

The true meaning behind granddaughter's silent treatment

My soon-to-be 2-year-old granddaughter Jayden is a fast learner. She walked and said words before she was a year old, and she is a master at the iPad.



RUMINATIONS

By Mavis Fodness, Reporter

She studies the app images, then touches, double-clicks and swipes her finger across the screen like a pro. She's even taught this grandma about the different apps. (Only I and her parents know triple clicking locks the screen.)

As the only grandchild (No. 2 makes his appearance in early April), I've dedicated many a weekend staying connected with the little tike.

When not at their Iowa farmhouse in person, Grandpa Bryan and I use FaceTime to see Jayden in her own living room.

We see (and hear) her talk about puppies and horseys, mommy and her screeches as Curious George appears on her TV.

The only word I haven't heard from these conversations or in person, for that matter, is a name for me.

Two years ago I mused about how I would be addressed by my soon-to-be-born grandchild. Would it be "Nana," "Grandma," "Granny," "Mom's Mom," "Grandmama," or some other endearing name devoted just to me?

I didn't expect to receive the silent treatment.

For I am not called "Grandma" or any other name for that matter.

When I'm needed, Jayden's eyes dart around the room, make eye contact and then she comes charging in with a toy or for a quick tickle.

"Grandpa," on the other hand, is frequently uttered in a sweet little voice as her eyes light up and she immediately rushes to Bryan's open arms, only to be dangled upside down.

I get giggles and quick snuggles, but I hear the utter (and deafening) silence when I walk into the room.

No Grandma, Nana or even Mavis comes from my sweet granddaughter's mouth.

As a consolation, Jayden doesn't address the other grandmother either. It's like we females are just expected to be there.

As I've counted the months for Jayden to yell "Grandma" to come push her on her pedal tractor, catch a ball or chase after her around the house, I've come to learn Jayden is a fast learner. Me? Not as fast.

It's taken me most of her 21 months of life to catch up to her thinking.

No need to call "Grandma" when Grandma is already there.

Last week, as I encouraged Jayden to say "Grandma," she did.

Very quietly — in almost a whisper — the name escaped her lips as she picked up the iPad and headed for my lap for some quiet time.

As she already knew, and now as Grandma finally understands, I don't need a name, because "Grandma" is not a word, but a feeling that love is always there.

'Knowledge is power'

Attend March 1 LIFT Gala to gain insight on opportunities in Luverne community

GUEST EDITORIAL

By Jane Wildung Lanphere, Luverne Area Chamber director

LIFT Annual Meeting Gala

A night to celebrate Luverne and benefit the work of LIFT

•Gathering time is 5:30 p.m. Friday, March 1, in Grand Prairie Events

•Program starts at 6 p.m., dinner served at 7:30 p.m., entertainment starts at 8:15 p.m.

•Reservation deadline is Feb. 25 at Chamber, 507-283-4061 or luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us.

Tickets are \$40 per person or \$300 for a table of eight.

Knowledge is said to be the key to success.

As far back as 1597, Sir Francis Bacon coined the phrase, "Knowledge is power," in his book, "Meditationes Sacrae and Human Philosophy."

Today more than ever, the same is true.

Learning and knowing what is happening in our community will give you powerful information as you make important decisions about your business.

That information will allow you to make strategic decisions in things such as staffing, product mix, new product lines, and business changes to take advantage of the opportunities that are created when change happens in our community.

That is why it is important for you make plans to attend the Luverne Initiatives for Tomorrow (LIFT) Annual Gala on March 1.

All of us in Rock County are lamenting over the decision made by tru Shrimp to build the first harbor in Madison, South Dakota.

Their decision may be a lost opportunity for Luverne and Rock County but that doesn't mean that opportunities still don't exist.

The Chamber fervently believes that 2019 will be a great year for Luverne. Even though we won't see construction on a shrimp plant, we are going to see plenty of construction in other areas.

Think about the \$30 million project that will start in March at the school, the huge renovation and remodeling investment by Prime Iowa Pork on the west edge of town, major infrastructure investment

in roads and the waste water treatment plant and groundbreaking for the first new apartments built in Luverne in a generation.

This list doesn't even touch on the work being done on farms, homes and businesses in the community. Learning and hearing about what is and will be happening will give you "power" for your business.

The LIFT Annual Gala will be a great opportunity to hear, first hand, the work that is going to happen in Luverne over the next year and beyond.

The meeting will also be an opportunity to meet the people responsible for the work that will happen. Social networking may bring opportunities you never thought of before.

It is not the time to complain about what isn't going to happen.

Now is the time to celebrate all the great things that will be happening in the next few years!

The event is open to all people, businesses, institutions and organizations who want to "arm themselves" with great information about Luverne and Rock County.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. Join together in LIFTing our community higher.

The successes of Luverne and Rock County are the result of the work of individuals, businesses, organizations and institutions.

