

## Nominations sought for LHS Hall of Fame

Next year during Homecoming, Luverne School District will induct the first class into the Luverne High School Hall of Fame.

The idea was introduced during the All-School Reunion in July, and a committee has been established to sift through nominations and recommend induction.

Nominees must have attended Luverne Public School for eight years or graduated from Luverne High School.

Nominees must have made notable contributions in their profession, personal endeavors and made significant contributions at a local, regional, state, national or international level.

Nomination forms should be returned to Luverne Public School by Jan. 31, 2023.

The forms are available on the school website [https://www.isd2184.net/about\\_lps/alumni\\_hall\\_of\\_fame](https://www.isd2184.net/about_lps/alumni_hall_of_fame), and they're available at the District Office at



the Luverne Public School.

The inductees will have their names engraved on a granite wall that will be part of the new Alumni Garden located near the canopy on the east side of the school complex.

Warren Herreid II has generously donated funds to cover the Hall of Fame granite wall.

The Luverne Education Legacy Fund will step in and handle the induction ceremony and the cost of the engraving.



Phillippe Piot

## Getman pens tribute to Luverne's first AFS exchange student, Piot

**By Tom Getman and  
Philippe's American  
friends and family**

Philippe Piot died peacefully the evening of Aug. 4 surrounded by his beloved Colette and their three children, Emmanuel, Karine and Antoine. May his memory be a blessing.

Luverne in the 1940s and '50s was still in the grip of not only the trauma and losses of the war but also religious separation.

PHILLIPE PIOT/SEE PAGE 3

# Honor Roll of Alumni News contributors

Compiled by Johnna Ahrendt

During this past quarter ending Sept. 30, 2022, the Alumni News received money in the form of memorials, and gifts totaling \$1,877.63. 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 2023, for additional names of Alumni News contributors.

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

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## Financial summary

Balance 6/30/22:	\$666.00
Donations:	1,877.63
DFS Support:	2,890.00
Expenses:	
Printing:	840.00
Postage:	2,397.41
Supplies:	852.60
Labels:	483.67
Database:	250.00
Paypal Fees:	3.88
Balance 9/30/22:	\$606.07

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## Memorials

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### **Naidine (Wulf) Aanenson '48**

Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl)  
'69 Papik

### **Doris (Loger) Kemerling '54**

Wesley '58 & Patti (Kirby)  
'63 Pierson

### **Joan (Anderson) Lorenz '55**

Yvonne (Lind) Halter '55

### **Phil Piot '58**

Stanley Bagbey '58

### **Dixie (Winge) Arends '63**

Carol (Ossenfort) Oltmans  
'63  
Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62  
Hal '60 & Donna Paulson  
Joe Rowe '63  
Karol (Stoterau) Mohs '63  
Kathy (Davis) Kelley '63  
Twila (Drost) VerSteeg '64  
Verlyn '60 & Susan (Carter)  
'62 VanBatavia

### **William Skewes '63**

Wesley '58 & Patti (Kirby) '63  
Pierson

### **Jerre Jordahl '64**

Donald & Lona (Gabrielson)  
'70 Klosterbuer  
Gary '69 & Janine (Jordahl)  
'69 Papik  
Richard '64 & Cammy  
(Martin) '64 Iverson

