



Luverne Public School will replace its 1990s sign with a new digital screen, similar to the drawing above. The sign, purchased by a private donor, will be put in place this summer.

Improved sign coming to Luverne Public Schools

The school district sign along Highway 75 in Luverne will soon be replaced with a larger, more modern sign, according to action at the city's December Planning and Zoning meeting.

The commission approved a new sign that's 20.5 feet high, 18.3 feet wide and two feet deep with a 10-by-18-foot Daktronic digital screen.

It will replace the existing 1990s structure that has a 2-by-10-foot screen that's no longer working.

The new free-standing sign will be

placed in the same vicinity as the old one.

ACE Signs, Sioux Falls, has the contract for the sign at \$223,792. Cost is through a private donation received by the school.

Free-standing signs of this size and design along city boulevards require variance by way of a public hearing.

No one appeared at Tuesday's hearing with concerns about the proposal, and the commission approved the school's variance request.

The new sign will be installed this summer, pending any supply delays.

Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Dec. 31, 2022, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$5,690.00. 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!

NOTE:

If you have recently made a contribution to the Alumni News and your name does not appear on this page, please let the staff know. Chances are your contribution was received after this page was compiled. Please watch for the next issue, April 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 9/30/22: \$606.07

Donations: \$5,690.00

Expenses:

Printing: 912.35

Postage: 1,936.92

Supplies: 15.00

Labels: 875.60

Database: 100.00

Paypal Fees: 34.07

Balance 12/31/22: \$2,422.13

Memorials

Edith Mae (Winter) Briggs '47
Lois (Huisman) Meyer-
Ahrendt '47

Joyce (Reemts) Wessels '47
Lois (Huisman) Meyer-
Ahrendt '47

Naidine (Wulf) Aanenson '48
Lois (Huisman) Meyer-
Ahrendt '47

Allan Schoon '50
Muriel Schoon

Eugene Stoterau '52
Robert Anderson '52

Marvin Gradert '52
Eugene '53 & Rose
Marie (Bartels) '53 Meyer
Robert Anderson '52

Patricia (Padilla) Petit '53
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54
Joyce (Turner) Sexton
'53

Doris (Loger) Kemerling '54
James '56 & Mavis
Hamann
Joan (Padilla) Ripley '54
Reinhoid Schmuck '54

Joan (Anderson) Lorenz '55
Eugene '53 & Rose
Marie (Bartels) '53 Meyer

In honor of the Class of 1960
Anna (DeGroot) Van
Batavia '60 Memorial

Barb (Herrmann) Loosbrock '63
'65
Alice (Ossenfort) Hansen

Carol (Ossenfort)
Oltmans '63
James '59 & Gloria
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs
Joe Rowe '63
Kathy (Davis) Kelley '63

MEMORIALS/SEE PAGE 3

Contributions

Arlene (Veldkamp) Haak '64
Bill & Joyce (Turner) Sexton '53
Carmen Priesz '61
Daryle Vegge '65
Dave '64 & Randa (Smith) '65
Gangestad
James '59 & Gloria (Aanenson)
'63 Rolfs
Jane (Honken) Schuld '67
Jim Sanden - Teacher
Judy (Hahn) Bloch '61
Ken Vos '48
Melinda (Blashill) Ohlenkamp '96
Robert Torkelson '53

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

Wesley '58 & Patti
(Kirby) '63 Pierson

Mary Jane Hollaren '63

Carol (Ossenfort)
Oltmans '63
Joe Rowe '63
Wesley '58 & Patti
(Kirby) '63 Pierson

Raymond Griffith '63

Carol (Ossenfort)
Oltmans '63
Joe Rowe '63
Wesley '58 & Patti
(Kirby) '63 Pierson

Rick Buss '63

Alice (Ossenfort) Hansen
'65
Carol (Ossenfort)
Oltmans '63
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson
James '59 & Gloria
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs
Joe Rowe '63

Wesley '58 & Patti
(Kirby) '63 Pierson

Roger Deiterman '63

Carol (Ossenfort)
Oltmans '63
Joe Rowe '63
Wesley '58 & Patti
(Kirby) '63 Pierson

