

## Hoiland family to open The Bluestem in former Magnolia Steakhouse property

By Lori Ehde

Luverne residents and visitors will soon have a choice in contemporary dining when “The Bluestem” opens later this year.

Chef Skyler Hoiland and his family are buying the former Magnolia Steakhouse property south of I-90, and many of the menu items are already in place.

“I wanted to name it after something connected to the area,” Skyler said about the name. Bluestem is a native prairie grass that grows at the Blue Mounds State Park.

“I would describe the restaurant as ‘casual and comfortable.’ You can come in as you are, but you’re still going to get that ‘fine dining’ experience.”

He said the cuisine is best described as contemporary comfort food, with an Italian influence including a few pasta entrees — pasta that he makes fresh from scratch daily.

But he said customers might also count on steak, pork chops, walleye and a variety of menu options.

The main ingredient, he emphasizes, will be freshness.

“I’m a stickler for fresh ingredients,” he said, adding that this is why his seafood menu will be limited. “Most everything I have will be made from scratch.”

**Skyler, who graduated from Luverne in 2009**, has his Associate’s Degree in Culinary Arts from Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in Mendota Heights, and he has a year’s worth of chef experience at Alba Restaurant in Boulder, Colo., where he said he honed his culinary skills and developed a love of Italian-style cooking.

After a recent visit, he and his parents, Mike and Lynette (Niessink)



Lori Ehde photo/0531 bluestem hoilands

Chef Skyler Hoiland and his parents, Lynette (Niessink) and Mike Hoiland, and other supporters are buying the former Magnolia Steakhouse property and will open The Bluestem restaurant later this year.

Hoiland, started brainstorming about a restaurant in Luverne.

Before long, word got out about their plans, and the Hoilands said the community’s response has been overwhelming.

“Why do you think I chose the place where I did to open a restaurant,” Skyler said. “All the support is here – from my family and friends and the community.”

He said he’s well aware of the sobering statistics for new restaurants. “Eighty percent of all new restaurants fail in the first year,” he said.

But he said he’s confident that with the hard work he’s willing to do, the quality he’s planning to insist on and the community support, The

Bluestem can be a success.

Lynette said she and Mike agree.

“You wouldn’t have this kind of enthusiasm anywhere else,” she said.

For Skyler, The Bluestem simply puts his career plans on the fast track.

At only 16 years old, he had chosen his career path — to be a professional chef.

At 18 he was admitted to the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in Mendota Heights.

That year, as a senior in Luverne High School, he won first place in the school’s annual culinary competition, an award that came with \$10,000 in scholarship money.

**The Blue Stem**/continued on page 16

# Honor Roll of Alumni News Contributors

Compiled by Johnna Bowron Ahrendt

During this past quarter, March 31, 2012, through June 30, 2012, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials and gifts totaling \$1,620.00.

In the memorial section below, the individual being memorialized is printed in bold print, followed by the individual or individuals who made the gift. Contributions given by graduates and friends follow the list of memorials.

**THANK YOU, READERS!**

## Memorials

### **Ruth (Nielson) Eberlein '34**

Patricia (Eberlein) '64 Heck

### **Dorothy Jean (Skoland) Foss '42**

Gleva (Boysen) '42 Jacobson  
Joan (Harbak) Muns '54  
Warner Muns  
Constance Muns  
Shirley Mollberg - friend  
Don '51 & Myrna Spease  
Audrey (Luethje) '43 Gabrielson

### **Homer Vos '47**

Elmer '52 and Marcia Moeller  
John '45 & Imogene (Lemke) '47 Krogmann  
Kenneth Vos '48  
Roger R. Jensen '47

### **Nelson Vos '50**

Kenneth Vos '48

### **Don Cragoe '51**

Ben Cousyn '51

### **Lois (Groth) '52 Orwell**

Louise (Goehle) '45 Beckman  
Eunice (Groth) '45 Witry

### **Class of 1957**

Stan Thompson '57

### **Marvin Fick '58**

LHS Class of 1958  
Connie (Rusche) '58 Wieneke  
John '45 & Imogene (Lemke) '47 Krogmann  
Delores (Madison) '58 Walters

### **Linda (Molitor) '67 Hurd**

Durward '56 & Judy (Molitor) '58 Heronimus

### **Amanda (Miller) '98 Vis**

Bill '74 and Barb (Jessen) '71 Weber  
John '45 & Imogene (Lemke) '47 Krogmann  
Constance Nash - friend  
Gary & Janine (Jordahl) Papik '69  
Anna (DeGroot) '60 VanBatavia  
Jim '66 & Carol (Aanenson) '66 Hatting

### **In memory of Gordon Gits**

Elmer & Karen Menage  
Patti (Kirby) '63 Pierson  
Jane Engebretson '69  
Bill '62 and Susan (Reimer)\ Mohr '63

### **Suzanne Pierson-Dunbar**

Don & Lona (Gabrielson) '70 Klosterbuer

## Contributions

Karen (Anderson) '61 Aamot  
AJ "Jack" "Tim" Tangeman '38  
Joan (Padilla) '54 Ripley  
Louise (Goehle) '45 Beckman  
Mavis (Winge)'50 Amundson

### **NOTE:**

**If you have recently made a contribution to the Alumni News and your name does not appear on this page, please let the staff know.**

**Chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled. Please watch for the next issue, October 2012, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.**

## Alumni News Financial Summary

### **Previous Balance:**

March 31, 2012 . . . . . **\$1,946.15**

### **Expenses for April 2012 issue:**

Labels . . . . . \$215.33  
Printing . . . . . 919.07  
Postage . . . . . \$1,491.02  
Database Subscription \$147.00

**Total Expense. . . . . (\$2,772.42)**

### **Income - March 31, 2012, through**

June 30, 2012 . . . . . **\$1,620.00**

**Current Balance . . . . . \$793.73\***

\*The cost of the July 2012 issue is not known, but the estimated cost is \$4,500.00.

