



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, November 5, 2015

Hardwick officials consider variance for storage structure in residential neighborhood

Hearing prompts debate over merit of ordinance and long-range plan

By Mavis Fodness

An Oct. 28 public hearing in Hardwick prompted residents and city leaders to re-examine ordinances and policies designed to promote positive city development.

Darin Prins is requesting a city variance to move in a 28-by-15-foot building on his property located at 101 E. First St. (County Road 7).

He would then expand the facility to measure 28 by 35 feet and remodel the building with a metal roof and siding.

"I just need another storage area on my property," he said.

Because of the shed's expanded depth, Prins approached the Hardwick City Council for a building permit as well as a variance to allow the structure closer

to the rear property line than city ordinance allows.

The Oct. 28 public meeting was specifically for the variance request.

Hardwick's city ordinance stipulates the rear yard depth cannot be less than 20 percent of the depth of the lot.

With the depth of the lot at 198 feet, Prins' new shed would need to be 39.6 feet from the lot line. Prins is requesting the city to allow the building to be 10 feet from the lot line.

Unclear of whether or not to allow the almost 20-foot deviation from the current city regulations, council members heeded the advice of city attorney Jennifer Eisma-Reinke and spent the Oct. 28 public hearing gathering more

information.

"In the 30 years I have been city clerk, this is the third one that I have had," said Tammy Johnson. "Every time this comes up, we scramble to think what we want to do."

A three-member board of adjustments and appeals has been formed with council member Scott Edwards and residents Alice Hansen and Jan Baustian as members.

Baustian has served intermittently on the Hardwick council since 1972, including multiple terms as mayor.

She attended Wednesday's meeting along with council member Edwards.

The board of adjustments and

Hardwick variance/see page 5A



Mavis Fodness photo/1105 CC girls team 1

Uncharted territory

The Luverne girls captured their first team title in school history at the Section 3A Cross Country Championships in Madison Thursday. The Cardinals turned in a 71-point effort to top a 20-team field. The Cardinals advance to the Minnesota State Class A Cross Country Championships at St. Olaf College in Northfield Saturday, where they'll compete for a state title at 1 p.m. Team members include (front row, from left) Madison Reisdorfer, Madison Schandemeier, Zayna Hustoft, Gabrielle Ferrell, (back) Cassie Flanagan, Claire Baustian, Regan Feit, Autumn Nath and Tianna Doppenberg.

Luverne Body Shop to expand, relocate

By Lori Sorenson

Kevin and Mary Aaker are buying a two-acre commercial lot from the Luverne Economic Development Authority to expand and relocate their Luverne Body Shop business.

At a special meeting Monday morning, the LEDA conducted a public hearing on the lot sale and, hearing no testimony from the public, approved a development agreement.

The Aakers are buying a lot in the Gabrielson Second Industrial Subdivision in the area north of Papik Motors.

The lot is on the northwest corner of the intersection of Koehn Avenue and Commerce Drive.

The Aakers plan to invest \$1 million in a 100-by-120-foot precast cement building for their auto body repair business.

According to the development agreement, they will pay \$10,700 for the property, which is fully developed with water, sewer and electric hookups.

They must begin construction within a year and retain the nine full-time equivalent jobs currently generated by the business.

The EDA will offer a business incentive utility rate of 1 cent per kilowatt hour over cost for a period of 12 months.

At Monday's meeting, Kevin Aaker told the EDA he's looking forward to doing business in the new location.

"It will be easy to explain to someone where it is — turn west at McDonald's and Subway and we're right north of Papik Motors," he said. "It makes sense."

He said the business move has been in the plans for a long time.

"Verlon (Shearer) and I started together in 1990, and now we have eight full-time employees with Mary and me," Aaker said.

He said they've been adding employees in recent years, anticipating the move.

Their current building on West Gabrielson Road was once home to Trucker's Territory before it became the Luverne Body Shop in 1997.

The building is 90 by 140 feet, and the Body Shop currently uses two-thirds of it, leasing out the remaining space to various trucking firms like Riggs and Sandbulte through the

Luverne Body Shop/see page 9A



Lori Sorenson photo/1105 berries blue mound

Lingering summer

After a brief bout with winter last week Wednesday, Oct. 28, Mother Nature rallied with unseasonably warm weather with record-breaking high temperatures in the 70s recorded earlier this week. This photo was taken Friday, Oct. 30, at Round Wind and Blue Mound avenues facing north.

County wells to be marked on official map

By Mavis Fodness

In a joint effort with the Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS), Rock County will soon know where all its residential wells are located and what measures should be taken to protect the water quality of those wells.

Rock County entered into an agreement with the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering to complete a county geological atlas.

Start of the project depends on state funding, however, and is expected to take several years to fully complete.

"The County Geological Atlas Program has been continuously funded for over 30 years, and we have no reason to expect a disruption," wrote MGS assistant director Dale Setterholm in an Oct. 9 letter to Rock County Commissioners.

"We are generally able to deliver our products in three to four years from the date of initiation."

Benefits are:

- more refined mapping of geological materials and surficial aquifers,
- better understanding of where vulnerable areas of the county's shallow aquifers are located,
- knowledge of where to focus education and incentive efforts with landowners and farmers, and
- better idea of where wells can be located.

Under the agreement, Rock County supports the project through in-kind services.

County well map/see page 10A

Groundwork laid for pedestrian crosswalks on Highway 75

By Lori Sorenson

Work began this week to install the long-awaited pedestrian crossing lights on Highway 75 near Luverne High School.

After decades of debate on how to improve pedestrian safety in that area, state and local officials agreed in April to install "rectangular rapid flashing beacons" (RRFBs.)

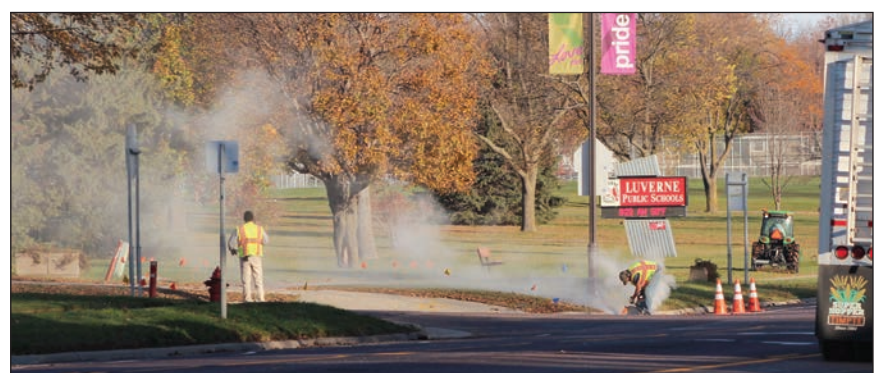
Two beacons will be installed — one at Barck and one at Dodge — for a cost of \$200,000, shared by city and school. The county will maintain the equipment, which will replace most

of the six crossing guards that cost \$50,000 annually.

The overhead flashing yellow lights are activated by pedestrians and will replace the flashing signs that indicate the speed of approaching motorists.

In addition, the 25-mph school zone speed limit will be returned to 30 mph.

Luverne's Jason DeBeer of Concrete Creations is doing the cement work ahead of the wiring and installation, which is set for completion this fall.



Concrete Creations starts cement work ahead of the wiring and installation for the pedestrian lights on Highway 75 Monday morning. (Lori Sorenson photo)



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Pink Ladies of Luverne will meet at 1:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, in the Blue Room at Luverne Sanford Hospital.
Battle Plain Township will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at the home of Aaron Sandbulte.
VFW Auxiliary #2757 will meet at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the Minnesota Veterans Home.
Rock Co. VFW #2757 will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the Herreid Military Building. Call Buck Underwood at 449-0632.
Tourist Club will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, at Poplar Creek.
Lady Luverne Red Hats will meet at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 13, for lunch at China Inn and Bingo at the Veterans Home. RSVP by Tuesday, Nov. 10. Call Connie at 283-8470.
MS Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19, at Southwest Health and Human Services in Luverne. Call 283-2069 or 283-2964.

Bank Nite Movie 'McFarland USA' Nov. 5

The free Bank Nite movie, "McFarland USA," will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, at the Palace Theatre in Luverne. Sponsored by First Farmers & Merchants National Bank and Papik Motors, is shown on the first Thursday of every month as it was done for "Bank Nite" in the 1930s.

Kids Against Hunger Event Nov. 5-6

If you are interested in participating in the Kids Against Hunger Packing Event from various times between 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, and 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, call the Luverne United Methodist Church at 507-283-4529 or Pastor Dorie at 507-920-5278.

Youth Wrestling free camp Nov. 5-6

Luverne Area Youth Wrestling will have a free camp from 3:30-6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, and Friday, Nov. 6, in the small gym next to gymnastics room. Coaches will answer questions and go over basic moves. Sign-up will be available at camp and an official sign-up date will be from 6-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, in the small gym. The club is open to boys and girls ages PreK to sixth grade. Call 507-363-3418.

'Pirates' at Luverne Elementary Nov. 6

The Luverne Elementary second- and third-graders will present their music program, "Pirates," at 2 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, in the elementary gym.

Geocaching GIFF event Nov. 7

A Geocaching GIFF event, sponsored by Luverne Community Education, will be from 12-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, at the Luverne Elementary School Room 701 (music room).

Try hockey for free Nov. 7

The Blue Mound Hockey Arena will be open from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, for all children who want to try hockey for free. Register at TryHockeyForFree.com. Email hockeybeers4@gmail.com with questions.

Red Cross blood drives Nov. 10 and 11

The American Red Cross encourages blood donations before holidays. Upcoming blood donation opportunities: •2-7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the American Legion, Main St. in Lismore. •1-7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 11, at Adrian High School, 415 Kentucky in Adrian.

Tickets to GEP 'Homecoming' available

The Green Earth Players community theater group will perform its fall production, "Homecoming," Nov. 13-15 and Nov. 20-22 at the Palace Theatre in Luverne. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are available at the Palace Box Office. Call 507-283-4339.

Good Sam invites to Open House Nov. 12

Good Samaritan Society in Luverne invites the public to an open house from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12. Tours will be available to view the renovations, and cookies and hot apple cider will be served. Pies will be available for sale. Call 507-283-2375 for further information.

Free food for seniors second Thursday

Second Harvest Heartland has distribution will be from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. the second Thursday of the month at the American Legion Hall in Luverne. This food is available to eligible seniors once a month. Eligibility is based on age (60 years and older), household size and income. Clients need to call 1-800-365-0270 and apply over the phone before they can pick up.



Lori Sorenson photos/1105 halloween CWG

Happy Halloween at Continental Western Group

Minions ruled the roost at Continental Western Group in Luverne Friday as employees dressed in Halloween costumes in honor of Saturday's holiday. Pictured are (front, from left) Doug Sadler, Natilee Woodley, Sam DeBates, Missy Bosch, Nadine Schoep, Vickie Van Dyke, Krista Ahrendt, (back) Jackie Williams, Mary Rauk, Amy Sandbulte, Becky Jo Van Dyke, Mike DeBates, Jessica Hacker, Molly Bowman, Mo Dirks, Jeri Zachow and Nancy Hartz.