William Skewes '63

James '59 & Gloria
(Aanenson) '63 Rolfs
Joe Rowe '63

Gloria (Hansen) Boelman '65

Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey
'62
Wesley '58 & Patti
(Kirby) '63 Pierson

Deborah (Meyer) Tilberg '73

Dawn Maxwell '73

Deborah Rinkel '73

Robert Rinkel '68

Patrice (Hensel) May '73

Dawn Maxwell '73

Russell Eichmann '73

Dawn Maxwell '73

Bruce Tofteland '78

Mark '76 & Amy
(Gonnerman) '86 Overgaard

Dan Kindt '78

Pastor Andrew
Hermodson-Olsen '78

Phil Vos '78

Linda Vos '61

Carson Ehde '20

Terry '67 & Diane
(Mollberg) '67 Gonnerman

June Polzin - Friend

Pam Olson '75

**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

LUVERNE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

NOMINATE A LUVERNE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

APPLICATION DEADLINE—FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Application & Information at:

www.isd2184.net

On home page, under ABOUT LPS

Link: ALUMNI HALL OF FAME



● The Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame was established in 2022 to honor former students and graduates who have distinguished themselves and contributed to the established vision of District 2184: LEARN, LIVE, LEAD.

The purpose of the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame is to recognize students from Luverne Public Schools who have distinguished themselves through: Excellence in their profession

- Exceptional service, volunteerism or contributions to community on a local, regional, state, national or international level.
- Excellence in personal endeavors that are recognized on a local, regional, state, national or international level.
- Exceptional contributions to education at a local, regional, state, national or international level.

The Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame will be engraved in stone in the Alumni Memorial Garden. A short biography and photo (if possible) are digitally maintained and accessible on the school website.

- Nomination Form -

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

Please return this completed form, along with additional support documentation:
LIVERNE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

709 North Kniss Avenue—Luverne MN 56156 or email: c.oftedahl@isd2184.net
Applications must be received by February 28, 2023 to qualify for induction at Homecoming 2023

NOMINEES NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP

CONTACT PHONE:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

LIST THE NOMINEE'S SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS:

NOMINATOR'S NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP

CONTACT PHONE:

EMAIL:

RELATIONSHIP TO NOMINEE:

NAMES OF THREE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT THIS APPLICATION & HAVE INCLUDED A BRIEF LETTER OF SUPPORT:

1.

2.

3.

Remembering our classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

1930 – 1939

Clare (Gabrielson) George '36 of Newington, CT, died December 12, 2022. Clare met her future husband during WWII at a USO dance in Sioux Falls. Soon after, Andrew George was deployed to Europe where he remained for three years without a furlough. They wrote daily letters until he came home, and they were married.

The couple moved to Hartford, CT, but Clare never forgot her Minnesota roots and returned often to visit. She worked as a legal secretary at Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance for many years. Clare was devoted to her faith and family, participating, and delighting in their activities. She was a Red Cross “super donator” of blood.

Clare is survived by her son, Andrew C. (Angela) George, of Groton, MA; her daughter, Teresa A. (Carl) Matteo, of Verona, NJ; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by three children, Andrea, Jimmy, and Billy.

1940 – 1949

Gene R. Davis '46 died on November 26, 2022. Gene attended Augustana College and was a merchant marine and army veteran. He made a career as an insurance underwriter. After retirement, Gene enjoyed reading biographies, gardening, and traveling the world with his wife, **Mary Ann '46** McDowall. He looked forward each day to happy hour visiting and reminiscing with family and friends while drinking a Manhattan.

Gene is survived by his wife of 76 years, **Mary Ann**; children, Betsy Fisher, Nancy Flatgard, Jeff Davis (Beth Kaup); 4 grandsons; 5 great-grandchildren; sister, Sandra Robison; sister-in-law, **Beverly '51** Davis; many nieces and nephews and friends.

1950 – 1959

Allan E. Schoon '50 died on May 31, 2022, in Mankato, MN. Allan attended Macalester College and the University of Minnesota. He served in the U.S. Army in Japan from 1953

to 1955 in the First Calvary Division. Allan married Muriel Schmitz on January 21, 1956, in Minneapolis.

He farmed near Luverne for ten years before moving to Mankato to work for the Minnesota Highway Department, and later, the Minnesota Department of Transportation. While at MNDOT, he became registered as a Professional Land Surveyor, and was the district 7 Surveyor from 1982 until his retirement in 1993.

