no one to serve.”

He shared the story of his mentor who would pick up garbage from the ground each time they met. When

questioned as to why, his mentor said he wasn’t going to wait for someone else to clean up the community. He was going to do it.

“I think that is such a great lesson for you to learn at this age is that you have to wait for no one to commit to make a difference in the world around you,” Dinger said.

To assist in making that difference, Dinger encouraged Luverne’s National Honor Society inductees to write down their values — what character traits or values do they practice when no one is watching.

“Because when you write them down in advance, you can decide on the fly if what you want to do meets these values and how that thing you’re thinking about fits your values,” he said.

“If you do this in advance of the big decisions, stressors and hard times in your life, I think you will

be proud of your ability to make good decisions.”

And solid character values leads to good leadership.

“To me, leadership is about ‘Can I make decisions I trust for self? Can I show others that I can commit to something and follow through,’” he said. “If you can do these processes over and over again, then you can lead anything.”

### Thirty-minute virtual ceremony

LHS officials assembled elements of the annual ceremony with students and staff recording themselves at home or school.

The recordings were edited together in a 30-minute video and shown to the public on YouTube.

A day later, the video had more than 230 views, a much larger audience than previous in-person ceremonies.

NHS, continued on page 8

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2010)

•Luverne residents showed resounding support for their community’s future when more than 100 people showed up for a planning meeting Tuesday night on the heels of a winter storm.

Scott Marquardt of the Southwest Minnesota Initiative Foundation facilitated the gathering in the Blue Mound Banquet Center. “I was hoping for 100 people and perfect weather, and we ended up with 105 people and poor weather,” Marquardt said.

He explained that Luverne is at a pivotal point in charting a path for future growth.

With its worldwide exposure in the Ken Burns film, “The WAR,” and with regional economic developments already underway, now is the time for Luverne to position itself for commercial growth.

### 25 years ago (1995)

•After 66 years of serving Luverne and area retail customers, the Creeger family will no longer be in the clothing business.

Randy Creeger, third generation owner of the family business, made the announcement earlier this week and is already advertising going-out-of-business sales.

He said business is fine at some Creeger Coat Company locations, but he indicated lagging sales as the primary reason for his decision.

“I’m taking this as a positive step,” Creeger said Wednesday. “You have to know when to hold and when to fold, and I wanted to make the decision before I was forced to.”

Creeger’s decision to quit business affects all the Creeger store locations. In addition to Luverne, Creeger stores are located in the Kandi Mall, Willmar; the River Hills Mall, Mankato; the Miracle Mile Mall, Rochester; and the Westdale Mall, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Creeger Coat Company employs 34 people, both in full- and part-time positions.

Creeger was not specific about his plans for the future. “I’m exploring a number of different options,” he said, “outside of retail.”

Creeger Coat Company was started in 1929 by Randy’s grandfather, Harley Creeger. The business was passed down from Harley to his son, Richard, and from Richard to his son, Randy.

### 50 years ago (1970)

•Beaver Creek residents have their fingers crossed. They may

get their new well, water system and sanitary sewer system yet.

The council met Tuesday with officials of the Farmers Home Administration (FHA) of St. Paul to prepare a preliminary docket for examination by their staff, and by staff people in Washington. The docket, according to Beaver Creek mayor Robert Melton, is a schedule setting forth plans for moving ahead and financing the \$228,000 proposed project which would give the village a new sewer system, and improve the existing water supply.

The council has been assured two outright grants, one for \$16,036 by the Federal Water Quality Control Act of 1966, and an additional Farmers Home Administration grant of \$84,000, for a total of \$100,036. The grants hinge on raising the balance of the \$228,000 through the sale of municipal bonds if present plans materialize.

### 75 years ago (1945)

•A. A. Anderson announced that he had resigned as executive officer, vice president and director of the Luverne National Bank as of Nov. 29th.

His resignation severs the connection with the institution which began April 27, 1931, when the bank opened its doors. He was active manager of the bank then and continued in the capacity until he went into the U. S. Army on Jan. 6, 1941. On his return from the service he went back into the bank as active manager on August 1, 1944.

### 100 years ago (1920)

•At the regular meeting of the board of county commissioners held Wednesday, several matters of importance came up for action and were disposed of.

A resolution was adopted fixing December 17th as the time for considering proposals for the sale of \$60,000 of refunding bonds in order to provide funds for the payment of warrants issued during the past few months for road improvement work.

These bonds are to be in \$1,000 denominations, two of which are to be payable each year starting with 1925 and continuing up to and including 1930; four each year from 1931 to 1935, inclusive; five bonds annually from 1936 to 1937, and six bonds each year from 1938 up to and including 1940, the date of payment in each instance being December 1st.

## CELEBRATIONS

### Card showers

**Kermit Limesand** will celebrate his 80th birthday on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

Greetings may be sent to him at 1201 S. Kniss Ave., Luverne, MN 56156.

## MENU

**Monday, Dec. 7:** Scaloped potatoes and ham, peas and pearl onions, cinnamon baked apples, bread.

**Tuesday, Dec. 8:** Pork loin with gravy, mashed potatoes, steamed corn, bread, brownie.

Half-Price Day sponsored by McClure Electric.

**Wednesday, Dec. 9:** Soup, sandwich, pear halves, crackers, apple crisp with whipped topping.

**Thursday, Dec. 10:** Baked herb fish, roasted

potatoes, buttered beets, dinner roll, rainbow sherbet.

**Friday, Dec. 11:** Sweet and sour meatballs, brown rice, carrot coins, tropical fruit salad, lemon bar.

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

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

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

### Wednesday meals at Generations

Free, healthy meals are available through Lutheran Social Services at Generations thanks to a Covid-19 grant through the state of Minnesota. Anyone in Minnesota in need of nutrition can receive up to five meals

plus snacks at each event on a first-come first served basis. Food can be picked up for others in a household at no cost.

Meals are available Wednesdays Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 319 E. Lincoln. Call 507-283-9856.

## OBITUARIES

### Jolene Schneiderman

Jolene Faye Schneiderman, 46, Luverne, died Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2020, at her home.

Visitation was Friday, Nov. 20, at the First Baptist Church near George, Iowa, with a graveside service following in the parish cemetery.

Jolene Schneiderman was born on April 28, 1974, to Harold and JoAnn (Wilson) Schneiderman in Luverne. She was raised on the family farm east of Magnolia. She accepted the Lord into her life when she was eight years old. Jolene attended elementary school in Magnolia and graduated from Luverne High School in 1992.

Jolene continued her education at North American Baptist Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Upon completion of her schooling, Jolene moved



to Kansas City, Missouri, where she worked in the retail sector. She returned to Luverne in March 2020.

Jolene enjoyed working with flowers, shopping and animals, especially cats. She was quiet, peaceful, kind and helpful, and known for her infectious giggle and laugh.

Jolene is survived by her parents, Harold and JoAnn Schneiderman of Magnolia; aunts and uncles; and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Helmer and Gertrude Schneiderman; her maternal grandparents, James and Bernice Wilson; an aunt, Hilda Fick; and an uncle, Kriene Schneiderman.

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

(1203 F)

### Marian Norell

Marian V. Norell, 62, Darfur, formerly of Waseca, died Friday, Nov. 27, 2020, while in hospice care in Marshall.

Marian chose to donate her body to the U of M School of Medicine. A celebration of her life will be at a later date.

Marian Norell was born Feb. 7, 1958, to Clayton and Georgia (Miller) Norell and grew up in Darfur. She graduated from Comfrey High School in 1976. She then attended Bemidji State, earning her Bachelor of Science degree in English.

She began her teaching and coaching career in Luverne, making lifelong connections. She earned her Master of Science in special education and began teaching in Waseca. She earned her certification as a guidance counselor interning at Waseca, taking a one year job at Owatonna, and returning to Waseca High School for the remainder of her 30-plus-year career. She loved going to work and was part of the shenanigans



of making WHS a great place to be.

Marian officiated volleyball and softball and worked the state tournament several times. She played softball for 30 years, was a proud Education Minnesota union member, and loved old-time music and country gospel. She was always up for an adventure, and she was a great sister, aunt and friend.

Marian was diagnosed with Early Onset Dementia-Alzheimer's in 2014 and sadly retired from her position as guidance counselor at Waseca Public Schools after a 32-year career in education.

