

Arts & ACADEMICS

June 17, 2021

CELEBRATING LOCAL ARTISTIC & ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS



Bravo!

Despite pandemic, Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek students shine

By Mavis Fodness

More than a year ago, the coronavirus pandemic forced the end to the annual performing, communications and visual arts activities at Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek schools.

Academically, education switched to distance learning with education taking place from home.

COVID-19 left a permanent mark stretching back 15 months on how our schools taught, competed and performed in the arts realm.

This month, Luverne's drama department came full circle in the pandemic journey — performing the musical "Grease" in six performances during a two-week period at the Palace Theatre. There were no audience restrictions and no face coverings.

The close-to-normal production was a far cry from the fall semester, where students had their

Luverne High School student presented their spring musical production of "Grease" last week under no pandemic restrictions.

spring and fall play performances cancelled. Instead they worked on creating videos, primarily from home.

"I get the feeling that everyone just wants to leave that (pandemic) behind them," said director Shawn Kinsinger.

"One older gentleman I spoke with after a performance told me that his wife would have loved this performance of 'Grease,' but he lost her last year to covid. He made me realize that normal is something we can strive for, but will never really return to completely."

Zoom became a lifeline to many activities succeeding during the pandemic. Mock trial and speech completed the entire season through the electronic platform.

"Due to restrictions of social distancing, mock trial students were not allowed to have competitions in the courthouse like previous years," said H-BC mock trial adviser Megan Klumper. "This year, thanks to Zoom, the mock trial season was not canceled like so many other events. Instead,

the competitions were held from right here at school."

However, some activities didn't transition well to a virtual format.

Luverne robotics attempted to compete virtually but soon turned their attentions to a different path. Adviser Aaron Perkins said his 30 robotic students tried two virtual leagues this season.

"They were suppose to mimic the actual competition but it wasn't the same in any way," he said. "The kids really tried to make it a good, fun season even with all the obstacles of participation."

Students turned their attention to building robots to complete specific tasks in preparation for next season.

"It is nice to see them self-sufficient and building on their own," Perkins said. "We have started recruiting for next year and hope to have many new faces that want to learn great skills that can help with the rest of their lives."

Other activities simply couldn't take place, such as

Arts, continued on 8B



Spring Musical - LHS

Luverne High School drama department presented the musical "Grease" as a spring production. Cast members include (front row from left) Zoey Berghorst, Zoe Perkins, Egypt Forrest, (second row) Myles Trimble, Hannah Vaudrin, Joelia Lopez-Bomstad, Anna Boltjes, Sophie Holmberg, Griffen Jarchow, Parker Carbonneau, Simon Boyenga, Chance Tunnissen, Destiny Matthiesen, (back) Elise Jarchow, Mia Wenzel, Rylee Gee, Pierce Cunningham, Like Thorson, Xavier Carbonneau, Josie Golla, McKenzie VanGrootheest, Grace Ingebretsen, Camden Hoven, Grace Sandbulte and Creedence Petroff.

Mavis Fodness photo



Valedictorian
Lauren Tatge

Top Students - HBC

Salutatorian
Allison LaRock



Secrets to becoming top academic students

Time management, attitude important factors say valedictorian Tatge, salutatorian LaRock

By Mavis Fodness

Hills-Beaver Creek Secondary School's top senior students recognize as learn-

ing environments change, their approach toward studying did not.

When H-BC transformed to distance learning in March 2020 and completed the 2019-20 school year with students learning at home, valedictorian Lauren Tatge and salutatorian Allison LaRock didn't vary their study routines they started as freshmen. They maintained their 4.0 grade point averages even as the school completed the 2020-21 school year using an in-person hybrid model.

Both had good advice for younger students who want

to be the top students in their graduating classes.

"Even though it seems cliché, don't procrastinate getting things done because you'll feel so much better once it's done," said Tatge. "My secret to getting good grades is studying with others because it's so much more fun and effective to study with classmates."

Tatge's dedication to study time was noticed by her fellow classmate.

"She (Tatge) is one of the hardest working academic achievers I know, and I couldn't think of anyone

more worthy of the title," LaRock said.

Each of the students is busy with in-school activities as well as jobs.

"My enrollment in outside activities helps teach me the importance of balance, communication, dedication, teamwork and compassion," she said. "All of the skills help in the classroom."

Tatge agreed time management is a learned skill.

"My involvement in extra-curricular activities helped me learn to manage my time better since I had less free time and had to allot time to

get studying and homework in," she said.

Attitude is another asset to high academic standing.

"I would suggest that underclassmen recognize the beauty of learning and view it as an opportunity instead of a chore," LaRock said. "Studying becomes easier when you take time to care about the material."

Her secret to maintaining good grades: Take the information given, be willing to ask questions, and be willing to receive help.

The H-BC Class of 2021 consisted of 32 graduates.



Members of the 2020 Luverne Marching Band include: Color Guard: (front to back) Morgan Hadler, Anna Boltjes, Hannah Baker, Sadie Kessler, Kristin Rud, (not pictured: Brenn Siebenahler and Rayann Remme); Drum Majors: (front row, left to right) Josie Golla, Griffen Jarchow; Band members: (second row, left to right) Jadyn Hart, Genna Rolfs, Solveig Tofteland, Julia Hoogland, Zoey Berghorst, Brynn Boyenga, Xavier Carbonneau; (third row, left to right) Grace Ingebreetsen, Egypt Forrest, Anya Jarchow, Phoebe DeBates, Hope Thorson, Lauren Ver Steeg, Ava Loosbrock, Uriel Hernandez; (fourth row, left to right) Jocelyn Hart, Simon Boyenga, Emma Lusty, Ethan Rahm, Logan Ommen, Pierce Cunningham, Sophie Holmberg; (fifth row, left to right) Ainslie Robinson, Justin Dohlmann, William Johnson, Coulter Thone, Hunter Gaffaney, Eduardo Godines; (sixth row, left to right) Peter Baustian, Nathan Kinsinger, Ethan Nath, Hunter Cope, Xavier Carbonneau, Isaac Eidem, Travis Schempp; (back row, left to right) Cassi Chesley, Katia Jarchow, Katherine Pizel, Burke Johnson, Eric Somnis, John Miller, Brendan Eidem, Riley Sneller and Luke Bosch (Not pictured: Tori Hemme and Jordyn Cleaveland). Mavis Fodness photo

