



# Large trees to be cleared for 'progress' ahead of Highway 75 construction this summer in Luverne

March 16-19 tree removal to accommodate roosting habits of endangered long-eared bats

By Lori Sorenson

The maple tree at the corner of Dodge Street and Highway 75 in Luverne is at least the age of the stately three-story home on the property — more than 100 years old.

Dave and Linda Iverson moved into their home 53 years ago, a year after Dave started as a veterinarian at Rock Vet Clinic. Their maple tree was large and mature at that time.

The house was built around 1918 or 1920, and they estimate it may have been planted when the house and neighborhood was established.

Today the thick, sturdy trunk wears a ribbon marking it among 30 others along North Highway 75 that must be removed ahead of the street reconstruction project this spring and summer.

"You hate to see a beautiful tree go," Dave said.

"But this is progress, and we don't want to stand in the way of progress."

While some of the trees marked for removal are in the Highway 75 boulevard, the Iversons' maple tree is on their front lawn.

"We sold that corner to the state for the development," Dave said about the Dodge Street intersection at the highway.



Lori Sorenson photo/0305 highway 75 trees iversons

Dave and Linda Iverson moved into their home at Dodge Street and Kniss Avenue 54 years ago when Dave started as a veterinarian at Rock Vet Clinic, and this maple tree was large and mature at that time. On March 16 the 100-year-old tree will come down along with 30 others marked in boulevards and properties on North Highway 75 ahead of the road construction project slated for this spring and summer.

"They're expanding that lane, and it will be safer. ... The semis have to get way in the other lane of traffic to make the corner, and this will be better."

While they're happy to accommodate progress, the Iversons admit they'll miss their tree.

"We've lost a lot of trees over the years in storms — elms, box

elders, ash, maples and evergreens — but that one always hung on," Dave said.

**SEE TREE REMOVAL** ▶ PAGE 2A

# Band button design contest for Tri-State Band Festival opens to the public for 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event this year

Deadline to enter band button design contest is April 20, winner receives \$250

By Nicole Ronchetti

For the first time in its 75-year history, Luverne's Tri-State Band Festival will open its button design contest to the public.

Previously open only to students, the contest has been an annual event since 1976 when the first winner, Missy Weinman, received \$10 in prize money.

"This is the first year we've ever asked the public to come in with designs," said Jane Wildung Lanphere, who has helped with the band festival for decades through her work with the Luverne Area Chamber of Commerce.

"This is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary,



In the photo on the left is the band button from Luverne's first festival in 1951. At right is the button from the 1976 Tr-State Band Festival.

and so many people have a connection to this festival. We wanted everyone to be able to participate."



**Festival started in 1951**

The Tri-State Band Festival began in 1951 when a group of

local businessmen planned an event that would draw people into town.

Because several of them were involved as parents in high school marching band, the idea for a band festival came to life.

"They wanted to create an opportunity for those bands to compete against each other," Lanphere said. "There wasn't anything like that around here back in those days."

The first band festival brought in 15 bands and over 1,000 performers from across Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa. With

**SEE BAND BUTTONS** ▶ PAGE 5A

# Council approves dehumidification unit for pool and fitness center

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne City Council members approved a quote by Climate Systems of Sioux Falls to replace the rooftop dehumidification unit at the city pool and fitness center.

Council members approved the quote for \$374,750, which includes:

- a 40-ton two-compressor

- dehumidifier with a horizontal 2-inch double wall, bottom supply and return, building automation and control net integration, R454B refrigeration, coated fins and hail guards.
- Five-year compressor and coil warranty.
- Startup and temperature controls by Climate Systems.

The council noted the exist-

ing dehumidification unit at the facility is 20 years old, and the new unit has an expected lifetime of roughly 15 years.

Council members also discussed that the new unit will be more energy-efficient than the old one, and there will be expected cost savings in that regard.

The new product is fully integrated with the facility's climate

system software, but there will be a service contract for adjusting humidity levels and other more technical functions.

The unit may qualify for some energy efficiency rebates.

The expenditure of the new dehumidifier will be paid out of the pool and fitness center's capital improvement fund and existing cash reserves.

# Luverne School Board debates options for 2026-27 district calendar

**Four possible calendars for the 2026-27 school year were presented to Luverne School Board members who tabled a decision for a future meeting**

By Nicole Ronchetti

The Luverne School Board members were presented with four different calendar options for the 2026-27 school year during their meeting Thursday night, Feb. 26, but no clear favorites rose to the surface.

The options were divided into two categories, "construction calendars" and "traditional calendars."

The construction calendars follow the pattern of the last six school years and were first adopted to accommodate heavy road construction on North Highway 75 this year in Luverne.

The traditional calendars follow the language present in teachers' contracts.

## The options

Construction Calendar 1 has school beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 8, the day after Labor Day, and going through Monday, May 24. It has a total of 168 school days and a 12-day winter break.

In Construction Calendar 2, school begins on Sept. 8 and goes through Wednesday, May 25. It also has a total of 168 school days, but a 16-day winter break.

Traditional Calendar 1 is the only option of the four to take advantage of the state legislature's rule allowing schools to begin before Labor Day for the 2026-27 school year.

It starts on Tuesday, Sept. 1 and goes through Friday, May 21. It has a total of 174 school days and a 12-day winter break.

Traditional Calendar 2 begins Tuesday, Sept. 8, and continues through Thursday, May 27. It has 174 school days and has an 11-day winter break.

## Discussion

The question of whether to start before or after Labor Day was the first topic of debate.

"I've asked parents I've met over the last few weeks, and the vast majority of people prefer starting after Labor Day," said school board member Heather Johnson. "A lot of the times families only have a small window where they can schedule vacations, and having Labor Day weekend is kind of nice."

Other board members were more open to the idea, though no one specified they preferred Traditional Calendar 1 and starting before Labor Day over the other options.

Another key point of discussion was the length of the school

**SEE SCHOOL CALENDAR** ▶ PAGE 3A



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## HOW TO REACH US

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## COUNTY AT A GLANCE

### Meetings

**Blue Mound Quilters** will meet at 2 p.m. Monday, March 9, in the library basement. Making upcycled animal feed sack bags will be the project lesson. Materials will be provided. Visitors and potential members are always welcome. RSVP to Deb Van Heerde at 507-283-2279.

**Blue Mound Cemetery Association** will meet at 2 p.m. Tuesday, March 10, in the home of Dick and Dolly Remme. Call 507-283-8966.

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

### Spring road weight restrictions

Spring road weight restrictions went into place Tuesday, March 3, on Rock County roadways. Weight restrictions are variable and it is the drivers' responsibility to check for updates throughout the spring restriction period.

### GriefShare Support Group will offer sessions at Generations

Luverne community members who have experienced the death of a family member or friend are invited to register for the GriefShare program at Generations in Luverne. Participants will learn about facing a new normal in life and renewing hope for the future. Materials are available and free of charge.

GriefShare sessions will be offered every Monday afternoon from 2-3:30 p.m. beginning March 2, and will continue for 13 weeks. The weekly meetings will be led by Marlen and Jeanne Van Otterloo. You can register at GriefShare.org

### Community input needed for recreation project

Several local groups are partnering with the city of Luverne to renovate the outdoor ice rink into a public year-round multi-use recreational facility that would serve skaters and pickleball players in the community.

Community input is needed on the project that features a concrete slab, six pickleball courts, a roof structure, improved lighting and enhanced gathering spaces. Take the survey at [www.cityofluverne.org/rinkreno](http://www.cityofluverne.org/rinkreno).

### Nutrition for Seniors March 5

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 and older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SW MN will be from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 5, as a drive-thru distribution in the parking lot off Maple Street on east side of Generations Event Center. Pre-registration is required. Call Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064.

### Spelling bee March 12

Join the Rock County Community Library for its second adult spelling bee at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 12, at Take 16 Brewing Co.

Words will be taken from the Scripps National Spelling Bee lists and lists of commonly misspelled words. Compete with a team of up to four people. Call 507-449-5040 to register.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade March 17

Join the St. Patrick's Day in Luverne at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, meeting in the Living Rock Church parking lot on East Main Street between 4 and 4:30 p.m. The Parade will end at the Palace Theatre where all entrants will receive a gold dollar coin, courtesy of the Luverne Area Chamber. Everyone is encouraged to join — just wear some green and have some fun.

### Olympics at Generations March 19

Generations will host a Minnesota-style Winter Olympics at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, March 19. All are welcome to bring a team of friends and family and your favorite indoor sport (table game or cards). A light meal of scalloped potatoes will be served. **Reserve by March 9** by signing up in the lobby at Generations or by calling Corrine at 507-920-3802.

### SAIL classes are being offered

SAIL classes are being offered at various locations in Rock County. In **Hardwick** every Monday and Wednesday until March 25, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Hardwick Community Center, 111 E. Main St.; in **Magnolia** every Tuesday and Thursday until March 26, from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Magnolia Post Office, 113 Luverne Street; in **Luverne** every Monday and Wednesday March 2 until May 20, from 10 to 11 a.m. at Poplar Creek Estates, 201 Oak Dr.; in **Beaver Creek** March 2 until May 21, every Monday and Thursday from 9 to 10 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 203 S. 3rd St.; in **Hills** every Monday and Thursday until April 23, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Game Plan 4 Hope, 312 W. 3rd St.

A.C.E. volunteers are class leaders and vary according to location. For more information or to pre-register contact A.C.E. program manager Linda Wenzel, 507-283-5064. There is no cost to attend these classes; however, donations will be accepted.



Lori Sorenson photo/0305 highway 75 trees iversons

The 100-year-old maple tree on Dave and Linda Iverson's lawn at the corner of Dodge Street and Highway 75 is among 30 others that are slated to be removed ahead of the Highway 75 reconstruction project that starts in April in Luverne.

## FROM PAGE 1A ► OLD TREES TO BE REMOVED ON HIGHWAY 75

Linda recalled the straight-line winds of August 2004 that wreaked havoc in Luverne.

"It was like a war zone in town," she said. "There were trees down everywhere."

The Iversons lost several large trees in that storm, one narrowly missing coming through their dining room.

When the dust settled and other downed trees were cleared, the Iverson maple proudly stood intact.

Linda said they have appreciated its shade through the years, and they have faithfully cleared its fallen leaves every October.

"I remember one night raking at 11 p.m. ahead of the final city leaf pickup the next morning," Linda said.

### Highway 75 tree removal to start March 16 to protect long-eared bats

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) marked 31 trees along north Highway 75 in Luverne to be removed ahead of the street reconstruction project slated for April through September.

The mature trees, mostly ash and maple, were marked for removal because they (and their root systems) will interfere with construction in the right-of-way.

The road will be rebuilt from below the base to the surface, and there will be new sidewalks, curb and gutter.

The city of Luverne will also replace aging infrastructure — water and sewer pipes — while the road is torn up.

Actual road construction isn't set to start until April, but the trees must be removed before then to work around roosting habits of the endangered long-eared bats.

(It's advised that tree clearing is done between Nov. 1 and March 31 while bats are in hibernation.)

That's according to MN-DOT project supervisor Robert Sneller.

"The tops of the trees will be cut off first," Sneller said.

"All the above-ground tree work will be done in about four



Large, mature evergreens along the east side of Highway 75 are marked for removal ahead of this spring and summer's road construction. Tree removal needs to be complete prior to March 31 to accommodate the hibernation and roosting habits of the endangered northern long-eared bat (pictured below).



Photo credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Keith Shannon

days."

He said stumps will be removed when the street and boulevard are torn up this spring.

The contractor, Husky Construction, Eden Prairie, will begin taking down the trees on March 16, and Sneller said the work will

require a lane closure, but no road closures.

Sneller also said arrangements have been made to reimburse some property owners who will lose trees on their properties — as opposed to trees removed from boulevards and state rights-of-way.

MNDOT has hosted several community information meetings about the upcoming Highway 75 construction project in Luverne.

For details and updates, visit [dot.state.mn](http://dot.state.mn) and search "District 7" and "Highway 75 Luverne."

Also, the Luverne Area Chamber (507-283-4061) or Luverne City Hall (507-449-2388) can answer questions about local impact.

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# LCCMR seeks projects for funds through Environment and Natural Resources Trust

## Proposals due March 18

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) has issued its 2027 Request for Proposals (RFP) for funding from Minnesota’s Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF).

Approximately \$121 million from the lottery-generated fund is available for projects that aim to protect, conserve, preserve and enhance Minnesota’s air, water, land, fish, wildlife and other natural resources.

The LCCMR is requesting proposals to address funding priorities that stem from the LCCMR strategic plan for funding from the ENRTF.

Anyone with a project idea consistent with these priorities may submit a proposal. Priorities fall within the following categories:

- A. Resiliency
- B. Water
- C. Education and Outdoor Recreation
- D. Fish and Wildlife
- E. Energy
- F. Land
- G. Small Projects

The release of this RFP begins the competitive process through which the LCCMR selects projects to recommend to the Minnesota Legislature for funding from the ENRTF.

Proposals responding to the 2027 RFP are due by 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

From March through July 2026, the LCCMR will consider proposals received and make a final selection of projects to include in its recommendations to the Legislature for the 2027 session. Funds for approved projects are available July 1, 2027.

New applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal.

Lobbying or professional grant-writing experience

is not necessary for success.

LCCMR staff are available on a first-come, first-served basis as time permits to review proposals for clarity, completeness, and potential eligibility issues.

New applicants will be prioritized for these reviews. For instructions on arranging a review and for more information on the 2027 RFP, visit the funding process page at [lccmr.mn.gov](http://lccmr.mn.gov).

The Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund is a permanent, dedicated fund in the Minnesota state treasury that was established by 77 percent voter approval of a constitutional amendment in 1988.

The amendment directs forty percent of the net proceeds of the Minnesota State Lottery into the Trust Fund through the year 2050.

Since 1991, approximately \$1.1 billion from the ENRTF has been spent on over 1,700 projects that protect and enhance Minnesota’s environment and natural resources in every county of the state.

The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources is made up of five state senators, five state representatives, and seven citizen members.

The function of the LCCMR is to make funding recommendations to the Minnesota State Legislature for special environment and natural resource projects, primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The LCCMR developed from a program initiated in 1963. Since then, approximately \$1.5 billion has been appropriated to over 2,600 projects recommended to protect and enhance Minnesota’s environment and natural resources.



Contributed photos/0305 jammy day

Pictured in their space jammies Friday, Feb. 27, are (front row, from left) Lilyana Gibson, Hattie Schomacker, Madilyn Bolt, Noah Fernandez, Jakoby Churchill, (middle row) Logan Vlieger, Gracelyn Klooster, Landon Hall, Jackson Cohoon, Aleksandra Nadolski, Lyric Conway (back) paraprofessional Sami Dhoore, Jennifer Lopez Hernandez, Theo Skattum, Syllas Frahm, Eli Dressen, Fatema Adil, Sebastian Diaz Reynosa and first-grade teacher Michaela Abels.

## February is ‘I Love to Read’ Month

As part of February’s I Love to Read Month, Luverne Elementary School students and staff had fun with special dress up days. Friday, Feb. 27, was “Space Jammies and Popcorn Day,” and Elementary Principal Stacy Gillette popped popcorn for students and staff to enjoy while reading.

First-grade teachers Michaela Abels, Ali Dinger and Alicia Reker prepare to distribute popcorn.



At left, paraprofessional Reagan Hawf (from left), music teacher Kira Degerness and paraprofessional Kylee Cohoon get silly on Jammy Day Friday, Feb. 27. At right, Elementary Principal Stacy Gillette mans the popcorn machine.



## FROM PAGE 1A ▶ SCHOOL CALENDAR START DATES

day.

The traditional calendars both shorten the school day to 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., as opposed to the current 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. schedule.

This reduction would likely eliminate what’s known as “flex time” in the middle and high school.

Students and teachers use flex time for a variety of purposes, including helping students who are falling behind to catch up.

“Having a daughter who is in school, she loves flex time,” Johnson shared. “It’s a great time to connect with students they might not connect with otherwise, and it’s a time to get other work done.”

Board member Zach Nolz agreed.

“I think we should keep with the construction calendar,” he said. “I see the value of flex.”

Other board members brought up concerns with some of the calendars, notably the 16-day winter break in Construction Calendar 2 that could open the possibility for school staff to file for unemployment over the holidays.

Ultimately the decision was made to table the discussion, which passed unanimously.

The board plans to carry on the debate at its next work session, which will take place on Thursday, March 12.

**Thompson and Nowatzki to retire**  
Other news from Feb.

26 School Board meeting included the upcoming retirements of two longtime high school teachers.

Bill Thompson, who has taught in Luverne for 34 years, and Chris Nowatzki, who has a tenure of 38 years, will both retire

effective May 21, 2026.

Nowatzki also coaches gymnastics and girls’ golf and is considering continuing in these roles but has not made a final decision.

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Handsome  
no matter what  
*Off-handed comment  
reveals true love*

My friend said it so casually you might have missed the poetry of it.



THE  
NORTHVIEW

By Brenda Winter,  
Columnist

It is, however, better. It's about his arms around her when she comes home defeated after a rough day at work.

It's the way he's raising their girls to love Jesus, do their chores and "don't be a butthead."

Somewhere between the wedding photos and the reading glasses, the definition of handsome quietly shifts.

At 20, handsome is a jawline. At 30, handsome is walking the floor half the night with a fussing baby. At 40, handsome is 20 years of ordinary Tuesdays.

Young love says, "You look amazing." Seasoned love says, "You're mine."

The face changes. The waistline negotiates. Hair length grows longer (or not).

But ... character steps forward and fills the frame.

I suppose that's what she meant by her off-handed comment.

She wasn't defending his appearance. She was revealing her affection. He's handsome, not because of what the mirror says, but because of what the years have proven.

And if you're blessed — truly blessed — someone you love says the same thing about you.

We were chatting on the phone when she mentioned her husband had ended his attempt at growing out his hair. After going more than a year without a haircut, he came home with a crisp new look.

She said, "He looked great!" Then she added, "But he's handsome no matter what he looks like."

I laughed and thought "That's not how handsome works." But her comment has been floating around in my mind ever since.

Because objectively speaking, the man in question is not always at his peak.

There is the pink flamingo dress shirt. His favorite pair of two-toned golf pants from Goodwill. (Green on the front. Blue on the back — a fashion statement not many are man enough to make.) The ripped off gym shorts that should have been retired 10 years ago.

And yet. She looks at him the way some people look at a sunset over the prairie. Like she's witnessing something steady and magnificent.

"Handsome no matter what he looks like" isn't about haircuts or hairlines. It's not the same as "You look great."

Minnesota has extra cash and counties need it now  
*State should use surplus to update antiquated HHS technology systems that cost counties and taxpayers millions of dollars each year*

STAR HERALD EDITORIAL

By Julie Ring, Association of Minnesota Counties,  
Nathan Jesson, Minnesota Inter-County Association,  
and Britta Torkelson, Minnesota Rural Counties Advocacy

chaic technology systems that counties are required to use to implement a multitude of state and federally mandated programs.

Some of these systems date back to the 1980s, but all of them cause inexcusable delays, client backlogs and unnecessary county staffing increases.

