



Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, December 30, 2021



Live and in person

2021 becomes 'recovery year' after pandemic 2020

Crowds gather on Luverne's Main Street for Hot Dog Night in July as one of many local celebrations to return in 2021 after 2020 cancellations.

City, county oppose roundabout

Luverne and Rock County approve resolutions opting for new lights, added turn lanes

By Lori Sorenson
Luverne City Council members approved a resolution in support of traffic lights and right turn lanes at Main Street and Highway 75.

The resolution approved at their Tuesday, Dec. 21, meeting represents a response to the Minnesota Department of Transportation's proposal for a roundabout at the intersection.

At a joint meeting of the City of Luverne and Rock County on Nov. 16, MnDOT representatives presented information about the U.S. Highway 75 resurfacing project in 2025.

The state officials said an intersection control evaluation recommends replacing the obsolete stoplights at the intersection with a compact roundabout.

MnDOT representatives at the meeting assured city and county officials the state was seeking input on the intersection, and local voices would be considered in the solution for the Highway 75 and Main Street intersection.

The City of Luverne and Rock County were required to adopt a resolution by Dec. 31 identifying which traffic configuration they support.

City and Rock County officials worked together on the resolution in support of right turn lanes and updated traffic lights for the intersection.

"This was the least invasive of the options," council member Kevin Aaker said at the Dec. 21 city meeting.

"It also protects the integrity of the crosswalks," council member Dan Nath pointed out.

Mayor Pat Baustian agreed. "At that intersection in this community, with agricultural equipment, semis and all the pedestrian traffic, a roundabout just doesn't fit into the equation," he said.

"There was not really consideration for public safety on those roundabout areas in terms of walking."

He said discussion with

'No' to roundabout/see page 12

Star Herald reflects on top news stories of 2021

By Lori Sorenson

This year in Rock County may best be described as a recovery year following a pandemic-stricken 2020 that forever changed communities.

The Star Herald carried fewer pandemic-related headlines in 2021, but it's fair to say the virus remained an important factor in nearly all sectors of daily life.

Businesses reopen, vaccines begin, pandemic relief arrives

At the very start of 2021, the January headlines reported bars and restaurants reopening and vaccine clinics offering first-round shots for Covid protection.

Health professionals pivoted efforts "from test clinics to vaccine clinics," first for the elderly and immune compromised, then for 60-somethings and "frontline workers" and eventually for everyone.

Early 2021 headlines also carried news of pandemic relief dollars arriving in people's bank accounts and business coffers, and later to local governments to bolster their communities.

In all, government pandemic relief dollars in Rock County totaled millions, and that's in addition to federal aid to individuals and families and local pandemic relief measures.

Schools become frontlines of pandemic transitions, perceptions

Meanwhile, as teachers and students mastered distance learning, district leaders

Year in review/continued on page 3



The new media center is lofted over the south end of the new commons area in the school.

School construction wraps up in 2021

By Mavis Fodness

The Luverne School District finished a five-year building project this fall when classes resumed for a construction-free school year — a first in two years.

Superintendent Craig Oftedahl praised students and staff for their tolerance and cooperation.

"Not only did they assist with the input

into the building, they endured the noise and debris from construction," he said.

"The staff has also been flexible and great to work with throughout the process — many of them moved and packed several times. I feel the end product is really nice, and I think they do as well."

School project done in 2021/see page 2

Luverne budgets for capital expenditures in 2022, including two \$5 million generators

By Lori Sorenson

As part of its year-end budget planning, the Luverne City Council reviewed and approved capital expenditures for the coming year.

Each city department presented priority lists for equipment and improvements needed for the next five years.

The council approved the capital improvements during the budget process that was finalized Dec. 14 when the levy was certified.

Some purchases and expenses are budgeted for but don't come to fruition. Similarly, some expenses arise that aren't budgeted for.

The capital improvement plan, though it may change, allows city leaders to anticipate these expenses while they set the overall city budget. (See the related levy and budget story)

Electric Department

For 2022 capital expenditures, the electric department will see the biggest expenses, primarily related to the \$11 million power plant and generation upgrades.

The work includes two new 3,100 kW generators at a total cost of \$10 million, plus tuck pointing and windows estimated at \$50,000 and updated control panels.

In addition, the electric department is budgeting \$50,000 for transformers, \$150,000 for distribution system upgrades, \$30,000 for streetlight poles, fixtures and banners and \$120,000 for a new bucket truck.

Fire Department:

•Side-by-side for grass fires and rescues \$40,000 and 10 radios — potential grant \$50,000

Park Department

•Play structures for Post Office Park \$30,000
•Toolcat \$55,000
•Replace picnic tables, trash cans, benches \$30,000

•Cement and fence at Redbird Field \$50,000

Street Department

•Pickup replacement \$40,000
•Payloader \$204,000
•Loader plow \$20,000

Pool and Fitness Center

•Replace main pool grout \$10,000
•BogaFit pool boards \$10,000

Luverne Loop

•Phase 3B Trail \$732,000 — Legacy Grant received in the amount of \$512,000
•Phase 4 Trail \$571,000 — Legacy Grant of \$399,700

Water Department

•Infrastructure Improvements \$150,000
•Watermain looping \$40,000
•System upgrades \$500,000

Sewer Department

•Sewer line replacement \$500,000
•New equipment \$15,000
•Infrastructure improvements \$310,000

Liquor Store

•Digital sign \$51,000

Central Garage

•Replace parking lot \$700,000



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meeting notice

Stateline Cemetery Association will have its annual meeting at 12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 10, at Pizza Ranch in Rock Rapids.

Community Ed

The Winter Community Ed brochure is in the New Year's edition of the Announcer on Dec. 31. Call Community Education at 507-283-4724 beginning Monday, Jan. 3, to register for new classes. See some upcoming classes listed below.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goehle gym open Sundays through March 27

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

A.C.E. respite care available, volunteers needed

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

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

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

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

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

Happenings at the library

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

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

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

Nominations sought for Rock County Hall of Fame

The Rock County Historical Society's Hall of Fame Committee is seeking nominations for the 2022 induction of current and former residents.

Nominees must have a significant identity with Rock County and have made an exceptional contribution to society, achieved exceptional success, and brought honor and prestige beyond the borders of Minnesota.

Nominations are accepted now through Feb. 28, 2022. Forms are available at The History Center, Luverne Area Chamber or online at www.rockcountystatistical.com or www.luvernechamber.com. An awards presentation is scheduled for July 17, 2022.



In 2020, workers from Gil Haugen Construction of Sioux Falls begin laying bricks for the new middle-high school commons and performing arts center that connects the middle-high school and the elementary buildings.

School project/continued from page 1

The district hosted a public open house Sept. 19 to celebrate.

More than half of the 376,500-square-foot middle school-high school received a facelift, and a 41,170-square-foot expansion between the elementary and secondary buildings includes a new commons, kitchen and performing arts center.

Students and staff returned this fall to a 21st century learning environment that includes improved safety and security.

Planning for the project began in 2016.

That summer, school board members met in a workshop setting that included a tour of the 1956 middle-high school.

"I took them to the basement to look at the kitchen facility and that really got 'the ball rolling,'" Oftedahl recalled.

"I feel the board really wanted to look at upgrading the lunchroom area and creating a commons for students. That snowballed into upgrading and remodeling the middle-high school as it was 60 years old."

In 2017 district voters approved a \$31 million bond for the improvements.

Four years later the school project remains under budget with just under \$600,000 earmarked for remaining work, such as terrazzo floor repairs.

The remodel and



By July 2021, workers are completing the final installation of the 779 seats in the new 9,400 square-foot performing arts center. Both the elementary and middle-high school music departments used the facility for fall and winter concerts.



Workers install one of 63 windows to the new front entrance of the Luverne Middle-High School in November 2020. Entrance to the elementary, middle-high school, community education and the district office are now gained from the south side of the school campus along Dodge Street.

- construction included:
- 2,100 gallons of paint.
 - 52,000 to 62,000 pounds: weight of the precast concrete panels lifted into place for the performing arts center.
 - 1,400 loads of rubbish, dirt or fill hauled in and out.
 - 2,000 new LED light fixtures.
 - 475 light fixtures (310 house and 185 theatrical) are in the performing arts center.
 - 65 new electrical panels.
 - 30 miles of data cable and fiber used.
 - 1,500 electrical receptacles.
 - 1,600 yards of concrete.

Use care when clearing snow near gas meters

With the recent snowfall and icy conditions across many areas of Minnesota, CenterPoint Energy is reminding its residential and business customers to keep their outdoor natural gas meters clear of snow and ice in order to prevent a leak or service interruption.

Although designed to withstand winter weather, your outdoor meter has a vent that regulates gas pressure and it must not be blocked by snow or ice to work properly.

When clearing snow away, it is also important to protect your meter from being damaged. In

recent winters, CenterPoint Energy has responded to incidents with snowplows and snow blowers hitting meters and causing gas leaks.

CenterPoint Energy offers these important tips to protect your natural gas meter and ensure safe, reliable service to keep you warm through the Minnesota winter:

- Don't pile snow on or near your natural gas meter. Maintain a clear path to your meter to allow access in an emergency.
- Don't use a snowplow or snow blower near the meter. Instead, carefully shovel around the meter

and move snow away from it. Use a broom or brush to gently clear snow or ice from the top of the meter and piping.

•Mark your meters. Especially for business properties and parking lots, place high-visibility safety flags or cones by natural gas meters and regulators to mark their location and prevent snowplows from hitting them.

•Never kick or hit your gas meter or its piping with a shovel, hammer or any hard object to break away built-up snow or ice.

•Call CenterPoint Energy at 800-296-9815 for assistance if your

meter is coated with ice or if it is directly below a downspout or a roof valley with a gutter, or the overhang or eaves do not fully extend over the meter. These conditions put the meter at risk of ice buildup.

•If you suspect a natural gas leak, leave the area immediately on foot and tell others to do the same. When safely away, report the leak by calling 911 and the CenterPoint Energy emergency hotline at 800-296-9815.

For more natural gas safety tips, visit CenterPointEnergy.com/BeSafe.

Dial-a-Specialist

Your One Stop Guide to Local Businesses

DR. MICHAEL SMITH

 Laser Therapy • Custom Orthotics
 Men, Women & Children's Health
 Athletic Care • Massage Therapy
 Work & Auto Injuries • Postural Restoration
www.rockcountychiropractic.com
 283-2561 • 103 E. MAIN, LUVERNE

• Chiropractic

Viking Electric LLC

Tim Gangestad
 Owner
 (507) 290-2595
 Conquering all of your electrical needs!
 Residential • Commercial • Agricultural

• Electrician

Luverne
 MINNESOTA City
 Love the life! Offices
 PO Box 659, Luverne, MN 56156
 507-449-2388 (24 hour voice mail)
www.cityofluverne.org

• City

LUVERNE HEALTH & WELLNESS

 Codie Zantenhorst, DC
 LuverneChiro.com
 Chiropractic Acupuncture Massage
 Auto, Work, and Sports Injuries
 109 S Freeman Ave Luverne, MN
 507.449.4400

• Chiropractic

Farm profitability highlights top ag topics for 2021

By Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst

At the end of every year, various publications, websites, etc. have their “Top 10” or “Top 5” list for that year.

In this column of “Focus on Ag,” I am highlighting my “Top 5 Ag Topics” for 2021, based on issues that were discussed in the columns throughout the year.

Following are my Top 5 ag topics for 2021.

Strongest U.S. net farm income levels since 2013

Based on the data in the latest “2021 Farm Income Forecast” that was released by the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) in early December, U.S. net farm income is expected to increase by \$18.4 billion or 18.7 percent above 2020 levels.

The estimated 2021 net farm income is now estimated at \$116.8 billion, which would be the highest inflation-adjusted net farm income since the adjusted net farm income level of \$123.8 billion in 2013.

In the recent farm income report, USDA estimated the total U.S. net cash income for 2021 at \$133 billion, which is an increase of \$17 billion or 14.7 percent from a year earlier.

Net cash income includes cash receipts from all farm-related income, including government payments, minus cash expenses for the year. Net farm income is accrual-based, which includes adjustments in the cash income for changes in inventories, depreciation, and rental income.

The 2021 U.S. net farm income projections show some very strong improvement compared to 2020 farm income levels and are considerably higher than farm income levels from 2014-2019.

The improvement in 2021 net farm income was largely due to improved commodity prices for crops and livestock, as well as better than expected crop yields in many areas, and continued government farm program support.

By comparison, the improved U.S. farm income levels in 2020 were largely driven by the highest level of government farm program payments ever recorded, which included payments for trade-disruption and Covid-related payments, as well as some traditional farm program payments and disaster payments.

Inflation, increasing farm input costs

Almost every input cost for crop production will increase in 2022 compared to expense levels in 2021 and other recent years.

Much of the focus has been in higher fertilizer costs for corn, which are expected to nearly double in 2022 compared to average 2021 fertilizer costs.

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

Input costs are also expected to be significantly higher for crop chemicals, diesel fuel, propane, repairs, custom work and labor. As

of late November, diesel fuel prices were 60 percent higher than a year earlier, while the cost of some commonly used herbicides was 2-3 times higher than 12 months ago.

The cost of farm equipment has also increased substantially from a year earlier, which will likely increase depreciation and other overhead costs for 2022.

