

## Tri-State to mark 60th year

By Jane Wildung Lanphere

It's hard to believe, but the Tri-State Band Festival will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on September 25, 2010. The brainchild of local businessmen Bob Keitel (optometrist), Ken Getman (optician), Ferd Luebke (Tri-State Insurance president) and Lloyd Herreid (salesperson), their goal was to promote Luverne by involving youth in wholesome activities. What could be more wholesome than high school marching bands?

The first marching competition in 1951 began

at 1 p.m. at the Luverne Elementary Building (the site of Dingmann Funeral Home) marching to Luverne High School (now the City Centre Apartments) and continuing to the Fairgrounds.

The field competition was also held at the fairgrounds.

In its first year, five judges wrote constructive comments on score sheets that

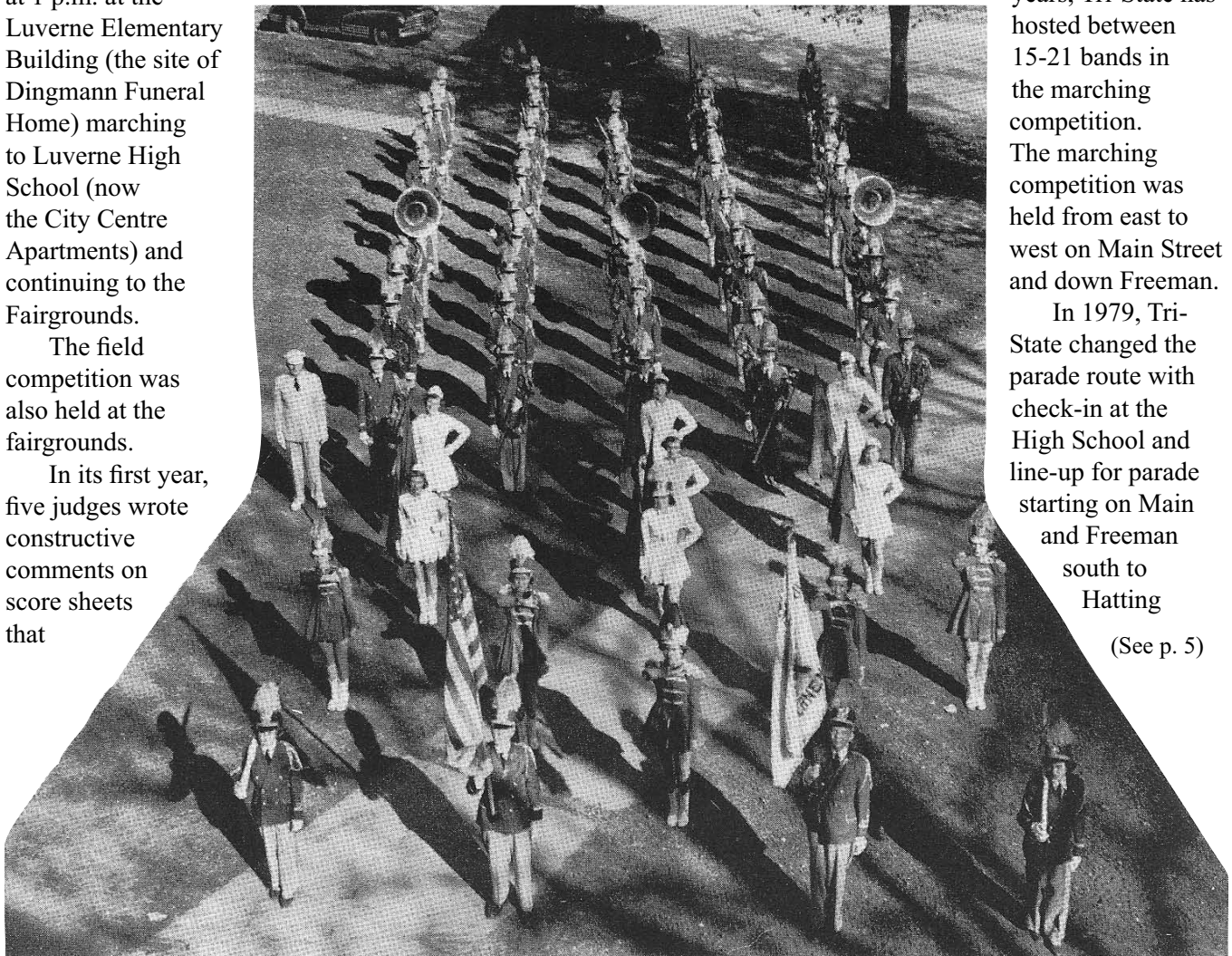
evaluated bands' performances. A few years later, judges began recording comments on reel-to-reel tape recorders advancing to the more sophisticated cassette tape recorders in the 1970's. Today's technology allows digital recording.

In reviewing some of the notes of the first festival, 11 bands competed with Pipestone, Sheldon and George winning their competitive classes. The parade route was lined with people watching the parade, but very few people watched the field competition. In recent

years, Tri-State has hosted between 15-21 bands in the marching competition. The marching competition was held from east to west on Main Street and down Freeman.

In 1979, Tri-State changed the parade route with check-in at the High School and line-up for parade starting on Main and Freeman south to Hatting

(See p. 5)



This photograph of Luverne's marching band was scanned from the 1951 Luverne High School yearbook.

# Honor Roll of *Alumni News* Contributors

Compiled by Rhonna Jarchow

During this past quarter, January 3, 2010, through March 23, 2010, the *Alumni News* received money in the form of memorials and gifts totaling \$7,080.80.

