

# ALUMNI NEWS



**VOLUME 31, ISSUE 3** 

FUNDED BY LUVERNE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI CONTRIBUTORS AND FRIENDS

**APRIL 2021** 



# DEKEN July 14-17, 2022

#### THURSDAY – JULY 14 – 59th ANNUAL HOT DOG NITE

Farmers Market at Redbird Field from 4 to 7 pm

Beer Gardens on Main at Sterling's Café & Grille and Take 16 begin at 5 pm Serving begins at 5:30 pm

Free Inflatables from 5:30 to 8 pm

FREE Freezie Pops on Main begins at 5:30 pm

Tae Kwon Do Demonstration on Main begins at 6 pm

Spotlight Dance Performance on Main begins at 6:30 pm

Wiener Dog Triathlon begins from the History Center at 7 pm

Wiener Dog Beauty Pageant begins at 7 pm at Main and Freeman

Wiener Dog Races begins immediately following pageant at Main & Freeman

Live Music on Main – begins at 8 pm at the History Center

#### FRIDAY – JULY 15

Tours at Luverne High School, scheduled throughout the day

Luverne LOOP Golf Cart Tours, scheduled throughout the day

Hinkly House open for tours - 10 am until 4 pm

Palace Theatre open for tours - 10 am until 4 pm

History Center open for tours - 10 am until 4 pm

Brandenburg Gallery & Herreid Military Museum – 8 am until 5 pm

Block Party on Main - Take 16 - 5 to 11 pm

Individual class reunions and gatherings

#### **SATURDAY – JULY 16**

Tour De Donut Minnesota (?) – 7 am start at The Lake

Cardinal Pride Parade - 10 am on Main Street

School open for tours starting at 11:30 am through...

Cardinal Pride Program - Performing Arts Center - 2 pm

Party at the Park - hosted by Luverne Area Community Foundation

5:30 until midnight

Food & beverage garden

Live music

Fireworks at 10 pm

Free admission

#### SUNDAY – JULY 17 (In the planning stage only)

Worship in Luverne City Park (?) - 10 am

Program at the Courthouse Square (?) - 2 pm

**SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS** AND IDEAS TO A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE:

#### Superintendent Craig Oftedahl

**Pat Baustian** 

Susan Beers

**Jason Berghorst** 

**Cory Bloemendaal** 

Jeanne Bowron

**Chantel Connell** 

**Emily Crabtree** 

**Dave Duffy** 

**Tim Gust** 

**Eric Hartman** 

Shawn Kinsinger

Don Klosterbuer

**Bruce Kurtz** 

**Betty Mann** 

**Marlene Mann** 

**Todd Oye** 

**Phil Paquette** 

Heidi Sehr

Reva Sehr

**Dave Smith** 

**Angela Sneller** 

**Darrel Van Aartsen** 

Jane Wildung Lanphere

Karen Willers

This weekend event planned for July 2022 will celebrate the past, present and future of Luverne Public Schools and provide the opportunity for ALUMNI to experience the \$30+ million remodeling/renovation/building project completed during the summer of 2021.

# **Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors**

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past guarter ending March 31, 2021, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$ 4,215. In the memorial section below, the individual being memorialized is printed in bold print, followed by the individual or individuals who made the gift. Contributions given by graduates and friends follow the list of memorials. THANK YOU, READERS!

#### NOTE:

If you have recently made a contribution to the Alumni News and your name does not appear on this page, please let the staff know. Chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled. Please watch for the next issue, July 2020, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

> Memorials and contributions may be sent to: Alumni News 709 N. Kniss Avenue Luverne, Minnesota 56156

#### Balance 12/31/20 \$4,200.35

Financial summary

Donations: 4.215.00

Expenses:

Printing: 919.07 Postage: 1.804.31 Labels: 727.36 Paypal fees: 8.33

Balance 3/31/21 \$4,956.28

# **Memorials**

## Lavonne (Wacker) Hansen '41

Carol Kuhlman Eileen (Hanson) Hemme '66

#### Robert Esterly '44

James Esterly '52

## Shirley (Skoland) Ford '45

Jane (Wildung) Lanphere '71 Mabel (Tofteland) Overgaard '45 Pam Olson '75

#### Leo Berning '47

Betty Mae (Berning) Serie '52

#### **Donald Esterly '50**

James Esterly '52

#### Alice (Hoiland) Larson '51

Roger '52 & Phyllis (Hagen) '52 Sherman

### **Donald Spease '51**

James Esterly '52

#### Arlen Olson '53

Hal '60 & Donna Paulson

#### Martha (Sellen) Nuffer '53

Donald '52 & Phyllis (Mohr) '53 Abild

#### Mary Jane (Bonthius) Boyer '53

Donald '52 & Phyllis (Mohr) '53 Abild Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

### Gary Barmore '54

Arlen '53 & Martha Olson James '66 & Carol (Aanenson) '66 Hatting Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