Marian is survived by her siblings, Lynnae (Steven) Anderson, Duane (Carmen) Norell, Dale (Deb Lien) Norell, Andrea (Lyle) Blom, Karen Norell, and Jeffrey (Colleen) Norell; 14 beloved nieces/nephews; and 24 cherished great-nieces/nephews.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents; her parents; and a brother, Mike Norell.

(1203 F)

### Jim Van Santen

Jim Van Santen, 67, rural Luverne, died peacefully on Thursday, Nov. 26, 2020, at his home surrounded by family.

A funeral service was Monday, Nov. 30, at the Christian Reformed Church in Luverne. Burial followed at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Memorials may be directed to the Southwest Christian School in Edgerton or Sioux Falls Christian School in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Jim Van Santen was born on July 19, 1953, to Peter and Nellie (Van Hemert) Van Santen in Hawarden, Iowa. He was baptized at Hawarden Christian Reformed Church and raised on a farm near Alcester, South Dakota. When he was six years old, the family moved to a farm near Lake Park, Iowa. Jim attended grade school at Ocheyedon Christian grade school in Ocheyedon, Iowa, and then began high school in Lake Park. In 1969 the family moved to a farm near Luverne, and Jim continued his education at Southwest Christian High School in Edgerton, graduating in 1971.

On Jan. 29, 1974, he married Marilyn Van Essen at the First Christian Reformed Church in Edgerton. Following his schooling, Jim worked various jobs prior to farming full time. In 1979 he and Marilyn purchased an acreage west of Luverne where they made their home for the next 30 years. Through the years, Jim remained busy crop farming and raising livestock. In 2000 Jim's son Jeff joined the farm operation, and in 2008 Jim semi-retired due to health. He built the house where he and Marilyn were currently residing.

Jim was a hard worker throughout his entire life. In retirement he helped build their new home with Clevering Construction and then continued working a couple of years with them before returning to farming part time with Jason Fick. Jim enjoyed learning the new technologies of farming by watching videos on the internet and figuring things out himself.

In April 2018 Jim was diagnosed with prostate cancer.



Jim was a member of the Luverne Christian Reformed Church. One of his favorite pastimes was reading. He enjoyed telling stories and making relationships with anyone he came across. He enjoyed traveling with Marilyn.

Later in life, Jim spent many summer days on the pontoon. A couple of the cherished memories were spending a week at Lake Mary near Alexandria with the children and grandchildren for their 40th and 45th wedding anniversaries. Jim loved watching the grandchildren in their activities. He also enjoyed coffee with the guys at Jaycox Implement. Jim's mischievous grin, sense of humor and funny stories will continue to warm the hearts of those who knew him.

Jim is survived by his wife, Marilyn; three children, Jeff (Alanna) Van Santen of Luverne, Melissa (Brian) Fick of Luverne, and Travis (Ronna) Van Santen of Sioux Falls; seven grandchildren, Kelsi and Aiden Van Santen, Mara, Madison and Jaelyn Fick, and Logan and Samantha Van Santen; nine siblings, Marian Schneekloth of Luverne, Marlene (John) Weinstroer of Lenexa, Kansas, Marge Briote of Hartford, South Dakota, Linda Vis of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Steve (Carla) Van Santen of Luverne, Doug (Kathy) Van Santen of Brandon, South Dakota, Carolyn (Tim) Diedrich of Luverne, Rick (Carrie) Van Santen of Luverne, and Lori (Gary) Serum of Champlin; in-laws LeAnne (Glen) Schoolmeister of Chandler, Karla (Lyle) Schiebout of Trosky, and Lloyd (Lavonne) Van Essen of Edgerton; and numerous other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Arvin Van Santen; an infant sister, Betty Jean Van Santen; a brother-in-law, Steve Schneekloth; and his mother-in-law, Laura Van Essen.

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

(1203 F)

## 1893: Two-story school erected in Magnolia, followed after church

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

Rock County Village (continued from 11-25-20 edition of the Star Herald.)

### School

A completely equipped, nine grade school is maintained in Magnolia. It is conducted in a two-story building, erected in 1893 at a cost of several thousand dollars. Before that year the site was occupied by a small district schoolhouse, in which a school was established at a time when there was little prospect of Magnolia ever attaining proportions above that of a small railroad station. This original building, 16x24 feet in dimensions, was sold and made over into a business house. The first teacher to conduct school in the new building was Frank Ferguson.

### Church

Magnolia's only church is styled the Holbert Methodist church of Magnolia. It was so named in honor of Capt. E. H. Holbert, who took the initial steps toward the erection of the church building in 1892. It was the original intention to use the building for a union church, but at the dedication it was taken over by the Methodist society, members of which were in a majority. The first board of trustees, elected in March, 1893, consisted of P. Phinney, D. Aney, George Ott, A. C. Crawford, W. W. Bullis, P. O. Goembel, E. H. Holbert, G. M. Henton and E. H. Bronson. The church is now without a resident pastor.

### Lodges

The Modern Woodmen of America lodge and its auxiliary, the Royal Neighbors of America, maintain organizations in Magnolia. The Woodmen own their own hall, a two story frame building, erected in 1900.

Magnolia Camp No. 3911, M. W. A., was granted its charter of organization on May 27, 1896. The names of the nineteen charter members were F. E. Ayers, T. H. Bennett, William Britton, H. V. Bullis, A. C. Crawford, W. E. Dunbar, C. Jorgenson, W. F. Kleine, C. P. Leonard, G. A. Lohr, John McGee, J. S. Oleson, Charles



## BITS BY BETTY

**By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society**

Pickett, A. P. Prescott, W. Soutar, A. K. Turner, D. W. Turner, G. W. Turner, Alexander Walker.

Marguerite Lodge No. 1332, R. N. A., was instituted January 25, 1899, with the following list of first members: Dora Dunn, Hattie V. Kleine, Alexander Walker, F. A. Baker, Mary G. Knowlton, Lena M. Kleine, Anna Carlson, G. W. Turner, Hattie B. Baker, Martha A. Crawford, Clara Nordene, Eva C. Ferguson, Elizabeth Tepler, Anna Bonnett, Ella A. Rolph, Nora B. Turner, Annie Knowlton, Emma Bethel, Caroline Ekman, Nellie Knowlton, W. F. Kleine.

**Bank**  
The one banking house in Magnolia, the Magnolia State Bank, has been in operation since October 1901. It was organized at that time with a capital stock of \$15,000, with Charles Mylius, W. R. Mansel, Alexander Walker, Thomas R. Roach and Albert R. Brooks as the principal stockholders and W. V. Kennedy as cashier and active manager of the institution, succeeded to the position of Mr. Kennedy in January, 1905.

*The story of the village of Magnolia will continue in the Dec. 10 edition of the Star Herald.*

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

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

## FSA INFORMATION

### Many Minnesota USDA service centers open for business by phone appointment only

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is temporarily restricting in-person visits for numerous service centers in Minnesota because of elevated rates of coronavirus community spread, but USDA employees will continue to assist agricultural producers with programs and services.

USDA is using a phased, data-driven approach to determine which service centers are open for in-person appointments. Field work, including conservation planning assistance, will continue with appropriate social distancing.

"While many of our service centers across Minnesota will be physically closed to visitors, we remain open for business," said Joe Martin, State Executive Director for USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Minnesota.

Troy Daniel, State Conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Minnesota

said, "Throughout the pandemic, our work with producers has continued and we remain committed to serving our customers."

All USDA service centers are open for business, and service center staff members from FSA and NRCS will continue to work with producers by phone, email, and digital tools like Microsoft Teams, Box, and OneSpan. Producers can learn more about how to leverage these digital offerings by visiting <https://www.farmers.gov/mydocs>

Producers wishing to conduct business with the FSA, NRCS, or any other service center agency should call ahead to confirm and schedule appointments. More information on service center status can be found at <https://www.farmers.gov/coronavirus/service-center-status>, and contact information for local service centers is available at <https://www.farmers.gov/service-center-locator>.

### USDA reminds dairy producers of Dec. 11 deadline for 2021 Safety Net enrollment

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reminds dairy producers that the deadline to enroll in Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) for calendar year 2021 is Friday, Dec. 11, 2020. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) opened DMC signup in October to help producers manage economic risk brought on by milk price

and feed cost disparities.

The DMC program, created by the 2018 Farm Bill, offers reasonably priced protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed cost (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Luverne graduate is member of first-place cyber security team

Logan Stratton, a senior cyber operations major at Dakota State University, Madison, South Dakota, was a member of the school's computing team and recently repeated as a first-place finisher during this fall's cyber events.