What makes our community extraordinary is that we know that the power of individual success is amplified when we work together.

Working together is built on knowing each other and understanding what our friends, neighbors and associates are doing.

This is your page!

Your opinion matters.

This is your place to express your opinion on matters of community importance. A strong opinion page in a community newspaper is a sign of a strong and cohesive community. The Star Herald Letters to the Editor policy appears each week in the space below, outlining letter length, content, deadlines and contact information.

Use caution when approaching uncontrolled intersection with another vehicle

Question: Do you turn in front of an approaching vehicle or behind it when two vehicles both want to turn left at an uncontrolled intersection?

Answer: If two vehicles approach the intersection close to the same time, both vehicles should carefully make a left turn in front of each other while ensuring that the intersection is clear from approaching vehicles.

Before beginning the turn, it's important to ensure your safety and the safety of the motorists around you. According to the Minnesota Driver's manual, move safely into the correct lane well ahead of where you will make the actual turn. Signal your intent at least 100 feet before the turn to let pedestrians and drivers know what you plan to do.

Additional important reminders for making a safe turn include:

- While waiting to turn, keep your wheels straight and your foot on the brake. If your vehicle is struck from the rear, you will be less likely to be pushed into oncoming



ASK A TROOPER

By Sgt. Troy Christianson, Minnesota State Patrol

traffic.

- Continue signaling until you begin your turn.

- Do not make sudden turns from the wrong lane of traffic.

- Watch for traffic or obstacles in the road you plan to enter.

- Always finish your turn in the correct lane.

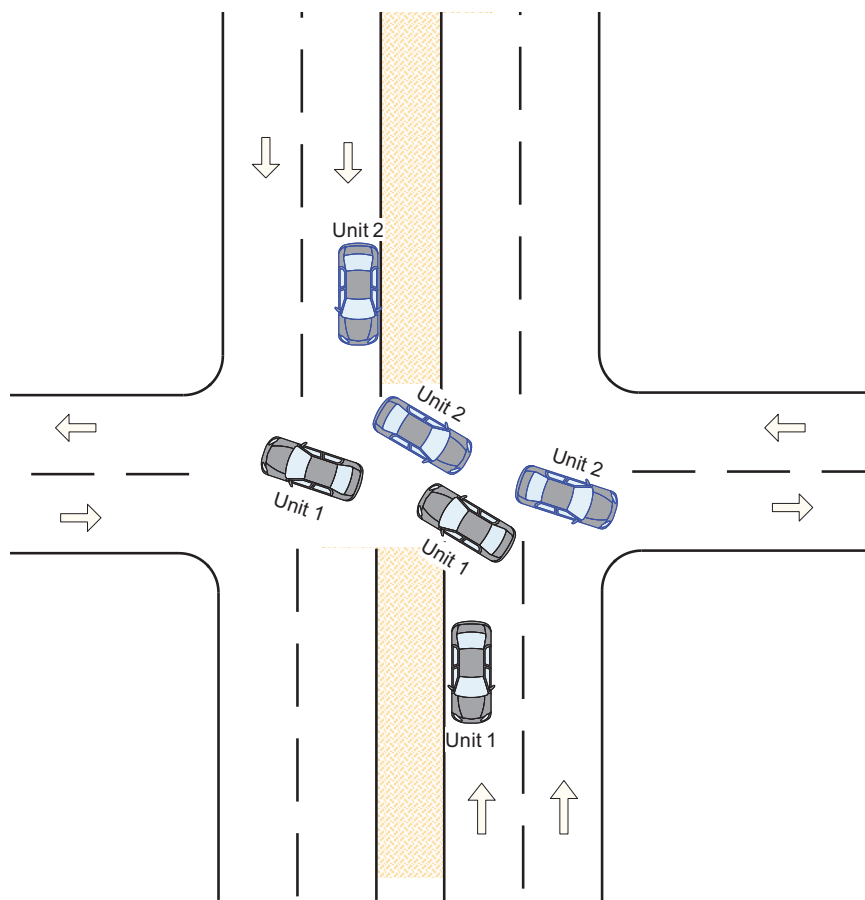
- If the car ahead of you is signaling for a left turn, slow down and prepare to stop.

- When waiting to make a left turn at a green traffic light with oncoming traffic, position the car into the intersection where your body appears even with the curb line. The only opportunity to make a

left turn may occur when the green light changes to yellow.

You can avoid a ticket — and a crash — if you simply buckle up, drive at safe speeds, pay attention and always drive sober. Help us drive Minnesota Toward Zero Deaths.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws or issues in Minnesota send your questions to Sgt. Troy Christianson - Minnesota State Patrol at 2900 48th Street NW, Rochester MN 55901-5848. (Or reach him at, Troy.Christianson@state.mn.us)



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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. Any letters containing offensive language, libelous or slanderous material, or misleading or false information will be rewritten before being published. 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, Minn. 56156.