



Rock County

STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Yes and Yes

Luverne bond referendum vote draws 36 percent of registered voters

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School District residents approved both ballot questions for facility improvements at the Nov. 7 special election.

They joined 40 other Minnesota school districts that asked voters for money to improve and expand their facilities.

Over half (28) received voter approval for projects, and of those, five (including Luverne) passed two ballot questions.

Local voters overwhelmingly voted yes to the \$16 million plan to expand and remodel facilities in the Luverne

district. The vote was 1,068 yes (77 percent) to 322 no (23 percent).

Luverne's second question asked voters to approve a \$7 million new performing arts center.

The vote was 829 yes (59 percent) and 565 no (41 percent).

Luverne School Board members have been working on the referendum since December, when they hired a consultant to update the district's long-term facility plans.

"It means opportunities to our students," board chairwoman Katie Baustian said about the yes votes.

"The performing arts center, ap-



Local residents voted yes to the \$16 million plan to expand and remodel facilities in the Luverne district.

propriate-sized classrooms, expanded electrical capacity for technology ... things that were holding us back."

1,396 voters cast ballots

At the polls Nov. 7, 1,220 local residents voted with an additional 177 casting absentee ballots.

Both numbers are high, according to Rock County Auditor-Treasurer Ashley Kurtz. "For a school election, it is a lot," she said.

Polls closed at 8 p.m., with the last voter walking out of the high school gymnasium just seconds before polls closed.

"I never dreamt we would be this busy," said Ruth Stoakes, one of seven election judges.

About 36 percent of the district's

3,785 registered voters cast ballots in the special election.

There were only two questions on the ballot.

Polls opened at 10 a.m. and the day averaged 122 voters per hour, keeping judges at attention most of the time.

"It was the first time we couldn't read a magazine or a book," said Anabelle Frakes.

She has been a local election judge for more than 40 years.

Kurtz reported 47 first-time

Referendum vote/see page 2A

State park to get rural water next summer

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County commissioners and the state of Minnesota have entered a joint powers agreement to facilitate a rural water connection to the Blue Mounds State Park.

The agreement, signed Nov. 7, essentially guarantees the county won't be liable for the \$643,000 connection to the state park.

It also puts the wheels in motion for DGR Engineering to compile plans and specs in order to request bids for the project in time for a possible spring connection.

The Blue Mounds State Park has been without drinkable water — or water safe enough to shower in — for four consecutive camping seasons.

"We're real excited this is happening, and we're looking forward to having drinking water and showers here," said park manager Chris Ingebretsen.

Funding from the bonding bill passed earlier this year provides \$1 million to connect the park to Rock County Rural Water and also replace the park's 40-year-old underground pipes. The bill included \$15 million to the DNR for statewide asset preservation to address failing infrastructure like that at the Blue Mounds.

Rural Water will take the lead on the engineering and construction to connect the park to its system.

The state will handle the infrastructure improvements within the park boundaries.

Park officials say the water issue has affected attendance in the Blue Mounds. According to park data, 91,000 people visited the Blue Mounds in 2013.

That number dropped to 57,000 visitors in 2014, the year E.coli showed up in drinking water and flooding destroyed the dam and drained the lake.

In the past couple of years, visitor numbers have returned somewhat, but never to the level before water contamination. The fact remains that park visitors cannot drink or bathe in the water.

The goal is to have clean water at the park for next year's camping season.



Trial by fire

Firemen burn down house for training

Lori Sorenson photos

Luverne Fire Department members conducted a training drill on West Main Street Monday night when they burned down a house that the city purchased this summer for future residential development. According to fire chief David VanBatavia (left), crews started and extinguished fires in the house seven times for the seven different training teams. Controlled burn situations like this provide valuable experience for firefighters to test their skills and equipment. The evening wrapped up around 9:30 with a full blaze to destroy what remained of the house.



John Deere to double in size

By Lori Sorenson

Rock County Implement is doubling the size of its John Deere operation on South Highway 75 in Luverne.

A 100-by-225-foot repair shop will be added to the existing structure, which will be completely gutted and remodeled for use as a showroom and parts and sales store.

Also, a 35-by-100-foot wash bay will accompany the new building.

"Everything will be completely different," said general manager Dan Block. "It will be unbelievably big. ... The front will be totally refaced with the front door on the other end."

He said he looks forward to adequate shop space for farm machinery that has gotten significantly bigger since the implement structure was first built in 1972.

"We were due," Block said. "We outgrew our existing building a long time ago."

C & B Operations, Gettysburg, South Dakota, owns 24 John Deere farm equipment dealerships in the region, and Block said the corporation decided this year to make capital investments in Luverne.

John Deere expansion/see page 3A

County hog, cattle feedlots increase

By Mavis Fodness

Livestock production in Rock County expanded last year with growth plans already proposed for 2018.

Doug Bos, assistant director of the Rock County Land Management Office, updated commissioners Nov. 7 about feedlot permits issued through the LMO this year and which projects are coming up.

"In 2017 we had pretty sizable investments in hog barns and cattle barns," he said.

Eighteen feedlot permits

were issued in 2017, up from 13 the previous year.

Of this year's permits, eight were to new hog barns (including five new sites), nine cattle feedlot expansions (including three new cattle barns) and one dairy expansion.

For 2018 the LMO already has received plans for three new hog barns, one cattle expansion and one dairy expansion.

Bos reported LMO personnel inspected 42 feedlots in the past year. The number represents the 7 percent required by the Min-

nesota Pollution Control agency.

Commissioners unanimously signed a 2018-19 agreement with MPCA.

The agreement commits LMO officials to inspect an additional 43 feedlots in 2018 and 43 more in 2019.

LMO receives \$66,800 annually from the state to oversee local feedlots of less than 1,000 animal units.

"I think landowners appreciate the local contact," Bos said.

State officials inspect feedlots of 1,000 or more animal units.

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The Star Herald is Rock County's oldest business, documenting the news of its citizens since 1873



Article 46: National Guard Armory is open and taking enlistments in January 1947 in Luverne

This is the 46th in a series that shares the rich history of Luverne as it celebrates 150 years. This week is a piece from 1947 about the start of the National Guard in town.

Rock County Historical Society President Betty Mann this week shares a news story from the Jan. 30, 1947, Rock County Star about the National Guard Armory in Luverne opening up and inviting — encouraging — young people in the community to enlist for military service.

Luverne celebrates 150 years — National Guard Armory / see page 6A

This week's moment in time is sponsored by:



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

MS Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, at Southwest Health and Human Services in Luverne. All persons with MS and their family and friends are invited. Call 283-2069 or 283-2964

Luverne Music Boosters will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, in the Luverne High School Choir Room. All parents of choir and band students are welcome to attend.

Battle Plain Township Board will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, at the home of Lloyd Prins.

Meditation and Mindfulness Practice will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, in Hilger Commons at 215 N. Cedar Street in Luverne. For more information call Kim at 507-353-0041 or email kimberlyelizabeth@live.com.

Caregiver Support Group will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, in the Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Home.

Narcotics Anonymous will meet every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. at the Steen Reformed Church. Contact Robert for more information 507-329-2642.

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

Narcotics Anonymous meets at 7 p.m. Fridays and for basic text study at 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the basement of St. Catherine Catholic Rectory, 203 E. Brown St., Luverne. Use east door. Call 507-220-0137.

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

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

Free food Nov. 16

New Life Celebration Church will host a free food giveaway from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, in the Luverne Senior Citizens Building for those having trouble putting food on the table. Bring bags and boxes. Call 283-4366 with questions.

Guitar quartet at library Nov. 17

The Minneapolis Guitar Quartet will play at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, at the Rock County Library in Luverne.

The foursome of Joseph Hagedorn, Maja Radovanlija, Ben Kunkel and Wade Oden will perform a variety of acoustical selections ranging from classical to rock and roll. Their appearance is made possible through the state's Clean Water, Land & Legacy Amendment.

For more information contact the library at 507-449-5040.

Thanksgiving meal Wednesday

The community is invited to a Thanksgiving meal at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 22, at the United Methodist Church in Luverne. A freewill donation will be accepted but is not required.

Join De-Light-Ful 5K race Nov. 25

The 15th Annual De-Light-Ful 5K is planned for 6 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 25, starting and ending at the Luverne Armory at 309 South Freeman Avenue. Registration is online at www.allsportcentral.com or at 5 p.m. at the armory the day of the race. A post-race party/dance will follow at the armory with the Casey Meussigmann Band. There is no cover charge for the dance. For information contact Dave Duffy at dduffy@rconnect.com or 507-920-3345.

Sign up by Nov. 30 for SHARE; distribution is Dec. 6 at Armory

The Rock County SHARE program will distribute groceries, clothing and toys to Rock County residents in need from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at the Luverne National Guard Armory on South Freeman Avenue. Those wishing to receive from the program must apply by Thursday Nov. 30.

Note: The SHARE program no longer accepts donations of used items. To support SHARE, mail tax-deductible donations to SHARE, P.O. Box 792, Luverne, MN 56156. Call Molly at 507-227-9282.

Christmas boxes collected by Nov. 19

Operation Christmas Child boxes for underprivileged children will be collected by Nov. 19 at the American Reformed Church south entrance. Donors are encouraged to pay shipping online and track their boxes to a specific country. Go to samaritanpurse.org. Call Karen Bosch, 605-413-9676.

Luverne educators name 2017 Teacher of the Year and Friend of Education

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne Education Association formally announced the 2017 Friend of Education Nyla Sohl and 2017 Teacher of the Year Lynette Stensland at a special ceremony Monday to kick off American Education Week.

Stensland named Luverne's 2017 Teacher of the Year

Complete surprise was expressed by Lynette Stensland Monday when she was selected as Luverne's 2017 Teacher of the Year.

"Never in a million years did I think I would be the Teacher of the Year," said the 26-year classroom veteran after the announcement in the elementary school commons. "I am so thankful I had a lot of mentors."

For the past several weeks Stensland has been on medical leave as she recovers from hip surgery. A request from fellow teachers to stop by after school Monday led to her presence at the annual Teacher of the Year event.

Becky Rahm, a former LEA Teacher of the Year, announced Stensland's name as her family emerged from the hallway bearing flowers and congratulatory hugs.

Rahm used comments from the nomination forms to introduce Stensland.

"She truly cares about children ... gets along with teaching staff ... greets children with a smile ... puts in lots of hours and never complains" were among the observations for the honor.

Stensland's start to a teaching career began at home. She said her mother asked her to help her younger brother, Doug Stensland, practice his reading skills.

"I have always loved kids," she said.

"Seems simple, but that's where it started."

Stensland grew up on the family dairy farm near Larchwood and graduated from West Lyon High School. She earned her elementary and special education undergraduate degrees at Augustana College (now University) in Sioux Falls, later returning there to earn a master's degree in arts and instruction.



Mavis Fodness photo/1116 TOY 2017

Luverne Education Association formally announced the 2017 Friend of Education Nyla Sohl (left) and 2017 Teacher of the Year Lynette Stensland at a special ceremony Monday to kick off American Education Week.

