



This aerial image of the Luverne School District campus was taken in June 2015.

(Lori Sorenson photo/aerial school)

Big changes on horizon for 1950s-era school building

Luverne Public Schools

Superintendent Craig Oftedahl shared the following information with the Star Herald for print in its Sept. 21 edition.

The Board of Education at ISD 2184 is exploring the possibility of upgrading and improving the buildings on the existing campus.

A long-range facilities plan is the result of working with an independent educational facilities consulting firm. They helped district officials to examine the current buildings and blend the improvement suggestions from local staff, student and community interviews with state education requirements.

The result is a series of reports now available on the district website www.isd2184.net. Also available is the power point presentation from the public meetings.

The elementary school is already 20 years old and the cost of its construction will be paid in full this



upcoming school year.

The middle school/high school facility opened its doors in 1956.

Both buildings are currently in good shape and have been maintained extremely well.

However, continued safety and health upgrades are necessary for the 60-year-old middle/high school building to meet the standards outlined by the Minnesota Department of Education and other agencies.

This work is estimated at \$8 million to complete.

With the passage of the Ag2School legislation in St. Paul this spring, this \$8 million would result in a tax neutral impact to property owners within the district.

On average, the school district receives \$296 annually on a home with an estimated market value of \$100,000.

This amount is the lowest in the area when compared

Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Sept. 30, 2017, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$905. 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, January 2018, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156

Balance 6/30/17	\$508.34
Donations:	905.00
DFS Support:	2,500.00
Expenses:	
Printing:	919.07
Postage:	1,753.05
Labels:	523.86
Database support:	42.50
Balance 9/30/17	\$674.86

Memorials

Keith Mundahl '44

David '79 & Patti Olson
Lorraine Olson - Teacher
Ronald '50 & Lois Ahrendt

Barbara (Newton) Ball '51

Connie (Rusche) Wieneke
'58

Helen (Stroh) Biren '54

Mike & Darlene (Dibbern) '58
Nagy

Dennis Arp '59

Connie (Rusche) Wieneke
'58

Jerilyn (Scott) Kille '69

Class of 1969
Darlene (Heckt) Gyberg '69
Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl)
'69 Papik
Laura (Siebenahler)
Sutherland '69
Lorna (Siebenahler) Bryan
'69
Tom '69 & Nancy (Serie) '69
Skattum

Mary (Merrill) Hatrick '73

Betty (Hitch) Schnettler '73
Dawn Maxwell '73

Kevin VanMalsen '79

Laurie DeWispelaere '79

Merecie (Sterrett) Domagala '82

Laurie DeWispelaere '79

Barb Connell - Friend

Susan (Brakke) Jeska '70

Connie Nash - Friend

Alice (Ossenfort) Hansen
'65
Gordon '65 & Joyce
(Aanenson) '65 Hansen
Marlyn '63 & Karen Roberts

Contributions

Al & Ruth Stoakes - Friend
Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey

'62

Donald Loger '53
James Wiggins '42
Jane (Honken) Schuld '67
John Remme '56
Robert Helgeson '46
Tanya Wenzel '88

Online Alumni News goes green, saves green

Have you checked out the
Luverne Alumni News at
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 (NEW
ADDRESS):

piersonprp@alliancecom.net

What We've Heard ...

Compiled by Jane Wildung Lanphere

SUE BAILEY BRAKKE, LHS Class of 1977, reports that their Class had a wonderful 40th reunion the weekend of Luverne's 150th!

John and Kathy (Gabrielson) Jarchow hosted the reunion dinner at their farm on Friday night with 45 classmates attending. Not only did they have a float in the 150th Parade but they also met at the Party in the Park on Saturday night to continue their celebration.

JOYCE THODE challenged her classmates to match her \$100 donation to Luverne Dollars for Scholars to create a scholarship in honor of the Luverne Class of 1977.

JAMES L. WIGGINS, LHS Class of 1942, sends greetings to his friends and classmates from Luverne. He writes: "As I write this, I wonder how many alumni of the year 1942 are still living? I enjoy receiving the Alumni News and keeping up with what is happening in my hometown."

"My brothers (Joseph and Fred) and sisters (Mary and Martha) have all passed on. I was not as active in school as I would have liked because I lived on a farm two miles from Hardwick. Transportation was more difficult back then."

"June 9th of this past year, I retired from a part-time job with Albertson Grocery Store in Denison, IA where I had worked for over 30 years. I took early retirement from the Union Pacific Railroad in 1983 with almost 40 years of service. I started in Minneapolis in the Milwaukee Railroad ticket office. Then I was hired by the Chicago & Eastern Railroad where I was in freight sales. I moved to Houston, TX in 1951, Kansas City, MO in 1955, Dallas, TX in 1956 and again to Houston in 1968. Of course,

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 included in our directory of alumni).

Send your news to:

**Alumni News
709 N. Kniss Avenue
Luverne, Minnesota 56156**

Or email Jane Lanphere at
the Luverne Chamber:

luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

I went through many merges; Northern Pacific Railroad and Union Pacific Railroad."

"I was married to Lorraine Thinen in 1946. Lorraine passed away in 1983, after 36 ½ years of marriage. Lorraine was schooled in Minneapolis. Our four children all live in Texas. I have 6 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren."

"Warmest regards to all Luverne alumni!"

Help us keep a good thing going; Alumni News is a worthwhile cause to support

The Alumni News is published by volunteers as a free gift for Luverne High School alumni who enjoy the quarterly updates on classmates and their hometown. This publication is the envy of school districts everywhere, as it also maintains a priceless database of our alumni dating back to classes that graduated decades ago. There are expenses incurred with printing, mailing and database support, and these costs are paid for with generous contributions from our alumni and readers.

