



Rock County STAR HERALD

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Thursday, December 31, 2015

Year in review: Star Herald recaps top stories of 2015

Headlines reveal recurring themes of progress in water, broadband, South Highway 75 construction and soil conservation

By Lori Sorenson

A glance at the Star Herald headlines in 2015 shows Rock County residents enjoyed a relatively stable year in terms of breaking news.

There were highlights of a bumper harvest, new school superintendent and the Palace turning 100, but the story of 2015 unfolded in recurring themes.

Headlines repeatedly shone light on soil conservation, Lewis and Clark water, fiber-to-the-home Internet access, recreational development for trails and water, and the long-awaited completion of Highway 75 improvements.

South Highway 75 improvements:

Bright orange cones, diverted driving lanes and detoured traffic makes the South Highway 75 construction story the most commanding in terms of its effects on daily life.

Luverne residents quickly learned to avoid the construction nightmares, but travelers from near and far found themselves navigating the maze of heavy equipment and workers in hardhats.

It was a trying summer for businesses along the Highway 75 corridor who tried to maintain business as

usual, despite the hurdles their customers encountered reaching them.

In the end, the three-year-long, \$2.7 million project resulted in a dream come true for visionaries of Luverne's southern gateway.

In addition to brand new infrastructure underground (new water and sewer lines) and green boulevards with uniform sidewalks above ground, the main drag through town had a new surface and safer three-lane traveling pattern.

Along with it, the **four corners** at the Main Street stoplight intersection are on their way to a matching facelift. The southeast corner is now

home to Luverne's \$35,000 flag park, complete with national, state, city and POW flags, a changing seasonal display and trademark Sioux quartzite boulders.

Coming soon to Highway 75: **pedestrian crossing lights at the school campus.** Safety concerns in this stretch of the highway have been in the news for over a decade, but 2015 was the year local officials took action.

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

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

Footings for the equipment were poured this fall and installation will be early in 2016.

Herman Motor expands and relocates:

Another exciting development with the Highway 75 improvements was the expansion and relocation of Luverne's Ford Dealership.

For more than 80 years, the Herman family sold cars in down-

Year in review/continued on 3A

County levy to increase 2.88 percent

By Mavis Fodness

Rock County Commissioners formally approved the 2016 county tax levy at \$5,153,362, which is 2.88 percent more than last year's levy.

The county's preliminary levy had been set to increase 3.88 percent, but at their Dec. 22 meeting, commissioners decided to allocate \$50,000 from the county reserves of \$105,000 in order to keep the levy lower.

No programs were affected by the reduction, and economics in the ag community were cited as the reason for the lower levy. For example, commodity prices are at or below the cost of production in 2015.

"If there is any way we can drop it a point, I am in favor," said Commissioner and Rock County farmer Stan Williamson about the levy increase.

Commissioners voted 4-1 to increase the levy 2.88 percent (rather than the proposed 3.88 percent). Chairman Ron Boyenga cast the only dissenting vote, a gesture meant as a message to keep spending within budget limits.

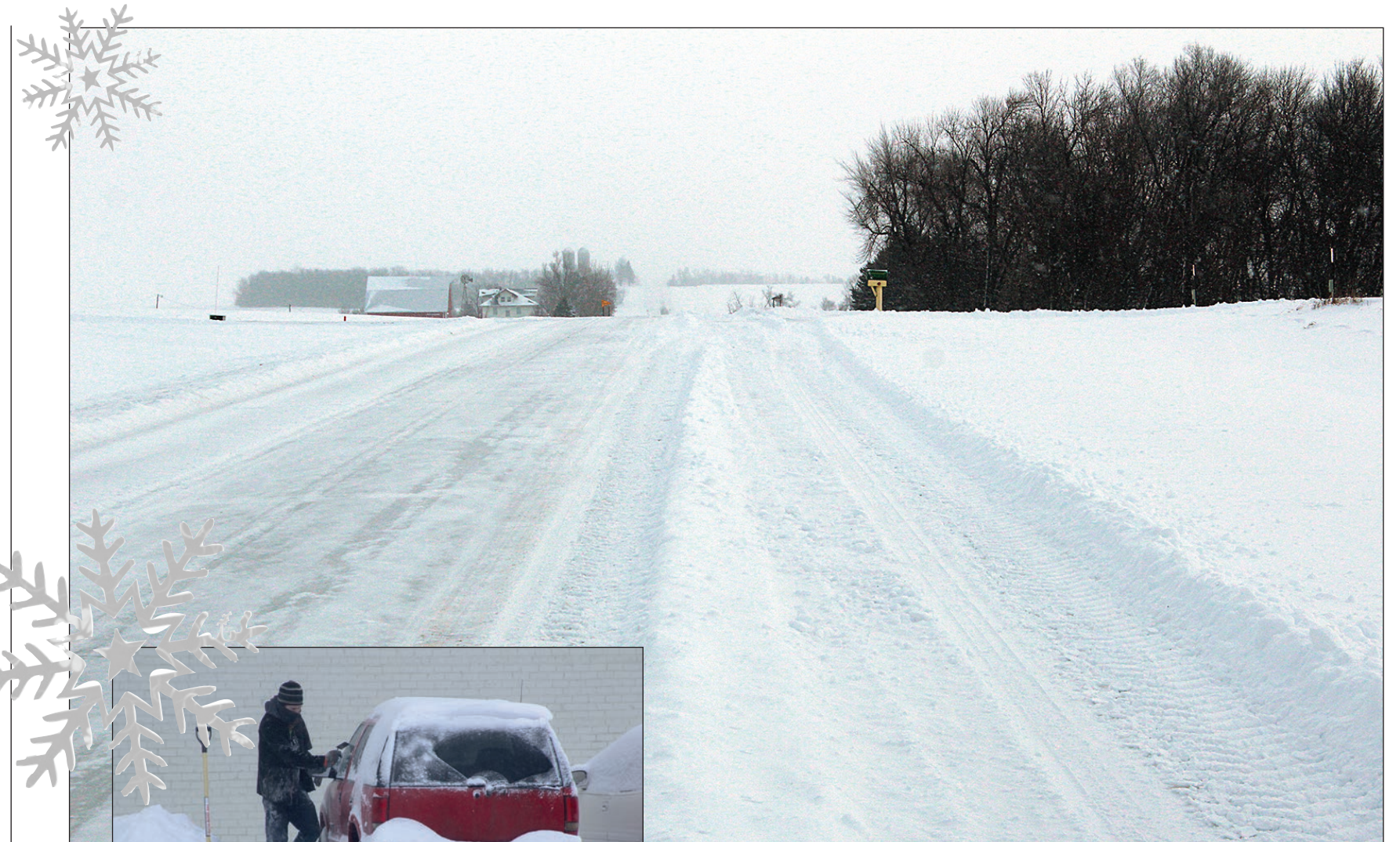
Net taxes on ag land drops 7.25 percent for 2016

Agricultural properties continue to comprise the majority of the tax base in Rock County, although the percentage for 2016 is slightly lower than previous years.

The information, presented at the county's annual annual Truth in Taxation hearing on Dec. 1 showed agricultural properties comprise 60.8 percent of total taxes paid next year, an increase of 3.71 percent from 2015. The other 39.2 percent is divided between residential (20.4 percent) and commercial/industrial (18.8 percent).

However, ag land's net taxes pay-

County levy/continued on 3A



Lori Sorenson photos/1231 snow shovel

Ian Shaffer-Paulsen digs out Tuesday morning after more than 6 inches of snow piled up on top of and around his vehicle parked in the lot east of the library.

Pictured above, rural county roads were passable but snow-covered Tuesday morning. This photograph was taken west of Luverne on County Road 5.

White Christmas keeps giving — 13.5 inches in all

By Lori Sorenson

A white Christmas arrived in Rock County Friday evening, Dec. 25, blanketing the area with roughly 7 inches of fresh snow.

Just to be thorough, Mother Nature followed up with another 6.5 inches Monday night into Tuesday morning, prompting a whole new round of cleanup.

The combined 13.5 inches in only a few days transformed the area into winter wonderland of snow-laden tree branches, porches

and rooftops.

By mid-morning Tuesday, snow banks along sidewalks, streets and roadways had climbed to more than waist-high and mountains of snow had piled up in parking lots and rural farmyards.

This, combined with calm winds and sunshine, provided perfect sledding opportunities for children enjoying their winter break from school.

City residents are asked to help keep snow cleared from fire hydrants, and rural residents are reminded it's unlawful to push snow on

roadways when clearing yards and driveways. This includes the ditch and right of way areas along roads.

While the mercury dipped below zero over the weekend, the forecast calls for more moderate temperatures for the remainder of the week.

Luverne volunteer weather recorder Troy Thone is working on his review of 2015 weather and will share that with the Star Herald for the Jan. 7 edition.



Submitted photo

Rain and muddy roads had delayed the move of Scott and Lisa Remme's house from Steen to east of Luverne for about a month until Wednesday, Dec. 23, when frost had made the roads more solid.

Steen farmhouse is moved to Luverne

By Mavis Fodness

Drivers in the east- and west-bound lanes of Interstate 90 may have been startled by a two-story house being transported over the bridge between Luverne and Magnolia Wednesday morning, Dec. 23.

No one was more apprehensive of the travel than the home's new owners, Scott and Lisa Remme of Luverne.

"It was very nerve-racking, exciting and scary all at the same time," Lisa said.

Since August the Remmes had been making plans to move the 1950s farmhouse from rural Steen to its final destination in Magnolia Township east of Luverne.

The 20-mile trip began Monday, Dec. 21, when house mov-

ers Berghorst & Sons of Hull, Iowa, prepared the building for travel.

The 28-by-42-foot, two-story structure was the childhood home of Glen Boeve, whose parents, Art and Henrietta Boeve, purchased the five-bedroom house in 1961.

The home provided one amenity the family didn't have before the move.

"When we moved from (Hull) Iowa, that home didn't have any indoor bathrooms," Glen recalled.

The new Minnesota home had two: one upstairs and one on the main floor.

For more than five decades, the house was home to three generations of Boeves, the last of whom was Glen's son Matt, who recently moved into a new home constructed near the family farm.

During the same decades, the

Boeves' cattle operation also grew, bringing the feedlots closer to the farmhouse. Flies, a cramped farmyard and stress of a remodeling project prompted the Boeves to give the home away.

"We were hoping someone could use it," Glen said.

For the Remmes, the home offered the character and charm that a new structure couldn't. The move-in home also hastened the timeline when the Remmes could move into the remodeled home, which they anticipate to be the summer of 2016.

Until then, plans call for the farmhouse to be extensively remodeled and include the adding of a family room, garage and wrap-around porch.

"It will pretty much look like a new house," Scott said.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Blue Mound Quilters will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, at the Luverne Senior Center. Members are to bring fabric for pillow cases for teen boys and 11 exchange blocks. Plans will be made for the quilt show.

Lady Luverne Red Hats will meet at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 8, at the Luverne Senior Dining Center for lunch. Members are asked to bring a Red Hat item for a rummage sale. RSVP by Wednesday, Jan. 6, to Luverne Senior Dining at 283-9846.

Rock County VFW #2757 will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12, at the Herreid Building. Call Buck Underood at 449-0632 with questions.

American Legion Post #123 and Auxiliary will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the post home.

Al-Anon meets at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays in the Buffalo Ridge Meeting Room (lower level) at the Sanford Medical Center in Luverne. Call Stephanie at 507-449-1246.

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. For more information call 507-220-0137.

Alcoholics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays in the Rock County Community Library. Call 605-321-4324.

Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon meet from 8 to 9 p.m. every Thursday in Runals Memorial Hall, Edgerton. Call Naomi, 507-215-2956, with questions.

Bank Nite movie 'Minions' Jan. 7

The free Bank Nite movie, "Minions," will begin at 6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, at the Palace Theatre in Luverne.

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

No book donations to library

Due to the lack of space while the Rock County Library undergoes renovation, the Friends of the Library request that all book donations be held until the remodeling work is complete.

Fifth/sixth-grade basketball tourney

Luverne Community Education will sponsor an invitational basketball tournament for grades 5-6 boys' and girls' basketball teams Saturday, Jan. 30. Each team will play at least two games in pool play format. Entry fee is \$100 per team. Register online at www.isd2184.net under Community Education, or call 507-2833-4724.

Community Ed

Register for these activities by calling Community Ed at 283-4724.

New residents — census information needed for preschool children: If you are new to the community, please call Community Education at 283-4724 with your family information for all children ages 0 up to kindergarten. The school district uses the information for planning purposes, mailing out flyers regarding school events, including the state-mandated preschool screening for all 3-year-old children living in Minnesota. If your child is 4 years old and has not been screened, please call 283-4724. The screening should be completed prior to kindergarten.

Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom: Families, daycares, and visitors are invited to play and learn in the Outdoor Classroom located on the southwest side of the Luverne school. This classroom is designed for preschoolers to learn by discovery and exploration. Enter under the arch on the path of engraved pavers. Additional pavers will be added each spring. For ordering information, call 283-4724. Times can be reserved for field trips.

Preschool Classes for ages 3 - 5 Years: Half day preschool classes are offered during the school year for children who are 3 years of age up to kindergarten age. Enrollments are accepted throughout the school year. Age is determined as of Sept. 1 of present school year. Free or reduced rates are available if income guidelines are met. Call 283-4724 for more information.

Com Ed seeks class ideas and instructors: Luverne Community Education prints a brochure of activities and classes three times each year. They are mailed out as an insert to the Luverne Announcer in September, January, and May. Do you have suggestions for new classes? Do you know of someone who would be willing to share their knowledge or craft with others? Suggestions are always welcome. Contact Community Education at 283-4724..

Local teens excel in VFW essay contest

H-BC students submit award-winning writing on topics, 'What Freedom Means to Me' and 'My Vision for America'

By Lori Sorenson

Two Rock County students will be honored for their writing skills at the Veterans of Foreign Wars District mid-winter meeting on Jan. 2 in Morton.

Eighth-grader Aleigha Glidewell and ninth-grader Mary-Frances Ladd, both in the Hills-Beaver Creek School District, wrote winning essays for the VFW scholarship competition, which recognizes excellence in original writing about patriotism and democracy.

Glidewell's essay in the Patriot's Pen category (for grades 6-8) won first place among local entries and first place at the district level competition. She received \$75 for her entry, written under the 2015 theme, "What Freedom Means to Me."

Ladd's essay in the Voice of Democracy category (for grades 9-12) won first place among local entries and third place at the district level competition. She received \$100 for her entry, written under the 2015 theme, "My Vision For America."

Both students are invited to attend the District Mid-Winter Meeting on Jan. 2, in Morton, where they will receive awards for their accomplishments. Glidewell's first-place essay will be entered into the state competition, and possibly national competition, which awards \$5,000 for the first-place winner.

"We are very happy with how well our local students did this year," said Luverne's Terrie Gulden, Rock County VFW Commander.

Gulden publicly recognized Glidewell and Ladd at the Nov. 11 Veterans Day program at the Blue Mound Banquet Center in Luverne, where the writers were invited to read their essays to audience members.

He also recognized all the winning essay writers in the local competition, which drew 26 total entries. Below are the names of the top three places in each division.

Voice Of Democracy

First Place - Mary-Frances Ladd, H-BC (ninth grade) \$100 award and third place in District 3 competition

Second - Ryleigh Beers, LHS (12th grade) \$75 award
Third Place - Riley Boese, H-BC (11th grade) \$50 award

Patriot's Pen

First Place - Aleigha Glidewell, H-BC (eighth grade) \$75 award and first place in District 3 competition

Second Place - Bryn Mongeau, H-BC (eighth grade) \$50 award

Third Place - Alli LaRock, H-BC (seventh grade) \$25 award



Eighth-grader Aleigha Glidewell (above) and ninth-grader Mary-Frances Ladd (left) wrote winning essays for the VFW scholarship competition.

"Where I live, there are very few restrictions. You are allowed your own opinion. Career choices are endless. There are plenty of opportunities to learn, explore, and do many things. Taking your own path is encouraged. Any religion is allowed, from Judaism to Hinduism. My mind is my own. I have the right to make my own decisions based on my experiences and beliefs. I have the right to ask questions and state my opinion. I do not have to fear governmental retaliation."

