



This architect's drawing shows what the front of the GrandStay Inn and Suites will look like when completed.

New hotel coming to Luverne; GrandStay Inn and Suites breaks ground

By Lori Ehde

Organizers and investors broke ground Sept. 12 on the new GrandStay Inn and Suites on South Highway 75.

The hotel will be located on the property of the former Pizza Hut restaurant, and the anticipated opening is spring 2013.

The structure itself will be set back behind (to the west of) the current lot, which will serve as an entrance and parking.

Original plans called for the hotel to have 51 units, 12 suites with full kitchens, a pool, whirlpool, exercise facility meeting rooms and gourmet express breakfast.

According to the city's Planning and Zoning office, a building permit

was approved Aug. 8 for the \$2.8 million project.

The permit was issued to Beck and Hofer Construction, Sioux Falls, and Luverne's Gary Papik is listed as a contact for the owners, who are listed as "Luverne Hotel Partners."

Papik said he's been working on the project for nearly a year with several other interested local investors and the hotel has been a group effort of all the Luverne hotel partners toward improving the community.

"Everyone involved with this project has a definite passion for Luverne and wants to see it move forward," Papik said.

"Whether or not there's money to be made wasn't the question. That's

not their goal. They just want to see something move forward."

In addition to Gary and Janine Papik, the Luverne Hotel Partners include Bob and Meiko Douty, Jim and Stacie Remme, Tim Gust, Curt and Marilyn Bloemendaal and Ryan and Gretchen Jepperson.

According to the website, GrandStay Hotel & Suites is the most versatile brand of GrandStay Hotels.

It offers a wide variety of guest rooms including extended-stay suites with full kitchens.

Every GrandStay Inn and Suites includes Bath & Body Works Products, Grand Returns Rewards Program and Seattle's Best Coffee.

Honor Roll of Alumni News Contributors

Compiled by Johnna Bowron Ahrendt

During this past quarter, June 30, 2012, through Sept. 30, 2012, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials and gifts totaling \$1,835.00.

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!

Memorials

Julie (Frakes) Woldt '71

Dick & Karen (Colwell) '63 Wiberg

Phyllis Gropel, friend

Lorna (Siebenahler) Bryan '69
Jane Wildung Lanphere '71
Patti (Kirby) Pierson '63

Alvin Wahlert '55

Dwayne W. Johnson '55

Margaret Vegge '33

Hal '60 & Donna Paulson
Cindy (Getman) '64 Benjamin
Barb (Newton) '51 Ball
Delores (Madison) Walters '58
Ken Nelson '45

Marilyn (Christensen) Somers '63

Beverly (Christensen) Kooistra '57

Donna Piepgras '67

Allan & Judy (Steiner) Top '67
Ardis (Ormseth) Mickelson '67
Kristi Fitzer '67

Dale Slieter '75

Class of '75
John '45 & Imogene (Lemke) '47
Krogmann
Elmer & Karen Menage
Randy '72 & Kathleen Remme
Kenneth '57 & Karen Hoime

Wayne Emery '62

DyAnn (Olson) Emery '61

Verna Lou (Shelby) Hoiland '50

Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

Sonia "Sunny" (Turner)

Haggard '51

Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

Ruth (Roberts) Hommen '43

Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

Bonnie Martin Hilger

Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

In honor of Luverne classmates

Linda (Remme) Jones '61

In honor of the Class of 1945

Leonard '45 and Irene
(Lapic) '45 Krogman

Lois (Groth) Pettingil Orwell '52

Merlyn Groth '58

Homer Vos' 47

Linda Vos '61

Nelson Vos, '50

Linda Vos '61

Don Lien '46

Ken Nelson '45

Gene Boelman '45

Ken Nelson '45

Gene Fritz '46

Ken Nelson '45

Howard Helling '46

Ken Nelson '45

Eldon Gradert '46

Ken Nelson '45

Mel Smook '47

Lorren Church '46

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, January 2013, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

Charles Hansen '41

Audrene Hansen, friend

Susan (Iveland) Blankartz '63

Patti (Kirby) Pierson '63

In memory of classmates from the class of 1941 who have passed

Sister Mariella Hinkly '41

Contributions

Conrad Tofteland '43
Delbert '52 and Mary Jane
(Bonthius) '53 Boyer
Goria (Schlapkohl) '50 Siekmeier
Fred Wiggins '44
Joyce (Tofteland) Dean '58
Gary '54 & JoAnn (Aanenson) '54
Barmore
David Jones '37
Leonard '45 & Irene (Lapic) '45
Hansen
Marilyn (Hatting) Holland '55
Michael Liebe '64
Martha Wiggins '47
Inez (Shelby) Nelson '50
Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62
James Nelson '62
David Meier '65

Alumni News Financial Summary

Previous Balance:

June 30, 2012 \$793.73

Expenses:

Labels \$00.00
Printing \$919.07
Postage \$200
Database Subscription \$147.00

Total Expense. . . . (\$1,266.07)

Income - June 30, 2012, through

Sept. 30, 2012. \$1,835.00

Current Balance \$1,362.66*

*Cost of the Oct. 2012 issue is not known, but the estimated cost is \$2,000.00.

**Memorials and contributions may be sent to Alumni News, c/o Johnna Ahrendt
1541 US Hwy 75
Luverne, MN 56156**

What We've Heard . . .

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

Cindy Getman Benjamin (LHS 1964) sends Memories of Margaret Vegge:

As a child, when I would go into Renfro Variety, Margaret always made me feel special. On any visit to Luverne it was always a place we needed to visit. Every time I went in, she knew my name. "OK. You are one of those Getman kids aren't you?" Then she would ask about my brothers.

When all the Getman and Keitel cousins were in Luverne for Aunt Lucille Getman's funeral, we celebrated my brother Jim's birthday. We all went to Renfro's to buy him wonderful gifts. Margaret was so happy and told others what a great sales day she had. Margaret was a special part of my life and the lives of thousands of LHS graduates!

Linda Vos (LHS 1961) sends greetings to Luverne alumni from her home in Loveland, CO. Linda keeps busy. "I'm on our local Credit Union Board and home owner's assoc. board. Continue to bowl in two senior leagues. Find time for my horse." She writes it was a hard summer for Colorado with the heat and lack of rain...but the Alumni News is always a day brightener!

Skyler Hoiland, Mike and Lynette Hoiland send a **A big THANK YOU** for allowing the Bluestem to be featured in the latest edition of the Alumni News. We were very surprised and delighted to have this recognition and information going out into the hands of so many past and present people with "Luverne roots!" How very kind of you to think of us.

