

Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association

August 2025 — Volume 17, Issue 1

WWW.LOUISIANAALUMNIASSOCIATION.ORG

All-School Alumni Reunion Events for 2025!



Alumni attending All-School Reunion 2024, Ashley Ince Skirvin '95, Kris Ince Miller '92 and Julie Alexander Briner '95

On Saturday, October 18, during Colorfest weekend, an all-school and all-class reunion social/mixer will kick-off the evening's events at the American Legion Hall located at 420 Kelly Lane. This will run from 5 p.m. till 6:30 p.m. and is open to anyone who attended school in Louisiana, their spouse/significant other and/or friends, and any friends of the local schools. This social/mixer is free with a cash bar available from the American Legion. This provides a great opportunity for alumni from one class to mingle and reminisce with those from other classes.

After the social / mixer, a dinner for only those with reservations

will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion. The bountiful meal will be catered by Keely Catering & Events, owned by Vicky Mitts Keely ('78), and tickets are \$30 per person. This dinner ticket will include admission to the dance which starts at 9 p.m.

The dinner will again include recognition of this year's special reunion classes (those with their graduation year ending in 5 or 0) in attendance. We are anticipating a big turnout. Since seating is limited, make your reservations today (see the Reservation Form inside the back cover, page 11). Also, a very brief annual business meeting required by our by-laws will be held before dinner.

A bit later that evening at the American Legion Hall, there will be live music and dance. Musical entertainment for the evening will begin with the easy listening sounds of King Benny followed later in the evening with rock/dance tunes by Country Soul. Music will run from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. with doors opening at 8:15 p.m.

A \$10/person cover charge will be required to enter for the dance (unless you attend the dinner earlier). During all events at the American Legion a cash-only bar will be available benefiting the Legion.

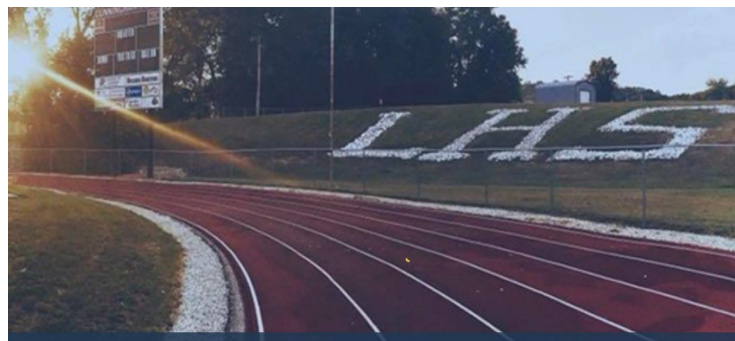
In case you are wondering, the Bulldogs football team will be hosting Mark Twain at Cunningham Field on Friday, October 17 at 7 p.m. It will be Senior Night. The Homecoming game is scheduled for October 3 at 7 p.m. vs. North Callaway. At the time of publication, the parade is expected to be held Thursday evening on Georgia Street starting at Sunset Park and going west to LHS. There will be a bonfire and a rally with food trucks. Time has not been set. The LHS FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter usually conducts a big BBQ fundraiser from 4 to 7 p.m. on Homecoming Day. We understand it may be moved this year to Thursday night to coincide with the bonfire.

If you are interested in playing golf from Friday-Sunday of Colorfest weekend, the Pike County Country Club has agreed to allow returning alumni and friends to play 18 holes for \$40 per person, which includes a cart for two. Rates for 9 holes at PCCC, with a cart for 2 included, will be \$20 per person.

If any returning alumni have interest in touring LHS/LMS on Saturday, October 18, they should contact Walter Logan at waltercl2@att.net by October 10 so arrangements can be made. Last year, Superintendent Ward gladly toured a few alums through the LMS/LHS complex and they were quite impressed.

Alumni T-Shirt Fundraiser

The LHS-red Louisiana Alumni T-shirts in short- and long-sleeved shirts are available. (see photo) This is a fundraiser for the Alumni Association to help our school / students and to cover the costs of this newsletter. They are available now for pickup in Louisiana, can be shipped for an additional charge to cover postage and handling or will be available during the all-school reunion events at the American Legion on October 18. The shirts may be ordered on the Reservation Form on page 11 of this newsletter or on our website. Order yours today and show your Bulldog pride.



