

How did Luverne School District fare in 2020?

By Mavis Fodness, Star Herald

AS 2020 came to a close, we looked back on the coronavirus pandemic's effect on local schools.

In mid-March Minnesota officials closed buildings to lessen the spread of the COVID-19 virus. School closures in South Dakota and Iowa soon followed.

Empty school buildings became day cares for essential medical workers, and food service workers prepared hundreds of free, to-go meals for students.

Teachers and administrators had two weeks to figure out how they could teach from home.

The 2019-20 school year ended in late May under a distance-learning model, still an unfamiliar concept at the time.

All spring school activities were postponed and later canceled as the school year closed out.

Students waved goodbye to their teachers in a year-end parade, and 2020 seniors graduated in virtual ceremonies.

School resumed in September and not much had changed.

Luverne High School teacher and part-time Star Herald reporter Jason Berghorst shared his pandemic observations.

"The situation was going to be temporary," he wrote. "If we took the appropriate, difficult steps then, we'd be back to normal relatively soon."

New normal

Six months after schools first heard of the pandemic, mask wearing and social distancing were common practices in school.

Parents completed simple health screenings on their children at home before sending them to school.

Learning models were regularly adjusted, and "hybrid learning" joined "distance learning" and

"in-person learning" in regular vocabulary.

Luverne opened the 2020-21 school year with in-person elementary classes, and hybrid learning debuted at the middle-high school level.

Hybrid learning split each of the sixth- through 12th-grade classes in half, and they took turns meeting in person every other day. When not in school, students attended classes online.

H-BC elementary and secondary students began the school year in person and followed health recommendations from the Minnesota departments of health and education.

The recommendations limited contact between student groups, stepped up cleaning practices, and students and staff wore masks at all times.

At first fall activities were canceled, but Minnesota State High School League officials devised shortened football, cross country, volleyball and tennis seasons.

Winter sports have been postponed until January 2021.

Additional bus routes were added to keep to half the normal capacity to meet social distancing guidelines. Everyone riding in buses to school or to activities wore masks, and students sat in assigned seats.

School districts traced positive cases and discovered that contact with the virus was occurring outside of the school setting.

By November, however, positive COVID-19 cases accelerated within the communities, forcing Luverne Schools to change learning models that would continue until the winter break.

Elementary students moved to hybrid learning and the middle-high school switched to distance learning.

Learning and teaching

Distance learning in November proved to be vastly different from what had been experienced in the spring.

Luverne Middle School teacher Jodi Rops shared with the Star Herald in a Dec. 3 story about how her classroom has changed.

She said in March she video-recorded herself presenting math lessons and communicated with students using the Google Classroom app.

Under the hybrid method, Rops would teach the same math lesson two days in a row for each of her student groups.

The repetition forced her to change how she taught, and she embraced technology to bring a somewhat 'normal' feel back to teaching.

"Three weeks into school, I decided to go 'live' with all students. That meant those at home had to log in at their normal math classtime to get the lesson," she said.

"This has gone much better for me, and students say they like that, too — more structure for all of us."

In a Dec. 24 article elementary teachers said they developed a more structured schedule under a hybrid model.

When students are not in school, they complete practice lessons on paper they take home daily in a folder.

"We focus on more instruction in the classroom with more of the practice being done when they are at home," said second-grade teacher Lori Nath.

"I feel like our day is similar to how it is when all the students are here."

The changes that the pandemic

Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Dec. 31, 2021, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$ 6,815. 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, October 2020, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Financial summary

Balance 9/30/20	\$665.35
Donations:	6,815.00
Expenses:	
Printing:	919.07
Postage:	1,612.94
Labels:	730.72
Office Supplies:	5.00
Paypal Fees:	12.27
Balance 12/31/20	\$4,200.35

Memorials

Peggy (Hammond) Loose '39

Evelyn (Beug) Steffel '58

Lavonne (Wacker) Hansen '41

Keith '49 & Betty (Hansen) '50
Luethje

Craig R. Johnson '49

Keith '49 & Betty (Hansen) '50
Luethje

Eugene Mann '50

George Heronimus '50

Donald Spease '51

Elmer & Karen Menage
James Herman '51
Joe Rowe '63
Wesley '58 & Patti '63 Pierson

Mary Jane (Bonthius) Boyer '53

Eugene '53 & Rose Marie
(Bartels) '53 Meyer
Melvin Hamann '53
Stanley Bagbey '58

Arlene (Hemme) Monahan '54

Rosemarie (Dietrich) Loose '54

Gary Barmore '54

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

James '59 & Gloria (Aanenson)

'63 Rolfs

Randy '70 & Donna Aanenson

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Lorena (DeKing) Wojahn '54

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Rosemarie (Dietrich) Loose '54

Mavis (Staeffler) Jarchow '54

Rosemarie (Dietrich) Loose '54

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Carolyn (Bonthius) Earlywine '56

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Stanley Bagbey '58

Marlene (Harmon) Madison '58

Evelyn (Beug) Steffel '58

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Thank you for your support

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

MEMORIALS/SEE PAGE 4

What We've Heard from our classmates

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

Thanks for the wonderful response to the request for FREE SHOW TICKETS. Tickets have been generously donated and are now in the hands of the Rock County Historical Society and Historic Palace Theatre!

CHRISTINE GABRIELSON MOHR TORTORELLA (LHS 1971) shares these memories about the **Wednesday Free Shows at the Palace Theatre:**

"I wish I could offer a free show ticket for the Historical Society. But even though I tend to pack rat things but that was more 20 moves ago, so it's not likely I'd still have one. Maybe someone in the Gabrielson/Mohr clan will find one. Many moves ago, is what brings me around to our need for roots and to acknowledge we have great ancestors. It is with much pleasure that I read the Luverne Alumni News. Thank you to those who work on the publication. It brings joy to so many people...a visit into their memories and roots in Rock County.