The combination of significantly higher crop input costs, along with increasing land rental rates, will likely put more pressure on crop breakeven price levels for 2022.

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

If the cash rental rate increases to \$300 per acre, the breakeven price jumps to about \$5.50 to \$6.00 per bushel. This compares to corn breakeven levels of \$3.75 to \$4.00 per bushel in 2021.

The breakeven soybean price to cover the cost of production and \$250 per acre land rent would be about \$11.50 to \$12.50 per bushel, which compares to soybean breakeven levels of \$9.00-\$9.50 per acre in 2021.

Strong grain prices throughout 2021

As in most years, where farmers were positioned in the grain market and the grain marketing decisions that were made by farm operators will have a big impact on the profit levels for their crop enterprise in 2021.

Both corn and soybean markets have remained quite strong throughout most of 2021 due to increased demand both for domestic uses and for export markets, especially to China.

The “basis” level between Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) prices and local corn and soybean prices has remained extremely tight in many areas of the Upper Midwest due to strong local demand and tight grain supplies, which has also enhanced grain marketing opportunities during the year.

“New crop” cash corn price bids in southern Minnesota were near \$4.00 per bushel early in 2021, before rising to above \$5.00 per bushel by late April and staying above that level for the remainder of the year.

The cash corn price was above \$5.50 per bushel in late December. The 2021 “new crop” cash soybean bids in southern Minnesota started the year at \$10.50-\$11.00 per bushel and rose to above \$13.00 per bushel by May.

Local harvest soybean prices were near \$11.75-\$12.50 per bushel, which remains close to year-end soybean price levels. USDA is currently estimating the average farm prices for the 2021-22 marketing year, which ends on Sept. 30, 2022, at \$5.45 per bushel for corn and \$12.10 per bushel for soybeans.

This is slightly higher than current forward

Ag review 2021/see p. 12



The city paid \$515,000 for the former Tri-State Insurance Building (recently Total Card Inc) on Roundwind Avenue to develop a community day care center in it. The 1974 building (just north of the pool and fitness center) has 30,000 square feet on 4.7 acres of land, which would provide adequate outdoor “green space” required by the state for day care centers. The city will pay for necessary retrofits and remodeling estimated at \$1.5 million as well as furnishings and equipment at roughly \$2.5 million. The city will own, the building, and a day care business will operate in it

Star Herald recaps top stories of 2021/continued from page 1

deemed “snow days” are no longer needed with e-learning as an option during inclement weather.

In February students began returning to classrooms, and eventually music programs, Snow Week and other school activities resumed — live-streamed for digital audiences.

By March people were getting their second shots and the second round of pandemic relief aid was reaching local governments for distribution.

Case numbers slowed, pandemic restrictions eased and by spring, schools attempted a return to normal traditions, like prom — which included outdoor grand marches.

By the end of summer, school districts began planning for fall classes to resume in-person — with or without a mask requirement.

In August, however, Rock County Covid cases began ticking upward and the CDC advised masking up.

On this advice, the Luverne School Board and administration along with the district’s incident command team issued a message to district families that classes would resume in person and in masks.

As it turned out, decisions “in the best interests of students” meant different things to different families, and some who saw masks as “violating personal freedoms” (and even hazardous to health) lobbied school leaders to end the “mask mandate.”

The board ultimately changed course on mask requirements, “due to lack of community support,” which played a role in Rock County’s low vaccination rates.

Rock County case rates climb, Covid hits Veterans Home

As of Dec. 28, just over half of the county’s eligible population is fully vaccinated and its cases are increasing with high test positivity, suggesting the cases may be undercounted, according to state health officials.

The 14-day change in cases was up 29 percent as of Dec. 27, but health officials are anticipating a post-holiday jump in numbers following recent holiday gatherings.

The Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne managed to stay Covid-free at the height of the pandemic, but in October the facility suffered a deadly outbreak.

There were more than 40 positive cases among staff and residents, and several elderly residents died of Covid. Among them was Luverne World War II veteran Helmer Haakenson, the last surviving member of the local Last Man’s Club.



On Dec. 14 the Minnesota National Guard broke ground on a \$17.5 million Luverne Readiness Center on 15 acres west of Papik Motors along I-90. The new 47,902-square-foot facility includes assembly halls, work bays, storage areas, classrooms, a learning center and fitness center with locker rooms.

As the Omicron variant of the virus dominated national and global headlines late in the year, Rock County was focused on life after Covid, and the Star Herald had plenty of non-pandemic news to share.

The city of Luverne reports \$26 million of permitted projects in 2021, some of which are just starting. That amount doesn’t include the Armory due to it being permitted through the State.

School building project and state high school sports

For example, the Luverne School District wrapped up its \$30 million building project that included a new performing arts center, new commons, kitchen and media center and updates to the 1956 high school building. (See the school recap story in this edition.)

Also, with school back in session, high school athletes were back in their games and the Star Herald followed the Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek sports all the way to state competitions. (See the sports year in review on page 8)

National Guard breaks ground on \$17.5 million Readiness Center

On Dec. 14 the Minnesota National Guard broke ground on a \$17.5 million Luverne Readiness Center on 15 acres west of Papik Motors along I-90.

The new 47,902-square-foot facility includes assembly halls, work bays, storage areas, classrooms, a learning center and fitness center with locker rooms.

The Readiness Center received private support from the KAHR Foundation of Luverne native Warren Herreid II and his wife, Jeanne Rivet, who pledged more than \$6.2 million toward the project.

Their support accelerated the project timeline, influenced

the decision to locate the new armory in Luverne and financed an addition assembly area in the facility.

The facility is expected to be operational in 2023 and is touted as a training and community center.

Lineage announces \$50 million construction of cold storage warehouse

In Luverne’s biggest development news of 2021, Lineage Logistics will build a 235,000-square-foot cold storage warehouse on land near Premium Minnesota Pork.

The warehouse, with an estimated construction value of more than \$50 million, will be roughly the size of four football fields and built to store food products requiring temperatures ranging from -20 to 45 degrees.

Lineage has indicated it will create up to 75 new “quality paying” jobs in the area to support the operation.

More housing

As local business development picks up in Rock County, so does demand for housing for workers and their families.

In a long-awaited help for local housing shortages, an October ground-breaking set the wheels in motion for two, 27-unit apartment units known as Prairie Loft I and II.

The \$8 million project (on the former Sharkee’s and Mert’s Repair lots) is named with a capital E for “environmental sustainability and smart building practices.”

The two buildings will have one- and two-bedroom market-rate rental units on three floors with elevators and off-street parking. They’ll be ready for occupancy early next spring, weather permitting.

Year in review/see page 5

RELAX!

We make statewide advertising easy!

THE MINNESOTA DISPLAY AD NETWORK
Your newspaper representative can provide complete details.

The 2x4 Network is a program of the MNA, phone 800-279-2979

BOGO 40% OFF ENDS 5/31

RENEWAL
by **ANDERSEN**
FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

833-314-1217

Before cell phones and TikTok, we had Luverne holiday basketball

I have a habit of inserting unsolicited local history into conversations with my friends, co-workers and students.



IN OTHER WORDS

By Jason Berghorst, reporter

Not helpful, insightful historical facts that people find interesting, but often random tidbits of how things used to be.

It's perhaps an occupational hazard for a history teacher living in his hometown and working in the school he graduated from. But more than that, it's human nature to look back fondly at "the good old days."

I then often feel compelled to share how things used to be in town, at school, at church or in general with those who did not ask for a history lesson and may not want one.

Such a situation happened last week in the Star Herald office.

I'm covering Luverne girls' and boys' basketball teams this winter, and I told Editor Lori that I would have no articles for next week's paper because neither team has games.

In that conversation I couldn't help myself.

I had to throw in an extra remark (which turned into six or more) of how the Luverne Holiday Tournament was once a highlight of the season for local fans.

Lori, always looking for content for the next paper and probably wanting my ramblings to end, suggested my memories could be a column for this week's paper.

And so here we are.

Often during the week between the Christmas and New Year's holidays, I think back to the holiday basketball tournaments of my youth.

The Star Herald archives show the first holiday tournament took place during the

1983-84 season, and it appears the final tournament was in 2006, although the event had changed significantly by then.

The tournaments I remember most were from about 1993-1996.

In those days (oh boy, here I go) it was a two-night, four-team tournament with only boys' teams from Luverne, Hills-Beaver Creek, Adrian and Southwest Christian.

And the tournament games were the place to be.

The 1956 LHS gym, the "big gym" in those days, was always packed with fans from the four schools within 20 minutes of Luverne.

College kids were home on break.

High school students (before cell phones and social media) caught up with one another after being away from school for a week.

New Christmas gift clothing was worn proudly.

The tournament was the place to see and be seen, and it was the best chance to meet kids from the other schools (before Instagram and TikTok).

Many adults probably saw people they hadn't seen since the Rock County Fair – or longer – during the annual tournaments.

Of course, today's high school sports schedules, facilities, holiday vacations, social media and Netflix all make the holiday tournaments of the 1990s seem completely old-fashioned.

But I really do enjoy looking back at those memories ... and sharing them with others.

Reflecting on 2021: Was it a good year or a bad year?

If we're thoughtful about our responses, we may be able to shape the narrative

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

The Star Herald news writers each year at the end of December consider and recap top stories that made headlines throughout the year.

This year's final edition again attempts to recap 12 months of news with a series of sub-headlines in a single (albeit long) story.

Just like last year, and the years before that, the annual review recaps Rock County's tragedies and triumphs that build on our community's history, one deadline at a time.

While the annual compilations are intended to be "Top 10 Stories" of sorts, they have a way of prompting us to reflect on their impact.

For example, we're eager to put the pandemic behind us, but the virus continues to affect our daily lives.

So, at the end of the year, we reflect on this. What has been the impact of the pandemic on our community? How did we as individuals respond? Did our

responses help or hinder the outcome?

We could ask the same questions about nearly any community challenge.

And if we're smart, we'll gauge our responses – in real time – in terms of how they affect outcomes, not looking back several months later.

What went well?

What did we fail at?

What mistakes did we make?

How can we prevent them next time?

Did we grow and learn from challenges?

What did we learn about ourselves along the way?

What are we proud of?

What are we grateful for?

It's during our year-end

reflections that these questions arise, and we'd all do well to consider how we'll respond to the next challenge.

How can we be better? How can we do better? How can we make the community better by making us all better? In Jesus' words, "Whatever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters, you do unto me." (Matthew 25)

Let's take these reflections into the New Year and work toward a positive year-end review.

As we've often said, we're defined not by our challenges but rather by how we respond to them (and learn from them and grow from them).

Happy New Year, dear readers. May 2022 be the year we all do better because we all do better.



Personal New Year's resolutions begin and end with a K.I.S.S.

I suppose seeing how 2022 is knocking on the door, it's probably time to jot down a few New Year's resolutions.

Well guess what? I'm not going to do the resolution thing this year. Frankly I don't need the added pressure of trying to change my way of life or try something new.

This year it's "Keep it simple, stupid." Sure, I might tweak a few things, but not to the point of stressing over it.

2022 is going to be the year I relax and live life to the fullest, subscribe to the "It is what it is" way of thinking. ... Take one day at



FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, general manager

a time, don't sweat the small stuff, realize I can't fix stupid, and look at the sunny side of everything.

Okay, so that's not going to happen. But what I will work on in the new year is I'll try not to swear as much at the jerks that don't

dim their high beam headlights at night. I'll cut back on my one finger wave to the folks who don't use their blinkers.

To my wife, Mary: I pledge to listen to you more intently. If not, I'll at least fake it.

This one is a tough one, but I'll try to call my kids and grandkids their own names and not the names of one of their siblings.

This one will be easy: I will use Weber, Traeger or Blackstone at least once or twice a week for a year. Maybe I'll make that an average of twice a week for the year.

As you can tell, I am not real serious about the resolution thing, but like most of you, I do take a moment and reflect on the past year and look forward to the New Year with hope for better days ahead.

Happy New Year!

This is your page.

Write to us at editor@star-herald.com using the guidelines listed below.

E-mail: editor@star-herald.com Web site: star-herald.com
Phone: 507-283-2333 Fax: 507-283-2335

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

General manager: Rick Peterson **News staff:**
Advertising: Chantel Connell Lori Sorenson, editor
Office manager: Deb Lusty Mavis Fodness, reporter
Office assistant: Jennifer Nelson Esther Frakes, copy editor
Production: Heather Johnson **Sports inquiries:**
Production: Brooke Huisman editor@star-herald.com

Rock County
STAR HERALD
Rock County's newspaper since 1873

(ISSN 0889-888X)
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Entire contents copyrighted by
Tollefson Publishing Roger Tollefson, publisher

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

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Dec. 17
 •Complainant on S. Cedar Street requested an unlock.
 •Complainant on W. Mead Court reported a loud stereo at location.
 •Complainant on E. Dodge Street reported tires flattened.
 •Complainant in city lot on E. Maple reported a loud noise from several vehicles and young adults.

Dec. 18
 •Complainant on W. Luverne Street reported marijuana smell at location.
 •Complainant on Commerce Road reported theft of catalytic converters.
 •SFPD requested assistance from RCSO.

Dec. 19
 •Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported theft of catalytic converters.
 •Complainant on N. Oakley Street reported a Bluetooth device is tracking someone.

