

*Cheer, Cheer For Magnolia High!*



Mavis Fodness photo/0906 Magnolia Reunion

The original Magnolia High School banner is the first of 50 entrants in the all-school reunion parade Saturday morning, Sept. 1, down Broadway Street in Magnolia. Carrying the black and orange banner are Lisa Tutsch (left) and Susan (Vande Velde) Skattum.

## Smiles and memories prevail at three-day Magnolia All-School Reunion

**By Mavis Fodness**

After three days of reunion activities, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, the graduates of Magnolia High School are still hearing the school's fight song in their heads.

"Cheer, Cheer For Magnolia High," continues to ring in Judy Kruger's ears, she said.

"I had a lot of fun," said the MHS 1976 graduate. "(It was) good seeing people and it was awesome ... wish it wasn't over yet. All of us bulldogs rocked it."



A sticker celebrates the last class before Magnolia merged with Luverne in the fall of 1982.

Activities began Friday night, Aug. 31, with a sit-down dinner and dance at Grand Prairie Events in Luverne.

Organizer Lisa Dohlmann Fischenich said 208 graduates and former faculty from 20 different states attended the event.

"It all went really, really well," she said. "Everybody had such a good time."

The number of graduates and

**Magnolia reunion**/see page 7

# Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Sept. 30, 2018, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$3,295. 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. THANKYOU, 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, January 2019, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

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

Balance 6/30/18	\$783.36
Donations:	3,295.00
DFS Support:	800.00
Expenses:	
Printing:	919.07
Postage:	1,868.36
Labels:	510.41
Office Supplies:	488.37
Paypal fees:	3.81
Balance 9/30/18	\$1,088.34

## Memorials

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Art Groth '43</b><br>Merlyn Groth '58                             | James Hamann '56<br>Larry '56 & Gloria Engel  |
| <b>Ruth (Roberts) Hommen '43</b><br>Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53        | <b>Stanley Rolph '58</b><br>Stanley Bagbey '58  |
| <b>Betty Thomas '47</b><br>Stanley Bagbey '58                        | <b>Dianne (Dreessen) Thompson '63</b><br>Barbara Madison<br>Dale '68 & Darlene Dreessen<br>family   |
| <b>Carol (Thorson) Cooper '47</b><br>Sharon (Herreid) Thorson '56    | Eva Lou Opsata '63<br>Hal '60 & Donna Paulson<br>James '59 & Gloria (Aanenson)<br>'63 Rolfs<br>JoAnn (Thompson) Swanson<br>'60  |
| <b>Jeanne (Soutar) Hoffmeister '47</b><br>Stanley Bagbey '58         | Joe Rowe '63<br>Karol (Stoterau) Mohs '63<br>Lorraine (Dreessen) Crouch '55<br>Patti (Kirby) Pierson '63<br>Ruth (VanBatavia) Wallig '63<br>Tom Gott '70<br>Virgil '60 & Carol (Ossenfort)<br>'63 Oltmans |
| <b>Angeline (Dietermann) Willers '48</b><br>Roger '79 & Lisa Hoff    | <b>Lon Hitch '66</b><br>Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62   |
| <b>Sunny (Turner) Haggard '51</b><br>Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53       | <b>Robert VandenHoek '66</b><br>John Beyer '66  |
| <b>Dale Haggard '52</b><br>Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53                 |   |
| <b>Sid Qualley '52</b><br>Roger '52 & Phyllis (Hagen) '52<br>Sherman |   |
| <b>James Thorson '54</b><br>Sharon (Herreid) Thorson '56             |   |
| <b>Keith DePauw '56</b><br>Class of 1956                             |   |

## Contributions

Barb (Johnson) Stensland '73  
Dolly Talbert - Teacher  
Jerilyn Britz '61  
Kathaleen (Doyle) Cox '43  
Class of 1958 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
Lori (Brandenburg) Bisek '75  
Scott Dahlberg '66  
Susan (Norelius) Humphrey '60  
Wesley Pierson '58

Members of the Class of 1959 donated funds to Alumni News in honor of their deceased classmates, who are: Dennis Arp, Karen Benson, Patricia (Baatz) Colbjornsen, Marcella Deitermann, Joyce (Kasemodel) Espitee, Betty (Roemeling) Evanson, Jerry Gieseke, Diane (Groth) Gyberg, Allen Holling, Keith Ladd, Gary McClure, James Ruddy, John Serie, Rodney Stroh, Robert Wiese and Garnett (Ahrendt) Williamson.

A special thank you to Jerome Britz, Don Blessing, JoAnn (Christensen) Cortez, Richard Norelius, James Rolfs, Eleanor (Rober) VanGuilder and Curtis Dooyema for donating in memory of your classmates.