— Aleigha Glidewell

'What Freedom Means to Me' by Aleigha Glidewell

People all over the world have a different idea of freedom. What does freedom mean to you? To me freedom means having the opportunity to be yourself. Here in America, we have a lot of opportunities to express ourselves. Other countries do not have the carefree lives Americans have.

Where I live, there are very few restrictions. You are allowed your own opinion. Career choices are endless. There are plenty of opportunities to learn, explore, and do many things. Taking your own path is encouraged.

Any religion is allowed, from Judaism to Hinduism. My mind is my own. I have the right to make my own decisions based on my experiences and beliefs. I have the right to ask questions and state my opinion. I do not have to fear governmental retaliation.

Freedom means I have freedom from fear. I have freedom to pursue my education without fear of being kidnapped or forced into an abusive marriage. I have freedom to go to a church and not fear that my family or I will be tortured.

I have freedom to learn about other cultures and not be persecuted. I have freedom to pursue my interests and not worry that my goals and desires are inappropriate for my gender or social status.

Freedom is the right to share my freedom with the numerous refugees that come to America every year in search of better lives.

Freedom is the right to volunteer and help the homeless in our country. Freedom is the right to listen to the stories of others and make a change in our world. That is what freedom is to me.

Freedom is the soaring of the Bald Eagle through the sky in search of food and home.

Freedom is the dream of America! We must work together to bring this freedom to fruition.

Freedom means I have a choice.

'My Vision for America,' by Mary Frances Ladd

I had a dream about America. A dream where God is the head of every home and faith is where every leader stands firm and is not swayed by big money or big promises. A vision where we look at others and see only one race — the human race. Not ethnicity, or gender, but a mind that is capable of great things. A brain that has dreams, hopes, and fascinating ideas that are yet to be created.

A country where those who are blessed richly reach out a hand and pick up those who have fallen down

and been trampled.

Our forefathers had a vision for this country as they gathered countless hours around a table writing the Constitution. They saw a country full of promise, freedom, and unity. A Nation under God ... indivisible ... with unity and justice for all. What do we see today? Wars, poverty, and crime? Yes, but maybe we should look closer. There is so much good in the world! Environmental cleanup and charity, medical research, and soup kitchens! When it appears the bad is outweighing the good, we must focus on the good in order to overcome the bad!

Wars are something we see a lot of today. But I have a dream where peace is attainable. Peace is not a big movement of thousands of people. But where does peace begin? Peace begins with one. One helping others, one standing in the way of bullying, and one being kind. Peace is you, one out of 320 million Americans. You do matter, and together as a country we can grow peace. A wise man once said, "Do not ask what your country can do for you ... but what you can do for your country." One person at a time we can make the dream of peace a reality.

Bullying is a very prominent issue in today's society. I have been bullied many times, and it is one of the worst feelings I ever had. I felt as though I was worthless and unwanted. Our society today could be considered very much like a bully, strong and powerful on the outside, but very troubled and at war with itself on the inside. But what is a bully most of all? Broken, just as broken as they make their victims feel. Our country is broken ... but definitely not unfixable.

I have a dream. Can't you see it too? Close your eyes and let your mind paint the picture. Look closer. Can't you see America coming out from their homes and down from the apartments? Can't you see them gathering together and holding hands?

Try to imagine them kneeling down and bowing their heads at the flag as they say, "In God we trust ..." All this seems impossible given America's situation today, but I think America has a bright future.

I have a vision that maybe if all the wars stopped, if all the prejudice and judging ceased, if all the addicts glanced up from their phones, and if everyone put their neighbor first ... maybe - just maybe - the impossible wouldn't seem so impossible after all.



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School levy increases 1.9 percent, driver's education fees go up, enrollment is steady

By Mavis Fodness

Luverne School District will receive an additional \$48,638 as a result of setting a 1.9-percent levy increase for 2016.

School Board members unanimously approved the final levy at their regular Dec. 17 meeting that included the annual Truth in Taxation hearing.

The hearing is required by school districts to discuss and receive public input on the preliminary levy and the current budget.

No one from the public addressed the board.

The increase in the 2016 levy brings the district's revenue from property taxes to just over \$2.5 million for 2016.

The local amount represents 17 percent of the district's \$17.8 million budget. The rest of the district's revenue comes from the state (73 percent) with 4 percent from the federal government and 6 percent from other sources.

The district's budget reflects the results of a bond refund in 2014. The move to a lower interest rate resulted in a savings of \$140,000. About half that amount (\$76,890) was allocated to this year's levy.

"We could have put some of that toward last year's levy but felt it was better we split it into two — this year's and next year's levy," said Marlene Mann, the district's business manager.

Mann said voters approved building the current elementary school in the late

1990s. The last payment for this building will be in February 2018.

Mann also explained state officials use student enrollment to allocate monies to the district.

Luverne's enrollment stayed constant in the last five years, she said. The lowest occurred in 2010 at 1,186 with the highest (1,199) occurring in 2012 and again in 2015.

Enrollment figures are weighted, called pupil units, in the state's formula, Mann said. The formula changed in June 2015.

The change has students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade at 1.0 pupil units. Previously pupil units ranged from 0.612 to 1.25. Grades 7-12 were lowered from 1.3 to the current 1.2 per pupil unit under the change.

In 2014 the state reinstated a 10-percent holdback of funding. Mann said as of June 30, 2015, the state owes \$732,172. The amount is reflected in the district's fund balance.

For 2014-15 the district spent \$17.7 million, and for 2015-16 the district anticipates spending \$18.4 million.

In other business, the board:

- supported increasing the student driver's education program fee to \$300. The increase reflects an instructor salary increase to \$25 per hour for classroom and behind wheel instructors.

- approved Matt McClure and Todd Frankenhoff as volunteer boys' hockey coaches.



Lori Sorenson file photos/1231 highway 75

The photograph above was taken in September 2014 and shows Highway 75 in Luverne as it was with four lanes of traffic. The photograph below, taken this summer after restriping, shows the new three-lane system.

Year in Review — top stories of 2015/continued from page 1A

town Luverne, but that all changed this summer when Herman Motors moved into its brand new dealership on South Highway 75.

The \$2 million project, which nearly doubled the inventory space, received a financial boost from the city of Luverne in the form of tax increment financing.

The economic incentive tool hadn't been used in a number of years, but the city found the Herman project to be a perfect application of TIF, which promotes growth while removing blight.

The properties formerly occupying the 430 feet along the west side of the highway included the Cenex station, the car wash and the triangle-shaped building that once was a coffee shop. They were owned by Eastern Farmers Union.

History Center opening soon on Main Street

The other exciting story that goes hand-in-hand with the Herman Motors development is The History Center's plans to open in the former Ford Dealership on East Main Street.

The Rock County Historical Society purchased the 100-year-old Ford building in May for \$150,000. As soon as the auto business moved out, work began to transform the 11,000 square feet into display spaces, research quarters and rotating exhibits for the Historical Society.

The endearing side story to the History Center news is the stunning \$150,000 in donations that poured in as a result of the Betty Mann 85th Birthday Fund Drive. Helping to make that total possible was an anonymous donor who

matched the \$75,000 in donations dollar for dollar.

Mann, Rock County's "sweetheart of history," cried tears of joy when asked about the birthday card proceeds. "I have been absolutely blown away," she said. "I could never have expected this."

The new building will address problems that Mann has struggled to address at the museum's current location on North Freeman Avenue in the Masonic Lodge building. It will have adequate space, be handicap-accessible and will prominently display history in a central part of the community.

Tax-deductible donations (which continue to be matched) to the Rock County Historical Society Endowment Fund are still being accepted at PO Box 741, Luverne MN 56156.

Year in review/continued on 5A

County levy/continued from 1A

able in 2016 decreased 7.25 percent, according to Tom Houselog, Rock County Land Records director.

The county receives about half of its annual budget monies from local property taxes. The tax burden is spread over three property classifications with the net taxes payable in Rock County shared between government entities.

While ag land saw a decrease for 2016 in net tax capacity, residential and commercial/industrial properties increased 4.65 percent and 5.63 percent respectively.

Rock County's 2016 net property taxes will generate just over \$13.3 million, a 2.4-percent increase over 2015.

Annual Truth In Taxation meetings are required by each governmental entity that utilizes property taxes for funding. At these meetings, upcoming budget information

is presented and the public is allowed to make comments.

No one from the public attended the county's required meeting.

County reserves still within state guidelines

The state auditor's office recommends that a county keep at least five months of expenditures within its general fund.

According to Rock County's audit ending Dec. 31, 2014, it has 6.6 months in reserve, down from an average of 10.59 months over the past two years.

The reduction is due to the flooding events in 2014 and the expenses involved in repairing the county's infrastructure. Many of these expenses have since been reimbursed from the state and federal governments' emergency management funds.



Greater protection available through FSA program

Greater protection is available through FSA's Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for crops for which Federal Crop Insurance is not available.

Options created by the 2014 Farm Bill, provide greater coverage for losses when natural disasters affect eligible crops.

Previously NAP offered coverage at 55 percent of the average market price for crop losses that exceed 50 percent of expected production.

Producers can now choose higher levels of coverage, up to 65 percent of their expected production at 100 percent of the average market price.

To help producers determine whether their crops are eligible for NAP coverage, a Web tool is available at www.fsa.usda.gov/nap.

It also gives them an opportunity to explore a variety of options and levels to determine the best production level for their operation.

The cost for the higher coverage protection will be the lesser of 5.25 percent of the producer's guarantee or \$6,563 plus the applicable

NAP administrative fee(s). The NAP administrative fee per policy is \$250 per crop per producer with a \$750 cap per county.

NAP coverage begins 30 days after the application is filed and the non-refundable administrative fee has been paid.

Producers that are considered limited resource, a beginning farmer, and/or traditionally underserved, as determined by FSA provisions, would have the service fee waived and a premium reduction for the expanded coverage.

Remaining 2016 NAP application closing dates are Feb. 1 for Maple sap, March 15 for spring-seeded crops and pasture, and May 2 for ornamental nursery.

2017 NAP application coverage closing dates are:

- Sept. 1, 2016 - Value loss crops, controlled environment crops, and fall-seeded annual crops (rye);
- Sept. 30, 2016 - perennial forage crops and wild rice;

- Nov. 21, 2016 - perennial fruits and vegetables;
- Dec. 1, 2016 - honey;
- Feb. 1, 2017 - maple sap;

March 15, 2017 - spring-seeded crops and pasture;

May 1, 2017 - ornamental nursery.

Producers who currently

have NAP coverage or who

are interested in coverage

need to keep an accurate

record of their production,

report acreage of the crops to FSA annually and promptly notify FSA when losses occur.

Producers with questions on NAP coverage should contact the Rock County FSA Office at 283-2369 ext. 2 prior to the applicable application deadline.

Medicare covers remarkable new device that can give seniors relief from lower back pain
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Fascination with PBS show leads to thoughts of 4,868-mile road trip

"This Old House," "Fixer Upper" and "Property Brothers" are among my favorite home improvement shows. It's exciting to watch the resurrection of a once-loved home into a structure that is cared for again.



RUMINATIONS

By Mavis Fodness, Reporter

Recently I have become a big fan of cooking shows and one in particular — so much so that I am contemplating a road trip.

Chef & The Farmer is the name of a restaurant located in Kinston, North Carolina, and it is approximately 1,434 miles from my front door.

I know the mileage and the time it takes to drive there (23 hours) because I seriously would like to dine and spend a night in Kinston.

The restaurant is the central backdrop to the PBS show "A Chef's Life." The half-hour documentary series follows chef Vivian Ward as she returns to her hometown in Lenoir County with her husband, Ben Knight, and their young twins, Theo and Flo.

Now in its second season, the show follows Vivian as she recreates meals from her childhood. These foods use the produce and livestock directly from area farmers. Vivian then puts her own twist on these dishes, and they are available on the Chef & The Farmer menu.

The blueberry barbecue chicken looks and sounds fantastic! It was the result of what to do with 500 pounds of fresh blueberries. Butterbeans led to the creation of the butterbean burger, and strawberries led to coconut cornbread strawberry shortcakes.

The shows are interesting and don't just involve cooking. The viewer gets to see the farms where the produce or the livestock used in the restaurant is grown.

Use of local farmers led to

the introduction of one producer in particular — Warren Brothers. He and his wife, Jane, also operate a bed and breakfast called Brothers Farm Experience.

Brothers comes across as a funny type of guy, proud of his homegrown produce, and he often says he can cook better than Vivian can. The brother-sister rivalry is fun to watch and one with which I can identify.

I can also identify with the food that is prepared. I hope I am creating a memory for my own family that they like to duplicate. The rich family history Vivian gleans from a reluctant mom is priceless.

Watching one show in particular brought the realization to me I could travel to Kinston and eat at the restaurant. I feel like I have been invited. Sealing the deal was the possibility of staying in the bed and breakfast.

However, reservations for both cannot be done at the spur of the moment. The list is months long, a realization that has temporarily put the brakes on my spontaneous 2,868-mile road trip adventure.

But the brakes are only temporary.

In the meantime, I have picked up on a shopping destination to the Magnolia Market in Waco, Texas, a 1,294-mile drive from Kinston, North Carolina. Magnolia Market recently opened in a former grain elevator and is the idea of Joanne and Chip Gaines. The couple is the force behind "Fixer Upper."

I don't need a reservation to the Market (as I would to a restaurant). Best part is, it's only 939 miles from my front door.

Year at a glance ... according to the Star Herald

We at the Star Herald take our Year in Review coverage seriously, in part because it's a way for us to look back at our work and assess how thorough (or not) we've been.

People often ask our news reporters, "Do you ever run out of things to put in the paper?" And there's never hesitation in our response: "No. Never."

Rock County is a happening place to be, and there's never a shortage of news about our communities and their people.

In a good year, there's mostly good news — about accomplishments, celebrations and endearing features.

Inevitably, there's some bad news at some point in the year, and all good community newspapers cover the good with the bad. After all, overcoming hardships and mistakes is what makes us stronger in the end, and we

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

want to be part of it all.

Recapping the top stories of the year offers an opportunity to step back and see the big picture — how one thing or idea affects another and how one person's enthusiasm for change can inspire a whole set of changes.

Take a moment to scan the Year in Review coverage and notice the strides we've made in Rock County.

More than anything, though,

reviewing a year of local Star Herald pages reminds us what a privilege it is to be part of this wonderful community and so connected close to the people who make this county great.

Thank you, dear readers, for another really good year in Rock County. We wish you all the best in 2016 and look forward to chronicling all the events and activities that shape our lives and define who we are.

Happy New Year!



Permit to carry only applies to handguns

Question: If a person has a permit to carry in Minnesota, can they transport a loaded rifle or shotgun in a vehicle?



Answer: The permit to carry law applies only to handguns, so the answer is no with some exceptions.

MS 97B.045 - A person may not transport a firearm in a motor vehicle unless the firearm is:

- (1) unloaded and in a gun case expressly made to contain a firearm, and the case fully encloses the firearm by being zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened, and without any portion of the firearm exposed;
- (2) unloaded and in the closed trunk of a motor vehicle; or
- (3) a handgun carried in compliance with sections 624.714 and 624.715

Subd. 3. **Exceptions; hunting and shooting ranges** - a person may transport an **unloaded, uncased** firearm, excluding a pistol, in a motor vehicle while at a shoot-

ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol

ing range, lawfully hunting on private or public land; or travelling to or from a site the person intends to hunt lawfully that day or has hunted lawfully that day, unless:

- (1) within Anoka, Hennepin, or Ramsey County;
- (2) within the boundaries of a home rule charter or statutory city with a population of 2,500 or more;
- (3) on school grounds

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

Schomacker hosts deer hunting town hall meeting; frustrations voiced

Rep. Joe Schomacker (R-Luverne) hosted a Town Hall last Tuesday, Dec. 22, for concerned deer hunters in southwest Minnesota to express their frustrations regarding the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) management of the deer herd. Over 50 deer hunters attended the Town Hall at Beaver Creek Archery Club in Slayton to hear from Rep. Schomacker, who was joined by Rep. Tom Hackbarth (R-Cedar), and Senator Bill Weber (R-Luverne). Hackbarth is an avid hunter and the chair of the House Mining and Outdoor Recreation Policy Committee.

The event was coordinated by Gary Clark and other local deer hunters frustrated with the DNR's management of the deer population in southwest Minnesota. Clark fears that unless changes are made in the DNR's deer management strategy, hunters will soon be forced to seek opportunities to hunt out of state.

