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Cardinals take down Huskies in historic win ... See page 1B

Rock County
STAR HERALD

Rock County's oldest business, printing since 1873

Thursday, October 22, 2026

'Notes of Gratitude' set for Nov. 1

Event supports Luverne Street Music, Generations; get tickets by Oct. 28

By Lori Sorenson

More than 80 performers with eight different musical groups will share their talents for a cause on Nov. 1 in Luverne.

"Notes of Gratitude," will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, at Generations Event Center where Bluestem Catering will serve cake (including a gluten-free option).

"There are so many people so excited to be performing for this," said Luverne Street Music co-founder LaDonna Iveland, one of the event organizers. "And they're not all from Luverne Street Music; many are community members sharing their talents."

She co-organized the event with Barb Antoine, Corrine Bonnema, Jesse Booker and Kim and Maggie Schmidt.

Notes of Gratitude is similar to the 2025 "Carols and Cakes" fundraiser that featured musical groups and master of ceremony Brenda Winter, who returns to the mic this year.

•Luverne musicians Amy Jo and Jim Roberts will provide prelude saxophone and piano music as audience members settle into their seats at Generations.

•Bonfire Time Machine Band is the first group on the program to perform. Its members formed earlier this year as a group of Luverne Street Music teachers and parents of Luverne Street Music students. Their songs cover a wide range of musical eras, spanning from the 1930s to today.

•Rachel Wulf Ask, a longtime Luverne vocalist through church and Green Earth Players, will be a soloist sharing her talents at the Nov. 1 event.

•Luverne musical performers Ron and Jane Cote have been singing and strumming guitars since 1980 and will bring their talents to the Notes of Gratitude lineup Nov. 1.

•The Rock County Ukelele Society with 20 members and the LUGS (Luverne Ukelele Group) with nine members will be prominent performers on the Nov. 1 program. They started in 2024 and 2025 and perform alone and with piano accompaniment and

NOTES OF GRATITUDE ▸ PAGE 3

Highway 75 ribbon-cutting date is yet to be determined

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne's Highway 75 reconstruction work won't be done in time for an anticipated Oct. 23 ribbon-cutting that was tentatively announced last week.

A major milestone was reached Oct. 9 when Main Street was opened at Highway for east-west traffic, and lanes left turn lanes were painted.

South Highway 75 is open at the intersection, but the north leg remains closed at Main Street until the road is open on the north of town.

Minnesota Department of Transportation officials and local Luverne leaders had hoped to celebrate a ribbon-cutting this week, however final tasks are still underway on the project.

"Oct. 23 would have been the earliest date that the highway could have possibly opened, but that date was always subject to change," said Doris Degenstein, MnDOT public engagement coordinator.

"At this time, we anticipate that Highway 75 could potentially reopen at the end of October, weather permitting and subject to change."



Lori Sorenson photo/1022 highway 75

Motorists travel on Highway 75 near the Main Street intersection Monday.



Lori Sorenson photo/1022 pumpkins at the cidery

Pumpkin carving, apple pressing Saturday at cidery in Beaver Creek

The Pumpkin Patch at the Cidery in Beaver Creek had an abundant crop this year — an estimated 5,000 pumpkins, many of them heirloom varieties. Sean McFarland and his wife, Marcella, and son Cedar, 8, have been hosting events to encourage pumpkin patch visitors. The next one, a pumpkin carving contest, will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. Regular pumpkin patch hours are noon to 7 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Sean and Cedar are pictured Monday with some of their popular heirloom variety pumpkins. The McFarlands will host their first annual Apple Fest at The Cidery also on Saturday, according to Sean McFarland. "You can come watch us press apples and see how cider gets made," he said. "A lot of people have never had fresh juice from high-quality apples." People can drink the juice on site or take it home with them. For the pumpkin carving contest Saturday, it costs $1 to enter and people get to leave with the pumpkin they carved.

Farmers, Hills in mediation over farmland in city limits

By Nicole Ronchetti

The conflict between the city of Hills and edge-of-town farmers continues, as the parties have entered a period of mediation.

Three landowners who filed for separation from the city had their requests denied by the Hills City Council earlier this year.

Since then, the city has reversed course on a 2.4-acre parcel owned by Diane Boatright, and the council has agreed to let the property be transferred to Martin Township.

However, the other two landowners, Nick and Charlie Sandager, are proceeding with their case involving 90 acres of farmland that is currently taxed at city rates.

If mediation does not result in an agreement, the issue will go to court on Oct. 27, for an administrative hearing.

The matter first came forward in April when the farmers initially requested their land be designated as rural service districts.

This would have reduced the

SEE HILLS FARMLAND ▸ PAGE 5

Hills City Council votes to amend illegal fee schedule for data requests

By Nicole Ronchetti

The Hills City Council voted unanimously on Oct. 13 to amend the fees it had set for public data requests just last month.

The amendment comes after questions were raised about the legality of several clauses from the previous resolution.

In particular, the city's 25-cents-per-page charge for transmitting electronic data was not legal, according to Minnesota Data Practices Law.

Mark Anfinson, attorney for the Minnesota Newspaper Association, weighed in on the matter, explaining that the only instance where a flat, per-page fee for data requests is legal is for physical copies up to 100 pages.

"Note that the 25-cent charge applies only to paper copies, not digital ones," Anfinson said.

The previous resolution approved by the Hills City Council also laid out a charge of $50 an hour, with a minimum of one hour charged, for every data request, something Anfinson said was also not in line with Minnesota Data Practices law.

"The Commissioner of Administration has repeatedly held that flat fees for government employee time are contrary to the law and that only actual costs may be charged," Anfinson said.

The new resolution approved Oct. 13 resolves both of these problems, adjusting the language for electronic copies to reflect actual costs and omitting the $50 flat fee.

History Center has new director

By Nicole Ronchetti

A longing for small-town life recently brought Jake Seboe back to his home state where he is now executive director for the Rock County History Center.

Originally from a small town in northeast Minnesota, just a few weeks ago Seboe was living in Washington, D.C., where he'd recently completed his master's degree in history from George Washington University.

"I loved D.C., and how much variety and diversity there was out

SEE HISTORY CENTER ▸ PAGE 2A



Nicole Ronchetti photo/1022 history director

Jake Seboe, the new director for the History Center, stands next to portraits of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

Lutheran Social Services to end contract with Generations Dec. 15

By Nicole Ronchetti

Lutheran Social Services, which provides senior dining and Meals on Wheels in Luverne, notified Generations this week that it will be ending its contract on Dec. 15.

Currently LSS rents out 57% of the building for its senior nutrition program, and employs several cooks, an on-site coordinator and delivery personnel.

The news follows a meeting earlier this year negotiating rent for the space. LSS gave its formal 60-day notice via email on Oct. 15.

LSS will continue offering senior dining until its contract ends in December. After that Sunshine Foods will be temporarily providing dine-in meals until a long-term solution is found.

The Generations Board of Directors acknowledged in an email that questions remain about Meals on Wheels regarding how it will continue operations.

An all-member meeting has been scheduled for 12:15 p.m. Monday, Nov. 9, at Generations where more details will be discussed.

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HOW TO REACH US
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County at a Glance

Meetings

Vienna Township Board will NOT meet in October. Next board meeting will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, in the Kenneth Community Center.

Rock County Library Board will meet at 5 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 10, at the library. This meeting is open to all.

Al-Anon group for friends and family of alcoholics will meet each Wednesday at 8 p.m. in the library at United Methodist Church in Luverne. Use the back northwest door for entrance.

Cookies and Conversation Oct. 27

The Luverne Area Chamber will host Cookies and Conversation at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27, at the Luverne Loop Trailhead - 601 E. Main Street. It's an open house for casual conversation with your city officials. Stop down and visit with city officials at this event and take this opportunity to ask questions, stay informed, speak up and get connected with city leadership.

UMC hosts community meal Oct. 28

The United Methodist Church will host its free community meal at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, in the church fellowship hall in Luverne. All are welcome. A pick-up option is available. Call 507-283-4529.

Say Boo to Hunger Oct. 30 at Trunk or Treat event

Bring a non-perishable food item to the Presbyterian Church's "Say Boo to Hunger" trunk during the Luverne Trunk or Treat event from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, in the Luverne Elementary School parking lot. The collection vehicle will be parked in the school admin lot, so it will be easy for people to drive by the drop-off. They'll even get a piece of candy! All donations will be delivered to the food shelf. Financial donations can be made to the Rock County Community Foundation – Food Shelf.

One Warm Coat donations needed!

Please consider donating new or used coats and cold weather accessories. Items may be dropped off at the Luverne Elementary School commons for the month of October or at 512 W. Edgehill Street in Luverne. Donations must be new or clean and gently used for both genders and all ages, infant to adult. The coat distribution will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Nov. 5 and from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 7 at Luverne Atlas, 101 W. Maple Street, Luverne.

Adrian Veterans Day event Nov. 11

Adrian National Honor Society will be hosting a Veterans Day program at 9:30 a.m. in the Adrian High School gymnasium. Music by the Adrian Elementary School, Adrian MS/HS choir and band and Colors and Presentation of Flags by the Adrian and Lismore Legions. A free breakfast will be served from 7:45 to 8:45 for all vets and their spouses. Guest speaker will be Lon Brinhous.

Hardwick Veterans Day event Nov. 11

Hardwick will host a Veterans Day banquet Wednesday, Nov. 11, at the Community Hall in Hardwick. Social hour will be at 6 p.m. with a dinner at 6:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Jason Williamson, retired Navy captain pilot. Special patriotic music by Madi Oye Christiansen. Open to the public. Sponsored by the Hardwick American Legion.

Community Ed classes offered

Register for the following classes and activities by calling the Community Education office at 507-283-4724.

Taking **defensive driving classes** allows adults 55 years of age and older to save on insurance premiums. As of July 1, 2024, you are able to take a 4-hour class to receive the discount, and then repeat the class every three years to continue receiving the discount. The schedule for Luverne classes follows: 4-Hour Classes – Nov. 16 and Dec. 14.

Would you like some studio time to work with a clay project with assistance from an instructor? Participants in grade 5 through adult are welcome to reserve **Open Studio** two hour blocks of time on Nov. 7. Fee is $35 and covers all materials, glaze and firing!

Babysitting Basics for students grades 5-8 will be from 3:15-5:15 p.m. Oct. 27. Fee is $20.

Students (grades 1-6) will follow along with the instructor step by step to create a painting at **Paint & Snack class** on Oct. 22. Fee is $35, includes materials and snack.

Amazing Raku on Oct. 24 is open to all ages—but those in grade 3 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Fee is $10, plus you will pick out and pay for a pottery bisque piece at the studio for $10-$30 cost. You will be impressed at the beautiful piece you take home after you apply glaze and watch it change in the fire!



Lori Sorenson photo/1022 beaver creel school demolition

Workers with Fluit Farms Excavating are on site in Beaver Creek Monday beginning demolition of the school.

Demolition begins on Beaver Creek school

By Lori Sorenson



Workers have started to demolish the former elementary school in Beaver Creek.

The asbestos was removed earlier this month, and Fluit Farms Excavating moved heavy equipment on site Monday to begin dismantling the building.

The city of Beaver Creek bought the former elementary school this summer from the Hills-Beaver Creek School District for $1, and the district paid Beaver Creek $175,000 to offset demolition costs.

Larson Construction, Montevideo, submitted the low bid of $77,000 for asbestos removal, however more asbestos was discovered, increasing that cost several thousand dollars.

Fluit submitted the low bid of $125,000 to demolish the building.

The playground equipment on the south side of the property will remain intact as part of the city's recreational area near the splash pad and park.

The district sold off interior items and assets at a July 18 auction, and the city assumed ownership of the building in August.

At the Aug. 12 meeting, the council discussed building a small memorial near the school site, possibly using salvaged bricks from the building

At their Oct. 13 meeting, council members learned they had not received a grant they had applied for to offset the costs of demolishing the building and preparing the site for redevelopment.

FROM PAGE 1A

HISTORY CENTER HIRES NEW DIRECTOR

there," Seboe said.

"But I've been wanting to have that small-town community I used to have... there's something very heartwarming we get from being connected to a community."

That desire meant that when he saw an opportunity to apply for a historical society role in a small town in southwest Minnesota, he took the chance.

"I'm very interested in Minnesota history, and I'm happy to be in Rock County specifically," Seboe said. "The attitude of the citizens and community is what really drew me to this place."

Even during his first visit, Seboe knew that Luverne had the strong sense of community that he was looking for.

"I had this impression that this is a place where nothing could really go wrong; that this is a place where people pick one another up," he said.

But beyond returning to a more familiar, small-town environment, Seboe also sees moving to Luverne as an opportunity to slow down.

For over 20 years he's dedicated himself to his education and earning his degrees. Now, he'll be able to put them into practice.

"After so long, I've wanted to slow down. The grind got to be too much, so to speak ... There was also a desire to use all that I've learned in a practical setting."

Using the past to inform the future

Seboe is quick to share how much he loves history, but that hasn't always been the case.

"Up until my junior year (of high school), I wasn't that interested in history," he said.

Instead, he was primarily interested in science and was considering astrophysics as his future career. But that all changed when he sat down to watch a show on television.

"I remember having this epiphany watching a documentary on World War I. I was thinking to myself I didn't know much about the war, so I decided to learn as much as I could."

From that point on, history became a fascination. First it was military history, but it quickly expanded to U.S. history and presidential history.

"I remember visiting Springfield, Ill., and Lincoln's house," Seboe said. "That's where my love of presidential history clicked, seeing how much one person can change a country."

Even though Seboe can list all of the U.S. presidents in order, he isn't only interested in listing names and dates from the past.

"I'm interested in the philosophy about why things happen and how they happen," he said.

"Learning why something happened and how it affects us today is more important than memorizing dates."

He'll be taking this philosophy with him to his new work as the Rock County History Center director.

"I'm excited about fleshing out some ideas for the history center," he said. "I'd like to see more outreach in the community, and also the modernization of our systems, like having digital backups."

He hopes to balance both priorities: making the center more digitally accessible, and also bringing more visitors to the physical structure.

"I want to make this the place to be," he said.

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ELECTION 2026

Adrian School Board Candidates

There are six candidates running for four seats on the Adrian School Board. They include incumbents Jake Diekman, Leslie Madison, Bobby Kunkel and Brad Lonneman, alongside newcomers Matthew Krichner and Eric Marten.

Jake Diekman

Occupation: Self-employed at Jake Deikman Trucking
Education: Associated Degree in Agriculture



I have been on the school board for the past four years. I am seeking re-election because I believe in our school system and the role it plays on our community. Over the past four years I have gained a lot of knowledge as to how school district operates. I am from the rural part of the school district, and I believe it is important to have representation for all areas of the district. As a rural district, we need to be thoughtful about protecting the programs and services that make our school a strong community asset. I would be honored to continue to give my time, experience and perspective to the school board.

Matthew Kirchner

Occupation: Hometown Heating in Lismore
Education: CCAF degree in Aerospace Maintenance, degree in HVAC/R.



I am seeking a position on the Adrian School Board to help make level-headed decisions that support our students while staying within the district's budget. With the potential of federal budget cuts, I believe we need to carefully review where district funds are being spent before deciding where responsible cuts can be made. My goal is to listen, evaluate the facts, and make decisions that are ion the best interest of our students, staff and community.

Leslie Madison

Occupation: State of Minnesota scale operator, U.S. Census Bureau field representative and farmer.
Education: MBA Business Management, SMSU



I am a 12-year incumbent and wish to continue to improve the education available to our students. As a member of the school board and my past experiences within my jobs, I feel I'm very level headed and have the ability to make tough decisions and come up with reasonable and appropriate decisions for all involved. The key to our school budget is to spend wisely. Many expenses are hard to control. I will continue to vote to provide a quality education while protecting taxpayers' interests.

Eric Marten

Occupation: Site Manager for Palmer Bus Service
Education: Business degree from Minnesota West



I am seeking a position on the school board because I care about this district as both a parent and employee. As the District's Transportation Manager, I see how decisions affect students, families, staff, safety and the budget. I believe that by listening to the people who are doing the work will enable me to make tough decisions and solve problems throughout the district. We need to identify where students are struggling and provide the support they need. Success can mean a student going on to college, trade school, etc.

Bobby Kunkel

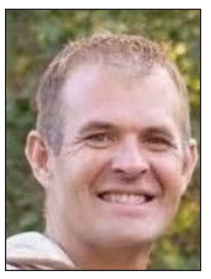
Occupation: self-employed at Kunkel's Auto Repair
Education: Studied general tech at Wilmer for two years, and diagnostics in Alexandria for one year



I am an incumbent on the Adrian School Board. I feel the school board is an important piece of the community charged with keeping our school going. I still have kids in school and eventually grandkids at some point. I feel it's important to be a part of it. If we see the federal budget cuts that are in the talks, the last thing we want to do is cut people. We have to see what the future holds in regard to funding and how we make the budget fit.