## LHS Class of 1968 celebrates 50 years

Members of the Class of 1968 raised funds and donated to Alumni News in honor of their deceased classmates. Their deceased classmates are David Anderson, Barbara (Bressler) Garson, Marilyn Blattner, Rebecca Cook, Delvern DenBesten, Rodney Feauto, Daryl Goembel, Terry Hansen, Linda (Hemme) Rehbein, Phillip Hollaren, Valere (Iceland) Byerly, Merlyn Johnson, Curtis Loger, Curtis Maxwell, Ruth (McClure) Stirling, Paulette (Ripley) Brunner, Ruth (Rohlick) Nielsen, Jerallee Rolph, Patricia (Obermoller) Allison, James Schmidt, Michael Strassburg, Norlan VerSteege, Rodney Viland and Carol (Wenzel) Krugerud.



The Luverne High School Class of 1968 gathered at the Luverne Country Club Saturday, July 28, for a 50<sup>th</sup> class reunion. Pictured are (front, from left) Linda Gabrielson Smith, Nancy Reu Janssen, Marilyn Johnson Madison, Becky Frakes Sherwood, Linda Wessels Schoon, Curt Meier, John Saarboos, Luann Trunnell Bartley, Sandi Foerster Laudon, Carole Bowman Hemme, Mike Olson, Sandy Haakenson Parpart, Carol Swenson Krinke, Steve Thorson, (second row) Paul Hawkinson, Dave Eberlein, Deanna Schneekloth Jensen, Rick De Bates, Connie Birkland Lange, Cheryl De Pauw Enger, Monica Swenson Hintze, Dennis Oldre, Bob Rinkel, Joan Hemme Boomgaarten, Karen Mann Menses, Suzanne Kozney, Rita Katka Robinson, Greg Ford, Keith Rapp, Gary Peterson, Lyle Utley, Nancy Molitor Guertin, Karen Rademacher, (third row) Randy Boewe, Dianne Lorenzen Ossentfort, Bill Ketterling, Jeff Jensen, Tim Burrs, Bev Petersen, (fourth row) Xavier Suniga, Jake Aning, Rod Forsberg, Rob Fitzer, Harlan Ott, Jim Jacobson, Al Schmuck, Dave Bowen, Connie Vegge Connell, Ken Madison, Mary Foight Sites, Eileen Lauck Harrington, Rodger Ossentfort, Larinda Van Iperan Braun, David Brakke, Vicki Frahm Ewald, Gregg Fitzer, Bruce Ohlsen and Doug Shelton. Steve Leslie attended the reunion but is not pictured.

# What We've Heard ...

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

## MAVIS REMME STONEBRAKER

(LHS 1952) sends greetings to her classmates and LHS alums from her home in Scottsburg, OR. Mavis writes: "I am still a country woman. I live on 15 acres in Scottsburg, Oregon with 3 horses, dog and cat. All my animals are "spoiled". I lost my best friend last year, Sally Phillips. My mother, Ethel Remme, taught in country school and was my teacher. She was very strict and dedicated to learning." "I have two wonderful children, five grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. My husband, Ken Stonebraker, passed away from cancer. I am retired from my position as Personnel Director for the City of Hawthorne, CA."

## REV. DR. LARRY STOTERAU

announced his retirement on August 31, 2018 as President (Bishop) of the Pacific Southwest District, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. He shares a brief history of his career: "I was ordained in June 1973 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Luverne and served pastorates in Alhambra, CA and Chandler, AZ before being elected District President in 2000. I served as Chairman of the Council of Presidents for the LCMS from 2009 – 2015."

"I married Linda (Wuertz) from Austin, MN and we have two sons. Linda and I currently live in Orange, CA. I send greetings to my classmates, friends and family from Luverne."

**MARK HERMAN** shared this story about Jono Bot, who died on September: Jono Bot '74 was running in basketball practice to the other end of the court and someone threw the ball to him and he did not turn around. The ball

hit him in the head. He went to the floor and the ball went through the basket.

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## Let's Hear from YOU!