Dec. 20
 •Complainant reported an unrecognized Apple device, think it's a tracker.
 •Complainant on Xylon Avenue, New Hope, reported a subject with Rock County warrant.
 •Complainant on E. Lincoln Street requested deputy at location.
 •Deputy assisted at the emergency room.

•Complainant on Highway 75 and 181st Street, Hardwick, reported two couches on the roadway.

Dec. 21
 •Complainant on E. Main Street reported a theft.
 •Complainant on W. Main Street reported a theft.

•Complainant on N. McKenzie Street reported theft from motor vehicle.

•Complainant on W. Warren Street reported a stolen car part.
 •Outage reported at location.

Dec. 22
 •Complainant on N. Main Avenue, Hills, requested assistance in locating a person.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 5, Beaver Creek, reported an erratic driver at location.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue and W. Main Street reported a loud vehicle in area.

Dec. 23
 •Complainant in Sioux Falls requested DVS information.

•Deputy found cell phone at location on County Road 20 and U.S. Highway 75, Luverne.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 7, Beaver Creek, reported a driving complaint.

•Complainant on W. Main Street reported a driving complaint at location.

•Complainant on 80th Avenue, Jasper, reported a fire at location.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90, mile marker 14, Magnolia, reported debris on the road.

•Complainant on E. Dodge Street and 140th Avenue, Luverne, reported possible unsafe ATV riding.

•Complainant on County Road 6, just south of Interstate 90, Beaver Creek, requested a deer tag.

In addition, officers responded to 5 motor vehicle accidents, 3 deer accidents, 1 vehicle in ditch, 1 escort, 11 ambulance runs, 3 paper services, 5 animal complaints, 3 fingerprint requests, 5 burn permits, 1 alarm, 3 drug court tests, 2 purchase and carry permits, 2 stalled vehicles, 7 traffic stops, 8 abandoned 911 calls, 1 test and 2 welfare checks.



Construction began in April on the city of Luverne's \$5 million improvement and expansion of the pool and fitness center and splash pad.

Star Herald recaps top stories of 2021/continued from page 3

Day care center

While the 54 PrairiE Loft apartments won't solve local housing shortages, they're at least a step toward supporting business growth that needs housing for workers.

Another thing industry needs in a community: childcare for workers.

As state and national childcare shortages continue to stifle business growth, Luverne leaders announced late in 2021 they're tackling the issue with a city-subsidized daycare center.

The city paid \$515,000 for the former Tri-State Insurance Building (recently Total Card Inc) on Roundwind Avenue to develop a community day care center in it.

The 1974 building (just north of the pool and fitness center) has 30,000 square feet on 4.7 acres of land, which would provide adequate outdoor "green space" required by the state for day care centers.

The city will pay for necessary retrofits and remodeling estimated at \$1.5 million as well as furnishings and equipment at roughly \$2.5 million. The intent is for the city to own, maintain and insure the building, and a commercial day care business will operate in it.

Pool and Fitness Center project

Construction began in April on the city of Luverne's \$5 million improvement and expansion of the pool and fitness center.

Improvements include an outdoor splash pad, new locker rooms, four family changing rooms, flat space rooms for group aerobic exercise, new office space and staff area, larger rooms for 24-hour weightlifting and aerobic exercise machines and a new mechanical and heat, ventilation and air-conditioning system.

The new building will be open in May 2022.

Trailhead, e-bikes, Loop and Ashby Trail

Meanwhile, fitness members have been working out in the city's trailhead building at Main Street and Blue Mound Avenue.

The city bought the former Casey's building as a future trailhead that currently houses



City council members tour the pool and fitness center construction this summer. This open area will become the new flat area for exercise classes and work-out videos.

new city e-bike rentals, bicycle repair stations, public restrooms and electric car charging stations.

As the pandemic forced people away from crowds, it also encouraged outdoor activities, and local developments were well-timed with those interests.

In June, the Luverne completed Phase 3A of its Loop path between Main Street at Blue Mound Avenue to the Rock River just east of the wastewater treatment plant.

Work in 2022 will continue the trail along the Rock River south and connect with the existing trail behind the Econo Lodge hotel on South Highway 75.

Also in 2021, the 1.95 mile Christopher Martin Ashby Trail was dedicated in memory of Gene and Barb Ashby's late son.

The Ashby's funded the paved trail that starts near the Rock River and goes through the city park to County Road 9 near the Luverne Country Club.

Communities celebrate 'return to normal'

The St. Patrick's Day in Luverne marked the first

community celebration since 2019, as the pandemic put a stop to public gatherings in 2020.

Community events continued cautiously with events planned for deliberate social distancing.

For example, Easter eggs were widely sprinkled courthouse lawn, the Palace Theatre opened in April to a 50 percent capacity with 'Godzilla vs Kong.'

An outdoor 'Mask-erade' took LHS prom-goers outside, and H-BC prom grand march was also outdoors.

Parades celebrated LHS graduates in May and later that month, students performed "Grease" inside the Palace Theatre.

Luverne's Buffalo Days celebration returned in 2021, live and in person with a Friday night cruise-in downtown and Buffalo Days "expo" at the Courthouse Square.

As large crowds turned out for events like this one (and celebrations in Hills, Hardwick and other local towns) this year, a common theme among participants was that it's "good to be back."

Those sentiments

continued throughout the year with Fourth of July, Hot Dog Night, the Rock County Fair, the 70th annual Tri-State Band Festival and Trunk N Treat as thousands attended each of them.

By Christmas, everyone was in the mood for a holiday gathering as Luverne hosted "Light the Night" and "Santa Train" at the park Nov. 28 and Winterfest weekend Dec. 3-5.

Similarly, Santa arrived in person in Hardwick, Beaver Creek and other small towns for traditional lap photos and gift wishes.

News to watch in 2022

•On the heels of a nearly complete \$14 million wastewater treatment plant upgrade, the city of Luverne is investing **\$11 million into the historic power plant** on East Main Street at the Rock River.

The project, which includes two new 3,100 kW generators at \$5 million each, will ensure Luverne's backup generators keep the city's lights on in the event of a power outage.

Year in review/see page 12

GET THE STAR HERALD SUBSCRIPTION THAT

fits your lifestyle!

Get the Star Herald Online

12 months \$46
 24 Hour Access 99¢

Print Edition Only

In County: 12 months \$74
 In County: 6 months \$54
 Out of County*: 12 months \$91
 Out of County*: 6 months \$68

Online + Print Edition

In County: 12 months \$88
 Out of County*: 12 months \$115

*Mailed as periodicals. Allow up to 2 weeks out of state.



Rock County
STAR HERALD



SECURITY WEALTH MANAGEMENT



Brad Jarabek
 2331 E 10th Street
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103
 605-271-7523
 Investwithswm.com



Sean Powell
 2331 E 10th Street
 Sioux Falls, SD 57103
 605-271-1115
 Investwithswm.com

Concerned about today's low interest rate? Contact us today to talk about your options to help build your financial plan at your local Security Savings Bank.

Securities and advisory services are offered through LPL Financial (LPL), a registered investment advisor and broker-dealer (member FINRA/SIPC). Insurance products are offered through LPL or its licensed affiliates. Security Savings Bank and Security Wealth Management are not registered as a broker-dealer or investment advisor. Registered representatives of LPL offer products and services using Security Wealth Management and may also be employees of Security Savings Bank. These products and services are being offered through LPL or its affiliates, which are separate entities from and not affiliates of Security Savings Bank or Security Wealth Management. Securities and insurance offered through LPL or its affiliates are: Not insured by FDIC or any other Government Agency, Not Bank Guaranteed, Not Bank Deposits or Obligations, May Lose Value

Rock County 4-H doles out year-end awards, recognizes individual and club achievements

By Mavis Fodness

Under the theme, "This is how we roll," adults and youth members of the Rock County 4-H Program gathered Nov. 6 in the Luverne Elementary commons to recognize the achievements of 2021 and hand out awards.

The annual potluck event was attended by more than 110 members, parents, leaders and sponsors.

Federation officers

Installation of new Federation officers took place with each given Rolos and squeeze balls to remind them to relax and "roll" with life. The Federation, a team of youth and adult leaders, assist local Extension personnel to further develop learning opportunities for 4-H members.

Youth officers include president Krista Burkman, vice president Leah Kruse, treasurer Nathan Kinsinger (also an Extension committee representative), secretary Lanae Elbers, assistant secretary/reporter Brianna Kinsinger, youth leaders Karly Kruse and Calab Raak, and Extension committee representative Justin Mente. Adult members include treasurer Candy Reese and representatives Marisa Maloney, Joshua Raak, Lanette Elbers, Teresa Kinsinger, Russell Forrest, Cory Schoeneman and Michele Kruse.

4-H ambassadors

Hosting the annual program and providing youth leadership within the county program are older youth members and ambassadors promoting 4-H.

The 2020 ambassadors honored for their work over the past program year include Krista Burkman, Lanae Elbers, Cassie Flanagan, Sophie Holmberg, Gretchen Jacobsma, Nathan Kinsinger, Tory Knobloch, Karly Kruse, Leah Kruse, Danette Leenderts, Jacob Madison, Justin Mente, Samantha Moser, Cody Moser, Austin Ossefoort, Caleb Raak, Jacob Raak, Dennie Sandbulte, Grace Sandbulte and Hunter Sandbulte.

Awards were sponsored by the Luverne Area Chamber of Commerce.



Submitted photo

Adults and youth who make up the 2021 Rock County 4-H Federation Committee include (from left) Marissa Maloney, Russell Forrest, Teresa Kinsinger, Lanette Elbers, Karly Kruse, Justin Mente, Leah Kruse, Lanae Elbers, Brianna Kinsinger, Nathan Kinsinger, Krista Burkman and Caleb Raak. The committee helps determine local learning opportunities.

Club awards

The Blue Ribbon 4-H Club earned top honors for their activities in 2021. Activities include filling bags of candy for Project Love, cleaning ditches, and planting flowers with residents at the nursing home in Hills.

The Livewires club took runner-up honors for their community pride project of "lead by example" to younger members and care packages to the residents of the Ellsworth nursing home.

Clubs also competed for additional awards based on activities their members complete. Points were awarded for the active club awards.

The Springdell 4-H Club received first place award sponsored by Pizza Ranch. Second place, sponsored by Ace Hardware, was earned by the Denver Go-Getters. The highest percentage of members to complete their re-enrollment was awarded to the Blue Ribbon club.

Cloverbud recognition

Recognition was given to a large group of the youngest 4-H members. Cloverbuds are youth in

Club abbreviations

Blue Ribbon (BR)
County K9s (K9)
Denver Go-Getters (DGG)
Livewires (LW)
Magnolia Juniors (MJ)
Springdell (SD)
Willing Workers (WW)

kindergarten through second grade.

Earning the Cloverbud award for activities completed during the year were Grady Broesder, Fox Busswitz, River Johnson and Addison Sammons from BR; Summer Aning and Gracelyn Hamann from K9; Karsten Haas, Landon Jessen, Matthew Koedam and Henry Pap from DGG; Jaxen Jansma, Daniel Sina, Demmi Sina, Aiden Snyders, Cameron Snyders, Ivy Tiesler and Alexis Wrigg from LW; Joshua Luitjens and Kallista Van Grootheest from MJ; Caylix Buchholz, Colton Buchholz, Hayden Devine, Memphis Haefner, Dashel Halbersma, Connor Snell and Noelle Snell from SD.

Clover Power honors

Members in their first

or second year in 4-H earn points for year-end awards. Clover Power award recipients include Penni Moore of BR, Allison Honken of LW and Colton Buchholz of SD.

Fantastic 15

Members in grades 3-6 with the highest points for completing various activities earn the Fantastic 15 award.

Winners were Camdyn Broesder, Jed Fagerness, Ava Steinhoff, Hailey Moser and Penni Moore of BR; Lullia Johnson of K9; Allison Honken and Joshua Honken of LW; Lucas Madison and Evan Ossefoort of MJ; Colton Buchholz, Lillian Maloney and Norah Maloney of SD.

The Fantastic 15 awards were sponsored by the Rock County Star Herald.

Fab 15

Older 4-H'ers, youth in grades 7 and higher, compete for Fab 15 honors by earning points throughout the year.

Fab 15 honorees include Lanae Elbers, Danette Leenderts, Larissa Steinhoff of BR; Caleb Raak, Jacob Raak of DGG; Egypt Forrest, Fox Forrest of K9; Andrea Honken, Leah Kruse and Karly Kruse

of LW; Brianna Kinsinger, Nathan Kinsinger and Justin Mente of MJ; Krista Burkman and Zach Uhl of SD.

Awards were sponsored by Security Savings Bank and CHS Inc.

Project achievement

Six members earned "once in a lifetime" awards for their work in a project area during their 4-H careers and shared their knowledge with other members.

Justin Mente (MJ) was awarded a beef achievement recognition by the Rock/Nobles Cattleman's Association. He is the son of Dave and Stacy Mente of Adrian.

Jacob Raak (DGG) received the dairy achievement award sponsored by the Rock County American Dairy Association. Raak is the son of Philip and Theresa Raak of Jasper.

Ashlyn Johnson (K9) earned the pet achievement award sponsored by the Rock Veterinary Center in Luverne. She is the daughter of Jim and Heather Johnson of Luverne.

Krista Burkman earned a crafts and fine arts achievement from Making Memories Last Retreat of Adrian. Burk-

man also earned the clothing and textiles achievement, sponsored by the Sewing Basket of Luverne. She is the daughter of Crystal Burkman and John Burkman of Brandon.

