



# Rock County STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, February 1, 2018

## Study sheds light on local child care shortage

### Jan. 29 meeting starts community conversation about potential solutions

By Lori Sorenson

It's a well-established fact that there's a child care shortage in Rock County, but a recent study quantifies the problem in terms of numbers and dollars.

There are 48 licensed in-home child care operations in Rock County that are licensed to care for a maximum of 572 children.

A supply-and-demand gap analysis showed there is a potential need of 111 child care slots in the area. Children of these families that cannot find care are instead being watched by family, friends and neighbors or by child care providers with variances to operate over capacity, all of which are often short-term options that aren't always sustainable.

Many parents without access to child care are unemployed or underemployed, while employers have difficulty hiring talent because of the child care shortage.

And these numbers do not reflect the potential jobs that aren't coming to the area because there aren't

enough child care options for employees. Furthermore, this gap analysis doesn't include the anticipated 100+ jobs that tru Shrimp will be bringing to the area in the near future.

Jeff Andrews of First Children's Finance analyzed the Luverne and Rock County census and employment data over the past several months for the study.

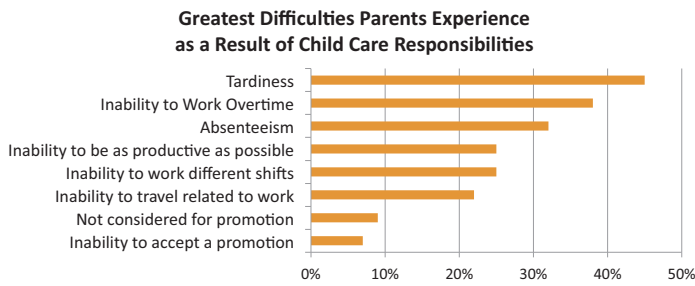
"The economic impact of child care in a community is huge," he said. "It's not just about taking care of children and families; there's a business case for child care." Child care is an important part of a community's social and economic infrastructure.

### Child care shortage is community crisis that needs community solution

Andrews presented his findings at a community meeting Monday night at Grand Prairie Events.

His primary point was that child care affects families, employers, community well-being and the entire local economy.

### Effects of Child Care on Business



(Source: F I R S T 5 Santa Barbara County — Employee Child Care Study)

"Not only do we need slots to drop off our kids and pick them up at the end of the day," Andrews said in a Star Herald interview ahead of the meeting. "We want that experience to include learning and development."

He said early learning experiences for children 0 to 5 years old can impact third-grade reading levels, and it can impact high school graduation and success rates later in life.

In other words, early childhood care is an investment communities should take seriously in terms of future societal impact.

Local elected officials, representatives from a variety of governmental

entities, and local community leaders were invited — urged — to hear the "eye opening" information about the local child care "crisis" at a forum hosted by the Luverne Area Community Foundation.

Emily Crabtree of the Luverne Area Community Foundation coordinated RSVPs for the event.

"We can't begin to solve a problem if we aren't all understanding the nature and facts of the problem," she said.

First Children's Finance is a non-prof-

Child care shortage, on page 8A

## Provider, mother, employer — three perspectives of child care issue

By Mavis Fodness

Caring for children is a rewarding career, according to retired child care provider Peggy Nelson of Luverne.

"I love being with kids, reading with kids, playing games, just teaching the kids. It was a valuable job and I enjoyed it very much," she said.

Nelson, along with current family child care provider Amber Nath, spoke to a group of local city, county and school officials along with state officials Monday evening at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne.

She joined Holly Sammons, a mom of three and a full-time executive, and Tammy Loosbrock with Sanford Luverne, one of the largest local employers, to present issues facing child care in Rock County.

Nelson outlined the joys of owning her own business but talked about

Testimonials, on page 8A



### Nature's frosty canopy

Mavis Fodness photo/0201 Frost Thursday

Jean Bolluyt (left) and Fran Vos were able to enjoy the flocking of hoarfrost on trees during their walk Thursday afternoon, Jan. 25, on North Blue Mound Avenue in Luverne. "It's pretty," Bolluyt observed. The winter coating of frost continued for several foggy days last week.



Lori Sorenson photo

Frosty scenes around Rock County included (from top) Palisades Lutheran Church near Garretson, a farm site east of Hardwick (center) and on evergreen trees west of Luverne.

## Magnolia Fire Department decides to 'pay it forward' with rescue rig donation

By Mavis Fodness

"Pay it forward" is an expression of repaying a good deed to others rather than back to the original benefactor.

The Magnolia Fire Department was recently on the receiving end of a pay it forward request when it accepted a 1988 former ambulance from the Boyd, Minnesota, fire department.

Magnolia, in turn, will donate its 1996 rescue unit to another department in need.

The pay it forward idea began last summer when the Windom Ambulance Service budgeted to refurbish a rescue unit as part of their new emergency services facility construction.

Paul Johnson, a Windom City Council member and Cottonwood County emergency management director, suggested the idea of donating their 1999 rig to another department rather than selling or trading in the vehicle.

Trade-in value on the rig was about \$3,500, he said. The refurbished rig cost \$191,000.

Johnson shared a story about the Gaylord, Minnesota, department donating its old rig to nearby Comfrey, which in turn gave its rescue unit to Sanborn in Redwood County, which didn't have a safe rescue unit prior to the donation.

"I thought it was a neat idea, and the deal with Comfrey inspired me," Johnson said. "Eventually you get to a department who doesn't have anything."

With council support, Johnson sent emails to surrounding counties for those departments interested in the former Windom ambulance vehicle to write letters as to why they would need one.

Boyd Fire Department was one of four who responded.

"We have a very small budget," said Joe Hutt, a member of the Boyd Volunteer Fire Department and First Responders.

Boyd is a town of about 150 residents in southeast Lac qui Parle

Pay it forward, on page 2A

## Second school building bond sells at expected low interest rate

By Mavis Fodness

The second of two building bond sales for Luverne Public Schools went as expected with lower-than-projected interest rates during the sale conducted Jan. 25.

"We are really pleased with the results," said Greg Crowe, senior financial adviser with Ehlers Inc.

Baird, an investment group with 34 members from Milwaukee, Wis-

consin, submitted the lowest rate of 3.1571 percent from the five bidders. The highest was 3.2441 percent.

School board members unanimously accepted Baird's proposal for the \$22 million over a 20-year period.

Last month the district sold a 12-year \$8 million bond at 2.06 percent interest.

The lower-than-projected interest rates on both bonds are \$4.7

million less than the estimates used prior to the November referendum vote.

"I think that's the biggest punch line for your taxpayers," Crowe said. "Great results. Good news for your taxpayers. Good news for the district. You have a little more than budgeted for project costs."

Moody's Investors Service again presented Luverne with an

"Aa2" credit rating with an underlying rating of "Aa3."

"That's a good rating for an out-state school district," he said.

Closing for the most recent bond sale is Feb. 15. The \$22 million will remodel the middle-high school and add a performing arts center to the school campus. The \$8 million is earmarked for health and safety improvements.



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www.star-herald.com

Volume 143, Number 5  
Luverne, MN 56156 USPS 468-040

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Meetings

**Blue Mound Quilters** will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, at the Sewing Basket in Luverne for a demonstration by the staff. New members are welcome.

**Springwater Township Board** will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 6, in the home of the Clerk/Treas., Teresa Kramer.

**Lady Luverne Red Hats** will meet for lunch at Howling Dog at 11:30 Friday, Feb. 9. For reservations, call 507-283-8470 by Wednesday, Feb. 7.

**Rock County VFW #2757** will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, in the Military Museum. Call 449-0632 with questions.

**Parkinson's Support Group** will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. Call 507-530-3307 with questions.

**Meditation and Mindfulness Practice** will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays in Hilger Commons at 215 N. Cedar Street in Luverne. For more information call Kim at 507-353-0041 or email kimberlyelizabeth@live.com.

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

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

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

**Meditation and Mindfulness Practice** meets at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month in Hilger Commons at 215 N. Cedar Street in Luverne. For more information call Kim at 507-353-0041 or email kimberlyelizabeth@live.com.

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

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

### Bank Night movie Feb. 1

The free Bank Nite Disney movie, "Beauty and the Beast," rated PG, will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 1, at the Palace Theatre in Luverne.

Sponsored by First Farmers & Merchants National Bank and Papik Motors, a free, family-friendly movie is shown on the first Thursday of every month as it was done for "Bank Nite" in the 1930s. A cash prize drawing will follow the movie. Must be present to win.

### Free tax help available at library

Volunteers through AARP will provide free tax services at the Rock County Community Library in Luverne starting Monday, Feb. 12. Call the library, 449-5040, to make an appointment. Appointments are required. Evening appointments are also available.

The service is free for any private individual with a simple tax format. It's not for commercial, farming or investment taxes.

### Driver Education class begins Feb. 5

Students in the Luverne School District in grade 8 or above may sign up for a student driver education class to begin on Feb. 5.

The fee of \$325 is due at the time of registration. Contact Community Education at 507-283-4724.

### Rock Nobles Cattlemen's banquet Feb. 5

The Rock Nobles Cattlemen's annual banquet will begin with a social hour at 6 p.m. Monday, Feb. 5, at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by guest speaker John Phipps, former host of US Farm Report. He has written award-winning humor and commentary for Farm Journal and Top Producer magazines since 1994.

### Conversation on poverty Feb. 13

#Luv1LuvAll will host a Community Conversation on poverty issues being addressed in our area from 6-8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13, at Grand Prairie Events. A free light supper will be served. Call ATLAS at 507-449-5777 by Feb. 9 to register.

### Autism Network Group meets Feb. 12

The Regional Autism Network Group will meet in the Worthington High School Media Center from 6:30-8 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12. The group invites parents, caregivers, and professionals for a time of education about autism and a time of networking. Call Allison Eitrem at 507-290-6334 with questions.

## Pay it forward benefits small towns/continued from page 1A



Submitted photos

The Magnolia Fire Department accepted a rescue rig last month with less miles and more storage (pictured, left) at no cost from the Boyd, Minnesota, First Responders with the understanding that Magnolia donate their former rescue unit to another fire department in a "pay it forward" agreement. Boyd agreed to donate their former unit last fall after receiving a free four-wheel drive rescue unit from the Windom Fire Department after refurbishing one of their existing trucks.

County.

"Getting the unit would mean not having to raise funds ... we would have more money for equipment and supplies," Hutt wrote in the letter.

Road conditions and lack of snow removal have increased the Boyd department's need for a four-wheel-drive vehicle. Windom's vehicle was a four-wheel-drive.

In return for Windom's generosity, the Boyd council decided to also pay it forward by donating their old unit to another department.

Hutt placed the notice on Facebook in mid-November. Magnolia Fire Chief

Scott Dohlmann was the first to call Hutt about Boyd's former unit.

Mileage on Magnolia's 1996 vehicle was climbing after an average of 30 emergency calls per year. Storage was also lacking for all the first responder equipment.

"There is nothing wrong with it," Dohlmann said. "Everything was just packed so tight."

Last month the Magnolia City Council voted to also pay it forward by donating their former rescue unit instead of selling it.

"It's a blessing to another town when you pay it forward," Dohlmann said.

## Speakers and Wi-Fi wired in downtown Luverne

By Lori Sorenson

The city of Luverne is serenading downtown pedestrians and shoppers with music piped in through new speakers on Main Street light poles.

The equipment cost roughly \$22,000, and city employees did the wiring work to connect the 24 speakers in the three-block area between Freeman and Spring streets.

"We wanted to enhance the shopping environment for our Main Street retail shop-

pers," said Luverne Mayor Pat Baustian.

Luverne City Clerk Jessica Mead manages the music selections through an online app like Spotify.

"We've heard some positive remarks, and we had one person say it was too loud, so we did turn it down," she said.

"You want to hear it over traffic, but you don't want it to be too loud."

There are eight speakers (four on each side of the street) per block in the three-block

area.

The music plays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily with the station currently set to classical music.

"We will use middle-of-the-road music that most people will like," Mead said. "We won't choose heavy metal or something like that."

The speakers will be used for parades, like Tri-State Band Festival, Buffalo Days, so announcements can be heard by all audience members — not by just those seated near

the announcer's booth.

Up to three microphones can be connected to the system that will also be used for community events, such as Hot Dog Night, the Cruise-In and others.

As part of the downtown wiring project, the free Wi-Fi is now available to Main Street visitors, pedestrians and shoppers.

Interested users can select "Luverne-Guest" in the Wi-Fi options and accept the terms.

## Mn DOT urges caution when driving near snow plows

There have been at least 22 crashes so far this season involving vehicles and snowplows. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is urging motorists to use extra caution during plowing and snow removal operations.

