



The Luverne High School Marching band lines up in formation in 1951, the first year of the Tri-State Band Festival.

## BAND FESTIVAL COMMITTEE PREPARES FOR 75TH EVENT

Seventy-five years later, we're honored to carry on the tradition of success that kicked off on October 6, 1951. The festival garnered its name from the tri-state marker located in the southwestern corner of Rock County. The original committee set out to recruit marching bands from all three states – Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota.

Can you imagine the excitement that high school students felt that Saturday morning in 1951 when 15 marching bands lined up for that first parade? The instruments were shined to perfection. Every uniform had a stiff crease. Hats were perfectly positioned on hundreds of heads. Batons and their twirlers were dressed to the hilt. All eyes looked forward and feet marched in perfect step. Anticipation and excitement were everywhere.

Festival competition looks different than it did 75 years ago and will continue to evolve and develop. Today's street and field performances include complex drills, different instruments and music, props, and new technical innovations.

We still feel the excitement the last Saturday in September when those high school marching bands come to town. Over the years, over 130 high school bands from as far away as Regina, Saskatchewan have participated in the competition. Luverne is the only school that has never missed participating in the festival.

The original mission of the Tri-State Band Festival continues to be our guiding principle as we plan the 75<sup>th</sup> on September 26, 2026. The Midwest's longest, continually operating high school band competition remains dedicated to providing band students with the opportunity to learn, develop and showcase their skills in adjudicated competition.

We invite Luverne Alumni and friends to join us in celebrating 75 years of the Tri-State Band Festival.

Share your thoughts, memories, articles, photos or other items with us as we work with the Rock County Historical Society to develop the TRI-STATE BAND FESTIVAL EXHIBIT at the History Center in downtown Luverne. The exhibit will be up through the end of 2026.

Artifacts and photos for the TSBF exhibit may be loaned or donated. If you have item(s) for the exhibit, please call the Chamber for specific information about the process. The phone number is 507-283-4061

Photos, articles and/or memories may be emailed to [luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us). Mail to: Luverne Chamber – TSBF; 213 East Luverne Street; Luverne MN 56156

We appreciate receiving digital copies of documents and photos that we can permanently archive for the festival history.

# Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Dec. 31, 2025, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$26,485. 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, April 2026, 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 9/30/25: \$54,096.07

Donations: \$26,485.00

Interest & Dividends: 761.83

Expenses:

Postage: 2,847.76

Printing: 962.39

Labels: 901.96

Database: 754.99

Balance 12/31/25: \$75,875.80

## Memorials

**Mabel (Tofteland) Overgaard '45**  
Michael '92 & Paula (Maras) '98  
Gonnerman

Terry '67 & Diane (Mollberg) '67  
Gonnerman

**Mary Ann (Berning) Slagel '45**  
Betty Mae (Berning) Serie '52

**Leo Berning '47**  
Betty Mae (Berning) Serie '52

**Winifred Haggard '50**  
Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

**Barbara (Smith) Gits '52**  
Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

**Charles Juhl '53**  
Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

**Judith (Anderson) Johnson '53**  
Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

**Robert Wiese '54**  
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

**Rosemary (Herman) Merkel '54**  
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54

**Diane (Heckt) Carlson '63**  
James '59 & Gloria  
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs  
Wesley '58 & Patti (Kirby) '63  
Pierson

**Ron Friestad '63**  
Dave Gangestad '64

**Bryan Fodness '76**  
Patricia Teclaw '76

**Karen (Oye) Young '79**  
Doug & Jolene (Obermoller)  
Hanson '79  
Doug '79 & Colleen  
(Obermoller) '79 Deutsch

**Norma Gangestad - Friend**  
Dave Gangestad '64

## Contributions

Ben Cousyn '51

James '59 & Gloria  
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs

Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

Larry Nelson - Teacher

Linda (Pike) Schriock '75

Tom Skattum '69

## 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.

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

### Fourteen new Dollars for Scholars scholarships were started in past year

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, 14 new perpetual scholarships were established with the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program.

Bob Rogness Scholarship

Craig Becker Memorial Scholarship

Daryl Klein Memorial Scholarship

Edward & Joan Salzer Family Scholarship

Hal Wildung Music Scholarship

Keitel Kids Scholarship

Marlyn & Karen Roberts Family Scholarship

Rock County Pheasants Forever Scholarship

Ron Klein Memorial Scholarship

Steve & Shirley Top Family Scholarship

Steve & Shirley Top Parent Scholarship

Steve & Shirley Top Sibling Scholarship

Thomas Klein “Assist” Scholarship

Vickie (Lass) VanDyke Memorial Scholarship

If you would like to contribute, 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)

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:piersonprp@alliancecom.net),  
1-507-920-5186

or 1562 201st ST Hardwick MN 56134

# Remembering our classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

## 1940 – 1949

**Alice Mabel (Tofteland) Overgaard '45** died Nov. 26, 2025, in Luverne. Mabel worked at the Rock County Register of Deeds and in 1947 she took a position with Tri-State Insurance Company as a secretary and then a punch operator. On Feb. 18, 1951, Mabel was united in marriage to Gordon Overgaard in Luverne, settling on a farm near Kanaranzi.

She was a homemaker and a bookkeeper for Dekalb Seed. She lived in her home in Luverne until the age of 96, when she moved to Poplar Creek Estates. Mabel was the last surviving member of the "Young Couples Club," a special group organized in the 1950s which met regularly. Traveling throughout the U.S., visiting family in Norway, caregiving, and enjoying her growing family were special to her as well as being active in her church.

Mabel is survived by her children, **Gary '70 (Suanne '70 Ohme, friend) of Magnolia, Marcia '75 (Darrel) Johnsrud of Corcoran, MN, Mark '76 (Amy '86) of Luverne, and Loren '81 (Julie) of Sioux Falls; 7 grandchildren; one step-grandchild; 5 great-grandchildren; 3 step-great-grandchildren; and siblings, Walter '47 (Ardith) Tofteland, and Naomi '53 Wilson.**

She was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon; son, **Glenn '72; brothers, Conrad '43 and Erling '41 Tofteland; and daughter-in-law Emily Lodine-Overgaard.**

**Mary Ann (McDowell) Davis '46** of Arden Hills, MN died on November 26, 2025. Mary Ann attended Macalester College in St. Paul. She married her high school sweetheart, **Gene '46 Davis**, and they enjoyed 76 years together. Mary Ann was a prolific reader, enjoyed baking, was an expert seamstress, and valued traveling the world.