#### Mavis (Staeffler) Jarchow '54

Gerald '68 & Linda Schmuck Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

#### Keith Lemke '55

Wesley '58 & Patti '63 Pierson

# Allan (VanNiewenhuyzen) Vann

Larry Engel '56

#### Art Goembel '56

Class of 1956

# Carolyn (Bonthius) Earlywine

Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54 Larry Engel '56

**MEMORIALS/SEE PAGE 4** 

# **Contributions**

Delbert Boyer '52

Eleanor Siebert - Friend

Garneta (Slagel) Bear '72

James Gilbertson '52

James Husen '54

James Klassen '54

Jennifer Erickson '93

Judy (Molitor) Heronimus '58

Keith Erickson - Teacher

Keith Loger '69

Keith Paulson '54

Kimberly Erickson '97

Mavis (Winge) Amundson '50

Robert Torkelson '53

Susan (Wethor) Wineland '95

# Thank you for your support

There are expenses incurred with printing, mailing and database supp ort, and these costs are paid for with generous contributions from our alumni and readers.

# What We've Heard from our classmates

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere



In honor of Women's History Month, Eisenhower Army Medical Center posted stories of some of their outstanding female personnel. Included in their list of outstanding women was LHS graduate – Major Jennifer Iveland, PsyD – which was posted on March 23, 2021. Jennifer is Clinical Psychology Residency Program Director at the Eisenhower Army Medical Center. The medical center is located at 300 East Hospital Road Fort Gordon, GA 30905. Since this story was on Facebook, Jennifer has been asked to take a position at Fort Bragg, NC.

# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2021

Women have contributed so much to our society and Eisenhower would like to recognize them all for their many offerings that have helped shape history in the U.S.



Who is your mentor: COL Deb Engerran, Clinical Psychology Consultant to the Army Surgeon General

What is your favorite Eisenhower moment: When my colleague, CPT Stephanie Hennessy, gifted me some little green Army women figurines. It was truly inspiring and I keep them on my desk for everyone to see.

What advice would you give to other women: Be genuine, kind and professional. Stay committed to lifelong learning.

What do you bring to your job as a woman: A great appreciation for the talents our Servicewomen bring to the table every day.

# Alumni News Memorials/continued from page 2

Paul Rolph '56

Class of 1956

Ray Hinkly '56 Larry Engel '56

Larry Eriger Sc

Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

Marlys (Gertz) Henry '58 Orrin Anderson '58

Sandra Eitreim '58

Larry Engel '56 Lowell & Pat (DeBates) '58 Ahrendt

> Orrin Anderson '58 Stanley Bagbey '58 Wesley Pierson '58

Sally Mohr '59

Donald '52 & Phyllis (Mohr) '53 Abild Mary (Mohr) DeJarlais '66

Peg (Holder) Lammert '60

Duane Lammert '60 Michael '60 & Joyce (Achterhoff) '60 Hagemann Thomas '60 & Sharron (Jacobs) '60 Fay

Dorothy (Jackson) Kraayenhof '62

Family and Friends Kristi (Kraayenhof) Van Der Weide '92 Loree (Kraayenhof) Ness '86

David Garcia '57

Sandra (Birkeland) Walters '66

**Darrell Heckt '66** 

Class of 1966

Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

Dean DePauw '67

Delbert Gangestad '67 Gary '67 & Barb Golla Judith (Steiner) Top '67

**Donald Mitchell '67** 

Delbert Gangestad '67 Judith (Steiner) Top '67 Terry '67 & Diane (Mollberg) '67 Gonnerman

Jim Dreesen '69

Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69 Papik

Jim Ebert '70

Allen & Laura (DeBoer) '70 Kuehl Class of 1970 Rick '70 & Carol (Schumacher) '70 Serie

Tony Miller '72

Lowell & Pat (DeBates) '58

Jim "Rocky" Petersen '76

Jeffrey Petersen '71 Jerry Petersen '73 Joni Petersen '75 **Curtis Thorson '83** 

Lowell & Pat (DeBates) '58 Ahrendt

**Shannon Walgrave '89** 

Mark '76 & Amy (Gonnerman) '86 Overgaard

Marian (Olson) Helling

Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62

Charles (Chuck) Cooksley

Gordon '65 & Joycelyn (Aanenson) '65 Hansen Mic & Joan (Aanenson) Berry '75

George J. & Gladys "June" Mann

Gene Salzman '54

JoAnn VanEngelenhoven - Friend

Robert '67 & Rhonna Jarchow William Jarchow '71

Keith Aanenson - Magnolia '60

Lowell & Pat (DeBates) '58 Ahrendt

Kim Sedlacek '80

Terri (DeBates) Siebenahler '80 Terrie (Jungers) Williams '80

Leroy "Spud" Vockrodt

Lorraine (Dreessen) Crouch '55

# Are you getting more than one (1) Alumni News at your house?

If so, please call Patti Pierson at 507-669-2371 or email her at

piersonprp@alliancecom.net

with the correct postal and email address of your children. Thank you

# **Attention snowbirds:**

If you are not going to be at the address that you got your July issue during the months of October, January, April issue if you could email me your alternative address I would appreciate it and will change it back and forth according to what month you will be gone so that we can save some money on the "temporary away" returns....thank you...