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 for your support!**

## Memorials

### **Luella Pank Woodley, '28**

MaryAnn Woodley Hustad, '58

### **Howard Fitzer, '39**

Kristi Fitzer, '67  
Robert Fitzer, '68  
Kendal Fitzer, '71  
Richard Fitzer, '78

### **Joel Stearns, '41**

Nancy Stearns Blomgren, '66

### **Carmen Tatge Miller, '42**

Kathleen Frank Gibbs, '41

### **Marlene Remme Schwartz, '43**

Donald Remme, '45

### **Pat Snyder Hagemeyer, '46**

Robert Helgeson, '46  
Betty Wulf Justin, '46

### **Don Lien, '46**

Robert Helgeson, '46  
Doug McDermott, '61

### **Carlis Anderson, '47**

Roger Jensen, '47  
Imogene Lemke Krogmann, '47  
Lorene Mann Busby, '47

### **Martha Wiggins, '47**

Betty Wulf Justin, '46

### **Joan Ryan Mallette, '49**

Forrest Mallette

### **Harry George Hoffman, '50**

Laura Hoffman

### **Verna Shelby Hoiland, '50**

Joyce Turner Sexton, '53

### **Sunny Turner Haggard, '51**

Joyce Turner Sexton, '53

### **Darrell Boyer, '52**

Joyce Turner Sexton, '53

### **James Kadinger, '53**

Gordon Funck, '53  
Frank Kadinger, '50  
Helen Kadinger Dukelow, '51

### **Myrna Emory Lang, '53**

Joyce Turner Sexton, '53

### **Nolene Marth Olson, '54**

Joan Padilla Ripley, '54

### **Ange Mohr Patten, '54**

Joyce Turner Sexton, '53

### **Wayne Emery, '62**

Doug McDermott, '61

### **Patricia Matthiesen Buss, '63**

Gary Papik, '69  
Janine Jordahl Papik, '69  
Micky Sehr, '92  
Heidi Papik Sehr, '94  
Gary Golla, '67  
Barb Golla  
Darlene Hitch Woolsey, '62

### **James Godfrey, '63**

Darlene Hitch Woolsey, '62  
Carol Godfrey Lundholm, '62  
Gloria Aanenson Rolfs, '63  
Patti Kirby Pierson, '63  
Susan Reimer Mohr, '63  
Bill Mohr, '62  
Janice Godfrey

### **John Rodman, '64**

Joyce Turner Sexton, '53

### **Jane VanRoekel Deeb, M.D., '65**

Robert Deeb  
Roger VanRoekel, '55

### **Kristina Wessels Martinez, '96**

Connie Vegge Connell, '68  
Tim Connell, '67  
Class of 1996

### **Verna Bowen**

Connie Vegge Connell, '68  
Tim Connell, '67

### **Lois Fitzer**

Kristi Fitzer, '67  
Robert Fitzer, '68  
Kendal Fitzer, '71  
Richard Fitzer, '78

### **Charles Mann**

Rose Tofteland Johnson, '43  
John Johnson

### **Honor Roll . . .**

**Continued on page 11**

#### **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. The chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled (Apr. 9, 2010). Please watch for the next issue, July, 2010 (Volume 20, Issue 4), for additional names of *Alumni News* contributors.

**See Page 11  
for Financial Summary**

# What We've Heard . . .

By Carol McDonald

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Clara (Johnson) Lux had a wonderful time celebrating her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2009. Clara (LHS 1932) writes from her home in Pasco, Washington. Forty-one friends and family joined in the celebration where Clara presented each one who attended a gift of one of her treasures with a note about why she chose to present the gift. In June 2009, Clara had emergency surgery followed by a three month recovery in a nursing home. Following her recovery, she moved to the home of her daughter Caryl and son-in-law Joel and is doing well. Clara greets all her friends and family in Luverne!

JoAnn (Aanenson) and Gary Barmore (LHS 1954 graduates) drop a line from Cedar Rapids, IA. They write that they enjoy receiving the Alumni News and had a particularly great time at their 55<sup>th</sup> class reunion in July. Both commented about the fantastic renovation of the "old jail" and the Courthouse.

Roger Jensen (LHS 1947) is very involved with the National MS Society after being diagnosed with the disease. He encourages LHS alumni to contact him by phone or e-mail to visit about disease, treatment and other topics of interest. Contact Roger at: [rgjensen@mchsi.com](mailto:rgjensen@mchsi.com) or call 507 393-3311. Roger lives in Slayton, MN.

Margaret (Fitzer) Nelson (LHS 1945) writes that she and her husband Bob love reading Alumni News. Margaret and Bob live in McGregor, MN and no longer spend the winters in Florida. They miss their friends and the warm weather in the south but nothing is like our 10' and icy roads.

Helen (Long) Sell (LHS 1938) writes from her home in Becketwood in Minneapolis. She is glad to read that southwestern Minnesota is taking an Honor Flight. Helen flew last fall on a one day trip to Washington, DC with a flight from the Twin Cities. Their "hardy" group had a wonderful time. Helen has also shared that her WWII history has been taken and now is in the Minnesota State Historical Society and the Library of Congress.

Brenda (Wassenaar)(LHS 1979) and Todd (LHS 1982) Wessels send an updated from their farm in southeastern Rock County. Daughter Jamie (LHS 2006) is majoring in Apparel Merchandising and will graduate in December 2010. She will spend two weeks abroad in May studying in Rome, Venice, and Florence, Italy. Daughter Kelsey is a senior in high school and looks forward to graduation this spring. She will attend University of Sioux Falls in fall 2010.

Mavis (Winge) Amundson (LHS 1950) continues to work with their committee planning their 60<sup>th</sup> reunion this summer. She also shared Betty Luethje informed her that Donald Steffen (LHS 1950) has moved to Panama.

Beth (Gibson) Lilja (LHS 1982) writes about their new addition to their family. They have added a rescued Bichon Frise puppy that they have named Caribbean (Cari.) The puppy has changed their lifestyle but they love it!

Joyce (Turner) Sexton (LHS 1953) sends greetings to alumni from Fountain Hills, AZ. Joyce spent a few days in Minnesota in

February and remarked how high the snow is piled up around her neighborhood. She comments that it looks like everyone is living in an "igloo." She reassures her friends that "spring is on its way!"

Erwin Brown (LHS 1939) shares fond memories of Luverne. He returned to Luverne often when his parents (Julius and Sally) were living and when sister Dorothy and husband Al Martin lived in town. Erwin never fails to stop by Luverne when he is on I-90 and heading west. Luverne has always been a "jewel on the plains."