Her first teaching job was in the West Lyon School District. I got to start in my home school," Stensland said.

She spent four years in elementary classrooms in Iowa before teaching the next seven years at Hills-Beaver Creek.

By that time she and her husband, Doug Bos, had begun their own family, and teaching became a part-time career as she focused on raising their four boys, Daniel, Matthew, Nathan and Micah.

Stensland joined the Luverne faculty 15 years ago and is currently the district's Response to Intervention (RTI) coordinator and Title I teacher.

The full-time job keeps Stensland busy instructing kindergarten through sixth-grade students who need extra help reading. She's also

the RTI coach to the ninth-grade program.

"They teach me things every day," she said of both staff and students. "I learn a lot about myself, too."

Stensland will now represent the Luverne district in the state Teacher of the Year program.

Monday's announcement kicked off American Education Week in the district.

Nyla Sohl named 2017 Friend of Education

Many Luverne School District students know Nyla Sohl, who has helped selected kindergarten and first-grade students learn reading and mathematic skills for the past 28 years.

Sohl was named the 2017 Luverne Public Schools Friend of Education. She was honored Monday as part of American Education Week.

"It's an honor," she said.

Hired in 1988 as a Title I paraprofessional, Sohl has never deviated from her original duties. Over the years, however, she has become the only Title I classroom assistant for kindergartners and first-graders.

Each day she works one-on-one with about 20 students, practicing reading and math skills essential to becoming proficient in those learning areas.

Sohl works in small blocks of time on specific tasks such as identifying letters and sounds to counting from one to 120 and money amounts.

Counting money and telling time are the hardest lessons for the young students, but she said she doesn't give up because the end results are worth her time.

"The joy of the job is that you work and work and then you see the progress," she said.

Many graduates recognize Sohl outside the classroom, often stopping their former instructor in the grocery store. Some students also remember Sohl for helping them get to and from school.

Besides assisting in the classroom, Sohl is also beginning her 29th year as a playground supervisor.

She greets students arriving by bus or car each morning at school. At lunch-time she supervises selected classes.

For the past 16 years Sohl did bus duties at the end of the school day.

She knew each student, the bus numbers and various family members as she made sure students left school going to the correct destination.

Sohl retired from bus duties this year but has no plans to retire as a paraprofessional.

"I like kids," she said. "If I can still do it (the job), I will do it as long as I can."

Sohl (nee Spyerboer) grew up on a farm near Ellsworth and graduated from Ellsworth High School. She and her husband, John, have two grown daughters and four grandchildren.

School referendum ... What's next?/continued from page 1A

voters, also a high number. "Especially in the year after a presidential election," she said.

What's next?

School officials began meeting with engineers Nov. 9 to finalize designs for the \$31 million project.

The design process is expected to take eight months to complete.

Two months ago, district officials approved a construction management contract

with Foster, Jacobs & Jacobson out of Minneapolis and ICS Inc., Fargo, North Dakota.

The contract originally included only the \$8 million board-approved levy for health and safety improvements.

However, with voters approving the expansion/remodel of existing school facilities and the construction of a new performing arts center, FJJ and ICS will now complete all three projects.

Engineers are optimistic the bid-letting and construction could start this spring.

"We would like to start some construction once school is out," said Todd Wetzel, program manager with ICS Inc.

While design plans are underway, Ehlers Inc., the district's financial adviser, is preparing for the building bond sales.

The school board used its levy authority to approve \$8

million for health and safety improvements. These bonds will be sold first.

At a special Nov. 14 meeting the board canvassed the election results and authorized the \$8 million bond sale.

The sale will likely occur in December, according to Greg Crowe, Ehlers senior municipal adviser.

Authorization to sell the voter-approved \$23 million in bonds will take place at a later date.



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Sen. Franken staff meets with local renewable energy leaders and farmers

By Lori Sorenson

Sen. Al Franken's staff was in Luverne Wednesday to meet with local producers and agencies about renewable energy policies to be included in the next Farm Bill.

The covered topics ranged from biofuels and solar power to conservation farming and policies that promote clean air and water.

Doug Bos of the Rock County Land Management Office and Fraser Norton of the local Farm Service Agency attended along with several ag businessmen who have led the charge for renewable energy and conservation farming in Rock County.

They included David Kolsrud, Jim Willers, Lyle and Sharil Rollag, Peter Bakken and retired electrician Tim Lipetzky.

They told Franken staffers Bree Maki and Paula Sunde they appreciated the senator's efforts in renewable fuels policies, but they pointed out challenges that are hindering progress.

For example, switch grass and other woody crops can be raised for bio fuels, but until a market is established, biomass crops are grown only within a 50-mile radius of the nearest processing plant.

"It's all about gallons per acre," Lyle Rollag said. "If you put all that work into a crop and come up with 24 gallons of diesel fuel per acre, that's going to move a ship only a few feet in the water."

POET chemist Sharil Rollag said federal dollars for biochemicals research are shrinking, so opportunities for new innovation are dwindling.

"We're never going to move forward if we don't fund the research," she said.

Lyle Rollag added that petroleum companies are stepping in to fund this research, and those often biased outcomes are also hindering renewable fuels progress.

Lipinsky said technology is approaching a tipping point where wind and solar energy may allow for self-sustaining farms to produce all their own energy.

"I don't think we're too far from a rural acreage being completely off the grid — like you may not need a utility," Lipinsky said.

"And that's what they're afraid of.... The biggest resistance (to renewable energy) we see is from utilities."

On the agenda Wednesday was a list of renewable energy policies that the group reviewed — mostly for commentary on whether or not they've been effective

policies.

While some were more effective than others, discussion often drifted to policy administration and how accessible — or not — the programs were for producers.

Bakken said he considered applying for a renewable energy grant when his operation built a large machine shop with geothermal heat and LED lights.

But because the application process was so cumbersome — 15 pages long — he said he proceeded without it.

If the goal is to encourage energy efficiency, the process excludes many eligible applicants.

"A \$100 per light panel versus \$500 (for LEDs) ... if I were to get a little help to pay for it, I might try it," Bakken said. "And if I find I like it, I'll tell my neighbor ... This is where the taxpayer gets value out of a program."

He pointed out that many farmers who should qualify for conservation projects or energy efficiency programs often don't bother to apply because of daunting paperwork — some requiring professional grant writing.

One that drew the sharpest criticism at Wednesday's gathering was the Conservation Stewardship Program, or CSP.

"It's more of a clerical program than a conservation program," Bakken said. "It's like ... you want help putting in a waterway, but you don't have waterways, so you can't get in.... So you leave your gullies in the field, because you're not already there."

The group Wednesday told the Franken staffers that the program caters to progressive producers who already have conservation practices in place.

"The guys at the top are getting moved one notch further," Rollag said, "but we should be spreading the money around to get more conservation practices on the ground."

Specifically, Bakken and others at the meeting agreed that a one-page form to apply for up to \$10,000 would be more effective than a complicated application process for higher dollars.

"It seems like common sense has been taken out of all of these applications," Bakken said later. "The people who are trying to make improvements are on the outside looking in."

Sunde and Maki promised to take concerns back to Franken, and they thanked the group for spending time at the meeting.



Lori Sorenson photos/1116 fall choir concert

Making music

Luverne High School Treble Choir and Concert Choir performed their fall concert Tuesday night, Nov. 7, in the high school auditorium. The venue was changed from the normal performance location in the gym because district voters were set up for the school's referendum vote. At the end of the concert, director Seana Graber was handed a piece of paper with the election results: both questions passed, including the decision to build a new performing arts center.

Above, the full choir sings Eliza Gilkyson's "Requiem," and at right, the Treble Choir sings "Shine on Me," arranged by Rollo Dilworth. The winter concert for grades 6-12 will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 8, in the high school gym.



Where is the 'service' in farm service agencies?

By Lori Sorenson

Sen. Al Franken's staffers met with local farmers and renewable energy leaders Wednesday in Luverne about policies for the next Farm Bill.

One purpose of their visit was to gather information that would help to make energy and conservation programs accessible and successful.

To address this, conversation turned to the status of local federal offices in Rock County, and local farmers expressed concern about the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Luverne.

"They're hired to get conservation practices on the ground, not do clerical work," said Beaver Creek conservation farmer Peter Bakken.

He and others said problems intensified last year when the USDA moved the Farm Service Agency and Natural Resources Conservation Service away from the Rock County Land Management Office into their own leased building.

The USDA's intent with similar moves nationwide was to make these offices more accessible to farmers. While this did happen for the two federal offices, it had the opposite effect when the same farmers also deal with the Soil and Water Conservation District, according

to Norton.

"The fact that the Soil and Water Conservation Office is apart from our office is very unfortunate," Norton said at the meeting Wednesday.

"I know the Soil and Water Board and Doug's office did everything in their power to keep the offices together, but it was a regional decision."

Local officials said farmers are hurt in the end.

"If you want to do some tile work, you have to come to my office and fill out some forms, and then you have to go to Doug's office and then you have to come back to the NRCS," Norton said.

In the previous shared location in the Land Management Office, the different agencies pooled resources to work for farmers.

Further affecting service to farmers was the fact that Kurt Halfmann's NRCS staff decreased from three people to one, making it difficult for programs to be administered.

After the meeting, Norton further expressed concern about important services not being administered.

"We're here to serve the producers," Norton said.

"We're the Farm Service Agency, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. We serve our producers."



Veterans Day address

Luverne High School 2014 graduate Riley Verbrugge addressed Veterans Day crowds in the high school gym Thursday, Nov. 9, via Skype from his deployment in Kuwait. His father, Evan Verbrugge, facilitated the event.

John Deere/ continued from page 1A

The expansion will allow for six new full-time employees to join the existing 17 workers in Luverne. One will be in sales and the other five will be service technicians.

"We will be able to serve our customers much better," Block said. "We're looking forward to it."

The larger showroom will feature John Deere lawn and garden products and gifts and it will expand parts selection in stock.

The project will utilize LED lighting and energy-efficient heating and cooling. "We'll be the only John Deere store with all LEDs," Block said.

Dirt work started this fall on the new building, which will be completed May 1.

The existing building will be gutted and remodeled after that with a total completion date set for Sept. 1. Beck and Hofer Construction, Sioux Falls, is the general contractor.

Sanford Luverne Hospice Tree of Lights

Remember your loved ones with a light on one of the area Tree of Lights.

Your donation of \$5 per light will honor someone special (young or elderly, well or ill, living or deceased). Names received by noon, Dec. 1 will be read during the tree lighting ceremonies and listed on sanfordluverne.org.

Tree Lighting Ceremonies will be held in the following communities:

Edgerton
Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.
First State Bank Southwest

Adrian & Ellsworth
Sunday, Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Adrian Fire Hall

Luverne
Thursday, Dec. 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Tree on corner of Main Street & Hwy 75
(Ceremony at The Cottage, 217 N. Oakley Street)

Hills
Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.
Tuff Village

Call (507) 283-1805 for more information.