# What We've Heard . . .

**Gleva Boysen Jacobson (LHS 1942)** has been living in Estherville, IA since 1960. She moved to Iowa after selling the Hills Telephone Company. She sends greetings to the Luverne alums and looks forward to getting her copies of Alumni News.

**Amber Deutsch Winkels (LHS 2002) and Ben Winkels (LHS 2001)** are pleased to share the news of the birth of their daughter, Ainsley Kay, born on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Ainsley was 7 lbs. 15 oz. Grandparents are Doug and Colleen Deutsch of Luverne & Mike and Patty Winkels of Prescott Valley, AZ. Amber and Ben make their home in Schuylkill Haven, PA.

The couple move to Pennsylvania in October 2010. Ben is employed with Newell-Rubbermaid and Amber is a substitute teacher. This new mother is also working on her Master's in Educational Administration through South Dakota State University.

**Pat Eberlein Heck** sends greetings from Canby, MN. Pat is a proud **1964** graduate of LHS. She looks forward to receiving the copy of Alumni News. It is a wonderful way to keep in touch with classmates from throughout the country.

She urges each member of the Class of 1964 to keep in touch by sending in his/her "happenings." Pat writes it doesn't seem possible that they graduated 48 years ago. She looks forward to celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> in 2014.

To get everyone up to date on the changes in her life she writes: "after a number of years in education; employment as a proofreader at the Canby News; working as a library technicians at Minnesota West-Canby, she is

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

enjoying the joys of retirement." Pat and her husband Duane live on a farm just north of Canby. She especially enjoys music (playing piano and singing); pampering their three grandchildren; and traveling, if given the opportunity.

**Joan Padilla Ripley (LHS 1954)** send greetings from North Houston, TX. She loved to see the photos of Main Street taken years ago. The recent one of folks lining the streets to welcome home the "champions" brought back lots of memories.

Joan particularly enjoyed seeing the "Ben's Bakery" sign in the background. She writes: "I have lived in a lot of places and never pass up a bakery. I still believe my parents made the best baked goods I've ever tasted."

Of course, I could be a bit prejudiced. My siblings and I

always have fun baking and cooking whenever we're together. It's a form of artful relaxation for all of us."

She adds a final comment to the Alumni News staff to keep up the good work - it always makes a brighter day when the latest edition arrives!

**Linda Schmuck (Magnolia 1968)** writes to all Magnolia grads from her home in Gulfport, MS. She would love to see information about Magnolia grads in Alumni News and hopes that someday soon she will hear about an All-School Magnolia Reunion!

**Landisburg, PA is the home of LHS 1938** grad A. J. "Jack" "Tim" Tangemann. He writes: "Thank you for continuing a service to those of us who graduated from a fine school system. During my life

# Remembering our Classmates

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## 1920-1929

**Marie Augusta LaFrenz Bell '27** died May 28, 1012 at Parkview Manor Nursing Home in Ellsworth. She graduated from Luverne Normal School in 1932 and attended Mankato and Duluth State Teachers colleges.

Marie taught at rural schools in Rock County until 1948. She traveled in all states west of the Mississippi and to Mexico, Catalina and Canada.

On June 25, 1948 she married Harley Bell. The couple farmed in Rock County until 1963. In 1980 they moved to Luverne. Marie moved to the Blue Mound Tower in 1986. She was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Luverne, the GLCW and the Luverne VFW and Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed doing volunteer work.

Her sister-in-law Viola LaFrenz, and nieces and nephews survive Mrs. Bell.

## 1930-1930-

**Lauren Ladd'37** died March 27, 2012, at the Sanford Hospice Cottage in Luverne. After graduation Lauren worked at Montgomery Ward in Sioux Falls. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1947, he married Laurretta Olson at Zion Lutheran Church in Luverne. In addition to farming he worked part time for Helling Construction moving houses and doing finishing carpentry work.

The couple retired from farming in 1985. They moved to Luverne in 1999. His wife, Laurretta Ladd, a son, Leighton Ladd, two sister-in-law, Marian Helling and Doris Olson, and other friends and relatives survive him.

**Lloyd Lorange '39** of Ortonville died June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls. He served in World War II from 1942-1945 in the Army Corp in the Pacific

Theater of Operations. Lloyd was part of a crew of a Higgins Landing Craft. He started his career as a salesman at J.C. Penny and Montgomery Ward.

On Oct. 16, 1949, he married Lois Smith. In 1963 they moved to Ortonville to join his brother, Arnie, in business at Twin Town Furniture. He later worked as a salesman for Belding Lilly, Aero Drapery and Fabric Masters until his retirement in 1985. He then started his own business, Lorange Window Covering Service, until his second retirement at age 90. He enjoyed playing cards, and gardening, especially tending to his roses.