Stratton's team placed first overall at the MetaCTF CyberGames 2020 for the second consecutive year and the Digi-Key Collegiate

Computing Competition for the third consecutive year.

All competitions were completed virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The competitions challenge the teams of four and encourage participants to learn new techniques and concepts related to cybersecurity. Teams receive points for addressing each issue and accumulate as many points as they can before time expires.



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Submitted photo

Andrew Peterson shot a doe from the 2020 youth hunt conducted at Blue Mounds State Park in November.

## Local harvest nets four deer from latest youth hunt at state park

### Adult mentors guide young hunters

By Lori Sorenson

Ten hunters harvested four deer in the Blue Mounds State Park during the annual mentored youth hunt Nov. 20-22.

The park was closed to visitors for the weekend while youth and their mentor grown-ups sought to get a deer — a first for many young hunters.

According to park manager Chris Ingebretsen the weather was mild, making it enjoyable for hunters, but may have caused the deer to move less.

Coulter Thone mentored by Tom Thone harvested a doe.

Andrew Peterson, mentored by Rick Peterson harvested a doe.

Jacob Madison, mentored by Les Madison harvested a doe and a buck.

Each hunter could take up to two deer, but the hunt was an earn-a-buck hunt, so each youth was required to harvest a doe before harvesting a buck.

The purpose for the hunt is to control the deer population and protect natural resources, while giving youth an opportunity to learn outdoor hunting and recreation skills from an adult mentor.

Opening weekend of the Minnesota pheasant season was Oct. 10 and it took until 8 a.m. the following Monday morning for my phone to ring with questions regarding hunting etiquette on public lands.

For sure there are different common-sense rules when it comes to interacting with other hunters who all want to hunt on the same parcel of public land at the same time. The recommendations that follow are mine and are what I feel is the most sportsmanlike — not necessarily required to obey a rule or regulation of the state of Minnesota.

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

The answer is that it depends. If the spot is small, I would drive on and look for a different one. There is nothing worse than getting to a spot two hours early and then having a group of 10 show up three minutes before legal shooting time and they proceed to trample all over you and your group.

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

## NHS induction honors 15 students/continued from page 6

nies.

National Honor Society Luverne Chapter adviser Amy Cook opened the ceremony.

“Even though it may look different, don’t let that take away from the honor and hard work not only of our current members and what they put into making tonight possible but of our new inductees,” she said.

Each year juniors and seniors with grade point averages of 3.25 or higher are invited to apply for membership.

Teachers review and comment on the applications, and a six-member faculty group chooses



## THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall, Outdoors columnist

hunt and in which direction they would be heading out.

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

If your group has five hunters and all five of you want to hunt in the same place, then all five hunters should do the waiting before legal shooting time. Having one person in the parking lot announce that they are trying to save that spot for five other hunters does not meet the sportsmanship smell test.

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

suspicion that this practice is illegal and deserves a ticket.

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

If bird cleaning is to be done in the field, it should be done on a tailgate elsewhere and all of the wings, feathers and guts need to go into a garbage bag and be disposed of properly. All my dogs will try to eat all of the guts and remains that litter the parking lot when I arrive later, regardless if those remnants were left there 10 minutes ago or 10 days earlier. Don’t clean your birds in the parking lot.

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

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

pile of doo when you step out of the truck is not a great way to start your hunt. You don’t have to take it home, but at least toss it into the tall grass.

**On public lands you should not allow your dog to run up, uncontrolled, to a stranger’s dog.**

I have seen this erupt into a full-blown dogfight with some pretty serious outcomes. When I am in or on a public land spot, I keep my dogs leashed until I am in the proper place to start hunting.

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

Be courteous and share the experience.

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

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

inductees for membership. The number of inductees is based on class size with 8 percent of the junior and senior classes inducted each year based on the four NHS values.

“Membership in the National Honor Society is one of the highest achievements a high school student can obtain,” said NHS member Regan Feit.

“It is a reflection of their character, leadership, service and scholastic ability. It is also a reflection on their parents, teachers and fellow classmates who have helped and encouraged them.”

Inductees chose one

teacher to be recognized at the ceremony as someone who made an impact on their educational journey. Those teachers presented the NHS nominees with their NHS pins.

Kerri Baker, Deb Hoogendoorn, Peter Janiszski, Courtney Graanstra, Amy Sahly, Todd Oye, James Jarvie, Bill Thompson, Mike Wenninger, Aaron Perkins, Caroline Thorson and April Wallace. Janiszski, Sahly, Jarvie and Wenninger were each selected by two of the inductees.

In the video, each teacher “pinned” their student by saying a few words

about why the student was deserving of the NHS membership.

Guest speaker Dinger also commended the inductees and reminded them to remember who and what built those four NHS values they now exemplify.

“The foundation you have in Luverne with a public school and a community that loves you and cares about you is as good as you can get anywhere,” he said.

Luverne is a great place to be from and from Luverne you can do anything, you can go anywhere... there is literally nothing holding you back but your will to make it happen.”

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

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In addition to Circle of Hope, we are expanding youth Circles in Pipestone, Rock and Murray Counties as well and are in need of volunteers in your area.



## Patriots named AP 9-man 'state champions' after perfect 7-0 season

By Brennen Rupp

Covid-19 has caused plenty of disturbances in 2020, some with life-altering ramifications.

For the Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots football team it caused a disturbance in what was fixing to be a historic season in 2020.

Over the previous two seasons the Patriots accumulated a record of 18-4 and were knocking on the door of the state tournament. In 2018 they lost to Mountain Lake Area in the section championship.

The Patriots reached the section championship game again in 2019, but once again fell to the Wolverines.

With a strong group of seniors and juniors returning, 2020 was going to be the season that they knocked down that door and reached the state tournament.

Unfortunately for the Patriots, the Minnesota State High School League opted to not host state tournaments for fall sports due to Covid-19.

"Knowing that we didn't have a state tournament was very heartbreaking," H-BC senior Zander Wysong said.

"Everyone looks forward to a state playoff. It's why people play — this year especially, because we were an amazing team. We probably would have gone far in the state tournament."

That didn't stop the Pa-



Brennen Rupp photo/1203 H-BC Football

The Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots huddle before the start of the section championship game against Mountain Lake Area. The Patriots were recently voted the top team in 9-man by the Associated Press.

triotis from putting together an impressive season.

H-BC finished the shortened 2020 season with a 7-0 record and as Section 3A nine-man champions after defeating Mountain Lake Area, 52-7 in the section championship.

The Patriots were recently recognized by the Associated Press for their historic season. The AP voted H-BC

the No. 1 team in their final poll, giving them the "mythical" state title.

The Patriots dominated each team they faced this season en route to a perfect season and earned the top billing from the AP. In the seven games, the Patriots outscored their opponents 338-35.

Chase Bosch, a senior for the Patriots, was looking

forward to the opportunity to make history this season with his fellow teammates.

"The last time we reached the state tournament was 1990," Bosch said.

"It would have been a great opportunity to represent our school and compete in trying to win a state championship. Knowing that we had one of the better teams in H-BC history, it would have been special

to prove how good we actually were."

Tory Knobloch, a senior for the Patriots was thankful that he and his teammates were able to play this season. Knobloch said it hurts not being able to try and achieve the goal of winning a state championship, something that he's been dreaming of since he was a young boy.

"It makes you sick," Kno-

bloch said. "Knowing you had a good team and a great amount of talent. It's every kid's dream to play for a championship, and not getting that opportunity really stinks. But, it's part of life and you have to deal with it and move on."

While the season did not go as planned, Bosch was thankful to make more memories with his teammates on the gridiron.

"I'll miss the memories we made and the people we made them with," Bosch said.

"We have been doing things together for many years. All the morning lifts, the practices and all the Friday night games. We had a great group of guys this year and it was fun to make all the memories and be as successful as we were."

Knobloch said he'll miss being part of such a successful football program.

"I will miss the tradition," Knobloch said. "The coaches and people we have built around our football program."

It's a group of seniors that may not have wrapped up their prep football careers by winning a state championship, like they had hoped. However, there is no doubt that they left a mark on the H-BC football program during their four years playing under the Friday Night Lights in Hills.

## H-BC reacts to Covid-19 shutdown

By Brennen Rupp

On Nov. 18 Gov. Tim Walz released new Covid-19 restrictions that impacted youth sports in the state of Minnesota. The new guidelines put a pause on youth sports for four weeks.