Zach Uhl was given the show achievement from Clevering Construction of Luverne. He is the son of Mike and Anna Uhl of Garretson.

George Golla Award

The George A. Golla 4-H Award honors 4-H'ers who demonstrate an extraordinary display of 4-H qualities and incorporation of 4-H values into their life goals. Applicants are encouraged to reflect on those qualities and the way they have given back to others and their communities.

Justin Mente (MJ) was the 2021 award recipient by the Golla family.

Outstanding leader

The ultimate youth leader award is given to an older member based on involvement in the 4-H program, displaying leadership to younger members and being a positive role model.

Zach Uhl (SD) was the 2021 outstanding youth leader.

Scholarship recipients

Jacob Raak was awarded the scholarship from Sunshine Foods and the Reisch 4-H fund.

Gretchen Jacobsma, Tory Knobloch and Dalton Popkes earned Reisch 4-H fund scholarships.

Graduating members

Six members were honored as graduates of the 4-H program in 2021. They are Aisha Porter and Candace Porter of K9, Dalton Popkes (LW), Kallie Chapa and Christian Kruse of MJ and Tacey Baustian (WW).

Project disks

Disks are given in each of the 4-H project areas. Member earn project disks based on records submitted and judged. Top recorder winners in each project area include:

Beef: Claire Knobloch, Tory Knobloch, Danette Leenderts, all of BR, Justin

4-H, continued on page 7

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2011)

•Director Terrie Gulden is retiring after 15 years at the helm of the county's Heartland Express public transportation program.

Gulden said he considers the completion of the Heartland Building at 1011 North Blue Mound Avenue as a career highlight.

"This building has been a huge success for the program," Gulden said.

After years of being bounced around, the Heartland office now has a permanent home with the busses located in the building. ...

Gulden said he will miss working with his staff and a supportive county board as well as the people served by the Heartland buses.

25 years ago (1996)

•After three years of research, plans are finally in place for a congregate care facility in Luverne.

The Good Samaritan Society has approved plans by Luverne's Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Center to construct a 28-unit congregate care facility in the Sybesma Addition of Luverne.

The apartments, to be located directly south of the Mary Jane Brown Home, will be designed as alternative senior housing, allowing residents to live independently without the responsibilities of maintaining a home.

The two-story complex will be equipped with both an elevator and stairs. It will consist of one- or two-bedroom apartments with kitchen/dining area, living room and bathroom. In addition, there will be common areas for activities,

a beauty shop, living room, dining room and more.

50 years ago (1971)

•After a lengthy discussion last Tuesday, the Rock County Board of Commissioners accepted the low bid on a purchase of two new automobiles to be used by the sheriff's department.

Award of the bid was given to Van's Motor Co. of Luverne with a bid of \$3,548.84 each on two new Plymouth Fury autos.

75 years ago (1946)

•Axel Anderson, who has operated Anderson's Café here since August 1, disposed of the business to Mr. and Mrs. Art Goodbody, Waukegan, Ill., Thursday of last week. Mrs. Goodbody will be remembered as the former Miss Alma Lund, of Luverne.

The business will hereafter be known as the Rainbow Inn, and the new management will continue to serve meals, lunches, beer, and soft drinks.

100 years ago (1921)

•A sale of outstanding importance in registered livestock circles, considering the general inaction of the past several months, was consummated the latter part of last week, when W. R. Hansen, of Kanaranzi township, sold ten Percheron and Belgian stallion colts to Holbert Bros., of Greeley, Ia., who are known throughout the United States and Canada as extensive importers and dealers in registered horses.

The colts ranged from sucklings to yearlings and consisted of three Percherons and seven Belgians, and the purchase price ranged from \$250 to \$450. The horses were shipped Monday to Greeley from Rock Rapids.

1905: Rural Route 4 begins at Luverne Post Office

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on April 28, 1905.

New Rural Route Fourth To Be Fed From Luverne Post Office To Begin Operation June 1
Recent Petition to Department at Washington for Establishment of R. F. D. R. No. 4, to Extend South from the city is Granted—Route Covers Area of Twenty-Eight Square Miles and Will Serve Population of 480
Postmaster M. Swedberg received notice Saturday from the Postoffice Department at Washington that the application for a rural free delivery route made several weeks ago by a number of the residents of Luverne, Clinton and Magnolia townships had been granted and that the route would be started June 1. Gilbert Gutterson, special agent of the department, was here a few weeks ago and



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

inspected the route proposed by the petitioners and as it met with the requirements of the department gave it his approval. The route will be known as Luverne Rural Free Delivery Route No. 4. It is twenty-eight miles long and serves ninety-four houses and four hundred and seventy people. The course of the

Bits, continued on page 7

Star Herald remembers loved ones who died in 2021

December 2020

Dec. 8: James Hendel, 85, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 Dec. 16: Edward Berning, 90, Adrian.
 Dec. 23: Eugene Stoterau, 86, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 Dec. 27: Lianne Buckmiller, 64, Pipestone.

January 2021

Jan. 2: Nicholas DeBoer, 90, Leota.
 Jan. 4: Burdell Willers, 95, Beaver Creek; Arden Hull, 87, New Prague.
 Jan. 6: Marlys DeVries, 85, Luverne; Lillian Gruis, 78, Slayton; Shirley Young, 93, Portland, Ore.
 Jan. 7: Lennis "Red" Arndt, 72, Luverne; Sandra Boyenga, 57, Mankato.
 Jan. 8: Jean Barclay, 98, Luverne; Marian Helling, 94, Bismarck, N.D.
 Jan. 10: Marvin Rozeboom, 95, Leota.
 Jan. 11: JoAnn Van Engelenhoven, 90, Luverne.
 Jan. 12: Arlene Rollag, 96, Beaver Creek.
 Jan. 16: Arlene Mitchell, 96, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
 Jan. 17: Keith Aanenson, 78, Luverne; Carol Zwaan, 77, Steen.
 Jan. 19: James Dreesen, 69, Jasper; Rhona Ruud, 59, Briceilyn.
 Jan. 20: Dena Santana, 57, Luverne.
 Jan. 21: Barbara Nelson, 79, New Hope; Hildegard Jagow, 89, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 Jan. 22: Lester Vanden Berg, 92, Edgerton.
 Jan. 23: Donna Loud, 82, Blackduck.
 Jan. 26: Linda Vis, 66, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Doreen Wiese, 80, Luverne.
 Jan. 27: Helga Hoffman, 87, Urbandale, Iowa.
 Jan. 28: Alvera "Polly" Martinson, Moody County, S.D.
 Jan. 29: Kitthachone "John" Sengvongxay, 49, Luverne.
 Jan. 31: Sandra Eitrem,

80, Fridley.

February

Feb. 1: Charles Cooksley, 87, Luverne; Harold Sandstede, Lincoln, Neb.; Donald Esterly, Phoenix, Ariz.
 Feb. 2: Herman Lupkes, 86, Luverne.
 Feb. 4: Kim Kimmel, 73, Magnolia.
 Feb. 5: Keith Lemke, 83, Hardwick; Ardean "Bub" Walgrave, 100, Luverne.
 Feb. 7: John Feikema, 74, Orange City, Iowa.
 Feb. 10: James Keiper, 74, Dresbach.
 Feb. 12: Pa Si Phan, 67, Worthington; Brad Weinkauff, 50, Jasper; Larry Rosenberg, 76, Slayton.
 Feb. 16: Barbara Wills, 81, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Donald Mitchell, 72, Luverne; Orvel Dreesen, 84, Ellsworth.
 Feb. 17: Alvera Balster, 92, Ellsworth.
 Feb. 24: James Ebert, 68, Garvin; Harold Hixson, 86, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 Feb. 25: Evelyn Ykema, 89, Luverne.
 Feb. 28: Ruth Van Westen, 96, Ellsworth; Douglas Bork, 59, Beaver Creek.

March

March 1: John Berghorst, 73, Sturgis, S.D.
 March 2: Kenneth Bowen, 82, Edgerton; Delores Kindt, 90, Kenneth.
 March 3: Myron Smook, 68, Magnolia.
 March 5: Mary Johnson, 67, Brandon, South Dakota.
 March 8: Gertrude Bruynes, 86, Luverne.
 March 11: Shirley Ford, 93, Luverne.
 March 12: Debra Tilberg, Jordan.
 March 14: Claudette Thone, 85, Mission Viejo, Calif.
 March 15: Arlen Olson, 85, White Bear Lake.
 March 17: Ted Lingen, 55, Jasper.
 March 19: Darlene Ruud,

88, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 March 20: Grace Boeve, 95, Luverne; Alice (Hoiland) Larson, 87, Bloomington.
 March 21: Virgil Schutz, 93, Luverne.

April

April 1: Emma Blomgren, 82, Ellsworth.
 April 3: Albert Boeve, 97, Luverne; Nelvin Schelhaas, 82, Luverne.
 April 7: Tanya Lehmann, 83, Oconomowoc, Wis.
 April 10: Hannah Dooyema, newborn, Nashville, Tenn.
 April 12: Henrietta Huenink, 98, Steen.
 April 15: Velma Brommer, 87, Rock Rapids.
 April 16: Bruce Rye, 58, Luverne.
 April 20: Theodore Van Peursem, 89, Leota.
 April 26: Roger Achterhof, 80, Rochester.
 April 28: Beatrice Rogness, 84, Luverne; Paula Snyder, 66, Salida, Colo.
 April 30: Eric Christensen, 56, Luverne; John Remme, 82, Worthington.

May

May 1: Douglas Kuper, 75, Beaver Creek.
 May 3: William Preuss, 78, Luverne.
 May 4: Robert Bullerman, 92, Tyler; Erwin Eisner, 85, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 May 13: Richard Rauk, 68, Beaver Creek.
 May 16: Corrine Houg, 93, Jasper.
 May 19: Richard Brown, 85, Hudson, Wis.
 May 22: LaVera Wick, 89, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Leif Gilbertson, 61, Powell Butte, Oregon.
 May 23: Wayne Green, 67, Luverne.
 May 26: Carolyn Smiens, 75, Northfield.
 May 27: Helen Fitzer, 94, Luverne.
 May 28: Glenn Swenson, 85, Hills.

June

June 2: Clarence Bauer, 81, Adrian.
 June 3: Gladys Siebenahler, 89, Luverne; Mary Van Hofwegen, 92, Edgerton.
 June 4: Wendell Marshall, 94, West Linn, Ore.; Bryanna Cobler, 31, Luverne.
 June 7: Marian Frahm, 88, Breezy Point.
 June 10: Lambert Van Olst, 89, Rock Rapids, Iowa.
 June 13: Faith Kruse, 67, Rock Rapids, Iowa.
 June 15: John Vandema, 69, Luverne; James Sommers, 78, Pipestone.
 June 19: Rodney Fikse, 61.
 June 20: Dewey Dooyema, 91, Luverne.
 June 21: Roger Russell, 63, Hills.
 June 23: James Sandstede, 76, Luverne.
 June 27: Howard Hoyme, 97, Hills.
 June 29: Ruth Roemeling, 86, Luverne; David Rollag, 78, Luverne.

July

July 2: David Huiskes, 72, Luverne.
 July 21: Sharon Becker, 70, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 July 22: Thomas Mollberg, 63, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 July 25: Jacob Adams, 14, Ellsworth; Loretta Petersen, 93, Luverne.
 July 29: Joan Heeren, 88, Luverne.
 July 30: Ramona McDowell, 91, Luverne.

August

Aug. 5: John Anderson, 83, Nevis.
 Aug. 7: Marsha Jandl, 61, Jasper.
 Aug. 8: Ethel Ten Hove, 95, Pipestone; Helen Ver Hoeven, 92, Hawarden, Iowa; Ronald Arp, 64, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 Aug. 12: Lewis Kruger, 66, Lennox, S.D.
 Aug. 14: William Beimers, 84, Luverne.

Aug. 21: Mavis Grage, 99, Jasper.
 Aug. 27: Jamie Ertle, 38, San Diego, Calif.
 Aug. 31: Delores Schmidt, 86, Pipestone.

September

Sept. 6: Nancy Christianson, 91, Pierre, S.D.
 Sept. 8: Guenther Luitjens, 76, Broken Arrow, Okla.
 Sept. 12: Robert Tomlinson, 74, Luverne.
 Sept. 14: Cecilia Javner, 86, Oak Creek, Wis.
 Sept. 15: Margaret Enger, 61, Chicago, Ill.
 Sept. 16: Steve Baumgard, 62, Luverne.
 Sept. 20: Todd Geertsema, 57, Burtrum.
 Sept. 22: James Johansson, 78, Luverne.
 Sept. 28: Dennis Smook, 67, Luverne.

October

Oct. 3: James Klein, 94, Luverne; Alison Baker, newborn, Hardwick; Alex Brandt, 24, Adrian.
 Oct. 5: Douglas Scott, 60, Kenneth.
 Oct. 12: Charlotte Kuechenmeister, 94, Sioux Falls, SD.
 Oct. 13: Joyce Sandbo, 79, Luverne.
 Oct. 17: Debra Von Behren, 63, Madison, South Dakota.
 Oct. 18: John Dubbelde, 72, Pipestone.
 Oct. 19: Julie Wynia, 67, Steen.
 Oct. 20: Carol Stearns, 61, Mountain Center, California.
 Oct. 23: Larry Fodness, 77, Edgerton.
 Oct. 24: Lylas Smidstra, 88, Luverne.
 Oct. 25: Tracey Fahrenholtz, 55, Moorhead.
 Oct. 27: Greta Veldkamp, 96, rural Jasper.
 Oct. 30: Helmer Haakenson, 102, Luverne; Nancy Greve, 81, Hutchinson.