Mr. Lorange is survived by his wife, Lois Lorange, three children, Kathy (John) McCallum, Karla (Dan) Beutler, and Paul (Connie) Lorange, nine grand children; three great-grandchildren; and other friends and relatives.

## 1940-1949-

**Homer Voss'47** died May 26, 2012 at the Minnesota Veterans Home. He was drafted into the Army during the Korean War. He was stationed at the field hospital in Salzburg, Austria until August 1953 when he was honorably discharged and returned to Hardwick to continue his career in agriculture.

On April 24, 1959 he married Frances Berghorst. He operated a dairy farm until 1979 when he began crop farming. In 1996 he retired from farming. He enjoyed every activity that was ag-related including attending farm sales, vintage tractor and machinery shows, the fair, and hardly missed a Tuesday at the Pipestone Sale Barn.

He was an avid reader, especially of history. He and his wife enjoyed square dancing and traveling, especially trips to Alaska and the Netherlands. Mr. Vos is survived by his wife, Frances Vos,

a son, **David '78**(Elizabeth) Vos, a daughter **Anna '81**(Dan) Schuler; four grandchildren; two brothers **Kenneth'48** (Francie) Vos, and **Glen'57** Vos; a sister **Linda Vos'61** and a sister-in-law, Betty Vos; and other friends and relatives.

**Delores Schoon Boen'48** died June 7, 2012 in Sioux Falls, SD. After graduation she continued her education and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Augustana College in Sioux Falls in 1952.

Her passion for the arts led her to a lifelong education, studying at the University of Minnesota, the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, the Minnetonka Center for the Arts in Wayzata, and studying under the direction of many accomplished artists.

On September 21, 1957, she married Maurtiz Boen in Minneapolis. She lived in St. Peter and Excelsior before returning to Sioux Falls in 1994. She shared her knowledge for the arts in educating others in portrait and at numerous community centers.

Mrs. Boen is survived by her son, Tor (Lori) Boen, three grandsons, **Michael '2000**(Erika) Boen, **Daniel'02** Jennifer Warnock) Boen and **Timothy'04** (Mary) Boen, five great-grand children, two brothers, Allan (Muriel) Schoon, and David '(Pat) Schoon, two nephews; and other relatives and friends.

## 1950-1959-

**Marvin Fick'58** died June 6, 2012, at Sanford Medical center in Sioux Falls, SD. After graduation he helped on the farm while also serving six years with the local U.S. National Guard unit in Luverne.

On April 27, 1963 he married Judith Wendt. Following their marriage the couple lived just west

**Remembering our classmates . . . From page 4**

of the home place.

He was an active member of Peace Lutheran Church in Rock Rapids serving as an elder, and as president and vice president of the congregation. He also served many years on the Rock County Planning and zoning Board. He enjoyed farming.

Mr. Fick is survived by his wife, Judy Fick, four children, Tom (Jodi) Fick, Paul'84 (Lois) Fick **Ruth '85**(Ron) Fick **Mary '89**(Nathan) Sandbulte, nine grandchildren, one great-grandson and three brothers Don Fick, **LeRoy '61**(Verla) Fick, and **Lowell '65**(Kathy) Fick.

**1960-1969-**

**1970-1979-**

**Julee Ann Frakes Woldt'71** died June 17, 2012 in Kansas City, Mo. Following high school Julee went to Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D .She graduated in 1975 with dual degrees in criminal justice and social work. She spent 28 years as a successful sales representative for an optical company.

Mrs. Woldt is survived by her husband, Robert and a sister, Shelly Kiser.

**Kristie Cook Davis '72** of Altoona, Wis., died June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Dunn County Health Center in Menomonie, Wis. while under hospice care. On May 4, 1974, she married Dennis Davis. The couple divorced 24 years later. She worked at Pizza Plus Eatery as a server for many years.

She enjoyed boat rides on the river with her son and listening to music.

Ms. Davis is survived by a daughter, Courtney Davis, a son Justin Davis, one grandchild; three brothers, Bob (Bonnie) Cook, Keith (Wanda) Cook, and Todd Cook, a sister Debra Cook-Schroeder, and other friends and relatives.

**1980-1989-**

**1990-1999-**

**Amanda Lynn Miller Vis'98** of Edgerton died May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Sanford Medical Center in Sioux Falls, S.D. as the result of injuries sustained in an automobile accident May 26, 2012 near Leota. Upon her graduation she worked as shift manager at McDonald's and later worked for Habilitative Services, Inc. in Luverne.

A few years later she went to work at Bayliner in Pipestone and also continued her work at HIS.

When Bayliner closed, she began working at V&M Meat Locker in Leota. She married Justin Vis on Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> 2007, and the couple lived in Leota. They later separated. She then moved to Edgerton where she lived with a special friend, Art DePass.

She enjoyed spending time at Diamond Lake near Willmar, where is able to pursue her favorite pastime, fishing. She also enjoyed playing softball, taking pictures and being outdoors. She had an artistic talent for creating jewelry.