Let's Hear from YOU!

Let us know what you are doing and we'll pass it on to other alumni. Complete and then place this form in an envelope and mail to:

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



Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail _____

Check here if you wish to have your e-mail address included in the directory.

Year of Graduation _____

Comments: _____

We are reminded daily of the great importance of close knit, supportive "Small town USA" Community, and we look forward to having the pleasure of your Company at "The Bluestem!"

Marilyn (Hatting) Hoiland (LHS 1965) of Tempe, AZ still remembers the hot and humid summer days in Luverne. She writes: "I had hoped to attend Hot Dog Day (July 12) but realized it was hotter and more humid in Luverne than here in Tempe, AZ. Maybe next year! Keep up your good work on the news!"

Linda (Remme) Jones (LHS 1961) sends a "thank you" for all those who work to put out this publication. It really is nice to hear from so many friends over the years. Luverne is a very special town and I loved living

there as a child. The memories of those years are dear to my heart. We had loads of good fun and sometimes pranks. There are days when I would love to be doing those pranks once again!

Len and Irene (Lapic) Hanson (LHS 1945) of St. Peter, MN send greetings to all their friends.

They particularly appreciated the photo of the 1945 track team in the last issue. They miss coming down to Luverne to stop by the Magnolia Steak House to see their friends, the Dispanets.

Len had a long relationship with Magnolia and the Steak House as he taught at Magnolia High School from 1949 to 1952.

Gary and JoAnn Barmore

What We've Heard/see page 6

Remembering our Classmates ...

Compiled by Carol McDonald

1920-1929-

1930-1939-

Margaret Vegge '33 died July 16, 2012, at her home.

After graduation she attended normal school training in Luverne to be a rural schoolteacher and also attended Mankato Teachers College. For thirteen years, Margaret taught in various rural Rock County schools.

Over the years many of her former students would stop to visit with her and talk of their retirement while she was still working. Following her teaching years, Margaret began working at Renfro Variety for Don and Mary Renfro. She served as the store manager until she purchased the business in 1968. The business was her pride and joy. Margaret especially enjoyed when friends from far and near would visit her at the store.

A major highlight of Margaret's life was being chosen Minnesota Outstanding Older Worker in 1999. She received this award in Washington D.C. Margaret was the oldest businessperson on Main Street. She received the Chamber of Commerce plaque in 2007 for her support of this organization over the years.

Margaret continued to work well into her 90s. Her store motto was "If you can't find it at Renfro Variety, you don't need it."

Family and traveling brought great joy to Margaret. She traveled to Norway to visit family several times.

She is survived by her six nieces and nephews, Carol (Ernie) Arnold, Fred '63(Sara) Vegge, Daryle '65(Joyce) Vegge, Connie '68(Tim) Connell, Audrey Jean (John) Westberg, and Martha'72 (Tom) Nelson; fourteen nieces and nephews; and several great nieces and nephews.

Cyril H. Hauser, M.D '37 died June 1, 2012, in Wilmette, Ill. With the help and encouragement of his Uncle Emil Hauser, he was graduated from Northwestern University

in 1941. He then continued at Northwestern School of Medicine and received his medical degree.

He served as a medical officer in the Navy for four years during World War II. After the war he completed his internship at Northwestern. He trained in several hospitals in Europe as he furthered his studies in orthopedics.

He returned to Chicago and joined the staff at Evanston Hospital where he remained until his retirement in 1988.

He married Patricia Spence September 22, 1956. Their marriage was blessed with four children: Ann Hauser (Mark Harris), Kenneth (Jasmine), Peter (Katie) and John (Michel), 10 grandchildren. He enjoyed gardening, travel, trips to North Carolina and his many friends and family.

Betty Jeanne Strassburg Lund '38 died July 27, 2012, in Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. For a period during World War II she worked for The Douglas Aircraft Company in Long Beach, California.

After the war she moved back to Luverne and married Lloyd Lund on August 14, 1946. On their honeymoon road tour of Minnesota they drove through St. Cloud and decided it would be a good place to raise their family. They lived in St. Cloud from 1950-1970.

From 1970 to 2006 they resided in Monticello where they made friends and were active in the community. They moved back to St. Cloud in 2006 to be closer to their adult children and their families.

After Lloyd's retirement they traveled with friends to various winter destinations and finally set up winter residence in Tucson.

She loved her family and friends and until the end had a smile on her face when people stopped by for a visit.

Survivors include her children: Linda (Mike) Patton, John (Karen Krey) Lund, Jeff (Monica Reede) Lund, and Leanne (Peter) Douglass;

five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren.

Mary Dunn Meinberg'38 died July 17, 2012 in Sioux Falls, S.D.

On Oct 21, 1956, she married LeRoy Meinberg in Sioux Falls. She worked for the American Bridge Company in Gary, Ind. from August 1943 to March of 1952.

She moved to Sioux Falls and began working for John Morrell and Co. in the accounting department from 1952-1964. She later operated a resort in Delta, Wis., from 1968-1972.

She returned to South Dakota in May 1972 and settled in Brandon.

Mrs. Meinberg is survived by three children, Sherwin Meinberg, Keith Meinberg and Kimberly Meinberg, four grandchildren and many other friends and relatives.

Marlys Ormseth Ingvaldstad '39 died Sept. 24, 2012, in south Orlando, Fla.

After graduation she went on to attend Augustana College and graduated in 1944. She then moved to Minneapolis and worked as an airline stewardess for a short time. She was also a personal trainer at the downtown YMCA in Minneapolis.

On December 16, 1950, she married Stephen Ingvaldstad in Luverne. They moved to the Yuma Air Force Base in Arizona where her husband was a chaplain in the Air Force. In 1953 the family moved to DeForest, Wis., when her husband became the minister at Christ Lutheran Church. While in De Forest she was a substitute teacher in the De Forest public schools.

In 1978 she became a medical information analyst with Blue Cross Blue Shield in Milwaukee, Wis. After her husband, Steve, died in 1991 she relocated to Ovideo. She enjoyed gardening and music.

Mrs. Ingvaldstad is survived by three sons, Mark (Nancy) Ingvaldstad, Kirk (Karen) Ingvaldstad and Leif Ingvaldstad and four grandsons.

1940-1949-

1950-1959-

Lois Groth Pettingill Orlowski

'52 died at San Diego, CA April 13, 2012. She was preceded in death by her twin sister, Lorraine, husband, John Pettingill, and husband, Frank Orlowski.

