

Lake Mills Graphic

2016: A look back

January 2016

All States Ag Parts expanding to Lake Mills



All States Ag Parts, the nation's leading supplier of tractor and combine parts, announced the acquisition of a new distribution facility in Lake Mills, Ia this past Friday.

"The companies' continued growth and success created the need for a larger distribution facility to

us the ability to serve today's farmers during tough times and to position us for growth that will allow us to serve them even better in the future," said Dyke.

"We are excited to have an agricultural company with such a great reputation as All States Ag Parts expanding their operations into one of our communities, occupying a currently empty building, and creating new jobs here," stated Teresa Nicholson, Executive Director of Winn-Worth Betco (Winneshago-Worth Counties Betterment Council), which is the economic development office covering Winneshago and Worth Counties in North Iowa. "We've been working with the company for some time and are pleased to extend our 'Welcome' to them."

Lake Mills Chamber Development Corporation Executive Director, Cassie Johnson, expressed support as well, "We are glad to see this project come together here in Lake Mills. We welcome All States Ag Parts to our community and look forward to a long and successful

February 2016



Terry Gasper/LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

The joy was evident among team members and coaches, as the Bulldogs wrapped up their first State Team Dual appearance since 2000 last week with a win over Sumner-Fredricksburg.

Bulldogs headed to State Dual meet

The Lake Mills wrestling program will be attending the Iowa State Dual Tournament for the first time in 16 years, thanks to a win last week in the Regional Duals.

In the semi-final round, the host Bulldogs squared off with conference foe Belmond-Klemme. Lake Mills jumped out to a commanding 34-0 lead before finally surrendering bouts to the Broncos. Belmond-Klemme battled back winning the next five matches and closed the lead to 34-24, before the Bulldogs would win the next two matches to secure the 44-30 win.

"We did not wrestle all that well against Belmond-Klemme, but we never seem to wrestle well in our first dual of the day," said Coach Alex Brandenburg. "It was a good thing our middle upper weights got us out to a commanding lead."

In the other semifinal, No. 6 ranked Sumner-Fredricksburg took down Central Springs, 32-30.

The win by the Cougars improved their record to 23-2 heading into the finals against Lake Mills. Unlike the semifinal dual, the finals lead went back and forth. After six matches, Sumner-Fredricksburg led 18-12 before Lake Mills took a hold of the dual.

The Bulldogs dominated the lower weights by winning four straight, pulling out to a 33-18 lead, and they never looked back. When the dust was settled, the Bulldogs beat the Cougars 45-30, clinching a birth in the state duals next Wednesday in Des Moines. "Our kids really showed up in the finals and were determined to get the job done," Brandenburg said. "It was

important to get so many pins and avoid getting pinned in a couple matches where we were huge underdogs."

The team enters state duals with a 31-7 dual record and will be the seventh seed in the eight team 1A field. Lake Mills will meet No. 2 ranked Don Bosco in the first round.

"We are very excited about the opportunity to wrestle in Des Moines and to break the long drought of not making it to state duals," Brandenburg said. "It is amazing how many wrestlers had a hand in making this happen. We have had a lot of injuries and lot of different lineups which makes this all the more special."

See regional dual results and individual district results on Page 10.

March 2016

The end of an era

BY BONNIE KAY BALDWIN
LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

Recently, Lake Mills and its surrounding communities have been saddened by the passing of an icon and its owner. First, came the closing of The Grand Cafe, and then the death of Diane Brackey. Brackey has been serving the community at The Grand Cafe, 201 W. Main, for approximately 25 years.

"Diane was The Grand Cafe and The Grand Cafe was Diane," said Bart Winter, owner of Mittelstadt Funeral Home, and close friend of Brackey. "I've only lived in Lake Mills for 26 years, so for me, you don't have one without the other."

"The Grand Cafe will be missed and will not be duplicated," said Winter. "Like everything else, you get the good with the bad, but when it came to Diane Brackey, her staff and The Grand Cafe, it is impossible to not be sad."



Terry Gasper/LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

When the For Sale sign was placed in the window, a chapter of Lake Mills history ended after roughly 25 years.