Brad Lonneman

Occupation: self-employed Lonneman Grain and Livestock
Education: South Central College, Mankato, Ag Business



I have served six years on the Adrian School Board. I enjoy being involved in the district and giving back to the community. I feel that I can contribute a lot to the board and the school. Growing up in Adrian, I want to stay involved and active in the community. I have organized fund raisers for the school to help keep costs down. Owning my business, I have learned to work within budgets and although I am not responsible for the district budget, I can provide input if needed. Our district is a small district, and we depend on state and federal money to keep the district running smoothly. Smartly managing money is huge in this ever-changing environment.



Lori Sorenson photo/1022 notes of gratitude

More than 80 musicians will perform as members of eight different musical groups in the Nov. 1 Notes of Gratitude event at Generations Event Center in Luverne. A few of them gathered Monday at the Carnegie Cultural Center, which houses Luverne Street Music. They include (front, from left) Corrine Bonnema, Martha Nowatzki, Terri Ebert, Esmiralda Hernandez, Sara Stratton, Nicole Luethje, (second row) Jim Roberts, Amy Jo Roberts, Priscilla Swenson, Susan Schneekloth, Brenda Winter, Fraya Webster, Katie Walgrave, (third row) RaVae Benson, LaDonna Iveland, Melva Schwiedop, Rhonna Jarchow, (fourth row) Ruth Stoakes, Maggie Schmidt, (back) Janice Nelson, Linda Iverson, Barb Antoine and Jesse Booker.

FROM PAGE 1A

NOTES OF GRATITUDE event set for Nov. 1

singers.

•The Carnegie Minstrels are on the program with nearly 30 singers who will contribute a big vocal sound Nov. 1. They started six years ago after the "Christmas at the Palace" holiday fundraiser discontinued.

The Minstrels performed Christmas Cantatas during Luverne's Winterfest weekend to raise money for the Rock County Food Shelf, and last year they sang for the "Carols and Cakes" event last year.

The group, accompanied by Sue Sandbulte, will rehearse at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25, at First Presbyterian Church in Luverne and at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29, at 7 p.m. at Generations. Community members interested in singing with the Nov. 1 performance are encouraged to join one or both rehearsals.

•The Songbirds children's choir at Luverne Street Music is directed by Kira Degerness their director. "We have 18 students who love singing and bring so much energy," she said. "They can't wait to sing and gobble their songs at the Notes of Gratitude."

•The popular Andrews Sisters will perform classic three-part harmony. Terri Ebert, Susan Schneekloth and Martha Nowatzki first performed together as the Andrews Sisters in 2007 when documentary film artist Ken Burns debuted "The WAR" at the Palace Theatre.

Ticket deadline is Oct. 28; proceeds support Generations and Luverne Street Music

The deadline to purchase $20 tickets for Notes of Gratitude is Wednesday, Oct. 28. They must be purchased in advance at the Palace Box Office on Main Street. Call 283-4339.

Proceeds support two local non-profit organizations, Luverne Street Music and Generations.

Generations is the non-profit organization serving senior citizens in Luverne and Rock County.

Luverne Street Music started 13 years ago when Iveland was driving her three granddaughters to Sioux Falls for violin lessons.

When she and Janine Papik realized other local families were doing the same thing, they and Jane Lanphere at the Luverne Chamber organized Luverne Street Music to bring instructors and students together at the Carnegie Cultural Center.

That first year the school had five instructors and 30 students. Today, there are 11 instructors and more than 150 students.

"I couldn't begin to estimate the numbers of students that have come through here over the years," Iveland said. "I also can't imagine where we'd be without support from the city of Luverne helping us with the Carnegie Building."

Many of the Notes of Gratitude performers are with Luverne Street Music, but the Nov. 1 entertainment also many community members who aren't part of the LSM.

"This event is for anyone, any age," Iveland said, adding that the audience will be invited to participate in a sing-a-long.

"There is something different in each individual performance for a wide variety of gratefulness. Those participating are local musicians wanting to give back to our community to include children all the way through aging adults."

Jasper Lutheran Church
Harvest Luncheon
Sunday, October 25
11:00 - 12:30
101 S Spicer St, Jasper, MN
Gluten free options and take-out orders are available.
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Good night, stars. A better place lies beyond time as we keep it



ON SECOND THOUGHT

By Lori Sorenson, Editor

Matt and I enjoyed some quiet time on the front porch Sunday evening. The moon was bright and the stars were twinkling overhead.

I was reminded of my former bedtime ritual telling Carson good night as I closed our curtains on the starry sky.

Many people think of stars as their loved ones gazing down from heaven.

It makes sense, in a way.

They're out there, possibly as celestial beings. Possibly thinking of us as we are of them.

Carson, at 21, was still living with us the year we lost him. I didn't see much of him during the day, but he always had a good night hug for his mom at bedtime.

For many months after he was gone, I felt compelled to gaze at the stars and tell him, "Good night; I love you."

And I'd wonder if he heard me or cared.

Heaven, after all, is heaven. It's presumed to be bliss beyond earthly comprehension. But still I wondered if souls in heaven have earthly thoughts.

Then, one day, a Christian friend reminded me that heaven is where we spend eternity.

Eternity, by definition, is "infinite time without a beginning or an end — a state of existence completely outside of normal time."

So, by eternity's standards, life on earth is fleeting compared with God's omnipresence.

Considering this, my Carson now exists in a place where time has no meaning.

While I'm here on earth marking the days and months without him, he's living his eternal life where I'll soon join him …

… in a blink — a rapidly vanishing "mist," as James in the Bible describes the human lifespan compared with eternity.

As a grieving earthly mother, it's been hard to let go of time as I know it. I miss him desperately and therefore expect he may be missing me.

But I'm trying to remember it doesn't work that way in heaven — where earthly matters don't matter.

My Carson is in the arms of his heavenly Father, which is a far better place to be than any place on earth.

Even better than in his mother's loving embrace, hard as that may be for a mother to acknowledge.

So, I'm trying to see the stars in a different light.

When I close the curtains at the end of the day, I now focus on the place beyond the stars.

Where we no longer hurt. Or worry. Or fear tomorrow.

And where we already exist in the warm embrace of the ones who love us most.

I still ache for those goodnight hugs, but these thoughts bring me comfort.

And I hope they comfort others still whispering "good night" to their special stars at bedtime.

Grieving loss inspires ethical change

GUEST EDITORIAL

By Tom Getman

At the time of this writing, I'm grieving a family member from the Getman-Keitel clan who lived with great joy in Luverne in the last century. Probably you can identify with my sense of loss and gain when a beloved compassionate family member dies. We are reminded of our own mortality but also desired ethical behavior.

In grieving we consider what contributions our faith inspires in us as we continue to face this broken world, stressed societies and needy neighborhoods.

Many condolence calls and notes came to my family when my sister, Cindy, died. They featured gratitude for her sensibility to others especially with her expressions of tearful sacrificial caring for suffering children in Gaza Palestine.

She had met my colleague Yasser Toshtash and his extended family when visiting in the "Holy Land." They became a special focus for our extended clan and others. Yasser had managed for 25 years humanitarian water, health, agriculture, and children relief projects working with two American NGOs.

We were often hosted by Yasser and his wife Jowahar for gracious meals or mint teas. Many of us, including my sister, stayed in touch over the last 30 years because of the genocidal destruction in Palestine and thousands of displaced or killed women and children. Now their lovingly built home and rose garden has been bombed, burned and bulldozed. All is in rubble with the rest of Gaza.

We have been joined by many, including Israelis there and Jewish friends here, in sorrow about the vengeful reaction not only for their loss of their loved ones in the conflict but the death of countless innocent Palestinians.

Our family, too, has grieved many losses. We were joined by others along with Cindy to consider our individual and national ethical responsibility.

Catholic Cardinal Robert McElroy, of Washington, D.C., spoke eloquently, at the annual day of recognition of migrants and refugees about similar situations.

His text was the parable of the Good Samaritan. He pulled no punches. "We as a nation have not been good Samaritans." Or at least not good enough.

He further declared, "For the last year and a half, the people of the United States have witnessed the suffering of the undocumented in our midst, purposely and strategically magnified by our

SEE GETMAN ▸ PAGE 7A



All the same

To the Editor:

No matter what they tell you, a vote for one candidate or another doesn't matter much as they are all the same; meaning troublesome. I voted across party lines by mail last week, anyway.

Every politician now and prior, no matter what party affiliation, at the state level and above is responsible for the place that the USA stands today. There is minimal meaningful political discourse anymore as we just rant and rave endlessly across the great chasm between left and right.

There are significant multi-faceted problems without known solutions at my pay grade. It is easy to point out the issues and extremely difficult to point to the solutions.

A no party system would at least make you think about who you are voting for rather than checking all the boxes on one affiliation or another. Time for a reboot?

Dwight Bremer,
Luverne

Let's keep Luverne moving forward - Vote NO on city charter amendment

To the Editor:

Nineteen years ago, I moved to Luverne from a state with smaller, more locally controlled government. I wasn't sure I'd ever enjoy living in Minnesota, but Luverne proved me wrong! After living in eight communities across three states, I can honestly say there's no place I'd rather call home.

I believe Luverne's success comes from thoughtful planning, responsible city leadership and a community that works together to build a better future. That's why I encourage you to vote NO on the proposed city charter amendment to establish a Public Utilities Commission.

When I first heard the petition would lower utility rates, even this cheapskate thought that sounded great! But when I read the amendment, I couldn't find anything explaining how it would accomplish that. That raised a red flag for me.

One concern is how separating utility oversight could affect the city's ability to support community amenities and residential and commercial development. If utility funds become less available for those purposes, could property taxes rise to maintain the services we enjoy? That's a question worth asking.

During my career in radio, I watched locally owned stations become regional and national operations. Although there were some efficiencies, decisions often became more complicated and less focused on local needs. I worry a separate commission could create similar problems for Luverne.

There are also unanswered questions about administrative expenses, legal fees, accountability, and disagreements between the commission and city council. Before creating another layer of government, shouldn't we know what it will cost and what benefits it will actually deliver?

Our utility rates seem generally comparable to those in other communities where I've lived. Meanwhile, Luverne has invested in modernizing its water, sewer and electric infrastructure. I'd rather pay for well-maintained utilities than risk expensive failures down the road.

More government doesn't automatically mean better government. I love this community and want to see it thrive for generations to come. Let's ask the tough questions, protect our taxpayers and avoid making a permanent change without clear answers.

Please join me in voting NO on the city charter amendment.

Larry Lanphere,
Luverne

Vote NO on proposed Public Utilities Commission

To the editor:

The Luverne Area Chamber supports affordable utility rates, responsible spending, and strong local leadership. However, the proposed Public Utilities Commission raises important questions about the financial impact on our city, businesses and residents.

Utility revenues currently help fund city services, community initiatives and economic development.

If those revenues decrease, the city may need to consider higher property taxes, a local option sales tax or cuts to services and programs.

Community events like Buffalo Days, Hot Dog Nite and the Tri-State Band Festival bring visitors to Luverne, support local businesses, and contribute to the quality of life that makes our community special.

Changes to the city's finances could affect the resources and partnerships that help sustain these events and other community priorities.

The proposal also leaves unanswered questions about operating costs, staffing and how disagreements over funding would be resolved.

Voting NO does not mean opposing lower utility rates or better oversight. It means asking for a clearer financial plan and a better understanding of potential consequences before making a permanent change to the Luverne City Charter.

The Luverne Area Chamber encourages voters to VOTE NO and continue working toward practical solutions that benefit our entire community.

Luverne Area Chamber
Board of Directors

Rock County STAR HERALD

P.O. Box 837, 117 W. Main St., Luverne, Minnesota 56156

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On the Record

Dispatch report

Oct. 7

•Complainant northbound on US Highway 75 at mile marker 9 reported debris.

•Complainant on W. Mead Court reported suspicious activity.

•Complainant on 21st Street in Hills reported an accident with property damage.

•Law enforcement responded to a runaway.

•Complainant on N. Estey Street reported vandalism.

•Law enforcement responded to a transient on S. Kniss Avenue.

•Law enforcement responded to a transient on S. Kniss Avenue.

Oct. 8

•Complainant reported a scam.

•Complainant on W. Gabrielson Road reported a hit and run accident.

•Equipment test/drill occurred on W. Hatting Street.

•Equipment test/drill occurred.

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90 at mile marker 16 reported a road and drive law issue.

•Complainant on county roads 4 and 11 reported a road and drive law issue.

Oct. 9

•Complainant eastbound on Interstate 90 at mile marker 3 near Beaver Creek reported a road and drive law issue.

•Complainant on 181st Street in Kenneth reported suspicious activity.

•Rock County Sheriff's Department assisted another department on E. College Drive in Marshall.

•A fire was reported on County Road 17 and County Road 13 near Hills.

•Complainant on Interstate 90 at mile marker 7 near Beaver Creek reported an accident with property damage.

•Complainant on Highway 23 and Interstate 90 reported a road and drive law issue.

•A liquor law issue was reported on E. South Street in Magnolia.

Oct. 10

•Complainant on Highway 75 at mile marker 22 reported near Hardwick property damage.

•Complainant on N. Cedar Street and E. Lincoln Street reported an accident with property damage.

•Complainant on S. Church Street in Hills reported property damage.

•Rock County Sheriff's Department assisted another department on S. Donaldson Street.

•A fire was reported at storage units south of The Bull Pen Sports Bar and Grill.

•Rock County Sheriff's Department assisted another department at Magnolia exit off of Interstate 90.

•Complainant on Church Avenue in Steen reported disturbing the peace.

•Rock County Sheriff's Department assisted another department eastbound of Interstate 90 near Beaver Creek.

Oct. 11

•Complainant on N. Cedar Street reported burning/smoke.

•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90 at mile marker 3 near Beaver Creek reported a road and drive law issue.

•Rock County Sheriff's Department assisted another department in Pipestone.

•Complainant on US Highway 75 at mile marker 16 near Hardwick reported an accident with property damage.

•Law enforcement responded to a pedestrian on County Road 4 and 70th Avenue near Beaver Creek.

•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90 at mile marker 7 near Beaver Creek reported a road and drive law issue.

•Complainant westbound on Interstate 90 at mile marker 7 near Beaver Creek reported an accident with property damage.

•Complainant reported lost/found property.

•Complainant reported theft/larceny.

•Complainant reported lost/found property.

•Complainant on N. River Road reported weapons.

•Complainant on E. Main Street reported lost/found property.

•Rock County Sheriff's Department assisted another department.

Oct. 13

•Complainant on 60th Avenue and 41st Street in Hills reported an accident with property damage.

•Complainant on Kniss Avenue and Sunshine Gas reported an accident with property damage.

•Complainant south on Highway 75 at mile marker 20 near Hardwick reported a road and drive law issue.

•Complainant on S. Kniss Avenue reported a hit and run accident.

•Complainant on 131st Street and Blue Mound Avenue reported an accident with personal injury.

•Complainant reported lost/found property.

•Rock County Sheriff's Department assisted another department on Highway 91 near Adrian.

In addition, officers responded 2 deer accidents, 2 transports, 3 escorts, 11 ambulance runs, 1 parking violation, 3 fingerprint requests, 1 burn permit, 1 background check, 3 points of information, 2 data requests, 5 alarms, 2 purchase and carry permits, 37 traffic stops, 3 abandoned 911 calls, 1 test, 3 welfare checks, 2 reports of cattle out, 1 OFP, 4 follow-ups, 3 public assists and 1 submit a tip.



Lori Sorenson photo/1022 water detention pond

Workers prepare the site of a future water detention pond Monday south of Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne.

Water detention pond to alleviate flooding

By Lori Sorenson

A water detention basin and larger storm sewer pipes will soon alleviate persistent flooding along Estey and Adams streets east of the school.

Al Stoakes is among the residents looking forward to the improvements.

"It's always a concern if we get a gulley washer," said Stoakes, who lives on North Estey Street.

"I've been out there in my hip waders with a rake keeping the storm drains clear to keep the water moving out of there and not into my basement."

Through the years he said he's made improvements to his home, like tiling the basement and keeping a sump pump running, but a hard rain still makes him nervous.

"It can get pretty deep here — up on the boulevards and against the foundation, depending how fast the rain comes," Stoakes said.

According to DGR Engineer Matt Knips, rainwater from a 54-acre watershed flows from the Davis and Edmonds' Additions north of the school toward the low area of North Estey Street.

He said water travels through an undersized and damaged storm sewer that's too small for the storm water runoff.

"A couple years ago the city televised the storm sewer and found a large chunk of asphalt — about 18 by 18 inches — that somehow got in the storm sewer," Knips said.

"That's been removed, but they discovered the pipe was in poor condition."

This summer, a 24-inch storm sewer pipe under Highway 75 was replaced by a 48-inch pipe that will drain into the future detention basin.

The basin will be created in the low-lying grassy area south of Bethany Lutheran Church along the east side of Highway 75 generally across from the school campus.

The dimensions of the structure will be roughly 170 by 150 feet, and when it's filled with water it will be 9 feet deep.

"We wish we could go larger," said DGR Engineer Matt Knips. "We're maximizing the size of the basin to the space allowed, and it will significantly improve the existing conditions there."