Frustrations that were voiced included doe-only zoning for this year's hunting season, ecosystem and forestry management decisions, permitting for youth hunting, and the lack of updated hunter satisfaction data from hunters in the area. The most recent data collected and discussed by DNR officials was from 2012.

Legislators also discussed the newly man-

dated Hunter Satisfaction Survey, which is the result of legislation in the 2015 Game and Fish Bill. The bill sponsored by Rep. Hackbarth requires the DNR to not only conduct an annual statewide hunter satisfaction survey but also to post the results online.

The legislation is different from past years in that it mandates the survey be conducted annually, no later than Jan. 1 for the preceding fiscal year, and that the results be published online and released to chairs and ranking minority members of the House of Representatives and Senate committees with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources policies.

A number of Wildlife staff from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources were also in attendance at Tuesday's Town Hall, including Regional Wildlife Manager David Trauba, Area Wildlife Manager Bill Schuna, Gino DeAngelo of MNDNR Wildlife Research, and Capt. Cory Palmer of MNDNR Enforcement.

This meeting was the first in a series of Town Hall meetings that Rep. Hackbarth will attend around the state during late 2015 and early 2016 to hear from area legislators and their constituents about various outdoor or recreation policy concerns leading into the 2016 session.

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

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

ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report Dec. 18

•Complainant reported she was sitting in her apartment watching a movie and someone threw a brick through her window. She ran out the front and left. Deputy reported victim is unwilling to file any charges and is being uncooperative.

•Complainant reported that someone drove on their yard and started taking pictures. Her husband asked what he was doing and he said they should've gotten a letter from a bank saying he would be there. They did not receive a letter and wanted to know what could be done about it. They were told to call their bank and insurance company.

•Jackson County arrested subject on a Rock County warrant. Subject was taken to the Noble County jail.

•Complainant reported subject put a GPS in her car. Deputy reported there is no GPS; it's part of the car.

•Complainant reported subject is blackmailing complainant and not giving items back that complainant's fiancé gave to complainant's daughter to keep at complainant's home.

•Dispatcher received a 911 call from Magnolia. Busy on call-back. Subject answered finally and said she was having trouble with her phone. Everything is OK.

Dec. 19

•Complainant reported when they went back to the garage, a guy ducked down in his car, as if he were trying to hide from them. Deputy went and spoke with the guy.

•Deputy arrested subject for DWI in Steen. Subject was taken to jail.

•Complainant reported man was at a house on East Warren and there is a warrant out for him.

•Deputy arrested subject on a warrant out of Carver County and took him to jail.

•Complainant reported he swerved to miss something running in the road and he hit a mailbox in Beaver Creek.

•Complainant requested a deputy to help with her neighbor who is drunk and yelling at her. He just got out of jail today and is to abstain from any use of drugs and alcohol.

Dec. 20

•Complainant reported a white car on County Road 6 south side of I-90 all over the road, going way too fast. Complainant is afraid they went into the ditch with the slick roads, but they are unable to stop.

•Complainant reported someone tried to break into his house last night. Complainant believes it was his ex.

•Complainant reported vandalism to a fence.

•Complainant reported a cinder block lying in the road at Dodge and Kniss.

•Complainant reported a white van stopped as she was walking home from work and now she is frightened.

Dec. 21

•Complainant reported that a newer red Impala with an older woman driving blew through the

crossing guard's sign at Barck and Hwy. 75. If the child hadn't run across the street, the woman would've hit him.

•Complainant requested help with child. Brought child to sheriff's department and contacted Southwest Health and Human Services for a social worker.

•Complainant reported her carbon Monoxide detector is going off. Paged Luverne Fire Department.

Dec. 22

•Complainant reported they lost electricity in their building. Notified city electric department.

•Complainant reported they pinged the phone of a suicidal individual and it appears he's in Luverne. They called back a half hour later and said we could disregard. They located him.

•Complainant reported that his vehicle is parked on East Crawford and someone vandalized it.

•Complainant reported that he drove by a vehicle that was sitting on the road and running but didn't appear to have anyone in it or around the vehicle. It's on 101st Street, a couple of miles west of the vet clinic.

Dec. 23

•Complainant reported he has been receiving harassing text messages.

•Complainant requested lift assistance for a man who fell out of his wheelchair.

•Complainant requested a building escort to move a house.

•Complainant turned herself in on a warrant out of Martin County. Complainant paid the bond and was released.

Dec. 24

•Deputy stopped vehicle and cited driver for no Minnesota driver's license and no proof of insurance. Vehicle was towed by Erwin's.

•Complainant reported an alarm at a business. Contacted keyholder and sent deputy.

•Complainant reported his neighbor was doing some digging and did some on his property. He was told to take pictures and document it and if the neighbor comes on his property again to call while he's there. Civil matter.

•Complainant reported a criminal sexual abuse.

•Complainant requested a residence check for a week.

•Complainant reported subject abandoned some property in Hills and there's letters from the bank posted all over the outside of the house. Someone is trying to get in through the windows and doors. Sent deputy.

•Complainant requested a welfare check on her daughter.

•Deputy arrested subject for a DWI and took him to jail.

In addition, officers responded to 3 motor vehicle accidents, 2 deer accidents, 4 funeral escorts, 17 ambulance runs, 5 paper services, 2 fingerprint requests, 2 driver's license checks, 7 log/alarm sheets, 5 drug court tests, and issued 24 purchase/carry permits and 2 burn permits.



Chantel Connell photo/1231 Accident 1225

Two people from Sioux Falls were injured in a Christmas Day crash on Interstate 90, west of Beaver Creek.

Two injured in I-90 Christmas Day crash

By Mavis Fodness

A Sioux Falls couple received non-life-threatening injuries in a rollover accident on Interstate 90, three miles east of the state line at 1:42 p.m. Friday, Dec. 25.

Fred Bryner, 87, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was driving westbound

in a 2014 Mercedes when it traveled into the median and rolled, according to the initial Minnesota State Patrol accident report.

Roslyn Bryner, 79, also of Sioux Falls, was a passenger in the vehicle. Both were transported to Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Road conditions were dry at the time of the accident and both individuals were wearing seatbelts.

The vehicle was totaled. Rock County Sheriff's Office, Beaver Creek Fire Department and Rock County Ambulance assisted at the scene.

Year in Review — top stories of 2015/continued from page 3A

Historic Palace Theatre turns 100 years old

In other history-related news, Luverne's historic gem, the Palace Theatre, turned 100 years old in 2015. While the official anniversary was in September, Palace volunteers and local talented artists celebrated all year long.

For example, in April, the Blue Mound Opry returned to the Palace stage with a reunion of former Opry stars. The official celebration on Sept. 20 featured a silent movie, "The General," accompanied by Leona Hoek on the Palace's 1925 Smith Geneva organ.

The Sept. 17 Star Herald preview coverage of the event featured quotes from the 1915 Rock County Herald, which called the Palace "one of the most splendid opera houses in the state."

It also featured local volunteers and board members who worked tirelessly through the decades to keep the Palace doors open and the building preserved.

"We've managed to keep it going as a community jewel," Heidi Sehr said in the Sept. 17 story. "The fact that there's always something going on there is a testament to the Palace and the community that supports it."

Conservation farming

While drought, flood, ice damage and other acts of nature dominated headlines in recent years, 2015 headlines told the story of recovery.

Widespread flooding of 2014 and some ill-timed downpours in the spring of 2015 did a number on Rock County's rich, fertile fields.

Rushing water carried untold tons of topsoil through deep gullies that cut through fields and deposited it into ditches and along stream banks and riverbeds.

This damage coincided with Gov. Mark Dayton's "buffer law" that mandates grassy strips along Minnesota's vulnerable streams and waterways.

Rock County's Land Management Office has for decades been urging farmers to implement conservation

measures to protect topsoil and subsequently water supplies, but 2015 may go down in history as the turning point in the discussion.

With increased opportunities for cost-share dollars, fear of sweeping mandates and more evidence than ever of nature's fury, Rock County's farmers are getting on board to protect topsoil and vulnerable water supplies.

As Jason Fick put it in a Dec. 17 Star Herald story, "As time goes on, people have to be willing to take the measures that need to be taken on their own property to alleviate the problems we're seeing. Otherwise we're going to be forced into programs that aren't necessarily right for us."

Bumper crop, record land sale: With a 2015 bumper crop, and a new record land sale Rock County's topsoil is more valuable than ever.

A headline in the Oct. 29 Star Herald reported Rock County fields were yielding upwards of 200 bushels per acre of corn and more than 60 bushels per acre of soybeans in some locations. An ideal growing season with timely rains and ideal harvest conditions supported the 2015 successful farming season.

Commodity prices, however, weren't headline news. Regional cash grain prices are \$3.40 to \$3.50 per bushel for corn, and \$8 to \$8.30 per bushel for soybeans, as we end 2015. These prices are less than half what farmers enjoyed only a few years ago.

That didn't stop one local landowner from paying \$19,000 per acre for an 80-acre parcel of land near Steen on Dec. 17. That amount tops Rock County's previous land sale of \$16,200 per acre set in 2012.

Broadband coming soon

One of Rock County's most exciting stories in 2015 hasn't happened yet, at least in Rock County homes.

Alliance Communication Cooperative broke ground on Sept. 8 for

its \$14 million project to bring fiber-to-the-home high-speed Internet to unserved and underserved rural residents in Rock County.

In the grant application to the state of Minnesota, 1,300 residences and businesses currently do not have access to high-speed Internet.

For many, this meant an inability to conduct business, connect with health services and other tasks that require adequate Internet service.

Once connected by the end of 2016, these locations are promised Internet speeds equal to or greater than what's currently offered in Luverne.

Lewis and Clark water reaches Rock County.

Next up, Luverne: In another mark of progress, the long-awaited Lewis and Clark Regional Water System connected with Rock County Rural Water in the spring of 2015.

The water, which is piped from the Missouri River aquifer, officially arrived in Rock County with the completion of a meter building south of Hills.

Rural water, which is overseen by the Rock County Commission, has reserved 300,000 gallons a day from the Lewis and Clark system.

Luverne, which was supposed to have been connected by the end of the year, has reserved 821,000 gallons per day.

The members intend to use only part of their reserved allocation to supplement existing water supplies.

When complete, the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System will provide treated water from the Missouri River aquifer to more than 300,000 people in the tri-state area.

Lewis and Clark is currently delivering water to 11 of its 20 members. Luverne, which first joined the Lewis and Clark effort 25 years ago, will be the 13th member connected early in 2016.

Year in review/continued on 8A

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2005 Chevy Avalanche



Stock #272654U
131K

Papik Price \$12,900

2014 Chev Silverado LTZ



Stock #298366N
56K

Papik Price \$34,900

2011 Ford F-150



Stock #77294U
45K

Papik Price \$29,900

2010 GMC Sierra SLE



Stock #300911U
56K

Papik Price \$24,900



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Submitted photo

Rock's Robotics, the county's 4-H robotics team, will be competing at the state tournament in late January 2016. Members competing at the recent regional qualifier were Zoe Perkins, Cassie Chesley, Brandon Berghorst, Zoey Berghorst, Carter Abels, coach Randy Berghorst, Alex Dysthe, Quentin Johnson, coach Jason Braucht, Burke Johnson, Ethan Braucht and Leif Tollefson. **Below:** Members prepare for competition.

Local robotics team first to compete at state

By Mavis Fodness

Rock's Robotics will be the first Rock County 4-H robotics team to compete at the First Lego League's Championships.

The event takes place in late January 2016.

Earlier this month the 10-member local team participated in the regional FLL qualifying event at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where the team was judged in four elements: project presentation, robot engineering explanation, core building exercise and the robot battles.

The team performed well and earned the opportunity to compete at the state level.

"The kids did well in a couple of areas, so I had a good idea they could go on to the state event," said second-year coach Jason

Braucht.

Team members Zoe Perkins, Cassie Chesley, Brandon Berghorst, Zoey Berghorst, Carter Abels, Alex Dysthe, Quentin Johnson, Burke Johnson, Ethan Braucht and Leif Tollefson qualified 13th out of 20 teams at the regional event.

Each year the FLL organizes around a central theme. This year's theme is Trash Trek.

As a project presentation, the team chose composting, which Braucht said members would modify based on the regional judges' comments before presenting again the state competition, also conducted at Augustana.

"They are pretty excited," coach Braucht said. "I don't think they expected to qualify." Randy Berghorst also serves as coach.



REMEMBER WHEN

10 years ago (2005)

The Luverne High School all-weather track will finally be replaced thanks to School Board action at the Thursday, Dec. 22, meeting. ...

The estimated \$200,000 track replacement has been in the district's capitol outlay plan for five years, but other expenditures have taken priority.

20 years ago (1995)

The Luverne Economic Development Authority voted Dec. 15 to purchase land west of Luverne for future development. The land is on the north side of County Road 4, south of the Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Center. The EDA bought 32.84 acres from Stuart Sybesma for \$103,000.

50 years ago (1965)

The idea of forming an (hospital) auxiliary has been under discussion for a long time in Luverne. Last October, a nucleus group was formed. Out of this spearheading organization the Pink Ladies were formed.

Officers named on October 15

were: Mrs. Ernest Hamann, president; Mrs. Les Murphy, vice president; Mrs. Roland Swanson, vice president; Mrs. Albert Peterson, secretary; and Mrs. P. D. Stephenson, treasurer. Dues were set at \$1 per year.

75 years ago (1940)

The new Rock County Sportsmen's club will stage a rabbit hunt Sunday, Charles W. Soutar, who is in charge of arrangements, announced yesterday. Hunters are asked to meet at the E. L. Connell Chevrolet garage at 10 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon.

Last Sunday's rabbit hunt netted the 55 hunters who took part a total of 163 victims.

100 years ago (1915)

Edwin Huffman, of Chicago, advance agent for the company that will present "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine" at the New Palace on next Thursday evening, Jan. 6th, was in the city the first of the week, not only making arrangements for the coming of his company, but renewing a number of old acquaintances.

1923: Health clinics set up at different locations

The following appeared in the Rock County Herald on September 28, 1923:

CHILD HEALTH CLINICS TO BE HELD OCT. 6-11

Specialist to Hold Clinics at Luverne, Ashcreek, Kenneth, Kanaranzi and Hardwick

Infant and children's clinics, under the direction of the Rock County Public Health association, will be held at five different points in the county from October 6th to 11th. The first clinic will be held in Luverne on Saturday, October 6th; at Ashcreek on Monday, the 8th; Kenneth, Tuesday, the 9th; Kanaranzi, Wednesday, the 10th, and Hardwick on Thursday, the 11th.

Clinic will begin at nine o'clock in the morning and continue until four-thirty in the afternoon each day, and will be conducted by a doctor who specializes in children's diseases. It is free to every one—all expense in connection with it will be paid from funds derived from the sale of Christmas seals.



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann, president, Rock County Historical Society

The clinics are scientific in nature and the doctor will be there for the purpose of discovering physical imperfections and to give advice concerning them so that they can be corrected before they become permanent defects. The doctor will tell each mother the exact condition of her child, suggest the diet, make the diagnosis and leave to the parents the choice of any physician they may desire to do any prescribing or give the treatment necessary for the child.

Children of school age, if accompanied by their parents, will also be examined. The child's weight for his height and age is the best index of his general health. If parents have boys or

girls below the standard weight for their height and age, they are urged to bring them to the clinic and have the physician explain what each particular child must do to bring up his weight and grow to be strong and healthy. It will cost you nothing to find out what is troubling the child, and an examination in time may prevent a great deal of future trouble.

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

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iwi.net.

DARE students graduate



Rock County Deputy Mike DeJong ended the Fall 2015 DARE program at Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary School with a graduation ceremony on Thursday, Dec. 17. The fifth-grade class has been participating in weekly classes focused on drug education. Minnesota DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a prevention and education program that advocates and educates for healthy and safe children.

Pictured are the 2015 DARE graduates (front, from left) Britton McKenzie, Cole Rozeboom, Laura Roelfs, Madison Doonan, Jenifer Martinyuk, Caitlyn Brinson, Brock Harnack, Anthony Beaner, Taylor Frederickson, (middle row) Riley Sheppard, Noah Swenson, Alex Harris, Brayden Metzger, Holly Harron, Ariana Meyer, Alexis Eastman, Ellynor Klosterbuer, Sophia VanSurksom, (back) Deputy Mike DeJong, Luke Fuerstenberg, Collin Schoneman, Tyrae Goodface, Devon Dysthe, Cody Moser, Taylor Huisman, Carter Abels, Alexandra Drake, Leif Tollefson and Elisha Taubert.