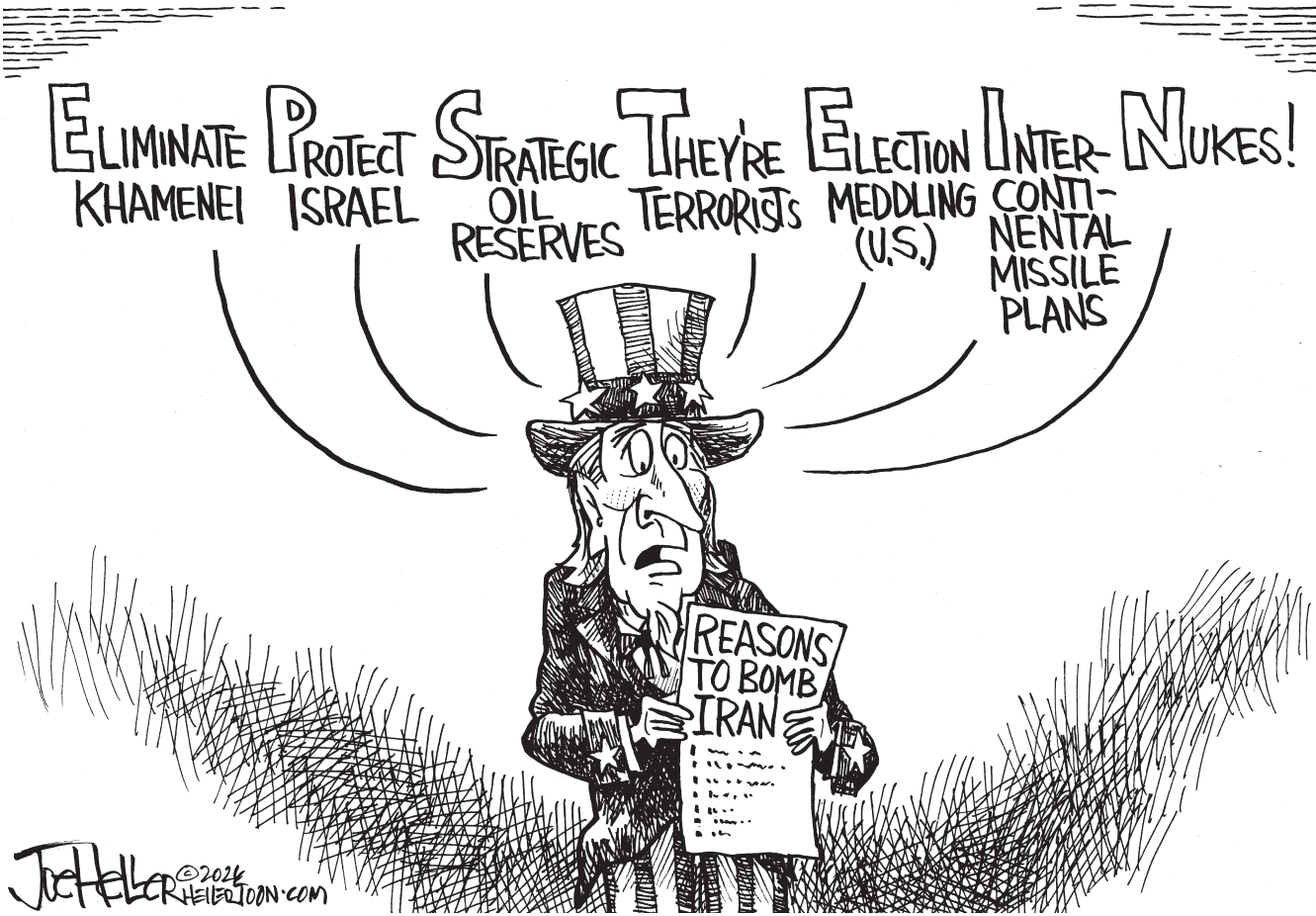
When asked if this was the case in Rock County, our own Rock County administrator said our local staff in Human Services "can share horror stories about the systems they are required to work on."

These problems are made worse

by the effects of HR1, a federal law that requires more workarounds, overrides and duplicative inputs into these systems, potentially shifting hundreds of millions of dollars in costs down to local taxpayers.

The state can start with one-time spending to update these outdated systems and target the highest potential local impacts of HR1.

The neglect of core health and human services technology systems cannot continue, and counties are optimistic about the bipartisan interest in this issue at the Legislature this session.



What's next for deer farms? CWD complicates their futures

It does not happen very often in my neck of the woods, but when you are making a trip of any distance you can see from time to time a batch of elk or deer behind some pretty tall fences. Deer farms are more common than elk farms but their futures in Minnesota have been dramatically changed over the past few years.

With the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease these operations have been put under a microscope. Some will think it is a great idea but if you are a cervid farmer you might think differently. The scrutiny surrounds the transmission of CWD.

Cervid farms purchase and sell many animals each year. Some of these animals move long distances across state lines. CWD has been found in some captive herds.

Some of these operations have been bad actors and others have not. It is always the troublemakers that make it difficult for everyone else. Deer infected with CWD



THE  
OUTDOORS

By Scott Rall,  
Outdoors Columnist

almost always die. The vast majority will. CWD is passed by animal-to-animal contact. Deer in the wild come in nose-to-nose contact with each other but not in the same way as cervids that all share a common space behind a tall fence.

Trying to reduce the spread of CWD transmission in the wild deer herd has led to recreational feeding bans which congregate deer in larger numbers into smaller spaces. The closeness of the contact increases the likelihood of disease transmission. CWD has been identified in the cervid farming community frequently over the past 15 years. Not all in Minnesota by any means. CWD has been present in the wild deer herd for decades but is starting to

spread faster than in the past.

The legislature enacted some new rules for cervid farms a few years back and the industry has pushed back hard on those changes.

I am not a cervid farm expert by any means but some of the rule changes as I understand them include, prohibited the licensing of any new game farms in the state. They also required any game farm ownership transfers can only be to direct family members and could only be done one time.

Requiring each enclosure to be double fenced was also in that regulation rollout. A single fence would still allow a wild deer to go nose-to-nose with a captive one. Double fencing would restrict or eliminate this

possible exposure to the wild deer herd.

As a result of these new rules the number of game farms in the state has declined from about 200 in 2021 to approximately 80 today.

When CWD is identified in one of those locations, it can still spread the disease for many years after all the animals have been removed. This is why they would be required to maintain the fence for 10 years after the last animal was removed. CWD is a big deal.

My friend from Wisconsin is part owner of 2,500 acres of prime river bottom hunting land. This location produced many trophy deer over the years and the group had to remove many antlerless deer each season to get the populations from growing too large.

Along comes CWD and the deer populations in this particular area is down approximately 70 percent. The day and age of a large deer herd and very large bucks is over because most of them do

not survive and even fewer live long enough to grow to trophy size.

There is no direct link to human illness if you eat a deer infected with CWD but almost nobody does. My friend drives to southwest Minnesota and if I am successful in tagging a deer, I share it with him. His substantial investment in a hunting property is no longer panning out for him. He now spends his relaxation hours outdoors growing oak trees.

Minnesota game farms were just handed a setback when in July of 2025 the United States Supreme Court declined to take up their case. You have wildlife conservationists' desire to protect the wild deer herd from CWD on one side and the variety of livestock and ag concerns on the other.

The wild deer herd in Minnesota is really big business. Around 500,000 deer licenses are sold in the state each season. More than 14 million in revenue. These revenues pay for the manage-

ment of Minnesota natural resources and without it we would all suffer.

If people will not eat a deer infected with CWD and if it were to make a big spread across our state then I imagine deer population numbers might collapse right along with deer license sales. For now, with the exceptions of a few localized areas in Minnesota most of the wild deer herd is intact.

The cervid farm operators are heading back to the state legislature this session in an attempt to get state representatives to roll back those new regulations. I have no idea if they will be successful but we all need to watch carefully to be sure the deer herd in Minnesota does not go the way of my friends in Wisconsin.

Scott Rall, Worthington, is a habitat conservationist, avid hunting and fishing enthusiast and is president of Nobles County Pheasants Forever. He can be reached at [scottarall@gmail.com](mailto:scottarall@gmail.com).

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The Star Herald encourages letters to the editor expressing the opinions of readers and intends to print all letters. Letters not meeting the guidelines will not be printed. The Star Herald will verify the authenticity of all letters. Letters must have the name of the writer, a signature and address. Unsigned letters will not be considered. The Star Herald will edit for grammar, spelling and clarity. We don't publish letters with offensive language, libelous or slanderous material, or misleading or false information. Letter writers in these cases will be contacted. The Star Herald will not publish letters written with the sole intent to advertise or serve as a thank-you. Letters with more than 300 words may be edited. The deadline for letters is Monday 10 a.m. They may be delivered or mailed to the editor, Rock County Star Herald, P.O. Box 837, 117 W. Main St., Luverne, Minnesota. 56156.



ON THE RECORD

Dispatch report  
Feb. 18

•A vehicle was reported in the ditch at mile marker 12 eastbound on I-90.

Feb. 19

•Complainant reported suspicious activity on 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Hills.

•Complainant on Rid-geview Road, Beaver Creek, reported a scam.

•Complainant on West Bishop Street in Luverne filed a lost and found report.

•Complainant on South Kniss Avenue, Luverne, re-ported disorderly conduct.

Feb. 20

•Deputy responded to alarm on West Main Street in Luverne.

•Complainant on South Kniss Avenue in Luverne reported a scam.

•A report of fraud/forg-ery/counterfeit was report-ed to law enforcement.

•Complainant reported a road and drive law issue at mile marker 8, east-bound on I-90.

Feb. 22

•Complainant on South Kniss Avenue in Luverne reported a road and drive law issue.

•Complainant at mile marker 2, eastbound on

I-90 reported a road and drive law issue.

•Complainant at 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 161<sup>st</sup> Street reported an accident with property damage.

•Complainant on East Main Street in Luverne reported a road and drive law issue.

Feb. 23

•A civil issue was re-ported to law enforcement.

•Complainant on Russell Street in Luverne reported a scam.

Feb. 24

•An accident with prop-erty damage was reported to law enforcement.

•Complainant on Prospect Avenue in Jasper reported an order for pro-tection violation.

In addition, officers responded to 1 deer ac-cident, 9 ambulance runs, 1 paper service, 3 animal complaint issues, 11 burn permits, 1 abandoned ve-hicle, 1 point of information, 10 purchase/carry permits, 6 fingerprint requests, 49 traffic stops, 7 abandoned 911 calls, 2 tests, 2 wel-fare checks, 1 transport, 1 follow-up, and 9 public/other department assists.



The winning button from 2010 (at left) was designed by Brooke Walgrave and marked the 60th anniversary for the Tri-State Band Festival. The winning button from 1994 (in the center) was created by Lindsey Nelson. The button from 2000 (at far right) marked the festival's 50th anniversary and was designed by Kevin Van Westen.

FROM PAGE 1A ▶ BAND BUTTON COMMUNITY DESIGN CONTEST

the size of the event, the organizers came up with selling buttons as a way to fundraise.

In 1951, they sold over 2,000 commemorative buttons, which helped ease the costs of hosting and organizing the festival. Initially, buttons for the festival were de-signed or commissioned by commit-tee members.

Following the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Tri-State Band Festival, the decision was made to move to a contest open to students.

Now on the eve of another mile-stone, the contest is shifting to be open to all members of the public, regardless of age.

Here's how to enter:

The deadline for this year's con-test is April 20, and submissions can be made by emailing a pdf or jpg file of the design to the Luverne

“If you have a little time and you like art, it's worth trying. It's kind of a fun thing to do. ... We have so many talented people in this community, I'm looking forward to seeing all of the submissions.

Jane Lanphere  
Luverne Area Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce at [luverne-chamber@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:luverne-chamber@co.rock.mn.us).  
“If you have a little time and you like art, it's worth trying,” Lanphere said. “It's kind of a fun thing to do.”  
Since submissions opened, the

chamber has received six button designs.

“We have so many talented peo-ple in this community, I'm looking forward to seeing all of the sub-missions,” Lanphere shared.

The winner of the contest will be selected in a blind judging process by members of the com-mittee and will receive \$250 in prize money.

When printed, the final buttons are 2.5 in. in diameter. Designs should include the words “75<sup>th</sup> An-nual Tri-State Band Festival,” the date “September 26, 2026,” and the location “Luverne, MN” to be eligible.

Submissions with inappropri-ate or offensive language or im-ages will be disqualified. Designs that include ties to music and marching bands are encouraged, but not required.



Contributed photo/0305 dfl backpack volunteers

DFL volunteers fill backpacks for local students

On Monday, March 2, members of the Rock County DFL volunteered to fill backpacks for Luverne school students at the Rock County Food Shelf. Pictured are (from left) Carol Svingen, Barbara Veldhuizen, Carol Serie, Connie Connell, Deb Vander Kooi, Bill Stegemann, Jerry Deuschle, Lona Klosterbuer and Gayle Stegemann. (Not pictured are Carol Morgan and Rhonna Jarchow.) The local Democrats have signed up to do this weekly for the month of March. The BackPack Program in Luverne serves students at Luverne Elementary School by providing bags of nutritious food for weekends — addressing food insecurity for children who may go hungry when school meals aren't available. The Luverne Area Community Foundation (LACF) accepts tax-deductible donations for the program. Checks payable to Luverne BackPack Program can be sent to Luverne Area Community Foundation, P.O. Box 623, Luverne, MN 56156.

Library happenings

For more information about library happenings, call 507-449-5040 or email [rockcountystaff@gmail.com](mailto:rockcountystaff@gmail.com).

**Storytime** with Bronwyn is at 10:30 a.m. now on every Wednesday through the end of April.

**Empower Hour** at 3:30 p.m. is every Thursday and will go through the end of April.

**Books on Tap** book club meets at 6:30 p.m. the first Monday of the month.

**Trivia Night** is the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at Take 16 Brewing Co. in Luverne.

**A to Z Reading Challenge** began Jan. 1. Until July 1, read at least one book with a title that starts with every letter of the alphabet. That's 26 books all together. Reminder: “A,” “An” and “The” don't count as starting words. Those who finish the challenge will receive a prize. If you partially finish the challenge, turn in your sheet for a chance to win a prize in a drawing.

Free tax preparation at library

AARP volunteers will be offering free tax filing at Rock County Library again. You must schedule an appointment by calling the library, 507-449-5040. Make sure to have all documents including last year's tax return. Volunteers will prepare a tax return for 2024 if requested. You must bring all documents for both years (2024-2025). You will need a form of identification as well as being able to document your social security number(s). Appointments have started and will continue every Monday through April 13. Additional appointment days may be added if necessary.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

Class 5 crushed gravel, pit run and crushed rock to be spread on  
**Martin Township roads.**  
Submit bids on or before  
**Monday, March 9**  
to Lucas Sandager  
368 40th Ave, Hills, MN 56138  
605-212-6306

GRAVEL BIDS: GRAND PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP

Grand Prairie Township will be accepting bids for Class 5 crushed gravel to be spread on township roads.  
Bids should be received by  
**Monday, March 9, 2026**  
Bids to be opened Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at the annual meeting.  
Bids may be sent to:  
**Greg Huisman**  
10471 300th St, Ellsworth, MN 56129  
Greg Huisman, Clerk

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REQUEST FOR BIDS

VIENNA TOWNSHIP IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR  
**Snow Removal**

Please submit bids by Monday, March 9, 2026.  
Bids will be opened Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at the community hall in Kenneth.  
Bids may be sent to:  
**Brad Skattum**  
1397 160th Ave  
Luverne, MN 56156  
**Vienna Township Board**

GRAVEL BIDS: VIENNA TOWNSHIP

Class 5, pit run, and screened to be spread on Vienna Township roads.  
Bids will be expected by  
**Monday, March 9, 2026.**  
Bids opened Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at the community hall in Kenneth.  
Bids may be sent to:  
**Vienna Township**  
**Brad Skattum**  
1397 160th Ave  
Luverne, MN 56156  
**Brad Skattum**  
Chairman

REQUEST FOR BIDS

VIENNA TOWNSHIP IS ACCEPTING BIDS FOR  
**Road Grading**

Please submit bids by Monday, March 9, 2026.  
Bids will be opened Tuesday, March 10 at 7 p.m. at the community hall in Kenneth.  
Bids may be sent to:  
**Brad Skattum**  
1397 160th Ave  
Luverne, MN 56156  
**Vienna Township Board**

PALACE THEATRE

UPCOMING EVENTS

VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS ONLINE

WANTED

ROBIN HOOD

"Wanted: Robin Hood" by The Rowdy Ravens

Friday, March 6 7:00 pm  
Saturday, March 7 7:00 pm  
Sunday, March 8 2:00 pm  
Written by Tim & Carol Ceynowa  
Tickets: \$5

BANK NITE MOVIE: Goat

PG

Thursday, March 12 6:00 pm  
Sponsored by: First Farmers & Merchants Bank and Papik Motors  
FREE ADMISSION

Goat

PG

Friday, March 13 7:00 pm  
Saturday, March 14 7:00 pm  
Sunday, March 15 2:00 pm  
Tickets: \$6 for kids age 3 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade, \$8 for adults

104 E. Main St. • Luverne, MN 56156 • 507.283.4339  
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Nicole Ronchetti photos/0305 reading week

## Students celebrate Read Across America Day

Haley Boltjes, an actor with the Green Earth Players community theater group, reads the children’s book, “Miss Nelson is missing!” to Luverne kindergarten students in the elementary school library on Monday afternoon. Boltjes, along with fellow Green Earth Player Denise Wethor, were special guests brought in to read to Luverne Elementary School students Monday as a part of National Read Across America Day.



All of Luverne’s elementary students celebrated reading throughout last week with different activities designed around the theme of “Reading is out of this world.” These included dress-up days, book giveaways, and special projects. The activities culminated on March 2, National Read Across America Day, which occurs every year on the birthday of famous children’s author Dr. Seuss.

Left: Haley Boltjes puts on her stage voice while reading “Miss Nelson is missing!” to kindergartners at the elementary school for Read Across America Day on Monday.

Bottom: Luverne’s kindergartners listen attentively to Green Earth Player Haley Boltjes reading the book “Miss Nelson is missing!” at the elementary school on Monday as a part of the school’s celebration of Read Across America Day.



## 1942: Rollags recall journey to Rock County



### BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,  
Rock County Historian

The following appeared in *The Rock County Herald* on March 19, 1942.

It was May, 1874, in Winneshiek, Iowa, and several young men were busy tightening all loose parts on their covered wagons, greasing them where needed, repairing ox yokes and mending broken straps. Thrilled with the thought of going to a new, rich country on the morrow, they no doubt raised their voices in happy song as they loaded all their earthly possessions and a few provisions into the rough wooden wagon box.

The young men had come a long way to find a new home, for all were Norwegians. Friends living in Winneshiek county had written in letters of the level, virgin prairies, which when turned by the plow provided black, fertile loam yielding wheat in unheard of quantities. The free land in Winneshiek county, however, had all been taken, but word came of a vast unsettled expanse which lay between Jackson, Minnesota, and Sioux Falls, S.D. Some excellent sections, with plenty of water in streams nearby, could be had by living on them for five years. With this as an incentive, this little band of pioneer men talked the matter over with the “women folks” and finally settled the question. They’d try it! They could always come back if it didn’t “pan out.”