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

Send your news to:

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

Or email Jane Lanphere at the Luverne Chamber:

**luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us**

## Alumni News contributions/ continued from page 2

### Barbara (Bressler) Garson '68

Dan Bressler '63  
Steve Bressler '60

### Jim Hommen '70

Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

### Calene (Birky) Williams '76

LeAnn (Reu) Mansour '78

### Doug VanHeerde '79

Laurie DeWispelaere '79

### Dr. Paul Rud

Hal '60 & Donna Paulson

### Les Mahaffay

Donald & Lona (Gabrielson)  
'70 Klosterbuer  
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson

### William J. DeBates -

**Hardwick Grade School**  
**Principal & Teacher**

Gordon '65 & Joycelyn  
(Aanenson) '65 Hansen

## 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.



## Class of 1958 gathers for 60th reunion

The Luverne High School Class of 1958 gathered for a 60th reunion Saturday, Sept. 29, in The Bluestem restaurant in Luverne. Attendees included **(front row, from left)** Connie (Rusche) Wieneke, Marilyn (Kiebach) Carlson, Letta (Matthiesen) Swenson, Dennis Jorgenson, Wes Pierson, Larry Mulvihill, Shirley Honken, **(second row)** Darlene (Dibbern) Nagy, Mary Ann (Woodley) Hustad, Judy (Goemmel) Larsen, Aleida (Dreesen) Meyerhoff, Evelyn (Beug) Steffel, Margaret (Lavonne Padilla) Reiner, Judy (Schmuck) Hagen, Wanda (LaFrenz) Kafka, Marlys (Top) Baxter, Mary (Smit) Donth, **(third row)** Ray Schaikoski, Ardith (Hansen) Bowen, Donna (Kallsen) Connell, Darlene Forrest, Pat (DeBates) Ahrendt, David Piepgras, Ruthie (Beatty) O'Neal, Delores (Madison) Walters, **(back row)** Orrin Anderson, Lora Lee (Schmidt) Ruthenbeck, Merlyn Groth, Charles Goehle, Phil Bonthius, Ken Bjerk, Steve Carlson, Roy Moeller and Rosalind (Beelmann) Kerns. Attending the reunion but not pictured are Yvonne (Atkinson) Janning, Howard Priesz and Mel Viessman.

# Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

## 1940 -1949

**Donald Arthur Stoterau '42** passed away on September 27, 2018. He went to work in the farm implement business and later worked for A. R. Wood Manufacturing Company before buying his own businesses: North American Manufacturing in Sioux City, IA and later the Thermal Seal Garage Door Company in Des Moines, IA. In his retirement he worked as a consultant to small businesses.

Don chartered the first Lions Club in Luverne, remaining a lifelong member of the organization, chartering clubs during those years and serving as club president and zone chair multiple times. He married Kay Nordin August 29, 1980 and for the last 28 years lived in Mesa, Arizona.

Don is survived by his wife, Kay; two sons, **Larry '65** (Linda) and **Dennis '69 (Nancy '71)**; one foster son, **Xavier Suniga '68** (Rickie); two step sons, Tim (Ann) and Tony (Susann); and a step daughter, Cindy; 16 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. Don was preceded in death by his first wife, Shirley Ahrendt; two sisters, **Vernice '37** Jauert and **LaVonne '49** Matus; and a daughter, Janice.

## 1960 -1969

**Jean Anne Mitchell '60** passed away August 28, 2018, in Soldier, KS. She married Peter VanZanten on June 9, 1961. She continued her education at Missouri Southern State College in Joplin earning a degree in sociology and completed her Master of Arts at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, KS.

She married Lester Norberg on December 23, 1994. Jean was an instructor of sociology for several colleges and an author, research analyst, writer producer and personnel administrator with various companies and institutions.

Jean is survived by her husband, Lester Norberg; a son, Pieter VanZanten; a daughter, Danna VanZanten Tan; three grandchildren; three brothers, Jack, William and Michael Mitchell; and nephew Mathew. She was preceded in death by a sister, **Cynthia '55** Mitchell Stroud; and two brothers, **Delmer '57** Mitchell and Tomas Mitchell.

**Dianne Thompson '63** died July 25, 2018, in Sioux Falls, SD. Dianne attended Stewart's School of Hairstyling in Sioux Falls and was a hairdresser until she married Leroy Thompson on November 27, 1970. The couple lived in St. Louis Park, Rochester, Duluth, Clinton, IA, Broken Arrow, OK, Urbandale, IA, Tulsa, OK and Parker, CO while Lee worked for Skelly Oil, Getty Oil and Texico.

They retired in Sioux Falls in 1998. Dianne worked at Cliff Avenue Greenhouse and Kohls until she retired in 2015.

Dianne is survived by her husband, Lee; sons Ryan and Douglas, both of Sioux Falls; a grandson, Rylie; a sister, **Lorraine '55** Crouch, Flandreau, SD; four brothers, **Herman '57** (Barbara) Dreessen, Oak Harbor, WA, **Marvin '60** Dreessen, Port Orchard, WA, **Dale '68** (Darlene) Dreessen, Luverne, and **Gary '74** (Yvonne) Dreessen, Orting WA.

