



# Celebrating Luverne Alumni

A Star Herald special tribute to the dedication of Luverne's Alumni Garden and Alumni Hall of Fame

## Homecoming 2023 to honor Alumni Hall of Fame inductees and celebrate dedication of Alumni Garden

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne High School's homecoming festivities this week include a special celebration of Alumni Hall of Fame inductees and the dedication of the new Alumni Garden.

The Alumni Hall of Fame is intended to recognize the accomplishments of former Luverne students while inspiring current students to strive for greatness in their professional or

personal lives.

The Luverne Alumni Garden is a space for students and teachers to enhance their educational process, but it's also a gift for the entire community.

It's a gift from Luverne native Warren Herreid II and his wife, Jeannine Rivet, who donated funds for the project to the Luverne Education Legacy Fund to fund its construction and special effects.

Students, staff, community members and alumni are invited to celebrate both the Alumni Hall of Fame and the Alumni Garden Friday, Oct. 6. Events are hosted by the Luverne Educational Legacy Fund.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be at 4:30 p.m. in the Luverne Alumni Garden. That's also when the garden's grand opening will be celebrated and recognized.

At 5:30 p.m. the Homecoming Tailgating Reception will begin at Cardinal Field. That's also where the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame inductees will be introduced at 6:30.

This special recognition will occur in front of fans, visitors, alumni and family and friends ahead of the 7 p.m. homecoming football game between the Luverne Cardinals and Pipestone Arrows.

The Class of 2023 includes six individuals – Quentin Aanenson, Jim Brandenburg, Jerilyn Britz, Warren Herreid Sr., Betty Mann, and Monti Ossenfort – and also the players, coaches and manager of the 1964 state championship basketball team.

The Alumni Hall of Fame is organized by the Luverne Education Legacy Fund (LELF) and the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

Committee members include Superintendent Craig Oftedahl, former teachers Jeanne Bowron and Elmer Menage, current teacher Jason Berghorst, School Board member Mike DeBates, LHS alumni Emily Crabtree and Gary Papik and Chamber Director Jane Lanphere.

A new class of inductees will be added to the Hall of Fame each fall during LHS homecoming ceremonies.



Heather Johnson photo

The Luverne Alumni Garden grand opening will be celebrated at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, during homecoming festivities.

## Luverne Alumni Garden is gift for education and for entire community

Final result will include student-made metal Cardinal sculpture and restored historic bell

By Lori Sorenson

Luverne School District's Alumni Garden is located on school property, but the creative space was built for the entire community.

That's according to Warren Herreid II who gifted the garden and guided much of its development.

"We want the school, alumni and the entire community to enjoy the new gardens," Herreid said. "We felt it would show the community how proud we were of the school and its graduates. And we're grateful that the Alumni Association is honoring Warren Sr. for his impact on Luverne."

Warren Herreid II and his wife, Jeannine Rivet, have supported many local endeavors through their family non-profit, the K.A.H.R. Foundation.

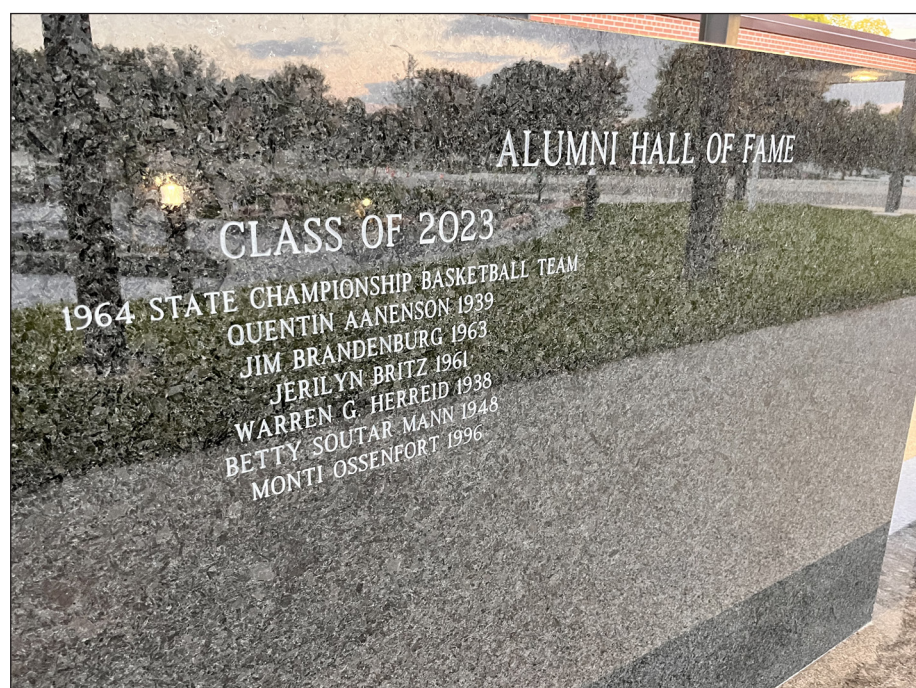
Among the most notable are the Rock County Veterans Memorial, the Herreid Military Museum, the History Center, the community portion of new National Guard Readiness Center and others.