The Gabrielson/Mohr roots are in Luverne, always have been, though they were a bit disrupted in 1968, when the Mohr family moved to Le Sueur, after living thirty plus years at 112 West Barck Street. At fifteen years old, naturally, I was devastated at the decision, but it was best for our father's job situation.

I learned young that missing is always an intrinsic part of life. We all know that now, but how to embrace that, is another matter. It is not where we are going in life, the new place or situation, one we need to adjust to and learn to embrace, that creates the missing of where we've been. It is the leaving that what we know and love behind, that which feels safe and familiar, but often has to be done to continue to grow. But memories can keep us rooted.

Anyway, memories from Luverne are memories from my childhood, and that embeds them in a singular way. So here are some of my memories of the Wednesday free shows at the Palace Theater. How precious is it that anything was free for so many years. What I remember on Wednesday afternoons, was walking from the grade-school, to our Dad's surveying business office, a few blocks from the theater, lingering around before the show in hopes he'd pull out the top drawer of his desk and find five pennies for each of us. He seemed to

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709 N. Kniss Avenue
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enjoy the tease, but just as we were about to give up, and turn toward the door to get to the theater in time for the cartoons. he would pull out the drawer and find the pennies we needed for a treat.

I'd have given up the cartoons for the pennies, but I think Dad had it down to precisely the moment to give them to us on time. We were not allowed to ask for them, but hinting was pretty acceptable, as long as it was not a whiney hint. And then we'd race each other to the Palace Theater for the free show. I'd buy a box of licorice sweeties with my five pennies, because for 5 cents, they'd last the longest. Popcorn was 10 cents, so that was out, and it would make us thirsty anyway. I do not know anybody who had a soda, but we were happy with the water fountain. There were very few movies we went to that we'd have to pay for, but a movie a week, was not a low standard of frequency!

Recently, as our family watched (again) the PBS special featuring Luverne, I felt great pride in sharing the stories of the Palace Theater and the Christmas parties at the Manitoba Hotel.

I was proud of knowing that Al McIntosh who wrote so eloquently of those historical times and of Luverne families, both for their contributions and their losses to our country during WWII.

It has been a reminder that in small rural towns, such as ours, Luverne in Rock County, Minnesota, out in the

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Alumni News Memorials/continued from page 2

Michael Earl '58

Evelyn (Beug) Steffel '58

JoAnn (Thompson) Swanson '60

Martin '63 & Anita Thompson

Peg (Holder) Lammert '60

Garfield Henriksen '60
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson
Janice (Halsne) Amundson '60
Jennifer Holsen '66
Joe Rowe '63
Marvin Dreessen '60
Pamela Holsen '66
Reid & Jeanne Holsen
Stanley Bagbey '58
Susan (Norelius) Humphrey '60
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62
VanBatavia
Vivien (Atkinson) Wissink '60

LeRoy Thompson '61

Martin '63 & Anita Thompson

Dorothy (Jackson) Kraayenhof '62

Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62
Delores (Madison) Walters '58

Dennis Johnson '63

James '59 & Gloria (Aanenson) '63 Rolfs

Dianne (Dreessen) Thompson '63

Martin '63 & Anita Thompson

Mary (Heckt) Maroon '65

Wesley '58 & Patti '63 Pierson

Darrell Heckt '66

Class of 1966

Barbara Barclay '67

Judith (Steiner) Top '67
Kristi Fitzer '67
Rebecca (Burns) Schenk '65

Carl Holmgren '67

Judith (Steiner) Top '67

Patrick Creswell '67

Judith (Steiner) Top '67
Kristi Fitzer '67

Randall Kafka '67

Kristi Fitzer '67

Sandra (Brown) Johnson '67

Kristi Fitzer '67

Darrell Lorenzen '68

Bernita (Braa) Wichmann '67

Dwight Gangestad '68

Donald '71 & Cindy Arends
Marlyce (Madison) Micklos '66

Kim (Dougherty) Larson '72

Patricia Teclaw '76

Tony Miller '72

Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69 Papik
James '66 & Carol
(Aanenson) '66 Hatting
Joe Rowe '63
Marlyn '63 & Karen Roberts
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62
VanBatavia
Zane Birky '72

Bryan Boelman '76

Patricia Teclaw '76

James Petersen '76

Burdell '71 & Barb
(Obermoller) '72 Oye
Dan & Jolene (Obermoller) '79
Hanson
Doug '79 & Colleen
(Obermoller) '79 Deutsch
Kristie (Obermoller) Weinkauf
'85

Lori (Obermoller) Juliette '82
Virginia Obermoller '70
Wendel '77 & Lisa Obermoller
Wesley '58 & Patti '63 Pierson

Pam (Goeske) Kruse '80

Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62

Bonnie (VanAartsen) Muller '81

Class of 1981
Donald '71 & Cindy Arends
Jim & Paula (VanWhye) '82
Jelken
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62
VanBatavia

Joel Smidstra '81

Class of 1981

Robyn (Hemme) Endriss-Knapp '81

Class of 1981

Curtis Thorson '83

Donald '71 & Cindy Arends
Jim & Paula (VanWhye) '82
Jelken
Katie Hemme - Teacher
Timothy Olson '84
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter) '62
VanBatavia

Jerry Benson - Teacher

Esther Spease Frakes -
Teacher
Katie Hemme - Teacher

Marian Norell - Teacher

Esther Spease Frakes -
Teacher
Katie Hemme - Teacher

Tom Klein - father of Jessica, Alyssa & Brandon

Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl) '69
Papik

Luverne schools 2020 in review/continued from page 1

prompted for education have been challenging.

"I never imagined we would be teaching this way," said second-grade teacher Laura Louwagie, who is in her 23rd year of teaching.