During his career he worked on almost every major highway in the district. He taught surveying and wrote computer programs used by the Survey Section for many years. Allan was an instrument rated pilot and enjoyed flying as well as gardening, antiques, farm management, computer programming and more.

Allen is survived by his wife, Muriel; sons, Charles of Los Angeles, CA, and Thomas (Sue), Mankato; two grandchildren; brother, **David '61** (Pat) Schoon, Mendota Heights, MN.

He was preceded in death by his sister, **Delores'48** Boen.

Patricia (Padilla) Petit '53 died October 28, 2022, in Rapid City, SD. Pat was married for 25 years to the love of her life, Irvin Petit, Jr., until his untimely death at the age of 45, never remarrying. She attended Nettleton College of Business in the early 1950's and moved to Rapid City. Pat wrote a column for the West River Catholic titled, “Pat’s Prayers for Peons.” She served as a Diocesan Lay Minister and was a former Hospice House volunteer. She was also an associate of the Sisters of the Holy Family in Fremont, CA.

Pat is survived by her three daughters; Shelly Porvasnik, Marcia Werner, Sharon (Gerald) Ames; ten grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and siblings, **Joan '54** Ripley, Lavonne Reiner, **Audre '66** Heckt, **Tom '69** Padilla, **Allen '72** (Denise) Padilla, and **Mary '74** (Mike) McLaughlin.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Irvin W. Petit, Jr., and her daughter, Theresa Petit.

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 7

Remembering our classmates/continued from page 6

Sandra (Popken) Winter '59 died November 10, 2022, in Luverne. Sandra married Gerald Winter in June 1960. They lived the next 62 years on their farm seven miles southwest of Luverne.

She was a gifted gardener. Her greatest accomplishment was giving her children good soil in which to plant their own gardens, as she also delighted in her grandchildren, attending their activities, and watching them grow.

Sandra was employed seasonally at Wally's Nursery in Hills for 40 years, retiring in 2015. She once held a secretarial position at Luverne City Hall, kept the farm books and served as the financial officer for Bethany Lutheran Church.

Sandy is survived by her husband, Gerald; children **Mike '80** (Karen) Winter, **Brenda '81** (**Jim '78** Juhl) Winter, **Lori '82** (Dave) Tingle, and **Sarah '01** (Clayton Peters) Winter, all of Luverne; 17 grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and a sister, LuElla Karr, Haywarden, IA.

She was preceded in death by four brothers, Kenneth, Darrel, Arnold, and Wayne Popken.

1960 - 1969

Clifford Hansen '61 died December 24, 2022, in Sioux Falls, SD. Following his education, he began an entry level job at Land 'O Lakes in Luverne. He worked his way up in the company and eventually became the plant's manager. Cliff moved on from the company after 35 years of service.

On May 2, 1984, Cliff married Gloria Hansen in Sioux Falls. He began working for JBS in Pipestone. After ten years, he retired in 2008. In 1988 Cliff and Gloria moved to their lake home in Lake Benton. He kept very busy in retirement attending auctions, fixing almost anything, and making the best beef jerky.

Cliff is survived by his wife, Gloria; three children, **Karen '82** (**Stan '77**) Van Wattering, Luverne, **Gordie '84** (Colette) Hansen, Luverne, and **Adam '89** (Tracy) Hansen, Luverne; three grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; three siblings, **Ardie '58** Bowen, Luverne, **Viv '62** Aarestad, Apple Valley, and **Ray '64** (Elaine) Hansen, Luverne; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by a sister, **Gloria '65** Boelman.

James Nelson '62, of South St. Paul, MN, died August 20, 2022. Jim served as an airplane mechanic in Thailand during the Vietnam war.

He was a proud father to his two children and a caring son to his mother, Alyce. He had a deep fondness for the heartland where he was raised.

Jim is survived by his son, Richard of Eagan, daughter Kristin of Boca Raton, FL, and one grandson; his brother **Paul '67** (Robin), sister **Charlotte '68** (Richard Trende), sister **Laurie '71** (Jim Fox), brother **Dan '79** (Lori) along with many nieces, nephews, and their children.