Instrumental Music Highlights - LHS

•The coronavirus pandemic changed the format or cancelled many of competitions the Luverne High School marching band normally participates including the local Tri-State Band Festival. Festival organizers arranged for a clinician to work with the band on the last Saturday in September event before the band participated in the field competition in Brandon. The Brandon event was not judged or ranked.

•The marching band received an excellent rating at the Festival of Bands in Sioux Falls field competition and a fifth-place finish in Class A at the Dutchmen Field Competition in Orange City. The band was also a “Triple S” award recipient.

•The large group/concert band contest was cancelled but the solo and ensemble competition took place for only LHS students at was completed at LHS. Results included:
Josie Golla (marimba solo) received a perfect score/superior.

Receiving superior ratings were earned by clarinet ensemble of Xavier Carbonneau, Lauren VerSteeg, Grace Ingebreetsen, Ava Loosbrock, Anja Jarchow, Hope Thorson, Uriel Hernandez and Rayann Remme; Genna Rolfs, flute solo; saxophone ensemble of Griffen Jarchow, Emma Lusty, Simon Boyenga, Ethan Rahm and Logan Ommen; Simon Boyenga, saxophone solo; Pierce Cunningham, French horn solo; senior ensemble of Genna Rolfs, Solveig Tofteland, Xavier Carbonneau, Lauren VerSteeg, Simon Boyenga, Sophie Holmberg, Ainslie Robinson, Eduardo Godines, Anna Boltjes, Justin Dohlmann, Peter Baustian, Isaac Eidem, John Miller and Eric Somnis; Jocelyn Hart, trumpet solo.

Excellent ratings were earned by flute ensemble of Brynn Boyenga, Genna Rolfs, Jadyn Hart, Zoey Berghorst, Tori Hemme, Kristin Run, Solveig Tofteland, Julia Hoogland and Brenn Siebenahler; Zoey Berghorst, flute solo; trio ensemble of Ethan

Nath, Parker Carbonneau and Travis Schempp.

Trio ensemble of Uriel Hernandez, Nathan Kinsinger and Hunter Cope received a good rating.

•Grace Ingebreetsen, playing bass clarinet, was selected for the All-State band. Parker Carbonneau (euphonium) is alternate.

•Parker Carbonneau, Grace Ingebreetsen and Logan Ommen were awarded the David A. Buffington award for outstanding underclassmen.

•Eduardo Godines, Ainslie Robinson and Solveig Tofteland were selected for the Tony J. Maiello Award for outstanding marching band student).

•Griffen Jarchow and Hope Thorson were presented the Carl Nash Memorial Award for outstanding juniors.

•Peter Baustian earned the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award.

•Josie Golla was selected for the John Philip Sousa Award.

FFA Chapter Highlights - HBC

•Regional and state convention events were conducted online.

•Hannah Fick (pictured below) achieved the State FFA Degree, the highest degree a member can achieve.



•Four teams competed at the state FFA convention virtually. Results included:
Best Informed Greenhand team placed 18th out of 27 teams.

Fish and wildlife team (Austin Allen, Tyson Bork, Calvin Erickson and Cole Baker) placed 46th.

Livestock judging team (Tory Knobloch, Lanae Elbers, Samantha Moser and Sean Elbers) placed 55th.

Soils team (Donavon Leenderts, Max Scholten, Zander Wysong and Casey Kueter) placed 16th. Donavon Leenderts placed 37th individually.

•Raised \$10,000 in the chapter's annual corn drive. The money was donated to Game Plan 4 Hope in Hills.



Members of the 2020-21 H-BC High School FFA Chapter included officers (front row from left) Chase Bosch (sentinel), Tory Knobloch (president), Hannah Fick (vice president), Samantha Moser (secretary), Danette Leenderts (treasurer), Donavon Leenderts (parliamentarian), Austin Allen (historian), Carter Hartz (reporter), adviser Cloey Anderson, (second row) Oliver Deelstra, Cole Baker, Zander Wysong, Casey Kueter, Sean Elbers, Taylor Dolphin, Nathan Kruid, Brayden Metzger, Andrew Harris, (third row) Luke Fuerstenburg, Drew Leenderts, Devon Dysthe, Brock Harnack, Max Scholten, Calvin Erickson, Tryce Bennett, Austin Ripperda, Ethan Kruger, Ty Bundesen, (fourth row) Cody Moser, Joshua Wiersema, Riley Tatge, Journey Dwire, Avery Vis, Kenadie Fick, Lanae Elbers, Taryn Birger, Olivia Bork, Sophia Vansurksun, Robbie Drake, (fifth row) Elly Klosterbuer, Megan Vis, Taylor Huisman, Amallia Ternus, Layla Deelstra, Larissa Steinhoff, Brynn Rauk, Sylvia Fick, Alexis Gardner-Swenson, Tyrae Goodface, (back) Conner Vande Voort, Collin Schoneman, Damion Meinerts, Alex Harris, Carter Vande Voort and Cooper Gehrke. Not pictured: Tyson Bork. Submitted photo



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At left: One act play director Joe Stearns (center) works with Xavier Carbonneau (far right) for the 2021 one act play competition. In back are students (from left) Griffen Jarchow, Grace Ingebretsen, Josie Golla and Pierce Cunningham.