Submitted photo/1231 D.A.R.E. graduation

Stoel's 'Got Mail' tree named festival winner

By Mavis Fodness

More than 70 handmade cards decorated this year's winner of the Carnegie Cultural Center Festival of Trees contest.

Winner Lorraine Stoel earned the first-place award of \$50 for her tree design called "Got Mail." Her tree displayed her handmade paper cards using iris folding, a paper folding technique.

According to information displayed with her tree, the iris folding technique originated in Holland in the 1770s and involves the folding of paper or ribbon to resemble the iris of an eye or lens of a camera. The pattern gives the illusion of a spiral although it was folded from a square piece of paper. The pattern or series of patterns are glued or taped onto card-stock frames to complete the design.

Stoel began making cards featuring the iris folding technique almost a year ago.

"I just love them all," Stoel said. "I call them my traveling cards."



The iris folding technique uses pieces of paper or ribbon folded in a spiral pattern, a technique Lorraine Stoel began using about a year ago.

Each card Stoel mails to friends and family members contains an extra sheet of paper and envelope. If the receiver desires to pass the card along, they simply remove Stoel's signed sheet of paper and insert the extra sheet and sign with a new message.

"This way they can pass it on to someone else," she said.

Her cards also feature tatting designs and other craft materials such as buttons, designs from other cards and toilet paper.



Mavis Fodness photos/1231Tree Contest 2015

Lorraine Stoel poses with her winning entry in the Carnegie Cultural Center's Festival of Trees contest. Stoel used more than 70 handmade cards she designed featuring the iris folding technique to decorate her tree.

"I use scraps of all kinds of stuff," Stoel said. Annabell Petronek was the second-place winner of the Festival of Trees. She used dinosaurs in her tree design. Third place went to the American Legion Auxiliary's tree, which was decorated using a red and gold color theme. Thirteen individuals or groups participated in

this year's tree decorating contest. "It was very light this year," said Linda Dummer, a board member with the Council for Arts and Humanities in Rock County. CAHRC sponsors the yearly tree-decorating event. "Usually we have 20 to 22 trees," she said. Stoel said she has participated in the contest for the past 15 years, selecting a new theme each year.

OBITUARY

Edwina Rust

Edwina Carroll Rust, 86, Luverne, died Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2015, at the Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



A funeral service was Tuesday, Dec. 29, at the First Baptist Church in Luverne. Burial was at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

Edwina Doyle was born July 13, 1929, to John and Anna (Giboney) Doyle on a farm southeast of Luverne. She was raised on various farms throughout Rock County. She attended Luverne Public Schools and graduated in 1948. She lived at home upon completion of her education.

On May 20, 1949, Edwina married LeRoy Rust in Luverne. The couple lived in a trailer on LeRoy's parents' farm near Adrian.

While LeRoy farmed, Edwina worked hard as a homemaker, raising their children and helping on the farm. Edwina and LeRoy eventually moved into the main house. They lived and operated the farm until 1997 when they moved to Luverne.

Edwina was a member of First Baptist Church in Luverne, where she taught

Sunday School and enjoyed Bible studies for many years. She was a voracious reader and loved word searches and puzzle books. She enjoyed the simple things in life and nature's beauty, especially the autumn colors.

Edwina is survived by her husband, LeRoy Rust; five children, David (Mary) Rust, West St. Paul, Rebecca (Steve) Lee, Sioux Falls, James (Gail) Rust, Magnolia, Laura (James) Slade, Sioux Falls, and John (Karen) Rust, Adrian; 15 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; two sisters, Kay Cox, Adrian, and Laura May Bosch, Brandon, South Dakota; a brother-in-law, Ron Ehrisman, Sioux Falls; and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two sisters, Margaret Lynch and Alice Ehrisman; a brother, Paul Doyle; two half-sisters, Florence Gengler and Lucille Bainbridge; and three brothers-in-law.

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

(1231 F)

DEATH NOTICE

Donald DeBoer

Donald DeBoer, 80, Leota, died Saturday, Dec. 26, 2015, at the Hospice of The Valley in Mesa, Arizona.

Arrangements are pending with the Leota Burial Association and Dingmann Funeral Home of Luverne.

The following is a list of the birth announcements that were submitted for publication in the Rock County Star Herald during 2015.

November 2014

Nov. 29: Monti and Shannon Ossenfort, Foxboro, Mass., a girl, Finley Betti.

December 2014

Dec. 5: Chad and Brianne (Cronin) Hegseth, Wahpeton, N.D., a girl, Brynlie Jo.
Dec. 19: Josh and Brooke Vanden Hoek, Luverne, a girl, Harper Danielle.
Dec. 22: Kyle and Kayla Hailey, Luverne, a boy, Jonah Dietrich.

January

Jan. 6: Bruce and Lindsay Meyeraan, Luverne, twins, a boy, Aiden Mark, and a girl, Ava Jo.
Jan. 25: Tyler and Dannie

Uilk, Farmington, a boy, Case Allen.

Jan. 30: Tom and Megan Scholten, Beaver Creek, a girl, Addison Grace.

February

(none)

March

March 16: Casey and Lindsey Swenson, Hills, a girl, Rozlie Joy.
March 21: Josh Christensen and Ashley Hanson, Luverne, a boy, Ronan Luther.
March 24: Russ and Robin Schuelke, Hills, a boy, Reese Lane.
March 26: Andrei and Melinda Rubaniuk, Redmond, Wash., a boy, Leo.
March 27: Josh and Val Rheault, Beaver Creek, a girl MayLee Jo; Shannon and Melanie Tatge, Beaver Creek, a girl, Vivienne Ruby; Mike and Lisa Remme, Capalaba, QLD,

Australia, a boy, Dylan Tyler.
March 28: Jesse and Erika Brake, Wilmont, a boy, Kaleb Michael.

April

April 1: Justin and Katie Arndt, Byron, a girl, Cassidy Kay.
April 8: Canaan and Kelli Petersen, Boulder City, Nev., a boy, Franklin Kurt.
April 18: Eric and Kilee Uittenbogaard, Steen, a girl, Harper Renae.
April 25: Eric and Amber Wespi, Gilbert, Ariz., a girl, Eleanor Rees.

May

May 19: Tim Knaak and Dawn Lindblom, Richfield, a boy, Walter Andersson.

June

June 4: Trey and Jody Van Wyhe, Colorado Springs, Colo., a boy, Owen H.R.

Feb. 8: Duane Faber, 60, Canton, S.D.
Feb. 10: Darvin Eernisse, 71, Luverne.
Feb. 12: Helen Tinklenberg, 88, Pipestone.
Feb. 14: Joyce "Kitty" Halverson, 94, Hills.
Feb. 18: Cheryl Pavel, 56, Hills; Gleva Jacobson, 90, Estherville, Iowa.

March

March 1: LuVerna Hilliard, 104, Luverne.
March 3: Ramona Skidmore, 83, Blaine.
March 8: Eleanore Johnson, 95, Luverne.
March 12: Marvin Tekheim, 73, Worthington.
March 13: Mary Anne Ruppert, 76, Currie; Leona Kinsey, 85, Sioux Falls, S.D.
March 14: Wayne Burmeister, 84, Minneapolis; Virginia Fries, 92, Pipestone.
March 15: Elvin Clausen, 89, Sioux Falls, S.D.
March 21: William Phelps, 90, Fairmont.
March 26: Leo Swenson, 83, Luverne.
March 30: William Nath, 96, Luverne; Steven Hup, 59, Luverne; Allen Vis, 70, Valley Springs, S.D.

April

April 2: Barbara Flanigan, 73, Las Vegas, Nev.
April 4: Eleanore Nelson, 86, Hills.
April 6: Richard Johnson, 84, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Hilke Garrels Unverfehrt, 80, Luverne.
April 12: Sharon Iveland, 64, Santa Cruz, Calif.
April 15: Lucille Eads, 96, Luverne.
April 16: Henrietta Wasenaar, 91, Hills.
April 17: Darrell Huiskes, 68, Luverne.
April 19: Arnold "Mike" Spath, 94, Hills.
April 25: Rufus Garneis-

ter, 90, Luverne; Effie Gertz, 90, Fremont, Wis.
April 27: Mary Etta Johnston, 84, Hills.
April 29: Janice Riggins, 68, Luverne; Harlan Johnson, 83, Mazzeppa.
April 30: Dwayne Christensen, 72, Luverne.

May

May 1: Lorain DePauw, 91, Luverne.
May 3: Margaret Nelson, 80, Luverne.
May 4: John Serie, 74, Waseca.
May 5: Dorothea Huiskes, 91, Luverne.
May 6: Carrie Boom, 77, Beaver Creek.
May 7: Vernon Brower, 86, Luverne.
May 11: Kristy Giesler, 32, Jasper.
May 13: Genevieve McClure, 87, Luverne.
May 15: Ruth Ann Nielsen, 65, Marion, S.D.
May 17: Vermayne Sundem, 77, Minneapolis.
May 18: Howard Emery, 86, Luverne.
May 20: Jerry Binford, 81, Luverne; Darvin Burmeister, 87, Sanborn, Minn.
May 26: Lynn Davis, 77, Fairchild, Wis.; Betty Ann Stueven, 49, Sioux Falls, S.D.
May 28: Martha Bakken, 104, Hills.

June

June 2: Charlotte Steffen, 81, Marshall.
June 13: Robert Knebel, 75, Luverne.
June 15: Mary Kinde, 66, Faribault.
June 23: Doris Hickman, 81, Ellsworth.
June 27: Sonja Luitjens, 91, Luverne.
June 30: Rick Dawson, 61, Luverne.

July
July 3: Lila Lee, 83, Luverne; Marion Swenson, 99, Luverne; Patricia Sedlacek, 84, Green Valley, Ariz.
July 4: Erma Smith, 97, Trenton, Fla.
July 12: Charles Herreid, 75, Worthington.
July 13: RoseAnne McCordell DeAmicis, 78, San Francisco, Calif.
July 14: Franklin Wulf, 82, Chula Vista, Calif.
July 16: Bertha Baker, 90, Edgerton; Carl Kopplow, 92, Adrian.
July 17: Patricia Brummel, 40, Sioux Center, Iowa.
July 18: Beatrice Goembel, 94, Luverne.
July 21: Marjorie Staeffler, 89, Hardwick.
July 22: Ramona Klooster, 79, Adrian.
July 23: Henrietta Mulder, 95, Luverne.
July 24: Lois Olson, 80, Luverne.
July 26: Bonnie Ralph, Sioux Falls, S.D.
July 30: Willemina Dopeneger, 97, Leota; Carol Van Orden, 71, Vancouver, Wash.
July 31: Lucille Taylor, 91, Luverne.

August

Aug. 1: Ann Erickson, 75, Hills.
Aug. 8: Lorna Schmidt, 79, Luverne.
Aug. 9: Jerome Taylor, 94, Luverne.
Aug. 10: Evelyn Feit, 97, Luverne; Henrietta Hargesheimer, 81, Luverne.
Aug. 11: Donna Stoterau, 73, Beaver Creek.
Aug. 13: A.D. "Bud" Bjerrum, 85, Luverne; Florence Buys, 91, Edgerton.
Aug. 17: Grace Braasch, 92, Luverne.
Aug. 18: Ralph Lais, 91,

2015 deaths/See page 8A

2015 births

June 7: Isaac and Amanda Crawford, Sioux Falls, S.D., a boy, Ralph Minai.
June 10: Nathan and Danielle Fick, Beaver Creek, a girl, Jaelyn Julie.
June 23: Blake and Kaitlyn Miller, Hills, a girl, Hadley Dawn.
June 29: Matt and Justine Sandbulte, Beaver Creek, a girl, Hattie Rae.

July

July 4: J.J. and Amy Von Holtum, Luverne, a girl, Rhyann Clare.
July 6: Phil and Deanna Smith, Sioux Falls, a boy, Crosby Jake.
July 8: Jared and Debbie Sprong, Sioux Falls, S.D., a boy, Bo Grant.
July 15: Eric and Mandy VanGrootheest, Luverne, a girl, Morgan Jean.
July 19: Halden and Erica VanWyhe, a boy, Teagan Leo.

July 21: Derek and Erin Haak, Sioux Falls, S.D., a girl, Elliree Leigh; Chris and Sarah Nuffer, Hills, a girl, Aubrey Ann.
July 30: Zachary and Sarah Brands, Slayton, a boy, Noah Zachary.

August

Aug. 2: Jesse and Anna Kuhlman, Eagan, a boy, Ellis Glenn; Chad and Melinda Kissell, Sioux Falls, a boy, Bennett Lee.
Aug. 3: Lexy Luethje and Chris Smook, Hills, a boy, Otto Dean.
Aug. 5: Perry and Stephanie Hoven, Luverne, a girl, Aubren Lea; Matthew and Katie VanGrootheest, Luverne, a girl, Kalista Lynn.
Aug. 9: T.J. and Angie Newgard, Luverne, a girl, Emma Kayte.
Aug. 18: Kale and Hailee Wiertzema, Hills, a boy, Kai MiKale.

Aug. 22: Anthony and Abbe Kolar, Sioux Falls, S.D., a son, Rhett Anthony.

September

Sept. 23: Troy and Meghan Lenz, Lismore, a girl, Harley Jane.

October

Oct. 6: Ian and Anna Sanddager, Hills, a girl, Ingrid Anne.
Oct. 26: Jordan and Katherine Dittmann, Perham, a girl, Emily Elizabeth.
Oct. 31: Jason and Sandy Janssen, Sioux Falls, S.D., a boy, Conner.

November

Nov. 10: Michael and Krista Sweeney, St. Paul, a girl, Kyleigh Ann.
Nov. 15: Shane and Julie Becker, Worthington, a girl, Marriah Ann.

December

(none)

Year in Review — Star Herald recaps top stories of 2015/continued from page 5A

City cleans up blight, Sharkee's is next

Another recurring theme in the Star Herald was blight removal in the city of Luverne.

•Reports in Feb. 12, March 12 and May 28 papers carried photos and information about the demolition of the buildings on the acreage next to Luverne City Park. In that case, the city granted a \$5,000 demolition grant toward the project, and city crews helped clear away stored equipment and cut down overgrown trees and weedy shrubs.

•Over the past year the city had acquired three blighted properties — 509, 501, and 409 E. Barck — “to achieve the goals of eliminating blighted property and to allow for potential residential development in the future,” according to LEDA documents.

Once the city owned the four contiguous lots on the north side of Barck Avenue, 150 feet deep, they negotiated an agreement in May with Cleveringa Construction to build two triplexes and one twin home.

Construction began this summer, and at least one of them was expected to be complete by year end.

•A blighted property — a century old house north of Culligan — on Highway 75 and Lincoln Street is in the process of being condemned and acquired through eminent domain.

•The city purchased the property between Remmedez and the liquor store this summer from Dale and Karen Bosch, Beaver Creek, for \$70,000. It was demolished and the city is holding the lot for future development.

•Also demolished this summer was the pink house north of the Laundromat that the city had acquired in February.

•In July the dilapidated former turkey barns south of I-90 were demolished to make way for a new trailer business, Crossroads Trailer Sales and Service.

•In August the city approved a \$3,000 residential demolition grant to John Oksness (on behalf of the Ed Wehler



Developing recreational opportunities, such a canoe and kayak route on the Rock River, was a recurring theme in 2015. The same is true for efforts to reduce soil erosion (see below).

Estate) to demolish the substandard structures at 715 N. McKenzie. It was the third demolition grant awarded this year, bringing the total grant dollars to \$13,000 so far for the program in 2015.

•The wheels are in motion for the city to address its biggest blight so far — the former Sharkee's property on South Highway 75.

In September the City Council approved a resolution that authorizes “preparations for and commencement of eminent domain proceedings or other methods to acquire title to certain property in the city in order to mitigate blight and remove a public nuisance.”

Documented code violations on the building include a leaky roof, structural damage, inoperable fire alarm and sprinkler systems, sanitary sewer backups, HVAC and electrical systems in disrepair, extensive mold and more.