### **Scott McClure '66**

Class of 1966

### **Carson Ehde '20**

Wesley '58 & Patti (Kirby) '63  
Pierson

### **June Polzin - Friend**

Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey '62

## Contributions

Bob Lippi '70

Carol (Hengeveld) Fawley '61

Class of 1970

Garneta (Slagel) Bear '72

Karen (Anderson) Aamot '61

Lori (Brandenburg) Bisek '75

Michael Wells '61

Omar '67 & Sue Ellen Olson

Susan Dispanet - Friend

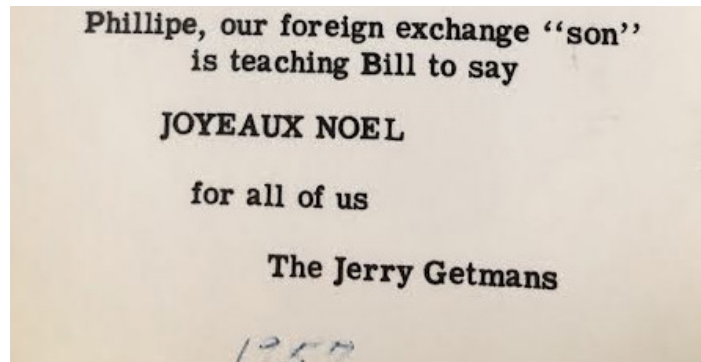
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## Thank you for your support

There are expenses incurred with printing, mailing and database support, and these costs are paid for with generous contributions from our alumni and readers.



The Getman family Christmas card in 1957 shows the youngest Getman sibling, Bill, on the lap of exchange student Phillippe, learning how to say “Joyeaux Noel.” Older Getman siblings are (from left) Tom, Jim, Cindy and Chuck.



## Phillipe Piot remembrance by Tom Getman/continued from page 1

Myths about “the other” still existed in small midwestern towns, and when Phil arrived as a Catholic, Wesley Drummond, the Presbyterian pastor, and G.S. Helgeson, the ELCA Lutheran pastor, suggested that Monsignor Michael Doyle from St. Catherine’s Church be added to the AFS sponsors.

From his arrival, Phillippe was a healer and bridge builder.

The pastors and other sponsors became friends, and the congregations and community followed.

Fifty years later when Phil and Colette attended mass, Father Tom Jennings mentioned that “after half a century Phil is still remembered by our members as a significant influence.”

The gentleman from

Chambery, who would become a rare Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, would also prove himself early on the Chevalier of Rock County.

Phillipe lived in my family’s home, with my parents, Dr. Jerry and Clara Getman, and my four siblings during the 1957-58 school year. Before this time,

PIOT REMEMBRANCE/SEE PAGE 4



## Phillipe Piot remembrance by Tom Getman/continued from page 3

foreign language wasn't taught in Luverne.

As his Luverne roommate he became a brother as close as my Getman brothers especially as we reconnected in later life. We honor the huge faithful gift Philippe was to his far-flung family and friends. Nothing conveys this more than the treasured memory of our Christmas 1957.

Bill, then 4, remembers, "Each day I took my little red chair and sat out by the driveway to await Phil's return from school. He still spoke only broken English, as did I, so he would hold my hand and take me down to Al's Market near the high school and buy me a popsicle. We communicated better than anyone else in the family."

My cousin **Bill Keitel** provides this childhood perceptive of Phil, speaking for all the Keitels and many other "children" from that era:

*"As a child of six my remembrances are vague and shadowy. But I remember the excitement of a person who spoke a different language than our own.*

*We accepted him into our communal family and embraced his presence. The years carried on and I never encountered him again ... yet he lived on in the periphery of my imagination. A person from far away who made a great impression on a small homogenous community in the Midwest.*

*AFS and the sponsors were fully responsible for creating*



Pictured in 2019 (from left) are Tom Getman, Colette Piot, Dominique Piot (Phillippe's sister), Karen Getman and Phillippe Piot.

