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Celebrate



CARDINAL PRIDE WEEKEND

JULY 14 - 17, 2022



Welcome home, LHS grads!

**It's time to show your
Cardinal spirit!**



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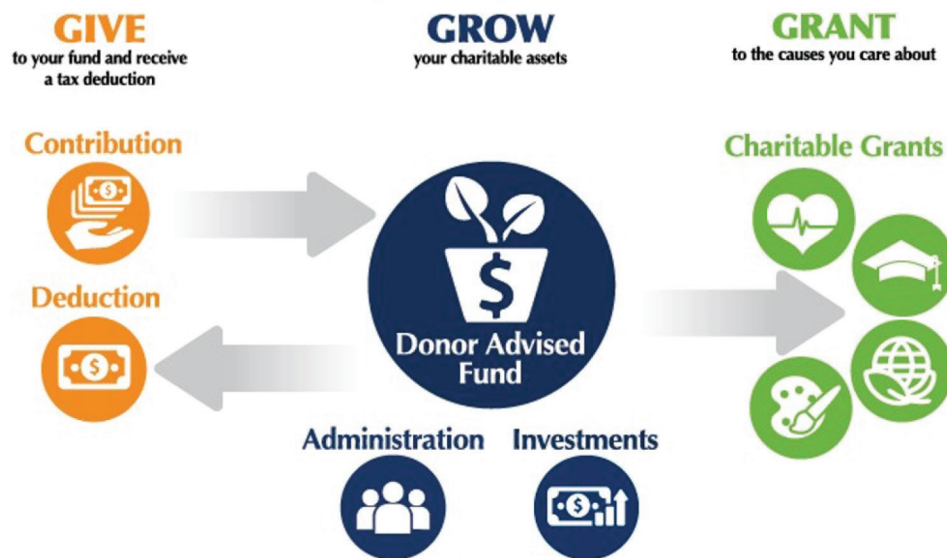
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Talk to Emily (Bowron) Crabtree emily@luvacf.org for more information.

People > Resources > Opportunities

Greetings, LHS grads! Celebrate old times and a new school

By Craig Oftedahl, Luverne Schools Superintendent

Greetings to all friends, community members, former staff members, and especially our proud and esteemed Luverne Alumni.

The Cardinal Pride Committee has worked extensively to bring excitement, activities and festivities to the entire community of Luverne.

The focal point this weekend will be the Luverne Public Schools and the recent remodel and new construction project just recently completed. The transformation will bring smiles, astonishment and pride to the forefront of all who have passed through the school at some point.



The project started with a School Board tour of the kitchen and cafeteria area that all of you remember in the basement. The Board of Education said, "We can do better than this for our students."

The first meeting to look at possibilities was in August of

Superintendent message/continued on page 10



The Luverne school campus has its own names for streets and lanes after school construction wrapped up.

Help Save the Manfred House



Photo by Jim Brandenburg

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Four-day celebration starts with Luverne's legendary 60th annual Hot Dog Night

Luverne's long-awaited Cardinal Pride All-School Reunion is well-timed with the community's 60th Annual Hot Dog Night, a two-day party in itself.

Local merchants will begin serving hotdogs and beverages at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, July 14, and the evening includes the popular Wiener Dog Beauty Contest and Wiener Dog races.

Meanwhile Main Street in downtown Luverne will be packed with all the usual offerings and festivities, along with food, beverages and live music.

For example, there will be free inflatables, balloon making, Freezies, a bean bag tournament, fire truck sprinkler and performances by the spotlight dancers and Luverne Tae Kwon Do — all on Thursday, July 14.

A "Cruise and Stop" classic car event at the History Center from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday will feature a "Vinyl Night," beer garden, food trucks and the "Gray Ghost" automobile.

The recently completed school construction project will be highlighted each day with tours of the building from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and from 11:30 to 1:30 Saturday.

The 10 a.m. Cardinal Pride Parade on Saturday (featuring an Alumni Band) will follow the 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Hockey Association pancake breakfast at the firehall.

Saturday's other highlights include "Generations of Excellence" in the new Performing Arts Center at 2 p.m., a four-person golf scramble at the Luverne Country Club at noon and open houses from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Brandenburg Gallery and Herreid Military Museum and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the History Center.

Rock County will induct several new members into its Hall of Fame on Sunday in the Palace at 1:30 p.m.