Those orders went into effect on Nov. 20 and are in effect through Dec. 18. The restrictions shortened the football section tournaments, but section champions were still able to be crowned.

Those same restrictions halted the volleyball season before teams could reach postseason play.

Those athletes didn't get to enjoy the same "finality" of their season that the football teams got to enjoy.

Taryn Rauk is one of nine seniors on the Hills-Beaver Creek volleyball team. Rauk said that she was thankful that they got to play this season, but called it devastating to have their season cut short.

"Having the season canceled before we finished all of our games, or before we could even have the playoffs was devastating," Rauk said.

"But I was so grateful that we at least got to play. Getting to play means more than not having the playoffs."

Rauk said she was in a state of shock when she received the news that their volleyball season was going



Brennen Rupp photo/1203 H-BC volleyball

H-BC senior Taryn Rauk goes up for a kill during a match against MCC. Rauk was one of many seniors playing volleyball that were robbed of the opportunity to play in a section tournament this fall due to Covid-19.

to be cut short.

"To hear that your season is going to be over, it just shocked us," Rauk said.

"That's when I truly realized that this is actually going to be my last volleyball game I will ever play as a Patriot. It was bittersweet for sure."

For prep athletes section tournament time is the best time of the year. The intensity is high, knowing a loss brings an end to the season.

"It definitely left a mark not being able to play in the

section tournament," H-BC senior, Abby Knobloch said.

"Tournament time is one of the biggest highlights of the season. I truly believe that it's in the playoffs where teams are able to show their true talents. It hurts not being able to feel that rush of adrenaline and blood pumping through my veins. It hurts not screaming for joy in the locker room with my teammates. It hurts not driving to Worthington singing our favorite songs while we dance like lunatics in our seats. It hurts not praying before our game, thanking God for the opportunity to play with such amazing people."

The season may not have ended the way Rauk and her teammates wanted, but that doesn't mean it wasn't a memorable one for the Patriots.

"I think I can say something that all my teammates would agree with - that we were just so thankful that we could play," Rauk said. "I can't thank my amazing coaches and teammates enough for an unforgettable season."

## Pandemic stops Cardinals just as they were gaining momentum

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals were just starting to find their footing when the state of Minnesota put a halt on all youth sports due to Covid-19.

The Cardinals were on a four-game winning streak and owned a 5-5 record. They appeared to be picking up momentum as the section tournament neared.

Then the emergency order came and the surging Cardinals never got to see their season through.

"The last game of the season was really hard," Luverne senior Gracie Zewiske said.

"It was hard knowing that it was my last time playing on the court with my teammates. It's hard to realize that I will never know how far we could have gone. We were finally getting comfortable on the court and playing our game. We were on a winning streak and it makes me sad that we couldn't keep playing and show our talent."

With all the different Covid-19 protocols in place, it made for a unique season.

There was a limited number of spectators at the games. Zewiske said it may not have been the season that they envisioned, but she is grateful that she got the opportunity to play this fall.

"It wasn't the same as previous seasons," Zewiske said. "I was afraid I wouldn't be able



Brennen Rupp photo/1203 LHS volleyball

Gracie Zewiske serves the ball during the Cardinals' match against the Worthington Trojans. Zewiske was one of many senior volleyball players in the state of Minnesota who didn't get an opportunity to participate in postseason play due to Covid-19.

to have any of my family or friends watch me play my last season. Luckily we were allowed two tickets per game. It was still super quiet in the gym without our student section."

She said they practiced every day with masks, which made it difficult to communicate plays on the court.

Zewiske was one of four seniors on Luverne's roster that didn't get one final chance at postseason play.

While she's disappoint-

ed she didn't get to finish her career the way she envisioned, she'll always cherish the relationships she created while playing volleyball for the Cardinals.

"I will miss the bonds I got to make with my teammates," Zewiske said.

"I will miss the excitement of my team with every point and the energy and support from our crowds. We grew very close as a team, and I'm going to miss each and every one of them."

## LHS Junior Brooklynn Ver Steeg ready to lead Cardinals on the hardwood

By Brennen Rupp

The Luverne Cardinals girls' basketball team enjoyed a successful 2019-2020 season, finishing with a respectable 19-10 record. They earned the No. 1 seed in their subsection before falling to Windom, the No. 2 seed, on a buzzer-beater.

The Cardinals were paced by Brooklynn Ver Steeg. As a sophomore last season, Ver Steeg averaged 16.5 points, 5.1 rebounds, 3.2 steals, and 2.2 assists per game. She was a do-it-all guard for the Cardinals.

"Brooklynn is our motor," said Luverne head coach TJ Newgard.

"She sets the tone offensively and defensively. She creates constant pressure on opposing teams with her 'on the ball' defense and her

attacking style of offense. There are very few teams that have a player that is able to keep Brooklynn in front of them."

Ver Steeg is a three-sport athlete for the Cardinals. She's a member of the cross country and track and field teams where she shines due to her quickness.

On the hardwood that quickness gives opposing teams nightmares.

"I'd say her greatest strength is her speed and quickness," Newgard said.

"She's able to dictate what happens on both ends of the floor with her quickness. On defense, she can really put a team out of their offensive flow by hounding the point guard."

This creates turnovers that lead to Cardinal scoring



John Rittenhouse photo/0319 lhs gb Luverne's Brooklynn Ver Steeg is coming off an all-conference season for LHS.

opportunities.

Ver Steeg first started playing competitive basketball when she was in third grade. She said she

gets her passion for the game of basketball from her father, Nate Ver Steeg.

"He's a hard worker," she said. "He really liked basketball and worked hard at it when he was in high school. I get my drive for basketball from him."

That drive to be great paid off for Ver Steeg as she became a member of Luverne's varsity squad as an eighth-grader.

Now as she enters her junior season, her game has improved and adapted. Newgard said the biggest difference is the confidence she has in herself.

"When she started playing varsity as an eighth-grader, she was, as expected, much more timid than she is now," Newgard said.

"It's apparent she has grown used to the spotlight,

although she would rather have it on her teammates. She's become more comfortable in her own skin. Her three-point shot has improved greatly over the course of her varsity career."

It's not very often that sophomores are leaders of a varsity squad, but that's exactly what Ver Steeg was for the Cardinals last season.

Now as a junior she's comfortable at the helm.

"She's a leader both vocally and by example," Newgard said. "The younger girls really look up to her."

Ver Steeg has earned multiple individual accolades, such as being named to the all-conference team and receiving all-area Player of the Year.

She said these achievements wouldn't have been

# Star Herald CHURCH

Page 10 December 3, 2020

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

**St. Catherine Catholic Church**  
203 E. Brown St., Luverne  
St. Catherine Ph. 283-8502; [www.stscl.org](http://www.stscl.org)  
Monsignor Gerald Kosse, Pastor

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

**Luverne Christian Reformed Church**  
605 N. Estey St., Luverne  
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982  
[www.luvernecrc.com](http://www.luvernecrc.com) — [office@luvernecrc.com](mailto:office@luvernecrc.com)  
Roger Sparks, Pastor

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

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

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

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 507-283-4431; [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org) — [graceluverne@iw.net](mailto:graceluverne@iw.net)  
Ron Nichols, Pastor / Ann Zastrow, Associate Pastor

Thursday, Dec. 3: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Saturday, Dec. 5: 5:30 p.m. In-person worship service with Communion in Sanctuary. Sunday, Dec. 6: 9 a.m. Worship service with Communion. Limited seating is available. 9:15-9:45 a.m. Drive-thru Communion. 10 a.m. Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom. Tuesday, Dec. 8: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 6:45 p.m. Ministry meetings. 8 p.m. PPC meeting. Wednesday, Dec. 9: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 7-7:45 p.m. 6th-9th Confirmation classes. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are still available. Online Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website [www.graceluverne.org](http://www.graceluverne.org), click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. — NEW TIME! Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 p.m.

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834  
[pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com)  
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

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

**American Reformed Church**  
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne  
Ph. 283-8600; email: [office@arcluverne.org](mailto:office@arcluverne.org)  
Mike Aitena, Pastor

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. indoor service. Worship services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne. Friday, Dec. 4: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study.