Below: Loki (portrayed by Zoe Perkins) and Thor (Xavier Carbonneau) realize Thor's powerful hammer is the only way to escape safely from their entrapment. Mavis Fodness photos

One Act Play Highlights - LHS

- Performed "Hammered: A Thor and Loki Play."
- Placed 5th out of seven school participating in the regional One Act Play competition. This year's competition submitting a recording.
- Cast of 12 included Xavier Carbonneau as Thor; Zoe Perkins, Loki; Luke Thorson, adult Thor Odinson and Thor's father, Odin; Josie Golla, Thor's mother, Freyja; Griffen Jarchow, Master Cul and ghost Alt; Chance Tunnissen, Master Heimdall and ghost Ellis; Parker Carbonneau, Ghost Frigg and student Volstagg; Pierce Cunningham, Master Forseti and student Fandrai; Mia Wenzel, student Sif; Grace Ingebretsen, student Hogun; Myles Trimble, Master Hoenir; Destiny Matthiesen, the Herald.



Luverne High School Business Professionals of America team consisted of first-year members (from left) Crystal Sayavong, Eric Somnis, Jayson Rops and Isabella Lanoue. Submitted photo

Business Professionals of America Highlights - LHS

- Three state qualifiers —Jayson Rops, Crystal Sayavong and Isabella Lanoue.
- Lanoue placed in the Top 9 in fundamental spreadsheet applications in the state contest, and participated in the National BPA event.
- Regional results: Rops, second, fundamental accounting; fourth, fundamental spreadsheet applications. Lanoue, second, fundamental spreadsheet applications; fourth, fundamental word processing. Sayavong, first, fundamental word processing; second, entrepreneurship.

Mock Trial Highlights - LHS

- Team competed in the state Mock Trial tournament for the seventh consecutive year.
- The 2021 season was completed under a virtual tournament format and organized into super regions.
- Ended the 2021 season 5-0 earning wins against Albert Lea, Owatonna, Fairmont, Rochester Century and Waseca.
- Juniors Chance Tunnissen and Luke Thorson were named All-State attorney and witness respectively for Luverne.
- At the state virtual tournament, team compiled a 1-2 record and finished 12th out of 16 teams.

At left: This year's Luverne High School mock trial team members include (front, left) John Miller, Kaitlyn Anderson, Jadyn Hart, Lauren VerSteeg, Ainslie Robinson, Ella Lanoue, Luke Thorson, (back) Ross Bergman, Chance Tunnissen, Xavier Carbonneau, Simon Boyenga, Parker Carbonneau and Griffen Jarchow. Not pictured Cedar Viessman and Solveig Tofteland. Mavis Fodness photo



Vocal Music Highlights - HBC

- Many events were cancelled or changed. No large group contests were conducted this year.
- The solo and ensemble contests were conducted in individual schools.
- Superior ratings were earned by Malli Ternus, mezzo-soprano solo; Lexi Drake, soprano solo; Lexi Drake and Malli Ternus, vocal duet.
- Excellent ratings: Tahliya Kruger and Madison Gaugler, vocal duet; Britton McKenzie and Leif Tollefson, vocal duet; Jessica Jones, Katie Zavola-Soto, Regina Afkas and Holly Harron, SSA ensemble.
- Comments only: Sanaa Morris and Lexi Drake, vocal duet; Britton McKenzie, Leif Tollefson and Ty Leuthold, TTB ensemble; Jessica Jones, Katie Zavola-Soto, Regina Afkas, Holly Harron, Leif Tollefson, Britton McKenzie, Ty Leuthold, Tahliya Kruger, Madison Gaugler, Lexi Drake, Sanaa Morris and Malli Ternus, mixed ensemble.
- Performed with the rock group, Foreigner, on stage at a

Vocal music students include (front row from left) Regina Afkas, Sanaa Morris, Katie Zavala-Soto, Tahliya Kruger, Malli Ternus (back) Ty Leuthold, Britton McKenzie, Leif Tollefson, Holly Barron, Jessica Jones, Madison Gaugler and Lexi Drake. Submitted photo





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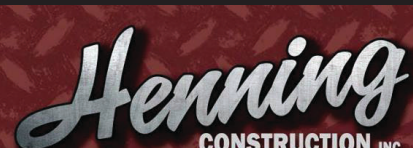
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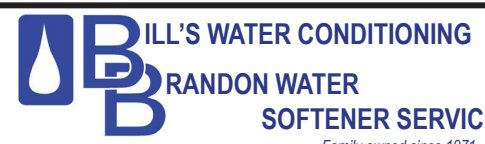


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The Luverne High School Treble Choir members include (front row from left) Isabella Oye, Sarah Stegenga, Jocelyn Hart, Alyia Renken, Chloe Schoeneman, Elle Halverson, Belle Smidt, Priscilla Muehr, Julia Hoogland, Bonita Tiesler, (second row) Lily Ehlers, Zoe Perkins, Joelia Lopez, Kayla Bloemendaal (hidden), Reese Louwagie, Addison Huiskes, Grace Ingebretsen, Morgan Hadler, Sadie Kessler, (third row) Tiana Lais, Lauren Hansen, Mariam Alinzi, Myles Trimble, Emma Beyer, Tori Serie, Josie Anderson, Ava Vortherms, Mallory Von Tersch, Jadyn Hart, Averill Sehr, Ryenn Stegenga, Lacey Morseman, Ella Lanoue, (back) Jenna DeBates, Kenedee Franken, Makena Nelson, Kamryn Van Batavia, Rayann Remme, Christina Wagner, Kiesli Smith, Anika Boll, Tori Hemme, Elizabeth Wagner, Abby Anderson, Zoe Wek and Mallory Nelson. Not pictured is Jocelynn Mann.