"Our family has been very blessed, and we are happy that we can give back to the community," Herreid said.

But he and Jeannine are personally funding the Luverne Alumni Garden as a special gift.

He said the idea for the garden was hatched during a lunch with Superintendent Craig Oftedahl and Kyle Oldre over two years ago when they talked about having an alumni wall of honor to recognize distinguished Luverne graduates.

Not long after that, Herreid said



The polished stone Alumni Hall of Fame wall was built with a larger footing poured to accommodate for future expansion as more Hall of Fame members are inducted.

they realized the green space near the school entrance canopy would be a good location for an alumni recognition wall.

"The covered walkway was a perfect place to have the alumni wall, being protected from the weather," Herreid said.

"I thought it would be a great area to have an outside classroom area that would utilize some of the green space and add a unique feature to the school."

He soon contacted experts he personally knew would be right for the job.

"I met with a friend of mine,

Craig Roney, an architect, and had him draw up a few ideas for the area," he said. "After a couple of iterations, we agreed on the basic concept."

Those plans included the alumni wall, which was the impetus for the project, and an amphitheater to add usable space for teaching and for events – for both the school and the community.

The design included stadium seating for 30 to 40 people, complete with a podium and sound system.

### Closer look at the inductees

## Alumni Hall of Fame epitomizes Luverne School District's vision of 'Learn, Live, Lead'

By Mavis Fodness

The first inductees to the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame are not only outstanding individuals, they epitomize the school district's vision of "Learn, Live, Lead."

Each, as they walked the halls of Luverne Public Schools, learned the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. But they also honed the leadership skills that propelled them to become leaders both at home and across the state and/or the nation.

Nomination letters answered the questions as to why the individuals should be considered for the Hall of Fame.

The Star Herald received copies of the nomination forms and the support letters to offer background on the inductees that include individuals Quentin Aanenson, Jim Brandenburg, Jerilyn Britz, Warren Herreid Sr., Betty Mann, and Monti Ossenfort and also the players, coaches and manager of the LHS 1964 state championship basketball team.

**Betty (Soutar) Mann**

Preserving Rock County history became Betty Mann's mission more than 25 years ago and is forever enshrined in the Rock County History Center, a facility she helped build.

At age 93, she continues to assist in preserving and sharing local history.

Luverne Area Chamber Executive Director Jane Wildung Lanphere witnessed Mann's dedication firsthand over the past 15 years.

"Through dogged determination and commitment, the opportunity came for the RCHS to purchase and renovate the former Ford Motor building on Main Street in Luverne," Lanphere wrote.

"The project, with a total cost of over \$1 million, was funded through donations and pledges. The RCHS moved into the building in

**Inductees include:**

Quentin Aanenson, Jim Brandenburg, Jerilyn Britz, Warren Herreid Sr., Betty Mann, and Monti Ossenfort and the players, coaches and manager of the 1964 state championship basketball team.

the summer of 2016, gifting back the Masonic Temple (the former home of the RCHS) to the Masons for \$1. Today, the society is debt free."

Mann's dedication to history began as a student at Luverne Public Schools, where she graduated in 1948.

She taught in the Hills-Beaver Creek School District in the school year 1950-51 before starting a family with her husband, Verlyn.

In 1967 she returned to the classroom as an elementary/special education teacher for Luverne, retiring in 1993.