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

**United Methodist Church**  
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 283-4529; email: [luverneumc@iw.net](mailto:luverneumc@iw.net)

Thursday, Dec. 3: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside. Saturday, Dec. 5: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Sunday Dec. 6: 9 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service — SD In-house worship service — Services held on radio and live on Facebook. YouTube will also have services posted. 4:30 p.m. Genesis to Revelation Bible Study with safe distancing. Monday, Dec. 7: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Tuesday, Dec. 8: 6 p.m. Christian Ed teachers meeting. Wednesday, Dec. 9: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Thursday, Dec. 10: 1-3 p.m. Food Shelf curbside pickup.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
302 Central Lane, Luverne  
Ph. 283-4787; email: [Firstpc@iw.net](mailto:Firstpc@iw.net) — [www.fpcluverne.com](http://www.fpcluverne.com)  
Jason Cunningham, Pastor

Worship services in-person and through Facebook Live Sunday 10:15

a.m.\* Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne  
Ph. 283-2316; email: [stjohn@iw.net](mailto:stjohn@iw.net)  
[www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org](http://www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org)  
Rev. Dr. Phil Booe

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

**Living Rock Church**  
500 E. Main St., Luverne  
Ph. 449-0057; [www.livingrockswmn.org](http://www.livingrockswmn.org)  
Billy Skaggs, Pastor

**New Life Celebration Church**  
110 N. Oakley, Luverne  
Ph. 449-6522; email: [newlifecelebration@gmail.com](mailto:newlifecelebration@gmail.com)

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
305 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick  
Ph. (507) 669-2855; [zionoffice@alliancecom.net](mailto:zionoffice@alliancecom.net)  
Jesse Baker, Pastor

**Ben Clare United Methodist Church**  
26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.  
[igtwb@WOW.net](mailto:igtwb@WOW.net)  
Bill Bates, Pastor

**First Lutheran Church**  
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.  
Ph. (605) 757-6662  
Laura Phillips, Pastor

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

**Palisade Lutheran Church**  
211 121<sup>st</sup> St., Garretson, S.D.  
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — [firstpalisade@alliancecom.net](mailto:firstpalisade@alliancecom.net)  
Laura Phillips, Pastor

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

**First Presbyterian Church**  
201 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek  
Ph. 507-935-5025  
email: [lori.firstpres@gmail.com](mailto:lori.firstpres@gmail.com)

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

**Magnolia United Methodist Church**  
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia  
Ph. 605-215-3429  
email: [magnoliannumc@gmail.com](mailto:magnoliannumc@gmail.com)  
Nancy Manning, Pastor

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

**Steen Reformed Church**  
112 W. Church Ave., Steen  
Ph. 855-2336

Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor

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

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
112 N. Main St., Hills  
Ph. 962-3270

Sundays, 10 a.m. Worship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills. Sunday School during worship service. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills, Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. You can find more info on our website [blchills.org](http://blchills.org).

**Hills United Reformed Church**  
410 S. Central Ave., Hills  
Office Ph. 962-3254  
[hillsurc@alliancecom.net](mailto:hillsurc@alliancecom.net)  
Alan Camarigg, Pastor

## We're not there yet ... the best is yet to come!

In some congregations candles are lit on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. We call those four Sundays the season of **advent** because we prepare to celebrate anew the **advent** (coming) of the Son of God when He was born to live among us and to do a great work of salvation.

The birth of Jesus was and still is good news! When we look at world history and current events, it is obvious that we, mankind, haven't managed to save ourselves. We haven't set straight ourselves or the world. We haven't overcome the impulse toward selfishness and pride. Read the headlines from any year in world history including 2020 (what a strange year this turned out to be) and you'll see that we need God's help as well as His forgiveness. We need a Savior.

In the season of advent we give thanks that help has come. And we look to the future trusting that more help is on the way. As theologians put it, we celebrate the "already" and press on toward the "not yet." **Already** the Son of God came to this world humbly, born in a stable, to reconcile us to God. **Not yet** has He come again to make all things new.

If you follow Jesus, you probably feel this tension. You're ever so thankful that Christ already died for your sins and conquered death for you, so that "...now being justified by faith we have peace with God." Romans 5:1. But you know that though forgiven you're far from perfect. You live in a world that still groans under the weight of mankind's sins. You long for the **second advent** of the Son of God. The Bible prayer, "Maranatha! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!" resonates with you.

Don't you long

## BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Roger Sparks,  
Luverne Christian Reformed Church

*In the season of advent we give thanks that help has come*

for when God will make real that which the Apostle John was blessed to see from afar? "I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. ... And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.'" (Revelation 21:1, 3-4)

We're not there yet. But we have hope because with every passing day we're that much closer to the glorious future the Son of God will bring about. We're not there yet. So we do simple things like light candles during advent to remind each other that God's light still shines in the darkness. We light candles that remind us of the peace, hope, love and joy that are already ours through our Savior's first advent. And we trust that the best is yet to come. For He who so promised is faithful.

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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## Trust in Him



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Church is Important - Please Attend!

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[www.buffaloridgeins.com](http://www.buffaloridgeins.com) E-mail: [info@buffaloridgeins.com](mailto:info@buffaloridgeins.com)

**McClure Electric**  
Alan M. Aanenson, owner  
Farm, Home & Commercial Wiring  
Luverne, MN Phone 507-283-4716

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Hills, MN • 507-962-3275

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**Luverne ANNOUNCER**

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Rock County  
**STAR HERALD**  
 Luverne  
 Area Chamber & CVB

**RULES** MORE AGE CATEGORIES!

1. Contest is open to ages 4 through adult!
  2. Color the picture below with paints, markers, crayons or colored pencils.
  3. Decision of judges is final.
- ALL entries must be returned to the Star Herald office no later than NOON ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10.  
 Please return your colored entry to the Star Herald office rolled or flat - DO NOT FOLD.

**PRIZES** will be awarded in six age categories!  
 Winners will be announced in the December 17th Star Herald and the December 19th Announcer.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

AGE (IF UNDER 18) \_\_\_\_\_  CHECK IF 18+

PARENTS' NAME(S) (IF UNDER 18) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

# Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

## HRA Annual Agency plan hearing set for Jan. 13

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Luverne has developed its Annual Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Blue Mound Tower at 216 North McKenzie in Luverne, MN weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A public hearing will be held on January 13, 2021 at the Authority's conference room at 11:30 a.m. The public may attend. (12-03)

## Nickabocker's Cafe

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

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

ASSUMED NAME: **Nickabocker's Cafe**  
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS:  
**303 S. Broadway St. Ellsworth, MN 56129 USA**  
NAMEHOLDER(S):  
Name: **Nicole Wilhelm**  
Address: **117 S. Dakota St., Steen, Minnesota 56173-5617**  
Name: **Skyler Wilhelm**  
Address: **333 E. Sanford Ave., Steen, Minnesota 56173-5617**

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

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

Signature : /s/ **Nicole Wilhelm** Date: **09-22-2020**  
MAILING ADDRESS: 117 S. Dakota St., Steen, Minnesota 56173-5617  
EMAIL ADDRESS FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: None provided  
PHONE NUMBER: None provided

(11-25, 12-03)

## Thorson probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT  
COUNTY OF ROCK PROBATE DIVISION  
Court File No. 67-PR-20-264

Estate of Curtis Norman Thorson, aka **NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON Curtis N. Thorson, aka Curtis Thorson PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO DECEDENT CREDITORS**

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on December 14, 2020 at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, Minnesota, 56156, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated August 31, 2020, and codicil(s) to the Will and separate writing(s) under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of and Caroline Marie Thorson, whose address is 508 Almar Street, Luverne, MN 56156 as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representatives will be appointed with full power to administer the assets of the Estate in Minnesota including the power 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.

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

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

Dated: 11/16/2020 BY THE COURT  
/s/ Terry S. Vajgrt  
District Court Judge

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

(11-25, 12-03)

## ISD #2184 School Board meets Oct. 22

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 and also via Zoom on October 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch, Colleen Deutsch, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, and Reva Sehr. Absent: Shelley Sandbulte. Also present: Craig Oftedal, Marlene Mann, Ryan Johnson, Jason Phelps, Becky Rahm, Ann Rigney, Lloyd Hemme, Amy Sahly, Lauren VerSteeg, David Wrigg, and Mavis Fodness – Rock County Star Herald.

Chairperson Jodi Bosch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. It was noted that there is an addendum to the agenda. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to approve the agenda with the addendum. Motion unanimously carried. Administrative reports were given.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve the September 24, 2020, School Board minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried. Superintendent Oftedal gave a brief building project update.

Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the School District bills with the School Board members. Motion made by Baustian, second by Jarchow, to approve payment of the district bills in the amount of \$1,407,709.79. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Deutsch, to receive the Student Activity report showing the balances as of September 30, 2020. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Hartman, second by Baustian, to set a special School Board meeting to canvass the School Board election results for November 12 at 7:00 p.m. The work session scheduled for that evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. Motion unanimously carried.

Superintendent Oftedal reported some information on the requested transfer of monies from Fund 01 (General Fund) to Fund 04 (Community Service Fund) to cover some additional Family U costs in regard to staffing during COVID. The SW MN Opportunity Council is the current fiscal agent for this program. Superintendent Oftedal requested the School Board table any action on this item until the special meeting on November 12 to allow more time to gather definitive funding numbers. Motion made by Sehr, second by Deutsch, to table item 8.5 Approve Transfer of Funds. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Jarchow, to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with South Dakota State University for student teaching field experience. Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion was held regarding the School District Organizational Chart. Motion made by Baustian, second by Deutsch, to table item 8.7 School District Organizational Chart to the November 12 work session agenda. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Baustian, second by Deutsch, to approve a request from Marylin VanGrootheest, Paraprofessional, for a medical leave of absence from November 17 – January 5, 2021. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Tom Rops as Middle School Girls Basketball coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Discussion was held regarding the rate of pay to be paid to a teacher who covers/teaches a class during their own prep hour for an absent teacher. The suggested rate was \$35.00 per hour. Discussion continued as to if this meant clock hour, class hour, section of class, etc. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Baustian, to approve the amount of \$35.00 with the administration and teaching staff clarifying the meaning of "per hour" or "per section". Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Jarchow, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Susan Bullerman as Middle School Girls Basketball Coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Jarchow, to approve the hiring of Adam Hansen as MS Boys Basketball Coach. Motion unanimously carried.

There were no committee reports given. The upcoming meeting dates were reviewed. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Baustian, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Dated: October 22, 2020

Tim Jarchow, Clerk  
(12-03)

## ISD #2184 School Board meets Nov. 12

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

A special meeting of the Board of Education, ISD #2184, was held in the District Office and via zoom on November 12, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch, Colleen Deutsch, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, Shelley Sandbulte, and Reva Sehr. Also present: Craig Oftedal, Marlene Mann, Lisa Nath, Amy Sahly, April Wallace, Lloyd Hemme, Beth Capistran, David Wrigg, and Jeff Stratton.

Chairperson Bosch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion made by Baustian, second by Deutsch, to approve the agenda as presented. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Sandbulte, Jarchow, Hartman, Sehr, and Bosch; those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Superintendent Oftedal issued the Canvassing Board Oath to the school board members. Member Hartman moved for adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION CANVASSING RETURNS OF VOTES OF SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL ELECTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 2184, as follows:

1. It is hereby found, determined, and declared that the general election of the voters of the district held on November 3, 2020, was in all respects duly and legally called and held.

2. As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast at said election on the election of three (3) school board members for four-year term vacancies on the board caused by expiration of term on December 31 next following the general election.

3. SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER – SCHOOL DISTRICT 2184	
CANDIDATE:	TOTAL:
DAVID WRIGG	2019
JEFF STRATTON	2404
TIM JARCHOW	2789
WRITE IN	103

4. Candidate Wrigg, Candidate Stratton, and Candidate Jarchow having received the highest number of votes, are elected to four year terms beginning January 1, 2021.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by Member Deutsch, and the following voted in favor thereof: Baustian, Deutsch, Sandbulte, Jarchow, Hartman, Sehr, and Bosch; and the following voted against the same: none; whereas, the said Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes of School District General Election was declared duly passed and adopted.

Superintendent Oftedal provided information regarding the funding of Family U. Motion made by Jarchow, second by Baustian, to approve the transfer of \$5,000 from Community Education Funds to Family U. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Sandbulte, Jarchow, Hartman, Sehr, and Bosch; those who voted against: none; Motion carried.

Superintendent Oftedal and the School Board reviewed the proposed School District Organizational Chart. Motion made by Sehr, second by Hartman, to approve the Organizational Chart as presented. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Sandbulte, Jarchow, Hartman, Sehr, and Bosch; those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Congratulations were extended to the newly elected school board members. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Hartman, to adjourn the meeting. Those who voted in favor: Baustian, Deutsch, Sandbulte, Jarchow, Hartman, Sehr, and Bosch; those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Dated: November 12, 2020

Tim Jarchow, Clerk  
(12-03)

## H-BC School Board meets Nov. 12

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671  
Minutes  
November 12, 2020

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 6:01 p.m. in the H-BC Secondary School Media Center/via Zoom Mtg for Guest attendees – based on MN Statute 13D.021.

Board members present were Bosch, Gehrke, Knobloch, LaRock, Rauk, and Rozeboom. Superintendent Holthaus and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance. Principal Kellenberger and Board member Wysong were absent.

Motion by Bosch, second by LaRock, and carried to approve the agenda. PATRIOT PRIDE:

- Veterans Day Celebration 11/11
- 800 GRAD Tickets handed out to High School Students since the beginning of the school year.
- Elementary Fall Festival 10/30
- American Education Week 11/16-11/20
- Soils Judging Team Placed to go to State--Carter Hartz, Zander Wysong, Donovan Leenders, Max Scholten, Casey Kueter

Motion by LaRock, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve Consent Agenda:

- Minutes 10/26/2020.
- Bills and Imprest.
- Donations: City of Hills for COVID Expenses \$3,764.50.
- Setting December 23 Teacher workday complete at student dismissal time.
- Assigning Brianna Leuthold as part-time Special Education Paraprofessional beginning October 30, 2020 then for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Accepting Kirsten Kooistra's resignation as Paraprofessional effective at the end of the workday December 11, 2020.
- Pay for Secondary Daily PE/Gym Bus Route pay of \$40/day beginning with November 1, 2020 until the end of the school year.

Motion by LaRock, second by Bosch, and carried to approve Resolution for Canvass of Board member Election Results from Board Election November 3, 2020.

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

DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:  
•Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report  
•Committee Meetings: Building/Grounds Meeting 11/04 (Will review at next Regular Board Meeting)

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING:

- Levy Certification
- District Seniority List
- DATES TO REMEMBER:
- All School Parent/Teacher Conferences November 17
- Regular Board Meeting, Monday, November 23
- Regular Board Meeting, Monday, December 14

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk  
(12-03)

m DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION		Division of School Finance 1500 Highway 36 West Roseville, MN 55113-4266		District Revenues and Expenditures Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and FY 2021				ED-00110-43
<b>General Information:</b> Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.10, requires that every school board shall publish the subject data of this report.								
District Name:	Luverne						District Number:	2184
Fund	FY 2020 Beginning Fund Balances	FY 2020 Actual Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2020 Actual Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2020 Actual Fund Balances	FY 2021 Budget Revenues and Transfers In	FY 2021 Budget Expenditures and Transfers Out	June 30, 2021 Projected Fund Balances	
General Fund/Restricted	\$ 1,998,348	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,998,348	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,998,348	
General Fund/Other	\$ 8,061,983	\$ 14,723,699	\$ 14,176,058	\$ 8,609,625	\$ 14,431,102	\$ 14,911,210	\$ 8,129,517	
Food Service Fund	\$ 83,335	\$ 528,542	\$ 542,493	\$ 69,384	\$ 579,513	\$ 640,603	\$ 8,294	
Community Service Fund	\$ 21,785	\$ 504,557	\$ 520,555	\$ 5,787	\$ 544,815	\$ 630,995	\$ (80,393)	
Building Construction Fund	\$ 20,407,048	\$ 316,044	\$ 13,469,898	\$ 7,253,194	\$ 445,622	\$ 4,814,712	\$ 2,884,104	
Debt Service Fund	\$ 349,960	\$ 2,159,619	\$ 2,066,788	\$ 442,791	\$ 2,148,593	\$ 2,066,808	\$ 524,576	
Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Internal Service Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
* OPEB Revocable Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
OPEB Irrevocable Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
OPEB Debt Service Fund	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>Total - All Funds</b>	<b>\$ 30,922,459</b>	<b>\$ 18,232,461</b>	<b>\$ 30,775,792</b>	<b>\$ 18,379,128</b>	<b>\$ 18,149,645</b>	<b>\$ 23,064,328</b>	<b>\$ 13,464,445</b>	
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>				<b>Current Statutory Operating Debt per Minnesota Statutes, section 123B.81</b>				
Outstanding July 1, 2019	\$ 29,255,000	Amount of General Fund Deficit, if any, in excess of 2.5% of expenditures 06/30/2020						
Plus: New Issues	\$ -							
Less: Redeemed Issues	\$ 1,045,000	<b>Cost per student - Average Daily Membership (ADM) 06/30/2020</b>						
Outstanding June 30, 2020	\$ 28,210,000	Total Operating Expenditures						
<b>Short-Term Debt</b>		FY 2020 Total ADM Served + Tuitioned Out ADM + Adjusted Extended ADM						
Certificates of Indebtedness	\$ -	FY 2020 Operating Cost per ADM						
Other Short-Term Indebtedness	\$ -							
<b>The complete budget may be inspected upon request to the superintendent.</b>								
<b>Data is unaudited at the time of publication and is subject to change.</b>								
* Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)								