Through her death Amanda's gift of organ donation helped four other individuals and their families. Amanda is survived by her parents, **Tony '72**and **Sharon'76**(Remme) Miller, a sister, **Amber'02** (Chris) Nath and their children, Courtney and Gracie, and other relatives and friends.

**2000-2010-**

**Online Alumni  
News goes green,  
saves green**

Have you checked out the  
Luverne Alumni News at  
[www.alumninews.info](http://www.alumninews.info) lately?

A new update is here:  
You are able to read your  
Alumni News online.

Now that it is available,  
let us know you would like to  
discontinue the hard copy to go green  
(save postal expenses and a tree).

Please email  
Patti Pierson at  
[piersonprp@frontiernet.net](mailto:piersonprp@frontiernet.net)



Phil Piot, center, receives the Legion of Honor from French President Sarkozy, right.

### What We've Heard . . . Continued from page 3

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(childless) I have nevertheless seen the devastation that a poor school system has on its own community and can have on the world. "

Jack adds that today he is a 24/7 caregiver to a woman who befriended him in 1994. She is able to walk with help, but won't eat his cooking. So they go out to eat twice a day. The last four years have been difficult so those memories and news of LHS and Luverne brighten up the days.

**Thomas Getman** forwarded wonderful news about 1957-1958 LHS Foreign Exchange Student, Phil Piot. Phil was the first foreign exchange student LHS had and he lived with the Clara and Jerry Getman family at 505 North Kniss.

Phil and his wife Colette returned in 2008 in the celebration of his 50<sup>th</sup> LHS Reunion after John Ronlund and Phil Bonthius made a special trip to Chambery, France to make certain the Piots attended.

LHS 1958 celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion in September 2008 during the Band Festival and Phil was able to serve as the parade's grand marshal.

Tom writes:  
 "Attached is the announcement in French and some photos of the great honor bestowed upon Phil and his family by President Sarkozy just before he ended his term as French President. As you probably know The Legion of Honor is a rare award given to only a few French citizens of eminent merit (aux merites eminents) for the good of the public.

The article (**pictured on the adjacent page**) that I am enclosing even mentions how much his time in Minnesota affected his life. He served with honor in the French army as a paratrooper, became a very successful businessman entrepreneur, and a much appreciated compassionate magistrate and reformed of the provincial Savoie judiciary.

His wife Colette, children Emmanuel, Karine, Antoine and son-in-law David as well as grandchildren are in the photos. All of his children and our three children exchanged over the years at Chambery and Washington, DC. We have attended one another's weddings.

Now the Piot third generation has begun to exchange with the Getman third generation...first here in DC and next year in South Africa where our daughter Eliza has four children. This may go on forever for the bonds of commitment that began in Luverne 55 years ago are very deep.

There are many Luverne citizens and former classmates around the country who know Phil."

Tom also shares a few comments about his continued work:

"As for my continuing humble contributions in the international realm you can follow my pursuits by googling Sojourners <sojo.net/blogs> and search with my name for the articles and blogs I have been writing. I am honored to be the secretary of the board of directors for the organization and contribute reporting regularly in regard to my efforts in the Mid East and Southern Africa. Speaking for the Getmans from around the country, we appreciate your excellent work!"

## Philippe Piot a été fait chevalier

C'est dans le salon Napoléon du palais de justice à Chambéry que Jean-Yves McKee, premier président de la cour d'appel, a remis vendredi dernier les insignes de chevalier de la Légion d'honneur à Philippe Piot. « Cette médaille prestigieuse rend un hommage officiel et républicain aux mérites éminents d'une action toute entière tournée vers le bien public, à travers un engagement dans le monde économique et une mobilisation intense au service de l'idéal de justice ». C'est par ces mots que Jean Yves McKee a donné le ton à une cérémonie protocolaire à laquelle ont assisté de nombreuses personnalités élues et institutionnelles, les représentants du monde de la justice et la quasi-totalité des acteurs et des organisations professionnelles qui font la vie économique et sociale savoyarde.

Après des études au collège de La Villette, un séjour d'une année aux États-Unis en High School dans le Minnesota (1958) et deux années de service militaire au sein d'une unité parachutistes en Algérie (1959-1961), Philippe Piot termine sa vie d'étudiant à l'IUT de Grenoble en 1964. Il va alors orienter sa vie professionnelle vers l'industrie de la distribution tout d'abord à Paris puis à Grenoble, avant de revenir dès 1976 en Terres de Savoie pour y entamer une seconde carrière sur le bassin chambérien, dans le secteur



C'est Jean-Yves McKee qui a remis les insignes de chevalier de la Légion d'honneur à Philippe Piot.

de l'automobile et du poids lourd. Sa passion pour cette filière d'activité va le conduire à un engagement au sein de la Chambre syndicale de Savoie et du Syndicat national de l'automobile. En parallèle, la générosité et l'altruisme de Philippe Piot vont voir le chef d'entreprise donner bénévolement de son temps à la justice consulaire. Élu au tribunal de commerce en 1993, il va en gravir tous les échelons avant d'en prendre, en l'an

2000, la présidence pour sept ans. C'est à cette époque également que le magistrat chef d'entreprise va porter l'association "Savoie sauvegarde" et créer le "Comité d'entr'aide". Enfin, en tant que magistrat, Philippe Piot va jouer un rôle majeur lors de la réforme de la carte judiciaire, avec des propositions retenues et validées par le Garde ses sceaux.

