



Submitted photo

The 1974-75 Luverne High School girls' basketball team. Front row, left to right, are: Joanne (Granneman) Fodness, Sharon (Remme) Miller, Karen (Fey) Noll, Becky (Arp) Eeten, Mary Jo (Iveland) Graphenteen. Row two: Lynette Kemerling, Denise (Junck) Lynott, Peggy (Mann) Raker, Pam (Visker) Walgrave, Faye Hawkinson, assistant coach Tim Burns. Row three: manager Joan (Aanenson) DeSchepper, head coach Vicky (Birchard) Henderson, Kathy Thorson, Deb (Hatting) Hill, Jill (Wildung) Schmidt, Bonnie (Gerloff) Steilow, Pam (Thorson) Hommen, manager Pat Teclaw, manager Lisa Keitel.

LHS celebrates girls Title IX sports

By Lori Sorenson

As a Luverne High School athlete in the 1970s, Mary Jo (Iveland) Graphenteen and her female classmates weren't allowed to play varsity sports.

They could play intramural bowling, gymnastics, archery and some basketball through GAA, the Girls Athletic Association. "I called it 'Girls Always Asking' for sports," Graphenteen said.

She recalled the GAA sports

being relegated to the "little gym with a slippery floor" while the boys commandeered the high school gym for games and practice.

"We got one hour in the big gym each week while the boys' basketball team had a 'chalk talk' before their Friday night games," Graphenteen said.

Then in 1972 federal legislation known as "Title IX" prohibited discrimination based on gender in education

programs or activities that receive financial assistance from the federal government.

In Luverne, it changed girls' sports forever.

Opportunities to succeed

By the spring of 1974 Luverne High School girls could join the track team, and by the fall of 1974, they could play varsity volleyball, tennis,

TITLE IX SPORTS/SEE PAGE 12

Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending March 31, 2023, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$2,710. 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, July 2023, 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 12/31/22: \$2,422.13

Donations: \$2,710.00

Expenses:

Printing: 912.37
Postage: 1,836.50
Supplies: 150.07
Labels: 882.20
Database: 127.50
Paypal Fees: 20.76

Balance 3/31/23: \$1,202.73

Memorials

Clara (Gabrielson) George '36
Linda (Gabrielson) Smith '68

Ken Bjerk '58
Class of 1958

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

Helga (Lybye) Dahlgaard '61
Dale '60 & Lorna
(Forrest) '61 Hansen

Doris (Loger) Kemerling '54
Daniel '76 & Dawn (Iveland)
'78 Petersen

**Barb (Herrmann)
Loosbrock '63**
Karen (Colwell) Wiberg '63
Karol (Stoterau) Mohs '63

Marlene (Kennedy) Kenney '55
Yvonne (Lind) Halter '55

Dixie (Winge) Arends '63
Karen (Colwell) Wiberg '63

Audrey (Essman) Rud '58
Stanley Bagbey '58

Doug Kuper '63
Karen (Colwell) Wiberg '63

Dave Mohr '58
Class of 1958
Delores (Madison) Walters
'58
Stanley Bagbey '58

Joe Rowe '63
Carol (Ossenfort) Oltmans
'63
Delores (Madison) Walters
'58

Howard Priesz '58
Class of 1958
Delores (Madison) Walters
'58

MEMORIALS/SEE PAGE 3

Contributions

Contributions

Betty Mae (Berning) Serie '52

Dale '60 & Lorna (Forrest) '61
Hansen

Gary Boisen '74

Keith Loger '69

Mavis (Winge) Amundson '50
Ray Hansen '64

Sharon (Melzer) Jenniges '72

Stanley Bagbey '58

Susan (Wethor) Wineland '95

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.

Alumni News Memorials/continued from page 2

James '59 & Gloria
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs
James '66 & Carol
(Aanenson) '66 Hatting
Karen (Colwell) Wiberg '63
Karol (Stoterau) Mohs '63
Sandra (Hatting) Heck '64

Mary Jane Hollaren '63
James '59 & Gloria
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs

Raymond Griffith '63
James '59 & Gloria
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs

Rick Buss '63
Karen (Colwell) Wiberg '63

Roger Deiterman '63
James '59 & Gloria
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs

William Skewes '63
Karen (Colwell) Wiberg '63
Kathie (Rober) Erickson '64

**Cathy (Ripley)
Groth-Gervais '64**
Kathie (Rober) Erickson '64

Judy (Mann) Gort '66
Gene Salzman '54

Dave Davis '69
Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53

Becky Kirby '70
Alice (Ossenfort) Hansen '65
Gordon '65 & Joyce
(Aanenson) '65 Hansen

Randy Aanenson '70
Karen (Colwell) Wiberg '63

Renita (Johnson) Schlegel '77
Class of 1977

Bruce Tofteland '78
Daniel '76 & Dawn (Iveland)
'78 Petersen

Dan Kindt '78
Daniel '76 & Dawn
(Iveland) '78 Petersen

Phil Vos '78
Daniel '76 & Dawn
(Iveland) '78 Petersen

Serena Franken '03
Donald & Lona
(Gabrielson) '70 Klosterbuer

Barbara (Breen) Bot - Friend
Gary '69 & Janine
(Jordahl) '69 Papik

**Class of 1952 deceased
classmates**
Catherine (Schlader)
Gabriel '52

**George &
Gladys "June" Mann**
Gene Salzman '54

**Loren Ask '62 -
Magnolia High School**
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson

Milo Hermann
Julie Hermann

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
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,
1-507-920-5186
or 1562 201st ST Hardwick MN 56134

LHS grad receives 2022 Veterinarian of the Year award

The following, written by Dené K. Dryden, appeared in the Feb. 16, 2023 edition of AG WEEK:

Before Feb. 3, Dr. Roger Madison had already felt appreciated by his colleagues and clients. Back in the office at Anderson Veterinary Services in Zumbrota, he pulled out a few thank-you cards from clients that had hand-written messages inside.