November

Nov. 3: Elaine Hamann, 96, Luverne; Harvey Taubert, 91, Beaver Creek; Deborah Hellwinkel, 62, Beaver Creek; Hortensia Cornejo, 73, Luverne.
 Nov. 6: Maurice DeJaeghere, 85, Luverne; Milton Fink, 96, Luverne.
 Nov. 7: Mary Anderson, 84, Rock Rapids, Iowa.
 Nov. 9: Lowell Thone, 88, Mission Viejo, Calif.; Dale Matus, 87, Beaver Creek.
 Nov. 11: Tanya Fey, 38, rural Woodstock.
 Nov. 12: Gerald Wikstrom, 85, Coon Rapids.
 Nov. 13: Ashley Jo Barber, 33, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 Nov. 14: Robert Veldkamp, 49, Edgerton.
 Nov. 15: Gerald Utter, 79, Portland, Ore.
 Nov. 16: Milo Hamann, 85, Luverne.
 Nov. 18: Terry Connell, 57, Luverne; Francis Faber, 95, Luverne.
 Nov. 19: Joan De Jongh, 88, Luverne.
 Nov. 26: Laura May Bosch, 94, Brandon, S.D.; Cornelius Bosch, 94, Brandon, S.D.
 Nov. 28: Leland Vlastuin, 58, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 Nov. 29: Marcus Uithoven, 91, Luverne.
 Nov. 30: William Sneller, 87, Luverne.

December

Dec. 1: Carolyn Sneller, 92, Parker, S.D.
 Dec. 6: Calvin "Jim" VanHulzen, 69, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 Dec. 7: John "Jack" Paulsen, 80, Hills.
 Dec. 8: Stephanie West, 47, Sioux Falls, S.D.
 Dec. 9: Jack Boomgaarden, 63, rural Magnolia.
 Dec. 13: Lois Nelson, 92, Hills.
 Dec. 18: Gerald Pommer, 73, Ellsworth.
 Dec. 19: Virginia Wessels, 71, Hardwick.
 Dec. 22: Bernette Helling, 88, Paynesville.

4-H/continued from page 6

Mente, MJ; Claire Popkes, LW.

Cat: Penni Moore, BR.
 Dairy: Caleb Raak and Jacob Raak, both of DGG.

Horse: Lily Ehlers, K9; Andrea Honken, LW; and Reagan Spath, BR

Poultry: Justin Mente, MJ.

Rabbit: Joshua Honken, LW; and Andrea Luitjens, MJ.

Clothing and textiles: Krista Burkman, SD; Fox Forrest, K9; and Morgan Gonnerman, WW.

Communication Contest: Krista Burkman, SD; Candace Porter, K9.

Crafts and Fine Arts: Allison Honken, LW; Jacob Madison, MJ; Mazzi Moore, BR; Penni Moore, BR; Alayna Oechsle, LW; Evan Ossefoort, MJ; Aisha Porter, K9; Candace Porter, K9; Larissa Steinhoff, BR; Zach Uhl, SD.

Fishing Sports: Aaliyah Stensland, SD.

Flower Gardening: Gabriella Porter, K9.

Food and Nutrition: Fox Forrest, K9; Lucas Madison, MJ; Lillian Maloney, SD; Hailey Moser, BR; Samantha Moser, BR; Alayna Oechsle, LW; Ava Steinhoff, BR.

Food Preservation: Jacob Madison, MJ; Justin Mente, MJ.

Geology: Colton Buchholz, SD

Home Environment: Colton Buchholz, SD.

Indoor Gardening: Norah Maloney, SD.

Needle Arts: Fox Forrest, K9; Alayna Oechsle, LW; Gabriella Porter, K9.

Photography: Claire Boeve, BR; Krista Burkman, SD; Lily Ehlers, K9; Brianna Kinsinger, MJ; Samantha Moser, BR; Ava Steinhoff,



Submitted photo

Interim Extension educator Michele Kruse (center) awards Dawn and Dave Leenderts the 2021 4-H Alumni Award.

BR; Larissa Steinhoff, BR.

Tractor: Zach Uhl, SD.

Self-Determined: Zach Uhl, SD.

Shop/Wood Science: Krista Burkman, SD; Evan Ossefoort, MJ; Jacob Raak, DGG; Zach Uhl, SD.

Adult volunteers

Receiving recognition for 25 years were Wayne Brands and Beth Kalass; 20 years Theresa Raak, Anne Stegenga, Craig Stegenga; 15 years Dave and Dawn Leenderts, Dave and Stacy Mente; 10 years Erin deKoning, Kurt and Lanette Elbers, Kris VanDerBrink; five years Cory and Kelsey Buchholz, Anna Haas, Meranda Kramer, Robin Kroon, Dennis and Melonie Madison, Amie and Ryan Reker, Mike Spath, Patti Stensland, and Amanda and Jeremy Wiersema.

Club Leaders were also recognized. They included Lanette Elbers from BR, Katie Walgrave, K-9, Theresa Raak, DGG, Michele Kruse,

LW, Laura Luitjens, MJ, Anna and Michael Uhl, SD, and Anne Stegenga, WW.

Alumni and friends

A group of adults were recognized for their support of the 4-H program.

The Rock County Ag Society was named a Friend

of 4-H for the group's support of the program over the years and bringing new ideas to the annual county fair.

Dave and Dawn Leenderts of Hills were honored for their many years of volunteering and being parents to active 4-H'ers with the 4-H Alumni Award. Kelsey Buchholz of Garretson also received a 4-H Alumni Award for being an ultimate role model and example of making the best better.



Buchholz

GENERATIONS MENU

Monday, Jan. 3:

Chicken chow mein with brown rice, Oriental vegetables, mandarin oranges, pudding with whipped topping.

Tuesday, Jan. 4:

Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, pineapple, Texas toast, cookie.

Wednesday, Jan. 5:

Creamy chicken, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots,

biscuit, warm fruit crisp.

Half-Price Day sponsored by American Reformed Church.

Thursday, Jan. 6:

Pork loin, candied yams, broccoli, bread, bar.

Friday, Jan. 7:

Meatloaf, baked potato, stewed tomatoes, bread, dessert.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Sanford of Luverne.

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

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

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

Bits/continued from page 6

route is as follows:

Beginning at the post office and running southwest to the center of the east line of section 10, (the south end of Kniss avenue); thence south three miles to the center of the east line of section 27; thence west one mile; thence south two and one-half miles to the northeast corner of section 9, Clinton township; thence east one and one-half miles to the center of the south line of section 2; thence north one mile; thence east one mile to the center of the south line of section 36, Luverne township; thence north one and one-half miles to the center of section 25; thence east one-half mile and south one-half mile to the northwest corner of section 31, Magnolia township; thence east one mile and south one mile to the northwest corner of section 5, Kanaranzi township; thence east two miles; thence north three miles to the northeast corner of section 21, Magnolia township; thence west two miles and south one mile to the northwest corner of section

29; thence west two miles to the northwest corner of section 25, Luverne township; thence north two miles to the southeast corner of section 11, (known as Jaycox' corner.) and thence along the irregular road passing through the park to the post office.

The examination for carriers for this route have not yet been held, but they will be in ample time to secure the appointment of the carrier by June 1, the date set for the beginning of delivery.

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to manned@iw.net.

PALACE THEATRE	UPCOMING EVENTS	
	BANK NITE MOVIE TBD	TBD
	BANK NITE MOVIE - FREE Admission	
	Thursday, January 6	6:00 pm
	Sponsored by: First Farmers & Merchants Bank and Papik Motors	
	Spider Man: No Way Home	PG-13
	Friday, January 7	7:00 pm
	Saturday, January 8	7:00 pm
	Sunday, January 9	2:00 pm
	Tickets: \$5 for kids age 3 - 12th grade, \$7 for adults	
104 E. Main St. • Luverne, MN 56156 • 507.283.4339		
WWW.PALACETHEATRE.US		

'Return to normal' brings out best in Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek teams, athletes in 2021

By Mavis Fodness

The "pause" in prep sports events ended in January 2021 as experts figured out how athletes and spectators could safely gather for sporting events during the coronavirus pandemic.

Prep athletes began winter sports practices on Jan. 7, almost two months after the normal start to the season. Competitions began Jan. 14.

A ticket system was developed to limit the number of parents and family members gathered at the actual event, and livestreaming on social media allowed the rest of the public to watch.

At the end of the lengthened season in March, several area teams and individuals again qualified to compete at state tournaments, many of which had been canceled in early 2020 as the pandemic started.

Girls' hockey

In 2021 the Luverne High School girls' hockey team won its second straight Section 3A title and again competed at the state Class A Girls' Hockey Tournament.

The Cardinals lost 8-0 in the opening round to undefeated Proctor/Hermantown.

As a preview to the 2022 sports season, Luverne girls' hockey senior Reghan Bork recorded her 100th goal as the season hit the midway point.

Wrestling and gymnastics individuals

Individually three winter sports athletes, wrestler Riley Cowell and gymnasts Ella Reisdorfer and Amira Cowell, wrapped up memorable seasons.

Cowell, who wrestled at 120 pounds, earned his 100th career win.

Gymnast Cowell set the new school vault record Feb. 13 with a 9.3 in a triangular meet with the Worthington Trojans and Windom Eagles.

Gymnast Reisdorfer also set school records in 2021 on the beam and the all-around with scores of 9.35 and 35.2. The school records were set in a Feb. 25 meet against Marshall. Reisdorfer broke her own all-around score on March 11 with a 35.475 against Blue Earth Area.

Reisdorfer qualified for her second straight state gymnastics tournament. She competed on the beam, receiving a score of 8.80 (tied for 18th).

H-BC track

After a year away from the



The Hills-Beaver Creek High School football team's run to the Minnesota State High School Nine-Man Championship is one of the Star Herald's top news stories for 2021. **Below:** Among the year's sports highlights is the Luverne High School girls' cross country team's third-place finish at the Minnesota State High School Cross Country Champion.

track, both LHS and Hills-Beaver Creek High School returned in the spring of 2021 with record-setting track and field performances.

H-BC's 4-by-100 relay team broke the school record, doing so in an April 29 meet in Luverne. Team members Cole Baker, Gavin Wysong, Dewell Rauk and Tyson Bork ran a time of 44.64.

Cole Baker went on to tie the school record in the triple jump May 7 in a meet in Slayton. Baker completed a leap of 41-11.50

The relay team and Baker were among the seven relay teams and 10 individuals from Rock County who competed at the state track and field meet June 18 at St. Michael High School.

Luverne track

The LHS girls' 4-by-800 team claimed first place at the state meet with a time of 9:34:65.

The team of Regan Feit, Tiana Lais, Jenna DeBates and Tenley Nelson marked the time, and it was the third straight season that a Cardinal team took home the first-place medal in the event.

Luverne's Ashton Sandbulte placed third individually in the 100-meter dash at the state tournament. His time of 11.02 also broke the school record.

LHS boys' tennis

The LHS boys' tennis team won the Section 3A championship for the 11th straight year and earned the team another trip to



the state tennis tournament.

The team was ousted in the first round by Mounds Academy 5-2.

LHS junior Pierce Cunningham qualified for the individual state tennis tournament after winning the No. 1 singles title in Section 3A. He lost in the opening round 2-1.

Softball

Rounding out the 2021 spring sports season was LHS' softball player Billi Connell, who was named to the Minnesota High School Fastpitch Coaches Association 2AA All-

State team. Connell, a junior, played a variety of positions and had a batting average of over .500 in 2021.

Summer turned to baseball and the town team competitions.

Summer baseball

The Post 123 Senior Legion team won the sub-section state championship and qualified for the Division II state tournament. The team came up short in the state consolidation championship.

The Luverne Redbirds extended their season to the Region 13C tournament, where

they claimed the region title and qualified to play in the state amateur baseball tournament.

The region title was the Redbirds' third in a row and marked the 13th time the Redbirds participated in the state tournament. Eagle Lake ended the Redbirds' season 3-0 in Round 2 after a Round 1 bye.

Wenzel state tennis

Fall meant a return to a normal competition schedule for the prep sports season.

Luverne senior Mia Wenzel, who played No. 1 singles for LHS, won the Section 3A singles championship and earned her first trip to the state tennis tournament Oct. 28-29. Wenzel lost in the opening rounds.

LHS cross country

The LHS girls' cross country runners continued their dominance in Section 3A by placing in the top two teams for the eighth consecutive year.

The LHS boys' cross country team took the runner-up title and returned to the state tournament after a nine-year absence.

2021 marked the fourth time in school history that both the girls' and boys' teams earned the right to run at the state cross country tournament in Northfield Nov. 6.

The girls' team placed third at the state tournament.

Individually Tenley Nelson finished the 5K race in second place with teammate Jenna DeBates finishing in third. The athletes finished with the same places at the conference meet.

The boys' team placed ninth.

Individually Camden Janiszski finished first in the conference with Owen Janiszski second. At the state meet, the brothers finished 15th and 17th respectively.