Today, it's easier than ever to support our efforts with your donations.

Memorials and contributions may be sent to:

Alumni News, 709 N. Kniss Avenue, Luverne, Minnesota 56156.

OR donate online, www.alumninews.info and click on the **DONATE** button.

ITEMS THROUGHOUT MS / HS FACILITY

- ELECTRICAL DISTRIBUTION UPGRADES AND MORE ELEC. CIRCUITS & OUTLETS IN EDUC. SPACES
- FIRE SPRINKLERING & CLASSROOM DOOR REPLACEMENT
- DOOR ACCESS CONTROLS AND SECURITY CAMERAS
- UPGRADE CORRIDOR FINISHES AND REPLACE LOCKERS
- UPGRADE CLASSROOM INTERIORS, FIXTURES, FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT.
- NEW HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS
- NEW CENTRAL HEATING PLANT, CONVERT REMAINING STEAM TO HOT WATER, AND UPGRADE DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEM
- REMOVE OF ASBESTOS CONTAINING MATERIALS

NEW PLAY
HARDSCAPE WITH
BB STANDARDS

RELOCATED
PLAYGROUND
EQUIPMENT

ADDITIONAL
CLASSROOMS

TEACHER
RESOURCE /
STORAGE

ITEMS THROUGHOUT ELEMENTARY FACILITY

- DOOR ACCESS CONTROL & SECURITY CAMERAS

MAIN LEVEL FLOORPLAN

1/2" = 1'-0"

NEW 30X60 COLD STORAGE
BLDG. SLAB ON GRADE

COMMUNITY
EDUCATION &
FAMILY TV

BLEACHER
IMPROVEMENTS

NEW BAND/
CHOIR SUITE

FUTURE PERFORMING
ARTS CTR

FUTURE
RECREATION

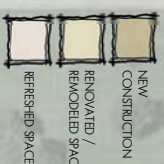
EDUCATIONAL
SPACE EXPANSION
/ RENOVATIONS

HEALTH & PHYS.
EDUC. SUITE

Educational Adequacy Color Key

Green	Adequate - Meets 2.5 of the Analysis Criteria - including WIDE Guidelines for School Educational Adequacy
Yellow	Questionable Adequacy - Meets only 2.3 of the Analysis Criteria, but may be considered adequate based upon current programming/enrollment and/or size of area.
Red	Inadequate - Meets 1 or none of the Analysis Criteria - is perceived as a significant need by staff

IMPROVEMENTS LEGEND



LUVERNE SCHOOL

PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS

JUNE 19, 2017 | JLG 17047 | © 2017 JLG ARCHITECTS

**FOSTER
JACOBS &
JOHNSON, INC.**

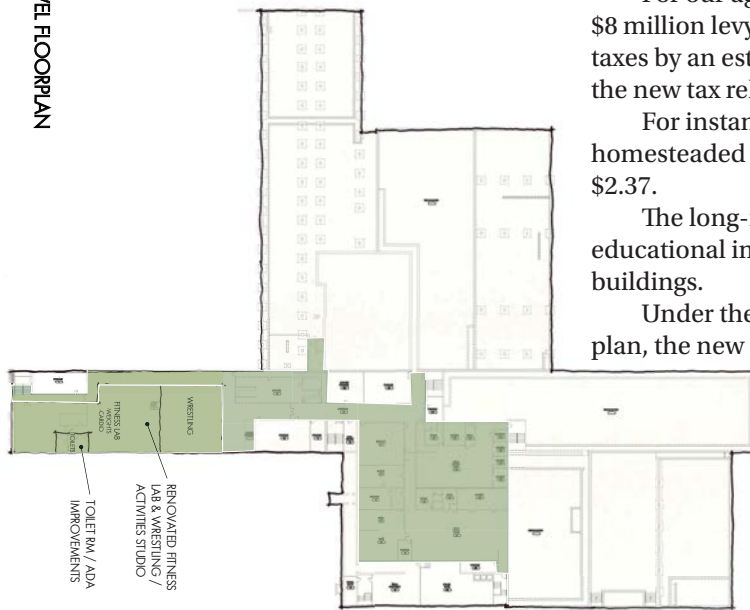
LISTEN + PLAN + DESIGN + EXECUTE®

JLG

DESIGN FOR LIFE

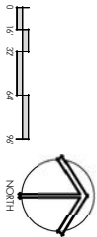
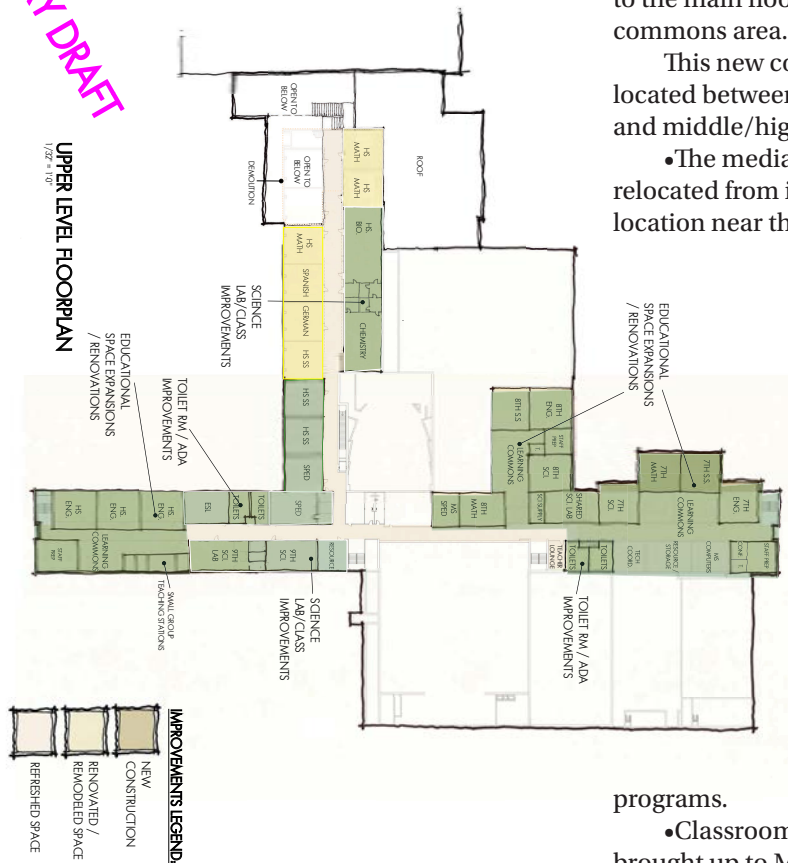
LUVERNE SCHOOL PROJECT IMPROVEMENTS JUNE 19, 2017 | 4.5G 17047 | © 2017 JLG ARCHITECTS