One of the women in the band was Mrs. Grace Rollag of Beaver Creek township. What a difference to her were the treeless plains from the mountains and fjords of Norway she’d left the year before. Born in Tinn, Telemarken, Norway, Jan. 13, 1851, she grew to young womanhood there and in 1873 was united in marriage with Ole Rollag. Their wedding trip was made on a boat bound

for America, the land of promise. They arrived at the Jacob Abrahamson home in Winneshiek county and lived there until coming to Minnesota the year following.

Making the trip to Rock county that summer were men whose names are still remembered by those who know pioneer Rock county history. In addition to Ole Rollag, they included Nels Jacobson, Ole Jordahl, Ole J. Bjerk, Lars Peterson, Odd Rovhough, Tosten Sexe and others.

What a memorable journey that was! Even to this day, Mrs. Rollag can recall many incidents that occurred. First, they had been warned of the grasshopper situation, but never having seen the insects, they didn’t realize how bad they could be. When the party arrived in Jackson, they saw the hoppers for the first time. They continued on their journey, however, and found many abandoned shacks along the route. In the huts that were occupied, the residents always gave them the same uncomfortable words, “Well, you’re going West this year, but next year you’ll be coming back.”

Young and happy-go-lucky, the little group did not hesitate to continue to their destination. Even trouble along the route did not cause them to

BITS BY BETTY ▶ PAGE 8A

## CELEBRATIONS

### Baby shower

A come and go baby shower for **Leah Radisewitz Schwartz** will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 14, at Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne.

### Card showers

**Gloria Aanenson** will celebrate her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday Sunday, March 8. Greetings may be sent to her at PO Box 539, Luverne, MN 56156.

## MENU AT GENERATIONS

#### Monday, March 9:

Boneless chicken wings, barbecue sauce, stir fry vegetables, egg roll, sweet and sour sauce, lemon pudding.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Main Street Financial.

#### Tuesday, March

**10:** Swedish meatballs, mashed potatoes, brown gravy, mixed vegetables, dinner roll, chocolate chip cookie.

#### Wednesday, March

**11:** Pork roast, pork gravy, candied yams, green beans, wheat bread, vanilla pudding with whipped topping.

Half-Price Day sponsored by Christian Re-

formed Church.

#### Thursday, March

**12:** Chicken alfredo, peas and carrots, hot spiced apples, dinner roll.

#### Friday, March 13:

Cheese omelet, turkey sausage, diced red potatoes, diced peach cup, blueberry muffin.

Birthday cake sponsored by Papik Motors.

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

*Call Pam Franken at 283-9846 extension 11 to reserve one day prior, to arrange to pick up a dinner or for home-delivered meals.*

## REMEMBER WHEN

### 10 years ago (2016)

•A Luverne High School junior accomplished something no other Cardinal wrestler has in 16 years at the Minnesota State Class AA Wrestling Championships at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul over the weekend.

Solomon Nielsen, who placed second at 160 pounds during the Section 3AA Tournament one week earlier, won three consecutive matches before falling in the finals to end the season with a second-place finish at the state classic.

Nielsen is the first wrestler to place second at state since 2000, when Jordan Petersen finished second and Alex Serie captured the program’s last state individual title.

Daryl Meyer placed second at state in 1990.

He also becomes the first LHS wrestler to place more than once in state competition.

### 25 years ago (2001)

•Rock County Pheasants Forever received a Conservation Excellence Award from the state organization for its contributions to habitat and conservation projects.

The award, presented to Rock County members at the Jan. 5-7 state convention in Red Wing, was given based on total habitat and conservation expenditures.

Rock County was one of three counties recognized for lifetime expenditures of more than \$250,000.

Typical expenditures include funding for nesting cover projects, food plots, trees and shrub plantings, wetland restorations, controlled burns and land acquisitions.

Rock County Pheasants Forever has acquired more than 530 acres of land in its 16 years as a chapter.

In addition, members have established more than 100 food plots on nearly 1,300 acres of local land. They have planted trees on more than 100 acres, and have established 18 nesting cover sites on 367 acres.

### 50 years ago (1976)

•A new combination shop and warehouse building will be constructed at Blue Mounds State Park, Wally Bartel, park manager, announced this week.

Also approved for construction this year is a second campground shower and toilet facility.

The existing shower building was constructed to serve a maximum of 35 campers, and the use given the campground

during the past several years has exceeded the capacity of the present building.

The 32 ft. by 60 ft. shop and warehouse building will be erected at the headquarters area, Bartel said. It will replace a smaller and older building which will be taken down.

According to word from Congressman Richard Nolan, a federal matching grant of \$13,750 from the national Land and Water Conservation Fund (Lawcon) has been provided for the project. The state will provide a similar amount for the project.

In order to receive a Lawcon grant, the state must develop a comprehensive outdoor recreation plan and update the plan on a continuing basis.

### 75 years ago (1951)

•When the bids were opened Wednesday on the proposal to buy the bonds of Martin township and Hills village, the Ward was made to Fred Gefke, Sioux Falls.

The \$40,000 bond issue is to be split between the township and the village in order to purchase the Legion building.

Gefke’s proposal for the village bonds was on the basis of 2 percent on a four year basis, 2¼ percent over six years and a \$25 premium. On the township his bid was on a 2 percent basis with a \$25 premium.

### 100 years ago (1926)

•Rock county high schools’ annual basketball tournament will be held at the Armory in this city Friday and Saturday evenings, March 12th and 13th. Beaver Creek, Hardwick, Hills and Magnolia schools will be represented by girls and boys’ teams. Ordinarily, the Luverne high school would be included in this, but it was felt that the Luverne school, owing to its greater size, did not properly belong in the county tournament, and the Luverne teams withdrew.

On the first evening of the tournament, four games will be played, the first two between the girls’ teams and the second two between the boys’ teams representing the four schools mentioned. On Saturday evening, two games will be played between the winners of the Friday evening’s games, and these will decide the county championships and the placement of the silver loving cup trophy for the girls’ team and the basketball trophy for the winning boys’ team. In addition to these two awards, a trophy will also be given to the team disclosing the best sportsmanship throughout the tournament.



OBITUARIES

Colleen Cragoe

Colleen Kay Cragoe was born February 12, 1938, to Arthur and Grayce (Little) Rust on a farm in Westside Township, Nobles County, Minnesota. She was raised on the farm with three brothers and two sisters and attended country school for two years. She began school in Magnolia, Minnesota during her third-grade year and graduated from Magnolia High School in 1955. She then took a job with Nox Laboratories on Main Street in Luverne, Minnesota.



On March 23, 1956, Colleen married her high school sweetheart, Eugene “Gene” Cragoe at the First Presbyterian Church in Luverne. The couple rented a farm two miles north of Magnolia and began raising their family. They were blessed with one son and three daughters.

In 1971 Gene and Colleen moved to the farm east of Hardwick, Minnesota, where they stayed until 1996 when they moved to Luverne.

When the kids were grown, Colleen enrolled at Worthington Community College in Worthington, Minnesota, where she earned her degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She worked at the Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne for 18 years before retiring.

On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, Colleen died at Parkview Manor Nursing Home in Ellsworth, Minnesota, at the age of 88 years and 12 days.

Colleen was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Luverne where she played many roles including deacon and elder and was also involved in Circle and Anchor Group.

Colleen played the organ at church for much of her lifetime, first at the age of 15 at Ellsworth Presbyterian Church, and then in 1956 she began playing organ and piano at the First Presbyterian Church in Luverne.

She shared her musical gift with the community until her eyesight prevented her from continuing.

Throughout the years, she was proud to have played for

many church services, weddings and funerals.

Colleen was actively involved in her children’s 4-H and school activities. Colleen was a constant companion to Gene on the farm and always had a meal or baked goods for anyone who showed up on the farm. Gene and Colleen enjoyed camping at Lake Shetek, wintering in Arizona, tending to the farm and being active in their children’s lives. She later continued the love of her family by being involved in her grandchildren’s and great grandchildren’s lives.

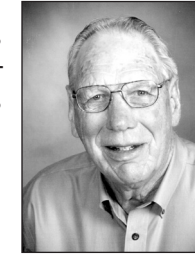
Colleen is survived by her three daughters, Pamela (Doug) Miller of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Peggy (Scott Adams) of Luverne, and Wendy (Kent) Klemme of Apex, North Carolina; daughter-in-law, Kameo Cragoe of Ottumwa, Iowa; 10 grandchildren, Austin (Jill) Cragoe of Sioux Falls, Kylee (Jake) Stinson of Ottumwa, Amber (Corey) Rost of Madison, South Dakota, Zachary Miller of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Kamryn (Zach) Wessels of Sioux Falls, Jordan Adams of Sioux Falls, Travis Adams of Minneapolis, Paige Adams of Sioux Falls, Jacob (Samantha) Klemme of Buckley, Washington, and Colton Klemme of Sioux Falls; eight great-grandchildren, Shayla Rost, Raena Rost, Jessie Cragoe, Harper Cragoe and Sydney Cragoe, Beauden Klemme, Jesse Klemme, and Jackson Stinson; brother, Donald (Arliss) Rust of Buffalo, New York; sister, Jeanne Woodley of Luverne; and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene “Gene” Cragoe; son, Randall Cragoe; parents; three siblings, Patricia Roberts, Keith Rust, and Albert “Bud” Rust; and infant great-grandson, Asher Klemme.

A funeral service was Friday, February 27, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Luverne. Interment followed at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne. Hartquist Funeral Home of Luverne was in charge of arrangements.

Oltman Honken

Oltman “Okie” Honken, age 89, formerly of Luverne, Minnesota, passed away on Friday, February 27, 2026, at his home in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



Visitation will be Thursday, March 5, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Hartquist Funeral Home in Luverne.

Funeral service will be Friday, March 6, at 11:00 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne. Burial will follow at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

To view Okie’s life tribute or sign an online registry, please visit [www.hartquist-funeral.com](http://www.hartquist-funeral.com).

Oltman “Okie” Honken was born March 12, 1936, to Oltman and Jennie Honken in Hardwick, Minnesota. He was baptized at First Presbyterian Church in Edgerton, Minnesota. He was raised in the Hardwick/Nemeth area, attended country school north of Hardwick and Kenneth for grade school, and graduated from Luverne High School in 1954.

Following high school, he worked for Lampert Lumber Co. for three years and enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1957. After completing his basic training, he worked for Frakes Construction for 18 years.

He started his own construction business, Okie

Honken Construction, in 1978, doing residential, concrete, and commercial projects in the three-state area.

On October 19, 1963, he was united in marriage to Cleone Swenson at Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne. The couple made their home in Luverne. Okie and Cleone later moved to Touchmark at All Saints in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where Okie passed away on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 89 years, 11 months and 15 days.

Okie was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Luverne where he served as trustee and donated many hours doing upkeep and remodeling the kitchen. He was a member of the Luverne Community Hospital Board and was a charter member of the Hospital Foundation (Luverne Community Health Care Foundation).

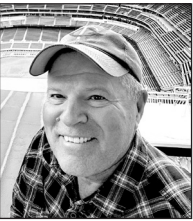
He enjoyed fishing, especially with his grandsons, on their annual fishing trip.

Okie is survived by his wife, Cleone; two sons, Ronald (Cathy) Honken of Leota, Minnesota, and Randall (Carmen) Honken of Sartell, Minnesota; grandchildren, Reed, Riley, Mathew, Vanesa and Anna; and a brother, Robert (Sandy) Honken of Laramie, Wyoming.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and a sister, Elaine Torvelese.

Randy Cragoe

Randall “Randy” Gene Cragoe died February 23, 2026, at his home in Ottumwa, Iowa.



He was born October 25, 1957, in Luverne, Minnesota, to Eugene LeRoy and Colleen Kay Rust Cragoe. The young parents ushered Randy into a farm life that would profoundly shape and prepare him for all major events yet to come. Agriculture — dairy farming in particular — fed Randy’s lifelong wonder and his strong connections to mysteries found in the natural world; it instilled in him a remarkable perseverance and optimism when driving life’s sharp corners and fed his infectious zest for life. “Everything in life I learned from a cow,” Randy would explain later in life, with his signature childlike grin and amused chuckle.

While Randy attended elementary school in Magnolia, Minnesota, and high school in Luverne, Minnesota, his formative years gave Randy opportunities to participate and hold leadership roles in FFA, 4-H, and the family farm. After high school, Randy furthered his pursuit by attending farm management school in Faribault, Minnesota, and community college in Worthington, Minnesota. He later shifted his agricultural focus to a career off the farm, spending close to 40 years in multiple sales and leadership positions promoting animal health technologies for biotechnology companies. During his career, he earned a MiniMBA with his study based in Ireland. Always a farm kid at heart, he marveled at how his path had unexpectedly thrust him into an exciting global world, yet kept him firmly grounded in his love of agriculture and the people living in the ag world.

On July 9, 2014, Randy married Kameo Kay Keltner. Loving partners for over 20 remarkable years, Randy and Kameo blended their families, delighting in how naturally family members became less defined by “his” and “hers” and were instead embraced as “ours.” Son Austin (Jill) Cragoe and daughter Kylee (Jacob) Stinson, along with grandchildren Jessie, Harper, and Sydney Cragoe and Jackson Stinson gave

Randy an endless sense of pride and profound purpose. Always the salesman and entertainer, Randy had a special knack for packaging his famous “life lessons” into witty entertainment, charming his family into musing at his lectures, useless-but-interesting facts, tall tales, pranks, and endless riddles. In his always exuberant “Randy style,” he immersed his family in his many traditions, including his five Christmas trees, yearly pilgrimage to the Minnesota State Fair, and trips to watch Twins baseball.

Self-employed and semi-retired for the final five years of his life, Randy found himself trading his business suits for flannel, worn jeans, and power tools. He dropped the business meetings and took up world travel with Kameo; the two of them embarked on numerous extended vacations across the U.S., the Caribbean, Europe, and Asia. Randy kept pace with the corporate hustle, but now it was to pursue his own passions on his own terms. He bustled from one project to another almost as if he knew the time he had would never be enough to complete and experience everything on his docket. He built basement bars and cleared the overgrown grove behind his house. He built and remodeled and painted and planted in his unique “Randy style” of doing things, all abiding by his motto to “leave it better than I found it.” His family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues can all attest to him leaving us better than how he found us.

Surviving is his wife, Kameo; son Austin (Jill) Cragoe of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; daughter Kylee (Jacob) Stinson of Ottumwa; four grandchildren, Jessie, Harper, Sydney, and Jackson; sisters Pamela (Doug) Miller of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Peggy (Scott) Adams of Luverne, Minnesota, and Wendy (Kent) Klemme of Apex, North Carolina; two brothers-in-law, Kyle (Jennifer) Keltner of Chicago, Illinois, and Kasey (Jennifer) Keltner of Columbus Junction, Iowa.

Randy was preceded in death by his parents.

A celebration of life is planned for a future date. Reece Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Betty Luethje

Betty Luethje, age 93, of Luverne, Minnesota, went to be with her Lord on Saturday, February 14, 2026, while at her daughter’s home in Arizona.



A memorial service will be on Saturday, March 14, 2026, at 2:30 p.m. with gathering of family and friends beginning at 1:30

p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Luverne. Burial will follow at Maplewood Cemetery in Luverne.

To view Betty’s Life Tribute or sign an online registry, please visit [www.hartquist-funeral.com](http://www.hartquist-funeral.com). Full obituary will appear in next week’s editions.

Lorelei Steever

Lorelei Lee Steever (Weigand), age 64, passed away peacefully at Ava’s House in Sioux Falls February 28, 2026, while holding the hands of her two sons.



Please join the family for a Memorial Visitation from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, March 13, at Jarman Family Funeral Home in Lennox, South Dakota. A Celebration of Life will take place the following day, Saturday, March 14, at 3:00 p.m. at the Green Lantern in Hardwick, Minnesota.

Lori was born August 26, 1961, in Bellevue, Nebraska, into a bustling military family with four kids already in the household, which included her mother, Shirley Weigand (Lee), and loving brothers and sisters Micheal, Deborah, Teresa and Dion, with Mark coming after her.

Lori lived a life full of love, always sharing anything and everything she had with anyone who was in need, including her four-legged animals. She was blessed with two wonderful children from two wonderful men, Brandon Moore (son) with Micheal Moore (husband), and Tyler Steever (son) with Todd Steever (husband). She managed multiple different gas stations between Luverne, Minnesota, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where customers and co-workers alike appreciated her for her love and infectious smile/laugh. After 30-plus years of service in the gas station industry, she began working for Citi Bank and

was still employed there in the fraud department when she passed. She worked for and achieved her bachelor’s degree in business management in her later years, something she was very proud of.

Lori also shared a deep pride and love for the families her children built. Brandon Moore married a wonderful woman, Carrie Moore (Braaten), who along with Brandon loves to spend instrumental time with their nieces and nephews. Tyler Steever married another wonderful woman, Dana Steever (Nelson), and they were blessed with two children of their own, Maisie and Aria Steever. Lori loved all of the little ones in her sons’ families and truly lived her life with them in mind every moment.

Lori was preceded in death by her mother, Shirley, brothers, Dion Weigand and Mark Weigand, and sister Teresa Bartlett.

She is survived by her sons, Brandon (Carrie) Moore of Austin, Minnesota, and Tyler (Dana) Steever of Lennox, South Dakota; grandchildren Maisie and Aria Steever also of Lennox; her brother, Micheal Weigand and sister Deborah Bracker, as well as many nieces, nephews, and dear friends who spent their lives enjoying the party that was Lori’s personality.

“You are my sunshine, my only sunshine, you make me happy, when skies are gray, you’ll never know dear, how much I love you, please don’t take my sunshine away.”

Starla Scholten

Starla Scholten, 58, of Hills, passed away Feb. 23.

Visitation will be from 3-6 p.m. Thursday, March 19, at the Hugo Goehle Gym in Hills. Memorial

service will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday, March 20, at the gym.

Chapel Hill Funeral Home, Sioux Falls, is assisting the family.

Notice of Annual Township Meetings & Elections

Notice is hereby given that the following townships will hold their annual meeting and elections on Tuesday, March 10, 2026. In case of inclement weather, they will be held one week later on March 17, 2026.

**Battle Plain Township**

Justin Prins' farm - 1941 231st St., Edgerton. Meeting at 7 pm

**Beaver Creek Township**

Beaver Creek Township Hall. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Clerk 2-year term.

**Clinton Township**

Business meeting at the Township Hall 4-5 pm. Voting from 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Clerk for 2-year term.

**Denver Township**

Hardwick City Hall. Meeting 7 pm

**Kanaranzi Township**

Kanaranzi Elevator 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Clerk for 2-year term.

**Luverne Township**

Luverne Pizza Ranch. Monthly Meeting 3-4 pm, Annual Business Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term.

**Magnolia Township**

Arends Farm 1581 121st Luverne. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Clerk 2-year term.

**Martin Township**

Township Building 598 51st St Hills. Meeting at 8 pm.