## 1970 – 1979

**Jon "Jono" Bot, '74** died September 25, 2018, in Sioux Falls, SD. He earned a degree in restaurant and hotel management from Southwest State University, Marshall, MN, and married Susan Ries on February 20, 1994.

Jono managed various establishments until purchasing Jono's Bar and Grill in 1990. He sold his business after 17 years and bought the Sky Lounge, Tea, SD, and then finally purchased Botski's Bar and Grill in 2012.

Jono is survived by his wife, Susan, Sioux Falls; his mother, Barbara Bot, Luverne; a daughter Kelli (Brian) Spader, Sioux Falls; four grandchildren; sisters **Kris Anne '71** (Robert) Christenson, Sioux Falls, **Robin '73** (John) Fritsch, Sioux Falls, **Connie '77** (Rod) England, Richfield; and **Jennifer '86** (Kerry) Middleton, Richfield; and extended family.

He was preceded in death by his father, Albert Bot; his niece Elizabeth Fritsch; and his nephew Thomas England.



Mavis Fodness photo/0906 Magnolia Reunion

Classmates Kathy Meyer McArthur and Wes Boomgaarden, MHS Class of 1969, ride a tandem bike past the former Magnolia High School Saturday morning after the two finished in the all-school reunion parade. The school has been a residential youth treatment facility since 1995.

## Magnolia High School all school reunion/continued from page 1 \_\_\_\_\_

their families grew as the Saturday and Sunday events unfolded in Magnolia.

Saturday featured a breakfast at the Magnolia Café followed by an hour-long morning parade, which began and ended at the former high school parking lot.

The Magnolia Fire Department hosted a pork feed after the parade and MHS 1977 graduate Tommy Binford provided live music for an



Mavis Fodness photo/0906 Magnolia Reunion

Coleen Cauwels (left), Pat Olson and Scott Olson help Judy Kruger pin a "Class of 1976" sign to her back. Kruger joined the parade lineup Saturday morning riding a 1956 Simplex Automatic motorized bicycle.



## 2010 – 2018

**Jordan DeGroot '11** died July 29, 2018, in Sioux Falls, SD. Jordan continued his education at Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls and then worked at Jay Egge Automatic Service. Later, he worked at Lund Trucking and finally, as a fermentation specialist at Fermentation Experts in Ellis, SD. His final act of kindness was as an organ and tissue donor.

Jordan is survived by his mother, Sheila Brouwer, Jasper; his father, **Jeff '88** DeGroot, Magnolia; a brother, **Justin '12** (Kayla) DeGroot, Hutchinson, and their children; his maternal grandparents, Conrad (Linda) Brouwer, Leota; his paternal grandmother, Judy DeGroot, Luverne; and his maternal great-grandmother, Martha Brouwer, Leota. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, Dwight DeGroot.

## FORMER SCHOOL STAFF

**Lester "Les" Mahaffay** died at his home in Monona, WI, on August 3, 2018. Les grew up in Illinois in the Palos Park Forest Preserve, and attended Carl Sandburg High School, where he learned to play tuba. Les attended Luther College in Decorah, IA, where he met Cheryl Erickson, a tenor sax player. They were married for 55 years. Les and Cheryl were patrons of the arts and education throughout their lives. As a secondary school band director in Luverne, he instilled in his students a love of music and education.

Les is survived by his wife, Cheryl; daughters, **Emily** (David Gibson), **Caryn '88** (Chris Sundberg), and **Alyssa '95** (Eric Ostlund); three grandchildren; sister Leah, brother-in-law Greg Erickson, a niece and nephew. Les was preceded in death by a daughter, Lara.

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

Applicants for a Luverne Dollars for Scholars award are evaluated on the following criteria: academic performance, scholastic aptitude, work experience, school activity and community involvement.

Students are also required to write an essay describing their future aspirations as well as seek a recommendation from someone, whether a teacher or an adult who has worked with the student. These applications are due each year around February 15th.

All applications are submitted through an online student profile application located on the Luverne Dollars for Scholars website.

Once all of the information is compiled, the selection process begins. Each application is assigned a number.

The Luverne High School counselor verifies each students' class rank, GPA and ACT scores. Only the application number, not the applicant name, is seen

throughout the rest of the scoring. Each essay is read and scored by a group of DFS board members. References, work experience, school activity and community involvement are cross checked against the computerized score assigned each applicant.

Not all applicants receive a scholarship. Applications who do not reach the minimum score do not qualify for a scholarship award. None of the scholarships are based on financial need.

The total amount of scholarships paid out each year varies. The DFS Board uses 4.5 percent of the five-year fair market value of its fund assets as a guide when determining the total to be awarded each year.