"When they write something, we keep them forever," Madison said.

Appreciation for Madison's work became even more visible when, on Feb. 3, the longtime veterinarian was named the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association's 2022 Veterinarian of the Year. His veterinarian colleagues at Anderson Veterinary had nominated him.

"We could not think of a better way to thank him for his years of service than nominating him for the award of Veterinarian of the Year," they wrote to the MVMA. "He truly has been an asset to Anderson Veterinary Service and to the Zumbrota area livestock producers."

It was a total surprise to Madison, who only learned that he won when the award was announced at the MVMA's annual meeting.

"They had to pick me up off the floor," he said with a chuckle. "I mean, I'm the one that is thankful, thankful for them giving me that nomination."

It's not an award he would have nominated himself for,



Dr. Roger Madison (LHS 1961) receives his 2022 Veterinarian of the Year award at the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association's annual meeting on Feb. 3, 2023. Photo contributed by the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association and Martin H. Moen.

Madison said. But it underscores his 57-year commitment to large animal veterinary care in Minnesota.

Now 80 years old, Madison graduated from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine in 1966 and got his feet wet at a clinic in Grand Meadow. A year later, Madison joined a practice in Zumbrota, and he has worked there for nearly 56 years.

Thirteen years ago, Madison retired from full-time large animal veterinary care but stayed on board at Anderson Veterinary

on a part-time, on-call basis, handling emergency calls when the other veterinarians are busy.

"All these veterinarians here, they have scheduled work on the farms, big herd checks Monday and Tuesday mornings," Madison said. "So, there's nobody left to take in the sick cow calls that come in (on) those two days, so that's been me for the last 13 years."

Madison said covering veterinary emergencies for his colleagues helps them avoid

(continued on next page)

the added stress, extra hours and missed opportunities that sometimes come with the job.

"It's not a big deal to me, but I think it helps them a lot," he said.

Madison's commitment to veterinary care extends beyond the clinic and the fields. For several years, he was an alternate delegate representing Minnesota for the American Veterinary Medical Association and has helped support the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Foundation's annual golf tournament fundraiser. Madison also served on the board that founded the Minnesota State Fair's CHS Miracle of Birth Center, where he volunteers every Labor Day.

Through his time as a large animal vet, Madison has seen how the industry has changed. Large animal vets are harder to come by, as new veterinary school graduates are more likely to specialize in small animal medicine.

"As far as some people think, there are enough veterinarians, it's just the location — to get them distributed properly and stuff is a problem," Madison said.

"That's, again, partly why my colleagues are so busy. Pine Island used to have a large animal vet, Kenyon had one. Cannon Falls, Red Wing, Lake City. Now, all of a sudden, we're covering a lot more territory, so that makes their life a lot more hectic."

At the end of the day, Madison said his favorite part of being a veterinarian is making connections with people.

Let's Hear from YOU!

Let us know what you are doing and we'll pass it on to other alumni.

Include your name, year of graduation, address, phone number and email (also let us know if you would like your email in our directory of alumni).

Send your news to:

Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Or email luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

"They become more than clients. They become friends," he said.

It's why Madison hasn't stopped doing what he called his childhood dream job.

"My financial adviser says to me, 'Roger, people at your age are supposed to be spending down their retirement fund, not building it up,'" Madison said. "I've just enjoyed it. ... I'm still living my dream."

LINDA (GABRIELSON) SMITH (LHS 1968) pens a "thank you" to Alumni News Staff:

Thank you to the ALUMNI NEWS STAFF! I so enjoy getting and reading the Alumni News. It is beautifully put together and always interesting. Thanks for all your efforts!

ARLENE (VELDKAMP) HAAK (LHS 1964)
Greetings from Oakes ND!
I graduated in the class of 1964

and married Norman Haak on September 23, 1964, so we have been married for 58 years.

We bought a farm near Oakes, ND and moved there in February of 1972. People said we would be back in 5 years but we said, "No, we won't and we are happy here."

We had dairy cows until March 11, 1994! I am a city girl turned farmer! When we got out of dairy, we had beef cows and grew onions, plus we had a Pumpkin Patch for 13 years.

In "2016" we retired from farming and built a new house just half mile south of the farm. That was we can tell people we moved south — "ha, ha"!

We have been blessed with 3 boys and 1 girl and now have 10 grand-children and 9 great-grandchildren — with the last one being born in January 2023.

Thank you to everyone who makes the Alumni News possible!

Remembering our classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

1940 – 1949

Mary Ann Amelia (Berning) Slagel '45

of Burnsville, formerly of Bloomington, Faribault, Mesa, AZ, and Northfield, died on November 25, 2022. She married Paul Slagel and they had six children: Randy (Gloria), Tom (Pam), Kathy (Glenn) Myers, Russ (Deb), Therese "TC" Hoelzer, and Kristi (Emery) Maher; 11 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great grandchildren.