"She was an advocate for her students," wrote elementary principal Edward Salzer. "Parents appreciated her commitment to the education of their children."

In retirement, Mann turned her attention to the historical society.

"Her knowledge of history and willingness to share the stories has been the foundation of the growth of the Rock County Historical Society," wrote RCHS board president Al Stoakes.

Mann donated her personal nutcracker collection and has helped it grow to almost 5,000 unique pieces. The nutcrackers draw visitors to Luverne from throughout the U.S. and the world.

"I can think of no one

Hall of Fame/see 3B

Luverne Alumni Garden/see 2B



## Luverne Alumni Garden is gift to school and to entire community/continued from page 1B

Waterlines support vegetation along the garden pathways as well as heated sidewalks under the existing canopy to aid in snow removal.

### Rocks and granite

The base of the project includes 154 tons of granite slabs, and Sioux quartzite boulders are primary accent pieces throughout.

Herreid called on Steve “Junior” Selseth of Oh’Landscapes in Mayer, Minnesota, to oversee the work.

“One of the things I like most about the garden is the fact that it incorporates local rocks,” Herreid said.

“Junior and his team from Oh’Landscapes put in a tremendous amount of pride and extra effort to complete the project in a timely manner and with such high quality.”

He said Selseth’s special touch is one of the things that makes Luverne’s Alumni Garden so unique.

For one thing, 70 percent of his business involves stone and high-end custom materials and designs.

“I’ve done a lot of crazy projects,” Selseth said. “I’m willing to do all kinds of things most people don’t.”

He hired landscape architect Charles Klinefelter for technical planning.

“I’ve worked with Chuck for 30 years, and I knew between the two of us he could get things dimensioned and scalable to be able to share with other contractors.”

Selseth said Klinefelter’s drawings served as a base plan that changed often.



The base of the Alumni Garden includes 154 tons of granite slabs, and Sioux quartzite boulders are primary accent pieces throughout. “It was going to have some dyed concrete, but most of it was going to be regular gray concrete,” said Steve Selseth of Oh’Landscapes. “Now it’s all real granite – regular poured concrete and then a layer – a topping – of real granite mixed into the blend of the topping.”

Steve “Junior” Selseth said one of his favorite features in Luverne’s Alumni Garden is the polished stone podium (at right), an upgrade from original plans.

It’s custom fabricated of Mesabi black granite, from Babbit Quarry, Minnesota.

“It actually turned out better than where we were going to order it from,” Selseth said. “That is actually a really cool feature. ... I’ve never been anywhere where they have a polished stone podium like they have there in Luverne at the Alumni Garden.”

“It’s great to have something to start with to measure out, but things always change so much. We made adjustments on the fly.”

He said that’s especially the case with Herreid, who was suggesting changes and upgrades to



the garden.

“He was like, ‘Let’s do this and let’s do that.’ And I’m like, ‘None of this is in the plan, and that’s not in the budget,’ but I like Warren, because he’s not afraid to think outside the box,” Selseth said.

### ‘If you can’t find a way, make one’

“I’ve done projects with him where I’ve said, ‘Nobody does this.’ And he’ll look at me and say, ‘Well, we do. Right?’ and I’ll be like, ‘Yeah. Let’s do it. I’m not afraid to try.’”

He said he’s worked on

*“I can’t believe all the positive things Warren and Jeannine do in the community. It’s very nice to see that there are people in our world willing to do this. The Alumni Garden will be a good community project for everyone – a long-lasting thing that should be there for many years. A lot of people can get use and enjoyment out of it.”*

– Steve “Junior” Selseth, project manager Oh’Landscapes, Mayer, Minnesota

projects with Herreid that now others are trying to duplicate.

“He’s definitely a man who doesn’t do well with the word, ‘no.’ He has a sign in his office that says, ‘If you can’t find a way, make one.’ And I believe Warren kind of lives by that. There’s always a way to figure it out.”

Selseth said one of his favorite features in Luverne’s Alumni Garden is the polished stone podium, which was another Herreid upgrade to plans, originally estimated to cost \$1.4 million.

“He said he wanted a polished black rock, and I said, ‘Seriously? Nobody does this. This isn’t going to be cheap,’” Selseth said.