"Inattentive drivers, motorists driving too close to the plow and motorists driving too fast for conditions are the main causes of these crashes," said Steve Lund, state maintenance engineer.

"Our snowplow drivers are well-trained to drive their plows, but motorists should be patient and stay back from the plow. Snowplows travel much slower than the posted speeds because it is most effective for clearing roads."

Lund said that operators' ability to see behind them is restricted behind the truck so they must rely on mirrors to see to the rear and side of the truck.

"Their vision is also hampered by the snow clouds create while they plow. So the safest place you can be is well behind the snowplow and away from the snow cloud it creates," he said.

Last year in Minnesota, there were 58 crashes involving vehicles and snowplows.

Minnesota law requires motorists to turn on their headlights when it's snowing or at any other time when weather conditions impair visibility.

Here are some other

recommendations for safe driving around snowplows:

• **Stay alert** for snowplows, which turn or exit frequently and often with little warning. They also may hang over centerlines.

• **Stay back** at least 10 car lengths behind the plow. Don't drive into a snow cloud.

• **Slow down** to a safe speed for current conditions.

• **Turn on your headlights and wear your seat belt.**

• **Turn off the cruise control.**

• **Be patient** and remember snowplows are working to improve road conditions for your trip.

• **Don't drive distracted.** Motorists should check road conditions at [511mn.org](http://511mn.org).

## Correction

Last week's story about Luverne High School junior Sage Ver Steeg and her project to bring awareness about invisible illnesses included an incorrect Instagram address.

The correct address is The Visibility Project.

The Star Herald regrets the error and strives for accuracy in reporting.



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# School construction plans and timeline to be unveiled soon

## Board decides to keep same officer, committee duties

By Mavis Fodness

Since November, Luverne school officials have been developing schematic designs with construction managers, engineers and architects.

Recently the group completed talks with staff about needs and wants in their instructional areas.

Thursday's board meeting was originally designated for the unveiling of the construction plans.

"The intent was to gather input and information from all parties and dream big," Superintendent Craig Oftedahl reported.

"Once this was completed, the reality of budgets started to bring some ideas back to realization and some changes are underway."

The board will meet in special session at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8, for a presentation on the revised plans.

"We want to make sure this is done correctly and not rushed," Oftedahl said.

### Board discusses modifying school calendar

School officials had also planned on adopting the 2018-19 school calendar at their Jan. 25 meeting. However, the decision was tabled for a later meeting.

Building construction and renovations are expected to take two years to complete with the upcoming school year's schedule adjusted to accommodate the work timeline.

"The longer the summer of 2019 is, the better," Oftedahl said. "It's better if workers are able to do certain things when kids are not around."

Any changes in the state-mandated after Labor Day school year start would need approval from the state Department of Education.

Changes in the school

calendar may affect when graduation and other school events are conducted.

"We may have a couple of goofy years," he said.

The board's next regular meeting is at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22.

### Board officers remain unchanged

Board duties stayed the same for the seven-member Luverne School Board when the group conducted their first regular board meeting for 2018 on Thursday night, Jan. 25.

Katie Baustian will continue as the board chairman while Jodi Bosch stays vice chairman, Shelley Sandbulte, clerk, and Eric Hartman, treasurer. Reva Sehr, Tim Jarchow and Colleen Deutsch are directors.

"I suggest we keep the same positions for another year to provide consistency and continuity," Deutsch said. "We have a busy year coming up."

District voters passed a \$30 million bond referendum last fall to remodel the middle/high school facility and add a performing arts center to the school campus.

Members voted unanimously in support of Deutsch's motion. Board members will also keep current committee assignments.

### In other business:

Board members approved the following requests:

- medical leave of absence for middle-high school media center paraprofessional Sharon Boltjes for the remainder of the school year. They also accepted Boltjes' resignation as spring play adviser.

- hiring of Joan Goebel as a long-term middle-high school paraprofessional and Shawn Kinsinger as spring play adviser.

- retirements of Diane Robinson, special education teacher, and Wendy Bosshart, elementary teacher.

- seniority lists for school staff.



Mavis Fodness photo/0201 Korean Veterans

Wayne Bieber is initiating a call to all veterans who served during the Korean War and live in Rock County to gather for a group picture commemorating the 1950-1953 conflict. Contact the Star Herald at 283-2333 to be included in the picture to be taken at a later date.

## Biever proposes group photo for county Korean War vets

By Mavis Fodness

As the number of Rock County World War II veterans dwindles, Luverne's Wayne Bieber wants the Korean War veterans to gather for a remembrance picture.

The Korean War took place from 1950 to 1953, five years after World War II ended and 11 years before the Vietnam War began. Overshadowed by those two wars, the Korean War became known as the

"Forgotten War."

Dozens of local residents, including Bieber, served in the Korean War, and he doesn't want those veterans who served in Korea or back home in the National Guard to be forgotten.

"More and more veterans of the 'Forgotten War' are dying every day," said Bieber, 83.

The Ruthton native joined the Marines as a 17-year-old in 1951 and

served 14 months in Korea during his four years of service.

According to Rock County Veteran Services Officer Dave Haugom, there are about 700 veterans who reside in the county.

"There are about 50 veterans in Rock County that either served in Korea or that were stationed elsewhere during the Korean War," he said.

Biever would like all 50 to gather for a picture

in either February or March, depending on the interest from those veterans.

Biever said discussions with a few local veterans indicated a group picture was a good idea. No one took the initiative, however, until Bieber contacted the Star Herald.

"I just wanted to get it started," he said.

Interested veterans are asked to contact the Star Herald office, 283-2333, to be included on the picture list.

## Impact of renewed NAFTA negotiations between U.S., Canada, Mexico on agriculture

The importance of foreign trade and exports to the financial viability of the agriculture industry, as well as other industries, has been well documented in recent months. At the center of this discussion have been multi-nation talks regarding the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which stalled late in 2017, but have resumed again in January 2018 and could potentially reach a conclusion later this year. The results of the NAFTA negotiations could have a dramatic effect on the U.S. agriculture industry, both in the short term and for longer term growth and development of the industry.

### What is NAFTA?

NAFTA is a trilateral trade agreement among the United States, Canada, and Mexico that was originally set up in 1994, which granted the "most favored nation" status to all trading partners. This status gives all participating partners equal treatment in all trade transactions, including the reduction or elimination of tariffs on most imports and exports from the other countries. Some of the tariff reductions and eliminations were phased in over a number of years. Consistent with campaign promises, the administration of President Trump initiated the NAFTA renegotiation talks during 2017, calling for a "more fair trade agreement"



## FOCUS ON AG

By Kent Thiesse

with Canada and Mexico.

The Trump administration has threatened to initiate procedures to withdraw from NAFTA if there are not meaningful negotiations "to improve and modernize" the NAFTA trade agreement. After several rounds of discussion among the three countries, it does not appear that any agreement to NAFTA revisions will occur anytime soon, which could increase the potential for a U.S. plan to withdraw from NAFTA. Much of the contention during the negotiations has been on non-agriculture-related issues, such as the auto and manufacturing industry, labor and currency issues, and varied trade requirements on certain goods and services. Discussions on ag-related products have mainly focused on dairy products with Canada, fresh produce with Mexico, sugar, and energy production.

### The effects of NAFTA

The U.S. has shown a trade surplus in every year since 1959. In a 5-year period from 2012-2016, U.S. ag exports

have averaged approximately \$140 billion per year, while ag imports over the same period have averaged about \$110 billion annually. Ag exports account for the utilization of nearly half of the U.S. production of soybeans, wheat, and rice, 70 percent of cotton production, and 25 percent of pork production. USDA estimates that every dollar of ag exports generates \$1.27 of economic activity in the United States. USDA also estimates that every \$1 billion of agriculture-related exports supports approximately 8,000 jobs, so based on that estimate, the current total level of ag exports supports over 1 million jobs in the U.S.

Based on the most recent USDA World Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report in January 2018, nearly 2.2 billion bushels of soybeans, or about 50 percent of the total 2017 U.S. soybean production, is expected to be exported during the 2017-18 marketing year, with China being the largest customer for U.S. soybeans. The U.S.

accounts for approximately 40 percent of the international corn trade, with Japan being largest importer of U.S. corn, followed by Mexico. USDA is estimating total U.S. corn exports for 2017-18 at just over 1.9 billion bushels, which is about 13 percent of the total U.S. corn production in 2017. U.S. wheat production in 2017 was 1.7 billion bushels, with about 56 percent of that total expected to be exported to foreign countries.

U.S. agriculture exports to Canada and Mexico have grown in the past 23 years from below \$9 billion per year before the NAFTA agreement in 1994 to over \$38 billion per year in 2016. Trade with Canada and Mexico accounts for about 28 percent of the total U.S. ag exports, as well as 39 percent of the total U.S. ag imports. In 2016 U.S. ag exports to Canada were valued at just over \$20 billion, with leading export products being grains and feed, animal products, fruits and vegetables, oilseeds, and horticulture products. U.S. ag exports to Mexico in 2016 totaled nearly \$18 billion, with the top export products being animal products, grain and feed, and horticulture products. Mexico is either the largest or second-largest export destination for U.S. beef, pork, poultry, wheat, corn, and dairy products.

### What if U.S. leaves NAFTA?

The following are some

highlights from a letter that was drafted to officials in the Trump administration by more than 70 agriculture and trade organizations on the potential risks and impacts of the U.S. withdrawing from NAFTA:

- Leaving NAFTA would result in an estimated loss of 50,000 jobs in the food and agriculture industry, as well as a reduction of \$13 billion in the annual U.S. GDP, due to ag industry losses.

- An Iowa State University study estimated that ending the NAFTA agreement would decrease annual U.S. pork production by about 5 percent, resulting in a negative economic impact of about \$1.5 billion. Canada and Mexico account for nearly 40 percent of the export volume for U.S. pork products.

- Similarly, exports of U.S. beef products to Mexico and Canada totaled approximately \$1.7 billion, accounting for about 27 percent of U.S. beef exports in 2016. The U.S. also typically ships more than \$1 billion per year in dairy products to Mexico.

- Most grain analysts predict that leaving NAFTA would also lower U.S. grain prices in the coming years, which would likely result in more financial stress for farm families and could potentially increase the annual cost of government farm program payments.

- Based on a recent report released by the American Farm Bureau Federation, the agriculture economy in many Midwestern states would be hit particularly hard by withdrawing from NAFTA. The study showed that the percentage of ag exports to Canada and Mexico in 2016 were as follows: Minnesota (48%); Iowa (49%); Nebraska (45%); Wisconsin (52%); both North and South Dakota (73%). All these states would likely suffer serious economic impacts.

Trade negotiations are often very complex and usually take years to develop. Many times, it is not just economic issues that are difficult to negotiate with other nations, but also labor, environmental and social issues that may vary among the negotiating countries. It is probably far too early to predict dire consequences to the U.S. agriculture industry from any renegotiation of trade deals under NAFTA, or with any other country. It is also important to remember that there are also possibilities for new trade deals to be developed.

For additional information contact Kent Thiesse, Farm Management Analyst and Vice President, Minn-Star Bank, Lake Crystal, MN. (Phone: 507-381-7960; Email: [kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com](mailto:kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.com)) Website: <http://www.minnstarbank.com/>

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**Rock County 4-H "Fruit & More" Sale**

Rock County 4-H'ers are selling assorted boxes of mouth watering fruit - apples, oranges, pears, grapefruit; along with cheeses, beef sticks, pickled herring, Puffins, PuffCrust Pizza and a variety of frozen foods. Here's your chance to eat healthy and support local youth. Contact a 4-H'er in your neighborhood or call the Rock County Extension Office (283-1302) from January 15 to February 4 to order. Delivery is March 16.

## Turns out I'm not that special, but I'm in good company

I sneezed.  
Just once.

It was nothing.  
Later in the day I sneezed twice. And it required a few extra Kleenexes for a lingering runny nose.

It was nothing.  
I wasn't getting sick.  
I held to that story the rest of the day, and even said it out loud each time I reached for a tissue.

"I'm not sick."  
"Ach-hoo!"  
"Ibe fide; it's dust sub thin idd by doze."

It was a tough reality to accept by that point.

For several weeks leading up to the first sneeze, many of my friends and family and office mates had fallen victim to what they called a "nasty bug."

It's not that they were trying to infect me.

It's just that you don't call in sick or stop sleeping with your spouse because of a cold, even if it's a nasty one.

So people around me went about their business of living and working while at the same time they were coughing and sneezing and blowing their noses and perhaps not washing their hands as often as I would have liked.