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Sanford Luverne Hospice
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Luverne, MN 56156



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Why not?

Luverne: 'Love the Larva'

Do you vote yes or no?

Should Luverne build its identity around the nutcracker collection currently housed in the county's new history museum?



THE NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter, Columnist

The answer to this question has resulted in vibrant discussion on the Luverne Area Chatter Facebook page with many people saying, "yes, the collection is lovely but no we should not build the community's identity around it." Many oppose the construction of a giant nutcracker statue.

One argument is that until now Luverne has not been known for nutcrackers; perhaps bison or Cardinals, — but not nutcrackers. I have no strong feeling either way, but rather than simply be a naysayer, I offer the following:

Why not build the community's identity around the new shrimp plant?

Tru Shrimp recently announced, in addition to building a shrimp growing facility, it will also construct a shrimp hatchery to nurture zillions of teeny, tiny baby shrimp called larvae.

And so I propose Luverne's new ambassador — a larva. Imagine a giant larva statue pulling visitors by the thousands off of the interstate highway. Who would not want their photo taken with a giant larva? And how hard could it be to build the "world's largest larva" statue? Not very.

Community festivals will honor the larva. Imagine the fun to be had at Luverne Larva Days! In addition to music and crafts in the city park, the event will include the larva launch, a compelling game of fun and skill

where contestants blow larvae through straws on to dinner plates.

Goodbye Hot Dog Night. Hello Larva Lunch! Participating merchants offer a free noon hour feast of grilled larvae on a bun — and of course orange drink.

How attached are we to the Cardinal? Could the Larva be our new mascot? "Give me an L!

I imagine an eye-catching larva will be painted on the water tower mechanical building.

Elvis Presley's "Song of the Shrimp" will replace the old school song.

A few people have made fun of the fact that we call our small body of water at the edge of town "The Lake." Minnesota has Loon Lake and Eagle Lake. Why not rename our lake "Larva Lake?"

The versatile larva will be featured on local restaurant menus. How does one serve shrimp larvae, you ask? To borrow a movie quote, "You can barbecue it, boil it, broil it, bake it, saute it. There's, larvae-kabobs, larvae creole, larvae gumbo. Pan-fried, deep fried, stir-fried. There's pineapple larvae, lemon larvae, coconut larvae, pepper larvae, larvae soup, larvae stew, larvae salad, larvae and potatoes, larvae burger, larvae sandwich ..."

I think Luverne's future looks bright. The shrimp plant will bring jobs, people and revenue into the community.

Won't be long and we'll be discussing whether or not to change the city logo to, "Luverne: Love the Larva."

I vote yes.

'After the war' takes on new meaning

GUEST CONTRIBUTION

A highlight of Saturday night's Last Man Club banquet in Luverne was a personal greeting from filmmaker Ken Burns, who featured Luverne as one of four communities in his 2007 documentary series, "THE WAR."

In a letter to Haakenson and Luitjens he applauded their service and their civic contributions. Former Gov. Tim Pawlenty read excerpts at the banquet.

Burns agreed to share the letter in this week's Star Herald:

Dear Messrs. Haakenson and Luitjens:

In September 1943, Al McIntosh, the editor of the Luverne Rock County Star Herald, wrote, "All of us use the phrase 'after the war' so much it almost becomes meaningless. ... For all of us it means the day 'when you boys come home. ... It means the ecstatic happiness and the wild gladness of thousands of family reunions."

We are far removed now from those reunions. But in some ways, the decision to open the final bottle together reminds us that every gathering has been a reunion. Today we join in

memory of the 24 founding members of "The Last Man Club." We stand too among the others who have passed, in the years since the war and those lost in combat.

We selected Luverne as a town in our World War II film because it spoke to the centrality of place. "I think it was a pretty close-knit community," Jim Sherman told us. "There was a saying that if you don't want people to know about it, you don't do it. And everybody knew pretty much everybody else in town."

And pretty much everyone was touched by the war.

Of the 21 young men who graduated from the Luverne High School in 1939, 20 served in the armed forces. It would be about the same each year to come. Sam Hynes, who appeared in our film, and who knew a thing or two about life in Luverne, explained, "It's

hard to understand why the guy next to you was blown apart and why you're able to go on to have a wonderful life."

It is impossible to understand. But we can remember them.

History has a way of staying the same and changing. We grow older but remember like yesterday the feelings of youth.

So we gather to remember. All reunions are about memory, about the community we are part of, but also about the people who are no longer with us.

I congratulate you on this occasion — Veterans Day — and the symbolic opening of the bottle. I thank you for your service and I applaud you for what you continue to teach us about patriotism and friendship.

Best regards,
Ken Burns,

Walpole, New Hampshire

Do the math...

repeating
Mental
Illness



repeating
Firearms



repeating
Carnage



ED FISCHER

Oftedahl thanks school district residents for voting

To the Editor:

Luverne Public School District voters have decided to move ahead with the School Board plan to renovate and expand the elementary school and middle school/high school and to build a new performing arts center for school and community use.

I want to commend all the local residents who provided input in the school facility planning process. Without community input, it would not have been possible for the school board to put forward the right plan for our community.

I applaud all citizens that exercised the right to vote. I appreciate that people took the opportunity to become educated about the process and the project.

Design work is already under-

way on the new performing arts center and for the education, health and the following safety improvements to our schools:

- Safer pick-up/drop-off area at the elementary school.
- Secure entrance at the middle school and high school.
- Improved technology access across the district.
- Three additional elementary classrooms.
- Renovated elementary special education classrooms.
- New middle school and high school cafeteria.
- Renovation and expansion to middle school classrooms.
- Renovation of science labs and physical education spaces.
- Additional band and choir rooms with storage

Construction and renovation work will begin shortly after the design plan is complete.

Safe classrooms, hallways and other school spaces will be provided for all students during the work.

During the designing and building phases of the project, you can find updates on the performing arts center construction and school renovation and expansion on the district's website at www.isd2184.net.

Luverne Public Schools has a strong tradition of providing a high-quality education that helps all students to meet their highest potential. We look forward to continuing that tradition for our students and our community.

Supt. Craig Oftedahl
Luverne Public Schools

VOICE OF OUR READERS

To the Editor:

Thank you to voters who got out to vote.

Thank you to voters who voted YES.

Thank you to voters who voted YES twice.

Thank you for seeing the importance a school has in a community.

Thank you for believing in the vision of educating our future.

Thank you residents of Rock County.

Thank you for voting YES!

Emily Crabtree
On behalf of the
Vote Yes Committee

This is your page!
Your opinion matters.

This is your place to express your opinion on matters of community importance. A strong opinion page in a community newspaper is a sign of a strong and cohesive community. The Star Herald Letters to the Editor policy appears each week in the space below, outlining letter length, content, deadlines and contact information.

Ask a Trooper: Is it legal for drivers to take deer killed by vehicles home with them?

Question: I noticed several freshly killed deer on the side of the highway yesterday. What are the traffic related requirements when someone collides with a deer, and what are the game related requirements with killing a deer? Is it legal to take the deer home?

Answer: If you are involved in a vehicle vs. deer/large animal crash, call 911 to report if there are occupant injuries, your vehicle is disabled, your vehicle or the animal is in the lane of traffic or if the animal has been

injured and is unable to run away. Law enforcement will be dispatched to your location to assist.

The Minnesota State Patrol issues permits for road-kill deer generally at the time of the crash or soon after. Any Minnesota resident may claim a road-killed animal by contacting a law enforcement officer. An authorization permit can be issued, allowing the individual to lawfully possess the animal.

Here are some tips to avoid deer crashes:

- Drive at safe speeds.
- Be especially cautious from 6 to 9 p.m., when deer are most active.
- Use high beams when possible at night, especially in deer-active areas.
- Do not swerve to avoid a deer. Swerving can cause motorists to lose control and travel off the road or into oncoming traffic.
- Watch for the reflection of eyes and silhouettes on the shoulder of the road. If anything looks suspicious, slow down.

•Reduce speeds in areas known to have a large deer population — such as areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forest land and whenever in forested areas between dusk and dawn.

•Deer are unpredictable — they may stop in the middle of the road and change direction when crossing or move toward an approaching vehicle. Blow horn to urge deer to leave the road.

•If a deer is struck but not killed, keep your distance as deer

may recover and move on.

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

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

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Rock County
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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.

Human Services overspends budget by possible \$2.5 million

By Mavis Fodness

Southwest Health and Human Services Director Beth Wilms assured Rock County commissioners Nov. 7 she will work with staff to rein in spending and improve bill procedures to offset a projected \$2.5 million budget deficit.

Wilms was hired in July to replace Chris Sorensen who accepted the director of community services in Washington County.

Since then, Wilms has met with each of the six counties that comprise SWHHS and recently informed board members the extent of the budget shortfall.

She traveled to Luverne from her Marshall office to outline potential steps to replenish the organization's reserves.

"We hit the pause button... on all new hires effective three weeks ago," she said.

SWHHS has five open positions that won't be filled. "It stops the bleeding but we have to do more than that," Wilms said.

Projections place SWHHS over budget by \$750,000 to \$2.5 million for 2017, with no reserves.

"We're basically living paycheck to paycheck," she said.

Melony Caron from the state's auditor's office in Mar-

shall later told commissioners that SWHHS didn't meet the five-month expenditure reserve her office recommended in their audit of SWHHS for 2016.

Caron said entities like SWHHS rely on state and federal reimbursements for services and have cash flows that raise and fall as claims are approved or denied. Budgeting for the fluctuations is a must.

"From our perspective, budgeting can be a very useful tool if used correctly and looked at more than once a year," she said. "Departments need to review how their revenues come in and what their sources are."

Caron expressed concern SWHHS overspent their budgets for several years without the approval from the executive board to spend reserves.

SWHHS expanded its staff by 40 employees and grew its expenses by 25 percent in just two years.

A portion of the added costs is being passed on to local taxpayers.

Rock County preliminarily budgeted \$1.23 million to SWHHS for welfare services in 2018. The amount represents a 4.19-percent or \$51,600 increase over last year.

Wilms said she would

meet with the executive committee Nov. 8 and has outlined 76 discussion items to potentially reduce the organization's deficit.

"We are hoping we're going to be closer to the \$750,000 (deficit) but I can't guarantee that," she said.

Commissioners Greg Burger and Sherri Thompson represent Rock County on the SWHHS Executive Board. Former commissioner Ron Boyenga is the appointed layperson.

"I think it is important for us to remain positive," Wilms said. "I believe by making the changes to the work we are doing now it is to ensure the success and future of Southwest Health and Human Services. I believe we will come out stronger on the other side by making those decisions now."

About SWHHS

Southwest Health and Human Services is a six-county agency providing social services, child support, financial assistance and public health within the member counties.

The agency serves Rock, Pipestone, Lincoln, Lyon, Murray and Redwood counties.