LOWER LEVEL FLOORPLAN
1/2" = 1'-0"



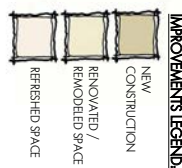
6.19.17 PRELIMINARY DRAFT

UPPER LEVEL FLOORPLAN
1/2" = 1'-0"



FOSTER
 JACOBS &
 JOHNSON, INC.
 LISTEN + PLAN + DESIGN + EXECUTE®

JLG
 DESIGN FOR LIFE



to neighboring school districts. The state average is \$366 for a home of the same value.

For our agricultural community, the \$8 million levy would decrease current taxes by an estimated \$2.4 million due to the new tax relief legislation.

For instance a \$10,000 acre of non-homesteaded land would decrease by \$2.37.

The long-range plan also makes educational improvements to both buildings.

Under the proposed long-range plan, the new construction, remodel, and refreshed portions of the two buildings would have a \$16 million price tag.

Here are some highlights of what would be done:

- The middle/high school kitchen and cafeteria will be moved to the main floor and create an open commons area.

This new construction would be located between the current elementary and middle/high school buildings.

- The media center would also be relocated from its current second-floor location near the new commons.

- The music department would see a dramatic improvement in space.

The new fine arts space would be located near the new kitchen/commons areas and would have small practice room areas, more storage for equipment and uniforms, and larger classrooms to seat the greater number of students involved in the choir and band

programs.

- Classroom space would be brought up to Minnesota Department of Education guidelines and have more collaborative spaces for individualized

Lorna Bryan retires from community leadership

She was there when Alumni News began under the concept developed in the Master's Thesis of Gregg Gropel. She has been the most ardent supporter of things happening in Luverne ever since. She is LORNA SIBENAHLE BRYAN (LHS Class of 1969), a native and still resident of Hardwick. Lorna married Donnie Bryan in 1971 and together they have two sons, Chris and Craig (both LHS alums).

After graduating from high school, Lorna attended Pipestone Vocational majoring in secretarial science. She worked a couple of years at Pipestone Vocational and then started working at the Luverne Announcer. When Tollefson Publishing purchased the Rock County Star Herald, Lorna became part of that team.

In 1984, she found a new opportunity with the Luverne Public Schools as the District's Community Education Secretary under Gregg Gropel. The next 15 years were a whirlwind as she worked in support of the growing responsibilities of Community Education, Summer Recreation, Discovery Time and Alumni News.

When Gregg retired in 1999, Lorna decided to look for a new challenge and was quickly hired to fill the position of Administrative Assistant for the Luverne Area Chamber under Executive Director Dave Smith. Dave and Lorna became the dynamic duo, promoting and supporting the development of the Chamber's ever-expanding role of responsibilities.

For the last 18 years, Lorna has served the businesses, residents and visitors with grace, kindness, intelligence and energy. She is the first voice you hear when the phone rings and the first face you see when you stop by the Chamber. With Lorna's great smile she eagerly



drops what she is doing to help you and goes out of her way to make sure you get what you want. Lorna has been part of each special event; giving 400% to make sure that no detail is overlooked and that the event goes by without a hitch. When the Chamber is contacted for help with details for class reunions – Lorna has always been the go-to person...and no one did it better.

On October 27th, Lorna will turn in her keys and check out of the Chamber for the last time, the day she celebrates her 66th birthday. No more deadlines. No more weekend or weekday events to manage. The Chamber has to look to replace the irreplaceable – Lorna Bryan.

Her future is finally hers after a lifetime of service to our community. Send her a note of thanks and well-wishes at lornabryan@alliancecom.net.

PS – As a side note, the 2018 TRI-STATE BAND FESTIVAL COMMITTEE unanimously selected Lorna Bryan at the 68th TSBF PARADE MARSHAL! Come to Luverne and see her wave on Saturday, September 29, 2018!

Luverne school building plans on the horizon/continued from page 5

and interdisciplinary learning.

- Special education space will be added and the entire building will be modernized with new lockers, wall coverings, furniture and technology.

- Community Education will be expanded to handle the growing trend of early childhood education.

- The District Office will be relocated as will the high school office area.

- Additional classrooms will be added to the elementary school to accommodate larger classes and greater special education needs.

The \$16 million in proposed improvements will increase property taxes if voters pass the referendum this fall.

On a \$100,000 valued home, the school levy would increase \$43 and a \$10,000 acre of non-homesteaded land would increase \$2.08. The ag community would receive a tax relief of \$4.8 million if the project was approved this fall.

During the community feedback sessions in February, there was significant interest in a new

performing arts center.