Patti Pierson <u>piersonprp@alliancecom.net</u>, 1-507-920-5186 or 1562 201st ST Hardwick MN 56134

# 1940 – 1949

Lt. Col. Harold "Jet" Jetter USAF Ret. '41 died on April 25, 2017. Jet joined the Army National Guard at age 15 and served in the US Army Air Corp for 26 years. He became a pilot in WWII and served in Korea and in the Cold War flying B-24s, B-29s and B-52s. His flying career continued in Albuquerque (1968-1984) for Ross Aviation, a contractor to the National Labs. With his wife, Alice, Jet retired to Payson, AZ, before moving back to Albuquerque in 2007.

Harold, "Jet", is survived by four children: Lisa (Rick) Leal, Portales, NM, Paul Jetter, Albuquerque, Dawn (Kurt) Mourning, Double Oak, TX, Steven (Valerie) Jetter, Tijeras; 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Alice and son, Mark.

**Audrey (Loger) Christensen '43** passed away in January 2017, in Hawaii.

**Shirley (Loger) Young '45** died January 6, 2021. Shirley would have graduated from Luverne High School, but her family moved to Portland, OR, shortly before graduation.

She married Joseph Bochater on September 29, 1953, divorcing in 1956. Shirley moved to Sacramento, CA, and worked as a bookkeeper for California Builders Supply. After moving back to Portland, she married Thomas Young on November 8, 1958, divorcing in 1967.

Shirley moved back to Luverne in 1969 but returned to Portland in 1970. She worked as a bookkeeper for Blue Mound Inn, Luverne, as well as many other companies, retiring in 1993.

Shirley is survived by her son, Michael, Portland. She was preceded in death by a sister, Audrey Christensen, Kailua-Kona, HA, and her son, Dale, Portland.

Shirley (Skoland) Ford '45 died March 11, 2021, in Pipestone. Shirley married Harold '38 Ford on August 31, 1946, in Luverne. She worked as a receptionist for Dr. Martin and Dr. Siebert. She also worked at Myhre Studio and at The Style Shop.

Shirley is survived by her three sons, Roddey '66 (Linda) Ford, Rochester; Greg '68 (Fern) Ford, Boulder, CO; and John "Jack" '72 (Mary Ann) Ford, Stroudsburg, PA; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold; and a sister, Dorothy '42 Foss.

**Donald Kolbert '46** died September 14, 2020, in Stewartville, MN. Don enlisted in the US Naval Reserve, serving for 18 years. He attended Macalester College and Northwestern Electronic Institute, graduating in 1949.

He continued his education at Winona State University, earning a BS in Vocational Education and a Master of Science degree in Industrial Education from St. Cloud State University in 1988.

Don married Margorie '47 Van Voorst in 1949 in Luverne. They lived in North Dakota, St. Paul, and settled in Stewartville, where they raised their family. Don worked in a variety of electronics and computer-related positions, including chief broadcast engineer for 12 years at Minnesota Public Radio in Rochester, MN.

Don is survived by his children, Valere (Allen) Beeck, Akron, IA, Jodell (Chris) Fancher, Wabasha, David (Carol) Kolbert, Rochester, and Christopher (Sheila) Kolbert, St. Charles; fifteen grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sister, Doris '49 Cowan, Baltimore, MD; sister-in-law Viola '50 Fritz, Cannon Falls; and nieces and nephews.

Don was preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie; brothers-in-law, Ward Cowan and John '50 Fritz.

**Marjorie (Lea) Walczak '42,** of NE Minneapolis, died February 3, 2020.

Marjorie is survived by her children David (Jan) Walczak and Lea Anne (Brian) Anderson; six grandchildren; fifteen great-grandchildren; sister Barbara (John) White; and sister-in-law Jane Lea.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul and brother, Robert Lea.

# **1950 - 1959**

**Donald Esterly '50** died on February 1, 2021, in Phoenix, AZ. Don served with the 8th US Army in Korea. He attended the University of Minnesota before farming southwest of Luverne. After moving to Arizona, he was employed in the optic industry until his retirement.

Don is survived by his children and their families: Diane of Phoenix, Stephen (Susan) of Palo Alto, CA, Paul (Cindy) of Phoenix, John (Babeth) of San Diego, CA; and brother James '52 (Janet) Esterly of Ames, IA.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Coletha, and brothers Robert 44, Stanley '48 and Glenn.

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 6

# Remembering our classmates/continued from page 5

Charles J. Kemerling '51 died on April 4, 2018 in Parker, CO. For 31 years, Chuck served in the Navy during the Korean War, as well as the Navy Reserve and Army National Guard. He married Lois Knutson in Sioux Falls, SD, in 1958. He was employed at Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and was an engineer at AT&T. Throughout his career he and Lois lived in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Minneapolis, and Chicago, before moving to the Denver area in 1988.