Lois and Lorraine were always referred to as "the twins." Being a twin was not unusual in their class at school as they had the experience of being one of several sets of twins. Lois and Lorraine were inseparable in high school. They were both flag twirlers for the Luverne marching band and performed in the first Luverne Band Festival. A favorite hangout together in their high school years was the Club Café in Luverne.

Lois is survived by their three children, Tom, Jill (Bob) Bosworth and Carol Bennett; four grandchildren, sisters Eunice Witry and Norma Lutz, and brothers Art, Alvin, Robert and Merlyn.

1960-1969-

Marilyn L. Christensen

Somers '63 passed away in Granville, Ill., on July 1, 2012.

She married Robert Somers on September 14, 1968, in Kewanee, Ill. Marilyn was a beautician for 20 years and was a special education teacher's aid at Putnam County School District for 18 years. She was a member of Oglesby Union Church.

She is survived by her husband, Robert Somers, two sons, Chad L. Somers and Cory J. Somers; one brother Norman "Pete" Christensen; five sisters, Becky Roberts, Christy Kloostera, Launa Mongold, Joanne Cortez, and Karen Christensen; and three granddaughters.

Donna Marie Piepgras '67

died Aug. 1, 2012, at the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital of heart failure.

After graduation she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education, with a minor in special education from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She was a special

education teacher in the Minnesota elementary school system before relocating to Los Angeles, CA, in 1980.

In 1989 Donna and her domestic partner, Lucie James, moved to Santa Rosa, where she joined the faculty of the Healdsburg Unified School District. She was a member of the Center for Spiritual Living where she served in a variety of volunteer capacities. She served for a time on the staff of Santa Rosa Junior College. Donna was active in several women's causes.

She enjoyed her pets and was an avid camper, especially camping on the beaches and cliffs of the Pacific Ocean. Two brothers, John Piepgras '56 and David Piepgras '58, and other family and friends survive Ms. Piepgras.

Daryle Lee Goembel '68

died July 31st, 2012, at his home in Luverne.

After graduation he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served during the Vietnam War. On Oct. 22, 1971, he married Sonja Buss.

After their marriage the couple lived in Luverne. He worked at Hanson Silo for nine years. He later worked at IBP for more than 20 years before he became self-employed. He enjoyed having coffee with "the guys" at the Korner Gas Stop. He also enjoyed fishing, repairing lawnmowers, working on his vehicles and watching his grandchildren.

Mr. Goembel is survived by his wife, Sonja Goembel, two sons, Jason Goembel '92 and Brad '96 (Trisha) Goembel; three grandchildren; five brothers, Keith (Jan) Goembel, Glen '57 Goembel, James '56 (Marvella) Goembel, Bryce '71 (Maggie) Goembel and Larry '73 Goembel; and two sisters, Barbara (Don) Ossenfort, and Diane '66 (David) Sterns.

Valere Iveland Byerly '68

died August 5, 2012, at her home in Crosslake, MN, after a long struggle with ALS.

On May 26, 1976, she married Ernie Byerly in Luverne. They worked for Fingerhut in

Minneapolis, before moving to Illinois in 1979. In 2003 they returned to the Crosslake area and owned and operated The Exchange for several years. She was a member of the Crosslake Lutheran Church and the Crosslake American Legion.

Her husband, Ernie Byerly, two daughters, Megan Byerly and Emily Berg; a granddaughter; her mother, Evelyn Iveland; three sisters, Dawn Peterson '78, Cheryl Heikes '63 and Maxine DePauw '72; a brother, Bryce Iveland '66; and many other relatives survive Mrs. Byerly.

1970-1979-

Theresa Cornelisen Lund '72

of Milroy, Minn., passed away on May 29, 2012, at Murray County Hospital, in Slayton, Minnesota.

After graduation Theresa took a job in Duluth where she worked for approximately a year. She then came home, to Luverne and went to work at Campbell Soup Company in Worthington. She was united in marriage to Larry Lund on December 7, 1974, in Luverne, Minnesota. They lived in Luverne for a while and later moved to Marshall, Minnesota for the rest of their married lives.

In the late 1980s Theresa took a class in computer technology at Southwest State University in Marshall, Minnesota. Theresa worked for Shotts Company and Wal-Mart in Marshall. She also did a lot of daycare when her children were young.

Theresa is survived by her husband: Larry Lund, two daughters, Christina Lund and Catherine (Lund) Storliend, her parents, Donald and Marlys Cornelisen, four grandchildren her sister, Bonnie '74 (Phillip) Walding, and a brother, Raymond Cornelisen, and other friends and relatives.

Dale Edward Slieter '75

died July 25, 2012 as a result of a motorcycle accident. After graduation he attended Worthington Community College for two years

Remembering our classmates . . . From page 5

before transferring to South Dakota State University, Brookings, S.D. There he earned a degree in animal science. He completed an internship with the County Extension in Sisseton, S.D, and worked for Western Insurance Company as a crop adjuster. He moved to Huron S.D., to work for GTA feeds.

In 1987 he married Janet Laughton in Le Mars, Iowa. They made their first home in Luverne, where Dale went to work for Moorman Feed Company. He began raising hogs and farming on the family farm. He worked at IBP until the plant closed. He then worked at Hutchinson Technology in Sioux Falls for a year.

In 2000 he began selling insurance for his father, Allan, for Aid Association for Lutherans, which later merged with Lutheran Brotherhood to become Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. He enjoyed all sports, particularly bowling and golf. He enjoyed attending his children's activities and was an avid Minnesota Twins, Vikings and Timberwolves fan. He was known for his sports trivia knowledge. He also enjoyed a good game of pinocle.

Mr. Slieter is survived by his wife, Janet Slieter, two sons, Joseph '11 and Joshua Slieter; his parents, Allan and Barbara Slieter; a sister, Jeanette '72 (Jim) Rutten; two brothers, John '73 (Jean) Slieter, and Randy '79 (Susan) Slieter; his parents-in-law George and Mary Laughton; and many other friends and relatives.

1980-1989-

Todd Birkeland '80 died August 9, 2012, in Sioux Falls, S.D. He worked as a meat processor at Swift Company in Worthington for 10 years and then at John Morrell & Company in Sioux Falls for 16 years.

He was married to Vicky Burnett for seven years.

He loved his vintage sports cars, hunting and fishing, his dog Woodrow and his family.