Health code violations, primarily the basement sewage backup, led to the business shutdown in April 2014. Then on May 26, 2014, the building suffered damage from a fire reportedly set by arsonists. The arson remains under investigation, but is essentially considered a cold case.



Meanwhile, the property has fallen into further disrepair, and property owner Dave Halverson has reportedly ignored notices of building code violations in April 2014 and April 2015.

As such, city charter and state law allows the city to acquire the property through condemnation proceedings. The outcome will be a story for 2016 or possibly 2017.

Luverne Loop Trail, Creamery Pond and possible canoe route development

On a more positive note, 2015 has been the year of development for recreational opportunities in Luverne.

•The city approved the master plan for the **Luverne Loop Trail** in December, following a year's worth of planning for the community hiking and biking trail.

In July the city purchased 6.59 acres from Burdell and Julia Kruse adjacent to Hawkinson Park for \$80,000 and in October eight acres from Loren Forrest for \$80,000, completing

the western connection of the bike path.

In October the City Council accepted the low bid of \$440,000 from Henning Construction for Phase 1 of the Loop. Work will begin next spring on that portion, which starts at the Veterans Home Pond and loops around the western edge of the city to Dodge Street.

The 7.1-mile Luverne Loop is estimated to cost \$2 million once complete and will be developed over a five-year time period.

•In developing a future route for the Luverne Loop, city planners have focused attention on the **Creamery Pond**, which private property owners have already developed into a recreational community beach, swimming and fishing area.

The pond is named for its proximity to what used to be the Luverne Cooperative Creamery (now Great Plains Processing).

It's owned by the city, but Mike and Traci Davis own the adjacent property and have been working with the city in the past year to clean up the

shoreline and improve the beach.

A July 4 Floatie Parade on the Pond drew an estimated 500 people to the local beach.

•Davis is also on the local committee exploring a **canoe and kayaking trail** on the Rock River, with public access points along the way.

In July he and 11 people representing the city, Luverne Area Chamber, Rock County and the state of Minnesota boarded their watercraft about five miles upriver from Luverne.

On their trip down the river, the group looked for suitable places to enter and exit the river as part of their quest to develop a public water trail.

The next step will be to map the route on paper and seek funds (possibly through the DNR) to develop public parking areas and boat landings.

District hires new superintendent

A big story in 2015 was the Luverne School District's hiring of Craig Oftedahl as its new superintendent.

Oftedahl, former Warroad superintendent, agreed on March 13 to accept Luverne's offer, and on April 2 he signed a two-year contract from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2017. His first-year salary is \$120,000 and the second year \$124,500.

Oftedahl replaces Gary Fisher, who was Luverne's superintendent for 10 years and high school principal for 14 years before that.

Fisher told Oftedahl in his July 2 Star Herald retirement story, “In my opinion, you are coming into one of the best school districts in the state of Minnesota,” Fisher said.

“You've got a great team of teachers. You've got great kids. You've got a great community ... and people who believe in education. You're not going to get anything better than that.”

Local schools return to post-Labor Day start:

After trying it out for several years, many area school districts, including Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek, decided to abandon the Flexible Learning Year schedule.

In a Nov. 19 split vote, the Luverne School Board decided to no longer start classes in mid August and end in mid May. The 2016-17 school year will begin Sept. 6 and end Memorial Day.

Luverne now is the 18th school to drop from the 22-member FLY consortium formed six years ago.

Earlier this year, Hills-Beaver Creek, Adrian and Edgerton dropped out of the consortium.

In business news in 2015 ...

In addition to the already mentioned Herman Motors and Crossroads Trailers the Star Herald covered the following developments:

•Sterling's celebrates a ribbon-cutting event in January.

•Kozlowski moves into its new location on South Highway 75 in January.

•The Hardwick grocery store, Country Market, closes in March.

•Rock County Opportunities celebrates its expansion project in March.

•Salon 75 expands and renovates its location in April.

•Rock Veterinary Clinic buys Minn-I-Kota Veterinary Clinic in June.

•Dave Knips opens Medi Spa in the spring and was featured in the June 18 Star Herald.

•Green Lantern new business owner Jens Jensen debuts during Hardwick Days in June.

•Mike and Wanda Jarchow sell Big Top Tent Rental to Jordan and Stacey Smidt in July.

•ATLAS opens its charity thrift store, Redeemed Remnants, in the former Computer Tutors building in July.

•Sears closes in August.

•Scott Loosbrock opens Loosbrock Electrical Construction LLC and was featured in the Aug. 13 Star Herald.

•Christensen Farms faces animal cruelty allegations in August. The County Attorney later decides not to charge.

•Gevo and Butamax end their patent dispute in August, and in October, the Luverne plant announces plans to ramp up isobutanol output.

•Southwestern Mental Health Center moves into its new location in the former Lewis Drug building off East Main Street in October.

•Skattum Confinement Systems and Superior Buildings are sold to Son-D-Farms in October.

•Schwartz Farms builds a new 70-by-125-foot facility north of Papik Motors for office space and warehouse storage, prompting the extension of Koehn Avenue and further development in that neighborhood. The facility was complete in November.

•Luverne Body Shop announces in November that it plans to expand and relocate.

•Mike and Wanda Jarchow announce in November their plans to open an event center in the former Family Dollar building.

•Luverne Street Music presents a proposal in November to move operations to the Carnegie Cultural Center.

•Local investors buy back Minwind assets in bankruptcy sale. Terms of the court agreement closed Nov. 12.

•The Luverne Area Community Foundation celebrates its new location in the Palace corner in December.



This blighted property north of Culligan on Highway 75 and Lincoln Street is in the process of being condemned and acquired through eminent domain.

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Auto-Owners Insurance



Star Herald obituaries from 2015/continued from page 7A

Magnolia; Alvin Zeinstra, 65, Luverne.

Aug. 20: Peter DeBoer, 89, Steen; Ellen Hansen, 94, Edgerton.

Aug. 24: Loretta Duffy, 71, Luverne.

Aug. 26: Jeanette Goebel, 92, Luverne.

Aug. 28: Loretta Gengler, 85, Adrian.

Aug. 29: Betty Ann Lorenzen, 88, Hardwick.

Aug. 30: Lawrence Gaul, 89, Ellsworth.

Aug. 31: Veda Mae Klaassen, 89, Luverne.

September

Sept. 2: Philip Barrow, 67, Loogootee, Ind.

Sept. 5: Lila Baustian, 75, Luverne.

Sept. 6: Verla Swenson, 81, Jasper.

Sept. 8: Esther Bahn, 101, Pipestone; Dorothy Feeken, 78, Comfrey; Virgil Staefler, 90, Hardwick; Judeen Johnson, 87, Volga, S.D.

Sept. 16: Carolyn De Boer, 56, Beaver Creek; Wilfred Stueven, 90, Luverne.

Sept. 19: Bradley Houg, 65, Jasper.

Sept. 21: Steve Schneekloth, 67, Luverne.

Sept. 27: Sharon Maras, 69, Superior, Iowa.

Sept. 28: Christina

Schomacker, 94, Luverne.

Sept. 29: Cyril Hill, 53, Jasper; Lauretta Ladd, 96, Luverne.

October

Oct. 3: Phyllis Siebenahler, 81, Luverne.

Oct. 5: Wade Brooks, 57, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Oct. 6: Esther Vande Hoef, 90, Hills.

Oct. 9: Dolores Melton, 90, Holland, Mich.

Oct. 15: Tamara Kurtz, 57, Luverne; Nyla Stearns, 91, Luverne.

Oct. 18: Bernice Minnehan, 90, Minneota.

Oct. 23: David Hessel, 85, Luverne.

Oct. 25: Kenneth Nelson, 87, Aurora, Colo.

Oct. 27: Mable Smith, 91, Spring Park.

Oct. 28: Jeffrey O'Toole, 63, Rochester; Arnold Wenzel, 90, Hardwick.

November

Nov. 4: Douglas Schmidt, 87, Rigby, Idaho.

Nov. 6: Mary Bendt, 78, Luverne.

Nov. 7: Norma Gertz, 81, Jasper; Robert Severson, 64, Luverne.

Nov. 9: Harold Van De Berg, 79, Luverne; Margaret VanOtterloo, 97, Rock Valley, Iowa.

Nov. 10: Ron McClure, 69, Luverne.

Nov. 12: Eleanor Sargent, 78, Luverne.

Nov. 16: Veronica Gradert, 88, Luverne.

Nov. 17: Anita Cook, 73, Shelton, Wash.

Nov. 18: Cornelius Verhey, 89, Beaver Creek.

Nov. 20: Fred Robison, 94, Fort Dodge, Kan.

Nov. 21: Marilyn Lopau, 72, Luverne; Rose Reed, 105, Redwood Falls; Rosella McCorkell, 91, Luverne.

Nov. 23: Larry Hellwinckel, 76, Hardwick.

Nov. 24: Roger Rohlck, 79, Rice.

Nov. 25: Mary Emery, 83, Luverne.

Nov. 26: Alice Birkeland, 85, Luverne; Vivian Else, 82, Brandon, S.D.

Nov. 30: Darlene Spease, 82, Minneapolis.

December

Dec. 13: Larry Torgerson, 71, Luverne; Velma Grant, 87, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Dec. 19: Raymond Boelman, 94, Ellsworth; Louise Kiebach, 101, Luverne.

Dec. 21: Milton Gibbs, 80, Luverne.

Dec. 23: Edwina Rust, 86, Luverne.

Dec. 26: Donald DeBoer, 80, Leota.

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Gymnasts top Grizzlies in Hendricks

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne gymnastics team wrapped up the 2015 portion of its schedule by challenging the Hendricks Grizzlies in Hendricks Dec. 22.

Luverne overcame an impressive individual night by Hendricks' Greta Johnson to win the meet by a 127.725-123.675 tally.

Johnson won the all-around title (35.375) and won all four individual events.

Johnson produced the winning tallies on the vault (9.15), bars (8.4), beam (8.575) and floor (9.25).

Luverne's Madison Schandelmeier had a good night for the Cardinals that featured her placing second all-around with 33.525 points.

Schandelmeier finished second on the vault (9.075), beam (7.85) and floor (8.85). She also placed third on the bars (7.75).

Bergin Flom placed second on the bars (7.775) and shared third place on the beam with teammate Shelby Nath (7.55).

Luverne's Erin Sietsema placed third on the vault with an 8.95 effort, while Samantha Pierce placed fourth on the vault and floor with respective 8.9 and 8.225 tallies.

The 6-1 Cardinals return to action Jan. 5 when they host West Central.

Individual results

Vault: Schandelmeier, 9.075; Sietsema, 8.95; Pierce, 8.9; Flom, 8.65; Nath, 7.9.
Bars: Flom, 7.775; Schandelmeier, 7.75; Sietsema, 6.65; Nath, 6.575; Meghan Witte, 6.4.
Beam: Schandelmeier, 7.85; Flom, 7.55; Nath, 7.55; Pierce, 7.475; Madigan Flom, 7.2.
Floor: Schandelmeier, 8.85; Pierce, 8.225; Nath, 8.0; B. Flom, 7.9; Witte, 7.725.



John Rittenhouse photo/1231 le bb 8

Luverne senior Quinton Siebenahler releases a shot in the paint under pressure from three Ellsworth defenders during a Dec. 22 game in Luverne.

Boys roll in Fairmont

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne boys' hockey team is riding a five-game winning streak after posting a convincing victory in Fairmont Dec. 22.

The Cardinals sported a 64-5 advantage in shots on goal and scored at least three goals in every period of an 11-1 win.

Chaz Smedsrud and Jaxon Nelson led the assault by recording hat tricks, while Brennan Hart chipped in two tallies.

Luverne gained control of

Roll/continued on page 2B

Cardinals best Panthers by 17

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne boys' basketball team racked up its third consecutive victory Dec. 22 in Luverne.

Taking on Ellsworth in a non-conference contest, the Cardinals outscored the Panthers in both halves of the game to secure a 76-59 victory.

Although the Cardinals won the game handily, Ellsworth played in the early stages of the contest as if it would be a tough team to beat.

Ellsworth sported a series of two- and four-point advantages in the opening minutes and led by five points (11-6) at one stage of the first half.

The rest of the stanza belonged to Luverne.

A 37-13 run ending with Nick Overgaard sinking a pair of charity shots with 1:13 remaining gave the Cards a commanding 43-24 lead.

EHS, however, trimmed the difference to 15 points (45-30) before the first half was complete and trailed by 14 (47-33) when Jared Leuthold drained a three-point shot at the 16:48 mark of the second half.

As the game played out, EHS wouldn't come any closer to catching the Cards than 14 points.

A 13-8 surge ending with a field goal from Erik Wahnoutka

made it a 60-41 game with 11:26 left to play.

Ellsworth trimmed the difference to 16 points twice in the following minutes, but LHS thwarted the challenge and led by 22 (70-48) when Overgaard sank two free throws with 6:58 remaining.

EHS outscored the Cards 11-6 the rest of the game and lost by 17 after hitting a late three-point shot.

Quinton Siebenahler (21 points and 15 rebounds), Overgaard (19 points and seven rebounds) and Wahnoutka (12 points, seven assists, five rebounds and three steals) played key roles in the winning effort.

Mitchell Muller chipped in 11 points for the 6-4 Cardinals, who play in Redwood Falls Jan. 2.

Ellsworth, which dropped its sixth-straight game and slips to 2-8 for the season, received big nights from Brandon Kramer, Trei Hinrichs and Malik Herman.

Kramer tossed in 18 points. Hinrichs netted 15 points, passed for eight assists and collected five caroms, while Herman scored 12 points, grabbed nine rebounds and recorded three steals.

Leuthold finished the game with six rebounds and six assists, while Bobby Walkowiak added five assists

to the cause.

EHS plays at Southwest Christian Jan. 5.

Box score

Ellsworth
Krusse 1 0 0-0 2, Walkowiak 1 0 0-0 2, Leuthold 0 1 0-0 3, Hinrichs 1 4 1-4 15, Herman 6 0 0-0 12, Wallenburg 0 0 0-0 0, Curtis 0 0 0-0 0, K. Boltjes 0 0 0-0 0, S. Boltjes 0 1 0-0 3, S. Kramer 0 0 0-0 0, Boyenga 0 0 0-0 0, B. Kramer 9 0 0-0 18, Buntjer 2 0 0-0 4.
Luverne
Ma 0 0 0-0 0, Overgaard 6 1 4-6 19, Muller 1 3 0-0 11, Wahnoutka 4 1 1-2 12, Robinson 1 0 0-0 2, Claussen 0 0 0-0 0, Schoeneman 0 0 0-0 0, Curtis 0 0 0-0 2, Siebenahler 9 0 3-4 21, Wagner 1 0 0-0 2, Bosch 1 2 0-0 8.

Team statistics

Ellsworth: 26 of 57 field goals (46 percent), one of four free throws (25 percent), 29 rebounds, 19 turnovers.
Luverne: 30 of 78 field goals (38 percent), eight of 12 free throws (67 percent), 35 rebounds, six turnovers.

Record-setting girls' cross country season tops 2015 list

Before closing the books on 2015, I spent one morning last week

trying to put together my list of the top accomplishments turned in by athletes from the Star Herald coverage area.

Once again, it proved to be a challenging task.

While combing through the archives, I did find eight state-qualifying items that I plan to include in this column.

Finding the items was no problem, but ranking them from one through eight as the top area sports stories of the year proved to be more challenging.

After weighing my options, here is the list I came up with.

No. 8: Adrian golf

The Adrian High School golf program produced three individual state qualifiers late last spring.

Collin Kemper and Ryan Elias advanced to state for the Dragon boys, while Jada Elias made an appearance at the state tournament for the AHS girls.



FROM THE SIDELINES

By John Rittenhouse, sports editor

Kemper and Ryan Elias placed 52nd and 64th respectively in an 88-player field, while Jada Elias finished 65th out of 88 players.

No. 7: Redbird baseball

The Luverne Redbirds experienced another successful spring and summer that was highlighted by the amateur baseball team winning the Region 13C championship.

The Redbirds advanced to the state tournament for the third consecutive summer, where they went 1-1 to cap a 23-5 season.

No. 6: Luverne tennis

The Cardinals extended their reign of dominance in Southwest Minnesota by winning the Section 3A team title for the sixth-straight year.

LHS dropped matches to Blake (7-0) and Foley (4-3) at the state tournament.