**Mound Township**

Keith Schmuck shop 1292 141st St, Luverne. Meeting 4-5 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term.

**Rosedell Township**

Township Hall. 4-5 pm Business Meeting.

**Springwater Township**

Town Hall 594 141st Luverne. Business meeting 3 pm and Election 5-8 pm to elect one Supervisor 3-year term and one Clerk/Treasurer 2-year term.

**Vienna Township**

Kenneth Community Hall. Business Meeting 7 pm.

Rock County Township Association

Teresa Kramer, Secretary/Treasurer

Obituary Pricing

All death notices and obituaries are 25¢ per word.

This includes one photo. If two photos are submitted, **the second photo will be \$10.**

If a death notice is submitted, then later an obituary, the death notice fees will be waived.



FROM PAGE 6A ▶ BITS BY BETTY GRACE ROLLAG HISTORY

to change their minds. Take, for instance, Mr. Rollag’s plight. After a day’s journey out of Ridgeway, Iowa, one of his oxen lost a hoof, making it impossible for the animal to travel further. He sold it for \$15.

The best deal he could make to obtain beasts of burden to continue the trip was to purchase an ox team for \$125. He had borrowed \$50 when he left Ridgeway — now he had to borrow another \$100, but he made the purchase, and the trip was resumed.

It took about three weeks to travel the 260 miles from Ridgeway to Beaver Creek township, but the party arrived hale and hearty on June 9, 1874. Each family picked out their quarter section and soon they were settled, and ready to go to work.

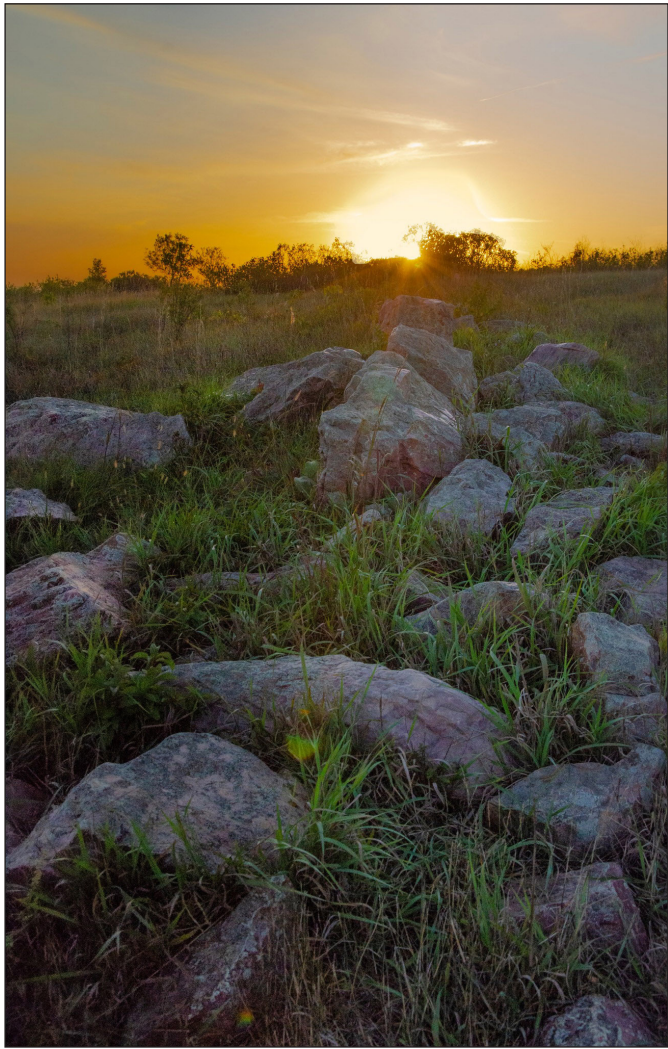


First homes for the new arrivals were cellars dug into the slopes of the new land. A few boards over the top served as the roof. The first fall, every-

body went “modern” by constructing fashionable sod houses. Because they arrived too late to grow a crop the first year, all went to Lyon county, Iowa, during the harvest season to tie grain. There were no binders in the country at that time, Mrs. Rollag said. The women, accustomed by this time to hardship, joined their husbands in the fields, and although they didn’t earn as big wages, it all helped when it was time to stock up on winter provisions. “We women weren’t treated fairly though,” says Mrs. Rollag, recalling that although the women were required to tie the same amount during the day as the men, they received only \$1 per day while their hus-

bands received \$2.50 for the same amount of work. “A difference of \$1.50, just because you wore a different kind of pants, was too much.” They managed to live through the first winter on their summer’s earnings, and the next spring planted their first crops, hoping to reap a bounteous harvest in the fall. “One day,” Mrs. Rollag recalls, “we thought it was raining, but instead of drops of water rattling the roof boards, it was grasshoppers. In three hours, our beautiful crop was destroyed, and the insects swarmed into the air and on to greener pastures. Nevertheless, we saw fit to improve our home by putting in a board floor.” Grasshoppers took everything for the next three years, but somehow or other, the settlers just would not give up. A big help financially was the construction of the railroad from Worthington to Sioux Falls which provided many of the settlers with much needed employment.

Mrs. Rollag states that many of the residents would have gone elsewhere, but were too poor to leave their community. The year following, Mrs. Rollag’s husband worked for B.S. Wold, in Luverne, hauling goods from Worthington to Luverne by team over faint wagon trails that served as the “highway” at that time. While thus employed, Mr. Rollag spent his weekends at home, walking the distance of 12 miles on Saturday night and again on Monday morning. *This story about the Rollags in Bits by Betty will continue next week.*



(Contributed photo) The hike will end watching the sun set over the historic rock alignment atop the Blue Mounds State Park.

Spring equinox hike at Blue Mounds March 20

The spring equinox marks the day the sun passes directly over the equator, giving equal hours of day and night. Celebrate the beginning of spring with a one-mile hike on top of the Blue Mounds State Park from 6:45 to 7:45 p.m. Friday, March 20, at the state park. Use the Eagle Rock Vista entrance off County Road 8 to meet at the trailhead. The hike will end watching the sun set over the historic rock alignment atop the mounds. The program is free to attend, but all vehicles that enter the park require a valid Minnesota state park vehicle permit. The cost is \$7 for a daily permit or \$35 for a year-round permit. The program will be canceled in the event of poor weather conditions. Call the park office for updates at 507-283-6051.

# Better Internet for Luverne

## Open House

Tuesday, March 10  
3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The Trailhead

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# Coffee Chats!

Join us at the Nobles County Powered Data Park office for coffee and donuts on Wednesday mornings, starting February 18, 2026. Our team will be available to answer questions and discuss this project.

**Wednesdays  
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

**Nobles County PDP Office:**  
22636 U.S. 59  
(Former Nobles Co-op Electric Office) Worthington, MN 56187

507.468.7289  
 noblescountypdp@geronimopower.com



## Great game, sad ending

### *Luverne boys' hockey falls 2-1 to Mankato West in triple overtime section championship game*

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne boys' hockey team ended their season earlier than they expected.

The Cardinals fell 2-1 to Mankato West Thursday, Feb. 26, in the Section 3A Championship game in St. Peter.

It took three overtime periods to decide who would move on to the 2026 state tournament.

With the game tied 1-1 after the second period in regulation play, both teams dug in and dragged out the game another four periods before Mankato West finally found the back of the Cardinals' net.

Both teams were on the ice a total of 80 minutes and 11 seconds in an epic game of playoff hockey.

Luverne put a total of 40 shots on the Mankato West goalie throughout the affair.

The Scarlets put 33 shots on LHS senior goalie Gavin Hoven, who was able



Greg Hoogeveen photo/LHSBHO09

Luverne sophomore Mallachi Domagala, No. 12, and junior Colton Haubrich, No. 7, react to losing a 2-1 game to Mankato West after three overtime periods of play in St. Peter Feb. 26. Both teams played hard for over 80 minutes on the ice before Mankato scored the winning goal.

to turn 31 of 33 away in the loss.

Last season Luverne and Mankato West met in the

section championship and played to a 3-2 win for the Cardinals in double overtime. LHS senior Blaik Bork

cemented the win and a trip to state when he scored at 4:11

SEE HOCKEY ► PAGE 2B

## Lady Pates head to Section 3A Championship

By Greg Hoogeveen

After two section basketball playoff wins, the H-BC Lady Pates will take on Central Minnesota Christian for the Section 3A Championship Thursday, March 5, in Marshall.

H-BC beat Westbrook Walnut Grove 62-38 Feb. 24 in the sub-section semifinals and won 48-40 against Murray County Central Feb. 27 in the sub-section finals.

H-BC, the No. 1 south seed, will take on Central Minnesota Christian, the No. 1 north seed, Thursday, March 5, in Marshall.

**H-BC 62, Westbrook Walnut Grove 38**

South sub-section semifinals

H-BC outplayed the



Samantha McGaffee photo/HBCGBB5

H-BC head coach Dylan Gehrke cheers with the team after receiving their sub section final medal in Worthington. H-BC beat MCC 48-40 in the game to move on in the section tournament.

Westbrook Walnut Grove Chargers 62-38 in south sub-section semifinal action Tues-

day, Feb. 24, in Worthington. "The Westbrook Walnut Grove game was a total team

effort," H-BC head coach Dylan Gehrke said.

"The girls came out a little slow against the Chargers. We had 11 turnovers in the first half and one in the second half."

The Patriots led 25-23 in the first half and stepped it up in the second half, scoring 37 points to take a 62-38 win.

H-BC was able to out-rebound the Chargers 39-21 and collect 22 turnovers to keep the ball in their hands for a good portion of the game.

"Scoring was pretty spread out for the most part with Deelstra and Bakken leading the way," Gehrke said.

Junior Olivia Deelstra had a big game, posting a

SEE LADY PATES ► PAGE 2B

## Patriots beat RRC in section quarters

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Hills-Beaver Creek boys' basketball team beat Red Rock Central 68-29 in Section 3A sub section quarterfinal action Saturday, Feb. 28, in Worthington.

The Patriots built a 39-17 lead at the half and tacked on 29 points in the second half for the section win.

Game breakdown and stats were not available for this issue of the Star Herald.

H-BC was scheduled to take on Edgerton Public in the south sub section semifinals Tuesday, March 3, in Worthington.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/HBCBBB2

Senior EJ Wegener moves the ball up the court against Red Rock Central followed by senior Jamin Metzger in a fast break to the hoop Feb. 28. H-BC won the game 68-29.

## LHS tops St. James 79-67 in sections

By Greg Hoogeveen

The Luverne boys' basketball team added two wins to their record when they beat Edgerton 75-68 Feb. 24 and won 79-67 against St. James in the Section 3 south sub-section quarterfinal game at home Feb. 27.

The Cardinals' win/loss record now sits at 21-5 for the season. Luverne was scheduled to take on Montevideo, the No. 1 south seed, Tuesday, Mar. 3, in the sub-section semifinals in Windom.

**LHS 75, Edgerton 68**



Greg Hoogeveen photo/LHSBBB3

Cardinal senior Connor Bose looks to the rim as he jumps toward the basket against St. James Feb. 27 in Luverne. LHS beat the Saints 79-67 in the game.

Luverne finished the regular season beating Edgerton Public 75-68 Tuesday, Feb. 24, on the road.

LHS built a 38-28 lead at the half and tacked on another 37 points in the second half to post a 75-68 win.

Luverne junior Coy Thone led the Cardinals with 24 points under the hoop.

Senior Clay Thedens hit three three-point shots and finished with 16 points.

Senior Connor Bose had a team-leading 10 assists and scored 12 points on the night.

Senior Jaydon Johnson led LHS in rebounds, grabbing 14 total against

LHS BOYS ► PAGE 2B



## Big South All-Conference girls' hockey and gymnastics athletes announced

By Greg Hoogeveen

Seven Luverne athletes were recently named to the 2025-26 Big South All-Conference Team.

In gymnastics, senior Kianna Winter, freshman Emma Cowell and eighth-grader Marris Thone were selected all-conference in the Gold Division for LHS.

Thone qualified for the 2026 state tournament in the individual vault competition and finished in 21st place out of 46 athletes.

Luverne girls' hockey took first place in the Big

South Conference - Gold Division team standings with a 5-1 record and had four players named to the all-conference team.

Senior Ella Apel and sophomore Ellie Van Batavia were named all-conference, and juniors Tenley Behr and Rylee Kurtz were named all-conference honorable mention.

The Luverne girls' hockey team qualified for the state tournament this season, beating Marshall 3-2 in the section finals in St. Peter.

## LHS falls 52-42 to Fairmont in sections

By Greg Hoogeveen

Luverne gave Fairmont a scare in the Section 3 South Sub-Section Quarterfinal game Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Jackson.

The No. 5 seed Luverne Cardinals matched the No. 1 seed Fairmont Cardinals to the last four minutes of the game before Fairmont went on a 14-point run to win a 52-42 game.

Luverne started the game taking a 9-6 lead early in the contest.

Fairmont then scored eight unanswered points to gain a 15-9 lead on Luverne.

Luverne answered back with a six-point run of their own to tie the game 15-15 at the midpoint of the first half.

LHS finished the first half four points down trailing Fairmont 25-21.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/LHSGBB1

LHS freshman Gracyn Woodley looks for an opening to the basket against Fairmont in girls' basketball sub-section quarterfinal action in Jackson Feb. 24.

Much like the first half, Luverne gained a quick lead in the second half with a 27-25 lead.

Both teams traded points back and forth

throughout the second half tying 37-37 with around 4 1/2 minutes left in the game.

After seeing his team

LHS GIRLS ► PAGE 2B

## LHS wrestlers compete at state tourney

By Greg Hoogeveen

Luverne wrestlers senior Bernie and junior CeCe Rock finished on the podium in the 2026 individual state wrestling tournament Saturday, Feb. 28, in St. Paul.

Two other LHS grapplers, freshman Ellie Rock and junior Brody Kopp bowed out in the early rounds of competition.

**CeCe Rock wins second**

CeCe Rock placed second in the girls' 155-pound weight class, winning three matches and falling in the championship match.

Rock won her first match against Nora Astorino from Rochester Century by pin in the first period.

In the quarterfinals, CeCe beat Mandi Lu from Blaine in a 7-0 decision.

Rock won her semifinal match against Nora Akpan from Centennial by fall in the first period.

In the championship finals, CeCe faced Cassy Gonzales from Apple Valley.

Both wrestlers were undefeated before the match started. One would walk away

LHS STATE WRESTLING ► PAGE 2B



FROM PAGE 1B ▶ BOYS’ HOCKEY falls in Section 3A Championship

in the double overtime period assisted by then sophomore Will Bergman.

Luverne’s loss this season hit particularly hard on the Cardinals’ nine seniors who have been playing together for several years.

They are defenseman Jaxon Lais, forwards Zeke Frahm, Blake Sauer, Landyn Lais, Brady Palaschak-Smeins, Maddux Domagala and Jude Hoven, along with goalies Xander Remme and Gavin Hoven.

Senior Landyn Lais scored the lone goal for the Cardinals against Mankato West at 4:04 in the second period of regulation play. He was assisted by senior Maddux Domagala on the shot.

Mankato West was not called once for a penalty in the game.

Luverne was flagged twice but did not let Mankato West score while fighting off the penalty minutes.

The loss to Mankato West ended the Cardinals’ 2025-26 run at the state tournament but cannot tarnish their successful and exciting year on the ice.

Luverne finished the regular season 21-4-1 before beating Windom 11-1 in the section quarters and New Ulm 8-2 in the section semifinals.



Greg Hoogeveen photo/LHSBHOC4

Senior Landyn Lais (arms out) and his teammates celebrate his goal against Mankato West in the second period of the championship game Thursday, Feb. 26, in St. Peter. Luverne fell 2-1 in the heartbreaking loss that went into three overtime periods.

|                                                                                                 |               |   |   |     |     |     |       |                 |             |       |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|-----------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| With the Mankato West loss, LHS finished the season with a record of 23-5-1 in Section 3A play. | Shots on goal |   |   |     |     |     |       | Goalie          | SOG         | Saves |       |
|                                                                                                 | Period        | 1 | 2 | 3   | OT1 | OT2 | OT3   | Final           | Gavin Hoven | 40    | 38    |
|                                                                                                 | Luverne       | 8 | 7 | 5   | 2   | 11  | 2     | 40              |             |       |       |
|                                                                                                 | Mankato       | 6 | 8 | 9   | 7   | 6   | 1     | 33              |             |       |       |
| Box Scores                                                                                      |               |   |   |     |     |     |       | Power plays     |             |       |       |
|                                                                                                 |               |   |   |     |     |     |       |                 | Luverne     | 0     | for 0 |
|                                                                                                 |               |   |   |     |     |     |       |                 | Mankato     | 0     | for 2 |
|                                                                                                 |               |   |   |     |     |     |       |                 |             |       |       |
| Period                                                                                          | 1             | 2 | 3 | OT1 | OT2 | OT3 | Final | Penalty minutes |             |       |       |
| Luverne                                                                                         | 0             | 1 | 0 | 0   | 0   | 0   | 1     | Luverne 4 min.  |             |       |       |
| Mankato                                                                                         | 1             | 0 | 0 | 0   | 1   | 2   |       | Mankato 0 min.  |             |       |       |
| Player game totals                                                                              |               |   |   |     |     |     |       |                 |             |       |       |
|                                                                                                 |               |   |   |     |     |     |       | G               | A           |       |       |
|                                                                                                 |               |   |   |     |     |     |       | Landyn Lais     | 1           | 0     |       |
|                                                                                                 |               |   |   |     |     |     |       | Maddux Domagala | 0           | 1     |       |

Dylan Gehrke receives Coach of the Year honors

By Greg Hoogeveen

H-BC girls’ basketball head coach Dylan Gehrke was awarded the 2026 Section 3A Girls Basketball Coach of the Year after the section quarterfinal game Tuesday, Feb. 24, in Worthington.

The award is voted on by The Minnesota Girls Basketball Coaches Association (MGBCA) that officially holds voting in late February each year.

This award recognizes outstanding coaches across all four classes based on member submissions.

“It feels great to receive this award, but none of this is possible without the girls, our amazing coaching staff, HBC community as a whole, and our HBC administration that gave me the opportunity six years ago to become a fifth-grade teacher and a coach.”

Gehrke is in his fifth season as the girls’ basketball head coach.

“The first few years there were some ups and downs, some very valuable learning



Samantha McGaffee photo H-BC girls’ basketball head coach Dylan Gehrke was awarded the 2026 Section 3A South Coach of the Year honors Feb. 27 in Worthington.

moments that have turned this group into a very special group that has accomplished a lot,” Gehrke said.

“This is all on them (the team) and their commitment to continuing the Hills-Beaver Creek Lady Patriots Basketball tradition that was laid before us.”

FROM PAGE 1B ▶ LADY PATES head to Section 3A championship

double-double against the Chargers.

She scored 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds with four steals in the win.

Junior Brynn Bakken banked 12 points and had eight rebounds and four steals for the Patriots.

Senior Ella Sammons finished with nine points, seven rebounds and five assists.

Sophomore Ella Rheault had five points, and senior Hadley Spath made four.

