



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, December 23, 2021

City tackles child care crisis, buys building for day care center

Commercial business sought for former Tri-State building, subsidized by local partners

By Lori Sorenson

The city of Luverne will dive into the business of child care after years of shortage of local day care openings and numerous studies showing that independent day care businesses can't succeed on their own.

"No matter what, we have to fix this day care shortage in order to keep our economic development engine running," Mayor Pat Baustian said Monday.

The city will pay for necessary retrofits and remodeling estimated at \$1.5 million as well as furnishings and equipment at roughly \$2.5 million. The intent is for the city to own, maintain and insure the building, but not actually run the day care center. "The primary goal is to have a commercial day care come in and run it," Mayor Pat Baustian said. "We'd say, 'Here's the building; we'll take care of all of this. You take care of the rest.'"

"Right now, we have a lot of people working in Luverne but living in Brandon and Sioux Falls because they can't find day care here. There are also a lot of profes-

sionals who want to work here, but there's no day care available."

At their Tuesday night meeting, the Luverne City Council met in closed session to consider buy-

ing the Total Card Inc. building (formerly Tri-State Insurance) on North Blue Mound Avenue.

San Diego-based Vervant purchased the property in November

2020 for \$944,700 and in March 2021 closed Total Card and listed the property for sale at \$1 million.

The city, however, is negotiating a purchase price of less than a \$600,000 with closing expected in March 2022. The building is appraised at \$1,080,000.

The 1974 building has 30,000 square feet on 4.7 acres of land, which would provide adequate

City day care center/see 5A

Beaver Creek to get new welcome signs

By Lori Sorenson

Andrew Blank attended the Dec. 8 Beaver Creek council meeting to propose new "Welcome to Beaver Creek" signage at the city's primary entrances.

A quality Beaver Creek Sportsman's Club sign currently welcomes visitors to town but it's the only one, and Blank is proposing additional more visible signs for the city.

Of the city's two main entrances, right now the biggest sign we have is the Rauk's Hilltop Stop, and we have a small county sign, the green Beaver Creek sign," he said.

"I was thinking of something larger, something a little more friendly. Something that shows the past, present and future."

He said he checked prices at Luverne's Quality Printing, which did the work for The History Center's photo collage signage.

Quality Printing can do a 4-by-8 outdoor sign with images and text. The signs have a reputation of lasting roughly 10 years.

Council member Pat Bender said she's been approached by city residents about signage.

"Especially since we've been getting a lot of people from out of town using the splash pad, I think it would be a good idea to have one on each end of town," Bender said.

For two signs, the cost would total approximately \$1,000, and the council informally approved the sign project.

Blank said he would seek donations and bring design proposals for the council to approve.

In other sign-related business, the council noted that the new street signs are up at city intersections. The total cost is \$2,361 for the new black and white reflective signs and brackets.

The existing signs were approaching 30 years old and were fading.



Mavis Fodness photos/Grace Nativity

'O' Little Town of Bethlehem ...'

Adult and youth members of Grace Lutheran Church assembled for the congregation's annual "Live Nativity" Sunday in the church parking lot in Luverne. The recreated Biblical nativity scene featured Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the manger, three wisemen and shepherds with live donkeys, goats and camels and an angel overlooking the manger. Participants were able to warm up in the church with cookies and hot chocolate, and fire pits were available for outside warming. Vehicles drove through the lot beginning at 4 p.m., and walk-throughs started at 5 p.m. Pictured above, the three wisemen (from left) Casey Sehr, Christian Jepperson and Kyle Oldre come bearing gifts.



Mary (Elizabeth Wagner) and Joseph (Luke Thorson) and baby Jesus (a doll) play their respective roles in the Grace Live Nativity Sunday. At left, Holden Jepperson watches one of three goats eat hay.

Kenneth votes 'no' on sheriff contract

By Mavis Fodness

Beginning in 2022, residents of Kenneth won't see regular patrols from the Rock County Sheriff's Office, and some of their calls won't be handled by a peace officer.

The Kenneth City Council voted 3-1 Dec. 15 against signing a new five-year law enforcement contract with Rock County. The move saves the city \$3,413 annually.

"They (the council) are sick of the costs going up all the time," said Kenneth Mayor Keith Hoven. "Like any small town, we are struggling."

Councilors Duane Nieuwboer, Laurie Gangestad and Paul Tweet also voted to discontinue the sheriff services in the city of Kenneth. Councilor Sheri Vyskocil voted "no."

Kenneth was part of a multi city agreement for one law enforcement officer to be shared among six Rock County communities.

After years of little to no wage and equipment cost increases, the new five-year contract proposed annual increases of 2 to 3 percent through 2026.

The amount of the contract varied according to population.

At an estimated 60 residents, Kenneth was contributing the lowest amount among the six communities.

The mayors and council members from each of the small cities were invited to a meeting earlier this year to discuss the new contract.

Rock County Administrator Kyle Oldre said the cost of an officer along with equipment costs (including a vehicle) have risen to an estimated \$90,000 a year.

Together, the communities

Kenneth/continued on page 2A

County joins study for bike trail system through southwest Minnesota

By Mavis Fodness

Rock County Commissioners agreed to contribute \$3,000 to develop plans for a regional trail system through the Southwest Regional Development Commission (SRDC).

SRDC representatives Jessica Welu and Rosemary Bruce-White asked commissioners for their support at the Dec. 14 meeting.

"What Covid has taught us, if

anything, is that our trails and our parks were immensely important," Welu said.

The U.S. Department of Commerce has a \$209,000 trails development grant available if the SRDC provides a 20-percent funding match.

Bruce-White said the SRDC has set aside \$14,000 for the match and is asking the nine southwest Minnesota counties to

contribute \$3,000 each.

The Rock County Board approved the request unanimously.

"A lot of our communities have great ideas for projects and construction plans," Bruce-White said.

"When they heard money was available — but without a plan and without all those things in motion — we couldn't get anything started for them and that (a

regional trail plan) was something the EDA wanted to see on the application."

SRDC officials pointed to recent successes in Rock County and the city of Luverne to fund and build public walking and biking trails. "We want to take what is happening locally and regionalize it," Welu said.

The proposed study and regional plan development are

expected to pull together existing recreational trail plans and add suggested improvements from local trail users.

The study and plan development are expected to take 18 months to complete and will spearhead future funding applications to connect the counties of Rock, Nobles, Jackson, Cottonwood, Murray, Pipestone, Lincoln, Lyon and Redwood.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Free Christmas Eve Community Meal at UMC

The United Methodist Church in Luverne will host a free community Christmas Eve meal at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 24. Sign up by Dec. 20 for dine in or take out. (Donations are accepted, but not expected.)

Gymnastics 'Day of Fun' Dec. 29

The Luverne High School gymnasts are planning an afternoon of fun for children from 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, in the high school north gym. Cost is \$20. Register at the event's Facebook page "Gymnastics Afternoon for Fun."

Goehle gym open Sundays

The Hugo Goehle gymnasium in Hills is open for public recreation from 1 to 3 p.m. Sundays now through March 27.

A.C.E. respite care available

A.C.E. of SW Minnesota (A.C.E.) offers respite care services in Rock County for those needing a break from caring for a loved one.

The respite program offers short-term (1-3 hours), temporary care for families and caregivers by providing a brief period of reprieve from the daily cares they provide to their loved one.

Volunteers provide non-professional supportive services to caregivers to give them time for themselves, relieve their stress and help them remain healthy.

Respite care volunteers are also needed. Trained A.C.E. volunteers provide respite care to family caregivers of adults age 60 and older who are suffering from long-term health conditions.

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

Happenings at the Library

For more information about library happenings, call 507-449-5040 or email rockcountystaff@gmail.com

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

December **Take-and-Make project**, DIY book page roll-up art, is available by contacting the library. Participants who send a picture of the completed project are eligible for a prize.

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

Winter Community Ed brochure

The Winter Community Ed brochure will be in the New Year's edition of the Announcer on Dec. 27. Call Community Education at 507-283-4724 beginning Monday, Jan. 3, to register for new classes. See some upcoming classes listed in the Community Ed section below.

Community Ed

Call Cindy at Community Ed, 507-283-4724, to register for classes.

Community Ed website is http://www.isd2184.net/Communit_Ed/index.html

Basketball for grades K-2 will meet for four sessions beginning Jan. 8. Fee is \$20.

Pickleball League meets inside, mornings and evenings, during the months of January through April. Fee is \$20.

Men's Basketball meets Wednesday nights January through Feb. 23. Fee is \$25.

Preschool Fun for children ages 0-5 years and parent. Jan. 25 or Jan. 27. No fee, but registration needed to reserve morning or evening play time.

Defensive Driving Classes are offered for adults 55 years of age and older to save on auto insurance premiums. A beginning 8-hour class is required, then a 4-hour refresher class every three years.

Refresher four-hour class will be Jan. 20 or Feb. 17.

Student Driver Education is offered for Luverne school students, grade eight and older. Students may register for a **winter** or **summer** session of driver education. Cost is \$355 for 30 hours of classroom instruction and six hours of behind-the-wheel instruction. The **winter** session begins Jan. 31. On Jan. 24 out-of-district students may register for open spots in the winter session.

First Aid/CPR/AED Certification class will be Feb. 3. Fee is \$58.

ACT Prep Class will begin Feb. 24. Students must register by **Feb. 9**. Fee is \$125.



Nurse medic Sheila Meyer retired from her work with the Rock County Ambulance after 20 years.

Rock County Ambulance paramedic retires after 20 years of helping in crises

Nurse medic Sheila Meyer retired last week from her work with the Rock County Ambulance after 20 years of helping people in emergencies.

"I finished my last shift last night and turned off my radio for the last time," she said Friday. "It's kind of sad."

Meyer's work with ambulance forged

friendships with other first responders at hundreds of local emergencies through the years.

"I'm going to miss working with the people in the community and with the fire departments, sheriff's offices and all of them," Meyer said.

"They're a good group of people and they're very good at what they do."

Ambulance work was part-time for Meyer, a nurse in Sanford Luverne.

On Monday she started her new job at Sanford Sioux Falls where she transferred to work in the patient appointment center.

While she's looking forward to a new professional chapter, Meyer said she'll miss her

work with the ambulance.

"I'll miss the adrenaline; we're all crazy that way," she said.

"But it's something I really loved to do. I love helping people. They're having a horrible day and I like helping them make it a little better."

She and her husband, Dave, continue living in Luverne.

Do you need respite care? We can help

Are you able to volunteer? Many people could use your help

Linda Wenzel, Aging and Volunteer Services Coordinator, A.C.E. SW Minnesota - Rock County

A.C.E. of SW Minnesota (A.C.E.) offers Respite Care services right here in Rock County. Our Respite program offers short-term (1-3 hours), temporary care for families and caregivers by providing a brief period of reprieve from the daily cares they provide to their loved one.

Our volunteers provide non-professional supportive services to caregivers in need.

This helps them continue to provide at-home care, gives them time for themselves, relieves caregiver stress, and helps the caregiver stay healthy.

Are you needing a break? Does someone depend on you night and day? Do you have a family member who suffers from diabetes, arthritis, Alzheimer's, cancer, or other long-term health conditions?

Do you need time to relax, go to a doctor appointment, run errands, or maybe just have an hour to yourself away from home?

Who is taking care of you? The

demands of care-giving can be stressful. The best thing that you can do for the person you love is stay healthy yourself. Breaks don't have to be long to make a difference. It is alright to have help with your care-giving. It will benefit you both. A break renews you both.

Our Respite Care program can make a difference as it helps relieve your stress. You stay healthy mentally and physically.

It helps support your connection with your loved one and your own well-being. A.C.E.'s Respite Care program is a free service provided to age-qualified individuals.

There is, however, a voluntary contribution/sliding fee scale in place for anyone wanting to make a tax-deductible donation to the program. No one will be denied this service due to their inability or unwillingness to make a donation.

Respite volunteers are also needed, and you can help. Trained A.C.E. volunteers provide respite care to family caregivers of adults age 60 and older who are suffering from long-term health conditions.

A.C.E. volunteers are recruited from all walks of life. A commitment

for helping others is the most important requirement for becoming a volunteer of our Respite Care program.

Many times, the volunteers are close friends or neighbors that are already helping out and visit your loved one. If this sounds like your current situation, we would like to "capture" those volunteer hours.

In fact, our Respite Care program provides mileage reimbursement for A.C.E. volunteers who drive out of town to provide respite care. All involved parties – the caregiver, care receiver and the A.C.E. volunteer – must be comfortable with one another and follow all health and wellness protocol when participating in the Respite Care program.

Safety is always first when it comes to A.C.E. volunteers and the people they are serving.

For more information on receiving Respite Care or becoming an A.C.E. Respite Volunteer, contact A.C.E. of SW Minnesota 507-283-5064 or email ace.rock@co.rock.mn.us.

We also offer monthly caregiver support group meetings here in Rock County. Those interested can also call A.C.E. for information.

Kenneth votes no to law enforcement contract/from page 1A

have paid \$63,520 toward the one officer.

The county budget covered years of shortfalls.

Kenneth's share under the proposed contract to begin in 2022 increased \$1,095 from the \$2,318 paid in 2021.

According to Sheriff Evan Verbrugge, the majority of the calls to the cities of Hills, Beaver Creek, Magnolia, Hardwick, Steen and Kenneth involved animal

complaints, domestic issues and mental health calls.

Calls from the 1,582 small city residents in the county make up about 1 percent of the total call volume to the local sheriff's office.

Without a law enforcement contract, an officer will not respond to dog, animal or neighbor complaints.

"We would only be responding to gross misdemeanor and felony calls,"

Verbrugge said.

Each of the other small cities in Rock County has agreed to the new five-year contract.

The communities, the populations and law enforcement costs for 2022 are:

- Hills, 686, \$39,026
- Beaver Creek, 280, \$15,929
- Magnolia, 196, \$11,150
- Hardwick, 189, \$10,752

•Steen, 171, \$9,728.

In another cost-cutting measure, the Kenneth City Council voted to disband the community's volunteer fire department in 2017 and contract for fire coverage through the Lismore Volunteer Fire Department.

At their Dec. 15 meeting, Kenneth council members voted to adopt a levy for taxes payable in 2022 that remains at \$16,000 for the second-straight year.

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Beaver Creek city buys new payloader, sets levy at year-end meeting

By Lori Sorenson

On a split vote, Beaver Creek City Council members agreed at their December meeting to buy a \$123,000 pay loader.

City maintenance supervisor Travis Helgeson has been encouraging the city to sell its 2005 loader tractor and 1979 grader in exchange for newer, more versatile equipment that will do both jobs.

The current equipment doesn't move heavy snow efficiently, and Helgeson said the grader is cumbersome and is used only three to five times per year.

After seeking bids from several dealerships, he said Caterpillar offered the best price for the piece of equipment that he thought would best serve the city's needs.

It's a 2021 Cat 910 with a snowplow attachment.

The company offered \$7,850 on trade for the city's grader (bought for \$10,000 nearly 10 years ago) and \$18,695 on trade for the city's tractor.

The trades bring the final cost of the equipment to \$104,345.

After a \$20,000 down payment, the remaining \$84,345 will be financed through Security Savings Bank on a five-year loan at 2.75 percent interest.

Payments will be roughly \$1,500 per month, or \$18,000 per year.

The council discussed that the city has \$58,000 in its equipment fund, so the \$20,000 down payment could be paid from that fund.

Council member Pat Bender made the motion to approve the pay loader purchase.

"I just feel we're getting such a good trade on these, based on the current economy, and there's a need for it."

Dysthe, who voted against the motion, said all used equipment is high priced now. "If I'd go trade my truck right now, I'd get more than I paid for it," he said. "But then the new ones are \$20,000 higher."

Cody Dietrich, who supported the motion, said it's true that new equipment will continue to increase in price, but today's used prices will not hold forever.

"In a year, the used could be worth nothing and the new isn't going to come down, so you have to look at it that way," he said. "To get \$8,000 for that grader — that's not going to happen again."

Mayor Teune reiterated his concern about the total cost, despite the bargain trade offers.

"I still don't think we have it in the budget," said Mayor Teune. "It's a third of what

we have in our accounts right now."

Bender said the purchase would be a prudent use of city funds.

"Our budget's \$15,000 for street equipment," she said, noting that annual payments are \$18,000 and the difference could be funded through reserves.

She pointed out that there will be no equipment expenses for the next three years due to the warranty on the new pay loader, and in five years the loan will be paid.

"I think it's doable," Bender said. "The current equipment could nickel and dime us to death, and we could end up taking out a loan anyway."

Further, the tires on the current 1979 grader need to be replaced at nearly \$3,000, and the tires are due for replacement at \$1,700 on the 2005 tractor that the city bought 12 years ago.

Dietrich seconded Bender's motion to approve the expenditure, and when the vote was called, Harnack also supported the motion and Dysthe voted no. Mayor Teune did not vote.

The first payment won't be made until after the equipment arrives late in February.

Levy set at \$130,049

Beaver Creek's levy for taxes payable in 2022 will be \$130,049, which is 7.8 percent higher than the current levy of \$120,603.