An outlet structure at the bottom of the basin will release water slowly through a new 30-inch pipe toward Estey Street's storm sewer, which drains toward the larger pipe along Dodge Street.

The bottom of the basin will have drain tile — to keep the basin dry and mow-able outside of rain events. Due to limited space, Knips said the basin will not be able to detain runoff for every storm event, and it is expected the basin will overtop in storm events larger than a 25-year storm, which have a 4% chance of occurring in any given year.

But he said it will still be a marked improvement.

"Without the detention basin, the existing storm sewer in this area will only convey a two-year storm event, meaning there is a 50% chance of a storm of this magnitude occurring in any given year," he said.

Water from larger storm events will overtop the basin near Sitting Bull Park, where it will flow through the park to Estey Street. "It's going to be a good project for the community and the residents in those neighborhoods," Knips said. "I'm excited to be getting it done."

He said the project has been in the works for two years, with planning and funding.

It was estimated to cost $494,000 but competitive bidding in July brought a low bid for $369,374 from H&W Contracting, Sioux Falls.

The city received federal PROTECT grant funds totaling $242,300 to help pay for the work. The acronym stands for Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation.

Excavation started Friday and the project is expected to be finished in November.

Stoakes said he's looking forward to the next hard rain when he doesn't have to babysit the storm sewer drains.

"I hope it works," he said about the detention basin. "And I appreciate their efforts."

Knips, Sioux Falls, is a 2009 LHS grad with a civil engineering degree from SDSU, Brookings. He's the son of Dave and Brenda Knips, now of Sioux Falls.

He works out of the DGR office in Luverne two to three days a week. "It's been a joy working there with people I know," he said. "Luverne is a progressive City and it's been fun seeing the changes there through the years."

FROM PAGE 1A

HILLS FARMLAND ISSUE ENTERS MEDIATION

property taxes paid on each parcel to a comparable rate to Martin Township.

Rural service districts are designed to reduce the tax burden on agricultural land in city limits if the parcels don't receive municipal services and aren't planned for development.

By these standards, the farm ground in question is eligible.

However, no agreement for a rural service district was reached, and the landowners filed in June for detachment from the city.

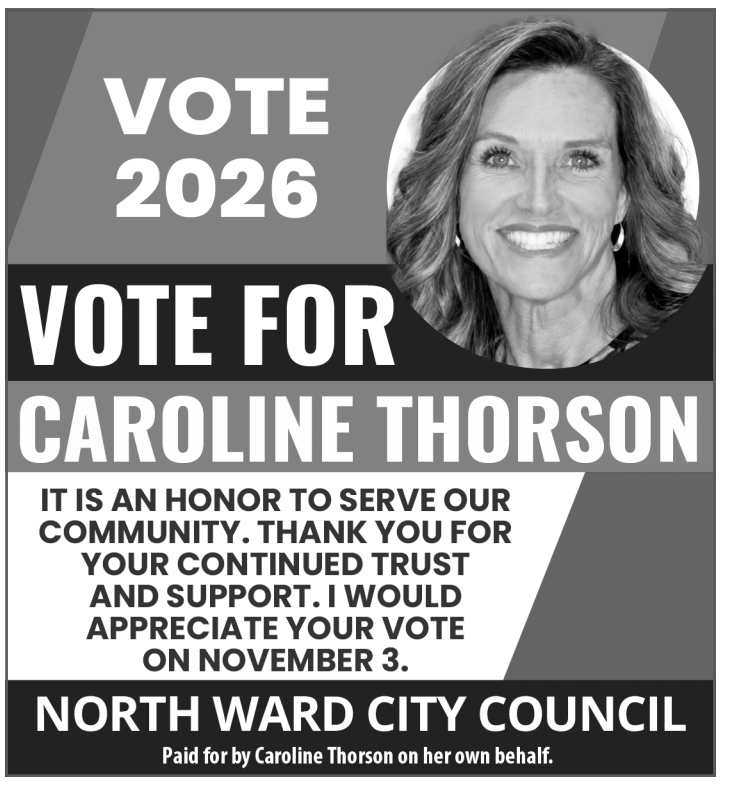
As properties within city limits, the farm parcels pay a tax rate of 29.320%, roughly six times higher than the Martin Township rate of 5.145%.

This means that for one of the parcels with a taxable value of $467,700 in 2026, city property taxes amount to $1,371.30. If it were township land, its property tax would only be $240.63.

The combined tax revenue the city receives from these parcels is nearly $3,000, or just under 2% of Hills' 2026 tax levy.

If the land is detached, it would mean the city of Hills would reduce in size by roughly 90 acres, or 22%.









Heather Johnson photo/1022 fall play group

LHS fall play cast members are (standing, from left) Charlotte Happeny, Eli Kinsinger, Lucie Mardis, Kaidyn Mundt, Oliver Carbonneau, Paige Kubesh, Taedra McKenzie, Arlo Hogan, Abbigail Hoobler, Kai Berning and Christopher Severns. Not pictured is Hadian Alinizi. LHS fall play tech and voice over members are (seated, from left) Luella Johnson, Lucas Hoffman, Alayna Oechsle and Charlotte Bierman. Not pictured are Justin Mulder, Madison Sherman, Allison Lysne and Mallory Berning.

Luverne high school theater department to put on '12 Incompetent Jurors' as fall play

Performances will be Oct. 22, 23 and 24

By Nicole Ronchetti

Fans of the classic film "12 Angry Men" are in for a treat when the Luverne High School Theater Department performs "12 Incompetent Jurors" later this week.

The play, directed by Casey McKenzie, is a comedy and parody of the famous film starring Henry Fonda.

Instead of a deeply serious case of a teen charged with murder, the eccentric jurors of this play are tasked with declaring a verdict on an open-and-shut case of cat theft.

"We have our 12 jurors, and this group seems a bit more unhinged than your average jury," McKenzie said.

"There's a wide variety of characters, and exactly one normal person in the room."

Shenanigans and humor ensue as the lone sane juror tries to carry the rest of the jury past the finish line.



Charlotte Happeny (left), Hadian Alinizi, Eli Kinsinger and Lucie Mardis practice a scene on Thursday, Oct. 15, for the high school's fall play "12 Incompetent Jurors."

The 12 jurors are played by Christopher Severns, Kai Berning, Paige Kubesh, Abbigail Hoobler, Arlo Hogan, Taedra McKenzie, Oliver Carbonneau, Kaidyn Mundt, Lucie Mardis, Eli Kinsinger, Hadian Alinizi and Charlotte Happeny.

A number of students will also help backstage, with props, sound, lights and more.

"It's been great to work with kids this age," McKenzie said. "Their energy is constant."

He also praised the actors' memorization skills and their dedication to their roles.

"They memorize their lines so quickly, and when the adults are getting tired, they're still going strong."

This play is the first that McKenzie will be directing for the high school, taking the reins from Shawn Kinsinger who had to step down from the role last spring due to health reasons.

"Shawn has spent so many years building up the (high school) theater program. I didn't want to see that go away, so I said I was willing to step in and fill the gap."

McKenzie has a degree in theater and a long history with the local Green Earth Players community theater group.

As such, he was a natural choice for the role, and he shared his gratitude for being able to work with such talented young actors.

"They've been fantastic to work with and the energy has been amazing," he said.

Performances for "12 Incompetent Jurors" are set for 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22, Friday, Oct. 23, and Saturday, Oct. 24.

Tickets will be $5 for students and $8 for adults. Activity passes will also allow entry.

Menu at Generations

Monday, Oct. 26: Country fried chicken with cream gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, wheat bread and sugar cookie.

Tuesday, Oct. 27: Pasta pizza casserole, country vegetable blend, dinner roll and spiced peaches.

Wednesday, Oct. 28: Oven-roasted turkey with turkey gravy, mashed potatoes, corn, bread and tapioca pudding with whipped topping.

Thursday, Oct. 29: Beef goulash, mixed vegetables, dinner roll and pumpkin bar.

Friday, Oct. 30: Baked pork chop with pork gravy, scalloped potatoes, diced carrots, wheat bread and oatmeal raisin cookie.

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

Call 283-9846, to reserve one day prior, to arrange to pick up a dinner or for home-delivered meals.

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

1942: Helgerson started herding cattle at 4 years old



Bits by Betty

By Betty Mann, Rock County Historian

The following appeared in The Rock County Herald on Oct. 22, 1942.

When Sever Helgerson, Steen, was a boy, it was the custom for parents to teach their children to work almost as soon as they were able to walk. One example was Mr. Helgeson himself. He began herding cattle when only four years old. He kept it up every summer until sunset. During the entire season, he seldom wore shoes and stockings.

Mr. and Mrs. Helgerson, this week's Diamond Club members, are among the few early settlers of this area who are still living at Steen. Both Mr. and Mrs. Helgerson were born in Fayette County, Iowa, Mrs. Helgerson on March 16, 1865, and Mrs. Helgerson on October 18, 1868.

Mr. Helgerson moved to Lyon County, Iowa, in 1868 and the year following, Mrs. Helgerson, the former Malene Sanderson, moved to Rock County.

Both can well remember the hardships of the early days. Mrs. Helgerson, for instance, earned her first money at the age of 15 when she received $1 a week for doing housework. Mr. Helgerson worked at home and received no money until he was 16. He earned his first money away from home by working an entire harvest season for $30.

With the exception of the past 28 years, Mr. and Mrs. Helgerson lived on farms all the time. Mr. Helgerson recalls that modern day farming is considerably different from what it was when he was a boy and young man. Nowadays, for instance, alfalfa provides the average farmer with the bulk of his hay for winter feeding. When he first came to this country, no one thought of using anything else except prairie hay, for it grew in abundance everywhere. The prairie hay and slough hay that a person sees now is a great deal different from what it was then. In those days, it grew as tall as seven feet.

When this grass caught fire, as it often did, it meant a roaring blaze and large quantities of excellent feed lost. He and his family experienced several such fires, but in all cases they managed to escape without losing buildings as many people did.

The longest winter he can remember is that of 1880-81. Snow drifts were so deep that they were unable to get to town with a team for three months.

The residents of this area, however, usually prepared for the worst and had stocks of staple supplies on hand for just such an emergency. Farmers would haul their wheat to the mill twice a year to have it ground into flour.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Helgerson had the experience of living in sod houses when they were at home with their parents. After their marriage in Rock Rapids, July 16, 1886, they lived in a farm structure on their farm.

They lived in Charles Mix county, S. Dak., for ten years, and then farmed in Lyon county before moving to Steen in 1914. For 15 years, Mr. Helgerson worked as a cobbler there, and was janitor of the Steen school for almost 21 years. He retired about five years ago.

He never had political aspirations of any kind, although he did serve on the town board while living at Geddes, S. Dak.

Both he and his wife are members of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Hills.

The couple has five children: Sam, of Centralia, Wash.; Albert, Geddes, S. Dak.; Mrs. Agnes Raymond, Lake Andes, S. Dak.; Willy, of Wheaton, Ill., and Archie, of Hardwick. They also have 15 grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Both attribute their long lives to work, good health and living a plain life.

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

Mann welcomes correspondence sent to mannmade@iw.net.

Remember When

10 years ago (2016)

•When the Casey's General Store on South Highway 75 in Luverne finishes its building expansion, it will offer new lunch and dessert choices.

Sub sandwiches, ice cream and slushies will join its coffee bar, pastries and pizza choices.

"It's going to be so nice," said local store manager Margo Walgrave. "We are so excited about it."

The 16-by-40-foot addition to the store's south side adds extra storage for the new products plus more room for the sandwich and wrap preparations.

25 years ago (2001)

•The Luverne High School marching band is basking in the glow of an outstanding competitive season.

According to director Dale Nelson, this has been the most successful season he's had in his 26 years in Luverne.

The trophies and plaques this year represent 18 awards, 17 of them first-place honors, plus three sweepstakes awards.

Nelson said Luverne has won a total of two or three sweepstakes awards in his 25 years prior to this year, but three in one year is unprecedent.

50 years ago (1976)

•A Halloween party for children up to the eighth grade will again be sponsored this year by the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary. ...

Barbecues and soft drinks will be served, and entertainment will be provided.

Luverne Jaycees have set up a haunted house at the National Guard Armory for Halloween entertainment, Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

A witch who will host the haunted house, will be named this week from entries submitted in a witch naming contest open to children sixth grade and under.

75 years ago (1951)

•Rolph Construction Co. started work this week on a super station and a café for Earl Ellsworth. The new business will be located in the Glover addition on the west edge of Luverne and will be located on the corner just north of Friestad's service.

When completed next March the building will be 29 x 40 feet and will have two stories and basement. There will be living quarters above the station for Mr. Ellsworth and his family.

Ellsworth recently sold the farm on which he has been living north of Luverne on Highway 75.

The station and café will be of block and brick and steel construction. Estimated construction cost is about $20,000.

100 years ago (1926)

•Treasuries at Rock County and the various school districts will soon be enriched to the extent of nearly $11,000 by checks from State Auditor Ray P. Chase.

These are in payment of the semi-annual apportionment of current school fund and the inheritance tax.

The amount apportioned to the different school districts of the state is $2,032,634, while the inheritance tax for the state totals $930,283.70.

Rock County's share of this semi-annual distribution of state school money is $10,216.00 and is based on a public school enrollment of 2554 listed at the close of the school year, ending July 31 last.

Pupils attending school the required number of days share to the extent of $4.00 each.

FROM PAGE 4A

GETMAN editorial on need for responsibility, ethical change

government, and for the most part, we have simply passed on by." (Courtesy of William Kristol – Bulwark)

Cardinal McElroy's report to the wider Church and society noted we have failed to live up to the two great legacies that shape America's duty to the stranger: the command in Deuteronomy that "you shall not violate the rights of the alien or the orphan," and the words of Emma Lazarus on the Statue of Liberty, "Give us your tired your poor ..."

In recent months, our country has traded that legacy for "suspicion, division, cruelty and violence." We have abandoned the words of Deuteronomy and the Statue of Liberty, and "we are losing our soul as a nation."

As with others of my family and friends I have regularly returned to our roots in Luverne to "lie down in green pastures and walk beside the quiet waters" to restore my soul.

Our heritage has carried us in loving arms with healing memories and encouraging relationships in times of serious challenge ... and does now as the world is moving into neo-colonial gestapo style of governments.

> "Do we stand with those harmed by wrongful arrest, climate change, racial inequality or age discrimination?... Do our votes reflect an ethical commitment to those who are struggling?
>
> **Tom Getman**

My heart and soul are awakened when loved ones depart as good and faithful servants. We survivors realize again we must engage in the center point of our fragile democracy as we go to the polls.

Do we vote out of self-interest and political habit, or with concern for people who lack food, health care and other essential support?

Do we stand with those harmed by wrongful arrest, climate change, racial inequality or age discrimination?

In short, do our votes reflect an ethical commitment to those who are struggling? By seeking justice for others, we help secure it for ourselves.

And in so doing we can be faithful to Jesus's teaching in the Beatitudes to love neighbors here and abroad as ourselves. We can lift in our politics the poor and oppressed ... and stand with those who deliver the "bread of life."

In purpose and place we can help even in small ways to continue a good Samaritan legacy reflecting the beloved kingdom on earth.

Thomas Getman is a Luverne native and a member of the Rock County Hall of Fame and the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame. His advocacy group in Washington, D.C., specializes in international, UN and nongovernmental organization affairs.



Shared image

Kozlowski Insurance donates to S.H.A.R.E.

Kozlowski Insurance recently donated $2,500 to support S.H.A.R.E. and local families. Pictured on Wednesday, Oct. 14, are (from left) Josey Arends, Tracey Hanenburg, Ashley Connell, Nicole Meester, Amy Chapa and Sara Gorter. S.H.A.R.E. (Sharing Hearts Are Reaching Everyone) is a local, volunteer-run nonprofit organization that supports individuals and families in need throughout Rock County. Through donations and community support, it provides groceries, clothing, blankets, toiletries, toys and more to local families throughout the year. Each December, the organization also holds a special holiday distribution. S.H.A.R.E. applications (Due Nov. 18) are available at local businesses and at Community Education. The holiday distribution will be Dec. 9, at the American Reformed Church in Luverne. Families must be residents of Rock County to apply.

OBITUARIES

Robert Reese

Robert "Bob" Reese, age 85, of Luverne, Minn., passed away on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026, at The Cottage in Luverne.



Memorial visitation was from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9, 2026, at St. Catherine Catholic Church in Luverne. Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 10, 2026, at St. Catherine Catholic Church. Inurnment was in the St. Catherine Catholic Cemetery in Luverne.

Arrangements were under the care of Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne. Memorials are preferred and may be directed to the family. To sign an online registry or view Bob's life tribute slideshow, please visit www.hartquistfuneral.com.

Robert "Bob" Wayne Reese was born Dec. 17, 1940, to Arnold and Ruth (VandeVelde) Reese in Luverne, Minn. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Catherine Church in Luverne.

Bob grew up on the family farm, six miles north of Beaver Creek, Minn., where he lived the majority of his life, having lived in Springwater Township his entire life.