SWHHS was established in 2012. Its 2017 budget is \$ 29.8 million.



Submitted photo

Honoring fellow soldiers

The Luverne Combined Honor Guard members from the Dell Hogan American Legion Post 123 and the Rock County VFW Post 2757 gathered Nov. 2 to honor the late Warren Herreid at Grace Lutheran Church and at Maplewood Cemetery, Luverne. Pictured in the front row from left are Buck Underwood, Wayne Biever, Stan Sasker, Jay Mann, (middle) Jerry Wieman, Jerry Hoff, Gary Hassebroek, Mel Hamann, Terrie Gulden, (back) Jim Harner, Rodger Ossenfort, Ed Stearns, Chuck Eglan, Bill Martin and Merlyn Buys.

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report

- Nov. 3**
 - Complainant requested a welfare check on her uncle.
 - Complainant reported a tractor was pulling a couple of grain wagons and one broke apart.
 - Complainant requested a welfare check on suspect this weekend. Deputy verified suspect is still in jail, no check needed.
 - Complainant requested extra patrol around the elevator by the fair grounds. After they leave at 10 p.m., kids are crawling up the auger and jumping into the corn.
 - Complainant reported renter at property was approached by a man claiming to have permission to hunt on the property, does not have

permission. Requesting extra patrol early morning of Nov. 4.

- Nov. 5**
 - Complainant reported individuals spotlighting animals for hunt in rural Ellsworth. Transferred to Nobles County.
 - Deputy reported unit without a lock, stuff sitting outside. Unable to contact anyone on the weekend.
 - Complainant reported her husband is locked inside the carwash. Contact people did not answer. Contacted employee.
 - Complainant reported two guys pulled into Shopko with a tan Cadillac, no plates. They look like they are tweaking. Deputy attempted to stop on I-90, fled.
- Nov. 6**
 - Luverne High School reported subjects refuse to come to school.
 - Bicycle found at Teal's Food and Gas.
 - Complainant reported subject was sent home sick from school, but they cannot contact her parents. Request deputies do welfare check this afternoon.
 - Received calls reporting power outages around area.
 - Complainant on McKenzie Street reported subject keeps old appliances and other garbage at location.
 - Complainant reported theft on Main Street.
 - Complainant requested welfare check on suicidal subject.
 - Complainant reported he is lost at location.

- Nov. 7**
 - Complainant reported a lost wallet, last known to be on his person at Casey's.
 - Complainant on W. Barck Ave. reported finding a red toolbox with shooting supplies.
 - Complainant called Law Enforcement Center and requested to speak with deputy regarding property subject has at his home. Deputy spoke with complainant.
 - Complainant called Law Enforcement Center and requested to speak with deputy regarding a possible scam.
 - Complainant called Law Enforcement Center and requested to speak with deputy regarding child abuse. Deputy spoke to complainant.
 - Complainant reported

- receiving manic and aggressive communication with subject, requesting welfare check.
- Nov. 8**
 - Complainant reported an issue over a cell phone and \$50.
 - Complainant reported her daughter is throwing things and has two kids with her. She has a mental problem.
 - Complainant reported a domestic at the bar in Edgerton. Subject fled scene, possibly headed to Luverne.
 - Complainant reported a scam phone call from a local number.
- Nov. 9**
 - Complainant reported a semi vs. bailer wagon. Patrol wrote.
 - Complainant reported the theft of a red mongoose

- bike a couple of weeks ago. Size between BMX and mountain bike.
 - Complainant reported an assault at Sterling's. Subject fled on foot.
 - Complainant reported subject's friends will not leave Mead Court.
- In addition, officers also responded to 2 personal property accidents, 3 deer accidents, 2 transports, 8 escorts, 18 ambulance runs, 8 animal complaints, 4 abandoned 911 calls, 2 alarms, 1 stalled vehicle, 7 log sheets, 4 drug court tests, 2 permit to purchase/carry, 22 traffic stops, 4 narcotics calls, 3 abandoned vehicles, 4 paper services, 1 child maltreatment, 5 road and drive laws, 1 public assist, and 1 fire call.

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday Brunch
November 19 11am - 3pm

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Reception in the lobby following the performance.

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the SWMN Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Come Join in a Time of Thanks

Thanksgiving Service
 "Expression of thanks to God"

Sunday | November 19 | 7 p.m.
United Methodist Church, Luverne

Hosted by: Grace Lutheran, United Methodist, First Presbyterian Churches, St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church

All are welcome and encouraged to bring a food item or monetary donation to Rock County food shelf

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Joyce McCarthy photos/1116 adrian veterans limo

Red carpet treatment for Adrian veterans



At left: Veterans Virgil Cook (left) and Richard Jonas of the Adrian American Legion step out of a stretch Hummer limousine and onto a red carpet as they arrive at Veterans Day ceremonies Friday, Nov. 10, at Adrian High School. One veteran noted that the ride and notoriety were "unbelievable" compared to the day he stepped off a plane from a tour in Vietnam and no one even shook his hand. A day of service and recognition was the goal of the Adrian High School National Honor Society students. "We thought this limo ride would be a way to say thanks to the veterans who have put their lives on the line for us," said senior Hannah Bullerman, president of the Adrian NHS.

Above: Pictured with Stellar Limousine driver Adam Burnison (left) are Adrian Honor Society students (front, from left) Rylie Hokeness, Paige Tweet, Hannah Bullerman, Brady Henning, Sabdi Bravo, Autumn Grussing, Hannah Kruse, (back) Paige Bullerman, Lexi Slater, Taylor Loosbrock, Dakota John, Avery Balster, Paige Madison and Miah Kunkel.

The NHS members organized Veterans Day ceremonies and contacted area business and individuals to contribute to the cost of hiring the Hummer limo. Major sponsors for the event were Adrian State Bank, Hokeness Grain and Livestock, Inc. and Rick and Mary Peterson. Other contributors include the Leon and Susan Bullerman family, Keith's Grocery, Kunkel Auto Repair, Loosbrock Digging Service, State Bank of Lismore, Son-D-Farms, T3 Fitness of Adrian, Veld Lumber of Lismore and Stellar Limousine of Sioux Falls.

State park to close during special hunt Nov. 17-18

During a special hunt to prevent overpopulation of deer and protect resources on Nov. 17-18, Blue Mounds State Park will be closed to all visitors.

Hunts also will take place at other Minnesota state parks and recreation areas this fall, and access to the parks will vary. Some will remain open to all visitors, some will have limited public access and some will be open only to hunters with special permits. The deadlines have passed for youth and adults to apply for the permits to participate in the hunts, which include regular firearms, muzzleloader and archery options.

"Too many of one animal or plant species in an area can start to throw off the balance of other species in that area," explained Tavis Westbrook, Natural Resource Program coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources Parks and Trails Division. "When there are too many deer in a park, they tend to feed too much on certain trees and native plant communities, so occasionally we allow deer hunts as a means of protecting natural resources."

For a list of parks that are open, partially open or closed during the 2017 hunting season, visit www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/hunting.html or contact the DNR Information Center at dnr@state.mn.us or 888-646-6367 (8 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday). Details on which areas of each park will be affected by the special deer hunts can also be found in the "Visitor Alert" boxes on the individual park Web pages at www.mn.dnr.gov.

MENU

Monday, Nov. 20: Creamy vegetable soup, turkey sandwich, fruit cup, crackers, cookie.

Tuesday, Nov. 21: Cubed roast beef, mashed potatoes, peas, dinner roll, bread pudding dessert. Program: Two-buck Tuesday sponsored by MainStreet Financial.

Wednesday, Nov. 22: Chicken hotdish, tropical fruit, lettuce with dressing, bread, bar.

Thursday, Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Holiday — Meal site closed.

Friday, Nov. 24: Meatballs in gravy, mashed potatoes, country blend vegetables, bread, ice cream.

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

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

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

COMMUNITY ED

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

Kids in the Kitchen (grades K-6) will cook up Thanksgiving treats at **Pumpkins, Pies, & Smiles** Nov. 20. Fee is \$18 or sign up with a friend and pay \$28.

Students in grades 3-5 will dive into the interesting world of animal genetics and learn about **DNA Discovery** on Nov. 21. Fee is \$10.

10 years ago (2007)

•Luverne City Council members approved a five-year capital improvement plan for the Luverne Municipal Airport totaling more than \$3 million.

The five-year plan is submitted to the state on an annual basis and becomes a planning tool for the city, state and federal government.

According to the plan approved by the council Tuesday night, the design of the new runway has been approved for 2007 at \$150,000.

In 2008 land acquisition has been approved at \$510,000 and includes legal work, surveying and appraisals.

25 years ago (1992)

•A Des Moines, Iowa, company selling business membership cards in Luverne last week has Luverne Chamber of Commerce Executive Secretary Norma DeJongh "royally upset."

DeJongh said she received calls throughout the week from Luverne residents who were concerned about the unsolicited phone calls. ...

The company, Magnum Communications, visited Luverne businesses about two months ago and offered them a free promotion, DeJongh said. The businesses signed up, and each offered a special. Last week, the company began calling residents, offering them a \$40 card that would entitle them to the specials offered by the 14 Luverne businesses that signed up.

DeJongh said the company isn't doing anything illegal, but she feels it isn't being truthful. ...

DeJongh said she told a company representative the Luverne Chamber wouldn't endorse or support the sale of the cards. But when making the calls, DeJongh said the company told people the Chamber was "aware" of the promotion, and that she's afraid many people will think the Chamber is involved.

50 years ago (1967)

•The new Worthington diesel generating unit at the municipal

power plant is meeting its reliability requirements above and beyond its specifications according to City Administrative Assistant Richard Stevens.

The engine, which has been in operation a number of different times, was tested all last weekend, after the new switch engine was energized. All automatic controls functioned as they were intended to, Stevens said.

The output of the equipment was in excess of the name-plate capability of 3,500 KW to give the municipal plant a total generating capacity of 7,500 KW.

75 years ago (1942)

•Donald Reeder, 34, Oldham, S.D., serving a life sentence for a bank robbery in Hardwick, May 28, 1942, has entered a plea for pardon through Richard Torrison, local attorney. Reeder was convicted and committed to the state prison Sept. 15, 1941, after one of his two companions turned state's evidence culminating in his arrest at Virginia, Minn.

Reeder and the other two men entered the Hardwick bank shortly before noon on the day of the robbery, and while one of them was obtaining 25 pennies in exchange for a quarter, the other two men entered the bank and staged the holdup. They escaped with \$3,100. It was later learned that they drove from Hardwick to Superior Wis., where they divided the loot.

100 years ago (1917)

•Under a deal consummated last week John C. Mannigel purchased the controlling interest in the Coffey-Miller Grain Co., of this city, which was owned by J.P. Coffey. For the present the company will continue to do business under the same name.

Mr. Mannigel has been manager of the company since last July, and for five years prior to that had charge of the E.A. Brown elevator at Hardwick. ...