Mayor Josh Teune pointed out that the city's portion of the levy will increase by only 1.6 percent, but the budget takes into account abated taxes on new housing construction.

Beaver Creek, along with Rock County and the H-BC School District, is offering a tax abatement incentive for new housing that allows owners of new houses to abate the first five years of property taxes on their new home.

The idea is to encourage people to build houses and live in Rock County and its communities.

Beaver Creek so far has three homeowners participating in the incentive, and those abated property taxes represent 6.2 percent of the city's levy increase. City taxpayers aren't shouldering that increase.

Taxes on the value of the new construction are collected; the homeowner receives a rebate check for the amount of taxes paid over the previous property value.



School supports charity with beards and pies

Luverne history teacher Canaan Petersen won the Security Savings Bank Best Beard Contest last week after he raised the most money and collected the most toiletry items in the contest with his colleagues. The beard fundraiser included 11 bearded staff members and concluded with a total of \$636.36 donated in cash for the Rock County Food Shelf. Security Savings Banks donated \$200 to the school, and the teachers also collected over 450 toiletry items for the food shelf.

Teachers and students celebrated toiletry drive contest winners with pies in their faces Friday afternoon. From left are student Bergan Ask, teacher Becky Rahm (eighth grade), teacher Canaan Petersen (seventh grade), teacher Bryan Snyders (sixth grade) and students Anna Reisdorfer and Tiba Kadhim.

At right are LHS teacher Bryan Snyders, who organized the toiletry drive with the student council, Ryan Debates of Security Savings Bank, LHS beard contest winner Canaan Petersen and Katie Baustian of the Rock County Food Shelf.



Merry Christmas!

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Respite Care provides family caregivers with some much-needed "down time" while their loved one receives quality care and support in the secure and nurturing environment of their own home. Trained volunteers provide this non-professional supportive service, thereby extending the length of time that your loved one can remain in their own home.

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- Helping you stay healthy
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May God's blessings be yours this Christmas

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Basement cleaning brings back holiday memories of youth

My mom used to hide Christmas gifts in the closet under the stairs. I passed by that door every day as I went up to my bedroom.



RUMINATIONS

By Mavis Fodness, Reporter

I never gave a thought to what was inside until one Christmas decades ago I just had to see if I was getting the gift I hoped for.

As it turns out, I was. The gift was a Breyer horse. Two, actually, because the Clydesdale mare and her foal were a set. They each came with fleece blankets that could be taken on and off.

I spied the horses at the local Coast-to-Coast store and immediately fell in love. I already had several of the Breyer models, having received the first in 1973 when I was 10.

The Clydesdales, however, continued to represent my dream of owning my own horse.

I recently rediscovered them in a plastic tub while cleaning the basement, and the sight of them reminded me of my neighbor's draft horses.

When I was a young girl, I recalled seeing my neighbor as he walked past our farm on his way to feed his own large animals.

One day I joined him with a plastic bread bag stuffed with grass hay. I fell in love with one of his fillies and named her "Brown Sugar."

I dreamed Brown Sugar

would come home with me and I would become her owner. My dreams didn't come true that year.

Until I received a real horse, those plastic Breyer models became substitutes for my dreams, and I spent hours playing with those toys.

I spent many summers under the shade of the large trees in our front yard, constructing pens and pastures out of twigs.

Fast forward to 2021 and that Breyer collection of more than 50 horses are slowly being "rehomed" to my grandchildren.

The discovery of the Clydesdale mare and foal brought instant thoughts to the horses' new owner.

My 2-year-old grandson, Logan, is not a horse lover like his sister. He prefers cows to equines except for one horse, the "Daddy" Clydesdale.

This week he'll receive the "Mommy" and "Baby" to complete the family.

I imagine the large grin on his face, his fast chatter of having a complete horse family, and the excitement of having a toy his sister will covet.

Merry Christmas, Logan. I hope the gift brings you hours of (horse)play and allows your imagination to soar as mine did all those years ago.

We wish you joy and peace this holiday season

Christians believe "God so loved the world that he gave his only son" to take away the sins of the world (John 3:16), and as such, we celebrate the arrival of Jesus as told in the Bible's second chapter of Luke:

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ... And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and

they were filled with fear.

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Merry Christmas, dear readers. We at the Star Herald wish you joy and peace this holiday season.



'Drowsy driving' is just as unsafe as drunk driving; avoid doing both

Question: I called in a driving complaint of a possible drunk driver and received a call back and was told the driver was tired. Can the driver be cited for this?

Answer: Yes, the drowsy driver could be cited for inattentive driving, and additional serious charges could be incurred if the drowsy driver causes a crash. A drowsy driver is an unsafe driver. Lack of sleep negatively impacts performance. It slows reaction time, impairs judgment, situational awareness and increases lapses in attention and risk taking.

According to a study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, people who sleep 6 to 7 hours a night are twice as likely to be involved in a crash as those sleeping eight hours or more. People sleeping less than five hours increase their risk four to five times.

Before hitting the road be sure to:

- get a good night's sleep.



ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol

While this varies, the average person requires about 8 hours of sleep a night.

- schedule regular stops.
- avoid alcohol and medications (over-the-counter and prescribed) that may impair your driving. Alcohol interacts with fatigue, increasing its effects – just like drinking on an empty stomach.

While on the road be alert for warning signs of fatigue, for example, drivers who:

- can't remember the last few miles driven.
- drift from their lanes or hit a

rumble strip.

- experience wandering or disconnected thoughts.
- yawn repeatedly.
- have difficulty focusing or keeping their eyes open.
- tailgate or miss traffic signs.
- have trouble keeping their head up.

If you recognize warning signs:

- never count on the radio, open windows or use other "tricks" to keep them awake.
- respond to symptoms of fatigue by finding a safe place to stop for a break.

Question: I purchased an old trailer to haul my Ranger around. Are brakes required on it?

Answer: Brakes are required on all trailers with a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or more. Trailers manufactured after June 30, 1988, with a gross weight of 3,000 pounds or more require brakes installed on all wheels.

Every trailer with a gross weight of more than 3,000 pounds shall also be equipped with a *breakaway brake* device which will automatically apply and hold the brakes should the trailer accidentally become detached from the towing unit.

Trailers manufactured prior to July 1, 1988, that are equipped with three or more axles are not required to have brakes on the front axle, provided the brakes on all other wheels meet the performance standards prescribed by law.

The manufacturers of many

new vehicles equipped with anti-lock brake systems require any towed unit be equipped with electric brakes and the towing vehicle be equipped with an electronic brake controller.

It's also important to check the brakes on your personal vehicle every three months. Too often, vehicle owners put off simple maintenance until it's too late. Deteriorating brakes can create longer stopping distances, ultimately leading to a crash. Do your part to maintain your vehicle to avoid a crash.

Surviving the holiday season this year can be as simple as driving smart by staying alert, slowing down, paying attention, planning a sober ride and always buckling up.

If you have any questions concerning traffic-related laws or issues in Minnesota, send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson at his email, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us

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

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Dec. 10

•Complainant on Central Avenue, Hills, reported an act of vandalism.

•Complainant north of the Econolodge reported an intoxicated subject.

Dec. 11

•Complainant on Gabrielson Road and Kniss Avenue reported a male walking down the middle of the street at location with no coat.

•Complainant on Interstate 90, mile marker 16, Luverne, reported a vehicle went off roadway.

•Complainant on 111th Street and 140th Avenue, Luverne, reported shooting/hunting incident.

•Complainant on N. Freeman Avenue reported a missing person.

•Complainant requested to speak to a deputy.

•Complainant on W. Mead Court reported theft at location.

Dec. 12

•Complainant on E. Warren Street reported harassing behavior from a neighbor.

•Complainant reported reckless driving of snowmobiles frequently at location near the Loop trail behind the elementary school.

•Complainant on Blue Mound Avenue reported a snowmobile driving on walking path.

•Deputy on 140th and 121st Street, Luverne, stopped two snowmobiles at location.

Dec. 13

•Complainant on Minnesota Avenue reported a possible fire at power substation.

•Luverne fire depart-

ment did training with smoke machine.

•Complainant reported suspicious activity by a man with black colored SUV in area on N. Estey Street.

Dec. 14

•Complainant on W. Mead Court reported vehicle repossession.

•Complainant on Koehn Avenue and S. Kniss Avenue reported a street sign knocked down in the road.

•Complainant on W. Hatting Street reported a vehicle ran bus stop arm.

•Vandalism reported on S. Kniss Avenue.

Dec. 15

•Complainant on S. East Park Street reported lost keys.

Dec. 16

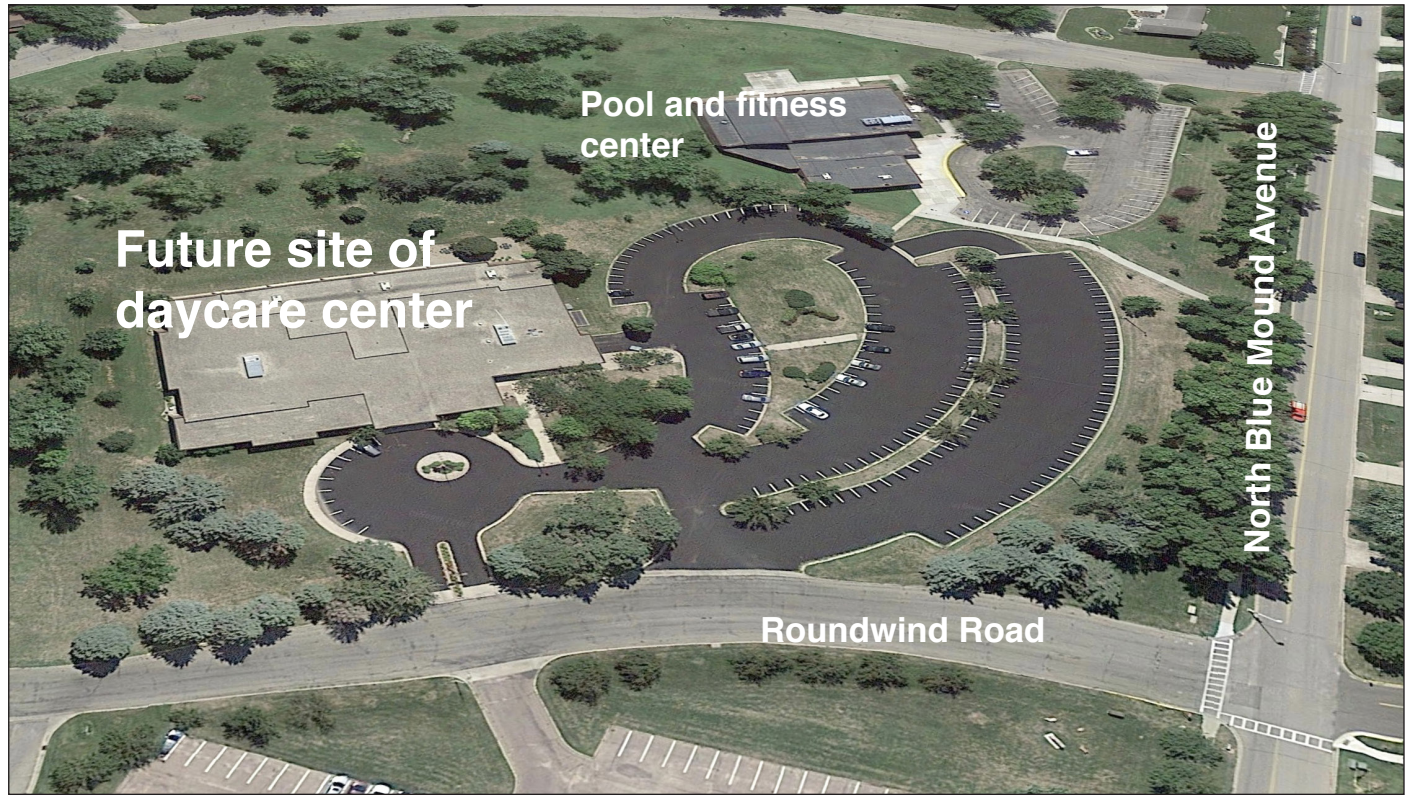
•Complainant on E. Luverne Street reported probation violation.

•Complainant on 60th Avenue, Beaver Creek, reported drones flying around the property.

•Complainant on 101st Street, Luverne, reported an abandoned vehicle at location.

•Complainant on N. Cedar Street requested deputy assistance in locating a suspect vehicle.

In addition, officers responded to 10 motor vehicle accidents, 2 deer accidents, 1 escort, 20 ambulance runs, 6 paper services, 3 animal complaints, 3 fingerprint requests, 1 burn permit, 1 vehicle impound, 1 background check, 4 alarms, 3 drug court tests, 2 purchase and carry permits, 7 stalled vehicles, 8 traffic stops, 7 abandoned 911 calls, 2 tests, 3 welfare checks, 1 OFP and 1 follow-up.



Day care center in former Tri-State building/from page 1A

outdoor “green space” required by the state for day care centers.

It’s located next to the pool and fitness center and the city’s bike and walk path.

“The building itself is in good shape,” Baustian said. “It’s been well maintained.”

The city will pay for necessary retrofits and remodeling estimated at \$1.5 million as well as furnishings and equipment at roughly \$2.5 million.

The intent is for the city to own, maintain and insure the building, but not actually run the day care center. As a city-owned property there would be no property taxes.

“The primary goal is to have a commercial day care come in and run it,” Baustian said. “We’d say, ‘Here’s the building; we’ll take care of all of this. You take care of the rest.’”

He said “the rest” would be employing and retaining qualified child care professionals, which has been identified as the primary obstacle in cash-flowing a commercial day care center.

Baustian said local leaders understand that the subsidy will be a permanent commitment in order to keep the day care center

in business.

“It’s like the pool and fitness center, library and other quality-of-life amenities that we subsidize,” Baustian said.

“If we can subsidize a pool and not local child care, we have bigger problems. This is a quality-of-life and economic must.”

The city currently subsidizes the pool and fitness center at \$530,000 per year in order to keep memberships affordable for community members. That doesn’t include the \$5 million remodeling and expansion currently in progress.

In many communities — even where building space has been donated — day care centers end up going out of business because it costs more to employ qualified staff than most working families can afford to pay in child care fees.

“It’s the same story in communities all over the state,” Baustian said. “You can afford the overhead and you can afford the employees, but you can’t do both.”

Personnel costs, in addition to taxes, maintenance and other expenses, were cost-prohibitive for profits, and day care centers often train employees only to lose them to school districts where benefits

are more generous.

“Quality employees are key,” Baustian said.

“By the city taking care of building costs, the hope is that child care center providers will be paid well with benefits.”

The city is working with the Luverne School District and Rock County Commissioners to seek some support for the project.

He pointed out that the city day care investments will be offset by recent economic development adding value to the local tax base.

“We’ll be able to subsidize child care with minimal levy impact,” Baustian said.

Child care crisis

Ten in-home child care providers in Rock County left the profession in the past year, leaving roughly 120 children needing care elsewhere.

That’s in addition to nearly 200 slots already needed locally.

To illustrate the trending problem, there were 56 licensed child care providers in Rock County in 2016 compared with 37 in 2019 and 28 today.

City day care center/see 8A

DNR cautions about uneven conditions as ice season gets underway

Anglers in some parts of Minnesota have been venturing onto the ice for several weeks, while water remains open in other parts of the state. So far in December, weather in the state — which has included rain, snow and fluctuating temperatures — has affected ice-making and impacted ice that’s already formed.

As a result, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources stresses the importance of checking ice thickness with a spud bar, auger or other device before stepping out onto it.

Do not rely on other people’s footprints, tracks or social media posts.

Anglers and others who recreate on the ice should stay on shore until there’s at least 4 inches of new, clear ice.

A minimum of 5 to 7 inches of ice is necessary to support an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile, and there should be at least a foot of ice before hauling out a truck or wheelhouse-type fishing shelter.

People should check the thickness of the ice regularly, since it can be highly variable even on the same body

of water.

“The week between Christmas and New Year’s is typically the kickoff of the ‘wheelhouse season,’ and we anticipate it’ll be the same this year, especially in the northern part of the state,” said Col. Rodmen Smith, DNR Enforcement Division director.

“Whether you’re walking onto the ice or hauling out a shelter you’ll sleep in, checking the ice thickness regularly is absolutely vital and one of the easiest ways to ensure tragedy doesn’t strike before you arrive at your fishing spot.”

Each year, unexpected falls through thin ice lead to serious injury or death. Wearing a life jacket is the best way to avert tragedy should someone fall through the ice, since the initial shock of falling into cold water can incapacitate even strong swimmers. A good set of ice picks will help a person get out, and a cell phone, whistle or other communications device makes it more likely they’ll be able to call for help.

General ice safety guidelines

No ice can ever be

considered “safe ice,” but following 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 measure.
- 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.

The minimum ice thickness guidelines for new, clear ice are:

- 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.

For more information, visit mndnr.gov/icesafety and mndnr.gov/boating-safety.