Allen Krahn '62 died September 30, 2022. Allen enlisted in the US Air Force in 1962 and served as a Russian Linguist and Command Post Specialist until 1970. Stationed at a variety of USAF bases within the U.S., he also had tours of duty in Turkey, Okinawa, and South Korea. After discharge in 1970, Allen served two years in the Air National Guard, Duluth, MN.

Allen graduated with his RN license from Saint Luke's school of nursing in 1972. His career lasted almost 40 years, retiring from Bakersfield Heart Hospital ER, Bakersfield CA in 2010. He also served as a Wisconsin Douglas County Coroner for 10 years.

Allen is survived by his wife Cynthia Lagae; five grandchildren; sister **Linda '65** Lee Hanson, Luverne; three nieces; and Cousin **Lori '84** VonHoltum.

He was preceded in death by his younger brother.

Barbara (Herrmann) Loosbrock '63 died October 14, 2022, in Luverne. In 1964 Barb married Robert (Bob) Loosbrock in Luverne. They farmed by Lismore until they purchased the Blue Mound Inn in 1975.

When the business closed in 2000, Barb worked with Bob in his commodity business. They retired in 2021. Barb was active in the community, serving on the First Farmers &

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 8

Remembering our classmates/continued from page 7

Merchants Bank advisory board for 35 years and the Luverne Chamber of Commerce board of directors.

Barb is survived by her husband, Bob; son **Mike '83** (Brenda) Loosbrock, Slayton, daughter **Kelly '87** Stearns, Sioux Falls, and daughter **Amy '98** (Tony) Reuter, Littleton, CO; six grandchildren; sisters **Sandy '58** Knapp, Grand Junction, CO, and Peggy Herrmann Eagan.

She was preceded in death by her sister-in-law Donna Loosbrock; brothers-in-law Ron Knapp, Tom Conlan and Raymond Loonan; and nephew Dan Conlan.

Richard Buss '63 died October 14, 2022, in Sioux Falls. Rick married **Pat '63** Matthiesen on October 9, 1945. They lived in Hardwick, settling on a farm near the Blue Mound State Park.

He was a dedicated, lifelong farmer. He served on the township board, including a term as President, and volunteered as a firefighter in Hardwick for several years. Later in life, Rick worked at the rest area near Adrian. He retired to Edgebrook Care Center in 2016.

Rick is survived by his daughter, **Tricia '94** (**Jason '86** Sudenga) Aiken of Shakopee; two grandchildren; and a brother, **Jerry '66** (Liz) Buss, Luverne.

He was preceded in death by his wife, **Pat '63**.

Raymond L. Griffith '63 of Minnetonka, MN, died at home on December 1, 2022, after surviving cancer for 11-1/2 years. He was the owner of S.R. Sikes Co. leather manufacturing for 39 years. Ray is survived by his wife, June; daughter, Rebecca Griffith; sisters, Kathleen (David) Rotchadl & Gloria (James) Doherty; and many nieces & nephews.

He was preceded in death by daughter, Rachel Griffith and sister, Elizabeth Griffith.

Mary Jane Holleran '63 died December 12, 2022, in Mankato, MN. Due to a high fever as a toddler, Mary Jane became developmentally delayed. She started school with the Luverne class of 1963 and enthusiastically followed most sporting events and attended many community activi-

ties. Her one great hobby was ceramics. In the late 1970's, the State of Minnesota decided that Mary Jane qualified for a new jobs program that had been created for people with her unique talent and skills. She moved to Mankato where she has resided since.

Mary Jane is survived by her sister, **Anne '64** Holleran McPartland, Sioux Falls; brother, Patrick Hollaren, Maryland; two nieces and a nephew.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Phillip.

Roger L. Deiterman '63 of Brighton, CO, passed away on December 14, 2022.

Roger is survived by his wife, Eileen Bykerk; children, Jason, Justin, Jesse, and Laurie (Tim) Olson; 8 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; and his siblings, **Marilyn '67** Sullivan, **Roberta '70** Getman, **Ramona '74** Scheer and **Morris '65**.

He was preceded in death by his sister **Marcy '59**.