While growing up he helped neighbors with corn shelling, and baling hay and straw. He enjoyed riding motorcycle and causing chaos with his brothers. During high school he played basketball and football. Bob graduated from Beaver Creek High School in 1960.

On Sept. 18, 1971, Bob was united in marriage to Judy McCarty at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Alvord, Iowa. This union was blessed with two children.

Bob worked the land as a farmer and raised cattle. When his children, Diane and Dennis, were growing up it was like "Old McDonald's Farm".

Bob would go to the sale barn on Saturdays and bring home new animals for the kids to "take care of". Over the years he brought home ducks, geese, guineas, turkeys, rabbits, and pigs. Bob felt the kids needed some responsibility doing chores.

If Bob wasn't working on something in the yard, he was helping the neighbors. They would take turns helping with the fieldwork, machinery, mowing and baling, and working the cattle.

Before Bob got a cattle trailer, he would round up a crew and move cattle with pick-ups, horses, three-wheelers, and by foot to a different pasture. Sometimes it went well. Other times a few curse words might have slipped out.

Bob worked in construction and farmed for most of his life before deciding that was enough and he "retired". He got rid of the cattle, but kept "helping" Dennis with the farming until 2022.

Bob enjoyed fishing, doing word finds, and fixing the grand-boys' bikes. He would take his kids and grandsons to Bakke's Pond to catch bullheads galore. His fishing trips with friends took them to Canada, Arkansas, and the Missouri River. Many drinks were consumed, fish caught, and a good time was had by all.

On Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026, passed away at The Cottage in Luverne at the age of 85 years, nine months and 18 days.

Bob is remembered by his wife, Judy of Luverne; children, Diane (Jarod) Rowden of Luverne; and Dennis Reese (special friend, Shannon) of Jasper, Minn.; grandchildren, Taylor Reese of Sioux Falls, Tanner (Liz) Rowden of Miller, S.D., Cole Reese and Thomas Reese of Pipestone; step-granddaughters, Paige (John) Dougherty of Salem, Mo., and Tori (Jeremy) Wolf of Valley Springs, S.D.; great-grandchildren, Easton Rowden, Faith Wolf, and Lily Dougherty; siblings, Arnold "Bud" (Carol) Reese of Milaca, Minn., Mary Nath of Magnolia, Minn., Sue (Don) Juntunen of Menahga, Minn., and Micheal (Candace) Reese of Luverne.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Ruth Reese; and brother, Daryl (Judy) Reese; and brother-in-law, Johannes Nath.

Memorials are preferred and may be directed to the family.

Edna Dirks

Edna Frances Dirks, age 95, of Luverne, Minn., passed away on Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, at the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne. Funeral service was at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21, at the First Presbyterian Church in Luverne. Visitation was held prior to the start of the service from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the church. Burial followed at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.



Arrangements were under the care of Hartquist Funeral Home. Please visit www.hartquistfuneral.com to view Edna's life history and to sign an online registry.

Edna Frances Dirks was born on April 4, 1931, to Abe and Marie (Lobbes) Smith in rural Steen, Minn., where she grew up. She attended country school through the eighth grade. Edna was working at a coffee shop before taking a position with Nelson Department Store in 1948 where she would remain for the next 26 years.

On June 14, 1949, Edna was united in marriage to Ben Dirks at her parents' home in Luverne, Minn. Edna and Ben began their life together in Luverne. In 1955, they moved to Hills, Minn., where they lived for three years before returning to Luverne in 1958. Edna began working at Bot Drug Store in Luverne in 1973 and remained there until 1992 when she began working at the Rocking Horse Gift Shop, also in Luverne.

In 2006, Edna retired. On Saturday, Oct. 17, 2026, Edna passed away at the Good Samaritan Society - Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne at 95 years, 6 months and 13 days.

Edna was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Luverne. She was a member of the Eagles Club Auxiliary. In her spare time, Edna enjoyed crocheting and puzzles. She and Ben had the opportunity to take several bus trips through the years.

Edna is survived by her three children, Mike (Denise) Dirks of Rock Rapids, Iowa, Steve "Ben" (Marlys "Mo") Dirks of Luverne, and Nancy (Scott) Gusso of Madison, S.D.; daughter-in-law, Laura Dirks of Liberty, Mo.; nine grandchildren, Shawn, Brent and Eric Dirks, Blake and Cody (Crystal) Dirks, Chris (Mary), Taner (Madison) and Tyler DenHoed, and Kelsie (Jake) Uithoven; five great-grandchildren, Aaron and Ashley Dirks, Bryson and Daxton DenHoed, and Briar Uithoven; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ben, in 2002; son, Jeff; parents, Abe and Marie Smith; brother, Marvin (Nellie) Smith; and sister, Charlotte (Dick) Korthals.

Robert Zinnel

Robert "Bob" Zinnel, age 87, of Luverne, Minn., passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 14, 2026, at the Luverne Hospice Cottage.

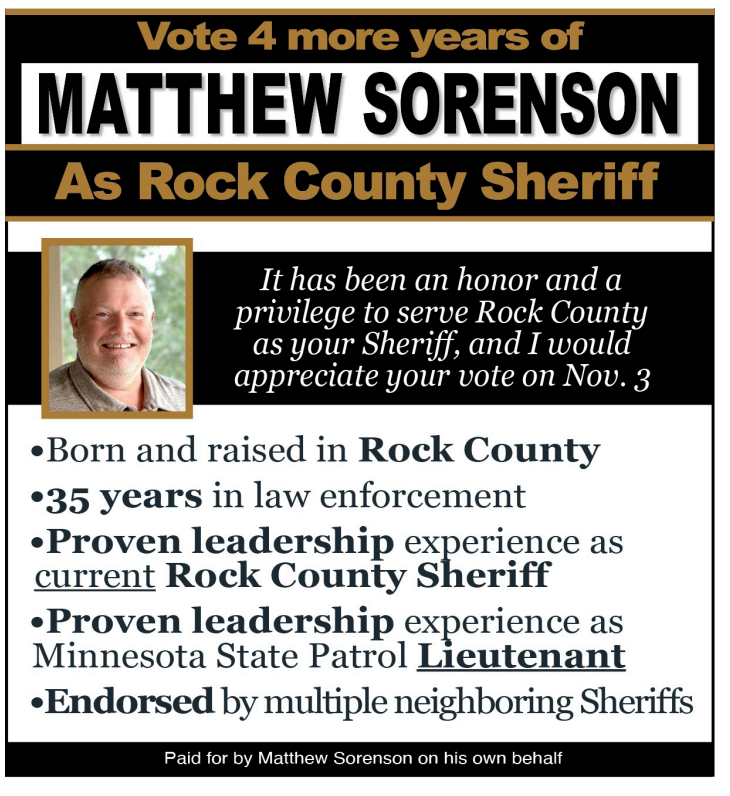
Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 19, 2026, at the St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne, with a prayer service and a time of sharing at 6:30 p.m. Funeral service was at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2026, at St. John Lutheran Church.

A private family burial with military honors took place at the Memory Gardens Cemetery in Worthington, Minn.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Hartquist Funeral Home - Luverne Chapel.

Please visit www.hartquistfuneral.com to view Bob's life history and to sign an online registry.







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Hills Fire Department to purchase drone

By Nicole Ronchetti

The Hills Fire Department received permission to purchase a drone on Oct. 13, with total related expenses at $13,315.

The drone would have thermal imaging capabilities and would be used to monitor fires, how they spread and if hot spots remain after the flames are extinguished.

The model will be a DJI Matrice 4TD drone, which costs $9,820. Four batteries will cost an additional $1,720.

In addition to the physical costs of the drone, Hills Fire Chief Jared Rozeboom said there are registration costs and costs for training five Hills firefighters on the equipment.

This will include a training program priced at $895 and tests for a pilot's license at $875.

The cost for registration, training and the pilot's tests are also eligible for state reimbursement, meaning the total cost to the city will come in at $11,540.

The purchase will come from the city's equipment savings account, which has additional funds this year as a result of other items not needing to be replaced.

The Hills City Council unanimously approved the fire department's request, noting how useful a drone would be for grass fires and other emergencies.

Luverne murder suspect deemed competent to proceed in court

By Lori Sorenson

Legal proceedings for Luverne murder suspect Melvin Frazier are back on track after he was found competent to proceed with his case.



Court processes had been suspended following a Rule 20 motion that was granted in Rock County District Court on Aug. 17.

A Rule 20 evaluation is conducted by a court-appointed examiner to assess a defendant's ability to understand the proceedings and assist in their defense.

Frazier, 61, is accused of killing 47-year-old Janelle Lea Carlson in their Luverne residence on July 24.

On July 21, he had completed a 90-day jail sentence for assaulting Carlson in May. Three days later he was arrested on charges that he brutally beat and stabbed her to death.

Frazier faces a felony charge of second-degree murder — with intent, no premeditation.

According to the criminal complaint, he was intoxicated when he was taken into custody and repeatedly made statements that he "did it," and wanted to be taken to jail.

He made his initial appearance in Rock County District Court for a remote hearing Aug. 10 when his attorney, public defender Michael Hanson, requested the Rule 20 examination of his client before the case proceeds.

On Aug. 17, Frazier appeared for what would have been an omnibus hearing; however Judge Kayla Johnson granted the Rule 20 motion, which suspended court proceedings while Frazier's mental evaluation was completed.

Following that evaluation, and based on the competency examination report, Johnson ruled on Oct. 2 that Frazier is competent to proceed.

On Monday he appeared for a remote scheduling hearing, and an omnibus hearing was scheduled for 2 p.m. on Dec. 16.

He is currently in custody in the Nobles County Jail.



Anonymous donation supports first-aid, medical and trauma response backpacks for deputies

The Rock County Sheriff's Office recently received a $10,000 donation from a local family who requested to remain anonymous. Sheriff Matthew Sorenson discussed with deputies and staff how the funds could be used, and they decided to use some of the money to purchase and equip first-aid backpacks for each of the squad cars. Pictured with 15 new backpacks at the Rock County Law Enforcement Center Monday are (from left) Dispatch Supervisor Brooke Walgrave, Sheriff Sorenson and Deputy Dallas Hamm.



The deputies currently have basic first-aid equipment, AEDs (automatic external defibrillators), and Narcan, but there isn't a uniform carrying system for all the gear for all the deputies. Now, each of the deputies have their own fully-stocked first-aid, medical, and trauma response backpack — labeled with their badge numbers — that can also carry their AEDs, first-aid supplies and new trauma response items. The items in the kits were curated by dispatcher Tricia Huiskes and Rock County Ambulance staff.

Pictured here, Walgrave places an AED inside one of the new backpacks that is also equipped with first-aid supplies like bandages, torniquets, Narcan, ice packs, a bag valve mask (to assist with breathing), an OB kit (to assist with deliveries) and other items.





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Put your imagination into words for a chance to have **YOUR STORY PUBLISHED** in the Rock County Star Herald AND the Luverne Announcer!

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Watch for more creative fun coming soon!

WRITING PROMPT

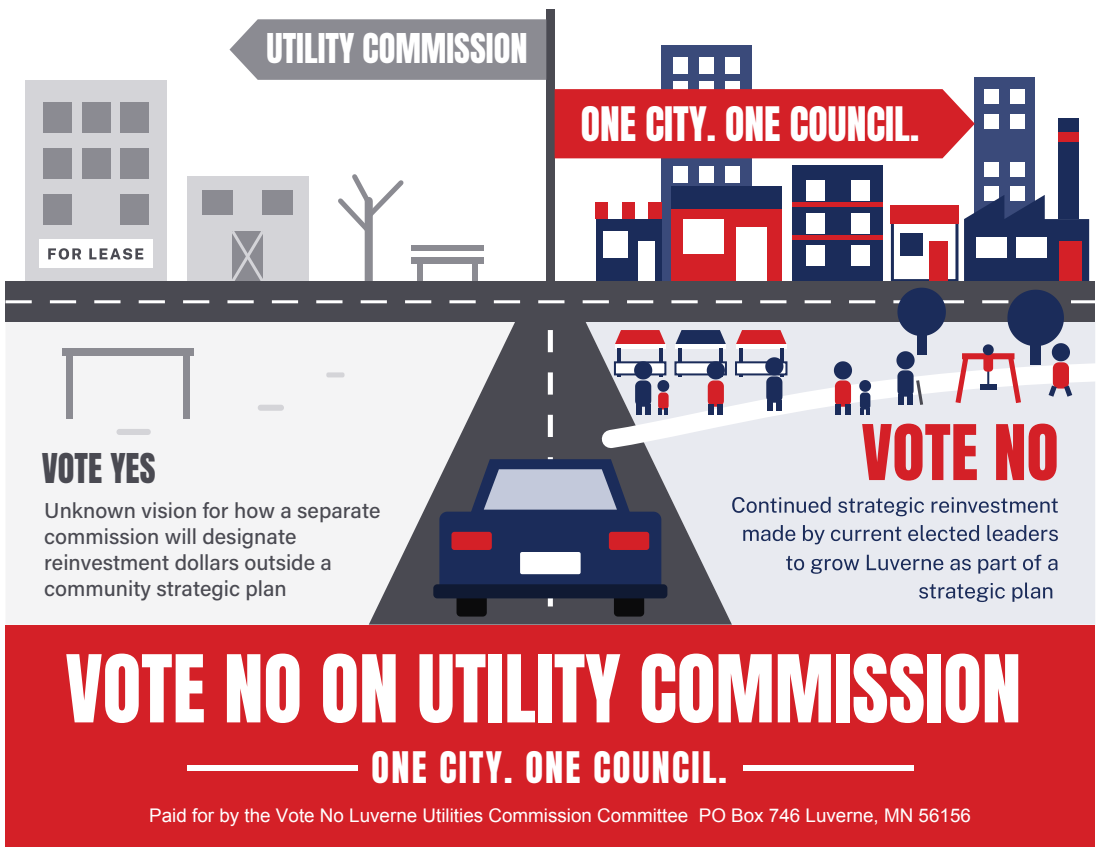
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Imagine you are publishing your very own newspaper. What would you call it? What stories would be on the front page today?

Deadline is October 26, 2026.

Rock County Star Herald
Luverne Announcer

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Star Herald
SPORTS
October 22, 2026 **Page 1B**

Cardinals take down Huskies in historic win

Luverne improves season football record to 7-0 after defeating JCC on the road

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne Cardinals pulled off a huge win Wednesday, Oct. 14, beating the Jackson County Central Huskies 36-30 on the road.

Both teams came into the game 6-0 and were ready to battle on the field.

Luverne had not beaten the Huskies since 2020 when LHS won 32-0 at home in a shortened COVID season.

Jackson has been a force in recent years winning two state titles in a row, first in 2024 and then in 2025.

The Huskies' loss to Luverne was their first home loss since Sept. 20, 2021.

It was their first regular season loss since Oct. 12, 2021, and their first loss outside of US Bank Stadium since Nov. 5, 2021.

On the first play of the game Wednesday, JCC kicked off the ball to Luverne, and the Cardinals turned it over inside the Cardinals' 30 yard-line.

LHS held off the Huskies from scoring and kept them in check closing the first quarter in a 0-0 tie.

In the second quarter senior Darius Dolo caught a ball from senior quarterback Ben Hartquist and rumbled 53 yards to the end zone to put the Cardinals up 6-0.

Senior Kayne Jurrens hit the field goal making it a 7-0 game.

The Huskies answered with a 15-yard touchdown run of their own but failed on the extra point run giving LHS a 7-6 advantage in the game.

In the third period LHS senior running back Matthew Gangestad bullied his way 19 yards through several Huskies' defensemen to the end zone.

Jurrens converted on the extra point kick and LHS took a 14-6 lead.

Still in the third quarter, the Huskies rallied and finished a long drive scoring on a 4-yard run and converted on a two-point running play to tie the game at 14-14.

Late in the third quarter Hartquist scored on a 6-yard run to put Luverne up 20-14.

Jurrens made the extra point kick and gave the Cardinals a 21-14 lead after three quarters of play.

In the fourth quarter JCC scored once on a 5-yard pass and made the 2-point conversion run to pull ahead for the first time in the game leading 22-14.

The Huskies scored again on a 7-yard run later in the quarter and converted on the two-point run to take a 30-21 lead on the Cardinals.

With less than eight minutes left in the game, LHS senior Jaymyn McLaughlin received a pass from Hartquist and sprinted past several JCC players as he headed to the end zone.

He was finally brought down inside the end zone on a horse collar by JCC.

Jurrens converted the extra point kick as the Cardinals still trailed the Huskies 30-28.

Luverne had a big defensive stop and got the ball back with less

FOOTBALL ▸ PAGE 2B



Greg Hoogeveen photos

LHS senior Ben Hartquist celebrates after scoring a touchdown against JCC in Jackson.