In 2021, optimism is developing as elementary students return to in-person learning and the middle-high school returns to hybrid instruction.

If positive COVID-19 cases

continue to drop, all students could soon be back to in-person instruction, which is the preferred learning model.

The LHS Class of 2021 has only met once as a group this current school year.

No more snow days

Due to the success that the Luverne District has experienced

with distance learning, board members recently adopted an e-learning plan that would eliminate the need for snow days in the district.

When weather conditions make traveling to school hazardous, both the Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek schools (who passed a similar e-learning model earlier) can use technology to teach up to five snow days at home.



The Piepgrases and their families still hunt on the land, usually with a crew of 11 who range from a teenage girl to men in their 80s. David Piepgras (fifth from left) and John Piepgras (kneeling at front right, with one hand on the dog) posed during a recent year's hunt.

What We've Heard/continued from page 3

prairie farmlands, that our ancestors left us roots in a deep heritage of strong moral character. I believe these roots that we have been blessed with are some of the best of what we have to pass on to our children and their families, today, where ever we live. May we all consider the legacy and heritage that we leave to our children and our children's children.

So to the Palace Theater and the Wednesday Free Shows, thank you for the memories!

LHS Alumni JOHN PIEPGRAS shares information about work being done in conserving the land in Rock County:

"Thanks to the great article in the Rock County Star Herald on October 22nd about the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement that has been implemented on the Piepgras farm south of Luverne. It was a great article that shows Rock County taking a leadership position in environmental and water protection initiatives in southwestern Minnesota. The local interest has several dimensions:

The farm ownership has a long history in Rock County -- it was, in the late 1800's, owned by E. A. Brown of the E. A. Brown Co. in Luverne and since the

1970's or so has been owned by the Piepgras family, long-time Luverne residents, most recently my brother David and me.

The land is currently farmed by David and Bev Wessels, Luverne residents, who have lived on the farm since the mid-1980's. Dave is a graduate of LHS and has been a very active promoter of CRP/RIM and related projects relating to environmentally safe farm practice.

The easement is especially noteworthy because it and several similar easements that preceded it on the farm consume virtually the entire farm acreage and therefore represents a singularly important initiative in Rock County water protection. The stem-winders behind the easement were the staff at the Rock County Farm Service Agency of the USDA and Rock County Land Management staff Doug Bos and Arlyn Gehrke.

The article was prepared and submitted to the Star Herald by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and has been published on their website. Its author, a staff member there by the name of Ann Wessel, (no relation to Dave Wessels) did her college internship in Luverne at the Star Herald and knows Luverne well."

Remembering our classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

1940 – 1949

Lavonne (Wacker) Hansen '41 died December 28, 2020, in Luverne. Lavonne attended the Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing in Sioux City, IA, graduating in 1944 as a registered nurse. She began her career working at the Vander Wilt Hospital in Rock Rapids, IA. On January 26, 1945, Lavonne married W. Ray '40 Hansen in Rock Rapids. The couple farmed locally. After taking time off, Lavonne returned to nursing in Rock Rapids and later worked at the Luverne Community Hospital from 1972 until her retirement in 1992.

Lavonne is survived by four children: Karen '63 Hansen, Ames, IA, Eileen '66 (Alon '65) Hemme, Hardwick, Rhonda '72 (Paul) Jorgenson, Winner, SD, and William '76 (Nancy) Hansen, New Brighton; six grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, W. Ray, and an infant son, Robert Ray.

Wayne P. Remme '47 died November 15, 2019 in Armour, SD. Wayne enlisted in the U.S. Navy (Seabees) on October 24, 1950. On January 9, 1953, Wayne and Verna Brenner were married in Luverne. Wayne was honorably discharged in 1954. He graduated from Southern State Teacher's College in Springfield, SD, in 1958 and became an industrial arts teacher in Delmont, SD. They moved to Melvin, IA, and in 1969 Wayne graduated from Iowa State University in School Administration. He became a school principal and athletic administrator. After working briefly in Avoca, IA, he retired in Sanborn, IA, in 1991. Wayne and Verna retired to Armour, SD, in 1999.

Wayne is survived by his wife, Verna; children, Debra (Edward) Weirenga, Dorr, MI, Mark (Christi), Iowa City, IA, Luann (David) Bohnet, Jefferson, IA, and Susan (Daniel) Hoeffner, Piedmont, SD; 10 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by four siblings: Marlene '43 (John) Schwartz, Donald '45 (LaVonne), Gale '51 (Nell), and infant Leon; and granddaughter, Amanda.

Father Robert Maher '49 died on August 14, 2020, in Las Vegas, NV. "Father Bob" attended St. Mary's seminary in Winona, MN, and then Catholic University in Washington, DC, where he obtained his master's degree in Theology. He was ordained on May 30, 1957. After spending two years as parish priest in Austin, MN, Fr. Bob served as chaplain for St. Mary's hospital in Rochester for 12 years. He joined the US Air Force in 1969 and served as chaplain at several

locations, including Germany, Alaska, South Dakota, Florida, California, Texas, Colorado, and Nevada. He ministered to servicemen in Vietnam and those from the Desert Gulf War. Fr. Bob attained the rank of full Colonel and served as USAF Inspector General of Chaplains, traveling to virtually every US Airforce base. He was awarded multiple honors and citations, retiring in 1994 to Camarillo, CA, and finally to Las Vegas, NV. Fr. Bob was a small plane pilot, a gourmet cook, and an avid dachshund lover.

Fr. Bob is survived by his sister, Mary Maher, Cotati, CA, and a multitude of friends whom he called "family."

He was preceded in death by an infant older brother and several aunts and uncles.