So I washed my hands. A lot. I used my sleeve to turn doorknobs and pour coffee.

I Clorox-wiped surfaces and handles at home during the time my husband struggled with snort.

And for two weeks it worked. The power of positive thinking and the power of Clorox wipes — along with vigilant hand washing and daily Echinacea supplements — worked.

Many people close to me had suffered, and I appeared to have survived unscathed.

And so I began to feel special — even remarking out loud, "I



## ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

*It's not  
that they  
were  
trying to  
infect me.*

haven't caught any of the snort or puke that's going around. Hm."

And that, my friends, was my first mistake.

My second mistake was actually believing I was special, and therefore immune.

And so, I — albeit subconsciously — eased up on hand washing, Cloroxing and other paranoid germaphobic precautions.

Then, as if Karma herself heard me utter the words, she acted swiftly and harshly to remind me I wasn't immune — or special, for that matter.

The morning tickle in the back of my throat became deep, emphysemic hack by evening.

I recognized the distinct sound of the cough; it was exactly the same cough my husband walked around with several days earlier (when I was secretly feeling special).

There was no more denying that I, too, had become sick.

Just like all the common people around me.

Sigh.  
At least I can take comfort in knowing that these people are pretty special for other reasons, despite falling victim to a nasty bug.

... and sharing it with me.

## It takes a village to raise a child; but a smart village sees child care as an economic incentive

Child care, like roads and bridges, is an important part of the infrastructure for economic development, and that's becoming painfully clear as Luverne prepares for its next round of growth.

Tru Shrimp will begin hiring in 2019, and its potential employees will be sizing up the town in terms of what it has that they need.

Luverne is clean and safe, the school system is second to none, recreational opportunities abound and we have reputable health care and senior care options.

Our city leaders have been frantically working to make sure we'll have adequate housing for new employees. But who will care for the children of these young professionals?

That was the topic of discussion at a meeting Monday night with local leaders, government officials, employers and others with stake in the future of child care in the community.

There's no doubt Luverne and Rock County are blessed with top-notch home day care providers. Many local families will attest to the fact that a nurturing, reliable day care provider can make a difference in a working

parent's professional success.

Our longtime providers have become second families to literally hundreds of working couples whose children have grown up in their homes. Some have cared for second generations of their earlier day care families. These are special relationships that many hold dear for a lifetime.

But it's also no secret that there aren't enough of them.

Many young couples have shared that they made their family planning decisions based on when their child care provider could accept another infant.

Other families have experienced the agony of placing their children in a private child care they didn't trust.

And stressed-out parents tend to not be the best workers, especially if they're frequently absent due to

unreliable day care.

Employers know this. And worse, they're often not able to attract their preferred employees because of the day care shortage in our community.

Some — like Rock County Opportunities — have even considered opening their own child care facilities for their employees.

Workers with good child care are good workers. And good workers are good for business.

And good businesses — with good jobs — are good for the local economy.

The Star Herald will be closely following the child care shortage issue and will report on the discussions and solutions that we hope will soon develop.

It takes a village to raise a child, and it takes a really smart village to make sure the children are well cared for.

ED FISCHER

Turning  
around-  
searching  
for why  
hate  
happens...



## Morning drives to work provide time for reflection on routine, changing of seasons

Over my working career I've been fortunate to have a short drive to work each day. For the 15 years in Redwood Falls my commute to work was about three blocks, and here in Luverne that distance more than doubled to about eight blocks each morning.

I know by most people's standards that isn't much more than a walk in the park. Even though it's a relatively short distance, its interesting to me how much the activity on my route changes depending on the time I head out the door to work.

It's dark most of the time when I back out of the garage to make my way to Warren Street to West Main — which is actually Sunshine Avenue for two blocks before it becomes West Main Street. I am on Main for six blocks until I get to the office.

While driving those eight blocks, I drive by two school bus stops and a day care house or two and the busiest intersection in town. Generally I make my way to work before kids are gathered at the bus stops, but the day care houses are already busy for the day with parents dropping young



## FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

By Rick Peterson, General Manager  
Tollefson Publishing

ones off for the day.

On the days that I am running late, the bus stop areas are busy with kids waiting for the school bus. Just a guess here, but most of the kids at the bus stop are of grade school age. They all have book bags that look to weigh in the neighborhood of 10-plus pounds. Some have headphones on; most have a cell phone. Some are dressed for winter, while a couple seem to think it's summer year-round.

It's rare when I arrive at Luverne's busiest intersection and the stoplight is green. I actually prefer the red light. It gives me a few minutes to see what kind of traffic passes through our town.

This past Monday when I was on my way to work and sitting at a red light thinking about the pending spring weather down the road and how those thoughts took a step backward with the weekend snow, a guy pulling a really nice fishing boat passed in front of me headed south on 75. A brief smile came across my face thinking it won't be long. Another car or two passed by before the light turned green.

A block and a half later I pulled up to the back door of the office, and as quick as the springtime thought had entered my mind, it left just as quickly as I grabbed the snow shovel to clear a path in front of the door.

## VOICE OF OUR READERS

### To the Editor:

During the subzero nights and days, I stayed indoors and thought about Luverne, its people, government, businesses and education. Here are some of my thoughts as said by others:

Fitness centers: Exercise? I thought you said extra fries. (Sign in a café)

Coffee shops: A coffee a day keeps the grumpy away. (restaurant sign)

Take 16: He was a wise man who invented beer. (Socrates)

Financial advisers: Don't gamble; take all your savings and buy some good stock and buy it till it goes up and then sell it. If it don't go up, don't buy it. (Will Rogers)

Car dealers: I've always been asked what is my favorite car and I've always said the next one. (Carroll Shelby)

Electric companies: I may be an electrician but I can't fix stupid. (T-shirt saying)

Plumbers: My singing voice is somewhere between a drunken

apology and a plumbing problem. (Colin Furth)

Politicians: The worst form of inequality is to try to make unequal things equal. (Aristotle)

Educators: If you plan for a year, plant rice. For ten years, plant trees. For 100 years educate the people. (Chinese proverb)

Religious leaders: When I admire the wonder of a sunset or the beauty of the moon, my soul expands in the worship of the creator. (Ghandi)

Parents: Mothers are fonder than fathers of their children because they are more certain they are their own. (Aristotle) ... My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived and let me watch him do it. (Clarence Kelland)

Other cities: The secret of getting ahead is getting started. (Mark Twain)  
Luverne citizens: A great city is not to be confounded by a populous one. (Aristotle)

I'm hoping spring arrives soon so my thoughts are worthwhile. Yes, I am trying to get a life.

Bill Preuss  
Luverne

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

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

**General manager:** Rick Peterson  
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Rock County  
**STAR HERALD**  
Rock County's newspaper since 1873

(ISSN 0889-888X)  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$72 per year in Rock County; \$89 per year all other areas. Single copies \$1.25

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Tollefson Publishing Roger Tollefson, publisher

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

# Banking Barns to open April 1 in Hills

By Glenda McGaffee

A new business called Banking Barns plans to open April 1 in Hills.

The business is located on the corner of Main Street and 2nd Avenue and is owned and operated by Kris Gannon.

The building has been gutted completely in the inside. The outside of the building has also been completely remodeled.

"It was a hobby and now has become full time. The business will sell old barn wood and create items out of the wood to sell," Gannon said. "We can build tables, mirrors, accent walls, flooring and anything else."

"I decided on that name because we are putting all our money in it," he said.

The shop will be managed by Roland Marshall.

If interested Gannon can be contacted at his mail address at kris@bankingbarns.com.

Since 2009 Gannon has owned and operated SS-Performance on Main Street in Hills. He sells re-built transmissions for European and Japanese sport cars.



Glenda McGaffee photo

A new business, Banking Barns, will open at the corner of Main Street and 2nd Avenue in Hills.

## History of the building

Back in 1897 a grocery store was on the corner where the Gannon business will be located. Olaf Skyberg used the north part of the building for groceries, and the south part contained the dry goods department.

The two buildings were joined together and heated with a large stove in the center. Kerosene lamps were used and later replaced with carbide lights.

The post office was located in the rear of the building with Skyberg as postmaster.

About 1913 the post office was moved into a building that was then Ruud's Hotel.

Helga Skyberg received the appointment in 1914 as postmaster under a Civil Service appointment.

In 1914 the business was sold to Hyden and Halls and later to Selmer Newgard.

After Newgard, the Farmer's Store was later

managed by Wang and later by Olaf Hagen.

Henry Knudstson became the next proprietor. Henry was burned out in the big fire of 1948 and erected a fine building in its place.

The next owners were Schraders, then the Ray Nelsons, the Donald Shelstads, the George Nelsons, Tony and Pam Bosch and Ron and Sandy Feucht.

Another business in the building was American Salvage.

# FSA reminds producers of policies, upcoming deadlines

By Fraser Norton  
County Executive Director

## Important Dates

Feb. 19: FSA office closed for Presidents Day.

March 15: 2018 NAP Pasture and Spring-seeded Annual Crops sales deadline; 2018 Crop Insurance Corn, Soybeans, Oats and Spring-Wheat sales deadline.

April 2: 2017 Small Grains Loan and LDP request deadline; 2017 LIP application deadline.

Ongoing: Continuous CRP sign-up.

## Farm Service Agency policy reminders

The following reminders include important information that will assist producers in maintaining Federal Farm Program eligibility. Any questions should be directed to the Pipestone County FSA Office at 507-825-5478, or the Rock County FSA Office at 507-283-2369.

### •Changing accounts

All FSA payments should be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order to

make timely payments, you need to notify the office if you close your account or if your bank is purchased by another financial institution. Payments can be delayed if we are not aware of changes to account and routing numbers.

### •Power of Attorney

For those who find it difficult to visit the FSA Office personally because of work schedules, distance, health, etc., FSA has a power of attorney form available that enables you to designate another person to conduct your business at the office. If you are interested, please contact our office or any Farm Service Agency office near you for more information. Power of Attorney provisions do not apply to Farm Loan Programs.

### •Signature Policy

Using the correct signature when doing business with FSA can save time and prevent a delay in program benefits. FSA requires married woman to sign their given name, while in the case of a minor, we require the minor's signature and the signature of

an eligible parent, who will be liable for the actions of the minor and may be liable for refunds, liquidated damages, etc. When signing on one's behalf, the signature must agree with the name typed or printed on the form, or be a variation that does not cause the name and signature to be in disagreement. FAXED signatures will be accepted for certain forms and other documents, provided the acceptable program forms are approved for FAXED signatures. FAXED signatures are not approved for promissory notes, assignment of payments, joint payment authorizations and acknowledgement of commodity certificate purchases.

Spouses may sign documents on behalf of each other for programs in which either has an interest, unless written notification denying a spouse this authority has been provided to the FSA Office. Spouses shall not sign on behalf of each other as an authorized signatory for partnerships, joint ventures, corporations or other similar

entities.

Any member of the general partnership can sign on behalf of the general partnership and bind all members unless the Articles of Partnership are more restrictive. Spouses may sign on behalf of each other's individual interest in a partnership, unless notification denying a spouse that authority is provided to the FSA Office. Acceptable signatures for general partnerships, joint ventures, corporations, estates and trusts must consist of an indicator "by" or "for" the individual's name, individual's name and capacity, or individual's name, capacity, and name of entity.

For more information on FSA farm loan programs, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov). Please contact the Rock County FSA Office if you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment to meet with the loan staff to discuss your options. Call 507-283-2369, ext. 2, or stop by the Rock County FSA Office at 500 W. Gabrielson Road in Luverne.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Library offers Story Hour/Laptime

The Rock County Library will offer Story Hour for children ages 4-5 Thursday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m. from Thursday, Feb. 1, through Thursday, April 5.

Story hours include stories, songs, crafts and more.

Laptime for children from birth through age 3 will meet every Friday morning from 10:30 to 11 a.m. beginning Feb. 2 through April 6.

Laptime fun includes stories, songs, crafts and more.

### Free food Feb. 15

New Life Celebration Church will offer free food — fresh produce, bread and meat — from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15, at the Luverne Senior Center for those having trouble putting food on the table.

Bring your own bags or boxes. Call 283-4366 with questions.

### Growing soybeans workshop Feb. 22

The University of Minnesota Extension Service will host "Strategic Planning: Growing Soybeans that Out-Compete Weeds" workshop at 10 locations in January and February.

The nearest workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Murray County Fairgrounds in Slayton.

Lunch is included.

To register or for a list of other locations go to <https://z.umn.edu/strategic-farming>.