Erwin thanks the Alumni News team for sharing the news about his hometown. He appreciates the hours of volunteer time spent in putting the publication together and urges that he hopes all alumni will continue to support it. He thinks that electronic distribution will be a mistake as there are so many "junk" e-mails we receive daily that it will be easy to lose track of it.

Shirley and Erwin Brown have been residents of Marco Island, Florida for 28 years and maintain their home in North Oaks. They love the Florida winters but enjoy the spring-summer-fall weather in Minnesota.

He also writes that he has been a world traveler most of his adult life (traveling to over 120 countries) enjoying history, geography, and field sports. As travel has become more and more difficult with airline restrictions, Erwin resorted to reliving his past when he began writing about his travel in May 2008. Twelve months later he finished his book called Hunting the World. This hardcover book

recounts his hunts over the past 70 years with tales of big game and trophy-quality specimens. For copies of the book contact Erwin at: [ebrownhunter@AOL.com](mailto:ebrownhunter@AOL.com). This hardcover book sells for \$35 plus \$5 postage.

Alumni News received notification that Dale Smith's (LHS 1953) wife Carol died suddenly of cardiac arrest on March 18 at their winter home in Santa Barbara, CA.

Laurie DeWispelaere (LHS 1979) of Luverne writes how they love getting the Alumni News. They have retired after selling their homestead in Alaska and spend their lives full time RVing in a 29' travel trailer.

In news from Alaska, Gene Salzman (LHS 1954) and wife Lorraine celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 10/3/09. Earlier in the year the Salzmans and Lorraine's sister & husband celebrated the event with an Alaskan cruise where they traveled from Vancouver, BC to Sitka, AK. After departing the boat in Sitka they traveled by car to Denali where they witnessed a three million acre forest fire. When they arrived home in Fairbanks they were surprised by 47 family members (all 15 children) including two of Gene's sisters (Gladys Mann - Luverne and Faye Meyer - Lake Benton), two nephews (Gary and Jerold Mann - Luverne) and niece Joanne Landhuis (Edgerton.)

Carroll Winkler (LHS 1947) of Birmarck, ND enjoys being a snow bird in Arizona. Carroll enjoyed the All School Reunion held in Mesa, AZ in early February.

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Ingrid Nelson Brakke (LHS 2000) sends greetings from Washington, DC where she and her husband Michael moved after living for two years in Princeton, NJ.

Mike Cleland (LHS 1967) writes from St. Cloud, MN. He retired in 2008 and now calls himself a full time golf bum!

Sonya Miller Deidrick (LHS 2002) shares good news! On 12/27/2009, Sonya and husband Matt had their first child, a baby girl they named Aria Marie.

Howard Priesz (LHS 1958) shares news from Sioux Falls, SD. He had major back surgery in September and is slowly recovering. New issues of the Alumni News are real day brighteners!

Kris Fitzer (LHS 1967) of Blaine, MN sends an update in news about Dominique Cheutin Otero. The Class of 1967 has a great FACEBOOK page that keeps classmates connected.

Marj Viksna Weir (LHS 1979) shares an announcement about a new venture. In May 2009, Marj and husband Oliver opened a restaurant in Afton, MN. The restaurant is called SAIL AWAY CAFÉ. She invites all alumni to stop by when you are in the area.

Jill Wildung Schmidt (LHS 1976) and husband Kyle recently moved from St. Paul to Delano. Jill is happy to have room for a new barn for a couple of her horses and Kyle will be busy outdoors tending for duck habitat.

# Tri-State celebrates 60th year

## ... continued from Page 1



This was the first year that the Tri-State Band Festival Parade marched west to east.

Plans for the 2010 competition include another change in the parade route with line-up north of Main on the residential streets of Freeman and Estey marching again from west to east.

### **Celebration planned for 60th Anniversary**

The Tri-State Band Festival Committee have made significant plans to celebrate our community's great accomplishment – the longest continually running high school parade and field band competition in the Midwest.

Parade marshals for the 60th Anniversary competition is the Luverne High School Marching Band of the 1951-52 school year. Invitations have been sent, RSVP's are coming in and a special reception will be held for band members and guests on Friday evening in the Rock County Veterans Memorial Building.

The Tri-State Band Festival and the Big Sioux Review (Brandon-Valley Springs) will present the first-ever combined trophy for the winner of the greatest number of combined points from both competitions.

The Big Sioux Review is held in the evening following Tri-State's morning/afternoon competition. The trophy is called the Star of the Great Plains Award and will be presented by the drum majors of the Luverne and Brandon-Valley bands following the evening competition.

Information is being compiled on the history of bands competing throughout the years and will be presented in the official Tri-State Band Festival booklet.

Special recognition will be made for all the bands that have competed in sixty competitions.

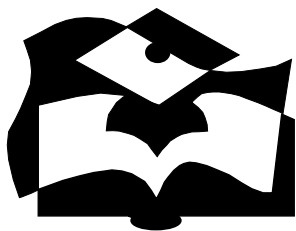
The Luverne Area Chamber and the Tri-State Band Festival Committee invite you to join us as we celebrate the best in marching band music at the 60th Tri-State Band Festival.



# Dollars for Scholars Update

by Gregg Gropel

In recent months, four scholarships have been entrusted with the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program. Three of these scholarships honor the memory of four individuals, while the fourth scholarship sends accolades to all 2010



LHS graduates. The memory of those whose memory will be perpetuated year after year are Joseph Okarski, Ruth Harvard Okarski, Bradley Deutsch, 04, and Mary Torrison.

The titles of the four scholarships are the ***Dr. Joseph and Ruth Okarski Memorial Scholarship, Bradley Deutsch Memorial Scholarship, Mary Torrison SDSU Nursing Scholarship, and the Class of 2010 Scholarship.***

## Dr. Joseph and Ruth Okarski Memorial Scholarship

Joseph and Ruth Okarski entered Luverne in 1965. A job offer is what brought the family to this southwest part of the state, as he accepted a job with the Rock County Mental Health Center (later named the Southwestern Mental Health Center).

Joseph was the first chief psychologist in Rock County, serving not only the Rock County area, but four adjacent Minnesota counties as well.

He retired in 1983, but maintained a small private practice in Luverne for another 10 years.