Students who receive a scholarship award of \$4,000 or less can use it all in one year, while scholarships greater than \$4,000 are divided out over multiple years, with \$4,000 being the max that can be paid out each year. Scholarship

funds are not paid out until after the first semester of college has been completed. In order to receive their scholarship funds, students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA. Scholarship checks are paid directly to the school.

Luverne Dollars for Scholars wrapped up its 2018 awards season this May. Sixty-one qualifying Luverne High School students from the Class of 2018 were awarded \$427,500. These scholarships ranged from \$2,000 to \$13,000.

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](mailto:luvernedfs@gmail.com)**

**Call: 507-227-4030  
(Johnna Ahrendt)**

**Or visit: [www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org](http://www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org)**



## Class of 1963 gathers for 55th reunion

The Luverne High School Class of 1963 gathered for a 55<sup>th</sup> reunion on Sept. 29 at the Luverne Country Club. Pictured are (**front, from left**) Sandi Hitch, Patti (Kirby) Pierson, Dixie (Winge) Arends, Jan (Gangestad) Wange, Gloria (Reese) Hibma, Sharon (Sasker) Meinerts, Diane (Heckt) Carlson, Eva Lou Opsata, Karen (Colwell) Wiberg, (**second row**) Loren Fick, Gloria (Aanenson) Rolfs, Juli (Anderson) Kuipers, Carol (Ossentfort) Oltmans, Karol (Stoterau) Mohs, Jon Howland, Tom Lippi, Susan (Reimer) Mohr, Bill Skewes, Carol Walgrave, Marty Thompson, Dean Madison, Stan Saker, (**back row**) Joe Rowe, Rolf Berg, Bill Smith, Elwayne Petersen, Ray Griffith, Fred Vegge, Warren Herreid, Roger Deiterman, Dan Bressler, Ken Husen and Marilyn Roberts. Not pictured are Arnie Vink and Marsha (Ross) Ossentfort.

## *Luverne School Foundation continues work of its mission: 'to enhance the educational opportunities for today's students'*

The Luverne School Foundation recently awarded its 2018 grant awards to Luverne Public Schools staff.

Each year grant dollars can be applied for by staff of the Luverne Public Schools. These requests generally cover items or programs that are over and above budgeted district funds.

This process supports the mission of the Luverne School Foundation: "to enhance educational opportunities for today's students."

The Foundation awarded the following grants this year:

- A laser engraver for the technology education program at the middle/high school.
- Rocking chairs as a calming preventative measure for young students who exhibit distress or behaviors at the elementary school.
- A commercial-sized poster/banner printer for classroom and school use at the middle/high school.
- Additional classroom Chrome book computers for two classrooms in the elementary school.
- Funds to support the lumber materials needed in industrial technology classes at the high school for students who may struggle to afford them.

The Foundation, which was established in 2003, was born from an idea of a few school board members for long term needs of the district. A large estate gift followed by Harvey Ordnung, a local resident, and an endowment fund was created.

Since that time, the Foundation has received many additional gifts from Luverne alumni, community members and other supporters in order to continue to support the proud educational legacy of Luverne Public Schools.

Gifts to the Foundation are separate from district funds and are managed by a group of local volunteers who serve

on a board of directors. The Foundation board determines how Foundation funds will be awarded each year.

Historically, Foundation grants have supported special field trips and guest speakers at all age levels, equipment for the music department, supplemental books for classrooms at the elementary level, educational technologies for the family and consumer science classes, classroom speaker amplification systems, printers for graphic arts and many other projects.

The Luverne School Foundation was a leader in the transformation and expansion of the new tennis courts and track shot put and discus field enhancement projects.

We look forward to sharing more about the exciting things the Luverne School Foundation will achieve and we want you to consider being a partner with us through gifts, support, encouragement and education of what we do.

In our attempt to educate and gain support for our mission, we have launched a new website and you can follow us on Facebook - Luverne School Foundation.

Look for regular updates from us in upcoming Alumni News publications — specifically watch for our exciting new name change and refocus! It's time to learn and get on board, supporters and alumni!

For more information about the Luverne School Foundation, visit its new website at [www.luverneeducationlegacyfund.org](http://www.luverneeducationlegacyfund.org) or contact Foundation President Cory Bloemendaal at [coryb@buffaloridgeins.com](mailto:coryb@buffaloridgeins.com)

Luverne School Foundation funds are held at the Luverne Area Community Foundation. Donations can be made on line at their website [www.luvacf.org](http://www.luvacf.org) or mailed to LACF for Luverne School Foundation PO Box 623 Luverne, MN 56156

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

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

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

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

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



Mavis Fodness photo/0906 Magnolia Reunion

The MHS Class of 1981 sports the sign “The Best for Last” as final graduating class of Magnolia High School. They rode in a 1973 M35 military truck owned by Lon Remme.