In the sale Mr. Coffey took as part payment Mr. Mannigel's residence property in Hardwick

1947: New National Guard Armory begins taking local enlistments

The following appeared in the Rock County Herald on January 30, 1947.

Enlistments In National Guard Will Begin Here Saturday Night

Drills Will Bring \$2.50 Per Night For Privates, Capt. Tollefson States.

Enlistments will be accepted Saturday evening for the first time in the new national guard unit here.

Capt. Lester Tollefson, commanding officer of the Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 135th Infantry, announced that he and 1st Lt. Martin Kvaas, executive and communications officer



Bits by Betty

By Betty Mann, president
Rock County Historical Society

of the company, will be at the Luverne armory from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday to accept enlistments and also on Monday night for the same purpose.

Age limit of enlistees is from 18 to 35 years, inclusive. Those who have had previous national guard or regular army service may be enlisted if they have passed the 35 year age limit, providing they are able

to qualify on the basis of their previous service.

The pay status is the same as that of the regular army, Capt. Tollefson said. Privates will receive \$2.50 per drill, while those in higher grades will be paid at rates correspondingly higher.

All men with previous military service, discharged with the grades of master

sergeant, first sergeant, technical sergeant or staff sergeant are eligible to apply for commissions as second lieutenants, providing they are able to serve one year in grade before reaching their 31st birthday. All World War II veterans will have priority for ratings, Capt. Tollefson said, as it is the desire of the new national guard that high ranking non-coms be army veterans.

Complement of the local unit will be 67 men and nine officers. There are still two company officer vacancies: one first lieutenant and one second lieutenant. The company will have one first grade non-com, two second grade, seven third grade, nine

fourth grade and 12 fifth grade.

Drills can begin as soon as the unit is federally recognized, Capt. Tollefson said. This will be when the percentage enlistment of 25 per cent of the officers and 10 per cent of the enlisted personnel has been obtained. This means, he stated, that drills can begin as soon as 7 men enlist.

Men who have served previous enlistments in World War II may enlist for two year periods. Others must enlist for three years. After men have served their first "hitch," they have the option of enlisting for either one or three years.

All ex-service men planning to enlist are asked to bring with them their army discharge papers, as they are needed to

obtain serial numbers and for other purposes, the commanding officer said.

Present plans call for the resumption of the annual encampment of Camp Ripley, where two weeks of special training were held annually before the war.

Dr. John S. Burleigh, Luverne, has been appointed contract surgeon of the new company.

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

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iu.net.



'Go West!'

Mavis Fodness photos/1116 Go West

Luverne Elementary School second- and fourth-graders perform musical

More than 180 elementary students presented the John Jacobson and Roger Emerson production of "Go West!" Thursday, Nov. 9, in the elementary gymnasium. Music teachers Shirlee Gilmore and Beth Capistran (pictured at right) directed the performance that featured the various forms of transportation people could take to travel west in search of gold.



From left are Rayden Johnson, Sidney Hernandez, Anna Austin, Hannah Woodley as the wagon master, and Elijah Henrichs.



Pictured below, wagons may be the best form of travel as discussed by second-graders (from far left) Emma Abrahamson, Jonathan LeBaron, Logan Wrigg and Kale Ver Steeg.



Fourth-grader Dawson Holtz speaks as "The Mayor" while classmate Zeke Frahm looks on.

At left, Oliver Mead (left) and Colberg Cunningham encourage members going west to keep going; they will soon be at their new homes.



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Papik Price \$49,990

EARLY DEADLINES

Deadline for the Thanksgiving (Nov. 23) issue of the **Star Herald** for advertising, legals, classifieds or letters to the editor will be **Friday, Nov. 17 by noon.**

Deadline for the November 26 issue of the **Luverne Announcer** for advertising will be **Wed., Nov. 22 by 10 a.m.**

Questions? Call 283-2333

Happy Thanksgiving

The Star Herald office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23 & Friday, Nov. 24

"We will never forget the hours spent together at our Glen's Coffee Clique ..." — Last Man Club member LeRoy Luitjens



Former Minnesota First Lady Mary Pawlenty helps Helmer Haakenson (left) and LeRoy Luitjens open the official bottle of bourbon to carry out the final toast of the Last Man Club Saturday night during the Veterans Day program at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne. Last Man Club founder Warren Herreid spoke this spring about inviting Mrs. Pawlenty to join them in the honors. He died Oct. 26, just over two weeks before Veterans Day. Pawlenty, an honorary Last Man Club member, attended Herreid's funeral with Haakenson and Luitjens who voted at that time to amend the club bylaws to include the last two members, rather than the last man, for the final toast.

Last men share last toast

Former First Lady opens bourbon with Haakenson, Luitjens on Veterans Day

Story and photos by Lori Sorenson

The Last Man Club held the spotlight at Saturday night's Veterans Day event in Luverne when the last two remaining members shared a toast with Mary Pawlenty. She joined Helmer Haakenson and LeRoy Luitjens as they toasted each other and 22 of their Last Man Club comrades who have passed away.

She stopped short of calling the moment sacred, but she said she was blessed to have known the World War II veterans from Luverne who drank coffee together in Glen's Deli.

"I can't describe how honored I am to be here tonight," she said from the stage where Haakenson and Luitjens were seated at a table with their empty glasses.

Pawlenty reminded the audience of the club's history — that it started shortly after the group accepted her invitation to coffee at the Governor's Mansion in 2005.

"It was really a beautiful day, as were the friendships we formed," Pawlenty said. "If there's a lesson in this, invite someone to coffee — you never know what will happen."

Before Saturday night's toast, she read a few of the Last Man Club bylaws.

"The official bottle will be chosen by the membership and will be of a top brand of American made and bottled liquor," she read from Article Four.

"The official bottle shall remain sealed and unopened until the Last Man opens it for the last toast to all his comrades who have gone before him."

Pawlenty shared a few other details from the Last Man Club bylaws, which were organized by Warren Herreid, who died Oct. 26 — just over two weeks before Veterans Day.

Pawlenty attended Herreid's funeral Nov. 2 with Haakenson and Luitjens, and at Saturday's event she made special mention of Article 11, which states, "These by-laws may be amended at the annual meeting by a three-fourths vote of the members present."

Pawlenty raised an eyebrow and smiled knowingly at the audience.

"On the day of Warren's funeral, LeRoy and Helmer voted unanimously that the bottle be opened by the last men standing," she said before helping them open the bottle and pouring bourbon in their glasses.

They first toasted the Last Man Club members who preceded them in death.

"We will never forget the hours spent together at our Glen's Coffee Clique — cherishing the stories, knowledge and wisdom they shared with us over the years," Luitjens said, reciting the words that Herreid had traditionally read. "We



Former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty (left), Warren Herreid II and Mary Pawlenty join the group in toasting the last men, Helmer Haakenson and LeRoy Luitjens, of the Last Man Club. The club began in 2005 with 24 World War II veterans who drank coffee together at Glen's Deli. For each Veterans Day since then, the members — whose numbers have dwindled each year — have gathered to toast each other and their late comrades.

salute you comrades."

The names of the 22 deceased members were read aloud, with the ringing of a bell after each name was read.

Those names included Ted Anderson, Lawrence Akkerman, Floyd Goebel, George Gabrielson, Harvey Ball, Darwin Rogness, Charles Mann, Lawrence Overgaard, Bill Veenhof, Ray Slieter,

Johnny Johnson, Big Carrigan, Bob Juhl, Conrad Tofteland, Tim Tangeman, Ray Anderson, Jake Boomgaarden, Earl Glaser, Casey Van Engelenhoven, Russ Swenson, Bob Anderson and Warren Herreid.

And then, raising their glasses high in the air, the Last Men Standing toasted each other and quietly left the stage.

"If there's a lesson in this, invite someone to coffee — you never know what will happen."

— Mary Pawlenty, former Minnesota First Lady and honorary Last Man Club member

Ken Burns sends regards

Another highlight of Saturday night's Last Man Club banquet was a personal greeting from film maker Ken Burns, who featured Luverne as one of four communities in his 2007 documentary series, "THE WAR."

In a letter to Haakenson and Luitjens he applauded their service and their civic contributions. Pawlenty's husband, former governor Tim Pawlenty, read excerpts at the banquet.

It's printed in its entirety on page 4.



Lori Sorenson photo/1116 vets day prager

Syndicated radio talk show host Dennis Prager addresses audience members at Saturday night's Veterans Day program at Grand Prairie Events, Luverne. He spoke about the decline of Judeo Christian American values, especially in public colleges and universities, and he said Americans — the most generous in the world — are ironically the most hated in the world. He said veterans should be Nobel Prize winners because of their selfless sacrifices for American freedoms. Prager's appearance and Richard Middleton's history of the American flag were sponsored by Warren Herreid II and Jeannine Rivet, who also paid for the Veterans Day meal for local veterans (a tradition they have honored for many years).



Lori Sorenson photo/1116 vets day flag

Richard Middleton, Eden Prairie, presents a history of the American flag at Saturday night's Veterans Day Program in Grand Prairie Events, Luverne. In this photo, he points out the Betsy Ross flag, which was our nation's first American flag, recognized as such by the Second Continental Congress in 1777. Our current flag, by the way, has been recognized as such for 58 years. "This is not a government flag," Middleton said. "It's our flag. It's my flag." He pointed out that it's flown not only at government institutions, but also at homes, businesses, the North Pole, Mount Everest, the moon and on Mars. "And," he said, "it's draped on the coffins of veterans."

Luverne's Bork, Ferrell draw postseason awards

Two individuals who played key roles in Luverne's volleyball resurgence this fall reaped the benefits of their efforts last week.



Both first-year head coach Susan Bork and standout senior Alexis Ferrell received some prestigious awards for their contributions to Luverne's 20-win season.

It was a big week for Ferrell, who was on the receiving end of two note-worthy accomplishments.

Not only did she sign a Letter of Intent to continue her playing career at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Ferrell also made Minnesota High School Volleyball Coaches Association Class AA All-State Volleyball First Team.

"Lexi is an all-around great kid and is very well deserving of this award," Bork said.

"The award is largely based on state credentials and the thoughts of the coaches who saw her play, and I think it's a great honor to have a player from Luverne on the all-state team."

Bork had a rare opportunity to watch Ferrell play volleyball from two different perspectives.

She coached against Ferrell when she was the mentor of the Hills-Beaver Creek program from 2014-16, and received the pleasure to coach Ferrell when she took over the LHS program this year.

"I knew Lexi was the type of athlete who could play college volleyball when I took the job in Luverne," Bork said.

"She played mostly on the outside when I was coach-

FROM THE SIDELINES

By John Rittenhouse, sports editor

ing in Hills, but I knew she was one of Luverne's big guns and we had to key on her defensively."

Although Ferrell found success as an outside hitter, Bork had other plans for her entering the 2017 campaign.

The Cardinal coach wanted Ferrell to be the middle hitter on her LHS team, and she proved to be a successful one once she accepted her new role.

