



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, December 27, 2018

Snow, wind, rain — lots of rain

Weather is top news story in 2018; economic growth dominates headlines

By Lori Sorenson

The top Star Herald news of 2018 is a continuation of 2017's top stories — it's all about growth.

Tremendous. Enormous. Dizzying. Growth.

"This year we envision the largest economic development the city of Luverne has seen in the last 75 years," Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian said about 2018. "We're at the precipice of a lot of new construction."

While the development agreements are signed and engineering plans in place, none of these construction plans seemed to matter to Mother Nature, who had the final word on progress.

According to most meteorologists, 2018 is among the wettest years on record for southwest Minnesota and much of the upper Midwest.

Wet weather dominates headlines

Southwest Minnesota and parts of northwest Iowa were deluged with 65 inches of moisture this year, making it the wettest on record and making farming and construction difficult at best.

"We have never seen a summer that has been this wet for this long," said Brent Henning of Henning Construction, Adrian.

He said his dad and his and uncle, Gary and Scott Henning, have been in the construction business since they were 18 and have never had a construction season like this one.

"They've had wet years with wet projects, but not to this extent," he said. "It never dried up this year."

The rain delayed the Henning contract for the Rural Water connection to the Blue Mounds State Park.

Weather delayed road and infrastructure projects all over Rock County, and also caused damage.

It started in March when a weather front stalled over southwest Minnesota for several days delivering thunder, lightning, hail, gale force winds and flooding, closing schools for two days and I-90 for a period of time.

This storm was a precursor to what Mother Nature brought to the area in April when 25 inches of snow fell, setting a new snow fall record for the month. The amount pushed the

Top stories of 2018/see page 2



This architectural rendering issued in April shows a possible outcome for the Luverne Middle-High School's front entrance. Luverne School District voter-approved building project is moving forward again after the Dec. 19 bid opening revealed construction costs within the \$23.7 million budget.

'We got a win!'

School project back on track after rebid brings costs under budget

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School District building project is moving forward again after the Dec. 19 bid opening revealed construction costs within the \$23.7 million budget.

A special school board meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, to formally award bids.

Last week's bid opening had three general contractors submitting costs to remodel/refresh the middle-high school as well as add a new student commons area and performing arts center.

Bids ranged from \$20.9 million to \$22.375 million.

The project has a budget of \$23.7 million.

Based on the submitted bids, the board could allocate the remaining \$2.3 million toward the contingency fund or toward the alternate

bids or value-engineered materials.

One alternate for a new mechanical control system (\$438,740) will be added. The system is necessary to connect the new to the existing mechanical systems.

All six alternates could be afforded if the board chooses to accept all of them.

Included in the alternates are an additional 1,000 square feet to the new commons area, two additional classrooms in the north wing and use of terrazzo tile in the commons.

The favorable budget numbers revealed at the most recent bid opening were a relief to project managers.

"We got a win," said Todd Wetzel with ISC Consulting.

"We can now decide what we can add in."

Project stalled in August when bids came in over budget

The Dec. 19 bid opening was the third such event for Wetzel, ISC Consulting personnel and JLG Architects.

The first bids were opened July 24, totaling \$2.4 million over budget.

The second opening was a re-bid for electrical estimates when no company submitted a bid for the work during the initial bid process.

A single electrical bid was received Aug. 16 and that amount bumped the project to \$3 million over budget.

When costs couldn't be brought within budget through the value engineering process,

School bids come in under budget/page 16

As year ends, most area landowners comply with buffer law

By Mavis Fodness

As 2018 ends, more than 95 percent of Rock County landowners are meeting water quality standards under Minnesota's buffer law.

Three percent — 25 parcels — remain non-compliant with the statute passed in 2016. About 20 Rock County landowners are now subject to monetary fines.

Arlyn Gehrke with the Rock County Land Management Office worked with landowners and/or

renters to bring 815 out of the 840 Rock County parcels affected by the buffer law into compliance.

"I am happy the way it went," he said. "Everyone was cooperative."

Eighty-six percent or 720 parcels are in compliance with the state law and 95 parcels (11 percent) have signed compliance waivers indicating a compliance plan is in place but hasn't been implemented.

"The weather could not have been worse in what we are trying to do,"

Gehrke said.

The law requires landowners to plant up to 50 feet of perennial vegetation between cropland and identified lakes, rivers and streams.

In some instances alternative farm practices that offer the equivalent water quality benefits as a vegetative buffer was allowed by the law.

Landowners had until Nov. 1 to install the grass buffers or have a plan in place with the Rock County Land Management Office to be in

compliance.

Excessive rains prevented many grass buffers from being planted on the 95 parcels under the waiver status.

"We keep working with these guys and keep in contact with them to make sure it gets done," Gehrke said. "Staff officials understand... you can't seed if it's too wet."

Non-compliant landowners, however, can face monetary penalties

Buffer compliance/see page 16

Norton retires from 'service to farmers'

By Lori Sorenson

For the second time in 25 years, Fraser Norton is saying good-bye to Luverne and Rock County.

He retired last week as Rock County's Farm Service Agency director, a post he held for eight years after a previous eight-year stint as Rock County Extension Educator.

In doing so, the South African native will bid farewell to the community he considers home.

"It's been a good ride," he recently told the Star Herald. "I know I'm leaving with no regrets; I feel I've done all that I can for the farmers I've served."

Many people came to know Norton through his duties as Extension Educator from 1995 through 2003 when he linked resources of the University of Minnesota to farmers in Rock County.

When local Extension funds dwindled, Norton found his place



Fraser Norton retired from the Rock County FSA office last week.

in the Farm Service Agency in Roseau where he worked for eight years before returning to fill the open Rock

County FSA position in 2010.

Norton said his FSA duties were similar to those in Extension, except that he connected local producers to federal resources, rather than state.

As the name "Farm Service Agency" suggests, he said his goal was to serve farmers.

Much of that involved translating hundreds of government legal documents into programs that producers could understand and apply to their operations.

"A lot of our programs are really complicated," he said. "So, my challenge was to interpret the complexities of these programs so our farmers could benefit from them."

Anyone who's worked with Norton — on either side of the counter — will attest to his farmer loyalty.

Fraser Norton retires/see page 8

Hockey agreement with Adrian extends to five years

By Mavis Fodness

Another year was added to the recently approved paired hockey program agreement between Luverne and Adrian schools.

Luverne School Board members unanimously supported the additional year at their regular Thursday night, Dec. 20, meeting.

The sport pairing will now end after the 2022-23 season. A four-year agreement was recently approved Nov. 26.

Adrian requested the additional year because an eighth-grade Adrian student currently participates in the program. The additional year allows the student to finish his high school eligibility in the hockey program.

Under the new five-year agreement, any Adrian student eligible

for high school hockey can join the respective girls' or boys' hockey teams until the agreement sunsets between the two schools after the 2022-23 season.

Adrian Public Schools will pay a prorated amount based on the number of their students participating in the Luverne High School hockey program.

In other business, the board:

- accepted the resignations of Melva Schwiedop as two-hour food service worker, Awanda Siebenhler as elementary school cook, and Karson Demuth, custodian.

- hired Amanda Thorson as two-hour food service worker, Tonya Honermann, elementary school cook, and Linda Bruhn, two-hour food service worker.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Blue Mound Quilters will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, at the Luverne Library. Call Dianne at 507-530-3307 with questions.

Narcotics Anonymous meets at a new time: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Fridays in the basement of St. Catherine Catholic Rectory, 203 E. Brown St., Luverne. Use east door. Call 507-220-0137 with questions.

Hardwick Goal Seekers meet every Monday in Hardwick City Hall for the purpose of support and encouragement for weight loss journeys. Weigh-in begins at 6 p.m., and the meeting starts at 6:30 p.m. Call Glenda, 449-0568, with questions.

Women's Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Mondays in the United Methodist Church.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays in the United Methodist Church, Luverne. Call 605-321-4324.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets from 8 to 9 p.m. every Tuesday in Runals Hall, Edgerton. Call 507-215-2956.

Bank Nite movie 'Small Foot' Jan. 3

The free Bank Nite movie, "Small Foot," rated PG, will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3, at the Palace Theatre in Luverne. Sponsored by First Farmers & Merchants National Bank and Papik Motors, a free, family-friendly movie is shown on the first Thursday of every month as it was done for "Bank Nite" in the 1930s. A cash prize drawing will follow the movie. Must be present to win.

First Day Family Hike at Blue Mounds State Park Jan. 1

The Blue Mounds State Park will host a First Day Family Hike from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 1, starting at the picnic area. Start off the new year with a one-mile hike along the Upper Cliff Line Trail, the Lower Cliff Line Trail and on a bit of the bike trail. Warm clothing and sturdy boots are recommended. Call 507-283-6051.

Candlelight Hike at Blue Mounds State Park Jan. 12

The Blue Mounds State Park will host a Candlelight Hike from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, starting at the north picnic area. Enjoy the crisp night air along a 2-mile candlelight trail for all ages and abilities. The event includes a bonfire, hot beverages and refreshments. Call 507-283-6051.

Grades 5-6 basketball tournament

Luverne Community Education will host an invitational basketball tournament on Saturday, Jan. 26, for grades 5-6 boys' and girls' basketball teams. Register your team at www.isd2184.net (select Community Ed under "schools") or call 507-283-4724. Cost is \$125 per team payable with registration.

Community Education

Contact Luverne Community Education at C.Arends@isd2184.net or 507-283-4724.

The new Community Education **Winter Brochure** will be included as an insert in the Dec 29 Luverne Announcer.

Cabin Fever Reliever on Jan. 3 gives children birth to 5 years and a parent a change of scenery to enjoy free activities at 9 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) classes for children birth to age 5 and their parents begin a 17-week session Jan. 8.

Indoor Playtime on Jan. 14 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Catherine gym gives children birth to 5 years and a parent a large space to run off some energy with free activities.

Mike Frisch School of Fish will teach anglers grades 3 and older about ice fishing on Feb. 2. For \$30 each child leaves ready to fish with a new rod and reel with tackle. Each child can invite one adult at no extra cost.

Participants 7-12 years old will learn to play off instruments at a 16-week **Melodious Mallet Class** that begins Jan. 15. Fee is \$40.

A six-session **Yoga** class begins on Jan. 21. Fee is \$48.

Track Those Creatures on Jan. 24 is for children ages 5 through grade 3 who want to learn how to identify animal tracks around their yards. Fee is \$5.

Snowballs and Snowmen Kids in the Kitchen class for students grades K-6 will be Jan. 28. Fee is \$18.

Pottery Wheel Throwing, a basic intro class, will be four Mondays beginning Feb. 4. Fee is \$40, plus a \$10 material fee.



Star Herald file photo by Lori Sorenson

Flooding events like the ones in June caused thousands of dollars in damage to roads, bridges and agriculture infrastructure. This photograph was taken at the intersection of 191st Street and 10th Avenue in northwestern Rock County on June 21.

Top Star Herald stories of 2018/continued from page 1

season's snowfall to 65, well above the seasonal average of 44 inches.

April's "thunder blizzard" storm also closed down roads and major highways for several days across the area and piled up 4-foot drifts against downtown Luverne storefronts.

Hundreds of area residents began the record-setting blizzard in the dark after 70-mph straight-line winds snapped nearly 90 power line poles in Rock County and southwest Minnesota.

The outage was temporary for most, but some residents were without electricity for several days.

The March and April storms, along with the subsequent wet summer and fall, prompted a state and federal disaster declaration to aid in rebuilding and recovering losses.

Flooding events in June, July and August only exacerbated the conditions established in March and April.

Challenges continue for farming community

For farmers the wet growing season was yet another challenge weighing on an already troubled local farm economy.

Wet conditions delayed planting, washed out crops and delayed harvest.

Commodity prices remain at a decade low in 2018, with corn at about \$3.20 per bushel and soybeans hovering around \$8.50. For comparison, these prices are less than half of what they were during record prices just six years ago.

The crops that didn't get delayed or flooded produced healthy yields, but most farm-



Star Herald file photo by Lori Sorenson

Governor Tim Walz hunts with a group led by Don Dinger on land owned by Roger Tweet near Kenneth on Oct. 13 during the Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener. Luverne was selected as the host community for the annual event.

ers didn't break even on their 2018 harvest.

This, combined with several years of slim to no profits, and a 2018 tariff war with China, means many local farmers are teetering on the edge of bankruptcy.

Luverne hosts Minnesota Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener in October

A big story in 2018 was that Luverne hosted the Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener.

The October event attracted more than 40 different media outlets representing 16 radio stations, 17 print publications, three television stations and eight travel bloggers (a record number for a Governor's Opener in Minnesota).

Their coverage put Luverne on the map across 39 states, three Canadian provinces, Guam and New Zealand reaching a whopping 263,718,087 people.

This exposure represents roughly \$500,000 worth of advertising for the community, which means many will return to further explore what Luverne has to offer.

Shrimp, pork and people (housing and child care)

In other top Rock County news for 2018, a steady drumbeat of economic growth continues from the 2017 tru Shrimp announcement, Towne Square development, school building project, Armory construction and more.

With more than \$200 million worth of development planned in the next three years alone, the number doesn't include projects yet to be announced.

By comparison, the average local building activity over the past five years has been \$12 million per year.

Tru Shrimp remains the shining star in the local economic development scene with more than \$100 million

in construction and 100 jobs on the horizon.

The combination of the harbor, hatchery and accompanying water, electrical and gas distribution facilities are planned for 60 acres along I-90 in Luverne's industrial park.

What was a corn field at the start of 2018 has become the site of \$11 million worth of city investment in infrastructure for tru Shrimp.

This includes transportation and utilities access in that area of the Industrial Park — not just for tru Shrimp, but for all planned development.

The company will break ground next spring, and once in operation, the Luverne facility will produce roughly 20,000 pounds of shrimp per day of various sizes (42 percent jumbo size). That's more than 50 percent of the nation's current aquaculture shrimp production. **Premium Iowa Pork purchased the former IBP packing plant** on the west edge of Luverne from poultry processor Pilgrim's Pride this year.

As part of the agreement on the 17.5 acres, PIP acquired an option to buy an additional 28.75 acres (at \$5,000 per acre) currently held by the Luverne Economic Development Authority.

The Hoppers, Iowa, pork processor plans to slaughter up to 2,500 antibiotic-free hogs per day in the former Gold 'N Plump facility.

The company will retrofit the existing 78,000-square-foot facility and expand it another 12,500 square feet for an estimated \$30 million investment.

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• Land Surveying

City levy to increase 5.5 percent

Healthy tax capacity to keep actual property tax increases more level

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Council members approved a 5.5-percent levy increase for taxes payable in 2019, according to action at their Dec. 11 meeting.

The \$1.9 million levy amount is about \$100,000 more than the current levy.

Local leaders have been reviewing income and expenses at recent meetings to plan ahead for capital expenditures.

According to information presented at the Dec. 11 public hearing, Luverne's budget is balanced, there are adequate reserves in the general fund, the city has an AA-plus bond rating and Luverne residents enjoy the lowest tax rate among other cities of similar size in Minnesota.

Council members reviewed the operating budget, which included rough outlines of the city's governmental expenses and revenues.

Governmental expenditures for 2019 are nearly \$7.8 million.

They include public safety at \$1.3 million — about 30 percent of costs, public works and airport at \$1 million, culture and recreation at \$1.2 million and capital outlay at \$1.8 million.

Governmental revenues, about \$7.3 million, come in the form of taxes at roughly \$1.9 million — or 27 percent, local government aid from the state at \$1.4 million — 20 percent of revenue, and the rest from enterprise funds, fees and other charges.

The Governmental Budget includes the General Fund, pool, airport, debt service and capital projects.

General Fund revenues, about \$4.7 million, come in the form of taxes at roughly \$1.8 million or 37 percent, local government aid from the state at \$1.4 million — 30 percent of revenue, and the rest from enterprise funds, fees and other charges.

Local Government Aid was established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1972 to

"Our levy is going up, but the increased tax base should eat part of that.

For some property owners, taxes will increase less than 3 percent or even maybe not at all."

— Pat Baustian, Luverne mayor

help cities that have greater needs than what they could reasonably cover in property taxes.

The city begins the budget process in late summer after reviewing budgets and planned capital expenditures.

"We're in good financial shape," City Administrator John Call said in August.

"And we can also thank the school district and the county for helping us maintain a low tax rate, because they're part of the overall tax mix."

Mayor Pat Baustian added that recent growth in Luverne's tax base (new businesses and housing) also contributes to an overall lower tax bill for residents.

"Our levy is going up, but the increased tax base should eat part of that," he said this summer.

"For some property owners, their taxes will increase less than 3 percent or even maybe not at all."

At the Dec. 11 hearing, the council reviewed anticipated tax impact on Luverne residents next year.

For example, a Luverne home valued at \$100,000 paid about \$960 in property taxes in 2018, considering county, school and city levies.

Next year, property taxes on that same house (assuming the market value remains the same) are expected to be about \$940, about a .02 percent decrease.

County presents 6-percent levy increase for 2019 taxes

By Mavis Fodness

At the Dec. 11 County Board meeting, County Administrator Kyle Oldre and County Assessor Tom Houselog presented information about the proposed 2019 county budget and the effect local levies have on local property taxes.

Houselog said the percentage of taxable market value among the three property types in the county haven't significantly changed in the past five years.