Notice of By-Law Change

At the brief annual business meeting held prior to dinner at the all-school, reunion dinner on October 18, a proposed change to our by-laws will be voted on. It pertains to allowing electronic meeting attendance and voting. Our by-laws require advance notice be given members of any proposed by-law change which will be presented. This meets the advance notice requirement.

Visit our website www.LouisianaAlumniAssociation.org

A Message from our President...



**Alumni Association President
Cindy Sitton Blaylock
Class of 1978**

Way back in 1998 the classes of '78 and '68 happened to be gathering at the same venue for their respective reunions and quite frankly had a ball! Several of those in attendance remarked how fun it would be to have a gathering of ALL the classes. Well, it took about 10 years, but the Louisiana High School Alumni and Friends Association came to fruition in 2008. Since then, we have grown our database of alumni to over 7600 names. We owe a debt of gratitude to Mike Pratt who for

most of our years has built that database along with a "family tree" that connects us all, maintained an email and mail contact list and maintained a "memorial list" of deceased members. He retired this year, and his expertise will be missed undoubtedly.

We do not have DUES, everyone who ever attended Louisiana Schools is considered a member/friend. With that said, it is imperative that YOU, our friends and classmates, help us continue our work.

The Association's Purpose: Provide Financial and Moral support to the Louisiana R-II School District; Provide Scholarships to Graduating Seniors of the Louisiana R-II School District; Provide a network of contacts for volunteerism to the Louisiana R-II School District.

You'll see in this newsletter just some of the financial support and special recognition we have brought to our Alma mater. A contribution to the general funds in any amount would be so appreciated! Our Scholarship funds are used STRICTLY for Scholarships. Your generosity to the scholarship fund is commendable of course but just the printing & mailing of the newsletter is over \$3000. We have had several fundraising ventures but those take manpower, booths, sales promos, etc. Financial support for the general fund from you will allow us to continue to help our students, faculty and campus.

Enjoy this year's newsletter content, consider supporting our Association and get your reservation in early for the annual event! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for any consideration.

Cindy Sitton Blaylock, Class of 1978

Moved? Changed your email address?

If you move or change your email address, please remember to let us know. We want to maintain an accurate roster of all who have attended Louisiana schools. If you are receiving this newsletter via mail and have an email account which you check regularly, please send your email address with your full name (please include maiden name), and graduation year (or the year you would have graduated had you stayed) to LHSAlumniLouisianaMO@gmail.com. This will save the Association the cost of printing and mailing future newsletters.

If you received this newsletter addressed to yourself and/or family members and your mailing address is somewhere else, please let the alumni association know your correct mailing address and/or email address.



Like us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/LHSBulldogs1/>



Helping Our School District

Your Alumni Association has helped support the district in a few different ways this year.

The Association again purchased three Louisiana R-II School flags with a large bulldog head on each which fly on a pole in front of the school beside those with the United States and Missouri flags. The cost of these totaled \$459.



At a back-to-school staff luncheon last August, each classroom teacher, 62 total, was given \$25 cash (totaling \$1550). It was a small token of our Association's appreciation for how they all spend their own money for needed classroom supplies, etc. The staff was very appreciative. (We hope to be able to do this again but will need general donations to help cover the cost.)

The Music Boosters approached the Association about the new trailer they had purchased to transport instruments, etc. to various competitions and performances. They indicated they'd like to have decals put on it reading "Louisiana Marching Band" with the "Bulldog" logo. The Association gladly agreed to pay \$500 toward the decals. (see picture)

The Association purchased a half-page ad in the ALAMO yearbook (\$125) and donated (\$100) to the After-Prom Party held each year to keep our kids safe. In addition, our Association donated \$100 to the Music Boosters' Trivia Night.

Each year our Alumni Association recognizes various groups of R-II staff during their special recognition week/day. This year we gave the office managers a coffee cup filled with candy during Administrative Professionals Week; gave bus drivers cookies, a bottle of water with a flavoring packet and a handwritten "thank you" note; and sent a small floral arrangement to the librarians with our "thanks".