“We got our quotes and shared it with him, and he said, ‘That’s what I want.’ And I said, ‘No you don’t. That’s ridiculous. We’re not doing that.’ And he said, ‘Yeah we are. Order it.’”

When he ordered the stone, Selseth learned the delivery timeline wasn’t going to be until November, so he did his own research.

He discovered a friend could get the rock, Mesabi black granite, from Babbit Quarry, Minnesota, and sent it to a custom fabricator.

“It actually turned out

better than where we were going to order it from,” Selseth said. “That is actually a really cool feature. ... I’ve never been anywhere where they have a polished stone podium like they have there in Luverne at the Alumni Garden.”

Other “Warren changes” along the way included larger footings for the Alumni Hall of Fame wall to accommodate for future expansion, flag poles and granite-blended concrete topping throughout the garden.

“It was going to have some dyed concrete, but most of it was going to be regular gray concrete,” Selseth said.

“Now it’s all real granite – regular poured concrete and then a layer – a topping – of real granite mixed into the blend of the topping. So that’s not regular concrete on the surface. It’s all real granite.”

He said it’s like exposed aggregate, but this is more of an exposed granite known as “reveal.”

The stairways were going to be made of regular concrete, as were the ramps leading to the garden, “... but Warren was like, ‘No. We’re going to make all this a little nicer.’”

Alumni Garden/see 4B

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Oh’ Landscapes would like to thank the Luverne School and the local contractors and suppliers for their assistance in the completion of the Alumni Garden. Your support was vital to the success of this project.

The American Legion Post 123 would like to congratulate the inductees of the *Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame* and to commend the school on the beautiful addition of the *Alumni Garden*.

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Warren G. Herreid  
Quentin Aanenson

We acknowledge and honor those in Rock County who have served our country and those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Thank you Warren Herreid II and Jeannine Rivet for your overwhelming generosity that made the Alumni Garden possible.

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Alumni Hall of Fame to recognize distinguished former Luverne students/continued from page 1B

who has volunteered more to support her community and has been a tireless cheerleader for Luverne her entire life," wrote Shirley Klosterbuer.

Luverne Initiatives for Tomorrow chairman Pat Baustian added, "We have seen a positive impact and growth in tourism in Luverne and Rock County. This has happened because of Betty Mann's generosity, unwavering energy and hard work."



**Monti Ossenfort**

One of Betty Mann's elementary students was LHS Class of '96 graduate Monti Ossenfort.

He took his love of football and parlayed that into three Super Bowl rings during his 22-year career with the National Football League.

Today, Ossenfort is general manager of the Arizona Cardinals.

But first, Ossenfort started with the Luverne Cardinals.

Bob Osterday was Luverne's head football coach (1983-1989) when Ossenfort became the team's student manager/waterboy.

"He did everything from making sure the equipment was loaded for away games to handling everything on the sidelines all by himself," Osterday recalled.

"I had such complete trust in him that I gave him a set of keys to the equipment room. His work ethic

and commitment to our program were incredible."

From team manager, Ossenfort became Luverne's quarterback, advancing to college as the starting quarterback with the University of Minnesota-Morris.

However, Ossenfort's lifelong dream was to be a part of a National Football League team, according to classmate Matt Lais.

"His hard work through the years has paid off as he developed his craft from an unpaid assistant (2001) to now being the general manager of the Arizona Cardinals."

In between college and becoming an NFL general manager, Ossenfort was part of four Super Bowl wins with the New England Patriots, with whom he spent 15 years.

He shared football experiences in his college alma mater's communications department in 2017, including what drove him to achieve his NFL dream.

"It's a big world out there; find something that you love to do and go for it," he said.

"There are opportunities out there. If you have determination and willingness and you're able to sacrifice and go the extra mile, anything is achievable."

Through the years, Ossenfort hasn't forgotten his LHS roots.

Todd Oye, LHS 1990 graduate and current dean of students/activities director, asked Ossenfort to complete a special task for the LHS Class of 2021.

"Luverne High School had a 'remote' graduation ceremony because of Covid," Oye recalled.

"Monti was gracious enough to be the keynote speaker and reflect on his time in Luverne."



**Warren Herreid Sr.**

The late Warren Herreid Sr. was passionate about his community and service to the military.