Mr. Birkeland is survived by his mother, Alice Birkeland; four siblings, Teresa '76 (Duane Hemme)

What we've heard . . . From page 3

(LHS 1954) write: We always enjoy receiving Alumni News. I retired in 2001 and Gary retired in 2006. Our three sons all live here so we get to watch our grandchildren's activities. Gary says stop and see us any time you're in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Ken Nelson (LHS 1945) of Aurora, CO, sends greetings to Luverne alumni when he returned from a visit to Luverne in the middle of July. "Greetings from hot and dry Colorado! So far Aurora has not been in the line of all of the fires, but you can never predict what Mother Nature will do. I was in Luverne last week and could not get over how high the corn was. Beans looked great too. Send some of your rain our way."

Ziebarth, Melissa '78 (Pat) Lage, Terry '79 (Tori) Birkeland, Tim '79 (Lisa) Birkeland; three nieces and three nephews.

Paul Duane Larson '80 died August 7, 2012, in Frisco, Texas, of complications of myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS).

After graduation he attended Ridgewater College (formerly known as Willmar Technical College) and received an associates degree in drafting and design technology in May 1982.

He worked for Texas Instruments in the Dallas, Texas area and in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was a circuit board designer not only for Texas Instruments, but also for Alcatel U.S.A. and Cisco Systems.

In 1990 he married Julie Schuler in Nora Springs, Iowa. They have lived in Frisco for 19 years. He enjoyed attending his daughter's activities, working in his backyard, coaching his daughter's volleyball team, attending football and basketball games, biking and going to NASCAR races.

Mr. Larson is survived by his wife, Julie Larson, his daughter Alexandra Larson, his father, Glen Larson, and his stepmother Jane Nekali, his mother, Clara Larson, a sister Julie '85 (Rick) Cossette, his parents in-law, Larry and Yvonne Schuler, a sister-in-law, Teri (Greg) Salier, a brother-in-law Steven (Sheila) Schuler and many nieces and newpneews.

Online Alumni News goes green, saves green

Have you checked out the Luverne Alumni News at www.alumninews.info lately? A new update is here: You are able to read your Alumni News online. Now that it is available, let us know you would like to discontinue the hard copy to go green (save postal expenses and a tree).

Please email Patti Pierson at piersonprp@frontiernet.net

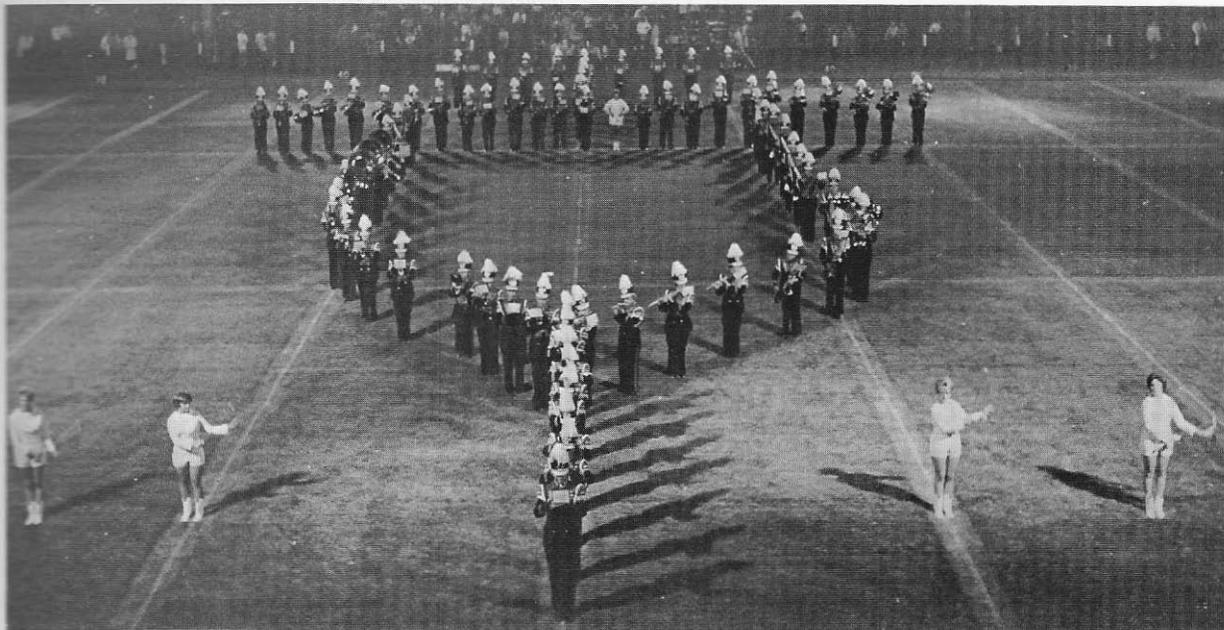
ATTN: SNOWBIRDS!!!!

We have a request from those of you that go south for the winter. If you would change your status with the Alumni News to get your newsletter via email (if you have one) or give us a permanent winter address (if you have one) and dates you will be gone. This will help us cut costs on "Temporary Away" returns that we receive back for each one of you that hasn't given us your forwarding address or aren't receiving it via email.

Please email Patti Pierson at piersonprp@frontiernet.net

Luverne High School Marching Band

Luverne High School Marching Band in formation at one of the home games. (1963)



Thanks for the memories

One of the greatest things about Alumni News is sharing the experiences of growing up in Luverne and Rock County. All of us have memories of things we did, people we knew, events we shared and what we witnessed. "Thanks for the Memories" is composed of a selection of comments and writings submitted by LHS Alumni on specific topics that are introduced in previous Alumni News editions. This edition is about memories our alumni share about the Luverne Tri-State Band Festival.

Tri-State Band Festivals - fondly remembered!

My memories of leaving the school property to march down the quiet side streets to get to the parade route for the Tri-State Band Festival is one of my best memories of growing up in Luverne. Of course, leading the band down Main St. beats all of it!

The last football game of my senior year, we lined up to march onto the football field at half time and it started to snow. Our uniforms were wool but short—remember the boys basketball shorts? Our uniforms didn't cover any more than those basketball shorts.

I twirled my baton until the ends rotted. I still twirl any stick I see when I pick one up. My children patronize me and smiling, they let me reminisce.

I love all parades, big and small, but those parades on Main St. in Luverne remain the absolute best because of the pride and perfection of the LHS Marching Band.

Cindy Getman Benjamin - LHS 1964

Thank you, Mr. Haugen!