In 2018 properties classified as agricultural made up 84.7 percent of the \$2.995 billion in taxable market value in Rock County followed by residential (11.8 percent) and commercial/industrial (3.5 percent).

Growth was experienced in the residential and commercial/industrial groups in 2018 of 13.5 percent and 8 percent respectively. Ag properties experienced a slight increase of 1 percent.

"That's good," Houselog said. "We have a larger tax base (outside of agricultural)."

Oldre outlined the county's proposed 6 percent levy increase for 2019 or an additional \$337,990.

The total proposed county

levy (\$5,971,164) comprises 49 percent of the county's proposed \$12.293 million budget for next year. The rest of the revenue comes from state and federal funding, grants and contracts.

Cities with populations over 500, counties and school districts in Minnesota are required by the state to conduct public hearings before adopting final tax levy amounts on or before Dec. 28. The hearings allow the public to speak about budget and levy issues.

Oldre also compared the county's tax rate with surrounding counties.

At 21.528 percent, Rock County's tax rate (a measurement of the property tax levy by the total taxable net tax capacity) is the lowest among the nine counties in southwest Minnesota.

Murray County (population 8,725) has the second lowest local tax rate of 26.161 percent. Jackson County (population 10,113) has the highest at 50.886 percent. Rock County's population is 9,687.

No one from the public attended the county's 15-minute tax hearing.

Commissioners certify the 2019 levy at their Dec. 27 meeting.



Mavis Fodness photo/1227 Book Reveal 2018
Luverne Elementary fifth-graders conducted their book reveal Wednesday, Dec. 19, with the announcement of the four cover artists (from left) Hannah Woodley, Emma Saarloos, Nicholas Mann and Ella Schmuck.

Book publishing becomes reality for first-time authors

By Mavis Fodness

A monthlong writing lesson culminated in four hardcover storybooks authored by the 99 fifth-graders at Luverne Elementary School.

Family members were invited to the book reveal at school Wednesday, Dec. 19.

A PowerPoint presentation explained the writing process, and visitors were invited to a reading of the student stories in their individual classrooms.

This is the second year the fifth-grade reading teachers led students through the process of creating, implementing and assembling original stories and illustrations.

They worked with a printing company to bind each of the student stories into four hardcover books by classroom. Books were then available for purchase by students, parents and staff.

Reading teachers Amy VonHoltum and Travis Bullerman estimate they spent a full week working on a book theme and writing individual stories with each of the classrooms. They later spent time adding illustrations.

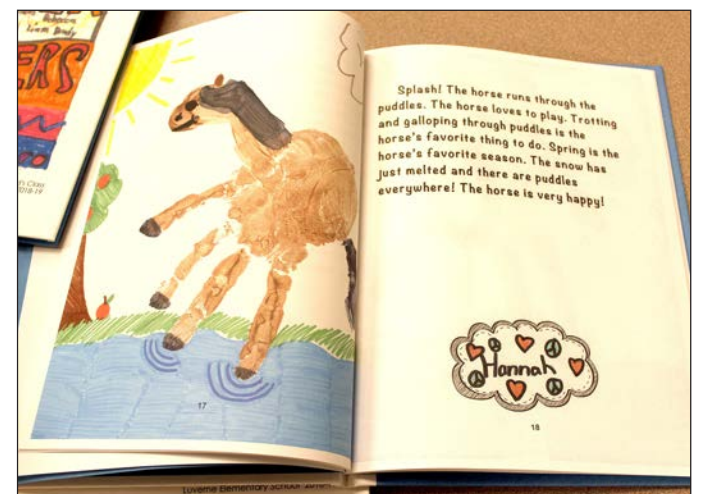
Another two to three weeks were spent editing the stories.

"Every page needs to contribute to the story," VonHoltum said.

Students created their stories and shared their work with three to four other students using Google Docs.

"They were all editors in the process with each other," Bullerman said.

Editing stories was an exercise Nicholas Mann enjoyed the most.



Mavis Fodness photo/1227 Book Reveal 2018
Hannah Woodley wrote a story about a horse in her class book called, "Animal Adventures."

"I liked to add all the details and draw the picture," he said.

Mann is a student in Katie Mostad's class. Her class chose to write stories under the theme, "Super Powers."

Mann's illustration was chosen for his class's book cover.

"Class Superheroes" was the book title chosen by Bullerman's class. Student Ella Schmuck designed the book cover.

The students created superheroes and gave them super powers in their stories. Schmuck developed a character named Weather Wonder.

"I like how it (weather) can be different every day and then how you can do different things in different weather," she said.

Gordie Hansen's class developed "Animal Adventures," with students using their handprints and footprints to complete their animal creations.

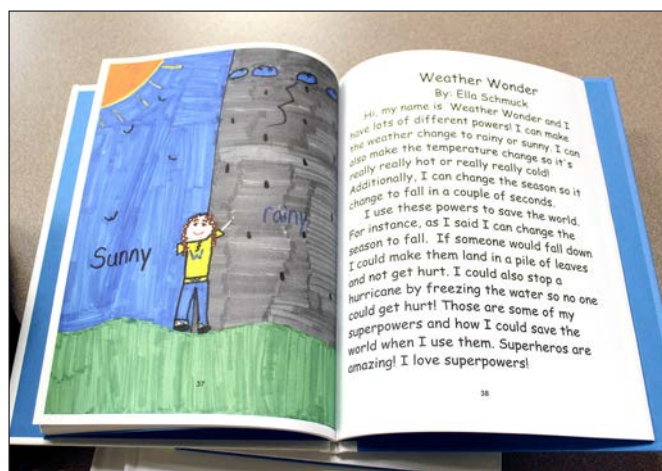
Student Hannah Woodley designed the book's cover. She included the words "Animal Adventures: A Hand and Foot Print Animal Book" on the cover.

"The idea was to create a book for kids to read about animals and their adventures," she said.

VonHoltum's class also focused on audience appeal when they developed their book called "Obscure Holidays."

Emma Saarloos' drawing of a calendar listing the unusual holidays by date was chosen as the book's cover. "We chose days no one knows about," she said.

Her story named Jan. 31 as "Hot Chocolate Day."



Mavis Fodness photo/1227 Book Reveal 2018
"Weather Wonder" is the name and title of Ella Schmuck's story about a superhero who can change the daytime weather to rainy or sunny. She also designed the book cover.

Luverne School levy to decrease 2 percent

By Mavis Fodness

A reduced levy was adopted by Luverne School Board members at their Thursday, Dec. 20, meeting.

The decrease of 2.05 percent or \$80,882 means fewer dollars collected from local property taxes in 2019.

Business manager Marlene Mann presented the school budget at the district's Truth in Taxation hearing. The hearing allows public input into the school budget process.

No one from the public attended Thursday's hearing.

Mann presented an overall review of district fund balances, focusing on expenditures first.

For the 2017-18 school year, the district budgeted \$17.5 million, which includes expenditures for the upcoming building project.

For 2016-17, the district budget was at \$16.4 million.

In revenue, Mann explained the three revenue sources are based on current enrollment, state funding formula and pre-school aged census.

Current K-12 enrollment is 1,238 students.

The state formula is \$6,312 per pupil unit. (Students in grades 7-12 received more aid with a weighted 1.2 pupil unit. Students in K-6 are each

one-pupil unit.)

The recently completed census on children ages 0 to 4 living in the district caused some concern from school officials.

Enrollment is expected to decline over the next five years. K-12 student enrollment is projected at a low of 1,127 for the 2023-24 school year.

The decline of 111 students could mean a potential revenue loss of more than \$700,000. "At some point we may have to look at, 'Can we keep doing all the things that we are doing,'" Mann said.

Incoming businesses such as tru Shrimp and Pre-

mium Iowa Pork could positively affect future preschool aged child census numbers.

Superintendent Craig Oftedahl cautioned against over-optimism for potential students but to abide by the current census figures.

"You have to prepare for what's on paper," he said.

The decline in the 2019 levy is attributed to the Ag-2 School legislation and the district lowering its debt service fund with the final bond payment for the elementary school.

In 2019 the district is expected to collect \$3.855 million in local property taxes.

50TH WEDDING Anniversary OPEN HOUSE FOR ROD & MARY SCHEIDT
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Star Herald reflects on turbulent year, sees promise for 2019

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

Our annual year-in-review recap of the year's headlines is an exercise in our own reflection of the passing of time.

From week to week, we immerse ourselves in the news of the day and its effects on our readers.

And over time, some of that weekly coverage develops into a theme that sets the tone for a year.

An optimist may look back on 2018 in Rock County and focus on the healthy list of economic development projects coming to the area.

There will be jobs, and an increased tax base, an opportunity for spin-off businesses and more.

The future certainly looks bright from this perspective.

But a pessimist — sometimes self-professed realists — may see these headlines and focus on the challenges.

What kind of workers will be attracted to a pork processing facility? Where are we possibly going to house all these workers and will these young families be able to find child care?

There isn't enough housing or childcare for the families who

already live here.

And then there's the weather. Nobody can change the weather, and there's no doubt Mother Nature wreaked havoc on Rock County in 2018.

It's true we can't control nature, but we can control how we respond to the challenge of climate change.

Already our city planners are addressing storm drainage issues, flood plain improvements and ways to utilize (or not) areas that are prone to flooding.

Similarly, our farmers are learning that maintaining the same old harvest, plow, plant, repeat methods aren't working when year after year their rich black soil is getting washed away by "gully washer" rainfalls.

Climatologists have warned that these extreme weather patterns will likely be the norm in the Midwest.

We can't change that.

And we can't change other factors affecting our community success.

But we can change our own behavior.

With the New Year bearing down, let's consider what we've learned from the past year.

What's working? What's not?

Are we headed in the right direction as a community?

Some things and some decisions we can't control, but many community ventures request — beg — for input.

Will we participate? Or will we stand on the sidelines and criticize later?

We have a choice.

Happy New Year, readers. We hope you choose to be part of our community success.

What's scarier?

An outhouse at night, or a phone that only makes phone calls?

When I was a kid, I marveled at my parents' stories of their youth.

Stories about plumbing — or lack thereof — were my favorite. "We had a pee pot," Mom explained about overnight bathroom duties. "And in the wintertime, it would be frozen by morning."

It sounded primitive, but so did venturing outside to use the outhouse. Especially at night and especially in the wintertime.

I often wondered what vintage stories I would one day tell my own children.

I was born into a world with indoor plumbing, but our little farmhouse by Kenneth slowly acquired other modern conveniences as I grew up.

I witnessed the arrival of color television (the colorized "Wizard of Oz" was mind-blowing), a microwave and a dishwasher, and I have vague recollections of a washer and dryer replacing Mom's old washtub laundry setup.

The one single solitary appliance that remained the same through my entire childhood was the telephone.

It was a large black rotary dial phone with a stainless steel cradle that made a satisfying "ding" if the receiver was hung up forcefully.

Back then we knew dozens of people's phone number by memory, and the beat-up oversized phone book was always within reach for the ones we had to look up.

We took turns with the neighbors for the party line, long-distance calls were expensive, and we were accustomed to busy signals and endless ringtone for unanswered calls.

But the really primitive thing was that it was attached to the wall.

In the kitchen.

Where you had all your phone conversations.



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

Tethered by a cord to the wall. ... within earshot of Mom at the stove or the kitchen sink.

But you willingly sacrificed privacy for socializing. The old black phone was all we had.

It was our portal to the outside world.

In the era before Internet and cellular communication, the telephone on the wall was the only communication out and the only communication in.

So when a call rang through, you dropped everything and ran to answer it. A phone call was a big deal.

Without answering machines or caller I.D., a missed call was a missed call.

"If it's important they'll call back," Mom would say about the ones that got away.

She was right, but you could spend the rest of the evening wondering who it was.

The only thing worse than missing a call was answering a call from a boy while the entire family was at the kitchen table.

Listening. When I was in high school we got a 6-foot cord that stretched around the corner for "private" conversations.

Of course, out of sight wasn't out of earshot, and nothing screamed "private conversation" quite like the call that was immediately taken around the corner.

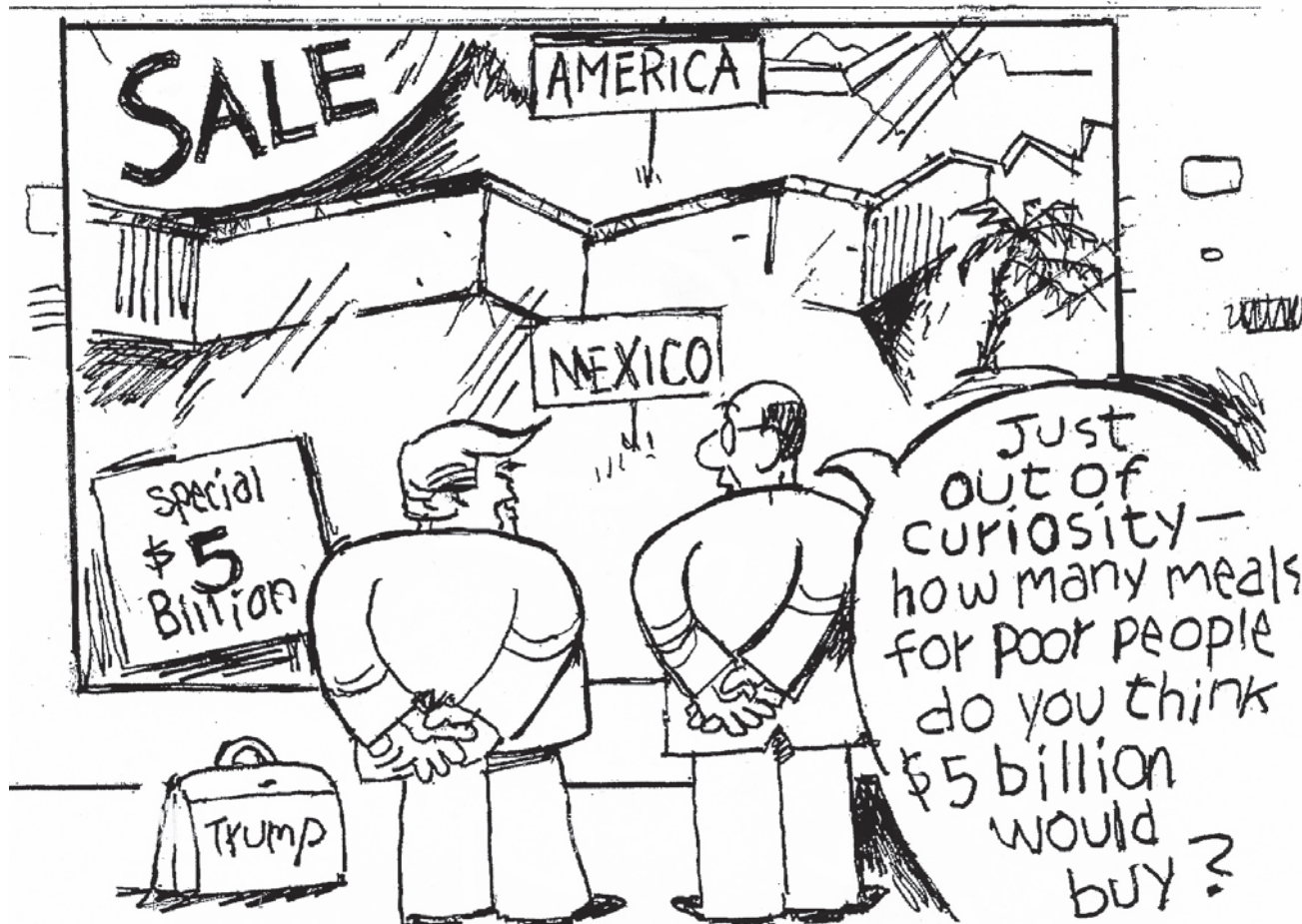
Today, of course, our cell-phones are used for just about everything but phone calls.

To the kid who's never known otherwise, the old black telephone of my youth is just as primitive as a pee pot that freezes overnight.

And to him, it's much, much scarier than venturing outdoors in the wintertime for a midnight trek to the outhouse.

ED FISCHER

WALLS-R-US



Harnack: 'A story was told to me one day'

To the Editor:

... onto the new fallen snow

A story was told to me one day,
How some birds in a blizzard had lost their way.
It was very cold, and snowing outside,
And the birds wanted in before they died.

A father was home alone, counting his worth,
While his family were in church, celebrating Christ's birth.
He did not see the need to join his children and wife;
For this was just another normal day in his life.

You see, he did not believe the Christmas Story,
Why Christ would come down from His place in glory,
And be born to a world that was dark and cold;
He just could not understand, the way the story was told.

The man went outside and saw the birds in the night,
Then opened the barn door and turned on the light,
So the birds could go in, where they would be warm,
And safe from the winds and the deadly storm.

VOICE OF OUR READERS

The door was open, but the birds did not know;
They kept hitting the windows and falling into the snow.
He called them, he chased them, but the birds did not see,
The entrance to the haven that was theirs for free.

Then he wished, if he only could become one of them,
Then maybe they would follow him,
Then he could lead them to that open door,
Where they would be safe forevermore.

It was then that the man would understand why,
Why Christ would come down to the earth from the sky.
He fell to his knees, to the cold ground below,
As tears rolled down his face onto the new-fallen snow.

Alan Harnack, Beaver Creek

ASK A TROOPER

Expired card puts drivers out-of-service

Question: What is the penalty for an expired health card while driving a commercial vehicle such as a semi?