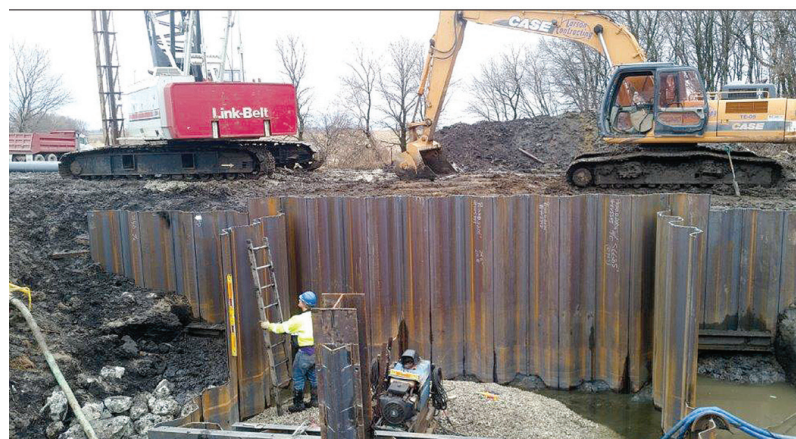


Photo courtesy of TJ Herick, Iowa DNR

Work is progressing on the new dam, which is located just east of the dam it will be replacing, as the final step in the Rice Lake restoration project.

Dam last piece of restoration project

With the passing of owner, Diane Brackey, local institution, The Grand Cafe, closed its doors in March.

It was soon announced that Ay Jalisco would open a location in the former restaurant.

Rice Lake restoration was completed in early spring as a new dam on the south side of the lake was completed.

Ay Jalisco coming to town

BY TERRY GASPER
LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

Having worked in the restaurant business for nearly half of his life, Jerry Gonzales will finally get a place of his own, when Ay Jalisco expands their business to Lake Mills, and Jerry will take over the operation of the Lake Mills store.

"I started helping my Dad when I was 12 or 13 years old," he recalled. "I grew up in the restaurant."

The restaurant will be owned by Jerry and his father, Ramon, as the family expands their presence in North Iowa. "We have been in the restaurant business for over 25 years," Martinez said.

Moving into the spot formerly home to The Grand Cafe, Gonzales is anxious to bring their blend of Mexican cuisine to the people of

Mexican specialties, such as fajitas, tacos, burritos, and frozen or regular margaritas in a wide variety of flavors.

"Everything on the menu is made from scratch; it is all home-made," Jerry explained. "We use family recipes."

The margaritas including peach and honey—a one unique way to set off your mood or start your experience. "We have a nice bar area, but we want this place to have a nice family atmosphere," Gonzales said. Just like the Forest City location, the Lake Mills restaurant will feature daily food and drink specials.

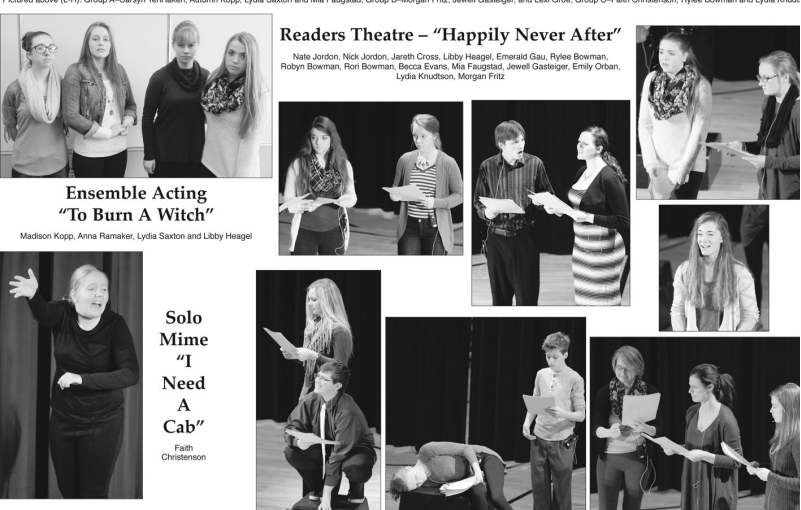
Transitioning to a Mexican restaurant will require some remodeling, in addition to building a



CONGRATULATIONS, LMHS SPEECH CLUB on Receiving ALL Division I ratings at District Large Group Contest & Going on to Compete at State, Feb. 6, in Waterloo



Group Improvisations



Readers Theatre – "Happily Never After"

Ensemble Acting "To Burn A Witch"

Solo Mime "I Need A Cab"

Open enrollment discussion again draws crowd

The vacant Cummins plant found a new tenant right away in 2016, as All States Ag Parts, announced their move to Lake Mills. Since the move. All States has expanded their presence in the community and added jobs, earning them the distinction of LMCDC Co-Business of the Year for 2016.