Joseph's wife, Ruth Okarski, worked extremely hard on bringing cultural events to the Luverne area. Her work prompted the creation of the Council for the Arts and Humanities in Rock County, commonly known as CAHRC.

At the age of 92, in 2006, Joseph passed away. Ruth passed in 2003. She was 89.

The first Dr. Joseph and Ruth Okarski Memorial Scholarship will be presented this year to a member of the Class of 2010.

The Okarskis had one son, David, who graduated from Luverne in 1968. David now resides in the Portland, Oregon, area.

## Bradley Deutsch Memorial Scholarship

Bradley John Deutsch, 23 years of age, died Wednesday, January 20, 2010, as a result of an automobile accident near Brandon, SD.

Bradley, a 2004 LHS graduate, was born on June 18, 1986 to Don and Sharon (Taylor) Deutsch.

While in high school, Bradley participated in hockey, golf, Future Farmers of America and student

council. He was also a two-time state speech participant.

After high school he continued his education, studying graphic design at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Also during his high school years, Brad enlisted in the Minnesota Army National Guard. In 2005, he was deployed to Iraq.

Specialist Brad Deutsch returned home from Iraq with the respect of his fellow soldiers and with a well-decorated uniform.

During active duty, Brad earned an Army Commendation Medal, an Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War of Terrorism Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon, the Minnesota Good Conduct Ribbon and an Army Unit Commendation Ribbon. Additionally, he was also awarded the Combat Action Badge for his combat service and two Overseas Bars for the time he spent in Iraq. His element returned home as one of the most decorated in the 1st brigade.

He worked for several Luverne businesses during high school years, and was currently employed by Rochester Armored Car in Sioux Falls.

Brad became a second-generation fire fighter when he joined the Luverne Fire Department in 2008, serving alongside his father.

He was also a board member of the MERIT Center in Marshall and of the Southwest Minnesota Region.

Brad studied fire science at West Georgia Technical College and the National Fire Academy, with a dream of becoming a state fire marshal.

Brad had many hobbies which included bowling, shooting pool, golfing, and hanging out with the many friends he had made throughout his life.

He loved taking care of the family vehicles including his Mustang, Harley, and the infamous Monte Carlo Pace Car.

Bradley is survived by his mother, Sharon, Luverne; his



**Bradley Deutsch**  
1986 - 2010

## Scholarships . . .

Continued from page 6

brother, Brian, '06, Minneapolis; Brad's fiancée, Meagan Riddle, '07, Luverne; his paternal grandparents, Eddie and Donna Deutsch, Luverne; his maternal grandmother, Evelyn Taylor. He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Deutsch, '78, a sister, Rochelle "Shelly;" and his maternal grandfather, Earl Taylor.

The first Bradley Deutsch Memorial Scholarship will be presented this spring to a qualifying 2010 LHS graduate.

## Class of 2010 Scholarship

In keeping with a tradition that began in 2004, the Class of 2010 partnered with Norman Torrison, '50, Long Lake, Minnesota, to establish a scholarship in its name.

The youngest set of graduates which are about to walk across the stage for their diploma, challenged Torrison to match its \$1,000. Of course Torrison happily acknowledged and accepted the challenge.

The Class of 2010 now joins the Class of 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 as each class established a scholarship with Torrison's generous support.

The first Class of 2010 scholarship will be awarded this spring to a member of the Class of 2010.

## Mary Torrison SDSU Nursing Scholarship

Norman Torrison, a 1950 LHS graduate, recently initiated a scholarship in his wife's memory. It is known as the Mary Torrison SDSU Nursing Scholarship.

This scholarship is somewhat different from the other Dollars for Scholars' scholarships, but similar to the Norman Torrison USD Scholarship. The similarities include the student meeting all the Luverne Dollars for Scholars requirements, required to attend a designated school, and it is designed to assist the student with their second-, third-, and fourth-year costs of college.

In this case, the recipient of the Mary Torrison SDSU Nursing Scholarship must meet all the Luverne Dollars for Scholars requirements, attend South Dakota State University (SDSU), major in the field of nursing, and maintain a 3.0 GPA. Should there be two or more students that qualify for the scholarship, the scholarship will be awarded the student with the higher Luverne class ranking.

Torrison has set aside \$2,000 per student per year, which is to be distributed over the students' last three years of school. Of this amount, \$1,000 is designated for the recipient's second year of school, with the remaining \$1,000 to be dispersed in increments of \$500 per year to the recipient for his/her junior and senior years.

This is a scholarship that will be awarded to only one student from each graduating class, beginning with the Class of 2010.

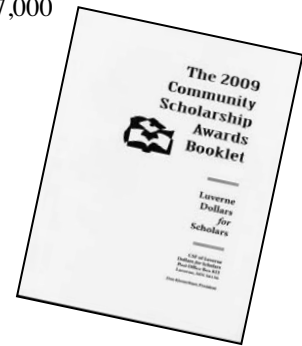
## Scholarship Booklet

Plans are in place to print 7,000 copies of the 2010 *Scholarship Booklet*, with the intention of mailing a copy to all graduates listed in the *Alumni News* database.

The booklet, like the past years, will be mailed in July to all LHS graduates.

In addition, copies of the booklet will be disbursed to those attending the Class of 2010 graduation ceremony.

If you know of a graduate who is not receiving the school-based newsletter, please send their address to *Alumni News*, 709 N. Kniss Avenue, Luverne, Minnesota. The *Alumni News* staff wants to include all LHS graduates in its mailings.



## Scholarship Announcements

April is the busy time of the year for the local scholarship program. Scholarships will soon be attached to qualifying 2010 LHS graduates. Letters will be mailed to all scholarship applicants informing each if they qualified to receive a Dollars for Scholars scholarship. This letter will be mailed later in the month. Soon after that, scholarships will be publicly awarded to each student at the school's annual awards night, which is usually held in mid-May.

## Scholarship Info Needed?

If any reader would like information regarding the local scholarship program please contact Luverne Dollars for Scholars. The mailing address for Dollars for Scholars is PO Box 822, Luverne, Minnesota 56156. Phone contact may be made with Gregg Gropel. His phone number is (507) 283-4538.