Along with the team's success, senior Cory Stroeh and junior Erik

Wahnoutka advanced to the state doubles tournament after placing second at the section level.

The pair became the first LHS athletes to reach the consolation finals, where they lost a match to complete a 2-2 state appearance and place 10th out of 16 teams.

No. 5: H-BC track

Two Hills-Beaver Creek High School athletes earned berths into the state meet individually last spring.

Senior Jenna Wilgenburg capped her H-BC career by placing second at the section level in the 800-meter run before finishing 12th at the state meet.

Sophomore Zach Scholten won the Section 3A high jump title before placing fifth at the state meet.

No. 4: Adrian wrestling

Five members of the

AHS wrestling program qualified for the state tournament by placing second individually during the Section 3A Tournament last February.

Seniors Jesse Slater and Tony Lynn and juniors Greg Kern, Logan Rogers and Matthew Slater turned in second-place efforts at the section event.

Lynn and Jesse Slater capped their careers by placing fourth at 138 and 170 at the state classic.

No. 3: LHS track

The Luverne girls' and boys' track teams solidified their status as Southwest Minnesota powers last spring.

The LHS girls won their ninth consecutive section true team title and placed third at the state true team meet before winning the South Sub-Section 3A and Section 3A team championships in late May.

Luverne went on to place sixth as a team at the state meet, where

the 800-meter relay (Sierra Schmuck, Naomi Dooyema, Kynzie Smedsrud and Tayla Peterson) placed second, Gabrielle Ferrell placed second in the 3,200-meter run, Morgan Edwards placed sixth in the shot put competition and Courtney Siebenahler placed ninth in the triple jump.

The LHS boys won their fifth consecutive section true team title and placed seventh at the state meet before winning the South Sub-Section 3A team title and placing second at the Section 3A meet.

Six Luverne athletes (seniors Trenton Rops, Jackson Winter, Payton Stemper, Drew Weis, Ethan Marshall and Jeremiah Dooyema) advanced to the state meet, where they did not place.

No. 2: LHS wrestling

A sensational postseason showing by sophomore Solomon Nielsen gives him the second position

on my list.

After placing second at the Section 3AA tournament individually, Nielsen went 3-2 in state competition to place fourth at 152 pounds.

By doing so, Nielsen became the first LHS wrestler to place at the state tournament in 14 years.

No. 1: LHS, AHS girls' cc

The Luverne girls' cross country team turned in a record-setting season in 2015.

The Cardinals won their first Section 3A title in school history late in October.

LHS went on to place fourth as a team at the state meet in Northfield in early November, which happens to be a program-best showing at the state meet.

Junior Madison Schandelmeier led the charge by earning all-state status with an 18th-place finish individually.

Adrian eighth-grader Hannah Bullerman also qualified for the state meet individually, where she placed 62nd.

LHS splits matches at home triangular

By John Rittenhouse

The Luverne Cardinal wrestling team went 1-1 during a home triangular Dec. 22.

The Cardinals dropped a 37-35 decision to Quad County to open the night.

LHS notched a 40-37 victory over St. James in the finale.

Five Cardinals boasted 2-0 records at night's end.

Will Natte and Solomon Nielsen turned in the highlight of the night for LHS by pinning both of their opponents at 132 and 170 respectively.

Natte stuck both of his opponents (QC's Tori Rupp and SJ's Tallin Johnson) in 38 seconds.

Nielsen covered QC's Stephen Countryman in 38 seconds before pinning SJ's Andres Martinez in 1:09.

Senior Adam Fodness won by technical fall against QC's Miles Kattevold before pinning SJ's Jacob Brey in 2:50 at 152 pounds.

Hunter Baker pinned QCX's Sam Ohliger in 1:13 before notching a 20-10 major decision victory against SJ's Troy Purofski at 106.

Jake Haugen registered an 8-2 win against QC's Cole Hatch before pinning SJ's

Freddy Carreon in 1:17.

Tucker Oeltjenbruns, Jeremiah Dooyema, Zach Luke and Jakob Olson went 1-1 for the Cardinals.

Jed Dooyema dropped both of his matches, while Nick Feit and Brandon Claussen went 0-1.

The 2-2 Cardinals wrestle at the New Ulm Quadrangular Tuesday.

Match wrap-up

- QC 37, Luverne 35
- 106 (L) Baker pins Ohliger.
- 113 (Q) Jimenez pins Feit.
- 120 (Q) Friese by forfeit.
- 126 (L) Oeltjenbruns pins Bestland.
- 132 (L) Natte pins Rupp.
- 138 (Q) Thien pins Jd.Dooyema.
- 145 (L) Haugen 8-2 Hatch.
- 152 (L) Fodness t.f. Kattevold.
- 160 (L) Jr.Dooyema 6-1 Grokslags.
- 170 (L) Nielsen pins Countryman.
- 182 (Q) Winsen 17-6 Luke.
- 195 (Q) Friese 7-6 Olson.
- 220 (Q) Bratsch by forfeit.
- 285 (Q) Beckler by forfeit.

Luverne 40, SJ 37

- 106 (L) Baker 20-10 Purofski.
- 113 (S) Kulseth by forfeit.
- 120 (S) Cuellar 5-1 Oeltjenbruns.
- 126 (S) Durheim by forfeit.
- 132 (L) Natte pins Johnson.
- 138 (S) Vidales pins Jd.Dooyema.
- 145 (L) Haugen pins Carreon.
- 152 (L) Fodness pins Brey.
- 160 (S) Carlson 14-5 Jr.Dooyema.
- 170 (L) Nielsen pins Martinez.
- 182 (S) Hillesheim pins Claussen.
- 195 (L) Luke pins Suarez.
- 220 (L) Olson by forfeit.
- 285 (S) Esqueda by forfeit.



John Rittenhouse photo/1231 lw fndness 2

Luverne senior Adam Fodness punishes Quad County's Miles Kattevold during their match at the Luverne Triangular Dec. 22. Fodness is one of four LHS wrestlers to post 2-0 records during the home event.

Dragon girls end slide against Ellsworth

By John Rittenhouse

A pair of girls' basketball teams from the Star Herald coverage area completed play in 2015 by playing each other Dec. 22 in Adrian.

Both the Adrian Dragons and Ellsworth Panthers were hungry for a victory when they locked horns in Adrian.

The home-standing Dragons got what they wanted when they snapped a five-game losing streak with a 55-36 victory.

A fast start by the Dragons proved to be the difference in the game.

AHS outscored the Panthers 27-10 in the first 18 minutes of play.

The second half was much more competitive, but the Dragons used a 28-26 scoring edge to ice a 19-point win.

Jodi Bents (22 points, 10 rebounds and three assists) and Paige Bullerman (10 points and six rebounds) led the 2-5 Dragons to victory.

Brooke Grussing, Rebecca Sjogren and Mikayla Jeffers added six rebounds each to the winning effort.

Ellsworth, which slipped to 0-7 with the loss, received big games from Devin Dreesen (14 points, nine rebounds and four steals) and Megan Popkes (14 points and seven rebounds.)

Sierra Smith collected seven caroms for the Panthers.

Adrian hosts Windom Jan. 4, while Ellsworth plays at Southwest Christian Jan. 7.



Star Herald file photo

Kaitlyn Christians and the Adrian girls' posted their second win of the season Dec. 22.

- Mulder 0 0 0-0 0, K.Chapa 2 0 0-0 4, Meester 0 0 0-0 0, D.Dreesen 5 0 4-4 14, Popkes 4 1 3-4 14, M.Dreesen 0 0 0-0 0, Smith 0 0 0-2 0.
- Adrian
- H.Bullerman 0 0 1-2 1, Hokeness 0 0 0-0 0, Tweet 0 0 1-2 1, Bents 3 5 1-1

- 22, Loonan 0 0 0-0 0, Weidert 0 0 2-3 2, Kunkel 0 0 0-0 0, Christians 3 0 0-0 6, Grussing 2 0 0-2 4, Sjogren 1 0 5-7 7, Jeffers 1 0 0-0 2, Slater 0 0 0-0 0, Heidebrink 0 0 0-0 0, P.Bullerman 5 0 0-1 10.

- Team statistics
- Ellsworth: 12 of 50 field goals (24 percent), 11 of 16 free throws (69 percent), 29 rebounds, 12 turnovers.
- H-BC: 20 of 64 field goals (31 percent), 10 of 16 free throws (63 percent), 53 rebounds, 16 turnovers.

- Box score
- Ellsworth
- Kramer 0 0 2-2 2, L.Chapa 0 0 2-2 2,

H-BC shoots 50 percent in win over Fulda

By John Rittenhouse

The Hills-Beaver Creek girls' basketball team registered a third consecutive victory Dec. 22 during their final game of 2015.

Taking on the Fulda Raiders in Hills, the Patriots came out on the winning end of a 61-42 decision.

The win ups H-BC's season record to 5-2 and gives the Patriots a 3-1 Red Rock Conference record heading into 2016.

H-BC returns to action Jan. 7 in Westbrook.

The Patriots canned 50 percent of their field goals during their victory over the Raiders.

H-BC raced to a 36-21 advantage in the first half

and used a 25-21 scoring advantage in the second half to prevail by 19 points at game's end.

Sidney Fick, Avery Van Roekel and Jasmine Lingen led the Patriots offensively by scoring 15, 12 and 10 points respectively.

Grace Bundesen contributed six rebounds to the winning effort.

Box score

- Bos 0 0 0-0 0, Tilstra 1 1 0-0 5, Spath 1 0 1-2 3, Kolbrek 0 0 0-0 0, Lingen 3 0 4-5 10, Fick 7 0 1-2 15, Bundesen 1 1 3-4 8, Gehrke 0 0 0-0 0, Van Roekel 5 0 2-2 12, Rozeboom 2 0 4-7 8.

Team statistics

- H-BC: 22 of 40 field goals (50 percent), 15 of 22 free throws (68 percent), 25 rebounds, 25 turnovers.
- Fulda: 11 of 48 field goals (23 percent), 17 of 28 free throws (61 percent), 20 rebounds, 21 turnovers.

Roll/continued from page 1B

the contest by scoring the first six goals of the game, including a five-goal outburst in the first period.

Hart opened the scoring 5:24 into the contest and Nelson netted consecutive goals at the 10:13 and 3:30 marks of the period to make it a 3-0 game.

Nelson's second goal was a power-play tally.

Smedsrud added two more goals in the final 2:58 of the opening period, including a power-play tally to cap the scoring in the period with 54 seconds remaining.

Kasyn Kruse capped Luverne's six-goal run to start the game by netting a power-play goal 2:29 into the second period.

Fairmont's Ethan Lubenow countered with a power-play

tally 2:14 later, but Luverne's Hart and Nelson scored one goal each in the final 8:52 of the stanza to up the lead to 8-1.

LHS scored three more goals in the third period, starting with Smedsrud's hat-trick clinching tally 3:22 into the stanza.

Trey Roberts and Nick Harder scored one goal each in the final 9:14 to cap Luverne's 10-goal conquest.

Nelson led the Cards with three assists, while Smedsrud and Jack Baustian chipped in two each.

Harder, Nick Behrend, Kruse, Jim Erickson, Erik Tofteland, Chris Jelken, Roberts and Connor Sandbulte notched one assist each.

Daniel Tofteland stopped four of the five shots he faced in goal for the 8-2 Cardinals.



Jack Baustian

Sport: Hockey
Position: Defense
Parents: Pat and Katie Baustian
Favorite Subject: Lunch
Extra-Curricular Activities: Cross Country, Golf, Choir, Student Council
Future Plans: Attend USD after going to basic training and AIT for the SDANG



Madilyn Oye

Sport: Hockey
Position: Defense
Parents: Todd and Carrie Oye
Favorite Subject: College Psychology
Extra-Curricular Activities: Choir, Flags, FCCLA, FFA, Church Choir, Cheerleading, Student Council, Softball, Work at Tailgators
Future Plans: College at SDSU and major in either Early Childhood Education or Human Sciences and minor in Music Therapy



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WINTER STANDINGS

| | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Big South girls' hockey | JCC | 1-0 |
| New Ulm | Windom | 0-0 |
| Luverne | Luverne | 0-0 |
| Waseca | RWW | 0-1 |
| Marshall | Marshall | 0-1 |
| Fairmont | Pipestone | 0-1 |
| SP-L-H | | |
| Windom | | |
| Worthington | | |
| Big South boys' hockey | BSC West wrestling | |
| Luverne | Worthington | 2-0 |
| New Ulm | Marshall | 1-0 |
| SP-L-H | Pipestone | 1-0 |
| Marshall | Luverne | 1-1 |
| Waseca | JCC | 0-1 |
| RWW | RWW | 0-1 |
| Windom | Windom | 0-2 |
| Fairmont | | |
| Worthington | | |
| BSC West boys' hoops | RRC boys' hoops | |
| Marshall | MCC | 6-0 |
| JCC | MLA | 4-1 |
| Worthington | SWC | 3-1 |
| Windom | W-WG | 3-1 |
| Luverne | Edgerton | 3-2 |
| Pipestone | Adrian | 2-2 |
| RWW | H-BC | 2-3 |
| | Ellsworth | 1-4 |
| | Fulda | 1-4 |
| | HL-O | 1-4 |
| | RRC | 0-4 |
| | RRC girls' hoops | |
| | RRC | 3-0 |
| | SWC | 2-0 |
| | MLA | 3-1 |
| | H-BC | 3-1 |
| | Edgerton | 3-1 |
| | HL-O | 2-1 |
| | Adrian | 1-2 |
| | W-WG | 1-3 |
| | MCC | 0-2 |
| | Fulda | 0-3 |
| | Ellsworth | 0-4 |
| BSC West girls' hoops | BSC West gymnastics | |
| Marshall | Worthington | 2-0 |
| Pipestone | | |
| Worthington | | |
| Windom | | |
| Luverne | | |
| Pipestone | | |
| RWW | | |

St. Catherine Catholic Church
203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph.: 283-8502

St. Mary Catholic Church, Ellsworth
Thursday, Dec. 31: 5:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Mass at St. Catherine. Friday, Jan. 1: 8:30 a.m. New Year's Day Mass at St. Mary. 10 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine. Saturday, Jan. 2: 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Catherine. Sunday, Jan. 3: 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Mary's in Ellsworth. 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Catherine.

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

Sunday, Jan. 3: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 6:30 p.m. Worship service.

First Baptist Church
1033 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne
Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org
Dick Lauger, Pastor

Thursday, Dec. 31: 7 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3. Sunday, Jan. 3: 9:15 a.m. Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Morning service with Communion. 6 p.m. Evening service. Tuesday, Jan. 5: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study at FBC. 7 p.m. Kendra (Morris) Mize baby shower at FBC. Wednesday, Jan. 6: 6:55 p.m. Awana. Thursday, Jan. 7: Noon Senior Focus potluck. 7 p.m. Worship service on Channel 3.

Grace Lutheran Church
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4431; www.graceluverne.org — Nichols-glc@live.com

Ron Nichols, Pastor; Cole McCormick, Interim Pastor

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4571 — pastorapalmquist67@yahoo.com
Sunday, Jan. 3: 10:15 a.m. Worship service.

American Reformed Church
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne
Ph. 283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Sunday, Jan. 3: 9:30 a.m. Worship service.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
220 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service; Fellowship after service. Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m. Bible Study. Our Mission Statement: Historic Holy Trinity strives to serve God and our community through worship, stewardship and friendship. Contact Emily Lodine Overgaard at (507) 227-6175 for information. Come as you are — our leader wore sandals.

First Assembly of God Church
1075 110th Ave., 2 miles west of Luverne on County Rd. 4
Kenneth and Gloria Kashner, Pastors
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.

First Lutheran Church
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Ph. (605) 757-6662
Ray Heidenson, Pastor
Sunday, Jan. 3: 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion. Wednesday, Jan. 6: 7 p.m. Confirmation; choir practice.

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.
Ph. (507) 597-6257 — firstpalisade@alliancecom.net
Ray Heidenson, Pastor
Sunday, Jan. 3: 9 a.m. Worship with Communion. 10 a.m. Special Congregational Meeting to vote on a proposal for residing the church. Wednesday, Jan. 6: 7 p.m. Confirmation at First Lutheran.