Cathy (Ripley) Groth '64 died December 18, 2022, in Melrose, MN. Cathy graduated from the University of Minnesota with two degrees. She was united in marriage to **Larry '64** Groth; they later divorced. In 2012 she married Greg Gervais in Maui, HI. Cathy retired in 2018 and spent her summers in Grey Eagle and her winters in Florida. Cathy and Greg enjoyed traveling the world, especially trips to Europe.

Survivors include her husband, Greg, of Grey Eagle and Cape Coral, FL; sons Jason Groth, Plymouth, Christopher (Angie) Groth, Plymouth, and James (Michelle) Groth, Mound; three grandchildren; mother, Eunice Ripley, Luverne; siblings, **Robyn '66** (Dennis) Nowka, Luverne, **Vicky '71** Atwood, Sioux Falls, **Sally '73** Ripley, St. Paul, Russell Ripley, Dassel, **Kim '79** Ripley, Golden Valley, and **Lisa '82** (Tom) Lahr, Butte, MT.

Cathy was preceded in death by her father, **Russell '47**; brother, **Randy '67**; and sister, **Paulette '68**.

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 9

Remembering our classmates/continued from page 8

Randy R. Smith '65 died October 15, 2022. After high school, Randy moved to Minneapolis where he worked for Bell Telephone until 1977. That year, he purchased a farm near Ruthton with his father. He farmed there until 1999 when he sold the farm and bought another near Swanville, MN, where he lived until his death.

Randy is survived by three sisters; **Linda '65** Feikema, **Susanne '66 (Arlan '63)** Stegenga and Lanette Szymkowicz; eleven nephews and nieces; and many great and great-great nephews and nieces.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, **Bonita '63** Johannsen and Shirlee Haraldson; brothers-in-law **Jim '61** Johannsen, John Feikema and Scott Szymkowicz, and nephew, Nathan Stegenga.

John A. Ruddy, '65 died October 25, 2022, in Luverne. John married Karen Dubas on June 15, 1973, in Elk River. They moved to Brooklyn Center and John worked as a diesel mechanic at Rapid Way in St. Louis Park. They moved to an acreage near Beaver Creek in 1987 and John began work at IBP in Luverne.

John is survived by his wife, Karen, Luverne; son, Shawn, Luverne; daughter, Renae Ruddy, Beaver Creek; three grandchildren; sister, **Corrine '47** Nath, Luverne; and three brothers, **Darrell '63**, Luverne; **Robert '67** (Gloria), Ostego; and **David '68** (Rose), Luverne.

He was preceded in death by an infant granddaughter, Carissa Ruddy; brothers, Loren, **Michael '52**, **Gene '56**, Dale, **James '59**, and **Donald '60**; and sisters, **Mavis '46** Wahlert, **Patricia '55** Miller, Delores Kasemodel, **Marilyn '62** Palmer, **Judy '52** Craig and an infant sister, Theresa.

1970 – 1979

Bruce Tofteland '78 died October 24, 2022, in Luverne. Bruce remained on the family farm after graduation. He attended Stewart's in Sioux Falls, graduating in 1984 and continued his career in Minneapolis as a hair stylist in Roseville. After 25 years he retired and enjoyed travel, especially to Mexico. In 2009 he discovered ballroom dancing where he had many friends in that community. In 2018 Bruce suffered a

traumatic brain injury from an accident. In 2022, he moved home.

Bruce is survived by his sister, **Sonya '80** (Randy) Miller, and many cousins and friends.

Terry Anderson '75 of St. George, UT, died September 27, 2021. Terry attended Canby Technical College and worked in auto parts sales until retiring at the age of 60 in Huntington Beach, CA. After retiring, he spent time traveling in UT, CO, IA and AZ before settling in St. George.

Terry is survived by his five brothers: Gary of Omaha, NE, **Tim '84** of Garden Grove, CA, **Brad '76** of Ankeny, IA, **Don '78** of Sioux Falls and Dave of Fremont, NE; and 15 nieces and nephews.

1980 – 1989

Randall Harms '86 of Sioux Falls, SD, died November 29, 2022, as the result of a workplace accident. Randy obtained an associate degree from Worthington Community College and attended Southwest Minnesota State College in Marshall. He worked at Sailor Plastics for a short time before moving to Sioux Falls where he began working at Bell Box, remaining there for 27 years.