Chuck is survived by his wife Lois; children Jim, Julie, Linda, and Karen; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Alice (Hoiland) Larson '51 died March 20, 2021, in Northfield, MN. Alice studied nursing at the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1956. She married Roger Larson in January 1956.

They raised their family in Bloomington where Alice spent more than 25 years as a nurse with the Bloomington Public Schools after having previously worked at Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.

After retirement, she enjoyed golfing and traveling with Roger, finally moving to Northfield after Roger's death to be closer to family.

Alice is survived by son John (Laurie), Northfield, son Tom (Dawn), Cincinnati, OH; four grandchildren; one great-grandson; brother Stephen '59 Hoiland (Sharon), Apple Valley; brother-in-law Alan Welle, Willmar; and sister-in-law Shirley '59 Hagen, Apple Valley.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger; brother David '50 Hoiland, and sister Laura '67 Welle.

**Arlen Olson '53,** from White Bear Lake, MN, died March 15, 2021. Arlen served in the Air Force for four years and then went on to Augustana University. He earned his Master of Education at the University of Minnesota and taught school in White Bear Lake.

After teaching, he traveled throughout the U.S. selling his artwork. He was an internationally known automotive artist.

Arlen is survived by his wife, Martha; three children, Kim Thommes, Rebecca (Mark) Christiansen and Marc (Kim) Olson; eight grandchildren; two sisters, DyAnn '61 Emery, and MaReese '51 Cragoe; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Donna and Hal '60 Paulson; along with many more relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by two brothers-in-law.

**Joel E. Green '54** died on July 25, 2020, in Atlanta, GA. Joel attended the University of Illinois at Navy Pier, graduated from Northwestern University in 1958 and began his advertising career with Sears.

He married Barbara Schwartz in December 1961. Joel transferred to New York, where the family lived in Baldwin on Long Island. The moved to Atlanta, GA, in 1972 where Joel became a certified financial planner.

Joel is surived by his wife, Barbara, Sandy Springs, GA; two daughters, Loris (David) Mann, Marietta, GA, and Estra (James) Grant, Beachwood, OH; and two granddaughters, Naomi and Zoe.

Alvin Cronberg '55 died March 10, 2021, in Lakewood, CO. Alvin earned a B.S. degree from the University of Minnesota and worked at Ashland Chemical as a chemist until 1982. On November 14, 1959, he married Ruth Alice Floto. They moved to Watertown and then to Broomfield, CO, in 1988 where he worked as a chemist at Boulder Scientific until retirement.

Alvin is survived by his children, Lisa (Larry Erfman) Cronberg, Golden, CO and Michael (Lori) Cronberg, Lakewood, CO; two grandchildren; siblings, Richard '59 and John '62; and four nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Ruth.

Keith Lemke '55 died February 5, 2021, in Luverne. Keith farmed until he was drafted into the US Army. He was stationed in Germany until his discharge. Keith continued farming and drove a school bus route from Hardwick to Luverne. Keith married Jonna Dull in Sturgis, SD, on September 6, 1996.

They made their home in Hardwick until Keith's retirement from farming in 2018.

Keith is survived by his wife, Jonna; stepchildren Lisa (Gary) Trudeau, Hardwick, and Greg (Cheryl) Wilcox, Rapid City, SD; two stepgranddaughters; one step-great-grandson; two sisters, Imogene '47 Krogmann, Luverne and Joycelyn '50 (Milton) Abraham, Janesville; and other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his brother-inlaw John '45 Krogmann, and his nephew Timothy Abraham.

Ray B. Hinkly '56 died on July 12, 2019, in Cedar Rapids, IA. Ray received his B.A. from Winona State and his M.A. from the University of Iowa. He taught science in the Cedar Rapids school district and eventually became the principal at Kenwood Elementary.

Ray coached golf for the Jefferson High School

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 7

# Remembering our classmates/continued from page 6

boys' golf team. He retired from Harding Middle School in 1991.

Ray is survived by his wife, Lois Hinkly; four children, Scott (Marissa) Hinkly, Stanton (Kim) Hinkly, Connie (Scott) Reeder and Melanie (Kevin Meyer) Hinkly; stepdaughter, Erika (Lance Viers) Elles; the mother of his children, Ginny (Joe) Adams-Studer; and eleven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, Elizabeth '31 Hinkly Kaiser, Sister Mariella '41 Hinkly and Audrey '45 Hinkly Tabor.

Marlys (Gertz) Henry '58 died December 30, 2020, in Sioux Falls, SD. Marlys moved to Sioux Falls to work after high school. She married Max Henry on June 1, 1963, in Rock Rapids, IA, where they made their home.

Marlys worked for the Lyon County State Bank and then as a bookkeeper for their family business, Max's Electric. She also managed the concession stand at Rapid Speedway for many years. Marlys retired in 2005.

Marlys is survived by two children, Michele (Gaylen) Kelderman, Maurice, IA, and Mark (Carol) Henry, Rock Rapids; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters-in-law, Connie (Mike) Harris and Marilyn Henry; a brother-in-law, Bob (Nancy) Henry; a special friend Vicki Borman; and many other extended family members.