Answer: A current health card is required for vehicles over 10,000 pounds. If the driver's health card is expired, the driver would be subject to a citation. The driver could be allowed to continue their delivery if the health card is the only citation issued at the traffic stop. If the driver is stopped again before the health card is current, the driver would be placed out-of-service until the health card is valid, and the driver could receive another citation.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson — Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, 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.

Luverne earns Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 24th year

By Lori Sorenson

For the 24th year, the city of Luverne has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

At their Dec. 11 meeting, Luverne City Council members formally recognized city finance director Barb Berghorst for her efforts in qualifying the city for the award.

"Thanks for the great job you do," Mayor Pat Baustian told Berghorst.

Berghorst thanked the council but said she works with an "outstanding budget staff. This award goes to the whole staff."

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

It represents a "significant accomplishment by a government and its management."

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the city of Luverne for its comprehensive annual financial report every year since 1994.

It is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government financial reports.

Berghorst is the person primarily responsible for achieving the award for Luverne.

At the Dec. 11 meeting, the council also recognized Water and Waste Water Supervisor Allais with the 2017



Lori Sorenson photo/1227 berghorst award
Mayor Pat Baustian recognizes city finance director Barb Berghorst Dec. 11 for her contributions to Luverne's excellence in financial reporting.

Water Fluoridation Quality Award.

Baustian thanked Lais for being thorough in his work. "Nobody really knows what you do for us, because we

don't have to worry about it," Baustian told Lais.

"Thanks for your work for the city, and please convey that to your staff."

Luverne essay writer advances to state level in 'Voices of Democracy' writing contest

Luverne High School senior Jady Anderson was awarded first place in the District 3 "Voice of Democracy" essay contest through the VFW.

Her paper, written under the 2018 theme, "Why My Vote Matters," was first place in the local contest, and now as winner at the district level, it advances to the VFW state contest.

Anderson will be recognized on Jan. 5 at the VFW in Worthington where she will receive a cash award of \$125 and a certificate from VFW District 3.

She and her parents, Paula

Bloemendaal and Chad Anderson, will be invited to the VFW state conference in Minneapolis on Jan. 19 when she and the other eight district essay winners will be recognized.

The first four places will receive cash awards and the first place winner, to be announced in Minneapolis Jan. 19, will advance to the VFW National essay contest.

The state cash awards are \$2,000 for first place, \$1,000 for second place, \$600 for third place, \$500 for fourth place, and \$100 for all other participants.

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Dec. 14

- Complainant reported someone sleeping in vehicle on North Kniss.

- Complainant reported doing bird surveys in the Beaver Creek area.

- Complainant reported she is stuck in the carwash.

- Complainant requested to speak with a deputy about civil issue.

- Complainant on South Donaldson reported 17 pickups speeding past her house about 3:35 p.m.

- Complainant in Steen reported an Order for Protection violation.

- Complainant on Service Drive reported a scam.

- Deputy reported motorist assist at Highway 75 and 131st Street.

- Complainant on South West Park Street reported a burglary.

- Complainant requested Salvation Army voucher.

- Complainant reported an Order for Protection violation.

Dec. 15

- Complainant reported a semi on I-90 westbound at mile marker 20 with the back door open.

- Complainant in Magnolia reported a man with a gun.

- Complainant in West Mead Court requested a deputy for standby.

- Complainant requested to speak with a deputy.

- Complainant in rural Magnolia reported his son took off from home.

Dec. 16

- Complainant found wallet at 24-hour lot in Luverne.

- Complainant reported found wallet on East Main Street.

Dec. 17

- Complainant reported he is doing bird surveys in the Beaver Creek area.

- Complainant in Hills reported a student walk-away.

- Complainant requested deputy make contact with subject in Edgerton area.

Dec. 18

- Deputies conducted door checks on Main Street.

- Complainant reported a burglary alarm on Roundwind Road.

- Complainant reported suspicious vehicle at the State Park.

- Complainant requested welfare check on North Freeman.

- Complainant reported harassment.

- Complainant requested welfare check on 160th Avenue.

- Complainant reported vagrant.

- Complainant reported woman trapped under tire.

- Complainant on Evergreen Park reported what looks like a homeless person.

- Complainant reported a homeless man at County Road 4 and South Walnut Avenue.

Dec. 19

- Complainant reported outage of crosswalk lights at Barck Street and North Kniss intersection.

- Complainant reported alarm was activated by employee.

- Complainant reported possible phone scam.

- Complainant reported identity theft.

- ERU training in Windom.

- Complainant reported a vehicle traveling with a child on front seat passenger's lap at Main Street and Cedar Street intersection.

- Complainant reported an activated smoke alarm.

- Complainant reported subject may have a warrant and maybe at location on South Kniss Avenue.

- Complainant at North Kniss location reported subject borrowed a phone and won't return it.

Dec. 20

- Complainant at 121st Street reported a loud pickup going by his house.

- Complainant on South Kniss reported subject with a warrant possibly at location.

- Assist other department at location on Birkett Avenue, Kenneth, with search warrant.

- Complainant reported fraud.

- Complainant on West Hatting Street reported stolen and used checks.

- Complainant reported a hit and run on Interstate Drive.

In addition officers also responded to 5 motor vehicle accidents, 3 deer accidents, 2 transports, 6 escorts, 23 ambulance runs, 7 paper services, 4 animal complaints, 1 fingerprint request, 3 burn permits, 2 drug court tests, 8 permits to purchase/carry applications, 40 traffic stops, 3 abandoned 911 calls, and 3 follow-ups.

Verbrugge is president of Sheriffs' Association

Rock County Sheriff Evan Verbrugge was sworn in as president of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association during the organization's 133rd Annual Winter Conference at the Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria.

Retired Rock County Court Administrator Sandra Hensley had the honor of swearing in her son-in-law during the Installation of Officers Banquet Dec. 11.

Verbrugge is the second Rock County Sheriff to hold the position since Sheriff Ole Hommen served in 1976.

Verbrugge has been with the Rock County Sheriff's Office since 1991 when he was hired as a deputy. In 2001 he served as president of the Quad State Rural Enforcement Task Force serving Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota and Nebraska. While serving as a deputy Evan was named the 2005 Rock County Employee of the Year.

He was first elected as Rock County Sheriff in November of 2006 and now oversees a staff of 12 full-time licensed peace officers and five full-time dispatchers.

An active member of his community, Verbrugge serves as project coordinator for the Rock County Crime Free Housing Program, chair of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board at the Blue Mound Towers and a board member with Rock County Opportunities. He is also a deacon at the First Presbyterian Church.

A 15-year veteran with the Luverne Fire Department, Evan serves as lieutenant as well as the secretary of the department and chair of the Relief Board.

Verbrugge and his wife, Missy, have been married for 24 years and have two



Photo and text submitted by Jim Hensley
Rock County Sheriff Evan Verbrugge, pictured with his wife, Missy, was sworn in as president of the Minnesota Sheriff's Association Dec. 11.

grown children, Riley, a deputy with the Nobles County Sheriff's Department, and Emma, a freshman at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Formed in 1885, The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association consists of the 87 Minnesota sheriffs and their staffs.

These agencies represent a diversity of regions, from agricultural and wilderness, to metropolitan. Each sheriff has his or her own unique situation, duties, and responsibilities; yet many of the problems they encounter are common to all.



Papik picks of the week...



2011 Chevrolet Silverado
85K • Stock #207963N

Was \$20,990 Closeout Price \$17,990



2014 Chevrolet Silverado
64K • Stock #426473N

Was \$28,990 Closeout Price \$26,490



2016 Ram 1500 Laramie
24K • Stock #363301N

Was \$34,990 Closeout Price \$31,990



2017 Dodge Grand Caravan GT
46K • Stock #864825Z

Was \$18,990 Closeout Price \$16,990

283-9171

PAPIK.COM I-90 Luverne, MN 56156



CELEBRATIONS

Open houses

Rod and Mary Scheidt will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house from 1:30-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30, at the Countryside Inn Steakhouse in Adrian.

Card showers

Russell Wenzel will celebrate his 90th birthday on Friday, Dec. 28. Greetings may be sent to him at 787 171st Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

MENU

Monday, Dec. 31: Barbecued pulled pork, scalloped potatoes, peas, bun, apple sauce.

Program: Pinochle.

Tuesday, Jan. 1: Closed for New Year's Day.

Wednesday, Jan. 2: Salisbury steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, squash, bread, blushing pears.

Thursday, Jan. 3: Roast turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberry sauce, bread, pumpkin dessert.

Friday, Jan. 4: Goulash, pineapple, corn, bread, bar.

Program: Half-Price Day; Tell your favorite joke day.

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

Gift certificates are available at the meal site or online at www.lssmn.org/nutrition.

Call Lauree Teunissen at 283-9846 to make dining reservations or for home-delivered meals.

We welcome your good news!

Share your special happenings by using the forms on our website, www.star-herald.com/webforms.

Births, engagements, weddings and news tips are accepted by filling in the blanks.

You can even upload a picture!



Holy Cow!

Kruse named Miss Minnesota Hereford

By Mavis Fodness

An Adrian teenager and Rock County 4-H'er will represent Minnesota cattlemen, after serving as local beef ambassador for the past two years.

Hannah Kruse, 18, received the "Miss Minnesota Hereford" crown Dec. 8 during the association's annual meeting and sale in Hutchinson.

The statewide honor wasn't a surprise to local association members.

Nobles-Rock Cattlemen Association member Kurt Ehlers was president during Kruse's reign as local beef ambassador in 2017 and again in 2018.

"Hannah is an awesome beef ambassador," he said. "She goes above and beyond what she's supposed to do."

Ehlers pointed to Kruse's first year, where she gave the public an up-close look at a beef steer.

Instead of riding in a shiny vehicle and waving to the crowds lining the parade route, Kruse chose to walk beside her show steer.

"That was the coolest thing ever," she said. "I took the chance to promote beef and that people should get out and try Hereford."

Kruse's journey to represent the Hereford industry began early for

the daughter of Kory and Michele Kruse.

As a third-grader, Kruse began showing cattle at the Rock County Fair and soon found herself involved in the state's Hereford breeders association, thanks to her parents raising Hereford cattle.

Kruse later joined the junior Hereford association, where she served in various officer positions and is secretary for the youth group.

While meeting new people and talking about Herefords is enjoyable, Kruse is happiest working with the animals on the family's farm in Kanaranzi Township in southeastern Rock County.

"I have always loved Herefords — they are a docile breed," she said.

On the farm, Kruse helps select the desired genetics, then they raise and show the offspring that results from her choices.

However, Kruse's time on the farm and in the show ring will be limited as she travels to dozens of state and national cattle shows beginning in January.

Her responsibility will be to hand out ribbons and pose for pictures in promotion of the Hereford breed.

Kruse said she feels comfortable in the state spotlight, thanks to the advice from former Miss Her-

ford ambassadors who encourage her to apply for the national Hereford crown, completed in late October.

Kruse plans to be a freshman at Iowa State University this fall.

"It's a lot of commitment to do as a college freshman," she said. "All of the past queens say, if you're thinking about it, you should do it."

Regardless of her decision to proceed to the national level, Kruse has already decided to make the cattle industry a career choice.

"I hope to become a veterinarian," she said. "If that doesn't happen, I will still get an animal science degree and promote beef that way."



Above: Hannah Kruse of Adrian is the newly crowned 2019 Minnesota Hereford Breeders Association queen and will represent the state's cattlemen at local, state and national events. Left: Kruse first promoted the local beef industry as the 2017 Nobles-Rock Cattlemen Association beef ambassador. At several local celebrations, such as Luverne's 150th Anniversary celebration, Kruse included her Hereford steer.



Submitted photo

As part of her first duties as Miss Minnesota Hereford, Hannah Kruse led the fundraising heifer into the sale ring at the association's meeting and sale in Hutchinson. Her family raised this year's animal for the annual event.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2008)

Sears employee Marvin Hawes hauls in his last load of food to the Rock County Emergency Food Shelf at the United Methodist Church last week. Sears donated more than 300 food items through its "Share the Joy" promotion.

Sears customers received discounts on their merchandise if they brought in donations for the food shelf, and Sears owner Jan Sudenga said she was pleased with the results. "It was great for the community," she said when the items were delivered.

25 years ago (1993)

Luverne will see tenants at the Minnesota Veterans Nursing Home within about six weeks, according to Rick Zierdt of the Minnesota Veterans Nursing Home Board. Home Administrator Pam Barrows said plans are to open the facility to patients during the last week of January.

Part of the start-up procedure for the nursing home involves awarding many contracts for services.

The contract for physician's services at the local nursing home has been awarded to Dr. Nate Rud, Luverne, who practices in Adrian.

50 years ago (1968)

Construction in Luverne hit the highest peak in four years during 1968 when 22 new homes were built, and estimated building costs exceeded \$1 million.

Building permit statistics, compiled by the city administrative assistant's office, showed that new homes accounted for \$435,800 of the \$1,051,211 total, which means that on the average, the homes built cost nearly \$20,000 each. The figures are based on cost estimates submitted by the owner or builder when an application is made for a building permit.

The last time building hit the \$1 million mark was in 1964 when the total was \$1,601,500. The total for 1967 was \$427,450 and in 1966, the figure was \$722,925.

75 years ago (1943)

Had local authorities been properly notified, it is likely that Helen Heathcote and Mary Lucille Tice, who escaped from the South Dakota State Penitentiary, would have been apprehended here eight hours after they had made their getaway, it was disclosed here this week.

Officer Pat Ryan, who was on duty from midnight until morning, said he knew nothing of the escape until the following

evening when their photographs were published in the Sioux Falls Argus Leader. The minute that he saw them, he said, he knew they were the two who "ducked" into a rest room at the Duba Café and service station about 2 a.m. Friday.

Adding to the local interest of the escape was the fact that two Luverne young men, Obert "Ippy" Olson and Paul Doyle, had given them a ride here from near Pipestone with a trucker.

100 years ago (1918)

A new record average price for registered Short-Horn cattle sales, where one or more individuals did not sell at \$5,000 or over, was made last week at the dispersion sale held at Sioux City by Alex Mitchell, of Jasper, when an average price of 4780.33 was obtained for forty-two head. The thirty-five cows and heifers brought an average of \$805.27, or a total of \$28,195, and the seven bulls averaged \$654, or a total of \$4,580.

Irving Turnbull, Geo. Skewes, Ed. Morgan and A.L. Haxby were among those from this section who attended the sale, but only purchaser from this vicinity was L.D. Long, who secured a two-year-old "Flower Girl" heifer, with a heifer calf at foot by an imported sire. This purchase was made by Mr. Turnbull for Mr. Long, and the price was \$800.

LIBRARY NEWS

Contact the Rock County Library at rocklibrarystaff@gmail.com or 507-449-5040 for more information or to register for events.

Help us find out what kinds of programs, events and activities you'd like to see from the library. Complete the survey at rockcountycommunitylibrary.org. Paper copies are available at the library counter.

Game Day, 2 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27. Friends of the Library will provide snacks.

Movie Matinee, 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28. The movie, "Golden Winter," will be shown.

The **2019 Winter Reading Program** kicks off Jan. 1 and continues through March 31. Participants who read/listen to 12 books over the three-month timeframe earn a prize. Reading logs/punch cards can be picked up at the circulation desk.

Trivia Night at Take 16, 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 3. One to four people make up a team. Register at Take 16 from 6:30 to 7 p.m.

Winter Story Time begins Jan. 18 and

will be each Friday from 10:30 to 11 a.m. through April 12.

DIY Minnesota String Art at the Library, 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 17, for ages 12+. Registration required.

Bad Art Night at Take 16, 7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 22, at Take 16 Brewing Company. A competition will determine who can make the worst piece of art with the provided materials. Registration required.

Learn How to Swing Dance, 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28. Bring a partner to learn the basic steps and work up to basic spins and dips. Registration required.

DIY book page banner, 6 p.m. Thursday, March 21. Use old books to choose a word or phrase to make a banner with the supplies provided. Registration required.

Library hours are Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

COLLEGE NEWS

Stanley graduates from MSU

Bryan Stanley, Luverne, will graduate magna cum laude from Minnesota State University Moorhead on Thursday, Dec. 20, with a Bachelor of Music degree.

Stanley is a 2014 graduate of Luverne High School.

MSU Mankato announces graduates

Area students were among the Fall 2018 graduates at Minnesota State University, Mankato, on Saturday, Dec. 15.

Zach Schandelmeier, Luverne, received a Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies.

Jonathan Solma, Luverne, was awarded a Master of Arts in sport management.

Jody Chanthalangsy, Magnolia, earned a Bachelor of Science in finance.

Students receive SDSU scholarships

Nicole Kneip and Hilary Deragisch are scholarship recipients at South Dakota State University this academic year.

Kneip, a junior mathematics major, is the 2018-

19 recipient of the Wilton E. McKown Scholarship Fund. She is the daughter of Tim and Debbie Kneip and a 2016 graduate of Luverne High School.

Deragisch, a graduate student in pharmacy, is the 2018-19 recipient of the Julie C. Stevens, M.D., Scholarship in Pharmacy. She is the daughter of David and Lori Deragisch and also a graduate of Luverne High School.

Make the dean's list?

Let us share the news

The Star Herald strives to recognize all academic accomplishments of students from its coverage areas, and our news department relies on multiple sources (colleges, students, parents, etc.) for that information. Send school news to editor@star-herald.com or call 507-283-2333.