Nikki Smith became Randy's life partner and on March 23, 2001, they were blessed with a daughter, Cameron. Randy loved classic rock, hockey, sprint car races, and spending time with family and friends.

Randy is survived by his life partner, Nikki Smith, Sioux Falls; daughter Cameron Harms, Brookings, SD; parents Larry and Lorna Harms, Luverne; partner parents Randy and Debbie Smith, Sioux Falls; two siblings, **Wayne '84** Harms, Luverne, and **Shelley '90** (Blair) Nattress, Luverne; two nieces and numerous friends.

1990 -1999

Maria (Vanden Berg) Korthals '90 died at her home on December 31, 2022. Maria married Darl Korthals in September of 1998 and later divorced. She finished her schooling in Connecticut, completing a degree in Business in May 2020. Maria returned to Luverne and was presently working at Dakota Performance Solutions in Sioux Falls.

REMEMBERING OUR CLASSMATES/SEE PAGE 10

Luverne Dollars for Scholars ... Did you know?

Here's how perpetual scholarships are established

A gift of \$2,000 or more, referred to as an “endowment,” given to the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program becomes a perpetual scholarship.

Only the income earned from the endowments is given to a student in the form of a scholarship.

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

Initially, the donor has the opportunity to attach a name to the endowment. Then each year a selected graduate receives a scholarship bearing that name.

Once a perpetual scholarship is established, additional dollars – no matter what amount – may be added, at any time, to the endowment.

These additional dollars increase the size of the endowment, which in turn increases the amount given as a scholarship to qualifying graduates in future years.

During this past calendar year, eleven new perpetual scholarships were established with the Luverne Dollars for Scholars program.

Bryan Fransen Memorial Scholarship

Carson Ehde Memorial Scholarship

Class of 1971 Scholarship

Class of 1972 Scholarship

Class of 1973 Scholarship

Class of 1987 Scholarship

David L. Eberlein Scholarship

Gordon “Swede”, Lucylle “Tillie” and William “Bill” Jarchow Scholarship

Kimberly Sedlacek Memorial Scholarship

Miss Hannah’s Memorial College Fund

Shirley Klosterbuer Scholarship

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 9

Maria is survived by her mother, Evie Vanden Berg of Luverne; her sister, Jennifer Vanden Berg of Luverne; and other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father, Gary, a stillborn brother, and paternal grandparents.

2000 – 2009

Christopher J. Smook '06 died November 16, 2022, in Hills, MN. Chris completed a diesel mechanics program while attending WyoTech in Laramie, WY. He worked at Crimson Fire in Luverne and at Manley Tire part time. He later went to work at Kibble Equipment, John Deere Implement, in Garretson, SD. Chris and his wife, Lexy, were married September 20, 2015.

Chris loved taking things apart and putting them back together; he could fix most anything. He also loved kayaking and fishing with the kids and making elaborate meals, cooking, and grilling.

Chris is survived by his wife, Lexy; three children, Charlee Donth, Otto and Madi, all at home; mother, Arlene Smook, Luverne; parents-in-law **Dean '74** and DJ Luethje, Luverne; three sisters, Sarah (Andy) Paul, Inver Grove Heights, Kacey (Joey) Knap, Luverne, and Kelli (Zach) Swenson, Garretson, SD; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Dennis; an infant brother; uncles Curtis and Myron Smook; uncle-in-law Junior McCollum; and his grandparents.



Class of 1970 meets during all-school reunion

The Luverne High School Class of 1970 met during the July all-school reunion in the home of Suanne Hoiland Ohme on Saturday, July 9. Pictured are (front, from left) Gary Johnson, Gary Overgaard, Rick Serie, Bruce Kurtz, (back) Dan Anderson, Susan Frahm, Tom Sedlacek, Bob Saarloos, Jeff Sundem, Pat (Zubke) Overgaard, Suanne (Hoiland) Ohme, LeighAnn (Gonnerman) Remme, Bonnie (Debooy) Kochel, Mary (Connell) Steerman, Sandy (Arp) Smith, Lona (Gabrielson) Klosterbuer, Susan (Brakke) Jeska, Carol (Schumacher) Serie, Kathleen Dykers, Janet (Ott) Ruble, Debbie (Swenson) Anderson and Marcia (Fink) Dahlman. Missing from the picture are Steve Clausen and Betty (Hartz) Lauck. Others attending on Friday, July 8, were Dan Wilson, Linda (Buss) Vanhulzen, MaryJo (Reisch) Benson, Bill Keitel, Laura (DeBoer) Kuehl, Tanya (Leicher) Light, and Dean Ohlen.