PALACE

PALACE THEATRE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Merry Christmas from the Palace Theatre!
We won’t be showing any movies during the next two holiday weekends.

2022 kicks off with the return of our Bank Nite FREE Family movie on Thursday, January 6 at 6pm.

If you’re in need of a last-minute gift, we have certificates available.

104 E. Main St. • Luverne, MN 56156 • 507.283.4339

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Mavis Fodness photos/1223 Team E Fieldhouse Opens

Team 'E' Fieldhouse of Hope hosts an open house Dec. 7 in the newly remodeled location on Third Avenue in Hills. It includes an office area, multi-purpose room, equipment storage and soon-to-open public fitness center.

Team 'E' Fieldhouse of Hope opens, focus now turns to adding volunteer fan club

By Mavis Fodness

A Dec. 7 open house celebrated the Team "E" Fieldhouse of Hope opening in Hills and Game Plan 4 Hope's volunteer fan club.

"We are excited to see how the building is going to help us with our current mission and open doors to new opportunities in the future," said co-founder Missy Bass.

Hills couples Jeff and Missy Bass and Heather and Aaron Erickson formed the nonprofit Game Plan 4 Hope in 2019 to be "quarterbacks" for families experiencing life-changing events as they had with their own sons.

The opening of an office and multi-purpose area gives them and volunteers a place to assemble care packages, write encouragement notes, provide emotional support, and coordinate hospital outreach activities with families just affected or in the middle of the life-changing journey.

"We can spread our wings lo-



The multi-purpose room at the Team 'E' Fieldhouse of Hope in Hills is available for rent for private parties or for business meetings.

cally, too," said Heather Erickson.

A public fitness center will open early in 2022 when remodeling is complete, and the multi-purpose room with Zoom Room Technology is available for rent for private or business events.

"The community supported us and we're happy we can offer something back to everyone," Jeff Bass said.

A fundraising campaign to remodel the former grain elevator office at 312 W. 3rd Ave. began on

Jan. 1 with a \$135,000 goal.

The group raised nearly \$144,000.

Within months, members of the local football team and others in the community helped remove walls, and skilled volunteer offered construction, plumbing and electrical work, while adding decorative features both inside and out.

In the Fieldhouse, medical equipment that Game Plan 4 Hope has received will be inventoried, repaired and redistributed to families readjusting to the life-changing events that may require such equipment.

The handicap-accessible vans are housed at the Fieldhouse and are available to families, including the Bass family.

Their son, Trenton Bass, was 17 when he suffered a paralyzing injury during a high school football game in 2017. The family used the specially equipped van to transport Trenton to and

Fieldhouse, continued on 8A

CELEBRATIONS

Card Shower

Larry Sherwood will celebrate his 80th birthday on Friday, Dec. 31. Greetings may be sent to him at 308 S. Chestnut Street, Ellsworth, MN 56129.

MENU

Monday, Dec. 27: Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner roll.

Tuesday, Dec. 28: Baked chicken, baked potato with sour cream, broccoli florets, bread, dessert.

Wednesday, Dec. 29: Lasagna, California Normandy, peaches, breadstick, dessert.

Thursday, Dec. 30: Turkey stuffing casserole, mixed vegetables, sliced apples, bread, dessert.

Half-Price Day sponsored by American Reformed Church.

Friday, Dec. 31: Beef chili with beans, Romaine salad with dressing, corn muffin, pears.

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.

COLLEGE NEWS

U of Sioux Falls releases dean's list

Several area students were named to the University of Sioux Falls dean's list for the Fall 2021 semester. To be eligible, students must earn at least a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

Honor students with home town and major area of study are as follows: Angela Martinyuk, Beaver Creek, nursing; Cade Ver Steeg, Bemidji, business administration; Angela Boyenga, Ellsworth, nursing; Mandie Petersen, Hardwick, elementary education; Grace Bundesen, Hills, business administration and accounting; Abby Knobloch, Hills, pre-nursing.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2011)

•It was 1968. Magnolia High School graduate Jerry Hoff had been home from Vietnam for three days when Smith Furniture owner Larry Brinkman called him with a job offer.

Hoff learned how to install flooring while working at Smith Furniture for the next five years.

When Bob Davis was looking to sell his floor covering business in 1973, Hoff was the buyer. "I've been in business ever since," Hoff said.

Industry veterans warned him that flooring installers can expect their knees to tolerate no more than two years in the business, but Hoff said he's been fortunate.

"I've lasted more than three times that. My knees are still good and I don't have any back trouble," he said, "but I don't have the strength I used to have."

"I've been trying to slow down over the last couple of years," he said. "Quitting was a hard decision, because people keep calling me, but I just feel it's time to quit."

25 years ago (1996)

•After 18 years on the Rock County Board of Commissioners, Willis J. Brakke will retire at the end of the month.

"The past 18 years have been the most enjoyable years of my life," Brakke told the *Star Herald* in a recent interview. "I enjoyed government service and the satisfaction that I might be doing some good for others."

At age 74, Brakke decided not to file for re-election to the board. In a three-way race for his seat, Bob Jarchow was elected in November and will assume Brakke's duties in January.

He said the decision not to run again for election was one of the hardest things he's ever done. "I'm going to miss the feeling of belonging to the county family. I was a commissioner, and I was proud of it," Brakke said.

50 years ago (1971)

•Beaver Creek's new village well was completed the past week, Mayor Robert Melton announced. This is the first phase of the sewer-water improvement project begun this fall by

the village.

A temporary pump and motor are now in place, and the well is now producing in excess of 100 gallons per minute, with water being pumped from the 185-foot level. The water is now being tested by the State Department of Health, and while results have not been returned, it appears that the quality will be comparable to the excellent water quality the village has enjoyed from its other wells, Mayor Melton said. A pump house will be built and fluoridation equipment installed before the water will be used.

75 years ago (1946)

•It wasn't bad enough that Pete Gibson's car had been laid up in the garage for repairs for a week. To add to the troubles of the Beaver Creek rural mail carrier the car caught on fire, when garagemen were working on it, and another week's time will be required to repair the damage.

While being pushed last Thursday afternoon, some gasoline ignited and the car caught on fire on Beaver Creek's Main street. Flames shot fifteen feet and more in the air before the blaze could be extinguished.

100 years ago (1921)

•The Omaha depot and the offices of the two farmers' elevators at Beaver Creek were entered by thieves Monday night, but so far as is known they secured only two dollars in cash, which was taken from the cash drawer in the depot office.

A sack of mail in the depot that had been received from the east-bound night train was cut open and the contents rifled, but it is not obtained. The checking of the mail in the sack, however, has not yet been completed.

While the offices of the elevators were thoroughly ransacked, no money or articles of value were obtained.

A box car was broken into by the thieves, but the only thing taken was a box of Christmas candy.

The robbery was discovered Tuesday morning by W. C. Lenz, station agent at Beaver Creek, and the general opinion is that it was the work of "local talent."

1905: New auto livery set to open in Luverne

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on March 10, 1905.

Open Automobile Livery Project by Hulett Bros Up-to-Date Livery Establishment for Luverne Will be Installed this Month—Luverne Automobile Company's Machines to be Used

Hulett Brothers are now completing arrangements to open an automobile livery in this city some time during the present month. They have purchased one of the Luverne Automobile company's large machines to start with and if their business warrants it will add as many more of this make as necessary, using both runabouts and surreys. The machine they have purchased is one of the late models built by the Luverne company. It is of 16-horse power, with double cylinder engine and is a very powerful machine. The establishment of a livery of this kind fills a long felt apparent want. Since the Luverne Automobile company first began making machines they have received almost daily requests from traveling men and others for machines to be used in trips to other towns, as well



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

as for pleasure trips, but as this was entirely out of their line they were unable to meet the demand. Messrs. Hulett are well qualified to conduct an establishment of this character, and as the Luverne machines have proved to be without an equal in medium priced autos, the success of their proposed enterprise is already well assured.

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@iw.net.

OBITUARIES

Lois Nelson

Lois Marie Nelson, 92, Brookings, Mankato State University and Augustana College. She died Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



A memorial service was at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 20, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills. Inurnment followed at the Flowerfield Cemetery near Hills.

Lois Oleson was born on Jan. 2, 1929, in Ottumwa, Iowa, to Calvin and Irene (Bishop) Oleson. When she was young, her family moved to Brookings, South Dakota, and she graduated from Brookings High School. She continued her education at South Dakota State University (SDSU), earning her bachelor's degree in chemistry, with a minor in music, where she learned how to play the French horn. She continued graduate school at SDSU at

Brookings, Mankato State University and Augustana College.

Lois married Raymond Nelson on June 10, 1951, in Hills. She was a high school teacher for many years as a choir director and science teacher. She was a member of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Hills and was active in many church organizations.

She also was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary #339 and the Mortar Board Honor Society. She played the French horn for several years with Sioux Falls Municipal Band and Augustana College Community Band. Most recently she served as the treasurer for the Flowerfield Cemetery Association.

Lois enjoyed swimming, aerobics, playing in bands,

yard and flower gardening, walking, reading and sewing. She especially enjoyed playing French horn and volunteering for community activities.

On Feb. 28, 2010, Lois's husband, Raymond, died. She remained active with the cemetery duties and community events.

She is survived by her three children, Bruce Nelson of Brooklyn Center; Vicki Nelson of Mankato, and Gail (Rodney) Arendsen of Charleston, South Carolina; a brother, Robert (Bonnie) Oleson of Waconia; and many nieces, nephews and other extended family.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Raymond Nelson; and a sister, Dorothy Gosmire.

Arrangements were provided by Jurrens Funeral Home of Hills, www.jurrens-funeralhome.com (1223 F)

Leland Vlastuin

Leland Jay Vlastuin, 58, died unexpectedly from an undiagnosed heart condition on Nov. 28, 2021.



A memorial service was Wednesday, Dec. 8, at Spirit of Peace UCC in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Leland was born on Oct. 16, 1963, to Gerrit and Ramona Vlastuin in Canton, South Dakota.

He grew up on a farm near Beaver Creek and graduated from Hills-Beaver Creek High School. He then attended college at the University of South Dakota where he graduated with a degree in business administration.

Leland married Lynette Haagenon on June 7, 1985, and they built their home in the Sioux Falls area. They were blessed with four children, Jordan, Jared, Melissa and Madysen. Leland was

incredibly proud of them and enjoyed his grandkids, Kylie, William and Kellan.

Leland enjoyed watching his kids play sports through the years. His biggest sports love was basketball, and he was looking forward to following his grandkids as they started playing sports.

He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed taking trips to Bitter Lake, Waubay, and Canada with his sons and friends. Leland also enjoyed pheasant hunting. He very recently enjoyed taking his yearly fall trip to northern South Dakota to hunt and fish with his friends. He still loved to play a game of ball and loved riding his bike all over Lennox.

Leland was a jokester and prankster. He possessed

an easy laugh and put those around him at ease. He enjoyed talking to people and making people laugh.

Leland is survived by his wife of 36 years, Lynette; his children Jordan (Noelle) of Harrisburg, South Dakota, Jared (Abby) of Worthing, South Dakota, Melissa Bauder (Eric) of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and Madysen of Lennox, South Dakota; his grandchildren Kylie, William and Kellan; his mother, Ramona Vlastuin of Sioux Falls, and sisters Linda (Chuck) Wattier, Eagle River Alaska, and Lorae (Gene) Lodes of Sioux Falls, and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Gerrit Vlastuin, and his father-in-law, Bill Haagenon.

Arrangements were provided by Heritage Funeral Home of Sioux Falls, www.heritagesfsd.com (1223 F)

Virginia Wessels

Virginia Kay "Ginny" Wessels, 71, Hardwick, died Sunday, Dec. 19, 2021, at Sanford Luverne Hospice with loved ones by her side.



Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 22, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Burial will follow at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Sioux Falls Ronald McDonald House or the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage.

Virginia Heckt was born on Aug. 24, 1950, to Lester and Ann (Debates) Heckt in Luverne. She graduated from Luverne High School in 1968 and went on to a career in banking for 41 years at Hardwick State Bank. She

would often talk about the many friends she made working in one place all those years.

In 1970 she married Douglas Wessels, and they raised their two daughters, Amy and Kristina, in Hardwick.

Ginny loved spending time with family and friends, enjoying countless games of pinocle, Yahtzee, bingo, and Uno throughout the years. Ginny was an active member of St. Catherine's Catholic Church, and her faith was an essential aspect of her life. She taught her daughters and grandchildren the importance of truly getting to know people. Ginny always took the time to learn people's names and to ask about their interests and their families.

Ginny is survived by her husband Doug Wessels, of Hardwick; her daughter, Amy (Gary) Ptak of Sioux Falls; three grandchildren, Ryan, Justin, and Keira; her sister, Dianne (Steve) Carlson of Luverne; and her in-laws, Norman Wessels, Enore Boelman, Gertrude Wessels, Donald Schouwenberg, Lowell Wessels, Iva (Edwin) Elbers, Harold Wessels, Theresa Wessels, David (Beverly) Wessels, Vonnie Heckt; and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter Kristina Martinez; her brothers Donald and David Heckt; and her sister Mary Maroon.

Arrangements were provided by Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne, dingmannandsons.com. (1223 F)

Gerald Pommer

Gerald Lee Pommer, 73, Ellsworth, died peacefully at Helping Hands Assisted Living in Brandon, South Dakota, on Saturday Dec. 18, 2021.



A funeral service is at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21, at Zion Presbyterian Church in Ellsworth with visitation one hour prior to the service. Burial will be at Grand Prairie Cemetery following the service.

Gerald Pommer was born March 23, 1948, to Lester and Darlene (Larson) Pommer in Adrian. He was baptized at Zion Presbyterian Church in Ellsworth, where he remained an active member throughout his life.

He graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1966 and then joined the Air National Guard. He was stationed in San Antonio, Texas, and Lowry, Colorado. He continued his education, obtaining a degree in electronics from Dunwoody Institute in 1969.

After graduating from college, Gerald moved to

Rochester to work for IBM until 1972 when he returned to the family farm just north of Ellsworth.

In 1982 Gerald married Linda McGinty, and the couple made their home on the farm. They raised two daughters, and Gerald loved teaching them how to drive a tractor, work with tools, change oil/tires, and how to care for their many animals.

He loved working on the farm and raised Black Angus cattle, pigs, goats, sheep, horses and several farm dogs, mostly corgis. In 2014 Gerald retired from farming and later moved to Helping Hands Assisted Living in Brandon, South Dakota. He was very appreciative of the staff and enjoyed sharing his many jokes with them.

Gerald was an active member of the Zion Presbyterian Church in Ellsworth throughout his life. He served as an elder and a deacon in the church. He was a very hard-working but easy-going and patient person, always looking for

ways to help those around him. He admired old tractors and cars.

The family spent many summers on Lake Shetek fishing, boating, and water skiing. Gerald enjoyed traveling, attending county fairs, listening to piano music and church hymns, and watching his favorite football teams, the Vikings and the Bears. His favorite thing to do, though, was spend time with his family.

Gerald is survived by his daughters, Julie (Tony) Lanoue of Garretson, South Dakota, and Ann Pommer of Brandon, South Dakota; three grandchildren, Abigail, Gerald, and Hannah Lanoue of Garretson; and siblings Bernie (Marilyn) Pommer of Ellsworth, Janice (Larry) Heidebrink of Adrian, Shirley Huiskes of Luverne, and Carol (Tim) Chapa of Ellsworth; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother-in-law, Dave Huiskes.

Arrangements were provided by Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne, hartquistfuneral.com. (1223 F)

Bernette Helling

Memorial services will be 11 a.m. on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, at the Daniel-Anderson Funeral Home in Paynesville for Bernette Maxine "Ben" Helling, age 88, of Paynesville.



Ben passed away December 17, 2021, at the Paynesville Health Care Center. Visitation will be one hour prior to services at the funeral home on Wednesday. Services will be live-streamed.

Bernette was born April 22, 1933, to Ben and Agnes (Atzl) Bauman in Paynesville, Minnesota. She graduated from Paynesville High School and St. Cloud Teachers Col-

lege. Bernette retired in 1990 after teaching 39 years in Luverne and Adrian, Minnesota.

She married Howard Helling on October 9, 1955. They shared their lives in Luverne, Battle Lake and Paynesville.

Bernette enjoyed spending her time with her family (especially at their lake home). She enjoyed reading, playing cards and coffeeing with her friends. She spent time taking friends on their errands, etc.

Bernette is survived by her two daughters, Jill

Meents of Minneapolis and Karn (John) Fleming of Bloomington; two grandchildren, Cash Rodamaker and Kacy Rodamaker; six step-grandchildren, Matt (Amanda) Meents, Claudia Boot, Jake Fleming (Matt Hiltner), Emily (Chuck) Unhjem, Hanna (Shane) Murphy and Ellen Fleming; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Howard in 2004, brother Leo Bauman and sister Delores Stickney.

Arrangements were provided by Daniel-Anderson Funeral Home of Paynesville, www.danielfuneralhome.com. (1227 V)

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Fieldhouse/continued from page 6A

to transport Trenton to and from medical experts as he learned to live as a quadriplegic.