Pictured below, Dressed as the "Spice Girls" are CWG employees (from left) Tashia Klosterbuer, Lisa Wiese, Erika Brake, Andrea Oye, Melissa Voge and Shelli Menning. Pictured below left is Rae Frahm photographing her co-workers.



Local educators become published authors in handbook about Response to Intervention

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School Psychologist Renee Guy and teacher Amanda Fields have co-authored a chapter in a textbook for their peers.

The "Handbook of Response to Intervention: The Science and Practice of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support" is meant for an educational audience and retails for \$399. "It's a research-based handbook used by universities, public school entities, etc., with their Response To Intervention (RTI) programs," said Guy, a 1986 LHS grad who has been the district's psychologist for 17 years.

Luverne's RTI program targets students who struggle at learning to read.

"The RTI program is designed to help meet the needs of the bottom 20 percent of readers within our district," said Fields, who has worked in the district's special education program since 2002.

Fields was the RTI pro-



Mavis Fodness photo/1105 Published RTI Authors

Amanda Fields (left) and Renee Guy co-authored a chapter in the "Handbook of Response to Intervention: The Science and Practice of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support."

gram's coordinator for its first six years. Today she and Guy play a more advisory role.

RTI began nine years ago

The program's concept began in 2006 when a team

of Luverne elementary instructors attended a training headed by then University of Minnesota education professor Matthew Burns.

As the local group began developing their own program, Guy kept in contact with Burns, who invited her and Fields to write about Luverne's RTI experience.

The local program was implemented in stages beginning in the fall of 2008.

"It was easy to write because—in a sense—it is about what we did and how we did it," Guy said.

While the writing wasn't difficult for the duo, the waiting was.

"It was a really drawn-out process," Fields said. "You submit the first draft and then we waited a really long time before we got feedback."

Burns extended the invitation to write about the Luverne program more than

Staff authors chapter/9A



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• Land Surveying

Blue Mounds State Park officials agree to water study

By Mavis Fodness

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials liken the operation of a state park to that of a municipality.

Finding and maintaining a safe water source in each of the state's 75 state parks has been a challenge.

Kathy Dummer, DNR's southern region park and trail manager, DNR engineers and other representatives met with local officials Oct. 13 about connecting to Rock County Rural Water System.

The RCRW is in the final stages of a \$5 million expansion and improvement project and has extended invitations to connect to the system by this fall.

The Blue Mounds State Park was also invited.

However, park officials have neither accepted nor declined the invitation.

Two years ago, a new well was established at the park when water tests indicated the previous well's water was unsafe for drinking.

Continued tests of the new well recently revealed the new water source is also contaminated and is unsafe for drinking.

County officials see the connection to rural water as a solution and invited DNR officials to a meeting.

"Each of our 75 state park and recreation units functions as a small city," Dummer said in an email after the meeting.

"Managing water resources and infrastructure is an operational function at each unit similar to municipalities.

"We choose to operate at

this level to ensure that our visitors not only have safe water, but a pleasant overall experience when visiting a park."

While a connection to rural water is a solution, it's not the only solution the DNR is considering.

"DNR continues to work with the Department of Health to isolate water quality issues at Blue Mounds State Park to identify the nature of the contamination before completely eliminating the current well as a viable drinking water source or the possibility of drilling a new well," Dummer indicated.

"County and DGR Engineering staff have encouraged the DNR to consider other water options such as onsite storage due to concerns that an economically and structurally feasible rural water route to the park may not be possible."

A six-inch water line is currently three miles west of the state park's entrance. Between the two points are several rock formations.

The size and extent of these formations will be part of the feasibility study.

DNR officials agreed to finance the study at an estimated cost of \$5,000 and work with county officials to develop the feasibility's study scope.

DGR Engineering of Rock Rapids, Iowa, who has been working with RCRW's current expansion and improvement project, will conduct the final study.

The timeline for the study's completion is unknown, Dummer said.



Star Herald file photo

The Luverne Carnegie Library was one of 65 public libraries built in Minnesota with funds from Andrew Carnegie and the Carnegie Corporation. It was built on North Freeman Avenue in 1904 and served as the library until the early 1990s. In 1992, it was remodeled and became the Carnegie Cultural Center as we know it today.

Arts board, city council terminate lease for Carnegie Cultural Center space

By Lori Sorenson

After 20 years of occupying space in the Carnegie Cultural Center, the local arts board will terminate its lease at the end of the year.

Luverne City Council members took action to terminate the lease as of Dec. 31 at their Oct. 27 meeting when they discussed briefly that the building has more space than the organization needs.

For example, when artists first started utilizing the building, it was one of their only avenues for displaying their work. Now, many artists have developed their own studios, either commercially or in their homes.

Further, the new History Center in the former Ford building and the new

Blue Mound Area Theatre Board office by the Palace provide space and services previously met in the Carnegie.

In addition, staffing arrangements have changed and there have been dwindling numbers of public visitors utilizing the Carnegie.

Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere said she made the motion at the August board meeting of the Council for the Arts and Humanities in Rock County (CAHRC) to terminate the Carnegie lease.

In a follow-up letter to all CAHRC board members, she spelled out reasons for leaving the Carnegie.

"The major focus of our CAHRC meetings have been spent on details related to the physical structure and

operation of the building," she wrote.

"I personally believe that we need to spend more time and resources working together to support the work of 'all' member organizations."

CAHRC is made up of seven organizations whose shared mission is to "encourage, initiate, foster and coordinate art, humanities and other cultural activities in Rock County by utilizing community members, organizations and monetary resources."

Member organizations are Rock County Fine Arts Association, Blue Mound Area Theatre, Rock County Historical Society, Blue Mound Woodcarvers, Green Earth Players, Luverne

Carnegie lease/continued on 5A



Mavis Fodness photo/1105 First Snow

Suddenly there was snow

Snow squalls left a trace of accumulation on city streets Wednesday, Oct. 28, in downtown Luverne. The sudden bursts of moderate to heavy snow and gusting winds quickly gave way to bright sunshine throughout the remainder of the afternoon.

Better Choices, Better Health Workshop starts Nov. 9 for chronic health ailments

A.C.E. of SW Minnesota — Rock County is offering the "Better Choices Better Health" chronic health condition self-management program at The Oaks dining room in Luverne.

This is a six-week, two-hour-per-week workshop for those with prolonged ailments or for their family members or caregivers.

Nearly half of all adults live with one or more lingering health conditions such as arthritis, asthma, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, stroke, chronic pain, osteoporosis, depressed feelings or other health issues.

The workshop is designed for adults, seniors and/or their caregivers. These workshops are led by trained workshop facilitators from the community.

This program is meant to complement any ongoing clinical treatment for health condition.

When ongoing health problems affect daily life, learning how to better cope can bring relief and reduce stress.

Participants will learn skills such as using one's mind to manage symptoms, communicating with friends, family and providers, dealing with anger, depression and other difficult emotions, designing and maintaining a healthy eating and exercise plan, managing pain and fatigue, goal setting, problem solving and coping, relaxing and stress management skills along with appropriate use of medications.

Those who have

completed the workshop have indicated less health distress, pain and disability; an increase in aerobic exercises and strength, self management, and communication with physician(s); and reductions in health care utilization, including physician visits, emergency room visits and days spent in hospital.

The workshop is hosted by The Oaks of Luverne at 203 Oak Drive, Luverne.

Classes are from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Mondays beginning Nov. 9 through Dec. 14.

To learn more or to register for the workshop, call Greta at A.C.E. of Southwest Minnesota at 283-5064 or Connie at 507-220-3584 or e-mail ace.rock@co.rock.mn.us

Attention Maplewood Cemetery Lot Owners

Maplewood Cemetery is the final resting place for many of our ancestors, friends, relatives, and loved ones. We need your help! Maplewood's volunteer Board of Directors is seeking donations to guarantee the future of the cemetery.

We are asking you to help by remembering Maplewood Cemetery in your annual charitable donations and in your estate planning. An annual tax deductible donation of \$25, \$50, \$100 or an amount of your choosing will help us maintain Maplewood Cemetery in its current beautiful condition.

Please mail your tax deductible donation to:

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The Maplewood Cemetery Board continues to cut costs. Even with these cuts, Maplewood Cemetery is not able to keep up with the changing economy. Maplewood Cemetery Association is a tax exempt, non-profit organization. All contributions are used to maintain the cemetery to the highest possible standards.

Thank you in advance for any support you can give to Maplewood Cemetery.

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Skippy jars, yogurt cups and dirty socks ... life isn't the same without Ginger

I scraped the last of the peanut butter from the bottom of a Skippy jar last week and thought about our golden retriever.



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, editor

It was Ginger's job to lick the peanut butter and yogurt containers before they hit the recycle bin.

I can still see her — the picture of contentment. She'd wrap her front paws around the Skippy jar and plunge her nose deep into the jar so her tongue could reach the edges, tail wagging happily behind her.

It's a happy memory.

Ginger met her demise on the busy highway near our home on Sept. 7, and in the days and weeks since then, her absence has been noticed.

Mostly, there's the absence of the work associated with having a dog.

... vacuuming pet hair dust bunnies, maintaining food and water supplies and mopping up routine messes that come with muddy paws and sometimes sensitive stomachs.

These are the things noticed by moms, who have been known to talk about what life might be like — how much easier life would be — without pets.

Those words have been uttered by the mom in our house. More than once.

But as it turns out, the mom in our house seems to miss the dog the most.

Mom lost her running buddy, the happy greeter at the door and foot warmer by the couch.

There's no longer a "kitchen helper" waiting in the middle of the floor for a morsel to drop from the counter.

The cat (who's been mysteriously affectionate without her housemate) no longer has a

playful tormenter and arch-enemy.

There's no longer a hyper alert storm watcher to whine and cower at human feet long before the first clap of thunder.

There's no more hiding shoes that might get chewed on, or socks that might get "stolen" to provoke a chase.

There's no more planning schedules around somebody being home at some point in the day to let the dog out.

There's no longer someone to talk to when all the humans are gone. (The cat is not a good listener.)

As the mom in the house, I won't say I miss having a dog and all the work that comes with it, but there's no denying I miss the dog — for good and bad reasons.

The fact that I miss Ginger should in no way be construed to mean I want a puppy, so please don't inundate my email with information about fur balls that need adopting.

But the fact that we no longer have a dog means we at one time had a dog. It means we were blessed to experience the unconditional love and companionship that only a loyal family canine can offer.

And if we no longer have a dog in our house, it means we have her in our hearts where we hold all memories dear.

It means we — as all dog lovers believe — expect to see Ginger in heaven someday ... licking a Skippy jar or running off with a dirty sock.

... Tail wagging happily behind her.

Bring pride (and life) back to our small towns

City ordinances were developed by our forefathers as a guide for community development — both residential and commercial.

These ordinances are sometimes hard to understand, and we may wonder if following these rules is the right course to follow. In a small town, why would anyone care if the integrity of these rules is loosening or, in some cases, being completely ignored?

The Hardwick City Council took on that question at a recent public hearing. (See story on page 1A).

