



Contributed photo

Grants from the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation and the Frank Boon Trust were used to construct a concrete wheelchair ramp for accessible entrance to Team E's Fieldhouse & Fitness Center in Hills.

New ramp provides access for everyone to Team E's Fieldhouse

24-hour fitness center opened July 1

By Mavis Fodness

A new wheelchair ramp is finished at Team E's Fieldhouse & Fitness Center in Hills.

The ramp allows easy access to the 24-hour facility for everyone.

"The goal for the fitness center is not only for the general public, but also for those with disabilities, which is part of Game Plan 4 Hope's mission," said Missy Bass, Game Plan 4 Hope director.

Game Plan 4 Hope opened at the former grain elevator office at 312 W. Third St. in Hills. Team E's Fieldhouse, the fitness facility within the Game Plan 4 Hope's facility, opened to the public July 1.

Bass said the fitness center fills a need in the surrounding community, especially after the local fitness facility closed several years ago.

"In addition to the normal gym equipment, there will also be a state-of-the-art Series 6 NuStep cross trainer that is being donated by a supporter and a functional trainer," she said.

"These both can be used by people with limited mobility in addition to those who cannot perform high impact exercises."

Game Plan 4 Hope received two grants to install the concrete wheelchair ramp.

A mini grant (\$2,000) came from the Lyon County Riverboat Foundation along with the grant from the Frank Boon Trust.

People can now sign up for memberships at the 24-hour fitness facility.

Contact Bass at 605-743-4902 or Heather Erickson 605-370-9463 or visit Team E's Fieldhouse of Hope social media page.

New fitness program coming in August

A strength, balance and fitness program will meet at Game Plan 4 Hope beginning Aug. 2.

SAIL: Stay Active & Independent for Life is offered through A.C.E. of SW Minnesota-Rock County.

Older adults are encouraged to

attend the hour-long program led by volunteers Nelva Behr and Carol Gehrke.

A total of 24 classes will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays through Oct. 20. There is no charge but donations are welcome.

Contact A.C.E. program manager Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064 for more information or to register.

Game Plan 4 Hope

Game Plan 4 Hope was developed in 2019 by the Bass and Erickson families of Hills.

Their mission is to assist families who are experiencing a life-changing event.

The families, along with a series of volunteers, provide spiritual and emotional guidance along with gift cards, comfort kits, special holiday events and access to needed medical equipment or supplies.

Game Plan 4 Hope moved from the families' homes to a remodeled facility in Hills in 2021. Team E's Fieldhouse and Fitness Center was developed as a result of the move.

1943: Diamond Club features Ben Slieter

The following article is part of the Diamond Club Member group that began in the January 7, 1943, issue of the Rock County Star Herald. Members of this group consist of persons of age 75 and older.

This article appeared in the March 18, 1943 edition of The Rock County Star Herald.

One of Clinton township's well-known retired farmers is Bernard Slieter, Steen. Known more familiarly to his close



BITS BY BETTY

By Betty Mann,
Rock County Historian

friends and neighbors as "Ben," he now lives in Steen where he moved upon retire-

ment from actual farming operations in 1931.

The village of Steen was

but 10 years old when Mr. Slieter came to Rock county, and many changes have taken place in that community since that time.

Mr. Slieter was a native of Germany. He was born in that country Jan. 25, 1865, and it was there that he grew to manhood. On July 6, 1889, he married Ida Dohlman, and two years later, they set out

Bits, continued on page 7A

CELEBRATIONS

Card showers

Patsy Cragoe will celebrate her 80th birthday Saturday, July 30. Cards and well wishes may be sent to 209 Cashin Drive, Luverne, MN 56156.

Raney and Jan Israelson will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary Thursday, July 28. Greetings may be sent to 507 McKenzie Street, Luverne, MN 56156.

Sue Gruis celebrated her 75th birthday on Sunday, July 17. Greetings may be sent to her at PO Box 366, Onida, SD 57564.

MENU AT GENERATIONS

Monday, July 25: Cubed turkey with gravy, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, dinner roll, warm fruit crisp.

Tuesday, July 26: Tater tot casserole, green beans, warm peaches, dinner roll, dessert.

Activities: 12:30 p.m. Pinochle or favorite game.

Wednesday, July 27: Ham pasta salad, creamy cucumbers, cantaloupe, dessert.

Thursday, July 28: Chicken salad on croissant,

coleslaw, tropical fruit, dessert.

Activities: 1 p.m. LSS frozen food meal distribution in main entrance.

Friday, July 29: Baked fish, rice pilaf, Oriental blend, warm apple slices.