## Dollars for Scholars Mission

The mission of the local non-profit, Luverne Dollars for Scholars organization is the same today as what it was when it was founded in 1983. That mission is to raise dollars and disburse the earned interest from those dollars to LHS graduates in the form of scholarships.

The unofficial goal of Luverne Dollars for Scholars is to raise \$12 million dollars. The interest generated from that sizeable amount would make it possible to award multiple-year scholarships, thus helping LHS graduates with college expenses for all four years of a post-secondary education.

That might sound like a goal that's too large to reach. But after 25-plus years, the organization is at the mid-point of its target.



# Alumni News Obituaries

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1930-1939

**Margaret Stephen Keen '35** eldest daughter of Clyde of Stephen's Market has passed away in her home in the state of Washington. She is being interred in Maplewood Cemetery.

1950-1959

**Harry G Hoffman '50** passed away December 4, 2009 in Sioux Falls, SD. After graduation he enlisted in the Air Force. He was an Aerial Gunner on b-29s during the Korean War.

After 8 years of active duty he joined the SD Air National Guard spending 27 years as a full time technician. He was involved with the Boy Scout program in Sioux Falls for 10 years He retired from the Guard in 1987 and went to work part time at Western Bank. After the bank was sold he spend his time volunteering at First Presbyterian Church.

Harry and his wife Laura received the Jefferson Award for volunteering in 1997 for their work with the First Presbyterian Church after school program.

Harry is survived by his wife Laura, sons Robert (Jana) and Randall (Lisa) sister Jean Frahm, Helen Prusia, 3 grandchildren; 5 Great Grandchildren and many other friends and relatives.

**Jim Kadinger '53** passed away November 19, 2009 in Tri Cities area of Washington State.

**Myrna Emery Lange '53** died December 31, 2009 at the Tuff Memorial Home in Hills as a result of cancer. After her marriage to Robert Lange in 1965 they lived in Luverne. In 1966 they moved to acreage near Beaver Creek. She was employed at Luverne Truck for several years. She then worked

at M&M Distributing in Luverne. In 1987 she went to work for Schwartz Manufacturing where she worked until she retired in 2003. She enjoyed attending football, basketball, baseball and tennis games of her grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband Bob Lange, a son Jeff (Nancy) Lange, a daughter Jean Lange and three grandchildren.

**Nolene Marth Olson '54** passed away in January.

1960-1969

**Patricia Matthiesen Buss '63** passed away March 15, 2010 in Luverne. After graduation Pat began working in the banking industry. She married Richard Buss in 1974.

They farmed while she continued to work at the bank in Luverne now known as Minnwest Bank. She worked for a short time at Hardwick State Bank and the Luverne radio station but most of her 46-year career she worked in the Luverne bank. Pat enjoyed playing cards, knitting, crocheting, cooking, telling jokes and spending time with friends.

She is survived by her husband, **Rick, '63** a daughter **Tricia '94** (Tony) Aiken, her mother-in-law, Edna Buss, Ellsworth, brother-in-law Jerry (Liz) Buss, an aunt, Ginny VonHolt and other family and friends.

**Jane E Van Roekel Deeb '65** died December 27, 2009 after her third battle with breast cancer. After graduation Jane attended the University of Minnesota as a pre-medicine student and later as a medical student who decided to specialize in pediatrics. In 1978 she and her husband, Robert Deeb, founded the

Dakota Pediatric Clinic. She practiced pediatric medicine in Dakota County for over 30 years. She loved singing in the church choir, spending time with her family, and attending Twins games.

Jane is survived by husband, Robert, daughter Sarah (Dave), son Bobby (Lindsey) a granddaughter Eleanor Jane and brother **Roger Van Roekel '55-**

1990-2000

**Kristina Wessels Martinez '96** died January 29, 2010, after a lengthy battle with cancer at the University of Minnesota Hospital in Minneapolis.

After graduation "Tina" attended Southwest State University, Marshall, graduating in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in marketing and public relations. She married Adrian Martinez in 2003.

They made their home in Marshall where she worked at The Schwan Food Company in Marshall. She enjoyed photography, games, reading, watching sports, vacationing on the north shore of Lake Superior and her dog Milo.

She is survived by her husband, Adrian, her parents Doug and Ginny Wessels, sister Amy (Gary) Ptak, father and mother-in-law Jesse and Lori Martinez and many friends and relatives.

2000-2010

**Bradley Deutsch '04** died Jan 20, 2010 as the result of an automobile accident near Brandon, S.D.

While in high school Brad enlisted in the Army National Guard. After high school he studied graphic design at the University of

# Class of 1925 observes 40th class reunion

The above clipping from the Luverne Announcer highlights the 40th class reunion of Luverne High School's Class of 1925. It was submitted by Ed Stein, a friend of Ina Maude Baubien De Lapp, who passed away earlier this year.



The Luverne High School class of 1925 held a class reunion at the V.F.W. Club in Luverne on Saturday evening.

Twenty-five members of the class gathered for the 40th Anniversary of their graduation. There were 54 in the graduating class. Eight members are deceased and three could not be located. Cards or letters were received from those who were unable to be present greeting the assembled classmates and wishing them well.

Plans were laid for a reunion to be held in 1970.

Pictured above, those present: l. to r., front row: Edna Heiden Hicks, Lansing, Michigan; Beatrice Trunnell Reed, Phoenix,

Arizona; Ruth Olson Meissner, Chicago, Illinois; Henrietta Martin Olson, Worthington; Selma Skyberg, Luverne; Irma Engelsing Schmidt, Garetson; Helen Anderson Lunde, Luverne and Betty Ryan Hagemann, Rapid City.

Second row: Gladys Miller Wright, Detroit, Michigan; Luverne Wulf, Ames, Iowa; Olive Shurr Kannegieter, Willow Lake, South Dakota; Irene Lamp Fernholz, Lansing, Michigan; Edna Welzenbach Thorson, Albert Lea; Gladys McDowell Johnson, Mason City, Iowa; Sylvia McDowell Greiner, Terra Haute, Indiana; Marian Kartrude Arneson, Hayti, South Dakota and Signa Omodt

Swanson, Minneapolis.