"Warren lived his life as Luverne's biggest cheerleader," recalled Larry Lanphere. "Friend or foe, it wouldn't be long until Warren began to convince you that America is the greatest place to live in the world and Luverne/Rock County is that little piece of heaven in America."

Herreid's military service spanned 41 years with the Army National Guard with active duty in World War II and the Korean War.

After retiring, he also served an additional 20 years as a volunteer with Employer Support of Guard and Reserve.

"I believe his greatest contribution goes beyond his active service and into the training that he developed, which became the foundation for every future non-commissioned officer in the state of Minnesota," Kyle Oldre wrote.

"The training and expertise Warren provided greatly enhanced the professionalism and readiness of the Minnesota National Guard."

Herreid retired with the rank of sergeant major (the highest non-commissioned rank in the National Guard).

Herreid's ability to lead didn't end with his military service, but followed as he turned into an avid volunteer in Luverne and advo-

*"Warren lived his life as Luverne's biggest cheerleader. Friend or foe, it wouldn't be long until Warren began to convince you that America is the greatest place to live in the world and Luverne/Rock County is that little piece of heaven in America."*

— Larry Lanphere

cate for his fellow service-men locally.

Herreid organized the Southwest Minnesota Honor Flight to bring military veterans to view the war memorials in Washington, D.C. He is responsible for 440 World War II veterans completing the flight.

He was also instrumental in preserving military history by helping in the research for Ken Burns' military documentary, "The War," and developing the Herreid Military Museum in the former Rock County Jail with the assistance of fellow Alumni Hall of Fame inductee Betty Mann.

"I came to know him and witnessed his impact on others as he supported them and they shared stories of war they had never told before," Mann recalled.

Herreid convinced his son, Warren II, and his daughter-in-law, Jeannine Rivet, to fund the museum's remodel and create the Veterans Memorial on the Rock County Court-house lawn.

Socially, he brought a close group of 26 World War II veterans together in 2010 that became the "Last Man's Club."

"These men supported each other until their deaths," wrote Terrie Gulden. "I had many opportunities to sit and have coffee with them and listen to their stories and what was important to them."

Gulden also served with Herreid as a member of the VFW and Rock County Honor Guard, recalling, "He was an effective recruiter of younger veterans to serve on the Honor Guard." Guard members were present at Herreid's burial in 2017.

**Jerilyn Britz**

As Title IX expanded the athletic opportunities for women across the U.S. in 1972, Jerilyn Britz, an LHS Class of 1961 graduate, was already blazing the trail.

At age 17, she began playing golf at Luverne Country Club. However, her chance to perform on the national stage didn't happen until 1974, when at age 30, Britz joined the Ladies Professional Golf Association, qualifying for the tour at her first attempt.

Her college roommate, Katie Hemme (a Luverne teacher from 1963-1999), met Britz as a college freshman at Mankato State University.

"Jerilyn took advantage of opportunities available and created new ones where none existed," Hemme recalled. "Where-



*"Jerilyn took advantage of opportunities available and created new ones where none existed. Wherever Jerilyn went and whatever she was doing, she excelled and gave credit to Luverne for preparing her for success."*

— Katie Hemme

er Jerilyn went and whatever she was doing, she excelled and gave credit to Luverne for preparing her for success."

After college graduation, Britz spent eight years as a teacher at the secondary and college levels before she pursued a professional athletic career.

Mary Jo Graphenteen met Britz at LCC, and the two developed a friendship on the golf course in the late '80s.

"As a product of Title IX in my own sport life, it is amazing how she blazed her trail to golf's pinnacle," Graphenteen shared. "She

Hall of Fame/see 5B

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# Luverne Alumni Garden is gift to school and to entire community/continued from page 2B

Selseth contracted with Concrete Arts of Hudson, Wisconsin, for the finishes, but the 400 tons of Sioux quartzite boulders were donated by Stan Williamson from his fields in western Rock County.

"The bigger stones are 12,000 to 14,000 pounds," Selseth said. "We went out to one of his fields with excavator and trucks. He donated all the material, and we shipped it."

Local rocks for the garden were secured nearly two years ago, but the project was held up nearly 18 months by delays for other materials, like stone for the amphitheater memorials and for the granite pavers.