GJ

# Dollars for Scholars exceeds \$2 million in scholarship awards!!!



## 29-Year Summary of Luverne Dollars for Scholars

This year marks an important landmark achievement for Luverne's Dollars For Scholars chapter in that it surpassed the \$2 million mark in scholarship awards to LHS graduates over the program's 29-year history.

It took 21 years to exceed the first million in scholarship dollars. That milestone was reached when scholarships were awarded to the Class of 2004.

Now, a mere eight years later, the local scholarship program reached the new benchmark of exceeding the second million in awards.

Thanks to the support and generosity of donors, **67 scholarships totaling \$200,250 have been awarded to the Class of 2012.**

Since its origin in 1984, a total of 1,404 scholarships for \$2,145,975 have been given.

The chart to the right shows the total number of scholarship recipients from each class and the total number of dollars awarded to those scholarship recipients.

The Dollars for Scholars Chapter is a non-profit organization involving local volunteers who are interested in providing local students with financial assistance to pursue higher education. All of the funds raised by that group remain in the community and are awarded to Luverne students.

If you would like to contribute to Dollars for Scholars or if you would like to receive a brochure containing information regarding Dollars for Scholars, please write Dollars for Scholars, P.O. Box 822, Luverne, MN 56156.

Graduating Class	No of Recipients	Dollars Awarded
Class of '84	2	\$1,000
Class of '85	9	3,600
Class of '86	11	4,100
Class of '87	7	4,250
Class of '88	19	7,175
Class of '89	16	4,950
Class of '90	22	8,550
Class of '91	25	10,400
Class of '92	25	23,750
Class of '93	33	45,000
Class of '94	34	44,750
Class of '95	54	47,600
Class of '96	47	50,700
Class of '97	48	54,700
Class of '98	67	103,500
Class of '99	78	134,750
Class of '00	100	142,750
Class of '01	65	119,000
Class of '02	78	94,250
Class of '03	75	94,500
Class of '04	74	94,250
Class of '05	68	96,000
Class of '06	63	95,000
Class of '07	63	95,500
Class of '08	70	144,500
Class of '09	66	111,250
Class of '10	64	138,500
Class of '11	54	170,950
Class of '12	67	200,250

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**TOTALS**                      **1404**      **\$2,145,945**

### **ATTN: SNOWBIRDS!!!!**

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

**Thank you from the Committee**

## Two new scholarships endowed

Next spring, two additional scholarships will be available to the Class of 2013 scholarship applicants. These new scholarships, endowed this year, are the Gordon P. Gits Memorial Scholarship and the Jim and Mavis Hamann Scholarship. A short synopsis of each is printed below:



### Gordon P. Gits Memorial Scholarship established

The Gordon P. Gits Memorial Scholarship was established in 2012 by his wife, Barbara Gits. Gordon was an energetic high school English teacher in the Luverne School District for 34 years, from 1955 to 1989.

During his teaching career, he was named "Outstanding Young Educator" by the Luverne Jaycees in 1967 and in 1968 he received the "Teacher of Excellence" by the MN Teacher of the Year program.



He served three terms as Mayor of Luverne, from 1987 through 1992, following 12 years on the City Council.

Among many other volunteer projects, Gordy played an integral role in launching the Alumni News, a quarterly newspaper for Luverne High School Alumni, also serving as contributing editor. He enjoyed reading, working in the yard, traveling, and especially spending time with his grandchildren.

Gordon passed away on March 12, 2012.

### Jim and Mavis Hamann Scholarship established

Jim Hamann is a 1956 graduate of Luverne High School. His wife, Mavis graduated from White Bear Lake High School in that same year.

They are both 1960 graduates of Mankato State College (now Minnesota State University) with degrees in Education. Jim later earned an MA (1968) and PhD (1971) from the University of Minnesota. He taught English, social studies and math for several years at a junior high school in St. Paul.

In 1969 Jim became an assistant principal at Edina High School (MN), and two years later was named as principal of Valley View Junior High School in Edina. Beginning in 1982 Jim served as Assistant Superintendent for Edina Public Schools and retired in 1995. The Hamanns enjoy travel and feel very fortunate to have visited six of the seven continents.

They would prefer that whenever possible the scholarship will be awarded to a student who is planning on a career in education.

## Class of 1977 grad shares special memories of Mr. Gits

Dear Friends:

Mr. Gits was one of the best teachers I had at LHS. He respected the art and craft of writing and he taught me many things about how to be a better writer. He invited Fred Manfred to meet with our class, introducing us to a professional, published author living in our midst!

Mr. Gits encouraged me to write for the Star-Herald.

He took the class to Augustana College to do research in a college library, encouraging us to explore scholarly resources.

He took great care in critiquing my papers.

He expected a lot from me and I tried to oblige.

I remember working on the major research paper (the one that took us to the college) to develop a paper about contemporary ballet. When I asked him if I could use the term adagio to describe a dancer's style, he laughed and said, "...of course, I'll know what you mean!"

Valuing precision in writing he kept me focused. For example, in the margin of another English paper he wrote "purple passage." I had to ask him what that meant. I don't exactly remember the details, but I got the point - apparently my literary reach exceeded my grasp.