The Luverne High School Concert Choir under the direction of Seana Graber (pictured second row, far right) includes (front row from left) Mary Opitz, Lauren Buss, Ann Dara, Alenya Sayavong, Mia Wenzel, Sophie Holmberg, Brenn Siebenahler, Silvia Recuero (second row) Ainslie Robinson, Leslie Van Englenhoven, Macie Swenson, Brooklynn VerSteeg, Josie Golla, McKenzie VanGrootheest, Sadie Reisdorfer, Rylee Anderson, Kaitlyn Anderson, Director Graber (third row) Rylee Gee, Emely Montes, Paige Bruhn, Tim Eisma, Luke Thorson, Camden Hoven, Jonathan Dolo, Tanner Terrio, Michael Halsne, Tucker Banck, Gracie Ze-wiske, Kayetlin Huiskes (fourth row) Tyrcia Davis, Sophia Eisma, Gavin DeBeer, Luke Bosch, Ethan Rahm, Ross Bergman, Ethan Nath, Patrick Kroski, Kaleb Hein, Elise Ferrell, Crystal Sayavong (back) Trista Baustian, Olivia Wieneke, Grace Sandbulte, Casey Sehr, Ashton Sandbulte, Pierce Cunningham, Parker Carbonneau, Zachary Terrio, Jacob Madison, Sawyer Saker, Roz Oye, Jacey Smith and Mia Halverson. Missing are Katarina Horn, Hans Hoven, Matthew McClure and Xander Walgrave. Submitted photos

**Vocal Music
Highlights -
LHS**

•Two All-State choir students: Josie Golla and Rylee Gee participated virtually in the mixed choir.

•The large group contests were cancelled with solo and ensemble competitions taking place at home with only LHS students. Receiving superior ratings: Zoe Perkins, Ross Bergman, Camden Hoven, Ethan Nath, Pierce Cunningham, Ethan Rahm, Sophie Holmberg, Josie Golla, Julia Hoogland, Lily Ehlers, Parker Carbonneau, Averill Sehr, Rylee Gee and Kayla Bloemendaal. Excellent ratings were received by Grace Ingebretsen, Ann Dara, Grace Sandbulte and Tori Hemme.

**Student Council -
LHS**

Members of the Luverne High School 2020-21 student council includes (front row from left) Griffen Jarchow, Brooklynn VerSteeg, Ainslee Robinson, Solveig Tofteland, Lauren VerSteeg, Regan Feit, Ross Bergman, Patrick Kroski, (second row) Tyson Cowel, Anja Jarchow, Morgan Ahrendt, Trygve Gangestad, Luke Bosch, Luke Thorson, Trista Baustian, Roz Oye, Madee Schmuck (third row) Camden Hoven, Peter Baustian, Hunter Ahrendt, Zach Ahrendt, Cade Wenninger, Casey Sehr, Jacob Stroeh, Henry Hartquist, Parker Carbonneau, Xavier Carbonneau (back) Mary Opitz, Averill Sehr, Kayla Bloemendaal, Carly Olson, Rylee Gee, Sarah Stegenga, Kaitlyn Anderson and Elise Jarchow. Missing is Phoebe DeBates.





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FFA Chapter
Highlights -
LHS

•Two career development teams competed at the virtual state FFA convention.

The ag mechanics team of J.T. Remme, Hunter Sandbulte, A.J. Ossefoort and Peter Baustian placed fourth overall as a team. Individually, Remme placed third, Sandbulte 12th, Remme 33rd and Baustian 38th out of 120 participants.

Julia Hoogland, Morgan Bonnett and Destiny Matthiesen competed in the virtual horse judging contest and placed 36th out of 55 teams. Hoogland placed 41st individually out of 187 participants.



Students from Luverne High School who are members of Luverne-Adrian FFA Chapter for the 2020-21 school year include (front row from left) president Cassie Flanagan, secretary Gretchen Jacobsma, parliamentarian Chase Overgaard, officer-at-large Eric Somnis, treasurer Camron Kopp, sentinel Justin Dohlmann, reporter Hunter Ahrendt, (second row) adviser Dennis Moritz, Ross Bergman, D.J. Swenson, Peter Baustian, Ayden Bonnett, Trista Baustian, (third row) Chris Aning, Hunter Baker, Connor Overgaard, Carlton Oftedahl, Jacob Hansen, (fourth row) Nick Hansen, Cole Mann, Leah Wynia, Hunter Sandbulte, Morgan Ahrendt, Morgan Bonnett, Macie Swenson, (back) Harrison Uithoven, Lucas Hansen, reporter Shelby Kracht, Tori Hemme, A.J. Ossefoort and J.T. Remme. Not pictured is vice president Destiny Matthiesen. Mavis Fodness photo