My earliest recollections of marching bands were set on cool autumn mornings at the end of September when buses would bring musicians from around the tri-state area to the Band Festival. I grew up in a house on Luverne Street very close to the elementary school and I would listen to all of the bands as they warmed up playing marches by Sousa, Kind, and Fillmore. Those experiences set the tone of my life. When I became old enough, I took Mr. James' advice and joined the band. Through eight years as a member of the Luverne band program, I joined some of my closest friends in creating music, I was mentored by Tom Haugen in to my future occupation, and I met the girl of my dreams. As I begin my 38th year as a high school band director, Tom Haugen is still a friend and mentor. My wife, Cindy (Christianson - LHS 1973) is still the girl of my dreams. I owe a great deal to the Luverne band program.

Steve Connell - LHS 1970, Orange City, IA

Thanks for the Memories/continued on page 12



LHS Class of '65 turns 65

Members of the LHS Class of 1965 celebrated turning 65 years old on Aug. 3 and 4 in Luverne. Available for photograph were **(front row, from left)** Karen (Christensen) Kullnat, Dennis Alberda, Sue (Jacobson) Hilton Jones, Joe Kafka, Nancy Hengeveld, Loree (Untiedt) Davis, Jeanne (Boone) Bowron, **(second row)** Becky (Hamann) Husen, Mary (Vermeer) Harris, Kathy (Molitor) Deuschle, Jeanne (Viland) Ellsworth, Becky (Jacobs) Folsom, Glenda (Trunnell) Haugen, Shirley (Johnson) Olney, Becky (Olson) Eyberg, Alice (Gangestad) VanderGrift, **(third row)** Char (Vanlperen) Hovland, Linda (Janssen) Koranda, Sharon (Leslie) Gilman, Karen (Toms) Thilmony, Diana (Chapin) Ouverson, Ethel (Wilcox) Nelson, Peg (Radermacher) Bavin, Becky (Burns) Schenk, Marlene (Johansen) Nelson, Carlene (Jessen) Boll, Curt Laudon, Linda (Mann) Berghorst, Jean (Johnson) Riendeau, Bryce Davis **(fourth and fifth rows)** Jayona (Collins) Bowman, Dave Barclay, Daryle Vegge, Judy (Anderson) Thone, Jerry Deuschle, Bob Nelson, Louise (Janssen) Parent, Ginny (Oye) Peters, Janet (Boone) Jessen, Randa (Smith) Gangestad, Scott Creeger, Tom Thomas, Larry Boll, Alon Hemme and Bob Bertrand.

Reunion News Class of 1965

The weekend of August 3-4, 2012, was not the usual "every five year" reunion for the class of 1965. The actual 45 year gathering "slipped by" in 2010, so when the idea occurred that the class of '65 would be turning 65 in 2012, the organizers chose the Class of '65 Turns 65" as the theme for our 47th class reunion. (Karen Christensen Kullnat) pointed out that most of us were born in 1947, and it was our 47th reunion!

All communication was through the Alumni News (THANK YOU!). We met informally at Sharkee's on Friday evening. It was a chance to adjust to the changes in appearance and to catch up on the past years.

On Saturday, the classmates gathered in small groups to golf, have brunch, have lunch, tour Luverne, (some in Breezo's 1966 Chevy), and to prepare the potato bar for dinner.

At 5:00 p.m. on August 4, 45 classmates and 26 guests arrived at the Luverne Country Club for social hour and then dinner. After dinner, Joe Kafka emceed his version of The Newlywed Game. The "volunteer newlyweds" were Karen Christensen Kullnat and husband Jim, Larry Boll and wife Carlene Jessen Boll, and Jerry Deuschle and wife Kathy Molitor Deuschle. It was interesting how well the couples KNEW one another!



Luverne High School graduate Bryce Davis (class of 1965) recently traveled the entire historic Route 66 from Chicago to the Santa Monica Pier in California. A magnetic sign on his 1966 Chevy Impala says, "Getting my Kicks on Route 66 ... in my '66 at 66."

As we reminisced and planned for our 50th reunion in 2015, we set our goal at encouraging all classmates to attend the next reunion to make it even better!



The Luverne High School Class of 1972 gathered July 28 at the Luverne Country Club for a 40th reunion. Pictured are **front row, from left** Jeanne (Murphy) Watson, Lynette (Noll) Medellin, Tom Stanley, Lori Boelman, Pam (Bode) Abell, Kathe (Braa) Stearns, Cynthia (Swenson) Cauwels, **second row** Lori (Lemke) Friesen, Roger Tollefson, John Smith, Gary Korthals, Judy (Schmidt) Wiese, Barry Bailey, Max Jensen, John Rogers, **third row** Lewis Kruger, Steve Sehr, Ben Padilla, Zane Birky, Marcia (Huiskes) Bork, Rick Olson, Becky (Gangestad) Keller, Sallie (Frahm) Smith, Diane (Foerster) Jauert, **back on deck** Mike Schmidt, Joel Christensen, Jack Hommen, Kay (Sandbo) Mayer, Sally (Nelson) Frahm, Mary (O'Toole) Hemme, Barbara (Obermoller) Oye, Rick Jauert, Andy Schmidt, Sharon (Melzer) Jenniges, Lynn Walmsley (Exchange student from New Zealand), Catherine (Carsrud) Pfister, Paula (Wendt) Rose, Gloria (Oien) Wesely, Tom Surprenant, JoAnn (Jensen) Emery, Bryon Franken and Maxine (Iveland) DePauw.

Luverne Class of 1972 celebrates 40 years

Submitted by Rick Jauert, for the Alumni News

On the beautiful Minnesota weekend of July 27th and 28th, the LHS Class of '72 got together for our 40th class reunion!

During that weekend of festivities over 60 classmates and their spouses/significant others got together.

With a little help from Mott the Hoople's "All the Young Dudes," The Chi-Lites' "If You Don't Know Me by Now," Rod Stewart's "You Wear it Well," Bill Withers' "Lean on Me," Al Green's "I'm Still in Love With You," and Derek & the Dominoes' "Layla," (and the rest of '72 music), we caught up on current lives, shared treasured memories and promised to do a better job of staying in touch.

I've been to seven of eight of our reunions (sorry, I

was backpacking Europe for the first one). I wouldn't miss one because the community of Luverne has made me who I am. Others feel the same, I'm sure.

That's why classmates came from as far as California, Illinois, Texas, Washington, D.C., and, this year, even Australia! Yes, one of our AFS students, Lynn Walmsley, and her handsome and charming son, Robert, came all the way from Brisbane, Australia. Lynn was from New Zealand and lived with the Rich and Shirley Christensen family. She was also my prom date!