Half-Price Day sponsored by American Reformed Church.

Call Lynette Hoiland 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 (2012)

•Words like "salvage" and "disaster" have begun to appear in 2012 crop reports.

The drought covering 56 percent of the United States has crept into Rock County as the area's weather designation moved from "abnormally dry" to "moderate drought" last week. ...

Some farmers have begun to consider the option of harvesting the corn plants now for silage instead of risking a total crop failure if the region's drought continues.

Sioux Falls recorded its second driest June since 1893, receiving less than an inch of rain. Luverne recorded less than a half inch of rain in June.

25 years ago (1997)

•The only certainty downtown is change.

After 15 years in business on Main Street Luverne, Derald and Linda Shaw will close Shaw Drug.

On Aug. 11, Derald will start a new job as manager of the pharmacy in the new Pamida Store opening south of the I-90 interchange.

Linda will continue to operate the gift business for a short time at their downtown location until the inventory is sold out. The couple will eventually sell the building.

50 years ago (1972)

•Ben Vander Kooi, Luverne attorney, will again be seeking election to the State Senate from the newly formed District 26, composed of Pipestone, Rock, Nobles and a large portion of Murray County.

Vander Kooi, who sought the Senate chair in 1970 and lost by a slim margin, filed July 18. ...

Vander Kooi has been an active member in the Rock County DFL for 22 years, and has served as county chairman during ten of those years. He is a member of the Luverne Airport Commission, Blue Mound Board, Rock County Historical Society Board, V.F.W., Farmers Union and the Minnesota Bar Association. He is a Rotarian, was American Legion past judge advocate of District 2 and was Deputy Registrar of Motor Vehicles in Rock County for ten years.

75 years ago (1947)

•A Luverne youth, James Moeller, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Moeller, became not only junior champion skeet shooter in the state of Minnesota Sunday, but won the junior championship of the Northwest Skeet Association. ...

"Jimmy" and his father had discussed the matter of taking in the state skeet shoot several times, but never really gave it much consideration until last Saturday night. Then, after talking the matter over, it was decided they wouldn't go. A neighbor, caused the Moellers to change their minds, when he said he'd drive his car to St. Paul the next day if they would go with him. That settled the matter, and early the next morning they left Luverne for the cities.

"Jimmy," who has been making some impressive scores at the local gun club since last fall, had to shoot against some of the best junior shooters in this part of the northwest. He defeated last year's state champion, Nick Smith, of St. Paul, breaking one more clay-bird than the champion. The Luverne youth shot 43 out of 50, breaking 22 in one round, and 21 in the other. The St. Paul youth shot a 42, 21 in each round.

100 years ago (1922)

•Luverne's two theatres passed under one ownership and management Saturday when Mark Swedberg, who had conducted the Cort theatre since a year ago last May, sold this popular amusement place to Herman Jochims, owner and manager of the Palace theatre. The new owner was given possession Sunday.

Tweet and Oeltjenbruns exchange vows June 4 in Luverne

Paige Tweet, Lismore, and Tucker Oeltjenbruns, Luverne, were married Saturday, June 4, 2022, at Living Rock Church in Luverne. Pastor Billy Skaggs officiated.

Parents of the couple are Jeff and Carol Tweet, Lismore, and Glen and Cris Oeltjenbruns, Luverne.

Matrons of honor were Alisha Boomgaarden and Megan Meinders, sisters of the bride.

Bridesmaids included the bride's friend Rylie Hokeness, the groom's sister Amanda Englund, the bride's cousin Kasie Tweet, and the bride's friends Hannah Ver Steeg, Riley Schmitz and Miranda Lakness. The bride's personal attendants were her friends Greta Ahrendt, Sarah Auen and Sarah Reinarts. Oaklie Englund, the groom's niece, was the flower girl.

The groom's friend Eli Bakken was his best man. Groomsmen were the groom's

brother Spencer Oeltjenbruns, his friend Jake Haugen, his brother-in-law Trevor Englund, and his friends Tyler Reisdorfer, Coy Gonnerman, Owen West and Dylan Mente. Ring bearer was Wells Boomgaarden, the bride's nephew. Ushers were the groom's friends Jaxon Nelson and Cade Ver Steeg.

A reception followed the ceremony at Big Top Tents and Events in Luverne.

Paige graduated from Adrian High School in 2018 and from South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota, in 2021. She is employed at C & B Operations in Luverne.

Tucker graduated from Luverne High School in 2018 and from Lake Area Technical College, Watertown, South Dakota, in 2020. He works for C & B Operations in Luverne.

They live in Luverne.



Paige and Tucker Oeltjenbruns