H-BC Patriots football

Rounding out the 2021 sports season was the H-BC football team who set out to avenge the shortened 2020 season.

The Patriots were set to play in the state football tournament when the 2020 games were canceled.

This year the Patriots earned the Section 3 Nine-Man Championship title for the fourth time in four years and another chance to play in the state football championship.

The team made it to the semi-finals before losing to undefeated Fertile-Beltrami.

Patriot boys' basketball loses in tough matchup

By Dalton Bass

For the Star Herald

In a closely fought contest for most of the game, the Murray County Central Rebels pulled away late to beat the Patriots 59-45 in Hills on Tuesday night.

It was three minutes into the game before either team put points on the board. Senior Cole Baker (14 points and six rebounds) hit a floater from in the lane to give the Patriots a 2-0 advantage.

The Rebels went on an 11-0 run before a timeout was taken by Coach Wiertzema with 12:31 to go in the first half.

The Patriots came out hot after the timeout as Drew Leenderts (10 points) capped off the run with a three-point basket to pull the Patriots within three, by a score of 13-10.

The rest of the first period was a back and forth affair as Cole Baker put in a layup as he was fouled with 28 seconds left to go to cut the Rebels' lead to 29-24 at



Samantha McGaffee photo for the Star Herald

Andrew Harris pushes a layup to the basket for the Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots in a Dec. 21 home game against the Murray County Central Rebels. H-BC lost the game 59-44.

Two Rivers upends Cardinal boys' hockey 6-0

By Matt Lais
For the Star Herald

The Luverne boys' hockey team traveled to St. Paul on Dec. 22 to take on the Two Rivers Warriors in the West St. Paul Arena.

The Cardinals couldn't get much offense going from the opening puck drop.

The visiting Cardinals were outshot 19-5 in the first period, but Luverne goalie Tyler Arends kept the score at 0-0 after the first.

The hometown Warriors got on the scoreboard 1:23 into the second period to take a 1-0 lead, but that's all the scoring that happened in the second period.

Arends made 11 saves, but the Cardinals were only able to get four shots on Two Rivers goalie Brady Altier in the second.

The final period saw the Warriors put up five goals on Luverne with the Cardinals having nothing in their arsenal to mount a comeback.

Total shots on goal for the game were 52-14 in favor of the Warriors.

Arends ended with a solid 46 saves in the contest.

The Cardinal boys were scheduled to go on the road Dec. 28-30 for their holiday tournament in Rochester.

Be somebody who cares about something

I have a great job as a self-employed, independent investment adviser, helping people try to get to a comfortable retirement. Saving money for your later years is not something that everybody is good at.

I would like to think I have made a measurable difference in that regard for my clients over the past 33 years, but they still needed to participate in order to achieve success, and that takes discipline.

When my day job duties have been fulfilled, I spend my free time doing whatever I can in the world of conservation. There is no end to the amount of time and energy you can expend in this effort.

I have been involved in conservation for more than 35 years and I have never gotten to a point where I think you can take your foot off the gas and think everything is now going to be OK.

The list of challenges that game fish and wildlife face is accelerating, not slowing down. Loss of grasslands is a huge factor. Grassland ecosystems are the most endangered ecotype habitats on the planet.

Everyone knows they need to worry about the rain forests, but grasslands are in more peril and danger today than they are.

Millions of acres of grasslands have been plowed under in the past 20 years. South Dakota's pheasant hunting heritage is facing a real threat. The good old days in South Dakota are over, and they are not coming back.

When you lose or convert millions of acres of grasslands to row crop agriculture, there is no way Mother Nature can raise the number of birds she did before.

In fact, if you subtracted the South Dakota pheasants harvested by the number of pen-raised planted pheasants that are released by hunting preserves, they may not ever be the No. 1 state in the nation anymore.

Two decades ago, there wasn't anyone in a close second position. That grass is never coming back. Much like a new temporary tax. Once instituted, there is less than a zero-percent chance it will be repealed.

It doesn't really matter if you are trying to save some Atlantic salmon species, restore native habitats for pheasants, increase the crashing number of North America's songbirds, protect America's precious wetlands, or any other conservation-related cause.

There is an immediate need for dedicated individuals to take a stand for an important cause.

Folks like me have been doing this for decades, and as my generation ages out, there are very few individuals coming in behind them to fill that volunteerism gap.

My local Pheasants Forever board has over 250 years of volunteer history to its credit. The reason for this is that many of them have been helping out for the same 30-plus years I



THE OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall
Outdoors columnist

have.

When these folks lose their ambition to old age or health problems, this outstanding record of volunteer effort is also going to crash just like many game and fish species.

Whether it's a conservation cause or something else, all of these non-profit organizations are in the same boat. I would be willing to bet that any great cause, the American Cancer Society, United Way, Walk for Life, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Toys for Tots, any one of hundreds of veterans or religious organizations can all say that their helpers have been on the job and in the trenches for decades, and there is an almost impossible task of filling those empty volunteer spots.

I would love for my readers to take up a conservation cause and start doing their part to protect and preserve our natural resources. Not everyone has or shares my outdoor lifestyle motivation. I really don't care what important cause you engage in, but engage in something. Please engage in something.

The most common excuse used is "I have no time to do these kinds of things," and that is a lie. Everyone gets the same 24 hours in each day. It is the prioritization of those hours that determine if you can make a difference in something you believe in.

I have no intentions of ending or even slowing down on my conservation efforts, but I would love to have some young, invigorated helpers to participate along the way.

Don't make a New Year's resolution that fades away.

Instead reach out and make a few calls and get involved. The future of our natural resources depends on the success or failure of your motivation.

Send me an email and I can get you any phone number you need to make that first step.

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

Cardinal girls suffer first loss, earn two blowout wins

LHS girls' basketball team wins twice in 14 hours by combined score of 162-43

By Jason Berghorst
For the Star Herald

For the first time in seven games this season, the Luverne girls' basketball team experienced a loss.

The Cardinals traveled to Worthington on Tuesday, Dec. 21, and came up on the short end of a close 50-45 game.

Luverne had no trouble returning to its winning ways, however, when they defeated Tri-City United 75-17 Monday night and LeSueur-Henderson 87-26 Tuesday morning.

The 8-1 Cardinals are scheduled to play in Marshall Tuesday night.

Worthington 50, Luverne 45

Luverne led most of the first half in Worthington, even sporting a ten-point 25-15 lead with about six minutes left in the first half.

The Cardinals enjoyed a 27-19 lead on the 6-1, state-ranked Trojans at halftime.

The dynamics of the game changed as the second half progressed, however.

The Trojans narrowed the lead and eventually tied the game 33-33 with about ten minutes remaining.

Lead changes continued until Worthington took a 45-43 lead they would not relinquish.

Errors and fouls hurt the Cardinals, who committed 40 turnovers and 23 personal fouls with Emma Beyer, Averill Sehr and Elizabeth Wagner all fouling out of the game.

"We turned the ball over a lot, but we were able to cause turnovers for them as well," said Luverne head coach TJ Newgard.

"Foul trouble really put us in a tough spot, but I'm proud of the way we fought and gave ourselves chances to win."

Kira John led the way for Luverne with 14 points and Elizabeth Wagner had 12.

John also tallied 11



Images by CD photo

Emma Beyer dribbles the ball for Luverne in this file photo at home against Redwood Valley on Dec. 17. The LHS girls' basketball team brought a 6-0 record into this week's schedule.

rebounds while Elizabeth Wagner had 10 and Christina Wagner added seven.

"I thought we were a few plays away from knocking off a very good team," Newgard said.

Box Score

C. Wagner 1 0 0-0 2, Beyer 2 0 0-0 4, Ver Steeg 2 0 1-2 5, Sehr 0 1 1-2 4, E. Wagner 5 0 2-9 12, Stegenga 1 0 0-0 2, Jocelyn Hart 1 0 0-0 2, John 6 0 2-5 14, Hansen 0 0 0-0 0

Team Statistics

Luverne: 19 of 44 (43 percent), 6 of 18 free throws (33 percent), 41 rebounds, 40 turnovers. Worthington: 17 of 58 (29 percent), 16 of 25 free throws (64 percent), 34 rebounds, 27 turnovers.

Luverne 87, L-H 26

Luverne traveled to Montgomery to take on the Tri-City United Titans Monday night.

The Cardinals had no trouble with the Titans, outscoring the home team 42-8 in the first half and 33-9 in the second half to secure the 58-point victory, 75-17.

Luverne shot 57 percent from the field and held TCU to just 18 percent shooting.

Elizabeth Wagner led the Cardinals' offense with 26 points and five rebounds. Emma Beyer had nine points and four assists, and Brooklynn Ver Steeg scored eight and added five assists.

The Luverne defense caused 29 Titan turnovers and tallied 21 steals in the lop-sided contest.

Box Score

C. Wagner 4 0 0-1 8, Beyer 1 0 3-4 5, Ver Steeg 1 0 4-6 6, Sehr 1 1 1-2 6, E. Wagner 14 0 4-4 32, Stegenga 3 2 1-2 13, Jocelyn Hart 1 0 0-0 2, Sandbulte 2 0 0-0 4, John 2 0 0-0 4, Smith 1 0 0-0 2, Huiskes 0 0 0-0 0, Serie 1 0 0-0 2, Hansen 1 0 1-2 3, Schmuck 0 0 0-0 0, Jady Hart 0 0 0-0 0

Team Statistics

Luverne: 33 of 57 (57 percent), 6 of 14 free throws (43 percent), 32 rebounds, 12 turnovers. TCU: 7 of 39 (18 percent), 3 of 6 free throws (50 percent), 26 rebounds, 29 turnovers

Luverne 87, L-H 26

The Cardinals played a rare morning game Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in Le Sueur.

Just 12 hours after defeating Tri-City United by 58 points, Luverne earned its second lop-sided victory in two days (and largest of the season), 87-26, over the Le Sueur-Henderson Giants.

The Cardinals were again led by Elizabeth Wagner, who scored 32 points (28 from the field) and collected nine rebounds.

Kira John also totaled nine rebounds in the game.

Sarah Stegenga tallied 13 points and offered five assists. Averill Sehr also had five assists.

Box Score

C. Wagner 4 0 0-1 8, Beyer 1 0 3-4 5, Ver Steeg 1 0 4-6 6, Sehr 1 1 1-2 6, E. Wagner 14 0 4-4 32, Stegenga 3 2 1-2 13, Jocelyn Hart 1 0 0-0 2, Sandbulte 2 0 0-0 4, John 2 0 0-0 4, Smith 1 0 0-0 2, Huiskes 0 0 0-0 0, Serie 1 0 0-0 2, Hansen 1 0 1-2 3, Schmuck 0 0 0-0 0, Jady Hart 0 0 0-0 0

Team Statistics

Luverne: 35 of 77 (45 percent), 14 of 21 three throws (67 percent), 37 rebounds, 13 turnovers

Patriots/continued from page 8

the half.

The second half could never get closer than six points as Leenderts hit a mid range shot to cut the deficit to 34-28.

MCC's lead grew as large as 16 points before ending the game with a 59-

45 advantage.

Seniors Troy Durst (nine points and seven rebounds) and Andrew Harris (five points and six rebounds) were contributors for the Patriots.

The Patriots travel to SMSU in Marshall to play

Canby on Thursday night.

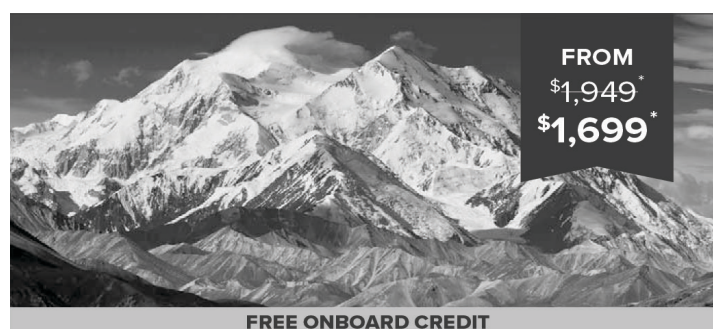
Box Score

Baker 4 1 3-9 14, Raymon 0 0 0-0 0, Harnack 2 0 0-0 4, Page 0 0 0-0 0, Leenderts 2 2 0-0 10, Bundesen 0 0 0-0 0, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Metzger 0 1 0-0 3, Taubert 0 0 0-0 0, Tatge 0 0 0-0 0, Durst 4 0 1-2 9, Scholten 0 0 0-0 0, Harris 2 0 1-2 5, Wiersema 0 0

0-0 0

Team Statistics

HBC: 18 of 44 (41 percent), 5 for 13 free throws (38 percent), 28 rebounds, 24 turnovers. MCC: 21 of 54 (39 percent), 11 for 19 free throws (58 percent), 30 rebounds, 13 turnovers



FREE ONBOARD CREDIT

GRAND ALASKAN CRUISE & TOUR

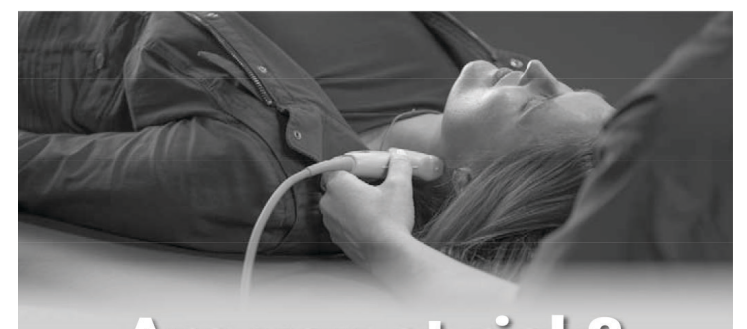
12 days, departs May - September 2022

Seattle • Vancouver • Ketchikan • Juneau • Skagway • Glacier Bay • Anchorage • Denali • and more — Visit Denali National Park and Glacier Bay National Park on the same incredible trip! Cruise through the Gulf of Alaska and the Inside Passage as you discover the best of the Frontier State by land and by sea.



promo code N7017
1-877-375-2291

* Prices are per person based on double occupancy plus \$299 in taxes & fees. Single supplement and seasonal surcharges may apply. Add-on airfare available. Onboard Credit requires purchase of Ocean View or Balcony Cabin. Offers apply to new bookings only, made by 12/31/21. Other terms & conditions may apply. Ask your Travel Consultant for details.