National Honor
Society - LHS

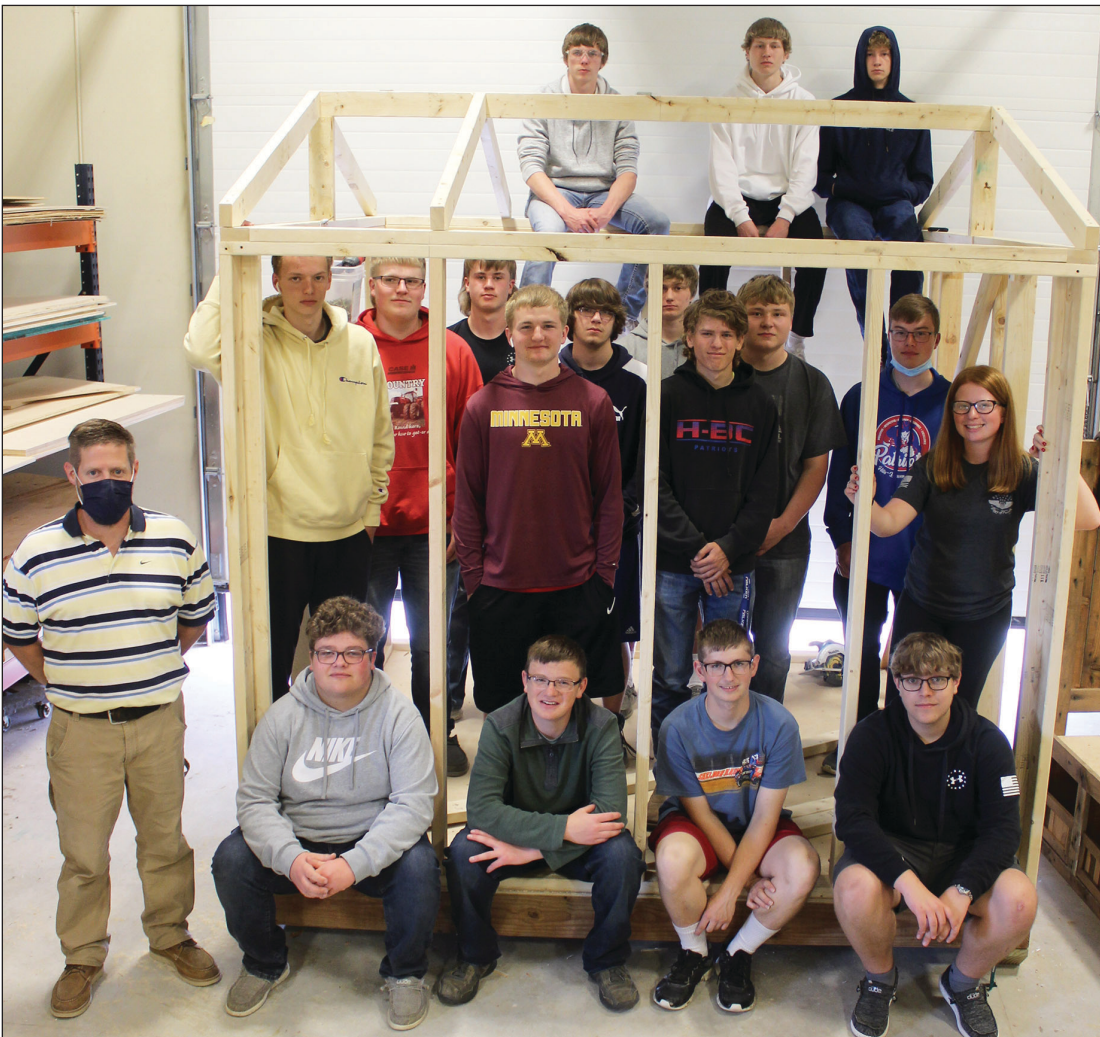
Twenty-one Luverne High School students comprise the 2020-21 Luverne High School National Honor society and include (front row from left) McKenzie VanGrootheest, Xavier Carbonneau, Casey Sehr, Luke Thorson, Griffen Jarchow, Cade Wenninger, Ainslee Robinson, (second row) Brooklynn VerSteeg, Elise Jarchow, Olivia Huisman, Regan Feit, Olivia Wieneke, Trista Baustian, Grace Zewiske, Rozilyn Oye, Lauren VerSteeg, Rylee Gee, (back) Peter Baustian, Zach Ahrendt, Simon Boyenga and Ethan Beyer. Senior members received medals (below) to wear at graduation. Mavis Fodness photos



Millworks - HBC

At right: Millworks students include (front from left) adviser Chris Louwagie, Austin Ripperda, Weston Kellenberger, Jacob Axness, Taylor Dolphin (second row) Oliver Deelstra, Andrew Harris, Carter Hartz, Hannah Fick (third row) Nathan Kruid, Mason Willhelmi, Donavon Leenderts, Ethan Kruger, Casey Kueter, Ty Bundesen (on top) Cole Baker, Drew Leenderts and Sean Elbers.

Below: (front from left) Cole Rozeboom, Alex Harris, Taylor Fredrickson, Joshua Wiersema (second row) Cody Moser, Luke FuerstenBerg, Collin Schoneman and Brock Harnack. Missing are Devon Dysthe, Noah Swenson and Chase Bosch.



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FCCLA Chapter Highlights - LHS



•Luverne chapter had two students serve as state officers: Rylee Anderson, treasurer (pictured below, left), and Ella Lanoue, vice president of resource and development.

•All regional and state FCCLA activities were conducted virtually.

•Due to LHS' hybrid and distance learning schedule last fall, no students completed STAR events this year. 24 students members.

•Three students will serve as state officers for 2021-22: Ella Lanoue, vice president of partnerships, Hannah Baker, board of directors representative, and Rylee Anderson, vice president of outreach.



At left: Luverne High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America members include (front) Elizabeth Mulder (standing from left) Jessica Tunnissen, Tori Hemme, Brook Vos, Priscilla Muehr, Lily Ehlers, Zander Carbonneau, Hannah Baker Brianna Kinsinger and Lacy Saker.

At right: Juniors Rylee Anderson (left) and Ella Lanoue serve on the state FCCLA board. Submitted photos

Robotics Highlights - LHS

•30 students participated in the team's second season.

•Competed in two virtual competitions. "The kids really tried to make it a good fund season even with the all obstacles of participation," adviser Aaron Perkins said. "We has only virtual competitions this year, they were suppose to mimic the actual competition, but it wasn't the same in any way."

•As a result of the virtual season, the team built two smaller robots to meet additional competition skills.