Top photo: Luverne players rush the Huskies' field after beating Jackson County Central 36-30 in Week 7 action. **Bottom left:** LHS senior Matthew Gangestad, No. 5, celebrates with teammates after scoring against JCC. **Bottom center:** Hartquist crosses the goal line to seal a Cardinal win against JCC late in the fourth quarter. **Bottom right:** LHS seniors Jaymyn McLaughlin, No. 2, and Kelby Schomacker, No. 55, celebrate the 36-30 win against Jackson County Central on the road. Luverne improved to 7-0 for the season.

Dragons girls capture Red Rock Conference title

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Adrian-Ellsworth girls cross country team won the 2026 Red Rock Conference meet in Mountain Lake Monday, Oct. 19.

In the **girls varsity 5,000-meter** individual race A-E senior Keyona Klingenberg finished in third place with a time of 22:18.7

Eighth grader Charlotte Lichter placed fourth in 22:25.1, senior Olivia Bullerman placed 10th in 22:58.8, senior Lucy Thier placed 12th in 23:41.4, sophomore Peyton Boyle placed 13th in 23:42.6, senior Jozie Cuperus placed 20th in 24:36.8, sophomore Abby Bertrand placed 22nd in 24:56.9 and sophomore Kataniya Hernandez-Nelson placed 33rd in a season best time of 27:28.0.

The A-E boys team finished in third place at the conference event.

In the **boys varsity 5,000-meter** individual race sophomore Aiden Lichter finished in 11th place with a time of 19:07.9.

Junior Cody Weidert placed 14th in 19:48.8, freshman Ty Klingenberg placed 25th in 21:19.9, sophomore Kevin Rivera placed 28th in 21:47.9, junior Angel Farias placed 29th in 21:48.6, freshman Carter Mormann placed 43rd in 27:04.5 and sophomore Micah Bullerman placed 46th in a time of 28:10.8.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, the Dragons will travel to Luverne for the 2026 MSHSL Section 3A Championships.

Girls varsity 5,000-meter team points
First – Adrian-Ellsworth 26
Second – Mountain Lake Area 31
Third – Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 76

Team Results
Boys varsity 5,000-meter team points
First – Mountain Lake Area 24
Second – Murray County Central 33
Third – Adrian-Ellsworth 87
Fourth - Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 102

Patriots volleyball team wins three in a row

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Lady Pates won three volleyball matches this past week giving up only one out of 10 sets along the way.

H-BC beat Mountain Lake 3-0 at home Oct. 13, took down Garretson 3-0 on the road Oct. 15 and won 3-1 against Red Rock Central at home Oct. 19.

The Patriots were scheduled to face Luverne on the road Tuesday, Oct. 20, in their final regular season game of 2026.

Round 1 of the Girls 3A South Subsection Tournament is Monday, Oct. 26, at the high seed location.

Round 2 is Friday, Oct. 30, at the high seed location.

The quarterfinals are Monday, Nov. 2, semifinals are Thursday, Nov. 5, and the section championship is Saturday, Nov. 7, played at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

H-BC 3,
Mountain Lake 0



Greg Hoogeveen photo/HBCVB1

H-BC senior Olivia Deelstra sends a rocket past two Garretson players Oct. 15 on the road. The Patriots won the match 3-0.

The Lady Pates took down Mountain Lake 3-0 at home Tuesday, Oct. 13.

"Tuesday was our Dig Pink Cancer Awareness game against Mountain Lake, and I thought the girls played very well," H-BC head coach Kaylan Untiedt said.

H-BC won the first and second sets 25-18 and finished off the Wolverines 25-19 in the third set.

"I thought we served tough and did an incredible job at the net with both hitting and blocking," Untiedt said.

The Patriots had 32 kills led by junior Ella Rheault with eight.

Senior Brynn Bakken had seven and senior Ava Steinhoff finished with six kills.

Rheault also had a team-leading two solo blocks and three block assists.

Junior Lilly Top collected 12 set assists. Senior Olivia Deelstra had seven and junior Aspyn Bertels had six.

Rheault had four ace serves, senior Hailey Moser had three and Deelstra had two ace serves in the win.

Bakken topped the Patriots with seven digs, Moser and Deelstra had six and Top finished with five digs against the Wolverines.

Team	H-BC	ML
Kills	32	19
Digs	34	36
Blocks	5.5	.5
Ace Serves	12	9
Sets	27	18

Player	Kills	Sets	Digs	Blks
Moser	0	2	6	0
Deelstra	4	7	6	.5
Bakken	7	0	7	.5
Bartels	3	6	2	1.5

H-BC VOLLEYBALL ▸ PAGE 2B

Dragons host cross country meet Oct. 13 - Luverne girls take first place

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Adrian-Ellsworth Dragons cross country team hosted nine local teams Tuesday, Oct. 13, at the Adrian Country Club.

Luverne participated in the event with the LHS girls team placing first and the boys team placing third in the varsity 5,000-meter races.

LHS finished with 14 personal best times and three season-best performances.

Adrian-Ellsworth placed third in the girls varsity and fifth in the boys varsity 5,000-meter races. A-E had one personal best finisher.

In the girls varsity 5,000-meter race LHS sophomore Summer Mollberg took top honors placing first with a time of 20:17.5

LHS senior Khloe Visker placed second in 20:26.0, sophomore Sophia Nolz placed eighth in 21:38.2, eighth grader Tyleigh Hood placed ninth in a personal best time of 21:42.7, freshman Emary Zwaan placed 10th in personal best time of 21:46.4 and sophomore Harper DeWispelaere placed 14th in a personal best time of 21:57.2.





Greg Hoogeveen photos/XC1

Left: LHS eighth grader Tyleigh Hood paces herself halfway through the race. **Right:** A-E eighth grader Charlotte Lichter heads for the finish line in the girls varsity 5,000-meter race.

A-E eighth grader Charlotte Lichter placed 15th in 21:58.4 and senior Keyon Klingenberg placed 20th in 22:36.6.

LHS senior Olivia Lund placed 21st in 22:40.8.

A-E senior Lucy Thier placed 24th in 22:47.6 and senior Olivia Bullerman placed 25th in 22:52.3.

LHS freshman Nadia Brandt placed 26th in a personal best time of 23:03.1, senior Maraih Knorr placed 27th in a personal best time of 23:04.3 and seventh-grader Navaeh DeBoer placed 28th in a personal best time of 23:08.0.

A-E sophomore Peyton Boyle placed 31st in 23:26.9 and sophomore Abby Bertrand placed 32nd in 23:33.2.

LHS eighth grader Hazel Mollberg placed 33rd in a season best time of 23:51.7, junior Emma Wieneke placed 35th in 23:57.2 and freshman Madalynn Garcia placed 36th in a season best time of 23:57.3.

A-E senior Jozie Cuperus placed 39th in 24:13.7.

LHS senior Navaeh Groen placed 40th in a personal best time of 24:23.3, freshman Ella Facile placed 43rd in a personal best time of 24:34.7, freshman Samantha Van Maanen placed 44th in a personal best time of 24:35.0 and seventh grader Alexandra Gangestad placed 46th in a personal best time of 24:42.1.

DRAGONS XC ▸ PAGE3B

LHS girls tennis players compete in individual sections

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne girls tennis team competed in the Section 3A Individual tournament at Huether Family Match Pointe in Sioux Falls Monday, Oct. 19.

LHS sent two singles players and two doubles teams to the tournament to play in Round 1 action.

In singles action, LHS senior, No. 7 seed, Sophia Remme took on Benson senior, No. 10 seed, Kinsley Trump in Round 1.

Remme fell in a close 6-4, 6-4 match to close her 2026 season for Luverne.

LHS freshman, No. 16 seed, Cameryn Schepel matched up against Morris junior, No. 1 seed, Lydia Sweep in the first round.

Schepel fell 6-0, 6-0 in the first-round match to finish her season.

In doubles action, LHS seniors, No. 16 seed, Olivia Ver Steeg and Alyssa Evers played Montevideo, No. 1 seed, senior Emma Johnson and junior Becca Golden falling 6-0, 6-0 in the match.

LHS sophomores, No. 3 seed, Gracyn Woodley and Lilly Lanoue played Morris, No. 14 seed, senior Samantha Konz and freshman Leah Schei falling 6-3, 6-3 in the match.

Even though Luverne did not move on in the section tournament they played hard and represented Luverne well at the individual section tournament.

Patriots breeze past Mountain Lake 62-0

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Patriots outplayed the Mountain Lake Wolverines 62-0 on the road Wednesday, Oct. 14, to improve to 7-0 for the season.

The Wolverines came into the game 0-6 and had trouble keeping up with H-BC from the opening kickoff.

Against the Patriots starters, Mountain Lake had to punt seven times in the first half as H-BC put 55 points on the board.

In the second half the Patriots subbed in several non-varsity starters who held Mountain Lake at bay while scoring once and sacking the Wolverines quarterback twice.

"We had a fast start and put up some big plays early," H-BC head coach Rex Metzger said.

"I was happy to see how hard our junior varsity kids played throughout the game, they were flying around making plays."



Samantha McGaffee photo/HBCFB1

Patriots junior Maddox Metzger looks for a pass against Mountain Lake Oct. 14 on the road. H-BC improves to 7-0 for the season.

Junior quarterback Brodie Metzger completed six of six passes for 60 yards and two touchdowns.

Sophomore Malachi Bush completed five of five passes for 68 yards and two touchdowns for the Patriots.

Hills-Beaver Creek scored nine touchdowns against the Wolverines — five on the ground and four though the air.

Brodie Metzger finished with two touchdown runs, Bush had one, junior Max Sammons ran for one and junior Easton Giles finished with one.

Receiving touchdowns were junior Maddox Metzger, sophomore Gavin Harnack, junior Karson Metzger and senior Riggins Rheault with one each.

On defense, H-BC had one interception by Brett Truebenbach and two sacks, one by freshman Ian Linggen and one by freshman Huck Terry.

H-BC was scheduled to go on the road against Cedar Mountain Tuesday, Oct. 20.

The Section 3A Nine-Player Tournament quarterfinals are Tuesday, Oct 27, and will be played on the high seed team field.

The Section 3A semifinal game is Saturday,

H-BC FOOTBALL ▸ PAGE 3B

Dragons beat Nicollet 60-6 at home

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Adrian-Ellsworth Dragons picked up their fifth win in a row taking down the Nicollet Raiders 60-6 at home Wednesday, Oct. 14.

The Dragons scored eight touchdowns against the Raiders, six on the ground and two through the air.

A-E senior Charger Erlandson scored twice running the ball and throwing one touchdown pass to sophomore Tayden Jackson in the second quarter.

Erlandson opened the second half running back a Raiders' kickoff to the house for a 66-yard touchdown.

Junior Jackson Jenniges collected three rushing touchdowns and freshman Aiden Timmer carried for one touchdown in the game.

Junior Robben Funez-Padilla kicked seven extra-point field goals through the uprights and completed a 31-yard field goal in the final seconds of the first half.

The Dragons held Nicollet to 282 yards of total offense and caused the Raiders to turn the ball over on downs six times.

Junior Caleb Wolfled the Dragons with six solo tackles, five assisted tackles and had one interception in the game.



Skyler Jackson photo/AEFB1

A-E senior Charger Erlandson slips past several Nicollet players Oct. 14 at home. The Dragons beat the Raiders 60-6.

Jenniges also had one interception against the Raiders, and junior Cael Schettler recovered one Nicollet fumble in the win.

A-E is now 5-2 for the season and was scheduled to play Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart on the road Tuesday, Oct. 20, in their final regular season game.

The Section 3A Nine-Player Tournament quarterfinals are Tuesday, Oct 27, and will be played on the high seed team field.

The Section 3A semifinal game is Saturday, Oct. 31, and will be played on the high seed team field.

The Section 3A Nine-player Championship game is Friday, Nov. 6, at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

A-E FOOTBALL ▸ PAGE 3B

FROM PAGE 1B ▸

H-BC VOLLEYBALL wins three

Steinhoff	6	0	2	2
VandenBosch	2	0	2	1
Top	0	12	5	0
Rheault	8	4	2	3.5

H-BC 3, Garretson 0

The Patriots traveled to Garretson Thursday, Oct. 15, taking down the Blue Dragons 3-0 in the match.

H-BC won the first set 25-23, took the second set 25-19 and closed the match-winning third set 25-23.

"The girls fought well at Garretson, and we again got lots of power from the service line," Untiedt said.

"The girls did a great job moving the ball around and we had numerous kills across many hitters, which is always great to see."

H-BC collected 34 team kills led by Bakken and Rheault with nine each. Steinhoff collected seven kills and Deelstra finished with five.

Top led the Lady Pates with 12 sets, Deelstra had nine and Bartels had eight.

Moser, Deelstra and VandenBosch each had eight digs for the Patriots in the win.

Team	H-BC	ML
Kills	34	29
Digs	37	37
Blocks	3.5	0
Ace Serves	9	9



Greg Hoogeveen photo/HBCVB2

Patriots senior Ava Steinhoff sends a spike over the net against Garretson Oct. 15 on the road. H-BC beat the Blue Dragons 3-0 in the game.

Sets	30	24		
Player	Kills	Sets	Digs	Blks
Moser	0	0	8	0
Deelstra	5	9	8	1
Bakken	9	0	6	2.5
Bartels	1	8	4	0
Steinhoff	7	0	0	1.5
VandenBosch	2	0	8	0
Scott	1	0	0	0
Top	0	12	0	0
Rheault	9	1	3	1

H-BC 3, RRC 1

H-BC beat Red Rock Central 3-1 at home Monday, Oct. 19.

The Patriots fell 25-19 in the first set and won the next three sets 25-19, 25-18 and 25-14 over the Falcons.

Team and individual stats were not available for this issue of the Star Herald.

SENIOR ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

LUVERNE CARDINALS

Colton Haubrich



Sport: Football
Parents: JoDee and Jeff Haubrich
What I like most about Football: The bus rides with the team.
Other extracurricular activities/ hobbies: Hockey, baseball, Student Council, fishing, hunting and golfing
Favfavorite Class: Advanced Weight Training

Macie Edstrom



Sport: Volleyball
Parents: Monica Edstrom and Eric Edstrom
What I like most about Volleyball: I love volleyball because of all of the support and love it brings.
Other extracurricular activities/ hobbies: Hockey, golf, choir, BPA, Student Council and NHS
Favorite Class: Math

Darius Dolo



Sport: Football
Parents: Natking and Esther Cole-Kraty
What I like most about Football: Catching passes and scoring touchdowns.
Other extracurricular activities/ hobbies: Basketball and track
Favorite Class: No favorite

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FROM PAGE 1B ▸

LHS FOOTBALL beats JCC 36-30 on the road

than two minutes left in the game.

The Cardinals were able to get to the five-yard line before being called for a false start that put them on the 10-yard line.

Luverne ran for three yards on the next play before JCC stopped them short of the goal line.

On a third-down play, with the game hanging on the line, Hartquist kept the ball, cut to the LHS side of the field and beat two defenders to the end zone for a game-winning touchdown.

Ahead 34-30 the Cardinals elected to go for the two-point conversion.

Hartquist connected with senior Coy Thone in the end zone to seal the 36-30 win.

With less than 6 seconds on the clock Luverne kicked the ball off to JCC who tried to advance it with several lateral tosses before a host of Cardinals brought down a JCC player with the ball as time ran out.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/LHSFB2

Several Luverne players dive for a loose ball coughed up by JCC Oct. 14. LHS recovered the ball and won the game 36-30.

Luverne came out of the game victorious and the LHS bench, student section and crowd rushed the field to congratulate the Cardinals' players.

LHS head coach Todd Oye said, "This was a big game for us and showed our maturity on the field even when we were down."

The Cardinals were scheduled to travel to take on Lake Crystal-Welcome Memorial Tuesday, Oct. 20, in their final regular season game.

The first Section 3AA playoff game is Tuesday, Oct. 27, at the higher seeded team's home field.

Box Scores					
Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Luverne	0	7	14	15	36
Jackson	0	6	8	16	30

Team Totals	LHS	JCC
Total yards	331	357
Passing	217	215
Rushing	114	142
Turnovers	1	3
First downs	10	10
Punts	6	5
Penalties	7/62	8/70

LHS Individual Stats

Passing	Cp/Att	Yds	TD
Ben Hartquist	11/18	217	2

Rushing	Yds	TD
Ben Hartquist	37	2
Matthew Gangestad	69	1
Darius Dolo	24	0
Jaymyn McLaughlin	4	0
Hendrik Bork	1	0

Receiving	Yds	TD
Jaymyn McLaughlin	72	1
Darius Dolo	82	1
Coy Thone	43	0
Colton Haubrich	20	0

Defense	Tac.	Sac.
Darius Dolo	2	0
Jaymyn McLaughlin	5	0
Hendrik Bork	4	0
Ben Hartquist	3	0
Matthew Gangestad	5	0
Colton Haubrich	3	0
Coy Thone	4	0
Kayne Jurrens	2	0
Charlie Von Tersch	1	0
Will Bergman	1	0
Lucas Hein	1	0
Nolan Sneller	2	0
Maximo Williamson	1	0
Kelby Schomacker	5	0
Kane Akkerman	1	0
Lucan Madison	4	0

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Luverne falls to Fairmont in three sets

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne volleyball team fell in three sets to Fairmont Tuesday, Oct. 13, at home.