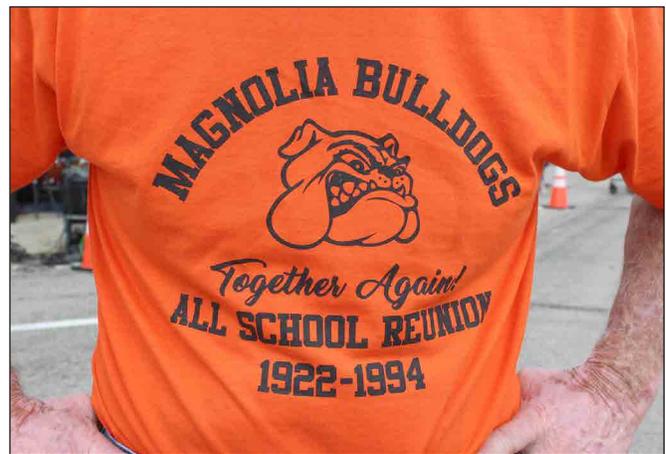
## Magnolia High School all school reunion/continued from page 7

afternoon street dance.

Also Saturday afternoon graduates toured the former high school, which is now Southwestern Youth Services, and current students led some tours.

The residential youth treatment facility barely resembles the former school, with only the kitchen, stage and gymnasium recognizable by former students.

“It’s nothing like the (former) school,” said Fischenich, who was in high school when Magnolia merged with Luverne School District beginning in the 1982 school year.



Mavis Fodness photo/0906 Magnolia Reunion

Reunion shirts carried the message, “Magnolia Bulldogs Together Forever All School Reunion 1922-1994.”

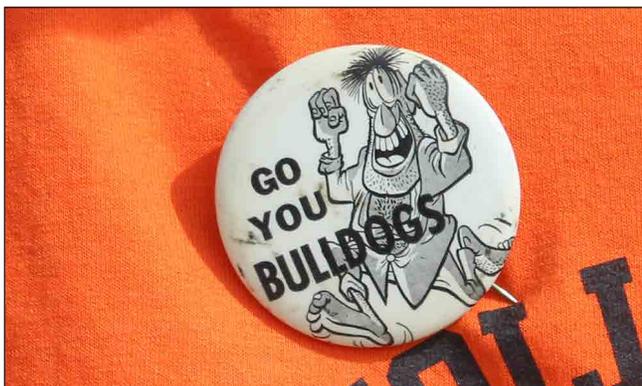
Sunday began with a reunion worship service at Magnolia Methodist Church.

Lori Von Holtum, wife of the last MHS graduate to receive a diploma in 1981, officiated the service.

A golf scramble featuring 14 graduates closed out the reunion activities.

Kathy Meyer McArthur, MHS Class of 1969, organized the scramble and said the feeling of camaraderie was prevalent at each of the events.

McArthur pointed to the relationships



Mavis Fodness photo/0906 Magnolia Reunion

Audrey Aanenson, MHS Class of 1960, dons homecoming pins “Go You Bulldogs” and “Magnolia Homecoming MAGNOLIA vs. HILLS Oct. 16, 1959.”



Mavis Fodness photo/0906 Magnolia Reunion

MHS Class of 1975 float honored their late classmate, Daniel Kopp, and others who couldn't be at the all-school reunion. Pictured (from left) are Marilyn Uithoven, Kevin Kraetsch (hidden), Kevin Smook, Janet Nath, Carla Ennenga (hidden), Lynn Remme, Joyce Schmidt, Pat Rust (hidden), Rick Behr and Collette Springman. Also riding was former band director Janine Papik (hidden).

## Magnolia High School all school reunion/continued from page 11 \_\_\_\_\_



Mavis Fodness photo/0906 Magnolia Reunion  
Dallas Bowron (center), the oldest living graduate of Magnolia High School, waves to the crowd as parade marshal of the Magnolia Bulldogs All School Reunion parade Saturday morning. Bowron graduated MHS in 1932. His son, John, graduated in 1964 and was MHS homecoming king and for the parade drove a 1954 Packard convertible. The 1964 homecoming queen Cheryl Iveland Heikes rides in the back seat.

developed through 12 years of living in a small community and attending a small school.

"You don't get this kind of love and like for another any other place," she said.

Respect for the elder graduates added to family-like atmosphere, McArthur said.

Specifically Dallas Bowron, Class of 1932, Alvie Boomgaarden, Class of 1941 and Annabelle Frakes, Class of 1944, influenced younger classmates who attended the reunion.

"We respect what they have done for the community and for Rock County," McArthur said.