**Sandra Eitreim '58** died January 31, 2021, in Fridley, MN. Sandra attended Nettleton College in Sioux Falls and then moved to Mankato where she worked at MRCI Sheltered workshop.

She transferred to Lifeworks, where she was able to pursue her love of art. Sandra also loved to travel, visiting Norway, Hawaii, Washington D.C., Florida, and other destinations. She later moved to Minneapolis to be near relatives.

Sandra is survived by her sister, Barbara (James), Minneapolis; four nephews; one niece; five great-nephews; a great-niece; great-great nieces and nephews; and her best friend, Bonnie Gosewisch.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Harvey, and Bernice Eitreim.

Barbara (Bullis) Nelson '59 of New Hope, MN, died January 21, 2021. Barb attended Beauty School in Minneapolis and then married Ronald '56 Emery in 1960. They raised their three children, Timothy, Daniel, and Christina in Luverne. She was remarried to Robert Nelson in 1998 and they made their home in Sioux Falls, close to Robert's sons, Christopher, Matthew, and Jonathon. Barb was an accomplished gardener and needleworker.

Barbara is survived by 17 grandchildren and her two sisters, Deloras '51 Korgel and Connie Burkhart.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, and her brothers, Arthur and William.

## 1960 - 1969

Sandra (Birkeland) Walters '66 died on February 22, 2021, in Hutchinson, MN. Sandra married Ronald Walters in Beaver Creek on July 8, 1967. She was a daycare provider for 20 years and then was employed with a cleaning company at 3M in Hutchinson.

Sandra is survived by her husband, Ronald, Hutchinson; sons, Robert (Connie), Dassel, Jason (Michelle), Fergus Falls; ten grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; siblings, Ron (Cathy) Birkeland, Hull, IA, Stan (Colleen) Birkeland, Sioux Falls, SD, Kathy '71 (Dave '70) Busch, Loveland, CO, Brian Birkeland, Sabetha, KS; stepfather, Gib Knoblock, Rock Rapids, IA; step siblings, Roland Knoblock, Tim Knoblock, Peg Snyders, Chuck Knoblock, Barb Lesmeister, Paul Knoblock, Phil Knoblock, Lou Knoblock, Kyle Knoblock, Matt Knoblock, and Jenny Stoll; and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her son, Scott Walters; and stepsister, Anne Knoblock.

**Donald Mitchell '67** died February 16, 2021 in Luverne. Don attended Pipestone Vocational School and worked construction after high school. He joined the Minnesota National Guard in 1969 and served until 1975.

Don married Marvis '65 Hamann in Luverne on October 2, 1971. In 1983 Don began working as a custodian for the Luverne Public Schools. He retired from full time work in 2018, but continued part time until the spring of 2020.

Don is survived by his wife, Marvis; two sons, Jon '98 Mitchell, Luverne, and Jeff '99 (Sarah) Mitchell, Fargo, ND; one granddaughter, Samara; a brother, Curt '63; brother-in-law Lowell (Paula) Hamann; one nephew and many nieces.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Patricia Latten, and a nephew, Richard '80.

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 8

# Remembering our classmates/continued from page 7

James Dreesen '69 died January 19, 2021, at his home. Jim enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard in 1970 and served until 1975.

He married Patricia Perry in 1972 and the couple farmed north of Beaver Creek until 1984. They moved to Dumas, TX, where Jim worked at Swift meat packing plant before moving back to the Beaver Creek area in 1987.

They eventually moved to Jasper, MN. Jim also worked at John Morrell in Sioux Falls, Ellison Meat, drove feed truck to local hog operations, and lastly, was employed by LG Everest, retiring in 2016.

Jim is survived by his two children, Sheri (Doug) Baker, Sioux Falls, SD, and David (Nora) Dreesen, Fairfield, CA; three grandchildren; sister, Jeane '77 (Jack) Leslie, Luverne; and many other family and friends.

## 1970 - 1979

James L. Ebert '70, of Garvin, MN, died February 24, 2021, in Tracy, MN. Jim attended Winona State University after high school and then enlisted in the US Air Force, serving six years.

He married Mary '72 Wilcox on November 22, 1975, in Luverne. Jim was employed by Teledyne Aerospace Systems in Fairmont, MN, for many years, eventually transferring to Bemidji with the company. He was an active EMT with

Truman Ambulance, becoming a paramedic who mentored others in the field.

Jim is survived by his wife, Mary, Garvin; daughter, Jessica (Ethan) Harvey, Wrenshall; son, Jake (Nicole) Ebert, Truman; five grandchildren; brother, Paul '85 (Dyan '86) Ebert of Big Lake; sister-in-law Terri Ebert, Luverne; in-laws, Ethel '65 (Pete) Nelson, Duluth, and Grant '71 (Janice) Wilcox, Bayfield, WI; many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

## **Former School Staff**

Marian (Olson) Helling died January 8, 2021, in Bismarck, ND. Marian grew up on a farm south of Kenneth. She attended a country school and then attended Augustana Academy in Canton, SD, and earned her teaching certifications from Mankato State Teachers College.