Mary Ann is survived by her children: Betsy Fisher, Nancy Flatgard, and Jeffrey (Beth) Davis; four grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law Sandra Robison and **Beverly '51 Davis; and many nieces and nephews.**

She was preceded in death by her

husband **Gene**; daughter JoAnna; brother **Leslie '49 (Carol) McDowell, Jr.; and son-in-law Jerry Flatgard.**

## 1950 -1959

**Darlene (Woolsey) McClure '52** died November 27, 2025, in Luverne. Darlene married Douglas McClure on November 8, 1957. They lived in Luverne until moving to Long Beach, CA and later moving back to Luverne. Darlene worked at the Luverne Community Hospital for many years as a ward clerk. She retired and was a caretaker along with Doug, taking care of their daughter for many years in their home after her car accident at the age of 27.

Darlene is survived by three children; **Diane '77 (Gary '74) Blattner, Plymouth, Debi '77 (Cliff) Scholten, Magnolia, and Douglas '80 (Carol) McClure, Luverne; 11 grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; sister, Donna '56 Scholten, Luverne; two brothers, Dale '63 (Angie) Woolsey, Bluffton, SC and David '71 (Melissa) Woolsey, Blanco, TX; and a great-grandson coming in February, 2026.**

She was preceded in death by husband, Doug, in 2017; daughter, Darla, in 2012; grandson, Joshua, in 1977; sister, **Dorothy '54; and two brothers-in-law, Wendell '52 and George.**

**Charles Juhl '53** died on October 22, 2025, in Luverne. Charles was a member of the National Guard from 1953 to 1961. He attended Radio Communication School at Ft. Benning, GA, in 1956. On August 19, 1956, Charles was united in marriage to **Gloria '53 Albers** in Luverne.

The couple moved to the Juhl family farm and were the third generation to farm the land, for 45 years. In 1985 Charles retired and was employed at the Valley Springs Co-op Elevator for 17 years. In 2001 the couple moved to Luverne, and in 2019 to Poplar Creek. Charles entered the Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Home in 2022.

Charles is survived by his three children, **Lori '77 (Hal '78) Schmidt of Luverne, Paul '81 of**

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## Remembering our classmates/continued from page 4

Harrisburg, SD, and John '83 (Tammy) of Fergus Falls; 5 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; sisters **Marianna '57** Jergensen and **Marge '49** Walter; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, **Gloria**; sisters and brothers-in-law Sarah Juhl, **Jean '48** and **Norman '48** Ahrendt, and Frank Walter.

### 1960 – 1969

**Carmen Priesz '61** died October 20, 2025.

Carmen continued his education at the University of Minnesota and Mankato State College. On September 18, 1965, he married Jane Peterson, in Red Wing, MN. Together, they shared 60 years of life, adventure, and partnership – moving an impressive 19 times and embracing each home with optimism. Carmen spent his career working in the insurance industry. He retired from American Family Insurance in 2004 but continued to serve his community – as a reserve deputy for the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Department, working as a driver's training instructor, and spending time assisting at Vern Eide, Avera Hospital, and Prairie Green Golf Course. He and Jane loved traveling together, especially to Florida and Arizona, and any place where sand and sun were plentiful.

Carmen is survived by his wife, Jane; his son, Eric (Lisa) Priesz; daughter, Stephanie (Tim) Krenik; and 4 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brother, **Howard '58**.

**Dianne (Heckt) Carlson '63** of Luverne, died on November 13, 2025. She graduated from St. Joseph's nursing school in Mankato with a degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She married John Zewiske on February 19, 1966, in Jasper. They later divorced. She married **Steve '58** Carlson on March 27, 1982, in Hardwick. The couple lived in Rock Rapids, before moving to Luverne; for the past few years Dianne lived in Pipestone. She worked as a nurse in Wausau, WI, and Sioux Falls, and as a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Mary Jane Brown Good Samaritan Home in Luverne.

Dianne is survived by her children; **Chris**

**'85** (Jenny) Zewiske, Minneapolis; **Joseph '86** (**Nancy '88**) Zewiske, Mukwonago, WI, **Ann '88** (Ola) Bildtsen, Roseville, **Wayne '90** Zewiske, Luverne, Robert (**Ashley '04**) Carlson, Hardwick, and **Mary Ella '02** Carlson, Seattle, WA; 11 grandchildren; sister-in-law **Judith '60** Carlson, Luverne; and brother-in-law **Doug '65** Wessels, Sioux Falls.

She was preceded in death by her husband, **Steve**; two brothers, Donald and **David '67** Heckt; and two sisters, **Mary '65** Maroon and **Virginia '68** Wessels.

**David Rogness '66** died on December 19, 2025, in Luverne. David enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, where he worked in air freight and served a tour of duty in Vietnam. While stationed in San Antonio, TX, he met his wife, Louise Grant and they were married on August 27, 1970. The couple moved to Luverne in 1972, and David was employed at Darwin's Service Center until the early 80's. He then worked restoring furniture with his father. David served two years with the Air Force National Guard of South Dakota. He was also involved in the American Legion and VFW. David loved working on cars and enjoyed photography. In 2023, David moved into the Minnesota Veteran's Home in Luverne.

David is survived by his wife of 55 years, Louise; two daughters **Stephanie '90** Fischer of Sioux Falls, **Pamela '96** (**Derek '97**) Halverson of Luverne; 3 grandsons; siblings **Steve '69** (Robin) Rogness of Stow, OH, **Rick '74** (Kim) Rogness of Mesa, AZ, and **Linda '83** (**Steve '84**) DeSplinter of Jasper; and many nieces and nephews.

**Cathlaine 'Catie' Godfrey '66** died on October 12, 2025, in Olympia, WA. Catie attended Lutheran Deaconess Nursing Program in Minneapolis. She moved to Los Angeles and worked in hospitals there before moving to Shelton, WA. She bought a hobby farm and continued nursing and was finally able to have animals she so loved.

Catie is survived by her brother **George '61**

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and sister **Carol '62**. She was preceded in death by her sister **Anita '60**, brother **James '63**, and sister **Linda '65**.