Mr. Gits stands out as one of the people who made sure I got a good education at Luverne High School.

I am very grateful to have had him for a teacher and very grateful for the quality of education I had in the Luverne Public Schools.

Mary Jane Keitel (LHS 1977)

PARENTS:

Has your son or daughter moved out of the house and their Alumni News comes to your address? PLEASE email Patti Pierson at [piersonprp@frontiernet.net](mailto:piersonprp@frontiernet.net) or call her at 507-669-2371 to update their information.

Thank you

# THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

*Formerly known as "Tid-Bits"*

One of the greatest things about Alumni News is sharing the experiences of growing up in Luverne and Rock County. All of us have memories of things we did, people we knew, events we shared and what we witnessed. Alumni News staff introduced a new column in the fall 2011 edition called "Tid-Bits."

The column is composed of a selection of comments and writings submitted by LHS Alumni on specific topics that are introduced in previous Alumni News editions. The October 2011 column, now called "Thanks for the Memories," featured memories of the late Frederick Manfred. In January, the topic was LHS basketball memories. For April, the topic was prom. All prior issues of Alumni News can be found on the Luverne Alumni website at [www.alumninews.info](http://www.alumninews.info).

The current July edition features memories about Luverne High School track and field. Thank you to the individuals who took the time to share their wonderful and humorous memories of the track and field program at Luverne High School.

## *Great Luverne High School track and field stories, as told by LHS alumni ...*

**Len Hansen (LHS 1945)** of St. Peter remembers the six track meets he participated in. The LHS 1945 Track Team won at Blue Earth, Carleton College and regionals in Mankato. The team was second in the district and second in the Dakota Relays. They finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the state competition, during the period of time there was only one class.



The team featured: (from left to right) Alan Anderson, Howard Helling, Leonard Hansen Roger Wiese, Dick Petersen, Eddie Milton and coach Harold Meyer. Kneeling is John Reimer. Great memories of a great track team!

**Dr. Andrew Tilstra (LHS 2000)** has great memories of his two years of Track and Field, 1999 and 2000. Setting the school shot put record and getting a medal at the State Meet both years were great moments to remember. One of the more comical memories happened in Fairmont in 1999.

**Lynden Reder** was continuing his quest to break his personal discus record and advance his ranking in the state. After one really good throw, the person ran out with the tape measure but the tape measure was not long enough to reach the spot where the disc had landed! So the person in the field and the person holding the other end of the tape measure at the ring

started to pull and tried to stretch the tape measure to reach the mark. Lynden clearly informed them that this was not a good idea. Eventually, the meet officials found a longer tape measure and accurately recorded the throw.

**Debra Hoogeveen Remme (LHS 1989)** writes of her fond memories of the 1989 track season. She writes: "My sister Dawn and I were part of the 4 x 200 Relay Team heading to White Bear Lake, MN for the State Track Meet. The outcome was the State Championship and the new Luverne High School record of 1:45.30. Fast forward to the year 2010. My oldest daughter, Britton, was a member



The LHS 1945 Track Team is pictured (from left to right) Alan Anderson, Howard Helling, Leonard Hansen, Roger Wiese, Dick Petersen, Eddie Milton and coach Harold Meyer. Kneeling is John Reimer.

of the Luverne 4 x 200 Relay Team heading to Hamline for the State Track Meet. The outcome was the State Championship and the new Luverne High School record of 1.45.03. What an amazing moment to share!

MARCHING BAND SEASON! We can't wait to hear the stories!

**Fall 2012 – THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES....send in your stories about LHS Marching Band!!!**

Remember those days of marching down the street, playing your instrument in rhythm to your marching feet...Alumni News invites you to send in your stories and memories about the FALL



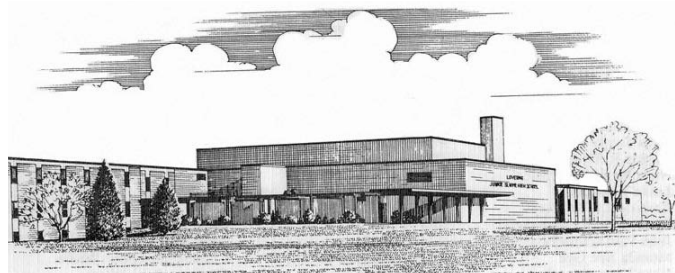


Photo courtesy Nica Hemme

## Ossenfort family reunion

The Ossenfort siblings, children of Albert and Anna Ossenfort, Luverne, gathered in Hardwick June 15 and 16 for a family reunion that included more than 100 people. Out of 15 children in the family, 11 are surviving. They are, pictured counter-clockwise in birth order, Don Ossenfort, Rapid City, S.D. (back, right); Lois Nath, Luverne; Carol Oltmans, Apple Valley; Alice Hansen, Hardwick; Linda Molden, St. Cloud; Rodger Ossenfort, Luverne; Judy Reis, Columbus, Ga. (front, left); Deb Gehrke, Beaver Creek; Dennis Ossenfort, Worthington; Brenda Staeffler, Valley Springs, S.D.; and Kathy Scholten, Valley Springs. Four of the siblings are deceased, Marlene Lundgren, Loren Ossenfort, David Ossenfort and Larry (Ozzie) Ossenfort.