Mary Ann is survived by her 6 children and one sister, **Betty '52** Serie, Pipestone.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Paul Slagel, one brother, **Leo '47** Berning, Jr.

Lester Baustian '48 died February 19, 2023, in Brandon, SD. Lester joined the Army National Guard, active from 1951-1952. He had an Honorary Life Membership in the Hardwick American Legion, post 0478. After his service, Lester farmed from 1952 to retirement in 1996. He sold O's Gold Seed which was purchased by Monsanto and then he continued with DeKalb, winning many rewards through these years. He was a member of the National Farmers Organization, the Minnesota and National Corn Growers and Minnesota Soybean Association and served on the Springwater Township Board. As a farmer, Lester was very involved in conservation.

On April 18, 1956, Lester and Leora Schievelbein were married in Luverne. They enjoyed square dancing and old-time dancing. Lester sang in St. Catherine Catholic's Church choir and as a cantor. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Lester is survived by seven children, Paul (Denae), Harrisburg, SD, Brian (Barb), Garretson, SD, Anne (Doug) Horst, Piedmont, SD, Greg, Worthington, Susan (Steve Mitchell), Hudson, WI, Kevin (Wendy), Loudon, TN, and Mary (Don) Olson, Dennison; 27 grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren; and two sisters, **Neva '45** Clausen, Luverne; and Sr. **Joan '53** Baustian, Detroit, MI.

He was preceded in death by wife Leora; son, Robert; and an infant child.

1950 – 1959

Joycelyn "Joy" (Lemke) Abraham

'50 died February 5, 2023, in Lake Crystal, MN. Joy married **Milton '50** H. Abraham on August 12, 1951, in Hardwick. The couple lived in California while Milt was in the Marine Corps and then returned to Luverne.

Joy worked at the school and the family cabinet making business. In 1973 they moved to Lake Crystal where Joy worked for the family business, Millrich Construction, and later for Sween Corporation, which became Coloplast for 25 years before retiring.

Joy is survived by her husband of 71 years, **Milton '50**; two children, David (Anita Jo) of Amarillo, TX, and Kathy (John) Borneke of Janesville; 7 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren; sister Imogene Krogmann, Luverne; brother-in-law **Richard '50** Abraham, Lake Crystal; and extended family.

She was preceded in death by a son, Timothy; brother **Keith '55** Lemke; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, **John '45** Krogmann, **Gerald '60** and Gayle Abraham and **Betty '51** Abraham.

Marlee (Kennedy) Kenney '55 died January 2, 2023, in Burnsville, MN. Marlee worked for Northwestern Bell in Luverne and later transferred to the district office in Redwood Falls in 1958, where she met her future husband, Bob Kenney.

They married on September 3, 1960, in Luverne. Marlee owned and operated the Sears Catalog Store until its closing in 1993. Marlee was a member of many card clubs, an avid golfer and bowler.

Marlee is survived by her children, Patti (Shawn) Chatta, Des Plaines, IL, Julie (Brian) Sedorf, Savage, Susan (Corey) Bonnema, Victoria, and Paul (Roxanne) Kenney, Fulda; and six grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bob, sister, **JoAnn '49** and brother-in-law, **William '47** Fay.

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 7

Remembering our classmates/continued from page 6

Mary (Otto) Mennicke '58 died in Florida on June 15, 2020.

Audrey (Essman) Rud '58 of Cambridge, MN, passed away on February 17, 2023. Audrey was a Registered Nurse throughout her career.

Audrey is survived by her husband of 60 years, Donovan Rud; son Jeffrey (Kelly), Cambridge; daughter Kimberly (Paul) Gaier, Oshkosh, WI; six grandchildren; 3 great grandchildren; six sisters, **Sallie '54** Gardner, **Morla '55** Baker, **Beverly '60** Gerken, **Melva '61** Ferm, **Pauline '66** Ahrendt, **Wyona '68** Stewart; and one brother, **Herman '63** Essman; sisters-in-law Janice Sundberg and Jeanne Erickson; and other family and friends.

Margaret (Sodemann) Hartog '58 died on January 31, 2021, in Sioux Falls, SD. Margaret married Richard Hartog on November 16, 1958. They lived in Luverne for ten years and then moved to Worthington in 1968. She obtained her CNA license and worked at Crossroads Care Center for 19 years.

Margaret is survived by her two sons, Daniel (Shelly), Atwater, MN, and Charles (Cheryl), Brandon, SD; two daughters, Julie (Dr. Scott) Hoffman, Worthington, and Amy (John) Woodall, Sutherland, IA; six grandchildren; one foster grandchild; three great grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard, infant twin sons, Jim and Tim; infant granddaughter, Annie; and her brothers, Jim and Jerry Sodemann.

Delbert R. Johnson '58 passed away November 26, 2022, in Frannie, WY. Delbert married Patricia Durbin in Luverne. They moved to Oregon and then to Wyoming, where they have lived for 20 years. He attended trade school and became a machinist.

After he retired, Delbert continued working with his lathe and could fix about anything. He also enjoyed working with wood and made amazing gifts for loved ones.