For more information contact Liz Stahl, Extension educator, at 507-372-3900 or stah0012@umn.edu.

### Community Ed

Community Ed contact info: C.Arends@isd2184.net or 507-283-4724.

Sister Act at the Chanhassen is Feb. 10. Fee is \$110. (register by Jan. 10.)

Register now for summer baseball and softball — for students in K-12. Deadline is March 19.

Learn the newest bracelet craze at Kumihimo Braiding class on Feb. 3. Residents from Poplar Creek will be helping students. Fee is \$20 which includes the disk to make more.

A six-session Throwing a Pottery Wheel for participants grade 9 through adult will begin on Feb. 3. Fee is \$59, plus a \$10 material fee.

A six-session Hand Building Clay Class for participants grade 5 through adult will begin on Feb. 3. Fee is \$49, plus a \$15 material fee.

Just basic sewing skills and an old sweater will be required to make your own unique Mittens and Boot Toppers at class held on Feb. 3 (morning). Fee is \$13.

**DINING & ENTERTAINMENT**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, Feb. 4**  
9am - 1pm

Adults \$7.00 10 & Under \$3.00

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This project is funded with money from the Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage fund.

**CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT**

# Scholten organizes 4-H club for those interested in performing arts

Initial planning workshop slated for 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 10 at Extension Office in Luverne

By Mavis Fodness

A Rock County 4-H'er is seeking members for a unique club devoted to the performing arts.

Josie Scholten, a junior at Hills-Beaver Creek High School, finds herself drawn to playing a variety of instruments or just simply singing, speaking or acting in front of an audience.

"The more you can learn about music, the deeper appreciation you have," she said. "You're not anything but yourself."

All worries and fears are pushed aside as the performance unfolds, leaving performers focused on their passion.

Scholten wants youth age 10 and older to experience the same liberation by starting a 4-H club devoted to the various types of performing arts.

Club membership would be an additional offering through the Rock County 4-H program and does not replace membership to a community 4-H club.

An organizational workshop is scheduled from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb 10, at the Extension office on Roundwind Road in Luverne.

At the workshop, Scholten will answer questions, gather input on the club's perimeters and introduce a representative from a performing arts club in Martin County.

The formation of the club

is a youth leadership activity for the 16-year-old.

Scholten is president of the Blue Ribbon 4-H Club and has been a member since the fourth grade.

"Initially I joined because I had a friend in it and stayed because of the leadership training and the opportunities it opened up to me."

She is also a county ambassador and was recently selected as a state ambassador with Minnesota 4-H.

Besides instrumental, vocal and acting presentations, Scholten's organization of the performing arts club is to also encompass the forensic arts including speech and demonstrations.

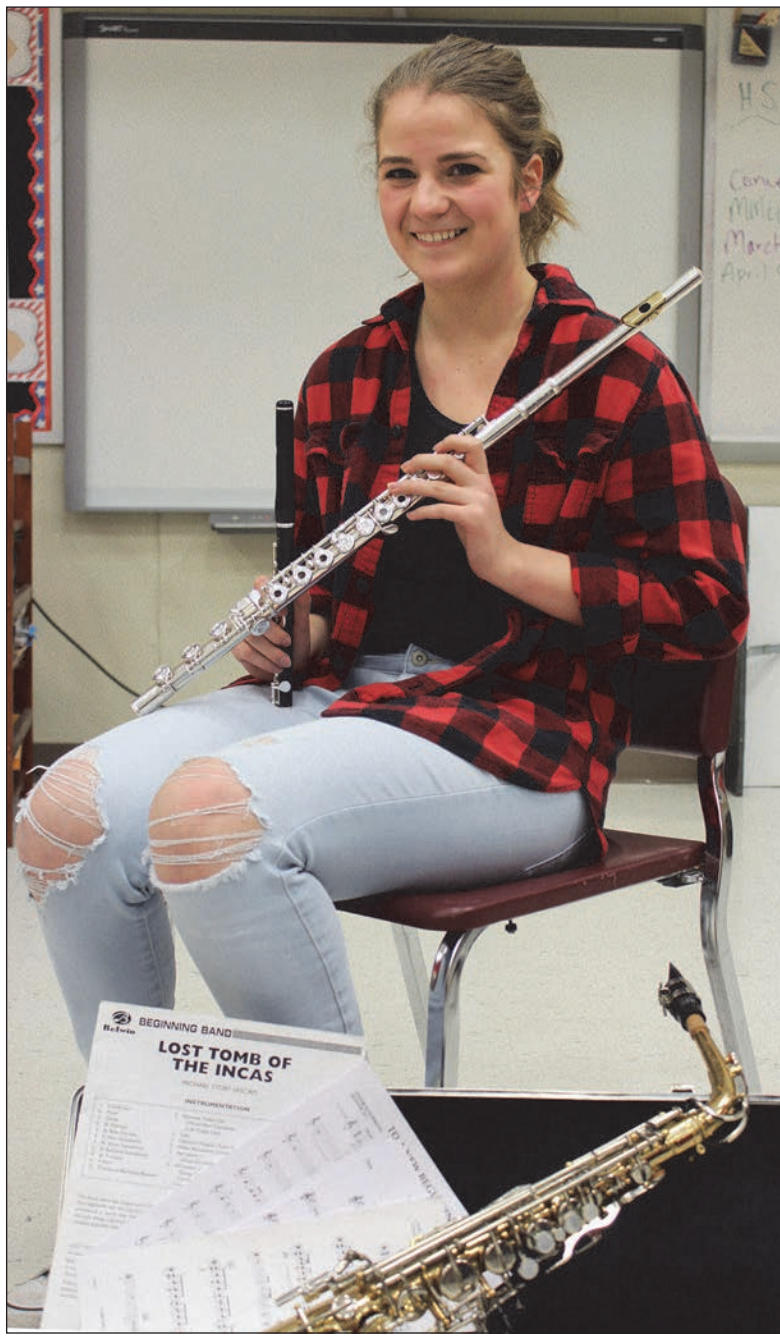
Scholten envisions the club meeting once or twice a month to learn about the various performing arts and to practice.

Each year Rock County 4-H conducts communication and performing arts contests for its members. State level performance activities are also open to 4-H'ers.

Along with youth members, Scholten would also welcome adult leaders to the workshop and to the club.

For more information about the performing arts club, contact Scholten at [josie.l.scholten@gmail.com](mailto:josie.l.scholten@gmail.com).

Registration to the workshop is requested but not necessary. Call the Extension office at 507-283-1320.



Josie Scholten, a Rock County 4-H youth leader and ambassador, wants youth to join her in following their passions in the performing arts by starting a 4-H club devoted to performing. The organizational meeting is Feb. 10.

Mavis Fodness photo/0201 Performing Arts Club

## CELEBRATIONS

### Open Houses

**Fabian Deutsch** will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with an open house from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Colter Deutsch Truck Shed four miles west on County Road 270 to Hills, 314 90<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.

## MENU

**Monday, Feb. 5:** Sloppy Joe on bun, potato salad, corn, fresh orange.

**Tuesday, Feb. 6:** Cubed roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, creamed peas, bread, fruit cobbler.

Program: Two-buck Tuesday sponsored by Continental Western.

**Wednesday, Feb. 7:** Baked chicken, au gratin potatoes, squash, bread, apple brown betty.

**Thursday, Feb. 8:** Salmon loaf, baked potato with sour cream, mixed vegetables, dinner roll, slice pie.

Program: Trivia Day.

**Friday, Feb. 9:** Italian meat sauce over spaghetti, lettuce with dressing, cauliflower, garlic bread, apricots.

Program: Music by Bruce Dysthe.

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

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

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

## 1960: Luverne School hires nurse

The following article appeared in the Jan. 21, 1960, edition of the Rock County Star Herald.

### Luverne School Board Agrees To Hire Nurse

Luverne students will have the services of a school nurse this spring, it was announced by Superintendent Harvey Eitrem this week.

Mr. Eitrem said the school board agreed to start organizing a department for a school nurse about February 15, so the nurse can begin functioning about March 1.

Mrs. Lester Tollefson has been retained by the school as the nurse. It is planned for her to serve on a part-time basis when her office is opened this school term. She will be employed full time for a few months at the beginning of the next school term, and then will be employed part-time or as the work load demands. Her monthly salary will be \$320 on a full-time basis and proportionately less for part-time work.

The school nurse will di-



## Bits by Betty

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

vide her attention between the grade school and high school here. She will have an office in each building, but the main office will be in the high school.

Mr. Eitrem explained that the school nurse will keep health records up to date, organize and follow up on immunization and inoculation programs and cooperate with the department of health. She will also confer with students

The school nurse will divide her attention between the grade school and high school here. She will have an office in each building, but the main office will be in the high school.

who are absent because of illness. Her duties will include taking the school census.

Mrs. Tollefson has served the school on other occasions, including a period during the polio epidemic.

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

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to [mannmade@iuw.net](mailto:mannmade@iuw.net).



## Winning shooters

Winners of the 2018 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition Jan. 21 in Luverne are (front, from left) Elijah Woodley, Zach Brown, Andrea Luitjens, Maria Rops, Julia Beyer, (back) Ethan Beyer, Jasyen Rops, Lauren Hansen, Kiesli Smith, Tori Serie, Josie Voorhees, Jack Voorhees and Gavin DeBeer. Half of them are the Council Level winners, and they will go on to Ellsworth on Feb. 11 to compete at the District Level. If participants qualify, they'll go to regional and state events.

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2008)

•A Luverne man was arrested last week after fleeing from law enforcement, first in his vehicle and then on foot.

According to the criminal complaint filed Monday in Rock County District Court, 22-year-old Jason LeRoy Paplow was charged with fleeing a peace officer after he was tracked down late Friday night into the early morning hours Saturday.

The complaint stated that Deputy Mike Westerburmet Paplow driving in Luverne Friday night on Highway 75 near Subway. When Westerbur turned his squad around to arrest Paplow on known warrants from Watonwon County, Paplow reportedly accelerated north bound on Highway 75.

Westerbur activated his squad lights and pursued Paplow, who turned east on Fletcher and then swerved left into a snow bank where he left his car and continued fleeing to the north on foot. ...

The vehicle was towed, and a search produced an unopened box of 12 gauge shotgun shells consistent with those recently stolen in a "reported burglary." Also found were a six-piece stainless cutlery set in a box, which law enforcement considered to be suspicious.

### 25 years ago (1993)

•In an emergency, nothing is more important than good communication. The Rock County Board realizes that.

The Board heard Tuesday from John DeBois, a registered professional communications engineer, who has evaluated the county's communication system for law enforcement, medical

services and fire departments.

DeBois suggested updating the system for \$451,220. He gave the option of a one- or two-year update.

About \$350,640 of the cost would be covered by the county, \$70,000 by the city and \$30,580 by Luverne Community Hospital.

### 50 years ago (1968)

•The State of Minnesota has exercised an option to buy some over 400 acres of land on the crest of the Blue Mounds from Dr. M.J. Konz. The property will become a part of Blue Mounds State Park, and represents another step in a long-term program to enlarge the park to an area comprising 1230 acres.

The property to be purchased from Konz is separated from the park property by land, which is still privately owned. But according to Al Spranger, of the Department of Administration, who arranged for the purchase of the Konz property, negotiation has been under way for some time to acquire other parcels, but the actual purchases will not be made until necessary funds have been appropriated.

Under the terms of the purchase agreement, Dr. Konz will have the use of the land for grazing until he has "phased out his cattle raising operation," Spranger said.

### 75 years ago (1943)

•That A.H. Getty, Worthington game warden for this section of the state is popular among sportsmen in Rock County was evidenced by the sentiment voiced at the annual meeting of the Rock County Sportsman's club held here Friday night.

Because there has been a shakeup in the state warden system, and several wardens have been transferred to other localities, the organization voted that its officials should write to state legislators representing this district to do all in their power to convince the conservation department that no change of warden personnel is wanted here. It was pointed out that Getty has kept the interests of the two counties he serves at heart all the time, and that he has done more conservation work for Rock county than any other warden in any recent year. To date, however, there has been nothing to indicate that Getty might be removed.

### 100 years ago (1918)

•There will be no winter carnival in Luverne. As a matter of fact, there have never been any prospects of such a carnival being held here this winter, notwithstanding all statements to the contrary that have been spread broadcast over the state.

Luverne has been unfortunate in having a young man, who claims the famous carnival city of St. Paul as his home, fall in love with Luverne from a sportsman's viewpoint, and in expression thereof seek to promote for the city a carnival similar to the ones staged in the capital of the state.