READ US ONLINE!
star-herald.com

OBITUARY

Leslie Kleinke

Leslie E. Kleinke, 86, Blaine, formerly of Luverne and Walker, died Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2018, at the Edgemont Place in Blaine.



A memorial service will be 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 28, at the Hope Lutheran Church in Walker. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church in Walker.

Leslie Kleinke was born March 6, 1932, on the family farm in Nimrod to Ernie and Ruth (Lilja) Kleinke.

When not busy attending school in a one-room schoolhouse, Les was busy with daily farm chores and hunting, fishing and trapping. He left the farm and was employed by the University of Minnesota as an auto mechanic. He then moved to Luverne where he was employed by Hanson Silo Company.

Les served in the Army during the Korean War from 1952-1954, during which time his motor pool was responsible for the transporting of USA troops, including that of Marilyn Monroe. Les was wounded and received the purple heart before returning home to marry Marlis Gon-

nerman of Luverne in a December ceremony.

Les and Marlis lived in Luverne and he was employed by Hanson Silo, Pat's Plumbing and Heating, MID Meatpacking company, later known as Iowa Beef Packing Company as a plant engineer.

Les was instrumental in bringing snowmobiles to southern Minnesota, as he began one of the first dealerships in the state of Minnesota and surrounding areas. He also ran a side business that caught a variety of wild animals used for restocking parks and wildlife areas, as well as starring in a few Disney nature films. Les and Marlis moved to Walker in 1991 and he was employed by Agwa Ching State Nursing Hospital until he retired.

During the many years in Luverne, as well as Walker, Les was active and involved in both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, served as a church elder and on many church boards and councils.

He actively participated in many local and state organizations which included snowmobile, hunting and

fishing clubs. Les enjoyed snowmobile trail rides and snowmobiling and won a number of state trophies. He valued time spent with his family. Many life lessons were taught while walking or riding down a wooded trail, hunting, snowmobiling or four-wheeling, fishing, or gathered together around the table.

Les is survived by his wife, Marlis, Blaine; a daughter, Leslee (Mark) Yseth, Ham Lake; a son, James (Mary) Kleinke, St. Cloud; four grandchildren; his brothers and sisters, Al Kleinke, Nevis, Joyce Olson, Pillinger, Janice (Baylen) Hagen, Warroad, JulAnn Meech, Dalton, Carol (Ed) Luukkonen, Park Rapids, Shirley (Russel) Olson, Nevis, Judy (Paul) Miller, St. Paul, and Kimberely (Dave) Kvam, Granite Falls; and a sister-in-law, Marlene Kleinke, Grand Rapids.

Les was preceded in death by his parents, his son, Ronald Kleinke, his uncle, Fred Kleinke, and a nephew, Tommy Kleinke.

Arrangements are provided by the Miller-Carlín Funeral Home in St. Cloud (1227 F)

The Rock County Star Herald strives to publish obituaries that pay tribute to the lives of the deceased. Our policy is to summarize the education, professional history, places of residence, immediate family, achievements, hobbies and community involvement of your loved one. Please indicate, when sending an obituary, if you would like it to be placed in the paper as an edited piece according to our newspaper format for \$49 OR if you would like it to run as submitted for \$149.

Star Herald lists deaths, births published this year by month

Deaths published in 2018

December 2017

Dec. 12: Carol Padrta, 58, Detroit Lakes.
Dec. 23: Mary Efting, 92, Adrian.
Dec. 25: Delores Strasburg, 93, Luverne; Mark Verba, 36, Luverne.
Dec. 27: Priscilla Kracht, 96, Luverne.
Dec. 29: Gladys Buss, 95, Lismore.
Dec. 31: Ethna Hanson, 93, Oronoco; Clara Rozeboom, 85, Leota.

January

Jan. 1: Phyllis Helgeson, 93, Shoreview.
Jan. 5: Tillie Bork, 98, Luverne; Thomas Mitchell, 69, George, Iowa.
Jan. 9: Karen Ward, 72, Luverne.
Jan. 10: C. Devere Johnson, 83, Luverne.
Jan. 16: Melinda Kruse, 57, Luverne.
Jan. 18: Charlotte Griffin, 87, Luverne.
Jan. 20: Shirley Strand, 91, Marshall.
Jan. 22: Gwendolyn Kneip, 83, Jasper.
Jan. 24: Annetta Wiese, 93, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Jan. 26: David Wiertzema, 67, Adrian.
Jan. 27: Timothy Donth, 54, Moline, Ill.; Bertha Thompson, 102, Hills.
Jan. 30: Marguerite Hoh, 100, Luverne.
Jan. 31: Bernard Heikes, 73, Luverne; Louise Stegemann, 99, Luverne.

February

Feb. 1: Marte Vanderberg, 84, Luverne.
Feb. 2: Harris Van Develde, 91, Minneapolis.
Feb. 3: Kent Ringkob, 75, Jackson.
Feb. 5: Dick Richters, 79, Luverne.
Feb. 8: Bradley Lorenzen, 55, Brookings, South Dakota.
Feb. 11: Darwin Kreun, 89, Luverne.
Feb. 12: LaVerle Lorenzen, 91, Luverne; Betty Jean Steenstra, 76, Edgerton.
Feb. 21: Herman Evers, 86, Lakota, Iowa.
Feb. 23: Adrianna Wagley, 100, Ellsworth.
Feb. 25: Marjorie Prunty, 83, Sioux Falls, S.D.

March

March 3: Edward DeBates, 90, Luverne.
March 10: Albert Mulder, 96, Ellsworth.
March 11: Lance Meyer-aan, 6 months, Sheldon, Iowa.
March 13: Annie Boll, 91, Luverne; Patricia Mills, 64, Luverne.

March 15: Rosella Dammer, 84, Worthington.
March 18: Wilma Jeffer, 74, Luverne.
March 19: Ray Merry, 88, Plymouth.
March 25: Joy Sprecher, 95, Luverne; Frank Boerema, 70, Sioux Falls, S.D.
March 26: Marion Lundergard, 91, Sioux Falls, S.D.
March 28: Henry Schmidt, 88, Luverne.

April

April 1: Lois Kindt, 86, Hardwick.
April 3: Frances Sandager, 101, Hills.
April 5: Ignacio Lomeli, 51, Luverne.
April 6: Shirley Mollberg, 89, Luverne.
April 9: Vance Ebert, 94, Luverne; Rhett Boltjes, infant, Lismore.
April 11: Douglas VanHeerde, 57, Venice, Fla.
April 14: Jacob Gonnerman, 28, Luverne.
April 16: Charles Holm, 86, Luverne.
April 17: Stanley Rolph, 77, Pipestone.
April 19: Cathryn Hoeck, 91, Luverne.
April 21: Wyona Drenth, 87, Ellsworth.
April 23: Donna Edmundson, 80, Garretson, S.D.
April 27: Walter Baustian Jr., 84, Luverne.
April 29: Alma Krogman, 101, Lismore.

May

May 1: June Erlandson, 92,

Worthington.
May 2: Jason Kroon, 47, Steen.
May 3: Jere Ohme, 71, Luverne.
May 4: Carol Cooper, 88, Albert Lea.
May 6: Edward Lens, 84, Brandon, S.D.
May 7: Dennis Brady, 69, Sioux Falls, S.D.
May 9: Vivian Mueller, 96, Adrian.
May 10: Audrey Walgrave, 92, Luverne.
May 11: Ruth Ashby, 101, Luverne; Sheldon Sandager, 94, Hills.
May 12: Wendell Bengtson, 87, Hills.
May 15: Kenneth Wendt, 91, Chandler, Ariz.
May 22: Goldie Boelman, 96, Luverne.
May 23: John De Jager, 78, Edgerton.
May 31: Jayne Boelman, 64, Seattle, Wash.

June

June 1: Gwendolyn Sells, 92, Hills.
June 3: Diana Reisdorfer, 57, Adrian.
June 7: Sister Mariella Hinkly, 95, Rochester; Diana O'Toole, Madison, Wis.
June 8: Katherine "Kay" Franklin, 102, Luverne; Marvin Rust, 88, Magnolia.
June 9: Esther Farwick, 97, Luverne; Calene Birky Williams, 59, Roseville, Calif.
June 13: Christina "Toots" Vanperen, 97, Luverne.
June 15: Clara DeZeeuw, 94, Luverne.
June 17: Angeline Willers, 87, Brandon, S.D.

Births published in 2018

Johanna.
March 25: Tyler and Britny Paulsen, Steen, a boy, Kolt Matthias.

April

April 2: TJ and Jenn Barron, Luverne, twins, a boy, Lucah Alexander, and a girl, Laina Grace.
April 15: Ian and Anna Sandager, Hills, a girl, Marie Christine.

May

May 10: Dave and Lynae Dreessen, Sioux Falls, S.D., a boy, Finn David.

June

June 20: Matt and Justine Sandbulte, Beaver Creek, a boy, Rollee Jay.

July

(none reported)

August

Aug. 11: T.J. and Angela Newgard, Luverne, a boy,

June 18: Bernard Jacobsma, 79, Luverne.
June 19: Robert Wassenaar, 68, Steen.
June 21: Joyce Feldman, 72, George, Iowa.
June 24: Johanna Aykens, 98, Steen; Ruth Chovancek, 87, Plymouth.
June 25: Mary Jenniges, 92, Ellsworth.
June 27: Olive Greve, 98, Luverne.
June 30: Bert Den Herder, 94, Edgerton; Georgiana Hoven, 87, Rock Rapids, Iowa.

July

July 3: Donna Gertz, 91, West Fargo, N.D.
July 7: Colleen Thomas, 72, Luverne.
July 11: Ella Barber, 92, Luverne; Brian Jansma, 54, Sioux Falls, S.D.
July 15: William DeBates, 82, Luverne.
July 17: Helen Beckman, 98, Worthington; Susan Hert, 62, Luverne; Judith Ann Reese, 76, Worthington; James Reisch, 72, Luverne.
July 18: David Bergman, 68, Luverne.
July 24: Gladys Hemme, 88, Luverne; Gladys Blom, 83, Luverne; Cindy Barnard, 70, Luverne.
July 25: Dianne Thompson, 73, Sioux Falls, S.D.
July 28: Hazel Kortleever, 88, Luverne; Jordan DeGroot, 25, Magnolia.
July 30: Daniel Kopp, 60, Luverne; Margaret Klinsing, 69, Ihlen.

August

Aug. 2: Paul Rud, 82, Luverne.

Bode Thomas.
Aug. 29: Thomas and JoAnne Beimers, Edina, a girl, Charlotte Reine.

September

(none reported)

October

Oct. 2: Joel and Beth Wohnoutka, Sykesville, Md., a boy, William Orlando.
Oct. 9: Chris and Tracey Bringe, Plymouth, a boy, Tanner Anthony.
Oct. 29: Alan and Pastor Maggie Berndt-Dreyer, Hills, a boy, Simon David.
Oct. 30: David and Amelia Brake, Wilmont, a girl, Vera Pearl.

November

Nov. 26: Chris and Meghan Zylstra, Beaver Creek, a boy, Mason John.

December

(none reported)



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president
Rock County Historical Society

Luverne and Hardwick residents are all asked to have their wastepaper - newspapers, magazines, etc. tied in bundles and placed at the curbs in front of their homes as early as possible Friday. Make the bundles small enough so the boys can handle them, Scout leaders urge.
Anyone having large

amounts requiring special pick-up should call 505.

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

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to manmade@iw.net.

BUSINESS NEWS

Sherwood Cattle Co. raises national champion bull

HILB/SHER Data Breach, a Simmental bull bred and raised at the Sherwood Cattle Co. of Magnolia, was crowned grand champion Simmental bull at the 45th North American International Livestock Exposition Oct. 30-Nov. 15 in Louisville, Kentucky. NAILE is the largest all-breed, purebred livestock event in the world with 10 livestock divisions and nearly 30,000 entries.



Submitted photo

Amanda Hilbrands (far right) with Hilbrands Cattle Co., Clara City, holds the bull with (pictured, from left) Mark Hilbrands, Cory Norman, Jay Schreck, Trey Jass, Matt Pearson, Cody Sherwood, Jake Scott and Jason Anderson.

Aug. 3: Lester Mahaffay, 76, Monona, Wis.; Karl-Heinz Evers, 90, Marshall.
Aug. 8: Wendell Erickson, 93, Hills.
Aug. 11: June Nath, 97, Luverne; Phyllis Williams, 75, Tampa, Fla.
Aug. 13: Beatrice Hoffman, 98, Worthington.
Aug. 14: Daryel Buss, 76, Luverne.
Aug. 21: Brian Cox, 32, Luverne.
Aug. 23: Bernice Willems, 89, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Aug. 28: Jean Mitchell, 76, Soldier, Kan.
Aug. 31: Sid Qualley, 84, Eau Claire, Wis.

September

Sept. 1: Clifford Boom, 70, Beaver Creek.
Sept. 3: Francis "Tony" Haper, 86, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Sept. 25: Geraldine Hamann, 85, Bloomington; Jon Bot, 62, Sioux Falls, S.D.

October

Oct. 2: Pamela Bosch, 46, Steen.
Oct. 3: Dolores Strasburg, 95, Luverne.
Oct. 5: Virginia Allen, 71, Luverne.
Oct. 8: Mario Esposito Jr., 73, Luverne; Marinus Cross, 83, Luverne.
Oct. 11: Albert DePauw Jr., 75, Sioux Falls, S.D.
Oct. 13: Rodney Stone, 62, Luverne.
Oct. 14: Judith Reis, 68, Columbus, Ga.
Oct. 15: Gerald Madison, 77, Adrian.
Oct. 16: John Krogmann,

91, Luverne.
Oct. 21: April Lavoie, 26, Adrian.
Oct. 24: Ronald Griffin, 87, Luverne.
Oct. 25: James Smith, 63, Beaver Creek.
Oct. 26: Russell Harmsen, 95, Pipestone.
Oct. 28: Wanda Pendley, 60, Ellsworth.
Oct. 30: Ruth Mary Welch, 93, Worthington.

November

Nov. 2: Frederick Von Der Lieth, 82, Beaver Creek.
Nov. 4: Zachery Cowell, 26, Luverne.
Nov. 10: Mary Bullerman, 72, Thief River Falls.
Nov. 12: Ronald Mulder, 82, Luverne; Robert Cannefax, 84, Gold Canyon, Ariz.
Nov. 14: Donald Schmuck Sr., 92, Luverne; Richard Halsne, 76, Ruthton.
Nov. 19: Donald Buntjer, 82, Worthington.
Nov. 28: Darlene Matus, 84, Beaver Creek.
Nov. 30: Virginia Campbell, 94, Rock Rapids, Iowa; Raymond Veldhuizen, Ellsworth; Matthew Lorenzen, 19, Rapid City, S.D.

December

Dec. 1: Pauline Blom, 91, Luverne.
Dec. 8: Carol Burtness, 79, Solvang, Calif.
Dec. 17: Margaret Emery, 80, Luverne.
Dec. 19: Leslie Kleinke, 86, Blaine.
Dec. 22: Wallace Schmuck, 90, Luverne.

DEATH NOTICE

Wallace Schmuck

Wallace Schmuck, 90, Luverne, died Saturday, Dec. 22, 2018, at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne.

A funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 26, at Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne with visitation from 8:30 a.m. to the time of the service. Burial will be in Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

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

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The Towne Square development on the former Sharkee's lot will include two 27-unit apartment buildings to prepare for workers coming to Luverne. The buildings along Hatting Street will have a mix of one- and two-bedroom units.

Top Star Herald stories of 2018/continued from page 2

In addition, the company agreed to pay \$6.76 million for necessary upgrades to Luverne's wastewater facilities due to the plant's sewage load into the city's system.

The company plans to hire 250 production workers (at \$13 to \$20 per hour) in Luverne. That number could increase to more than 300 employees, depending on growth.

This was good news on the heels of the devastating 2017 announcement that **Pilgrim's Pride** would close its poultry processing plant at year's end.

Now it is hoped some of those 200 displaced workers can find employment with the new processor in Luverne.

Where will the workers live?

All these jobs will mean workers will need places to live, and 2018 headlines are peppered with announcements of new housing development.

The **Towne Square** mixed use development will bring retail, office space, restaurants and apartments together on the 4-acre lot previously occupied by Sharkee's (which closed) and Mert's Repair (which moved to the industrial park).

Business tenants remain to be named, but immediate attention is fixed on two 27-unit apartment buildings to prepare housing for workers coming to Luverne.

The two residential buildings along Hatting Street will each have 4,000 square feet and will be two levels.

It was hoped that construction would start this year on those units, but wet weather delayed progress, and the underground infrastructure

is now in place for a 2019 ground breaking.

Meanwhile, the city rezoned the grassy area east of the pool from commercial to residential to allow for twin homes to be built along the inside circle of **Roundwind Drive**.

Merlin Cleveringa this year has built four twin homes in the neighborhood, one of them for himself and his wife, Carol.

More twin homes are under construction in the Veterans Addition, and a four-plex is planned for a previously blighted area on East Bark Street.

In other housing news, the city purchased seven acres north of Rock County Opportunities last summer and designated it for housing in the new **Reisch Addition** (named for the family of Marcel Reisch, who once had an acreage there). Local developers Dan Serie, Melissa Sterrett and Diane Weick doing business as SW Design Build Inc. have an agreement with the city to build three 1,400-square foot twin homes on three lots in the new housing addition.

Who will care for the children?