(12-03)

## Vance probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ROCK

PROBATE COURT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

In Re: Estate of  
Michael Allan Vance, a/k/a Michael A. Vance,  
Deceased

Court File No.: 67-PR-20-261

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING  
FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND  
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
IN SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION  
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 21st day of December, 2020, at 8:30 O'clock A.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Court-house, Luverne, Minnesota, for the adjudication of intestacy and determination of heirship and for the appointment of Vickie Fikse, whose address is 4821 Washburn Avenue S., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55410, 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 personal representative 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 representative 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 personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: November 16, 2020 /s/ Terry Vajgrt  
District Court Judge

Douglas E. Eisma  
Attorney for Petitioner  
Eisma and Eisma  
130 East Main  
Luverne, MN 56156  
(507) 283-4828  
I. D. #158343

(COURT SEAL)

(12-03, 12-10)

## ISD #2184 School Board meets Nov. 6

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

An emergency meeting of the Board of Education, ISD #2184, was held in the District Office and via zoom on November 6, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch, Colleen Deutsch, Eric Hartman, Tim Jarchow, and Reva Sehr. Absent: Shelley Sandbulte. Also present: Craig Oftedahl, Marlene Mann, Ryan Johnson, Stacy Gillette, Todd Oye, Colette Hansen, Beth Capistran, Phil Paquette, Kara Ahrendt, Marie Atkinson-Smeins, TJ Newgard, Marcia Boeve-Alfano, Ann Rigney, David Wrigg, Jeff Stratton, and Mavis Fodness – Rock County Star Herald.

Chairperson Bosch called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Hartman, to approve the agenda as presented.

Those who voted in favor: Sehr, Jarchow, Hartman, Baustian, Deutsch, and Bosch; those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Superintendent Oftedahl informed the School Board members about Covid-19 Cases in our County and within our School District. At this time, the administration and the Incident Command Team is recommending that the Middle/High School change from hybrid learning to full distance learning beginning November 9. They are also recommending the Elementary School transition from in school learning to hybrid learning beginning November 16. The Elementary students would attend the current in-person model Monday through Wednesday (Nov. 9-11), there would be no school on November 12 or 13; and hybrid learning would begin on November 16 with half of the students attending each day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Motion made by Hartman, second by Deutsch, to transition to hybrid learning at the Elementary School on November 16 and to distance learning at the Middle/High School on November 9. Those who voted in favor: Sehr, Jarchow, Hartman, Baustian, Deutsch, and Bosch; those who voted against: none. Motion carried.

Superintendent Oftedahl reported to the School Board that because we are transitioning to Distance Learning without a mandate from the MN Department of Education, we have local control as to whether extra-curricular activities continue. The recommendation is to discontinue Middle School activities until November 30 and to continue Varsity activities during the distance learning. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to continue varsity level extra-curricular activities. Discussion was held. Those who voted in favor: Jarchow, Sehr, Deutsch, Baustian, and Hartman; those who voted against: Bosch. Motion carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to adjourn the meeting. Those who voted in favor: Sehr, Jarchow, Hartman, Baustian, Deutsch, and Bosch. Motion carried.

Dated: November 6, 2020

Tim Jarchow, Clerk  
(12-03)

## Buys probate

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ROCK

PROBATE COURT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

In Re: Estate of  
Herman Leonard Buys,  
Deceased

Court File No.: 67-PR-20-256

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING  
FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND  
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
IN SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION  
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 21st day of December, 2020, at 8:30 O'clock A.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Court-house, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above name deceased, dated December 3, 2012, and for the appointment of Leann Kay Hoogland whose address is 301 E. 2nd Street, PO Box 54, Hardwick, MN 56134, as personal representative 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 personal representative 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 representative 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 personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: November 27, 2020

/s/ Terry Vajgrt  
District Court Judge

Douglas E. Eisma  
Attorney for Petitioner  
Eisma and Eisma  
130 East Main  
Luverne, MN 56156  
(507) 283-4828  
I. D. #158343

(COURT SEAL)

(12-03, 12-10)

## Ellars descent of property

STATE OF MINNESOTA  
COUNTY OF ROCK

FIFTH JUDICIAL COURT  
DISTRICT COURT  
PROBATE DIVISION

Court File No.: 67-PR-20-262

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON  
PETITION FOR DESCENT OF PROPERTY

Estate of  
Marion Elizabeth Ellars  
a.k.a. Betty Ellars a.k.a. Betty Airgood,  
Decedent

A petition for Determination of Descent has been filed with this Court. The Petition represents that the Decedent died more than three years ago, leaving property in Minnesota and requests the probate of Decedent's last Will (if any), and the descent of such property be determined and assigned by this Court to the persons entitled to the property.

Any objections to the Petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper, and no objections are filed or raised, the Petition may be granted.

IT IS ORDERED and Notice is further given, that the Petition will be heard on 12/21/2020, at 8:30 a.m., by this Court at 204 E. Brown St., Luverne, Minnesota, via Zoom.

1. Notice shall be given to all persons (MINN. STAT. § 524.1-401) and persons who have filed a demand for notice pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 524.3-204.
2. Notice shall be given by publishing this Notice and Order as provided by law and by: Mailing a copy of this Notice and Order at least 14 days prior to the hearing date.

Dated: 11-16-20

BY THE COURT

/s/ Terry Vajgrt  
Judge of District Court

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

(11-25, 12-03)

# CLASSIFIEDS

### CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone that helped celebrate my 80th birthday with cards, calls, gifts and goodies. I heard from people I haven't seen in years. Thanks to Judy for the ad, to Harold for a fun night out with a great group of friends. Turning 80 wasn't so bad after all.

Carol Stroh  
(11.28-12.03)

The family of Curt Thorson extends sincere thanks for the kindness and support given to us during Curt's illness and death. Thank you for the food and gifts, memorials, cards, and words and gestures of support. Thank you to the staff of the Luverne Hospice Cottage for their loving care. Thank you to Pastor Ron Nichols and Pastor Ann Zastrow for their visits and for helping us celebrate Curt's life. Thanks also to Jeff and Sara Hartquist and the entire staff at Hartquist Funeral Services for their loving support and friendship as they took care of Curt and our entire family. We continue to be blessed by this community!

With gratitude,  
Caroline, Dylan, Eric, and  
Luke Thorson  
(11.28-12.03)

The Family of Tony Miller would like to thank the Luverne Police Department, Hartquist Funeral Home and Dr. Chesley in the loss of our husband, father, and grandfather. Thank you everyone for your kind words, memorials, gifts, cards, and food. The kindness that has been shown to us during this difficult time will not be forgotten.

Sharon Miller,  
Chris, Amber, Courtney and  
Gracie Nath  
(11.28-12.03)

### CARDS OF THANKS

Thanks for all the cards, phone calls, meals and treats for my 80th birthday.

Mel Viessman  
(11.28-12.03)

The family of Arlene Hoeck would like to thank you for the expressions of sympathy we have received since the death of our mother. We would also like to thank the staff of the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills for the excellent care she received. It is comforting to know that so many people care.