**Robert 'Bob' Iverson '67** died on December 5, 2025, in Silver Lake, MN. Bob attended Austin State Junior College earning an associate's degree and then continued his education at Moorhead State College, earning a B.S. in Education in 1971. In August 1987, Bob completed his Master of Science degree at Mankato State University and went on to complete his administrator's degree on June 7, 1991. In 1978 he married Sharon Reznechek at Glencoe. Bob was an elementary teacher at Glencoe, where he coached wrestling, girls' tennis, cross country, drivers' education, and motorcycle safety. He became the elementary principal at Pemberton, then Springfield, and finally at Central Elementary in Norwood Young America, retiring on June 30, 2009. Bob was a member of MEA, NEA, MESPA, and Lions. He was active in his church and enjoyed hunting, camping, motorcycling, skiing, fishing, gardening, and many other interests. He spent time with family and friends at his lake cabin in northern Minnesota.

Bob is survived by his wife, Sharon; children Dr. Sonja (Taylor) Iverson-Hill, Seth Iverson, and Samantha Iverson; 2 grandchildren; sisters **Patricia '59 (Dr. James '57) Lehmann**, **Lois '60 (Dr. Dennis '58) Jorgenson**; brothers, **Richard '64 (Cammy '64)** and **Ralph '77 (Terri)**; sisters-in-law, Marie (Steve) Brand, Janet Reznechek, Carol Reznechek, Deborah (Steve) Lies; brothers-in-law Don (Cindy) Reznechek, and Richard (Lori) Reznechek; and many other relatives.

He was preceded in death by his sister-in-law, Janet Drong; and brothers-in-law, Arnie Reznechek and Duane (Dewey) Reznechek.

### 1970 – 1979

**Gene Noll '70** died November 7, 2025, in Sioux Falls, SD, from complications of West Nile. Gene attended Jackson Vocational School in Jackson, MN, earning his Architectural Drafting degree in May 1972. He worked for Martin Homes,

DGR Engineering and in 1990, he started working for Veteran Affairs as an engineering technician where he worked for 20 years before retiring. In retirement, Gene helped drive truck for D&C Trucking. He enjoyed coaching the Beaver Creek Little League Fastpitch Softball Team, playing pool, riding motorcycles, drawing, and listening to music.

Gene is survived by Crickett Noll of Beaver Creek; children Tory (Jill) Noll of Shakopee and Renee (Joe) Swiatek of Plainfield, IL; four grandchildren; siblings, **Linda '67 Wagner** of Omaha, NE and **Sharon '68 (Dave) Dierks** of Sioux Falls.

He was preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Jim Wagner.

**James "Jim" Rockman '72** of Luverne, died on November 29, 2025. Jim lived in Alaska for 13 years, where he worked in construction and had lots of adventures. He married Catherine Law in 1985. In 1992, he returned to Luverne with his family and worked for the City of Luverne as a water/wastewater operator, followed by several years as a truck driver until retiring. Jim enjoyed hunting trips in Alaska and Minnesota, spending time with friends and family, reading and listening to 70's music. In 1993, Jim and Cathy purchased a small acreage on the edge of Luverne.

With his support his daughter **Kimberly '06** began transforming five acres into Prairie Ally as the demonstration site for Project Food Forest, a small nonprofit in the area. He kept a keen eye on the comings and goings on the property, including people and wildlife. Jim always sent his daughters off with "be good and be kind" as a reminder to be considerate and kind to all.

Jim is survived by his daughters, **Alyson '08 (Robert) Silbaugh** of Minnetonka, and **Kimberly '06 (partner, Clinton Brown) Rockman** of Luverne; 2 grandchildren; his former wife, Cathy; siblings Leann Denn, Judy (Steve) Peterson, **Darrell '70 (Sharon '71) Rockman**, **Pat '73 (Brillo) Sprock**, and **Cindy '74 (Jim) Walberg** and their children and grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brother-in-law Peter Denn, and nephew Eliot Hefern.

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**Charles (Chuck “Tuna”) Van Wyhe ’75** died November 8, 2025, on his way to his deer stand in Rock County, MN. Chuck furthered his education at Willmar Vocational College and studied electronics, graduating in 1977. He was employed by Van Wyhe TV from 1964 to 2004. He then worked at Daktronics as a Quality Assurance Engineer until present.

Chuck was very involved in his community and was dedicated to wildlife and habitat restoration of land acquisition, winning awards for his involvement. He was a charter member of the Rock County Pheasants Forever and was nominated as a Top 25 Volunteer in the nation for National Pheasants Forever, along with being appointed to the Minnesota Pheasants Forever Hall of Fame. He was known for his grilling skills and teaching his kids and grandkids the joys of being outdoors. He loved hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, trap shooting and camping.

Chuck is survived by his wife, Norma of Luverne; children **Nick ’04** (Traci Thoreson) of Sioux Falls, **Mike ’07** (Jess) of Brandon, SD, and **Stephanie ’10** (Clint) Roosenboom of Steen; 5 grandchildren with 2 arriving in 2026; siblings, **Harlan ’78** of Maple Grove, **Paula ’82** (Jim) Jelken of Luverne, and **Paul ’89** (Erika) of Fort Mohave, AZ; parents Harold and Toni Van Wyhe of Luverne; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents and in-laws.

**Karen (Oye) Young ’79** died October 23, 2025, in Jackson, MN. Karen was united in marriage to Robert Knapper in 1979. The couple moved to Williston, ND, and later divorced. Karen lived in Florida for many years before returning to Luverne in 2022.

Karen is survived by her daughter, Bobbi Jo of Trenton, ND; mother, Lila Oye of Luverne; two sisters, **Julie ’75** (Dean) Johnson of Boise, ID, and **Janet ’80** Oye of Boise; 5 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her father Orin Oye, and her sister, **Pam ’77** Oye.

### 1990 – 1999

**Timothy “Tim” Palank ’98** died October 28, 2028, in Philadelphia, PA. Tim attended the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, and then a semester at Dakota State University in Madison, SD, before moving to Omaha, NE, in August 2001. He worked at Sullivan’s Steakhouse, becoming an assistant manager and certified wine sommelier. In June 2017 he transferred to Sullivan’s Wilmington, DE, where he was the sommelier and manager.