The Class of '72 was special. Of course everyone thinks their class is special, but, I believe, the Class of '72 exemplified(s) the sense of

Class of 1972 celebrates 40th/continued on page 16



LHS Class of 1982 gathers for 30th reunion

The Luverne High School Class of 1982 gathered Aug. 10-11, for a 30th anniversary reunion. Pictured Saturday in the Luverne Eagles Club are (front row, from left) Bill Rasmussen, Mary Surprenant, Mercie (Sterrett) Domagala, Pat Hunter, Sharon (Hoff) Knoll, Lori (Winter) Tingle, Mary (Gits) Reiggins, Lynette (Jensen) Flynn, (middle row) Mark Sehr, Paulette (Wenzel) Richters, Deb (Van Meeteren) Kuechenmeister, Jodi (Stoltenberg) Nelson, Kim Murphy, Laurie (Rust) Cameron, Carrie (Aanenson) Van Santen, Paula (Van Whye) Jelken, Beth (Gibson) Lilja, Dave Swenson, (back row) Bruce Swenson, Randy Schneekloth, Randy Richters, Ann McFadden, Brent Gerloff, Marcia Dorn, Craig Nekali, Dave Hoffman, Scott Lopau, Todd Hess, Loren Vos, Dan Bieber and Terry Connell.

Retired teachers reminisce at reunion

There were a few more wrinkles and a bit more gray hair, but the spunk and spirit of the Luverne Public Schools retired teachers was still evident at their annual get-together Thursday, Sept. 6, at the Blue Mound Banquet Center.

“Wrinkles in Time” was the title of a wall of photographs of the attendees when they began their teaching careers at Luverne.

Twenty-four retirees showed up for the 17th annual retired teachers’ event. (See photo). Jim Sanden was the emcee for the evening and led the retirees down Memory Lane.

It was fun to remember the unity and friendship that the staff shared when everyone worked for a common purpose.

The group took time to remember the late Gordon Gits, a longtime English teacher at Luverne High School.

There were numerous stories about “Gordy” and even one recollection by Jake Boomgaarden who remembered being the referee at a Slayton basketball game when Gordy was playing



The retired teachers who gathered for a reunion at Blue Mound Banquet Center Sept. 6 were (sitting, left to right) Rhonna Jarchow, Evie Boomgaarden, Myrna Norton Phelps, Katie Hemme, Betty Mann, Jane Smook, Linda Gulden, Cloyce Smith, (standing, left) Esther Spease Frakes, Lorna Schoeneman, Norman Miller, Julie Schuur, James Sanden, Lee Alexander, Dan Smith, Shirley Harrison, James Harner, Helen Laabs, Keith Erickson, Janice Nelson, Laurin Carroll, Randa Gangestad, Larry Nelson and Ed Salzer.

as a senior on the Slayton High School team.

A stuffed pork chop dinner at Blue Mound Banquet Center was prepared and served by Cynthia Boll, formerly Cindy Molitor, an LHS grad.

One way that retirees could brag about their grandchildren or anything on their minds was to offer a donation called “Cardinal Cash.” The idea was a way to raise seed money for next year’s reunion.



LHS Class of 1962 celebrates 50th reunion

The Luverne High School Class of 1962 gathered Aug. 17-19 for its 50th reunion that included events at Loren and Joyce Forrest's farm, the Veterans Memorial Building and the Coffey Haus and Skipper's Pub. Pictured are **front row, from left** Bill Martin, Bea (Olson) Maxwell, Carol (Toms) Mulder, Stephanie (Anderson) Frackman, Carol (Godfrey) Lundholm, Susan (Carter) VanBatavia, Sandra (Miller) Murphy, Carol (Mulligan) VanOrden, **second row** Carlos Meinerts, Leon Umland, Art Braa, Paul Schmalz, Gene Gehrke, Vivian (Hansen) Aarestad, Glenn Hemme, **third row** Dale Heckt, Joan (Mulder) Unruh, Linda (Bowman) Moeller, Karen (Frederiksen) Deitering, Vikki (Golla) Joseph, Jane (VanderKooi) Hagedorn, Joyce (Raschke) Forrest, Freya Manfred, **fourth row** Bill Mohr, Bruce Jorgenson, Stanley Gyberg, Tom Arends, Arlyn Hamann, Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey, Steve Schlader, Ardell Bowman, Pete Petersen, Keith Brooks, Lyle Nelson, Roger Brockberg, Virgil Smit and Loren Forrest. Classmates who attended but were not available for the photo include Lois (Ossenfort) Nath, Ronald Hansen and Dorothy (Jackson) Kraayenhof. Grade school teacher Marian Helling was a guest at Friday evening's gathering.



LHS Class of 1992 gathers for 20th reunion

The Luverne High School Class of 1992 gathered July 14 and 15 for a 20th class reunion. Pictured at the Eagles Club are (front row, from left) Meri Thomas, Allison Petersen Eitrem, Gretchen Rud Schumann, (second row) Corey Nelson, Christina Olson Phingsten, Kellie Remme Herman, Sherry Cauwels Rynearson, Nancy Hendricksen Hoogland, Rebecca Meinerts Faatz, Amy Hanson Kruger, Noel Olson Steinert, Amy Sandbulte Tripp, Kirsten Gabrielson Eisma, Kristi Kraayenhof VanDerWeide, Beth Matthiesen Travis, Keri Palmquist VanDederBeek, Kari Stoakes Lais, (third row) Tim Heraldson, Jeff VanDerBrink, Jeff Ahrendt, Dave Vogt, John Kirchhofer, Jason Hoff, Travis Pizel, Chris Wulf, Kirby Heck and Dave Bowman.

Thank you, Mr. Snyder!

No glossy photo accompanies this remembrance of LHS, because during my high school years, there were no organized sports for girls. We had two options: cheerleading or playing in the band.

The Shelby cousins, Gail Shirley, Inez Marilyn and Verna (plus others) covered the cheerleading support. I chose the band, and never questioned our sports "drought". Both Joan Moeller and I played the cornet and were also baton twirlers.

Our director, Roy Snyder, allowed us to alternate roles for parades and half-time performances. Luckily, we wore the same size in both uniform and boots.

Inspired by our son's post high school participation in charity runs, I began running 25 years ago, and finish about seven events each year.

High School girls of today- be thankful for your athletic opportunities!

Gloria Schlapkohl Siekmeier -
LHS 1950

Thank you, Mr. James!