Back row: Leon Johnson, Cygnet, Ohio; Elmer Hansen, Sioux Falls; Vernon Ferguson, Washington, D. C.; Don Eberlein, Willmar; Rudolph Anderson, Luverne; Berner Dahlen, Minneapolis; Adolph Haakenson, Sioux City, Iowa and Vincent Egert, Sioux Falls.

Announcer Photo

## NOTICE!

M. & J. R. Hakes  
will be open on  
Friday nights till  
8:30 p.m. Top  
prices and a new

## Obituaries/ continued from page 8

Minnesota, Duluth. In 2005 he was deployed to Iraq.

During active duty he earned many awards. Mr. Deutsch worked at several businesses in Luverne during high school and was most recently working at Rochester Armored Car in Sioux Falls.

He became a second-generation firefighter when he joined the Luverne Fire Department in 2008 and served alongside his father, Don.

His goal was to become a state fire marshal.

He enjoyed shooting pool, golfing, taking care of his cars and motorcycle and hanging out with friends.

His mother, Sharon Deutsch Luverne, one brother, **Brian Deutsch '96**, Minneapolis his fiancée, **Meagan Riddle '07** Luverne, grandparents Eddie and Donna Deutsch Luverne and Evelyn Taylor, Worthington and many aunts, uncles and cousins survive him.



LHS grad Amber Top describes her friend, Julio, as amazing and resilient.

# Top returns home from Haiti trip

**By Amanda Greenwood**

Two years ago Luverne High School graduate Amber Top traveled to Haiti with a church group.

She said she always wanted to go back; she just didn't know it would be in response to one of the deadliest earthquakes in history.

Top recently returned from her second trip to Haiti; she delivered firsthand the supplies donated by students and community members in Rock County.

Reflecting on this trip, Top said she asked herself, "Do they need our help or are we the ones that need their help?"

Her answer? If more Haitian values and perspectives were incorporated into her own life, she said she would be "less consumed by materialism and would live

a life with fewer distractions and instead with a clear focus on personal connection with one another."

Being in Haiti the first time, Top thought the Haitians' gratitude was eye opening.

Seeing the Haitians' response to a devastating natural disaster, Top said she has even more respect for the people.

"One of my good friends, Julio, lost 167 classmates, including his girlfriend," Top wrote home to family members.

Still, Julio told her about the country's rebuilding process with a tear in his eye and a smile on his face.

"His faith still amazes me and left me wondering if I could be as resilient as him; would I have that same faith and gratitude if I had endured all of his losses?"

Top said before leaving for Haiti she expected there to be a vast need for food, water and shelter.

"Working as a nurse, I saw many people with physical aches and pains as a result of the earthquake and saw even more with emotional pain that was so difficult for them to describe."

She described the opportunity to bring supplies to the shaken country as a blessing. "It was awesome to deliver them supplies that so many in my community had collected and donated."

Top continues to stay connected with her Haitian friends, like Julio, via e-mail. She plans to return to Jon Schomacker's class sometime in April to tell Luverne fourth-graders about her recent experience.

**Honor Roll . . .**  
**Continued from page 2**

**Jesse Saum**  
 Class of 1996

**Lawrence Schumacher**  
 Tuesday Morning Coffee

**Teresa Vastenhout**  
 Class of 1996

**Class of 1955**  
 Vernon Cornish

**Class of 1956**  
 Dale Stoterau  
 John Remme  
 James Hamann

**Teacher**  
 E.W. Mueller

**Friends**  
 Timothy Jenniges  
 Marion Mueller  
 Alan Welle

**Contributions** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class of 1932**  
 Clara Johnson Lux

**Class of 1935**  
 Helen Norelius

**Class of 1937**  
 David Jones

**Class of 1938**  
 Helen Long Sell

**Class of 1939**  
 Erwin Brown

**Class of 1942**  
 David Corwin

**Class of 1945**  
 Margaret Fitzer Nelson

**Class of 1947**  
 Gail Palmer  
 Carroll Winkler

**Class of 1950**  
 Mavis Winge Amundson

**Class of 1952**  
 Roger Sherman  
 Judy Ruddy Craig

**Class of 1953**  
 Martha Sellen Nuffer

**Class of 1954**  
 Gary Barmore  
 JoAnn Aanenson Barmore  
 Rosemary Herman Merkel  
 Gene Salzman

**Class of 1957**  
 Stanley Thompson

**Class of 1960**  
 Dennis McIntyre  
 Eunice Skyberg Wynn

**Class of 1963**  
 Tom Lippi

**Class of 1965**  
 Kathy Hitch Schadwinkel  
 Carol Raschke Tomaseski

**Class of 1966**  
 Patricia Fodness Jensen

**Class of 1967**  
 Larry Goebel  
 Bob Jarchow  
 Laura Hoiland

**Class of 1969**  
 Harold Tilstra

**Class of 1972**  
 Sharon Melzer Jenniges  
 Sallie Frahm Smith

**Class of 1973**  
 Dawn Maxwell

**Class of 1978**  
 Gary Hansen

**Class of 1979**  
 Brenda Wassenaar Wessels  
 Laurie DeWispelaere

**Class of 1982**  
 Todd Wessels  
 Beth Gibson Lilja

***Alumni News***  
**Financial Summary**

**Previous Balance:**  
 Jan. 3, 2010 . . . . . **\$2,157.66**

**Expenses** for January, 2010, issue:  
 RCO (Labor) . . . . . \$123.22  
 Postage . . . . . 2,556.99  
 Labels . . . . . 147.00  
 Printing . . . . . 919.07  
 Postage Permit . . . . . 185.00  
 Postage Returns . . . . . 200.00

**Total Expense . . . . . (\$4,131.28)**

**Income** - Jan. 3, 2010, through  
 March. 21, 2010 . . . . . **\$7,080.00**

**Current Balance . . . . . \$5,106.38\***

\*The cost of the April, 2010, issue is unknown,  
 but the estimated cost is \$4,400.00.

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

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# More Country School Daze

By Darrell Tobiason, LHS '66

Noticing the picture on page 10 of the October Alumni News, recognizing the brick pattern and the hand rails and reading the family names of the six students sitting on the steps, I realized that building was, for six years, a part of my life.



