

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Meetings

Rock County Association of Townships annual meeting will be at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the lower level of the Rock County Library. Representatives from each township are encouraged to attend.

Blue Mound Quilters will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, at Pizza Ranch for Bingo (gift wrap four or five useful items) and announcement of Blue Mound Quilter Award winners. Call 507-935-2560 with questions.

Springwater Township Board will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6, at the township hall.

American Legion Auxiliary #123 will meet at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 14, at Pizza Ranch. Members are asked to bring items for the Food Shelf. Call Dianna Tomlinson, 507-283-1934.

SHARE distribution is Dec. 7

SHARE will distribute gifts to Rock County residents in need from noon to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, at the Luverne National Guard Armory on South Freeman Avenue. Note: Financial donations may be sent to SHARE, PO Box 792, Luverne, MN 56156. Call 507-227-6944 or 507-820-1100.

Nutrition for seniors Dec. 1

Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors 60 & older, sponsored by A.C.E. of SW MN will be from 2 to 3 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1. Drive thru distribution is in the parking lot off Maple Street, at on the east side of Generations Event Center. Pre-registration is required. Call Linda Wenzel at 507-283-5064 with questions.

Holiday choir concert Dec. 2

The Luverne Middle School and High School holiday choir concert will be at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, in the school performing arts center. The concert will feature the sixth-grade choir, 7/8 choir, the Cardinal Choir, Treble Choir and the Concert Choir. Admission for the concert will be a monetary donation collected for the Backpack Program.

H-BC holiday choir concerts

H-BC kindergarten through second-grade vocal music students and fifth-grade band will perform a holiday concert at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, at the elementary school in Beaver Creek.

H-BC middle and high school choir students will perform at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, at the secondary school in Hills. An art exhibit will also be displayed at the secondary school.

Festival of Nativities Dec. 2-3

St. John Lutheran Church, Luverne, will host its Festival of Nativities from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. View nativities of all sizes and shapes, from handcrafted and international to children's sets and more. Refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public with handicap accessibility. Call 507-283-2316.

Free Narcan training Dec. 5

A free public training on how to respond to an opioid overdose using Naloxone (Narcan) will be from noon to 1 p.m. or 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 5, at Sanford Luverne. Registration is preferred by Nov. 28. Call 507.449.1246 or email stephanie.pierce@sanford-health.org.

Community Ed offers activities

Community Education will offer the following classes. Call 507-283-4724 to register.

Learn the Basics of Sewing on Dec. 3 at The Sewing Basket. Use quilting and embroidery techniques to make a pillow. Fee is \$25 plus cost of supplies purchased at the store.

Learn the basics of estate planning during the **Death, Probate and Taxes ... Oh, My!** class on Dec. 1. Fee is \$5.

Hills author brings lessons to life in new book called 'Grandpa's Gift'

Dec. 8 open house in Hills launches Dan LaRock's work

By Mavis Fodness

A plan to reprint his grandfather's book of sermons turned into an 18-month project for Dan LaRock, who will introduce the book in Hills next week.

"I believe my grandfather, as a Methodist minister, would have loved to see his words come forward to a new generation, and, Lord willing, to even more people than the original work was able to reach," LaRock said.

An open house book launch for "Grandpa's Gift: How Old Wisdom Can Inspire New Life" will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at Rock Ranch, 355 40th Ave., Hills.

Book proceeds will benefit Rock Ranch, an equine therapy and horse-riding lesson facility started by LaRock and his wife, Marie (Nelson), in 2016.

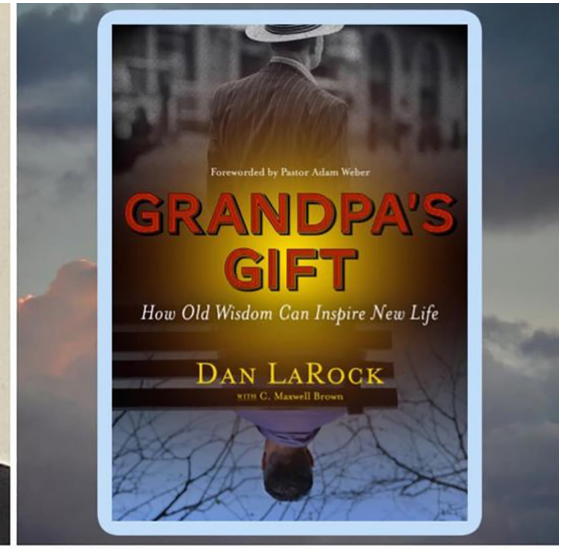
LaRock's maternal grandfather, C. Maxwell Brown (affectionately called Grandpa Max), spent 32 years in the ministry, primarily in North Dakota and in the San Francisco Bay Area.

From 1960 and 1965, Brown delivered a series of radio addresses across the Bay Area. Thirty of those messages were included in a self-published book called "Backpacking in a Cultural Wilderness."