Housing for workers is one piece of the local economic puzzle. Child care for working families has risen to the top of the priority list for city planners.

According to a supply and demand gap analysis, a potential need for 111 child care slots in the Luverne area are needed, but rate structures don't support a child care center.

For this reason, local community leaders are joining forces with interested organizations to seek

solutions. Because, as Child Care Committee member Barb Berghorst puts it, the child care shortage will throttle growth.

"Businesses and communities can't grow and thrive if there aren't enough child care options available. If businesses can't hire workers because there's no child care, it's an economic development crisis," she said.

The unseen toll can be noted in the personal stress on families struggling to make ends meet.

"It's driving the overall labor shortage in rural Minnesota," she said. "We want them to live here and we want our school census to rise, but there's a fundamental gap between what it costs to run a child care center and what people are able to pay."

Mayor Pat Baustian said the council is becoming more open to the notion that a successful community child care center will need to be a subsidized operation to improve the economy and community vitality.

"This is our No. 1 priority, and it's a quality of life issue," Baustian said. "But it's been shown time and again that it can't happen solely with private funding."

\$31 million school referendum delayed

Voters approved a \$31 million school referendum last year for capital improvements and facility expansions.

They approved two ballot measures, \$16 million to improve the 1950s-era high school buildings, \$7 million to build a new performing arts center and \$8 million for health and

Top stories of 2018/see page 16

Fraser Norton retires/ continued from page 1

"He's the kind of person who will support the farmer under any circumstance, sometimes bypassing bureaucracy," said Magnolia farmer Gary Overgaard.

"If a farmer was in trouble, he'd work his rear end off to help the guy out — beyond the scope of the USDA."

For this reason, Norton was often at odds with the federal agency that was stacked levels deep with management and administrative policies.

"I was prepared to bend the rules, but not break them," Norton said. "I interpreted the rules to the benefit of the farmers."

Overgaard was on the Rock County Extension Committee when Norton started.

"I had reservations about hiring a guy from South Africa, not knowing who he is and how he would adapt to agriculture and in the states and in Rock County — and not knowing how Rock County farmers would accept him, for that matter," Overgaard said.

"But he had all the credentials we were looking for; in fact, he was probably over-qualified for the position. ... He could have gone to work at a top college or university with his experience."

Norton graduated summa cum laude from the Glen College of Agriculture in South Africa where he owned and operated two farms, producing beef, dairy, chicory, wool and mohair.

He earned a bachelor's degree (summa cum laude) in accounting and economics from Rhodes University and went on to complete his Master of Commerce Degree in economics.

His thesis, "Marketing of Mohair in South Africa," led to a complete restructure of the mohair marketing system in South Africa a year later.

He and his then-wife, Jo (Sandager), moved to the United States in 1994 when they realized their children would have limited economic opportunities in South Africa due to political unrest.

At the time he started in Rock County Extension, Norton was working for his in-laws near Hills and had few Rock County connections outside of the Sandager family.

"They really took a chance hiring a foreigner with an accent," Norton said.

"Not only did they take a chance on me, but they've stood by me through good times and in bad."

Overgaard said he and the Extension Board — and most Rock County farmers — were pleased with their hire.

"We haven't regretted it for a minute. He's been every bit as good as we hoped he'd be and better," Overgaard said. "He's been a good fit for our county and for the whole state for that matter."

Norton said he felt he best served the community when all the government agriculture offices were located in the Rock County Land Management building.

They included the Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency and at one time the Extension office, Norton's former position.

Rock County SWCD/Land

Management assistant director Doug Bos said Norton was a valuable local resource.

"He always had the producer's best interest in mind, starting when he worked extension and continued when he took the FSA director position," Bos said.

"He would bend over backward to provide the best and fairest assistance to farmers — even if it put him at odds with his superiors higher in government. ... Farmers knew he would go to bat for them if the prescribed government process created unreasonable issues for them."

The Rock County FSA office, at the direction of federal administration, moved from the SWCD/Rock County Land Management in July of 2017.

Norton said it had an immediate impact on service for farmers.

"My biggest regret, without a doubt, is leaving the Soil and Water Conservation office in the old building," Norton said.

He said farmers today do plenty of their own research online and they lean on commercial agronomists for advice.

But Norton said these experts are paid to sell a product. "Our information is offered without bias," Norton said.

FSA program technician Stacey Roemen worked with Norton during his tenure in both Extension and FSA.

"Fraser has always had the best interest of the staff and producers at heart, both in FSA and Extension," she said.

"He was always willing to put in the extra hours to get the job done — be it for FSA, Extension or the Rock County Fair. He was farmer-friendly and treated everyone fairly."

Personally, she said her office won't be the same without him.

"It's been a privilege to work for him over the past years," Roemen said. "The office will definitely miss him and we wish him many years of happy fishing."

Overgaard shared similar sentiments.

"He's one of those guys you can't help but like," he said. "He has his quirks, and I do, too, but he'd give the shirt off his back for a friend. He's as loyal a friend as you'll ever find; his word is good."

Fraser and Jo divorced several years after moving back to the area, and both are remarried.

Their children, Sheldon, Carolyn and Andrew were 16, 14 and 11, when they moved to Hills in 1994. They are grandchildren of the late Sheldon and Ellie Sandager.

Norton's wife, Cookie (Sally), is a dental hygienist in Roseau and will join him in his retirement, starting with two months in South Padre Island.

"I've had incredible support from the farmers I've worked with in all three counties (Rock, Roseau and recently, Pipestone)," Norton said.

"I'm especially grateful for the Extension Committee and the County Committee."



Tru Shrimp remains the shining star in the local economic development scene with more than \$100 million in construction and 100 jobs on the horizon. The combination of the harbor, hatchery and accompanying water, electrical and gas distribution facilities are planned for 60 acres along the north side of I-90 in Luverne's industrial park.

New Vision conducts annual meeting

About 280 members and guests attended the 20th annual New Vision Co-op annual meeting and reception Dec. 10 in the Worthington Event Center.

According to the audit report, New Vision Co-op's total sales for the year ending Aug. 31, 2018, were \$417,193,139 and annual net income was \$3,264,300.

The audit showed \$844,732 of the annual income was paid to members in cash and \$844,732 was allocated as equity. The remaining \$1,215,580 was retained by New Vision as unallocated equity.

In order to rebalance board term expirations according to New Vision bylaws, the directors unanimously appointed Kevin Schaefer to District 3 and Danny Smith to District 4 to serve two-year terms beginning at the 2018 annual meeting and ending at the 2020 annual meeting.

Incumbent directors reelected to three-year terms were Mark Overgaard, District 1, Chad Wieneke, District 2 and Kelly Dunkelberger, District 4. They ran unopposed.

Jonas Pizzatto, FC Stone commodity broker in Brazil, attended the meeting via

SKYPE to report on agriculture in Brazil.

Dean Knips, New Vision Co-op's IT manager, demonstrated the new website scheduled to go live in January 2019.

Members learned about the New Vision 2018 membership loyalty program.

Members who return their original, endorsed patronage check to New Vision offices at Hills Terminal, Brewster or Jeffers and apply it to prepaid agronomy or prepaid feed products or services will also receive the 50 percent portion of their 2018 allocated equity applied to their account.

The directors said it was important for New Vision to provide extra value due to difficult 2018 crop production. Chairman Hansberger also recognized New Vision Co-op employees for their effort throughout the year and asked members to direct job applicants to New Vision.

Frank McDowell, CEO, discussed seasonal elevator operations at Beaver Creek, Adrian and Reading, reviewed New Vision's 20-year history and answered questions.

The 2019 annual meeting is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 9.

Luverne Area Community Foundation announces Fall 2018 grant recipients

The Luverne Area Community Foundation awarded \$36,418 during its 2018 fall grant cycle.

This is in addition to the spring grants that totaled \$33,808, bringing the total LACF 2018 grants to more than \$70,000.

Health care grants were awarded to:

- Sanford Luverne Medical \$6,715 for two Nara nursery bassinets.

- Luverne Backpack Program \$5,000 for weekend nutrition needs for students.

- Good Samaritan Mary Jane Brown Home \$2,755 for a pivot bed.

- SHARE Program \$1000 for meal assistance for senior citizens.

General fund grants went to:

- Blue Mound Area Theater \$1,350 for diaper changing stations and movie theater booster seats,

- Rock County Ag Society \$2,500 for Wild Things Petting Zoo for 2019 free fair offering,

- Rock Ranch \$2,095 for riding equipment for youth equestrian experience.

- Luverne Street Music \$1,600 for music and production of community Christmas cantata.

- Rock County Sportsman's Club \$4,000 for assistance with Rural Water hook-up.

- Luverne Elementary Music \$570 for third- and fourth-grade symphony experience.

Twice yearly the Luverne Area Community Foundation accepts applications for funds that will enhance the quality of

life in the areas of arts and humanities, community and civic affairs, social and economic growth, environment, support for youth through senior citizens and health and wellness.

Nonprofits, government agencies and academic and research institutions located in Rock County are eligible to request support from the Luverne Area Community Foundation.

Deadline for 2019 spring grants is March 31.

LACF will soon launch an online only web application with information available in February at www.luvacf.org. Questions can be directed to Emily Crabtree, Executive Director LACF, 507-220-2424 or stop in at the office at 102 East Main Street in Luverne.

Cardinals hold off H-BC

By John Rittenhouse

The 2018 version of the Rock County rivalry game between Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball teams turned into an exciting contest Thursday in Luverne.

Luverne was on the verge of coasting to a comfortable win when the Cardinals sported a 16-point lead with 11:34 left to play, but the Patriots made things interesting before the game was complete.

H-BC rallied late in the game to trim the difference to three points at three different occasions, but LHS withstood the challenge to secure a 60-54 win and defeat the Patriots for the second consecutive season.

Luverne got off to a strong start as Brayden Jacobsma drained a three-point shot 1:56 into the game to give the hosts a 5-0 lead, but the Patriots countered with a 6-2 surge ending with a three-point play from Wyatt Westrum to trim the difference to one point (7-6) 60 seconds later.

H-BC trailed by four (14-10) when Luverne went on a 7-0 run capped by a field goal from Derek Lundgren to open a 21-10 advantage at the 8:15 mark of the first half.

H-BC's Jax Wysong converted a field goal with 6:56 remaining to make it a seven-point difference (21-14), but the Cards countered with an 8-4 spurt ending with a field goal from Lundgren at 3:10 to make it an 11-point (29-18) difference.

The Patriots blanked LHS the rest of the first half and trailed by seven (29-22) after Easton Harnack registered a field goal in the final minute of the stanza.

H-BC scored the first four points of the second half to trail 29-26 when Westrum hit a shot at the 16:44 mark of the stanza, but the next five minutes belonged to the Cardinals.



John Rittenhouse photo/1227 lh bb 14
Luverne junior Matt Sehr eludes H-BC defender Wyatt Westrum as the Cardinal drives to the basket during Thursday's game in Luverne. The Cardinals posted a 60-54 win over H-BC.

Hold/continued on page 10

Luverne hockey girls win two of three BSC contests

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne girls' hockey team put together a 2-1 record during a three-game week.

The Cardinals notched a six-goal home win over Windom Dec. 18 before besting Worthington by two goals in Worthington Thursday.

Waseca handed the Cardinals a one-goal setback in Waseca Friday, leaving LHS with a 9-3-2 record heading into the Schwan Cup in Blaine Dec. 26-28.

Waseca 4, Luverne 3

The Bluejays saddled the Cardinals with their second Big South Conference loss of the season when the teams met in Waseca Friday.

LHS defeated Waseca 6-0 when the teams met in Luverne

Dec. 8, but the Bluejays turned things around by scoring the first three goals of the rematch before fending off a late LHS challenge.

The teams skated to a scoreless draw in the first period before Waseca received a pair of goals from Jayde Pederson and one from Sierah Bakken in the first 6:13 of the second period to open a 3-0 cushion.

Luverne's Rylee Gee made it a 3-1 game with 9:58 left in the second stanza, but Pederson completed her hat trick for Waseca with 3:19 remaining to give the Bluejays a 4-1 cushion heading into the third period.

Brynn Thier scored 4:14 into the third stanza and

Kamryn Van Batavia made it a 4-3 game with 1:40 left to play, but the Cardinals were unable to produce a fourth tally.

Mallory Von Tersch made 21 saves for an LHS squad that was outshot 25-14 in the game.

Reghan Bork charted two assists for LHS, while Van Batavia and Rozilyn Oye notched one each.

Luverne 4, WHS 2

A two-goal third period gave the Cardinals a two-goal win when they took on the Trojans in Worthington Thursday.

The teams exchanged goals in the first two periods of play, which came to an end with the score knotted at two.

Hockey/continued on page 11



John Rittenhouse photo/1227 lgh 3
Luverne eighth-grader Kamryn Van Batavia pokes her stick at a puck controlled by Windom's Katrina LeCanne during a Dec. 18 game in Luverne. The Cards rolled to a 7-1 victory.

Patriots post key RRC victory Friday

By John Rittenhouse

A rematch of last season's South Section Girls' Basketball Tournament championship game had a different outcome Friday night.

Southwest Christian defeated Hills-Beaver Creek in the title tilt last March, but the Patriots gained their revenge in Hills Friday.

H-BC outscored the E-Gals in both halves of a 72-54 victory.

H-BC gained the upper hand in the opening half by sporting a 34-27 advantage after 18 minutes of play.

The Patriots went on to outscore the E-Gals 38-27 in the second stanza to prevail by 18 points at game's end.

Sidney Fick, who missed a good share of the first half due to foul trouble, tossed in 19 of her team-high 21 points in the second half.

Whitney Elbers (13 points, 15 rebounds, three assists and five blocked shots), Abby Knobloch (13 points and three assists) and Taryn Rauk (10 points and five rebounds) also played well offensively for the winners.

Grace Bundesen (eight rebounds and three assists), Madison Spath (five rebounds) and Kenadie Fick (four assists) made key contributions as well for the 9-0 Patriots, who play in Adrian Friday.

Box score

K.Fick 2 0 0-4, Rauk 5 0 0-2 10, Spath 1 0 0-2, Knobloch 5 1 0-2 13, S.Fick 4 2 7-7 21, Bundesen 1 2 1-2 9, LaRock 0 0 0-0 0, Elbers 6 0 1-1 13.

Team statistics

H-BC: 29 of 62 field goals (47 percent), nine of 14 free throws (64 percent), 42 rebounds, 23 turnovers.
SWC: 17 of 71 field goals (24 percent), 18 of 20 free throws (90 percent), 28 rebounds, 18 turnovers.

Cowell places sixth at weekend event

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne Cardinal wrestling team made an appearance at the Redwood River Riot staged Friday and Saturday in Redwood Falls.

Athletes representing 35 teams competed individually at the tournament, where LHS placed 32nd in the team standings with 14 points.

Fairmont-Martin County West claimed the team title with 249 points.

Sophomore Riley Cowell emerged as the lone place-winner out of six entries at

the event.

Competing at 106 pounds, Cowell went 3-3 and placed sixth.

Brayden Ripka picked up another win for LHS at 132 pounds, where he went 1-2 without placing.

Abraham Hernandez (113), Zach Bradley (145), Dalton DeSollar (152) and Jed Dooyema (160) went 0-2 at the tournament.

The Cardinals return to Redwood Falls for a triangular meet Jan. 3.



John Rittenhouse photo/1227 gym 4
Luverne senior Melissa Teal registered a 6.0 score on the bars during a home win over the Pipestone Arrows Dec. 18. LHS completes the 2018 portion of its schedule with a 5-3 record.

Gymnastics team completes 2018 slate with win over Arrows

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne gymnastics team completed competition in 2018 by hosting a meet in Luverne High School Dec. 18.

LHS entertained the Pipestone Arrows for a non-conference contest.

The night belonged to the Cardinals, who had athletes capture all four titles in every event to highlight a 126.1-118.35 victory.

Junior Meghan Witte led the Cardinals to victory by winning three events and taking top honors in the all-around competition with a 32.725 tally.

Witte claimed the vault (9.0), bars (8.0) and floor (8.925) championships.

Luverne's Madigan Flom made it a clean sweep for the



John Rittenhouse photo/1227 gym 9

Sydney Wicks completes her floor routine during a home win over Pipestone Dec. 18.

Cards by winning the beam competition with an 8.3.

Anna Huisman had a solid night for the hosts by placing second on the beam (7.75), bars (7.3) and floor (8.45).

Huisman also placed second all-around with 32.05 points.

Luverne's Meghan Mollberg placed second on the vault and third on the floor with respective 8.825 and 7.95 efforts.

Melissa Teal placed fourth on the vault with an 8.6.

The 5-3 Cardinals return to action Jan. 4 by hosting a triangular.

Individual results

Vault: Witte, 9.0; Mollberg, 8.825; Teal, 8.6; Huisman, 8.55; Sydney Wicks, 7.8.
Beam: Flom, 8.3; Huisman, 7.75; Wicks, 7.4; Mollberg, 6.95; Witte, 6.8.
Bars: Witte, 8.0; Huisman, 7.3; Teal, 6.0; Flom, 5.45; Cedar Viessman, 5.3.
Floor: Witte, 8.925; Huisman, 8.45; Mollberg, 7.95; Flom, 7.65; Wicks, 7.55.

Cardinals win two of three contests

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne boys' hockey team went 2-1 during a span of playing three games in five days last week.

The Cardinals posted a six-goal home win over Windom Dec. 18 and bested Worthington by two goals in Worthington Thursday.