Marian began teaching in the Adrian, MN, elementary school, moving to Luverne for the remainder of her teaching career. Marian married Gordon '40 Helling on June 26, 1949, in Luverne. She remained in Luverne after Gordy's death in 2003, but then moved to Bismarck to be close to family.

Marian is survived by her children Valerie '75 (Tim) Majors, New Salem, ND, and Grant '73 Helling, Louisville, CO; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

# Help us keep a good thing going; Alumni News is a worthwhile cause to support

The Alumni News is published by volunteers as a free gift for Luverne High School alumni who enjoy the quarterly updates on classmates and their hometown. This publication is the envy of school districts everywhere, as it also maintains a priceless database of our alumni dating back to classes that graduated decades ago. There are expenses incurred with printing, mailing and database support, and these costs are paid for with generous contributions from our alumni and readers.

Today, it's easier than ever to support our efforts with your donations.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

Alumni News, 709 N. Kniss Avenue, Luverne, Minnesota 56156.

OR donate online, www.alumninews.info and click on the DONATE button.

# Luverne Dollars for Scholars ... Did you know?

Contributed by Johnna Ahrendt

Since its inception, the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program has been the benefactor of 264 perpetual scholarships with a total endowment of over \$9.1 million.

# Luverne DFS continues sucess with more than \$5 million awarded to nearly 2,000 LHS graduates since 1983

he Luverne Dollars for Scholars
Chapter is a non-profit organization
involving local volunteers who are
interested in providing local students with
financial assistance to pursue higher education.

All of the funds raised by Luverne Dollars for Scholars remain in the community and are awarded to Luverne High School graduates.

The purpose of the program is to raise money for a permanent endowment fund and to annually disperse its income in the form of scholarships to Luverne High School graduates.

Since its origin in 1983, Luverne Dollars for Scholars has awarded a total of \$5,066,225 to 1,943 LHS graduates.

It is not just the big donors who are the heart and soul of this organization. It's the countless individuals, including LHS Alumni, who have given donations ranging from \$5 to \$50,000 who have filled the organizations coffers.

Since its inception, the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program has been the benefactor of 264 perpetual scholarships with a total endowment of over \$9.1 million.

The uniqueness of an endowment gift is that it allows a scholarship to be given each year

and every year, forever, to a fresh qualifying LHS graduate.

Gifts of \$249 or less are placed into the general fund. No designation is made on a scholarship. Gifts that are greater than \$249, but less than \$2,000, are also placed into the general fund. With this type of gift, the principal amount is dispersed as a one-time scholarship, and the name requested by the donor is attached to such a scholarship.

A gift of \$2,000 or more becomes a perpetual scholarship. With a perpetual scholarship, only the earnings during a one-year period of time are awarded each and every year thereafter to a most recent LHS qualifying graduate. Incidentally, additional amounts may be added to a perpetual scholarship at any time.

If you would like to contribute to, or receive more information, please write:

Luverne Dollars for Scholars PO Box 822 Luverne, MN 56156

Email: <a href="mailto:luvernedfs@gmail.com">luvernedfs@gmail.com</a>
Call: 507-227-4030 (Johnna Ahrendt)
Or visit: www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org

# Let's Hear from YOU!

Let us know what you are doing and we'll pass it on to other alumni. Include your name, year of graduation, address, phone number and email (also let us know if you would like your email in our directory of alumni).

Send your news to:

Alumni News 709 N. Kniss Avenue Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Or email Iuvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

# What We've Heard from our classmates

Written by Lori Sorenson

# LHS grad helps get Perseverance to Mars



# Nelson helps build Mars rover Perseverance/continued from page 10

"It takes a long time to develop these things, but at the same time it's interesting to be able to be so involved from the design to be actually using our instruments. ...

I have to say working on the rover is most gratifying because it's something that the public is interested in and we can communicate about it."

## Tony Nelson leads project development for two of the seven rover instruments

As an electrical engineer at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, Nelson helped build two of the seven instruments aboard the NASA rover.

He was the project lead for the spectroscopy electronics on the "SHERLOC" instrument, which searches for organics and minerals that have been altered by water and may be signs of past microbial life.

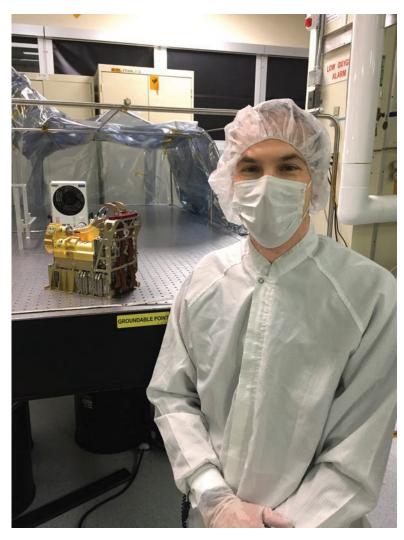
And he was the electrical lead for the U.S. team that collaborated with France on the SuperCam instrument, which he now operates.