The medical equipment, advice, spiritual support and knowledge gained during Trenton's recovery are what the Basses want to pass along through Game Plan 4 Hope.

Cancer brought life-changing events to the Erickson family when their then 11-year-old son, Ethan, was diagnosed with Burkitt's Leukemia.

They share through Game Plan 4 Hope an understanding of the difficult decisions they made in Ethan's care.

After 18 months, leukemia eventually took Ethan's life in 2019, a month before Game Plan 4 Hope was officially formed. The "E" in Team "E" Fieldhouse of Hope is named for Ethan.

Support and grief group meetings are also envisioned for the Fieldhouse, which will also host speakers and learning opportunities.

"The Fieldhouse has truly allowed us to spread out from our bubble," Heather Erickson said.

For more information



Mavis Fodness photo/1223 Team E Fieldhouse Opens
A fitness center is expected to be finished during the first quarter of 2022 and open for public use.

about renting the building, using the vans or medical equipment, referring a family who needs support, or to

join the Game Plan 4 Hope Volunteer Fan Club, email info@gameplan4hope.org or call 605-743-4902.

Day care center/continued from page 5A

This creates a rapidly widening gap between working families who need child care and the available slots with licensed providers.

And it all adds up to stifled economic growth, because if there aren't places for workers' children, it's harder for businesses to find workers and it's harder for the community to recruit businesses and industry.

Build it and they will come

The city, county, school and dozens of local economic partners for the past decade have recognized child care as an economic development driver.

Realizing a day care center would need to be subsidized, a physical location was needed to get the ball rolling.

After nearly a dozen other considerations, Luverne building inspector Chad McClure said the former Tri-State building represents the best option for many reasons.

"I can't imagine a better option," he said. "It's by far the best one we've seen so far."

He mentioned that the building has been well-maintained, the sprinkler system is up to code and the large break room will lend itself well to a cafeteria and kitchen area for the day care center.

It's unclear how many children the center will be able to accommodate once renovations are complete and hiring is started.

"Do you build it for the number of children it can accommodate and hope they come, or do you build it with a certain number in mind with the option to expand?" McClure said. "I don't think anyone's had that conversation yet."

He said it's significant to have a viable building and local leadership willing to provide public support.

"I've seen young families move to Luverne from other areas for the small-town feel and impeccable quality of life," McClure said. "Some of them now have a child with a local provider, but they're not able to find care for their second child."

Knowing Luverne has a day care center will be an important consideration for any young family moving to the community and for any business seeking an adequate local workforce.

Luverne EDA Director Holly Sammons has been at the helm of Luverne's quest to remedy the day care crisis, and city finance director Barb Berghorst has pushed to keep it a city priority.

The two recently toured the vacated Total Card Inc. building with the local non-profit child care board.

"The TCI building is in an excellent location and favorably priced," Berghorst said Monday.

"If the city is successful in acquiring the building, we are in a position to work with Rock County, the state and possibly the school and local employers to apply for grants to help with costs related to renovation and startup costs for a child care center in our county."

Berghorst retired in July but has stayed on part time in order to assist the city with several project.

Workforce housing has long been an economic development priority, and that finish line is quickly approaching as two 27-unit Prairie Loft market-rate apartments are under construction.

Child care remains her final project, and Berghorst said the city could be on its way to solving the complicated crisis.

"Costs to construct a new building were extremely high and finding a suitable building to renovate was unsuccessful until the TCI building was listed for sale," she said.

"There are many details to work out to determine the best solution for the management of a child care center, and the city will work closely with the non-profit child care board to evaluate various options that are used in other communities."

Built in 1974

The original Tri-State Insurance offices were built in 1974 and remodeled in 1995.

Tri-State gave the building to the city in 2002 after the business became Continental Western Group as part of Berkley Corporation and moved across the street to the north.

The city paid for the new building as an incentive to keep the business in town, and the Continental Western Group has been leasing it from the city since then.

Total Card Inc. bought the building from the city in 2004 as part of former Gov. Tim Pawlenty's Job-Z incentives for businesses to expand into Minnesota.

TCI was forgiven property tax, income tax for major investors and sales tax for business improvements for 12 years.

The city offered incentives of its own, including a new roof for the building and financing the property's mortgage of \$500,000 for 20 years at 4.5 percent interest.

The credit card processing company occupied the building until late in 2020 when San Diego-based Vervant bought Total Card Inc. and closed the doors in March 2021, displacing 22 employees, half of whom worked at home.



The second-grade classes of Kelly Bergan, Laura Louwagie, Lori Nath and Kristin Schomacker take the stage performing "Russian Dance" as music teacher Morgan VanHolland directs. The students' performance of "The Nutcracker (in 20 minutes or less)" was the first elementary music program in the new performing arts center. Did the students meet the 20-minute timeframe? Yes. Below, right: Second-graders don Mouse King hats as they perform "March" and later fight with the soldiers. Pictured as mice are (front row) Kinley Kurtz (second row, left) Tyson Uithoven, Mila Hawkins, (back) Catherine Lopez and Gavin Loosbrock.

Students perform holiday music programs in performing arts center

Second-graders perform 'The Nutcracker (in 20 minutes or less)' and fourth-graders perform 'Winter!'

Story and photos by Mavis Fodness

Elementary students performed their first holiday music program in the school's performing arts center Thursday afternoon, Dec. 16.

The 86-member second-grade class took the stage first with "The Nutcracker (in 20 minutes or less)."

Students challenged music teacher Morgan VanHolland to read the narrative quickly as they performed "Jingle Bells," "March" of the Nutcracker ballet, "Sugarplum Dancing," "Russian Dance," and "Peppermint Candy Cane."

Fifth-grade band teacher (and high school German teacher) Angie Swenson co-directed 82 fourth-graders in the production of "Winter!"

"It is amazing to work in the performing arts center," Swenson said. "The sound and lighting are awesome. It is such a joy that students have the opportunity to

perform in a setting that is designed for music."

The fourth-graders also performed "The Big Chill," "Better Bundle Up," "Snow Day," "Winter Fun," and "Winter Again."

They donned stocking hats and mittens for their performance.



Luverne Elementary fourth-grade classrooms of Molly Carbonneau, Jennifer Engesser, Lori Oechsle and Lucy Rofshus begin their performance of "Winter" by singing "The Big Chill." Above: Fourth-graders Lucas Nieman (left), Hudson Seifert, Max Fick and Eli Kinsinger sing "Winter Again."



Ideal weather brings more hunters out in the field, time to enjoy a few moments

This is a year much like last in that there are more hunters afield later into the season than normal. If Mother Nature delivers like she normally does, there are only a few diehards still chasing what by now are the smartest remaining roosters in the state.

This year and last year were very different. This is my hypothesis as to why. In a normal year there are thousands of bird hunters crisscrossing the state in the pursuit of roosters.

This is common for about the first three weeks of the season, and then these bird hunters hang up the shot gun and muzzleloader for roughly three weeks before moving on to ice fishing.

This transition between different seasons reduces bird hunters by large numbers. This year like the last one, when the deer hunting



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall
Outdoors columnist

season ended, there was no ice to stand on.

Twenty years ago I would ice fish three out of every five years on the Friday after Thanksgiving. I have not been able to fish in my favorite spot on that day for the past five years.

So, with no ice to support local anglers and very temperate weather, those same folks keep chasing roosters, which requires a change of tactics.

With mild temperatures and the increased late season hunting pressure, the birds move from public hunting acres to nearby

marginal habitats that can support birds in mild weather.

As encounters between the smart survivors increase, the birds also stay out later than they normally would, filling their crops with food, roosting in cover at sunset. When there is little snow and mild temperatures, they do not need dense cover to provide them protection from the elements nearly as much.

What I have seen on almost all public lands with higher than normal hunting pressure is that the birds will not move back into a

habitat area where hunters can encounter them until way after the legal shooting time which is sunset.

I normally sit on the tailgate of my dog truck for about a half hour when I am done hunting. I watch the last of the sunset and enjoy a few moments with the dogs at my feet inhaling my favorite outdoor experience.

If there is a bird in the vest, all the better, but successful or not, I take those 30 minutes to enjoy what non-outdoor folks never experience. There might even be a beer in that picture.

As I head for home right at or a little after dark, in the headlights of the truck I very often see pheasants returning to the cover. They stay out far later than legal shooting time and thus my spot might be filled with birds an hour after I left.

No matter how accom-

plished a bird hunter you might be, there is no way to overcome this obstacle.

If you can get permission on the private lands that are nearby, you might be able to harvest those birds from those private spots. This is by no means automatic.

I did just this on a nearby private spot new to me about two weeks ago. The landowner said "yes" when I asked, and I put to use all of the experience I had to make a successful walk.

I zigzagged the cover and knew the birds were running ahead of me. I finally pinched them into the corner and as I neared the end, they all busted out about 80 yards ahead of me - six roosters and nine hens.

To top off the night, my youngest dog, Ghost, was severely injured when he contacted a galvanized tile outlet pipe covered in reed canary grass. Another

quarter inch and we would have been doing tendon re-attachment surgery. Luckily, he is set to make a full recovery.

The spot they were in did not have dense cover and they just would not hold - the challenge of every late-season bird.

Every one is a trophy and all require extra effort. There are some hunters who are still shooting limits occasionally, but they are hunting on unpressured spots and these are not public lands.

I have always said the difference between a good day and a bad day is a good spot. Every day walking behind a squad of four finely tuned Labradors is a great day. Too bad there are only a few days left.

Scott Rall,
Worthington, is an avid hunting and fishing enthusiast; reach him at scottall@gmail.com

H-BC's Martinyuk selected as winner of 2021 Voice of Democracy contest

Her original essay, 'America's Gift to My Generation Is Pride,' goes to district competition

By Lori Sorenson

Hills-Beaver Creek essay writer Jenifer Martinyuk earned a \$100 prize for her winning entry in the Voice of Democracy VFW District writing contest.

Martinyuk's essay, "America's Gift to My Generation Is Pride," was first in the local VFW contest, which qualified her for the district level competition.



Americans are free to vote, free to get an education, to do even little things as in driving. America is a free country where men and women are treated equally. Our National Anthem and our flag both have a part in our beloved country's freedom.

America is safe. America is safe due to our strong economic nation and our national security partnerships around the world. In the American Constitution, it states that America will "provide for the common defense." Both our President and Congress have great responsibilities for this field. Our country is very educated and will always look for ways to solve problems without causing conflict. Being safe is definitely one of the most important things America cares about.

This country gave me the gift of pride. Many people in this country have either served or lost someone who has served for our country. Every day we thank them for caring, giving us freedom, and keeping us safe. Have you thought about our country? What America stands for?

The people who helped make America great? Thank you, veterans, thank you, leaders, thank you people for giving me pride.

Judges of the local Voice of Democracy VFW District writing contest chose Jenifer Martinyuk's essay titled "America's Gift to My Generation Is Pride," as the winner recently. Her essay will now move on to the district competition.

were great people striving, giving their lives to make America great. In 1775 the American Revolution started. The American Revolution is what made our country indivisible. America represents many great things, and the people in our country made that happen by working together as one.

In the lyrics of the American National Anthem, it states, "O'er the land of the free, and home of the brave." America is free.

Bless this indivisible nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.

Second- and third-place Voice of Democracy essays were submitted by H-BC's Britton McKenzie and Leif Tollefson, respectively.

The VFW essay writing contest included a middle school competition, The Patriot's Pen. H-BC writers Olivia Deelstra, Hadley Spath and Hailey Moser won first-, second- and third-place honors respectively. Deelstra's first-place local essay follows here:

'How to Be a Good American'
By Olivia Deelstra

I am glad to be an American, but I wonder if I am a good American all the time. I want to challenge myself to be a better American, but how do I do this? One way I can be a good American is doing the right thing even when it's hard to do. One thing I can do is stand for the flag that so many of our veterans died for.

Our veterans had to do the right thing even when it was hard. For example, fighting in the war, losing their lives, and being separated from their families. Putting my hand over my heart is not much

of a sacrifice but it's the least I can do to be a good American.

I am proud to be an American by showing respect for soldiers and thanking them for their service. I can't thank them personally every single day, but I can thank them by using the freedoms they gave me to honor them. For example, I can use my freedom of speech to show thanks and express respect to my teachers who give me my free education. I can use my freedom of religion to pray to God for protection of the soldiers and my country. Respecting the freedom of our veterans is the perfect way to be a good American.

In order to be a good American, we need to make sure that we take care of our country that our veterans fought for. In the past few years many Americans have broken, burned and destroyed buildings and structures that our fellow Americans have built. By doing this, we are showing disrespect for our veterans and our country.

Instead of burning down buildings and being mad at each other because of our different opinions, we can be better Americans by respecting others' opinions and

honoring our veterans and our country.

Doing the right thing when no one is looking and showing respect for our country is being a good American. Every day we have the opportunity to be a good American by putting your hand over your heart, using your freedom of speech to spread kindness, and making sure to honor and respect our veterans. If we do all these things, we can be a good American and live peacefully in the United States of America.

Established in 1947, the Voice of Democracy essay program provides high school students with the opportunity to enter a democratic and patriotic-themed essay for a chance to win scholarship money. The first place national writer is awarded a \$30,000.

The Patriot's Pen essay contest encourages middle school students to share their views on America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society.

The top three winning essays in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests can be read online at www.star-herald.com.



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Remember as we celebrate this Christmas

For some families in our community, this year has been especially difficult. We know the first holidays following the death of a loved one are milestones that often bring grief to the surface once more as celebrations and traditions are just not the same.

The names below are the loved ones of families served by our funeral home during the past year. With Christmas upon us, please consider sending the gift of love to these families through a few moments of your time to show concern for them and their grief.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mae Jean Oehlerts | Darlene Ruud | Lori Lagg |
| Henry Van Der Weerd | Grace Boeve | James "Jimmy Jo" Johannsen |
| Gary Vanden Berg | Carol Wyffels | Allen "Cowboy" Doorneweerd |
| Lavonne Hansen | Nelvin Schelhaas | Alison Baker |
| Nicholas DeBoer | Albert Boeve | James Klein |
| Roger Erickson | Bruce Rye | Sharon Salis |
| Marlys DeVries | Beatrice Rogness | John Goslar |
| Sandra Boyenga | Richard Rauk | Michael Doeden |
| Jean Barclay | Corrine Houg | Harvey Taubert |
| JoAnn Van Engelenhoven | Wayne Green | Hortensia Cornejo |
| Rhona Ruud | Helen Fitzer | Deborah Hellwinckel |
| James "Jim" Dreesen | Glenn Swenson | Elaine Hamann |
| Linda Vis | Carol Robertson | Milton "Bud" Fink |
| Stephen Briggs | Gladys Siebenahler | Lowell Thone |
| Charles "Chuck" Cooksley | Bryanna Cobler | Dale Matus |
| Keith Lemke | Alvin "Bud" Hoogveen | Ashley Jo Barber |
| Donald Mitchell | Roger Russell | David Harvey |
| Evelyn Ykema | Ruth Roemeling | Francis Faber |
| Ruth Van Westen | David Rollag | Joan De Jongh |
| Douglas Bork | Robert Sorenson | Cornelius Bosch |
| Kenneth Bowen | David Huiskes | Marcus "Mike" Uithoven |
| Delores Kindt | Sherrie Norris | William Sneller |
| Myron Smook | Loretta Petersen | Robert Brown |
| Gertrude Bruynes | William "Bill" Beimers | Jack Boomgaarden |
| Claudette Thone | Verna Schmuck | |
| Robert Tomlinson | Karri Korth | |

May each family find peace and comfort in the promise of Christmas this season.

The *Saviour* is born!



Luverne girls' hockey team keeps rolling with three more wins

LHS girls take down Windom 9-0 before beating Austin 7-3 on the road Friday and Rochester Mayo 7-1 Saturday

**By Matt Lais,
For the Star Herald**

Luverne girls' hockey team improved to 10-1 on the year, picking up another three wins in the past week.

They started Tuesday, Dec. 14, with a varsity boys' and girls' doubleheader when the LHS girls took down Windom 9-0 before they beat Austin 7-3 on the road Friday and Rochester Mayo 7-1 Saturday.

Luverne was scheduled to travel to Benson Tuesday to take on the MBA Storm, and they'll head to Blaine Saturday, Dec. 27, for a Holiday Tournament.

Luverne 9, Windom 0

The Windom Eagles came to Luverne Tuesday night and Luverne got on the throttle early and never backed off.

Reghan Bork got things started for the Cardinals netting Luverne's only two first-period goals, with Kamryn Van Batavia assisting on both of them.

Luverne heavily dominated the shots on goal for the first period by a tally of 13-1.

Payton Behr got things started just 46 seconds into the second period beating Windom's goalie, Kaylie Baerg, with Van Batavia and Bork getting the assists.

Van Batavia found the back of the net twice in the next seven minutes to give the Cardinals a 5-0 lead after two periods. Luverne put up another 17 shots on goal, with three by the visiting Eagles.