Are you at risk?

Get Screened for Risks of Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease

5 Screening Package for \$149

Call 877-881-3319

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

Looking for someplace to wear those new dancing shoes?

check the dining & entertainment sections in the Star Herald & Luverne Announcer

Star Herald CHURCH

Page 10 December 30, 2021

St. Catherine Catholic Church

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

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

Luverne Christian Reformed Church

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

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

First Baptist Church

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

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

Grace Lutheran Church

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

Thursday, Dec. 30: No activities. Friday, Dec. 31: Office is closed. Saturday, Jan. 1: No activities. Sunday, Jan. 2: 9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Coffee fellowship. No Sunday school. 5 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion. Tuesday, Jan. 4: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Jan. 5: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. 1 p.m. Priscilla/Elizabeth circles meet. 3:15 p.m. Faithweavers. 5 p.m. Youth supper. 6:15 p.m. 6th and 7th grade Confirmation. 7:15 p.m. 8th grade Confirmation. 8:15 p.m. 9th grade Confirmation. Thursday, Jan. 6: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Online, TV and Radio Worship options are available. Online: Sundays 9 a.m. on the church website www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab or go directly to our Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: Vast Channel 3 will air our worship service Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. Radio: KQAD-AM Radio will air our worship service on Sundays at 8:15 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church

720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834

Sundays, 10:15 a.m. Worship service; worship online as well (at els.org). Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne) for other classes and events. Wednesday, Dec. 22: 7 p.m. Advent Vespers.

American Reformed Church

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

Thursday, Dec. 30: 9 a.m. Kitchen reserved. Friday, Dec. 31: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible study. Sunday, Jan. 2: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 3 p.m. Youth room reserved. Wednesday, Jan. 5: 5:30 p.m. Midweek Meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Club. 6:30 p.m. Jr. and Sr. High youth groups. Thursday, Jan. 6: 5:30 p.m. Tumbling Tikes. Services are also broadcast on Vast Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

Rock River Community Church (formerly First Assembly of God)

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

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

United Methodist Church

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

Wednesday, Dec. 29: No Wednesday evening classes. 8 p.m. AA meeting. Saturday, Jan. 1: Office is closed—Happy New Year! Sunday, Jan. 2: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 9:45 a.m. Coffee hour. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible study. Live streamed on Facebook and radio.

First Presbyterian Church

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

Sunday, Jan. 2: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:30 a.m. Sunday school. Wednesday, Jan. 5: 5:30 p.m. Bells. 6:15 p.m. Choir. 7:15 p.m. Committee meetings. In-person Worship service and live on Facebook. Our Facebook

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

St. John Lutheran Church
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 283-2316; email: stjoh@iw.net
www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, Pastor

Sunday, Jan. 2: 9 a.m. Worship. Monday, Jan. 3: 1 p.m. Quilters meet. Wednesday, Jan. 5: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation. Services will be available on the Vast Channel 3 Sunday and online at the city website, cityofluverne.org.

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

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 2: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Bible study. Worship service on Luverne cable at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday and Friday.

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 2: 9 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. 10:30 a.m. Sunday school. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, even if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHDQwVxFu4>

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

Sunday, Jan. 2: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service with Holy Communion. Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, even if fully vaccinated. Worship will be streamed live on Facebook. Video worship via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHDQwVxFu4>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, Jan. 2: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 10 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion. 9 a.m. Sunday School. 7-8:30 p.m. Youth group meets. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org. Tuesday, Jan. 4: 2 p.m. Tuff Home Bible study. 3:30 p.m. Tuff Village Bible study. Wednesday, Jan. 5: 9 a.m. Quilting. 6 p.m. Confirmation. 7 p.m. Social/dessert time. 7:15 p.m. Wednesday night worship service.

Hills United Reformed Church
410 S. Central Ave., Hills
Office Ph. 962-3254
hillsure@alliancecom.net
Alan Camarig, Pastor

Looking for answers

Where do you turn when things go wrong in your life and you need answers? I am challenging each of us to look at who or what we rely on.

We know bad things can happen, and we can all agree that no one likes to face a crisis. We would much rather avoid suffering, pain, frustration, or really anything that might make us uncomfortable.

When we are looking for answers, do we turn to God? Do we seek his help when we are struggling?

God tells us in Psalm 124:8, "Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth." Therefore, it is important for us to understand that where we turn in times of crisis absolutely matters.

There is a story about this in II Kings, Chapter 1. This particular chapter is a record of an event in the reign of King Ahaziah, who was king of Israel.

Ahaziah walked in the way of his father, Ahab, and his mother, Jezebel, doing what was evil in the eyes of God.

King Ahaziah had fallen and gotten injured in his home. This kind of thing is something we can all relate to. Every day accidents happen, people slip and fall and sometimes people get hurt.

King Ahaziah's injury from his fall was a serious one. Because of this serious injury, Ahaziah sends messengers to go and consult with a false god. Ahaziah wasn't doing anything different than any other king would do in his day. In fact he was doing what he had seen his parents do.

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Jeremy Wiersema, Reformed Church of Steen

When we are looking for answers, do we turn to God? Do we seek his help when we are struggling?

If we read the entire chapter of II Kings 1, it might be easy for us to say Ahaziah was a foolish king, but let's not be too quick to judge and move on.

I believe Ahaziah's short story has the potential to teach us an important lesson. It is a reminder for us to turn to the one true God and look to him for help when we face trouble of any kind. God alone has the answers we are looking for.

No New Year's resolution is going to fix our problem. No magic pharmaceutical or 12-step program will give us the answer we are searching for to attain health and happiness.

This new year, 2022, let's all try something different. When we need answers, let's all choose to turn our eyes upon Jesus.

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

Call Rick or Chantel to place your ad!

283-2333

Read us online!

Rock County
STAR HERALD
www.Star-Herald.com

Trust in Him



Papik MOTORS
283-9171
PAPIK.COM
Luverne, MN
Rock Rapids, IA

HSS HILLS STAINLESS STEEL & EQUIPMENT CO., INC.
506 W. Koehn, P.O. Box 987, Luverne, MN
PHONE 507-283-4405
Church is Important - Please Attend!

Buffalo Ridge INSURANCE
507-283-2381
www.buffaloridgeins.com E-mail: info@buffaloridgeins.com

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

TUFF MEMORIAL HOME
A HOME WITH A HEART!
Hills, MN • 507-962-3275

MINNWEST BANK
116 East Main Street • Luverne • 507-283-2366
Hwy. 75 • 800 South Kniss • Luverne • 507-283-9131
www.minnwestbank.com • Member FDIC • MoneyLine 888-616 BANK

Advertise Here

SECURITY SAVINGS BANK
bankwithssb.com 507.449.6000
Member FDIC Luverne, MN

HARTQUIST
Funeral and Cremation Services
Pipestone • Luverne • Lake Benton • Jasper • Tyler
www.HartquistFuneral.com

Pizza Ranch
110 E Main, Luverne 507-283-2379

CWG Business Insurance.
Tri-State Region Period!

MANLEY TIRE & OIL SERVICE
Manley Minnesota
1-800-615-3704
Open six days a week • Closed on Sundays
To God be the Glory.

Luverne ANNOUNCER

First Farmers & Merchants
303 E. Main, Luverne, MN
507-283-4463
www.fimbank.com
We believe in you.™
Member FDIC. And the community.

Star Herald PUBLIC NOTICES

Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

Termination of parental rights over minor

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA IN CIRCUIT COURT
 COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 IN THE MATTER OF THE ADP. 21-119
 TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS OVER
 L. J. F. (DOB: 10-26-17) AMENDED EX-PARTE ORDER FOR PUBLICATION AND SUSPENSION OF TIME
 MINOR CHILD

This matter having come on before the Court via Affidavit on Petitioners' Motion for Publication, Ex-Parte Order and Suspension of Time, the Honorable Sandra Hanson, Circuit Court Judge, presiding; and the Petitioners being represented by their attorneys of record, Tressa Zahrbok Kool and Kaleb Paulsen, Sioux Falls, South Dakota; and the biological father being unrepresented because of his unavailability, it is hereby: ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Petitioners' Motion for Publication, Ex-Parte Order and Suspension of Time is granted; it is further ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Petitioners' Notice of Hearing setting forth the February 11, 2022, hearing date on Petitioners' Petition for Involuntary Termination of Parental rights shall be published in a legal newspaper in Rock County, Minnesota.

Dated this 6th day of December, 2021.

BY THE COURT

COURT SEAL /s/ Honorable Sandra Hanson
 Circuit Court Judge

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

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

HRA annual agency plan hearing set for Jan. 12

The Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Luverne has developed its Annual Agency Plan in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It is available for review at the Blue Mound Tower at 216 North McKenzie in Luverne, MN, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. A public hearing will be held on January 12, 2022, at the Authority's conference room at 11:30 a.m. The public may attend. (12-30)

Connell probate

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

Court File No. 67-PR-21-301

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

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on January 24, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 E Brown St, Luverne, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent dated, May 15, 2015, and codicil(s) to the Will dated, and separate writing(s) under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Chantel Connell, whose address is 1190 North River Road, Luverne, MN 56156, as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent in an UNSUPERVISED administration.

Any objections to the petition must be filed with the Court prior to or raised at the hearing. If proper and if no objections are filed or raised, the Personal Representatives will be appointed with full power to administer the Estate including the power to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate.

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

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

Date Filed: December 17, 2021

BY THE COURT

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

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

(12-23, 12-30)

RENTALS

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

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

NOW LEASING
CENTENNIAL APARTMENTS
 1 BEDROOM
 FOR THOSE 50+ OR
 DISABLED
 INCOME BASED HOUSING -
 INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES
507-283-2652
 Equal Housing Opportunity
LloydManagement.com



BLUE MOUND TOWER
 is now accepting applications for
 our waiting list.
 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments
 Income Based Housing, Rent
 Includes Utilities
 ALL AGES WELCOME
 Applications can be found on our
 website at luvernehra.com
Luverne HRA - Blue Mound Tower
 216 McKenzie Street
 Luverne, MN 56156 EHO
507-283-4922

RECYCLE!

EMPLOYMENT

FOR SALE

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

MISCELLANEOUS

HAVE A UNIQUE SERVICE OR BUSINESS? Get the word out to over 1.4 million households. Call WIDE AREA CLASSIFIEDS today, 507-359-7326. (tc)

EMPLOYMENT

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

Ellsworth Public School is accepting applications for a Paraprofessional. Applications can be found on the school website: <https://www.ellsworth.mntm.org/district/district-vacancies.cfm> or by calling the school at 507-967-2242. (12.24-1.13)

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT



We are hiring for a Full-time Program Supervisor position as well as Part-time and Full-time Caregiver positions in Luverne, MN. Our employees work with individuals with disabilities in group home settings. No experience or CNA required for Caregiver roles as we provide on the job training. For the Program Supervisor role 1 year experience in the field and/or supervisory experience is a plus. Apply online today if you meet these basic requirements: 18 years of age or older, clear criminal background check, and valid DL with clean driving record. We pay \$13-\$15/hr for DSP/Caregiver roles and FT benefits start at 30 hrs/wk. Now offering On-Demand Pay, access to your money anytime, no need to wait until pay day!
 Apply online: <https://jobs.thementornetwork.com> (search by Luverne)
 Questions call Amy: 507-401-5246



HELP WANTED

- Full-time CNA
 - Part-time CNA (various shifts)
 - Part-time Overnight RN/LPN
 - Laundry Aide
 - Full-time Cook and Dietary Aides
- 308 W. SHERMAN AVE. ELLSWORTH, MN
 CALL 507-967-2482

CARING HANDS DENTAL CLINIC

of Pipestone is under construction and is searching for a variety of dental and business professionals to join our successful organization. The new Clinic is located at 301 - 11th Street NE and we hope to have staff in place in the spring. Caring Hands serves all people of all ages with high quality, award winning dental care and education.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

Licensed Dental Assistants and Patient Care Coordinators
 All fulltime positions enjoy very competitive wages, based on experience and benefits including paid BLS, CE, Licenses, dues, scrubs, vacation, health insurance subsidy, PTO, family dental care and matching IRA. Some positions offer a nice sign-on bonus too! No selling services just provide great care. Caring Hands strives to provide a comfortable family friendly work atmosphere for its staff. If you like people, are professional and want to enjoy a 4 day work week please apply in confidence to: Al Olsen, CEO at al@caringhandsdc.org.