SuperCam examines rocks and soils with a camera, laser and spectrometers to seek organic compounds that could be related to past life on Mars.

It can identify the chemical and mineral makeup of targets as small as a pencil point from a distance of more than 20 feet.

Nelson's team at LANL works with the French Space Agency to operate SuperCam, alternating shifts around the clock.

"At the moment we're on Mars Time," he said, noting that it has 40 more minutes in a day than Earth Time. "We adapt our schedules to match that of the Martian day to maximize our efficiency."



Tony Nelson is pictured with SuperCam's body unit at delivery to NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

#### 'Seven minutes of terror'

Nelson played a lead role in developing instruments for the Mars rover "Curiosity" in 2012 when a pandemic wasn't barring celebrations.

"When that landed, our whole team was out at NASA JPL in California," he said. "So this has been a very different experience for us and working at home."

Instead of watching and celebrating the Feb. 18 Perseverance landing together at the lab, team members watched from their own remote locations, somewhat joined online.

"This has been a very different experience for us," he said. "It was just me and my wife and the cats watching the NASA channel."

From their home in Santa Fe, New Mexico, he

NELSON HELPS BUILD PERSEVERANCE/SEE PAGE 12

# Nelson helps build Mars rover Perseverance/continued from page 11

and Jenn anxiously watched Perseverance make its entry, descent and landing on the Red Planet.

"It was the seven minutes of terror, I guess," he said. "It felt very real, and it was very exciting when it landed. ... There have been relatively few landings on Mars; I was definitely nervous about it."

As planned, the rover landed on a flat space in the "Jezero Crater" that scientists believe was once flooded with water and was home to an ancient river delta.

At that point, Nelson exhaled.

"It's a one-time thing and there were a number of things that could have gone wrong," he said.

Once it landed and data started coming in, Nelson and his team began operating the instruments that explore for signs of fossilized microbial life.

The mission can be followed on the NASA website, mars.nasa.gov.

#### **Timeline**

Nelson has been working on Perseverance since 2013 when the project sought funding — more

than \$2 billion. "It takes a long time to develop these instruments for space flight," he said. "The electronics we build aren't like regular commercial electronics; they have to be radiation-hardened."

He explained that Mars has no magnetic field to protect it from the sun's radiation.

"So ... we need electronics that are hardened against that," Nelson said, "and they're expensive and take a long time to procure and a long time to design."

Scientists and engineers from around the world researched and developed the instruments for the rover. Its assembly was completed in mid-2019, and it was tested in the months leading to the July 30, 2020, launch.

Much of the testing happened in a metal chamber at JPL in the same simulator that's been used since the Voyager Space Probe flights in 1977.

"The history behind it is really fun," Nelson said. "It's all very fun. I'm very fortunate to be able to work on this stuff."

It took nearly seven



Tony Nelson is pictured in anechoic chamber used to test SHERLOC instrument at NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory

NELSON AND PERSEVERANCE/SEE PAGE 13

# Schmuck is new building, grounds director

### By Mavis (Olson) Fodness

Cory Schmuck of Luverne will become the new director of buildings and grounds at Luverne Public Schools later this month.

Luverne School Board members approved his hire at their March 25 regular monthly meeting.

Schmuck graduated from LHS in 1992 and attended South Dakota State University in Brookings. He was hired by the city of Luverne in 1995, starting in the refuse department.

Currently he is the senior public works worker. He'll start his new position no later than April 19. "I'm really excited," Schmuck said Monday.

As director of buildings and grounds, Schmuck will assist in the management of the district's health and safety programs, overall maintenance, budgeting and improvement of equipment and facilities.

Schmuck will also schedule and supervise maintenance and grounds staff.

Board members discussed the director position at their March 11 workshop. They reviewed job duties and

salaries of similar directors in other school districts.

The director position has been vacant since 2011. Since then, head custodians were appointed in the separate elementary and middle-high schools.

Currently construction is underway that will connect the buildings, with work slated to be complete in June.

"With the new construction, new systems in the remodeled portion, and the retirement of Todd Mann (head custodian at the middle-high

school), it seemed like a good opportunity to look at this," said Superintendent Craig Oftedahl.

The director of buildings and grounds position was first advertised last fall, but no one applied until the position's reposting this spring, which yielded five applications.

Schmuck's salary was approved at \$70,000. Board member Jodi Bosch didn't attend the March 25 meeting.

— This information originally appeared in the April 1, 2021, Rock County Star Herald

# Attention LHS classes of 2015-2018:

Do you have a mailing address other than your parents' home?
Have you moved?

Your classmates may be trying to locate you. If you email your postal address to the Alumni News, it will be current for your classmates who may be trying to invite you to a future class reunion.

Email Patti Kirby Pierson, Luverne Alumni News Database, Manager, at piersonprp@ alliancecom.net

Thank you!