At the LMCDC Annual Meeting, LuAnn Scholbrock and Kari Wagner were introduced as new board members.

The Glenville-Emmons school board looked at closing the border, and discontinuing the open enrollment policy in effect with Lake Mills. The issue was discussed in December 2015, and again in January, with no proposal offered and many speaking against the move.



Left: Slade Sifuentes stands above the crowd, after winning the 195 pound division of the Class 1A state wrestling tournament Saturday. Right: Sifuentes turns Nick Ross of Ogden in the semifinals of the State Tournament; Sifuentes won 9-5 to advance to the State Finals.

Slade

For the first time in 16 years, the Bulldog wrestling team advanced to the State Dual Tournament with a win in the regional dual meet, held in Lake Mills.

While the team mustered a seventh place finish at state, individual wrestler, Slade Sifuentes, was crowned a champion.

Next Generation Technologies joined the Main Street business community, as they partnered with WCTA and opened a retail/service location in Lake Mills.

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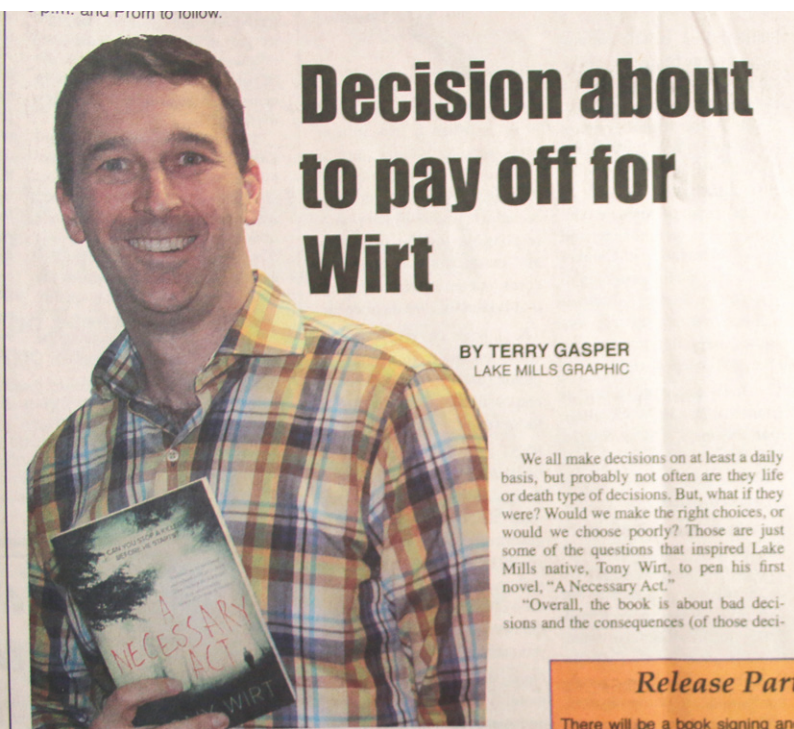
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April 2016



Decision about to pay off for Wirt

BY TERRY GASPER
LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

We all make decisions on at least a daily basis, but probably not often are they life or death type of decisions. But, what if they were? Would we make the right choices, or would we choose poorly? Those are just some of the questions that inspired Lake Mills native, Tony Wirt, to pen his first novel, "A Necessary Act."

"Overall, the book is about bad decisions and the consequences (of those decisions)." There will be a book signing and

The Lake Mills Care Center, announced the hiring of a new administrator, Amanda Green, in early May.

After several unsuccessful referendums, county voters passed an issue to construct a new public safety center, on the north side of Forest City. The new structure will house the jail, sheriff's office, and communications department.