There are many class reunions meeting throughout the weekend at various venues, and the Cardinal Pride celebration wraps up with a fireworks-bedazzled party in the Luverne City Park. (See the Chamber website for a listing.)

Party at City Park closes Cardinal Pride weekend

An 18-piece party band will provide music for the Cardinal Pride's closing event Saturday night, July 16.

"Big Toe & the Jam" will perform at the Party At City Park beginning at 7 p.m. at the Luverne City Park. They will play until 10 p.m., when a fireworks display closes out the Luverne High School class reunion schedule of activities.

Saturday's event allows LHS graduates, families and friends to gather one last time after two days of activities celebrating those who graduated from LHS. Two beverage

Cardinal Pride four-day celebration/see page 15

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CARDINAL PRIDE WEEKEND JULY 14 - 17

CELEBRATING LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

LUVERNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday 1:30 to 3:30 pm
Friday 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday 11:30 am to 1:30 pm



WELCOME COFFEE
FRIDAY—JULY 15
High School Commons
8 am to 10 am

LUVERNE
Generations of Excellence



PROGRAM

SATURDAY - JULY 16 - 2PM
Performing Arts Center



306 E Lincoln
Fri: 10am-4pm



Thurs: 8am-5pm
Fri: 8am-5pm
Sat: 12pm-5pm



Thurs: 8am-5pm
Fri: 8am-5pm
Sat: 12pm-5pm



Thurs: 10am-4pm
Fri: 10am-4pm
Sat: 12pm-4pm



Thurs: 2pm-4pm
Fri: 10am-4pm



104 E Main
Sat: 12pm-3pm

WELCOME CENTER

At the Trailhead
(Main & Blue Mound)
Friday: 8 am to 5 pm
Saturday: 8 am to 5 pm
Sunday: Noon to 7 pm



At the Trailhead
Thursday: 12:30 & 2:30pm
Friday: 9am, 11am & 3pm
Sunday: 5pm & 7pm

TEACHERS IN RETROSPECT

With JIM SANDEN



Friday
4:30 pm
FREE

CARDINAL PRIDE PARADE

SATURDAY AT 10 AM—MAIN STREET
Featuring LHS ALUMNI MARCHING BAND
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CRUIS'N PARK

Friday: 5pm-9pm on MAIN STREET
Arrival of the GRAY GHOST: 6pm



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ROCK COUNTY HALL OF FAME SUNDAY JULY 17

1:30 PM ~ HISTORIC PALACE THEATRE

2:30 PM ~ UNVEILING AT HISTORY CENTER
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Luverne Area Community Foundation

PARTY IN THE PARK

SATURDAY NIGHT

Food Trucks & Beverage Gardens
Starting at 5 pm

"BIG TOE & THE JAM"

18 pc Party Band on Stage 7-10 pm

AT 10:15 PM
WALLEYE WIND FARM



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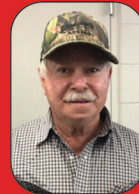
Micky Sehr
CLASS OF 1992



Ethan Beyer
CLASS OF 2021



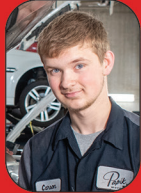
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CLASS OF 2007



Roy Buss
CLASS OF 1967



Pete Connell
CLASS OF 2002



Carson Davis
CLASS OF 2019



Ryan Gonzalez
CLASS OF 2014



Gavin Gregory
CLASS OF 2024



Michael Halverson
CLASS OF 1994



James Hatting
CLASS OF 1966



Josh Klay
CLASS OF 2001



Mike Lammert
CLASS OF 1974



Bill Miller
CLASS OF 1961



Shane Palmquist
CLASS OF 1998



Janine (Jordahl) Papik
CLASS OF 1969



Dave Remme
CLASS OF 1969



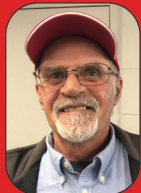
Perry Schneckloth
CLASS OF 1998



Casey Sehr
CLASS OF 2022



Heidi (Papik) Sehr
CLASS OF 1994



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CLASS OF 1972



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CLASS OF 2005



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CLASS OF 1966



Adam Siebenahler
CLASS OF 2001



Gary Staeffler
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Community members tour the new commons and media center during the open house in September 2021.

Improved Luverne school building becomes 'one of the crown jewels of the community'

By Mavis Fodness

"I am extremely proud of the project," Superintendent Craig Oftedahl said about the school construction when it was completed in September of 2021.