"We did not play or communicate as a team very well," LHS head coach Sarah DeBeer said.

"I hope to see Fairmont in the playoffs again and hope that the next game is a different outcome."

Fairmont took the first set in a close 26-24 contest.

Luverne lost the second set 25-18 and fell 25-12 in the third set.

LHS sophomore Delany Ahrendt led the Cardinals with 19 digs.

Senior Macie Edstrom finished with 11 digs.

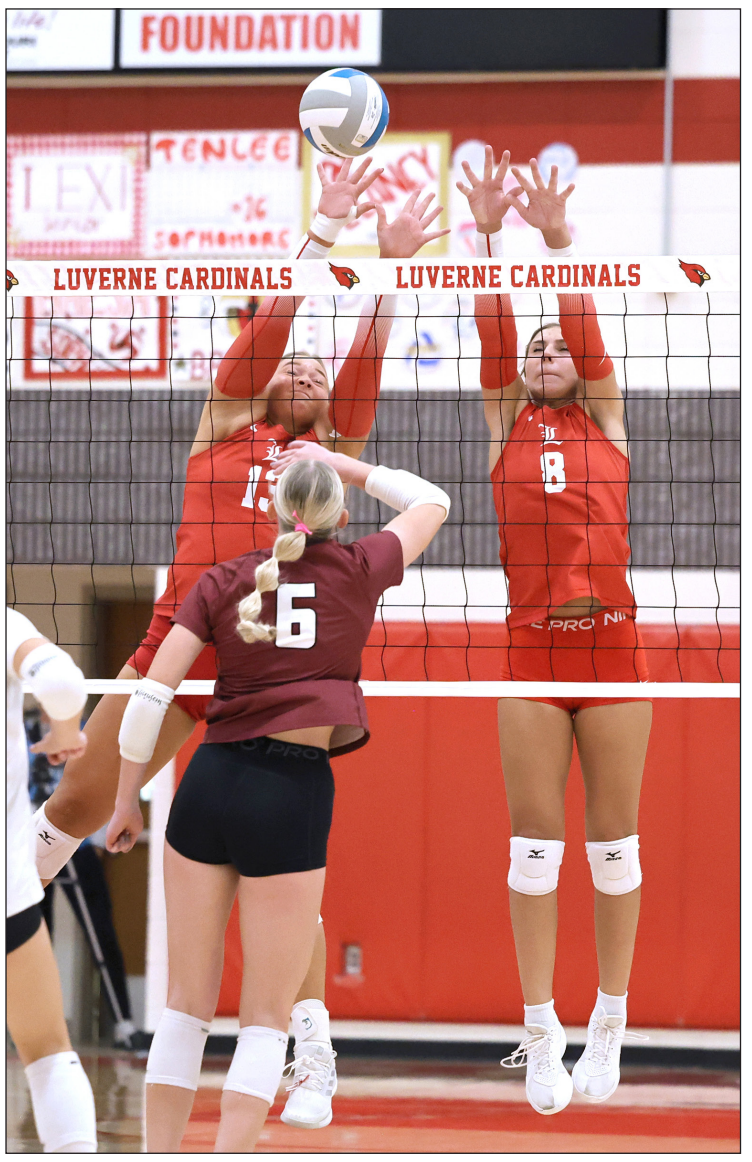
Sophomore Briella John had seven kills and junior Taya Johnson had six.

Sophomore Emma Cowell topped the Cardinals with 18 set assists and senior Izzy Steensma finished with 10 set assists.

Edstrom went 16 of 16 at the service line and Ahrendt went 16 of 17 with one ace.

Johnson collected three solo blocks and three assisted blocks for Luverne.

The Cardinals were scheduled to host Hills-Beaver Creek Tuesday, Oct. 20, and Adrian-Ellsworth Thursday, Oct. 22, to close out their regular season run.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/LHSVB1
LHS senior Lexi Braun, No. 13, and sophomore Delaney Ahrendt, No. 8, jump to block a Fairmont spike Oct. 13 in Luverne. The Luverne Cardinals fell 3-0 to Fairmont at home.

The 2026 Girls 3AA South Subsection Volleyball Tournament will be Friday, Oct. 30, with high seeded teams hosting the first game.

A-E volleyball team goes 1-1

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Adrian-Ellsworth volleyball team went 1-1 this past week beating Edgerton 3-0 on the road Oct. 13 and falling 3-2 to Westbrook-Walnut Gove at home Oct. 19.

The Dragons will travel to Luverne Thursday, Oct. 22, for their final regular season match.

Round 1 of the Girls 3A South Subsection Tournament is Monday, Oct. 26, played at the high seed location.

Round 2 is Friday, Oct. 30, played at the high seed location.

The quarterfinals are Monday, Nov. 2, semifinal Thursday, Nov. 5, and the section championship is Saturday, Nov. 7, played at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/A-EVB1
Dragons senior Ava Brown sets the ball for her team against WWG Oct. 19 in Adrian. Adrian-Ellsworth fell 3-2 after winning the first two sets against the Chargers.

A-E 3, Edgerton 0

The Dragons traveled to Edgerton to take on the Flying Dutchmen beating them 3-0 Tuesday, Oct. 13.

A-E won the first set 25-13, took the second set 25-16 and secured the third set 25-10 to take the match win.

"We played good team volleyball. From our passing to setting to our hitters, our offense was on point," A-E head coach Bob Kunkel said.

"Also, our defense played well, and we were able to slow the ball down so our back row could make good passes. We had a few missed serves, but overall played good against Edgerton and we were able to utilize our bench as well."

Senior Kamry Lehnhoff had nine kills, 13 digs and was 20 of 23 serving with three aces.

Senior Ava Brown had 15 set assists and went 5 of 5 at the service line with one ace.

Junior Audrina Tiesler had two blocks, 10 set assists, and seven kills and went 11 of 11 at the service line with one ace.

WWG 3, A-E 2

The Dragons hosted Westbrook-Walnut Grove Monday, Oct. 19, falling 3-2 to the Chargers.

A-E opened the match taking the first two sets 25-22 and 25-16.

WWG came back and attacked the middle of the court taking the third set 25-16, fourth set 25-15 and fifth set 15-11 for the match win.

Team and individual stats were not available for this issue of the Star Herald.

FROM PAGE 2B

DRAGONS HOST CROSS COUNTRY races Oct. 13

LHS freshman Destiny Kubesh placed 47th in a personal best time of 24:43.8, junior Grace Kempema placed 48th in 24:47.8, eighth grader Eden Janiszeski placed 61st in a personal best time of 27:00.7 and junior Kloe Brockberg placed 65th in 27:47.9.

A-E sophomore Kataniya Hernandez-Nelson placed 67th in 28:20.0 and LHS eighth grader Molly Hoogendoorn placed 69th in a season best time of 29:24.0.

In the boys varsity 5,000-meter race LHS senior Marcus Papik placed second in 17:26.6.

LHS freshman Kane Waddington placed seventh in 17:47.7 and junior Braxton Lyons placed 10th in 18:33.3.

A-E sophomore Aiden Lichter placed 12th in 18:51.5 and junior Cody Weidert placed 18th in 19:37.0.

LHS freshman Emmett Woodley placed 19th in 19:43.3 and freshman Andrew Wieneke placed 23rd in 19:57.1.

A-E sophomore Kevin Rivera placed 35th in 21:11.8 and freshman Ty Klingenberg placed 38th in 21:32.8.

LHS seventh grader Rory Nolz placed 40th in a personal best time of 21:37.0.

A-E junior Angel Farias placed 43rd in 21:56.5.

LHS freshman James Eggebrecht place 54th in 22:34.0, freshman Oliver Carbonneau placed 56th in 22:34.5 and freshman Wyatt Carson placed 59th in 23:16.6.

A-E freshman Carter Mormann placed 64th in a personal best time of 24:39.7 and sophomore Micah Bullerman placed 66th in 25:25.7.

LHS seventh grader Benjamin Stephenson placed 69th in a personal best time of 26:11.1.

On Thursday, Oct. 29, Luverne and Adrian-Ellsworth will participate in the 2026 MSHSL Section 3A Cross Country Championship in Luverne.

Girls varsity 5,000-meter team points
First – Luverne 27
Second – Springfield-Cedar Mountain 69
Third – Adrian-Ellsworth 95
Fourth – Pipestone 95
Fifth – Windom Area 132
Sixth – Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/WWG 135
Seventh – Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 162

Team Results
Boys varsity 5,000-meter team points
First – Murray Country Central 39
Second – Windom Area 44
Third – Luverne 60
Fourth – Tracy-Milroy-Balaton/WWG 91
Fifth – Adrian-Ellsworth 132
Sixth – Springfield-Cedar Mountain 160
Seventh – Russell-Tyler-Ruthton 173

LHS posts trap scores

By Greg Hoogeveen

Luverne recorded Week 4 trap scores at the Rock County Sportsmen's Club in Luverne.

Logan Wrigg turned in a score of 45 to top LHS shooters this week.

Carter Johnson followed with a 41 and Lucan Madison finished with a 39 to round out the Top 3 scores.

Luverne has one week left of regular season shooting.

After four weeks of competition Wrigg sits in third place in Class 1A Conference 4 with a season average of 23 targets hit.

Madison is tied for 10th place with an average of 21.25.

Johnson is in 12th place with an average of 21.13, Joey Lenz is 21st with a 19.50 and Owen Overgaard sits at 25th with an average of 18.75 for Luverne.

Competition week 4

	Rd1	Rd2	Total
Nolan Dekam	20	16	36
Marty Fick	16	17	33
Rylin Goembel	12	14	26
Dylan Hoff	-	-	-
Carter Johnson	21	20	41
Levi Kelly	18	17	35
Eli Kinsinger	18	17	35
Joey Lenz	19	18	37
Lucas Madison	19	20	39
Owen Overgaard	15	17	32
Logan Wrigg	22	23	45

Conference 4 Team Rankings
After Week 4

Holy Family Catholic	1,448
Luverne	1,264
John Marshall	1,246
St. Louis Park	1,214
Long Prairie Grey Eagle	872.50
Maple Lake	793.50
Comfrey	746.50
Maple Grove	735.50



Samantha McGaffee photo/HBCFB2
H-BC players gang-tackle a Mountain Lake player Oct. 14 on the road. THe Patriots won the game 62-0.

FROM PAGE 2B

H-BC FOOTBALL

Oct. 31, and will be played on the high seed team field.

The Section 3A Nine-Player Championship Game is Friday, Nov. 6, at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

Box Scores					
Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
H-BC	20	35	0	7	62
Mountain Lake	0	0	0	0	0

Team Totals	H-BC	ML
Passing yards	128	83
Rushing yards	238	-19
Total yards	366	64
First downs	21	4
Turnovers	0	1
Penalties	3/20	2/13
Sacks	2	0
Time of possession	21:37	39:58

Hills-Beaver Creek Individual Stats

Passing	Cp/Att	Yds	TD
Malachi Bush	5/5	68	2
Brodie Metzger	6/6	60	2

Rushing	Yds	TD
Brodie Metzger	108	2
Malachi Bush	35	1
Max Sammons	20	1
Easton Giles	17	1
Huck Terry	23	0
Camdyn Broesder	11	0
Jace Gacke	9	0
Brett Truebenbach	9	0
Auston Olson	5	0
Gunner Bork	3	0
Noah Engelkes	-2	0

Receiving	Rec.	Yds.	TD
Maddox Metzger	2	50	1
Gavin Harmack	2	10	1
Karson Metzger	1	4	1
Riggins Rheault	1	2	1
Brett Truebenbach	3	39	0
Max Sammons	1	15	0
Auston Olson	1	8	0

Defense	Tac.	Asst.	Sac.
Brodie Metzger	2	0	0
Ian Lingen	0	0	1
Ori Suta	1	0	0
Riggins Rheault	3	0	0
David Afkas	1	1	0
Greyson Wegener	0	1	0
Auston Olson	1	0	0
Karson Metzger	1	0	0
Keaton Huisman	2	0	0
Camdyn Broesder	0	1	0
Maddox Metzger	1	1	0
Malachi Bush	0	2	0
Hunter Leenderts	1	1	0
Huck Terry	3	3	1
Tryg Tollefson	2	0	0
Cash Wilsey	2	1	0
Gunner Bork	3	0	0
Christian Gasca	0	1	0
Max Sammons	1	0	0
Dirk Vanderwal	2	0	0

Interception
Brett Truebenbach 1

FROM PAGE 2B

A-E FOOTBALL

Box Scores					
Quarters	1	2	3	4	Final
Adrian-Ellsworth	28	11	14	7	60
Nicollet	0	0	6	0	6

Team Totals	A-E	NIC
Total yards	412	282
Passing yards	110	214
Rushing yards	302	68
First downs	17	13
Sacks	1	0
Penalties	3/29	2/20

Adrian Individual Stats

Passing	Cp/Att	Yds
Charger Erlandson	3/3	110
Keaton Schettler	0/2	0

Rushing	Yds	TD
Jackson Jenniges	89	3
Charger Erlandson	78	2
Aiden Timmer	42	1
Ryker Eidhammer	25	0
Caelan Bertrand	23	0
Keaton Schettler	17	0
Tayden Jackson	12	0
Caleb Wolf	11	0
Brody Brake	10	0

Receiving	Yds	TD
Tayden Jackson	60	1
Cael Schettler	50	0

Defense	Tac.	Asst.	Sac.
Caleb Wolf	6	5	0
Jackson Jenniges	2	6	0
Keaton Schettler	2	6	1
Charger Erlandson	2	5	0
Aiden Timmer	5	1	0
Cole Erlandson	4	1	0
Caelan Bertrand	4	0	0
Heath Croatt	0	4	0
Tayden Jackson	2	1	0
Cael Schettler	2	0	0
Coltin Hassebroek	0	2	0
Ryker Eidhammer	1	0	0
Robben Funez-Padilla	1	0	0
Cody Graff	0	1	0
Zack Madison	0	1	0
Noah Ring	0	1	0
Griffin Schilling	0	1	0

Interception
Caleb Wolf 1, Jackson Jenniges 1
Fumble Recovery
Cael Schettler 1

HILLS-BEAVER CREEK
SENIOR ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ORI SUTA
Sport: Football
Parents: Saiury Suta and Jay Titer
What I like most about Football:
Being a team and having each other's backs.
Favorite Class: History

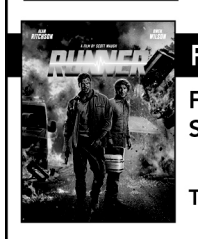


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Afternoon Escape: Runner PG-13
Thursday, October 22 2:00 pm
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Runner PG-13
Friday, October 23 7:00 pm
Sunday, October 25 2:00 pm
Tickets: $6 for kids age 3 – 12th grade, $8 for adults



Paranormal Investigation of the Palace Theatre and Hinkly House
Saturday, October 24 7:00 pm
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



Ghost Busters Movie Event PG
Friday, October 30 7:00 pm
6pm photos & fun with
Sioux Empire Ghostbusters.
FREE admission, popcorn & pop!
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Resident Evil R
Saturday, October 31 7:00 pm
Sunday, November 1 2:00 pm
Tickets: $6 for kids age 3 – 12th grade, $8 for adults

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Star Herald
CHURCH

Redemption amidst ruin Part 3: The fall of King David

BUILT ON A ROCK

By Pastor Praveen Muthusamy, Hills United Reformed Church

The last time we considered 2 Samuel 11:1–4, we focused on David's slipping into sin.

David inquired about Bathsheba, knowing that she was the wife of Uriah the Hittite, who was one of the top 37 elite soldiers in all of David's army did not stop him from committing adultery.

We learned a great lesson regarding the danger of not fighting sin, and the danger of indulging in so-called "small" or "trivial" sins. As the Puritan John Owen once said, "Be killing sin or sin will be killing you."

This time, let us focus on David's submergence into sin. Please carefully read 2 Samuel 11:5–13 in your Bible. In verse 5 we are told that Bathsheba is pregnant by David and she tells him that. We don't know whether she told him in her 6th week of pregnancy or the 12th week of pregnancy.

The Bible doesn't give us that information. But look at what David is doing when he hears the news that Bethsheba is pregnant because of him.

Verse 6, "So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." David's sole purpose in calling Uriah is to make sure that Uriah can be intimate with his wife. So that David can wash his hand and say that child is not mine. It's a cover up for his sin.

Could you imagine with me for a moment here. If David were to confess his sin before Uriah. If David were to own his sin before Uriah.

Hey Uriah, I did this disgusting thing as your king. Deuteronomy 5:21 tells me "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife... I coveted your wife. I committed adultery with her. Now she is pregnant because of me. As your king I have disgraced you. As your king I have disgraced your wife. As the king of Israel, I have disgraced the LORD God of Israel. Please, please forgive me.

But sadly, this is not how the story goes. There is a clear warning from these actions of David David failed to own his sin. David failed to confess his sin before his faithful servant Uriah and to God his maker at least at this point in his life. You see, this was one of the chief problems of the religious leaders during the time of Jesus.