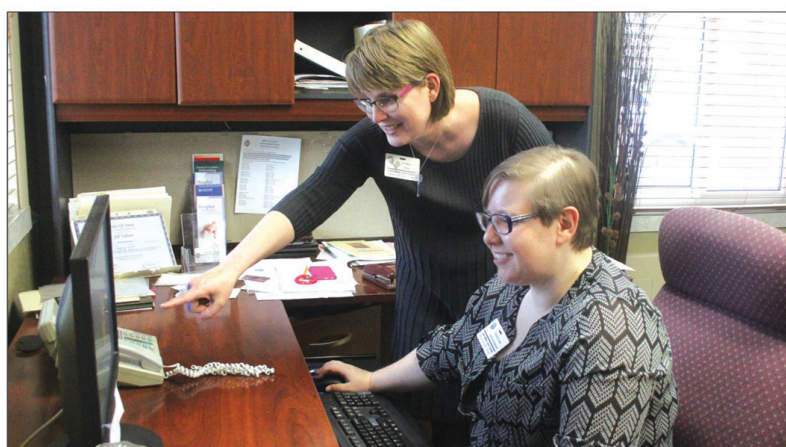
LMHS Concert Band and Chorus earned Division I ratings at the Large Group contest.

Five individual and group track entries qualified for the State Track meet in Des Moines, with the boys shuttle hurdle team bringing home the highest finish—4th place in the state.

Salem Lutheran Church welcomed Pastor Joel Guttomson as their new pastor.

May 2016

Satisfaction helping others



Jill Nelson, left, helps administrator-in-training, Amanda Green, navigate the computer system.



Terry Gasper/LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

Ground officially broken

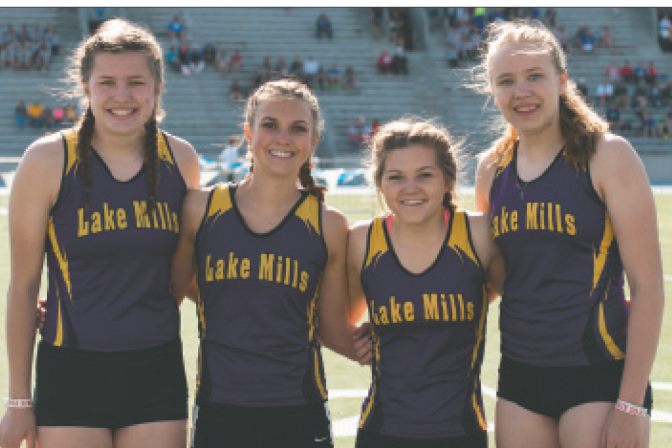
Winnebago County held an official groundbreaking last Saturday for the new Public Safety Center, although dirt work had started in earnest earlier in the week. The \$4.6 million bond was approved by over 62 percent of county voters almost exactly one-year prior to the groundbreaking. Pictured above (L-R): Sheriff Dave Peterson; Jennifer Ackermann, communications; Mike Stensrud, supervisor; Rick Caldwell, jail administrator; Bill Jensvold, supervisor; Karla Weiss, auditor; and, Terry Durby, supervisor.



Photos courtesy of Kelly Gau

LMHS Music Dept. earns Division I ratings at Large Group Contest

On Saturday, May 7, the Lake Mills Concert Band and Chorus traveled to Emmetsburg for the Iowa High School Music Association (IHMSA) Large Group Contest. The Lake Mills High School Concert Band, under the direction of Benjamin Faugstad, performed "Beyond The Higher Skies" by Robert Sheldon and "Redemption" by Rossano Galante. The Lake Mills High School Chorus, under the direction of Linda Saxton, performed "Who Can Save Without the Wind," a Swedish folksong arranged by Dan Forrest, and "Lamentations of Jeremiah" by Z. Randall Stroope. The performances by both ensembles earned Division I (Superior) ratings. The exceptional work of these music students throughout the year was aided by the support of parents and community members alike.



Way to go at State Track Bulldogs!

Top Left: Boys Shuttle Hurdle team (Max Bergo, Charlie Dugger, Grant Boehmer and Grant Fjelstad) finished fourth in the State, once again breaking a school record in doing so, with a time of 59.37.

Middle left: Girls Shuttle Hurdle team (Mallory Wilhelm, Brianna Holstad, Dana Baumann and Lexi Groe) put up a time of 1:10.50, finishing 18th.

Bottom left: Hailey Borgmeyer qualified in the 400 meter run, and finished 21st in a time of 1:03.83.

Bottom Middle: Grant Fjelstad qualified in the 110 meter hurdles, finishing 13th, with a time of 15.78.