One of its residents wants to bring in a storage shed, remodel and enlarge the structure. It will house items he currently has stored on his property.

However, the building is too large to comply with the current city ordinance for rear yard depth, almost 50 percent more than what is allowed.

Instead of ruling on the variance request, the council handed the task to its adjustments and appeals board to take a closer look at the building

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

proposal.

On Saturday armed with measuring tapes and open minds, the adjustments board members set to work. Their decision could set the standard for future aesthetics within their community.

Neglect can be seen in many areas in Hardwick — crumbling paint and foundations, broken windows and piles of junk that have started to accumulate in back yards.

This neglect has happened gradually through the closure of businesses and the inability for some buildings to find new owners. Many areas around Hardwick look run-down.

Recent efforts by city council members, however, have renewed a sense of pride, and we hope this

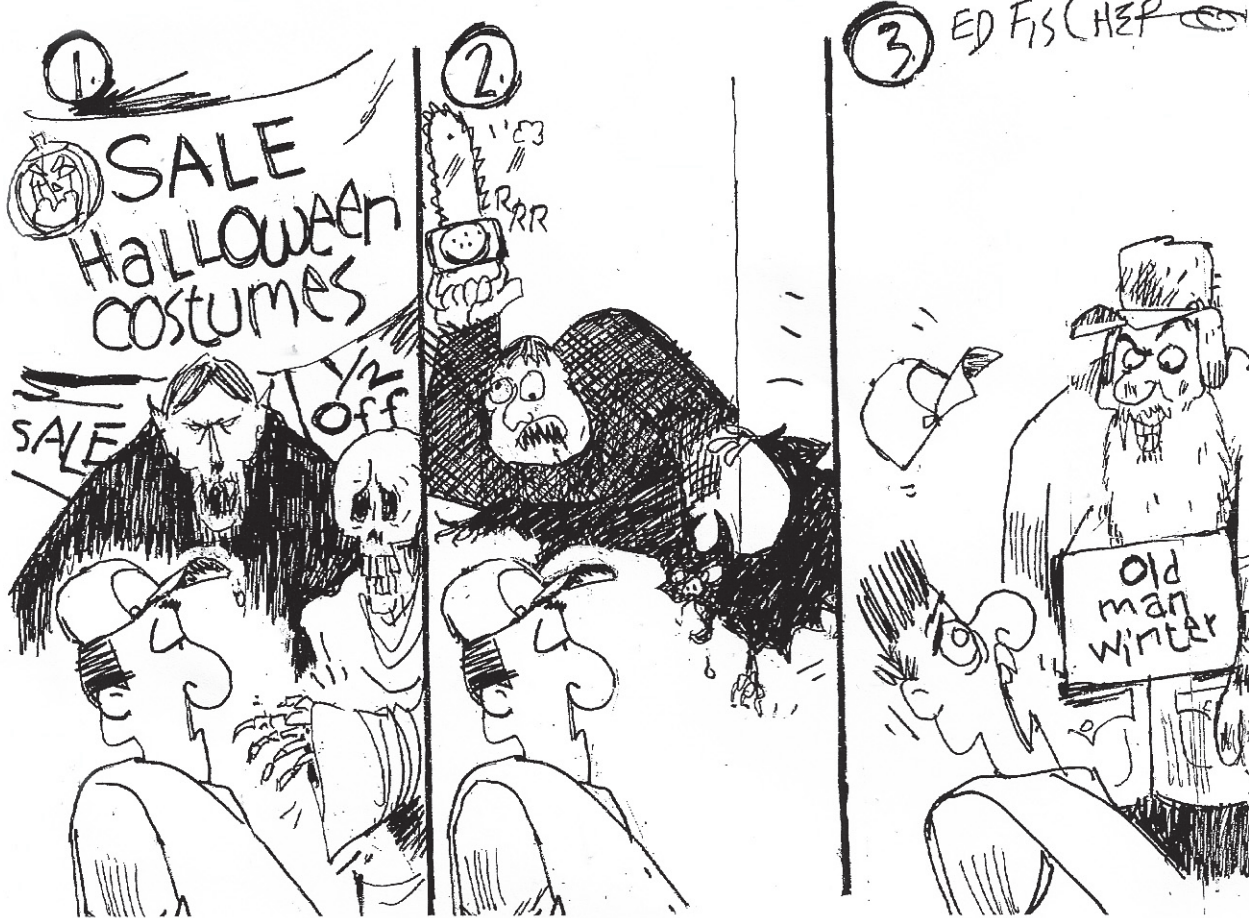
feeling rubs off on others.

Potholes were recently filled and tree branches picked up. New gear for its fire department has been ordered and the fire rescue vehicle has been replaced with an updated one.

Oftentimes it's the city council members themselves who have rolled up their sleeves, picking up branches and taking time to search for affordable equipment.

We are excited about what Hardwick's leaders are trying to accomplish in their small town. Let's hope they stand proud and work with their citizens to find solutions is agreeable to most.

Most importantly, we hope these leaders, as well as the city of Hardwick, succeed.



Ohme: Volunteering benefits everyone

To the editor:

Studies show that generosity and volunteering benefit everyone both physically and psychologically, and we can all keep this in mind as the season approaches.

The Rock County Salvation Army will begin its kettle campaign on Dec. 1 in the lobby at Glen's Food Center, and

volunteer bell ringers are needed. Businesses, service organizations and youth or church groups can take advantage of this volunteer opportunity to support those in need in Rock County.

Call 507-920-0053 to secure a spot on the schedule.

Suanne Ohme,
Luverne

Gacke questions city's use of eminent domain

To the editor:

Read the article about condemning the house north of the Culligan offices, and I know there is more property on the city's list. My question is, "Where is all this money that the city is spending coming from?"

At the Aug. 18 council meeting they let us know that Luverne has the lowest tax rate in the southwest Minnesota region, and the city still has the nicest and newest top of the line equipment in this region. So why does the city council want to raise our taxes 5 percent? Is it so they can go on an Obama-like spending spree?

The way I look at it and hope that other people feel the same is the heck with raising our taxes so you can go and buy property and take it off the tax base. As I recall, the last time a single family dwelling was built in an old neighborhood was about seven years ago.

My other question is how many empty lots does the city own?

As for eminent domain, I don't think that if you don't like how a property looks, you can just take it or force the property owner to sell it to them.

Tony Gacke
Luverne

Ask a Trooper: Blocking of rear license plates and taillights is illegal

Question: My question is related to the blocking of rear license plates and the taillights on vehicles equipped with rear mount bicycle racks, and also the large platforms that mount into a receiver hitch and most often contain large coolers. Is it legal to block the rear of the vehicle and the license plate with this equipment?

Answer: If any part of the taillight or license plate is blocked by a bike, carrier or any other object, it is illegal and you may get stopped and possibly cited for it.

According to MN State Statute 169.50, vehicles built after 1960 must have two red taillights that are plainly visible at 500 feet to the rear and on the same plane.

MN State Statute 169.79 requires that the license plate be "conspicuously displayed thereon in a manner that the view of any plate or permit is not obstructed".

This is a safety issue as other vehicles can't see



ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christianson,
Minnesota State Patrol

the taillights, and it could cause a rear-end crash. My advice is to make sure that your license plate and taillights are visible at all times. Find other options on where to place bigger objects on or in a vehicle so the rear taillights and license plate can be seen.

Not being able to see the taillights is not the only potential danger when behind another vehicle — so is an unsecured load.

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

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

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

Oct. 23

- Complainant reported a stalled vehicle on I-90 westbound at the Magnolia exit. Driver was out on the road trying to flag people down for help. Notified State Patrol and deputy.
- Complainant reported a family/child situation.
- Complainant reported a financial/neglect situation.
- Complainant reported her ex has a house key and locked her out. He has beat her in the past and she is afraid of him. Complainant would like a deputy to come to her house.
- Complainant reported they received a vulnerable adult report.
- Complainant called 911 and said she was very sick and wanted to know what day and time it was. When asked if she wanted an ambulance, she hung up. Sent deputy to check on her.
- Complainant requested a deputy for a verbal domestic with his girlfriend.
- Complainant reported his vehicle was stolen in Rock County last night. Brookings Police Department reported that they have arrested a suspect from SYS that ran away last night. They have the vehicle and owner has been notified.
- Complainant reported a vehicle in the driveway on the sidewalk forcing children to walk into the street to get around it.
- Dispatcher received a 911 hang up call with no answer on callback. Sent deputy to check it out.
- Complainant reported that her ex roommate may have stolen her cat.
- Deputy cited subject for no Minnesota driver's license, speed and no insurance. Towed by Erwin's to their lot.
- Oct. 24**
- Complainant reported a possible drunk driver. Deputy reported driver is tired and he advised him to pull off and take a nap.
- Complainant requested to speak with a deputy regarding child custody. The mother wants to take the child from him and there is no custody agreement.
- Oct. 25**
- Complainant reported someone knocking on his door and taking off. This has happened about ten times.
- Complainant reported a Life-line button activation. Unable to make contact and the door was locked. Called a locksmith and put the ambulance on standby. Deputy said subject was not there.
- Complainant reported someone threw out a bunch of tires near the railroad tracks on county roads 4 and 11.
- Complainant reported two runaways from SYS. One is wearing an orange shirt with gray sweatpants and the other is in a dark blue shirt with blue jeans. Both have dark hair and no shoes. Deputy reported they were both back in custody at 9:12 p.m.
- Deputy stopped subject and the driver had a confirmed warrant out of Wilkin County. Subject was taken to jail.
- Oct. 26**
- Dispatch received a 911 call where someone hung up. Called party back. No problems.
- Complainant reported a semi didn't make the turn and rear wheels are off the ground at County Rd. 11

and 20th Ave. Driver called Ace Towing and they are on the way but traffic is backed up.

- Complainant reported issues of maltreatment to a child.
- Complainant reported subject stole a credit card and used it.
- Oct. 27**
- Deputy reported an open door on a business in the county. Contacted keyholder.
- Complainant reported vandalism to her vehicle. Her rear passenger window is shattered.
- Complainant reported that her daughter's vehicle was vandalized in the parking lot of the high school.
- Complainant reported that her neighbor thinks she stole her keys and yells and throws things at her when she leaves her apartment. Deputy spoke with both parties and advised them not to harass each other and if that fails to get a restraining order.
- Complainant reported a natural gas smell on E. Main Street. Deputy reported a vague smell of something. Contacted Centerpoint Energy.
- Deputy stopped vehicle and arrested an individual on a warrant out of Rock County. He was taken to jail.
- Complainant reported kids riding a scooter or moped on the sidewalk and pulling a skateboard at W. Lincoln and N. Donaldson Streets.
- Complainant reported an altercation with some unknown males.
- Oct. 28**
- Complainant reported subject is harassing her over text messages.
- Complainant requested a welfare check on an individual in Hardwick. Subject was not there.
- Complainant reported a suspicious vehicle that has been parked outside on S. Donaldson Street for a couple of hours. She would like it checked out.
- Oct. 29**
- Complainant reported she thinks she hears someone in her garage. Deputy checked the area, as well as the garage, and was not able to locate anyone.
- Dispatcher received a fire alarm from The Oaks. Paged the Luverne Fire Department.
- Complainant reported she lost a key fob on a red clip.
- Complainant reported possible sexual abuse.
- Complainant reported they found a billfold that was left at the gas station. Deputy picked it up and it was returned to owner.
- Complainant reported they received a NSF check in the amount of \$1,650 from subject who is in jail in South Dakota.
- Complainant reported he found a set of keys at E. Lincoln and N. Cedar Street. Owner claimed them.
- Complainant at Glen's Food and Gas reported a man comes into the store and watches the high school girls make pizza. Tonight he came and spoke with one of the girls outside and said, "Thanks for making my pizza, beautiful," and he drove off. Subject's name is Joe and he drives a two-tone pickup.