St. Cloud Cathedral kept the Cardinals from going 3-0 during the stretch by upending LHS by seven goals at the Blue Mound Ice Arena Friday.

Luverne, 4-4 overall, plays at the South St. Paul Tournament Dec. 26-28.

SSC 8, Luverne 1

The Cardinals had a unique opportunity to spring an upset on the state's top-ranked Class A team when the Crusaders paid a visit to Luverne Friday.

Unfortunately for Luverne, the 9-0 Crusaders lived up to their billing.

SSC controlled the puck through most of the contest and outshot the Cardinals 69-10 during a seven-goal trouncing of the hosts.

The game was a competitive one through 17 minutes of play, with SSC sporting a 2-1 edge.

The Crusaders limited LHS to one shot on goal in each of the final two periods and netted six unanswered goals to lock up a convincing win.

Ethan Cumming gave the Crusaders a 1-0 lead 3:40 into the game, but the Cards knotted the score at one when Gaige Nath poked the puck in the net after being set up by Colby Crabtree 1:06 later.

The score remaining tied until there was 1:02 left in the opening period, when Jack Smith scored his first of two goals for the Crusaders.

SCS put the game away with a five-goal second period that started with Cullen Hiltner, Jackson Savoie and Smith find-



John Rittenhouse photo/1227 lhb 8

Junior Colby Crabtree registered Luverne's lone assist during Friday's 8-1 hockey loss to St. Cloud Cathedral at the Blue Mound Ice Arena. LHS posted wins over Windom and Worthington.

ing the net in the first 6:25 of the stanza,

Blake Perbis added a power-play tally at the 8:31 mark before Savoie capped the scoring in the stanza with a goal that made it 7-1 with 6:25 remaining.

Hiltner scored the game's final goal 2:05 into the third period.

Shaïd Shearer saved 61 of the 69 shots he faced in goal for the Cardinals.

Luverne 4, WHS 2

The Cardinals came out on the winning end of a two-goal decision when they challenged the Trojans in Worthington Thursday.

The teams battled to a draw at two through two periods of play, but the Cardinals reg-

istered a pair of third-period goals to claim the victory.

Mark Sterrett gave the Cards a 3-2 edge when he registered a short-handed, unassisted tally 6:36 into the third period.

Ben Serie, who recorded a hat trick for LHS, added an insurance goal with an unassisted tally with 4:52 left to play.

Worthington's Lody Themontry gave the hosts a 1-0 lead with 5:42 remaining in the first period before Serie knotted the score at one with a power-play goal before the period was complete.

Colby Nickel put the Trojans in front 2-1 2:49 into the second period, but Serie tied the game again with an unassisted goal that came with 7:43 remaining in the period.

Luverne outshot the Trojans

50-21 in the game.

Shearer made 19 saves in net for the Cards, while Sterrett registered the team's lone assist in the contest.

LHS 8, Windom 2

The Cardinals overcame a rough start to register a six-goal home win over the Eagles Dec. 18.

Luverne and Windom exchanged goals in a first period that ended in a deadlock at two, but the Cards netted six unanswered goals in the final two periods to win the game handily.

Sterrett led the Cards with a hat trick, while Serie and Crabtree netted two goals each for an LHS squad that outshot the

Cards/continued on page 11

Edwards pins his way to third-place finish

By John Rittenhouse

The Adrian wrestling team completed competition in 2018 by attending the Redwood River Riot in Redwood Falls Friday and Saturday.

Seven Dragons competed individually at the tournament, which attracted 35 teams.

Adrian placed 25th in the team standings with 33.5 points.

Fairmont-Martin County West claimed the team championship with 249 points.

Scot Edwards proved to be the lone Dragon to place at the tournament.

Competing at 285, Edwards went 4-1 to finish third in the weight class.

Edwards registered four first-period pins during the event, which included him being pinned in the semifinals.

Adrian's Brayan Anaya and Logan Taylor went 2-2 without placing at 106 and 126 respectively.

Isaac Bullerman (132), Brody Loosbrock (138), Preston Nelson (160) and Max Lehmann (285) went 0-2 at the event.

Adrian competes at a triangular meet in New Richland Jan. 4.

Hold/continued from page 9

Luverne went on an 18-5 run to open a 47-31 advantage when Carter Stemper drained a three-point shot with 11:34 left to play.

A spirited rally by the Patriots made the final 10 minutes of the game interesting.

A 16-4 run ending with a field goal from Harnack with 4:46 remaining made it a 51-47 game.

The Patriots proceeded to trim the difference to three points at three different occasions (53-50, 55-52 and 57-54) as the game progressed, but Jacobsma sank four free throws and Stemper buried another in the final 27 seconds to seal a six-point win for the Cardinals.

Lundgren led the Cardinals in scoring with 23 points, while Jacobsma and Stemper chipped in 11 each.

Bailey Cowell and Matt Sehr grabbed six rebounds each

for LHS.

Preston Wilhelmi (18 points and three steals) and Wysong (17 points and seven rebounds) played big games for H-BC, which had a six-game winning streak snapped with the loss.

Kyle Kueter collected 12 caroms and Harnack charted five assists for the Patriots.

Box score

H-BC
Harnack 3 0 1-2 7, Baker 0 0 0-0 0, Westrum 3 0 2-3 8, Wilhelmi 2 4 2-2 18, LaRock 0 0 0-0 0, Susie 0 0 0-0 0, Wysong 5 1 4-7 17, Kueter 2 0 0-1 4.
Luverne
Cowell 2 1 0-1 7, Jacobsma 2 1 4-5 11, DeBates 0 0 0-0 0, Sehr 3 0 0-2 6, Bartels 1 0 0-0 2, Feit 0 0 0-0 0, DeSollar 0 0 0-0 0, Stemper 2 2 1-2 11, Lundgren 8 2 1-2 23.

Team statistics
H-BC: 19 of 51 field goals (37 percent), nine of 15 free throws (60 percent), 32 rebounds, 10 turnovers.
Luverne: 24 field goals made, six of 12 free throws (50 percent), 22 rebounds.

Dragon girls cap field at Wabasso tourney

By John Rittenhouse

The Adrian girls' basketball team dropped a pair of games at the Wabasso Holiday Tournament last week.

Tracy-Milroy-Balaton nipped the Dragons by one point during Thursday's opening game. Red Rock Central saddled AHS with a 35-point setback in the third place game.

Adrian, 4-4 overall, hosts Hills-Beaver Creek Friday.

RRC 52, Adrian 17

A rough second half for the Dragons led to defeat when

they squared off against the Falcons in Friday's third-place game.

Adrian was in contention when it faced a 19-13 deficit at the intermission, but the RRC settled the issue in the second stanza.

RRC outscored the Dragons 33-4 in the final 18 minutes of play to prevail by 35 points.

Bailey Lonneman and Kristina Cauwels pulled down eight and seven rebounds respectively for the Dragons.

Avery Balster led AHS with five points.

that resulted in a 31-17 scoring cushion, but it wasn't enough to keep the Dragons from taking a one-point setback.

Lonneman tossed in 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds to lead the Dragons in both categories.

Moriah Bullerman passed for four assists.

Team statistics
Adrian: 18 of 42 field goals (43 percent), eight of 11 free throws (73 percent), 26 rebounds, 30 turnovers.
T-M-B: 21 of 53 field goals (40 percent), four of 11 free throws (36 percent), 19 rebounds, 14 turnovers.

T-M-B 48, AHS 47

The Dragons opened the tournament by dropping a heart-breaking game to the Panthers Thursday.

T-M-B controlled play in the first half and sported a 31-16 advantage at the intermission.

Adrian put together an impressive rally in the second half


Box score
J.Zebe 0 0 0-0 0, B.Zebe 0 0 0-0 0, Bullerman 1 0 0-0 2, Balster 1 1 0-0 5, Nelson 0 0 0-0 0, Preuss 1 0 0-0 2, Lonneman 2 0 0-0 4, Cauwels 2 0 0-2 4, Lehnhoff 0 0 0-0 0, Grussing 0 0 0-0 0, Rogers 0 0 0-0 0.

Box score
J.Zebe 3 1 0-0 9, B.Zebe 0 0 0-0 0, Bullerman 2 1 2-2 9, Balster 1 0 3-5 5, Nelson 1 0 1-1 3, Preuss 1 1 2-2 7, Lonneman 5 0 0-0 10, Cauwels 1 0 0-0 2, Lehnhoff 0 0 0-0 0, Grussing 1 0 0-0 2, Rogers 0 0 0-1 0.

A REMINDER FROM THE CITY OF LUVERNE STREET DEPARTMENT

It is the responsibility of all motorists to arrange for off-street parking so the Public Works Department can plow the city streets.

Please remove all vehicles from the street if it's snowing or snow is in the forecast.



Vehicles not removed from the street may be ticketed.

WINTER SENIOR ATHLETES OF THE WEEK


Julia Ferguson
Sport: Hockey
Position: Forward
Parents: Kristi Groth & Kevin Ferguson
Favorite Subject: Band
Extra Curricular Activities: Speech, tennis, track, mock trial, band, hockey, plays and work at Luverne Area Chamber
Future Plans: Attend either WSU or UNL.



Jed Dooyema
Sport: Wrestling
Parents: Doug & Pam Dooyema
Favorite Subject: Science
Extra Curricular Activities: Band, student council, football, track, wrestling
Future Plans: College



Charles Reisch
Sport: Hockey
Position: Forward
Parents: Nick Reisch
Favorite Subject: Physical Education
Extra Curricular Activities: Video games, hockey
Future Plans: Work at Reisch Trucking.





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John Rittenhouse photo/1227 lhb 12

Senior Carter Stemper came off the bench to score 11 points during Luverne's 60-54 home win over H-BC Thursday.

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Luverne freshman defenseman Reghan Bork moves the puck around Windom's Allyson Bang during a Dec. 18 game in Luverne. Bork netted two goals to help lift the Cards to a 7-1 win. LHS split BSC games with Worthington and Waseca later in the week.

Hockey/continued from page 9

Luverne, however, scored twice in the final 17 minutes of play to collect the victory.

Oye snapped the deadlock by netting an unassisted tally 3:53 into the third period.

Van Batavia scored the final goal of the game with 6:55 left to play.

Worthington's Makenna Nickel gave the hosts a 1-0 lead 16 seconds into the contest.

Bork tied the score at one with 1:31 remaining in the first period.

Kya Nickel scored 26 seconds into the second period to give the Trojans a 2-1 edge.

Gee tied the game for LHS 1:04 later.

Luverne, which sported a 21-19 advantage in shots on goal in the game, received a 17-save effort from Cheyenne Schutz.

Claire Baustian contributed two assists to the winning cause, while Oye and Van Batavia charted one assist each.

LHS 7, Windom 1

The Cardinals kicked off a busy week by skating to a six-goal win over the Eagles at the Blue Mound Ice Arena Dec. 18.

LHS controlled the game by

scoring at least two goals in every period and outshooting Windom 38-13.

Bork, who led LHS with two goals, opened the scoring with an unassisted tally with 6:40 remaining in the first period.

Baustian upped the lead to 2-0:40 later to cap the scoring in the opening stanza.

Van Batavia registered an unassisted tally 6:17 into the second period to make it a 3-0 game before Ellyson Bang scored Windom's lone goal with 5:53 remaining in the stanza to trim the difference to two (3-1).

LHS erased any chance of a Windom rally when Regan Feit netted a power-play goal with 3:06 left in the second period and Gee added another tally 58 seconds later to give the Cards a 5-1 cushion.

Luverne's Shelby Kracht and Bork netted unassisted goals in the final 10 minutes of the game to wrap up the scoring.

Von Tersch registered 12 saves for the winners.

Van Batavia, Bork, Kracht, Oye, Baustian and Billi Connell added one assist each to the winning cause.

MLA nips Adrian for RRC trophy

By John Rittenhouse

The Adrian boys' basketball team placed second with a 1-1 record at the Red Rock Central Holiday Tournament in Lambert on last week.

The Dragons nipped the host school by three points in Thursday's opening round, but Mountain Lake Area edged Adrian by one point in Saturday's title tilt.

Adrian, 2-4 overall, returns to action by hosting Westbrook-Walnut Grove Jan. 4.

MLA 58, Adrian 57

The Dragons came up on the short end of a one-point decision when they took on the Wolverines

Nip/continued on page 12

Cards/continued from page 10

Eagles 39-31.

Crabtree opened the scoring 7:31 into the game only to have Windom knot the score when Kyle Espenson found the net 1:45 later.

Sterrett registered his first goal with 7:10 left in the opening stanza, but Windom's Vincent Vongsy tied the score at two with a power-play goal that came with 3:15 remaining.

LHS settled the issue by scoring three unanswered goals in each of the final two periods of play.

Serie registered an unassisted goal 11:26 into the second period, Nath added a goal 1:43 later and Sterrett registered a power-play tally with seven seconds left in the stanza to make it 5-2.

Sterrett and Crabtree both scored goals in the first 4:22 of the third period before Serie added a tally with 5:02 left to play to end the scoring in the game.

Shearer made 29 saves in goal for LHS.

Serie and Jacob Von Tersch led the Cards with three assists, while Nath added two.

Mason Steensma, Cooper Arends and Tyler Roberts added one assist each to the



Luverne junior Mason Steensma advances the puck during Friday's hockey game against SCC at the Blue Mound Ice Arena.

winning effort.

Cards gain position to tackle season's No. 1 objective

No winter sports team from the Star Herald coverage area has been more active than the Luverne girls' hockey team.



FROM THE SIDELINES

By John Rittenhouse, sports editor

A two-win week that ended with a surprising loss in Waseca Friday upped Luverne's record to 9-3-2 overall.

The Cards have played 14 games overall since the opener against Morris-Benson Nov. 9, and LHS will play three more games during the Schwan Cup in Blaine Dec. 26-28.

That means when the Cardinals return from the Twin Cities, 17 of the 24 games on their regular season schedule will be complete.

The Cardinals have been busy gals to say the least, but it hasn't seemed to influence their on-ice production.

LHS seems to be well on its way to improving over last year's 16-9-2 overall record.

The Cardinals appear to be poised to improve their positioning in the Big South Conference standings this year. New Ulm leads the league with a 7-1 record, while LHS checks in at 7-2 after placing third in the BSC with 8-5-1 mark last season.

Even more important to everyone involved with the team, the Cardinals have put themselves in a position to accomplish the No. 1 objective established by LHS coach Tony Sandbulte prior to the season.

Sandbulte had high hopes the Cardinals will reach the Section 3A championship game for the first time in three years.

Barring a total collapse, or some unforeseen injuries, I would be surprised if the Cardinals did not advance to the section

title tilt in early February.

The Cardinals sport a 5-0-1 record against section competition at this stage of the season.

The tie came against Mankato East Dec. 15, a team projected to be one of the top contenders for the section title.

Marshall, the defending section champion, is another team expected to challenge for the section title.

The Cardinals nipped the Tigers 5-4 when the teams squared off in Marshall Dec. 4, and LHS will have a chance to sweep the season series with MHS when the teams meet in Luverne Jan. 24.

If LHS does sweep the set with the Tigers, it would be hard for the Cards not to earn the No. 1 or No. 2 seeds for section play, the way I see things playing out.

That's important as the top seed receives a bye before hosting the fourth- or fifth-seeded teams for a section semifinal. The second seed gets home games in the quarterfinals and semifinals.

Every coach believes it's a huge advantage to play tournament games in their home arenas, and the Cardinals can earn that opportunity with a successful month of January.

A lot can happen between now and February, but the Cardinal girls have put themselves in a position to find postseason success during the first two months of the regular season.

If LHS remains healthy and hungry, I have a hunch I'll be covering my first section title game in three years.

MLA upends injury-plagued EHS

By John Rittenhouse

The Ellsworth girls' basketball team wrapped up the 2018 portion of its schedule by hosting Mountain Lake Area in a Red Rock Conference contest Friday in Ellsworth.

The night turned into a rough one for an EHS team hampered by injuries as the Wolverines rolled to a 75-37 victory.

MLA gained control of the contest by outscoring the Panthers 43-13 in the first half.

The Wolverines used a 32-24 scoring advantage in the second half to ice their 38-point conquest.

Morgan Dreesen turned in a six-rebound, four-assist effort for the Panthers, while Brooke Custer collected six caroms.

Lizzie Chapa netted 10 points for the 2-5 Panthers, who host Southwest Christian Jan. 3.

Box score
M.Dreesen 1 0 2-3 4, K.Chapa 0 1 0-0 3, L.Chapa 2 1 3-4 10, Popkes 0 1 0-0 3, Custer 1 2 0-0 8, Smith 2 1 2-2 9.

Team statistics
Ellsworth: 12 of 50 field goals (24 percent), seven of nine free throws (78 percent), 23 rebounds, 19 turnovers.

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HOLIDAY GARBAGE PICKUP

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Happy New Year from the Star Herald staff

Nip/continued from page 11

during Saturday's championship game in Lamberton.

Adrian trailed 29-27 after 18 minutes of play in what was a tightly contested game from beginning to end.

The Dragons sported a three-point cushion late in the contest, but MLA rallied late to pull out a one-point win.

Ian Stamer turned in a standout effort for the Dragons by scoring 24 points and collecting six rebounds.

Christian Weidert collected six caroms and charted four assists for AHS, while Noah Reyne added five rebounds.