The one room school sat on a one-acre tract of ground located two miles east, five miles south and one mile east of Luverne.

It had a cloak room, library room and a basement with a furnace. There was no telephone and no indoor plumbing.

Our water was an outdoor hand pump north of the building.

At -10 or -20 degrees, it didn't take long to pump a pail of water.

Two outhouses, also known as the biffy, were one for boys and one for girls. There again, on the coldest of winter days, you didn't spend a lot of time there. The girls' house was off limits to the boys, and the boys house was off limits to the girls (or was supposed to be). In reference to no indoor plumbing, it was not a hardship. We didn't know any different. That's just the way it was.

*The one room school sat on a one-acre tract of ground located two miles east, five miles south and one mile east of Luverne. It had a cloak room, library room and a basement with a furnace. There was no telephone and no indoor plumbing. ... It wasn't a hardship. We didn't know any different. That's just the way it was.*

I began first grade in the fall of 1954. Mrs. Dykehouse was my first-grade teacher. Mom always had a great deal of praise for her — an excellent teacher and great communication skills with the kids. After that year, with her retirement from teaching, Edna Thorson assumed the position for seven or eight years until the early 1960s. After leaving, Mrs. Russell Olson was hired until the school closed in the mid 1960s.

My first year of school there were 16 students enrolled in grades 1 through 8.

There was no preschool or kindergarten in those days at country schools. Families of Boelman, Gyberg, Hanson, Dykehouse, Tobiason, Klosterbuer, Klosterbuer and Overgaard attended. After that year, the two Klosterbuer families attended the Ellsworth school system. As some families began town school, other families in the community began to attend country school. Those families included Gabrielson, Boelman and Winters.

During those years when a child completed eighth grade, they would transfer to town school. That trend gradually changed to completing sixth grade. In addition to Ellsworth, Magnolia received some students and Luverne received the remainder of them.

This was determined by farm location and school district.

In the spring of 1955, my first grade, we had a field day or "play day" at Ash Creek. That was a big deal.

Ash Creek had two rooms in their school. One room was for lower grades and one for the upper grades.

A couple of moms provided transportation and off we went to the bigger school of Ash Creek. A few years later, Mrs. Thorson loaded us up, eight kids in one car, for a trip to Worthington Turkey Days.

Our world today, with laws, liabilities and insurance would not allow that.

We also had a sports day at the Luverne park, and one year, the Hardwick school had a play day for the country schools. Those were big events — a change from our one-room school. And a couple of years we played the Kanaranzi school in softball, either at our field or theirs.



## Honor Flight gaining momentum

Randy Hartquist (second from left), of Hartquist Funeral and Cremation Services, presents a \$5,000 donation for Southwest Minnesota Honor Flight to board member Terrie Gulden (left) on Wednesday, March 24. With Randy is his wife, Cindy. Also representing Hartquist Funeral are Jeff and Sara Hartquist (middle). Veterans are (front, from left) John Johnson, Helmer Haakenson, Warren Herreid Sr., Gerrit VanEngelenhoven, (row two) Bill Veenhof, Leroy Luitjens and Earl Glaser. Hartquist locations include Pipestone, Jasper, Luverne, Lake Benton and Tyler. They're pictured next to the statue, "Poppy," at Rock County Veterans Memorial.

Honor Flight Southwest Minnesota is seeking to send more than 100 World War II veterans to Washington, D.C., to visit the National World War II memorial. So far enough money has been raised to book an April 30 flight for veterans and their guardians.

**Pictured at right** are those present for Sanford Luverne's \$3,000 donation to Honor Flight Southwest Minnesota on Tuesday, March 30.

They are (back, from left) Terrie Gulden, Diane Westenberg (marketing coordinator, Sanford Hospital, Luverne), Dr. Richard Morgan (Sanford Clinic Luverne), LeRoy Luitjens (WWII veteran), Carol Wieneke (LPN Sanford Clinic Luverne), Holly Sieve (marketing coordinator, Sanford Regional Hospital/Sanford Clinic/Southwest Minnesota Radiation Center Worthington), Julie Gerber (clerical supervisor, Sanford Clinic Worthington), Gene Spicer (Honor Flight Southwest Minnesota vice president). Seated (front, from left) are WWII Veterans Helmer Haakenson, Jake Boomgaarden, Warren Herreid and Bob Anderson. Sanford Clinic Luverne will support the flight by staffing Dr. Morgan as physician for the flight. Clinic staff presented Honor Flight with \$876 in donations to sponsor the guardian seat for Dr. Morgan.