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).

**Alumni News, 709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156
Or email luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us**



Rich Dreckman (far left) leads a tour of the new PrairiE Loft Apartments in Luverne during the LIFT annual meeting.

Luverne Initiatives For Tomorrow showcases local development

Tour includes PrairiE Loft Apartments, Luverne Child Care Center, City Power Plant, Premium Minnesota Pork

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne Initiatives for Tomorrow hosted its annual meeting last fall in the form of several tours highlighting community development.

In a round-robin approach, groups of roughly 20 people at a time visited four separate sites for 20- to 25-minute tours.

By the end of the evening each site had hosted four tour groups, updating attendees on progress.

The new **PrairiE Loft Apartments** on South Highway 75 were a highlight on the tour where Greensmith Builders' Aaron Smith and Luverne's Rich Dreckman took visitors through the newly completed apartments — some of them completed.

There are two, three-story, 27-unit apartment buildings along Hatting Street toward the east end of what used to be the Sharkee's and Mert's Repair lots.

Dreckman said the south building has 18 of its 27 units rented out and will be full within a week or so. He's taking reservations for the north building.

Rent for a one-bedroom apartment is \$1,095 and two-bedroom units rent for \$1,295 to \$1,495 with utilities included. "We've had people move in before even seeing the place," Dreckman said. "We've had good response."

LIFT ANNUAL MEETING/SEE PAGE 13



EDA Director Holly Sammons leads a tour of the Luverne Day Care Center in the former Tri-State Insurance building.

Luverne Initiatives For Tomorrow tours/continued from page 12

Because of demand, another three-story, 27-unit apartment building is being planned east of the north building along the north side of the retaining pond. A mixed use commercial-residential complex is planned for the space fronting Highway 75.

Primarily renters are young professionals with good-paying jobs, mostly single people and couples without children who work locally and had been commuting from Sioux Falls or Brandon.

Dreckman also talked about what makes the PrairiE Loft apartments unique. For example, each unit is elevator accessible and has its own stackable GE washer and condensing dryer and full set of appliances with granite countertops and undermount sinks.

The buildings have direct access to the Luverne Loop that connects with the Ashby Memorial Trail and the Blue Mounds Trail.

The apartments are built to meet “Energy-Star, Indoor AirPlus, Zero Energy Ready Home requirements and those of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, making them the most energy-efficient buildings in the state.”

There will be EV car chargers in the parking lot and solar panels on the roof.

All interior finishes are low-emitting (no chemical smell) and an ERV fresh air machine is

included in each unit to bring in fresh, filtered outdoor air.

All units have radiant heated floors and dedicated heat pump heating and cooling systems, and the entire complex was built out of structural insulated panels made in Cottonwood.

“With 14 inches of insulation, you won’t hear your neighbors,” Dreckman said. “The units are quiet.”

Each building is fire sprinklered and protected by a security system, and an Amazon package center accepts deliveries for residents.

Another popular tour Friday night was the former TCI building (originally Tri-State Insurance) where the **Luverne community child care center** will be established.

Luverne Economic Development Authority director Holly Sammons led tours using colored tape to show hallways, bathrooms, classrooms, large play areas and other rooms inside the 30,000-square-foot office building

The day care center, when occupied at near capacity, will accommodate 186 children.

Of those it will be licensed for 24 infants (6 weeks to 16 months), 42 toddlers (16 to 33 months), 60 preschoolers (33 months to

Luverne Initiatives For Tomorrow tours/*continued from page 13*

kindergarten) and 60 school-age children (kindergarten through 12 years old).

The center will have three infant rooms, three toddler rooms, three preschool rooms and two school-age rooms, all handicap-accessible and all but the infant rooms will have size-appropriate bathrooms.

Two small rooms will accommodate nursing mothers to come in and feed babies in privacy, and there will be a kitchenette and refrigerator to store breast milk.