Box score
Reyne 20-4-6, Weidert 12-0-18, Stamer 15-7-13 24, John 0-2-0-6, Domeyer 0-0-0-0, Rahe 0-0-0-0, Frodermann 0-0-0-0, Vortherms 0-1-0-3, Schnoor 0-0-0-0, Luettel 4-0-0-8.

Team statistics
Adrian: 18 of 49 field goals (37 percent), 11 of 24 free throws (46 percent), 30 rebounds, 18 turnovers.
MLA: 18 of 49 field goals (37 percent), five of 15 free throws (33 percent), 26 rebounds, 17 turnovers.

Adrian 56, RRC 53

The Dragons reached the championship game of the

tournament by defeating the host school by three points in Lamberton Thursday.

Adrian gained position to collect a win by outscoring RRC 31-17 in the game's first half.

The Falcons sported a 36-25 scoring advantage in the second half, but it wasn't enough to deny the Dragons a berth in the title tilt.

Reyne (12 points, eight rebounds, three assists and five steals) and Weidert (11 points and four steals) turned in key performances for Adrian.

Lance Luettel tossed in a team-high 15 points for the Dragons, while Ian Stamer chipped in 11.

Box score
Reyne 5 0 2-8 12, Weidert 4 1 0-6 11, Stamer 1 3 2-2 13, John 0 0 2-2 2, Domeyer 0 0 0-0 0, Rahe 0 1 0-0 3, Frodermann 0 0-0-0, Vortherms 0 0-0-0, Schnoor 0 0 0-0 0, Luettel 7 0 1-1 15.

Team statistics
Adrian: 22 of 51 field goals (43 percent), seven of 19 free throws (37 percent), 26 rebounds, 20 turnovers.
RRC: 18 of 52 field goals (35 percent), 15 of 19 free throws (79 percent), 25 rebounds, 22 turnovers.

Girls split games with PHS, HL-O-F

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne girls' basketball team split a pair of contests last week.

The Cardinals lost an 11-point game in Pipestone Dec. 18 before routing Heron Lake-Okabena-Fulda by 64 points in Luverne Friday.

Luverne, 5-3 overall, returns to action by hosting Jackson County Central Jan. 3.

LHS 82, HL-O-F 18

The Cardinals experienced little trouble in the process of saddling the Coyotes with a 64-point setback Friday in Luverne.

LHS outscored HL-O-F by comfortable margins in both halves of the game.

The Cards went on a 17-0 run to start the game ending with a field goal from Brooklynn Ver Steeg at the 12:29 mark of the first half.

The Coyotes trimmed the difference to 14 points (19-5) as the half progressed, but that proved to be as close as they would come to catching the Cardinals the rest of the night.

A 26-4 run capped by a field goal from Mallory Thorson made it a 33-point difference (45-12) with 49 seconds remaining before HL-O-F scored the final two points of the half.

The situation didn't get any better in the second half for the Coyotes, who were outscored 37-4 in the final stanza.

Ver Steeg (26 points, eight steals and four assists), Gabrielle Ferrell (20 points and five steals) and Thorson (16 points, five assists and five steals) carried the offensive load for LHS.

Jadyn Anderson charted five steals and Mackenzie Petersen registered four assists for the winners.

Box score
Ver Steeg 10 0 6-10 26, Robinson 0 0 0-0 0, Anderson 1 0 2-2 4, Thorson 6



John Rittenhouse photo/1227 lgb 1

Luverne freshman Brooklynn Ver Steeg snags a rebound during Friday's home basketball game against Heron Lake-Okabena-Fulda. Ver Steeg scored 26 points during an 82-18 win.

0 4-6 16, Sehr 3 0 0-0 6, Nath 0 0 0-0 0, Sweeney 2 0 0-0 4, Petersen 2 0 0-0 4, Ferrell 7 0 6-8 20, Hadler 1 0 0-0 2.

Team statistics
Luverne: 32 field goals made, 18 of 26 free throws (69 percent).
HL-O-F: eight field goals made, one of two free throws (50 percent).

Pipestone 56, LHS 45

The Cardinals received their first Big South Conference setback of the season when they took on the Arrows in

Pipestone Dec. 18.

The home-standing Arrows played well enough to outscore LHS in each half of an 11-point victory.

Pipestone led by five points (20-15) at the intermission before outscoring the Cardinals 36-30 in the final 18 minutes of play.

Thorson led the Cards with 14 points and eight rebounds in the game.

Ver Steeg chipped in 13 points and five rebounds, while Ferrell added 13 points.

Box score
Ver Steeg 6 0 1-7 13, Anderson 0 1 0-0 3, Thorson 5 0 4-9 14, Sehr 0 0 0-0 0, Sweeney 0 0 0-0 0, Petersen 1 0 0-0 2, Ferrell 2 1 6-6 13, Hadler 0 0 0-0 0.

Team statistics
Luverne: 16 field goals made, 11 of 22 free throws (50 percent), 18 rebounds, 16 turnovers.
Pipestone: 20 field goals made, eight of 16 free throws (50 percent).

DEC. 18 SPORTS REPLAY

Patriot girls run RRC record to 4-0

A strong second half lifted the Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team to a convincing 73-38 home win over Murray County Central.

H-BC sported a 29-21 halftime lead before outscoring the Rebels 44-17 in the second half to notch a 35-point win and a fourth consecutive league conquest.

Abby Knobloch (18 points, 11 rebounds, three assists), Whitney Elbers (18 points and eight rebounds), Taryn Rauk (14 points), Sidney Fick (14 points, six rebounds and five steals), Madison Spath (five rebounds) Grace Bundesen (five rebounds and five assists) and Kenadie Fick (five assists) played well in the victory.

H-BC boys extend streak to six straight

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team registered its sixth consecutive victory by disposing of Edgerton 76-52 in Edgerton.

H-BC led 35-26 after 18 minutes of play before outscoring the Flying Dutchmen 41-26 in the second half to clinch a 24-point victory.

Preston Wilhelm (26 points), Kyle Kueter (22 points, eight rebounds and three steals), Jax Wyson (14 points and three assists), Bailey Susie (six rebounds), Cole Baker (three assists and three steals), Wyatt Westrum (four steals) and Easton Harnack (five assists) played key roles in the win.

Dragons take two of three in wrestling quad

The Adrian wrestling team compiled a 2-1 record at the St. James Quadrangular.

The host school saddled AHS with a 42-28 setback, but the Dragons posted wins over St. Clair (66-18) and United South Central (45-33).

Brayan Anaya, Logan Taylor, Isaac Bullerman and Scot Edwards all went 3-0 for AHS.

Adrian boys earn win in Ellsworth

The Adrian boys' basketball team picked up its first win of the season by defeating the Ellsworth Panthers 53-41 in Ellsworth.

AHS led 23-20 after 18 minutes of play before outscoring EHS 30-21 in the second half to complete a 12-point victory.

Christian Weidert (18 points and six rebounds), Noah Reyne (13 points and four steals), Lance Luettel (10 points and six rebounds) and Ian Stamer (six steals, five rebounds and four assists) played strong games for AHS.

Grant Jansma (11 points and five rebounds), Sean Boltjes (11 points) and Brandon Kramer (10 rebounds) led the Panthers.

Cardinal boys dispose of two basketball foes

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne boys' basketball team is riding a run of three wins after topping a pair of opponents last week.

The Cardinals posted a 5-point win in Pipestone Dec. 18 before rolling to a 42-point home victory over Fulda Friday.

Luverne, 5-3 overall, hosts Jackson County Central Jan. 3.

LHS 87, Fulda 45

The Cardinals turned in a commanding performance during Friday's 42-point victory over the Raiders.

Luverne gained control of the contest by opening a 47-27 lead in the first 18 minutes of play.

The Cards went on to outscore Fulda 40-18 in the second half to cap their 43-point rout.

Seniors Derek Lundgren and Brayden Jacobsma led an LHS team that had four players



John Rittenhouse photo/1227 lh 15

Luverne senior Brayden Jacobsma tossed in 19 points during an 87-45 home win over the Fulda Raiders Friday.

score 10 or more points in the game with 19 counters.

Bailey Cowell and Matt Sehr chipped in 16 and 10 points respectively.

Box score
Cowell 4 2 2-2 16, Jacobsma 5 2 3-4 19,

Lundgren 9 0 1-2 19, DeBates 0 0 0-0 0, Sehr 5 0 0-1 10, Bartels 4 0 0-0 8, Feit 2 0 0-0 4, DeSollar 1 0 1-1 3, Cunningham 1 0 0-0 2, McLaughlin 0 0 0-0 0, Stemper 1 0 2-2 4, Beyer 0 0 0-0 0, Golla 0 0 0-0 0, Rops 1 0 0-0 2.

Team statistics
Luverne: 37 field goals made, nine of 12 free throws (75 percent).

Fulda: 13 field goals made, 14 of 25 free throws (56 percent).

LHS 58, Pipestone 53

The Cardinals racked up their first Big South Conference victory of the season when they tangled with the Arrows in Pipestone Dec. 18.

Luverne got off to a good start by opening a 28-20 lead in the game's first half.

Pipestone sported a 33-30 scoring edge in the second half, but it wasn't enough to keep the Cards from registering a five-point win.

Jacobsma (21 points and five rebounds) and Lundgren (10 points and six rebounds) played key roles in the win.

Isaiah Bartels added 13 points to Luverne's cause.

Box score
Cowell 2 1 1-2 8, Jacobsma 2 2 11-15 21, Lundgren 4 0 2-4 10, Sehr 3 0 0-2 8, Bartels 4 0 5-12 13, Stemper 0 0 0-0 0.

Team statistics
Luverne: 18 field goals made, 18 of 33 free throws (55 percent), 19 rebounds.

Dining & Entertainment

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PALACE THEATRE UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec. 28, Dec. 31 7 p.m. **Instant Family** Movie "Instant Family"

Dec. 30, Jan. 1 2 p.m. **Saturday Dec. 29 8 p.m.** Songblast Dueling Guitars \$20 tickets on sale at the Palace Box Office or www.palacetheatre.us

Thursday Jan. 3 6 p.m. **Bank Nite FREE Family Movie "Small Foot"** Sponsored by Papik Motors and First Farmers & Merchants Bank

Jan. 4-5 7 p.m. **Movie "Ralph Breaks the Internet"**

Jan. 6 2 p.m.

Jan. 11-12-7 p.m. Jan. 13-2 p.m. **Movie "Mary Poppins Returns"**

HELD OVER Jan. 18-20

Saturday Feb. 9 8 p.m. **Greg Hanson & The Backroads** \$25 tickets on sale at the Palace Box Office or www.palacetheatre.us (public on sale date: January 7, pre-sale: January 2)

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Palace Theatre Luverne
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WINTER STANDINGS

BSC girls' hockey		BSC West gymnastics	
New Ulm	7-1	Worthington	2-0
Luverne	7-2	JCC	1-0
Marshall	5-1	Windom	1-0
Fairmont	3-4	Luverne	0-0
Minnesota River	2-5	RWV	0-1
Worthington	2-6	Marshall	0-1
Waseca	2-4	Pipestone	0-2
Windom	1-6		
BSC boys' hockey		RRC girls' hoops	
Marshall	7-0	H-BC	5-0
Minnesota River	5-1	MLA	3-0
New Ulm	5-1	Adrian	3-0
Luverne	4-2	SWC	3-1
Waseca	3-3	MCC	3-3
Windom	2-3	RRC	1-2
RWV	1-5	Edgerton	1-3
Worthington	1-7	W-WG	1-3
Fairmont	0-5	Ellsworth	0-4
		HL-O-F	0-4
BSC West boys' hoops		RRC boys' hoops	
RWV	3-0	H-BC	4-0
Worthington	3-1	MLA	4-0
Marshall	2-1	SWC	2-0
Luverne	1-2	W-WG	2-1
Pipestone	1-3	HL-O	1-1
JCC	1-1	MCC	1-1
Windom	0-3	RRC	1-2
		Edgerton	1-2
		Adrian	1-2
		Ellsworth	1-4
		Fulda	0-4
BSC West girls' hoops		BSC West wrestling	
Marshall	3-0	Worthington	2-0
RWV	3-2		
Luverne	1-1		
Pipestone	2-2		
Worthington	2-2		
Windom	1-2		
JCC	0-3		

St. Catherine Catholic Church

203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph.: 283-8502; email: stcatherine@iw.net
 Friday, Dec. 28: 10 a.m. Mass at Mary Jane Brown Home. Saturday, Dec. 29: 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Catherine. Sunday, Dec. 30: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine. CLW. 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Leo. Monday, Dec. 31: Church office open 8 to noon. Tuesday, Jan. 1: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine. 10 a.m. Mass at St. Leo. Office closed.

Luverne Christian Reformed Church

605 N. Estey St., Luverne
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luverncrc.com — office@luverncrc.com
Roger Sparks, Pastor
 Sunday, Dec. 30: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 6:30 p.m. Worship.

First Baptist Church

1033 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne
Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org
Walt Moser, Pastor
 Thursday, Dec. 27: 6 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 8 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3. Sunday, Dec. 30: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Morning Service. 6 p.m. Evening service. Wednesday, Jan. 2: 6:30 p.m. Awana. Thursday, Jan. 3: 6 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 8 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3.

Grace Lutheran Church

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

Ron Nichols, Pastor

Friday, Dec. 28: 6:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Saturday, Dec. 29: 5:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, Dec. 30: 8:15 a.m. Radio Broadcast. 9 a.m. Worship. 10 a.m. Fellowship coffee/treats. No Adult Study. No Sunday School. Monday, Dec. 31: 4:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3.

Bethany Lutheran Church

720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com
 Sunday, Dec. 30: No Sunday School. No Bible Class. 10:15 a.m. Worship.

American Reformed Church

304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne
Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Mike Altena, Pastor
 Friday, Dec. 28: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. 4:30 p.m. REFIT Fitness. Saturday, Dec. 29: Noon Commons reserved. Sunday, Dec. 30: 9:30 a.m. Worship. No Sunday School.

First Assembly of God Church

1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4
 Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School. 10 a.m. Morning Worship. 6:30 p.m. School of the Holy Spirit. Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Kids Connection; Men's Bible Study with Pastor Ken; Women's Bible Study with Pastor Gloria.

United Methodist Church

109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529; email: luverneumc@iw.net
Dorie Hall, Pastor
 Thursday, Dec. 27: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf. Saturday, Dec. 29: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Sunday, Dec. 30: 9 a.m. Coffee Hour and Adult Sunday School. 10 a.m. New United Church Service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible Study. No ALIVE Youth Group. Monday, Dec. 31: 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery Bible Study. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Tuesday, Jan. 1: 8 a.m. Priscilla Circle. Wednesday, Jan. 2: No FUEL/Confirmation classes. 9:30 a.m. Messenger Folding Team. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Thursday, Jan. 3: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf.

First Presbyterian Church

302 Central Lane, Luverne
Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net — www.fpcluverne.com
 Thursday, Dec. 27: 10 a.m. Worship Service on Channel 3. Sunday, Dec. 30: 10:15 a.m. Worship. 11:15 a.m. Coffee time. Tuesday, Jan. 1: 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3. Wednesday, Jan. 2: 3:30 p.m. Youth Club. 5:30 p.m. Bells. 6 p.m. Middle School Fellowship. 6:15 p.m. Choir. 7 p.m. Worship. 7:30 p.m. Property, CE, Stewardship. Thursday, Jan. 3: 10 a.m. Worship Service on Channel 3.

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. Morning Worship.

St. John Lutheran Church

803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 283-2316; email: stjoh@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Gary Klatt, Pastor
 Saturday, Dec. 29: 5:30 p.m. Worship with Rev. Schiller. Sunday, Dec. 30: 9 a.m. Worship. No Sunday School. 1:30 p.m. Worship at Mary Jane Brown Home (Zion). Monday, Dec. 31: 6:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship with Communion. Tuesday, Jan. 1: Church office closed. Wednesday, Jan. 2: No Little Lambs. 9 a.m. Bible Study. 6 p.m. Youth dinner. 6:30 p.m. Catechism. 7 p.m. KFC/High School Youth Group; Senior Choir. 8 p.m. Kingdom Builders. Thursday, Jan. 3: 2 p.m. Women's Society.

Living Rock Church

500 E. Main St., Luverne
Ph. 449-0057; www.livingrockswmn.org
Billy Skaggs, Pastor
 Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship; Kids Rock Children's Ministry. 6 p.m. Youth Ministry. Life groups meet throughout the week.

New Life Celebration Church

110 N. Oakley, Luverne
Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecel@iw.net
 Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship at 110 N. Oakley. Every third Thursday: 4:30 p.m. Food give-away at Senior Citizens Center. Bible Study groups meet at various times and days.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church

305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick
 Thursday, Dec. 27: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Friday, Dec. 28: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Sunday, Dec. 30: 10 a.m. Mentor program. 10:30 a.m. Worship; Choir sings. 1:30 p.m. Worship at Mary Jane Brown Home. 2:15 p.m. Worship at Poplar Creek. Thursday, Jan. 2: 3:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3.

Ben Clare United Methodist Church

26762 Ben Clare Ave., Valley Springs, S.D.
igtvlb@WOW.net
Bill Bates, Pastor
 Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship; 10 a.m. Fellowship; 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages.

First Lutheran Church

300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662
Laura Phillips, Pastor
 Sunday, Dec. 30: 9 a.m. Worship Service.