Linda and Darwin Hoeck  
Nieces and Nephews  
(11.28-12.03)

### FOR SALE

Coins, 1) Approximately 58 BC, given to Maggi Casper VF, Hungary Denar, 1543, War-time silver nickels (11) Mint, Proof, 100 State quarters; 50 Philadelphia; 50 Denver MS 65; 2-ounce silver replica 1913 Liberty Head nickel proof; New Jewelers Loop 30x21, all only \$600; Milwaukee half-inch drill, never used, drill bits included \$225, 60 new movies, mostly Disney \$10 each; Jensen 5-in-1 stereo system \$100; 12x-100x70 binoculars \$50. Call Frank 507-935-2064.  
(11.28-12.03)

### RENTALS

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### MISCELLANEOUS

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### EMPLOYMENT

Ellsworth Public School is accepting applications for a full time Paraprofessional. Applications can be found online at <https://www.ellsworth.mntm.org/district/district-vacancies.cfm> or by calling the school office at 507-967-2242.  
(11.21-12.10)

Great Plains Processing, Luverne has an opening for an Operator/Packaging Tech to work Sunday - Thursday 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Full benefits package. Starting wage \$18/hour + Shift dif. WITH RAISE after 90 day review. Fill out an application at 301 S Walnut Ave, www.gpp-co.com or email [hr@gpp-co.com](mailto:hr@gpp-co.com) (12.3-12.19)

### EMPLOYMENT

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

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### EMPLOYMENT

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(Human Services Technicians)**

The Minnesota Veterans Home is seeking applicants for nursing assistant positions. Positions available on the day and evening shifts. Hourly wage \$15.25 - \$24.19 depending on experience.

**Qualifications:**

- Eligible for registration with the MN Dept of Health Nursing Assistant Registry
- Ability to communicate effectively, follow instructions and take clear notes
- Must be at least 18 years of age

**Excellent benefits including:**

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- Pension plan

Apply online at  
<https://mn.gov/mmb/careers>. Job ID 42368  
For more information call 507-920-0000.

### MISCELLANEOUS

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# Fireworks show launches 'Love the Lights' celebration at the city park/continued from page 1



Lori Sorenson photos/1203 love the lights

Several nativity scenes are lighted in the Luverne City Park as part of the community Love the Lights celebration. Below is the Luverne EDA's display in the park featuring the Luverne Loop path.



were on the fireworks shooting team. "They did a fantastic job," Lanphere said. She added that the city of Luverne public works department facilitated with the park lighting event. "John Stoffel and his crew have been nothing but stellar in allowing and supporting the plans for the event at the park and the fireworks," Lanphere said.

### Santa and Mrs. Claus

Santa and Mrs. Claus made a surprise appearance at the park to greet passing motorists. Rodger and Dianne Ossenfort are Luverne's longtime jolly couple during Winterfest weekends, but the pandemic prevented traditional gatherings. The Ossenforts therefore weren't planning to don their red and white costumes.

Just before the park lighting event Sunday, however, Rodger said he called the Chamber to say they would be there.

Moments later they were seated near the Buffalo Ridge Insurance display on the south end of the park where they waved and shouted greetings to families driving by in their cars.

"It was just steady cars the whole time," Rodger said. "I'm really glad it worked to be here."

They said the event at the park — the fireworks, lighted displays and strong community turnout — was a holiday bright spot amid a season marred by Covid-19.

"This is just wonderful. I just couldn't believe all the children telling



Lori Sorenson photos/1203 love the lights

Santa and Mrs. Claus (Rodger and Dianne Ossenfort) made a surprise appearance in the city park for the lighting event.

us "Merry Christmas, Santa!" Dianne said. "It was heartwarming, it really was."

The Chamber will host Zoom chats with Santa and Mrs. Claus at their North Pole workshop from 10 a.m. to noon

Saturday, Dec. 5. The Zoom link can be found on the Chamber's website and Facebook page.

The park will remain illuminated through the holiday season.

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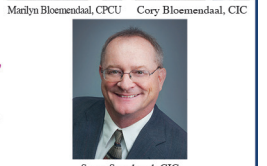
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## A note from Mayor Patrick T. Baustian *We're All in This Together*



I want to inform you of some startling trends that a graph recently released by the Southwest Health and Human Services shows that tracks the positive COVID-19 case in southwest Minnesota dating back to early February through today. There are noticeable and in some cases significant spikes in positive test results. Most notable are March 24, two weeks after St. Patrick's Day, June 11, two weeks post Memorial Day, July 17, two weeks post Independence Day, September 15, two weeks post Labor Day and most recently November 10, two week post Halloween.

On a more up lifting note I want to commend the Luverne Area Chamber of Commerce for once again for stepping up and taking the lead roll in supporting local food and beverage business by rolling out the Great Rock County Take Out Challenge ROCK SOLID. It's a simple way everyone can help those business that are effected the most by the Governors current mandated pause in those businesses. It's a win win promotion.

Simply order take out or delivery from any of the Rock County restaurants, coffee shops or c-stores and drop your weekly receipts in the drop box at the east door of the chamber office at 213 E Luverne Street by the following Monday noon. See the ad in this paper for more details.

## COVID-19 Exposure Notification Mobile App Now Available in Minnesota

Minnesota joins more than 20 states and territories using secure, anonymous technology to help slow the spread of COVID-19



Governor Tim Walz today announced the availability of a new COVID-19 exposure notification mobile application, COVIDaware MN, which could slow the spread of COVID-19 by helping Minnesotans protect themselves and their loved ones. The voluntary, anonymous application will alert a user if another user with whom they have had close contact during the virus' infectious period tests positive for COVID-19.

"As we see a dangerous surge in cases across the state, we need to use every tool possible to cut off the spread of the virus," said Governor Walz. "COVIDaware MN gives our state a powerful and anonymous new tool to alert others we've had close contact with — even people we don't know — and slow the spread of COVID-19."

"Knowing when we've been exposed to COVID-19 is a critical part of curbing the spread of COVID-19, especially as cases surge," said Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan. "This app will help Minnesotans keep themselves and their families safe. I encourage all Minnesotans to opt in and spread the word about this free, voluntary, and anonymous app."

"This innovative technology protects the privacy of Minnesotans and collects no data about a user," said Minnesota's CIO and Commissioner of Minnesota IT Services, Tarek Tomez. "If Minnesotans opt in and follow health recommendations when notified of an exposure, we will slow the spread of COVID-19 and be one step closer to returning to many of the activities we miss so much."

When Minnesotans download the app and allow notifications, COVIDaware MN generates a random, privacy-protecting key for a user's phone. The app does not track individuals' locations or their positions relative to one another. Using Bluetooth Low Energy (BLE) technology, the user's phone and the phones of other users they are near anonymously exchange these privacy-protected keys. If a person receives a positive test, the Department of Health will provide a unique code the person may enter into the app, if they choose. If they enter the code, users with whom they've been within six feet for 15 or more minutes over a 24 hour period in the past 14 days will receive a notification of an exposure. COVIDaware MN will exchange random keys with anyone who downloads COVIDaware MN or similar applications developed by other states that use the same technology framework.

When Minnesotans download and use COVIDaware MN, they are helping others in the community make informed decisions about their health and are playing their part to slow the spread of the virus. The more individuals who download the app, the more effective the tool will be to notify Minnesotans about potential exposures. Minnesotans can learn more about the app on the COVIDaware MN website, and download it today from the Google Play or App Store.



## Luverne School Update

An update from Superintendent Craig Oftedal sent to parents on Friday, November 20, outlined the COVID-19 weekly case update. Confirmed cases in the following chart include both students and staff. Total confirmed cases are cumulative from the beginning of the school year.

School	Active Cases	Recovered Cases	Total Confirmed Cases
Luverne Community Education	0	2	2
Luverne Elementary School	2	13	15
Luverne Middle School	1	7	8
Luverne High School	3	1	16
Luverne Public School Total	6	33	39

The incident command team continues to meet and consider the best way to navigate increasing cases in the county and the importance of school in the lives of students and families. With all the factors in mind, Distance Learning will continue for the MS/HS and Hybrid for the Elementary until December 4. Any changes will be communicated at a later date.

## COVID-19 INCUBATION TIMELINE

COVID-19 HAS UP TO A 14 DAY INCUBATION PERIOD

**DAY 0**  
MIKE WAS EXPOSED TO COVID-19.



**DAY 5**  
MIKE GOT TESTED & THE RESULTS WERE NEGATIVE.

**DAY 10**  
MIKE BECAME SYMPTOMATIC & TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19.



**DAY 8**  
MIKE THOUGHT HE WAS OKAY. HE ATTENDED DINNER WITH FRIENDS AND A LARGE FAMILY GATHERING. HE WAS CONTAGIOUS ON DAYS 8 & 9 (48 HOURS BEFORE SYMPTOMS) & NOW HE HAS EXPOSED 23 PEOPLE.

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



Sincerely,

*Patrick T. Baustian*  
Mayor Patrick T. Baustian