The building already has an enclosed vestibule, offices, a kitchen area, a conference room, bathrooms, garage, loading dock and more.

Sammons talked about the nearly \$6 million project and the fact that half of it may need to be funded locally. "It will take a lot of time and a lot of money," she said. "But you have to see the vision."

She mentioned Lineage Logistics 80 new jobs and Premium Minnesota Pork's 90 new smokehouse jobs in addition to existing developments, and the fact that progressive cities respond to growth with growth.

"When good things are happening and growing, that's opportunity to keep improving the community," Sammons said.

"These 25-, 30-, 40-million-dollar projects add tax base to our city and they're paying property taxes each year. That is income that we can capture

to facilitate further growth."

She said it's important to capitalize on opportunities to create more opportunities.

"If you have all these good things happening, if you sit there with closed fists, and you don't solve housing and day care you're going to stifle that growth."

City Administrator John Call and Electric Utility Supervisor Brian Remme led tours in the **city power plant** on East Main Street where an \$11 million remodel and repowering was recently completed.

Earlier this year, a crane installed two 50,000-pound generators, each with 3-megawatt capacity, to join the city's existing 1960s 3-megawatt generator in the power plant.

The combined 9-megawatt continuous capacity of the three generators ensures Luverne's backup generation can carry a major part of the city's total electrical load in the event of an outage.

The improvements will also allow the city to provide more backup power for Missouri River Energy Services, which contracts with Luverne for that energy.

MRES currently pays the city \$75,000 per year to keep its generators in working condition for backup power in peak usage times. In a new capacity agreement, MRES will pay Luverne \$6.7 million over 30 years, which will help pay for roughly half the \$11.8 million total cost of the project.

In addition to the new

generators, the project included modernizing the east substation and associated switchgear, a new control building, and improvements to the power plant to house the generation equipment.

In the Trailhead Building at Blue Mound Avenue and Main Street, Dan Paquin talked about the construction of **Premium Minnesota Pork's \$70 million smokehouse** in 2023.

The new facility, approximately 90,000 square feet, will be built between the current pork harvest plant and the Lineage Logistics freezer warehouse

When the new business comes online, it will hire 90 employees who will process 35 to 40 million pounds of pork per year. Products include bacon, smoked hams, case-ready products and ground pork.

LIFT is a 501C3 corporation dedicated to "strengthening Luverne and Rock County."

Current board members include president Pat Baustian, vice president Gary Papik, secretary Holly Sammons, treasurer Greg Burger, Cory Bloemendaal, Tim Connell, Judy Fenske, Craig Oftedahl, Knute Oldre, Mark Opitz, Janine Papik and Tony Schmoacker. Ex-officio board members are Marilyn Bloemendaal, John Call, Warren Herreid II, Betty Mann, Scott Marquardt, Kyle Oldre and Jane Wildung Lanphere.

****This story originally appeared in the Nov. 3, 2022, Edition of the Rock County Star Herald* ***

REUNIONS IN THE MAKING

LHS CLASS OF 1973

50th Reunion

During
BUFFALO DAYS

June 3, 2023

Evening Dinner

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*More information
forthcoming!*

For more information:

BETTY (HITCH) SCHNETTLER
320-224-4727

betty schnettler55@gmail.com

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55th Reunion

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For more information:

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LHS CLASS OF 1963

60th Reunion

June 2-3, 2023

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More information forthcoming!

For more information:

JOE ROWE
joe.rowe0307@gmail.com

PATTI PIERSON
piersonprp@alliancecom.net

Planning your reunion?

The Luverne Area Chamber & CVB is here to support your planning efforts. The Convention and Visitors Bureau offers a FREE one-time mailing for classes planning their celebration in Luverne. We will include your letter, registration form along with your return address/contact information.

There is no cost to reunion committees, we simply ask that they allow us to mail a Luverne Visitors Guide along with the reunion information. If you are interested in this opportunity, contact the Chamber at the email or phone below!

And don't forget to submit your reunion plans to the Chamber to be included in the quarterly Alumni News!

PHONE: 507.283.4061

(M-F: 8 am to 5 pm)

EMAIL: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us



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

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Volume 33, Issue 2

Alumni News

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