He was an enthusiastic Minnesota sports fan. He and partner, Sandy, loved exploring the East Coast food scene, concerts, art museums and national parks. His greatest joy was being an uncle.

Tim is survived by his partner, Sandy Groenwold, Claymont, DE; parents, Sarah (Gary) Kooiker, Brandon, SD; father, Douglas (Vicki) Palank of Omaha; siblings, Abigail (Marc) and Isla Carey of Champlin, Hannah (Roberto) and Jack Timothy Luciano of Gainesville, FL, and Jessica Palank of Omaha; and many family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his uncle, Leslie Palank and aunt, Julie Pepper

### 2010 – 2019

**Taylor Mulder ’10** of Luverne, died on November 1, 2025. Taylor attended Alexandria Technical & Community College for carpentry, graduating in 2012. He moved back to Luverne and worked for Saker Construction. In 2013, he began working for Schwartz Farms and quickly moved up to be the maintenance supervisor. Taylor loved remodeling his house, camping on weekends and sharing good food and good company. His greatest joy was his family.

Taylor is survived by his partner, Marissa Nelson of Luverne; three sons, Morgan, Sawyer and Jaxon; parents, **Randy ’85** and **Marcia ’84** Mulder of Luverne; sister, Brittany (Josh) Yamauchi of Waconia, MN; paternal grandmother, Carol Van Wyhe; and a niece and nephew.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfathers and maternal grandparents.

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## Former School Staff

**Arlene (Ree) Bendix** died October 1, 2025, in Luverne. Arlene was born on a farm near Milroy, MN, where she was raised as the youngest of 10 siblings. In 1947, the family moved to Sioux Falls, where she graduated from Washington High School in 1954. She attended Southern State Teacher's College in Springfield, SD, graduating in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She began teaching in Renville where she met and married her husband, **Eugene Bendix** on June 1, 1962. They moved to Luverne where Arlene taught kindergarten and first grade. She also helped establish a nursery school in Luverne at the First Presbyterian Church. She retired in 2002 after teaching for 26 years.

Arlene was very active in her church, volunteered at the History Center, the local hospital and was a volunteer reader at the elementary school. She loved swimming, playing bridge, quilting, and gardening.

Arlene is survived by her two daughters, **Julie '83** (Jim) Barkley of Grenville, SD and **Michele '88** (Joe) Vogel of Sioux Falls; 5 grandchildren; and other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Eugene; and nine brothers and sisters, and their spouses.

**Julie (Sankey) Schuur** died on November 23, 2025, in Luverne. Julie grew up in Chandler, MN, attending a rural school, and then graduated from Edgerton Public School. She attended St. Cloud Teacher College where she received her elementary education degree in 1947. Later, in 1969, Julie completed her B.A. through Sioux Falls College. Teaching was her passion for 43 years. She educated children in Trosky, Balaton, Chandler and Luverne, retiring in 1991. On June 12, 1949, Julie married John Schuur in Chandler. She was very active in her church and a variety of organizations including the National

Ataxia Foundation and the Luverne Lions Club International Foundation. "Grandma Julie" helped many Vietnamese and Laotian immigrants settle into the local areas, assisting them with language, housing, finances, taxes and adjusting to our country.

Julie is survived by her five children, Steven (Cindy) of Sioux City, IA, Diane (Michael) Viehauser of Pillager, MN, **Marlene '72** Vos of Lakefield, **Debra '76** (Jack) Stansbury of Sioux Falls, and **Darrell '78** of Sioux Falls; 11 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; brother Willard; sisters Rose, Jean, Evelyn, Erma, and Phyllis; and sisters-in-law Rose and Carolyn Sankey.

## Friend of Luverne Graduates

**Evelyn (Titus) Boone** passed away on October 28, 2025, at her home in Rochester, MN, at the age of 100. Born in Earl, WI, she married Ervin S. Boone on July 5, 1945. They shared 69 years of marriage. Evelyn was state president of the Minnesota Medical Auxiliary and enthusiastic supporter of community arts and music. She was a fierce female voice in getting things done. A proud 61-year member of P.E.O., Evelyn held every major office within the organization. Following Ervin's retirement as a medical doctor in Luverne, Evelyn helped manage a small medical clinic in Stone Lake, WI, where they combined their talents to bring care and healing to others. Known as "Cookie Grandma", she poured her creativity into cooking, baking, sewing, and knitting, as well as updating the family lineage with her genealogy research.

Evelyn is survived by her daughters **Janet '65** (Delbert) Jessen, **Jeanne '65** (John) Bowron, **Jane '72** (**James '72**) Golla, and **Jodie '77** Boone; 13 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ervin and brothers Clifford, Joseph and Richard Titus.

## Please help us find missing addresses

*Please check the Alumni News website for "unknown" addresses. We need your help locating them for postal addresses and email addresses. If you know the individuals personally, please ask them to email their postal address to [piersonprp@alliancecom.net](mailto:piersonprp@alliancecom.net). Thank you.*

...it's all free!

1st ANNUAL TRI-STATE BAND FESTIVAL

Gigantic Parade Starts At 2:00 P. M.

...everyone is invited!

Afternoon and Evening Event in LUYERNE Saturday, October 6

15 High School Marching Bands-Drill Teams-Queens

THESE BANDS WILL BE HERE!

- Huron, S. D.
- Sioux Center, Ia.
- Theda
- Beaver Creek
- Conroy, S. D.
- Alcester, S. D.
- George, Iowa
- Hawarden, Iowa
- Luverne
- Pipesport
- Sheldon
- Garrison (Tribune)
- Warrington
- Winton

PARADE ROUTE

PARADE STARTERS

PARADE ENDERS

PARADE BAND

PARADE QUEENS

PARADE DRILL TEAMS

YOU'LL see a colorful parade at Luverne's first Tri-State Band Festival. Plus the high school bands, you'll see the famous South Dakota State college Marching Band, The Coole and 40 of 8 drill teams, the Casino at the State Falls Odd Fellows, and a number of beautiful floats. Saturday, October 6, will be a day for the entire family in Luverne. Come early and have lots of fun. Remember, it's all free.