Bottom right: Lexi Groe capped off her weekend by qualifying for the finals in the 100 meter hurdles, finishing sixth in a time of 15.99.



State Track photos provided by Lory Groe and Tucker Photography.

June 2016



Terry Gasper/LAKE MILLS GRAPHIC

Ribbon Cutting at Lake Mills Family Dental

Drs. Michael and Thao Mehlhoff cut the ribbon on their new business Friday, June 10, with LMDC and community members wishing them well in their new venture. At right, Becky and Dr. Keith Johnson, who sold the practice to the Mehlhoffs.



New crossing guard safety patrol at LMCS

Drs. Thao and Michael Mehlhoff purchased the practice of Dr. Keith Johnson, and are operating as Lake Mills Family Dental.

A project of the Lake Mills Project Citizen class, having crossing guards at strategic locations, was approved by the Lake Mills School Board, and the program was in place at the start of the 2016-17 school year.



Winnebago and Worth county incumbents face challenges



DAVE PETERSON



STEVE HEPPERLY



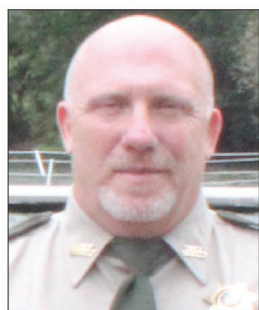
KARLA WEISS



JAY LANGENBAU



MARK WUBBEN



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MIKE STENSURD



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July 2016



A path of destruction

Council gives green light to street project



Carlson brings home gold

Clark makes history



A view of the new school building.

An overnight storm ripped through part of Lake Mills in early July, leaving in its path, extensive damage to property and trees.

After discussing—sometimes heatedly—a proposed South Winnebago Street and North 3rd Avenue refurbishing project, an August vote gave the project a green light. Engineering has been completed, and the moving of utilities is well underway. The city will soon be sending out bids, and awarding the project, with construction to begin this spring.

Diane Clark, a member of the Iowa Board of Medicine, was elected to be the first non-physician to lead the board since its inception over 130 years ago.

Nathan Sletten, a LMHS graduate and former member of the local band, Nate and the Moonlighters, now a band instructor in Earlham, was nominated for an Educator GRAMMY for the second time. Sletten reached the quarter final level (top 25).

Local archer, John Carlson, brought home a gold medal from the Iowa Summer Games for his proficiency in the sport.

August 2016

LMCS welcomes new staff members for
Eight new teachers, four new learner assistants and secretaries



Bowman represents Worth Co. at Iowa State Fair



In a pickle

Sport draws a large and diverse local following

You do not need a tennis racket, nor a tennis court, to enjoy a game of pickleball. The sport is referred to as "the fastest growing sport in the world" and is played by people of all ages. It is a sport that is easy to learn and play, and it is a sport that is growing in popularity. The sport is played on a court that is 18 feet by 44 feet, and it is played with a paddle and a ball. The sport is a mix of tennis, badminton, and ping pong, and it is a sport that is growing in popularity. The sport is played on a court that is 18 feet by 44 feet, and it is played with a paddle and a ball. The sport is a mix of tennis, badminton, and ping pong, and it is a sport that is growing in popularity.

Winnebago County Conservation seeks new education center



As the start of the new school year loomed, LMCS announced a number of new staff members: seven teachers; two teaching aides; and, two administrative staff members.

Rylee Bowman, Miss Worth County, represented her fair at the Iowa State Fair.

Pastor Rob Lanphere was called to lead Asbury United Methodist Church and Northwood Methodist Church.

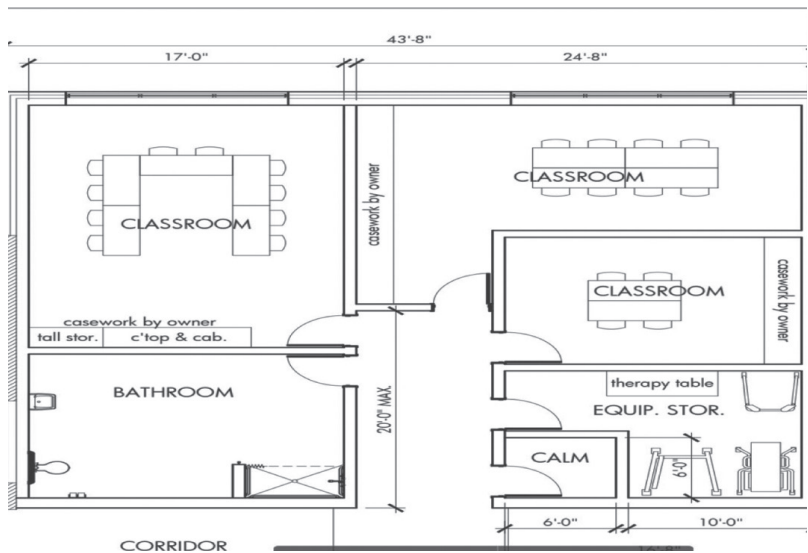
Pickle Ball took the community by storm, as up to 70 plus people of all ages showed up to play the sport daily at Oakwood Park tennis courts.