Whenever I hear the University of Michigan Fight Song ("The Victors") I am reminded of the summer of 1961. That year those of us in the LHS marching band had been made aware that we should expect a new band director.

Mr. Ron James blew into our lives, trumpet in hand, upon completion of his master's degree in music from the University of Michigan. Things would never be the same.

Several weeks before school was to start we were notified that band practices would begin in the evenings ... before school even started! What kind of a "nut" did we have here? At our first practice, Mr. James informed us that beginning immediately we would be preparing for different half time band performances for ALL home football games. This was a major change from the one show a year we were accustomed to performing for the Homecoming half time. In addition, we would be



The color guard in 1993 included (from left) Julie Hamann, Tiffany Tabbert, Emily Robinson, Jackie Ohme, Stacie Hoven, Teresa Miller, Angie Reu, Alison Bowron, Lisa Henrichs, Jill Bonnema, Traci Siebenahler, Robyn Lais, Johnna Bowron and Shelly Fonkert. Not pictured is Katie Ebert.

expected to form multiple formations AND while marching from one formation to another, we would be playing "The Victors" from memory.

Of course those of us with any marching experience and common sense were pretty sure that all of this would never be accomplished. He had much different ideas. ... He was right.

One of Mr. James' pet peeves was band members wearing their uniform in a disheveled manner. When you put on your uniform all buttons were to be buttoned, black shoes would be shined, and your total image was one of pride and professionalism.

I will always remember Mr. Ron James as the individual that loved "The Victors" and forever changed the future of the LHS Marching Band Program.

Joe Rowe - LHS

From Batons to Flags!

When I was in High School, Ron James wanted flag twirlers instead of baton twirlers ... no problem. We attached flags to our batons in 1965 and competed at the Tri State Band

Festival to "Moon River." It was slow enough that we did not have to do too many moves. We came in fourth out of four. We were using batons instead of flags on the night of the marching band's famous fiasco - the Redwood Falls game.

I never felt so badly but laughed so hard at the same time. We all still remember that night when the band got out of sync with the drummers. What a memory!

Ethel Wilcox Nelson - LHS 1965

Do you know of any these faces?

Many of us were in Marching Band before we ever started school. This is a photo (**see next page**) that I have in my scrapbook.

I am the first one in the second row on the left. (Ethel Wilcox Nelson) I have another yellowed newspaper clipping but it is not as clean in some ways.

So, many of us at all ages took baton lessons from Martha Sellen. They lived in a white house not far from the school where this was taken. She gave lessons on the flat balcony

Thanks for the Memories/see page 13



of her home. I recognize some people in the photo but not all. I believe that Jeanne MacIntosh is the end girl in the first row on the right. I think Becky Husen is in the first row, third from left. Randa Smith may be the fourth over.

There was a girl named Sandra Qually who would be in the middle (fifth from left.) I think that there may be Shelly Thomas in the second row. I see Eleanor Rober, who was our next teacher, in the top row. The boy in the front was Billy Meinert. He could have been the future Joel Schmaltz.

I am putting this on "The Class of 65 turns 65" Facebook page and am hopeful that others will remember.

We marched to Sousa's "Washington Post March." We actually marched with the LHS band. Little did I know later that I would do that in Jr. High School and High School.

It is too bad that I didn't

remember my lessons well. My younger sister, Mary Wilcox Ebert, did a much better job as a baton twirler than I did.

Our uniforms were long sleeved white wool and my sister wore short sleeved sparkles of red and white.

Here are some of the names -

34- Sharon Jacobs; 36 - Eleanor Rober; 37 - Kaye Anderson; 38 - Sue Norelius; 40 - Patti Olson; 22 - Twyla Hamann; 23 - Judy Connell; 26 Judy Cummings; 28 - Sue Manion; 29 - Vicky Golla; 30 - Linda Remme; 31 - Martha Sellen; 11 - Ethel Wilcox; 14- Linda Goeske; 15 - Kathy Thomas; 16 - Niki Wendt; 17 - Audrey Madison; 18 - Dixie Winge; 19 - Ann Brehm; 20 - Cindy Carsrud; 3 - Donna Piepgras; 6 - Sandra Qualley; 7 - Sheila Smith; 8 - Becky Hamann; 9 - Rand Smith; 10 - Jean McIntosh; 5 - Bill Meinerts

Ethel Wilcox Nelson - LHS 1965

Thanks for the Memories!

Thanks LHS Alums for the great contributions to Thanks for the Memories in this edition! Keep those stories coming! It is a great thing to travel down memory lane!

Send in those stories of the great memories that you had from the **Minnesota State High School League Basketball Tournaments** (districts, regions and state!) Remember those days of packing 10 kids in a big old car (without seatbelts) and driving to the Region Tournaments in Mankato...getting back late at night! Everyone has a memory to share!

Share your stories in the Winter 2013 Edition of Alumni News. Pictures are encouraged!

Mail to: Thanks for the Memories 213 East Luverne Street, Luverne, MN 56156, or email:

luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

Luverne Initiatives For Tomorrow needs support from LHS Alumni

Two years ago, over 130 people gathered together to develop a vision for the future of Luverne. Through private and public funding, the firm LHB was hired to help us put into words what we think of Luverne and what we want for Luverne's future.

This initiative was called the Commercial Revitalization Project and a Governing Board was elected to move it forward. Members are: Marilyn Bloemendaal, Pat Baustian, Greg Burger, Gary Papik, Bill Weber, John Call, Kyle Oldre, Holly Sammons, John Aanenson, Tammy Makram, Brenda Winter and Jane Wildung Lanphere.

Over the past two years the name of the organization changed to Luverne 2021. Realizing how the name was "time-stamped," a new name has been adopted. The Executive Board is proud to announce the formation of a private, non-profit organization that will focus on the future of Luverne. The name of this organization is L.I.F.T. - Luverne Initiatives for Tomorrow.

What has come from the work that has been done by this organization?

- Private developers have invested in the construction of a new hotel which will open in May/June 2013 - watch for Luverne's GrandStay Inn & Suites at the former Pizza Hut site
- Homer Staves, a campground consultant, has completed a study on the establishment of a campground in Luverne
- City of Luverne has included a major improvement project on South Highway 75 with their planned infrastructure project. The project includes sidewalks, greenspace, seating areas, new streetlights, banners...everything included in streetscape improvements
- Luverne Branding Initiative
- Establishment of the Historic Preservation Commission (through the City of Luverne) to assist private improvement in historic buildings
- Establishment of new businesses and sales of existing businesses
- Private investment in downtown historic buildings with investments in building improvement



The Arcade Building has been purchased by local investors and plans are moving ahead for a renovation to bring the building back to its historic look. It was once known as the Stephen's Meat Market Building.