Senior Claire Knobloch, juniors Hailey Moser and Ava Steinhoff, and sophomore Lily Top finished with three points each. Senior Izzy Wysong finished with two points.

“I was proud of how we came out in the second half and threw the final punches in the win versus Westbrook Walnut Grove,” Gehrke said.

|                         |                |          |              |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------|--------------|
| <b>Box Scores</b>       |                |          |              |
| <b>Scoring</b>          | <b>1</b>       | <b>2</b> | <b>Final</b> |
| H-BC                    | 25             | 37       | 62           |
| WWG                     | 23             | 15       | 38           |
| <b>2-pt field goals</b> |                |          |              |
| H-BC                    | 27 of 69 – 39% |          |              |

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| WWG                     | 14 of 42 – 29% |
| <b>3-pt field goals</b> |                |
| H-BC                    | 5 of 13 – 39%  |
| WWG                     | 2 of 20 – 10%  |
| <b>Free throws</b>      |                |
| H-BC                    | 3 of 12 – 25%  |
| WWG                     | 12 of 15 – 80% |
| <b>Rebounds</b>         |                |
| H-BC                    | 39, WWG 21     |
| <b>Assists</b>          |                |
| H-BC                    | 20, WWG 10     |
| <b>Steals</b>           |                |
| H-BC                    | 14, WWG 8      |
| <b>Blocks</b>           |                |
| H-BC                    | 2, WWG 4       |
| <b>Turnovers</b>        |                |
| H-BC                    | 12, WWG 22     |

|               |           |           |            |            |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| <b>Player</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>RB</b> | <b>AST</b> | <b>STL</b> |
| Deelstra      | 18        | 11        | 5          | 4          |
| Bakken        | 12        | 8         | 5          | 3          |
| Sammons       | 9         | 7         | 5          | 1          |
| Rheault       | 5         | 5         | 1          | 2          |
| Spath         | 4         | 2         | 1          | 1          |
| Knobloch      | 3         | 3         | 0          | 1          |
| Moser         | 3         | 1         | 0          | 1          |
| Steinhoff     | 3         | 1         | 0          | 1          |
| Topp          | 3         | 0         | 1          | 0          |
| Wysong        | 2         | 1         | 2          | 0          |

H-BC 48, Murray County Central 40

*South sub-section finals*  
The Lady Pates won an eight-point game against Murray County Central, beating the Rebels 48-40 Friday, Feb. 27, in Worthington.  
“Friday night was another gritty performance by our girls,” Gehrke said.  
“We knew MCC was going

FROM PAGE 1A ▶ STATE WRESTLING

with one loss on the season and a second-place finish in the tournament.

In a close match going a full three periods, Rock lost the match in a 3-1 decision.

She finished the season with a 28-1 record.

Bernie Rock places fifth

Bernie Rock finished the state tournament with a 4-2 record and a fifth-place finish in the 118-pound weight class.

Bernie won her first match against Kaylee Endres from Wadena-Deer Creek by pin in the first period.

She fell in a 10-1 major decision to Aleena Johnson from Northfield in the quarterfinals.

Moving down to the consolation bracket, Bernie pinned Maya Held from Pierz in the first period.

In her next wrestle back match, Rock pinned Sierra Laffin in the first period to keep moving on in the tournament.

In the consolation quarterfinals, Bernie lost a 2-0 decision to Alexandria Thovson from Farmington taking Rock out of contention for a third-place finish.

Rock won her final match of the tournament against Gabriella VonBerge from Hutchinson, pinning her in the second period to capture a fifth-place state finish.

Bernie ended her season 34-4 record as a senior.

Rock had to fight her way through six state matches while being ill with the flu.

Ellie Rock is state qualifier

Ellie Rock participated in her first state tournament in the 112-pound weight class.

Rock was unable to medal but gave a great effort, winning one match and falling twice in her bracket.

Ellie lost a 14-4 major decision in her first match against Roselane Verrett from Monticello.

In the consolation bracket, Rock pinned Charlie Jones from Stillwater to move on in the bracket.

Rock lost by fall to Mariah Remer from Mill Lacs ending her state run for the season.

Ellie finished the season with a 20-12 record.

Brody Kopp is first-time state qualifier

Brody Kopp participated in his first state tournament in the 107-pound weight class.

Kopp lost his first match to Owen Schlaak from New Richland in a 19-3 technical fall.

In the consolation bracket, Kopp faced Mauricio Arriaga from Crookston and fell by pin in the first period.

Kopp finished his season 22-10 with valuable state competition experience.

a ton of hard work that has led up to this point,” Gehrke said.

“We have another chance to win a Section Championship and punch our ticket to state. The girls are fired up for the opportunity.”

|                   |          |          |              |
|-------------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| <b>Box Scores</b> |          |          |              |
| <b>Scoring</b>    | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Final</b> |
| H-BC              | 13       | 35       | 48           |
| MCC               | 20       | 20       | 40           |

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>2-pt field goals</b> |                |
| H-BC                    | 16 of 50 – 32% |
| MCC                     | 13 of 51 – 25% |

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>3-pt field goals</b> |               |
| H-BC                    | 4 of 20 – 20% |
| MCC                     | 8 of 30 – 27% |

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Free throws</b> |                |
| H-BC               | 12 of 24 – 50% |
| MCC                | 6 of 10 – 60%  |

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Rebounds</b>  | H-BC 49, MCC 27 |
| <b>Assists</b>   | H-BC 12, MCC 13 |
| <b>Steals</b>    | H-BC 14, MCC 9  |
| <b>Blocks</b>    | H-BC 4, MCC 5   |
| <b>Turnovers</b> | H-BC 24, MCC 20 |

|               |           |           |            |            |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| <b>Player</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>RB</b> | <b>AST</b> | <b>STL</b> |
| Bakken        | 17        | 12        | 2          | 4          |
| Moser         | 11        | 7         | 3          | 3          |
| Rheault       | 8         | 12        | 1          | 0          |
| Deelstra      | 7         | 2         | 5          | 5          |
| Sammons       | 3         | 7         | 0          | 1          |
| Knobloch      | 1         | 4         | 0          | 1          |
| Spath         | 1         | 4         | 0          | 0          |
| Wysong        | 0         | 1         | 0          | 0          |
| Steinhoff     | 0         | 0         | 1          | 0          |

FROM PAGE 1B ▶ LHS GIRLS’ BASKETBALL

being bodied and pushed around, LHS head coach TJ Newgard was called for a technical for voicing his distaste for the game play.

Fairmont went to the line sinking two shots and then went on a 14-0 run to win the game.

LHS sophomore Taya Johnson had a big game for Luverne, scoring 19 points and grabbing 11 rebounds in the middle of the court.

Johnson along with freshman Gracyn Woodley constantly had to fight through several Fairmont players whenever they had the ball.

Woodley finished with eight points and 11 rebounds despite heavy traffic under the hoop.

Junior Khloe Visker and eighth-grader Ingrid Schmuck both ended with five points apiece.

Visker led the team in assists with four, and Schmuck had one steal and three assists for LHS.

Senior Jenna Bullerman collected three points, one assist and one

steal in the game.

Freshman Brielle John rounded out the scoring with two points and four rebounds in the Luverne loss.

LHS topped Fairmont in two-point tries, hitting 13 of 35 shots. Fairmont made 16 of 48 shots, giving LHS a 37 to 33 percent favor.

Both teams sank four three-point shots in the contest.

At the free-throw line, Fairmont made eight of 11 attempts and Luverne hit four of six.

Fairmont out-rebounded Luverne 36-35, but it was team steals and turnovers that hurt Luverne in the end.

Fairmont had 12 steals and Luverne turned the ball over 26 times in the game with most turnovers coming late in the second half.

Luverne gave Fairmont a run and hung in the game before Fairmont was able to shut down LHS after the technical as the tide changed in their favor.

Luverne finished the season with a 14-13 record and advanced to the sub-section semifinals after upsetting the No. 4 seed Windom Eagles 79-76 with a last second, three-point shot Feb. 20 in Windom.

| Box Scores       |                     |    |       |     |
|------------------|---------------------|----|-------|-----|
| Scoring          | 1                   | 2  | Final |     |
| LHS              | 21                  | 21 | 42    |     |
| Fairmont         | 25                  | 27 | 52    |     |
| 2-pt field goals |                     |    |       |     |
| LHS              | 13 of 35 – 37%      |    |       |     |
| Fairmont         | 16 of 48 – 33%      |    |       |     |
| 3-pt field goals |                     |    |       |     |
| LHS              | 4 of 11 – 36%       |    |       |     |
| Fairmont         | 4 of 15 – 27%       |    |       |     |
| Free throws      |                     |    |       |     |
| LHS              | 4 of 6 – 67%        |    |       |     |
| Fairmont         | 8 of 11 – 73%       |    |       |     |
| Rebounds         | LHS 35, Fairmont 36 |    |       |     |
| Assists          | LHS 13, Fairmont 13 |    |       |     |
| Steals           | LHS 5, Fairmont 12  |    |       |     |
| Blocks           | LHS 7, Fairmont 2   |    |       |     |
| Turnovers        | LHS 26, Fairmont 15 |    |       |     |
| Player           | PT                  | RB | AST   | STL |
| Johnson          | 19                  | 11 | 3     | 1   |
| Woodley          | 8                   | 11 | 1     | 1   |
| Visker           | 5                   | 2  | 4     | 0   |
| I Schmuck        | 5                   | 1  | 3     | 1   |
| Bullerman        | 3                   | 1  | 2     | 1   |
| John             | 2                   | 4  | 0     | 0   |
| Bose             | 0                   | 0  | 0     | 1   |
| E Schmuck        | 0                   | 0  | 0     | 1   |

FROM PAGE 1B ▶ LHS BOYS’ BASKETBALL

the Flying Dutchmen.

Johnson finished with nine points and had one steal in the game.

Junior Darius Dolo had a solid game, collecting eight points and five rebounds for the Cardinals.

Junior Kayne Jurrens rounded out the scoring with six points and had two rebounds.

|                   |          |          |              |
|-------------------|----------|----------|--------------|
| <b>Box Scores</b> |          |          |              |
| <b>Scoring</b>    | <b>1</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Final</b> |
| Luverne           | 38       | 37       | 75           |
| Edgerton          | 28       | 40       | 68           |

|                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>2-pt field goals</b> |                |
| Luverne                 | 23 of 36 – 64% |
| Edgerton                | 14 of 33 – 42% |

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| <b>3-pt field goals</b> |               |
| Luverne                 | 7 of 18 – 39% |
| Edgerton                | 9 of 25 – 36% |

|                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| <b>Free throws</b> |                |
| Luverne            | 8 of 15 – 53%  |
| Edgerton           | 13 of 17 – 77% |

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Rebounds</b>  | LHS 35, Edgerton 31 |
| <b>Assists</b>   | LHS 18, Edgerton 8  |
| <b>Steals</b>    | LHS 10, Edgerton 11 |
| <b>Blocks</b>    | LHS 1, Edgerton 0   |
| <b>Turnovers</b> | LHS 21, Edgerton 20 |

|               |           |           |            |            |
|---------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| <b>Player</b> | <b>PT</b> | <b>RB</b> | <b>AST</b> | <b>STL</b> |
| Thone         | 24        | 4         | 1          | 3          |
| The dens      | 16        | 3         | 3          | 2          |
| Bose          | 12        | 3         | 10         | 3          |
| Johnson       | 9         | 14        | 2          | 1          |
| Dolo          | 8         | 5         | 1          | 1          |
| Jurrens       | 6         | 2         | 0          | 0          |
| Hoogendorn    | 0         | 1         | 0          | 0          |

LHS 79, St. James 67



Greg Hoogeveen photo/LHSBBB1  
LHS junior Coy Thone reaches for a basket against St. James Feb. 27 at home.

Section 3 south sub-section quarterfinals

The Luverne Cardinals knocked St. James out of the section playoffs, beating the Saints 79-67 in the south sub-section quarterfinal victory Friday, Feb. 27, at home.

Luverne, the No. 4 seed, beat St. James, the No.



**St. Catherine Catholic Church**  
203 E. Brown St., Luverne  
**St. Catherine Ph. 507-283-8502; www.stscl.org**  
**Father Joshua Miller, Pastor**

Sunday mass: 8:30 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday daily mass: 5:15 p.m. All Sunday masses will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/pg/stoclulverne/videos/>. Visit [www.stscl.org](http://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.zender@graceluverne.org — www.graceluverne.org**  
**Sarah Zender, Pastor**

Thursday, March 5: 8:30 a.m. Missions in Action. Friday, March 6: 10 a.m. Worship on LuvTV. Sunday, March 8: 9 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion and fourth grade Milestone. 10 a.m. Fireflies & Spark Kids. 10:15 a.m. Little Lights. 10:20 a.m. Fifth grade Communion class. 5 p.m. PPC meeting. 6 p.m. Executive meeting. Monday, March 9: 3 p.m. CYF Staff meeting. 4:30 p.m. Worship on LuvTV. Tuesday, March 10: 9 a.m. Staff meeting. Wednesday, March 11: 7 a.m. Men's Bible Study. 5:30-6:15 p.m. Lenten supper. 6:30 p.m. Lenten service. 7:15 p.m. Ignite & Glow; VOG rehearsal. Online and TV Worship options are available. Online worship: Sundays 9 a.m. at [www.graceluverne.org](http://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**

Thursday, March 5: 9:30 a.m. SAIL class. 7 p.m. Genesis women's study. Friday, March 6: 6:30 a.m. Community Men's Bible Study. Sunday, March 8: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service. 10:50 a.m. Sunday school. Monday, March 9: 9:30 a.m. SAIL class. 7 p.m. Equipt Board meeting. Tuesday, March 10: Noon staff meeting. 5:30 p.m. BSF Bible study. 7 p.m. Consistory meeting. Wednesday, March 11: 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, March 12: 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.  
Sundays: 6:30-8 p.m. RYTH 6th-12th grade. Dec. 24: 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

**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**

Thursday, March 5: 8 p.m. NA meeting. Friday, March 6: 9:30 a.m. World Day of Prayer at St. Catherine's Church in Luverne. Sunday, March 8: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday school. 9:45 a.m. Coffee time. 10:30 a.m. Communion Sunday - Live Stream Worship Service. Prayer Warriors following service. 4:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible study. Monday, March 9: 3:30 p.m. Genesis/Revelation Bible Study. 5 p.m. Walking in Your Power Study. Tuesday, March 10: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 11: 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Open prayer chapel. 6:15 p.m. FUEL/Confirmation. 7 p.m. Lenten service United Methodist Church. 8 p.m. AA/Alanon meeting. Thursday, March 12: 8 p.m. NA meeting. (AA in Upper ARoom - AlaNon - Church library).

**First Presbyterian Church**  
302 Central Lane, Luverne  
**Ph. 507-283-4787; email: fpcemillie@gmail.com**  
**Rev. Dr. Steve Voris, pastor**

Wednesday, March 4: 3:15-5:30 p.m. The Loft. 5:30 p.m. Bells. 6 p.m. Choir. 7 p.m. Lenten Service @ First Presbyterian Church. Committee meetings following service. Thursday, March 5: 3:15-5:30 p.m. The Loft. Saturday, March 7: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Presbytery meeting at Amboy. Sunday, March 8: 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School. 10:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service (Coffee before & after Worship) & Youth Sunday School during worship. (View service on Facebook under First Presbyterian Church of Luverne, City of Luverne's LUV TV or on the local Luverne cable station at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and 10 a.m. on Thursdays) Coffee following Worship. Tuesday: March 10: 3:15-5:30 p.m. The Loft. Wednesday, March 11: 3:15-5:30 p.m. The Loft. 7 p.m. Lenten Service @ 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](http://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: Arielle Larson, 507-227-6718. Most of our information can be found at our website at [livingrockchurchswmn.org](http://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;**  
**zionoffice@alliancecom.net**  
**Ed Borchardt, Pastor**

9:15 a.m. Sunday School and Adult Bible Study. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Zion Lutheran Church of Hardwick - Location of worship has been moved to Trinity of Jasper. Zion is undertaking a handicap project. Zion's church office will remain open at this time. View our worship services on Luverne's LUV TV or our church website: [zionlutheranhardwick.com](http://zionlutheranhardwick.com)

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

**First Lutheran Church**  
300 Maple St., Valley Springs, S.D.  
**Ph. 605-757-6662; firstpalisade@alliancecom.net**  
**Mark Eliason, Pastor**

Sunday, March 8: 9 a.m. Worship service at First Lutheran Church. 10 a.m. Sunday school at First Lutheran Church. Wednesday, March 11: 7 p.m. Lenten Service at First Lutheran Church. We Are ONLINE! Facebook: @FirstLutheranValley Springs; YouTube: FirstPalisadeLutheranParish.

**Palisade Lutheran Church**  
211 121st St., Garretson, S.D.  
**Ph. 507-597-6257; palisadechurch@alliancecom.net**  
**www.palisadelutheran.org**  
**Mark Eliason, Pastor**

Sunday, March 8: 9:30 a.m. Sunday school at Palisade Lutheran Church. 10:30 a.m. Worship Service at Palisade Lutheran Church. Wednesday, March 11: 7 p.m. Lenten Service at First Lutheran Church. Thursday, March 12: 1:30 p.m. Palisade WELCA meeting. 7 p.m. Palisade Council meeting. 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  
**Ph. 412-760-7816; email: magnoliannumc@gmail.com**  
**Craig Haberman, Pastor**

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 Muthasamy, Pastor**

Sundays, 9:30 a.m. Worship service. 5 p.m. Evening worship service.

## Loud month

### BUILT ON A ROCK

**By Pastor Ed Borchardt of Zion  
Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
Hardwick**

The month of March is correctly named the "Loud month or the Stormy month." We can be marching in snow, rain, sleet or marching the streets due to the warmth. We get loud complaining or loud rejoicing. The Roman calendar held March as the first month of the year. The Anglo-Saxons called it, "Hylydmonath" or "Loud month" or "Stormy month."

This year we can only wonder what is in store as we enjoyed 50-degree weather in January and 60 degrees in February. Will we have 70s in March or 30s and 40s? I've had the gamut of mowing the lawn the first of March to having three days off of school due to a blizzard.

There are several Bible verses depicting the topic of marching of divine guidance, spiritual warfare, obedience, and victory often symbolizing the journey of faith or God's protection. How appropriate!

Our faith journey may be one of sunny bright days all the way to the experience of a blizzard. We may think of Jeremiah sitting in prison and God coming to deliver him from his "blizzard." We may reflect on David when he is confronted with his sin and the absolute confession followed by Psalms of going from despair to total peace with the promise of absolution.

March is a great month to be on a journey of faith as we celebrate what is called, "Lent." Lent is a 40-day liturgical season of prayer, fasting, and given or submitting to God's will. It begins with Ash Wednesday, (Feb. 18, 2026, and continues through Good Friday, March 3). Lent means "spring" or "lengthening."

Spring forward in seeing what Jesus has done for us. Look forward, not simply at your feet as you march so you can see where you are going and not stumble. Lengthen our stride with confidence in God's Word and in what Jesus has done for us.

Bible verse for the month of March: "Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known." Jeremiah 33:3.