Delbert is survived by his wife of 63 years, Patty, 5 daughters, LaVetta, Schera, Vidette, Jauneed, Kaylee, adopted daughter, Kaitlin;

brother Greg; 20 grandchildren; and 24 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Doran, and 5 grandchildren.

David Mohr '58 died January 31, 2023, in Luverne. Dave enlisted in the Minnesota National Guard and after six years of service, he was honorably discharged. He worked for Northern States Laboratories and Mid Packing. He married LaVon Hotan in Dawson, MN on June 9, 1963. In 1964, Dave purchased Rock County Skelgas. In 1969 he began working at the Luverne Announcer as a pressman and was employed there for the next 40 years, retiring in 2009. Dave enjoyed hunting and in 1973, he served as the president of the Rock County Sportsman's Club.

Dave is survived by his wife, LaVon, Luverne; son **John '89** (Jennifer) of Temecula, CA; and one grandson.

He was preceded in death by his sisters, **Marlys '49** Haan and **Kathleen '56** Gacke and brother **Robert '54** Mohr.

Ken Bjerk '59 died on February 8, 2023, in Santa Fe, MN. Throughout his career with 3M and Ecolab, Ken resided in Mexico City, Toronto, Canada, and multiple places in the U.S. Even with such a life, Ken never lost contact with his close group of friends from high school and always considered Luverne his home.

Ken is survived by his wife, Gloria; his two sons, Paul (Angela) of Lubbock, TX, and David (Anthea) of Claremont, CA; four grandchildren; and his brother **Bob '61**, Marysville, WA.

1960 – 1969

Michael Hagemann '60 of Glen Carbon, IL, died March 23, 2023, in Meridian Village. Michael married **Joyce '60** Achterhoff in Edgerton, MN, on October 21, 1960. He retired from the Teamsters Local #600 after many years of dedicated service as a truck driver with Consolidated Freightways. Michael was quite active in his church and with many events at Meridian Village.

Michael is survived by his wife, **Joyce '60**;

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daughters Kimberly Boldt, Ruskin, FL, Kelli (Ed) Mientkewicz, Sioux Falls, SD, Kristi Breck, St. Charles MO; sons Kent (Lori), Collinsville, IL, and Kory, St. Louis, MO; former daughter-in-law Janet Frasher, O'Fallon, IL; 11 grandchildren; brother **Andrew '61** (Dorothy) Hagemann Jr., Prior Lake; and other extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by a son-in-law, Terry Breck; a sister, **Patricia '63** Snitselaar and a brother, Robert.

William Wendt '60 died January 11, 2023, in Oakdale, MN. Bill attended the University of Minnesota and SDSU (Brookings, SD) before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1962. After service in Iceland, he was selected for the Naval Cadet program for aviation. He married Marilyn Swan in 1967. Bill graduated with a degree in language arts in 1971 from the University of West Florida. During his naval career, Wendt served as a helicopter pilot, earning his Navy wings in 1965. He retired at the rank of lieutenant commander, having merited numerous awards and medals.

Following his Vietnam service, he served as a flight instructor and retired in 1983, ending his naval service as the chief flight operations and commander of DCASPRO Hayes in Dothan, AL.

Bill earned his Master of Divinity in 1987 from Wartburg Theological Seminary and his Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Theological Seminary in 2002. He was ordained in 1987 and served various ELCA congregations in Wisconsin, retiring from ministry in 2014.

Bill is survived by his wife, Marilyn, Balaton; two daughters, Jennifer (Todd) Muellner and Sarah Ashouri, both of Woodbury; three grandchildren and step grandchildren; and two sisters and a brother.

He was preceded in death by a sister-in-law, and a son-in-law.

Helga (Lybye) Dahlgaard '61 died of Parkinson's on January 19, 2023, in Denmark. Helga was Luverne's first female AFS student and lived with the George and Vangie Golla family. She became a devoted teacher of English and worked with Denmark's AFS office the rest of her life to promote the program. Being very physically active, Helga shared her love for hiking, biking,

badminton and other sports with her husband, Peter Dahlgaard. They were worldwide travelers, including several trips back to Minnesota and the Golla family. Helga and Peter had two daughters, Louise and Rikke who married and gave them five grandchildren.

Loren Wenzel '63 died March 2, 2023, in Cape Coral, FL. Loren attended Inver Hills Community College, Mankato State (BA and MBA) and Memphis State University (Doctorate). After holding teaching positions at numerous colleges and universities, Loren moved to Marshall State University (West Virginia), where he was Professor and Head of the Division of Accountancy and Legal Environment and the Elizabeth McDowell Lewis Endowed Chair of the Lewis College of Business. He was named the West Virginia Outstanding Accounting Educator of the Year for 2004. From 2009 until his retirement to Cape Coral in 2013, Loren was Dean of the West Liberty University College of Business. Loren traveled extensively as a leader in his field, both at home and abroad through teaching positions in Germany and India.

Loren is survived by his mother, Lois of Hastings, MN; his sister, **JoAnn '67** Meyers (David) New York; his daughter Lisa Szumilas (Jeff), Hudson, WI; Lisa's mother, **Jan '64** Good (Dale), White Bear Lake; his daughter Sara Riley (Andrew), Oak Park, IL; his son, Karl, Kansas City, MO; and Sara and Karl's mother, Judy Peterson (Frank), Salina, KS; his bonus sons Mike (Sheila) and Dan (Renee) Roozen; 3 grandchildren; one step-great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews

He was preceded in death by his wife, Nylah (Roozen) Wenzel; his sister, **Carol '68** Krugerud; and his nephew, Adam Krugerud.