"I remember her telling me in practice that she wasn't a middle hitter, but I told her she was one on this team," Bork recalled.

"She was a little reluctant to be a middle at first, but she grew into the position well and it was fun to witness it. What surprised me about Lexi was her on-court sense of the game. She had never played in the back row before, but she could really read the ball well and where it was going."

The first-year LHS coach found herself on the receiving end of a postseason award.

One year after being named the Section 3A Coach of the Year at H-BC, Bork was named the Section 3AA Coach of the Year at LHS.

"It's a pretty humbling thing," Bork admitted. "I just love doing my job, so I don't expect things like this to happen. I just take things day by day. I don't coach for awards like this. I do it because I love the game. I just want the kids to have fun and a good experience playing volleyball."



John Rittenhouse photo/1116 hbc vb

H-BC's Avery Wysong (second, left), Sidney Fick (second, right), Olivia Richards (right) and Megan Gehrke (below) are members of the 2017 All-Red Rock Conference Volleyball Team. Paige Tilstra (left) received honorable mention.



John Rittenhouse photo/1116 ahs vb

Adrian's Kasie Tweet (middle) and Miah Kunkel (right) are members of the 2017 All-Red Rock Conference Volleyball Team. Lexi Slater (left) received honorable mention.

Nine area spikers grace list of All-Red Rock Conference Volleyball Team

By John Rittenhouse

Nine athletes from the Star Herald coverage area received postseason honors from Red Rock officials last week.

Four Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots and two Adrian Dragons grace the 22-player roster of the 2017 All-RRC Volleyball Team.

One player each from H-BC, Adrian and Ellsworth locked up three of the 14 honorable mention awards doled out by the league's coaches.

H-BC seniors Olivia Richards, Avery Wysong and Meghan Gehrke and junior Sidney Fick made the All-RRC squad, as did AHS junior Miah Kunkel and sophomore Kasie Tweet.

H-BC senior Paige Tilstra, AHS senior Lexi Slater and Ellsworth senior Devin Dreesen



Gehrke

received honorable mention. Murray County Central, which shared the RRC title with H-BC, landed four all-league selections.

Seniors Riley Schmitz and Vittoria Mazzoni, junior Montana Beckmann and sophomore Alyssa Graves are the Rebels on the roster.



Dreesen

SWC seniors Olivia Veldkamp and Sydney Van Hulzen and sophomore Jazlynn Prins made the team as well.

Red Rock Central, Heron Lake-Okabena and Edgerton secured two all-league selections each.

RRC senior Hannah DeCock and junior Haley Simonson,

HL-O seniors Tessa Crowell and Kiana Leighty and Edgerton senior Chynna Berning and junior Courtney Fey cracked the list.

Westbrook-Walnut Grove junior Brittney Erickson, Fulda senior Camryn Baumhoefner and Mountain Lake Area senior Marta Stoesz round out the all-league squad.

Others drawing honorable mention include SWC senior Brooklyn De Kam and sophomore Bella Neimeyer, RRC junior Kennedy Janssen and freshman Nicole Schropfer, HL-O junior Samantha Freking and freshman Hailey Liepold, MCC senior Tori Wieneke, Edgerton senior Lauren Sankey, W-WG freshman Emma Wahl, Fulda senior Emily Schroer and MLA sophomore Margo Stoesz.

SPORTS BRIEF

5K run

Registration is now open for the 15th Annual De-Light-Ful Run set for Saturday, Nov. 25, at 6 p.m.

The race will start and end at the Luverne Armory this year, which will also be the site of a free post-race dance with

the Casey Muessingman Band providing the entertainment.

Online registration at www.allsportscentral.com is available. Race day registration begins at the Armory at 5 p.m.

Contact Dave Duffy at 507-920-3345 for more information.

BOWLING NEWS

Thursday Bowling National League

Nov. 9

Games won: Those Girls 4; Those Guys 4; The Real Guys 3; The Troublemakers 1; Rock Stars 0; The Stooges 0.

High Scratch Game Men: Dave Nelson 235; Jeremy Gehm 206.

High Scratch Game Women: Kathy Matson 147; Marie Opheim 144.

High Scratch Series Men: Jeremy

Gehm 567; Mike Hoover 563.

High Scratch Series Women: Kathy Matson 426; Marie Opheim 403.

Team High Scratch Game: The Real Guys 524; Those Guys 483.

Team High Scratch Series: The Real Guys 1455; Those Guys 1350.

Team High Handicap Game: Those Guys 633; The Real Guys 623.

Team High Handicap Series: Those Guys 1800; The Real Guys 1752.

By John Rittenhouse

Five members of the Luverne Tae Kwon Do Club found success at the 36th version of the Midwest Tae Kwon Do Championships Nov. 4 in Tea, South Dakota. Luverne's entries placed in 10 events.

Perceyis Trierweiler had a big day in the Junior Division (ages 12-13), where she took top honors in the sparring and forms competitions.

Reagan Gangestad, a member of the Junior Division (ages 8-9), placed second in forms and sparring.

Tryg Tollefson, another member of the Junior Division (8-9), finished third in sparring and fifth in forms.

Competing in the Junior Division (ages 16-17), Haylee Overvaag placed second in forms and third in sparring.

Tyler Johnson, a member of the Senior Division (36 and older) turned in second-place efforts in the forms and sparring competitions.



John Rittenhouse photo/116 tkd

Five members of the Luverne Tae Kwon Do Club turned in strong showings at the Midwest Tae Kwon Do Championships Nov. 4 in Tea, South Dakota. They are (from left) Perceyis Trierweiler, Reagan Gangestad, Tyler Johnson, Tryg Tollefson and Haylee Overvaag.

Luverne, Adrian high schools welcome new winter sports coaches

By John Rittenhouse

The 2017-18 winter sports season includes two coaching changes involving teams from the Star Herald coverage area.

The Luverne High School wrestling program is led by a first-year head coach, while the Adrian girls' basketball program opens the season with co-coaches.

Longtime assistant Jordan Kopp is Luverne's head wrestling coach.

Kopp replaces Tony Johnson, who guided LHS to a 23-36 record over the last three seasons.

Patrice Peters and Jes Hermeling are sharing the head girls' basketball coaching position at AHS.

Peters and Hermeling replace Randy Strand, who compiled a 479-279 record after leading the AHS program for the last 31 years.

Kopp has never been a head



Kopp

coach, but he has been closely associated with the LHS wrestling program the last six years.

He served as a varsity assistant for three seasons each for Craig Schneider and Johnson.

Kopp also was a member of the LHS program prior to graduating in 2004.

Appendix surgery and a shoulder injury kept him off the mat during his junior and senior seasons.

After graduating from LHS, Kopp pursued an associate degree in agricultural production at Ridgewater College in Willmar and Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Worthington.

He has been employed at Express Ag as a salesman for the past three years.

"I'm looking forward to this," Kopp said, when asked about becoming the LHS head coach.

"It will be pretty exciting. Our numbers will be down after graduating five seniors from last year's team, but it should be fun."

Peters brings some knowledge of the Adrian girls' basketball program to the table as she served as Strand's assistant coach last winter.

Peters is a 2009 graduate of George-Little Rock (Iowa) High School, where she was a four-year starter as a basket-



Peters

ball player. After graduating from G-LR, Peters went to Northwestern College at Orange City, Iowa, on a scholarship to play basketball and softball.

A knee injury cut her college basketball career short, but she continued to play softball during her college years.

Peters graduated from Northwestern in 2013 and remained in Orange City as a

special education instructor for two years.

She also served as a special education instructor at Central Lyon High School at Rock Rapids, Iowa, for one year before serving in the same capacity at AHS starting at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year.

Prior to serving as Strand's assistant coach last year, Peters said she was a volunteer coach at different levels every year since graduating from G-RL in 2009.

Hermeling has a storied basketball past as well. A 2011 graduate of Fulda High School, Hermeling was a member of the varsity squad for three seasons.

She went on to play three years of basketball, volleyball and softball at Minnesota West.

She currently is seeking a degree in special education by taking online classes from



Hermeling

Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

Hermeling is currently in her third year as a paraprofessional at AHS.

She has coaching experience in her past as Hermeling served as an assistant women's basketball coach for two years.

She also has served as an assistant volleyball and softball coach at AHS.

St. Catherine Catholic Church
203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph.: 283-8502; email: stcatherine@iw.net

St. Mary Catholic Church, Ellsworth
Thursday, Nov. 16: 9 a.m. Head Start. 4 p.m. Veterans Home Mass. 7 p.m. St. Catherine PC. Friday, Nov. 17: 2:15 p.m. Veterans Bingo. Saturday, Nov. 18: 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Catherine. Sunday, Nov. 19: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary. 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine; Sunday School and CLW. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Knights of Columbus breakfast. 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service at United Methodist Church. Monday, Nov. 20: 10 a.m. Book Bunch. Wednesday, Nov. 22: No Faith Formation. 7 p.m. Ellsworth Ecumenical Thanksgiving at Zion. Thursday, Nov. 23: 9 a.m. St. Catherine Mass.

Luverne Christian Reformed Church
605 N. Estey St., Luverne
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luverncrc.com — luvernecrc@gmail.com
Roger Sparks, Pastor

First Baptist Church
1033 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne
Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org
Walt Moser, Pastor
Thursday, Nov. 16: 6 a.m. Men's Bible Study at FBC. 6 p.m. Girls' Night Out at Camp Shetek. 7 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3. Sunday, Nov. 19: 9:15 Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Morning Service. 6 p.m. Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner with Missionaries Gary and Barb Bennett. Tuesday Nov. 21: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study at First Baptist Church. Wednesday, Nov. 22: No Awana — Thanksgiving break. Thursday Nov. 23: 7 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3.

Grace Lutheran Church
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — graceluverne@iw.net
Ron Nichols, Pastor; Stephen Hilding, Associate Pastor
Thursday, Nov. 16: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. 9 a.m. Naomi Circle at The Oaks. 9:30 a.m. Rachel Circle at church. 1:30 p.m. Lydia Circle at church. 2 p.m. Sarah Circle at Camelot. 7 p.m. Priscilla/Elizabeth Circle at Judy Fenske. Friday, Nov. 17: 6:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. Saturday, Nov. 18 and Sunday, Nov. 19: Junior High Youth Gathering in Willmar. Saturday, Nov. 18: 5:30 p.m. Worship with Communion. Sunday, Nov. 19: 8:15 a.m. Radio broadcast. 9 a.m. Worship with Communion. 10 a.m. Fellowship coffee; Grades 1-5 Christmas practice; Adult Study. Monday, Nov. 20: Grace Notes deadline. 4:30 p.m. Worship on Channel 3. 5:45 p.m. Echoes of Harmony rehearsal. Tuesday, Nov. 21: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 5:30 p.m. Ride & Dine. Wednesday, Nov. 22: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 7 p.m. Traditional Worship Service. No Faithweavers. No Confirmation classes. Thursday, Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Day — Office closed.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 507-449-0291 or 605-215-9834
pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor
Sunday, Nov. 19: 9 a.m. Sunday School. 9:15 a.m. Bible Class. 10:15 a.m. Worship. 1:30 p.m. Worship at Mary Jane Brown Home. 2:15 p.m. Worship at Poplar Creek. Wednesday, Nov. 22: No Catechism Class. 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship.