1950 – 1959

Eugene W. Mann '50 died on October 25, 2020, in St. Augusta, MN. On December 27, 1953, Eugene married Arlene '51 Burmeister in Luverne. He served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955. After his discharge, Eugene and Arlene returned home to farm. In 1966, he also began working for the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier, which he did for 32 years while continuing to farm. In 1982, the couple retired and moved into Luverne. From 1997 to 2012 Eugene was employed with Glen's Food and Fuel.

Eugene is survived by his children: Belinda '73 (Daniel) Kroska, St. Joseph, MN, Brian '74 (Patty) Mann of Cheyenne, WY, Brenda '77 Mann Harrison, Snohomish, WA, Bryce '79 (Stacey) Mann, Lewes, DE, Benita '80 (Scott) Dingman, Bemidji, MN; 13 grandchildren; and 8 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Arlene, and his brothers and their spouses: Robert '32 (Alice '42) Mann and Virgil (Elaine '50) Mann.

Donald Spease '51 died October 29, 2020, in Ellsworth, MN. In 1952 Don enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, serving at bases in Wyoming, Illinois, Texas, Florida, Germany and France before his discharge in 1956. He continued to serve in the South Dakota Air National Guard from 1958 to 1965. Don married Myrna Funck on July 13, 1956, in Luverne. Don partnered with his father in the Spease Tire Shop until 1975. Later, he worked for Davis Motors, which later became Connell Car Care. Following retirement, he was employed by Mary Jane Brown Home until 2013. Don also enjoyed being a foster grandparent at the Elementary school.

Don is survived by his wife, Myrna; two sons,

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Randy '77 (Becky) Spease, Pine River and Mark '80 (Stephanie) Spease, Spooner, WI; three daughters, Kim '75 (Greg) Eisenhuth, Embarrass, Jana '82 (Russ) Brix, Mankato, and Amy '84 (Tim) Schuchard, Sartell; nine grandchildren; three step grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by an infant brother, Douglas, and a brother, Loren '48.

Gary Barmore '54 died on October 28, 2020, in Cedar Rapids, IA. Gary joined the army after high school and served for two years. He married JoAnn '54 Aanenson on December 27, 1958. They lived in Luverne while he finished college at Augustana, Sioux Falls, SD. In 1974, they moved to Cedar Rapids and he managed the Goodyear Tire Store and later Kmart Service Center. He also worked for Mr. Gutter. After moving to a condo, Gary became president of the association and enjoyed taking care of the grounds, building, and helping others. Gary is survived by his children: David (Sue), Daniel (Teresa) and Douglas; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, JoAnn, and a great grandson, Hendrick Darling.

Paul Rolph '56 died on June 12, 2020, in St. Cloud, MN. Paul graduated in 1962 from the University of MN for Veterinary Medicine. He married Myrna Benson on July 17, 1965. Paul practiced as a Veterinarian for 35 years in Benson, MN, retiring December 1997. Paul was a member of the Benson Jaycees, the Lion's Club and served two terms on the Benson HRA Housing Board.

Paul is survived by his wife Myrna, St. Joseph, MN; three children, Rochelle (Marty) Kennelly, Bemidji, Dr. Bryan (Amy) Rolph, St. Cloud, and Shauna (Wayne) Paler, Annandale; five grandchildren; and several other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his brothers Jerome '52, Phillip, and Stanley '58; and his sisters Kay '47 Sehr, Margaret Kasemodel, and Virginia Kuske.

Arthur J. Goembel '56 died September 22, 2020, in Austin, MN. Arthur graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1960 and from Michigan State with a master's degree in 1962. He joined the U.S. Air Force and on May 27, 1967, married Karen J. Warfield in Austin. In 1963, Arthur started his 38-year career with Hormel Foods in Research and Development and was the Hormel Curemaster from 1993 until his retirement in May 2001.

Survivors include his wife, Karen, Austin; son, Todd (Diana), Burnsville; daughter, Julie (Tony) Beckel, Woodbury; four grandchildren; brothers-in-law

Duane (Judy) Warfield, Rochester, MN; Henry Oots, Rochester, MN; and many friends and relatives.

He was preceded in death by sisters-in-law, Janet Warfield, and Joann Oots.

Aleida (Dreeson) Meyerhoff '58 died October 8, 2020, in Sioux Falls, SD. Aleida married Harry Meyerhoff on November 28, 1961. They lived in George, IA, for a time and then moved to Sioux Falls. Aleida was employed as a CNA in various departments of the Sioux Valley Health System.

Aleida is survived by her children, Brenda (Doug) Medalen, Sioux Falls, and Arla Schultz, Luverne; daughter-in-law Carol Meyerhoff, Sheldon IA; eight grandchildren; seventeen great-grandchildren; a brother, Orvel (Karen) Dreesen, Ellsworth, MN; and many other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Harry Meyerhoff.

1960 – 1969

Dorothy (Jackson) Kraayenhof '62 died December 2, 2020, in Sioux Falls, SD. After high school, Dorothy was employed at Tri State Insurance for six years. On August 2, 1967, she married Edward '62 Kraayenhof, but they later divorced. From 1968 to 1980 Dorothy was a homemaker and cared for their children. In 1980 she became the secretary at the American Reformed Church in Luverne, retiring in 2009. Dorothy was an active volunteer in the community and in her church.

Dorothy is survived by her two daughters, Loree '86 Ness, Luverne and Kristi '92 (Scott) Van Der Weide, Ankeny, IA; two grandchildren; siblings Milton '64 (Susie) Jackson, Sioux Falls, and David '79 (Gwendolyn) Jackson, Brandon, SD; and many nieces, nephews, and other family.

She was preceded in death by her brother Donald '60 and sister-in-law, Nancy Jackson.

Carol (DePauw) Henderson '65 died December 16, 2020, in Worthington, MN. Carol married Charles Henderson on August 32, 1986, in Worthington. The couple lived in Worthington while Carol worked at Sathers Candy Store, and then later was employed by South Shore Care Center until her retirement.