Twins Dennis and Debra celebrated their 60th birthday on July 9.



# LUVERNE AREA CHAMBER....

## Your Class Reunion Headquarters!

The Alumni News Staff has to "step up to the plate" in the future...as we try to work together to fill the "big shoes" of Alumni News founder, Gregg Gropel. With Gropel's retirement the duties and responsibilities for this great magazine have been shared.

One of Gregg's major coordinating efforts was to make sure that the latest information was printed in a column he appropriately called...REUNIONS IN THE MAKING.

**In the future, the Luverne Area Chamber will be your contact.** Call or e-mail the Chamber when you have your reunion information together...and the Chamber will make sure that it gets printed in the next copy(ies) of Alumni News and posted on the website, [www.luvernechamber.com](http://www.luvernechamber.com).

The Luverne Convention and Visitor's Bureau encourages all Luverne alumni to return home to celebrate your class reunions. The CVB offers to mail out one letter/packet/flyer with information for the planners of each class reunion.

For Class Reunion Information: 888 283-4061 or [luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us](mailto:luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us).

**START MAKING YOUR PLANS TO ATTEND.....**

# LUVERNE ALL-SCHOOL REUNION!

**Thursday through Saturday**

**July 17, 18, & 19, 2014**

*Great plans are taking shape:*

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>July 17 Luverne's 52<sup>nd</sup> Hot Dog Nite</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>July 18 Luverne All-School Dinner &amp; Dance</b> <b>At the Blue Mound Banquet Center</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 19 Grand Opening of Herreid Military Museum</b> <b>Third Floor Exhibit featuring</b> <b>KOREA TO THE PRESENT</b>
	<b>July 19 Bash in the Grass at Luverne City Park</b> <b>Habitat for Humanities Rib Cook-off</b> <b>Live Entertainment</b>

### ""CLASS REUNION COMMITTEES""

Are you planning a class reunion in the near future and would like an updated listing of your classmates... email Patti Pierson at [pier-sonprp@frontiernet.net](mailto:pier-sonprp@frontiernet.net) for the listing. If you would like labels printed I can do that also. If it is sent via email there is no fee but hard copies require postage and printing of labels so a small fee is charged for that. Happy planning!!!!



(Submitted photo)

Class of 1967 members are (front row, from left) Wendy Anderson Grill, Arlan De Yong, Steve Laudon, Dayle Keitel Haglund, Robert Iverson, Kristi Fitzer, (row two) Nancy Connell McDowell, Barb Barclay, Carol Underwood Huckins, Marilyn Schmuck, Mary Bendt Kinde, Elaine Van Belle Boergerhoff, Pam Hanson Bobrow, Becky Schrank Holten, Nancy Erickson, Ron Lippi, (row three) Dean DePauw, Maggie Christenson Freese, Mary Opsata Modica, Marilyn Deitermann Sullivan, Karen Schadwinkel, Linda DeBoer Olivier, Diane Mollberg Gonnerman, Susan Eberlein Brown, Laura Hoiland Welle, Martin Nergaard, (row four) Randy Kafka, Doug Schumacher, Gary Golla, Robert Ruddy, JoAnne Nelson, Linda Schaeffer Moore, Mark Goemmel, Larry Scheidt, Larry Toft, LeRoy Peterson, (row five) Terry Gonnerman, Larry Goebel, Allen Meinerts, Dave Lorenzen, Lorne Dooyema, Tim Connell, Steve Henderson and Dave Granneman.

## LHS class of 1967 gathers for Buffalo Days reunion

The Luverne High School Class of 1967 gathered at the Luverne Country Club for its 45<sup>th</sup> reunion Saturday, June 2, during the Luverne Buffalo Days weekend celebration.

In addition to a meeting at Sharkee's, class members took in the Buffalo Days activities, such as the Friday night car cruise-in, riding on a float in the parade, gathering at Arts in the Park, and competing in the Buffalo Chip Throwing Contest.

According to class member Elaine (Van Belle) Boergerhoff, reunion chair, the team took "Turd" Place throwing buffalo chips, thanks to Karen Schadwinkel's hole in one.

Boergerhoff said there was good food at the Country Club with an interactive program that included trivia and prizes.

On Sunday many of the classmates attended the worship service at the Palace Theatre and then

went to the fairgrounds for food and music at the Historical Society's Hoe Down.

"What a terrific reunion weekend," Boergerhoff wrote in her email that accompanied the reunion photo. "Thank you Luverne Chamber for sponsoring an awesome event, and thank you Kris Fitzer, JoAnne Nelson, Ron Lippi and those who helped with set up (for the reunion)."

# Reunions in the Making

## Class of '57 - 55<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

**When:** Sept. 28-30, 2012

**Location:** 28<sup>th</sup>- Brandenburg Gallery

Time for socializing and enjoying the Gallery

Heavy Hor 'Douvres

Wine, Beer and Soda

29<sup>th</sup>- Coffey Haus

Dinner and Formal Reunion

30<sup>th</sup>- Green Lantern

Sunday morning-Breakfast

Buffet at Green Lantern (Hardwick)

**Contact:** Karla Brummer Tildahl

770 Odsila Way

Fontana, WI 53125

Phone: 262-275-3852

Email: karlabrent@tildahl.com

Karla Tildahl says, "We don't have times yet but will be sending another notice to everyone. If you need anymore information be sure to let me know."