*Zion, Hardwick – Come check out the progress! One step at a time!*



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PUBLIC NOTICES

ISD 671 School Board  
meets Feb. 9  
Hills-Beaver Creek Dist. 671  
Minutes  
Monday, Feb. 9, 2026

The Hills-Beaver Creek School Board met for its semi-monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. - at the Secondary School District Board Room, 301 N Summit Avenue, Hills, MN.

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

Motion by Harnack, seconded by Helgeson, and carried to approve the agenda. No Visitors.  
PATRIOT PRIDE:  
•February- I Love To Read Month  
•February- Black History Month  
•Random Acts of Kindness Day, February 17  
•100th day of school February 17  
BOARD COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS/UPDATES:  
•STAFF DEVELOPMENT & TAB- 2/4, PERSONNEL/FINANCE 2/9  
Motion by Helgeson, seconded by Rozeboom, and carried to approve consent agenda:

- Board Meeting Minutes from 1/26/2026
- Bills
- Construction Draw #22
- Imprest Cash Report
- Hiring Hailee Crosby as a paraprofessional for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year
- The 2026-2027 District school year calendar

Motion by Harnack, seconded by Rozeboom, and carried to approve Donation Resolution: \$2,000.00 from John and Tamara Berdahl for the National Honor Society Student Account

Motion by Rauk, seconded by Rozeboom, and carried to approve Revised Fiscal year 2026 District Budget Expenditures and Revenues.

Motion by Harnack, seconded by Rauk, and carried to approve setting Little Patriots Academy Fees 2026-2027 School Year.

Motion by Helgeson, seconded by Rauk, and carried to approve Robotics Competition held in Massachusetts in 2026.

- DISTRICT NON-ACTION ITEMS:
- Secondary Principal Report
  - Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report
- AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING:
- DATES TO REMEMBER:
- Regular Board Meeting, Monday, February 23, 2026
  - Regular Board Meeting, Monday, March 9, 2026

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

Time of Adjournment 7:39 p.m. Tamara Rauk, Clerk (03-05)

Ellis & Eastern Railroad  
requests bids by March 26  
NOTICE TO BIDDERS  
Ellis & Eastern Railroad 2019 CRISI  
Schedule A – Timber Bridge Rehabilitation  
Schedule B – Steel Bridge Strengthening

Sealed bids will be received by the Ellis & Eastern Railroad at the office of Civil Design Inc. until **2:00 P.M. (CDT) Thursday, March 26, 2026**, and then will be publicly opened and read in the Civil Design Inc. Conference Room, 609 Main Avenue South, Brookings, SD 57006.

Such bids are to provide for the following approximate work for **"Ellis & Eastern Railroad 2019 CRISI: Schedule A – Timber Bridge Rehabilitation & Schedule B – Steel Bridge Strengthening"** including but not limited to the following scope of work:

**Schedule A – Timber Bridge Rehabilitation:** A total of ten (10) bridges require timber rehabilitation and strengthening to achieve 286,000 lb. railcar loading requirements. Work includes material furnishing and installation for replacement of deficient timber components, dispose of existing bridge timber, pile posting, installation of timber stringers, bent caps, bracing, frame bent construction, bridge ties, guard timber, head-wall and wingwall replacement, installation of bridge hardware, temporary access, site restoration, steel H-pile driving, timber approach span replacement with steel stringer spans, and other incidental work to complete the construction of the project.

**Schedule B – Steel Bridge Strengthening:** A total of two (2) steel truss spans require steel strengthening to achieve 286,000 lb. railcar loading requirements. Bridge P-103 & P-106 are included in this scope of work which includes furnishing and installing various steel plates and angles to various members to improve overall member strength including bolts and other hardware as necessary. Members requiring strengthening include but are not limited to stringers, floorbeams, hangers, diagonals, and top chords.

Bidders have the option of bidding only Schedule A, only Schedule B, or both Schedule A and B.

**PRE-BID CONFERENCE:** A Pre-bid Conference will be held at the Ellis & Eastern Railroad Office, 1500 N. Sweetman Pl., Sioux Falls, SD 57107 on **Thursday, March 12, 2026 @ 9:30 A.M. (CDT)**. A field trip to some of the bridge sites will take place following the meeting for any parties interested to discuss any particular questions. Bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference. The Engineer will transmit to all prospective Bidders of record such Addenda as the Engineer considers necessary in response to questions arising at the conference. Oral statements may not be relied upon and will not be binding or legally effective.

Plans, specifications, and bidding information may be inspected and procured at the office of Civil Design Inc, 609 Main Avenue South, Brookings, South Dakota. The Contact at Civil Design Inc. is Chris Brozik, PE and may be reached at (605) 696-3200 or cbrozik@civildes.com.

Each proposal must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check, or draft for five percent (5%) of the amount of the bid, such check to be certified or issued by either a State or National Bank, and payable to the Ellis & Eastern Railroad, or in lieu thereof, a bid bond for ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, such bond to be issued by a surety authorized to do business in South Dakota & Minnesota and payable to the Ellis & Eastern Railroad. The check or bond will be retained by the Ellis & Eastern Railroad as liquidated damages if the successful bidder refuses or fails to enter into a contract and performance bond in accordance with the bid when notified. **Bids will be on a unit price basis, and must include all applicable taxes, as indicated in the Bid Form.**

The Ellis & Eastern Railroad reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject any and all bids.

Bids must be mailed or hand delivered. Electronic bids will not be accepted. Bidders shall state on the left-hand corner of the envelope, **"BID ENCLOSED for Ellis & Eastern Railroad 2019 CRISI: Schedule A – Timber Bridge Rehabilitation & Schedule B – Steel Bridge Strengthening"**. Any bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.

(03-05, 03-12)

Rock County Commissioners  
meet Jan. 20

Rock County Board of Commissioners January 20, 2026  
Herreid Board Meeting Room 9:00 A.M.  
Rock County Courthouse

Chair Williamson called the meeting to order with all Commissioners present. Also in attendance were Administrator Kyle Oldre, Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum, Star-Herald Reporter Mavis Fodness and Carol Morgan, county resident. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard, to approve the January 20, 2026, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard, to approve the January 06, 2026, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

Randy Fordice, Representative with Excel Energy gave a presentation regarding PowerOn Midwest, a series of new electric transmission projects anchored by a 765 kV backbone transmission line that is being developed by Excel Energy, ITC Midwest, Otter Tail Power Company and Great River Energy. The projects will connect eastern South Dakota, southern Minnesota and the broader region enhancing grid reliability in the Upper Midwest. Fordice stated that they have been conducting numerous open house meetings identifying the project and currently are preparing to submit a Certificate of Need to the MN Public Utilities Commission with route permit. Open House meetings to be conducted in the summer of 2026 and the route application to be submitted by December of 2026. The process for route permits can take up to 12 to 15 months so they anticipate route permit public hearings to be conducted in 2027-2028.

Lee Sells, Al Aanenson and Ryan Fick, Executive Board members of the Rock County Fair Board requested funding in the form of a loan to conduct a variety of buildings and ground improvements totaling \$173,590.51; as to date they have secured funding for \$12,500, making the loan request for \$161,090.51. The Fair Board has been awarded a \$10,000 state grant and will receive proceeds after the project completion, the Fair Board is prepared to make (10) annual installments of \$15,109.05 thereafter. After discussion, motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard to approve the loan request of \$161,090.51 for a period of 10 years at zero percent interest, declared carried on a voice vote.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer presented the claims; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to approve, declared carried on a unanimous vote. An itemized listing of all warrants over \$2,000 and an aggregate total for warrants under \$2,000 are published on the County website at the following address: www.co.rock.mn.us/departments\_directory/auditor\_treasurer

Total Commissioner Warrants paid by Fund:  
General Revenue Fund 218,126.44  
Public Works Fund 77,852.70  
Library Fund 26,366.68  
Debt Service Fund 370,809.38  
Capital Projects Fund 121,211.20  
Land Management Fund 4,828.46

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report which reflected the year end settlement; motion by Thompson, seconded by Burger, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of the Auditor warrants paid on 01/09/2026 and 01/16/2026; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to acknowledge receipt of the Auditor warrants, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of (3) tax abatement applications on parcel 06-0062-202 for the following:

- 2023 - \$770.00
- 2024 - \$772.00
- 2025 - \$775.00

Request for the abatement was due to an assessment error.

On a recommendation by the Auditor/Treasurer and Land Records Director, motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to approve the abatement applications on parcel 06-0062-202, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of a Rock Home Initiative application on behalf of Aaron and Dawn Sandbulte on parcel 01-0164-000; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to set a Public Hearing on February 17, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. in the Herreid Board meeting room at the Rock County Courthouse, declared carried on a voice vote.

Ryan Holtz, Rural Water Systems Manager, led a discussion regarding a water quality project in Clinton Township. Motion by Burger, seconded by Overgaard, to go into closed session at 10:20 A.M. for the purposes of discussing a land acquisition in reference to the project, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard, to come out of closed session at 10:25 A.M., declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Williamson, to authorize Ryan Holtz to negotiate for potential purchase of property for the Clinton Township project and approve Resolution No. 03-26, submitting a proposal to MPCA, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to approve a service agreement with Sanford Health Network for coroner services, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt bids for the first floor renovation of the Courthouse:

- Empire Building Construction - \$87,251.11
- Valhalla Painting LLC - \$35,200.00
- McClure Electric - \$2,300.00
- Kitchens & Windows Unlimited/Casework & Trim - \$8,295.00
- Gemini Acoustical Ceilings - \$5,960.00

Motion by Burger, seconded by Reisch, to accept all bids for the first floor renovation of the Courthouse, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of a price quote (from the state bid) from Business Essentials of \$15,239.70 for furniture in the Land Management Conference Room; motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard, to approve, declared carried on a voice vote. Oldre stated that a price quote for smart board is still forthcoming.

The County Board discussed a funding request from the Rock County Historical Society to increase the annual appropriation from \$25,000/yr. to \$35,000/yr.; the purpose for the increase is to assist with a Collections Manager and software to properly archive artifacts. Motion by Reisch, seconded by Thompson, to approve a \$10,000 increase in the annual appropriation with no inflationary adjustments effective 01/01/2026, declared carried on a voice vote.

Commissioner Reisch stated that he attended the following meetings/events: Community Corrections.

Commissioner Burger stated that he attended the following meetings/event: Community Corrections.

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he attended the following meetings/events: Magnolia City Council, Land Use.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she attended the following meetings/events: Southwest Regional Development Commission, Library.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he attended the following meetings/events: none.

With no further business to come before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned by order of the Chair.

(03-05)

Rock County Commissioners  
meet Feb. 3

Rock County Board of Commissioners February 03, 2026  
Herreid Board Meeting Room 9:00 A.M.  
Rock County Courthouse

Chair Williamson called the meeting to order with all Commissioners present. Also in attendance were Administrator Kyle Oldre, Deputy Administrator Susan Skattum, Star-Herald Reporter Mavis Fodness and Carol Morgan, county resident. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

The Chair acknowledged the passing of Ron Boyenga who served as a County Commissioner from 1985 – 2017.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to approve the February 04, 2026, County Board agenda, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Burger, seconded by Thompson, to approve the January 20, 2026, County Board minutes, declared carried on a voice vote.

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

1. Maintenance & Support Renewal Contract with Strategic Technologies, Inc. Minnesota County Attorney (MCAPS) software renewal
2. Safe Assure Contract Renewal – 2026, \$8,302.22; services include trainings and policy compliance
3. DVS Lease 2 yrs Renewal - \$200/mo not to exceed \$800/mo

Motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard to close the meeting at 9:04 A.M. and call a Public Hearing meeting to order, declared carried on a voice vote. Purpose of the Public Hearing was to allow public comment regarding a hydraulic capacity for a Judicial Ditch No. 2 improvement on 221st Street in Rose Dell Township. A hydraulic capacity report recommended one of two options:

1. install an additional 36" CMP culvert in addition to the existing 60" CMP culvert;

2. install a new 72" CMP culvert to replace the existing 60" CMP culvert
- Shawn Feikema, Tom Brockberg, Brad Peterson spoke in favor of option #2. Lon Hemme and Kyle Hemme expressed concerns regarding erosion and other downstream affects due to the increased hydraulic capacity. Larry Fjellanger, Rose Dell Township Supervisor expressed concerns regarding new road repairs caused by flood damages pertaining to option #2.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch to close the Public Hearing at 9:23 A.M., declared carried on a voice vote.

Mark Sehr, Engineer was available for additional comments referencing Judicial Ditch No. 2; it was determined to table action until the March 3rd meeting, by Order of the Chair.

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Burger, to approve Resolution No. 04-26, a Prioritized Bridge Replacement Listing, declared carried on a voice vote.

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, requesting authorization to bid let (four) box culvert projects:

Projects SAP 067-619-004 in Battle Plain Township, SAP 067-599-187 in Denver Township, SAP 067-599-188 in Beaver Creek Township, and SAP 067-599-189 in Martin Township on March 02, 2026, declared carried on a voice vote.

The Engineer presented the following bids for SAP 067-620-019 and SAP067-620-020, mill/overlay of bituminous surface and numerous storm water centerline drainage pipe replacements on CSAH 20 in Springwater Township:

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Duininck Inc.            | \$2,132,678.10 |
| Central Specialties Inc. | \$2,241,201.90 |
| Knife River Corporation  | \$2,323,477.94 |

Motion by Overgaard, seconded by Reisch, to accept the low compliant bid from Duinick Inc. for \$2,132,678.10, declared carried on a voice vote.

Karsen Rumpf, Senior Developer and Ron Honken, Project Development Liaison for Geronimo Power provided an updated regarding the Elk Creek solar project to be located in Magnolia and Vienna Townships. Rumpf stated that the project size has increased from 80 mw to 160 mw and that they are currently working other energy companies for potential purchase once the project is completed. Project timeline is as follows:

- 6 mo – RFP process
- End of '26 – award project to contractor
- 2027 – purchase/order materials
- 2028 – construction
- 2029 – commercial operation

Rumpf requested approval of the Development Agreement with Rock County. On a recommendation by the County Attorney, motion by Reisch, seconded by Burger, to approve, declared carried on a 4-0 vote with Commissioner Overgaard abstaining.

Sara Wahl, Southwest Crisis Center Director, informed the County Board of operational changes for the Southwest Crisis Center (SCC) regional organization. Wahl stated that SCC has been unsuccessful in securing long term funding solutions which has resulted in closing (2) of the office locations in Rock and Jackson counties, within the 6-county region. Wahl stressed that SCC will continue to advocate for victims in Rock and Jackson counties, but via the locations in Pipestone, Murray, Nobles and Cottonwood counties. The new regional model will be effective March 1, 2026. The County Board thanked Wahl for the update and invited her back in 6-months to a County Board meeting for an update.

Ashley Kurtz, Auditor/Treasurer presented the claims; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Thompson, to approve the claims, declared carried on a unanimous vote. An itemized listing of all warrants over \$2,000 and an aggregate total for warrants under \$2,000 are published on the County website at the following address: www.co.rock.mn.us/departments\_directory/auditor\_treasurer

Total Commissioner Warrants paid by Fund:  
General Revenue Fund 49,620.76  
Public Works Fund 54,044.11  
Library Fund 2,847.71  
Land Management Fund 7,803.87

The County Board was in receipt of the Fund Balance report as of 01/31/2026; motion by Reisch, seconded by Overgaard to approve, declared carried on a voice vote.

The County Board was in receipt of the Auditor's warrants paid on 01/23/2026, 01/27/2026 and 01/30/2026; motion by Overgaard, seconded by Burger, acknowledging receipt of the Auditor's warrants, declared carried on a voice vote.

Calla Jarvie, Community Library Director, reported on the Farm Bureau Conference that she attended and received the "Ag-Advocate of the Year" leadership award for promoting agriculture through library programming. Jarvie's "Ag Trivia Night" and "Farm Week" templates are currently being utilized by other libraries all over the U.S. The County Board congratulated Jarvie on her recent award and acknowledged the success of establishing the business relationship with local agriculture organizations.

The Administrator stated that construction has begun on the first floor of the Courthouse and that the Administrator's office has relocated to the Conference Room in the Veteran's Memorial building; demolition is near completion with electrical, wall covering, lighting and carpeting installation to follow.

Oldre stated that construction at the Armory building has had little to no progress and that the architect is prepared to start assessing late payments.

Oldre provided a follow up regarding the BRRRA FEMA claim that has been denied stating that he attended an Arbitration Hearing in Washington D.C.; results of that hearing could be in 30-days to one year.

Skattum reported that she attended a Transit Advisory meeting where the status of staffing and the day care/pre-school ridership was discussed. UCAP representatives stated that they have currently hired an FTE and that employee is currently in training and preparing for the passenger endorsement test. They also stated that they are advertising for a part-time position in Rock County as well. Other updates include new vehicle acquisitions for 2026; Rock County will be receiving an oversized van which will accommodate 4-6 passengers. The advantage of the oversized van versus a bus will be the licensure requirements.

The County Board was in receipt of a draft of the Rock River Water Access Agreement which transfers DNR property located on CSAH 8 at a bridge crossing on the Rock River to the county; the agreement identifies that the county would be responsible for mowing and the liability of recreational use, the DNR would be responsible for disaster repairs. The DNR is welcoming comments of the draft agreement.

The Administrator discussed attendance at the AMC Legislative Conference scheduled for March 4-5 in St. Paul. Commissioner Thompson and Burger stated they will not be attending; attendance for Williamson, Overgaard and Reisch is pending.

Commissioner Reisch stated that he attended the following meetings/events: none

Commissioner Overgaard stated that he attended the following meetings/events: Solid Waste, Rural Energy.

Commissioner Burger stated that he attended the following meetings/event: Supporting Hands-Nurse Family Partnership.

Commissioner Thompson stated that she attended the following meetings/events: A.C.E.

Commissioner Williamson stated that he attended the following meetings/events: none

With no further business coming before the County Board, the meeting was adjourned by order of the Chair.

(03-05)



Steve Fields  
Minnesota Attorney

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CLASSIFIEDS

CARDS OF THANKS

Thank you for the prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, food, any act of encouragement and love shown to us at the loss of our husband, father, grandfather, “special” great gramps, brother and friend; Robert “Bob” Fick. Thank you to Jeff Hartquist and staff for the deep caring and support you gave us. Thanks to Pastor Alex and our church family, Peace Lutheran, for your words of support and acts of love. Thanks to every doctor, nurse, EMT, CNA, home health personnel, cook, custodian, staff of Mary Jane Brown Home, everyone who tended to his health needs the past 10 years. He said so often “I owe so many people so much for the care and help they have given me.”

**Thank God for His everlasting love -**  
**Avis Fick**  
**Kevin, Tim, Jeff and Brad Fick and families**  
(2.28-3.5)

We want to thank the Luverne Class of 2006 for the flowers given in memory of our daughter, Heather Kruger.