The Cardinals would continue the dominance in the third period with another 18 shots on Baerg with four resulting in goals.

Luverne went on a power play just seconds into the third when Bork found Van Batavia who scored an unassisted goal to make it 6-0 Cardinals.

Midway through the third Luverne netted another goal, this time with Bork getting the feed from

Girls' hockey/see page 5B



Images by CD for the Star Herald

Blaik Bork passes the puck for Luverne in the first period against the Worthington Trojans Dec. 16 at home. The Cardinals won the game 6-3 and move the team's overall record to 5-1 for the season.

Boys pick up two big conference wins at home but fall to Lourdes

**By Matt Lais
For the Star Herald**

The Luverne boys' hockey team went 2-1 this week and moved their season record to 5-1.

The Cardinals beat Windom 5-2 on Tuesday, Dec. 14, and Worthington 6-3 Thursday, Dec. 16, in conference home games before losing to Rochester Lourdes 4-0 Saturday at the Blue Mound Ice Arena.

The Cardinals go on the road to play Two Rivers Wednesday, Dec. 22, in West St. Paul and then host Rochester for their holiday tournament starting Dec. 28.

Luverne 5, Windom 2

The Cardinals welcomed conference foe Windom to the BMIA Tuesday night, Dec. 14.

The Windom Eagles struck first seven minutes into the game, and the score remained 1-0 through the first period after both teams had scoring opportunities.

Shots on goal in the first period were nearly equal with Luverne at a slight advantage at 12-11.

The second period saw only one goal, this one from Luverne, to tie the game. Brady Bork beat Windom's goalie Dan Stubbe with

2:30 left in the second period with assists going to Brock Behrend and Patrick Kroski.

Luverne goalie Tyler Arends had seven big saves in the period. Shots on goal were 14-7 in favor of the Cardinals.

The final period started with Behrend giving the Cardinals a 2-1 lead four minutes in.

Windom tied the game at 2 with six minutes left in the game.

Luverne battled back with Kroski beating Stubbe at 11:48 in

Boys' hockey/see page 6B

Luverne girls run record to 6-0

**By Jason Berghorst
For the Star Herald**

The Luverne Cardinals girls' basketball team hosted the Redwood Valley Cardinals in the first game of a girl-boy doubleheader in Luverne Friday night.

The host Cardinals entered the game 5-0 and easily maintained their undefeated record with an impressive 87-28 victory over Redwood.

The Luverne offense put on a show in the first half, taking a 50-16 lead into halftime.

When the Luverne defense held Redwood Valley to only 12 points in the second half while scoring another 37 points in the half themselves, the result was a lopsided win for the home team.

Luverne's defense also held Redwood Valley to 31 percent shooting from the field and caused 39 turnovers in the contest.

Elizabeth Wagner led the impressive LHS offense with a season-high 36 points (16 of 17 field goals). She added nine rebounds and was credited with seven steals.

"We're having a really fun season and are really getting into the flow of basketball," Wagner said. "The last couple of games have felt really good and we have all had a blast."

A total of 14 Cardinals played in the game, with 12 players scoring and 11 recording assists.

"The team does a really good job of sharing the ball

LHS girls/see page 6B



Images by CD for the Star Herald

Luverne's Eli Radtke shoots the ball over the opposing Marshall Tigers Dec. 16 in a home game in the battle in a Big South Conference battle. The Tigers took the win with a score of 51-42.

Cardinal boys fall twice in conference games before scheduled holiday break

**By Jason Berghorst
For the Star Herald**

The Luverne Cardinal boys' basketball team went 0-2 in two back-to-back home games against tough Big South Conference rivals Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday Luverne lost to Marshall 51-42 in a game that was closer than the score indicates. A day later they came up short in a lopsided 81-49 loss to Redwood Valley.

The Cardinals (now 1-4 on the season) continue to play the first part of the schedule without junior Gannon Ahrendt, last year's leading scorer, due to an injury he suffered at the end of the football season.

Luverne has two weeks off for the holiday break. The next game is scheduled in Marshall Jan. 4.

Marshall 51, Luverne 42

For much of the second half, it looked as if the Luverne boys' basketball team might pull off a mild upset and defeat the Marshall Tigers for the first time since 2012.

Luverne led 20-19 at halftime in the contest played in the Luverne Dec. 16.

"I had our best overall game of the year

and if we would have made a couple plays the last couple of minutes of the game, we would have beaten them," Luverne head coach John Sichelmeier said.

"I was especially happy with how we handled their defensive pressure."

In the second half, Luverne led by as much as 28-21 before Marshall closed the gap and tied the game 28-28 with about 10 minutes remaining in the contest.

After trading baskets for a few minutes, the Tigers took a 39-37 lead they would not give up for the remainder of the game.

Luverne senior Eli Radtke had a standout performance in the game. He scored 18 points including 10 of 12 free throws and four rebounds.

Connor Overgaard added 11 points and eight rebounds.

Box Score
Cole-Kraty 2 0 0-3 4, Schoeneman 0 1 0-0 3, Cowell 0 0 0-0 0, Sehr 3 0 0-2 6, Radtke 4 0 10-12 18, Friedrichsen 0 0 0-0 0, Connor Overgaard 4 0 3-5 11, Mounce 0 0 0-0 0

LHS boys/see page 6B

Wrestlers meet tough competition at Redwood Riot

**By Canaan Petersen
For the Star Herald**

The Cardinal wrestling team came home empty-handed after attending the Redwood River Riot Dec. 17-18.

The tournament is perhaps the toughest one the team will see this year with 32 teams present in Redwood, according to Luverne senior Braydon Ripka

"This weekend had some very good competition," Ripka noted. "I went 2-2, which put me in the top 12 of the bracket, so I'm happy about that."

Ripka posted the best performance of the tournament at 2-2 but just missed the medal rounds.

After an initial bye, Ripka suffered a 19-3 technical fall to Bold's Austin Kiecker.

He rebounded with a 9-3 decision over NLS's Adam Sandau before recording a 9-2 decision over STPE's Taylen Travaille.

Ripka needed one more win in order to secure a medal, but he fell short in an 8-2 to MAGR's Max Johnson. Senior Noah Mehlhaff and freshman Jaden Reisch each recorded one win in the consolation bracket, rounding out the varsity wins.

"I thought the team wrestled pretty well," said head coach Jordan Kopp. "Ripka was one match away from placing."

He mentioned that the younger wrestlers on junior varsity did their share.

"We did well with a second place, third place, and two fourth-place finishers on that side," Kopp said. "The [varsity] team is very young and the JV side of the tournament also had some good competition. ... The JV wrestlers had a good turnout, which is exciting to see."

The Cardinals enter the holiday break and will travel to Garretson for a tournament on Jan. 8.

"We have about three weeks off until our next event. We are really going to focus on our technique, get some rest and heal up," Kopp said.

"Next month things are really going to start to take off with a lot of our team events, and we need everyone to be healthy and up to speed."

H-BC, LHS meet in cross-county basketball clashes

Luverne boys earn first win 48-32 in Patriots territory

By Jason Berghorst
For the Star Herald

The Luverne boys' basketball team picked up its first win of the season when it made the short trip to Hills for a game with Hills-Beaver Creek.

The Cardinals defeated their Rock County rivals, the H-BC Patriots, 48-32 in the Tuesday, Dec. 14, contest.

The Patriots led the entire first half of the game, leading by as much as 10 points (18-8), and took a 20-16 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Luverne came out stronger in the second half and quickly narrowed the lead and then tied the game.

The two teams traded baskets until about 11 minutes remaining in the contest when the Cardinals took a 27-26 lead.

Luverne outscored the Patriots 21-5 the remainder of the game to earn the sixteen-point victory.

Casey Sehr led the Cardinals with 18 points, four rebounds and four assists.

Connor Overgaard had 13 points and six rebounds in the contest.

For the Patriots, senior Cole Baker scored 18 points and brought in four rebounds.

Andrew Harris scored five points and collected five rebounds.

Ty Bundesen and Liam Raymon recorded seven and six rebounds respectively.

Luverne box score:
Cole-Kraty 2 0 1-2 5, Schoeneman 0 0 0-0 0, Frahm 0 0 0-0 0, Sneller 0 0 0-0 0, Cowell 1 0 0-1 2, Sehr 8 0 2-4 18, Feit 0 0 1-2 1, Radtke 3 1 2-5 9, Friedrichsen 0 0 0-0 0, Connor Overgaard 6 0 1-7 13, Mounce 0 0 0-0 0, Arp 0 0 0-0 0

H-BC box score:
Baker 6 1 3-4 18, Raymon 1 0 0-0 2, Page 0 0 0-0 0, Leenderts 0 1 0-1 3, Bundesen 1 0 0-3 2, Metzger 0 0 0-0 0, Durst 1 0 0-0 2, Harris 2 0 1-6 5

Team statistics:
Luverne: 20 of 48 (42 percent), 7 of 21 free throws (33 percent), 35 rebounds, 15 turnovers

HBC: 13 of 42 (31 percent), 4 of 12 free throws (33 percent) 35 rebounds, 18 turnovers



Samantha McGaffee for the Star Herald

Hills-Beaver Creek's Cole Baker tried to take the ball to the basket but meets resistance from the Luverne defenders Nathan Cole-Kraty (No. 0) and Eli Radtke (No. 11) in a Dec. 14 cross-county matchup at the Hills-Beaver Creek High School in Hills.

Lady Pates fall to Cardinal girls 74-41 on Luverne court

By Jason Berghorst
For the Star Herald

The Luverne girls' basketball team remained undefeated on the season when they came out on top of the visiting Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots 74-41 Dec. 14.

Cardinal Emma Beyer started the scoring with a three pointer and Luverne maintained the lead the rest of the game.

The score was 42-19 at the intermission.

In the second half, Luverne added 32 more points while H-BC scored 22 in the second stanza.

Cardinal Elizabeth Wagner led all scorers with 27 points in the game. She added eight rebounds, four assists and five steals to her impressive stats.

Beyer tallied 12 points and four rebounds for Luverne.

Averill Sehr (five points, four assists and four steals), Christina Wagner (eight points) and Brooklynn Ver Steeg (four points, four rebounds and four steals) also had solid efforts for the Cardinals.

H-BC senior Kenadie Fick led the way for the Patriots. Fick scored ten points and recorded five rebounds, three assists and three steals.

Lanae Elbers scored eight points and pulled in seven rebounds while Mackenzie Voss tallied six rebounds in the game.

Luverne box score:
C. Wagner 1 1 3-4 8, Beyer 3 2 0-0 12, Ver Steeg 2 0 0-0 4, Sehr 2 1 0-0 5, E. Wagner 10 0 7-10 27, Stegenga 0 1 0-0 3, John 3 0 0-0 6, Smith 0 0 0-0 0, Serie 1 1 0-0 5, Voorhees 0 0 0-0 0, Bloemendaal 0 0 0-0 0, Hansen 1 0 0-0 2, Schmuck 1 0 0-0 2, Hart 0 0 0-0 0

H-BC box score:
Fick 3 0 4-6 10, Rauk 0 1 0-0 3, Deelstra 3 0 1-2 7, Voss 2 0 0-0 4, Bork 0 0 0-0 0, Steinhoff 1 1 1-6 6, Elbers 3 0 2-2 8, Moser 1 0 1-2 3

Team statistics:
Luverne: 29 of 65 (45 percent), 10 of 14 free throws (71 percent), 36 rebounds, 11 turnovers

HBC: 15 of 49 (31 percent), 9 of 18 free throws (50 percent), 36 rebounds, 26 turnovers

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Deep bench moves gymnasts' record to 2-1

By Mavis Fodness

Team depth was on display Dec. 16 as the Luverne High School gymnastics team earned a conference win against Pipestone Area High School in Pipestone.

Two of the LHS team's varsity performers sat out the meet due to injury.

Freshman Amira Cowell, one of Luverne's top all-around performers, and freshman teammate Hailey Como, also out for the Dec. 7 meet, did not compete against the Arrows.

Luverne squeaked out the win with a team score

of 123.225 to 121.90, the lowest team score of the season.

Coach Phoebe Flom shuffled her normal team routine around in the win.

"Our saving grace was that Pipestone seemed to have the same situation going on that we did. They were absent people and did not have a good meet," she said.

"We will be without both girls on Tuesday (Dec. 21), so we don't have much time to prepare."

In Pipestone, Luverne swept three of the four team events (vault 34.525,

uneven bars 27.9, and floor exercise 32.150) by margins ranging from .2 to .9 of a point.

Pipestone won the balance beam by .4 by posting a score of 29.050.

Freshman Ella Reisdorfer won three of the four events along with capturing the individual all-around title with an accumulated score of 33.225.

Reisdorfer placed first on the vault (9.0), uneven bars (8.275) and balance beam (7.550). Pipestone Area's Kaysa Douty took the floor exercise title with a score of 8.6.

Kianna Winter placed second to Reisdorfer with an 8.650 on the vault, third on floor exercise (8.225) and third in the all-around (29.925).

Sara DeCesare placed third on uneven bars (7.025) and third on balance beam (7.250).

Addyson Mann rounded out Luverne's top-four finishers by placing fourth in the all-around (28.150).

Pipestone Area claimed the junior varsity team win over Luverne 107-104.050.

Luverne was scheduled to take on Fairmont at home Tuesday, Dec. 16, in the last meet of the year. However, the meet was postponed.

Individual placings
Vault: Reisdorfer 9.0, Winter 8.650, Mann, 8.3; Tiana Lais 8.450, Kendra Thorson 8.425.
Uneven bars: Reisdorfer 8.275, deCesare 7.025, Winter 6.350, Kendra Benson 6.250, Mann, 6.175.
Balance beam: Reisdorfer 7.550, deCesare 7.250, Winter 6.7, Kendra Thorson 7.150, Mann 5.950.
Floor exercise: Reisdorfer 8.4, Winter 8.225, deCesare 7.8, Mann 7.725, Kendra Thorson 6.825.
All-around: Reisdorfer 33.350, Winter 29.650, Mann 27.950.

Christmas Worship Celebration
December 26th 10:30 am

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
December 24th
5:00 pm

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Girls' hockey/continued from page 3B

Van Batavia.

The Cardinals were not finished yet. Macie Edstrom beat Baerg at the 11:02 mark with the assist going to Hannah Woodley.

Van Batavia would get her fourth goal of the game with five minutes left to give the Cardinals a 9-0 lead, and that's how it would end at the Blue Mound Ice Arena Tuesday.

Luverne's goalie Cheyenne Schutz registered another shutout making six saves in the contest. Final shots on goal were Luverne 48 and Windom 6.

Luverne 7, Austin 3

The Cardinals girls' hockey team went on the road for a Friday night showdown with the Austin Packers at Riverside Arena.

Luverne got on the board first with Kamryn Van Batavia lighting the lamp just 54 seconds into the game with the assist going to Reghan Bork.

Luverne had some good looks, but Austin's goalie, Kyla Radford-Garcia, stood strong the rest of the period to keep the visiting Cardinals to just a one-point lead at the end of the first period.

The second period saw more action when Austin tied the game at 2:55 into the period. Van Batavia took over and netted three goals in the next six minutes to give the Cardinals a 4-1 lead with seven minutes left in the second.

Austin cut the lead within two at the 12:20 mark, but



Submitted photo

Luverne goalie Cheyenne Schutz focuses on the puck during the Dec. 18 game against Rochester Mayo at home in the Luverne Ice Arena. Schutz made 25 saves in the Cardinal win.

Austin got called for tripping to send the Cardinals on the power play. Bork found Payton Behr who beat Radford-Garcia, giving Luverne a 5-2 lead at the second intermission. Shots on goal for the period were 15-7 in favor of the Cardinals.

Bork buried the puck just over

two minutes into the third with assists going to Van Batavia and Behr to make it 6-2.

Austin got the puck past Luverne's goalie Cheyenne Schutz halfway through the period to cut the lead to within three points.

Van Batavia answered with

her fifth goal of the game just 18 seconds later to bring the score to 7-3, and that's how it would end in Austin.

Schutz had 13 saves in the game, and the Cardinals finished with a 42-16 shots on goal advantage

LHS 7, Rochester Mayo 1

The Cardinals continued their eight-game winning streak, picking up another "W" in Rochester Saturday afternoon.

Ella Apel got the Cardinals on the scoreboard at the 10:35 mark of the first period with an assist from Greta McClure. A minute later Luverne junior Kamryn Van Batavia found the back of the net to give the Cardinals a 2-0 lead going into the first intermission.

Shots on goal were 23-9 in favor of Luverne.

The second period started just like the first ended, with Van Batavia beating Rochester Mayo's goalie Grace Kober just two minutes in. Payton Behr and Van Batavia added to Luverne's lead with goals 26 seconds apart to give the Cardinals a 5-0 lead after two periods of play.

Second period shots on goal were Luverne 20 and Rochester Mayo 11.

Rochester Mayo finally slipped one past Luverne goalie Cheyenne Schutz at the beginning of the third to cut the lead to 5-1.

Luverne responded with goals from Van Batavia and Reghan Bork to increase the lead to 7-1, the final score.