"The Board of Education had wonderful vision and did things right. They produced a really classy facility that allows our staff to be extremely functional for the demands of today's educational standards."

Some statistics from the project:

- The 65-year-old middle-high school is now larger, growing by 41,170 square feet to a new size of 417,670 square feet.
- The new areas include six additional classrooms in the middle school wing, a new student commons and a new performing arts center (PAC).

- Remodeling encompassed 200,000 square feet, 2,100 gallons of paint, 1,500 electrical receptacles, 66 miles of wire, 30 miles of data cable and fiber and 65 new electrical panels.

- Crews hauled 1,400 loads of fill.

"The new commons and kitchen are spectacular," Oftedahl added. "The performing arts center is state of the art and absolutely beautiful. The administration did a nice job creating collaborative space and the use of furniture in helping with 21st Century learning, and the secure entrances and more cameras across the campus will aid in our safety and security protocols."

School construction timeline/see page 9

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Construction was sparked by a school board basement tour

The project began in 2016, when board members reviewed the long-term facility plan that's filed annually with the state education department outlining upcoming improvement projects.

Oftedahl toured board members through the basement kitchen and cafeteria. "We all had our eyes opened as far as the needed update," recalled Katie Baustian, who served as board chairman in 2016.

A new first-floor commons and kitchen led the list of five long-term goals. The other goals included improved safety and security, collaborative learning space, remodel and right-sized rooms to meet 21st century standards and celebrate music and fine arts.

In 2016, the district was within two years of paying off the elementary school, built in 1999. Board members saw an opportunity to continue investing in the district through another possible bond referendum.

"Safety was such a priority," Board



Students have lunch in the basement cafeteria for the last time in spring of 2021.

member Reva Sehr said.

"Items such as door locks, security camera and an updated intercom system were very much needed. We also needed to get our school's technical infrastructure updated as well so we could use technology more in the classroom."

Board member Eric Hartman said

conversations centered around the growing list of the number of capital improvements that far outweighed what money the district levies annually for its facilities plan.

"With the (elementary building)

Construction timeline/see page 13



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Superintendent message/continued from page 3

2016. Momentum was seized and the community supported the project through a bond referendum vote in November 2017.

Through the overwhelming support of the Luverne community, the education of students and the school are extremely important to the vibrancy of a caring community.

"Paying it forward" is a mantra often spoken, but not followed. That was not the case in Luverne, as 76 percent of voters agreed it was time for a facelift and some new opportunities for the students of Luverne.

As you tour the facility, you will see new technologies, new furniture, remodeled classrooms with more space, and a focus on 21st century education. Some key areas to look for on your tour include the music spaces, weight room/fitness center, new kitchen and commons, new media center/library, learning commons, and the spectacular performing arts center.

As all of us have changed over the course of time, so has education. It is not about sitting stoically in your seat and doing your worksheet or memorizing the Gettysburg Address.

Learning has evolved into more project-based learning with an emphasis on collaboration and teamwork. Technology plays an important role as a tool for all students to engage, enhance and expand learning opportunities.

Throughout the planning process with students, staff, administration, and the Board of Education, the education of students was at the forefront of all decisions. We certainly hope you enjoy what you see!

The community reaction has ranged from comments like,

"This is nice", "Quite an improvement", to just plain, "Wow!" If those types of comments are heard over the weekend, smiles will be worn and hearts will swell. That is what we tried to attain through this project – a satisfaction knowing that students in Luverne will continue to have tremendous opportunities afforded them now and into the future.

As the superintendent of Luverne Schools, I am most proud of the many collaborative efforts of our entire team at the school with the assistance of our community in making this project a reality. The Board of Education provided a tremendous vision for this project, and they deserve a ton of credit. They took a risk and that is not easy to do. The payoff for that risk has been well worth it, in my opinion.

We are not done though! Next spring the school will embark on a new amphitheater/outdoor classroom space south of the canopy. New digital signage will be placed on the front lawn area along with some new signage on the entry corner on Highway 75. A new alumni recognition wall will be added to the canopy area. The south parking lot will get completely redone next summer as well.

If any of you are interested in assisting, my dream of resurfacing the track and adding turf to the football field, replacing the visitor grandstand and adding a fieldhouse/storage shed to our athletic complex could become reality.

I hope that you enjoy your time in Luverne and have a chance to stop by and reacquaint yourself with the school and old and new friends.