His plans, however, failed to meet with the approval of the business and professional men of Luverne, as a whole, and his efforts were discouraged. Both the Commercial club and the city council not only refused to endorse the proposition, but let it empathetically be known that they were opposed to any celebration of this kind while the nation is engaged in a war that will tax every energy of the people.





Mavis Fodness photo/0201 Child Care Testimonials

Sanford Luverne Senior Director Tammy Loosbrock shares issues of finding child care among the 250-employees at the clinic and hospital. She gave one of four testimonials given Monday night about the shortage of child care options in Rock County.

## Testimonials/continued from page 1A

how current state and federal regulations have limited how her business could operate.

One example, she said, was limiting the use and timeframe of variances, which allowed providers to periodically care for a higher number of children.

"We could have an extra child as the situation needed such as snow days, in-service days or another day care (provider) got sick so we could absorb the other children into our day care and still be legal," Nelson said. "They no longer let us do that."

Other stipulations of completing a certain number of continuing education hours before opening their businesses and meeting specific equipment and home standards have also put limitations on how individuals can operate.

"It is not always easy to overcome all the steps," she said.

Nelson also outlined how the impact of planned vacations, sick days or early school closings had her families searching for temporary child care options if their extended family didn't live nearby.

"You just can't have your neighbor come in and watch the kids," she said. "They have background checks if they are going to do backup for you. They have to have special training too."

Another barrier to home day care providers is the need for health insurance.

"Fewer people are going into day care long term because of health insurance," Nelson said.

Often at least one adult in the household is forced to work outside the home for the health insurance benefit. In some stances it is the former day care provider.

Health was on the mind of Tammy Loosbrock, Sanford Luverne senior director. Sanford employs 250 people in Luverne.

Recently Loosbrock faced



Peggy Nelson (left), a retired Luverne child care provider, and Amber Nath, a 13-year provider, talk about working from home and their experiences in trying to meet state and federal child care regulations. Both spoke Monday night about the shortage of child care options in Rock County.

canceling several planned procedures when the general surgeon's child care plans changed.

Three colonoscopies were among the scheduled procedures. Loosbrock made light of what would have occurred to those patients.

"The last thing you want is a phone call at 6 in the morning, after doing all the prep, to say sorry you're not going to have it," Loosbrock said.

Thinking outside the box plans brought a babysitter to the hospital and the procedures went as scheduled, Loosbrock said.

Limited child care options have placed a strain on filling all the clinic and hospital's openings.

Loosbrock said some positions job share so that they watch each other's children on their days off because child care options in Luverne are limited.

"We are just kind of doing the patchwork thing and



Holly Sammons, a mother of three children and the economic development director for Luverne, discusses her experience in locating child care and how the lack of options affects her family's daily routine.

trying to help each other get by and being the best flexible

## Child care shortage/continued from page 1A

it Minneapolis organization that has for 27 years focused on the business aspects of child care. According to the website, it "helps children, families and communities thrive by increasing the availability, affordability and quality of early care and education."

In some cases that means securing grants for construction, but in Luverne's case, it means providing feasibility studies, consulting services, and coordinating community conversations to discuss potential opportunities and solutions.

"What does a feasible option for child care look like for the area?" Andrews said.

The problem for communities all over rural Minnesota is that there is no way for a private entity to make a profit on a child care center.

Even the current in-home child care providers are barely making \$8 per hour after paying for all their expenses.

Additionally, in-home providers face increasing regulations that make it difficult to meet all of the requirements.

There are different issues for in-home providers that need to be understood and addressed, as well as the challenges of operating a center.

A healthy community would ideally support both models in order to offer options for families as well as meet the needs of the shortage of licensed slots available.

### Child care operations need to be subsidized

Monday's information proved that a potential child care center in Luverne would need additional financial contributions in order to operate and be financially feasible.

Andrews pointed to the pool and fitness center as an example. City tax dollars subsidize the facility's operations \$370,000 per year in order to keep fees affordable for all community members. This facility contributes to the overall well-being of the community and adds to the quality of life.

It's an amenity that's important to the local community, and Andrews made the parallel that child care is just as important to the well-being of the local economy.

Feasibility studies of various options in Luverne show

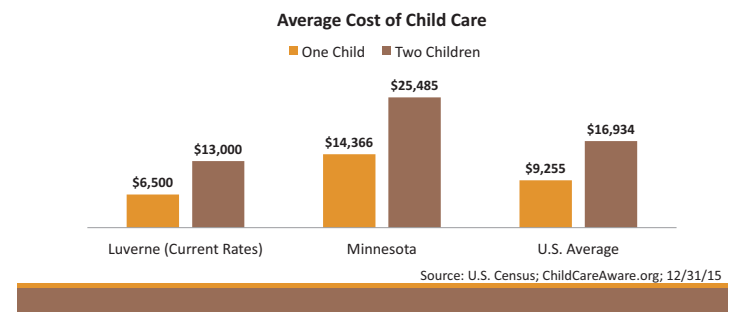
workforce employer we can be," she said.

Mom of three and full-time director of economic development in Luverne Holly Sammons first faced the shortage of child care providers 10 years ago.

Sammons said she was pregnant with her first child when she and her husband began looking for someone to watch their growing family.

Her inquiries revealed no openings for an infant at the

## Challenges in Minnesota Child Care



that a child care center in a newly constructed facility would need to be subsidized \$338,000 per year based on child care worker wages of \$13 to \$15 per hour.

In a remodeled building, that subsidy would be closer to \$163,000 per year.

"And these models use a conservative approach — so they are generally worst-case scenarios," Andrews said.

Luverne Economic Development Authority Director Holly Sammons has been working on the local child care issue for years and said there hasn't been a solution, no matter how the model is set up.

"It doesn't matter if it's new or remodeled. It doesn't matter where we put it — churches, schools, businesses ... We kept getting the same answer. It doesn't cash-flow on an operating level," Sammons said.

Even if a building were donated for a child care center, business models show that average wage of local working families wouldn't support the cost of tuition and salaries for credentialed staff at a licensed child care center.

"We looked at two or three different properties. None of them work ... It doesn't cash-flow. That's the whole point. It's a market failure business. This need cannot be met by the private sector alone."

Sammons was one of three people Monday night who shared testimonials about their experiences with child care. She talked about it from the perspective of a working parent.

Tammy Loosbrock talked about how the child care shortage is affecting hospital employees, and retired child care provider Peggy Nelson spoke about the issue from the perspective of a provider. (See the related story about their experiences.)

Sammons said Monday's event wasn't an occasion to present solutions; rather, it was to provide information about the child care challenge in the Luverne area.

"We wanted everybody in the room — community leaders, elected officials, stakeholders — to hear the same information at the same time," Sammons said. "... to get the facts out there — correct factual information so they can understand the challenges."

Ultimately, she said, the only way there will ever be a successful long-term child care center in the community will be for the community to subsidize its operation.

"But before we get to that point, we need to understand the story behind it," Sammons said. "We need to understand the barriers and the challenges for both in-home and center-based care, because a healthy community needs both."

She emphasized the importance of supporting current providers while creating opportunities for future options.

"We need to be aware of the cost of doing nothing, which will significantly impact the future of our community," Sammons said.

"The whole point of this meeting is to plant the seeds to start the conversation."

Additional meetings will be scheduled and the community will be invited to the discussion.

"We know we need community support," Sammons said. "We shared the information so the elected officials can make informed decisions and begin seeking out a solution."

More information about First Children's Finance is at [firstchildrensfinance.org](http://firstchildrensfinance.org) or <http://firstchildrensfinance.org>.

Sammons' family grew from one to three and they began to attend preschool.

"In my opinion, we need to elevate these in-home providers in our community to a higher status because they are the foundation of our workforce, our working families, our school and our community."

However, as former provider Peggy Nelson pointed out, fewer young people are choosing child care as a career.

# February

SPECIAL OFFER

## Spread the Love Sale

Bring in two cans of non-perishable food and get a year subscription\* to the Rock County Star Herald for

\$45 - in county  
\$55 - out of county  
\$30 - online

Food donations will go to the Rock County Food Shelf

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\*subject to approval offer valid 2/1/18-2/28/18

## PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, February 6

COME AND GO 4-7pm

### Grand Prairie Events

105 S. Estey St.

**Luverne Comprehensive Plan Update**

The purpose of this come-and-go public open house is to see the vision and goals for our community's future.

A final draft of the Luverne Comprehensive Plan will be presented by consultants Bolton & Menk.

Stations will be set up to talk about overarching goals, existing land use, future land use, parks and recreation, and trails and natural resources.

**We're Planning Progress. We hope you can attend!**



## Boys skate to split

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne boys' hockey team split games during a weekend road trip.

The Cardinals lost a one-goal decision to St. Cloud Cathedral in St. Cloud Friday before securing a two-goal victory over Litchfield-Dassel-Cokato Saturday in Litchfield.

Luverne, 14-5 overall, hosts New Ulm Thursday.

### Luverne 4, L-D-C 2

The Cardinals bounced back from a tough loss Friday by posting a two-goal victory over the Dragons Saturday in Litchfield.

Luverne scored the first three goals of the game and had two potential goals waved off by officials during the contest.

Nick Harder and Kasyn Kruse netted two goals each for the winners, while Daniel Tofteland made 40 saves in net for an LHS squad that was outshot 42-38 in the game.

Harder opened the scoring 1:27 in the game before Kruse capped the scoring in the first period with a goal that came with 11:44 remaining in the stanza.

Kruse registered a power-play goal 5:23 into the second period to make it 3-0, but the Dragons scored twice before the period was complete to make things interesting.

L-D-C's Cole Evjen recorded a power play goal with 4:48 remaining in the second period before Brandy Pedersen made it a 3-2 game with nine seconds left in the stanza.

LHS iced the win when Harder registered an empty-net goal with one second remaining in the game.

Split/continued on page 2B



John Rittenhouse photo/0201 lw Bradley 1

Luverne eighth-grader Zach Bradley emerged as one of two Cardinal wrestlers to post 2-0 records during the Luverne Triangular Thursday. LHS lost its opening match before posting its first win of the season.

## Wrestlers collect season's first victory during home triangular

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne Cardinal wrestling team broke into the win column for the first time this season Thursday in Luverne.

LHS entertained Tracy-Milroy-Balaton-Westbrook-Walnut Grove and Fulda-Murray County Central for a triangular.

The Cardinals came up on the short end of a 57-14 decision against T-M-B-W-WG in the opener, but LHS bounced back to snap a nine-match losing streak by defeating F-MCC 45-12 in the finale.

Luverne's Zach Bradley and Tucker Oeltjenbruns went 2-0

during the evening.

Bradley posted an 8-0 major decision over T-M-B-W-WG's Noah Ortiz in the first match before pinning F-MCC's Logan Clarke in 1:15 in the finale.

Oeltjenbruns earned a 12-3 major decision over T-M-B-W-WG's Derek Van Dam before pinning F-MCC's Ryder Henning in 35 seconds.

LHS also received a pin from Braydon Ripka (4:52 over Jayden Torgeson) in the opening match.

Along with the efforts from Bradley and Oeltjenbruns, LHS also received pins from Dalton DeSollar (1:42 over

Christian Kuball), Jed Dooyema (41 seconds over Rylan Behnke) and Tom Brown (13 seconds over Koyer Wendorff) in the F-MCC match.

Camden Janiszkeski and Abraham Hernandez drew forfeits from F-MCC, while Riley Cowell posted a 9-3 win over Dawson Blankenship.

The 1-9 Cards wrestle at the Wabasso Quadrangular Thursday.

**Match wrap-ups**  
T-M-B-W-WG 57, LHS 14  
106 (T) Homer 7-0 Cowell.  
113 (A) Ripka pins Torgeson.  
120 (T) Ellingson by forfeit.  
126 (L) Bradley 8-0 Ortiz.

132 (L) Oeltjenbruns 12-3 Van Dam.  
138 (T) Perez 7-5 DeSollar.  
145 (T) Vandriessche by forfeit.  
152 (T) Axford by forfeit.  
160 (T) Axford 6-4 Dooyema.  
170 (T) Eisfeld pins Brown.  
182 (T) Paplow by forfeit.  
195 (T) Buchholz by forfeit.  
220 (Y) Timm by forfeit.  
285 (T) Bauer by forfeit.

**LHS 45, F-MCC 12**  
106 (L) Cowell 9-3 Blankenship.  
113 (L) Hernandez by forfeit.  
120 (F) Blankenship pins Ripka.  
126 (L) Janiszkeski by forfeit.  
132 (L) Bradley pins Clarke.  
138 (L) Oeltjenbruns pins Henning.  
145 (L) DeSollar pins Kuball.  
152 (L) Dooyema pins Behnke.  
160 (F) Behnke by forfeit.  
170 (L) Brown pins Wendorff.  
182 (L-F) open.  
195 (L-F) open.  
220 (L-F) open.  
285 (L-F) open.