*this international relationship in which all benefited mightily. He helped us become aware of a larger world and create a spirit of recognition beyond the watershed of the Rock River.*

*Though we never crossed pathways again, I was made aware that the world was bigger and better than I could imagine. I share the whole joint family sorrow."*

Class of '59 **Eleanor Rober Guildler** conveyed:

*"He will always be in our hearts ... thinking of the love, smiles and kindness he showed to every LHS classmate. I will always smile when I hear his name or hold the senior photo of him on which he wrote a note*

*and signed. He loved our class just like his own. He was our first exchange student and the best."*

**Dr. David Piepgras** (Class of '58), remembered Philippe joyfully:

*"I have thought of him often over the years, as a fine outstanding ambassador. How fortunate we all were to have him as a classmate our senior year at LHS. We enjoyed many times together with a group of close friends; Phil was not only a unique center of attention and affection at our many evening gatherings but became the nucleus of our group.*

*During my time in the*

PIOT REMEMBRANCE/SEE PAGE 5

## Phillipe Piot remembrance by Tom Getman/continued from page 4

*military, my wife Jane and I located him at his office (with Peugeot Company) in Paris and had a delightful reunion. His presence at our 2008 Class reunion in Luverne was very special and we pass on our sincere condolences to his family, along with thanks to AFS and his American family and sponsors for bringing Phil into our lives.”*

In a 1980 Paris visit my parents reestablished personal contact with Philippe, and subsequently Karen and I and our three children visited the Piot family in 1984 in Chambéry.

It was the first of back-and-forth visits almost every year since, resulting in the two sets of same gender and age children becoming as brothers and sisters.

Philippe was a principled businessman, public leader and generous loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend to all who knew and loved him. Our lives will not be the same without his presence.

Something truly special and universal happened with Philippe as an ambassador. He had a unique purpose and place in this world ... especially to our small out-of-the-way town so soon after World War II.

He was of course the first of a long string of wonderful exchange students, however unique in that he was a mindful survivor anointed with the grace needed to manage the actual horrors of war along with those of his iconic historic family.

He was likely the last (possibly along with the 1958-59 German student) foreign exchange student who actually watched bombing from the mountains overlooking their occupied cities. His sense of purpose was underscored.

May his gracious and vibrant spirit of

*“As a child of six my remembrances are vague and shadowy. But I remember the excitement of a person who spoke a different language than our own. ... A person from far away who made a great impression on a small homogenous community in the Midwest. ...He helped us become aware of a larger world and create a spirit of recognition beyond the watershed of the Rock River.”*

*— Bill Keitel, remembering Piot*

friendship and healing linger much longer in our lives.

For once again we are facing alienation that comes from warlike partisanship and ideological division that can only be healed by love that embraces the strangers and aliens in our midst.

The affection of Phil’s caring in his radiant manner — especially for the little children here and his many grandchildren, nieces, and nephews in France — is a treasure that will be cherished for the rest of my days. What a privilege and what a gift.

Thank you, Philippe Piot and family. Our memories of you are truly a blessing to your friends in France and the United States.

May his spirit live on in all who knew him.”

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## **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](mailto:luvernechamber@co.rock.mn.us)**

# Remembering our classmates

Compiled by Carol Schumacher Serie

## 1940 – 1949

**Opal (Yackley) Ford Barron '42** died August 9, 2022, in Pipestone, MN. Opal married Louis Eldon Ford on October 22, 1943, in Beaver Creek. They lived in Miami, FL, while Eldon was in the military. In 1945, they moved to a farm in Pipestone County. Eldon died in 1973 and Opal remained on the family farm.

On April 1, 1989, Opal married Meredith Barron and the couple moved to his farm in rural Moody County, SD. In 2013, the couple moved into Edgewood Senior Living facility in Flandreau, SD. Opal became a resident at the Good Samaritan Communities in Pipestone in September 2021.

Opal is survived by her children, David (Candice) Ford, Stratford, WI, James (Coleen) Ford, Ankeny, IA, Rebecca (Michael) Sigmond, Pipestone, Jerome (Martha) Ford, Zeelan, MI, Clayton (Geraldine) Ford, Greenville, NY, George (Cynthia) Ford, Sherburn, MN; Meredith's children, Larry (Twila) Barron and Linda (Mike) Wagner; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Eldon Ford; second husband, Meredith; sister, **Margorie '30** Claussen; and brothers, Vincent, Adrian and Leo.