In addition, officers responded to 2 motor vehicle accidents, 1 deer accident, 1 funeral escort, 21 ambulance runs, 6 paper services, 7 animal complaints, 2 false alarms, 7 log/ alarm sheets, 14 drug court tests, and issued 10 purchase/carry permits and 3 burn permits.



Lori Sorenson photo/barck street condos

Condos under construction

Crews with Cleveringa Construction have been busy working on the condos at the Barck Avenue and Blue Mound Avenue corner in Luverne. The city of Luverne and Cleveringa Construction signed a development agreement for the construction of two triplexes and one twin home on the lots that the city improved by acquiring and demolishing substandard housing. A tax increment financing district was established as part of the improvement project. Builder Merlin Cleveringa said the twin home has been sold and will be completed this winter. The triplexes remain for sale and will be built next spring.

Hardwick debates variance/continued from page 1A

appeals is charged by the city council to look at all variance requests and make recommendations to the city council.

At the public hearing, Baustian explained to Prins why she and the board want to further review his plans.

"Hardwick isn't much anymore — compared to 45 years ago — but it is still Hardwick and we've got rules and regulations," she said. "We've got good people here and we want to keep it (our city) looking good."

Her first suggestion was to have the lot surveyed to establish the exact size of the property.

For decades she said the neighbors in Hardwick expanded gardens into one another's properties. Over the years as gardens were extended and residents moved on, the exact location of property lines have

become blurred.

She said many of those properties have now deteriorated and have become places where unwanted items are stored out in the open because existing ordinances have not been enforced.

"We are here to help you, because you are a neighbor; but we've also got rules (that everyone has to follow)," Baustian told Prins.

For Prins' request, the adjustment board would more adequately measure the footage between his existing mobile home, the garage and his three smaller storage sheds. They will also talk with neighbors.

Prins' neighbor, Mark Coney, attended Wednesday's public hearing.

Coney was concerned about allowing buildings to stretch from lot line to lot line, eliminating the

open buffer between his and Prins' property to the west.

Coney was also concerned about the repairs Prins currently completes out of his existing garage.

Prins said he is employed out of town and occasionally repairs engines for others — but not at a business level.

Baustian, however, pointed to Hardwick's ordinances for residential properties in which a repair shop cannot operate.

If Prins wanted to open a repair business in town, Johnson said the city could help find a more appropriate location. Possible financing is also available through the city, Johnson said.

The board of adjustments and appeals will bring its recommendation to the council's next meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12.

Carnegie lease terminated/continued from page 3A

Street Music and the Luverne Area Chamber and Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Board also includes the representative from Rock County who serves on the Southern Minnesota Arts Council (SMAC) and citizen representatives.

Lanphere said it was difficult for her to make the motion to terminate the lease, and she said the motion passed on a 5-4 vote with four members abstaining.

While many artists still disagree with the decision, Lanphere said

it will open new doors for art and culture in Rock County.

For example, Luverne Street Music is considering the Carnegie as an option for future expansion.

After only 21/2 years, the venture — which connects music instructors with students — has 100 music students plus a waiting list.

Instructors and students have been meeting in churches and temporary spaces around town, but their numbers are growing and they need a permanent space.

The city of Luverne owns the

Carnegie and will continue to maintain the building and grounds until another cultural use can be found for it.

The city provides lawn mowing and snow removal, and recently replaced the columns for \$20,000 and tuck pointed some exterior masonry for nearly \$10,000.

CAHRC paid \$900 per year for the lease. The city will accommodate artists with their move, and the Historical Society has agreed to store display cases and other items temporarily, if need be.

Luverne 17-year-old accused of sex crime with 14-year-old

By Lori Sorenson

A Luverne teen faces felony charges for his alleged role in a sexual encounter with a 14-year-old girl.

Brandon Larry Staeffler, 17, appeared in Rock County District Court Oct. 26 on charges of third-degree criminal sexual conduct filed this summer.

According to court documents, an incident occurred on May 30 between Staeffler and the 14-year-old girl during which the two had sexual intercourse.

While the girl had agreed to participate, the act is considered criminal when it involves a child younger than 16 and more than 24 months younger than the other person.

According to court document, the parents of the girl learned about the incident on June 2 and reported it to law enforcement on June 4.

When interviewed, the girl told law enforcement she'd been at a friend's house in Luverne with four other people, including Staeffler.

She said Staeffler had about

four grams of marijuana with him and they smoked marijuana.

She said while they were high, Staeffler asked her if she'd like to have sex with him, and she agreed to go with him to his car parked in the alley and had sexual intercourse in the backseat.

She said they didn't use a condom and that Staeffler knew how old she was because she had sent him a text saying how old she was.

The case is filed as a juvenile delinquency petition in Rock County District Court.

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Cultivating volunteerism

Peer helpers program prepares students to work with young and old

By Mavis Fodness

Laughter and learning were among the activities Saturday morning during the third-annual Peer Helper Fun Day.

Scooter races, face painting and Zoomobile presentations entertained the 85 students in kindergarten through fourth grade as the 24 high school peer helpers organized and operated the event.

The learning, according to peer helper adviser Elaine Harms, was directed toward the high school students.

"By volunteering now, I hope they feel comfortable volunteering the rest of their lives," she said.

The group raised about \$800 to be used for other peer helping events such as bingo at the local nursing homes and the peer-helping banquet conducted in the spring.

Harms said she focuses on intergenerational activities for the 40 students in her class. The selected activities allow students to step outside their normal peer group activities and hopefully see the impact their donation of time has on those they are helping.

"The peer helpers must volunteer in the school and community anywhere from 40 to 60 hours per quarter," Harms said.

Some students, however, find giving their time has already made a positive impact on themselves.

LHS junior Sydney Maciej enjoys playing bingo at the nursing homes with the older generation.

"They are so nice and I like the stories they tell me," she said.

For LHS senior Freddi Stroeh, volunteering allows her a chance to interact more with the younger generation.

"It's nice to be with kids," she said. "I don't get to be with kids very often."



Mavis Fodness photos/1105 Peer Helping Fun

Zayna Hustoft helps some of the 85 kindergarten through fourth-grade students decorate pumpkin-shaped sugar cookies Saturday morning at the Luverne Elementary School. Kris Severson (below, left) plays Four Square, one of many activities the 24 peer helpers organized. Third-grader Kaleb Hemme (below, right) shows off the mustache drawn by Melissa Tweet.



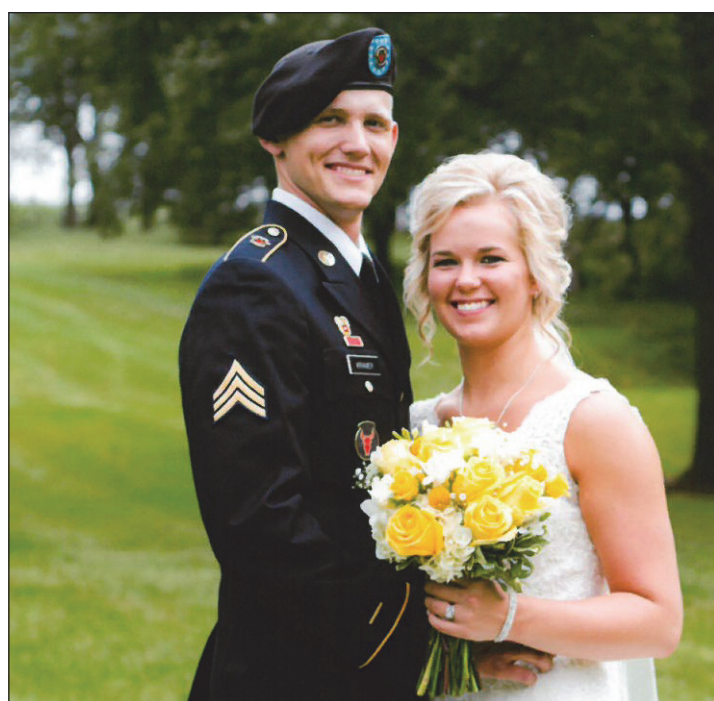
Haarsma, Kramer wed in Sioux Center, Iowa

Kelsey Haarsma and Shane Kramer were married on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2015, at Faith Church in Sioux Center, Iowa. The Rev. Chad Van Ginkel officiated.

Kelsey is the daughter of Randy and Paula Haarsma, Sioux Center. Shane is the son of Alan and Linda Kramer, Magnolia.

Kayla Dekkers, sister of the bride, was the matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Johnna Wilson, sister-in-law of the bride, Abigail Boer, friend of the bride, and Freddie Stroeh, cousin of the groom. Amanda Boer and Emily Hurtach were the bride's personal attendants.

Austin Stroeh, cousin of the groom, was the bestman. Groomsmen were Chad Kramer and Scott Kramer, brothers of the groom, and Austin Haarsma, brother of the bride. Ring bearer was



Shane and Kelsey Kramer

Jared Wentzel, ushers were groom, Ethan Heideman, friend of the groom, Brandon

Dekkers, brother-in-law of the bride, and Dylan Hoekstra, cousin of the bride.

A reception at Prairie Winds Event Center in Orange City, Iowa, followed the ceremony.

Kelsey graduated from Unity Christian High School in Orange City in 2012 and from Globe University, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 2013. She works as a massage therapist at Renae's Salon and Spa in Sioux Center.

Shane graduated from Luverne High School in 2010 and from Globe University, Sioux Falls, in 2013. He works at Vanderberg Furniture where he is a contracted laborer for flooring installation. He is also an active member of the United States Army National Guard. They live in Sioux Center.

REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2005)

•Larry Swenson called the Rock County Sheriff's Department Tuesday morning, Oct. 25, after sighting a mountain lion from his combine northwest of Luverne. ...

He said the big cat jumped from the cornfield he was harvesting, effortlessly cleared a fence and ran north into Touch the Sky Prairie.

20 years ago (1995)

•Though plans are not quite in place, organizers of the Agri-Energy ethanol plant have put the wheels in motion for construction of the project in Luverne. ...

According to Dave Kolsrud, chairman of the new co-op board, the \$24.5 million dry-mill corn processing plant will be built on the west side of Luverne inside the city limits between IBP and Walnut Grove.

50 years ago (1965)

•Sometimes it takes all four hands of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Madison of Blue Mound Catering Service, Inc., to get all the information necessary to serve a large turkey banquet. The Madisons estimate they have served nearly three-quarter million dinners in almost 12 years of catering. With the holidays coming up the million mark may not be far away. They cover a 250-mile radius from Luverne with seven truck-mounted ovens.