AFTERNOON BAND CONCERTS

INTRODUCTION OF "MISS SOUTH DAKOTA"

PULL EVENING OF FINE ENTERTAINMENT

NO PARKING ON MAIN ST. FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL AFTER PARADE.

This Gala Event is Sponsored by the Luverne Civic & Commerce Association

<p><b>AUTOS, IMPLEMENTS AND AUTO REPAIR</b></p> <p>Starkamp Home Auto Connell Chevrolet De Luxe Body Shop Friedland Farm Service Hart Implement Co. Horseman Motor Co. Luverne Body Shop Luverne Truck Co. Rapp Motor and Implement Co. Schwan Motor Sales Sellen and Co. Service Auto Co. Shelley's Smith-Jensen Motor Sales Thone Implement and Auto Co. Van's Motor Co. Eli Waggoner Motor Repair</p> <p><b>APPLIANCES, ELECTRICIANS, PLUMBERS</b></p> <p>Hareld's Electric Hickley Appliance L. and S. Electric L. A. McClure Rice County Singsen S. W. Sawing Machine Co.</p> <p><b>BARBERS, BEAUTY SHOPS</b></p> <p>Kay's Zip Joint Lillian's Beauty Shop</p> <p><b>BAKES</b></p> <p>Rice County Bank First National Bank</p>	<p><b>DRUG STORES</b></p> <p>Laudon Drug Store Storker Drug Store</p> <p><b>DAIRIES, CREAMERIES, ICE CREAM MFG.</b></p> <p>Dairy Queen Forsyth Dairy Luverne Coop. Creamery</p> <p><b>AGRICULTURAL</b></p> <p>Albert Christensen L. D. Long Rock County Farm Bureau</p> <p><b>ATTORNEYS, PHYSICIANS AND OTHER PROFESSIONS</b></p> <p>Hansen and Engan F. F. Michael Wart B. Stevens Benjamin Vander Kooi Dr. O. W. Anderson Dr. F. W. Bufordkamp Dr. E. S. Booser Dr. A. C. Martin Dr. C. L. Sherman Dr. F. E. Bartzend Dr. G. V. Butler Dr. H. E. Dale D. H. Barnhart Harvey Edstrom Dr. C. H. Haggard Dr. G. N. Getman K. M. Getman Dr. M. C. James</p>	<p><b>CONSTRUCTION, BUILDING SUPPLIES</b></p> <p>Albert S. Helling Aurilio Hubert Stanford Lumber Co. Cyril Dahlstrom Bernard Elberlein Gay Maxwell Haller Construction Co. Haffing Gravel Co. Rudolph Hermann Lampert Lumber Co. Luverne Builders Supply Luverne Ready Mix Cement Co. Luverne Roofing and Mant. Co. Luverne Steel Co. Hubert McClure Ridg Construction Co. Bruce Vining Waltjer Construction Co.</p> <p><b>EATING PLACES</b></p> <p>Beit's Bakery and Lunch Coffee Shop Council Oak Lunch Bar Kaffee Kup The Eighty Lang's Cafe Robert's Shack Bar</p>	<p><b>FOOD STORES, BAKERIES</b></p> <p>A &amp; P Store Ben's Bakery Central Market Central Lumber Co. Dew's Market George's Bakery Kenny's Market Martha's Market Walton Bros.</p> <p><b>FURNITURE STORES, MORTUARIES</b></p> <p>Bauch Furniture Store Casey's Case Store Johnson's Funeral Home Mason Bros. Smith Furniture</p>	<p><b>GRAIN, FEED, SEED, HARDWARE</b></p> <p>Backler's Hardware Bauer Grain and Feed Co. E. S. Brown Co. Casey's Case Store Forsyth Case Store, Co. Gambill Store Luverne Farm Store Walton Bros. Northern States Feeds Service Co.</p> <p><b>HATCHERIES</b></p> <p>ROCK COUNTY HATCHERY WIGGING HATCHERY</p> <p><b>HOTELS AND MOTELS</b></p> <p>Manitou Hotel Sunrise Hotel Winkler Hotel</p> <p><b>INSURANCE, REAL ESTATE</b></p> <p>A. J. Anderson Bauer Creek Mutual Ins. Co. Frank Ferguson John Kuroki Lee McDowell W. L. Merrick Realty Co. New Life Mutual Fire Ins. Co. Tri-State Mutual Fire Insurance Co.</p> <p><b>JEWELERS</b></p> <p>Hornell Jewelry Schuler's Jewelry Thomson The Jeweler</p>	<p><b>LAUNDRY, CLEANERS</b></p> <p>Cumey Cleaners Luverne Laundry United Cleaners</p> <p><b>MANUFACTURERS</b></p> <p>Hansen Silo Co. Luverne Egg Separator Water Stone Northern Ventilating &amp; Insulating Co. Parker Dehydrated Products Co. Sellar Products Co. A. S. Reed Mfg. Co.</p> <p><b>PETROLEUM PRODUCTS</b></p> <p>Good Service Oil Co. Lang's Service Station and Cafe Luverne Laundry Luverne's Standard Service Nichols Service Ray's Service Station Rock County Chem. Oil Co. Shelley's Stoney-Watson Bulk Station Stromberg Oil Bulk Station Savage Tire Shop Wormen's Green Service</p> <p><b>PUBLICATIONS</b></p> <p>Luverne Announcer Rock County Standard</p> <p><b>RECREATION</b></p> <p>Luverne Recreation Bauer's Recreation Veterans of Foreign Wars</p>	<p><b>RESTAURANTS, BARBERS AND DEPARTMENT STORES</b></p> <p>Chapman and Co. Gardner Hareld's Apparel Lundquist and Miller Luverne Shoe Store Walton Bros. J. C. Hanson Co. Walter's Variety The Shop</p> <p><b>THEATRES</b></p> <p>Palace and Fox Theaters</p> <p><b>WHEELS</b></p> <p>W. and S. B. Service</p> <p><b>MISCELLANEOUS</b></p> <p>Beit's Shoe Repair Clayton's Radio Service Lusk Coffee Quigley's Radio Service Quigley's Beverage Co. Quigley's Tea Service Walter's Amusement Wagon Wheel Luverne Excursion Huge Heater Helen's Studio Northwestern Bell Tel. Co. Charles W. Smith Donald S. Thom</p>
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A newspaper advertisement announces the details of Luverne's first Tri-State Band Festival in 1951.