## Student-made metal Cardinal sculpture to be final touch

A large metal sculpture of a Cardinal is in the original Alumni Garden plans, but it will be added later because it will be created by students.

The Cardinal will be a joint project of industrial arts students in Luverne and in Selseth's hometown school of Dassel-Cokato, where the industrial arts program has a forge.

"When I was in high school, one of the last things I built was a globe and a lightning bolt," he said.

"We built that and put that in front of our school."

He recalled that it was a team effort between a local artist, the school's industrial technology class and the school's art program.

It combined the school's symbol – a lightning bolt – with the idea that education prepares students for the real world, and Selseth said his industrial arts teacher in 1991 was instrumental in his own career.



The Luverne Alumni Garden features an amphitheater with stadium seating for 30 to 40 people, complete with a podium and sound system.



The Alumni Garden is wired for lighting throughout the structure, making it as aesthetically pleasing by night as it is by day.

"I give him some credit for helping a guy like me get through high school," he said.

"Because I didn't like high school so much, but I like building things."

Selseth said he and his teacher, Steve Ellis, became close friends in the years since then, and now the Cardinal sculpture in Luverne will accomplish similar goals.

The students in Luverne

will work on the design and final installation, and the Dassel-Cokato students will use their forge to melt steel and other metals.

"Even if it takes two or three years, between their shop class and ours, we figured this would be real-life interaction between the students," Selseth said.

"They'll have to communicate with each other about who's building which parts — like what goes on



Stan Williamson donated 400 tons of Sioux quartzite boulders, some weighing 14,000 pounds, from his fields in western Rock County.

in the real world."

He said the Cardinal will take some time, as the students work together on the artwork and manufacturing.

## Restored bell coming back to Luverne school

Dassel-Cokato students are currently working to repair the historic bell that was once displayed in the front of Luverne High School.

"There are some cool stories behind that bell," Selseth said. "We figure it had to be made sometime between 1866-1872."

The bell is missing its brass clapper, the "dinger," and students are recreating that and other missing pieces and parts.

"We picked it up and dropped it off at our school with our students," Selseth said. "When we get it done, it will be installed in the

future."

Footings for the bell have already been poured in the landscaping to the east of the current flagpoles.

## Alumni Garden is product of collaboration to last for generations

The Luverne Alumni Garden will be dedicated Friday, Oct. 6, during Luverne School District's homecoming celebration.

There is still some work underway, such as the boiler system for the heated walkways, but Selseth said it's rewarding to see the garden at this stage of completion.

"I've been thinking about this project for a couple of years, collaborating with Chuck, the landscape architect, and my schoolteacher buddy, trying to bounce off different ideas," Selseth said.

Some of those interactions have been with Superintendent Craig Oftedahl and district director of buildings and grounds Cory Schmuck, as well as County Administrator Kyle Oldre.

"I want to issue some kind of thank you to the community and to Warren and Jeannine for their involvement in the project and all the good people who were willing to contribute and answer questions," Selseth said.

"I can't believe all the positive things Warren and Jeannine do in the community. ... It's very nice to see that there are people in our world willing to do this. The Alumni Garden will be a good community project for everyone — a long-lasting thing that should be there for many years. A lot of people can get use and enjoyment out of it."

**It's been our privilege to be a part of the Alumni Garden Project**

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**Seven shining examples of the fine students that have graduated from Luverne Public Schools. Dollars for Scholars is here to help the next generation of Hall of Famers.**

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# Alumni Hall of Fame to recognize distinguished former Luverne students/continued from page 3B

has been a true role model for me with her unrelenting desire to improve her game.”

Within five years of joining the LPGA tour, Britz won the 1979 U.S. Women’s Open, the pinnacle tournament of women’s golf, according to Tim Connell, a 1967 LHS graduate.

She followed with a second professional tour win in 1980, claiming victory at the Mary Kay Classic.

Britz competed successfully on the LPGA tour for 26 years.

“Through all the fame that ensued, she remained committed to and proud of her hometown roots,” Connell wrote. “She continues to play golf in Luverne and gives selflessly of her time and talent, providing advice and coaching to many Luverne golfers.”

Her LHS classmates appreciate what Britz has done to shine a spotlight on Luverne and Luverne Public Schools.