(Photo courtesy of Walter Logan)

Financial Support System

Everyone who has attended Louisiana schools or served the district as an administrator, teacher, or support staff is automatically a member of the Alumni Association.

This is true even if it was for a short time. We no longer ask for annual dues to be a member of the Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association.

In lieu of annual dues, each member of the Association is asked to make a regular, tax-deductible donation as their situation permits to our general fund. These donations will help provide on-going operating funds to cover expenses such as printing and mailing our alumni newsletter (over \$1.50/each now), giving classroom teachers \$25 each, and special purchases of materials, services, and/or equipment made to enhance the Louisiana R-II School District and to, in turn, benefit its students. (NOTE: Donations to the scholarship fund are only used for scholarships.)

Please consider donating today. Does your employer make matching donations to tax-exempt organizations? If so, please ask them to match your donation.

Make your tax-deductible donation now! See the Reservation Form with this newsletter which has a space for donations, or you may make donations by going to our website and clicking on the "Donate" at the top of the homepage, then click the "ALUMNI SHOP" button. We accept Venmo or PayPal.



Alumni Association Scholarships Awarded



We are proud to report it has been sixteen years since our Association awarded its first scholarship. The first two, awarded in 2009, were \$500 each. From 2016-2024, we awarded four \$1,000 scholarships annually. Due to a recent generous donation received for our scholarship fund, we increased the amount this year to \$1,500 each. This year's recipients were announced during the Awards Night on April 30. They are listed below along with their plans after graduation:

Ben Bautista plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University and major in financial management and minor in sports finance hoping to work for a major league sports team in their finance department; **Kelis Chatman** will attend Culver-Stockton College to earn a Bachelor's degree in pre-pharmacy then apply to the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis to continue her education in pharmacy; **Tessa DePriest** plans to attend William Woods University to earn her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in elementary education with her intention being to return to Pike County to teach; **Jordan Pedersen** will attend John Wood Community College in Quincy, IL where she will play softball while studying to become an athletic trainer with her aspiration being to work at a college.

NOTE: Fourteen of this year's graduates met the qualifications of the Missouri A+ program. Six of those students plan to utilize the 2 years of free tuition at community colleges and/or career/technical schools in Missouri. To learn more about the A+ program, go to <https://dhewd.mo.gov/ppc/grants/aplusscholarship.php>.

This brings the total amount of scholarships awarded by our Association since 2009 to worthy LHS graduates to \$57,000! This is made possible only with the support from many of you who make memorial / honorarium donations. THANK YOU! We very much appreciate the generous scholarship donation received this past winter. It is our hope that the Association will be able to continue to make these and even greater awards in the years to come.

LHS Counselor Jamie Gollaher reported over \$55,000 in local scholarships, funded by individuals, businesses, and organizations, were awarded to members of the LHS Class of '25. In addition, there will be a total of \$80,000 in Hardin Scholarships awarded to some of this year's graduates and other recent LHS graduates continuing their education. The Association wishes these students and the entire Class of 2025, which was 39 strong, the absolute best in the years ahead! This class was the 150th to graduate from Louisiana High School!



Ben Bautista



Kelis Chatman



Tessa DePriest



Jordan Pedersen

Cindy Perkins Memorial Scholarships Awarded

The family established this scholarship in honor of Cindy Perkins, who dedicated her life to the field of accounting and finance—a profession that plays a vital role in the success and stability of businesses and communities. They hope to support students with the greatest financial need, opening doors to opportunities that reflect Cindy's values and lifelong commitment to helping others succeed.

Although the Cindy Perkins Memorial Scholarship is "administered" by the Alumni Association, it a totally separate Scholarship and was established by a donation from Cindy's family.

Cindy was a 1988 graduate of Louisiana High School. She received her bachelor's degree from Hannibal-LaGrange University and her Masters from Maryville University. After graduation, she worked at HealthLink and then Coda Consulting before joining Monsanto, now Bayer, for 25 years.