Joseph "Joe" Rowe '63 died February 20, 2023, in Sioux Falls. After graduating with a B.S. in animal science from the University of Minnesota, Joe worked at Swift Meat Packing as a salesman before being drafted into the U.S. Army in 1968. After serving two years, he worked for his father at Rowe Quarter Horses, showing

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Remembering our classmates/continued from page 8

and training quarter horses for eleven years. He also worked full time for John Morrell & Co. for 30 years as a sales manager.

Joe married Carrie Erickson on June 1, 1968. In retirement, Joe worked for Vern Eide Honda and became a judge for horse shows. He had a special relationship with McCrossan Boys Ranch, loving horses and mentoring young people.

Joe is survived by his wife, Carrie; daughters, Chris (Joe) Wallraf and Kate (Jim) Glogowski; 5 grandchildren; sister **Shirley '66** VandenHoek; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his brother-in-law, **Bob '66** VandenHoek.

Gary Brehm '65 of St. Charles, IL, died January 21, 2023. Gary moved to Madison, WI, and attended the University of Wisconsin where he studied chemistry. He married Jane Elsa in August 1969 and moved to the Northeast for Gary's doctoral work at Dartmouth. Gary spent his career in academia, wastewater treatment with various chemical companies, and teaching at Marian Central Catholic High School. His private life was filled with family, Russian literature, volunteering, travel and tutoring private students in the sciences.

Gary is survived by daughters Laura, Tricia (Jason Doran), Sarah (Patrick O'Connor); nine grandchildren; siblings **Ann '69** (Jim Moline), and **Paul '79 (Barbara '79** O'Toole); nieces, nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his sister, **Susan**.

David Kruger '65 died January 11, 2023, at the Sanford Luverne Hospital. David married Linda Wallace on May 28, 1966, in Luverne. They raised their family in Ash Creek, where he was known as "Mayor of Ash Creek". David also lived in Sioux Falls for a short time, and Steen. He will be remembered for his love of racing. He was inducted into the Huset's Hall of Fame in 2012 after winning many races and track championships. David worked for Hanson Silo for 20 years and then Hills Stainless Steel for 23 years, retiring in 2010.

David is survived by his children, **Wayne**

'85 (Amy '92) Kruger, Ash Creek, **Scott '88** Kruger, Ash Creek, **Mark '91 (Kristi '96** Demuth) Kruger, Steen, and **Angie '93** (Bob) Westrum, Steen; stepchildren Kelly (Jarod) Tuntland, Canton, SD, and Kasy (Steffanie) Hall, Lennox, SD; 12 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and special friend Judy Middlen, Sioux Falls, SD.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Linda; a brother, **Melvin '61**; and sister Alberta Kremin and Viola Swenson.

David Davis '69 died March 1, 2023, in Ocala, FL. Dave's love of horses started early in his life and continued as he discovered a small farm with horses and a mentor in Burdell Rowe and family. Throughout high school and beyond, he could be found at the Rowe ranch, riding, training, and learning from an accomplished horse trainer and his children, Joe and Shirley. After high school, Dave was drafted into the U.S. Army and served honorably with a tour in Vietnam.

Upon his return, Dave's professional career as a horse trainer and breeder began. Dave trained countless horses in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois, and ultimately, he settled in Florida where his dream of his own place became a reality. His goal was to breed and sire the best horses and he had all the ingredients to expect them to achieve World Class Championship status. Sadly, Dave passed before he could realize all the fruits of his efforts.

Dave is survived by a brother, **Bryce '65**, of Florida.

Patsy (Ranschau) Austin '69 of Sioux Falls, SD, died March 2, 2023. After attending beauty school in Pipestone, Pat met and married Ricky Austin on February 14, 1970. They moved to Luverne and then Jasper, Garretson, and Sioux Falls. Pat worked for many years as a customer service representative and retired as an accounting assistant at Sioux Falls Housing Authority. She was an avid jewelry maker, a masterful seamstress and stained-glass creator, winning first place in a stained-glass show. Pat was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 2016 and metastatic breast cancer in 2021.

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Remembering our classmates/continued from page 9

Pat is survived by her son John Austin, Sioux Falls; her daughter, Pam (Mark) Olson, Sioux Falls; her nine grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; siblings **Jim '68** Ranschau, Luverne, **Janet '71** (Jose) Quesada, Tacoma, WA, **Peggy '76** (Jim) Rokala, Minneapolis, **Jeff '79** (Connie) Ranschau, Cle Elum, WA, and **Julie '85** (Bryon) Foote, Worthington; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

1970 – 1979

Rebecca (Becky) Kirby '70 of Eau Claire, WI, passed away on February 5, 2023, at her home. Becky attended vocational school in Mankato, MN, where she met Larry Schneider. They married in Minneapolis and later divorced. She moved to Eau Claire, WI, and began work for a radio station selling advertising. Becky married Reed Macknick and the couple made their home in Chippewa Falls, WI, where they started a courier business. They divorced, and after a disabling injury, Becky eventually returned to Eau Claire.