American Reformed Church
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne
Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Mike Altana, Pastor
Thursday, Nov. 16: 5:30 p.m. Tumbling Tikes. Friday, Nov. 17: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. 4 p.m. REFIT Fitness Class. 5:30 p.m. Rehearsal. Saturday, Nov. 18: Taylor/Dinger wedding. Sunday, Nov. 19: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 10:50 a.m. Family Education. 7 p.m. Junior RCYF; Senior RCYF. Monday, Nov. 20: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Multi-purpose Room reserved. Tuesday, Nov. 21: 10 a.m. Staff meeting. 6:45 p.m. Bible Study Fellowship. Wednesday, Nov. 22: 4:30 p.m. REFIT Fitness Class. No Midweek. 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve service.

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

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529; email: luverneumc@iw.net
Dorie Hall, Pastor
Thursday, Nov. 16: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf. Women's Walk to Emmaus Retreat. Saturday, Nov. 18: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Sunday, Nov. 19: 9 a.m. Traditional Service. 10 a.m. Coffee Hour/Adult Sunday School. 11 a.m. Come as You Are Service. 3 p.m. A.L.I.V.E. Youth Group — Roller Skating. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible Study. 7 p.m. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Monday, Nov. 20: 8 p.m. AA Meeting. Wednesday, Nov. 22: 5:30 p.m. Community Meal — Thanksgiving Meal. No Confirmation or F.U.E.L. 8 p.m. AA Meeting.

Magnolia United Methodist Church
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
Church Ph. 507-483-2492; cell 227-7821; email: adrmagumc@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/adrianmagnoliaumc
Kristi Franken, Pastor
Sundays: 9 a.m. Magnolia Worship Service with Sunday School following service. 10:30 a.m. Adrian Worship Service. Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. Confirmation at Magnolia UMC.

First Presbyterian Church
302 Central Lane, Luverne
Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net — www.fpcluverne.com
Sunday, Nov. 19: 9 a.m. Sunday school. 10:15 a.m. Worship. 7 p.m. Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at United Methodist Church. Tuesday, Nov. 21: 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3. Thursday, Nov. 23: 10 a.m. Worship service on Channel 3.

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

New Life Celebration Church
110 N. Oakley, Luverne
Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecelabration@gmail.com
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship at 110 N. Oakley. Every third Thursday: 5 p.m. Food give-away at Senior Citizens Center. Bible Study groups meet at various times and days.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick
Ph. 669-2855; email: www.zionlutheranhardwick.com
Thursday, Nov. 16: 3:30 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3. 7 p.m. Adult Instruction Class at Zion. Friday, Nov. 17: 3:30 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3. Sunday, Nov. 19: 9 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Bible Study. 10 a.m. Mentor Program. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Communion. 11:30 a.m. Choir Practice. Monday, Nov. 20: 1 p.m. Quilting. Tuesday, Nov. 21: 7 p.m. Adult Instruction Class at Zion. Wednesday, Nov. 22: 6 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service/Choir sings. Thursday, Nov. 23: 3:30 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3.

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

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662
Intern Pastor Laura Phillips
Thursday, Nov. 16: 7:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting. Sunday, Nov. 19: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. 3 p.m. Joint Parish Thanksgiving Pie and Praise at Palisade Lutheran. Tuesday, Nov. 21: 7 p.m. Church Council meeting. Wednesday, Nov. 22: No Confirmation.

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Intern Pastor Laura Phillips
Thursday, Nov. 16: 1:30 p.m. WELCA Regular Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting at First Lutheran. Sunday, Nov. 19: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10 a.m. Sunday School. 3 p.m. Joint Parish Thanksgiving Pie and Praise at Palisade. Wednesday, Nov. 22: 7 p.m. Confirmation at First Lutheran.

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

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor Maggie Berndt-Dreyer
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 962-3270
e-mail: bethleheluth@alliancecom.net

Friday, Nov. 17: Wedding Rehearsal. Saturday, Nov. 18: Christensen/Sandager wedding. Sunday, Nov. 19: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9:30 a.m. Reading the Bible; Sunday School Christmas practice. 10:30 a.m. Communion at Bethlehem. Tuesday, Nov. 21: 2:30 p.m. Bible Study at Tuff Home. 3:15 p.m. Bible Study at the Village. Wednesday, Nov. 22: 9 a.m. Quilting. 7 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve worship service. No Confirmation or Youth Group.

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

Shared stories

Family gatherings can be interesting. As we near Thanksgiving, comedians make jokes about surviving the holiday and offer tips on how to avoid politics or other topics that cause disagreement.

I may be lucky, but the members of my extended family all get along, and for the most part our conversations around the Thanksgiving table are pleasant.

But regardless, when families gather together for Thanksgiving, more than likely at some point they begin to recall stories together. Because even as the years go by and people's lives and experiences carry them far from one another, physical and/or ideologically, one thing that families always have in common are stories.

Like the story about the time we went fishing, and I accidentally threw my pole into the lake because I was afraid of a dragonfly (I was young). Or the time we played that joke on Grandpa where we wrapped up his own flannel shirts as Christmas gifts to him, and he didn't even notice.

Shared stories are what tie families together, and each holiday contains the potential to add to the tapestry of stories that keep us connected.

Just as our families hold a treasure trove of stories, some that make us laugh, others that make us cry, some that confound us (what were we thinking!), Holy Scripture contains many different stories of God's people throughout many centuries.

The stories of Scripture can also make us laugh, cry or confound us, because they are many and varied in style and meaning. They tell of people trying to make sense of

BUILT ON A ROCK

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

who God is and how God works in the world.

But most importantly, the stories of Scripture tell of a God who is faithful no matter what mistakes the people make. They tell of a God who time and again comes to the aid of God's people when they cry out for help after the people have turned away from God.

The stories tell of a God who looks out for the poor, the widow, the foreigner, and the outcast and who holds the people in power accountable to acting justly on their behalf. They tell of God who loves humanity so much, that God came and lived among us in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, who changed the world entirely so that there is nowhere you can go where it has not already been filled with God's presence.

You are part of God's story. The story of hope in the midst of hopelessness, joy in the midst of sorrow, and life in the midst of death. God's story is the story that connects us all into one family, loved by God no matter what bickering and drama we create around our dinner tables. And God's story lives on in the ways we love one another and continue to look out for the least of these.

May your Thanksgiving table be surrounded by shared stories that remind you that you belong.

St. John Lutheran Church
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 283-2316, Dial-A-Devotion Ph. 283-4005
email: stjoh@iw.net — www.stjohnlutheranluverne.org
Gary Klatt, Pastor

Thursday, Nov. 16: 9 a.m. Little Lambs devotions. Saturday, Nov. 18: 5:30 p.m. Worship. Sunday, Nov. 19: 9 a.m. Worship. 10:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour. 11:15 a.m. Junior Choir. 11:30 a.m. Luncheon served by Youth. 12:15 p.m. Annual Voters Meeting. 4 p.m. Junior LYF. Monday, Nov. 20: Newsletter deadline. 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Little Lambs devotions. 7 p.m. Parish Planning meeting. Tuesday, Nov. 21: 9 a.m. Little Lambs devotions. 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Quilting. 2 p.m. Circles meet. Wednesday, Nov. 22 - Friday, Nov. 24: No Little Lambs sessions. No Bible Study. No evening activities. Thursday, Nov. 23: 9 a.m. Thanksgiving worship service with Communion.

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Rock County Commissioners meet Oct. 17

Herreid Board Room 9:00 A.M.
Rock County Courthouse October 17, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chair Williamson with all Commissioners present; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Overgaard, to approve the October 17, 2017 County Board Agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Williamson, to approve the October 03, 2017 County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson, to approve the consent agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

1. Authorizing signature for 2018 EMPG – Oldre and Skattum
A Public Hearing was called to order at 9:05AM for the implementation and enforcement of a proposed Water Resources Riparian Protection Requirement of MN Statutes 103.F48, known as Buffer Law. There was a discussion regarding penalties and the penalty amounts of neighboring counties. There was also public comment regarding the measurement amount of the setback and the past inconsistencies and what will the setbacks be in the future.

With no additional comments, the public hearing was closed at 09:25AM.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard, to adopt the Buffer Ordinance 2017-01, with the penalty schedule, declared carried on a voice vote. The penalties are as follows:

- 6.2.(a)ii - \$50 per parcel per month for the first (6) months (180 days) following the time period in 6.2.i;
- 6.2.(a).iii - \$200 per month for the first (6) months (180 days) following the time period in 6.2.ii
- 6.2.(b).i - \$50 per parcel per day for 180 days after issuance of Corrective Action Notice; and
- 6.2.(b).ii - \$200 per parcel per day for after 180 days following the time period in 6.2.(b)i.

The County Board recognized the existing efforts from producers and the best practices of land use.

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

Claims over \$2,000:	
A.C.E. OF SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA	3,923.25
AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS INC	3,280.50
CHS	5,477.70
COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS UNLIMITED INC	6,053.00
CONTECH ENGINEERED SOLUTIONS LLC	9,845.48
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS RESEARCH INST	25,299.00
EXPRESSWAY-LUVERNE	3,907.89
GRAHAM TIRE-WORTHINGTON	4,577.34
LYON COUNTY LANDFILL	15,649.00
NOBLES COUNTY AUDITOR-TREASURER	7,490.00
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR	19,834.45
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	17,757.75
ROCK COUNTY OPPORTUNITIES	4,577.22
SMITH & JOHNSON	3,089.75
SOUTHWEST HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	26,169.80
TOLLEFSON PUBLISHING	4,064.60
TRI-STATE GARAGE DOOR, INC	15,595.00
W & N CONSTRUCTION INC	8,973.58
89 Payments less than 2000	33,450.80
Total	219,016.11

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report which reflected the receipt of the second half collection of real estate taxes; motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to approve the Fund Balance report, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard to set the Truth in Taxation public meeting for December 12, 2017 at 6:00PM in the Herreid Board Meeting room, declared carried on a voice vote.

By order of the Chair, the December 12 County Board meeting start time will change from 9:00AM to a time to be determined in the afternoon prior to the Truth in Taxation public meeting.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Burger, to declare the following property as surplus and sell and E-gov auction, declared carried on a voice vote.

- 2006 Ford F150 Pickup –valued at \$3,400
- 2006 Heartland Bus – valued at \$245
- 2001 Sterling Dump Truck – valued at \$23,500

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Overgaard to authorize Kyle Oldre as the 2017 MCIT voting delegate and Commissioner Sherri Thompson and the alternate delegate, declared carried on a voice vote.