The two 2025 recipients of the Cindy Perkins Memorial Scholarship are **Ben Bautista** and **Katie Wallace**, in the amount of \$1,500 each.



Ben Bautista



Katie Wallace

Morrow and Gierke Scholarships Awarded



The recipient of the 2025 Ellen Morrow Memorial Math Scholarship, administered and selected by the Alumni Association, was **Katie Wallace**. Katie plans to attend the University of Missouri-Columbia and pursue a career in the health sciences field. With her love of sports, Katie believes she will choose a health sciences career that keeps her connected to sports. This scholarship, named after a long-time LHS math teacher, goes to the top math student and is in the amount of \$1,000.

Katie Wallace The Association's scholarship committee selected **Lauren Ince** for the 2025 Gierke Family Memorial Scholarship. Lauren plans to attend Moberly Area Community College to obtain her associate's degree in occupational therapy after which she plans to transfer to a university to pursue a master's degree in the same field. She intends to return to her hometown and seek employment within a school or hospital setting. This scholarship memorializes brothers Jacob and Christian Gierke and their father, Jim, who was the former owner of the Louisiana Press- Journal. This \$2,000 scholarship is administered by the Missouri Press Association.



Lauren Ince

Melone Family Trust Scholarships Awarded

In 2022 Fred Meloan (LHS '55) established an ongoing scholarship. It was his desire to recognize the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of each year's graduating class.

The Valedictorian of the Class of 2025, therefore the recipient of the Meloan Family Trust Scholarship in the amount of \$3,700, was **Brady Sheppard**. He will attend the University of Missouri-Columbia to earn his bachelor's degree in agriculture before returning to Pike County to work on the family farm.



Brady Sheppard

The Salutatorian of the Class of 2025 and the recipient of a \$2,500 Meloan Scholarship was **Katie Wallace**. She will attend the University of Missouri-Columbia and pursue a career in the health sciences field. Katie's goal in life is to select a career in health sciences which allows her to remain in touch with sports.



Katie Wallace

Lamé Scholarships Awarded

In January 2023 Ken Lamé (LHS '59) indicated he and his wife wished to continue funding the two scholarships for LHS seniors in their names. But, at their age, it was their desire to have our Association's scholarship committee, who know the students, make the selection of the winners and handle all coordination with the school. The Association agreed to do as the Lamés requested.

The Elizabeth Travis Lamé Family Memorial Nursing Scholarship was awarded to **Ki'Arah Jones** who plans to attend Culver-Stockton College to study nursing. **Madalin Parsons** was selected as the recipient of The Kenneth D. and Ruth Dodge Lamé STEM Scholarship given in honor of Mrs. Ellen Morrow. Madalin plans to attend Missouri University of Science & Technology-Rolla to study biological science. Both scholarships are for \$2,000.



Ki'Arah Jones



Madalin Parsons

(Photos courtesy of LHS)

From the desk of Craig Smith, LHS



LHS Principal Craig Smith
(Photo courtesy of Walter Logan)

As the 2024-2025 school year draws to a close, the staff at Louisiana High School reflects proudly on a year filled with memorable milestones, academic strides, and student engagement. From the excitement of the first week of school to the end-of-year celebrations, our students, staff, and faculty have made this a year to remember as my first year as principal of Louisiana High School.

Academically, the counseling department stayed busy supporting students across all grade levels. Seniors meet regularly with Mrs. Gollaher, LHS counselor, to finalize graduation plans and ensure they are on track for graduation. The LHS course catalog was updated to reflect new opportunities for students, and ACT preparation workshops helped juniors get ready for the important exam. Incoming freshmen participated in Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) meetings, helping them chart a successful path through high school. The PLTC (Pike-Lincoln Technical Center) tours also opened doors for students interested in vocational training and hands-on careers.

To encourage academic achievement and excellent attendance, LHS implemented incentive programs throughout the year. Students who met academic and attendance benchmarks were rewarded with fun outings, including a bowling trip to Twin City Bowl, for excelling on the EOC (End of Course) exams. The year concluded with a trip to the St. Louis Cardinals game for those students who achieved a 3.33 GPA and had attendance above 90% for the year, 86 students qualified and 50 attended the game on May 21st vs the Detroit Tigers. Each student received \$20 from our Incentive fund, which was funded by the soda machine in the high school commons.