The proposed new facility would be located near the fine arts space and would add an additional \$7 million to the project.

The performing arts center could be a real asset to the district and community as a great gathering place for various functions.

The tax impact of the performing arts center is an additional \$25 annually on a home valued at \$100,000.

A \$10,000 acre of non-homesteaded land would increase \$2.08. Tax credit would be \$2.1 million on ag land.

Because the district has maintained the facilities, the upgrades and renovations being considered are less costly than constructing a new building.

With the current square footage, the replacement cost would likely be between \$90 and \$100 million if the district had to replace the entire campus.

The idea behind the long-range facilities plan is to continue the excellent education and educational facility for the next half century.

Remembering our Classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

1930-1939

Mildred (Tatge) Wearing '32 passed away on March 23, 2017, in Oconomowoc, WI. After high school, Mildred attended and graduated from Mt. Sinai nurses school, Milwaukee, WI, in 1936. She worked at Stocker Clinic as a registered nurse, got married, had three daughters and spent her life in Wisconsin.

Mildred is survived by her daughters Judy (Bill) Wilde, Linda (Charles) Jennings, and Jane (Roger) Otto; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and other relatives and friends.

1940-1949

Odin Olson '41 died September 21, 2017, in Minnetonka, MN. After graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1945 with an electrical engineering degree, he started a career in municipal engineering, working with HDR, Inc. This included providing electrical consulting for the city of Luverne in power plant and electrical systems.

On June 11, 1949, he married Arlene Crawford in Winnebago. Odie was a Navy veteran and served during WWII as an engineering officer aboard a destroyer.

Odie is survived by three children, Dian (Chuck) Pickett, James (Lori) Olson, and Barbara (James) Gabbert; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and many relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife, Arlene; three brothers, Alvin, **Milton '27**, and **Oscar '34**; and a sister, **Emma '26 Palmer**.

Keith Mundahl '44 died July 15, 2017, in Ellsworth, MN. Keith left the day after graduation for the U.S. Navy and served his country during WWII on the USS Beckham.

After leaving the U.S. Navy, he attended St. Olaf College, in Northfield, MN. Keith married in 1949 and moved to Los Angeles, CA in 1952.

On May 17, 1990, he married Shirley '44 Ahrendt in Chandler, AZ. Keith retired from the California State University at Northridge, CA. After his retirement he and Shirley moved to Luverne in September of 1991.

Keith is survived by his three children, Mitchell L Mundahl, Oxnard, CA; **Dennis '69** and **Nancy '71 Stoterau**, Redwood Falls, MN; and **Rev. Larry '65 and Linda Soterau**, Orange, CA; Xavier and Riki Suniga, Spring TX; a granddaughter and seven grandsons. He was preceded in death by his wife Shirley; son Stephen K. Mundahl; brother, John T. Mundahl; and a sister-in-law, Mary J. Mundahl.

Toby Anderson '41 passed away on September 20, 2017, in Luverne, MN. Following his education, Toby worked at Gamble's Store. He entered the US Army in 1951 and served in the Korean War. Toby returned to Luverne and went to work for Nelson's Hardware. On July 20, 1961, Toby was united in marriage to Margaret Bofenkamp. In 1968, Toby went to work for the City of Luverne in the public works department, retiring in 1992. He then filled his time with his dogs, tinkering in his shop, collecting small model tractors and volunteering at church. He belonged to the Knights of Columbus and the Dell Hogan American Legion Post #123.

Toby is survived by his wife Margie; two children, **Julie '82** (Wesley) Obritsch of Lanesboro, MN, and **Tim '84** (Barb) Anderson of Luverne; five grandchildren; sister, **Margaret '43** Hoh of Ellsworth; sister-in-law, Joann Anderson of Minneapolis; and other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his brother, **Leon '45** Anderson; and brother-in-law, Warren Hoh.

1950-1959

Barbara (Newton) Ball '51 died August 27, 2017, in Sioux Falls, SD. After graduation, she worked in Auburn, WA and then as a telephone operator in Albert Lea, Luverne and Sioux Falls, SD. Barb married Harvey Ball on June 18, 1994, and they made their home in Luverne where she served her church and participated in many hobbies and activities.

Barb is survived by her daughters, **Luana '78** (Jeff Boomgaarden) Ball, Minneapolis, and **Linda '83** (Randy Patrick) Ball, Lakeville; close family members Colleen and Richard DeSchepper, Luverne, Ann and Don Ciochetto, Brandon, SD, Lori and Jim VonHoltum, Lismore, Cindy and Dale Reverts, Luverne, Duane and Joyce Mulder, Luverne; and many other relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harvey and sister, **Marlys '50 Mulder**.

Helen (Stroh) Biren '54 died August 25, 2017, in Owatonna, MN. She attended Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD and then began teaching in Pipestone, MN. She also taught in Great Falls, MT, Hutchinson, MN, and Owatonna, MN until she retired in 1993. On August 30, 1986, she married Chris Biren. Helen was active in her church and as a volunteer in the hospital. Following her husband's death in 1990, devoted friends helped her through her journey with Parkinson's Disease.

Helen is survived by her brother, **Harold '61** (Carol) Stroh and sister-in-law, Judy Stroh, all of Luverne; five step-children, Mark (DeeDee) Biren, Golden, CO, Shelly (Marc Chamberlain) Biren, Seattle, WA, Tom Biren, Arvada, CO, Marcie (Ken) Beyersdorf, Tucson, AZ, and Beth (Eric) Eppers, Atlanta, GA; several step-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Chris Biren, and brothers **David '56** and **Rodney '59** Stroh.