75 years ago (1940)

•Three members of the Mann family, Robert, Eva Lu and Beatrice, all qualified for the final competition in the baby beef division at the Junior Livestock show in South St. Paul Wednesday.

•Establishing a new state record for the event, Carl Bly, of Springwater township, the Rock county titlist, won the much coveted state corn husking contest staged Thursday of last week near New Ulm. ...

Bly husked 32.45 bushels to exceed the old record of 29.19 bushels set in 1939 by Richard Huth, of Granite Falls, who finished fifth this year.

100 years ago (1915)

•In compliance with orders issued by Mayor Hawkinson, a much more stringent enforcement of the laws governing automobile travel is to be made by Chief of Police Connell beginning with today. All auto drivers will hereafter be compelled not only to drive at a reasonable rate of speed while in the city, but they must also keep to the right side of the road, and must turn corners "square." All who fail to do so are to be prosecuted without exception.



Stephanie Christensen photos/1105 SYS community service

Give back and make a difference

Students from Southwest Youth Services in Magnolia enjoyed a beautiful fall morning Monday for their annual "Give Back and Make A Difference Day." Two groups of students with seven boys in each group took to the streets of Luverne Monday to rake leaves at the homes of local senior citizens. Pictured here are students working with SYS staff member Paula Lamert on Freeman Avenue, raking leaves at the home of Alyce McClure. They also worked at the Carnegie Cultural Center and the Luverne Senior Citizens Center.

Luverne resident spots possible albino robin

By Mavis Fodness

On Oct. 16 JoAnn Strege just caught a glimpse of something out of the corner of her eye.

"I saw a flash go by," she said last week as she reiterated her story about seeing an albino robin, as she calls it, to the Star Herald.

Looking out her apartment picture window at the corner of Estey and Main streets, Strege spied the flash of white object on the lawn.

Upon closer inspection, she saw what looked like a robin by the neighbor's tree. The robin, however, had white feathers on its back, tail and on its head.

"I have just never seen



JoAnn Strege snapped these photos of a robin with unusual white feathers outside her window Oct. 16.

such a thing," Strege said. Quickly grabbing her

camera, the nature lover snapped a couple of pictures

to prove she wasn't imagining things.



Submitted photo

OBITUARIES

Jeffrey O'Toole

Jeffrey Lee O'Toole, 63, Rochester, formerly of Luverne, died Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, at the Sanford Luverne Hospice Cottage.

A funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church on Saturday. Burial will be at St. Catherine Cemetery in Luverne.

Jeffrey O'Toole was born April 29, 1952, to Raymond and Deanna (Vatland) O'Toole in Luverne. He graduated from



Magnolia High School in 1970 and later from Winona State University where he received his Master's Degree in special education. Jeff taught special education in Rochester for 34 years before retiring in 2008. His years in teaching were for Central, Willow Creek, John Marshall and Transition Into Adulthood Program.

He enjoyed traveling, house remodeling and photography. He was an avid supporter of and volunteer for ARC for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the Ability Builders Center. Jeffis survived by his mother,

Deanna O'Toole, Luverne; five siblings, Patrick O'Toole, Rochester, Mark O'Toole and Mary Jo (Darrell) Hemme, all of Luverne, Kathleen (Gary) Dahedl, Apple Valley, and Barbara (Paul) O'Toole-Brehm, Eagan; nephews Alex, Gavin and Andrew; nieces Brittney, Brianna, Maddie, Hanna and Sophie.

He was preceded in death by his father, Raymond, and a brother, Michael O'Toole.

Memorials may be given to ARC of SE Minnesota or the Luverne Hospice Cottage.

Arrangements were by Dingmann Funeral Home in Luverne, dingmannandsons.com.

(1105 F)

Arnold Wenzel

Arnold Walter "Bud" Wenzel, 90, Hardwick, died Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015, at the Pipestone County Hospice House in Pipestone.

A funeral service was Saturday, Oct. 31, at Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick with burial at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Arnold Wenzel was born Nov. 26, 1924, to Karl Gustav and Frieda (Ahrendt) Wenzel in Denver Township, Rock County. He was baptized on March 15, 1925, at Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick and was confirmed there on Aug. 6, 1939. He attended country school through the eighth grade.

On June 30, 1948, Bud married Jessie Ellefson at the Rose Dell Lutheran Country Church east of Jasper. The couple lived and worked the farm while raising their four children. In addition to his career in agriculture Bud



worked for the Blue Mound Inn & Catering Service and the Farmers Union Co-op Oil Co. He retired from farming in May 2004.

Bud was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick where he served as an elder, trustee, janitor and Lutheran Laymen's League officer at the Zone and Zion level. He enjoyed woodcarving and was a member of the Blue Mound Woodcarvers.

He also enjoyed bowling, dartball, gardening, puzzles and fishing. Bud enjoyed helping remodel the homes of family members and attending his grandchildren's ball games. He took pride in maintaining his big farmyard. In his spare time he also cut blocks for the quilts at church.

Bud is survived by his wife of 67 years, Jessie; four children, Dean (Linda) Wenzel and Paulette (Randy) Richters, all of Luverne, Richard (Deb) Wenzel, Garretson, South Dakota,

and Patricia (David) Swenson, Beaver Creek; seven grandchildren, Robert (Bronwyn) Wenzel, Jennifer (Donald) Luitjens, Dylan and Jessica Richters, all of Luverne, Joey (Randi) Wenzel, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Dustin (Kayla) Richters, Brainerd, Devin (Elizabeth) Richters, Dell Rapids, South Dakota; six great-grandchildren, Mason and Madilyn Wenzel, Elle Richters, Jaxon Richters and Kyia and Riley Wenzel; a brother, Russell (Doris) Wenzel, Luverne; and a sister-in-law, Lois Wenzel of Hastings.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three brothers, Raymond, Lester and Alvin; a sister, Arlene; a son, Robert James; and a sister-in-law, Dorothy Wenzel.

Memorials may be directed to the Lutheran Hour ministries or hospice of donor's choice.

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

(1105 F)

Carol Van Orden

Carol Ann Van Orden was born February 4, 1944, in Heron Lake, Minnesota, and passed to our Lord peacefully in her sleep surrounded by her children and grandchildren in Vancouver, Washington, on July 30, 2015.

If you knew Carol, then you knew that her laugh would not just light up a room, it would light up the entire neighborhood. It was infectious and just made you feel alive.

Carol graduated from Luverne High School in 1962. She was very active in school where she played drums in the band, was a member of the GAA, was the Freshman Princess in the Homecoming Court and was voted Homecoming Queen her senior year.

Carol had a heart for the less fortunate and a strong sense of social justice. She caused a sensation by traveling to the Deep South to register blacks to vote during the struggle for civil rights and was held at gunpoint by locals who did not appreciate her efforts. This did not curb her enthusiasm for helping others as she continued to do so the rest of her life. She was very proud to have been invited to



the inauguration of President Jimmy Carter.

Carol was a huge sports fan who both loved to watch and participate. She played in league softball and bowling for many years. For a short time, she edited the sports page for the Worthington Daily Globe.

Carol and her boys moved to Hartland, Wisconsin, and eventually Portland, Oregon, as she continued to be promoted as an office manager for the insurance company INA that eventually became Cigna Insurance. Carol was an innovator in the field of what is now known as cyber security, being responsible to protect the private information of those insured in the Pacific Northwest.

She had a very strong Midwestern work ethic and was jokingly known as "Warden Van Orden" at her Portland office headquarters. She eventually retired from this office as the Western Region Operations Manager for Cigna's worker's compensation division with the offices in Portland, Seattle, Phoenix, Albuquerque, Salt Lake, Anchorage, Boise, and Montana reporting to her.

Carol inherited her

mother, Esther Mulligan's, green thumb and could make flowers grow on pavement. She was known in her local Portland neighborhood for her beautiful roses that she loved to spend hours attending to.

Carol was also a vital member of her parish in Portland and an active member of the Alter Society, the funeral committee, and a regular volunteer at the Thrifty Cottage.

Carol is preceded in death by her father, Frank and mother Esther Mulligan; brothers Donald (Ida) Mulligan; Gene (Elsie) Mulligan; and Richard Mulligan. She is survived by her sons, Kurt and his daughter Emily Van Orden; Derrick (Sara) Van Orden and their children, Sydney (Chris) Martenis; Abby Williams (Eric), Teddy, and Danny. Brothers, Robert (Mary Jean) Mulligan; Jack (Deloris) Mulligan; James (Dottie) Mulligan; William (Mary Lou) Mulligan, Mike Mulligan, and sister Rosie (Dale) Moerke, and many, many nieces and nephews.

Services were held at St. Catherine's and her earthly remains are interred with her family at St. Catherine's cemetery.

She was very loved in life and will be sorely missed.

(1105 V)

MENU

Senior Citizens

Monday, Nov. 9: Cranberry-glazed chicken, baked potato with sour cream, broccoli, bread, fruit cocktail.

Program: 1 p.m. Pinochle.

Tuesday, Nov. 10: Hamburger tomato casserole, green beans, fruit cup, bread, cookie.

Program: 9:30 a.m. Make Recycled Cards. \$2 Tuesday sponsored by Papik Motors.

Wednesday, Nov. 11: Lemon pepper fish, tri-tators, cole slaw, mixed vegetables, dinner roll, fruit cobbler.

Program: Veterans Day. 11:20 a.m. Veterans Day Pro-

gram.

Thursday, Nov. 12: Potato soup, meat salad sandwich, pineapple, crackers, bar.

Program: 11:30 a.m. Music with Ray Larson.

Friday, Nov. 13: Sloppy Joe, potato salad, country blend vegetables, bun, fresh orange.

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

Call Janice Fick at 283-9846 to make dining reservations or for home-delivered meals.

1923: Coffin determined to be year-old child's

The following appeared in the Rock County Herald on May 18, 1923:

REMAINS OF CHILD BURIED 53 YEARS UNCOVERED

A coffin containing what is supposed to be the remains of an infant child of Mr. and Mrs. Nason Estey, that had been buried fifty-three years, was found Saturday on the southwest quarter of section 24, Clinton township, owned by M. C. Hanson.

It was while excavating for a basement that the coffin was found at a depth of about four and a half feet. Only a few bones remained, and their size indicates that the body was



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president Rock County Historical Society

that of a year-old child.

The Estey family was one of the first settlers in Clinton Township, and Ole Hanson of Ashcreek is authority for the explanation that the body is the remains of an infant child of Nason Estey, and that it was buried there fifty-three years ago. (Nason's mother and his brothers are considered the

first permanent settlers in Rock County.)

Donations to the Rock County Historical Society can be sent to the Rock County Historical Society, P.O. Box 741, Luverne, MN 56156.

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to manmade@iw.net.