FOR THESE POSITIONS: Near Edgerton, MN

- Facilities & Maintenance Coordinator (FT)
- Transport Driver (FT)
- Feed Mill Driver

Check out the job descriptions at www.pipestone.com

Full-time positions will have a full set of great benefits.

Call 507-825-2532 with questions.



SPRONK BROTHERS

Interested in Advertising?
 Call Rick or Chantel
283-2333



mcan

Minnesota Classified Advertising Network



STATEWIDE ADS ONLY \$279

Classified Advertising that is
Easy!

THE MINNESOTA CLASSIFIED Ad NETWORK

Make an impact with your advertising dollar with classified advertising that reaches over 2.5 million readers!

Your newspaper representative can provide complete details.
 The 2x4 Network is a program of the MNA, phone 800-279-2979

MISCELLANEOUS

DONATE YOUR CAR

truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3-day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 844/220-9501

DISH NETWORK \$64.99

for 190 Channels! Blazing fast internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & get a FREE \$100 Visa gift card. FREE voice remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE streaming on ALL devices. Call today! 855/562-4309

THE COVID CRISIS

has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call National Debt Relief! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 844/205-5439

MISCELLANEOUS

LOOKING FOR ASSISTED LIVING memory care, or independent living? A Place for Mom simplifies the process of finding senior living at no cost to your family. Call 888/715-1720 today!

THE GENERAC PWRCELL

A solar plus battery storage system. Save money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down financing option. Request a free, no obligation quote today. Call 888/913-5895

ENJOY 100% GUARANTEED

delivered-to-the-door Omaha Steaks! Get 8 FREE Filet Mignon Burgers! Order the Delightful Gift this holiday season - only \$99.99. Call 888/858-0473 and mention code 65658PJJ or visit www.omahasteaks.com/thegift1192

HELP WANTED Full-Time Customer Service Representative in Luverne, MN

Security Savings Bank is looking for a Full-Time Customer Service Representative for our Security Savings Bank in Luverne.

Applicants should submit an application/resume via the website bankwithssb.com/about/careers

or apply in person, ask for Ryan or Sheryl for details - 507-449-6000.

Submitting an employment application does not guarantee an interview. Applicants are evaluated based on work history, job skills, credit report, background check and other job-related factors. All compensation and benefit programs are administered in compliance with state and federal law.

Security Savings Bank is an Equal Opportunity Employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, sexual preference or orientation), national origin, age, disability, and marital or veteran status.



We're Hiring Nursing Assistants

Tuff Memorial Home is looking for hard working, caring individuals to assist our residents.
 We have various Nursing Assistant shifts available for full time and part time

**NEW Starting Wage
 \$17/hour!**

- Paid Training on Site
- Competitive Wages
- Flexible Scheduling
- Paid Time Off
- Sign-on Bonus for Full Time
- Incentive Pay including Weekends
- \$2 hour Weekend Differential
- Medical & Dental Insurance
- Referral Bonus
- Scholarship Opportunities

Contact Us

507-962-3275

Online application @ www.tuffmemorialhome.com

Pick up an application @ 505 East 4th St. Hills, MN

**DEADLINE FOR
 LEGALS AND
 CLASSIFIEDS IS
 MONDAY AT 10 A.M.**

Roundabout/continued from p. 1

county commissioners showed clear opposition to a roundabout.

“Definitely no roundabout is desired,” Baustian said. “If we don’t have a roundabout, the right turn lanes will be the thing to do.”

Rock County Highway Engineer Mark Sehr supported right turn lanes at the northeast corner and southwest corner and carving back those two corners for semis making right turns.

The new lane configuration will involve restriping Main Street to add turn lanes, removing

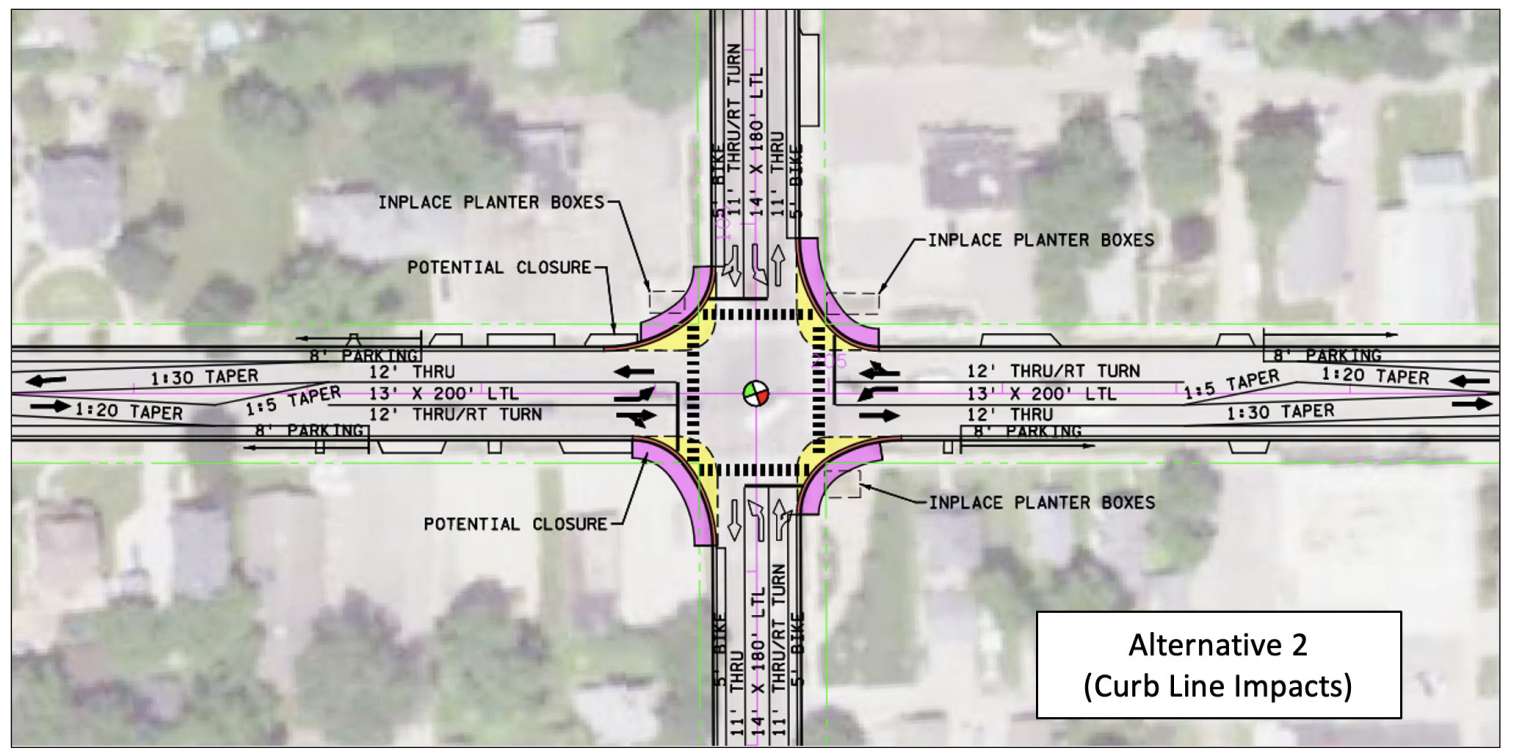
parking for half of the block to taper for the added width.

New traffic lights will not have left turn arrows.

Main Street will have a left turn lane in the center, and the right lane will be for traffic going straight or turning right. Right turns will be allowed on red lights.

Curb and sidewalk reconstruction and right of way acquisition would be required in all four quadrants.

Commissioners approved their version of the resolution at the County Board meeting Tuesday morning, Dec. 28.



Star Herald recaps top stories of 2021/continued from page 5

The improvements will also allow the city to provide increased back-up power for Missouri River Energy Services, which contracts with Luverne for that energy.

As of this writing, heavy equipment is mobilizing, and the Star Herald will follow the project as it unfolds.

•The **Walleye Wind** project in western Rock County continues to make headlines but hasn’t yet started construction. In September, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved the 109-megawatt project for site construction and certificate of need for the electricity.

Next Era plans to build up to 40 wind turbines on a 49-square-mile (31,000 acres) footprint. Once construction begins — possibly next spring, more than 200 workers are expected on site, creating opportunities for local businesses.

Once operational, the wind farm generate \$400,000 to \$600,000 in annual tax revenues to Rock County and provide electricity to the Minnesota Municipal Power Agency through a 30-year purchase agreement.

•In other green energy news Rock County reached a development agreement with solar farm officials in September. The 700-acre solar farm will be located between Vienna and Magnolia townships.

National Grid Renewables will build and operate the 80-megawatt **Elk Creek Solar Farm** near Magolia.

Construction may start in the spring of 2022 and the operation is scheduled to online by early 2023.



Two 27-unit apartment units known as PrairIE Loft I and II will be ready for occupancy early next year. The \$8 million project (on the former Sharkee’s and Mert’s Repair lots) is named with a capital E for “environmental sustainability and smart building practices.” The two buildings will have one- and two-bedroom market-rate rental units on three floors with elevators and off-street parking. They’ll be ready for occupancy early next spring, weather permitting.



Thiesse reviews agriculture highlights/continued from page 3

price bids being offered in southern Minnesota.

Better-than-expected crop yields in areas

Many crop farmers in southern Minnesota and northern Iowa would categorize 2021 crop yields as “better than expected.”

Following very favorable planting and early season growing conditions for both corn and soybeans, weather conditions turned very hot and dry from late May through June. Many portions of this region only received 50-75 percent of the normal growing season precipitation from May 1 through Sept. 30, and much of that came after mid-August.

However, the combination of excellent planting conditions, no-drown-out loss, timely rainfall, and above-normal growing degree units resulted in average to above average corn and soybean yields for the year in many portions of the region.

Many growers in Illinois, Indiana, and the eastern Corn Belt, along with portions of eastern Iowa, southeast Minnesota,

and southern Wisconsin had some of their best crop yields ever in 2021.

On the other hand, Mother Nature was not kind to many producers in North and South Dakota, as well as in portions of western Minnesota and in some other areas of the Upper Midwest, as they experienced the worst drought since 2012, and in some cases the worst drought since 1988.

The drought in these areas resulted in corn and soybean yields that were 20-30 percent or more below APH yields.

The drought also resulted in very low hay and pasture production, which led to many cow/calf producers in the region being forced to liquidate a portion of their beef herd.

Sharp increases in land values in 2021

Iowa State University recently released the “2021 Farmland Survey” results, which showed that average farmland values in Iowa increased by 29 percent from a year earlier, rising to an average value of \$9,751 per acre in December of 2021, compared to \$7,559 per acre in 2020.

This is the highest nominal land value since Iowa State began surveying land values in 1941, topping the previous high average price of \$8,716 per acre in 2013.

The percentage increase in annual land values was the second highest on record, trailing only a 32.5-percent increase in 2013.

Recent data from the U.S. Federal Reserve showed 2021 annual land value increases of 26 percent in Minnesota, 23 percent in South Dakota, and 16 percent in Nebraska, as well as 10-15 percent in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

The 2021 increase in drought-stricken North Dakota was only 4 percent.

The higher land values were largely driven by improved crop profitability, higher farm program payment levels, low interest rates, and rapidly rising U.S. inflation trends.

For additional information contact Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst and Sr. Vice President, MinnStar Bank, Lake Crystal, MN. (Phone (507-381-7960); email kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com) website <http://www.minnstarbank.com/>

24/7... Rain or Shine ...

Your local, independent agent will be there.
Working for you - meeting your needs.

Buffalo Ridge
INSURANCE

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

Marilyn Bloemendal, CPCU Cory Bloemendal, CIC
Steve Steneberg, CIC Sadie Steen

South Hwy. 75, Luverne, MN
507-283-2381

READ THE NEWS ONLINE!

Sports Opinion News Classifieds

Subscribe to the online edition of the **Star Herald**

Congratulations Paulette Richters on your retirement!
Thank you for 16 years of service at First Farmers & Merchants Bank. We wish you the best and we will miss you.

First Farmers & Merchants
NATIONAL BANK

303 East Main Luverne, MN 56156 We believe in you. Member FDIC. And the community. 507-283-4463 www.ffmbank.com



Rock County **STAR HERALD**

Help Wanted

SPORTS REPORTER

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

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

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

Our vision is to be on the local scene of whatever sports-related news is happening — whenever and wherever it occurs — and share that experience with sports fans to read and watch on social media and to enjoy in print and online pages.

If you share the same vision of a local sports news presence, and if you’re passionate about sports with the ability to write about it and share it with others, you may be the person we’re looking for.

We’re accepting applications now for this **full-time position**. Sports reporting and photography experience is preferred, along with some knowledge of InDesign, PhotoShop and social media platforms.

Email cover letter, resume and work samples to Rick Peterson, general manager, at rick@star-herald.com.

Happy New Year!

2022

Gene Cragoe, broker/owner
507-920-3815

Your hometown real estate broker for over 28 years
Gene Cragoe, broker lic. in MN & SD
info@cragoe.com
507-283-2647 or 800-689-2647

Cragoe Realty
Selling Real Estate in the Heart of the PrairieLand

READ THE NEWS ONLINE!

Subscribe to the online edition of the **Star Herald**