Thirty students comprise the Luverne High School robotics team including (front row from left) Lane Saker, Lacey Saker, Burke Johnson, Dyllon Gehrke, John Miller, Ethan Curtiss (back) Rylee Gee, Hunter Sandbulte, Ethan Teunissen, Tanner Terrio, Matthaus Dobbe, Pierce Cunningham and Xavier Carbonneau. Mavis Fodness photo

Instrumental Music Highlights - HBC

•Junior Tess Van Maanen (trumpet) participated in the virtual All-State Symphonic band.

•Junior Tara Paulsen was selected as an All-State Band alternate.

•Solo and ensemble contest was conducted with only H-BC locally. Earning ratings were:

Tess Van Maanen, trumpet solo, earned a perfect score/superior.

Superior ratings: Lauren Tatge, flute solo; Allie LaRock and Tara Paulsen, snare drum duet; Abby Knobloch, Allie LaRock and Lauren Tatge (mixed trio), LeeAnna Gaugler and Aliyah Stoltenberg, mixed duet; Tara Paulsen, snare drum solo; Danette Leenderts and Tess Van Maanen, mixed duet; Britton McKenzie, snare drum solo; Dallas Page, trombone solo.

Excellent ratings: Carter Ables, saxophone solo; Aiden Kerkhove-Brandt and Brandon Taubert, trumpet duet; Leif Tollefson and Eli Taubert, trombone duet.

•Allie LaRock earned the John Philip Sousa award.



Students in the 2020-21 instrumental music program include (front row from left) Leif Tollefson, Allie LaRock, Lauren Tatge, Abby Knobloch, Tess Van Maanen, Danette Leenderts (second row) Jessica Jones, Lexi Drake, Tara Paulsen, Aliyah Stoltenberg, LeeAnna Gaugler, Dallas Page (back) director Steve Olson, Kyler Hartz, Britton McKenzie, Eli Taubert, Carter Abels, Aiden Kerkhove-Brandt and Brandon Taubert. Submitted photo

Mock Trial Highlights - HBC

•The entire season was completed via Zoom with students competing in a classroom together at home. Students were able to be together due to the school using a hybrid learning, in-person model.

•This season's case was "Payton Knox vs. Nixon Lodge Catering Inc."

•Earned one victory in the 1-3 season. The defense earned a seven-point advantage over Fairmont High School White team, 228-221.



Team members for the Hills-Beaver Creek include (front row, from left) Hannah Fick, Lauren Tatge, Tahliya Kruger, Madison Gaugler, (back) Taylor Durst, Abby Knobloch, Allie LaRock, Kyler Hartz and Jacob Sheppard. Submitted photo

Student Council Highlights - HBC

•Each grade selects members. No officers are elected.

•Representatives include seniors Allie LaRock, Abby Knobloch, Lauren Tague; juniors Liam Raymon, Tara Paulsen, Austin Allen; sophomores Deven Dysthe, Jenifer Martinyuk, Olivia Bork; freshmen Sylvia Fick, Riley Tatge, Layla Deelstra; eighth graders Cameron Allen, Emma Deelstra; seventh graders Micah Bush, Austyn Pap; sixth-graders Riggins Rheault and Tatyana Williams.

•"Because of the pandemic, we did not do as much as we normally do," said adviser Jeanette Vande Hoek.

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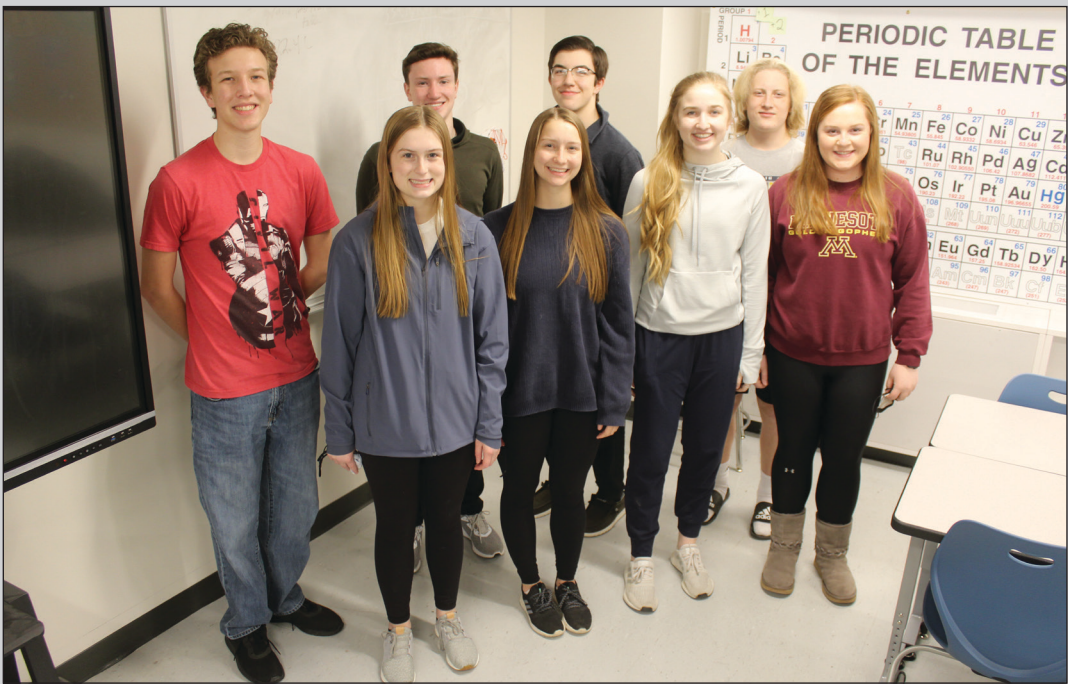
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Speech Highlights - LHS



- Named Section 3A speech team champions for the first time in a decade under coaches Gavin Folkestad's and Caroline Thorson's tenures.
- Seventeen students comprised the championship team with 13 entering the final rounds and adding to the team's winning effort. They were also 3A sub-sections champions (pictured left).
- The entire season, including the state tournament, was completed under a virtual format.
- Six students (the largest number to represent Luverne) competed at the state tournament. Three of the students were brothers.
- State qualifiers included Josie Golla, Xavier Carbonneau, Parker Carbonneau, Zander Carbonneau, Luke Thorson and Chance Tunnissen.
- Junior Chance Tunnissen placed seventh at the state tournament in extemporaneous speaking; 2021 was his third state tournament.
- Josie Golla and Xavier Carbonneau earned All-State honors.