Dennis Arp '59 passed away August 17, 2017, in Sioux Falls, SD. He attended Augustana College in Sioux Falls and was drafted into the army and served three years, including a full tour in Vietnam. After discharge, he worked at General Mills in Minneapolis. Dennis married Lena Willine Phillips in 1966 and moved to the Portland, OR, area. From there Dennis worked worldwide with International construction companies, building and maintaining industrial facilities for production of oil, maintaining output and industrial communities.

Dennis is survived by his siblings, Steve, Jolene, David, Ellen, Marsha and Janie, as well as a cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lena.

1960-1969

Janyce A. (Braa) Baustian '61 died in Sioux Falls on September 19, 2017. After high school, Jan went to school to become a LPN. On January 27, 1963, she was united in marriage to Howard Baustian. The couple lived in Rapid City, SD, then Garretson, SD, and returned home and settled in Hardwick in 1970. In 1992 Jan received her Associate's degree in Nursing. She became a RN at the State penitentiary in Sioux Falls, SD. After a number of years she began working as a RN at The Oaks and Poplar Creek retirement community in Luverne. She recently retired but remained active. Jan served on the Hardwick City Council and was twice appointed mayor. She was also a member of the Hardwick Mother's Club and Legion Auxiliary.

Jan is survived by her children, **Anthony '84** (Weldine Johnson), Rapid City, and **Donald '86**, Luverne; five grandchildren; siblings, **Emery '51** Braa, Virginia Beach, VA, **Arthur '62** (Elaine) Braa, Rapid City, SD, and **Lewy '67** (Laural) Braa, Sioux Falls, SD; and her sisters-in law, **Carol '58** Braa, Garretson SD, and Marian Braa, Luverne. She was preceded in death by her husband, Howard; her granddaughter, Lindsay Baustian; brothers, Donald, Kermit and **Charles '47** Braa; and a sister, Reva Braa.

Laurel L. (Westerbur) Anderson '64 passed away December 21, 2016, in Brandon, SD. On September 16, 1978, Laurel was united in marriage to **James Anderson '65** in Luverne, where they made their home. She worked as a bookkeeper and waitress. In 2002, the couple purchased the South Dakota Transport Services in Sioux Falls, SD. They retired

in 2010. Jim and Laurel were avid bikers and met many friends through this hobby.

Laurel is survived by her step-children, **Ralph '85** (Jane) Anderson, Worthington, MN, **Dawn '87** Anderson, Adrian, MN, April Anderson, Worthington, and **Michael '92** (Shannon) Anderson, Sibley, IA; eight grandchildren; two great-grandchildren, siblings, **Ron '64** (Bobbie) Westerbur, Mt. Iron, MN, **Glen '72** Westerbur, Lincoln, NE, **Lee Ann '73** (Burton) Vermeer, Valley Springs, SD, and **Linda '77** (Rick) Johnson, Fergus Falls, MN; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Anderson.

Nancy Ann (Winter) Browne '69 passed away on September 1, 2017, in Eagan, MN. After graduation, Nancy attended the University of MN Duluth, obtaining an associate degree in music. She married Steve Browne in 1971 and worked at home during their children's early years. Later, she worked with her husband in his businesses, and finally, Nancy worked with the team at Integra Telecom in Prior Lake, MN. Family, friends and music were an integral part of her life.

Nancy is survived by husband, Steve; children Aaron & Terri Browne, Minneapolis, MN, Adam & Nabila Browne, Henderson, NV, and Amanda & Tyler Perry, Cottage Grove, MN; siblings, Gregory (Rena) Winter, Minneapolis, Mary Jane Winter, Steamboat Springs, CO and Timothy (Lynn) winter, Bristow, VA; five grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Laura Winter, Minneapolis; and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her brother Daniel Winter.

Jerilyn (Scott) Kille '69 died Saturday, October 7, 2017, in Sioux Falls, SD. On June 7, 1975 she married her high school sweetheart, Dale Kille. They moved early on and spent time in Arizona, Topeka, Kansas, and Fort Dodge, Iowa. Jerilyn enjoyed working at her parent's bar in Luverne called Scotty's. Her favorite job was delivering flowers for Jubilee in Brandon, to see the reaction of those receiving them. She loved travelling with her mom to many places. Jeri bowled league for many years at Eastway Bowl in Sioux Falls. Summers were spent on the golf course or pitching for her softball teams. Jeri was also an avid card player, but number one in her life was her family and friends.

Left to cherish her memory are her sons, Jonathan of Sioux Falls, and Jesse (Amanda) Kille of Lead, SD; and brother-in-law, **Jim '67** (Connie) Kille of Rock Rapids, IA. She was preceded in death by husband **Dale '69** in 2007; and a brother **Randy '67** Scott.



LHS Class of 1962 gathers for 55th reunion

The LHS Class of 1962 had a great time on July 14th when they celebrated their 55th reunion at the Luverne Country Club with a dinner and social. Pictured here are the members attending the reunion! Front row left to right: Bea Olson Maxwell, Joan Dibbern Mayer, Stephanie Anderson Frackman, Susie Carter VanBatavia, Linda Bowman Moeller, Sandy Miller Murphy, Joyce Raschke Forrest, Carol Godfrey Lundholm, Darlene Hitch Woolsey. Back row left to right: Loren Forrest, Bill Mohr, Bob Alink, Larry Rolfs, Ardell Bowman, Virgil Smit, Barb Mulvihill Priesz, Keith Brooks, Vikki Golla Joseph, Tom Arends, Lyle Nelson, Stan Gyberg, Carlos Meinerts, Paul Schmaltz

Remembering our classmates/continued from page 8

1970-1979

Mary (Merrill) Hatrick '73 passed away at her home in Buffalo, MN, on August 1, 2017. She graduated from Moorhead University and the University of Minnesota graduate school with a Masters in Special Education and Reading Recovery. Mary loved and cared for ALL children and she spent her life dedicated to them by teaching 38 years in Walnut Grove, Montevideo, and at William Byrne Elementary and Sky Oaks Elementary in Burnsville.