# Getman shares memories of early band festival days

The following letter was written by Gerry Getman on July 29, 1985. He shared his memories of the beginning of the TSBF as he was asked to return to serve as parade marshal September 27, 1985.

"Actually, the band festival started in the room that my brother, Ken, occupied as his optical laboratory. I was back there one day having a cigarette with Ken and he mentioned that he had watched the high school band practicing. He commented on how good they were for high school youngsters, and wished more people could see them

perform. We talked a while and the next day Ken wanted to know what I thought about setting up a day when other high school bands could be invited to come and march as they do at football games. Ken was an excellent musician, having played on college and city bands all of his life. A couple of more conversations and we felt it was very important to get the opinion of a couple others. We arranged to meet with Bob Hendricks of Terrace Park Dairy, Tolly Tollefson of the Announcer, and Roy Snyder the High School Band director. Out of this came all the

early plans for the Tri-State Band Festival. Ken Getman played the major role in the plans because of his background in bands, and carried many of the committee jobs as long as his health permitted. He most enjoyed being the Parade Starter, and loved seeing to it that each band was ready to step off exactly on signal...with enough room between bands so each could do their show on Main Street.

I served on numerous committees from the very start.

GETMAN/SEE PAGE 13

# Chaff Column from AL MCINTOSH following the first Tri-State Band Festival in October 1951

The first car off a factory assembly line always has “bugs” that the engineers had never expected. The first of anything is always a headache.

Luverne had its first Band Festival. We may be wrong, we usually are, but we thought it was a terrific success, another real solid accomplishment for the Civic and Commerce Association.

Despite the raw weather with occasional drizzles to discourage, a crowd in the thousands that lined the streets represented one of the biggest crowds in the history of Luverne.

And it was really a spectacle, colorful, musical and inspiring, that will be long remembered. And with what the committee in charged learned from the first venture the next year’s affair should be twice as good and larger, too.

The committee in charge made a smart decision when they made that last minute switch for the mass concert to the Manitou corner instead of holding it at the fairgrounds. What a sight that was...hundreds of fine young boys and girls in front of the hotel eagerly awaiting instructions for the first band number. And when Frank Peierso, director of the Iowa State College band gave the down beat what a thunderous wave of music echoed throughout Luverne streets...and those youngsters playing wish as much musicianship and team work as they’d played together for years.

It was really a treat, the thunder of the massed bass drums and the rat-tat-tat staccato punctuation of the snare drums, the symphony of the brass, the exultant high notes of the clarinets and flutes, the grunting ‘oomp pa oomp pa’ of the massed bass horns, the tinkling of the glockenspiels...something that really gave you a tingle of extasy all the way down the spine.

One after the other the judges followed each other, first Mr. Peierso, then Bill Green of Buena Vista College and then Early Erickson of St. Peter High School. Each had a different style of directing, but each one brought out the maximum from the hundreds of musicians.

There were some real thrills for the organizations



Al McIntosh pens his column, “More or less personal chaff.”

when the awards were passed out. The Pipestone band had gone home because the director was ‘under the weather’ and should have stayed in bed with a cold instead of making the trip to Luverne. Good thing he did because they grabbed first place.

Due to the inclement weather, judging of baton twirlers and flags was held at Luverne High School during the afternoon.

If you missed the twirling contest at the high school after the parade, you really missed something. Talke about keen competition and personal ‘fight to win’ those folks had it. A cute sight was 11-year-old Dayles Terpstra from Marion, S.D., who was going to show the judges what he could do with a baton. No bigger than a cricket, the wee chap was given moral encouragement by the girl twirlers from Marion. They gave him pats on the back, a shove, and an admonition “get in and show ‘em’ and when he did show the crowd how good he was and came strutting off, his reward from the girls was a big quota of hugs and kisses.

Anyway...Saturday’s first Festival was the framework around which a great annual event which will provide entertainment for many thousands can be built. And that hard working committee deserves a world of credit for the way they put the affair over.

## You Win It, You Deserve To Build It!

by Gregg Gropel

**F**ormer Luverne school superintendent Harvey G. Eitrem once told the story about the eight-foot trophy case which housed the 1964 State Basketball Championship trophy.

Representing Region 2, Harvey served several years as a board member on the Minnesota State High League. In fact there was a time when he served the organization as president. Unfortunately, it is not known how many years he served in this capacity, but what is known is that he was on the board before the Luverne 1964 basketball team captured the title “State Champions”.



**The late Harvey G. Eitrem, former Luverne school superintendent. “His words were good as gold.”**

That was a time when all schools competed for the state basketball title, small schools versus big schools. It was David against Goliath. Today there are four divisions, which equates to four different state champions. In 1971 the tournament structure was first broken into two divisions, and in 1997 the current format took on the four division configuration, known by a series of A’s—A, AA, AAA, and AAAA.

In the years before those changes came into play, at a Minnesota State

High School League meeting there was some discussion about how tall the championship basketball trophy should be. Someone on the board thought the size of the trophy, which at the time was three-feet, three-inches tall, should be trimmed down, as the size of the current championship trophy does not fit into a normal trophy case.

Harvey made a motion which went something like, “I make a motion to keep the trophy the same size. Any school who is fortunate to win the championship deserves to build a new trophy case.”

It wasn’t long after that Harvey had to eat his words. In 1964 the Luverne team won the state championship.

With that glorious basketball fever taking hold in Luverne, Harvey had a trophy case built to house the tall championship trophy.

I would guess Harvey even thought for a while that he was going to have to build another case. The 1965 team followed right behind the 1964 team. The 1965 squad defeated St. Paul Central in the first round of the state tournament, lost to Fairbault in the quarter finals, then went on to defeat Bemidji 72 - 58 for the consolation championship.



**Sam Polzin**

It is believed Mr. Sam Polzin (1931-2017), the school’s industrial arts instructor at the time, built the case.