The Luverne High School won the Region 3A speech championship and include students (front, from left) Bethany Behr, Brianna Kinsinger, Destiny Matthiesen, Josie Golla, Maddy Schepel, Mia Wenzel, Roselynn Hartshorn, Grace Engebretsen (back) Jessika Tunnissen, Rylee Anderson, Zander Carbonneau, Burke Johnson, Xavier Carbonneau, Parker Carbonneau, Luke Thorson, Chance Tunnissen and Zoe Perkins. Submitted photo



Math League Highlights - LHS

- Team returned to the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League Tournament for the first time in 10 years. The last time a Luverne team earned a berth to the state tournament was in 2009.
- Finished the season ranked seventh out of 52 schools in Class A.
- Earned division and regional championships.
- Senior Xavier Carbonneau competed in the virtual state individual Math League tournament. He placed 67th out of 73.
- Out of 40 teams at the state tournament, Luverne finished 38.

Luverne High School returned to the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League tournament with students (front, from left) Kaitlyn Anderson, Solveig Tofteland, Trista Baus-tian, Olivia Huisman, (back) Xavier Carbonneau, John Miller, Parker Carbonneau and Burke Johnson. Mavis Fodness photo

Math League - HBC

The Hills-Beaver Creek High School boosts a large math league team and includes (front row from left) Danette Leenderts, Kenedie Fick, Luke Fuerstenberg, Brayden Metzger, Cooper Gehrke, Devon Dysthe, Jenifer Martinyuk, (second row) Samantha Moser, Taylor Durst, Sylvia Fick, Brynn Rauk, Layla Deels-tra, Olivia Bork, Layla Deekstra, Olivia Bork, Amalia Ternus, Taylor Huisman, (back) Max Scholten, Liam Raymon, Troy Durst, MacKenzie Voss, Alex Harris, Joshua Wiersema, Andrew Harris, Cody Moser and Collin Schoneman. Not pictured: Calvin Erickson, Zander Wysong, Jacob Shep-pard, Gavin Wysong, Thomas Dysthe, Lauren Tatge, Taryn Rauk, Abby Knobloch, Jacey Vanden Hoek and Annie Bos.



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Arts and academics/continued from page 1B

those instigated by student councils that promote school pride.

Due to social distancing and distance learning, many activities were not completed. If they were, students and staff had to wear masks.

The pandemic did present new opportunities to the students.

Lauren VerSteeg is the LHS Class of 2021 president.

“The student council tried to make the school year feel as normal as possible by continuing our

homecoming and March Mayhem traditions,” she said. “I’m proud to say this year’s council was able to continue our school’s traditions and introduce new ideas, accomplishing much more than I think was expected, even with being in the middle of a pandemic.”

VerSteeg served on the school’s COVID incident command team.

“I was given the opportunity to be a student’s perspective on how we felt about everything that was going on and what we thought about the school

year,” VerSteeg said.

The pandemic also allowed the Hills-Beaver Creek Millworks group a more public presence as they experienced real world ramifications from demand and scarcity of building materials. The group constructs a storage shed in the spring of each year. The pandemic pushed completion of the shed project from spring 2020 to the spring of 2021.

“Due to the pandemic, the price of lumber and materials has more than doubled, making it difficult

to justify building another shed,” said Millworks adviser Chris Louwagie.

The extra time allowed students to complete more individual projects including a bench, livestock shed, platform bed frame, a chicken coop and Adirondack chairs.

Unfortunately, one activity — the Luverne visual arts program — couldn’t overcome the virus challenges that limited in-person instruction.

Luverne students didn’t compete in the annual Minnesota State High School

League juried art show.

Instructor Chris Nowatzki didn’t see his students progress as fast to the juried level as in past years. While the disrupted school year helped prevent the spread of the COVID-19, the switches between distant and hybrid learning plans didn’t allow students to invest the time. the artworks normally regional art contest. With that, Luverne did participate in this year’s show.

“With only half the year for production and it falling in the busiest time of

the year, there just wasn’t enough artwork,” he said.

Weeks after the March art show, however, Luverne students began producing contest-worthy art.

“We’re looking forward to a more normal year next year,” Nowatzki said.

As the pandemic continues, the arts and academic programs at Luverne and Hills-Beaver Creek Schools will continue to find meaningful ways for our students to excel academically as well as creatively. To that we at the Star Herald say “Bravo!”