**Ila Mae (Westerbur) Wieking '47** died August 13, 2022, in Hills, MN. Ila married Ivan Brinkhous in Luverne, later divorcing. Ila married **Henry '49** Wieking. She worked at the Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne for over 27 years. She also worked at Renfro Variety.

Ila is survived by her six children, **Robert '67** (Marcia), Ramsey; **Leigh '68** (Gary) Bawinkel, German Valley, IL; **Kenneth '74**, Hardwick; **Georgia '77** (Curtis) Greve; Luverne, **Todd '81** (**LouAnn '82**), Hills; **Bonnie '83** Walters, Slayton; ten grandchildren; and 19 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, **Henry '49**; son **Wayne '75**; son-in-law Mike Walters; daughter-in-law Barb; grandson, Christopher Greve; two brothers, John and Robert; and two sisters, Frieda and Darlene.

**Naidine (Wulf) Aanenson '48** died August 8, 2022, in Luverne. On July 2, 1948, Naidine married Edwin Aanenson in Luverne. She worked as the secretary for the First Presbyterian Church for 29 years, where she was also an ordained elder and deacon, taught Sunday School and was a member of Esther Circle. Following her retirement, Naidine volunteered with Pink Ladies, the Historical Society, and the Carnegie Art Center.

Naidine is survived by her children **David '68** (Mari) of Carthage, IL, **Becky '69** (**Dan '70**) Anderson, Larchwood, IA, and **Bonnie '77** (Alan) Leenderts, Hills; eight grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; four great-great grandchildren; siblings, **Audrey '48** Munro, **Donald '52** (Lola) Wulf, **Henry '54** (Loretta) Wulf, Ruth (Alan) Hendrickson, and **Gordon '61** (Pat) Wulf; sister-in-law **Carol '59** Wulf; and other family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Edwin; grandson, Jason Oden; and siblings **Elzora '46** Ott, **Franklin '50** Wulf, **Arthur '58** Wulf and **Leila '63** Wulf.

## 1950 – 1959

**Marguerite Patty Lu (Anderson) Wenzel '51**, of Orange Park, FL, passed away July 24, 2022. Marguerite was a career elementary school educator and civic volunteer. She served her church as a deacon and choir member and was a volunteer with Children's Hospital.

Marguerite is survived by her former husband of 42 years, Richard Wenzel; her sons Peter and Jeremy; her sister-in-law Dell Anderson; two nieces and a nephew as well as other family and friends.

She was predeceased by her sister **Carlis '47** Anderson and her bother **Alan '45** Anderson.

**Marvin Gradert '52**, of Terre Haute, IN, died July 17, 2022. Marvin was a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Air Force serving 27 years as a fighter pilot. He was a

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graduate of Hampton Institute in Hampton, VA, where he earned his bachelor's degree. He received his MBA from Golden Gate University in San Francisco, CA. During his career with the Air Force, he served 2-1/2 tours during the Vietnam War. Upon retirement, Marvin continued working as a pilot flying for Piedmont/US Airlines.

Survivors include his wife of 66 years, **Donnalee '53** (Boland) Gradert; a daughter, Tamara, of TX; a son, Scott (Fariba) of CA; and one granddaughter.

He was preceded in death by a brother and a sister.

**Doris (Loger) Kemerling '54** died September 15, 2022, in Luverne. Doris married **Harvey '53** Kemerling on December 16, 1956, in Luverne. They farmed until 1971, when they entered a business partnership, Rock County Implement. After closing the business in 1993, Doris worked as a bookkeeper/receptionist for several businesses in Luverne. She later moved to the Oaks, and then to Poplar Creek Assisted Living.

Doris is survived by her five children; **Lynette '75** Kemerling, **Harland '77** "Duck" (Karen) Kemerling, **Dave '78** Kemerling, **Larry '80** Kemerling, and **Craig '91** (Terri) Kemerling; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Dorothy Petersen.