The Winnebago County Conservation Board laid out plans for a new nature center to hopefully be constructed east of Thompson.



September 2016

Board okays addition



Initial count shows slight decrease

If history repeats itself, LMCS will see a slight decrease in enrollment numbers when the official 2016-17 school year numbers are reported to the state in early October. After the first week of classes, the number of students in the building stood at 726, down from 735 at the same time one year ago. If these numbers hold up for the official count, it would break a two-year streak of increasing enrollments, but Superintendent Chad Kohagen, warned that many factors still have to play out before the final count is determined.

According to state supplemental aid figures, for each student on the official count, districts receive roughly \$6,400 from the state.

LMCS Initial Student Count			
	2015-16	2016-17	
Elementary	332	361	+4
Middle School	163	150	-13
High School	215	215	Even

Heavy fall rains threatened harvest season for many area farmers. While delaying the start of the season, the harvest proved to be a good one for most in our area with good yields and quality.

Despite a small decline in enrollment, LMCS started a project that will add more class space in the elementary area, primarily to account for increasing numbers of special needs students in the district.

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October 2016

2016 TIC West Champion Bulldogs

Thanks for a great season Bulldogs!

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Way to Go, Bulldogs!

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We're Proud of You! Great season!

LUND & BYERLYS

CONGRATULATIONS LMHS MARCHING BAND on your DIVISION I RATING at State Marching Contest!

The Lake Mills Marching Band's "Elevation" program, under the direction of Band Director Frank, had a winning performance at the Iowa High School Marching Band Association (IHMA) Marching Band Contest in Fort Dodge, Nebraska. The band placed 1st in the Division I rating and 2nd in the Division II rating. The band's performance was praised for its creativity, precision, and high level of execution. The band's success was a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students and their coaches. The band's performance was a highlight of the contest and a source of pride for the Lake Mills community.

The LMCS volleyball team capped a stellar season with a 44-0 record and a No.4 state ranking. The team once again advanced to the Regional final contest.

Continuing the hot streak to LMCS, the Marching Band brought home a Division I rating from the State Marching Contest in mid-October. This marked the sixth consecutive year in which the band earned a Division I rating, and ninth out of the last 10 years.

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How we voted

	Winnebago	Worth
President		
Trump	3,437	2,443
Clinton	1,523	1,920
Other	360	274
US Senate		
Grassley	3,924	2,762
Judge	1,583	1,242
US House		
King	3,394	2,500
Weaver	2,191	1,543
State Sen.		
Guth	3,310	2,790
Bangert	2,317	1,407
State House		
Gassman	3,675	2,819
Grussing	1,985	1,372
Supervisor		
Stensrud	1,458	701
Hauan	564	696
Sheriff		
Peterson	2,892	2,994
Hepperly	2,869	1,028
		Wubben 222

* Results as of 11/8/16. Not official until canvassed.

November 2016

Stellar season comes to an end

The girls volleyball team capped a stellar season with a 44-0 record and a No.4 state ranking. The team once again advanced to the Regional final contest.

Undeclared during the regular season and post season, the LMCS volleyball team picked up their first loss of the year in the regional final game—one step away from the state tournament.

Winnebago and Worth Counties voted with much of the country and state in the general election, as they went for Trump and Grassley. Worth County voted in a new sheriff, as Dan Fank toppled Jay Langenbau, and also welcomed a new supervisor, as Mark Smeby edged incumbent, Dave Haugen.

December 2016



Rock finds a new home



Law enforcement center taking shape inside and out

DRAS Cases