Palisade Lutheran Church

211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Laura Phillips, Pastor
 Sunday, Dec. 30: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

Magnolia United Methodist Church

501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
Church Ph. 507-483-2492; email: adrmagumc@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/adrianmagnoliaumc
 Sundays: 9 a.m. Magnolia Worship Service. Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation.

Steen Reformed Church

112 W. Church Ave., Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor
 Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship; service broadcast on KQAD. 10:45 a.m. Sunday School. 6 p.m. Youth Group. Evening worship at 6 p.m. first and third Sundays. Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Midweek.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pastor Maggie Berndt-Dreyer
 112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270
e-mail: bethlehemlu@alliancecom.net
 Sunday, Dec. 30: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. No Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Communion at Bethlehem.

Hills United Reformed Church

410 S. Central Ave., Hills
Office Ph. 962-3254
hillsur@alliancecom.net
Alan Camarigg, Pastor
 Sundays: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship Services.

Do we make too much of Christmas?

Do we make too much of Christmas? Is it possible that we overdo celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ?

No! The fact that the everlasting God became flesh and that He was born and lived among us is so profound, how can we possibly over-celebrate it?

Consider these words from the poet Fred Scott Shephard:

If Christ had not been born,
 Hearts burdened and forlorn
 Would seek in vain peace to attain.
 If Christ had not been born.

If to the Bethlehem home
 The Christ-child had not come,
 Hearts now agleam with love
 Would yet be drear,
 Had Christ not come.

But now true hope and cheer
 God gives for every year;
 To seeking hearts,
 His grace imparts His love;
 For Christ has come!

Another writer developed this idea by telling a story about a pastor who fell asleep in his study as he worked late on Christmas Eve. The pastor dreamed of what the world would be like if Christ had not been born. In his dream the pastor walked through his home. There were no stockings by the chimney; no Christmas bells or holly wreaths.

Still dreaming, he walked outside and onto the street. He glanced at the church building next door. But it wasn't a church; there was no steeple pointing to heaven.

Back in his house he returned to his study and looked around. Every book that mentioned Jesus had disappeared. The shelves were all but bare.

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Roger Sparks, pastor, Christian Reformed Church, Luverne

The doorbell rang, and when he answered, a neighbor asked him please to come to the hospital to visit his dying mother. Soon they were at her side. The pastor said, "Let me read for you words of comfort from John 14." But when he opened his Bible, he saw that it ended, not with Revelation 22, but with Malachi.

There were no verses like "Let not your hearts be troubled ..." or "I am the resurrection and the Life ..." or "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." "Oh no!" dreamed the pastor. "What if she dies? What if I'm asked to conduct her funeral? What message of hope could I give the grieving family?"

Waking, the pastor was relieved to see that he was in his study and that his shelves lined with books! He rejoiced to hear his family greet the morning with cries of "Merry Christmas."

Do we make too much of Christmas? No. Think of the difference Jesus makes in the Bible. Think of the difference He makes in your life if you believe on Him. Think of the comfort that comes from knowing that you are not your own; you were bought with a price. You belong, body and soul, in life and in death, to wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ.

The angels got it right when they said in a loud voice, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth!"

These Weekly Church Page Messages are contributed to God's Work through the Church and by these concerned and responsible citizens & businesses:

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Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

Housing and redevelopment authority public hearing Jan. 9

Annual Agency Plan
HEARING SET FOR

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Luverne has developed its Annual Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Blue Mound Tower at 216 North McKenzie in Luverne, Minnesota weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A public hearing will be held on January 9, 2019 at the Authority's conference room at 11:30 a.m. The public may attend. (12-27)

EARLY DEADLINES

Deadline for the December 30 issue of the Luverne Announcer for advertising will be at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, December 26.

Deadline for the January 3 issue of the Star Herald will be at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 27.

any questions, please call 283-2333

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. Several positions available, salaries start at \$9.92/hr, and 40 hour work week (part-time could be considered). For job information and application please visit <https://bhr.sd.gov/job-seekers/>. 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 (12.23-1.10)

RN/LPN Habilitative Services, Inc. is seeking a full time RN/LPN to join our amazing team of professionals who are making a difference everyday by providing quality of life enhancing services to those we serve in Luverne, MN. Every person needs support of others, but we are looking for very special people to support Individuals with disabilities to provide clinical care to address the medical needs of the Individuals we serve. We offer:

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- Full and part-time opportunities
- Ample growth opportunities
- The chance to make a difference. Come join our team. Apply today!

Jobs.thementornetwork.com (12.23-1.10)

EMPLOYMENT

Help wanted: part-time route delivery driver/ service technician. Apply in person at Culligan 206 W. Main St. or call 283-9105. (12.23-1.10)

Full and part-time drivers needed for local grain hauling. Must have CDL. Call Jon at Jon Finke Trucking Luverne, MN 507-290-1500. (12.16-1.3)

Alpha Sigma Health Group, a home health agency, is coming to your area! We value our employees as individuals and respect your need for flexibility. Our company is growing, and we are opening an office in the Luverne, MN area. We are currently seeking a compassionate Care Coordinator to work in this office as well as Caregivers for Luverne and surrounding communities. If you share in our vision to touch the lives of others while making a difference every day, please: stop by our office at 2804 E 26th Street (lower level) in Sioux Falls or call 605-274-0066, or apply on our website at www.alphasigmahg.com. We are excited to meet and hire valuable individuals just like you. (12.16-1.3)

www.Star-Herald.com
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SERVICES

Wanted: Snow removal jobs. Call, text or leave a message at 507-920-0574 or 507-220-3680. (12.9-12.27)

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you everyone for the prayers, cards, phone calls and emails after my surgery and during my recovery. Your kindness was a healing comfort.

Karen Hoime
(12.23-12.27)

I want to thank the Magnolia first responders and ambulance crew for the loving care to get me to the hospital. Also for the visitors I received during my hospital stay.

Fabian Deutsch
(12.23-12.27)

MISCELLANEOUS

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RENTALS

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Two-bedroom apartment with heat and water included, on-site laundry, off street parking. Close to downtown, the Post Office and senior center. No pets. Call 507-290-0266. (tc)

Large apartment upstairs, downtown Luverne, utilities paid, stove and refrigerator included. References required, no pets, no smoking. Call 507-227-1589. (tc)

For Rent: one-bedroom apartment near downtown Luverne. \$290 per month. No pets. Call 605-201-6427. (tc)

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Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

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- RN, INPATIENT - PRN
- MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN - FT
- RECEPTIONIST - PRN
- PARAMEDIC - FT
- PHYSICAL THERAPIST - PRN
- EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN - PRN
- PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT OR NURSE PRACTITIONER - FT

To apply, visit sanfordhealth.jobs, search "Luverne" in the location search bar.

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MISCELLANEOUS

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DRINKING & DUIs

DURING THE HOLIDAYS

% of Highway Deaths Related to Alcohol



of traffic-related deaths during the holidays are a result of drunk drivers



the rest of the year

Source: NHTSA



Holiday Drinking Trends



of adults say they drink more than usual during the holidays

of those who have attended a holiday work party have felt pressured to drink

of people say that alcohol plays a role in their family's holiday gatherings

of adults went to work hung over after a party, or know someone who did

Source: Harris Interactive Survey for Caron Treatment Centers

Holiday Travel

Driving is the most popular mode of holiday travel

48.7 MILLION

Americans traveled 50 miles or more from home last Thanksgiving

103 MILLION

A RECORD-HIGH people hit the roads between December 23 and January 3

43.5 MILLION

Americans took a road trip at Thanksgiving in 2016

in 8 licensed drivers who consume alcohol say they've driven when they thought they were close to or over 0.08 BAC in the past year

Source: AAA

Blackout Wednesday



One of the biggest drinking days of the year

Thanksgiving Eve KICKS OFF the Holiday Drinking Period

- A BIGGER drinking day than New Year's Eve or St. Patrick's Day in some places
- Especially prevalent in larger urban areas and among college students
- One of the top drunk-driving nights of the year in some areas

Between Thanksgiving & New Year's



25,000 will be injured in traffic accidents caused by alcohol

Source: National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

High-Risk DUI Offenders & the Holidays



1.075 MILLION Sober Days predicted during 2017 holiday season

Source: Data from DUI offenders monitored by SCRAM Systems

scramsystems.com/soberdaysfortheholidays

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- St. John/Little Lambs
- Stroeh's Auto Center
- Sudenga Communications
- SW Mental Health
- Teals Market
- Vander Kooi Law Office



Architect renderings courtesy of JLG Architects

This is a conceptual of the new middle-high school cafeteria-commons as it could be viewed from the northeast corner facing southwest. It shows windows facing out to Dodge Street with the building's new main entrance located to the far left. According to the plans, the new performing arts center entrance would be located off to the right.

School bids come in under budget/continued from page 1

school board members rejected all bids and set about revising the scope of the project.

The result was a refocus on the improvements to the 62-year-old middle-high school.

Any plans to upgrade the 20-year-old elementary school and community education facility were dropped.

When the third bid request was established, it called for a general contractor for the project.

This time the bid specifications included the flexibility of alternates that could be added to the base bid if the budget allowed.

"As a board, it's exciting that we can move forward," said chairman Katie Baustian.

"We want to thank the community for their patience and support of our delay to make sure the project stays on budget."

Rebid process pushes project completion to 2020

Originally, construction was slated to start in September with completion in December 2019.

Completion is now expected for December 2020.

Under the new bid contract, work

could be underway in March with the remodel of the middle-high school auditorium for the new vocal and instrumental music classrooms.

Construction on the new middle school-high school commons and performing arts center could begin in May.

Because construction was expected to already be underway, school day schedules were adjusted for the next two years.

The current school year ends May 10 with the new school year beginning Sept. 16.

The calendar adjustment allows 17 weeks of summer construction.

Top stories of 2018/from page 8

safety improvements.

Construction was due to start this year, but a troubled bid process delayed the process considerably.

Two separate bid openings resulted in higher-than-budgeted estimates.

Finally, the third try was the charm. During a Dec. 19 bid opening, school officials and construction planners received building estimates that fit their budget. (See the related Page 1 story.)

National Guard Armory

Adding to Luverne's construction flurry along I-90 will be the \$15.7 million National Guard Armory Preparedness Center slated for construction in 2019.

Plans call for two buildings on 15 acres — a 37,600-square-foot readiness center and a 4,000-square-foot equipment storage facility with classroom space and simulated training areas.

Planning and engineering have quietly been moving forward behind the scenes, with basketball training courts for the community included in the design.

Luverne was put on the fast track for the Armory opportunity after investor Warren Herreid II offered a \$5 million donation to have the facility in Luverne.

In other development news, C&B Luverne completed construction on its \$5 million remodel and retrofit of the local John Deere implement dealership that more than doubled its operating space.

Midwest Dry Cast opened its 100-by-250-foot \$1.75 million manufacturing building south of Luverne.

Business bright spots

Amid the big headlines of economic impact were dozens of smaller news items that have combined to have a big impact locally.

The list includes, but is not limited to:

- Rock County Eye Clinic opens in new location.
- Wildflowers Coffee shop opens downtown.
- Sanford Luverne Hospice moves to a new location.
- Top Notch Carwash opens by Shopko.
- Rotary Park Dog Park opens on South 75.
- Deragisch Insurance opens downtown.
- Tyana's Boutique opens in 211 E. Main St.
- State of Minnesota applies opportunity zones to Rock County.
- 75 Diner opens on South Highway 75.
- Family Dental gets façade improvement.
- Take 16 Event Center opens.
- State's largest solar farm announced for Rock County.
- Re/Max opens on Highway 75 location.
- Green Earth Players moves to leased space downtown.
- Wind production farm planned for Martin Township.
- Chandler Feed buys Hardwick elevator.
- New DVM joins Rock Veterinary Clinic.
- BeMobile buys Verizon from Sudenga Communications.
- Beaver Creek golf course has new owner.
- Papik Motors acquires Rock Rapids dealership.

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New Years Day	CLOSED
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New Years Day	CLOSED

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Kanaranzi Grain 507-283-8989

Rock County buffer compliance/continued from page 1

up to \$10,000 per parcel. Gehrke said the LMO office will continue to reach out to about 20 landowners in violation of the buffer law. For now, LMO won't be issuing any fines.

"We have reached out and sent letters to those folks, but we haven't heard a lot back," he said. "Either it's an absentee landowner or potentially someone saying they are not going to do it."

SWCD passes monitoring plan, buffer review form

Soil and Water Conservation District Board members approved a buffer compliance tracking plan and a buffer compliance review request form at their Dec. 17 meeting. Gehrke, LMO engineering technician, said the county is divided into three monitoring areas — north, east and west. The areas are based on watershed size.

"(Watershed size) makes it a little bit easier to inspect those buffers because you're not stopping at a fence line ... when the creek keeps going."

Every three years approximately one-third of the identified 840 parcels are inspected via aerial photo or on-site review beginning in 2019.

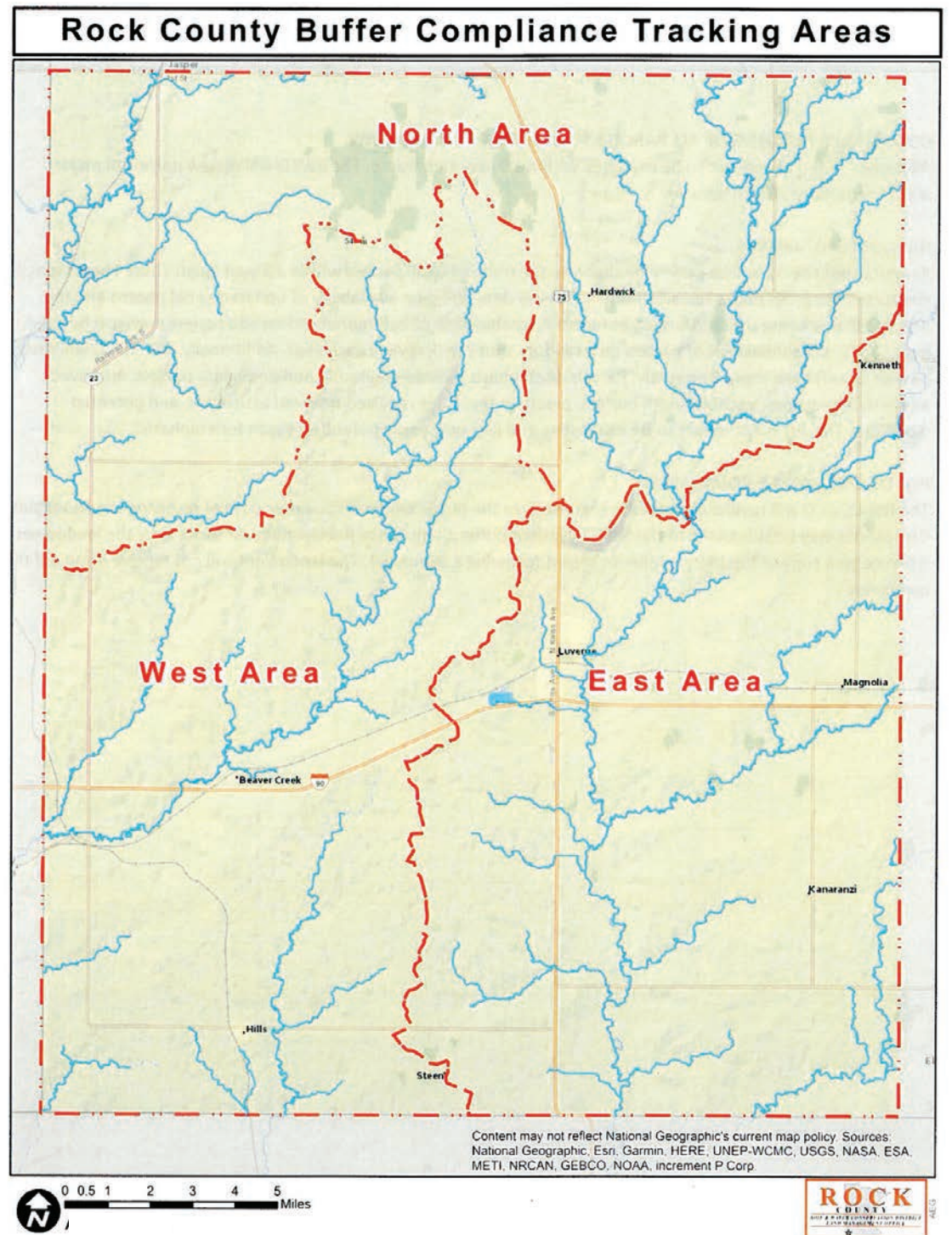
LMO staff will also conduct random spot checks as part of the buffer monitoring plan.

Parcels not complying with the state's buffer law are subject to monetary fines.

The plan also includes requests by individuals to review a specific parcel for compliance with the buffer law.

The "Rock SWCD Buffer Compliance Review Request Form" is available on the rockswcd.org website.

LMO staff has 10 business days to review the parcel identified in the complaint and issue a report to the landowner.



Rock County Land Management Office graphic

Under the Rock County Monitoring Plan for Buffer Compliance Tracking, the county is divided into three areas with one area reviewed every three years beginning in 2019. Under the Minnesota Buffer Law, 840 parcels in the county fall under the initiative designed to improve the state's water quality. Landowners with parcels not complying with the law are subject to monetary fines. Three percent — 25 parcels — remain non-compliant with the statute passed in 2016. About 20 Rock County landowners are now subject to monetary fines.

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