Luverne improves to 10-1 on the year. Schutz ended with 25 saves in the contest and Luverne ended with a 59-26 advantage in shots on goal.

H-BC boys pull away with big second half in Alcester

H-BC 51, A-H 36

It was a strong defensive performance that ultimately sealed the game for the Patriots boys' basketball team down in Alcester, South Dakota, Friday night.

The Patriots trailed 13-10 at the end of the first quarter and only sported a one-point advantage at intermission but outscored the Cubs 31-17 in the second half. The home team was held to 12 of 47 (28 percent) shooting and was forced into 18 turnovers by the Patriots' defense.

Cole Baker (three steals and two blocks) put together 21 points to lead the Pates in scoring. Brock Harnack and Andrew Harris each had three steals of their own, holding the Alcester-Hudson Cubs to just 36 points on the night.

Seniors Drew Leenderts (nine points and nine rebounds), Troy Durst (six points and seven rebounds), and Ty Bundesen (four points and eight rebounds) helped secure the Patriots' first win on the season.

Hills-Beaver Creek is scheduled to host Murray County Central on Tuesday night, Dec. 22, in a Red Rock Conference matchup.

H-BC Box Scores
Baker 4 2 7-11 21, Raymon 1 0 3-5 5, Harnack 2 0 0-2 4, Page 0 0 0-0 0, Leenderts 1 1 4-8 9, Bundesen 1 0 2-4 4, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Metzger 0 0 1-2 1, Taubert 0 0 0-0 0, Tatge 0 0 0-0 0, Durst 3 0 0-0 6, Scholten 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 0 0 1-2 1, Wiersema 0 0 0-0 0

Team statistics
H-BC: 15 of 50 (30 percent), 18 for 34 free throws (53 percent), 36 rebounds, 8 turnovers

A-H: 12 of 47 (26 percent), 8 for 13 free throws (62 percent), 33 rebounds, 18 turnovers

Kenadie Fick scores 34 in Patriots victory

HBC 61, A-H 42

Senior Kenadie Fick put on a show as the Lady Pates basketball team pulled away in the second half for a 19-point victory in Alcester, South Dakota, on Saturday night.

Fick (seven steals and four rebounds) scored 34 of the Patriots' 61 points while shooting a remarkable 7-9 from three-point range.

H-BC led 28-22 at the halfway mark before holding the Alcester-Hudson Cubs to just seven points in the third quarter on their way to a 61-42 win.

A pair of sophomores contributed to the Patriots' victory as Lanae Elbers (nine points and three assists) helped lead the defense with five steals while Layla

Deelstra (five points and four rebounds) threw in six assists.

McKenzie Voss (five points), Olivia Deelstra (five points), and Sam Moser (four rebounds) also played roles for the Lady Pates who travel to Lamberton Tuesday night, Dec. 20, for a matchup with the Red Rock Central Falcons.

H-BC Box Score
Fick 4 7 5-5 34, Rauk 0 0 0-0 0, L Deelstra 1 1 0-1 5, Voss 1 0 3-4 5, Bork 0 0 0-0 0, Steinhoff 0 1 0-0 3, Anderson 0 0 0-0 0, Deelstra 1 1 0-0 5, Elbers 1 1 4-5 9, Fagerness 0 0 0-0 0, Spykerboer 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 0 0 0-0 0, E Deelstra 0 0 0-0 0, Kueter 0 0 0-0 0

Team Statistics
H-BC: 19 of 45 (42 percent), 12 for 15 free throws (80 percent), 23 rebounds, 21 turnovers

A-H: 16 of 54 (30 percent), 8 of 16 free throws (50 percent), 26 rebounds, 23 turnovers

Patriots drop first Red Rock Conference matchup

ML-C 67, H-BC 44

The Wolverines led from start to finish to beat the Patriots boys' basketball team 67-44 Thursday night in Mountain Lake.

Scoring didn't come easy for the Patriots as they shot just 28 percent from the field and 42 percent from the free throw line. The Wolverines held a 31-19 advantage at the break before pulling away for the 23-point victory.

The Patriots were led by seniors Cole Baker (13 points and four rebounds) and Drew Leenderts (12 points and six rebounds) offensively. Ty Bundesen (five points and six rebounds), Andrew Harris (five points and six re-

bounds), and Troy Durst (seven rebounds) also contributed to the Pates.

The Patriots traveled to Alcester, South Dakota, Dec. 17, Friday night to take on the Alcester-Hudson Cubs in a boys'/girls' doubleheader. (See related stories.)

HBC Box Score
Baker 2 1 6-15 13, Raymon 1 0 0-2 2, Harnack 2 0 0-2 4, Page 0 0 0-0 0, Leenderts 1 3 1-2 12, Bundesen 1 1 0-0 5, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Metzger 0 0 1-2 1, Taubert 0 0 0-0 0, Tatge 0 0 0-1 0, Durst 1 0 0-1 2, Scholten 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 0 0 5-6 5, Wiersema 0 0 0-0 0

Team Statistics
HBC: 13 of 46 (28 percent), 13 for 31 free throws (42 percent), 37 rebounds, 23 turnovers
ML-C: 28 of 62 (45 percent), 8 for 20 free throws (40 percent), 37 rebounds, 14 turnovers

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Christmas Eve
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Saturday, December 25
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Christmas Day
Worship Service

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Christmas Services

Sunday, December 19
9:30 a.m. Christmas Brunch
10:30 a.m. Children's Ministry Christmas Musical

Friday, December 24
5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Hills, MN

Friday, December 24 • 2:00 pm
Christmas Service at Tuff Chapel

Friday, December 24 • 5:00 pm
Bethlehem Christmas
Candlelight Service

LHS girls/continued from page 3B

and looking for scoring opportunities," said Elizabeth Wagner, who had 27 points three nights earlier against Hills-Beaver Creek.

"I'm really grateful to have such an amazing team on and off the court."

Sophomore Sarah Stegenga totaled 14 points in the game, including three three-pointers. Emma Beyer added eight points and five assists.

Luverne was scheduled to play in Worthington Tuesday before a two-week break for the holidays.

Box Score
Christina Wagner 1 0 0-2 2, Beyer 1 2 0-0 8, Ver Steeg 2 0 0-2 4, Sehr 0 0 0-0 0, Elizabeth Wagner 16 0 4-10 36, Stegenga 1 4 0-0 14, Sandbulte 3 0 0-0 6, John 3 0 1-4 7, Smith 1 0 0-0 2, Serie 2 0 0-0 4, Voorhees 0 0 0-0 0, Hansen 2 0 0-0 4, Schmuck 0 0 0-0 0, Jadya Hart 0 0 0-0 0

Team Statistics
Luverne: 38 of 72 (53 percent), 5 of 18 free throws (28 percent), 37 rebounds, 12 turnovers
Redwood: 11 of 36 (31 percent), 5 of 8 free throws (63 percent), 27 rebounds, 39 turnovers



Images by CD for the Star Herald

Elizabeth Wagner attempts to secure a basket for the Luverne Cardinals Dec. 17 at home against the visiting Redwood Valley Cardinals. The Luverne Cardinals won the game 87-28.

LHS boys/continued from page 3B

Team statistics
Luverne: 14 of 39 (36 percent), 13 of 22 free throws (59 percent), 22 rebounds, 9 turnovers
Marshall: 19 of 49 (39 percent), 7 of 12 free throws (58 percent), 40 rebounds, 16 turnovers

RWV 81, Luverne 49
The Redwood Valley Cardinals boys' basketball team brought a 4-0 record

to the Luverne Classic Gym Dec. 17.

The visitors had no trouble maintaining their undefeated record, coasting to an easy 81-49 victory over Luverne.

"I think they are the best team we'll play all year and they played very well," Luverne head coach John

Sichmeller said of Redwood Valley.

The visiting Cardinals outscored the host Cardinals 51-18 in the first half. Although Luverne outpaced Redwood Valley 31-30 in the second half, it was not nearly enough.

Redwood Valley shot 60 percent from the field (34 of 57), while the Redwood defense held Luverne to 38 percent shooting (18 of 47).

Riley Sneller led the scoring for Luverne with 11 points (including 3 for 3 from behind the 3-point line).

Connor Overgaard added nine points and six rebounds.

Box Score
Cole-Kraty 3 0 2-5 8, Schoeneman 0 2 0-0 6, Frahm 0 0 0-0 0, Sneller 1 3 0-0 11, Cowell 0 0 2-2 4, Sehr 1 0 0-0 2, Feit 0 0 0-0 0, Radtke 2 1 0-0 7, Friedrichsen 2 0 0-0 4, Connor Overgaard 3 0 3-8 9, Mounce 0 0 0-0 0, Arp 0 0 0-0 0

Team Statistics
Luverne: 18 of 47 (38 percent), 7 of 15 free throws (47 percent), 10 rebounds, 8 turnovers
Redwood: 34 of 57 (60 percent), 7 of 15 free throws (47 percent), 10 rebounds, 8 turnovers

Boys' hockey/continued from page 3B

the third to take a big 3-2 lead.

Luverne senior Zach Kruse gave the hometown Cardinals a 2-goal cushion when he found the back of the net with four minutes remaining in the contest.

Kroski then got his second goal of the game on an assist from fellow sophomore defenseman Henry Hartquist to give the Cardinals a 5-2 lead, and that's how it ended.

Arends finished with 24 saves in the game. Luverne had a 38-26 advantage in shots on goal.

Luverne 6, Worthington 3

The Worthington Trojans came to Luverne Thursday night, Dec. 16, for a matchup at the Blue Mound Ice Arena in front of a packed house of Cardinals and Trojan fans.

Midway through the first period Worthington was blown for a roughing call that sent the Cardinals on the power play.

Elliot Domagala found line mate Patrick Kroski who beat Worthington goalie Steven Adams to give the Cardinals a 1-0 lead.

Two minutes later it was Kroski and Domagala again, with Kroski getting his second of the game and giving the Cardinals a two-goal lead heading into the period break.

Tyler Arends had 11 saves for the Cardinals, and both teams had 11

shots on goal for the period.

Luverne scored three unanswered goals in the second period. Domagala crashed the net hard and got the rebound off Kroski's wrist to make it 3-0 for the Cardinals.

Worthington had opportunities when Luverne was called for back-to-back penalties that gave the Trojans a 5-on-3 advantage.

After a flurry of shots, Arends stood tall and Luverne shook off the penalties with more momentum.

With just under five minutes left in the period Luverne's Brock Behrend found a streaking Owen Sudenga who dove and tapped the puck past Adams in an incredible hockey play to make it 4-0.

It was Sudenga again two minutes later when he received the puck from Kroski and blasted a wrist bar down to give the Cardinals a 5-0 lead after 2.

Arends had 13 saves in the period with the Cardinals having a 13-12 advantage in shots on goal.

Worthington finally got on the board five minutes into the third period to cut the deficit to 4 points, but 24 seconds later Blaik Bork scored on a pass from Kroski to bring Luverne's lead back to 6-1.

Worthington got a couple more goals late in the third to bring the Trojans within three points,

but it wasn't enough as the Cardinals went on to win the contest 6-3.

Arends finished with 29 saves and Luverne won the game 34-32.

Luverne 0, Rochester Lourdes 4

The Rochester Lourdes Eagles came to Luverne on Saturday for an afternoon tilt at the Blue Mound Ice Arena.

Rochester Lourdes scored the only goal in the first period, beating Luverne goalie Tyler Arends with 5:19 left in the period.

Arends made 23 saves in the first to keep the Cardinals in the game. Luverne had 9 shots on goal.

Rochester Lourdes took a 2-0 lead just 20 second into the second period.

Luverne had some chances but just couldn't capitalize on them.

The Eagles scored again halfway through the second period to take a 3-0 lead at the BMIA. Rochester had a 16-8 shots on goal advantage for the second period.

The speed and positioning of the Eagles eliminated a lot of chances for the hometown Cardinals.

The Eagles scored the only third-period goal and handed Luverne its first loss of the season by a total of 4-0.

Final shots on goal for the game were Rochester Lourdes 54 and Luverne 23. Arends ended with 50 saves.



Images by CD for the Star Herald

Cardinal Elliot Domagala moves the puck down the ice during Luverne's at home game against the Worthington Trojans. Domagala helped his team get the win for the Cardinals.



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

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Walt Moser, Pastor

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Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — graceluverne@iw.net

Ann Zastrow, Pastor

Dave Christenson, Interim Pastor

Thursday, Dec. 23: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Friday, Dec. 24: Office is closed. 3 p.m. Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve service. 5 p.m. Musical Prelude. 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Saturday, Dec. 25: No activities. Sunday, Dec. 26: 9 a.m. Worship. No Sunday school. 5 p.m. Worship. 6:30 p.m. Worship practice. Tuesday, Dec. 28: 8:30 a.m. Grace Notes assembly. 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Dec. 29: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. No Faithweavers. No Confirmation. Thursday, Dec. 30: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online: Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne

Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com

Andrew Palmquist, Pastor

Friday, Dec. 24: 5:30 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve worship. Saturday, Dec. 25: No services. Sunday, Dec. 26: 10:15 a.m. Festive Christmas Day song service. Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well (at els.org). Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne) for other classes and events. Wednesday, Dec. 22: 7 p.m. Advent Vespers.

American Reformed Church
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne

Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org

Thursday, Dec. 23: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible study. Sunday, Dec. 26: 9:30 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. Services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

Rock River Community Church
(formerly First Assembly of God)

1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4

Ph. 612-800-1255; email info@rockrivercommunity.church
Bob Junak, Pastor; Annette Junak, Assistant Pastor

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

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne

Ph. 283-4529

Wednesday, Dec. 22: 5:30 p.m. FUEL family pizza party. 6:30 p.m. FUEL Christmas program. NO Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Thursday, Dec. 23: 4:30-7 p.m. Christmas Meditation. Friday, Dec. 24: 5 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service. 6 p.m. Community MEAL. Saturday, Dec. 25: Office is closed. Sunday, Dec. 26: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 9:45 a.m. Coffee hour. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible study. Monday, Dec. 27: Pastor Dorie on vacation through Jan. 2. Tuesday, Dec. 28: 9:30 a.m. Folding Team. Wednesday, Dec. 29: No Wednesday night classes. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Live streamed on Facebook and radio.

First Presbyterian Church
302 Central Lane, Luverne

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

Friday, Dec. 24: 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service. 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Sunday, Dec. 26: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. Wednesday, Dec. 29: No bells; No choir. In-person Worship service and live on Facebook. Our Facebook page can be found under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne. We are also on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays.

St. John Lutheran Church
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne

Ph. 283-2316; email: stjoh@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org

Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor

Sunday, Dec. 26: 9 a.m. Worship. Monday, Dec. 27: 1 p.m. Quilters meet. 3 p.m. Youth Night at Pizza Ranch. Wednesday, Dec. 29: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org.

Living Rock Church

500 E. Main St., Luverne

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

New Life Celebration Church
101 W. Maple, Luverne

Ph. (605) 368-1924; email: newlifecelebration@gmail.com
Food mission every third Thursday.

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

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

Sunday, 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Bible study. Worship service on Luverne cable at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

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

Ph. (605) 757-6662

Mark Eliason, Pastor

Friday, Dec. 24: 6 p.m. Christmas Eve worship. No Christmas Day worship. Sunday, Dec. 26: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10 a.m. Sunday school. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, even if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxU4>

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

Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Mark Eliason, Pastor

Friday, Dec. 24: 8 p.m. Christmas Eve worship. No Christmas Day worship. Sunday, Dec. 26: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, even if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHdQwVxU4>

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

Ph. 507-935-5025

email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com

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

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

Ph. 605-215-3429

email: magnoliannumc@gmail.com
Nancy Manning, Pastor

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

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave., Steen

Ph. 855-2336

Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
112 N. Main St., Hills

Ph. 962-3270

Sunday, Dec. 26: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 10 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion. NO Sunday school. NO Youth groups. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org. Tuesday, Dec. 28: 2 p.m. Tuff Home Bible study. 3:30 p.m. Tuff Village Bible study. Wednesday, Dec. 29: 9 a.m. Quilting. NO Confirmation. 7 p.m. Social/Dessert time. 7:15 p.m. Wednesday Night worship service.

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

Office Ph. 962-3254

hillsurc@alliancecom.net
Alan Camarigg, Pastor

'Merry Christmas' to you!

By Pastor Andrew Palmquist, Bethany Lutheran Church

This certainly is a joyous season! Christmas music fills the air. Christmas greetings arrive from distant friends. Families gather joyfully around the Christmas dinner. Children try unsuccessfully to contain their excitement as Christmas draws near.

What is a "Merry Christmas," anyway? To some, a Merry Christmas is simply a happy time of year when they can get together with family and friends. To some, a Merry Christmas is a break from busy schedules at school or work. For many charities Christmas is a time when there's an increase in donations from the public. And for lots of children Christmas is when they receive toys and fun gifts in brightly wrapped packages.