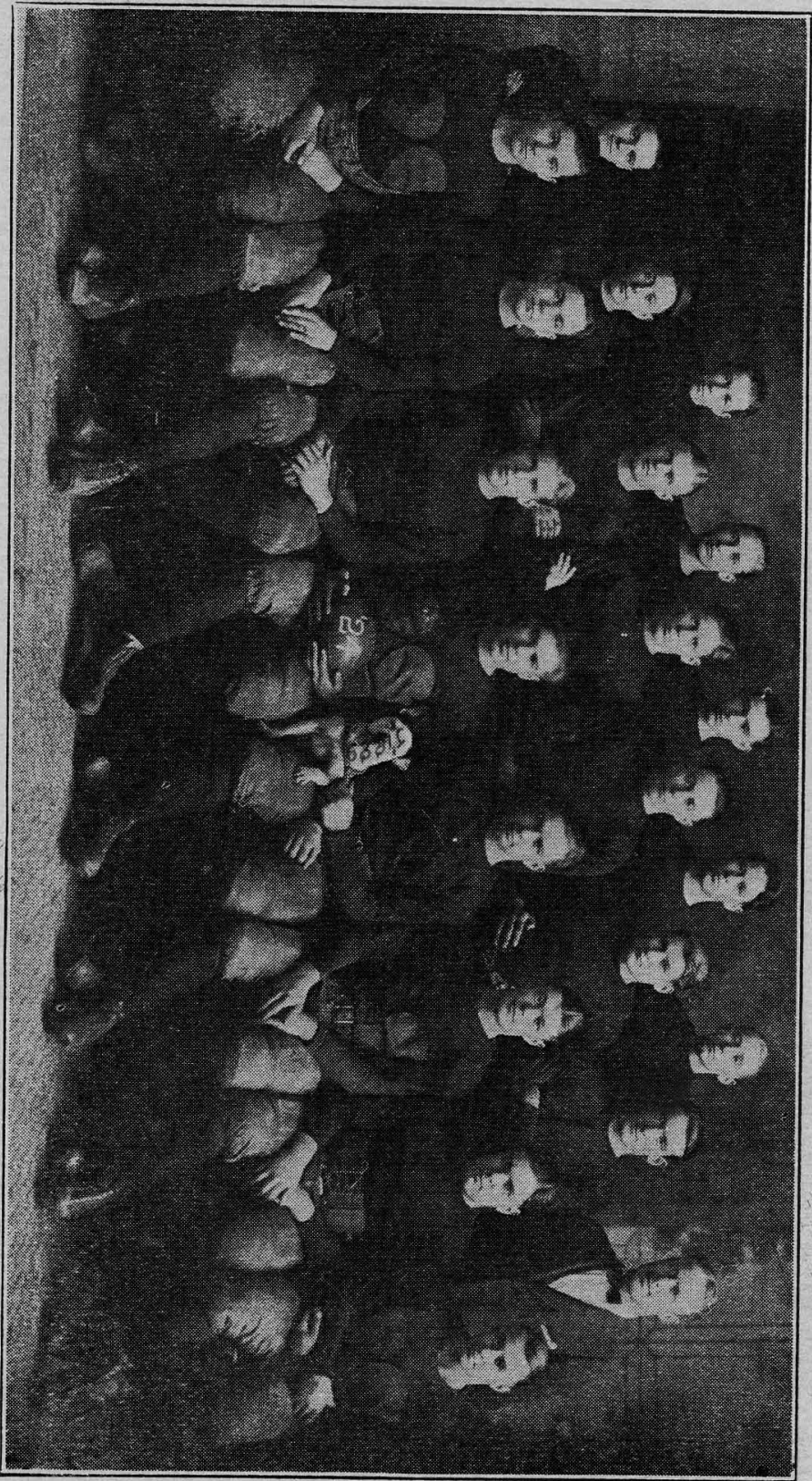


## Rock County Honor Flight Veterans

As of Wednesday, March 31, the list of locals traveling with Honor Flight, listed by town, are (**Luverne**) Bob Juhl, Ray Anderson, Bob Anderson, Jake Boomgaarden, Helmer Haakenson, LeRoy Luitjens, Russ Swenson; (**Adrian**) Erv Drenth; (**Jasper**) Marvin Conrad; (**Hardwick**) Don Hansen; (**Ellsworth**) Bill Deutsch; (**Edgerton**) Art Broekhuis; (**Leota**) Abram Westenberg; (**Hills**) Bob Kirsch and Wendell Erickson and (**Beaver Creek**) Bud Ackerman (Abram).

For more information on Honor Flight Southwest Minnesota, call the Luverne Chamber office, 283-4061.

## LIVERNE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM, 1924



Top Row, left to right: Vern Bucknam, Willbert Ohlsen, Walter Finke, Donald Solberg, Herbert Peterson.  
Middle Row: Ellis Leslie, Kenneth Campbell, Elmer Hansen, Adolph Haakenson, Elmer Piepgras, Raymond Marr, Edward Ryan, Coach Johnson.  
Bottom Row: Clifford Price, Vincent Egert, Henry Hanson, Captain Peterson, Mascot Jiggs, Harry Hadler, Berdell Price, Clarence Goodale, Paul Parr.

# Reunions in the Making

Compiled by Gregg Gropel

## Class of '60

**When:** July 16, 17, 18, 2010

**Location:** Various Sites -

Class Headquarters at Sharkees

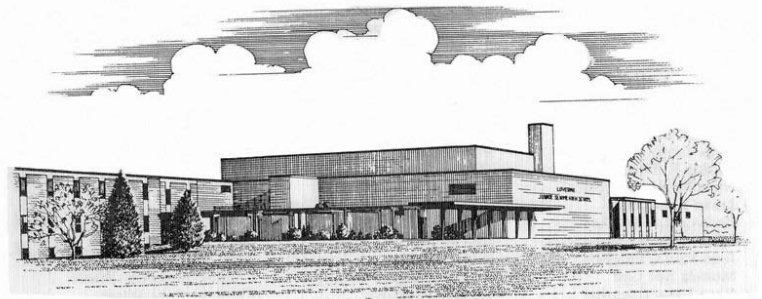
**Contact:** David Smith

405 S. Fairview Dr.

Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Phone: (507) 283-2877

**E-mail:** Truffles@iw.net



## Class of '95

**When:** Saturday, July 31, 2010

**Location:** City Park and Sharkee's

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

**Contact:** Amber Mollberg Walgrave

212 N. Freeman

Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Phone: (507) 449-4135

**E-mail:** ambergmollberg@yahoo.com

**For More Info:** Go to Facebook, the group is called "Luverne High School Class of 1995"

## Class of '79

**When:** July 31, 2010

**Location:** Luverne Country Club

**Contact:** Tim Knoll

305 Tamarac Circle

Brandon, SD 57005-1061

**E-mail:** knoll@alliancecom.net

or tknoll@iw.net

## Class of '85

**When:** July 24, 2010

**Location:** Howling Dog Saloon (former Scotty's)

**Contact:** Connie Vande Velde gcvande@knology.net

or Chantel Connell tconnell@myclearwave.net

**Band:** Double Shot - bring your dancing shoes!

## Next Year Arizona Reunion in Mesa

February 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

The Arizona Winter Reunion in February included about 50. The Feb. 16, 2011, reunion will be held at the same place, Superstition Springs Golf Course in Mesa, Arizona.

## Class of '50

**When:** July 23 and 24, 2010

**Location:** Luverne Country Club

**Contact:** Mavis Amundson

3001 S. Holly Ave.

Brandon, S.D. 57105

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

(Volume 20, Issue 3)

**Alumni News**  
709 North Kniss Avenue  
Luverne, MN 56156



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