Bill Miller is one of Britz’ admirers

“Jerilyn has always been proud of Luverne Public Schools and the opportunity she had to grow up in a great Midwestern town,” he wrote.

“She still considers Luverne her home as she continues to travel throughout the United States, representing our community with dignity, humility and honor.”

### Jim Brandenburg

As a youth, Jim Brandenburg put down his hunting rifle and started seeing wildlife through the lens of a camera.

The 1963 Luverne High School graduate’s love of nature led him to travel throughout the



world, capturing rare images and film footage of wildlife that’s led him to be considered one of the most accomplished and prolific wildlife photographers in the world.

His photographs first appeared in National Geographic magazine in 1978, and his documentaries have aired on PBS.

Brandenburg’s images have earned dozens of accolades over a 20-year period.

He’s also never forgotten his childhood roots.

“He has an incredibly artistic ability to capture nature in a way few people could ever hope to, and his images and film work are considered some of the best in the world,” wrote Chris Nowatzki.

“Jim’s passion for nature and its preservation led him to create the Touch the Sky Northern Tallgrass Prairie Refuge.”

The 1,000-acre refuge north of Luverne brings thousands of visitors to view and learn more about the virgin prairie. They also stop at the local Brandenburg Gallery, located on the courthouse square in Luverne.

Dave Smith was the director of the Luverne Area Chamber when efforts began in the 1990s to open the gallery.

“From the time the gallery opened (in 2000), I

*“He has an incredibly artistic ability to capture nature in a way few people could ever hope to, and his images and film work are considered some of the best in the world. Jim’s passion for nature and its preservation led him to create the Touch the Sky Northern Tallgrass Prairie Refuge.”*

— Chris Nowatzki.

could see the impact on our community by the number of people stopping in to see the photographs,” Smith wrote. “Jim’s impact on nature photography and in this community is exceptional.”

However, Brandenburg’s love of nature doesn’t stop with his award-winning work.

His spotlight on nature and endangered species has led to the preservation of natural habitats involving plant life as well as wildlife for all to enjoy.

Brandenburg’s pictures are still being noticed 60 years after his graduation from LHS.

Gallery proceeds and fundraising efforts through the Brandenburg Foundation keep the Touch the Sky a viable local asset, according to current Luverne Area Chamber Director Jane Lanphere.

“Jim’s impact on the environment through the purchase and management of this land has preserved and expanded native plants, once thought to be gone,” she wrote.

“His lifework has made a difference to people around the world and continues to do so through today.”

### Quentin Aanenson

LHS Class of 1939 graduate Quentin Aanenson personal experienced during World War II in the Army Air Corps catapulted him into the national spotlight.

His military stories helped others to have a better understanding of “loyalty, duty, respect, selfless honor, integrity and personal courage,” words Dave Haugom used to describe Aanenson, who died in 2008.

“In a time where very few World War II veterans are still living, it is important that we honor those that served in uniform before us,” he wrote.

“The military has a proud heritage, but not proud service men and women.”

Aanenson’s self-produced-and-written




documentary, “A Fighter Pilot’s Story,” was aired on PBS in 1993, describing the harrowing combat missions and military duties, details that very few survivors of World War II would discuss openly.

John and Jeanne Bowron indicated that if Aanenson hadn’t opened up about his military service,


Hall of Fame/see 6B




Quentin Aanenson’s “A Fighter Pilot’s Story” brought the spotlight to Luverne when Ken Burns chose Aanenson and the writings of Star Herald editor Al McIntosh as features in his documentary, “The War,” released in 2007. Since then, more than 75 million viewers have seen Aanenson’s military story.



## Congratulations 1964 Basketball Team State Champions



### Class of 2023 Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame



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## Congratulations

### 2023 Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| Warren Herreid, Sr<br><br>Class of 1938 | Quentin Aanenson<br><br>Class of 1939     | Betty J. (Soutar) Mann<br><br>Class of 1948 | Jerilyn Britz<br><br>Class of 1961   |
| Jim Brandenburg<br><br>Class of 1963    | 1964 Basketball Team<br><br>Class of 1964 |  | Monti Ossenfort<br><br>Class of 1996 |

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## Thank you Warren Herreid II and Jeannine Rivet for the gift of our new amazing Alumni Garden!