Because of the age of the MHS graduates (Bowron will soon be 104 years old and the youngest graduates are age 55) McArthur said she doubts a reunion like this one will happen again.

The last all-school reunion was in 2006.

Fischenich said she's optimistic about a future reunion, and social media and on-line registration will make the next event easier to organize.

"I think it will happen again," she said. "I just don't know when."



## Wendy Bosshart retires after 35 years

By Mavis Fodness, Rock County Star Herald

Fun and enjoyable describe Wendy Bosshart's focus in the classroom for the past 34 years, and now, as she settles into retirement, the words also describe the next chapter in her life.

Since 1984 Bosshart has taught fifth grade at Luverne Elementary, an age group that has its instructional challenges.

At ages 10 and 11, the students are starting the physical maturity process, Bosshart said.

The challenges are that their minds are easily distracted with more concentration on activities such as sports and making friends.

Technology is often among the distractions.

In Bosshart's classroom, cell phones were placed in a basket until the end of the school day. From the time students gave up the phones until they got them back, she worked tirelessly and creatively to engage students in the learning process.

"I hate to do the same things all the time," she said.

Interactive lessons, small group activities and hands-on challenges were common in Bosshart's classroom.

She also fulfilled students' needs for socializing through communicating.

"I really want them to feel like they have a relationship with me and leave with a good feeling that they had a good year," she said.

Her innovative knowledge to engage students in their own learning came from watching her late father, Milburne "Big" Carrigan, who was a teacher at Jackson Middle School and later the athletic director for the Jackson district.

"I learned from him you have to put in a lot of time and hard work," she said.

Also influencing her teaching focus was her husband, Don. The couple began dating as high school freshmen.

Both attended Minnesota State University in Mankato to study education, marrying in 1981 as college sophomores.

Wendy Bosshart received degrees in elementary education and coaching. She later achieved a master's degree in education leadership from Southwest Minnesota State University in

Bosshart retires/see page 14



## Mark Lundgren retires after 36 years

By Mavis Fodness, Rock County Star Herald

Gone from Luverne Middle-High School is one of the district's longtime educators.

This spring high school social studies teacher Mark Lundgren decided that the 2017-18 school year would be his last.

He spent 36 years instructing students in the district. Sixteen of those years were spent inside the school's west wing and Room A129.

"Because this room will be gone, I have been doing a lot of packing," he said.

Portions of the west wing will be demolished this summer, including Lundgren's current classroom, to make way for the new student commons and performing arts center.

Lundgren is philosophical about retirement, indicating there is a point in time for everything.

"I'd rather leave early rather than stay too long," he said.

Lundgren's passion for teaching began more than 40 years ago while growing up near Alexandria.

He said his parents operated a stuccoing business and encouraged a young Lundgren to go off to college. He was the first person in his family to go beyond a high school education.

"My parents emphasized the benefits and insurance they didn't have with their own business," Lundgren said.

He attended the University of Minnesota-Morris and majored in physical education and social science.

His original thought was to become a math teacher, a subject that came easy to him.

"I took a calculus math class and it wasn't fun anymore," Lundgren said.

Focus changed to social science and became the one he kept for 40 years.

His first teaching job was in 1978 at Olivia Public Schools, where he also accepted his first head coach position.

"It was a small town that needed a social studies teacher and a head swimming coach," he said.

At first he found learning to prep for upcoming lessons and finding a classroom

Lundgren retires/see page 15

## Bosshart retires/ from page 13

Marshall.

Upon graduation the Bossharts searched for schools that needed to fill two teaching positions and needed two coaches.

Wagner, South Dakota, fit the first-job criteria, where in 1983 both received teaching positions. Wendy taught second grade and coached gymnastics.

A year later Luverne was seeking an elementary teacher and gymnastics coach. Wendy served as the high school coach for seven years.

While Wendy joined Luverne staff, Don filled a leave of absence at Hills-Beaver Creek Elementary and was hired full time the following year. He retired last year from H-BC.

The couple has three grown children, Callen, Morgan and Sydney, and three grandchildren.

Her father's retirement experience prompted Wendy to step out of the classroom after this school year.

"My dad had 20 years of retirement," she said. "I thought that was really cool."

For two decades her dad devoted time visiting their children and engaging in the grandkids' activities. Those are activities Bosshart is looking forward to experiencing for herself.

Bosshart has no plans to move from her Luverne home since the grandchildren already live in the area. She does plan to travel to see her siblings more regularly. They live in various parts of the U.S. and all of them are currently enjoying retirement.

With no more time devoted to lessons and teaching, Bosshart said she will have more time to read, shop, garden, walk and enjoy nature.

The Bossharts are also devoted Minnesota Twins and Vikings fans. They plan to attend more games played by the professional teams.