She is survived by her loving husband of 30 years, Paul; son, Aaron; mother, Bernadine Merrill, Luverne; sisters, **Martha '71 (Kevin '71) Petersen**, St. Cloud, MN, **Margaret '74 (Tim) Petrick**, Clancy, MT, **Missy '87 Merrill**, Luverne; brothers, **Mike '78 Merrill**, Phoenix, AZ, and **Mark '82 Merrill**, Maple Grove, MN; nieces, nephews, many caring relatives and friends. Mary was preceded in death by father, Jack Merrill.

Friend of Luverne Graduates

Mary M. Odland passed away on September 14, 2017, in Alexandria, MN at the age of 91 years. She was born and spent her childhood in Dell Rapids, SD, where she graduated from high school in 1943. Mary attended the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, graduating in 1947 with a Sociology degree. On August 1, 1948, Mary married Donald Odland in Dell Rapids. They lived in Milwaukee, WI, and Minneapolis while Donald was pursuing a medical education and career. They settled in Luverne where Don built his medical practice and Mary was a stay-at-home mother. Mary was active in her church and was a founding member of the Luverne chapter of PEO, which she belonged to for 70 years. She also volunteered as a Pink Lady at the hospital for 25 years; and, she was a 50 year member of the Luverne American Legion auxiliary. The family enjoyed vacationing in Alexandria, MN, as well as traveling to Mexico, Hawaii and Norway.

Mary is survived by her children, **Mark '68 (Pat)**, Alexandria, MN, **David '71 (Sharon)**, Alexandria, MN, **Debra '74 Odland**, Woodbury, MN, **Paul '75 Odland**, Alexandria, and **Steve '87**, Luverne; 10 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and other family members. She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald; and her brother, Dr. John Hermanson.



Having fun with photo editing, Roger Brooks shared this slide during his June 9 presentation in Luverne.

The expert says ...

Community consultant Roger Brooks gives Luverne a guidebook for our future

By Jane Wildung Lanphere

Internationally known community development and destination planning consultant **ROGER BROOKS** *secret shopped* Luverne on June 5-9, 2017.

On June 9, to a crowd of over 200 people, Roger presented his analysis of where we are as a community and offered insight as to how we could move forward. People who attended the presentation came away energized with the notion of how Luverne can become even better than before.

Sponsored through grants from the Blandin Foundation, Southwest Initiative Foundation and the Luverne EDA – Luverne Initiatives for Tomorrow (LIFT) Executive Board coordinated Roger's visit. In early September, the Executive Board received his final, written comprehensive report.

Three of the major concepts that Roger proposed were to develop Luverne as the **nutcracker capital of North America**, to construct & program **a plaza in downtown Luverne**, and to address **wayfinding**.

The LIFT Executive Board didn't wait for the final report to energize the enthusiasm of the public to move forward. Nutcracker, Plaza and Wayfinding Committees have been formed and they have begun to move forward with enthusiasm!

In his report, Roger Brooks presented compelling evidence about the demise of malls and the development of the "European" standard of community plazas.

Not only do plazas strongly support local small retailers, they also support and build a sense of place for citizens and visitors.

In their meetings, the Plaza Committee has focused their work on discussing possible locations, learning about best practices of plaza operation and investigating what elements should be included in the development plan.

This citizen committee recently hosted a WINE WALK Fundraiser (October 7) in downtown Luverne to start raising funds for plaza development. They are also looking into the opportunity to work with the Southwest Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (part of the University of Minnesota Extension) to develop a master plan and process.

The committee is scheduled to make a presentation to the Luverne City Council in November where they hope to make a recommendation as to the planning process and share some thoughts on how we can utilize what we currently have to offer residents and visitors a "plaza experience."

Members of the Plaza Committee include: Betty Mann, Brian Sterling, Arla Schultz, Cheryl Nath, Corrine Bonnema, Dave Haugom, Dave and Stacy Riphagen, Gary and Janine Papik, Jill Jose, Judy Fenske, Kim Rockman, LaDonna Van Aartsen, Manda Steensma, Mike



The “Four Corners” improvements at Highway 75 and Main Street are nearly complete. They’re among many efforts to improve aesthetics and wayfinding signage to create more inviting gateways to the town and its amenities.

Great things are happening in Luverne/continued from page 10

Cox and Travis Dunn. Jane Lanphere staffs the committee.

Under the leadership of Luverne EDA Director Holly Sammons, a plan to move forward on addressing signage and wayfinding is underway. The City of Luverne is currently looking at the opportunity to work with a wayfinding specialty firm, recommended by Roger Brooks, to help design signage for Luverne. Their expertise and experience will offer a comprehensive blueprint as to the where, why, when and how signs are placed both now and in the future. Sammons will be working with an appointed committee through this process.

In June, when Roger Brooks visited Luverne, he stopped by the Rock County Historical Society’s new History Center. He was “blown away” when he saw Betty Mann’s donation of 2,800 nutcrackers and was even more impressed when he had the opportunity to visit with Betty. A few days later, in his formal presentation, he said that Betty’s nutcracker collection is worth getting off the Interstate to see and making Luverne the “Nutcracker Capital of North America” is something we can accomplish. With the formation of the Nutcracker Committee came a lot of great ideas and energy. Currently planned and underway are some exciting initiatives.