(the Arcade Building has been purchased and plans are moving ahead for a renovation to bring the building back to its historic look) (also called the Stephen's Meat Market Building)

- Application by the EDA for a Small Cities Development Grant
- Citizens creating the opportunity for private investors to become partners in the first-ever Luverne craft brewery ... information is available NOW!
- And more!

If you, as a proud LHS Alumni, want to be part of this exciting revitalization of your hometown - L.I.F.T. has made that possible. The Executive Board has established this initiative as a private, tax-deductible, non-profit organization. A charitable contribution can be made through L.I.F.T. for Luverne's future. Check out information on the Luverne Area Chamber website about L.I.F.T. and find out how you can help! www.luvernechamber.com

Information is available - luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us and 507 283-4061.



Update from LHS Class of 1947!

Always Looking Good!

The Class of 1947 celebrated its 65th class reunion at the Minnesota Veterans Home in Luverne on Saturday evening, August 11, 2012. Lorain DePauw and classmate Roger Jensen are residents of of the Veterans Home.

Front row: Roger Jensen, Joyce Reemts Wessels

Second row: Lorene Mann Busby, Imogene Lemke Krogman, Edyth Winter Briggs, Lois Huisman Ahrendt, Sarah Ann McRoberts Dorn, Doris Gullickson Gath, Doris Schoon

Third row: Walter Tofteland, William Fay, Carol Thorson Cooper, Carroll Winkler, Chad Tower, Leo Berning

Also attending were Audrey Jones Depauw and Kathleen Rolph Sehr

Reunions in the Making

Class of '63 - 50th Class Reunion

Your undivided attention please!!!!!!

Believe it or not, next year we will celebrate 50 years since we graduated from Luverne High School.

A 50TH CLASS REUNION CELEBRATION is being planned for May 31 through June 1, 2013 in home town Luverne, Minnesota.

PLEASE CIRCLE THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR!!!!!!

Events planned to date included many festivities including a Friday night gathering of classmates at the Brandenburg Gallery and Herreid Military Museum. A Men's Luncheon and Ladies' Luncheon are planned for Saturday morning and an evening banquet and program will be held at the Luverne Country Club.

The annual Buffalo Days celebration is also being held this weekend, so there will be no shortage of activities to keep us all busy.

More information will be sent early in 2013 but mark your calendars NOW!

Please update your mail or e-mail information to:



PATTI KIRBY PIERSON
1562 2012st Street
Hardwick, MN 56134

piersonprp@frontiernet.net

Class of '68 - 45th Class Reunion

When: Buffalo Days May 31st-June 2nd, 2013

More information to come.

Any questions email: Dianne Lorenzen Ossenfort
rdossenfort@gmail.com

Class of '93 - 20th Class Reunion

When: Buffalo Days May 31st-June 2nd, 2013

Contact: Jen Hewitt Besta

Email: bestamom4@gmail.com

Events and times will be posted on the classes Facebook page "LIVERNE CLASS OF 1993 REUNION"

Arizona Reunion

Wednesday, February 20, 2013 at 11 am
SUPERSTITION SPRINGS GOLF COURSE, Mesa, AZ
Pre-registration deadline – February 13

To register & for information:

Jim or Judy Herman (after Nov 1) 480 380-6631

Luverne All-School Reunion

When: Friday through Sunday, August 15-16-17, 2014

Great plans are taking shape:

Saturday, August 16—Special Events during the day and the Luverne All-School Dinner & Dance at the Blue Mound Banquet Center

Sunday, August 17—Special Events during the day

Contact: Luverne Area Chamber, Jane Wildung Lanphere 507-283-4061

Class of 1972 celebrates 40th/continued from page 9

community that makes Luverne the warm and welcoming town it is.

I recently returned to Luverne for health reasons after 32 years in Washington, D.C. I chose Luverne because it has always been home to me, and because I knew I'd find a community filled with the welcoming love and compassion that I needed. And I haven't been disappointed. I learned the stuff Luverne is made of 46 years ago.

That was when a 12-year-old little boy's world fell apart with the drowning accident of his father and uncle. But the remarkable LHS parents of that little boy's classmates enveloped him with so much love, laughter and activity he didn't have time to suffer in silence.

Moms and Dads set another plate at the table, made room in the car for another passenger to an away LHS game, and involved him in their family activities. His confidence grew, and his heart healed. He was encouraged by wonderful teachers to dream big (five of whom have visited with him since he returned). He did

I learned the stuff Luverne is made of 46 years ago. That was when a 12-year-old little boy's world fell apart with the drowning accident of his father and uncle. But the remarkable LHS parents of that little boy's classmates enveloped him with so much love, laughter and activity he didn't have time to suffer in silence.

dream big, and most of those dreams have come true! I know because I'm that kid.

I've traveled the world because I realized we enrich our lives, and make a safer world if we experience it firsthand as I first did as an AFS student to the Philippines, at the insistence of Dorothy Brehm.

I made it through a newly free Czechoslovakia (only) by speaking German I learned from Frau Frakes 20-plus years earlier at LHS! I've pursued an incredibly rewarding career in public service due in large

part to the inspiration of two great LHS Social Studies teachers, Jim Sanden and Larry Nelson.

Yes, I am who I am today because of the values, faith, principles and ideals I learned growing up in Luverne and attending LHS. It does indeed take a village - but a special village like Luverne.

Public education is the great equalizer in America where a kid with a single mom living on a poor farm can grow up to be "Scholar of the College," become Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor to Members of Congress; meet several U.S. Presidents; and rub elbows with Prime Ministers - and even a King and Queen of foreign countries!

Most importantly, I've learned to pay it forward. That is why I return to class reunions, call Luverne home, and established a scholarship in my mother's name in the Dollars For Scholars program. I am eternally grateful for all Luverne has given me (and continues to give). Thank you LHS. Pay it forward everyone. [Give to Dollars For Scholars.](#)

Alumni News Staff: Cindy Arends, Lori Ehde, Gregg Gropel, Rhonna Jarchow, Jane Wildung Lanphere, Carol McDonald, Patti Kirby Pierson, and the Rock County Opportunities.

1304145

Volume 24, Issue 1

Alumni News
709 North Kniss Avenue
Luverne, MN 56156



Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Luverne, MN
Permit No. 115

Place Label Here