She was preceded in death by her husband, **Harvey**; two infant siblings; two sisters, Marion and Evelyn; and two brothers, **Edwin '43** and **Donald '53**.

**Philippe Piot '58**, of Chambéry, France, and LHS's first foreign exchange student, died August 4, 2022, surrounded by his wife, Colette and their three children, Emmanuel, Karine, and Antoine. Philippe lived with the Dr. Jerry and Clara Getman family in Luverne, which included five children.

Philippe was a principled businessman, public leader and generous, loving family man who would become a rare Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor. Coming here soon after WWII, he had watched bombing from the mountains overlooking French occupied cities, and as a result, his sense of purpose was underscored.

Philippe is fondly remembered by his former Luverne classmates and family as a healer and bridge-builder, a special ambassador to a small out-of-the-way town. There were visits between Philippe, his Luverne family, and classmates as well as a special attendance at his Luverne class reunion in 2008. Philippe was the first of many AFS to come, helping to create international bonds and relationships for years into the future.

### 1960 - 1969

#### **Susan Marie (Brehm/Berghorst)**

**Deutsch '61** died August 17, 2022, in Ellsworth, MN. Susan lived in many places where she worked in nursing homes as a Certified Nursing Assistant for over ten years. She moved back to Minnesota in 1985.

Sue married Frank Berghorst in 1963. She worked at the Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne for over four years, then as a Title 1 Teacher at Magnolia Elementary School. Sue also worked at the Magnolia Café. Frank died in 1985. Sue married Fabian Deutsch on March 8, 1992, in Pipestone. The couple lived in Magnolia until moving to Parkview Manor Nursing Home in September 2019.

Sue is survived by her four children, Richard (**Robyn '87**), Larry, Julie (Rob) Rickenbaugh and **Teresa '92**; ten grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; two brothers, **Gary '65** (Jane) Brehm and **Paul '79** (Barb) Brehm; a sister, **Ann '69** (Jim) Brehm-Moline; seven step-children, Randy (Carla), Cathy, Jeffrey (Laurie), Danny, Gary (Brenda), Mary (Daryl), and Sally; many step grandchildren and step great-grandchildren; two brothers-in-law, Bill Deutsch and John (Trudy) Deutsch; and three sisters-in-law, Loretta Henning, and Donna and Betty Deutsch.

She was preceded in death by two husbands, Frank Berghorst, and Fabian Deutsch; four brothers-in-law, Lawrence, Eddie and Walter Deutsch, and Frank Henning; and two sisters-in-law, Jean and Virginia Deutsch.

**William F. Skewes '63** of Evergreen, CO, died September 11, 2022. Bill graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1967 with a BA in

history, political science and economics and subsequently graduated from the U of M Law School in 1970. He began as the Minnesota Special Assistant Attorney General for Taxation. In 1972, he joined the Denver law firm of Kelly Stansfield and O'Donnell, becoming a partner in 1977. In 1988 he began a solo practice in Evergreen.

Bill served on the Board of Directors of Credo Petroleum Corporation for 32 years while also being very active in the community. He was a member for four masonic lodges. For 12 years, Bill was a personal advisor to then U.S. Senator Rudy Boschwitz.

Bill is survived by his second wife, Anne, his first wife, Kathleen Hogan; his three children, Michelle (Matt) Mason, Greensboro, NC, Elizabeth (Dave Joyce) Skewes, Pueblo, CO, and Wiley (Karissa) Skewes, Denver, CO; two grandchildren; and his sister, **Mary '57** Fisher of Greensboro, NC.

**Jerre Jordahl '64**, of Rosemount, MN, passed away on July 11, 2022. Jerre graduated from Mankato State and began work in the finance and banking industry, where he made his career. He retired from the Salvation Army after thirteen years of working in Planned Giving. Jerre was married to his wife Kathleen for 43 years.