- Introducing a live nutcracker mascot to Luverne by November 2017
- Expanding Luverne’s Nutcracker Scavenger Hunt to more days with more nutcrackers; contest runs this year from November 10th through January 1st
- “Where’s Philo?” – a 4 foot tall nutcracker will make his debut in Luverne on Black Friday; he will show up in different businesses every 2-3 days; public invited to take a selfie with him and post it on the “Where’s Philo?” FACEBOOK page; #wheresphilo?

- Opening a nutcracker lane around the Luverne City Park with 23 nutcrackers on display with Christmas music; open Friday-Sunday from noon until 9 pm starting December 1st through December 31st plus Christmas Day and New Year Day

The Committee made a presentation to the City of Luverne’s Committee on the Whole on October 17. Included in their presentation are a couple of big ideas including the idea of nutcracker statues made out of fiberglass having them annually painted by local and visiting artists.

The biggest idea was introduced to the Committee by Tony Schomacker (LHS alumni). Tony suggested that we think big...so big as to have the world’s biggest nutcracker for our tourist attraction. Can you imagine the number of people who would stop off and spend time in Luverne when visit the nutcracker museum and having their picture taken by the world’s tallest (70-80 feet) nutcracker? Serving on the Nutcracker Committee is: Becky Rahm, Betty Mann, Cheryl Nath, Gary and Janine Papik, Roni Feit, Ryan Wynia, Tony and Lindsey Schomacker, and Sue Sandbulte. Jane Lanphere staffs the committee.

For Luverne, the future is bright! There is a lot of energy and great ideas in this community and people are committed to making a difference now and for the future. If you live in a place that is a great destination, let us know what you think made it that way. If you have traveled to places in the United States or around the world and visited a place that you thought to yourself – “Luverne should do that...” tell us about it. Everyone working on making Luverne a better place to live, work and play invite all Luverne alumni to share your thoughts, ideas and your suggestions with us. Email: luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us or send your ideas to: 213 East Luverne Street; Luverne MN 56156.

Homecoming king and queen from 1967 return to LHS coronation

By Mavis Fodness

Sierra Schmuck and Mark Robinson were crowned LHS 2017 Homecoming queen and king at ceremonies Tuesday evening, Oct. 3, in the Luverne High School gymnasium.

Schmuck is the daughter of Cory Schmuck and JoDee Haubrich, both of Luverne.

Robinson is the son of Wayne and Ann Robinson, also of Luverne.

Class of 1967 royalty crown new king and queen

The Luverne High School 2017 Homecoming royalty shared the spotlight with the Class of 1967 queen and king, Diane (Mollberg) Gonnerman and David Lorenzen, who were asked to help out.

Last year's homecoming king and queen, Dylan Thorson and Madison Crabtree, were unable to return to Luverne due to college commitments, so the student council suggested asking previous royalty for assistance.

"They suggested maybe there are people in the community who were king and queen who could help," said Caroline Thorson, coronation committee member and high school Spanish teacher.

Inviting past royalty to participate in the event also seemed appropriate as Luverne celebrates 150 years.

"In light of Luverne celebrating their 150th anniversary, Luverne High School's Homecoming queen and king from the Class of 1967 are here to present the crowns," said Emma Verbrugge, who shared mistress-of-ceremonies duties with Jocilyn Oye.

Gonnerman and Lorenzen are longtime area residents and agreed to assist at this year's coronation on one condition.

"I would do it if Dave would do it," Gonnerman said.

The two executed their duties flawlessly with the help of the coronation committee.

"Their biggest fear was that they



Mavis Fodness photo/1012 LHS Coronation 2017

LHS 1967 Homecoming queen and king, Diane Gonnerman and Dave Lorenzen, were invited to crown the 2017 queen and king Tuesday Oct. 2 when college commitments kept the 2016 queen and king from returning.

would crown the wrong student," Thorson said.

The name of each of the eight candidates was clearly printed on athletic tape with a black marker and placed on the back of the candidate's chair.

About the 1967 dignitaries

Since her crowning 50 years ago, Gonnerman has made Luverne home.

According to her biography read at Tuesday night's coronation,



Other king and queen candidates were Gracie Bosch, Anika Gust, Rachel Oftedahl, Derek Fodness, Jaxon Nelson and Tyler Reisdorfer.

Homecoming/continued from page 13

Gonnerman married Terry, her high school sweetheart, 49 years ago. After receiving her nursing degree from the school of nursing in Sioux Falls, she spent 40 years working at the Luverne hospital and clinic.

Gonnerman retired in 2014.

The couple has two children, Amy Overgaard and Mike

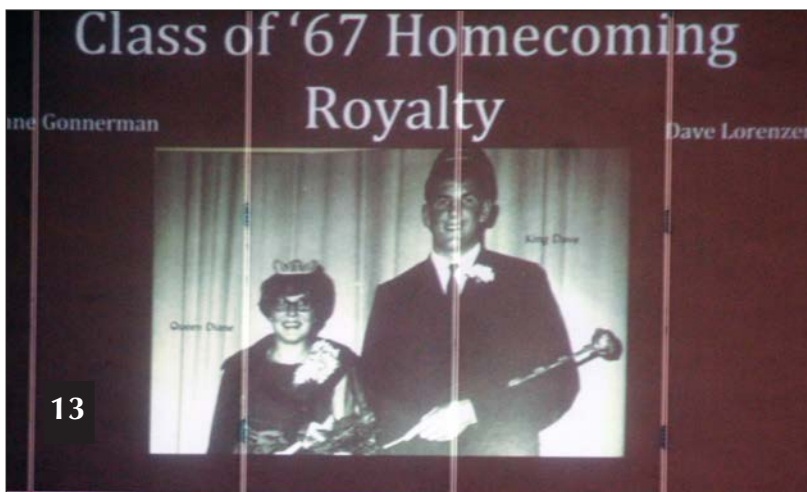
Gonnerman and five grandchildren.