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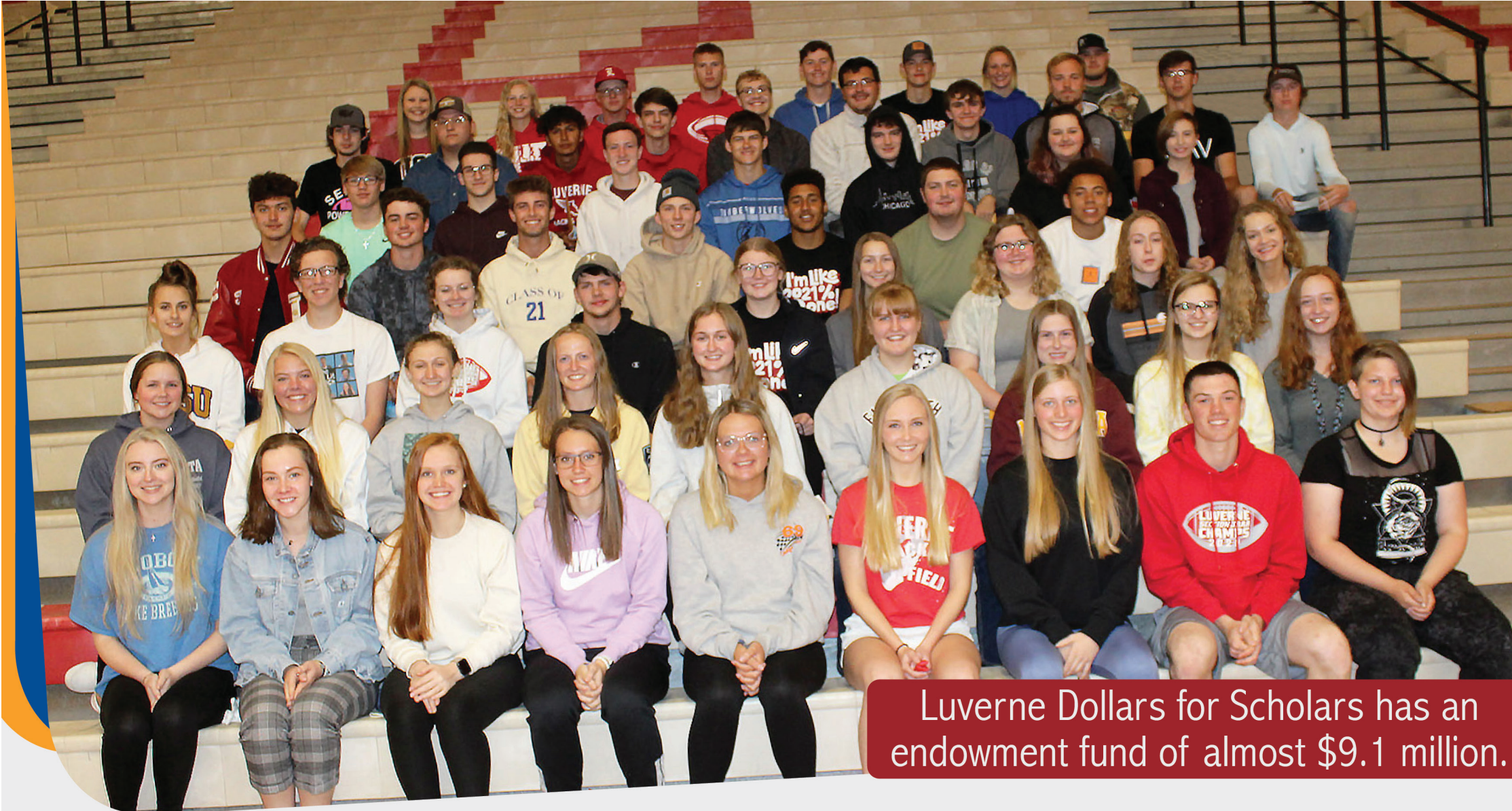


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Luverne Dollars for Scholars has an endowment fund of almost \$9.1 million.

LUVERNE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2021 DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS RECIPIENTS ARE (front, from left) Sophia Eisma, Genevieve Rolfs, McKenzie VanGrootheest, Leah Wynia, Paige Sandbulte, Lauren VerSteeg, Rozilyn Oye, Ethan Beyer, Destiny Matthiesen, (second row) Shelby Kracht, Regan Feit, Rylee Gee, Elise Jarchow, Gracie Zewiske, Gretchen Jacobsma, Kaitlyn Anderson, Josephine Golla, Mia Halverson, (third row) Elisabeth Kelm, Xavier Carbonneau, Anna Boltjes, Brody Bonnett, Brynn Thier, Solveig Totteland, Emma Hinz, Rachel DenHerder, Leslie Van Engelenhoven, (fourth row) Matthaas Dobbe, Cade Wenninger, Bailey Cowell, Shaid Shearer, LaShad Smith, Dyllon Gehrke, Arekel McLaughlin, (fifth row) Gaven Hoogeveen, Tyler de Cesare, John Miller, Jayson Rops, Kaden DeSollar, Katlin Petronek, Cassie Flanagan, (sixth row) Hunter Sandbulte, Anthony Kramer, Eduardo Godines, Isaac Eidem, Russell Aanenson, Eric Somnis, Alex Mann, Zachary Ahrendt, Ethan Teunissen, Cooper Arends, (back) Sadie Reisdorfer, Ainslie Robinson, Trevor Halverson, Justin Dohlmann, Peter Baustian, Camron Kopp, Autumn Nath, Carlton Oftedahl. Not Pictured are Ben Jarchow and Rebecca Austin.

“ **Congratulations to the 2021 Dollars for Scholars recipients and we wish them good luck in the future!** ”

Luverne Dollars for Scholars, an affiliate of Scholarship America, is a locally run, non-profit organization promoting post-secondary education by providing scholarships to graduating seniors from Independent School District No. 2184. The purpose of the organization is to raise money for its endowment fund and to annually disperse the earnings in the form of scholarships to Luverne High School graduates. The success of **Luverne Dollars for Scholars is the direct result of many generous donations from Luverne graduates and community members.** Applicants are evaluated on the following criteria: academic performance, scholastic aptitude, work experience, school activity and community involvement. This school year, Luverne Dollars for Scholars is awarding **\$484,750 in scholarships to 61 qualifying graduates** from the Class of 2021.

Since the first awards in May of 1984, **scholarships totaling \$5,550,975 have been awarded to 2,004 students.**

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