Carol is survived by three siblings, Dennis '58 (Julia) DePauw, Jacksonville, FL; Sheila '69 (Steven) Kluever, Worthington; and Burdette '73 (Maxine '72) DePauw, McHenry, IL; two sisters-in-law, Joyce DePauw, Sioux Falls; and Barb DePauw, Huron, SD; Ashley (Brock) Madsen; Andrew (Katie) Muller; and

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Shannon (Mark) Muller.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles; nine siblings, Delores Kasemodel, Eileen Roemeling, Albert '61 DePauw, Keith '56 DePauw, Delbert '71 DePauw, Dale '53 DePauw, Marlys '55 Engel, Darrell '64 DePauw, and Dean '67 DePauw.

Darrell L. Heckt '66 died on November 25, 2020. "Hec" was a U.S. Marine, and served his country in Vietnam. He started his family with wife, Audre '66 Padilla in Iowa and Sioux Falls, SD.

They moved in Houston, TX, in 1973. "Hec" was willing to do whatever it took to support his family: from driving truck, starting Midwestern Construction, working at the Airlines, at Harris County, at Strike with his family and at odd jobs as a handyman. His passion was cooking, and he spent his life serving others food at every opportunity.

Darrell is survived by his wife of 51 years, Audre; sons, Jason, Justin, Gabriel, Nathan; daughter, Emily Butler; daughters-in-law, Loree, Kirstin, and Alma; and son-in-law, Greg Butler; twelve grandchildren; brother Dale '62 and sister Darlene Gyberg '69; and many friends and relatives.

He was preceded in death by his grandson, Mathew Butler.

Carl Holmgren '67 died on November 15, 2020, in Pipestone, MN. Carl graduated from Pipestone Vocational Technical College in 1969 in Supermarket Management. He married Joyce Van Lant in 1971 and lived in Hardwick where they owned Carl's Clover Farm grocery store. Carl drove truck for Tombstone Pizza for several years and in 1980, moved to Boulder, CO, where he worked in the grocery business. After their divorce, Carl moved to Pipestone. He was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimers in 2013.

Carl is survived by his daughters, Tammy (Darryl) Rabb, Kent, WA, and Kari (Brent) Ostler, Sioux Falls, SD; one granddaughter; siblings, Gary '64 (Donna), Sioux Falls, Wayne '70, Luverne, and Twyla '75 (Randy) Allen, Pipestone; and one nephew and their children.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Dean C. M. DePauw '67 died December 16, 2020, in Prairie du Chien, WI. Dean met his bride-to-be, Caryn Lee Arnold in 1968 at Blue Mound State Park. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1968 to 1971, as a radio operator which took them to Germany.

Dean and Caryn returned to Huron, SD, where he worked at Zip Feed Mill. They moved to Minneapolis, where Dean began his training at the

Control Data Institute. The family moved to Marshfield, WI, where he began his career as a computer technician at Raytheon. Dean's career took them to Marshall, WI, Jacksonville, FL, and ultimately, Sun Prairie, WI. He obtained his degree from Madison Business College in 1984 and launched his software sales career.

Dean is survived by his children, Chad (Kari), Darlington and Tara (Jeff) Swalve, Waunakee; five grandchildren; the mother of his children, Caryn Olyver; brother Denny '58 (Julia) DePauw, Jacksonville, FL; sister Sheila '69 (Steve) Kluever, Worthington, MN; brother Burdette '73 (Maxine '72) DePauw, McHenry, IL; and two sisters-in-law, Barb and Joyce Depauw.

He was preceded in death by nine siblings, Delores (Delmore) Kasemodel, Eileen Roemeling,

Albert '61 DePauw, Keith '56 (Dorla) DePauw, Delbert '71 DePauw, Dale '53 (Reva) DePauw, Marlys '55 (Don) Engel, Darrel '64 DePauw, Carol '65 (Charlie) Henderson; and his sister-in-law Carol DePauw.

Dwight Gangestad '68 died October 4, 2020, in Luverne. Dwight farmed after high school and married Marcia Claussen on February 24, 1996.

Dwight was passionate about farming and raising livestock. He retired in 1998 and began driving truck full time. In 2018 he was involved in an accident which forced him into retirement. Dwight moved to the Mary Jane Brown Home in October 2019.

Dwight is survived by his wife, Marcia, Luverne; children, Nikki (Howie) Stewart, Las Vegas, NV, Kristina (Andy) Bates, Las Vegas, Thonals "Tom" (Diane) Kanelos, Las Vegas, NV, Erika (Jon '96) Menning, Luverne, and Kevin (Nicki) Hartz, Luverne; eight grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; his mother, Lucille Gangestad, Hills, MN; siblings, Bonnie '69 Carlson (Randy Kahl), Rock Rapids, IA, Kelly (Gloria) Gangestad, Gillette, WY; and many more relatives.

Dwight was preceded in death by his dad, Emmett.

1970 – 1979

Jo Ann (Blount) Neuhauser '71 died in Fernandina Beach, FL, on November 4, 2020. After high school, Jo Ann attended business school in Minneapolis, MN. She moved west, met, and married Clayton Neuhauser. They moved to a ranch just outside Pierre, SD. Jo Ann was employed at the South Dakota Bankers Association until 1987 when she relocated to Clearwater, FL, with her father and two children. She raised her children and worked at

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Nicholas Finance until she retired in 2004.

Jo Ann was active in her church and her children's activities. Later, she traveled throughout the United States over the course of a few years. She was a part time bookkeeper at both Abundant Life Ministries in Largo, FL, and Somebody Cares Tampa Bay in Clearwater, FL. Over the years, Jo Anne was involved in many volunteer ministries and charities in the Tampa Bay area.