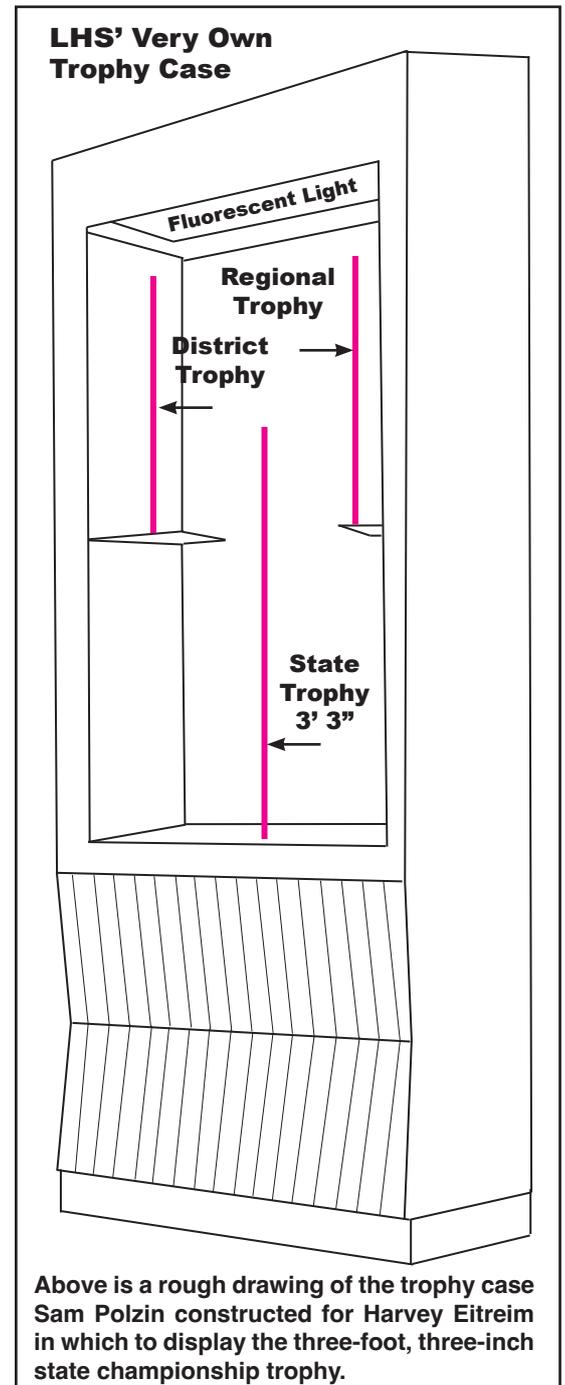
The nearly eight-foot high, three-foot wide, one-foot deep case with its fluorescent light inside at the top beaming its bright light down upon three championship trophies—District, Region, and State—is no longer a part of the school.

In 2021 the school began a massive remodeling project. The trophy case is no longer in the hallway across from the “Classic Gymnasium”—the gym were

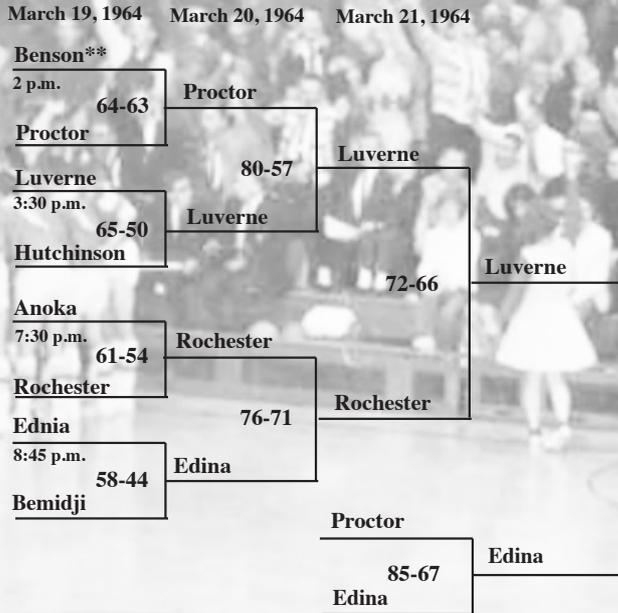
the 1964 team played all of its home games. It is not known what happened to the nostalgic trophy case, most likely it was demolished.

Now the three trophies—District, Region, State— have been placed into a glass case located to the south from its former location and around the corner with the school’s many other prized hardware possessions. The three 1964 trophies are not too far from where Polzin’s case once stood as a permanent school fixture for 57 years.

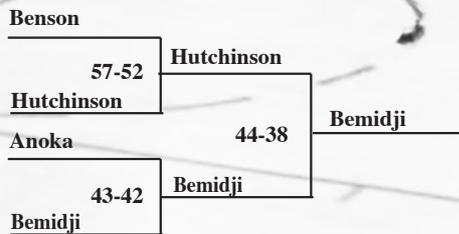
Harvey’s words were always as good as gold.



## 1964 Minnesota State Basketball Tournament Bracket



### Consolation



### 1964 LHS State Tournament Team

**John Beyer\***  
**Scott Creeger**  
**Milo Hermann**  
**Richard Iverson**  
**Delbert Jessen\***  
**Tom Kozney**  
**Curt Laudon**  
**Chuck Lippi**  
**Rodger McKay**  
**Greg Thone\***  
**Bill Toms**  
**Brian Wells**

**Ray Merry, Coach**  
**Bob Lorentzen, Ass't Coach**  
**Dave Mohler, Manager**  
**Larry Soterau, Manager**  
**Robert VandenHoek, Manager**

\*All State Tourney Team

Greg Thone, co-captain on the 1964 team, recently remarked, "Yes, that was a big trophy. We beat Rochester in the championship game. At the conclusion of the game each team was presented with a trophy. I remember someone on the Rochester team dropped their trophy and it broke."

\*\*Mr. Dave Svingen, retired LHS teacher and tennis coach, was a member of the state-bound Benson basketball team in 1964.

## Getman remembers early Tri-State Band Festival/continued from page 9

One of my toughest jobs was to convince some of the merchants that they should really support such an event. There were several that did all they could to upset the plans...but there were many others who gave is such great support that it could not help but succeed. Eventually, my job was as the parade announcer. I would sit in a front upstairs window of the First National Bank, and call names of band directors, where the band was from, who the drum major was, and comment how pretty each of the drum majorettes were. Over the years I did this job, I came to know of a lot of the youngsters and could also give details of how many years each band had been a participants, and what awards they had one. One thing I remember very clearly...the Monday after the festival would be spent on what changes should be made, and how it could be improved for the next year. Ken was a stickler for these details, and spent the entire year between festivals tossing out ideas for bigger and better plans. The year that bands came from Mankato, and other distant cities was the best of all for those of us on the original "committee" because it was then we

knew this was something that would continue. Ken was confident that parents could not stay away from a "show" put on by their kids...and he was certainly correct. The joys I had in announcing the field events when it all moved to the high school football field in the afternoon, also made it obvious this was something that would last over the years....as 35 years have proven.....