In the book's forward, written in 1985, Brown thanked his wife, Dorothy, for transcribing and saving copies of his radio sermons.

"She is now in heaven, but I send her my sincere thanks for the accumulated savings, which is rewarding me with interesting memories and encouragement during these retirement years," he wrote.

Brown's book arrived as he lived with his daughter, Beatrice's family, that



Contributed photo

Dan LaRock (in the lower picture) of Hills included his own thoughts about the 15 sermons written by his grandfather, C. Maxwell Brown (pictured upper left), in LaRock's book called "Grandpa's Gift: How Old Wisdom Can Inspire New Life." The book launch is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 8, at Rock Ranch near Hills. Proceeds will benefit Rock Ranch.

included a LaRock as a teen. Brown died in 1992 when LaRock was 22.

Ten years ago, LaRock re-read his grandfather's book and purchased copies of the book (still for sale on Amazon) to give to family members and friends.

"His words helped me with the cementing of my faith foundation. I feel like I know Grandpa Max better and better each time I read them," he said. "They are timeless. They are rich with wisdom."

Family and friends encouraged him to add his own words.

LaRock selected a little more than a dozen of his Grandpa Max's 30 published sermons to include in "Grandpa's Gift."

"I didn't change anything about Grandpa's work.

I just chose 15 of what I thought to be the most impressionable messages, which still really resonate for the times we're living in, and added some of my thoughts as a guide through them," LaRock said.

The book's forward was written by Adam Weber, the lead pastor with Embrace Church. He read the book's draft and found that "I couldn't put it down."

"It felt like I was sitting down with a wise, older mentor teaching me about God and life," Weber wrote. "What struck me most was the timeliness of Dan's grandfather's work. Even as I write this, I still can't believe how relevant they are."

LaRock partnered with Throne Publishing Group of Sioux Falls to bring

"Grandpa's Gift" to the public in both print and audio versions.

LaRock's uncle, J. Wesley Brown, supplied the voice of Grandpa Max. Wes, also an ordained United Methodist minister, will also be at the book launch open house at Rock Ranch. Also attending will be Max's daughter and LaRock's mom, Beatrice, who lives in Sioux Falls.

The book comes on the heels of the death of LaRock's dad, James, 87, in March 2022.

"My mom is thrilled with the book," LaRock said. "It's good to have that to think about during this season of change in our family."

RSVP for Thursday's open house at www.grandpsgiftbook.com

Luverne to celebrate Winterfest weekend/continued from page 1

wonderful event and this year," Lanphere said, "we have quite a few new vendors who are breaking into the craft show business."

Myhre Studio will again photograph children with Santa, with proceeds this year benefiting Generations, which will design the backdrop display for the photo shoot.

Lanphere said the Winterfest event to watch this year will be Flannel Fest at Big Top Tents and Events where a chili cook-off supports youth hockey, and friendly competitions feature bean bags, beer pong and "Pizza, Pitchers & Puzzles."

Vocalist Madi Oye will lead karaoke, and a flannel fest contest will honor the best-dressed attendees.

"It is a great event that offers a different kind of thing to do. It should be

"Having great community partners — all putting work, planning and resources into an event weekend — is why Winterfest has continued for 26 years."

— Chamber Director Jane Lanphere

such a fun time for everyone," Lanphere said.

"We are so honored this year to partner with Big Top Tents & Events as they have put together a wonderful new day-long event. The Chamber's part is simply helping to promote it, and the team at Big Top is putting all the work into the planning and execution."

She said Take 16's introduction of a new Christmas beer profile and "Name that Tune" on Friday night offers another social outlet, and the History Center's nutcracker open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fri-

day and Saturday will boast 5,000 (the latest count) nutcrackers on display.

The Carnegie Minstrels will highlight the Community Christmas Cantata, "Let There Be Christmas" at 7 p.m. in the school performing arts center to benefit the Rock County Food Shelf.

The Chamber's Destination Branding Committee is sponsoring a free screening of the classic "Nutcracker Ballet" at the Palace Theatre at 2 p.m. Sunday with free activity books for children and a drawing for a free book sponsored by

Friends of the Library.

There will be wine and beer tasting Friday and Saturday evenings at Blue Mound Liquor, two special meals at the Luverne Eagles Club Friday and Saturday evenings, the Rock County Sno-Masters swap meet Saturday morning, and a Sunday waffle feed by the Masons.

Lanphere said she's looking forward to this year's Winterfest weekend.

"Having great community partners — all putting work, planning and resources into an event weekend — is why Winterfest has continued for 26 years," she said. "Luverne truly offers activities and events for every age bracket and every taste."

See page 14 for information and visit luvernechamber.com or call 507-283-4061.

#TellUsTuesday Results
Scan Here to Vote for this Week's Survey!



What Is Your Favorite Thanksgiving Tradition?

Being with family	74%
Football	17%
Watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade	4%
Watching the National Dog Show	4%
Preparing for Black Friday shopping	0%

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