## Elaine Harms retires after 41 years - 38 in Luverne

**By Mavis Fodness, Star Herald**

Newly retired English instructor Elaine Harms knows firsthand life can be short and how important key moments can be in young people's lives.

"I always tell them my favorite word is the 'p-word' ... problem-solving," she said.

Harms retirement marks the end of 38 years of instruction at Luverne Middle-High School.

The school's distinctive steel canopy over the building's front doors holds special memories for the rural Clara City native.

"My school career began under that canopy," she reflected last week.

Her career in Luverne began in 1980.

The then seventh- and eighth-grade teacher had already been teaching in the Tyler School District for three years when the late high school principal John Rath asked Harms to stop in Luverne for an interview.

She readily accepted the teaching position with a school with which she was already familiar.

"It felt like home," Harms said.

For almost a dozen years before she came to teach in Luverne, a teen-aged Harms visited her sister, Luverne Middle School teacher Emily Matthiesen.

She continued to visit Luverne and the school as she attended college and received her first teaching job.

"I am from a family of teachers (and/or nurses)," Harms said. "If I got past chemistry, I would have been a nurse."

Instead she received a double major in social studies and English from Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

During her first years working in Luverne, Harms was the cheerleading coach.

Under the canopy is often where the months of cheerleading practice took place.

"That was back in the day when you had cheerleaders for everything," she said.

The canopy was also the preferred location for summer recreation classes she taught. This spring her college speech students presented their demonstration assignments under the canopy.

While the canopy became a familiar landmark for Harms, so did the students.

"I taught every grade except ninth grade," she said.

Often she would have students more than once during their middle and high school years.

During those formative years, Harms would gently nudge students to make adult decisions and to be accountable for those choices.

"There are always resources that will help," she said.

## Lundgren retires/ from page 13 \_\_\_\_\_

management style overwhelming.

However, he soon found he clicked with the 14- and 15-year olds.

"I always enjoyed the ninth grade and the changes that occur," Lundgren said. "Ninth grade is really a transition period."

Students often begin the school year pushing and shoving each other, acting immature. By the end of nine months, the students have learned that with maturity comes responsibility.

"If you want to have privileges, you have to act like a high school student," he said.

Two decades ago, Lundgren expanded his duties to teach college credit courses to juniors and seniors.

He noticed the positive focus in the students' learning behaviors, just two years after they passed through his ninth-grade civics classes.

Lundgren's high standards also seem to filter from generation to generation. He said many of the students already know him by the time they reach the ninth grade.

He spent 34 years as the middle school football coach, where he saw seventh- and eighth-grade students every fall after school.

"I thought it made my class (management) easier, especially with the boys," he said. "A lot of my management style is to connect and relate to kids."

Later on, knowing they were in Lundgren's room to learn came from the students' parents, many of whom he also had in class.

"You draw the line on what you allow and don't allow," he said. "When I have been here as long as I have ... they already know me. They know I run a tight ship."

The ship will be run a little less tight as Lundgren settles into his retirement.

"This fall I plan to do a lot of hunting and fishing," he said.

Lundgren will also be more attentive to his garden, which he said was often neglected as teaching and coaching activities ramped up in the fall.

He also admits his "to do" list will expand as wife Lisa continues her career as a teacher at the elementary school.

The couple has four children and four grandchildren. Their youngest son, Derek, is a high school senior.

## Harms retires/ continued from page 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Junior and senior students were introduced to some of those resources through the peer helping program Harms advised for several years.

Students learned the value of volunteerism and not to be afraid to step in to help others when a helping hand is needed.

As her last school year with Luverne ended, Harms uncovered dozens of thank you notes given to her by students over the years.

"They're why you want to stay in education," Harms said.

Many of those notes reflected Harms' influence on their journey to become more responsible adults.

However, it was those notes that influenced Harms' decision to resign her position after the 2017-18 school year.

"When you have former students who are retired, it's time to leave," she said.

In her retirement, Harms plans on catching up on four decades of missed reading opportunity, golfing, traveling and spending time with family.

## Reunions in the Making

### CLASS OF 1969 50th Class Reunion May 31– June 1, 2019

#### FRIDAY

Meet at the Buffalo Days Cruise-in from 6 to 9 pm  
with another "Social Hour" at Take 16 at 9 pm



#### SATURDAY



Trolley Tour at 1 pm  
9 hole Golf Scrambler at 2:30 pm  
Reunion Dinner 6 pm at Luverne Country Club

Enjoy all the activities going on with the Buffalo Days Weekend!  
Check out our Facebook Page "LHS Class of '69"!

Packets with more info will be sent out in late January!

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