CELEBRATIONS


Births

A girl, Emily Elizabeth, weighing 9 pounds, 6 ounces, 20 inches long, was born to **Jordan and Katherine Dittmann**, Perham, on Monday, Oct. 26, 2015, at Perham Health in Perham. She joins a sibling, Parker, 2. Grandparents are Lyle and Scarlet Dittmann, New York Mills, and Tim and Valerie Majors, New Salem, North Dakota. Great-grandparents are Rose Dittmann and Judy VonRuden, New York Mills, Marilyn Majors, Spring Valley, and Marian Helling, Luverne.

A girl, Ingrid Anne, weighing 9 pounds, 7 ounces, 22 inches long, was born to **Ian and Anna Sandager**, Hills, on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2015, at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She joins two sisters, Bridget, 4, and Clara, 2. Grandparents are Mark and Karen Sandager, Hills, and Terry and Lois King, Duluth. Great-grandparents are Fran Sandager, Hills, and Marj Prunty, Brookings, South Dakota.

Card showers

Gerda DeBoer Janssen will celebrate her 80th birthday on Thursday, Nov. 5. Greetings may be sent to her at 502 James St., Luverne, MN 56156.




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Do you need a coat?

Coats will be available for selection from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 7, and from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 12, through the One Warm Coat Project in the ATLAS for Life office, 201 E. Main Street, Luverne. Pictured are Knights of Columbus volunteers (from left) Del Domagala, Tom Strassburg and Dick Smook. The Knights of Columbus have donated over 200 children's coats over the past five years to the One Warm Coat project in Rock County. At right are Anja Jarchow (left) and Averill Sehr who volunteered to hang and organize donated coats. Questions about the project can be directed to Wanda Jarchow, 283-9664.



Lutheran Social Services turns 150 years old; senior dining celebrates

By Lori Sorenson

Lutheran Social Services, which oversees the meal program at Luverne Senior Dining, is celebrating 150 years in 2015.

LSS traces its beginnings back to a Lutheran church near Red Wing where a family of four children was orphaned in 1865.

Pastor Eric Norelius and the tiny Vasa Lutheran Church committed to caring for the children, and the mission expanded to include children, elderly and others in need.

To honor the LSS purpose and to celebrate its 150th year, Luverne's Senior Dining representatives have planned special events in 2015.

Volunteers at Senior Dining packed donated items in backpacks on Oct. 23 for students in the Southwest Youth Services program in Magnolia.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, local musician Bruce Dystne was a featured guest for the noon meal at Luverne Senior Dining where the public was invited to join the meal and dance.



On Friday the celebration continued with Dress Up Day and Crazy Hat Day at Senior Dining.

On Nov. 13 volunteers will deliver backpacks to Magnolia where they'll tour the SYS facility and meet some of the students.

Senior Dining Site Manager Janice Fick said the 150th anniversary of LSS is worth celebrating.

"It's important to celebrate our history, but also to find new ways of reaching out and serving others," she said.

"Senior Dining provides a place to have fun, meet new people, eat a great meal, and give back to the community."

Students attend National FFA Convention

The Luverne-Adrian FFA Chapter recently attended the 85th National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, at the Kentucky State Fair grounds. Ten chapter members and adviser Dennis Moritz attended from Wednesday, Oct. 27, to Friday, Oct. 30. Attending were Tanner Baustian, Trey Baustian, Tyler Fick, Jacob Van Santen, Payton Fick, Riley Baker, Tommy Norman, Eli Bakken, Tyler Reisdorfer and Dylan Mente.

On the way to Louisville, the group visited Fair Oaks Dairy Farm in northwest Indiana. Fair Oaks milks 36,000 cows per day using

a Rotary Parlor system. The group toured the working Dairy Information Center and got to see the seventy-two-cow rotary milking platform used in milking the cows.

The group also got to tour the Swine Information Center, which has an actual working swine operation. Sow farrowing and each step of the production process for market hogs was also demonstrated by glass for biosecurity purposes. The group had lunch at Fair Oaks and continued on to Louisville.

The group arrived at the hotel in Clarksville, Indiana, just across the Ohio River from

Louisville. In the evening they attended a performance by country star Jake Owen at the KFC Yum Center.

The next morning was the opening session at Freedom Hall in the Kentucky Exposition Center on the fairgrounds. The National FFA officers conducted the session.

FFA members listened to motivational speaker Rick Riggs from Texas, national FFA adviser Dr. Steven Brown, and the national FFA officer team. Participants could also attend the FFA Ag Career Show in the Exposition building where over 400 businesses were present. Members also at-

tended the FFA shopping mall and the Jim Wand hypnotist show.

On Friday the group attended the Career Show, and the morning session featured the FFA Talent Show. In the afternoon the group traveled to Churchill Downs and toured the Kentucky Derby museum and the track tour.

The Luverne group left the convention late Friday afternoon and traveled all night, arriving back in Luverne at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning.



Mavis Fodness photos 0/1105 LSS Silly Hat Day

Mary and Duane Pike of Luverne don silly hats Friday, Oct. 30, at the Luverne Senior Dining in honor of Halloween as well as in recognition of the 150th anniversary of Lutheran Social Services. Pictured above is Verland Johnson.



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Response To Intervention; Luverne staff author chapter in book/from page 2A

three years ago.

"You were selected due to your expertise and the high esteem in which you are held," Burns wrote in the June 21, 2012, email. "We truly hope you are able to contribute to this important effort."

Burns, who is now an education professor at the University of Missouri, explained that the handbook's second edition includes specific program implementation "that is too often missing from the evaluation of education practice."

In an interview last week, Burns told the Star Herald it is highly unusual for public school personnel to author chapters for a research book.

"We had 106 authors in the handbook, only six of which were school personnel, four other than Renee and Amanda," he said.

Because rural schools often don't have the added resources or personnel to devote to interventions, Burns said he wanted to share Luverne's program as a model for other schools.

Luverne uses existing general education teachers, special educators and specialists to operate the intervention program.

"I was thrilled to include a chapter about Luverne as an example from which rural schools can learn," Burns said.

Guy and Fields wrote the middle portion of the 22-page chapter, detailing how existing staff members processed specific test and progress data and their selection of specific intervention curriculum.

Lynn Edwards with the University of Minnesota wrote the introduction and conclusion to the chapter.

"We were honored and excited to do it," Guy said.

Intervention program improves student learning

Three years prior to Luverne Elementary School's RTI program, its students' state reading test scores had declined incrementally each year.

After its implementation, the school experienced three consecutive years of increased percentages of students who were now passing the tests.

For its efforts, the Luverne Elementary was presented with the 2011 Profiles of Excellence Award of Distinction from the Minnesota Rural Education Association.

"The book explains this process," Fields said. "Students work in small groups, 25 minutes a day, four days a week (called Power Hour), and

work on phonics, fluency or comprehensive skills."

Screening and tracking of all students are key components to Luverne's RTI program.

An RTI team completes a one-minute reading test with each kindergarten-through sixth-grade student three times a year.

Students who are not meeting specific grade-level reading benchmarks are placed into small groups.

In the daily 25-minute Power Hours, student progress is closely monitored with RTI team members detailing results on a common spreadsheet.

Student groups are shuffled as students become proficient in one or more of the intervention areas.

"During the first year of interventions, we had a number

of students in need of phonics intervention," Guy and Fields wrote in their chapter.

"As students moved through the interventions, we have noted a decreased need for phonics in the upper grade levels."

As Luverne elementary continues to implement its RTI program, coordinators have experienced a 50 percent drop in special education referrals.

Those students' learning needs are being met in the regular classroom setting.

"We feel that because of the RTI program, we have fewer children in special education and receiving special education services," Guy said.

"We know when kids are not making progress that's the time we need to look at (special education) assessment."

Luverne Body Shop/ from page 1A

years for storage or wash bays or as a base of operations for their businesses.


Now plans are in the works to sell the current Luverne Body Shop building to Jaycox Implement for its truck business.

"That was kind of the other side of it that makes it feasible," Aaker said about the agreement with Jaycox.

Aaker said he's looking forward to getting started on the construction project, which Luverne contractor Oke Honken will oversee.

"We'll try to use local contractors as much as possible," Aaker said.

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Community celebrates Halloween with Trunk 'N Treat

Photos and text by Lori Sorenson

Hundreds of goblins, ghouls, princesses and minions stormed the streets of downtown Luverne Friday evening for the annual Halloween Trunk 'N Treat Friday, Oct. 30.

The Luverne Area Chamber and participating businesses

hosted the event, handing out treats from the trunks and back ends of decorated cars, SUVs and pickups.

"Chamber members work to provide a safe, secure and organized atmosphere for children to enjoy this holiday," Chamber Director Jane Wildung Lanphere said.



Pictured in center is Dawn Frankenhoff with her "Mexican" pet. At far right is Rock Vet Clinic technician Lexy Schiebout and Argos the dog. At right (in center of page) are Chantel Connell (left) and Abbe Kolar in their Candy Land set-up for the Star Herald. In the smaller photo at far right is Exchange State Bank, which won second place with its "Grumpy Old Men" trunk. They are (from left) Chamber Board member Sherri Thompson, Ryan DeBates, Mark Iveland, Don Bryan and Chamber Board member Laurie Ketterling. First place winner was Brian Sterling (pictured at far right, bottom) with Thompson and Ketterling.

At right, Michelle Reinke and Dan Kindt play the roles of characters in "101 Dalmations" for CHS Eastern Farmers.



Above, Joey Mathis reaches out to Cardinal mascot Jodi Bosch in the Luverne Public School's Trunk 'N Treat display.



Pictured at right are Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (from left) Paula Gonnerman, Bobbi Kracht and Lisa Remme handing out treats.



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County map of wells/continued from page 1A

Water technician costs shared with Pipestone

Several local government entities will share a water resources technician with the Pipestone County Soil and Water Conservation (SWCD) Service.

Rock County along with government entities in the five counties surrounding

Pipestone County will share in the position's salary (estimated at \$50,000 to \$60,000) and in turn will receive not less than 200 hours toward water quality-related work.

"It's (the position) a conglomerate of various funds," said Kyle Krier with Pipestone County SWCD.

"We are in the process of

getting a working agreement with everyone."

The largest contributor is \$20,000 from the Minnesota Department of Health.

The position focuses on the highly vulnerable well-head protection areas within Rock County.

The technician will be housed in Pipestone.



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LHS girls capture first Section 3A title

By John Rittenhouse

History was made during the Section 3A Cross Country Championships Thursday in Madison.

For the first time in the history of the Luverne High School program, the Cardinal girls captured the section team title.

Luverne turned in a 71-point performance, defeating two-time defending section champion Lac qui Parle Valley (80 points) and the other 18 teams in a 20-squad field to capture the championship trophy.

"We didn't have our best race by any means because some of our kids got boxed in at the beginning of the race," said Cardinal coach Pete Janiszkeski.

"We were still able to come back and pull it off. The kids ran well and all the credit goes to them. They worked hard all year and they are blessed with a decent amount of talent."

The Cardinals advanced to the Minnesota State Class A Cross Country Championships set for Saturday at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Luverne will be making its eighth appearance at the state meet as a team and the first time since the 2013 season.

Race time is 1 p.m.

It took a team effort for LHS to best LQPV at the section meet.

Three LHS runners placed ninth or better and the team's top five finishers placed 35th or better.