Lorenzen returned to his home school district after attending the University of Duluth and taught and coached in Biwabik and later Lakefield.

He currently manages the family farm near Hardwick. Lorenzen has three daughters and six grandchildren.



Mark Robinson (left) and Sierra Schmuck (pictured at right) were selected as Luverne High School's 2017 Homecoming king and queen. They're pictured being crowned by Lorenzen and Gonnerman.



Luverne Dollars for Scholars Did you know?

Applicants for a Luverne Dollars for Scholars award are evaluated on the following criteria: academic performance, scholastic aptitude, work experience, school activity and community involvement.

Students are also required to write an essay describing their future aspirations as well as seek a recommendation from someone, whether a teacher or an adult who has worked with the student.

These applications are due each year around February 15th. All applications are submitted through an online student profile application located on the Luverne Dollars for Scholars website.

Once all of the information is compiled, the selection process begins. Each application is assigned a number. The Luverne High School counselor verifies each students' class rank, GPA and ACT scores.

Only the application number, not the applicant name, is seen throughout the rest of the scoring.

Each essay is read and scored by a group of DFS board members. References, work experience, school activity and community involvement are cross checked against the computerized score assigned each applicant.

Not all applicants receive a scholarship. Applications who do not reach the minimum score do not qualify for a scholarship award. None of the scholarships are based on financial need.

The total amount of scholarships paid out each year varies. The DFS Board uses 4.5 percent of the five-year fair market value of its fund assets as a guide when determining the total to be awarded each year.

Students who receive a scholarship award of \$4,000 or less can use it all in one year, while scholarships greater than \$4,000 are divided out over multiple years, with \$4,000 being the max that can be paid out each year.

Scholarship funds are not paid

out until after the first semester of college has been completed. In order to receive their scholarship funds, students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA. Scholarship checks are paid directly to the school.

Luverne Dollars for Scholars wrapped up its 2017 awards season this past May.

Seventy-nine qualifying Luverne High School students from the Class of 2017 were awarded \$387,750. These scholarships ranged from \$1,000 to \$9,500.

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

NEXT SUMMER WHEN YOU ARE IN LUVERNE ... YOU CAN BORROW A BIKE!

By Jane Wildung Lanphere

By late spring or early summer of 2018, Luverne will have the second phase of the Luverne LOOP completed. For the last five years, the City of Luverne has been working to develop and complete a biking/hiking/walking trail around the City. The first phase, completed in the fall of 2016, went from Veterans Pond to Dodge Street. The second phase, from Dodge Street along the western side of Luverne to Highway 75 is to be completed by next spring. The third phase plan is in development.

When the Luverne LOOP is completed and blended with the complimentary Blue Mound Trail, Luverne will have over 13 miles of trail for walkers and non-motorized transportation. The work that has been done is to provide greater opportunity for the public, residents and visitors alike, to get and stay healthy!

Through an opportunity offered by the State Health Improvement Program (SHIP), Chamber



intern KNUTE OLDRE applied for grant funds in the summer of 2016 which were ultimately denied. In August of this year, Knute (LHS 2017 graduate) received notification that funds were now available so the LUVERNE BIKE LOAN PROGRAM is now becoming a reality.

In the spring of 2018, the LUVERNE BIKE LOAN PROGRAM will have 12 universal

coaster bikes (8/adult and 4/child) that will be available for loan to any resident or visitor in Luverne. The bikes will be available for loan from the GrandStay Hotel & Suites 24/7. The loan program will require the borrower to sign a waiver and leave a credit card or driver's license for the period of the loan. The loan period is up to 24 hours but may be extended. Ken Petersen or Ken's Bike Shop of Luverne will supply the universal coaster bikes and will provide all service and maintenance.

Just another reason why you should make plans to visit your hometown! Something new and exciting is happening every day!

Reunions in the Making

Class of 1958

60th Class Reunion

September 29, 2018

Tri-State Band Festival Day

6 pm Happy Hour\7 pm Dinner

Blue Stem (Former Magnolia Steakhouse)

Contact Connie (Rusche) Wieneke for more info

PLAN YOUR REUNION and then contact...

the LUVERNE AREA CHAMBER!

We'll post your reunion info on our website!

We'll send updated info to Alumni News!

We'll do a FREE mailing to your class members!

We'll even make name tags!

LUVERNE AREA CHAMBER

507.283.4061/luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us

Class of 1963

55th Class Reunion

September 29, 2018

Tri-State Band Festival Weekend

Evening Dinner—Luverne Country Club

More details coming at a later date!

Any questions email Patti Kirby Pierson:
piersonprp@alliancecom.net

Class of 1973

45th Class Reunion

June 2, 2018

Luverne's Buffalo Days Weekend!

Evening Dinner—Luverne Country Club

More information coming!

For more info: Betty (Hitch) Schnettler
320 224-4727 betty schnettler55@gmail.com



HISTORY CENTER

312 EAST MAIN STREET - LUVERNE - 56156 - 507.283.2122
RCMUSEUM@GMAIL.COM

The Rock County Historical Society operating out of their new headquarters at the History Center (the former Herman Motors Building) houses extensive printed and photo collections of Luverne and Rock County History.

We are asking for your help as we try to put together a complete and permanent collection of Luverne High School Yearbooks. We are currently looking for the following LHS Yearbook editions.

These are the Yearbooks we are looking for:

1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941, 1950, 1995, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

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

1304145

Volume 28 Issue 1

Alumni News

709 North Kniss Avenue

Luverne, MN 56156

Lu^{ver}ne
Love the life!

Change Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Luverne, MN
Permit No. 115

Place Label Here