Congratulations to the class of 2023 Alumni Hall of Fame! We are proud to have seven great success stories of Luverne Public School graduates that our students can aspire to.

It’s been our pleasure to be the electrical contractor for the awesome Alumni Garden project. Thank you!



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2023 LUVERNE ALUMNI HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



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# Alumni Hall of Fame to recognize distinguished former Luverne students/continued from page 5B

the world would not understand the horrors of war and how these experiences silenced those who fought in the war.

"Quentin was a farm boy with big dreams," the Bowrons wrote. "His wartime experiences found him excelling as a fighter pilot and with skills in radio communication. He was a war hero."

"A Fighter Pilot's Story" also brought the spotlight to Luverne when Ken Burns chose Aanenson and the writings of Star Herald editor Al McIntosh as features in his documentary, "The War," released in 2007.

Since then, more than 75 million viewers have seen Aanenson's military story.

"This video, plus the articles penned by Al McIntosh, were the reasons that Luverne was selected as one of four cities in the United States that were featured in Burns' epic tale," wrote Terrie Gulden, exhibit curator at the Herreid Military Museum. "The impact of the story of World War II in relation to Luverne will continue decades into the future. Quentin's story made this happen."

### The 1964 LHS boys' basketball state championship team

The team's 72 to 66 win over Rochester in the final game of the state high school basketball tournament propelled the 12 members of the 1964 Luverne High School boys' basketball team into the record books for their statewide one class championship win.

Judy (Fredrikson) Brandenburg (LHS Class of '64) was a cheerleader



## Luverne.

In front, left to right, are Bill Toms, Tom Kozney, John Beyer. Middle row, same order: Milo Herrmann, Scott Creeger, Gregg Thone, Bryan Wells, Curt Laudon and Chuck Lippi. In back, left to right, are Bob Lorenzen, assistant coach, Richard Iverson, Rodger McKay, Del Jessen, Coach Ray Merry and Larry Stoterau, manager.

for the team and had a front row seat to the team's feat that earns them a place in the Luverne Alumni Hall of Fame.

"We were honored to live through a nail-biting year when coach Ray Merry and assistant coach Bob Lorentzen led the team to Williams Arena to compete for the state title," Brandenburg reflected.

"All of southwest Min-

nesota talked, wrote and heard basketball. Friday nights were standing room only in any gym the team played in."

Team members included Del Jensen, Bill Toms, John Beyer, Greg Thone, Jerry Kozney, Rodger McKay, Rich Iverson, Curt Laudon, Brian Wells, Scott Creeger, Milo Herrmann and Dave Moher.

"To say that they were southwest Minnesota

heroes is an understatement," wrote LHS graduate Verlyn Van Batavia, who followed the team's progress.

"They put Luverne on the state map in 1964 and Luverne's connection to our first and only state title (when everyone competed in the same class) is still something amazing."

Almost 60 years later, memories of the 1964 state championship are

still shared, as recalled by LHS alum Kathy Heeren.

"Even this year, when I joined the other members of my class for a tour of the newly remodeled school, one of the highlights was to see that state trophy shining brightly in the display case," she wrote.

"These boys made all of us so proud and set a record for Luverne that will never be duplicated

*"To say that they were southwest Minnesota heroes is an understatement. They put Luverne on the state map in 1964 and Luverne's connection to our first and only state title (when everyone competed in the same class) is still something amazing."*

— LHS graduate Verlyn Van Batavia.

since the high school league's decision to go multi-class tournaments."

Their win had a lasting impact for Jill Wildung Schmidt.

Schmidt was 6 years old when she attended the 1964 congratulations dinner at the Luverne Armory for the team.

"After we ate, they let us go up and congratulate the team," Schmidt wrote.

"I had saved a piece of my paper placemat and my dad gave me a pen. I stood patiently and waited so that each member of the team signed my little piece of paper. I cherish that piece of paper yet today."

Schmidt, a 1976 LHS graduate, was a member of the 1975 girls' basketball state tournament team.

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Congratulations **Monti Ossenfort** - Class of 1996  
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A sincere thank you to Warren Herreid II and his wife, Jeannine Rivet, for their tremendous financial support of the Alumni Garden.

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