LQPV fielded three top-20 finishers and its first time runners placed 29th or better, but it wasn't enough to keep the Cardinals from winning the team championship by

"The kids ran well and all the credit goes to them. They worked hard all year and they are blessed with a decent amount of talent."

— Pete Janiszkeski,
LHS coach

nine points.

"Having three girls finish in the top nine runners made a big difference for us," Janiszkeski stated.

"Our third runner was 11 points better than LQPV's."

Madison Schandelmeier set the pace for LHS by winning the section individual title for the second-straight year with a time of 19:35.

Gabrielle Ferrell and Regan Feit turned in strong races as well.

Ferrell placed fifth in 20:13, while Feit finished ninth in 20:35.

Autumn Nath and Madison Reisdorfer came through in the clutch as well.

Nath, who Janiszkeski said ran an outstanding race, placed 22nd in 21:13.

Reisdorfer also competed well as Luverne's fifth runner. She placed 35th in 21:43 and was a mere six places behind LQPV's fifth runner.

Cassie Flanagan (56th in 22:49) and Claire Buastian (65th in 23:04) ran without contributing to Luverne's team tally.

"We ran a great race as a team," Janiszkeski said.

"In order to do well at state,



Mavis Fodness photo/1105 cc autumn nath

Luverne seventh-grader Autumn Nath leads a Montevideo runner at a point of Thursday's Section 3A Cross Country girls' varsity race in Madison. Nath placed 22nd to help the Cards win their first team title.

we're going to need our top three runners to finish in the top 35 and get our fourth, fifth and sixth runners to place in

the top 70."

Team standings: Luverne 71, LQPV 80, Pipestone 124, Redwood Valley

141, Canby-Minnetonka-Lincoln HI 157, Heron Lake-Okabena 195, Montevideo 197, Jackson County Central 230, Murray County Central 263, Windom 283, Adrian 309, Springfield-Comfrey-Cedar Mountain 316, Southwest

Christian 322, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton 378, Mountain Lake Area 380, Ortonville 421, Hendricks 433, Yellow Medicine East 479, Wabasso 494, Bold-Buffalo Lake-Hector 534.



Mavis Fodness photo/1105 cc moriah bullerman regan feit

Adrian eighth-grader Moriah Bullerman (left), pictured running with Luverne's Regan Feit, qualified for state competition by placing 10th at the Section 3A Cross Country Championships in Madison Thursday. Bullerman runs at the state meet in Northfield Saturday.

Bullerman earns trip to state meet

By John Rittenhouse

An Adrian eighth-grader extended her cross country season during Thursday's Section 3A Championships in Madison.

Moriah Bullerman, the top AHS runner in 2015, solidified that standing by earning an individual berth into the state field during the annual section meet.

Along with every member of the top two teams at the section event, the first eight finishers to complete the race from the other schools on hand qualify for the state meet individually.

Bullerman met the criteria by placing 10th overall (she

was the fifth of eight individual qualifiers) with a time of 20:36.

Bullerman will compete at Saturday's Minnesota State Class A Cross Country Championships at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Race time is 1 p.m.

With Bullerman leading the way, Adrian's girls placed 11th as a team with 309 points at the section meet.

Luverne and Lac qui Parle Valley led the 20-team field by placing first and second with 71- and 80-point performances respectively.

Morgan Penning placed 43rd for the Dragons with time of 22:22.

Jasmine Kohorst (85th in

23:48), Gracia Elias (86th in 23:49) and Halle Heitkamp (97th in 24:18) made contributions to Adrian's team tally.

Jada Elias and Hannah Bullerman placed 114th and 115th in 25:01 and 25:03 without padding the team tally.

The 2015 season came to an end for the Adrian boys in Madison.

The Dragons compiled 468 points, placing 18th in a field of 21 teams.

LQPV and Redwood Valley placed first and second with 94 and 110 points.

Brady Henning ran a strong race to lead AHS and place 23rd

Trip/continued on page 2B

Windom derails Patriot girls in Friday's quarterfinals

H-BC ends 14-13 season

By John Rittenhouse

The 2015 volleyball season came to an end Friday in Worthington for the Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots.

H-BC, the seventh-seed for the South Section 3A Tournament, took on No. 2 Windom during the event's quarterfinal round.

The Patriots were unable to advance to the semifinals as the Eagles saddled H-BC with a 3-0 setback.

H-BC ends the campaign with a 14-13 record.

The Patriots put up a pretty good fight in two of the three sets, but they couldn't upend the Eagles.

H-BC registered the first point of the night before the Eagles moved in front 4-0.

The Patriots knotted the score at four with a service point from Avery Wysong, but Windom countered with a 15-4 run to take a commanding 19-8 advantage.

H-BC trimmed the difference to eight points at three occasions and trailed by seven (23-16) when Avery Van Roekel produced an ace tip.

Windom, however, scored the next two points to secure a 25-16 victory.

A block by Jasmine Lingen gave the Patriots a 3-0 lead in the second set and H-BC led by four (12-8) when Sydney Fick delivered a service point.

The Eagles countered with an 11-4 run to open a 19-16 lead and never trailed the rest of the set that ended with them prevailing 25-22.

H-BC faced a series of one-point deficits early in the third set before Windom went on a 6-0 run to gain a 14-7 cushion.

The Patriots trimmed the difference to four points (18-14) with a service point from Courtney Kruger.

Windom, however, scored seven of the next 11 points to clinch a 25-18 win.



John Rittenhouse photo/1105 quarters 6

H-BC's Avery Wysong registered 14 set assists during Friday's tournament match against Windom in Worthington.

Lingen (11 kills and four blocks) and Van Roekel (eight kills and two blocks) led H-BC

at the net. Wysong charted 14 set assists.

Cardinal boys complete season Thursday



Mavis Fodness photo/1105 cc brady henning

Adrian sophomore Brady Henning placed 23rd at the Section 3A Cross Country Championships Thursday in Madison.

Trip/continued from page 1B

with a time of 18:22.

Christian Weidert (89th in 20:24), Brody Loosbrock (110th in 21:25), Brent Hokeness (119th in 22:28) and Colton Lynn (132nd in 23:24) made contributions to Adrian's team tally.

Caleb Hornstein placed 133rd in 23:27 without influencing the team tally.

Girls' team standings: Luverne 71, LQPV 80, Pipestone 124, RWV 141, Canby-Minneota-Lincoln HI 157, Heron Lake-Okabena 195, Montevideo 197, Jackson County Central 230, Murray County Central 263, Windom 283, Adrian 309,

Springfield-Comfrey-Cedar Mountain 316, Southwest Christian 322, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton 378, Mountain Lake Area 380, Ortonville 421, Hendricks 433, Yellow Medicine East 479, Wabasso 494, Bold-Buffero Lake-Hector 534.

Boys' team standings: LQPV 94, RWV 110, Murray County Central 111, Windom 118, Pipestone 130, Springfield-Comfrey-Cedar Mountain 164, Montevideo 178, Luverne 198, Mountain Lake Area 230, Canby-Minneota-Lincoln HI 273, Heron Lake-Okabena 352, Bold-Buffero Lake-Hector 378, Community Christian 379, Yellow Medicine East 411, Ortonville 443, MACCRAY-Renville County West 452, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton 462, Adrian 468, Southwest Christian 495, Lakeview 517, Jackson County Central 541.

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne boys wrapped up the 2015 season at the Section 3A Cross Country Championships in Madison Thursday.

At a meet in which the top two teams and first eight finishers that are not members of the first- or second-place teams earn trips to the state meet, the Cardinals didn't meet the criteria.

Luverne placed eighth in a 21-team field with 198 points. Lac qui Parle Valley and Redwood Valley placed first and second in the team competition with 94 and 110 points respectively.

"We were shooting to finish among the top five teams. That was our goal at the beginning of the year, but we fell a little bit short," said LHS coach Pete Janiszkeski.

"I think we raced pretty well. Almost all the way across the board our kids ran better times than they did in September, and that's what we were looking for."

A pair of freshmen turned in Luverne's best efforts.

Dalton DeSollar and Austin Winter placed 31st and 33rd with respective 18:41 and 18:43 efforts.

Seniors Erik Wahnoutka and Adam Fodness finished 35th and 45th with 18:47 and 19:06 times, while Tom Brown capped the team scoring by placing 54th in 19:23.

Hunter Hamann and Shane Berning placed 63rd and 64th in 19:35.5 and 19:36.89 times without impacting the team tally.

"I think both Erik and Adam ended their years on a positive note," Janiszkeski said.

"The other five boys who ran for us were freshmen. If they keep on working hard, we'll see how things go for us next year."

Team standings: LQPV 94, RWV 110, Murray County Central 111, Windom 118, Pipestone 130, Springfield-Comfrey-Cedar Mountain 164, Montevideo 178, Luverne 198, Mountain Lake Area 230,



Mavis Fodness photo/1105 cc Dalton desollar adam fodness

Luverne's Dalton DeSollar (left) and Adam Fodness (right) run together during Thursday's Section 3A Cross Country Championships in Madison. DeSollar led the Cards at the meet.

Canby-Minneota-Lincoln HI 273, Heron Lake-Okabena 352, Bold-Buffero Lake-Hector 378, Community Christian 379,

Yellow Medicine East 411, Ortonville 443, MACCRAY-Renville County West 452, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton 462, Adrian

468, Southwest Christian 495, Lakeview 517, Jackson County Central 541.

Panthers bow out of volleyball tournament Oct. 27

By John Rittenhouse

The 2015 volleyball season

came to an end for the Ellsworth Panthers Oct. 27 in Edgerton.

Ellsworth, the 12th seed for the South Section 3A Tournament, drew the tough task of trying to knock off No. 5 Southwest Christian during the event's opening round.

The tradition-rich E-Gals controlled play the entire night by outscoring the Panthers 75-30 during a 3-0 victory.

Ellsworth ends the campaign with a 1-26 record.

SWC stated its intentions early by rolling to a 25-4 victory in the opening set.

The Panthers put up a better fight in the second and third sets, but came up on the short end of 25-13 decisions in both occasions.

Hannah Kramer turned in a three-kill, one-ace serve effort for Ellsworth.

SPORTS BRIEFS

CC honors

Members of the Luverne High School cross country program drew honors at the end of the Section 3A Cross Country Championships in Madison Thursday.

The LHS girls' team received an award for Gold level of academic achievement, which goes to teams with a combined 3.75 GPA or better.

Junior Madison Schandelmeier made the 2015 Minnesota Class A All-State Academic Team as well.

The LHS boys received an award for the Silver level

of academic achievement, which goes to squads with a combined GPA between 3.50-3.74.

LHS coach Pete Janiszkeski was named Section 3A Girls' Cross Country Co-Coach of the Year along with Lac qui Parle Valley-Dawson-Boyd's John Shurb.