## Adrian wins tight contests

By John Rittenhouse

The Adrian boys' basketball team is riding a four-game winning streak after posting a pair of close victories.

The Dragons defeated Red Rock Central by three points in Lambertton Friday before besting Fulda by three points in Fulda Monday.

Adrian, 9-8 overall, plays in Hills Thursday.

### Adrian 79, Fulda 76

The Dragons staged a second-half rally to best the Raiders by three points Monday in Fulda.

Fulda sported a 42-41 edge after 18 minutes of play in a high-scoring first half.

Adrian battled back in the second half to take a 77-76 edge in the final minute.

Brady Henning drained a pair of free throws with three seconds left to give the Dragons a three-point lead that remained intact when Fulda's final shot hit the top of the backboard and caromed away from the target.

Ryan Wieneke (24 points, eight assists and five rebounds), Skylar Polzine (18 points and nine rebounds), Christian Weidert (15 points, five rebounds and three assists) and Henning (11 points) played strong offensive games for Adrian.

Lance Luettel collected nine caroms and Mitchell Veld charted three assists for the Dragons.

**Box score**  
Weidert 4 1 4-4 15, John 0 0 0-0 0, Wieneke 4 5 1-1 24, Henning 3 1 2-2 11, Veld 0 1 0-0 3, Reyne 0 0 0-0 0, Polzine 8 0 2-2 18, Luettel 4 0 0-0 8.

**Team statistics**  
Adrian: 31 of 64 field goals (48 percent), nine of nine free throws (100 percent).

Tight/continued on page 4B



John Rittenhouse photo/0201 lgh 4

Luverne defenseman Reghan Bork attempts to disrupt the progress of a Marshall skater with her stick during Thursday's hockey game in Luverne. Bork scored one goal and registered one assist during a 3-2 loss to the Tigers.

## Skaters break even in games with Marshall, Albert Lea

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne girls' hockey team broke even when it played a pair of games at different venues.

The Cardinals lost a one-goal league game to Marshall Thursday in Luverne before posting a two-goal win in Albert Lea Monday.

Luverne, 14-7-2 overall, completes the regular season Friday in New Ulm.

### Luverne 3, Albert Lea 1

The Cardinals notched their 14th win of the season when they nipped the Tigers by two goals in Albert Lea Monday.

Luverne netted a pair of first-period goals and never lost the lead during a hard-fought contest.

Claire Baustian, who recorded two unassisted goals for the Cards, opened the scoring 9:23 into the game and Billi Connell made it 2-0 with 2:57 remaining in the first period.

Lexi Henrichs received an assist for Connell's tally.

Luverne's two-goal cushion remained intact until the third period, when both teams netted one tally.

Albert Lea's Mia Dulitz sliced Luverne's lead in half (2-1) when she found the net 2:28 into the third period.

Luverne iced the win with 30 seconds left to play when Baustian registered an empty-net goal during a short-handed situation.

The Tigers sported a 23-21 advantage in shots on goal in the game.

Emilie Bartels stopped 22 of the 23 shots she faced in net for the Cards.

### Marshall 3, Luverne 2

The Cardinals took their fourth loss in Big South Conference play when they took on the Tigers in Luverne Thursday.

LHS scored a pair of goals in the game's final minute to make things interesting, but the Cards couldn't overcome a strong second period put together by the Tigers.

After the teams skated to a scoreless draw in the first period, Marshall gained control by scoring three goals in a span of 1:35 during the second period.

Even/continued on page 2B

## Cardinal girls put together 1-2 basketball week

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne girls' basketball team snapped a four-game skid by posting a 14-point win at Edgerton Public School Monday.

The streak reached four games with a 14-point loss in Pipestone Jan. 23 and a three-point home loss to Marshall Thursday.

Luverne, 10-9 overall, hosts St. James Friday.

### Luverne 54, Edgerton 40

The Cardinals put an end to a four-game losing streak when they took on the Flying Dutchmen in Edgerton Monday.

Luverne played its way to an 11-point halftime lead and outscored EHS by three points in the second half to clinch its 10th win.

LHS played well early to open a 25-14 halftime advantage.

The Cards sported a 29-26 scoring edge in the second half to secure their second win of the season over the Flying Dutchmen.

Mallory Thorson canned eight consecutive free throws and led the Cards in scoring with 12 points.

**Box score**  
Schmuck 2 0 1-4 5, Ver Steeg 3 0 0-1 6, Oye 2 1 2-3 9, Anderson 2 0 1-3 5, Thorson 2 0 8-8 12, Oftedahl 1 0 1-2 3, Petersen 3 0 1-2-7, Ferrell 1 1 2-4 7.

### Marshall 51, LHS 48

Luverne made a bid to upset the conference-leading Tigers before falling by three points Thursday in Luverne.

Facing a 25-20 deficit at the intermission, LHS scored the first six points of the second half and remained in front until late in the game.

Marshall, which regained the lead with three minutes remaining, sank a pair of free throws with 15 seconds left to gain a 49-46 cushion.

An LHS turnover forced the Cards to foul the Tigers moments later, and MHS cashed in on the charity shots to make



John Rittenhouse photo/0201 lgb 6

Luverne senior Sierra Schmuck pressures Pipestone's Mackenzie Haroldson during a Big South Conference girls' basketball game in Pipestone Jan. 23. The Arrows posted a 56-42 win.

ita five-point difference before Luverne's Joci Oye hit a shot at the buzzer to make it a three-point difference at game's end.

Jadyn Anderson led the Cards with 14 points and three assists in the game.

Mackenzie Petersen chipped in 13 points and Rachel Oftedahl grabbed five rebounds.

**Box score**  
Schmuck 1 0 0-2 2, Ver Steeg 1 0 0-0 2, Oye 2 0 2-2 6, Anderson 5 0 4-6 14,

Thorson 1 0 2-6 4, Oftedahl 0 1 2-2 5, Petersen 3 2 1-3 13, Ferrell 1 0 0-2 2.

**Team statistics**  
Luverne: 17 of 30 field goals (57 percent), 11 of 23 free throws (48 percent), 20 rebounds, 16 turnovers.  
Marshall: 17 of 47 field goals (36 percent), 16 of 26 free throws (62 percent), 32 rebounds, 13 turnovers.

### Pipestone 56, LHS 42

The Cardinals couldn't overcome a rough first half when they challenged the Arrows in Pipestone Jan. 23.

Pipestone doubled Luverne's scoring output in the first half (28-14) and went on to win the game by 14 points.

The Arrows, who never trailed in the contest, went on a 13-3 run in the first 8:30 of the game.

LHS trimmed the difference to seven points (13-6) when Petersen converted a three-point play with 8:23 remaining

Girls/continued on page 2B



John Rittenhouse photo/0201 lgb 3

Luverne sophomore guard Mallory Thorson tossed in 10 points during a 56-42 loss in Pipestone Jan. 23.

### Girls/continued from page 1B

in the first half, but the Arrows countered with a 13-4 run to open a 26-10 lead before settling with a 14-point cushion at the intermission.

Pipestone scored the first nine points of the second half to open a 37-14 advantage at the 14:58 mark.

Luverne did whittle away at Pipestone's lead and trailed by nine (50-41) when Thorson converted a field goal with 1:48 left to play.

The Arrows thwarted the challenge by outscoring the Cards 6-1 the rest of the night to win by 14.

Gabrielle Ferrell led the Cards in scoring with 14 points, while Thorson and Petersen chipped in 10 points each.

**Box score**  
Schmuck 0 0 0-0 0, Ver Steeg 0 0 0-0 0, Oye 0 0 0-0 0, Anderson 2 0 0-0 4, Thorson 4 0 2-5 10, Oftedahl 2 0 0-1 4, Petersen 3 0 4-5 10, Ferrell 2 1 7-10 14.

### Split/continued from page 1B

Colby Crabtree recorded two assists for the winners, while Tyler Reisdorfer, Jim Erickson and Jacob Von Tersch chipped in one assist each.

#### SCC 5, Luverne 4

The Cardinals nearly staged a huge upset before falling by one goal Friday in St. Cloud.

A four-goal run in the first and second periods gave LHS a 4-1 lead over the sixth-ranked Crusaders on their home ice.

SCC, however, netted the final four goals of the game to secure a hard-fought victory over the Cards.

The Crusaders took a 1-0 lead when Nate Werners scored 2:33 into the contest, but Luverne countered by scoring four times in the next 12:19 to gain a surprising three-goal cushion.

Kruse knotted the score at one 4:06 into the game before Declan Beers gave the Cards a 2-1 edge with an unassisted tally at the 7:24 mark of the stanza.

A power-play goal by Coy

Gonnerman with 29 seconds left in the first period made it a 3-1 game, and Kruse recorded his second goal of the game 13 seconds into the second period to up the lead to 4-1.

Unfortunately for the Cards, they couldn't protect the lead. SCC's comeback started when Jack Smith scored 2:54 into the second period.

Taking advantage of a five-minute major penalty on LHS in the third period, the Crusaders received power-play goals from Mack Motzko and James Anderson 56 seconds apart to knot the score at four with 10:53 remaining in the third period.

C.J. Zins netted the deciding goal for the Crusaders with 3:24 left to play.

SCC sported a 28-20 advantage in shots on goal over LHS, which received a 23 save effort from Tofteland in goal.

Ben Serie recorded two assists for the Cards, while Harder, Crabtree and Beers produced one assist each.

# H-BC Patriot girls push streak to 13 consecutive wins

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls ran their basketball winning streak to 13 games by posting three wins in seven days.

The Patriots rolled to a 46-point win in Westbrook Jan. 23. H-BC topped Iowa foes West Sioux by five points and Central Lyon by 18 points Saturday and Monday respectively.

H-BC, 14-3 overall, plays in Ellsworth Monday.

#### H-BC 53, CL 35

H-BC dominated play early during Monday's 18-point win over Central Lyon in Rock Rapids, Iowa.

H-BC gained control of the game by rolling to a 35-16 advantage by halftime.

The Lions sported a 19-18 scoring edge in the second half, but it didn't tarnish H-BC's 18-point victory.

Sidney Fick (17 points, five rebounds, three steals and three assists), Abby Knobloch (15 points) and Kourtney Rozeboom (12

points and seven rebounds) led H-BC offensively.

Madison Spath (seven rebounds and four steals) and Grace Bundesen (seven rebounds and five assists) also played well for H-BC.

**Box score**  
K.Fick 0 0 0-0 0, Bos 0 0 0-0 0, Tilstra 0 0 0-0 0, Spath 0 0 0-0 0, Hagen 0 0 0-0 0, Knobloch 4 2 1-3 15, S.Fick 4 3 0-0 17, Bundesen 1 0 3-4 5, Swan 1 0 0-2, Ka.Rozeboom 0 0 0-0 0, Rauk 1 0 0-0 2, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Elbers 0 0 0-0 0, Ko.Rozeboom 6 0 0-0 12.

**Team statistics**  
H-BC: 22 of 59 field goals (37 percent), four of seven free throws (57 percent), 36 rebounds, 11 turnovers.  
CL: 13 of 50 field goals (26 percent), six of 11 free throws (55 percent), 27 rebounds, 16 turnovers.

#### H-BC 46, WS 41

The Patriots pulled out a five-point victory Saturday when they took on West Sioux at Northwestern College in Sioux City, Iowa.

WS and H-BC locked horns in a tight battle, but the Patriots made enough plays to walk away with a win.

H-BC led by two points (24-22) at halftime and

outscored WS 22-19 in the second half to prevail by five points.

Fick (24 points and six rebounds) turned in a strong game for H-BC.

Bundesen and Whitney Elbers added 10 and nine rebounds to the winning cause respectively.

**Box score**  
Tilstra 0 0 0-0 0, Spath 0 0 0-0 0, Knobloch 2 0 1-2 5, Fick 3 3 9-13 24, Bundesen 1 1 2-4 7, Rauk 0 0 0-0 0, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Elbers 1 0 1-2 3, Rozeboom 2 0 3-6 7.

**Team statistics**  
H-BC: 13 of 44 field goals (30 percent), 16 of 27 free throws (60 percent), 42 rebounds, 19 turnovers.  
WS: 17 of 58 field goals (29 percent), six of 14 free throws (43 percent), 38 rebounds, 14 turnovers.

#### H-BC 72, W-WG 26

The Patriots experienced little trouble in disposing of the Chargers when the teams squared off in Hills Jan. 23.