Jerre is survived by his wife, Kathy; son Grant (Karin); daughter Katie (Bryce Blilie); four grandchildren; and his sister, **Janine '69 (Gary '69)** Papik.

He was preceded in death by his brother, **Jon '60** Jordahl.

**Gloria (Hansen) Boelman '65** died October 1, 2022, in Sioux Falls, SD. Gloria worked at A.R. Woods for several years and part-time for Cora Hilger during tax season. She married Larry Boelman on July 2, 1967, in Luverne. The couple farmed in Kanaranzi Township until retiring in 2013. Larry died in 2015, and Gloria remained on the farm.

Gloria is survived by her son, **Dallas '89** (Tiffany) Boelman, Sioux Falls; daughter, **Shelly '92** (Wade) Popkes, Rock Rapids, IA; daughter-in-law, Tammy (Bob) Tuma, Northfield;

seven grandchildren; siblings, **Ardyth '58** Bowen, Luverne; **Clifford '61** (Gloria) Hansen, Lake Benton; **Vivian '62** Aarestad, Apple Valley; and **Raymond '64** (Elaine) Hansen, Luverne; and sister-in-law, **LaVonne '63** (Ty) Reinke, Larchwood, IA.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Larry; sons, David and **Troy '86**; sister, Loretta Hansen; and brothers-in-law, Ken Bowen and Sidney Aarestad.

**Ronald L. Buysse '68** died November 16, 2019, in Spartanburg, SC. Ronald was a United States Marine veteran, having served during the Vietnam War, a retired employee with the United States Postal Service, and a member of the Minnesota American Legion.

Ronald is survived by his wife, Brenda; two grandsons; three great-grandchildren; two sisters, **Anne '59** Lonneman, Luverne, **Marlene '61** Desplinter, Luverne; three brothers, John Buysse, Granite Falls, **Rick '74** Buysse, Luverne, and **Mike '76** Buysse, Lismore; a son-in-law and daughter-in-law, Tracy and Diane Close of Wellford, SC.

### 1970 – 1979

**Eugene Siebenahler '70**, of Killeen, TX, died July 17, 2022. Eugene worked with cars and started building his own racecars. He raced at Huset's, Madison, SD, and Rock Rapids, IA. In 1971, he married Eileen Smedsrud, and they had two daughters.

Eugene then moved to Texas and met June Pedigo. He worked at Mid-Tex Autobody in Killeen. In 2014 he moved back to Minnesota to the family farm by Jasper and worked at Nordstrom's by Garretson, SD.

Eugene is survived by his two daughters, **Tashia '90** (James) Klosterbuer and **Traci '95** (Mike) Davis, both of Luverne; six grandchildren; brothers Mark (Wendy), Cold Springs, and Lyle (Nancy), Pipestone; a sister, Monica (Don) Flora, Brandt, SD; and eight nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, June Siebenahler; and a brother, **Allen '73**.



## Luverne Dollars for Scholars ... Did you know?

### Here's how the application process works

Scholarship application season is upon us once again! The Luverne High School Class of 2023 is busy working on their scholarship applications.

They will be 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 15<sup>th</sup>.

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.

Good luck to the Class of 2023! We look forward to awarding your hard work over the past four years.

If you would like to contribute to Luverne Dollars for Scholars, or receive more information, please write:

Luverne Dollars for Scholars  
PO Box 822  
Luverne, MN 56156

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

Call: 507-227-4030 (Johnna Ahrendt)  
Or visit: [www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org](http://www.luverne.dollarsforscholars.org)

### Remembering our classmates/continued from page 8

#### 2020 – present

**Carson W. Ehde '20** died September 13, at his home in Rock County. Carson enjoyed sports in high school, including tennis and hockey, but was also a talented musician. He learned piano from Dolly Talbert and played his favorite country songs by ear. Carson performed with his high school percussion team in the band and sang bass in the concert choir.