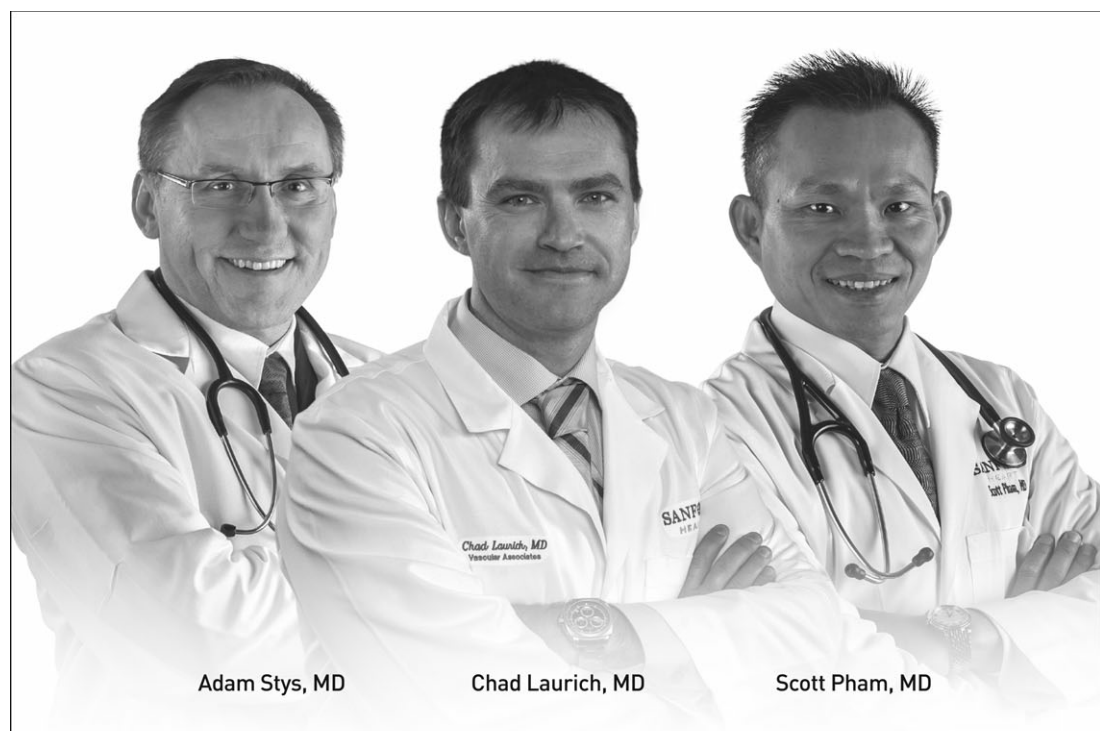
Ex-Luverne coach honored

Derrick Brown, who served as the head Luverne boys' hockey coach the past two

seasons before taking the same position for St. Cloud Cathedral over the summer, recently received an honor for his work in Luverne.

The Minnesota Hockey Coaches Association named Brown as the 2015 Dave Peterson Award recipient. The award is presented to a coach whose efforts have helped strengthen the bond between youth and high school hockey.

Brown will receive his award at the MHCA's annual banquet set for March 4 at the River Centre in St. Paul.



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Arrows bounce Luverne from 3AA field

By John Rittenhouse

The 2015 volleyball season came to an end for the Luverne Cardinals during the quarterfinal round of the South Section 3AA Tournament in Pipestone.

Luverne, the tournament's sixth seed, set out to upset No. 3 Pipestone during the event's opening round.

The Arrows had different plans as they withstood every challenge Luverne had to offer and posted a 3-0 victory.

The Cardinals end the season with a 13-14 record.

Pipestone scored the first three points of the opening set before Luverne rallied to knot the score at nine with a kill from Katie Kracht.

Pipestone gained control of the contest by putting together a 12-2 run to open a commanding 21-11 lead.

A service point from Kracht trimmed the difference to seven points (22-15), but the Arrows scored the next three points to clinch a 25-15 win.

After Ariel DeBeer gave the Cards their first lead (2-1) of the night with a service point early in the second set, the Arrows moved in front 8-3 with a 7-1 surge.

The Cardinals answered the challenge by putting together a 13-3 run ending with a service point from Alexis Ferrell to regain the lead at 16-11.

LHS led by three (20-17) as the set progressed, but the Arrows put together an 8-2 run



John Rittenhouse photo/1105 lvb 2

Luverne's Alexis Ferrell registered a team-high seven kills during Thursday's 3-0 tournament loss in Pipestone. The Cardinals end the year with a 13-14 record.

to ice a 25-22 victory.

DeBeerserved the Cardinals to a 7-0 lead in the third set, and LHS led by six (16-10) after Ferrell recorded a service point as the contest progressed.

The Arrows, however, scored 12 of the next 14 points to gain

a 22-18 lead.

Luverne trimmed the difference to two points twice (22-20 and 23-21) late in the set before the Arrows registered the final two points of a 25-21 win.

Ferrell (nine blocks and seven kills) and Nicole Kneip

(14 blocks) had big nights at the net, while Hailey Franken charted three kills.

Kracht (seven digs and one ace serve), Madison Crabtree (five digs and 12 of 13 serving) and DeBeer (14 set assists and 13 of 14 serving with one ace) also turned in solid efforts.

H-BC sidelines Adrian in opening round Oct. 27

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls reached the quarterfinals of the South Section 3A Volleyball Tournament by winning an opening-round match against Adrian Oct. 27 in Hills.

H-BC, the tournament's seventh seed, squared off against No. 10 Adrian with a trip to Friday's quarterfinals on the line.

The seeds held to form as H-BC outscored the Dragons 75-50 during a 3-0 victory.

The win ups H-BC's record to 14-12, while Adrian ends the year with a 5-15 mark.

H-BC scored the first four points of the first set on the way to opening a 6-1 lead when Avery Wysong delivered a service point.

Adrian trimmed the difference to two points (6-4) with a service point from Michaela Kern, but the Patriots countered with a 12-3 run capped by a kill from Sydney Fick to open an 18-7 advantage.

The Dragons sliced H-BC's lead to nine points twice (18-9 with a service point from Jodi Bents and 21-12 with a point from Kern), but H-BC prevailed 25-13 when Avery Van Roekel produced a set-ending block.

AHS led for the first time (5-4) when Madison Neuenberg served a point in the second set before H-BC embarked on a 14-6 run ending with a block by Jasmine Linggen to gain an



John Rittenhouse photo/1105 ha vb 4

H-BC's Avery Van Roekel (right) tips the ball over the net for a point during an Oct. 27 opening-round match of the South Section 3A Volleyball Tournament against Adrian in Hills.

18-11 lead.

Another point from Neuenberg trimmed the difference to three points (18-15), but a 7-3 spurt by the Patriots with an ace serve from pick gave the hosts a 25-18 win.

Adrian led 7-3 when Kern registered a service point early in the second set.

An ace serve from Linggen capped a 6-1 surge by H-BC that left the Patriots sporting a 9-8 edge, and H-BC led by two

(12-10) when Fick recorded a kill moments later.

The score was knotted at 12 and 13 when H-BC put together an 8-1 run ending with a service point from Wysong that give the Patriots a 21-14 lead.

H-BC went on to win by six points (25-19) after Fick recorded a match-ending kill.

Linggen (11 kills), Van Roekel (eight kills) and Fick (nine kills and four ace serves) led H-BC

statistically.

Wysong and Mekayla Kolbrek added 12 and 11 set assists respectively to the winning cause.

Miah Kunkel (10 kills and four blocks) and Kasie Tweet (seven kills) led AHS at the net.

Bents and Alexia Kemper charted 21 and 15 digs respectively, while Madisyn Dingmann notched 12 set assists.

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Cardinals should pack volleyball punch in 2016

When it comes to high school volleyball, I always seem to travel backward in my mind.



FROM THE SIDELINES

By John Rittenhouse, sports editor

Back in 1986, when I arrived in Rock County, I found myself experiencing some glorious times covering Luverne High School sports.

Not only was I fortunate enough to cover a football program that was emerging as a power in southwest Minnesota, I also got to watch an ultracompetitive volleyball team that captured my attention unlike any before or since then.

As fate would have it, the Cardinal girls would capture their second Region 2 championship that fall and turn in a sixth-place performance by going 1-2 at the state tournament.

As a cub reporter back then, I couldn't believe my good luck. Only two months into my career as a sports editor, I received the honor of covering my new hometown team at the state tournament.

What I didn't know back then was my first state volleyball tournament experience would be the last one I would attend over the next 29 years.

I did watch five LHS teams win district titles over the next 11 years and one H-BC squad reach the section championship match in 2003, but I've never had an area team take me back to the state tournament since 1986.

With that being the case, it should be understandable why I consider my 11 years in Luverne as the good old days in terms of covering Cardinal volleyball.

Stacie Busse-Remme, who recently completed her second season as the LHS head coach, can validate my line of thinking.

Busse-Remme was a member of Luverne's state-qualifying team back in 1986, and I've forced her to go back in time and talk about that team during our last two preseason interview sessions.

I'm glad Stacie is a good

sport, because I could see where talking about something that happened 30 years ago might be a little annoying to a coach who is focusing her attention on the future.

I don't know what the future has in store for the LHS program, but I do believe the forecast for 2016 is looking pretty good.

Luverne improved by leaps and bounds as a team this fall, and there's no question in my mind that LHS will improve over its 13-14 record one year from now.

The Cardinals will need to replace Nicole Kneip, a senior who made a big impact at the net as well as other areas during the recently completed campaign.

The rest of the cast returns to the fold next year, and the experience and the talent they bring to the table should make for an exciting 2016 season.

We have two top-notch attackers coming back in Alexis Ferrell and Hailey Remme, who block and spike the ball equally well.

Add Hailey Franken, an amazing jumper who could be the best 5-8 hitter I've ever seen, and a solid hitter in Madison Crabtree into the mix, and the Cards have the personnel to attack opponents from any position on the court.

Along with a solid front row, Katie Kracht and Ariel DeBeer will make the Cards a complete team next year.

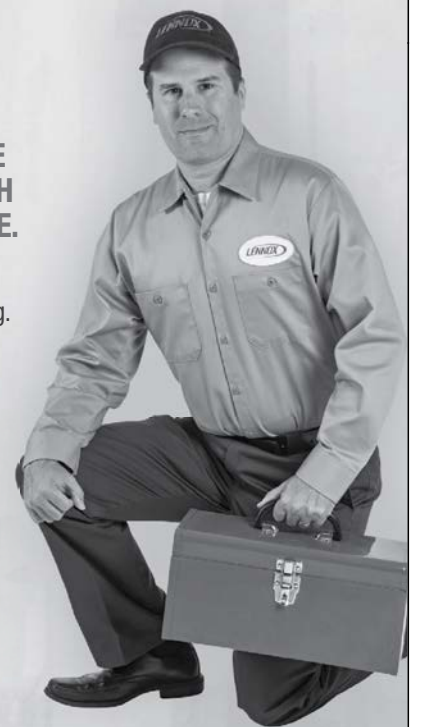
Kracht, a libero, is an excellent defensive player who covers a lot of the court in the back row. DeBeer will be a setter with three years of starting experience in 2016, which should make one of the team's best players even better next fall.

I won't go as far as to say 2016 will become 1986 all over again for the Cardinals, but I do believe LHS will field an ultracompetitive team next fall that should be fun to watch.

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