**Marten & Betty Kruger**  
(3.5-3.7)



EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

Blue Mounds State Park is hiring a temporary seasonal Building and Grounds Worker/ Night Security Ranger. Applicants must be 18 years old to apply. This position is anticipated to work from mid-May to Labor Day. Starting pay is \$20.51/hr. To read the position description or apply, visit: <https://mn.gov/mmb/careers/search-for-jobs/>. Under the “External Applicants” window, click on “Search for Jobs now”, and search for job id: **92267 Buildings & Grounds Worker**. Apply by March 10. (2.21-3.7)

**Nobles County Highway Department is hiring a Cost Accountant - \$28.87-\$39.35/hour.** Administers the department’s financial operations in compliance with state and federal regulations, county policy, and generally accepted accounting principles for highway cost accounting; performs accounts payable and accounts receivable duties, prepares department financial statements and reports. **QUALIFICATIONS:** Associates degree in accounting and a minimum of three years of related experience. **APPLY TO:** Nobles County Administration Office. Visit our website at [www.co.nobles.mn.us](http://www.co.nobles.mn.us) for application and to view full job description and benefit sheet. **Deadline: Open until filled, first review date, March 9, 2026. EEO/AA Employer.** (2.28-3.19)

EMPLOYMENT

**\*\*\*2nd Shift Production Supervisor Job in Luverne\*\*\***

Midwest Dry Cast is hiring! We are located in Luverne, MN and manufacture concrete slats for hog barns. We are currently looking for a full-time, 2nd Shift Production Supervisor to join our team. This position will be responsible for ensuring employees follow safety procedures while maintaining quality and production goals. The ideal candidate should have 3+ years of experience in an automated manufacturing setting as a supervisor. They should have experience troubleshooting and diagnosing machine fault codes and have a good understanding of mechanical functions and electrical circuits. We offer competitive pay with benefits.

To learn more, please call (507) 935-5555 or visit our website at: <https://www.midwestdrycast.com/available-positions/>

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

**\*\*\*Heavy Equipment Operator Job in Luverne\*\*\***

Midwest Dry Cast is hiring! We are located in Luverne and manufacture slats for hog barns. We are currently looking for a payloader operator to join our team. Payloader operators are responsible for loading and unloading trucks, moving slat inventory from the building to the yard, and filling aggregate bins. We offer competitive pay with benefits and overtime.

To learn more, please call (507) 935-5555 or visit our website at: <https://www.midwestdrycast.com/available-positions/>

**NOW HIRING: LIGHT MECHANICAL/ LUBE TECHNICIAN**

Connell Car Care has an opening for a full time Light mechanical/Lube Technician. Must have a good work ethic. We are willing to train the right person. Hours are Monday-Friday 7:30-5:30. No weekends or holidays. Paid health insurance, paid vacation, 401K, paid holidays and an air conditioned shop for those hot days. A basic set of tools is needed, as well as a good driving record. Pay will be based on experience.

Stop in, call or text **Jesse at 507-227-9299.**

HELP WANTED

**FARM MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN**

Progressive sow farm operation seeking a reliable, skilled Farm Maintenance Technician to join our team.

**Responsibilities include:**

- General building and equipment maintenance
- Electrical, plumbing, and ventilation system repairs
- Preventative maintenance of feeders, water systems, and confinement equipment
- Welding and fabrication (preferred)
- Troubleshooting and emergency repairs as needed

**Qualifications:**

- Prior maintenance experience required (agricultural experience preferred)
- Knowledge of electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems
- Ability to work independently
- Valid driver's license
- Strong work ethic and attention to detail

**Compensation:**

- \$47,000 – \$54,000 per year, based on experience
- Benefits package available: Health, Life, 401K, HSA, PTO, Holiday Pay, etc.
- Full-time position

**OUTSIDE BIOSECURITY TECHNICIAN - SOW FARM**

We are seeking a reliable and detail-oriented Outside Biosecurity Technician to join our sow farm team. This position plays a critical role in maintaining the highest level of herd health and farm safety standards.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Maintain and monitor farm perimeter biosecurity protocols
- Clean and disinfect equipment, and designated areas
- Manage mortality disposal and composting processes
- Maintain rodent and pest control programs
- Monitor farm entry points and enforce biosecurity procedures
- Assist with outdoor facility maintenance and sanitation tasks
- Keep accurate records and report concerns promptly

**Qualifications:**

- Strong attention to detail and commitment to safety
- Ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions
- Self-motivated and dependable
- Previous livestock or agricultural experience preferred (not required)

**Compensation & Benefits:**

- Salary range: \$48,000 – \$53,000 per year (based on experience)
- Benefits package available: Health, Life, 401K, HSA, PTO, Holiday Pay, etc.
- Opportunities for growth and advancement

If you are dependable, take pride in maintaining high standards, and want to be part of a team focused on animal health and biosecurity excellence, we encourage you to apply.

To apply, please call 507.825.5462 or email [mary.kor@hordfarms.com](mailto:mary.kor@hordfarms.com)

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We are seeking a skilled and dedicated **Boiler Operator** to join our team. The ideal candidate will possess a strong mechanical knowledge and experience in industrial maintenance, particularly in operating and maintaining boiler systems. This role is crucial for ensuring the safe and efficient operation of our heating systems, contributing to overall facility performance.

**Requirements:**  
1st Class B MN Boiler License  
Ability to adapt to 12 hour work days  
Ability to respond to call in requirements as needed

**Pay:** From \$42.00 per hour  
**Expected hours:** 40 – 50 per week

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**PART-TIME HELP WANTED HVAC Technician - Heating & Air Conditioning**

JD Rieck HVAC Plumbing & Appliance Inc. is seeking an experienced Heating & Air Conditioning Technician to join our team on a part-time basis.

This position is primarily focused on HVAC — including furnace and air conditioner installs, full system change-outs, equipment replacements, and service work.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- 3–5 years of HVAC experience preferred
- EPA Certification required, licensed apprentice or journeyman
- Valid driver's license

This is a part-time position with consistent work available. Competitive pay based on experience. Contact: 507-215-8113 or email: [Nichole@jdrieckplmbappl.net](mailto:Nichole@jdrieckplmbappl.net)

**HELP WANTED EVENT COORDINATOR**

*We're looking for a highly skilled coordinator to make our gatherings efficient, cost-effective, and memorable.*

**Responsibilities:** Oversee event planning and execution, provide leadership, manage digital presence, handle administrative and financial operations for events.

For more detailed information on this position, please visit [tinyurl.com/luvernegenerations](http://tinyurl.com/luvernegenerations) or scan the QR CODE. Send a resume and cover letter to [livewellagewell100@gmail.com](mailto:livewellagewell100@gmail.com).

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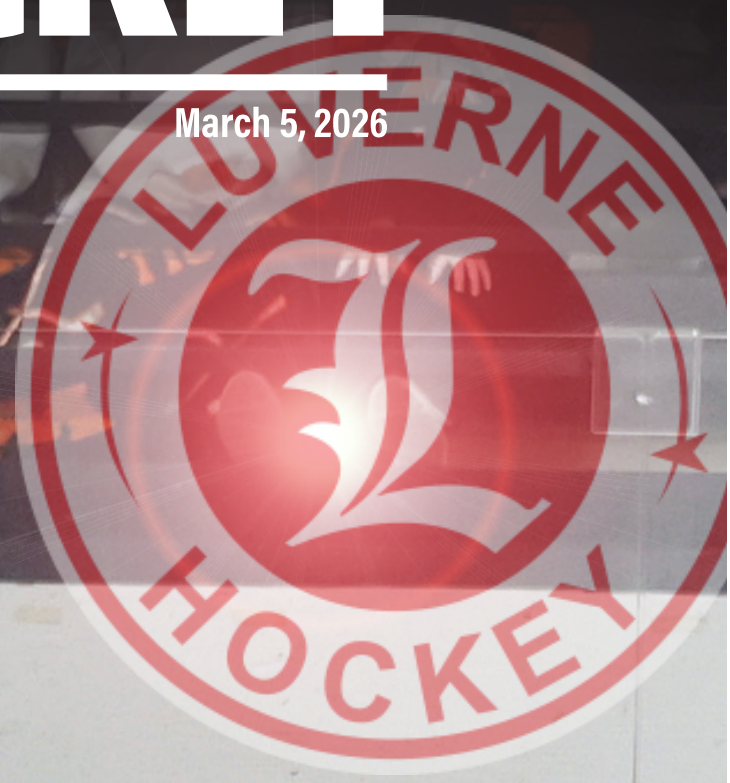
# 2026 LUVERNE

## RETURN TO STATE

# GIRLS' HOCKEY

A PRODUCTION OF THE STAR HERALD & FEATURED ADVERTISERS

March 5, 2026



**BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE RUNNER-UP • SECTION 3A CHAMPIONS**  
**2026 STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFIERS • REGULAR SEASON RECORD**  
**16 WINS - 9 LOSSES • SECTION TOURNAMENT RECORD 3 WINS - 0 LOSSES**  
Greg Hoogeveen photos

2026 Luverne Gymnastics and Wrestling  
State Individual Qualifiers  
**see back cover**





CARDINALS

2026 STATE TOURNEY

Luverne falls 5-1 to Warroad in quarterfinals and 4-0 Proctor-Hermantown in consolation play



Greg Hooegeveen photo

The Luverne girls' hockey team prepares to face off against Warroad in the state quarterfinal Wednesday, Feb. 18, at the Grand Casino Area in St. Paul.

**By Greg Hooegeveen**

The Luverne girls' hockey team finished its 2026 state tournament run falling twice to two strong contenders. LHS fell 5-1 to the No. 1 seed Warroad Warriors Wednesday, Feb. 18, and lost 4-0 to the No. 5 seed Proctor-Hermantown Mirage.

**Warroad 5, Luverne 1**  
*Section 3A quarterfinals*

The No. 8 seed Cardinals faced the No. 1 seed Warriors whose roster almost doubled the LHS team. Luverne had 16 members dressed facing a team with 31 girls on its roster. The fresh legs and skaters favored Warroad and took a toll on the Cardinals as the game progressed. The first period ended in a 1-0 lead for the Warriors who put 14 shots on LHS senior Emma Saarloos. The second period started with the Cardinals down one player in the box finishing out their penalty time from the first period. LHS sophomore Ellie Van Batavia, assisted by senior Greta McClure, teamed up to score a goal against Warroad.



Greg Hooegeveen photo

Luverne girls' hockey team lines up after player introductions at the 2026 state girls' hockey tournament in St. Paul. Pictured are (left to right) Tenlee Pick, Tenley Behr, Izzy Steensma, Mallorie Edstrom, Kassidy Saarloos, Ella Apel, Ellie Van Batavia, Cynthia Rogers, Greta McClure, Macie Edstrom, Kloe Brockberg, Hannah Woodley, Marlee Nelson, Rylee Kurtz, Trinley Vanderburg and Emma Saarloos.



Greg Hooegeveen photo

Luverne heads to the bench after scoring a goal against Warroad in the second period. Sophomore Ellie Van Batavia, No. 11, made the goal for LHS.

Van Batavia sneaked the puck past the Warriors goalie on her stick side hitting the net for an LHS goal. In the third period the Cardinals were able to kill off the remaining penalty minutes from the second period without a Warroad goal. Up 5-1 the Warriors controlled the game and had the Cardinals on their heels chasing down the puck and not able to gain control of the play. Luverne was able to hold off any other scoring by Warroad for the remaining 14-plus minutes

of the third period to fall 5-1 in the quarterfinal game.

|                   |   |   |   |       |
|-------------------|---|---|---|-------|
| <b>Box Scores</b> |   |   |   |       |
| Period            | 1 | 2 | 3 | FINAL |
| Luverne           | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1     |
| Warroad           | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5     |

|                      |    |    |    |       |
|----------------------|----|----|----|-------|
| <b>Shots on goal</b> |    |    |    |       |
| Period               | 1  | 2  | 3  | FINAL |
| Luverne              | 3  | 6  | 7  | 16    |
| Warroad              | 14 | 18 | 12 | 44    |

|                           |  |  |          |          |
|---------------------------|--|--|----------|----------|
| <b>Player game totals</b> |  |  | <b>G</b> | <b>A</b> |
| Ellie Van Batavia         |  |  | 1        | 0        |
| Greta McClure             |  |  | 0        | 1        |

|               |            |              |
|---------------|------------|--------------|
| <b>Goalie</b> | <b>SOG</b> | <b>Saves</b> |
| Emma Saarloos | 44         | 39           |

|                    |         |  |
|--------------------|---------|--|
| <b>Power plays</b> |         |  |
| Luverne            | 1 for 4 |  |
| Warroad            | 2 for 4 |  |

**Penalty minutes**  
Luverne 8 min.  
Warroad 8 min.

**Proctor-Hermantown 4, Luverne 0**  
*Section 3A consolation round*

The Luverne Cardinals fell 4-0 to Proctor-Hermantown in the Section 3A consolation matchup Thursday, Feb. 19, at TRIA Rink in St. Paul ending their 2026 state appearance. The No. 8 seed Cardinals were knocked out of the consolation round by the No. 5 seed Mirage. Luverne faced a senior-heavy team, 11 in total, with

**STATE HOCKEY ▶ PAGE 3C**



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**Warroad 5**  
**Luverne 1**



LHS senior goaltender Emma Saarloos hugs the net as Warroad moves the puck inside the Cardinals' zone.

**Proctor 4**  
**Luverne 0**



Luverne senior Greta McClure looks for a teammate to pass to inside the Warriors' zone.



Cardinals senior Hannah Woodley, No. 19, stretches to block a Warroad shot in front of her goalie.

a roster of 27 players.

Proctor-Hermantown took a 1-0 lead in the first period on a power play.

In the second period Proctor-Hermantown netted two more goals to take a 3-0 lead in the contest.

Gassed but not giving in.

Luverne gave up one more goal in the third period.

The Cardinals were able to kill off one penalty and failed to score on two penalties called on the Mirage.

The game ended with Proctor-Hermantown winning a 4-0 contest to move

Greg Hoogeveen photos

The Luverne Cardinals girls' hockey door is decorated before the state tournament encouraging the team to work hard and telling the players to "fly" before the 2026 state tournament.



Nelson and Brockberg take time for one quick photo before the state tournament action Feb. 18.

on to the consolation finals.

| Period  | 1 | 2 | 3 | FINAL |
|---------|---|---|---|-------|
| Luverne | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     |
| Proctor | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4     |

| Shots on goal |   |   |   |       |
|---------------|---|---|---|-------|
| Period        | 1 | 2 | 3 | FINAL |
| Luverne       | 3 | 4 | 4 | 11    |
| Proctor       | 9 | 8 | 9 | 26    |

| Goalie        | SOG | Saves |
|---------------|-----|-------|
| Emma Saarloos | 26  | 22    |

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| <b>Power plays</b> |         |
| Luverne            | 0 for 4 |
| Proctor            | 1 for 3 |

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| <b>Penalty minutes</b> |         |
| Luverne                | 10 min. |
| Proctor                | 12 min. |

*Congratulations Girls' Hockey*

**And thank you to everyone who has supported the**

# Luverne Hockey Association

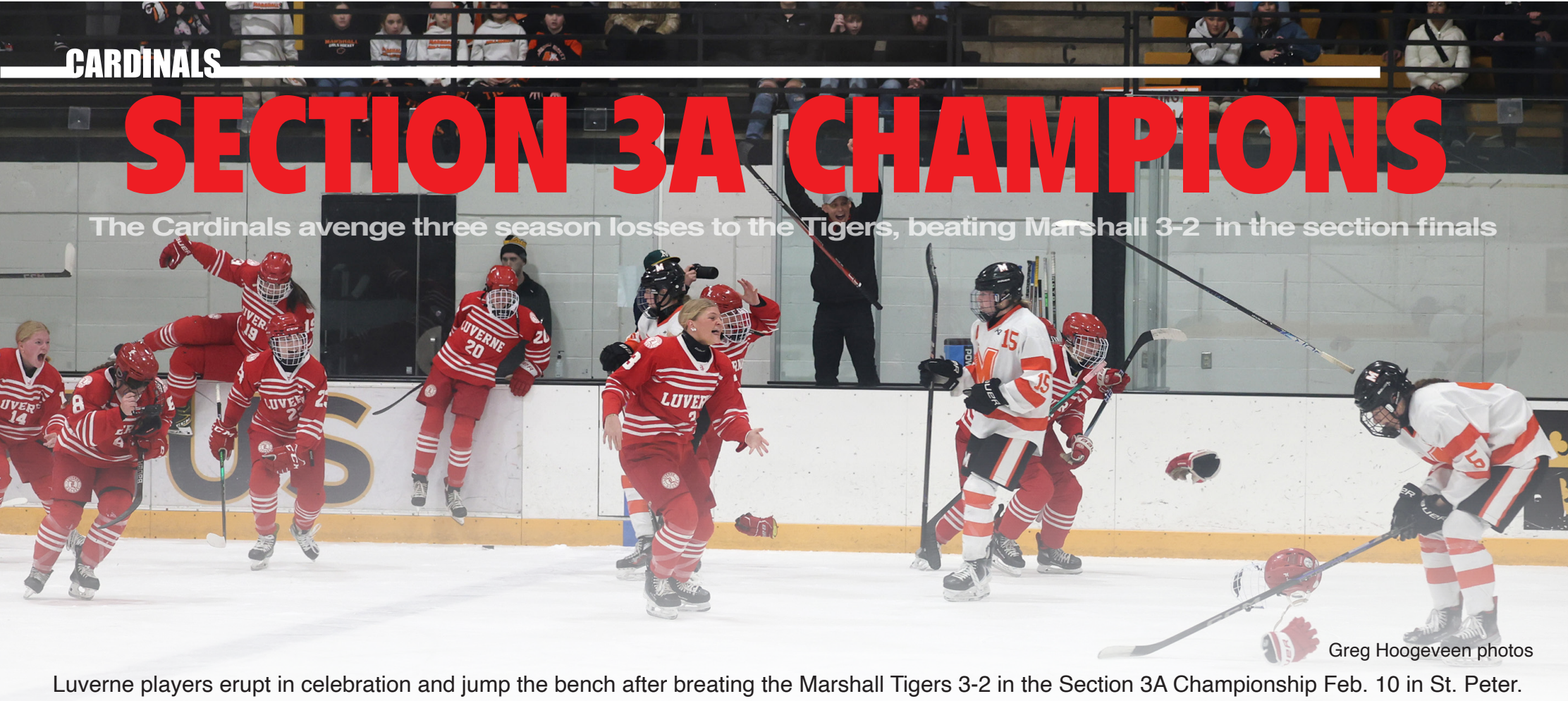
**in the beginning, today and in the future.**



**The 2025-2026 Luverne girls' hockey team members are (front, left) Macie Edstrom, Emma Saarloos, Greta McClure, Ella Apel, Rylee Kurtz, Kassidy Saarloos, team manager EmmaLee Holwell, (middle) team manager Hadley Vanderburg, Hannah Woodley, Izzy Steensma, Tenley Behr, Ellie Van Batavia, Tenlee Pick, (back) Cynthia Rogers, Marlee Nelson, Kloe Brockberg, Mallorie Edstrom, Trinley Vanderburg, coach Matthew McClure, and (far back) assistant coach Scott Adams.**

**Thank you also to coaches, parents, kids and the community for your encouragement. Without you, this wouldn't be possible!**





**By Greg Hooegeveen**

The Luverne girls' hockey team is heading to the state tournament after beating Marshall 3-2 in an exciting section championship game Tuesday, Feb. 10, in St. Peter.