Sadly, these ideas and concepts of a Merry Christmas are short-lived. Once the Christmas season is over, the joy and happiness can quickly vanish. The relaxing time off from school and work comes to an end. There are gifts and toys that are broken, set aside, or returned to the store. Some charities start planning how to collect more funds next year. And inevitably, the troubles and arguments that plagued families before Christmas seem to pick up where they left off after the holiday.

Even more serious and disheartening is the fact that many people do not know, believe, or have lost focus in the true meaning of a Merry Christmas. There are individuals in our nation who contend that the words "Merry Christmas" are politically incorrect. They claim that these words are offensive to others. The truth of the matter is they refuse to see the joy and grace in those beautiful words. And they don't realize that their claims are being used by the devil to remove the true focus of the real meaning of "Merry Christmas."

Praise God that the true meaning of Christmas is still found and celebrated in countless homes and Christian churches across our nation. The words of the angels recorded in Luke 2:10-14 are still just as true and meaningful as when they were first spoken:

"Do not be afraid, for

behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

The true joy of a Merry Christmas is found in Christ, the holy babe born in Bethlehem, the Savior of the world. With his incarnation, the God-man Jesus came to our earth to do for us what we could not do for ourselves: the little boy child grew and lived a life of perfect devotion and obedience to his heavenly Father. Later, although pure and innocent, he willingly endured the awful pain, punishment and death on the cross to pay for the sins of all. Then on Easter Sunday Jesus rose back to life, triumphant over death, proving he is true God and that he fully accomplished God's plan of salvation for all nations.

The forgiveness Jesus won is God's perfect rest and comfort that we need. It gives us peace knowing that all of our past sins, failures and mistakes have been washed away. Our hurtful words, lost tempers and displays of selfishness are erased. We are truly forgiven in God's sight! And that gives us strength to ask for forgiveness from those we've hurt and empowers us to forgive those who have wronged us. Best of all, Jesus' peace and forgiveness promise that all who trust and believe will enjoy perfect rest, peace and joy in the glories of heaven.

This is what we celebrate at Christmas. This is why we keep Christ in a Merry Christmas. Immanuel, "God with us"— his birth for you, me and all people gives a joy that will not fade with the passing of the Christmas season but will remain ever alive in the hearts of all that believe. You're invited to God's House to welcome the Savior and celebrate the true meaning of a "Merry Christmas!"

May the Lord Jesus bless you and yours with his peace and joy!

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

Call Rick or Chantel to place your ad!

283-2333

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Rock Rapids, IA

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PHONE 507-283-4405
Church is Important - Please Attend!

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

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Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

Expiration of redemption notice for Rock County

NOTICE OF EXPIRATION OF REDEMPTION

STATE OF MINNESOTA

ASHLEY KURTZ

COUNTY OF ROCK

COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER

TO: ALL PERSONS WITH A LEGAL INTEREST IN THE PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING NOTICE

You are hereby notified that the parcels of real property described below and located in Rock County, Minnesota, are subject to forfeiture to the state of Minnesota because of the nonpayment of delinquent property taxes, special assessments, penalties, interest, and costs levied on those parcels. The time for redemption from forfeiture expires if a redemption is not made by the later of (1) 60 days after service of this notice on all persons having an interest in the parcels, or (2) May 14, 2021.

The following information is listed below: the names of the property owners, taxpayers and interested parties who have filed their addresses under Minnesota Statute 276.041; the addresses of the parties; the legal description and parcel identification number of each parcel; and the amount necessary to redeem a parcel as of the date listed below.

Name & Address	Parcel ID & Legal Description	Amount Due
Sheri Rozeboom 117 21 st St Hills MN 56138-4006	Parcel 08-0269-000 That part of the Southwest Quarter of Section Twenty-six (26), Township One Hundred One (101) North, Range Forty-seven (47) West of the 5th Principal Meridian, Rock County, Minnesota described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest Corner of Section Twenty-six (26); thence South Eighty-nine (89) degrees Thirty-eight (38) minutes Fifty-two (52) seconds East (geodetic bearing) along the South line of the Southwest Quarter of said Section a distance of Three Hundred Fifty-three (353.00) feet to the point of beginning; thence North Zero (00) degrees Seventeen (17) minutes Forty-seven (47) seconds East a distance of Thirty-three (33.00) feet to an iron stake; thence continuing North Zero (00) degrees Seventeen (17) minutes Forty-seven (47) seconds East a distance of Four Hundred fifty-nine and nine-hundredths (459.09) feet to an iron stake; thence South Eighty-nine (89) degrees Forty-one (41) minutes Ten (10) seconds East a distance of Four Hundred Sixty-two and eight tenths (462.80) feet to an iron stake; thence South Zero (00) degrees Seventeen (17) minutes Forty-seven (47) seconds East a distance of Four Hundred Fifty-nine and thirty-nine hundredths (459.39) feet to an iron stake; thence continuing South Zero (00) degrees Seventeen (17) minutes Forty-seven (47) seconds East a distance of Thirty-three (33.00) feet to said South line; thence North Eighty-nine (89) degrees Thirty-eight (38) minutes Fifty-two (52) seconds West along said South line a distance of Four Hundred Sixty-two and eight tenths (462.80) feet to said point of beginning, subject to easements, if any.	\$8,040.32
Wendell W & Wilma L Bengston 406 S Elizabeth Ave Apt 3 Hills MN 56138-1075	Parcel 15-0118-000 The South Thirty-Two (S 32) feet of Lot Eight (8) in Block Eight (8) to the F.C. Finke's Addition to the Village (now City) of Hills, Minnesota.	\$9,082.33
Remington Cain 103 S Main St Steen MN 56173-9632	Parcel 19-0031-000 That portion of the unplatted portion of the City of Steen, in the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of Section Thirty-two (32), Township One Hundred One (101) North, Range Forty-five (45) West of the 5th P.M., Rock County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot Six (6), Block One (1), of the original Plat to the City of Steen; thence North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East (assumed bearing) along the West line of Main Street a distance of Seventy-seven and five-tenths (77.5) feet to the point of beginning; thence continuing North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East along said West line a distance of Ninety-seven and Twenty-two hundredths (97.22) feet; thence continuing North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East a distance of Thirty-three (33) feet to the North line of the NW 1/4 of Section Thirty-two (32); thence North Eighty-nine (89) degrees Thirty-six (36) minutes Twenty-eight (28) seconds West a distance of Eighty and thirty-four hundredths (80.34) feet; thence South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West a distance of Thirty-three (33) feet; thence continuing South 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West a distance of Ninety-seven and seventy-seven hundredths (97.77) feet; thence North Ninety (90) degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East a distance of Eighty and thirty-four hundredths (80.34) feet to said point of beginning.	\$3,088.12
Deanna Dybedock Fuller 510 S Cedar St Luverne MN 56156-2004	Parcel 20-0148-000 The North Ninety-Five (N 95) feet of the West One Hundred Thirty-Seven and five-tenths (W 137.5) feet of Outlot Thirteen (13) in County Auditor's Plat of Luverne Outlots in Section Eleven (11), Township One Hundred Two (102) North, Range Forty-Five (45) West of the 5th P.M., subject to easements, if any.	\$749.06
Deanna Dybedock Fuller 510 S Cedar St Luverne MN 56156-2004	Parcel 20-0149-000 Outlot Thirteen (13) except the West One Hundred Thirty-seven and five-tenths (W 137.5) feet and except the East One Hundred Sixty-one (E 161) feet of the North Ninety-Five (N 95) feet of the West Four Hundred Ninety-two and five-tenths (W 492.5) feet in County Auditor's Plat of Luverne Outlots in Section Eleven (11), Township One Hundred Two (102) North, Range Forty-five (45) West of the 5th P.M., subject to easements, if any.	\$285.72
Deanna Dybedock Fuller 510 S Cedar St Luverne MN 56156-2004	Parcel 20-0150-000 That part of Outlot Fourteen (14) in County Auditor's Plat of Luverne Outlots in Section Eleven (11), Township One Hundred Two (102) North, Range Forty-five (45) West of the 5th P.M., City of Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of Outlot Thirteen (13) of said County Auditor's Outlots, thence South 89°45'06" East along the south line of said Outlot Thirteen (13) for a distance of Eighty (80) feet to the to the Point of Beginning; thence continuing South 89°45'06" East along said south line for a distance of Four Hundred twenty-two and five-tenths (422.5) feet; thence South 00°00'00" West for a distance of Two Hundred Forty and nine-tenths (240.9) feet; thence North 89°45'06" West for a distance of Four Hundred twenty-two and five-tenths (422.5) feet; thence North 00°00'00" East for a distance of Two Hundred Forty and nine-tenths (240.9) feet to the Point of Beginning, containing 2.34 acres, subject to easements, if any.	\$265.51
Deanna Dybedock Fuller 510 S Cedar St Luverne MN 56156-2004	Parcel 20-0151-000 A parcel of land described as One Hundred Thirty-seven and five-tenths (137.5) feet East and West and One Hundred Forty-Five and eighty-nine hundredths (145.89) feet North and South; being part of Outlot Thirteen (13) in County Auditor's Plat of Luverne Outlots in Section Eleven (11), Township One Hundred Two (102) North, Range Forty-five (45) West of the 5th P.M. and described as follows: Commencing at a point on the West line of said Outlot Thirteen (13), Ninety-five (95) feet South from the Northwest corner thereof, thence East and parallel with the North line of said Outlot One Hundred Thirty-seven and five-tenths (137.5) feet; thence South and parallel with Cedar Street One Hundred Forty-Five and eighty-nine hundredths (145.89) feet to the South line of said Outlot; thence West on the South line of said Outlot One Hundred Thirty-seven and five-tenths (137.5) feet; thence North on the West line of said Outlot One Hundred Forty-Five and eighty-nine hundredths (145.89) feet to the point of beginning, subject to easements, if any.	\$424.94

Deanna Dybedock Fuller 510 S Cedar St Luverne MN 56156-2004	Parcel 20-0152-000 A parcel of land described as One Hundred Sixty-one (161) feet East and West and Ninety-five (95) feet North and South; being part of Outlot Thirteen (13) in County Auditor's Plat of Luverne Outlots in Section Eleven (11), Township One Hundred Two (102) North, Range Forty-Five (45) West of the 5th P.M., described as follows: Commencing at a point on the North line of said Outlot Thirteen (13) Three Hundred Thirty-one and five-tenths (331.5) feet East from the Northwest corner thereof, thence South and parallel with Cedar Street a distance of Ninety-five (95) feet; thence East and parallel with the North line of said Outlot One Hundred Sixty-one (161) feet; thence North and parallel with Cedar Street Ninety-five (95) feet; thence West on the North line of said Outlot One Hundred Sixty-One (161) feet to the point of beginning, subject to easements, if any.	\$465.66
Eric J Fountain & Gayle G Fountain 601 N Cedar St Luverne MN 56156-1517	Parcel 20-0540-000 Lot Eight (8) in Crawford's Addition to the Village (now City) of Luverne, Minnesota.	\$3,426.69
Sara Misterek 330 W Warren St Luverne MN 56156-1744	Parcel 20-1000-000 The West Seventy-four (W 74) feet of Lot Fourteen (14) and the West Seventy-four (W 74) feet of the South Ninety-three (S 93) feet of Lot Nine (9) in Block Five (5) in P. J. Kniss' Addition to the Village (now City) of Luverne, Minnesota.	\$8,656.25

Failure to redeem the lands prior to the expiration of redemption will result in the loss of the land and forfeiture to the State of Minnesota.

The amounts listed above must be paid to redeem if paid on or before December 31, 2021. Please contact the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer's Office to verify the amount due if paid after December 31, 2021.

Inquiries about the delinquent tax proceedings described above can be made to the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer at the address and phone number listed below.

Witness my hand and seal this 3rd day of December, 2021.

Ashley Kurtz
Rock County Auditor-Treasurer
204 E Brown St
PO Box 509
Luverne MN 56156-0509
Telephone: (507) 283-5060

(12-09, 12-16)

Termination of parental rights over minor

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN CIRCUIT COURT

COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA

SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IN THE MATTER OF THE

ADP. 21-119
TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OVER

L. J. F. (DOB: 10-26-17)

AMENDED EX-PARTE ORDER FOR PUBLICATION AND SUSPENSION OF TIME

MINOR CHILD

This matter having come on before the Court via Affidavit on Petitioners' Motion for Publication, Ex-Parte Order and Suspension of Time, the Honorable Sandra Hanson, Circuit Court Judge, presiding; and the Petitioners being represented by their attorneys of record, Tressa Zahrbok Kool and Kaleb Paulsen, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and the biological father being unrepresented because of his unavailability, it is hereby: ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Petitioners' Motion for Publication, Ex-Parte Order and Suspension of Time is granted; it is further

ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Petitioners' Notice of Hearing setting forth the February 11, 2022, hearing date on Petitioners' Petition for Involuntary Termination of Parental rights shall be published in a legal newspaper in Rock County, Minnesota.

Dated this 6th day of December, 2021.

BY THE COURT

COURT SEAL

/s/ Honorable Sandra Hanson
Circuit Court Judge

ATTEST: /s/ Angelia M. Gries, Clerk of Courts
State of South Dakota,
Minnehaha County
Dec. 6, 2021

(12-16, 12-23, 12-30, 01-06)

H-BC School Board meets Nov. 22

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671
Minutes
Nov. 22, 2021

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 7:08 p.m. in the H-BC Secondary School Board room, 301 N Summit Ave, Hills, MN.

Board members and Administration present were Bosch, Fransman, Gehrke, Harnack and Knobloch. Superintendent Holthaus and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance.

Board members Rauk and Rozeboom were absent. Principal Kellenberger was also absent.

Appointed Acting Clerk: Tim Bosch.

Motion by Bosch, second by Knobloch, and carried to approve the agenda.

Proposed Addition to Agenda: 8.2

No Visitors

PATRIOT PRIDE:

-Veterans Day Program November 11- Mrs. Oftedahl

-Augustana Band Festival Participants --Tara Paulsen, Leeanna Gaugler and Tess VanMaanen

-Football team playoffs

-American Education Week November 15-19

Board Committee Meeting Reports: - None

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

-Minutes—11/08/2021

-Bills and Imprest

-Consider/Approve 2021-2022 Hills-Beaver Creek Teaching Staff Seniority List

-Consider/Approve 2021-2022 Hills-Beaver Creek ECFE Staff Seniority List

INDIVIDUAL ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Knobloch, second by Bosch, and carried to approve Donation Resolution:

-\$2,500.00 from Army National Guard to put towards purchase of H-BC

Secondary School Commons entry mat.

-\$500.00 from Security Savings Bank to assist with Football State Playoff

expenses.

-\$500.00 split between the Boys Basketball and Girls Basketball Student

Accounts from anonymous.

-\$100.00 for the School Lunch Program from Ray Vander Wolde.

-\$100.00 from Joan and Segundo Velasquez for Monarch Agriculture Class.

Motion by Fransman, second by Bosch, and carried to approve assigning

Scott Harnack as Jr. High Boys Basketball Coach.

DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:

•Secondary Principal Report: Principal Kellenberger-absent

•Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report

AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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

-Regular Board of Education Meeting, Monday, December 27

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Tim Bosch, Acting Clerk
(12-23)

Rock County Commissioners meet Oct. 19

Herreid Board Room **9:00 A.M.**
Rock County Courthouse **October 19, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair with all Commissioners present. Also in attendance were Administrator Kyle Oldre, County Attorney Jeff Haubrich, Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum and Star-Herald Reporter Mavis Fodness. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to approve the October 19, 2021, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson, to approve the October 05, 2021, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the claims; motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard to approve, declared carried on a voice vote. A complete listing of the claims is available at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

OCTOBER 19, 2021 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000

BREMIK MATERIALS, INC	\$6,162.64
CHS	38,097.15
COUNTIES PROVIDING TECHNOLOGY	6,632.86
ERICKSON ENGINEERING	3,240.00
FRONTIER PRECISION INC	31,808.00
HTC INC	3,618.63
KETTERLING SERVICES INC	11,607.46
LUVERNE/CITY OF	7,597.96
LYON COUNTY LANDFILL	16,487.50
MORRIS ELECTRONICS	4,175.99
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	18,814.00
ROCK COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES	2,166.74
SNOW WHEEL SYSTEM INC	6,214.00
STAPLES ENTERPRISES INC	3,811.58
WEX BANK	3,161.65
66 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	27,440.87
TOTAL	\$191,037.03

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report which reflected the October 15 tax collection. Kurtz stated that there are 300 non-ag parcels that are not paid. Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch to approve the Fund Balance report, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Auditor/Treasurer and Administrator led a discussion regarding the status of DVS exam stations openings in January 2022. It was determined to draft a letter on behalf of the County Board to the Governor opposing the January timeline.

The County Board was in receipt of a letter from Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water requesting ARP funds allocated to Rock County. Rock County's ARP qualifications indicate any water infrastructure improves that are located in Rock County. The County Board also reviewed LPRW's CIP on improvements to their system not located in Rock County but will have a direct benefit impact to the users in Rock County on the LPRW system. After discussion, motion by Reisch, seconded by Williamson, to approve LPRW's request for ARP funds and award \$100,000 upon the completion and submission of an application, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was also in receipt of an ARP funding request from Lewis & Clark Rural Water System. After discussion, it was determined to table any action until a recommendation has been made from Rural Water.