# **Nelson helps build Mars rover Perseverance/**

# continued from page 12

months for Perseverance to arrive on the Mars surface after its July 30, 2020, launch from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

According to its mission, the rover will operate there at least one Mars year, which is about 687 Earth days.

But Nelson said it's built to last much longer than that.

"Curiosity landed on Mars in 2012 and it's still operating," he said.

"It really feels gratifying to not just drop it off and hope everything works, but to be part of the team that makes sure it's operated correctly to be used for years to come."

After more than 20 years working as a LANL engineer, Nelson now has six instruments in space that he's worked on.

"It takes a long time to develop these things, but at the same time it's interesting to be able to be so involved from the design to be actually using our instruments," he said.

"I have to say working on the rover is most gratifying because it's something that public is interested in and we can communicate about it."

Nelson graduated from Luverne High School in 1993 and got his electrical engineering degree from the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City in 1997.

He completed a master's degree at Vanderbilt University in 2000 and has been working for LANL in Los Alamos, New Mexico, since then



Pictured at the entrance of the school still under construction are the LELF board and the 2184 campaign committee members, all of whom have donated \$2,184 to the fund. They are (front, from left) Pat VonTersch, Molly Golla, Katie Mostad, Marlene Mann, Emily Crabtree, Sara Hartquist, Ryan Wynia, (back) Damen Eisma, Mark Lundgren, Jason Berghorst, Lisa Dinger, Craig Oftedahl and Cory Bloemendaal. They are holding the Tom Maras thank you gifts for donors who give \$2184 or more.

# LELF launches LHS '2184 Campaign'

The mission of the Luverne Education Legacy Fund (LELF) is to raise and then provide funds that enhance student learning and experiences in Luverne Public Schools (ISD #2184).

Currently, Luverne Middle-High School is experiencing a once-in-a-lifetime construction project that is transforming how students learn and prepare for their future careers and passions. Gifts through LELF will greatly enhance this educational transformation.

The LHS 2184 Campaign is the primary way in which LELF is supporting this historic project. The goal of the campaign is to connect LHS alumni and friends with the inspiration they had as students and to offer a meaningful way to provide inspiration and opportunities for current and future Cardinals.

As of April 1, the LHS 2184 Campaign has already received commitments of \$??,000 from alumni and friends of LHS. All donors who give \$2,184 or more will receive a special glass cardinal, hand-made by artist Tom Maras, LHS class of 1989, as a thank you gift and a reminder of your special connection to Luverne High School.

Maras' inspiration for his craft began as an art student at LHS. He then received a B.A. degree in ceramics and glass art from Minnesota State



University, Moorhead. Maras is currently the Chief Studio Technician at FOCI Minnesota Center for Glass Arts in Minneapolis More information about Maras' work can be found at marasglass.com.

If you would like to learn more about how you can partner with LELF and contribute to the success of current and future Luverne students through the LHS 2184 Campaign, please visit luverneeducationlegacyfund.org

To see updates on the LHS 2184 Campaign and other LELF projects, be sure to "Like" the "Luverne Education Legacy Fund" Facebook page.

You may also contact LELF President Cory Bloemendaal (LHS '89) at 507-227-2087 or coryb@ buffaloridgeins.com or Luverne Area Community Foundation Executive Director Emily (Bowron) Crabtree (LHS '90) at 507-227-6841 or emily@luvacf.org.

Submitted by Jason Berghorst

# **REUNIONS IN THE MAKING**



**LHS CLASS OF 1975** 

45th (+1)

**August 21, 2021** Saturday—3 pm

At the Kemerling Ranch









Join Facebook Group for updates:

**Luverne High School Class of '75 MN** 

Info: Joni Peterson ionipete@iw.net

**LHS CLASS OF 1971 50th Reunion July 14-17, 2022** 

**During the All School Reunion** Info: Jane 507.920.5197 luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

Submit your reunion plans for this listing by email or phone:

Email: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us **LUVERNE AREA CHAMBER** 

507-283-4061

If you need help planning or arranging your Class Reunion, simply contact the Luverne Area Chamber!

The Chamber will provide you with resources and information to help with the arrangements.

REMEMBER: The Chamber also offers to do ONE FREE mailing (printing included) for classes scheduling a reunion in Luverne during the year.

**LHS CLASS OF 1981 40th Reunion** August 6 & 7, 2021

Friday Night at Take 16 Saturday Night at The Eagles

Susan Schneekloth: 507.220.0591 Terri Taylor: 507.290.0196 Pat Baustian: 507.920.7406

**Details & mailing coming!** 



LHS CLASS OF 2011

**10th Reunion July 16-17, 2021** 



Make plans to join us!

Hannah Baartman, Paige Paquette, Joey Slieter

hannahbaartman1@gmail.com

E YOU PLANNING A CLASS REUNION? Email Patti Pierson at piersonprp@alliancecom.net and she will be able to provide you with a class listing and also labels.

Alumni News Staff:

Cindy Arends, Jane Wildung Lanphere, Carol Schumacher Serie, Johnna Ahrendt, Patti Kirby Pierson, Rock County Opportunities and Lori Sorenson.

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