"There's not a team that the girls wanted to beat more than Marshall after they beat us in the section championship last season and stopped our sixth straight state appearance," LHS head coach Matthew McClure said.

As the game got underway, Mauch scored for Marshall at 1:45 in the first period.

Luverne fans went silent and it felt like this may be a long game for the Cardinals.

At 7:22 LHS sophomore Ellie Van Batavia found the back of the Tigers net, assisted by junior Izzy Steensma, sneaking in a goal to tie the game 1-1.

The second period started much like the first with Mauch scoring at the 5:25 mark for Marshall to give the Tigers a 2-1 lead.

Luverne fans and team members seemed a bit fazed after the goal but kept encouraging Luverne to keep playing hard.

The second period ended in a 2-2 tie and the Luverne girls exited the ice with smiles on their faces knowing they were still in the game.

The third period started with both teams having scoring chances throughout the first 10 minutes of the contest.

At 10:08 LHS senior Ella Apel pushed the puck under the goalie's pads into the net as she stood alongside the Tigers goalie.

Apel raised her arms and she skated away from the Tigers net giving the Cardinals a 3-2 lead in the game.

Luverne players and fans erupted with excitement after the goal.

Luverne took a 3-2 lead knowing there was a little over six minutes left to play in the game against a strong Marshall team.

The Cardinals and Tigers continued to play a close game keeping the other in check and score free.

With just over two minutes left in the game, Marshall asked for a time-out to try to get their girls in position to tie the game.

When play resumed, Luverne played strong defense, pushing the puck away from Marshall sticks and into open ice, burning vital

seconds off the clock.

Finally, the game buzzer went off and the Cardinal players jumped the rink walls to celebrate their 3-2 section championship victory together by their net.

With the victory Luverne, the No. 8 seed, heads to the first round of the girls' hockey state tournament Wednesday, Feb. 18, against the No. 1 seed Warroad Warriors at the Grand Casino Arena in St. Paul.

| Box Scores |   |   |   |       |
|------------|---|---|---|-------|
| Period     | 1 | 2 | 3 | FINAL |
| Luverne    | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3     |
| Marshall   | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2     |

| Shots on goal |   |    |   |       |
|---------------|---|----|---|-------|
| Period        | 1 | 2  | 3 | FINAL |
| Luverne       | 5 | 14 | 7 | 26    |
| Marshall      | 7 | 10 | 6 | 23    |

| Player game totals |   |   | G | A |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Ellie Van Batavia  | 1 | 0 |   |   |
| Rylee Kurtz        | 1 | 0 |   |   |
| Ella Apel          | 1 | 0 |   |   |
| Izzy Steensma      | 0 | 1 |   |   |
| Tenley Behr        | 0 | 2 |   |   |

| Goalie        |    |  | SOG | Saves |
|---------------|----|--|-----|-------|
| Emma Saarloos | 23 |  | 21  |       |

| Power plays                  |         |  |
|------------------------------|---------|--|
| Luverne                      | 0 for 4 |  |
| Luverne 0 for 1 penalty shot |         |  |
| Marshall                     | 0 for 4 |  |

| Penalty minutes |         |  |
|-----------------|---------|--|
| Luverne         | 10 min. |  |
| Marshall        | 6 min.  |  |



Sophomore Ellie Van Batavia raises her stick after scoring the first goal against Marshall.



Junior Rylee Kurtz celebrates after beating the Marshall goalie for Luverne's second goal.



Senior Ella Apel, No. 8, celebrates with her teammates after scoring her third goal against Marshall during the section championship.

“There's not a team that the girls wanted to beat more than Marshall.

Matthew McClure  
Girls' hockey coach

Luverne 3  
Marshall 2



Luverne girls' hockey seniors display their section championship medals and team plaque after beating Marshall 3-2 Feb. 18 in St. Peter. Seniors are (left, to right) Greta McClure, Hannah Woodley, Ella Apel, Hadley Vanderburg and Emma Saarloos

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# SECTION SEMIFINALS, QUARTERFINALS

**By Greg Hooegeveen**  
The Cardinals started their section run taking down Morris/Benson Area 15-0 at home Thursday, Feb. 5, in the 3A quarterfinals and topped Fairmont 5-2 at one Saturday, Feb. 7, in the 3 section semifinals.

**Luverne 5, Fairmont 2**  
*Section 3 semifinals*  
Luverne knocked out Fairmont, the No. 3 seed, 5-2 at home Saturday, Feb. 7, in the section semifinals.

| Box Scores |   |   |   |       |  |
|------------|---|---|---|-------|--|
| Period     | 1 | 2 | 3 | FINAL |  |
| Luverne    | 3 | 1 | 1 | 5     |  |
| Fairmont   | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2     |  |

| Shots on goal |    |    |    |       |  |
|---------------|----|----|----|-------|--|
| Period        | 1  | 2  | 3  | FINAL |  |
| Luverne       | 13 | 15 | 10 | 38    |  |
| Fairmont      | 5  | 4  | 4  | 13    |  |

| Player game totals | G | A |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Tenley Behr        | 2 | 1 |
| Izzy Steensma      | 0 | 1 |
| Kassidy Saarloos   | 0 | 1 |
| Ella Apel          | 1 | 2 |
| Ellie Van Batavia  | 2 | 0 |
| Cynthia Rogers     | 0 | 1 |
| Greta McClure      | 0 | 1 |

| Goalie        | SOG | Saves |
|---------------|-----|-------|
| Emma Saarloos | 13  | 11    |

| Power plays |         |
|-------------|---------|
| Luverne     | 0 for 1 |
| Fairmont    | 0 for 4 |

| Penalty minutes |         |
|-----------------|---------|
| Luverne         | 11 min. |
| Fairmont        | 2 min.  |

**Luverne 15, Morris/Benson Area 0**  
*Section 3 quarterfinals*  
Luverne, the No. 2 seed, beat Morris/Benson Area, the No. 7 seed, 15-0 in the Section 3A quarterfinals at home Thursday, Feb. 5.

| Box Scores |   |   |   |       |  |
|------------|---|---|---|-------|--|
| Period     | 1 | 2 | 3 | FINAL |  |
| Luverne    | 4 | 6 | 5 | 15    |  |
| MBA        | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0     |  |

| Shots on goal |    |    |    |       |  |
|---------------|----|----|----|-------|--|
| Period        | 1  | 2  | 3  | FINAL |  |
| Luverne       | 29 | 20 | 14 | 63    |  |
| MBA           | 1  | 5  | 2  | 8     |  |



Greg Hooegeveen photos

In Section 3A semifinal action (above) LHS junior Tenley Behr sends off a shot against Farimont. (Above right) head coach Matthew McClure talks to the team during the semifinals, and (at right) junior Izzy Steensma plays the puck around the back of Fairmont's net.



Luverne 5  
Fairmont 2



Luverne 15  
Morris 0



In Section 3A quarterfinal action LHS sophomore Kloe Brockberg holds off a Morris player inside their zone, and (at right) the LHS girls are excited to start the game just inside their lockerroom.

## LHS girls' hockey state sendoff Feb. 17

The Luverne girls' hockey team receives a sendoff in the performing arts center Feb. 17 before leaving for the state tournament.



LHS girls' hockey coaches Matthew McClure and Scott Adams and the team load the bus Feb. 17 heading to the state tournament.

LHS girls' hockey team - 2026 state tournament qualifiers. Go, Big Red!

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2026 game schedule

| Date       | Result | Opponent                    | Location                                                                          |
|------------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sat Nov 8  | W 5-1  | @ Willmar                   | Willmar Civic Center                                                              |
| Tue Nov 11 | L 5-6  | @ Albert Lea                | Albert Lea City Arena                                                             |
| Thu Nov 13 | L 2-6  | Gentry Academy              | Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                              |
| Thu Nov 20 | W 3-1  | @ New Ulm                   | New Ulm Civic Center                                                              |
| Sat Nov 22 | L 1-2  | Minnesota River             | Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                              |
| Tue Nov 25 | W 7-0  | Worthington                 | Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                              |
| Thu Dec 4  | L 1-6  | @ Marshall                  | Marshall Red Baron Arena                                                          |
| Tue Dec 9  | L 1-2  | @ Fairmont                  | Fairmont-Martin County Arena                                                      |
| Fri Dec 12 | W 4-1  | Willmar                     | Luverne-Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                      |
| Sat Dec 13 | W 13-0 | South Central               | Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                              |
| Tue Dec 16 | W 8-0  | Windom                      | Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                              |
| Fri Dec 19 | W 4-1  | New Ulm                     | Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                              |
| Mon Dec 29 | L 1-2  | @ Stillwater                | St. Croix Valley Recreation Center                                                |
| Tue Dec 30 | W 2-1  | Western Wisconsin           | St. Croix Rec Center                                                              |
| Wed Dec 31 | W 5-0  | Moose Lake Area             | Stillwater, MN, USA                                                               |
| Sat Jan 3  | L 1-3  | Mankato East                | Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                              |
| Sat Jan 10 | W 3-1  | @ Minnesota River           | Le Sueur Arena                                                                    |
| Mon Jan 12 | W 14-0 | @ Windom                    | Windom Arena                                                                      |
| Tue Jan 13 | W 7-4  | Albert Lea                  | Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                              |
| Sat Jan 17 | W 20-0 | @ South Central             | Waseca Community Arena                                                            |
| Tue Jan 20 | W 8-0  | Fairmont                    | Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                              |
| Fri Jan 23 | -      | @ Northern Lakes            | Hallett in Crosby Ironton                                                         |
| Sat Jan 24 | W 8-0  | @ Princeton/Big Lake/Becker | Princeton First Bank & Trust Ice Arena                                            |
| Tue Jan 27 | L 3-4  | Marshall                    | Blue Mound Ice Arena                                                              |
| Thu Jan 29 | W 9-1  | @ Worthington               | Worthington Hockey Arena                                                          |
| Fri Jan 30 | L 1-6  | Marshall                    | Blue Mound Ice Arena, W Hatting St, Luverne, MN, USA                              |
| Thu Feb 5  | W 15-0 | Morris/Benson Area          | Blue Mound Ice Arena. Class 1A, Section 3 championship: No. 7 seed vs. No. 2 seed |
| Sat Feb 7  | W 5-2  | Fairmont                    | Blue Mound Ice Arena. Class 1A, Section 3 semifinal: No. 3 seed vs. No. 2 seed    |
| Tue Feb 10 | W 3-2  | @ Marshall                  | Don Roberts Ice Rink. Class 1A, Section 3 quarterfinal: No. 2 seed vs. No. 1 seed |
| Wed Feb 18 | L 1-5  | @ Warroad                   | Grand Casino Arena - Class 1A Quarterfinal: No. 8 seed vs. No. 1 seed             |
| Thu Feb 19 | L 0-4  | @ Proctor/Hermantown        | TRIA Rink - Class 1A Consolation Semifinal: No. 8 seed vs. No. 5 seed             |



2026



100 career points



Four LHS girls' hockey players reached the 100-point marker this season. They are (from left) Greta McClure, Tenley Behr, Ella Apel, Izzy Steensma and Ellie Van Batavia.



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SECTION 3A CHAMPIONS | STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFIERS



The 2025-2026 Luverne girls' hockey team, pictured are (front, left) Ellie Van Batavia, Izzy Steensma, Macie Edstrom, Emma Saarloos, Greta McClure, Tenley Behr, Trinley Vanderburg, (second row) Cynthia Rogers, manager Hadley Vanderburg, Marlee Nelson, Ella Apel, manager EmmaLee Holwell, Kloe Brockberg, (back row) coach Matthew McClure, Tenlee Pick, Rylee Kurtz, Hannah Woodley, Mallorie Edstrom, Kassidy Saarloos and assistant coach Scott Adams.



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# What A Year!



## 2026 team roster

- 

Freshman  
Tenlee Pick
- 

Junior  
Tenley Behr
- 

Junior  
Izzy Steensma
- 

Freshman  
Mallorie Edstrom
- 

Junior  
Kassidy Saarloos
- 

Senior  
Ella Apel
- 

Sophomore  
Ellie Van Batavia
- 

Freshman  
Cynthia Rogers
- 

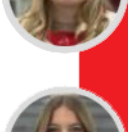
Senior  
Greta McClure
- 

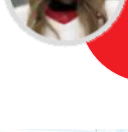
Junior  
Macie Edstrom
- 

Sophomore  
Kloe Brockberg
- 

Senior  
Hannah Woodley
- 

Junior  
Marlee Nelson
- 

Junior  
Rylee Kurtz
- 

Sophomore  
Trinley Vanderburg
- 

Senior  
Emma Saarloos

## Luverne 2026 player stats

### Skater

| #  | Name               | GP | G  | A  | PTS | SOG | SOG % | PPG | PPA | SH | SHA | PIM | FOW | FOL | BS | + / - | GW | FG | AVG PTS |
|----|--------------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-------|----|----|---------|
| 11 | Ellie Van Batavia  | 29 | 43 | 25 | 68  | 47  | 91.5  | 5   | 0   | 1  | 0   | 14  | 0   | 1   | 0  | -1    | 5  | 4  | 2.34    |
| 3  | Tenley Behr        | 29 | 26 | 16 | 42  | 27  | 96.3  | 1   | 3   | 0  | 0   | 14  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0     | 4  | 5  | 1.45    |
| 8  | Ella Apel          | 28 | 17 | 30 | 47  | 18  | 94.4  | 3   | 2   | 0  | 0   | 21  | 6   | 13  | 0  | -2    | 2  | 2  | 1.68    |
| 15 | Greta McClure      | 23 | 13 | 21 | 34  | 13  | 100.0 | 0   | 2   | 0  | 2   | 37  | 0   | 0   | 0  | -1    | 3  | 4  | 1.48    |
| 14 | Cynthia Rogers     | 27 | 12 | 25 | 37  | 13  | 92.3  | 0   | 4   | 1  | 0   | 4   | 1   | 0   | 0  | -1    | 1  | 0  | 1.37    |
| 22 | Rylee Kurtz        | 29 | 11 | 25 | 36  | 12  | 91.7  | 0   | 5   | 0  | 0   | 14  | 0   | 0   | 0  | -1    | 2  | 2  | 1.24    |
| 16 | Macie Edstrom      | 29 | 8  | 12 | 20  | 9   | 88.9  | 3   | 1   | 1  | 0   | 8   | 0   | 0   | 0  | -2    | 1  | 1  | 0.69    |
| 4  | Izzy Steensma      | 29 | 6  | 28 | 34  | 10  | 60.0  | 0   | 3   | 0  | 1   | 2   | 9   | 21  | 0  | -1    | 0  | 0  | 1.17    |
| 19 | Hannah Woodley     | 29 | 5  | 7  | 12  | 6   | 83.3  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 8   | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0     | 0  | 0  | 0.41    |
| 17 | Kloe Brockberg     | 28 | 4  | 8  | 12  | 4   | 100.0 | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 4   | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0     | 0  | 0  | 0.43    |
| 23 | Trinley Vanderburg | 29 | 3  | 7  | 10  | 3   | 100.0 | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 4   | 0   | 1   | 0  | 0     | 0  | 0  | 0.34    |
| 2  | Tenlee Pick        | 29 | 3  | 11 | 14  | 4   | 75.0  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 6   | 1   | 0   | 0  | 0     | 0  | 0  | 0.48    |
| 20 | Marlee Nelson      | 29 | 2  | 1  | 3   | 2   | 100.0 | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 2   | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0     | 0  | 0  | 0.10    |
| 5  | Mallorie Edstrom   | 29 | 2  | 2  | 4   | 2   | 100.0 | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0     | 0  | 0  | 0.14    |
| 6  | Kassidy Saarloos   | 29 | 2  | 9  | 11  | 2   | 100.0 | 1   | 0   | 0  | 1   | 14  | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0     | 0  | 0  | 0.38    |
| 30 | Emma Saarloos      | 1  | 0  | 1  | 1   | 0   | 0.0   | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0  | 0     | 0  | 0  | 1.00    |

### Goalie

| #  | Name          | GP | MIN     | W  | L  | T | SOG | GA | SV  | GAA  | SV % | SO |
|----|---------------|----|---------|----|----|---|-----|----|-----|------|------|----|
| 30 | Emma Saarloos | 29 | 1479:45 | 18 | 11 | 0 | 534 | 59 | 475 | 2.03 | .890 | 9  |

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# Congratulations, state gymnastics and wrestling qualifiers



Luverne individual state qualifiers are (from left) eighth-grader Marris Thone - first-time qualifier, senior Bernie Rock - fourth-time qualifier, junior CeCe Rock - fourth-time qualifier, freshman Ellie Rock - first-time qualifier, and junior Brody Kopp - first-time qualifier.



Brody Kopp takes in all the state attention with a sendoff at the Luverne High School Feb. 25.

Bernie, CeCe and Ellie Rock stand with medals after the state tournament Feb. 28



Marris Thone makes a vault pass at the gymnastics state meet Feb. 21.

**By Greg Hoogeveen**  
In addition to the girls' hockey program, Luverne's gymnastics and wrestling programs also sent athletes to state competition this season.  
Luverne gymnast Marris Thone advanced to state, as did Luverne wrestlers Bernie, CeCe and Ellie Rock and Brody Kopp.

**LHS wrestling**  
Bernie and CeCe Rock headed back to the girls' state wrestling tournament for the fourth year in a row.  
They took with them their

younger sister, freshman Ellie Rock, who made her first state trip in her career.  
All three, along with first-time qualifier LHS junior Brodie Kopp, qualified for state at the Section 3A tournament in Redwood Valley Feb. 6-7.  
At the 2026 state tournament Feb. 25-28, Bernie and CeCe Rock reached the podium for the Luverne wrestling team.  
Ellie Rock and Brody Kopp were not able to make the finals.  
CeCe Rock placed second in the 155-pound weight class, winning four matches before falling

in the championship match to an undefeated Apple Valley opponent. CeCe finished the season 28-1.  
Bernie Rock placed fifth in the 118-pound weight class, winning four matches and falling twice in the tournament.  
Rock fought through an illness during the tournament fighting through six strong wrestlers. She finished her senior year with a record of 34-4.  
Ellie Rock was not able to place in her first state appearance, winning one match and falling twice in the 112-pound weight

class.  
Ellie finished the season 20-12.  
Brody Kopp fell twice in the 107-pound weight class ending his state run.  
This was his first state appearance. He finished his season with a 22-10 record.

**LHS gymnastics**  
Luverne gymnast eighth-grader Marris Thone finished 21st in the individual vault competition at the 2026 Class A State gymnastics meet in St. Paul Saturday, Feb. 21.

Thone took 21st place out of 45 vaulters scoring a 9.075 in her first attempt.  
In her second pass she scored a 8.550.  
Placements are figured by the highest vault value of the gymnasts' two attempts.  
In her first state meet Thone was able to tie her highest vault value of 9.075 she set back on Jan. 23, 2025, against Jackson County Central.  
Thone qualified for the state meet, placing sixth at the Section 3A Championships Saturday, Feb. 21, with a vault of 8.700.



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**Congrats state athletes**



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