Thanks for supporting Luverne and Luverne Public Schools! Roll, Cards, Roll!



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Lori Sorenson photos/0602 school banners



Photo banners of Luverne students accent renamed school streets and lanes

New decorative banners went up along parking lots and roadways of the Luverne School campus in May, courtesy of the Luverne Education Legacy Fund. There were 42 banners on 21 poles featuring students in fine arts, academics and athletics from all ages in the district. Also new on the school campus are renamed streets. The former Adams Street is now Cardinal Drive. North East Park is now Alumni Avenue and the former School Street is 2184 Lane.



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bond payoff coming soon, I know my initial thoughts were to roll a number of these capital improvement projects and upgrades into one major project — funded through a new bond — which would start immediately after the prior one was paid off,” Hartman said.

The board was able to levy \$8 million for infrastructure and HVAC improvements.

Voters approved a \$16 million bond to remodel and add square footage to the middle-high school.

In a second question, voters also approved the proposed \$7 million bond for a performing arts center.

Project took 30 months

After the \$31 million project was rebid, construction began in the former Little Theatre in March 2019.

“The students have been great throughout the process,” Oftedahl said. “Not only did they assist with the input of the building, they endured the noise and debris from construction.”

Staff often moved and packed their classrooms several times as the



The new school performing arts center seats nearly 750 people.

remodeling project progressed through the building.

When the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 forced students and staff to learn at home, construction staff continued to move forward with the remodeling.

“My hope is that people view the

school with a high level of satisfaction in knowing we worked hard to spend taxpayer dollars on the right things,” Oftedahl said.

“I want people to be proud of the school, as I feel it is one of the crown jewels of the community.”



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Luverne Education Legacy Fund celebrates and connects generations of Cardinal Pride

By Jason Berghorst, LELF

The Luverne Education Legacy Fund (LELF), formerly known as the Luverne School Foundation, is proud and excited to welcome home LHS alumni and friends for the 2022 Cardinal Pride Weekend!

The mission of LELF is to connect alumni and community donors with opportunities to support continued educational excellence in Luverne Public Schools now and into the future.

A major focus of that support in recent years has been the **LELF 2184 Campaign**. To date, the campaign has raised over \$650,000 from nearly 100 alumni, school staff, community and business donors.

The LELF 2184 Campaign has funded a variety of projects that enhance Cardinal pride and support excellence in education and activities.

Some of the most high-profile projects include a Luverne script "L" in the terrazzo floor of the new Commons, a large backlit L on the north exterior of the Performing Arts Center, a performance grand piano for the new Performing Arts Center, an interactive alumni touch screen, and support toward the new Cardinal weight room and wellness center, among many other enhancements.

Major projects of the LELF 2184 Campaign still to come include an alumni garden with outdoor classroom and a large



digital sign on the Highway 75 side of the school campus.

The Luverne Education Legacy Fund will host an **Alumni Welcome Coffee from 8 to 10 a.m. Friday, July 15, in the new school Commons and will offer tours to see all the completed projects**. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to see the amazing changes at Luverne schools!

There is still time to be part of these historic changes and join other LHS alumni and supporters with your gift.

Gifts of \$2184 or more will receive a special one-of-a-kind custom hand-blown glass cardinal made by 1989 alum Tom Maras of Marasglass and be featured on the 2184 Campaign donor board.

Visit with a LELF board member during the Welcome Coffee or during the tours for more information or visit the LELF website at luverneducationlegacyfund.org.

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Dollars for Scholars is ‘amazing gift’ for student success

By Johnna (Bowron) Ahrendt
Luverne Chapter of Dollars for Scholars

Since its inception in 1983, our Luverne Dollars for Scholars program has grown to be one of the largest in the nation with an endowment valued at over \$12 million.

This endowment enabled the program to award \$517,250 to 73 seniors from the graduating class of 2022. The growth of the program can be attributed to a handful of large gifts.

- Lava Brooks donated \$697,000 in the early 1990s, followed by a donation from

- Vernon Aanenson of \$1 million.

- In 2009 Harvey “Allie” Ordnung, a retired farmer, gave \$2.9 million.

- Ellamae Josendahl, a retired first-grade teacher (known as Ms. Appel), gave \$2.4 million in 2013.

The program has also received hundreds of endowed contributions ranging anywhere from \$2,000 up to more than \$200,000, thanks to the support and generosity of Luverne Alumni and community members.