The Administrator presented bids for the county's HVAC maintenance contract. Oldre stated that while vendors presented bids for a maintenance contract, it is apparent the a majority of the equipment is proprietary to the vendor, therefore his recommendation is to remain with Johnson Controls which will also service an obsolete chiller equipment for a 1-year period. Motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson to accept the maintenance contract from Johnson Controls for \$54,180 effective November 1, 2021 - October 31, 2022, declared carried on a voice vote. Other bid received was from G&R Controls - \$59,618.

The County Board was in receipt of a meeting notice for the AMC District VIII meeting scheduled for October 28 at 8:00 A.M. in Worthington, MN. The County Board briefly reviewed AMC Legislative Priorities for 2022 with no action taken.

The Administrator reported on the following activities: Greensmith project financing has closed and that the project is moving forward; Building issues: currently checking on the legality of the design build for the repairs to the Terrace and Tunnel, front door window repairs will take approximately 2 weeks and investigating the installation of security cameras on the Courthouse property; Sergeant Union Contract still pending; ARP funding request process for townships has been extended, all have applied with the exception of Rosedell Township; attended the Community Corrections audit exit; Rock County has (4) job vacancies.

Commissioner Reisch stated that he had attended the following meetings: Southwest MN Opportunities Council and Community Corrections.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she had attended the following meetings: no meetings.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he had attended the following meetings: Land Use meeting.

Commissioner Burger stated that he had attended the following meetings: Community Corrections and Southwest Mental Health.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he had attended the following meetings: Southwest Mental Health and Rural Water.

With no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was declared adjourned by order of the Chair.

Rock County Commissioners meet Nov. 2

Herreid Board Room **9:00 A.M.**
Rock County Courthouse **Nov. 2, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair with all Commissioners present. Also in attendance were Administrator Kyle Oldre, County Attorney Jeff Haubrich, Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum and Star-Herald Reporter and Mavis Fodness. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard, to approve the November 02, 2021, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to approve the October 19, 2021, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

Southwest Health & Human Services Representatives Beth Wilms, Director, and Nancy Walker, Deputy Director, presented an organization update to include annual report of 2018 and 2019, financial health has improved as they are currently at 2.6 months of reserves, the status of mental health services and Public Health has regained federal funding that was eliminated in 2013. Walker stated that the current staffing count is at 235 employees and that they have several vacancies that they have not been able to fill due to lack of applicants; also have left MN Merit System. Administrator Oldre acknowledged Jason Kloss, SWHHS Environmental Health Manager for the exceptional job he has done serving as Rock County's designated Public Health representative during the pandemic.

Oldre also requested Wilms to discuss the funding formula of Southwest Health and Human Services with board representatives; Wilms confirmed that she would add the funding formula topic to their agenda.

Calla Jarvie, Rock County Community Library Director, reported on a recent conference which she attended in Reno, Nevada; the conference expenses were covered by an Association of Rural and Small Libraries scholarship. She stated that the fellowship and resources that she acquired were very focused on equity, diversity and inclusion.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer, presented the claims; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to pay the claims, declared carried on a voice vote. A complete listing of the claims is available at the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

NOVEMBER 2, 2021 CLAIMS OVER \$2,000

A & B BUSINESS INC	\$2,602.32
BMO HARRIS COMMERCIAL CARD	2,733.36
BUFFALO RIDGE CONCRETE	7,843.50
C & B OPERATIONS LLC	82,000.00
FLEET SERVICES DIVISION-ADMIN FMR	7,227.53
FRONTIER PRECISION INC	3,589.34
KEMP ELECTRIC	2,940.74
KUSTOM SIGNALS, INC	3,942.00
LIBERTY TIRE RECYCLING LLC	2,635.25
LUVERNE/CITY OF	71,548.83
NOBLES COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER	4,600.00
ROOS CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION	2,130.00
SOUTHWEST HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	34,571.39
SUPERIOR CAULKING INC	18,685.70
ZIEGLER INC	8,500.00
56 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$2,000	20,249.29
TOTAL	\$275,799.25

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report which reflected a 50 percent distribution to the school districts; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Fund Balance report, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of the 2022 tax capacity rates; presented as informational.

Kurtz requested to re-issue the following lost warrants:

- #88239 payable to Lee Christians; \$7.00
- #89633 payable to Lynette Jauert; \$74.90
- #94879 payable to Lee Christians; \$20.71

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Williamson to approve re-issuance of the lost warrants, declared on a voice vote.

Ryan Holtz, Rural Water Systems Manager, presented a request for the county to approve a Lewis & Clark Expansion agreement; the expansion will provide an additional 174,000 units of water/day and members have one year to find the funding/financing for the project. On a recommendation from the Rural Water Board, motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to approve the agreement, declared carried on a voice vote.

Holtz stated that he would be visiting with township officials regarding the use of their ARP funding.

Mark Sehr, Engineer, requested to purchase a trailer from Dell Rapids Custom Trailers, Inc. for \$13,865.00; motion by Thompson, seconded by Williamson, to approve the purchase, declared carried on a voice vote.

Sehr briefly discussed the MnDOT study regarding a roundabout at the intersection of Main Street and Highway 75 in the City of Luverne stating that he did not think it would be a good investment to go from a B-rating to an A-rating; the city would also lose all of the newly constructed aesthetic features at the intersection as well. Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Burger, to decline membership to the Rural Counties Caucus, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Administrator presented an update of the AMC District VIII meeting were regional levies, DMV Driver Testing sites and Opioid settlement coming in December were discussed.

The Luverne Area Chamber requested a County Board representative on the 150th Celebration Committee; Commissioner Thompson stated she would be that representative.

The Administrator stated that the streambank stabilization project south of Luverne City Park has reached a resolution, and that he is reviewing options for security camera on the courthouse grounds and that the Armory project will be breaking ground yet this fall.

Commissioner Reisch stated that he had attended the following meetings: Plum Creek Library, City/County Liaison, and Budget meeting with the Sheriff.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she had attended the following meetings: Prairie E-Loft ground breaking ceremony, AMC District VIII, Southwest Health & Human Services and Ashby Trail dedication.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he had attended the following meetings: Lyon County Landfill, AMC District VIII, City/County Liaison, and the Prairie E-Loft ground breaking ceremony.

Commissioner Burger stated that he had attended the following meetings: Prairie E-Loft ground breaking ceremony, Southwest Health & Human Services, Budget meeting with the Sheriff and Nursing Family Partnership.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he had attended the following meetings: Prairie E-Loft ground breaking ceremony and AMC District VIII.

With no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was declared adjourned by order of the Chair.

(12-23)

Connell probate

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

Court File No. 67-PR-21-301

Estate of: **NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON**
Terry James Connell, **PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND**
Decedent **APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL**
REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 24, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 E Brown St, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, May 15, 2015, and codicil(s) to the Will dated, and separate writing(s) under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Chantel Connell, whose address is 1190 North River Road, 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 Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

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.

Date Filed: December 17, 2021 **BY THE COURT**

COURT SEAL */s/ Terry Vajgrt*
Judge of District Court
/s/ Natalie Reisch
Court Administrator

Attorney for Petitioners
Benjamin Vander Kooi, Jr.
Vander Kooi Law Offices, P.A.
Street: 127 E. Main Street; PO Box 746
Luverne, MN 56156
Attorney License No: 112124
Telephone: (507) 283-9546
FAX: (507) 283-9629
Email: lawkooi@gmail.com (12-23, 12-30)

Walleye Wind, LLC provides notice

Walleye Wind, LLC, provides this notice regarding the installation of a tower with a radar-based Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) at the Walleye Wind Farm in Rock County, Minnesota.

The Federal Communications Commission is reviewing the installation of the radar tower for potential impacts to historic properties. The tower will consist of a 100-foot-tall steel lattice tower within a 0.1-acre area. Access to the tower will be via a new 0.25-mile-long, 16-foot-wide engineered gravel road. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects that the Walleye Wind ADLS radar tower may have on any historic property may send comments to: Walleye Wind ADLS Radar Tower c/o SWCA Environmental Consultants, 295 Interlocken Blvd. Suite 300, Broomfield, Colorado 80021, or via telephone at 720-249-3441.

(12-23)



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Steve Fields
Minnesota Attorney



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Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

Page 10B December 23, 2021

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For Sale: 6-foot hardwood table with four chairs, \$75. One-4x8 fish house, suitcase style, \$150. Two Torro snow blowers, \$150 each. Call Gene Gehrke 507-215-2619. (12.18-1.6)

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EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED: Looking for a fun and rewarding job? Palisades State Park and Big Sioux Recreation Area are accepting applications for summer seasonal positions and Internships. There are several positions available, salaries range from \$12.50-\$18.36/hr, and 40 hour work week. We also have a variety of part-time positions available. For job information and application please visit <https://bhr.sd.gov/job-seekers/seasonal/>. Applicants must be age 17 by date of hire. Interviews will begin in March, so get your application in quickly as possible. For questions, email palisadespark@state.sd.us or call 605-594-3824. EOE (12.23-1.8)

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House for Rent: Larger home for rent in Luverne. Two baths, both with shower. Double garage, air conditioning. NO pets! Call 283-8151. (12.18-1.6)

For Rent: One-bedroom apartment for rent. No pets; no smoking. Call 507-283-9720. (rtc)

CARDS OF THANKS

A heartfelt thank you for your kindness and concern shown to the family during this difficult time. To the entire Vets Home staff, American Reformed Church family and Hartquist Funeral Home—we thank you so much for all of your love and cares. Mike was such a kind, loving man and we were blessed to have him in our world. We will truly miss him but rejoice in his “homecoming.”

The family of
Marcus “Mike” Uithoven
(12.18-12.23)

Thank you to everyone that sent floral arrangements, gifts and cards for our 60th anniversary. We appreciate hearing from all of you.

Ron and Anita Boyenga
(12.23-12.24)

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CARDS OF THANKS

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank You



Terry impacted many lives; this was very apparent by the outpouring of support that we have received during our time of loss. We cannot thank you enough for all the extended sympathies we have received, big and small. The visits, messages, calls and hugs helped us feel the love that we needed to hold us up during this difficult time. The food, drinks and necessities proved to be helpful and appreciated. The countless cards, donations, decor and arrangements will always be remembered. We would like to extend a special thank you to the Connell Car Care crew for all that they did to help keep business running as usual and going above and beyond what was ever expected. Also, to the guys that helped get all the cars ready for the impromptu cruise Sunday, it meant the world to us to be able to do that and was possible because of your heartfelt and selfless help! To everyone that came Sunday for the cruise, we were touched by the countless faces and cars we saw that day.

It warmed our hearts to be able to do something that Terry loved and to do it big, thank you for helping make that happen. We are grateful for the amazing job that Dingmann Funeral Home provided from day one. We appreciate Big Top Tents & Events for providing a location & service that was beyond flawless. A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Dorie Hall for making the service special & meaningful. Finally, to the family and friends, near and far, we couldn't have gotten through this without you and will continue to thank you for the shoulder to lean on in the days to come. So many more thanks need to be said, the family plans to send out individual thanks as time allows. Terry's love and memories will be held in our hearts forever. We welcome all memories and stories you have of the man who was such an important part of our lives.

Love and Hugs to all of you!

Chantel Connell

Jesse and Ashley, Oliver, Quinn

Josh and Christine, Millie



Rock County STAR HERALD — Help Wanted — SPORTS REPORTER

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

Our weekly award-winning newspaper covers two local districts and their high school sports teams, along with community outdoors and recreational activities.

We're working to enhance our daily presence with social media posts, sports column/blog and occasional streamed coverage with athletes, coaches and fans.

Our vision is to be on the local scene of whatever sports-related news is happening — whenever and wherever it occurs — and share that experience with sports fans to read and watch on social media and to enjoy in print and online pages.

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Luverne City Offices Holiday Schedule:

Thursday, December 23 —closing @ Noon
Thursday, December 30 —closing @ Noon

Friday, December 24 — closed
Friday, December 31 — closed

Friday's recycling will be picked up on the Monday following each Holiday.
North of Dodge Route — Monday, December 27.
5th Friday Citywide Recycling — Monday, January 3.
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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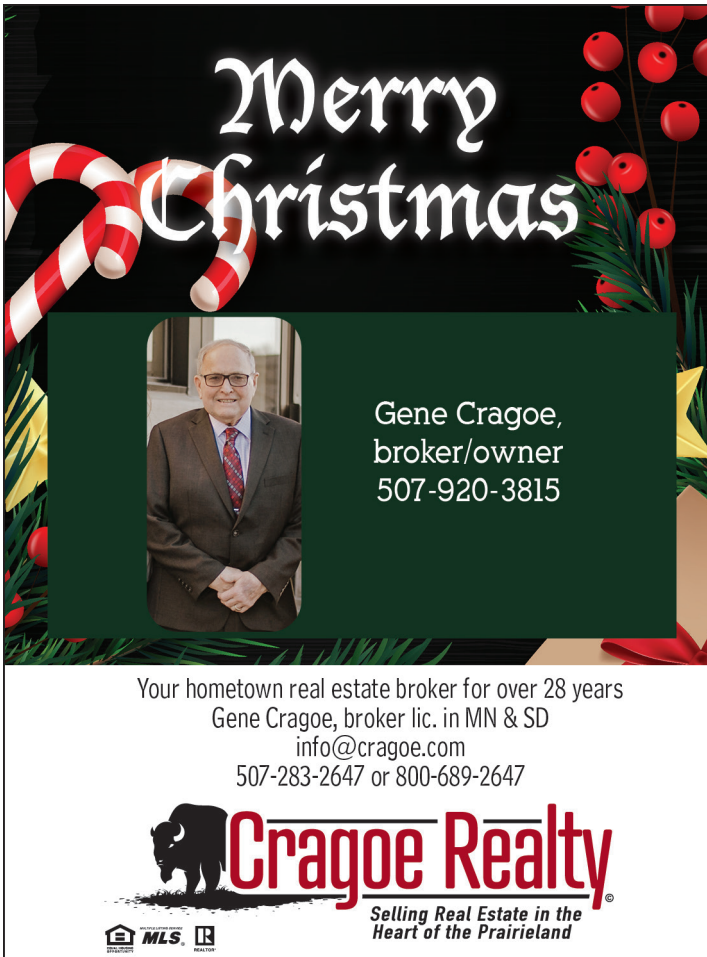
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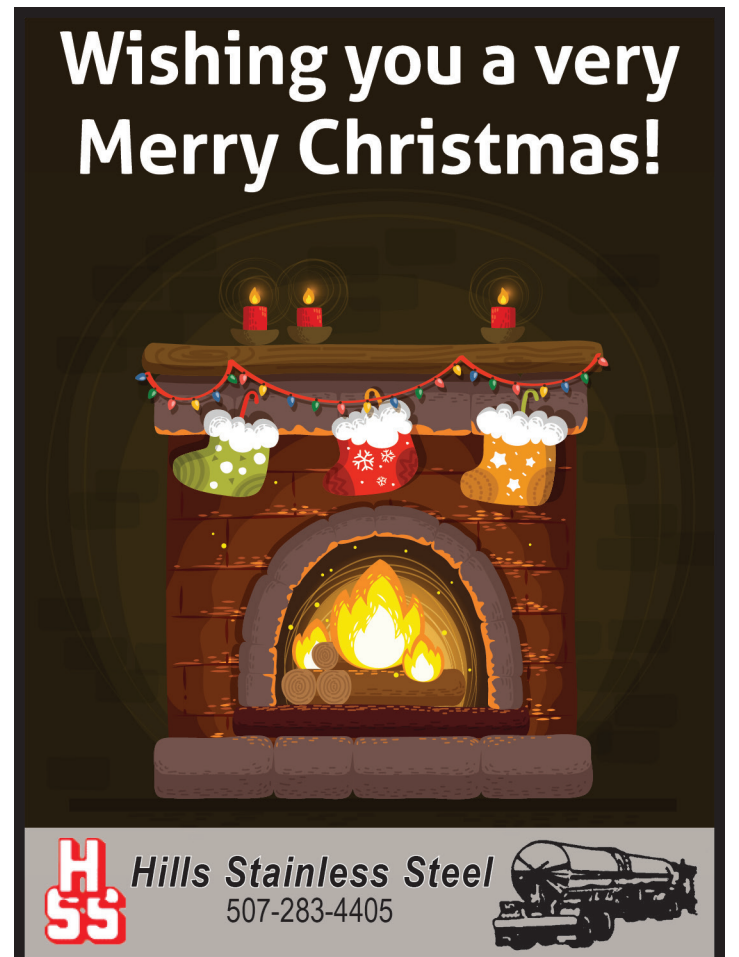


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 All business after 3pm will be posted in 2022.

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Bill, Scott, Casey, Carolyn, Mike
 Not Pictured: Mo

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Jill S., RN

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