Administrator Oldre presented an update regarding public transportation for RCO clients; transit grant conditions will not allow for a special rate therefore, it would be cost prohibitive for RCO clients to utilize the public transit system; presented as information only.

The County Board was informed of a visit from Adjutant General Carl Nash on October 23rd to view the proposed site of a new Armory/Readiness Center in Luverne, MN.

The County Board was in receipt of a meeting notice for the AMC District 8 meeting scheduled for November 2nd in Luverne, MN. The County Board was informed that the 2018 Governor's Pheasant Opener will be in Rock County on October 12-13, 2018.

Commissioner Items:
Reisch attended a SMOC and City/County Liaison meetings.
Thompson attended SWHHS union negotiations.
Burger attended SWMH Annual meeting.

Overgaard attended AMC Land Use, City/County Liaison, Rose Dell Township meeting; also requested to schedule the County Board to sign up to deliver Meals on Wheels.

Williamson attended a Rural Water meeting, One Watershed One Water Plan and SWCD meeting.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Reisch to move into closed session at 10:27AM to discuss a potential land acquisition from the City of Luverne, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Burger, to arise from closed session at 11:35AM, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Reisch to purchase property from the City of Luverne for a proposed Readiness Center/Armory; motion died due to the lack of a second.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson to not purchase any property from the City of Luverne for the proposed Readiness Center, declared carried on a 5-0 vote.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to support the proposed Readiness Center/Armory project through the County State Aid Highway Maintenance Contract with the City of Luverne; motion was declared carried on a 3-2 vote with Commissioner Williamson and Overgaard voting nay.

With no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned.

(11-16)

City Planning Commission public hearing Nov. 27

Public Hearing set for November 27, 2017
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, by the City Planning Commission that a public hearing will be held in the Council Chambers located in the City Offices Building, 305 East Luverne Street, Luverne, Minnesota, commencing at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, November 27, 2017. The purpose of the hearing is to rule and make recommendation to the Luverne City Council on the following:

A proposal from William J. Ludwig and Associates, LTD, the Developer, to designate parcels 20-0032-000 and 20-0171-000 as a Planned Unit Development to be known as Towne Square that will include both retail and commercial uses for their project located on South Highway 75.

All persons desiring to be heard on these matters should be present at the hearing or present written comments prior to the hearing to the Building Official, PO Box 659, Luverne, MN 56156. Anyone needing reasonable accommodations or an interpreter should contact the City Clerk's Office, 305 East Luverne Street, Luverne, MN. (507) 449-9898.

By order of the Luverne City Planning Commission, Luverne, Minnesota, this 13th day of November, 2017.

Jessica Mead
City Clerk
(11-16)

Tofteland probate

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
COURT FILE NO. _____

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ROCK
Estate of: Erling Tofteland,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF HEARING ON
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

It is Ordered and Notice is given that on December 11, 2017, at 3:30 p.m., a hearing will be held in this Court at 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, MN 56156 for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the Will of the Decedent, dated July 10, 2017 and codicil(s) to the Will dated ____, and separate writing(s) under Minn. Stat. 524.2-513 ("Will"), and for the appointment of Andrew Tofteland whose address is 5690 156th LN NW, Ramsey, MN 55303, and of Debra Corey whose address is 4530 145th Lane NW, Andover, MN 55304 as Personal Representatives of the Estate of the Decedent in an Unsupervised administration.

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

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

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

Dated: 11-15-17

By the Court
/s/ Terry S. Vajrt
Judge of District Court
/s/ Denise Brandel
Court Administrator

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

(11-16, 11-23)


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RECYCLE!


DISPATCHER

ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Rock County Administrator is now accepting applications for the position of Dispatcher in the Rock County Sheriff's Office until November 22, 2017 at 5:00PM. This is a full time position with full benefits and works on a rotating shift basis. Minimum qualifications are a High School diploma or equivalent with one year of work related experience. Applicants must possess excellent communication skills, have the abilities to read a map and multi-task duties in a fast paced environment. Starting hourly wage will be \$14.83 - \$16.04 per hour DOQ.

A detailed job description and an application form for this position can be accessed at <http://www.co.rock.mn.us/employment.html> or by emailing susan.skattum@co.rock.mn.us or by phone 507-283-5065.

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Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM), one of the world's largest agricultural processors and food ingredient providers, is seeking colleagues to fill various roles at our Marshall, MN Corn Processing Facility.

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- Plant Utilities
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EMPLOYMENT

Help wanted: part-time position open for a baker and fryer. Early mornings. Experience preferred, but willing to train. Applications available at Teal's customer service counter or call Sherri at 507-283-4429. (10.29-11.16)

EMPLOYMENT

Dietary Aide: Parkview Manor is looking for part-time Dietary Aides! Benefits include vacation, PERA retirement plan, and holiday pay. Training is available on-site. Wages are based on experience level. If interested, contact Sam or Arlys at 507-967-2482, or come visit us to pick up an application! (tc)

EMPLOYMENT

Lutheran Social Service of MN is seeking dedicated volunteers for our innovative new service in both metro and rural areas across the state. I have an opening in Luverne Volunteers interested in sharing their skills, meeting new people and having fun in their community are invited to apply. As a volunteer you will: Do something meaningful and fun. Be an ongoing friend, advocate and resource for an older adult. Provide transportation to medical appointments, grocery shopping and errands and receive a monthly stipend of \$90/client and mileage reimbursement. Contact Gail Sumerfelt at 507-530-2295 (11.9-11.26)

EMPLOYMENT

Earn Extra Cash At A Rewarding Volunteer Position in Luverne & Surrounding area: Become a Senior Companion by making friendly visits to older adults in need. Senior Companions must be 55 years of age or older; flexible service of 15 hours or more a week earns a small tax free hourly stipend, plus receive mileage reimbursement and other benefits. 507.530.2295 for more information. (11.9-11.26)

CARDS OF THANKS

A special thank you to the residents and staff at Good Samaritan- Mary Jane Brown for packaging the bags for October. **Luverne Backpack Program** (11.16-11.19)

The family of Royce Becker would like to thank everyone for the cards, food and memorials we received following our recent loss. Due to the overwhelming number of memorials we received, we would like to express our thanks in this manner.

Marlene Becker Lance and Nancy and family Ken and Rhonda and family Gene and Shelly and family (11.16-11.19)

Our hearts are full of gratitude when we say many thanks to family members, friends and neighbors for all acts of kindness and sympathy: food, flowers, memorials, cards, visits, kind words spoken, and memories shared to our family regarding the recent passing of our loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, Walter Deutsch. We want to thank Father Tom Jennings for his many comforting words and to the Dingmann Funeral Home, paramedics, law enforcement and St. Catherine's Church luncheon committee. Walt will always be remembered for his ability to make people laugh, jokes, positive attitude, warm smile and that twinkle in his eye.

Betty Deutsch & Family (11.16-11.19)

WORK WANTED

Wanted: snow removal jobs in the Luverne area. Call 507-920-0573 to inquire. (11.12-12.31)

Work wanted for a senior companion: will do light house-keeping, laundry, groceries and shopping. Call 507-962-3214. (11.5-11.23)

RENTALS

For Rent: one-bedroom apartment near downtown Luverne. \$290 per month. No Pets. Call 605-201-6427. (tc)

Mobile Home for rent in Luverne: two-bedroom, one-bath, all appliances included. Water and sewer included. Call 605-366-7695 (11.5-11.23)

For Rent: two-bedroom apartment. Off street parking, on-site laundry, wall a/c, heat and water provided. Close to Senior Center and Post Office. Call 507-290-0266. (11.2-11.19)

For Rent: Two-bedroom apartment with central air. Water and heat and one-car garage included. On-site laundry. Quiet area. No smoking and no pets. Call 507-920-0406. (10.29-11.16)

For Rent: 2 Bedroom Duplex in Luverne. \$500 a month. No smokers, no pets. Call 507-227-1423 (11.16-12.3)

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Help Wanted: Hiawatha Manor Inc. has 2 Direct Support Professional positions available in Luverne, MN. Hours include paid sleep time! Position 1: Every Thursday 2p.m. to Friday 8:30 a.m. and Every Sunday 12 p.m. to Monday 8:30 a.m. Position 2: Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license, pass background study, and possess excellent life coaching skills, any additional training needed will be provided. For additional information regarding either position or to request an application call or text your inquiry to 605-530-4440. (11.9-11.26)

Drivers (CDL-A): Full-Time Holiday/Temporary Sioux Falls, SD Mail Route. \$20.40/hr + Fringe Benefits. Must meet DOT reg. Dizco Inc.: 1-855-979-4510. (11.9-11.19)

Elementary Paraprofessional for 2017-2018 school year. Hours: 8:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Candidate must have a two-year degree or 60 hours of college credits or be willing to fulfill the required competencies for eligibility. Person will work directly with students to meet individual needs. Generally, the individual will work with a small number of students in the classroom setting. Candidate will take direction from the classroom teacher and assist to meet student needs. Position opened until filled. Starting Date: November 13, 2017. For more details contact Mr. Jason Phelps at the elementary office. j.phelps@isd671.net or call 507-673-2541 ext. 11. An Equal Opportunity Employer. (11.5-11.16)

CNA: Parkview Manor is looking for CNAs! Benefits include health insurance, PERA retirement plan, holiday pay, and a \$2,000 scholarship available for students! We will provide training or pay for experience. Wages are based on experience level. If interested, contact Damell Krull at (507) 967-2388 or Sam Quam at (507) 967-2482. (tc)

Special Education Paraprofessional - multiple openings with SWWC Service Cooperative with placement at the Blue Mound Learning Center in Pipestone, MN. High school degree or GED required. Must pass ParaPro Test within first 3 months of employment. Starting at \$14.41/hour and up, depending on qualifications; working 7 hours per day. Complete online application at www.swsc.org/application. Position will remain open until filled. For more information or if you have questions please contact Steve Rops at 507-825-5858, ext. 2716 or steve.rops@swsc.org. EOE. (11.5-11.16)

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LPN, HOSPICE - PRN
PARAMEDIC - FT
RECEPTIONIST - PT
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Congratulations CARDINALS



The Luverne girls' cross country team turned in a sixth-place finish at the Minnesota State Class A Championships in Northfield Nov. 4. Team members include (front row, from left) Tenley Nelson, Madison Reisdorfer (alternate), Gabrielle Ferrell, Tiana Lais, (back) Brooklynn Ver Steeg, Autumn Nath, Regan Feit, Elizabeth Wagner and Cassie Flanagan (alternate). Photo courtesy Amy Feit



Luverne eighth-grader Tenley Nelson emerged as a medalist by placing fifth individually at the state meet in Northfield Nov. 4.



Luverne freshman Regan Feit made the all-state team for the second consecutive year after placing 15th at the state meet in Northfield Nov. 4.

6TH PLACE IN GIRLS CLASS A STATE CROSS COUNTRY

SECTION 3A CHAMPIONS

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE SMALL DIVISION CHAMPIONS

6TH

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