The Patriots limited W-WG to 13 percent shooting from the field and sported a 48-18 rebounding advantage in a

46-point rout.

H-BC led 39-14 at the intermission before outscoring the Chargers 33-12 in the second half to prevail handily.

Fick (16 points, six rebounds and three assists) and Bundesen (15 points and nine rebounds) led H-BC offensively.

Knobloch (six rebounds and three steals), Elbers (eight rebounds and three blocked shots), Kourtney Rozeboom (nine rebounds), Taryn Rauk (three steals) and Madison Spath (three assists) also turned in strong games.

**Box score**  
K.Fick 1 0 0-0 2, Tilstra 0 0 0-0 0, Spath 1 0 0-0 2, Hagen 0 0 0-0 0, Knobloch 2 0 2-2 6, S.Fick 6 0 4-4 16, Bundesen 3 1 6-6 15, Swan 1 0 0-0 2, Ka.Rozeboom 0 0 0-0 0, Rauk 2 0 3-6 7, Gehrke 0 3 0-0 9, Elbers 2 0 1-2 5, Ko.Rozeboom 4 0 0-2 8.

**Team statistics**  
H-BC: 26 of 65 field goals (40 percent), 16 of 22 free throws (73 percent), 48 rebounds, 14 turnovers.  
W-WG: seven of 56 field goals (13 percent), 10 of 16 free throws (63 percent), 17 rebounds, 18 turnovers.

### Even/continued from page 1B

Olivia Peterson ignited the rally with a power-play tally 6:28 into the stanza and Kaitlyn Timm scored 27 seconds later to make it 2-0.

Jadyn Briffett capped the three-goal run with 8:57 remaining in the second stanza.

It looked like Marshall might win by three until the Cardinals scored twice after pulling their goalie for an extra skater late in the third period.

Kamryn Van Batavia scored after being set up by Reghan Bork with 43 seconds remaining, and Bork score with an assist going to Brynn Thier with 16 seconds left.

LHS never did push the puck into the offensive zone in the final 16 seconds, leaving the Tigers with a one-goal win.

Bartels made 37 saves for an LHS team that was outshot 40-17 in the game.



John Rittenhouse photo/0201 lgh 2

Luverne sophomore Claire Baustian moves the puck behind Marshall's net during Thursday's game in Luverne. The Tigers posted a 3-2 win over the Cardinals.

## Trojans, Cardinals saddle gymnasts with BSC setbacks

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne gymnastics team lost a pair of Big South Conference meets in a span of two days last week.

The Cardinals fell by less than one point in Redwood Falls Jan. 23 before taking a 15-plus point setback in Worthington Thursday.

The 5-9 Cardinals host Marshall Thursday.

#### Worthington 142.05, Luverne 126.075

The Cardinals couldn't knock off one of the top teams in Southwest Minnesota when they took on the Trojans in Worthington Thursday.

Worthington, a team favored

to capture the Section 3A title in a couple of weeks, lived up to the billing by rolling to a 15-plus-point victory over the Cards.

Meghan Witte competed well for the Cards by placing fourth on the vault and in the all-around competition with respective 8.9 and 32.75 tallies.

Maria Contreras, who claimed the all-around title with 36.325 points, led the Trojans to victory by winning the vault (9.45), bars (8.825) and floor (9.425) championships.

Abby Bristow placed first on the team with a score of 9.15 for Worthington.

No complete individual results were available from

this meet.

#### RWV 126.85, LHS 125.175

The Cardinals dipped below the .500 mark in BSC competition when they lost a one-plus-point meet in Redwood Falls Jan. 23.

LHS had at least two athletes place in all four individual events during the showdown, but it wasn't enough for the Cards to earn a league win.

Meghan Witte, who won the floor title for LHS with a score of 8.65, had a big night overall.

Witte placed second all-around (32.675), second on the vault (8.825), second on the bars (7.9) and shared third

place with teammate Anna Huisman on the beam (7.3).

Madigan Flom led the Cards on the beam by placing second with a score of 7.475.

Samantha Pierce finished third on the floor with an 8.475 and shared third place on the vault with teammate Melissa Teal (8.6).

Huisman finished fourth on the bars with a 7.775.

RWV's Emma Stevenson took top honors on the vault (8.95), beam (8.275) and in the all-around (33.65) competition, while Mikayla Opatz claimed the bars title with an 8.05.

Complete individual scores were not available.



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# Patriot boys cap stretch by winning in Rock Rapids Monday

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team went 1-2 during a stretch of playing three games in four days.

The Patriots lost a 27-point game to Westbrook Walnut Grove Friday in Hills before taking a 20-point loss from West Sioux Saturday in Orange City, Iowa.

H-BC returned to Iowa Monday by taking on Central Lyon in Rock Rapids, where it secured a five-point win.

The 5-11 Patriots host Adrian Thursday.

H-BC 61, CL 56

The Patriots picked up their fifth win of the season when they topped the Lions by five points Monday in Rock Rapids, Iowa.

The Patriots faced a three-point deficit at halftime against Central Lyon before rallying in the second half to post a victory.

CL played well early to sport a 26-23 lead at the break.

The second half belonged to H-BC, which outscored the Lions 38-30 to turn the table on the Lions.

Preston Wilhelmi (31 points, seven rebounds, five steals and three assists) and Jax Wysong (13 points and six rebounds) carried the Patriots to victory.

Box score  
Harnack 0 1 0-0 3, Leenderts 0 1 1-2 4, Westrum 1 0 0-1 2, Wilhelmi 2 4 15-15 31, Bork 1 0 2-4 4, Kueter 0 0 0-0 0, LaRock 1 0 1-2 4, Susie 0 0 0-0 0, Wysong 5 0 3-4 13.

Team statistics  
H-BC: 16 of 32 field goals (50 percent), 22 of 28 free throws (79 percent), 23 rebounds, 10 turnovers.  
CL: 24 of 48 field goals (50 percent), three of seven free throws (43 percent), 21 rebounds.

WS 79, H-BC 59

The Patriots lost their second game of the weekend when they ran into a hot-shooting WS team Saturday at Northwestern College in Orange



WS: 32 of 60 field goals (53 percent), four of eight free throws (50 percent), 39 rebounds, 11 turnovers.

Hills-Beaver Creek sophomore post Jax Wysong delivers a pass in the paint during Friday's home game against W-WG.

John Rittenhouse photo/0201 hbb 2

City, Iowa.

Taking advantage of 53 percent shooting from the field, WS outscored H-BC in both halves of a 79-59 victory.

The Iowa squad raced to a 40-25 lead in the first half and

used a 39-34 scoring cushion in the second half to win by 20.

Preston Wilhelmi (25 points, four steals and three assists) and Jax Wysong (14 points and six rebounds) led H-BC statistically.

Dawson Leenderts charted three steals and Easton Harnack three assists for the Patriots.

25, Bork 2 0 2-2 6, Kueter 2 0 0-0 4, Wysong 6 0 2-5 14, Harnack 0 0 0-0 0, Westrum 1 0 0-0 2, LaRock 1 0 1-3 3, Susie 1 0 0-0 2.

Team statistics  
H-BC: 23 of 61 field goals (38 percent), six of nine free throws (67 percent), 31 rebounds, 10 turnovers.

Box score  
Leenderts 0 1 0-0 3, Wilhelmi 4 5 2-2

## Tight/continued from page 1B

34 rebounds, nine turnovers.  
Fulda: 24 of 58 field goals (41 percent), 14 of 17 free throws (82 percent), 25 rebounds, six turnovers.

Adrian 46, RRC 43

The Dragons notched their third consecutive victory by nipping the Falcons by three points Friday in Lambertson.

In what was a tightly contested battle, AHS and RRC were knotted at 27 after 18 minutes of play.

AHS was sporting a three-point lead in the closing seconds and had a chance to ice the win from the charity stripe, but a missed free throw gave the ball to the Falcons.

RRC put up a three-point shot that was off the mark before time expired, giving AHS the victory.

Henning (14 points), Wieneke (11 points and five assists) and Weidert (10

points and nine rebounds) played well in the win for the Dragons.

Box score  
Weidert 22 0 3-10, John 0 0 0-0 0, Wilson 0 0 0-0 0, Wieneke 1 1 6-6 11, Henning 1 4 0-0 14, Veld 0 1 0-3 3, Reyne 1 0 0-0 2, Polzine 1 0 0-0 2, Luettel 2 0 0-1 4.

Team statistics  
Adrian: 16 of 37 field goals (43 percent), six of 13 free throws (46 percent), 23 rebounds, seven turnovers.  
RRC: 17 of 52 field goals (33 percent), six of 10 free throws (60 percent), 27 rebounds, four turnovers.

## H-BC evens score with AHS

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team avenged an early-season loss when they entertained Adrian for a Red Rock Conference clash Thursday in Hills.

H-BC, which came up on the short end of a 57-51 decision when the teams met in Adrian Dec. 5, took care of the business in the rematch.

The Patriots outscored AHS in both halves of a 64-43 victory.

H-BC led 36-23 after 18 minutes of play before outscoring the Dragons 28-20 in the second half to complete a 21-point win.

Grace Bundesen (17 points, 12 rebounds and five assists), Sidney Fick (11 points and six rebounds), Whitney Elbers (11 points and six rebounds) and Kourtney Rozeboom (10 points) played well in the game for H-BC.

Taryn Rauk charted three

assists for the Patriots.

Adrian received a 12-point, eight-rebound effort from Paige Bullerman.

Avery Balster and Moriah Bullerman charted five and three assists respectively, while Lexi Slater registered three steals.

Box score  
Adrian  
Zebe 0 0 0-0 0, H. Bullerman 1 0 2-2 4, M. Bullerman 1 0 1-2 3, Balster 3 0 0-0 6, Grimord 0 0 0-0 0, Nelson 1 0 0-0 2, Christians 2 0 0-0 4, Lonneman 2 0 0-0 4, Grussing 0 0 0-0 0, Rogers 1 0 0-0 2, Fuerstenberg 0 0 0-0 0, Slater 2 0 2-3 6, P. Bullerman 5 0 2-4 12.

H-BC  
K. Fick 0 0 0-0 0, Bos 0 0 0-0 0, Tilstra 0 0 0-0 0, Spath 1 0 0-0 2, Hahen 0 0 0-0 0, S. Fick 1 1 6-9 11, Bundesen 6 0 5-6 17, Swan 0 0 0-2 0, Ka. Rozeboom 0 0 0-0 0, Rauk 1 0 0-0 2, Gehrke 0 1 0-0 3, Elbers 5 0 1-3 11, Ko. Rozeboom 3 0 4-6 10.

Team statistics  
Adrian: 18 of 48 field goals (38 percent), seven of 10 free throws (70 percent), 20 rebounds, 17 turnovers.  
H-BC: 22 of 50 field goals (44 percent), 16 of 26 free throws (62 percent), 37 rebounds, 17 turnovers.

## STANDINGS

**BSC girls' hockey**

New Ulm	13-0
Marshall	9-4
Luverne	7-4-1
Minnesota River	8-5
Waseca	5-6
Windom	3-8-1
Worthington	5-9
Fairmont	0-14

**BSC boys' hockey**

Luverne	11-0
Marshall	12-2
Minnesota River	10-2
New Ulm	7-3
Waseca	6-6
Windom	4-9
RWV	4-9
Fairmont	2-12
Worthington	0-13

**BSC West boys' hoops**

Marshall	9-0
Worthington	6-3
Pipestone	5-4
Windom	5-4
JCC	4-4
RWV	2-7
Luverne	0-9

**BSC West girls' hoops**

Marshall	9-0
Worthington	6-2
JCC	7-3
Pipestone	6-4
Luverne	2-7
RWV	2-7
Windom	0-9

## Notch/cont. from page 3B


rebounds for the winners.

Box score  
Kruise 2 1 2-4 9, S. Boltjes 0 1 1-2 4, K. Boltjes 1 0 0-0 2, Jansma 3 4 3-5 21, S. Kramer 1 0 3-6 5, Boyenga 1 0 0-0 2, B. Kramer 6 0 3-4 15, Buntjer 2 0 0-0 4.

Team statistics  
Ellsworth: 21 of 36 field goals (58 percent), 12 of 21 free throws (57 percent), 34 rebounds, 13 turnovers.

# Rock Nobles Cattlemens Annual Banquet

Monday, February 5, 2018  
Grand Prairie Events, Luverne  
Social Hour at 6 pm | Steaks Served at 6:30 pm



**Guest Speaker - John Phipps**

John Phipps is, like most farmers today, not what you expect. He holds a degree in chemical engineering, studied economics, and served as a submarine nuclear engineer, all of which contribute to his unique perspective on rural culture.