First Presbyterian Church
201 S. 3rd St., Beaver Creek

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 283-4529; email: luverneumc@iw.net

Thursday, Dec. 31: 1-3 p.m. Rock County Food Shelf. Sunday, Jan. 3: 9 a.m. Traditional Worship. 10 a.m. Coffee Hour. 11 a.m. Come As You Are Worship. 4:30 p.m. Bait of Satan Bible Study. No A.L.I.V.E. Youth Group.

First Presbyterian Church
302 Central Lane, Luverne
Ph. 283-4787; email: Firstpc@iw.net — www.fpcluverne.com50

Sunday, Jan. 3: 10:15 a.m. Worship service.

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, Dec. 31: 6:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship. Saturday, Jan. 2: 5:30 p.m. Worship service. Sunday, Jan. 3: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour. 11:30 a.m. Junior Choir practice. Monday, Jan. 4: 9 a.m. Circuit Pastors' Conference at Our Saviour's in Pipestone. 6:30 p.m. Take down Christmas decorations. 7:30 p.m. Elders' meeting. Tuesday, Jan. 5: 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Quilting. Wednesday, Jan. 6: 9 a.m. Little Lambs devotions. 9:30 a.m. Bible Study. 11:15 a.m. Staff Meeting. 6:30 p.m. Catechism; Youth Supper. 7 p.m. High School Bible Study; KFC; Senior Choir. 8 p.m. Kingdom Builders. Thursday, Jan. 7: 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Little Lambs Devotions. 2 p.m. Women's Society. 6:30 p.m. Chancel Guild.

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
211 E. Main St., Luverne
Ph. 449-6522; email: newlifecel@iw.net
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship in the lower level meeting room of the Creeger building. Every third Thursday: 5 p.m. Food give-away. 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: revnumme@gmail.com — www.zion-lutheranhardwick.com
Mark W. Mumme, Pastor

Thursday, Dec. 31: 4 p.m. Zion worship on Channel 3. Friday, Jan. 1: 4 p.m. Zion worship on Channel 3. Sunday, Jan. 3: 9 a.m. Sunday school and Adult Bible Study. 10 a.m. Mentor program. 10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion. 11:30 a.m. Potluck dinner — Service Group 1. Monday, Jan. 4: Circuit Pastors meeting at Pipestone. 1 p.m. Quilting. Wednesday, Jan. 6: 6 p.m. Confirmation. Thursday, Jan. 7: 4 p.m. Zion worship 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.

Magnolia United Methodist Church
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
Church Ph. 283-9698; cell 227-7821
adrmagumc@frontiernet.net — www.adrianmagnoliaumc.com

Kristi Franken, Pastor
Sunday, Jan. 3: 9 a.m. Worship service.

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave., Steen
Ph. 855-2336
Reuben Sinnema, Youth Pastor

Being distracted

"Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village. And a woman named



Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to His teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to Him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42 ESV

"Lars, why haf you got bandages on both of your ears?" asked Ole.

"Vell, Ole, yesterday when I was ironing my shirt de telephone rang. I accidentally answered de iron."

"Oh Lars, dat must haf really hurt! So vhat happened to de other ear?"

"Vell," said Lars, "I tried to call de doctor."

Sometimes we are so "tuned into" one situation that we give a faulty response to something else. Many times these situations are harmless, like when we say a wrong word or put something away where it doesn't belong. Not so harmless, though, are the times

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Martha Fick, Good Samaritan, Mission Effectiveness

when we are distracted in potentially dangerous situations, like while driving. It's easy to think that we can handle diversions because we've had no previous problems. But sadly, accidents can happen to anyone. We need to prioritize and focus on what is most important.

In Luke 10 Jesus tells us about two sisters, one who was listening to Jesus' teachings and the other who was preparing a meal for Him. Even though He and His disciples must have been hungry after their long walk, Jesus still said that the most important thing was to listen and learn.

Jesus wants us to follow Him. He's not just calling us to do good things for Him, although we certainly should. He wants us to study and listen and learn from Him. He doesn't want us to be distracted by the cares of the world.

Oh Lord, we want to love You, listen to You and follow You, but life is full of so many different distractions. Help us focus. Show us how to put first things first in everything we do. Protect us from the careless mistakes we make. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Interim Pastor Grant Fisher
112 N. Main St., Hills

Hills United Reformed Church
Saturday, Jan. 2: 2 p.m. Basement reserved for baby shower. Sunday, Jan. 3: 9 a.m. Communion at Tuff Chapel. No Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. Communion at Bethlehem. 7 p.m. Grades 6-8 Youth Night. Wednesday, Jan. 6: 9 a.m. Quilting. 7 p.m. Budget meeting; Confirmation. 7:30 p.m. Grades 9-12 Youth Night. Thursday, Jan. 7: Interim meeting in Redwood Falls.

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.

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Mortgage foreclosure sale set for Jan. 21

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: February 4, 2008
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$124,200.00
MORTGAGOR(S): Jesse A. Akkerman a/k/a Jesse Akkerman and Candyyce Akkerman, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on February 12, 2008 as Document Number 168325 in the Office of the County Recorder of Rock County, Minnesota.
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: None.
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: Lot 6 in Block 1 of The Sybesma Subdivision, Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota
STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 212 PINE DRIVE, LUVERNE, MN 56156
COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock County, Minnesota
THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$132,621.48

TRANSACTION AGENT: None
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR (LENDER): Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 20.2030.000
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE ID NUMBER (MERS NUMBER): None
THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof; that there has been compliance with all pre-foreclosure notice and acceleration requirements of said mortgage, and/or applicable statutes;

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: January 21, 2016 at 10:00 am
PLACE OF SALE: Rock County Sheriff's Office, in the Lobby of the Rock County Law Enforcement Center, 213 East Luverne, Luverne, Minnesota

to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on July 21, 2016.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: November 18, 2015

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.
Mortgagee

SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/

Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(13-2601-FC02)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

(11-25, 12-3, 12-10, 12-17, 12-24, 12-31)

Mortgage foreclosure sale set for Feb. 11

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

MORTGAGOR(S): Darryl R. Boltjes and Marti K. Boltjes, husband and wife
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., a Delaware corporation as nominee for Aegis Lending Corporation, a Delaware corporation
ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Soundview Home Loan Trust 2006-3, Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-3 by assignment recorded on March 5, 2014 as Document Number 183568 in the Office of the County Recorder of Rock County, Minnesota.

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$76,500.00
DATE OF MORTGAGE: April 11, 2006
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded on September 25, 2006 as Document Number 164883 in the Office of the County Recorder of Rock County, Minnesota.

THE AMOUNT CLAIMED TO BE DUE ON THE MORTGAGE ON THE DATE OF THE NOTICE: \$76,472.99

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The South Seventy Feet of the West One Hundred Thirty-five Feet of the North Half of Lot Five (5) in Block Three (3) of PJ Kniss Addition to the City of Luverne, Minnesota, subject to easements, if any, Rock County, Minnesota.

STREET ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 114 N DONALDSON ST, LUVERNE, MN 56156-1418

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock County, Minnesota
TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
NAME OF MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR: Aegis Lending Corporation, a Delaware corporation

RESIDENTIAL SERVICER: Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
TAX PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 20-0970-000
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 100055140023452580

THAT no action or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt then remaining secured by such mortgage, or any part thereof, or, if the action or proceeding has been instituted, that the same has been discontinued, or that an execution upon the judgment rendered therein has been returned unsatisfied, in whole or in part.

PURSUANT, to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 11, 2016 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Rock County Sheriff's Office, in the Lobby of the Rock County Law Enforcement Center, 213 East Luverne, Luverne, Minnesota to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage and taxes, if any actually paid by the mortgagee, on the premises and the costs and disbursements allowed by law. The time allowed by law for redemption by said mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns is six (6) months from the date of sale.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: Unless said mortgage is reinstated or the property redeemed, or unless the time for redemption is reduced by judicial order, you must vacate the premises by 11:59 p.m. on August 11, 2016.

THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: November 18, 2015

ING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None
Dated: December 17, 2015

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR SOUNDVIEW HOME LOAN TRUST 2006-3, ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-3
Mortgagee

SCHILLER & ADAM, P.A.

By: /s/
Rebecca F. Schiller, Esq.
Sarah J.B. Adam, Esq.
N. Kibongni Fondungallah, Esq.
Curt N. Trisko, Esq.
Samuel R. Coleman, Esq.
Attorneys for Mortgagee
The Academy Professional Building
25 North Dale Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
(651) 209-9760
(15-2085-FC01)

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

(12-24, 12-31, 1-7, 1-14, 1-21, 1-28)

ISD #2184 School Board meets Nov. 19

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2184, ROCK COUNTY, LUVERNE, MINNESOTA.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education, ISD #2184, was held in the MS/HS Media Center on November 19, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Katie Baustian, Jodi Bosch, Colleen Deutsch, Eric Hartman, Dave Riphagen, Shelley Sandbulte, and Reva Sehr. Also present: Craig Otfedahl, Marlene Mann, Ryan Johnson, Kara Ahrendt, Christy Hemp, Nick Nekali, Julie Nekali, Hannah Hoogland, Ryleigh Beers, Sam Ykema, Ashton Krueger, Alena Hilfers, Cole Bosch, Mavis Fodness – Rock County Star Herald, and Travis Kriens – K101/KQAD Radio.

Chairperson Dave Riphagen called the meeting to order. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Hartman, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion unanimously carried. Hanna Hoogland, Ryleigh Beers, Sam Ykema, Ashton Krueger, and Alena Hilfers presented information to the School Board about the Empower program that they have participated in. This youth leadership program is sponsored by Sioux Valley Energy. Administrative reports were given.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Hartman, to approve the October 22 and November 9, 2015, school board minutes as presented. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Bosch, second by Baustian, to remove policies #300, #301, #301.01, #301.02, #301.03, #302, #400, #401.02, #401.07, #402.01, #402.05, #402.06, #402.08, #402.09, #403.05, #404.01, #404.07, #405.01, #406.02, #406.03, #407.02, #407.03, #408.02, #409.02, #411.02, and #412.01 from the school district policy book. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Sandbulte, second by Baustian, to renumber the following School District policies #401.02 to #402, #400.03 to #410, #400.04 to #807, #401.04 to #522, #401.06 to #413, #401.09 to #526, #401.10 to #501, #404.12 to #440, #404.13 to #441, #404.18 to #443, and #404.19 to #444. Motion unanimously carried. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Bosch, to approve the Student Teachers Field Experience Contract with South Dakota State University. Motion unanimously carried.

Business Manager Marlene Mann reviewed the school district bills. Motion made by Baustian, second by Deutsch, to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$1,345,764.26. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Bosch, second by Baustian, to receive the Student Activity report showing the balances as of October 31, 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

Jim Gilman, representing Conway, Deuth, & Schmiessing, LLP, presented the fiscal year 2014-15 audit report. Motion made by Hartman, second by Deutsch, to accept the report as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Christy Hemp, Curriculum Coordinator, presented the World's Best Workforce report. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Hartman, to approve the report as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Business Manager Marlene Mann noted the District Revenue and Expenditures Report will be published in the newspaper next week.

Superintendent Otfedahl presented five draft school calendars for the 2016-17 school year. Discussion was held regarding the flexible learning year surveys. Motion made by Deutsch, second by Bosch, to continue with the flexible learning year and to explore calendars that would be a compromise between a traditional calendar and a flexible learning year calendar. Additional discussion was held. A roll call vote was taken with Members Bosch, Deutsch, and Riphagen in favor and Members Baustian, Hartman, Sehr, and Sandbulte against. Motion failed. The School District will return to a traditional school calendar with school beginning after Labor Day.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Hartman, to approve the following revised policies as presented: #407 – Employee Right To Know; #401 – Equal Employment Opportunity; #521 – Student Disability Nondiscrimination; #418 – Drug Free Workplace/ Drug Free School; #502 – Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions, etc.; #420 – Students and Employees with Communicable Disease; #442 – MN State High School Coaches Association; #406 – Public and Private Personnel Data; and, #203.06 Automated External Defibrillator Policy. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Hartman, second by Deutsch, to accept the resignation of Stacy Olson as MS Softball coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve a maternity leave request from Kerri Baker, math teacher, for eight to nine weeks beginning approximately February 9, 2016. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sandbulte, to approve the hiring of John Siebenahler as 7th grade boys basketball coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve Mike Gonnerman as volunteer boys basketball coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Hartman, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Apri Wallace as c-squad girls basketball coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Tom Lanoue as 8th grade girls basketball coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sandbulte, second by Hartman, to approve the hiring of David VanBatavia as assistant boys hockey coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sehr, second by Deutsch, to approve Matt Lais as volunteer boys hockey coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Sehr, to approve Paul Erickson as volunteer boys hockey coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Hartman, second by Deutsch, to approve Tanner Skattum as volunteer girls hockey coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Sehr, to approve the hiring of Jordan Kopp as assistant wrestling coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Hartman, second by Bosch, to approve Jeremy Kopp as volunteer wrestling coach. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Sandbulte, second by Hartman, to approve a leave of absence for Stacey Ommen, paraprofessional, through November 27, 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by Deutsch, second by Hartman, to accept the resignation of Sonja Goemmel, two-hour food service worker, effective November 25, 2015. Motion unanimously carried.

Board members completed the SW/WC Service Cooperative Board of Directors' election ballots.

Committee reports were given. The upcoming meeting dates were reviewed.

Motion made by Baustian, second by Deutsch, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried.

Dated: November 19, 2015

Jodi Bosch, Clerk
(12-31)

Severson probate

PROBATE COURT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN SUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF ROCK

Estate of Robert Lee Severson, a/k/a Robert L. Severson,
Deceased

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:

It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on 11th day of January, 2016 at 3:30 O'clock P.M., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Rock County Courthouse, Luverne, Minnesota for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named deceased, dated September 29, 2015, and for the appointment of Abby Moeller, who address is 509 W. Luverne St., Luverne, MN 56156, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in supervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, said personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.

Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representatives or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.

Dated: December 15, 2015

/s/ Terry S. Vajrht
Terry S. Vajrht
District Court Judge
/s/ Denise Brandel
Denise Brandel
Court Administrator

/s/ Jennifer L. Eisma-Remke

Jennifer L. Eisma-Remke
Attorney For Petitioner
Eisma and Eisma
130 East Main, Box 625
Luverne, MN 56156
(507) 283-4828
I.D. #389457

(12-24, 12-31)

Mortgage foreclosure sale set for Feb. 25

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE

THE RIGHT TO VERIFICATION OF THE DEBT AND IDENTITY OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR WITHIN THE TIME PROVIDED BY LAW IS NOT AFFECTED BY THIS ACTION.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: That default has occurred in the conditions of the following described mortgage:

DATE OF MORTGAGE: August 27, 2012
MORTGAGOR(S): Scott Wessels and Michele Wessels, husband and wife.
MORTGAGEE: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for United Wholesale Mortgage
DATE AND PLACE OF FILING: Recorded September 5, 2012 Rock County Recorder, Document No. 180085.

ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGE: Assigned to: Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC. Dated March 6, 2015 Recorded March 17, 2015, as Document No. 185622.

TRANSACTION AGENT: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.
TRANSACTION AGENT'S MORTGAGE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER ON MORTGAGE: 100032413512135984

LENDER OR BROKER AND MORTGAGE ORIGINATOR STATED ON MORTGAGE: United Wholesale Mortgage

RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE SERVICER: M&T Bank
MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS: 222 North Estey Street, Luverne, MN 56156

TAX PARCEL I.D. #: 20.1678.000
LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY: The W 100 1/4 feet of the N 1/2 of Lot 2 in Block 15 in Warren and Kniss Second Addition to the City of Luverne, Rock County Minnesota

COUNTY IN WHICH PROPERTY IS LOCATED: Rock
ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE: \$122,100.00
AMOUNT DUE AND CLAIMED TO BE DUE AS OF DATE OF NOTICE, INCLUDING TAXES, IF ANY, PAID BY MORTGAGEE: \$125,847.44

That prior to the commencement of this mortgage foreclosure proceeding Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee complied with all notice requirements as required by statute; That no action or proceeding has been instituted at law or otherwise to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof;

PURSUANT to the power of sale contained in said mortgage, the above described property will be sold by the Sheriff of said county as follows:

DATE AND TIME OF SALE: February 25, 2016 at 10:00 AM
PLACE OF SALE: Sheriff's Office, Main Entrance, Law Enforcement Center, 1000 North Blue Mound Avenue, Luverne, MN to pay the debt then secured by said mortgage, and taxes, if any, on said premises, and the costs and disbursements, including attorneys' fees allowed by law subject to redemption within six (6) months from the date of said sale by the mortgagor(s), their personal representatives or assigns unless reduced to Five (5) weeks under MN Stat. §580.07.