Becky is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, **Patricia '63 (Wesley '58)** Pierson, Hardwick; niece Lanette Schnepf, Sioux Falls, SD; grand niece and nephew Alessandra and Benjamin Dunbar, Seattle, WA and her cat, Zelda.

She was preceded in death by her sister, **Donna '65** Kirby, nieces Suzane Pierson and Michelle Pierson, and her nephew, Allen Pierson.

Renita (Johnson) Shlegel '77 died January 1, 2023, in Lincoln, NE. Renita moved to Sioux Falls before moving to Lincoln in 1993 with her then husband, **Glen '72**, and son Shaun. She worked several years in customer service. On December 11, 2015, she married Ken Schlegel Sr.

Renita is survived by her son Shaun Westerbur; brother **Daniel '81** Johnson; many friends; extended family; and her first husband, **Glen '72** Westerbur.

She was preceded in death by her second husband, Ken Schlegel Sr.

Mark J. Ault '78 died January 18, 2022, at his home. Mark joined the National Guard after high school and served for six years. He worked for many years at John Morrell in Sioux Falls.

Mark spent 27 years with his partner, LaVonne Campbell.

Mark is survived by his partner, LaVonne of Salem, SD; his children, Christopher Ault, Luverne, and **Heather '98** Ault, Brandon; one granddaughter; and his brothers, Dan Ault, Fairmont and **Dave '79** Ault, Mankato.

He was preceded in death by two grandsons, Derek and Jaydon, and a brother, Dale.

2000 – 2003

Serena Franken '03 died in Luverne on January 19, 2023. Serena attended the University of Minnesota, where she graduated with a B.A. degree in Sociology in 2007. She began working and attending school at the Carlson School of Business where she later received her master's degree in business administration.

Serena made her home in Chaska, MN, and worked at C.H. Robinson as a customs broker. She was married in October 2019, and later divorced. In February 2021, she returned to Luverne and worked remotely. Serena enjoyed the Vikings, Gophers, Yankees, and Duke University basketball. She loved her dog, Charlie and hanging out with friends.

Serena is survived by her parents, **Bryon '72** and Kristi Franken, Luverne; sister, **Carissa '99** Franken-Spaar (Jason), Sioux Falls; grandfather, Marvin Laackmann (Carol Girmaldo), Luverne; aunts, uncles, and cousins; her dog, Charles; numerous friends; and very special friend Steven Esselink.

She was preceded in death by her paternal grandparents, Howard and Wilma Franken; maternal grandmother, Doris Laackmann; four cousins, Beth Hoyme, Casey Bonhorst, **Becky '92** Crane and **Matthew '69** Franken; and best friend, Jessica Kontz.

Friend of Luverne Graduates

Barbara (Breen) Bot died January 16, 2023, in Sioux Falls, SD. Barbara grew up in Scotland, SD, performing with family for many events, singing, tap dancing and playing piano. She earned a degree in social work from the

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 11

Luverne Dollars for Scholars ... Did you know?

We have so far awarded \$6,068,225 to 2,077 students

The Luverne 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 Luverne Dollars for Scholars remain in the community and are awarded to Luverne High School graduates.

The purpose of the program is to raise money for a permanent endowment fund and to annually disperse its income in the form of scholarships to Luverne High School graduates.

Since its origin in 1983, Luverne Dollars for Scholars has awarded a total of \$6,068,225 to 2,077 LHS graduates.

It is not just the big donors who are the heart and soul of this organization. It's the countless individuals, including LHS Alumni, who have given donations ranging from \$5 to \$50,000 who have filled the organizations coffers.

Since its inception, the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program has been the benefactor of 296 perpetual scholarships with a total endowment of over \$9.4 million.

The uniqueness of an endowment gift is that it allows a scholarship to be given each year and every year, forever, to a fresh qualifying LHS

graduate.

Gifts of \$249 or less are placed into the general fund. No designation is made on a scholarship.

Gifts that are greater than \$249, but less than \$2,000, are also placed into the general fund. With this type of gift, the principal amount is dispersed as a one-time scholarship, and the name requested by the donor is attached to such a scholarship.

A gift of \$2,000 or more becomes a perpetual scholarship. With a perpetual scholarship, only the earnings during a one-year period of time are awarded each and every year thereafter to a most recent LHS qualifying graduate. Incidentally, additional amounts may be added to a perpetual scholarship at any time.

If you would like to contribute to, or receive more information, please write:

Luverne Dollars for Scholars
PO Box 822
Luverne, MN 56156

Email: luvernedfs@gmail.com

Call: 507-227-4030 (Johnna Ahrendt)