Jo Ann is survived by her sister, Merry '70 Blount, Texas, daughter Jessica Neuhauser (Crystal River, FL), son William (Tina) Neuhauser Yulee, FL, and four grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents Norman and Irene Blount.

David Cameron '72 died on August 1, 2020, in Owatonna, MN. David attended Gustavus Adolphus College earning a Business degree. He spent his entire career at Federated Insurance.

Dave is survived by his sons, Chris Cameron, and Shawn Cameron; sister, Linda Cameron; lifelong friend, Michael Standard; and girlfriend, Rene Erickson.

He was preceded in death by his son, Bryce Cameron.

1980 – 1989

Pamela (Goeske) Goeske Kruse '80 died on September 25, 2020, in Seattle, WA. Pam received her Associate degree at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato in 1982 and her BA degree from St. Olaf College, Northfield, in 1984.

She married Ken Kruse on November 10, 1984. They lived in Northfield for a few years and then moved to Seattle, WA. Pam worked in the IT industry for over 15 years in several roles, most notably at Microsoft and Amazon. In the early 2000s, she developed and taught a computer class at Edmonds College in Lynnwood, WA.

Pam is survived by her husband, Kenneth Kruse, Everett, WA; son Christopher (Roxanne) Kruse, Marysville, WA; daughter Melinda Kruse, Everett; Mother Dorothy '54 Goeske, Luverne; brother Mark '83 (Serena) Goeske, Owasso, OK; and many other relatives.

She was preceded in death by her father, Wendell '52 Goeske and mother-in-law, Dorothy Kruse.

Bonnie (Van Aartsen) Muller '81 died October 23, 2020, in Sioux Falls, SD. Bonnie graduated from Nettleton Business College, Sioux Falls, in 1982 and began her career at Citibank.

She was married to Randy Muller in Jasper, MN, on February 10, 1990. The couple made their home on a farm near Jasper for the next 22 years before moving to Luverne. Bonnie traveled frequently in the U.S. and abroad with her job at Citibank and received many achievement awards. She also volunteered with the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and led financial management classes for kids.

Bonnie is survived by her husband, Randy Muller, Luverne; children, Greg '10 Muller, Sioux Falls, Daniel Muller, Jasper, and Mitchell '16 Muller, Minneapolis; siblings, Darrel '77 (LaDonna '80) Van Aartsen, Luverne, Peg '79 (Vince '81) Gacke, Luverne, and Kathy '88 (Kevin '88) Jacobsma, Luverne; brother-in-law, Rick (Sue) Muller, Prior Lake, MN; sister-in-law, Shari Blomgren, Great Falls, MT; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Gerrit Van Aartsen.

Curtis N. Thorson '83 died October 20, 2020, in Luverne. Curt attended Canby Vo-Tech where he received his Diesel-Truck Mechanic certification in 1985. He worked at Hills Stainless Steel, returning to the family farm in 1989.

On June 18, 1994, Curt married Caroline Bock in Luverne. Curt returned to his career in mechanics, working at Golden Plump Poultry, Agri-Energy, LLC and POET in Chancellor, SD. He moved closer to home and worked for CHS Nutrition. Curt was a proud member of the Take 16 Brewing Company board where he used his mechanical talents on a variety of projects.

Curt is survived by his wife, Caroline; children, Dylan '17, Eric '19 and Luke; siblings, Christine '74 (Rick) Hovda, Wausau, WI, Norris '76 (Pat Mauch) Thorson, Luverne and John '84 (Audra) Thorson, Larchwood, IA; his mother-in-law, Shirley Bock, Sioux Falls, SD; brothers-in-law, Jeff (Mary) Bock, Aberdeen, SD, and Anthony (Jaime) Bock, York, ME; and other family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his father-in-law, Daniel Bock.

Shannon A. Walgrave '89 died October 25, 2020, in Luverne. Shannon attended South Dakota State University, Brookings, SD. He moved to Worthington, MN. In 1996, he moved to Texas where he worked in retail management at Target and Best Buy. Shannon and Margo Webster were married on July 2, 2004, in Hurst, TX. They moved to southwest Minnesota in 2004. In 2008, he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. Shannon volunteered with the Luverne Backpack Program, the local ESL program

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and with the Salvation Army.

Shannon is survived by his wife, Margo, Beaver Creek; children, Kathy Perry, Tyler, TX, Montana Ennenga, Statesville, NC, and Xander Walgrave, Beaver Creek; four grandchildren; parents, Rod '65 and Judy '71 Walgrave, Luverne; siblings, Tim '92 (Amber '95) Walgrave, Luverne, Nichole '96 (Matthew '94) Skattum, Eden Prairie, MN, and Mandy '95 Skattum, Luverne; his grandfather, Arvid Thoreson, Luverne; and other family and friends

He was preceded in death by his grandparents and brother-in-law, Nathan '91 Skattum.

1990 – 1999

Jolene F. Schneiderman '92 died on November 17, 2020, in Luverne. Jolene attended North American Baptist Divinity School in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Upon completion of her education, she moved to Kansas City, MO, where she worked in retail. Jolene returned to Luverne in March 2020.

Jolene is survived by her parents, Harold and JoAnn Schneiderman, Magnolia, MN, aunts, uncles and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents and maternal grandparents, Aunt Hilda Fick; and Uncle Kriene Schneiderman.

2010 – 2019

Marcus J. Emery '12 died December 8, 2020, at his home. In June 2011, Marcus enlisted into the US National Guard. While serving his country, he received many medals and citations, and held the Specialist rank. Following his basic training, he worked for Gary Frodermann on G & J Farms. Gary and Marcus had an incredibly special bond and Gary was considered "family". In May 2017, Marcus began working in the plumbing assembly with fire trucks at Midwest Fire in Luverne.