TIME AND DATE TO VACATE PROPERTY: If the real estate is an owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, unless otherwise provided by law, the date on or before which the mortgagor(s) must vacate the property if the mortgage is not reinstated under section 580.30 or the property is not redeemed under section 580.23 is 11:59 p.m. on August 25, 2016, unless that date falls on a weekend or legal holiday, in which case it is the next weekday, and unless the redemption period is reduced to 5 weeks under MN Stat. Secs. 580.07 or 582.032.

MORTGAGOR(S) RELEASED FROM FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON MORTGAGE: None
THE TIME ALLOWED BY LAW FOR REDEMPTION BY THE MORTGAGOR, THE MORTGAGOR'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES OR ASSIGNS, MAY BE REDUCED TO FIVE WEEKS IF A JUDICIAL ORDER IS ENTERED UNDER MINNESOTA STATUTES, SECTION 582.032, DETERMINING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THAT THE MORTGAGED PREMISES ARE IMPROVED WITH A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING OF LESS THAN FIVE UNITS, ARE NOT PROPERTY USED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AND ARE ABANDONED."

Dated: December 21, 2015

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee

USSET, WEINGARDEN AND LIEBO, P.L.L.P.
Attorneys for Mortgagee/Assignee of Mortgagee
4500 Park Glen Road #300
Minneapolis, MN 55416
(952) 925-6888
37-15-005955 FC

Document version 1.1 December 11, 2013

THIS IS A COMMUNICATION FROM A DEBT COLLECTOR.

(12-31, 01-07, 01-14, 01-21, 01-28, 02-04)

Keep up with what's
happening in Rock County
www.star-herald.com

Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

Read all public notices online at
www.Star-Herald.com

EMPLOYMENT

EXTRA MONEY? Work part-time or full-time from your home office with our wellness company. No stocking, selling, or delivery. Computer required. www.NewFreedom4u.Biz. Call 507-962-3444 or 507-227-7975. (tc)

EMPLOYMENT

Registered Nurse/LPN-Parkview Manor, a municipal skilled nursing facility is accepting applications for a part-time charge nurse position. Wages commensurate with experience. \$2000 Scholarship available for students. Benefits include vacation, holiday and PERA retirement plan. Contact Darnell Krull, 308 Sherman Ave. Ellsworth, MN 56129 or call (507) 967-2482. (tc)

EMPLOYMENT

SUMMER JOBS
Looking for a fun and rewarding summer job that looks great on your resume? Applications are being accepted for seasonal summer employment at: Palisades State Park (Garretson) and Big Sioux Rec. Area (Brandon). Campground attendant, security, supervisor, education, maintenance, crew leader, and law enforcement. Crew Leader position will work from April 1 through October 31. Application deadline 2/26/2016. Must be at least 17 years old by date of hire. Salaries from \$9.35-13.92/hour. Information and applications can be found online at: <https://bhr.sd.gov/workforus/gfp.aspx>. Questions can be answered at: Palisades and Big Sioux - 605-594-3824. EOE (12.27-2.25)

EMPLOYMENT

Herman Motor Co., the Ford Dealer in Luverne for 83 years, is seeking a fulltime salesperson. This is a great opportunity for the right individual. New, State of the Art Facility with a wonderful opportunity to expand and grow. Please send resume to joel@hermanmotor.com (12.20-1.7)

Nursing Assistant-Parkview Manor has openings for full-time nurse aides with benefits to include: health insurance, public retirement plan, and holiday pay. Part-time positions also available. New Wages \$11.40-12.00/hr. \$2000 scholarships available for students. Will provide training or pay for experience. Contact Darnell Krull, 308 Sherman Ave., Ellsworth, MN 56129 or call (507) 967-2388. (tc)

EMPLOYMENT

Adrian Public School is accepting applications for an Elementary Secretary. This is a part time position consisting of 1720 hours. The preferred applicant will have excellent interpersonal communication and customer service skills, be highly organized and able to handle multiple tasks. Be highly proficient with technology in regards to the use of; Microsoft Word, Excel, Google Docs, software information systems and be able to do general website updates, use a phone system, operate fax and copier machines. In addition, the preferred applicant will have two or more years of clerical training in office management and/or two or more years of work experience as a secretary. Pay rate ranges between \$14.65 and \$15.65 depending on education and work experience. The position is open until filled and the District will determine the start-date. Interested applicants must submit a letter of application complete the district application along with three letters of

EMPLOYMENT

recommendation to Mr. Roger Graff Superintendent, PO Box 40, Adrian, MN 56110. Adrian Public Schools is an equal opportunity employer. (12.24-1.10)

Golf Course Clubhouse Manager Wanted: This position will be responsible for managing clubhouse staff and budgets, food and beverage operations and organizing leagues and tournaments. Candidates must have strong interpersonal, customer service and leadership skills. Manager will work closely with bookkeeper, greenkeeper & board members to manage clubhouse successfully. Some experience preferred but not required to apply. Please send resumes no later than January 29th, 2016 to Tannar Heronimus: 113 Sunrise Circle, Adrian, MN 56110 or contact a board member for more information. (12.31-1.17)

Daily News.
Star-Herald.com



Shipping

- Luverne
- Afternoon Shift

POSITION SUMMARY: Shipping person is responsible for receiving, warehousing and providing supplies to production, and shipping duties. Supports Dry goods/receiving activities. Backups will also be taken from this posting.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs. on a regular basis, ability to push/pull up to 100 lbs.
- Valid palletjack and forklift license (or ability to become licensed)
 - Ability to work in a cold environment.
 - Good oral and written communication.
- Ability to learn new procedures, i.e. bar code scanner, Telzon equipment, stacking grids
- Familiarity with computer systems and possess basic math skills.
- Ability to work variable work hours and excellent attendance required.

Machine Operator

- Days

POSITION SUMMARY: The Machine Operator is responsible for monitoring equipment performance and making adjustments and changeovers as needed for smooth operation of processes. Setup and close down of machines in area also required.

Application deadline: **Open until filled.**
Please apply online at gnpcompany.com
An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

HELP WANTED

The Garretson School District has an opening for a **Head Custodian**. Successful candidates will have strong communication skills, aptitude for organization and coordination, the ability to supervise school custodians, knowledge of cleaning techniques and the ability to do a wide variety of maintenance and repair work. Salary for this position starts at \$40,000, depending on skills and experience.

Benefits include health insurance, dental insurance and South Dakota Retirement. Hours for this position are from 1:00-9:00 PM, but can be flexible. The position is open until filled.

Contact the Administration Office for an application at (605)594-3451.

The Garretson School District does not discriminate in hiring or compensation based on race, creed, color, religion, nationality, sex, handicapping condition or age.

HELP WANTED

The Garretson School District has an opening for a **part-time van driver**. Clean driving record required.

Pay is \$15 per hour for driving time.

The driver will transport students to and/or from various educational facilities in Sioux Falls. Position is open until filled.

Call (605) 594-3451 or stop into the Administration Office to pick up an application.

The Garretson School District does not discriminate in hiring or compensation based on race, creed, color, religion, nationality, sex, handicapping condition, or age.

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE ROCK COUNTY DEPUTY SHERIFF

The Rock County Administrator's Office is now accepting applications for the position of part time Intermittent Deputy for the Rock County Sheriff's Office until January 11, 2016. The position assists the Rock County Sheriff's Department in enforcing the law and the protection of life and property throughout the county. Work is performed on a rotating shift basis.

Applicants must possess a high school diploma or equivalent and a two-year degree in law enforcement, plus an eight-week skills course. Upon being hired, the officer must either be eligible to be licensed as a "part time licensed" or "full time licensed" Peace Officer in order to comply with the post standards in Minnesota. In addition, the applicant must have completed the following training: qualified in the use of firearms, First Responder course, possess a current CPR card and a valid Minnesota class "C" driver's license. The starting salary range is \$19.50 per hour. The application process will involve the creation of a list of qualified applicants that will be valid through June 30, 2016.

A detailed job description and an application 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 at 507-283-5065.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE ROCK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DISPATCHER

The Rock County Administrator's Office is now accepting applications for the position of dispatcher in the Rock County Sheriff's Office until January 11, 2016 at 5:00 pm. This is a full time position with full benefits. Minimum qualifications are a High School diploma or equivalent with one year of work related experience. Applicants must possess excellent communication skills, have the ability to read a map and multi-task duties in a fast paced environment. Starting hourly wage will be \$14.54-\$15.72 per hour DOQ. A detailed job description and an application 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 at 507-283-5065.

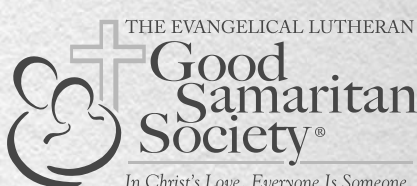
An Equal Opportunity Employer



Now recruiting for a Resource Development/Marketing Director

This leadership position is full-time with benefits. The position will be responsible for all aspects of resource development and some marketing. Individual will work with Good Samaritan Society locations in Pipestone, Luverne and Edgerton.

To apply, visit
good-sam.com/careers.



All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to gender, race, religion, marital status, color, genetic information, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, veteran status or other protected status. 15-G1787



Are you looking for a rewarding career in healthcare? Sanford Luverne has the perfect position for you. We are accepting application for the following positions:

- | | |
|--|--|
| Respiratory Therapist—Full or part time | Hospice LPN/TMA—FT & As needed |
| Environmental Spec. — As needed | EMT/Paramedic — As needed |
| Home Health Aide — As needed | Cook—Part time & As needed |
| Patient Care Tech—Part time | Receptionist—As needed |
| Patient Access Specialist—As needed | Physical Therapist or PTA—Part time |
| Clinic LPN—FT | |

These positions offer a challenging opportunity to be part of a recognized healthcare team and offer a competitive wage and benefits package. Please apply online:

www.sanfordhealth.org/careers

SANFORD
Luverne



Minnesota Classified Advertising Network

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|---|---|--|
| <p>HELP WANTED - DRIVERS</p> <p>NOW HIRING Company OTR drivers. \$2,000 sign on bonus, flexible home time, extensive benefits. Call now! Hibb's & Co. 763/389-0610</p> <p>CDL A DRIVERS \$7,500 sign-on-bonus. Medical benefits on day 1 & \$65k+ in your first year!!! Guaranteed pay. Profit sharing. 401K with company match & more! Email resume: mhr@mcclaneco.com or call Hollie now! 507/664-3038</p> <p>HIRE YOUR HELP HERE! One phone call & only \$279 to reach a statewide audience of 3 million readers!!! 1-800-279-2979</p> | <p>EMPLOYMENT</p> <p>LUMBER MART is seeking motivated and reliable individual for kitchen designer position. Send resume to: Lumber Mart, 1901 32nd Ave. S., Grand Forks, ND 58201</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>SELL YOUR STRUCTURED SETTLEMENT or annuity payments for CASH NOW. You don't have to wait for your future payments any longer! Call 800/218-8581</p> <p>GOT KNEE PAIN? Back Pain? Shoulder Pain? Get a pain-relieving brace -little or no cost to you. Medicare patients call health hotline now! 800/755-6807</p> | <p>MISCELLANEOUS</p> <p>DONATE YOUR CAR truck or boat to Heritage For The Blind. Free 3 day vacation, tax deductible, free towing, all paperwork taken care of 800/439-1735</p> <p>DISH NETWORK Get more for less! Starting \$19.99/month (for 12 months), plus bundle & save (Fast Internet for \$15 more/month.) Call now 800/297-8706</p> <p>STOP OVERPAYING FOR YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS! Save up to 93%! Call our licensed Canadian and International pharmacy service to compare prices and get \$15.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. Call 800/259-1096</p> |
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Star Herald CLASSIFIEDS

CARDS OF THANKS

I want to THANK everyone for their: prayers, flowers, food, visits, transportation for myself and my wife to and from the hospital. All the gifts and especially their calls after I returned home. I especially need to THANK the medical staff for taking such great care of me: Dr. Maziarz and his surgical staff, all the wonderful nursing crew that saw to my every need and the Physical Therapy folks who will make me feel 15 years younger.

Bill Martin
(12.31-1.3)

COMMERCIAL

Office Space for Rent: Ideal downtown location. Quality building. Several sizes available. Utilities included. Call Randy Creeger, 507-220-1105 or randy.creeger@gmail.com. (tc)

MISCELLANEOUS

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

WANTED

Buying old cars, trucks, scrap iron, old farm equipment, tin, wire. Ericksen Salvage, Charlie Ericksen, 605-254-4654. (tc)

RENTALS

For rent: Nice two-bedroom condo style apartment. Garage, low utilities, cost \$550. Deposit, reference required. Rick 507-227-5103 (12.17-1.3)

For rent: Two-bedroom apartment with stairs. Tenant pays gas and electric. No smoking, no pets. Must have good references. Call 507-283-9794. (tc)

For rent: One-bedroom, second floor apartment in downtown Luverne. Older building with updates. \$290 plus utilities. No pets. Call 605-201-6427. (tc)

Oakwood Apartments

401 Oak St., Ellsworth

• 1 Bedroom Unit Available

Unit Available
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AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

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FOR SALE

Cars for sale: 1999 Buick La-Sabre, 69k miles. Nice. Asking \$5,700. 1996 Lincoln Towncar, 120k miles. Nice. Asking \$3,600. Please call 605-413-8862. (12.13-12.31)

Moving, must sell, 2013 Gibson window air conditioner, like new. Call 605-351-2934. (12.31-1.3)

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We custom build and install Energy Star Therm-O-Loc Windows. Call Mike at Adrian Glass for a free in-home demonstration and estimate. 101 E. Pearl, Adrian, MN 56110. 507-483-2228. (tc)

Announcer Printing
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RENTALS

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Maintenance FREE living for those 50+ or disabled at Centennial Apartments.
1 Bedroom
Income based rent, includes ALL utilities!
LloydManagementInc.com

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- All Ages Welcome
 - Close to Senior Dining
 - Close to Minnesota West College
 - Income Based

- Handicap Accessible
- Pet Friendly
- Smoke Free
- Secure Entry System
- On Site Laundry
- Utilities included

Dining and Entertainment

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Sunday, Jan. 3
9am - 1pm
Adults \$6.00 12 & Under \$3.00
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BIG TRAINWRECK 9-CLOSE
NEW YEARS DAY
Indoor Bean Bag Tournament
Registration - noon
Tournament - 1 p.m.
GREEN LANTERN CAFE & BAR
HARDWICK, MN
507-669-2246

New Year's Eve
Nex Door Band 8:30 to 10:30
TAILGATORS GRILL & BAR
DJ and Karaoke 11:00 to 1:00
Food & Drink Specials
1013 N. Splitrock Blvd., Brandon | 605.582.2520 | www.tgators.com

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\$7.00 off Prime Rib (any size)
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2016
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NEW YEARS EVE PARTY
THURSDAY, DEC. 31, 2015
9:00PM-CLOSE
\$3.00 DRINKS STARTING AT 9:00PM
FREE CHAMPAGNE STARTING AT 11:30PM
FREE TROLLEY RIDES WITHIN CITY LIMITS • SEATING IS LIMITED
FREE PARTY FAVORS
Sterling's Cafe & Grille
107 E. MAIN ST. LUVERNE, MN 56156
507-449-0220

New Year's Eve Party 6-9 P.M.
SERVING
\$15.99 STUFFED SHRIMP, BEEF TIPS, BAKED POTATO, SIDE SALAD & DESSERT
DJ FROM 9-1AM
PARTY FAVORS & CHAMPAGNE AT MIDNIGHT
OPEN ALL DAY NEW YEARS DAY
Minnesota Wild Tickets every Thursday in January
Enter drawing to win four Minnesota Wild tickets & hotel (Holiday Inn - walking distance from Excel Center)
Five qualifiers every week drawing every hour from 6-10
Winner drawn Feb. 4 • Game is Feb. 13
(Must be present to qualify and win)
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• Great specials
• Homemade salad bar
• Great Senior specials
• Children's menu
We will be open at 3 p.m. on New Years Day
Help us ring in the New Year and bring your friends and family!
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