He currently farms in East Central Illinois and has been in the family for seven generations. His son Aaron returned to the operation in 2008.

Since 1994 he has written award-winning humor and commentary for Farm Journal and Top Producer magazines.

From August 2005 until October 2014, John was the TV host of US Farm Report. He now adds commentary from his farm every week.

Please come and enjoy an entertaining evening with John Phipps.



## E-Gals claw Ellsworth girls

By John Rittenhouse

The Ellsworth girls' basketball team was unable to knock off Southwest Christian when the squads mixed it up in a Red Rock Conference clash in Ellsworth Thursday.

SWC entered with an unbeaten record in league play and remained that way after securing a 60-42 victory over the Panthers.

The E-Gals gained control of the contest by opening a 38-16 advantage in the first half.

EHS sported a 26-22 scoring cushion in the second half, but it wasn't enough to keep SWC from winning its 10th consecu-

tive RRC game.

Kallie Chapa scored 10 points, grabbed six rebounds and charted four steals and four assists for the Panthers, who received a 10-point effort from Ashlyn Meester.

Morgan Dreesen charted five assists for the 4-12 Panthers, who play in Adrian Friday.

Box score  
Meester 22 0-0 10, K. Chapa 2 2 0-0 10, L. Chapa 4 0 1-2 9, M. Dreesen 3 0 0-2 6, D. Dreesen 2 1 0-1 7.

Team statistics  
Ellsworth: 18 of 42 field goals (43 percent), one of five free throws (20 percent), 18 rebounds, 23 turnovers.



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# Star Herald CHURCH

February 1, 2018 Page 5B

**St. Catherine Catholic Church**  
203 E. Brown St., Luverne  
St. Catherine Ph.: 283-8502; email: stcatherine@iw.net  
**St. Mary Catholic Church, Ellsworth**  
Saturday, Feb. 3: 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Catherine. Sunday, Feb. 4: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary; Faith Formation. 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine; Sunday School and CLW. 7:30 p.m. Bible Study. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 3:30 and 7 p.m. Faith Formation.

**Luverne Christian Reformed Church**  
605 N. Estey St., Luverne  
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982  
www.luverncrc.com — office@luvernecrc.com  
**Roger Sparks, Pastor**  
Sunday, Feb. 4: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday School and Catechism classes. 6:30 p.m. Worship service. Tuesday, Feb. 6: 9:30 a.m. Coffee Break/Story Hour.

**First Baptist Church**  
1033 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne  
Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org  
**Walt Moser, Pastor**  
Thursday, Feb. 1: 6 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 7 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3. Sunday, Feb. 4: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Morning Service. 6 p.m. Evening service. Tuesday, Feb. 6: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 7 p.m. Nominating Committee. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 6:30 p.m. Awana. Thursday, Feb. 8: 6 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 7 p.m. Worship Service on Channel 3.

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — graceluverne@iw.net  
**Ron Nichols, Pastor; Stephen Hilding, Associate Pastor**  
Thursday, Feb. 1: 8:30 a.m. MIA. Friday, Feb. 2: 6:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Saturday, Feb. 3: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Figure skaters in Fellowship Hall. 5:30 p.m. Worship with Communion. Sunday, Feb. 4: Noisy Sunday. 8:15 a.m. Radio broadcast. 9 a.m. Worship with Communion. 10 a.m. Fellowship Coffee; Sunday School; Adult Study. Monday, Feb. 5: 4:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Tuesday, Feb. 6: 7 a.m. Dorcas Circle at The Bean. 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 10 a.m. Worship at Tuff Home. 3:15 p.m. Faithweavers. 5:30 p.m. Youth Supper. 6 p.m. Woven Worship with Communion. 7 p.m. Grades 6-9 Confirmation; Chancel Choir rehearsal. Thursday, Feb. 8: 8:30 a.m. MIA.

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834  
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com  
**Andrew Palmquist, Pastor**  
Sunday, Feb. 4: 9 a.m. Sunday School. 9:15 a.m. Bible Class. 10:15 a.m. Worship. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 9:30 a.m. Rebekah Circle. 3:30 p.m. Catechism Class. Thursday, Feb. 8: 2 p.m. Ladies Aid.

**American Reformed Church**  
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne  
Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org  
**Mike Altena, Pastor**  
Thursday, Feb. 1: 8 a.m. Fellowship Hall reserved. 5:30 p.m. Tumbling Tikes. Friday, Feb. 2: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. 8 a.m. Fellowship Hall reserved. 4:30 p.m. REFIT Fitness Class. Sunday, Feb. 4: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service; Souper Bowl of Caring offering. 10:50 a.m. Family Education Hour. Monday, Feb. 5: 3 p.m. Commons reserved. 7 p.m. Esther Circle. Tuesday, Feb. 6: 10 a.m. Staff meeting. 1:30 p.m. Rebecca Circle. 6:45 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 4:30 p.m. REFIT Fitness. 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs; YEL. 6:45 p.m. Rachel Circle. 7 p.m. Abide Praise Team. 8 p.m. Adult Choir; Girls Night. Thursday, Feb. 8: 5:30 p.m. Tumbling Tikes.

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

**United Methodist Church**  
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne  
Ph. 283-4529; email: luverneumc@iw.net  
**Dorie Hall, Pastor**  
Thursday, Feb. 1: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf. Saturday, Feb. 3: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Sunday, Feb. 4: 9 a.m. Traditional Service. 10 a.m. Coffee Hour; Adult Sunday School. 11 a.m. Come as You Are Service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible Study. 6 p.m. ALIVE Youth Group. Monday, Feb. 5: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Tuesday, Feb. 6: 8 a.m. Priscilla Circle. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 1-3 p.m. Sewing Day. 6:30 p.m. F.U.E.L. NO Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Thursday, Feb. 8: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. LPEP Meeting. Noon: Rock the Edge Youth Meeting. 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf. 7 p.m. Coloring Ministry.

**Magnolia United Methodist Church**  
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia  
Church Ph. 507-483-2492; cell 227-7821; email: adrmagumc@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/adrianmagnoliaumc  
**Kristi Franken, Pastor**  
Sunday, Jan. 28: 9 a.m. Magnolia Worship Service. Wednesday, Jan. 31: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation at Magnolia UMC.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
302 Central Lane, Luverne  
Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net — www.fpcluverne.com  
Thursday, Feb. 1: 9 a.m. PW Executive Meeting. 10 a.m. Worship service on Channel 3. Sunday, Feb. 4: 9 a.m. Sunday School. 10:15 a.m. Worship. 11:15 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship. Tuesday, Feb. 6: 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 3:15 p.m. Youth Club. 6 p.m. Bells. 6:10 p.m. Confirmation. 6:30 p.m. MS fellowship. 7 p.m. Choir. 7:30 p.m. Worship. 8 p.m. Stewardship; CE; Property. Thursday, Feb. 8: 10 a.m. Worship service on Channel 3.

**St. John Lutheran Church**  
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne  
Ph. 283-2316, Dial-A-Devotion Ph. 283-4005  
email: stjoh@iw.net — www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org  
**Gary Klatt, Pastor**  
Thursday, Feb. 1: 9 a.m. Little Lambs Devotions. Saturday, Feb. 3: 9 a.m. Elders Retreat at Marshall. 5:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, Feb. 4: 9 a.m. Worship (Junior Choir sings.) 10:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour. 11:15 a.m. Junior Choir rehearsal. 1:30 p.m. Worship at Mary Jane Brown Home. 2:15 p.m. Worship at Poplar Creek. Monday, Feb. 5: 9 a.m. Circuit Pastors Conference at Holland. 7 p.m. Elders meeting. Tuesday, Feb. 6: 11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting. 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Quilting. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Little Lambs Devotions. 9:30 a.m. Bible Study. 6 p.m. Youth supper. 6:30 p.m. Catechism. 7 p.m. KFC; High School Bible Study; Senior Choir. 8 p.m. Kingdom Builders. Thursday, Feb. 8: 9 a.m. Little Lambs Devotions. 1:30 p.m. Communion at Mary Jane Brown Home. 2:45 p.m. Communion at Poplar Creek. 3:30 p.m. Communion at Veterans Home.

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
305 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick  
Ph. 669-2855; email: www.zionlutheranhardwick.com  
Thursday, Feb. 1: 3:30 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3. Friday, Feb. 2: 3:30 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3. Saturday, Feb. 3: 9 a.m. Circuit Pastors Gathering at Marshall. Sunday, Feb. 4: 9 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study. 10 a.m. Mentor Program. 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion. Monday, Feb. 5: 1 p.m. Quilting. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation at St. John. 7 p.m. LWML meeting. Thursday, Feb. 8: 3:30 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3.

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

**First Lutheran Church**  
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.  
Ph. (605) 757-6662  
**Intern Pastor Laura Phillips**  
Sunday, Feb. 4: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship service. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 7 p.m. Confirmation.

**Palisade Lutheran Church**  
211 121<sup>st</sup> St., Garretson, S.D.  
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net  
**Intern Pastor Laura Phillips**  
Thursday, Feb. 1: 7 p.m. Church Council Meeting. Sunday, Feb. 4: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10 a.m. Sunday School. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 7 p.m. Confirmation at First Lutheran.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
201 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., P.O. Box 73, Beaver Creek  
Ph. 507-935-5025  
Email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com  
**Worship Leader Michael Blank**  
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship. 10:30 a.m. Sunday School.

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

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
Pastor Maggie Berndt-Dreyer  
112 N. Main St., Hills  
Ph. 962-3270  
e-mail: bethlehempluth@alliancecom.net  
Sunday, Feb. 4: 9 a.m. Communion at Tuff Chapel. 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Souper Bowl Sunday — can of soup for Food Shelf; Communion at Bethlehem; Installation of new officers. Tuesday, Feb. 6: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. 3:15 p.m. Bible Study at Village. Wednesday, Feb. 7: 9 a.m. Quilting. 7-8:30 p.m. Grades 9-12 Youth Night.

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

## The greatest love story

This past month at one of Bethlehem Lutheran Church's women's groups, we read a study about how scripture relates to different people in different ways.

The author of the study asked 100 people to write down their response to the question, "What is this passage about?" regarding the same text, and he arranged the responses in groups based on which character or group of characters the listeners identified with, and whether they heard the passage as comforting or convicting.

I really enjoyed the study and exploring where our own responses fit on the spectrum. It demonstrated beautifully how 100 different people can hear 100 different things after reading the same text.

Reading the Bible can be intimidating when we feel as if we have to find the "right" answer. I must admit, we preachers sometimes perpetuate this pressure when during our sermons we say things like "scripture clearly says ..." or "the main point of this text is ..." or "what it really means is ..."

In reality there are many disagreements about the meaning of scripture. Each church body or denomination has a differing theology of scripture — how we understand what the Bible is, how it came to be, and how we encounter it. There are also many different ways to read scripture: as part of a Bible study, as the basis for a sermon, for personal devotion or group devotion. Depending on the situation, texts will be read differently.

I confess that before I went to seminary, I found reading the Bible very arduous. It required a lot of effort and was not very appealing. What helped me was to hear permis-

## BUILT ON A ROCK

By Reverend Maggie Berndt-Dreyer, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hills

sion to ask questions, to not get it, and even to not like everything I read.

So, if you are in a similar spot to where I was in that you barely open the Bible because you find it inaccessible, boring, confusing, or you just don't like it, I want to tell you that's okay. You are not alone; plenty of people share your experience and opinion. There is room for you and all your ponderings at God's table. I also want to encourage you to go for it; just try it. Without any pressure to remember it the next day or explain to someone what it means, just read a little and see what happens.

In scripture there is war, violence, family drama, infidelity, and communities struggling to get along (sounds a lot like our world today). And God is in the midst of it all, not always in obvious ways, not always doing what we want God to do, not providing nice, neat answers, but always showing mercy and love that lasts through it all.

It's hard for me to believe that January is over. I'm not one to make New Year's Resolutions, but I'm betting for those who do, some have already fallen by the wayside. Oh, well. It's never too late to start another. Find a Bible with a translation that is readable to you, and just try it. You never know what God will do.

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

Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship; Kids Rock Children's Ministry. 6 p.m. Youth Ministry. Life groups meet throughout the week.

**New Life Celebration Church**  
110 N. Oakley, Luverne  
Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecelbration@gmail.com

Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship at 110 N. Oakley. Every third Thursday: 5 p.m. Food give-away at Senior Citizens Center. Bible Study groups meet at various times and days.

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