Marcus is survived by mother, Sandi '92 Emery and Nick Reisch, Luverne; brothers, Sam Emery and Rocco Reisch, Luverne; grandmother, JoAnn '72 Emery, Sioux Falls, and grandparents, Mark '72 and Debbie Emery, Luverne; aunt, Tami (Kyle) Van Heerde, Sioux Falls; two uncles, Jay Dee '97 Emery, Sioux Falls, and Joe Emery, Mitchell, SD; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his great-grandparents and a great uncle.

Former School Staff

Jerry Benson died on September 27, 2020, in Luverne. Jerry was born in Ely, MN, and graduated from Silver Bay High School in 1966. He attended Bemidji State University and South Dakota

State University where he earned degrees in history, geography, cartography, and social studies.

He began teaching in Magnolia and then moved to Luverne High School where he taught from 1981-2017. He was also an adjunct professor of geography and psychology at Minnesota West Community College in Worthington, MN. Jerry received the American History Teacher of the Year Award in 2009 from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History in addition to both national and international teaching awards. He was the head speech and debate coach for 45 years. He had a passion for reading and collected over 6,000 books.

Jerry is survived by his mother, Evelyn Benson, Ely; siblings Phillip (Ruby) Benson, Andover, and Sandra (David) Severson, Westminster, CO; and nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his father.

Konrad Eidahl died December 12, 2020, in Worthington, MN. Konrad was born in Leland, IA, and attended school in Lake Mills, before graduating from Albert Lea, MN High School. He earned his education degree from Luther College in Decorah, IA, and then served two years in the U.S. Army. In 1958 he taught school in Clarksfield, where he met Barbara Potter. They were married on September 3, 1961. The couple moved to Luverne where Konrad taught sixth grade.

He was a member of the Lions Club, the National Education Association and the Minnesota Education Association. He coached several sports and kept statistics for the basketball team. Konrad retired in 1992 after 34 years of teaching.

Konrad is survived by three children, Kyle '80 (Carol) Eidahl, Tallahassee, FL, Pam '82 Christensen, Luverne, and David '84 (Lynn) Eidahl, Delano; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a sister, Kate Hermanson, Owatonna; and a brother-in-law, Richard Ferguson, Owatonna.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara; his second wife, Javonne; his son Mark '85 Eidahl; his son-in-law Tim '83 Christensen; and a sister, Marcia Ferguson.

Marian V. Norell died November 27, 2020, in Marshall, MN. Marian began her career in Luverne teaching 9th Grade English and coaching volleyball, basketball, and track from 1980 to 1983. Marian was also a longtime official for volleyball and softball, including for the state tournaments.

She retired as Guidance Counselor at Waseca Public Schools after 32 years, and after being diagnosed with Early Onset Dementia/Alzheimer's in 2014. Always the educator, Marian donated her body to the University of Minnesota School of Medicine.

Luverne Dollars for Scholars ... Did you know?

Contributed by Johnna Ahrendt

A gift of \$2,000 or more, referred to as an “endowment,” given to the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program becomes a perpetual scholarship.

Only the income earned from the endowments is given to a student in the form of a scholarship.

The uniqueness of an endowed gift is that it allows a scholarship to be given each and every year, forever, to a fresh, qualifying LHS graduate.

Initially, the donor has the opportunity to attach a name to the endowment. Then each year a selected graduate receives a scholarship bearing that name.

Once a perpetual scholarship is established, additional dollars – no matter what amount – may be added, at any time, to the endowment.

These additional dollars increase the size of the endowment, which in turn increases the amount given as a scholarship to qualifying graduates in future years.

During this past calendar year, nine new perpetual scholarships were established with the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program. They include:

- Brooke Thompson Memorial Scholarship
- Clarence & Evelyn Thode Memorial Scholarship
- Clifford J. Boom Memorial Scholarship
- Gary H. Petersen Memorial Scholarship
- Jim Nelson Memorial Scholarship
- Marcus J. Emery Memorial Scholarship
- Robert & Patricia Hendricks Family Scholarship
- Siebert Family Scholarship
- Witte Family Scholarship

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

Luverne Dollars for Scholars
PO Box 822
Luverne, MN 56156

Email: luvernedfs@gmail.com
Call: 507-227-4030
(Johnna Ahrendt)

Or visit: www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org

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 piersonprp@alliancecom.net,
1-507-920-5186
or 1562 201st ST Hardwick MN 56134

FORMER LHS BAND DIRECTOR, **TOM HAUGEN**, NEEDS OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS!

Daughter Kari Haugen Dostalick wrote this message on Facebook on December 29, 2020:

“For those of you who haven’t heard, my dad, Tom Haugen, was airlifted to Mayo with a brain bleed Christmas Day evening.

The bleed caused a stroke which has left him paralyzed on his right side. Anyone who knows my dad knows that he’s a fighter.

He remains motivated and upbeat, and has been making progress each day (swallowing, sitting, etc.). In fact, today he was moved to the intensive rehab unit at Mayo to help him get ready to come home.

He remains sharp as ever and we’ve been fortunate enough to talk with him daily, with his speech continuing to improve.

If anyone would like to send him well wishes, please message me for the address. I know he’d love to hear from others, especially since we’re not allowed to visit due to Covid.”

Update from Lola Haugen on January 7, 2021:

“I’ve had good visits with Tom the last two days. He was moved out of the ICU to the stroke floor yesterday, which is good. I will provide a more detailed update on his progress after we speak with the medical team tomorrow. In the meantime, I want to share with you how much your cards and letters mean to Tom. He reads each one, comments on whoever sent it, and at times has gotten quite emotional. **Tom will be turning 83 years old on January 16th** and I know he’d love another round of cards. **Keep sending them to me at 1203 Walnut St., Decorah, IA 52101.** Each visit, I deliver the previous day’s cards, letters and newspaper to Tom (which I hang onto until I’m ready to leave the hospital).”