Or visit: www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org

Remembering our classmates/continued from page 10

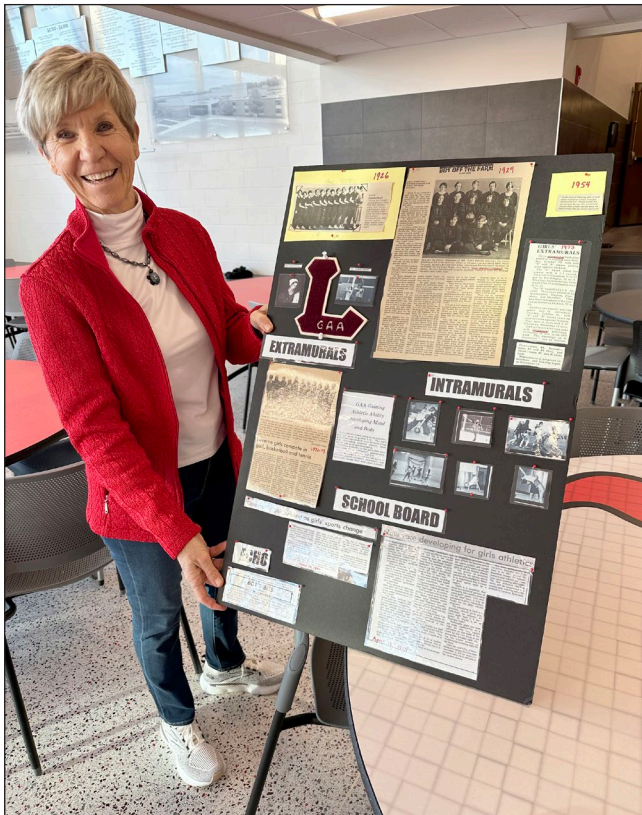
University of South Dakota and served in the USO at an Air Force base in Japan. During the Korean War, Barbara worked as a triage nurse in Japan. When back in the U.S., Barbara married Al Bot on Coronado Island in 1952. They relocated to Luverne where Al and Barbara owned and operated Bot Drugstore for many years.

Barbara was an active volunteer, supporting church, schools, and numerous community activities. Along with others, Barbara helped found the Rock County Red Arrow. She worked for the Minnesota court system as a Guardian Ad Litem representing children and was involved in many community projects whenever

help was needed. In 2018, she moved to Luther Manor in Sioux Falls.

Barbara is survived by her daughters, **Kris Anne '71** (Robert) Christenson, Sioux Falls, **Robin '73** (John) Fritsch, Sioux Falls, **Connie '77** (Rodney) England, Edina, **Jennifer '86** (Kerry) Middleton Edina; daughter-in-law, Susan Bot, Sioux Falls; 18 grandchildren; ten great grandchildren; sister Joan Serr; and other nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by husband Al; son, **Jono '74**; grandsons Brooks Christenson and Thomas England and granddaughter Elizabeth Fritsch; three brothers and a sister.



Several players from Luverne’s 1974-75 basketball team were recognized Feb. 3 during halftime of the LHS girls’ and boys’ varsity basketball games. They included (front, from left) Mary Jo Iveland Graphenteen, Lynette Kemerling, Denise Junck Lynott, (back) Jill Wildung Schmidt, Joanne Granneman Fodness, Karen Noll Fey, Sharon Remme Miller and Coach Vicky Birchard Henderson. At left, Graphenteen prepares a history display for the Feb. 3 Title IX event.

Title IX sports/from page 1

basketball and gymnastics. Other girls’ sports came later.

After Title IX, Mary Jo played on Luverne’s first female varsity basketball team, which made it to state playoffs in a highly competitive district and region.

“We were lucky to win at those levels,” she said. “The teams were really good that first year.”

Their conference opponents were Pipestone,

TITLE IX SPORTS/SEE PAGE 13



Lori Sorenson photo/0209 title IX anniversary

Vicky (Birchard) Henderson (left) was Luverne's first girls' varsity basketball coach. Mary Jo (Iveland) Graphenteen was a basketball player on Luverne's first girls' varsity basketball team, which made it to state playoffs that first year in 1975. The two women organized Friday night's 50th anniversary celebration of Title IX federal legislation, which removed barriers for girls and women in education and sports.

LHS celebrates girl's Title IX sports anniversary/continued from page 12

Marshall, Worthington and Redwood Falls. They beat an undefeated Southwest Christian to advance to region play and then state.

She hasn't forgotten the thrill of earning a varsity sports trophy.

"Today we have 10 sports and several individuals and teams who have had the opportunity to hold a trophy because of Title IX," Graphenteen said. "It's every athlete's goal to compete at the state level," she said.

If Title IX hadn't happened, she said she and her teammates wouldn't have had that opportunity.

"Today so many people don't know what Title IX is and what it means," she said. "Others today need to know who came before and helped make that happen."

Telling the story

That's why she was glad to help the Luverne Basketball Association and high school celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX on Feb. 3.

Since the law passed, female participation in sports at the high school level has grown by 1,057

percent and by 614 percent at the college level, according to the LBA.

"It has accelerated change and created a legacy of diverse women leading on and off the court and playing field," the group shared on social media.

Graphenteen teamed up with her high school basketball coach, Vicky (Birchard) Henderson, to prepare some history displays for Feb. 3 event.

"It was God's timing," Henderson said about her role in leading Luverne's first high school girls' basketball team.

"I played basketball in Iowa, and played in college, and came here to student teach. I hadn't paid attention to Title IX until they asked me to coach."

She said the coaching opportunity also led her to her husband, Roger, who drove the team bus.

"The girls on the team took credit for us getting together," said her husband of 46 years. "So did the assistant coach, Tim Burns."

Looking back, Graphenteen said she's grateful to have benefited from Title IX, but she laments

TITLE IX SPORTS/CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Title IX sports/from page 13

the fact that so many missed out.

“We have had a lot of talent at Luverne, and we had great teams,” Graphenteen said.