After graduating in the "Covid Class" of 2020, he earned his Ag Business degree from Southeast Technical Institute in Sioux Falls. Carson was farming with his Grandpa Ehde and was preparing to one day take over the operation. He also had a custom baling business.

Carson's favorite hobbies involved working out and working with motors, riding wheelies on his Honda four-wheeler and polishing his 1997 Chevy pickup. He also enjoyed snowmobile trips to the Black Hills with family along with

water skiing during summer vacations. His most treasured moments were with his sweet Gracie, who he soon hoped to present with an engagement ring.

Carson is survived by his love, **Gracie '20** Rozeboom, Luverne; his parents, Lori and Matt Sorenson, rural Garretson, and **Scott '87** (Kari Mess) Ehde of Hills; his brother, **Jonathan '14** Ehde and special friend, Brittany Landwehr, Sioux Falls; sister, Alexx Sorenson and special friend, Jake Swier, Edgerton; nephew, Colton Gunnink, Edgerton; grandparents, Art and Carol Ehde, Luverne, and Arden and Mary Ellen Sorenson, Jasper; special family, **Kevin '83** Rozeboom and grandma Donna Vahey, Luverne; aunts, Lisa, Linda, Lana, Lavelle, Susie, Andrea, and Mary; and many special cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, John and Rachel Kroontje; aunt, **Pam '90** (Ehde) Lais; and uncle, Eric Rice.



## LHS Class of 1957 gathers for 65th reunion

Nine members of the Luverne High School Class of 1957 gathered Friday night, Sept. 23, for a picture honoring their 65<sup>th</sup> class reunion. Pictured are (front, left) Stan Thompson, Bob Rogness, Ken Hoime, Mary Skewes-Fisher, (back) Jim Lehmann, Mike Ormseth, Jen Luebke, Roger Schlader and George Christiansen.



## Class of '62 meets for reunion

Luverne High School Class of 1962 graduates gather July 14 at Take 16 Brewery for a reunion. They include (front row, from left) Bill Mohr, Bob Alink, Linda (Bowman) Moeller, Joyce (Raschke) Forrest, Sandy (Miller) Murphy, Darlene (Hitch) Woolsey, Barb (Mulvihill) Priesz, Stephanie (Anderson) Frackman, Bill Martin, (back) Bill Reu, Carl Meinerts, Loren Forrest, Dale Heckt, Virg Smit, Vivian (Hansen) Aarestad, Vikki (Golla) Joseph, Keith Brooks and Art Braa. Not pictured is Paul Schmalz.





## LHS Class of 1972 meets for 50<sup>th</sup> reunion

Nearly 50 returning graduates from the Luverne High School Class of 1972 gathered at the Luverne Country Club on July 16 for their 50th class reunion. Pictured are (front, from left) Jeannine Clark Vastenhou, Jeanne Murphy Vehle, Paula Bentson Kolander, Gail Boelman Harmelink, Kathy Bowman, Colleen Habbena Kelderman, Lori Boelman, Kathy Rapp Ryan, (second) Tom Stanley, John Smith, Peggy Herrmann, Mary Wilcox Ebert, Jeanette Slieter Rutten, Mary O'Toole Hemme, Gloria Oien Wesley, Marcia Huiskes Bork, Karen Tilstra Rollag, Marlene Schuur Vos, Andy Schmidt, Connie Walker Boler, Fred Boll, (third) Jack Hommen, Steve Sehr, Wendy Wildung, Roger Tollefson, Zane Birky, Pat Pelstring, Max Jensen, Diane Foerster Jauert, Mary Clark Jons, Twyla Strassburg, Vicki Birkeland Smook, Al Padilla, (back) Martha Vegge Nelson, Dennis Oehlerts, Lynette Noll Medellin, Becky Gangestad Keller, Maxine Iveland DePauw, Rick Olson, Mary Galagan Arnold, Paula Wendt Joyce, Paul Navara, Joel Christensen, Sally Frahm Smith, Pixie Larson, Donna Kennedy Roman and Doug Meyer.