**Tom & Lola Haugen’s
Connection to Luverne Alumni:**

After graduating from Luther College in Decorah, IA and a brief stint in another school district, Tom Haugen moved to Luverne to direct the Luverne School band program. After six years, he had developed a marching and concert band program in Luverne second to none! He was instrumental in developing a passion for band music where countless of his students went on to pursue careers in music



Tom & Lola Haugen

and/or music education.

Tom left Luverne in 1971 to accept a teaching position in the Twin Cities, and Lola began her full-time elementary teaching career working in districts throughout Minnesota and Iowa. After both of them retired from full-time teaching they served for many years as student teacher supervisors for Luther College in Decorah, IA. Following their retirement, they moved to Decorah.

Tom was honored to be named to the Minnesota Music Educators Hall of Fame in 2011 and the outstanding Music Educator award for Section IV by the National Federation of High

Schools. (Section IV includes Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan.)

In 1982, Tom and Lola started a business called Tri-State Band Judges. In the years prior, Tom was called countless times to serve as a judge for music competitions. He recognized the opportunity to build a business where he could bring together music experts from the region to create specialized teams of judging professionals.

Prior to this time, festivals and competitions from throughout the region had to find their own individual band judges. Trying to find six qualified people at one time to judge a competition often was one of the most difficult challenges for festival committees.

Tri-State Band Judges became a one-stop shop. The business grew to provide judges for up to 40 summer parades, ten fall field show competitions and up to 20 band clinics annually. Tom also judged solo and ensemble competitions along with large group contests for choirs, jazz, concert bands and orchestras for the Iowa and Minnesota State High School Leagues. He was also involved with judging All-State auditions for 20 years in both states.

Throughout the years Lola served as adviser, scheduler and coordinator for their business. They were a team dedicated to offering top-notch services to their customers. In the 30+ years of owning their business, Tom and Lola always returned to judge the Tri-State Band Festival and reconnect with people in Luverne. In 2015 they sold their business to current owners Lane and Jennifer Powell



Members of the Luverne Police Department in 1997 included Holly Emslander, Gerry Vorderbruggen, Brad Berning, Mike Winkels, Police Chief Keith Aanenson, Jason Aanenson, Jim Sandstede and Lon Remme. This Star Herald photograph was taken in December 1997 just before the Police Department and Rock County Sheriff's Office joined under the Sheriff's Office. Chief Aanenson requested the Star Herald take this photo before the Luverne Police Department dissolved under the organization of the joint law enforcement that became effective in 1998.

Former Luverne Police Chief and civic leader dies

By Lori Sorenson
Reprinted from the
Jan. 21, 2021 Star Herald

Keith Aanenson is perhaps best remembered as Luverne's final police chief before the city of Luverne and Rock County formed a joint law enforcement department in 1998.

Aanenson was born and grew up in Rock County and started his career in April 1967 when the Luverne Police Department still operated out of a small brick building on Main Street just west of the Methodist Church.

He was 24 years old and drove a black and white squad car equipped only with spotlights a two-way radio, a siren and a red, rotating "gumball" light.

The Star Herald reported that Aanenson was hired to replace Jim Johannsen, who became a sheriff's deputy in 1967.

The following year, in 1968, the department moved to City

Hall, and in 1983 to the former jail (now the Chamber office, Herreid Military Museum and Brandenburg Gallery), where it shared dispatch services with the county sheriff's office.

In 1979 Aanenson was appointed chief of police. Officers at the time included Clyde Menning, Mike Wynia, Jerry Vorderbruggen, Dave Bower and Don Sogge.

In 1998 the city and county formed a joint law enforcement department and built a new office on North Blue Mound Avenue. There was no longer a Luverne Police Department and no longer a chief of police.

The timing coincided with a retirement for Aanenson at age 55.

By that time he had developed the DARE and McGruff programs and continued to volunteer for them.

"I am hopeful that the programs and connections with

schools and community will not go by the wayside," he wrote in his resignation letter. "They are important and part of community-based policing. ... People remember when an officer unlocks a vehicle but do not say much when he or she takes a theft or vandalism report."

After more than three decades in law enforcement, he spent nearly as many years volunteering for local organizations.

He was a longtime volunteer with the Tri-State Band Festival Committee and was a founding member of the Luverne Optimist Club, heading up the Bike Rodeo and Sandbox Fill programs for many years.

In retirement he assumed responsibilities of his father's locksmith business, which he sold in 2017 to Stephan Harsma, Hills.

Aanenson died Sunday, Jan. 17, at the age of 78. His complete obituary will be in the April edition of Alumni News.

Do you know these Luverne High School Class of 1961 seniors?



Reunions in the Making

Please send change of address to Alumni News or email: piersonprp@alliancecom.net

LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOL ALL SCHOOL REUNION

RESCHEDULED TO: July 14-17, 2022

The All School Reunion Committee made the difficult decision to postpone the All-School Reunion for a year.

Everyone has a better understanding of this virus and we have realized that it is probably going to be later than sooner when a vaccine will be available to the general public.

The Committee feels that the only responsible decision is to reschedule the reunion until 2022.

The Committee's primary concern is to insure that all Alumni and Friends have a healthy and safe experience!

**Now...anticipation will build and we can look forward to the best reunion ever celebrating the remodeled, renovated and renewed
LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOL!**

Go Cards! Be Safe! Be Well!

Info & Questions: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us or 507.283.4061

Contact the Chamber with your Reunion information to be included in Alumni News!

**Email: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us
Phone: 507-283-4061**

The Luverne CVB offers a FREE One-time Mailing Service to all Class Members with a scheduled reunion.

All printing and mailing fees covered.

Contact the Chamber at 507-283-4061

ARE 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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Volume 31, Issue 2

Alumni News

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