## Class of '62 - 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

**When:** August 17 and 18, 2012

**Location:** Loren and Joyce Forrest's Farm, Rock County Veterans Memorial Building and other Luverne locations. More details will be sent in the Spring 2012.

**Contact:** Darlene Hitch Woolsey

Phone: 763-595-0314

Email: DARGW@aol.com

## Class of '63 - 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

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

*More information will be coming this fall*

**Any questions email:** Patti Kirby Pierson  
[piersonprp@frontiernet.net](mailto:piersonprp@frontiernet.net) or

Joe Rowe [joe.rowe0307@gmail.com](mailto:joe.rowe0307@gmail.com)

## Class of '65 - 47<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

**When:** August 3-4, 2012

**Friday:** 7:00- Informal Gathering at Sharkee's

**Saturday:** 5:30- Social Hour

Followed by dinner/program at the Luverne Country Club

To determine the number of people attending, please RSVP to Randa by **July 28, 2012**. Cost for Sat. dinner is \$10.00/person. Please indicate if interested in golfing; tee times Sat. a.m. (Aug. 4)

**Co-contact:** Randa Smith Gangestad

Phone: 507-283-8288

Email: [rgangestadaz@hotmail.com](mailto:rgangestadaz@hotmail.com)

**Co-contact:** Jeanne Boone Bowron

Phone: 507-283-8136

Email: [jrbowron@gmail.com](mailto:jrbowron@gmail.com)

**Info:** Look for future issues of the *Alumni News* for further information "Class of '65 turns 65"

## Class of '72 - 40<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

**When:** July 28, 2012

**Location:** Luverne Country Club

**Co-Contact:** Paula Wendt Rose

Email: [paulajoyce@ymail.com](mailto:paulajoyce@ymail.com)

**Co-Contact:** John Smith

Phone: (605) 360-9272

Email: [odie1953@yahoo.com](mailto:odie1953@yahoo.com)

**Note:** A detailed letter is on the way.

## Class of '82 - 30<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

**When:** Aug. 10-11, 2012

**Location:** Eagles Club

**Contact:** Carrie Van Santen

Phone: 507-220-1123

E-mail: [bluemoo@svtv.com](mailto:bluemoo@svtv.com)

## Class of '87 - 25<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion

**When:** Aug. 10-11, 2012

**Contact:** Cris Oeltjenbruns

Mark your calendars: the **Arizona Reunion** will be 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2013, at SUPERSTITION SPRING GOLF COURSE in Mesa, AZ. Pre-registration deadline is Feb. 13. To register and for information contact Jim or Judy Herman (after Nov. 1) 480 380-6631.

**Class of 1947 - 65th reunion** will be Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Veterans Home in Luverne in the "cabin by the pond" Happy hour and appetizers at 4 pm and a catered meal at about 5:30-6 pm. **RSVP as soon as possible** to either Joyce Wessels at [norjoytx@yahoo.com](mailto:norjoytx@yahoo.com) or Bill Fay at [wjfl@msn.com](mailto:wjfl@msn.com) or Doris Gath at [redneckmootie@earthlink.net](mailto:redneckmootie@earthlink.net).

# The Bluestem restaurant/continued from page 1

In a 2009 Star Herald feature story about the award, Skyler said he planned to one day open his own five-star restaurant, and Le Cordon Bleu president Kevin Sanderson said, "I wouldn't doubt it for a minute."

So at 21, Skyler agrees he's young to be starting a business, but it's all part of his plan.

"The way I see it, as a chef, I have two choices," he said Tuesday. "I can work for someone else and get paid and not have to worry about running a business. But I'd rather be a restaurateur and run my own business."

In addition to his culinary skills, chefs at both Le Cordon Bleu and the Alba Restaurant have told him he's management material.

"They noticed my ability to take charge in the kitchen," Skyler said with a smile.

Beyond that, Mike said Skyler is just well suited for his trade.

"He has a passion for food," he said. "He gets up in the morning and he's immediately planning the next meal." Skyler said he enjoys cooking for his family, and they've grown fond of it.

"My mom will tell me when I come home, 'Oh, Skyler, I missed you ... what are you making for supper?'"

He said his parents will be part of the business, but their specific roles haven't been defined.

He knows at this point that he'll need to hire at least a half dozen employees just to get things started.

When asked what his favorite menu item will be, he said, "The whole menu is my favorite."

When asked if he'll offer the famous Magnolia Steakhouse onion rings, the answer is simple. "No, but we will miss them, too!"

Mike and Lynette said that's the question most people ask them about The Bluestem.

"We want that memory to be associated with the Magnolia Steakhouse and the Dispanet family," Lynette said. But beyond that, the Hoilands are ready to start their own traditions.

The Dispanets sold their business three years ago to a party from Brandon, and the restaurant closed its doors in April 2011.

"We have the luxury of being friends with Amy and her family, and we were really grateful for the opportunity to sit down and talk openly and honestly about the successful business they operated."

The Hoilands are still working through paperwork to take over the building, and they hope to open later this summer or early fall.

*(This story originally appeared in the May 31 Rock County Star Herald)*

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

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(Volume 22, Issue 4)

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