# Construction trades class returns to Luverne High School after 40 years

## Unique school-city partnership introduces students to various housing elements

By Mavis Fodness

A vocational education class returned to Luverne High School Tuesday with “Today and Tomorrow’s Tradesmen” (TnT Tradesmen for short).

The trades class, which now has nine students, hasn’t been offered in Luverne for over 40 years.

LHS woodshop teacher Daryl VanAartsen teaches the class and told the Luverne School Board about it at their Aug. 25 meeting.

“My goal for that class is to be able to encompass as many types of trades and occupations that will be involved in building a



Mavis Fodness photo/0908 School City Construction



The former home of Real Estate Retrievers on South Highway 75 will be moved to a bare lot on East Dodge Street and remodeled by high school students involved in Today and Tomorrow’s Tradesmen, a new vocational education class in Luverne High School.

TRADES CLASS/SEE PAGE 13

\*\*\*This story originally appeared in the September 8 Edition of the Rock County Star Herald \*\*\*

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Mavis Fodness photo/0908 School City Construction

This empty lot on East Dodge Street in Luverne will soon be the location of a house move and remodel under the direction of the new vocational education class at Luverne High School that will introduce students to trades in home construction.

## Construction Trades Class returns to LHS/continued from page 12

house or any other type of project,” he said.

Board members previously authorized the purchase of a construction trailer to house tools and equipment needed at job sites.

The start-up costs of the program are paid through federal ESSR (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds.

“I am very excited about this program,” said board member Katie Baustian. “These nine kids are going to have a great experience. ... They want non-traditional education; they don’t want to sit in a classroom.”

In the future, Van Aartsen wondered if students from nearby districts could also participate in the class, similar to the vocational-technical classes in Luverne that were discontinued in the late 1980s.

The current construction trades class partners with the city of Luverne through building

inspector Chad McClure.

He said a series of fortunate events helped the process along.

First, a South Highway 75 house came available when its occupant, Real Estate Retrievers, moved to a larger building.

The house would be moved to make way for new development on the lot. “The house is in good shape,” McClure said. “All the plumbing is still in the walls. It was not gutted into the office space.”

Through the city’s blight removal program, a house was removed on East Dodge Street and the 68-by-135-foot lot was cleared for new residential development.

That lot size wasn’t ideal for modern new home construction, but it was large enough for the story-and-a-half Real Estate Retrievers’ house and a new detached garage.

“At the end of the day, we’ll have a house being put into the market place,” McClure said.

“The city would own the house

that will have a new basement with an egress window added. It will be a three- to four-bedroom house with two bathrooms and a nice double garage.”

VanAartsen said the TnT Tradesmen students will plan the layout of the house and the garage and participate in the house’s move to the new location.

They’ll also help with construction of the new garage and basement excavation, foundation build.

“It can be a win-win for us all the way around — not just the city, not just for the school but a lot of trades in the community,” VanAartsen said.

“I am hoping we can have one or two of them (students) out of this class who want to stay in that market, at least, and hopefully in Luverne itself.”

Proceeds from the sale of the home will support another construction project — another home remodel or new construction — for the 2023-24 school year.





Mavis Fodness photo/0825 New Playground

## New equipment at elementary playground

Minnesota-Wisconsin Playground of Golden Valley is installing new playground equipment on both the north and south sides of Luverne Elementary School. Students will have new basketball hoops (with help from the Luverne Basketball Association). A new cement pad was poured for the basketball area, removing the former play area from school's parking lot. New equipment also includes various climbing areas and places of interest, such as a sign language board, showing the alphabet using hand gestures. The same company will also install several pieces of playground equipment at the city pocket park behind the Luverne Post Office and another system near the beach shelter house at The Lake.







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