They never owned their sins. They never acknowledged their sins. This is our problem too. If you think you are perfect, if you think you are righteous then you are not looking for a Savior outside of yourself. It is the sick who need the doctor. It is the sinner that needs the Savior Jesus Christ.

So, I exhort you in the name of Jesus: when you sin be humble enough to own your sin, please don't excuse it rather confess it before God and forsake it.

For Scripture tells us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

St. Catherine Catholic Church
203 E. Brown St., Luverne
St. Catherine Ph. 507-283-8502; www.stscl.org
Father Joshua Miller, Pastor
Saturday mass: 5 p.m. Sunday mass: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday daily mass: 5:15 p.m. Friday mass: 12:15 p.m. All Sunday masses will be live streamed on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/pg/stccluverne/videos/. Visit www.stscl.org for more information.

Luverne Christian Reformed Church
605 N. Estey St., Luverne
Office Ph. 283-8482; Prayer Line Ph. 449-5982
www.luvernecrc.com — office@luvernecrc.com
Joe Steenholdt, Pastor
Sunday Worship services: 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Sunday School follows the morning service (Sept.-April). Livestream and past services can be found on our YouTube channel. Our services are also on local cable TV at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at 12:30 p.m. on Thursdays. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @luvernecrc. In all circumstances, may we joyfully declare: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 124:8.

First Baptist Church
103 N. Jackson St., P.O. Box 975, Luverne
Ph. 283-4091; email: fbcluv@iw.net — www.fbcluverne.org
Walt Moser, Pastor
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. In-person worship service. Service is also on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church
500 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4431
email: pastor.morrison@graceluverne.org
www.graceluverne.org
Sarah Morrison, Pastor
Thursday, Oct. 22: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Sunday, Oct. 25: Stewardship celebration – 9 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion. 10 a.m. Faith Formation. 10:15 a.m. Reformation event in Fellowship Hall. Monday, Oct. 26: 2:30 p.m. CYF Staff meeting. Tuesday, Oct. 27: 8:30 a.m. Grace Notes assembly. 9 a.m. Staff meeting. 3 p.m. Poplar Creek. Wednesday, Oct. 28: 7 a.m. Men's Bible study. 6 p.m. Youth supper. 6:45 p.m. Ignite Mentor night. 7 p.m. Glow. Online and TV Worship options are available. Online worship: Sundays 9 a.m. at www.graceluverne.org, click Worship tab; or Facebook page at Grace Lutheran ELCA, Luverne. TV: BluePeak Channel 3 Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church
720 N. Kniss Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4571 or 605-215-9834
Andrew Palmquist, Pastor
Sundays: 9 a.m. Sunday School and Bible class. 10:15 a.m. Worship service; online as well (at els.org). Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. Zoom Bible study. "Rejoice in the Lord always!" (Phil 4:4). See our Facebook page, Bethany Lutheran Church (Luverne) for other classes and events.

American Reformed Church
304 N. Fairview Dr., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-8600; email: office@arcluverne.org
Mike Altena, Pastor
Thursday, Oct. 22: 9:30 a.m. SAIL. 7 p.m. Grindstone Men's study. Friday, Oct. 23: 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible study. 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Pillow Cleaning fundraiser. Sunday, Oct. 25: 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday school. 3 p.m. Gospel Jubliee with the Garms Family. Monday, Oct. 26: 9:30 a.m. SAIL class. Tuesday, Oct. 27: Noon staff meeting. 5:30 p.m. BSF Bible study. 7 p.m. Dunamis Basics. Wednesday, Oct. 28: 5:30 p.m. Midweek meal. 6:15 p.m. Sr. High Youth group. 6:30 p.m. Jr. High Youth group. 6:30 p.m. Pioneer Clubs. Thursday, Oct. 29: 9 a.m. Cookie Crew. 9:30 a.m. SAIL class. CommServices are also broadcast on BluePeak Channel 3 on Mondays at 6 p.m. and Wednesdays at 4 p.m. DVD's available upon request. To stay up to date on announcements, follow us on Facebook and Instagram @arcluverne.

Rock River Community Church
1075 110th Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-9070; email: info@rockrivercommunity.church
Bob Junak, Pastor
Sundays - Come as you are. 10 a.m.: Main service. 10 a.m. – Jr. kids 2-5 years, kids church K-6th grade, Nursery available.

Blue Mounds Baptist Church
206 E. Main St., Luverne
Ph. 507-329-3919; email: bmbcluverne.com
Jeremy Jacob, Pastor
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Thursdays: 7 p.m. Bible study.

United Methodist Church
109 N. Freeman Ave., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4529
Dorie Hall, Pastor
Saturday, Oct. 24: 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Womens event in Worthington. Sunday, Oct. 25: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 9:45 a.m. Coffee time. 10:30 a.m. Livestreamed Worship service. 1:30 p.m. MJB Home; 2:15 p.m. Poplar Creek. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible study. Monday, Oct. 26: 3:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible study. 5 p.m. Walking in Your Power study. Tuesday, Oct. 27: 9:30 a.m. Shut-in visits. Wednesday, Oct. 28: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Open Prayer Chapel. 5:30 p.m. Community Meal. 6:15 p.m. FUEL and Confirmation. 8 p.m. AA/Alanon meeting.

First Presbyterian Church
302 Central Lane, Luverne
Ph. 507-283-4787; email: fpcemilie@gmail.com
Wednesday, Oct. 21: 9 a.m. Morning circle. 1:30 p.m. Afternoon circle. 5:30 p.m. Bells. 6:15 Choir. 7:15 p.m. Deacons. Thursday, Oct. 22: 3:15-5:30 p.m. The Loft. Sunday, Oct. 25: 8:45 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 9:20 a.m. Fellowship coffee. 10 a.m. In-person worship time with children's Sunday school during worship in-person worship service (View service on Facebook under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne, City of Luverne's LUV TV or on the local Luverne cable station. Monday, Oct. 26: 3:15 pm-5:30 p.m The Loft. Tuesday, Oct. 27: 3:15-5:30 p.m. The Loft. Wednesday, Oct. 28: 5:30 p.m. Community Meal at Luverne Methodist Church.

St. John Lutheran Church
803 N. Cedar St., Luverne
Ph. 507-283-2316; email: office@stjohnluverne.org
www.stjohnluverne.org
Rev. Dr. Phil Booe, pastor
Saturdays: 5:30 p.m. Worship Service. Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship Service. 10 a.m.Fellowship time. 10:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study. Wednesdays: 9 a.m. Bible Study. Sunday worship service is rebroadcast on LUVTV Tuesdays at 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at youtube.com/stjohnluverne, or on Facebook.com/stjohnluverne. Holy Communion is offered on 2nd and 4th weekends and Liturgical Feasts.

Living Rock Church
500 E. Main St., Luverne
Ph. 507-449-0057; livingrockchurch.secretary@gmail.com
Joshua.Hayden7@gmail.com
Josh Hayden, Pastor
Sundays: 10:30 a.m. Worship service. Come at 9:45 a.m. for fellowship time with coffee and delicious food. Our kids (ages 0 years-5th grade) meet during Sunday service. Our youth group (grades 6-12) meets Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. Youth leader contact: Cameron McCullers, 320-237-4089. Most of our information can be found at our website at livingrockchurchswmn.org. Find us on Facebook and YouTube for our livestream by searching Living Rock Church Luverne.

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 E. 2nd St., P.O. Box 36, Hardwick
Ph. 507-669-2855 – church office; 218-535-0283 – pastoral care
zionoffice@alliancecom.net
Ed Borchardt, Pastor
9 a.m. Discipleship hour (Sunday school and Adult Bible study). 10:30 a.m. Worship service. View our worship services on Luverne's LUV TV or our church website: zionlutheranhardwick.com

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

First Lutheran Church
Ph. 605-757-6662
firstpalisade@alliance.net
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.
Mark Eliason, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school. 10:30 a.m. Worship service. Sunday, Nov. 1: 10 a.m. JOINT worship service at Palisade Lutheran Church with 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Harvest Fest. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @FirstLutheran-Valley Springs; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

Palisade Lutheran Church
211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.
Ph. 507-597-6257; palisadechurch@alliancecom.net
Mark Eliason, Pastor
Sunday, Oct. 25: 9 a.m. Worship service. 10 a.m. Sunday school. Sunday, Nov. 1: 10 a.m. JOINT worship at Palisade Lutheran Church with 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Harvest Fest. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @PalisadeLC; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

First Presbyterian Church
201 S. 3rd St., P.O Box 73, Beaver Creek
Ph. 507-935-5025; email: lori.firstpres@gmail.com
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m. Session meeting.

Magnolia United Methodist Church
501 E. Luverne St., Magnolia
email: magnoliamnumc@gmail.com
Sundays: 10 a.m. Worship Service in-person with livestream available on the church's Facebook site, Magnolia United Methodist Church.

Steen Reformed Church
112 W. Church Ave., Steen
Ph. 507-855-2336
Jeremy Wiersema, Pastor
Sundays: 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. Worship service in-person with livestream available on Facebook and YouTube.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
112 N. Main St., Hills
Ph. 507-962-3270
email: bethlehemofhills@gmail.com
bethlehem-lutheran.com
Sundays: 9 a.m. Worship at Tuff Chapel. 9 a.m. Sunday school. 10 a.m. Worship Service. Worship will be streamed live to Facebook at Bethlehem of Hills. You can find more info on our website blchills.org.

Hills United Reformed Church
410 S. Central Ave., Hills
Office Ph. 507-962-3254
hillsurc@alliancecom.net
Praveen Muthusamy, Pastor
Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 5 p.m. Evening worship service.

Worship Service SCHEDULE

These weekly church page messages are made possible through the support of these dedicated citizens and businesses, committed to God's work through the Church.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice to Voters

November 3, 2026

Statewide General Election

I Will Vote

Review the information below to learn about upcoming elections.

Access Your Sample Ballot

- Your official ballot will have the names of all candidates for your precinct.
- To see a list of the names of candidates and questions that will be on the ballot for your precinct visit: **mnvotes.gov/myballot**
- You may also be able to view your sample ballot online by scanning:
- You may request to have a free copy of your sample ballot mailed to you.

Find Your Polling Place

- Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd.
- You can find your Election Day Polling Place by visiting: **mnvotes.gov/pollfinder**

Voting Before Election Day

- You can vote early with an absentee ballot starting Friday, September 18th.
- You can vote early by mail, in person, or from the military or abroad.
- Learn more by scanning:

Additional Election Information

- Election Day Polling Places are open 7:00 am to 8:00 pm.
- You may live in a precinct where a ballot is mailed to you as a mail ballot voter.
- If using mail ballot, return your ballot no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day.
- Election results will be available starting after 8:00 pm on Election Day at: **mnvotes.gov**
- Check to see if you are pre-registered to vote by scanning:

SAMPLE

Contact Your Local Election Official

Your county election official:

- Can mail you a sample ballot for free
- Keeps your voter registration record
- Handles other parts of the voting process

Election Official: Ashley Kurtz
General phone: (507) 283-5060
Website: www.rockmn.gov
Email: election@rockmn.gov
Rock County Courthouse
204 E Brown St
Luverne MN 56156

Notice of Absentee Voting

Absentee voting is available in the Auditor-Treasurer's Office at the Courthouse during the following hours:

Monday through Friday: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

In addition, you can also vote absentee during these extended hours:

Saturday, October 24th: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Tuesday, October 27th: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Saturday, October 31st: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Sunday, November 1st: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

(10-22)

Read the Public Notices online www.star-herald.com
DEADLINE FOR LEGALS is MONDAY @ 10 a.m.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Rock County Planning and Zoning hearing Oct. 26

Notice of Public Hearing for Conditional Use Permit

Pursuant to the Rock County Zoning Ordinance, notice is hereby given by the Rock County Planning and Zoning Commission that a public hearing will be held at the Rock County Land Management Office located at 309 South Freeman Avenue, Luverne, Minnesota at 7:00 PM, Monday, October 26, 2026. The purpose of this hearing is to rule on the application for Conditional Use Permit for the following:

Applicant:	Dylan Stokes
Property Owner:	Ryan Bullerman
Conditional Use:	Indoor cannabis cultivation
Location:	A 10.65-acre tract located in the SW 1/4 of Section 27 of Denver Township, T104N, R45W, Rock County, Minnesota
Zoning District:	A-2, General Agriculture

All interested parties are invited to attend. Written comments should be submitted to the Rock County Land Management office by 4:00 pm on Monday, October 26, 2026. All persons desiring to be heard shall be given an opportunity to present testimony.

Dated: October 15, 2026

By Order of the Rock County Planning and Zoning Commission
Eric Hartman, Zoning Administrator
309 S. Freeman Avenue
PO Box 1018
Luverne, MN 56156
507-283-8862

(10-15, 10-22)

City of Luverne authorizes Ordinance No. 64

ORDINANCE NO. 64, FOURTH SERIES
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF REAL ESTATE
(CITY OF LUVERNE TO LARRY NATH)

THE CITY OF LUVERNE DOES HEREBY ORDAIN:

SECTION 1. Pursuant to City Charter, Section 12.05, the City Council is authorized to sell or convey the following described real estate located in the City of Luverne, County of Rock, State of Minnesota, described as follows, to-wit:

Legally described as follows:
The South Eighty-one and one-half (S 81.5) feet of Lot One (1) in Block Four (4) in Barck, Adams and Howes Addition to the City of Luverne, Rock County, Minnesota

Physical Address: 716 N. Spring, Luverne, MN 56156

To Larry Nath

SEC. 2. The Mayor and City Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to execute such legal documents as are necessary to accomplish this sale and are further authorized to execute and deliver a warranty deed upon complete fulfillment of all terms and conditions.

SEC. 3. This ordinance takes full force and effect seven (7) days after its publication.

(10-22)

Petition for dissolution of marriage

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF ROCK

DISTRICT COURT
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Case File Number: 67-FA-26-246
Court Type: Dissolution without Children

In Re the Marriage of:
Heather Lynn Alderson
(petitioner (first, middle, last)

and

Jose Alberto Alvarado
Respondent (first middle, last)

Summons (check one)
☐Without Real Estate
☒With Real Estate

THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

WARNING: Your spouse has filed a lawsuit against you for dissolution of your marriage. A copy of the paperwork regarding the lawsuit is served on you with this summons. This summons is an official document from the court that affects your rights. Read this summons carefully. If you do not understand it, contact an attorney for legal advice.

1. The Petitioner (your spouse) has filed a lawsuit against you asking for a dissolution of your marriage (divorce). A copy of the *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage* is attached to this *Summons*.

2. You must serve upon Petitioner and file with the Court a written *Answer to the Petition for Dissolution of Marriage* and you must pay the required filing fee. *Answer* forms are available from the Court Administrator's office. You must serve your *Answer* upon Petitioner **within thirty (30) days** of the date you were served with this *Summons*, not counting the day of service. If you do not serve and file your *Answer*, the Court may give your spouse everything he or she is asking for in the *Petition for Dissolution of Marriage*.

3. ☐This proceeding involves, affects, or brings into question the real property located at the following address:
Luverne MN 56156
City State Zip Code
in Rock County, with the following legal description:
Lot Four in Block One in Blue Mounds Second Addition.

4. ☐(For a second property) This proceeding involves, affects, or brings into question the real property located at the following address:

_____ _____ _____
City State Zip Code
in the _____ County, with the following legal description:
_____
OR ☐ This proceeding does not involve real proerty.

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY RESTRAINING PROVISIONS

Under Minnesota law, service of this summons makes the following requirements apply to both parties to the action, unless they are modified by the court or the proceeding is dismissed:

(1) Neither party may dispose of any assets except (a) for the necessities of life or for the necessary generation of income or preservation of assets, (b) by an agreement of the parties in writing, or (c) for retaining counsel to carry on or to contest this proceeding.
(2) Neither party may harass the other party.
(3) All currently available insurance coverage must be maintained and continued without change in coverage or beneficiary designation.
(4) Parties to a marriage dissolution proceeding are encouraged to attempt alternative dispute resolution pursuant to Minnesota law. Alternative dispute resolution includes mediation, arbitration and other processes as set forth in the district court rules. You may contact the court administrator about resources in your area. If you cannot pay for mediation or alternative dispute resolution, in some counties, assistance may be available to you through a nonprofit provider or a court program. If you are a victim of domestic abuse or threats as defined in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 518B, you are not required to try mediation and you will not be penalized by the court in later proceedings.

IF YOU VIOLATE ANY OF THESE PROVISIONS, YOU WILL BE SUBJECT TO SANCTIONS BY THE COURT.

Date: 10-8-26 /s/: Heather Alderson
County and State where signed

Name: Heather Alderson
Address: 1111 N. Carol Street
City/State/Zip: Luverne, MN 56156
Telephone: 507-215-2366
e-mail address:

(10-15, 10-22, 10-29)

ISD 671 School Board met Sept. 28

Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671
Minutes
Monday, September 28, 2026

AGENDA for the regular meeting of the Board of Education to begin at 7:00 p.m. on MONDAY, September 28, 2026 - Conference/BOARD ROOM in Secondary School, 301 N Summit Ave, Hills, MN 56138 — There is the possibility of a board member or members participation by interactive technology, following the timing and method described in MN Statutes 13D.04.