Without any doubt, the very best years of our lives were those between 1937 and 1967 when we were in Luverne. We have lived wonderful places since...but none can ever duplicate the people and events of those years.

Again, please pass our heartfelt gratitude on to the Festival Committee for this invitation, and the opportunity to be back in Luverne at such a special time. It will be even more special because this will be another reminder of all that my brother Ken put into this event over the years in which he was such a big part of it."

Sincerely and appreciatively,  
G. N. Getman, OD, DOS



## BUTTON DESIGN CONTEST

In celebration of the 75th TRI-STATE BAND FESTIVAL the Committee is opening the button design competition to any and all TSBF FANS to commemorate the spectacular history of this very special event! The winner will be selected by TSBF Committee and receive a \$250 cash prize along with recognition as the 2026 TSBF BUTTON DESIGNER in print and on the website.

*All entries must be emailed/mailed/delivered to Luverne Chamber no later than April 15, 2026.*

MAIL: TSBF—Luverne Chamber | 213 East Luverne St | Luverne MN 56156

EMAIL: [luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us)

The following design elements must be included to be eligible:

- 75th Annual
- Tri-State Band Festival
- Luverne, MN
- September 26, 2026
- There are no restrictions on colors; artist can use as many as desired
- No Cardinal logo may be used

**\$250**

Check out all the past button designs and everything else Tri-State  
<https://www.tri-statebandfestival.com/buttons>

# AMERICA



**ROCK COUNTY MN**

*and the*

**ROCK COUNTY FAIR**

*FAIR EVENTS DAILY*

## EVENT DATES

**THURSDAY - SUNDAY  
JULY 30 - AUGUST 2**

### **LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Reception & Tours**

Friday, July 31, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Saturday, August 1: 9 - 11 AM

Hosted by Luverne Education Legacy Fund

### **BOOK RELEASE CELEBRATION**

**LUVERNE'S A TO Z BOOK**

Thursday, July 30

Rock County Fairgrounds

### **ROCK COUNTY HISTORY CENTER**

Thursday thru Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM

*Special Exhibits:*

75th Tri-State Band Festival

History of the American Flag

### **AMERICA 250 CLASSIC CRUISE IN**

Friday, July 31, 5:30 - 9 PM

All Vehicles Welcome - Free Registration

Live Music - Beer Garden - Food

Rock County Fairgrounds

### **ROCK COUNTY HALL OF FAME INDUCTION**

Sunday, August 2

Ceremony at 1:30 PM - Historic Palace Theatre

Unveiling & Reception at 2:45 PM - History Center



### **MILITARY VEHICLE ROLL-IN**

**Honoring America's Service Members**

Saturday, August 1, 11 AM - 3 PM

Live Musical Entertainment

With Bill Johnson as "Bob Hope"

Free Event - At Cedar & Fletcher



### **FUN DUELING PIANOS**

**Fun entertainment for the whole family**

Saturday, August 1, 7:30 - 10:30 PM

Free Admission - Fairgrounds

Sponsor: Luverne Area Community Foundation



## Remembering Kim Sedlacek 50 years later

So many people walk by the little park on the north side of the school where there are picnic tables and trees. Many people use the park when there are football games, track meets, the Tri-State Band Festival and other activities.

That little park has a lot of memories for me and the Class of 1980. There is a tree planted in that park and an engraved stone in memory of Kim Sedlacek. She was a classmate of mine and a very good friend who on April 2, 1976, 50 years ago, lost her life in a car accident on the curves by the state park.

Kim and the Sedlacek family were well known in the Luverne community. Her brothers, Tom and Mike, and sister, LeAnn, all graduated from Luverne. Kim's dad worked at IBP and their family was active at the Luverne Country Club and were members of St. Catherine's Catholic Church.

Kim was just finishing the eighth grade. She had just made the cheerleading squad for ninth-grade football. She played percussion in the band and was involved in choir.

The memories are fading, but that day has not. I wanted people to know who she was. I'm sure the alumni who have graduated have walked by or sat at the park waiting for friends. We had a great group of friends who still keep in touch. Kim would have turned 64 on July 28, 2026.

In loving memory of Kim, Terri (DeBates) Siebenahler '80

# REUNIONS IN THE MAKING



## January 2026



**CLASS OF 1976—50th REUNION: September 11 & 12, 2026**

**Friday Night—Informal Get-together at Take 16 Brewing Company**

**Saturday Night Gathering—THE LAKE**

**MORE INFO & DETAILS TO COME! Contact: Deone Hemme (507.290.0267)**

**CLASS OF 1971—55th REUNION: July 31, August 1 & 2, 2026**

**Watch the mail for your invite to our informal 55th Reunion! More info & details to come!**

**Gather Friday Night at the Cruise In & Saturday Night at Fun Dueling Pianos**

**On FACEBOOK: LuverneMN1971 OR [lanpherejane@gmail.com](mailto:lanpherejane@gmail.com) (507-920-5197)**

**CELEBRATE YOUR REUNION DURING AMERICA 250! July 31 through August 2, 2026**

**There are lots of special events your class can participate in! Check the current schedule in this edition of Alumni News. Watch for more details in the April Edition!**

**WOULD YOU LIKE HELP PLANNING YOUR REUNION?**

**Contact the Luverne Chamber to list your reunion on-line and in the next edition of Alumni News.**

**We're happy provide a FREE ONE-TIME MAILING (including design & printing) for your class.**

**AND we'll connect you to the person with your the current ALUMNI NEWS class list.**



**Luverne Chamber | 213 E Luverne St. | Luverne MN 56156  
[luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us) | 507.283.4061**



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Johnna Bowron Ahrendt, Patti Kirby Pierson and Rock County Opportunities

**1304145**

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Luverne, MN 56156

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