These endowed gifts help to establish perpetual scholarships that are named in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one or family.

The uniqueness of these endowed gifts is that they allow a scholarship to be given each and every year, forever, to a fresh qualifying LHS graduate because only the income earned from the endowment balance is given out in the form of a scholarship.

The minimum amount to start an endowed scholarship is \$2,000, and once established, additional dollars may be added at any time, no matter the amount.

A scholarship booklet is published each year which includes not only the scholarship awards but also a write-up for each perpetual scholarship awarded so that the recipients of the scholarships can learn about the person or family that the scholarship was established for. This booklet is distributed at

the graduation ceremony and also mailed to all LHS Alumni.

Beginning with the first awards given to Luverne graduates in 1984, Luverne Dollars for Scholars has dispersed 2,077 scholarships totaling more than \$6 million.

Students must apply for a scholarship. Applicants are evaluated on their academic performance, scholastic aptitude, work experience, school activity and community involvement. Financial need is not considered when evaluating applications.

Scholarships may be used for any post-graduate programs, not just four-year schools. Recipients must successfully complete a semester of post-secondary education before requesting their scholarship funds and have four years to use up their award. Students in military service have six years. A maximum of \$4,000 is distributed each academic year until their scholarship award is used up.

Luverne Dollars for Scholars is just one example of the importance the Luverne community puts on schools and education.

It is an amazing gift to be able to offer our graduates an opportunity to help pay for part of their post-secondary education.

It is our hope that these graduates will achieve success in part due to this support and down the road come back to the community or give back by contributing to our Dollars for Scholars program.

The future is certainly bright for the graduates of Luverne High School.

Cardinal Pride four-day celebration/ continued from page 4

gardens and five food trucks will begin serving at 5:30 p.m.

The Convention and Visitors Bureau committee of the Luverne Area Chamber organized Cardinal Pride weekend that began Thursday during Hot Dog Night.

Committee members suggested culminating Cardinal Pride weekend with one large celebration, much like the event organized for Luverne’s 150th celebration in 2017.

“It will be a fun night,” said chamber director Jane Lanphere. “People can bring a sack lunch or buy a meal. It will be a fun time for people to reunite and enjoy the outdoors.”

Luverne Area Community Foundation sponsors the band, who plays music from four decades, the ‘60s through the ‘90s.

“There’s a little bit of listening interest for everyone,” Lanphere said.

NextEra Energy is the sponsor of the fireworks display at the park.

See the Cardinal Pride poster on page 5 for a full listing of weekend events.

**Meulebroeck,
Taubert & Co., PLLP**

**Luverne
507-283-4055
Pipestone
507-825-4288**

Certified Public Accountants

P.O. Box 685, 109 S. Freeman, Luverne, MN 56156

P.O. Box 707, 216 E. Main, Pipestone, MN 56164

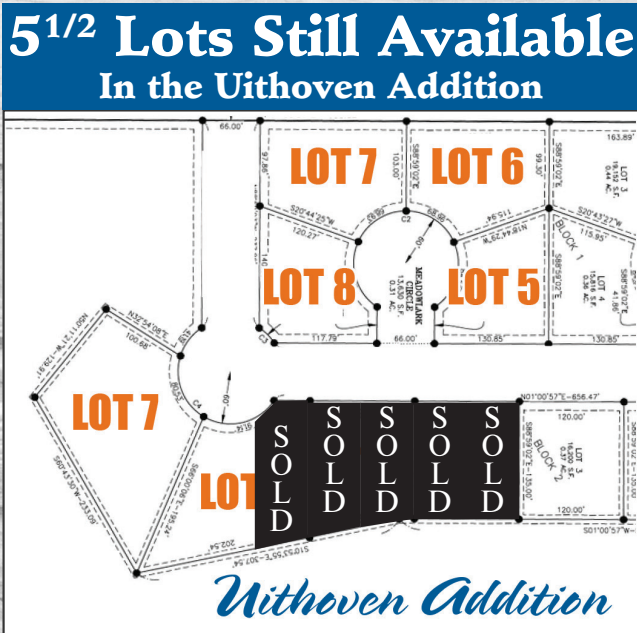
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Merlin Cleveringa | Luverne, MN | cleveringaconstruction@gmail.com

507-920-5631 | cleveringaconstruction.com

Adam Uithoven 507-227-1770 | Derek Sandbulte 507-227-1065