Board members and Administration present were Gehrke, Harnack, Helgeson, Rauk, Rozeboom and Uittenbogaard. Superintendent Holthaus, Principal Kellenberger and Business Manager Rozeboom were also in attendance. Board member Bosch was absent.

Motion by Uittenbogaard, seconded by Harnack, and carried to approve the agenda.

Visitor to the meeting was Nicole Ronchetti with the Rock County Star Herald.

PATRIOT PRIDE:
•Homecoming week events

BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS/UPDATES:
-none

Motion by Harnack, seconded by Rozeboom, and carried to approve consent agenda:
•Board Meeting Minutes from 09/14/2026
•Bills
•Imprest Cash Report
•Treasurer Report - 8/31/26
•Student Activity Accounts Report - 8/31/26
•Setting Pay 2026 Truth in Taxation and budget hearing for 7 p.m. on Monday, December 14, 2026.
•Student teacher placement in fifth grade beginning on January 19, 2027, through the end of the school year - Daniel Kleven
•Marin VanRoekel as long call secondary substitute paraprofessional

Motion by Rauk, seconded by Uittenbogaard, and carried to approve setting 2026 pay 2027 School District Levy at the maximum amount allowed.

DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:
•Resignation of Diane Lax, Patriot Pals Childcare Assistant teacher
•Strategic Planning Items
•Secondary Principal Report
•Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING:

DATES TO REMEMBER:
•Regular Board Meeting, Monday, October 12
•Regular Board Meeting, Monday, October 26

Motion by Helgeson, seconded by Harnack, and carried to approve adjournment of meeting.

Time of adjournment 7:24 p.m.

Tamara Rauk, Clerk
(10-22)

City of Luverne notice of general election

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
CITY OF LUVERNE, MINNESOTA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that regarding the City Election, which shall be held in and for the City of Luverne, State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., the following offices shall be filled:

One Council Member, North Ward, for one four-year term
One Council Member, South Ward, for one four-year term

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
CITY OF LUVERNE, MINNESOTA

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a special election has been called and shall be held in and for the City of Luverne, State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, in conjunction with the state general election, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

CITY QUESTION

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote for the question, completely fill in the oval next to the word "YES" for that question. To vote against the question, completely fill in the oval next to the word "NO" for that question.

CITY QUESTION NO. 1:

Charter Amendment: Create New Independent Commission to Govern City Utilities

Shall the Luverne City Charter be amended to establish a new governing structure with a new layer of city government for the City's electric, water, and wastewater utilities by (1) creating a new five-member independent policymaking body to be called the Municipal Services Commission to consist of three elected members who must be City residents, one appointed representative of a large utility customer who need not be a City resident, and either a sitting Council Member or the City Administrator; (2) creating a new employment structure under which the Commission would employ a General Manager to supervise and manage the Commission's operations and employees and existing City staff with responsibilities for the City's utilities would be transferred to the authority of the Commission; and (3) transferring most of the City Council's existing responsibilities for the management, operation, and supervision of the City's utilities, including the authority to set utility rates, to the new Commission?

◯ YES
◯ NO

All polling places for the City of Luverne precincts will be at Generations, 105 S Estey St, Luverne, Minnesota.

Qualified voters planning to be absent on election day may obtain absentee ballots from the office of the Rock County Auditor-Treasurer, 204 E. Brown Street, Luverne, Minnesota, until 5:00 p.m. on November 2, 2026.

Jessica Mead, City Clerk
City of Luverne, Minnesota
(10-15, 10-22)

Notice of ISD #2689 general election

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2689 (Pipestone Area Schools)
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 2689 (Pipestone Area Schools), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November 2026, for the purpose of electing three (3) school board members for four-year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ⬬

School Board Member Vote for Up to Three

◯ Tish Kalla
◯ Daphne Likness
⬭ Mark Hiniker
◯ _____ Write-in, if any
◯ _____ Write-in, if any

SAMPLE

The precincts and polling places for this general election are the polling places and precincts, or parts of precincts located within the school district's boundaries, that have been established by the county or municipal governing bodies as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.14.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: October July 31, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
/s/ Daphne Likness
School District Clerk

(10-15, 10-22)

Notice of ISD #2184 general election

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 671 (Luverne School District)
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 2184, (Luverne School District), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November 2026, for the purpose of electing four school board members for four-year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ⬬

School Board Member Vote for Up to Four

◯ Zach Nolz
◯ Michael DeBates
◯ Sara Bolt
◯ Anita Marden
◯ David Wrigg
◯ _____ Write-in, if any
◯ _____ Write-in, if any

SAMPLE

The precincts and polling places for this general election are the polling places and precincts, or parts of precincts located within the school district's boundaries, that have been established by the county or municipal governing bodies as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.14.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: October 6, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
/s/ Michael DeBates
School District Clerk

(10-15, 10-22)

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of ISD #671 general election

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 671
HILLS-BEAVER CREEK
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the general election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 671, Hills-Beaver Creek, State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November 2026, for the purpose of electing four school board members for four-year terms. The ballot shall provide as follows:

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ⬬

School Board Member Vote for Up to Four

- Dalton Engelkes
- Travis Helgeson
- Eric Uittenbogaard
- Ethan Rozeboom
- Stan Metzger
- _____ Write-in, if any
- _____ Write-in, if any

SAMPLE

The precincts and polling places for this general election are the polling places and precincts, or parts of precincts located within the school district's boundaries, that have been established by the county or municipal governing bodies as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 204B.14.

Any eligible voter residing in the school district may vote at said election at the polling place designated above for the precinct in which he or she resides. The polls for said election will open at 7 o'clock a.m. and will close at 8:00 o'clock p.m. on the date of said election.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in this election. An unregistered individual may register to vote at the polling place on Election Day.

Dated: October 5, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
/s/ Tamara Rauk
School District Clerk

(10-15, 10-22)

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CLASSIFIEDS

CARDS OF THANKS

The family of Korey Heck would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the kindness, support and sympathy shown to us during our recent loss. Thank you to all of our family, friends and community for the cards, flowers, memorials and thoughtful words that have comforted us during this difficult time. Thank you to Kurt at Dingmann Funeral Home for your warm-hearted guidance and care.

With sincere appreciation,
Family of Korey Heck

(10.15-10.22)

FOR SALE

Items for sale: Cream separators used for decor, Christmas blow-ups, marbles, pogs (milk caps), Hot Wheels, comics, many miscellaneous items - vendors wanted! Call 507-215-2619. (10.22-11.7)

For sale: 8" cedar siding painted white - make an offer. Call 507-215-2619.

(10.22-11.7)

EMPLOYMENT

Ellsworth Public School is accepting applications for a part-time preschool paraprofessional. The hours would be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:40 a.m. - 3:10 p.m. Applications can be found on the school website at: https://www.ellsworthschoolsmn.org/district/employment-opportunities.cfm

(10.10-10.29)

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED
Age 55+ workers needed for
part-time light custodial work
at the Adrian Rest Area on I-90
Contact Green View
651-639-1913
Apply Online: greenviewmn.com

HELP WANTED
SEASONAL OFFICE EMPLOYEE

Meulebroeck, Taubert & Co., PLLP is seeking an individual to assist with general office duties. This position would require good communication skills, organization and attention to detail.

Flexible hours: 32-40 hours per week
Seasonal position: January 1 - April 15
Competitive pay, continued employment possibilities.
Submit resume by November 1 to:
contactL@mtcocpa.com

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Notice of Public Hearings and availability of environmental report

In the Matter of the Application for a Certificate of Need for the PowerOn Midwest 765 kV and 345 kV High-Voltage Transmission Line Project
PUC DOCKET NUMBER: E002, ET2, ET6675/CN-25-117 | **CAH DOCKET NUMBER:** 28-2500-41617

PowerOn Midwest™

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold public hearings on the Certificate of Need Application filed by Great River Energy, ITC Midwest LLC, and Xcel Energy (collectively, the Applicants) for the proposed PowerOn Midwest Project. The Project would involve construction and operation of approximately 340 miles of new 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines and additional 345-kV circuits on replacement or existing structures across southern Minnesota, along with related substation expansions and upgrades.

The proposed facilities in Minnesota include:

- Approximately 271 miles of new 765-kV single-circuit transmission lines from the South Dakota border connecting with the Lakefield Junction Substation in Jackson County, Pleasant Valley Substation in Mower County, and North Rochester Substation in Goodhue County, with an additional connection from Lakefield Junction to the Iowa border.
- Approximately 31 miles of new 345-kV circuit between the Pleasant Valley and North Rochester substations, replacing existing single-circuit structures with new double-circuit-capable structures.
- A second 345-kV circuit added to an approximately 38-mile segment between North Rochester Substation and Hampton Substation in Dakota County, primarily using existing double-circuit-capable structures.
- Expansions and upgrades at Lakefield Junction, Pleasant Valley, North Rochester, and Hampton substations, including 345-kV transmission line connections between select existing and expanded substations.

The project is part of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) Long Range Transmission Planning Tranche 2.1 portfolio, approved by the MISO Board of Directors in December 2024 as part of the MISO Transmission Expansion Plan 2024 (MTEP24). The Applicants state that the project is needed to address projected reliability issues, support compliance with national reliability standards, improve regional transmission capability, and provide capacity to serve forecasted residential, commercial, and industrial demand. The Applicants also state that the project would support replacing aging or less cost-effective generation with new generation resources, including carbon-free resources, while maintaining electric system reliability.

IMPORTANT: *This proceeding concerns whether the project is needed. Granting a certificate of need would not approve a specific transmission line route or guarantee approval of a route permit. If a certificate of need is granted, specific routes would be reviewed in separate route permit proceedings, with additional opportunities for public comment at meetings and hearings. The Applicants expect to file route permit applications no earlier than the first quarter of 2027.*

In-Person Public Hearings

Date	Hearing Location	Time
Monday, November 9, 2026	**St. Leo Church (Gym)** 415 S Hiawatha Avenue Pipestone, MN 56164	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Monday, November 9, 2026	**Murray County Central Schools (Gym)** 2420 28th Street Slayton, MN 56172	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Tuesday, November 10, 2026	**Worthington Event Center** 1447 Prairie Drive Worthington, MN 56187	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Tuesday, November 10, 2026	**Windom Community Center** 1750 Cottonwood Lake Drive Windom, MN 56101	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Thursday, November 12, 2026	**Fox Lake Event Center** 730 125th Street Sherburn, MN 56171	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Thursday, November 12, 2026	**Golden Bubble** 11575 State Highway 22 Wells, MN 56097	5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Friday, November 13, 2026	**Austin Eagles Lookout Aerie 703** 107 11th Street NE Austin, MN 55912	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Monday, November 16, 2026	**Dodge County Fairgrounds Midway Building** 100 11th Street NE Kasson, MN 55944	10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

If any reasonable accommodation is needed to enable you to fully participate in these hearings, please contact the Commission at 651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782 at least one week in advance of the hearing. To find out if a hearing is canceled due to bad weather or other reasons, call 1-855-731-6208 or visit ***mn.gov/puc.***

Online Public Hearing via WebEx

Date: Monday, November 16, 2026
Time: 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM
(The hearing ends when all attendees have commented or at 9:00 PM. Log in at the start time to ensure participation.)
Join by WebEx (Webinar) Link:
https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/jphp?MTID=m692095c2a8eac8e7efe30f48b01df5f4
Webinar Number: 2480 280 7515
Webinar Password: GakXRvpi846 (42597874 from phones)
Join by Phone: 1-415-655-0003
Phone Access Code: 2480 280 7515

If you are joining the hearing via WebEx and would like to ask a question or make a comment during the designated portion of the hearing, use the raised-hand function or the chat function to send a message to the hearing moderator. If you are joining the hearing by phone, press *3 on your phone. When it is your turn to speak, your line will be unmuted, and you will be able to ask questions and provide comments.

Additional information and instructions are available at: ***https://mn.gov/puc/activities/meetings/webex/***

Public Hearing Information

The public hearings will be presided over by the Honorable Joseph Meyer, an administrative law judge with the Court of Administrative Hearings, who will provide the Commission with findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a recommendation.

The purpose of the public hearings is to obtain public input and compile the record for the Commission to consider in making a final decision on the certificate of need application. Specifically, interested persons will have the opportunity to: (1) ask questions of state staff and the Applicants; and (2) offer oral and written comments on the merits of the certificate of need application and on the environmental report.

- Comments received at the hearings and during the comment period will be used to inform the record and help the Commission make its final decision.
- The information presented will be the same at all in-person and online hearings.
- The hearings will end when all attendees have had the opportunity to comment and all other business has been concluded, or at the scheduled end time of the hearing, whichever occurs first. It is recommended that all interested persons arrive at the scheduled start time.
- Members of the public may participate without intervening as a party; representation by legal counsel is permitted but not required.

Comment Period

Written comments will be accepted until December 7, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. Please include the docket number in all communications. Comments received after the close of the comment period may or may not be considered by the Commission.

Topics for Comment

- Should the Commission grant a certificate of need for the PowerOn Midwest Project?
- If granted, what additional conditions or requirements should be included in a certificate of need?

Submit Comments
Online: ***https://mn.gov/puc/consumers/public-comments***
Email: consumer.puc@state.mn.us
U.S. Mail: Consumer Affairs Office
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101

Comments will be made available to the public via the Commission's website, except in limited circumstances consistent with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. The Commission does not edit or delete personal identifying information from submissions.

Environmental Report

The Commission has completed an Environmental Report (ER) for the project. The ER outlines the affected resources, evaluates potential human and environmental impacts, describes approvals required from other government agencies, and considers possible alternatives (where applicable).

The ER is available for review and download on the Commission's eDocket System. Print copies of the ER will be available for review at the in-person public hearings. A limited number of electronic copies (flash drives) of the ER will also be available to take home. For questions about the availability of the ER please contact Commission staff.

Evidentiary Hearings

Members of the public may attend and listen to the evidentiary hearings, but these hearings will not provide opportunities for public comments. To provide oral comments, please attend one of the in-person or online public hearings described earlier in this notice.

The evidentiary hearings will be held in the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission Hearing Rooms at 121 7th Place East, Suite 350, St. Paul, MN 55101, beginning on November 18, 2026, at 9:30 AM. The hearings may continue on November 19 and 20, 2026, if needed, as determined by Judge Meyer.

Additional Information

Minnesota Statutes and Rules. This project is being reviewed under Minn. Stat. ch. 216B.243 and Minn. Rules ch. 7849. The rules and statutes are available for review at: ***www.revisor.mn.gov***

Review Process. Information on the review processes for certificates of need for large energy facilities is available on the Commission's website at: ***puc.eip.mn.gov/certificates-of-need***.

Filing Requirements. Utilities, telecommunications carriers, official parties, and state agencies are required to file documents using the Commission's electronic filing system (eFiling). All parties, participants, and interested persons are also encouraged to use eFiling. Visit ***edockets.state.mn.us***, select Sign In/Register and follow the prompts.

Full Case Record. To view all documents filed in this matter, visit ***edockets.state.mn.us***, select Search Documents, enter the docket number (25-117), and select Search.

Subscribe to the Docket. To receive email notification when new documents are filed in this matter, visit ***edockets.state.mn.us*** and select Subscriptions.

Project Mailing List. Sign up to receive notices about project milestones and opportunities to participate or change your mailing preference. Email eservice.admin@state.mn.us or call 651-201-2246 with the docket number, your name, mailing address, and email address.

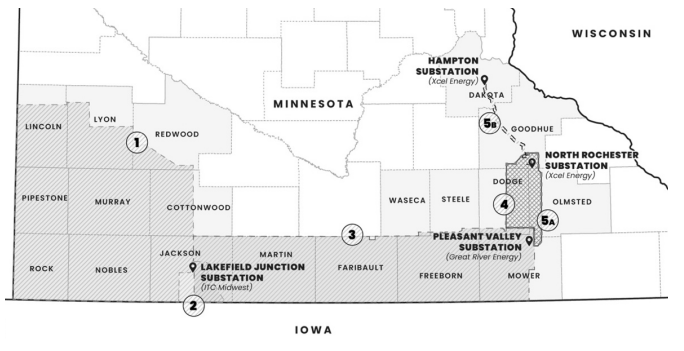
PUC Project Website. ***http://puc.eip.mn.gov/web/project/25117***

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To request this document in another format such as large print or audio, call 651-296-0406 (voice). Persons with a hearing or speech impairment may call using their preferred Telecommunications Relay Service or email consumer.puc@state.mn.us for assistance.



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DAY ONE CRISIS HOTLINE

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Connects you to shelters, advocacy and local support anywhere in Minnesota.

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE – 24/7

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE

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Emotional support and help navigating the criminal justice system.

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Support for Native Americans affected by domestic violence and dating violence.

MN RELAY SERVICE

711

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