“But I can’t help but think of the really great athletes who didn’t get to do what the ‘74 basketball team got to do. I can’t help but think how good they could have been if given the chance.”

Recognizing trailblazers

In addition to Graphenteen, the team included Becky Arp (Eeten), Bonnie Gerloff (Steilow), Joanne Granneman (Fodness), Deb Hatting (Hill), Faye Hawkinson (Brown), Denise Junck (Lynott), Lisa Keitel, Lynette Kemerling, Peggy Mann (Raker), Karen Noll (Fey), Sharon Remme (Miller), Pam Thorson (Hommen), Pam Visker (Walgrave), Jill Wildung (Schmidt) and the late Kathy Thorson.

Managers were Joan Aanenson (Berry) and Patricia Teclaw, and scorekeeper was the late Calene Birky (Williams).

They were recognized during the Title IX 50th anniversary celebration during halftimes of the boys’ and girls’ double-header games.

Seven of them were present for the Feb. 3 event and were introduced along with the seven current seniors on Luverne’s girls’ basketball team.

Other early trailblazers of Title IX included Jeanne Bowron (who helped lead most of the GAA activities and was assistant coach for varsity sports) and first-year head coaches of the five girls’ varsity sports.

Katie Hemme coached three of the five girls’ varsity sports, Dave Svingen coached tennis and Henderson coached basketball.

“It’s great to be part of history,” Henderson said. “It’s really been fun to have been part of it. It’s crazy to think it’s been 49 years for us.”

The Title IX displays and history of girls’ sports in Luverne are now available at the Rock County History Center.

**This story originally appeared in the Feb. 9 edition of the Rock County Star Herald.*



Hardwick All School Reunion June 23-25, 2023

Friday, June 23:

- Wildcat Headquarters (Hardwick Community Center) - 3 - 8 PM
- Cruise In Show (Cars-Trucks-Tractors-Motorcycles ...Anything with wheels) - 5 - 8 pm
- Karaoke - 9 PM

Saturday, June 24:

- Wildcat Headquarters (Hardwick Community Center) - 10 AM - 8 PM
- Community Supper - 5 PM
- Parade - 7 PM
- Live music - 9 PM

Sunday, June 25:

- Community Worship Service

Check out our facebook page - “**Hardwick All School Reunion**”.

We could use your assistance with contacting our fellow HGS Wildcats!! Names, addresses, and emails!! Please help us spread the word to siblings, classmates, and old neighbors!

Please send information to Joni Petersen at jonipete@iw.net or Kristie Weinkauff at kristie.weinkauff@gmail.com

Hope to see you there!

REUNIONS IN THE MAKING



LHS CLASS OF 1973

50th Reunion

BUFFALO DAYS WEEKEND

June 3, 2023

Evening Dinner at The Lake

More information forthcoming!

For more information:

BETTY (HITCH) SCHNETTLER
320-224-4727

bettyschnettler55@gmail.com

LHS CLASS OF 1968

55th Reunion

July 21-22, 2023

Friday Night at Take 16 | 7 pm

Live Music | Food & Beverages Available

Saturday Night at Country Club

Social Hour 6 pm | Dinner 7 pm | \$55/couple

Reservations Required | Check to Class of '68

Send Check to: Sandy Parpart

11160 Cty Rd 17 SE | Delano MN 55328

Hope to see you there!

LHS CLASS OF 1958

65th REUNION

Friday | September 29, 2023

Get-Together at Take 16

Food, Beverage, Fellowship 4-10 pm

Saturday | September 20, 2023

Tri-State Band Parade | 9:30 am

Meet by Plaza on Main

65 Reunion Dinner

Big Top Tents & Events | 321 W Hatting

5 pm—Social Hour, Photo, Dinner

\$30/person | RSVP Required

Ardie Bowen | 507-449-9715

LHS 1983—40th REUNION

AUGUST 4 & 5, 2023

PLANS INCLUDE:

- Catered Friday night dinner/supper
- Catered Saturday night at a restaurant
- Luverne golf cart tour
- Tour of the Luverne schools, golfing
- Bike ride and more!

RESERVATIONS: Send \$50/person

Venmo (@Julie-McChesney-4) or check to:

Julie McChesney, 20969 Fresno St. NW,

Elk River, MN 55330

Contact your friends so they KNOW this is happening. Contact me if you would like to help! More information to come!

RON HONKEN: ronhonken@aol.com

LHS CLASS OF 1963 | 60th REUNION

Friday | June 2 | 5 pm Social Hour | 6 pm Dinner

At Luverne Country Club

Saturday | June 3 | 4 to 8 pm

Social Gathering with Appetizers Provided (BYOB)

At GrandStay Hotel & Suites

Live Music at Take 16 Brewing Company to Follow

\$35/person | Reservations Required | Check to: Class of 1963

Mail to: PATTI PIERSON | 1562 201st Street | Hardwick MN 56134

piersonprp@alliancecom.net

To list reunion plans: Email: louvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us | Call: LUVERNE AREA CHAMBER 507-283-4061

Alumni News Staff: Cindy Arends, Jane Wildung Lanphere, Carol Schumacher Serie, Lori Sorenson
Johnna Bowron Ahrendt, Patti Kirby Pierson and Rock County Opportunities

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Alumni News

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