Recognition has been an important part of fostering school spirit. Each month, outstanding students are named for showing academic growth, leadership, and positive attitudes. Equally important, LHS honored a staff member each month, voted on by students, for their dedication, creativity, and impact on student learning.

March brought our Freshman Orientation Night, an event designed to welcome next year's 9th grade students and their families. Students explored course offerings, met teachers, and learned about all the opportunities available at LHS. There were over 20 families in attendance. It was a strong kickoff for the Class of 2029!

As we closed the year, with the 150th graduating class of Louisiana High School, we not only celebrated academic achievements and extra-curricular success, but also the resilience, teamwork, and spirit that makes our school community shine. I look forward to continuing the rich tradition of excellence at LHS in the 2025-2026 school year and can't wait to welcome new and returning students in the fall.

Louisiana Bulldog Athletic Hall of Fame

The LHS Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2025 was announced late this June. Their induction ceremony will take place on Homecoming Friday, October 3rd at 6:30 p.m. prior to the football game. A reception for the inductees and their invited guests will be held at 5 p.m. that day in the LHS Commons.

Below are the Class of 2025 members and a summary of their athletic accomplishments:

Darrell Chatman – graduated LHS in 1978, participated in football, basketball, and track. He earned 1st team All-Conference, All-District, and All-State honors in football. He was a 3-year starter in basketball while in track he placed third in the State in high jump.

Edward Gower – graduated from LHS in 1978, participated in football, basketball, and track. He earned 1st team All-Conference, All-District, and All-State honors in football as a quarterback and punter. He was selected as the Most Valuable Track Athlete in 1976, 1977 and 1978 while setting the school record in pole vault in 1976 and 1977. Gower received a scholarship to play football at Missouri Western.

Billy Jordan – graduated LHS in 1972, participated in football, basketball and golf all four years. He earned All-Conference (2 years), All-District (2 years) and All-State (2 years) honors in football. Billy earned All-Conference honors 2 years in basketball and All-Conference and All-District honors in golf 3 years. Sadly, this will be awarded posthumously as Billy tragically died in an auto accident last November.

James York, Jr. – graduated from LHS in 1989, participated in both football and track for four years. He earned All-Conference, All-District, All-Area, and All-State honors in football while setting the LHS record for discus in track in 1989. James went on to teach and coach football and track in Troy from 1994 to 2023.

1983 Football Team – This team went undefeated during the regular season posting a 10-0 record. They have the 2nd best overall record in school history with a 12-1 record. They won the Clarence Cannon Conference and district championships making it to the State Semifinals losing there to the eventual state champion. This team finished the season ranked 4th in State in Class 2A.

LHS's HOF coordinator, Ryan Griffin, indicated the school is always looking for nominations for the Hall of Fame. "We know there are tons of people that deserve to be honored but we need people to nominate them," Griffin said. The criteria for eligibility and the nomination form can be found on the high school's website under Athletics (http://lhs.louisiana.k12.mo.us/athletics/bulldog_hall_of_fame), by contacting Griffin by phone at 573-721-7964 or by email at griffinr@louisiana.k12.mo.us.



Bulldog Boosters Continue Their Support

This critical organization continues to raise funds to benefit our students participating in sports. Through profits from concession stands at various events and the sale of Bulldog-themed clothing, they pay for many items the school budget does not cover. Examples of items they paid for this year include MS & HS cheer shoes, clay targets for HS trapshooters, HS boys and girls' basketball practice jerseys, MS & HS softball hoodies, HS swim warm up jackets, uniforms and gear, HS baseball pullovers, Hall of Fame meal and much more. The total spent before the school year ended was well over \$10,000.

Those who work very hard, often behind the scenes, are Samantha Grover (President), Jennifer Gschwender (VP), Tonya Sheppard (Treasurer) and Ashley Branstetter (Secretary). A big tip o' the cap to these leaders and all who worked in any concession stands, etc.



From Books to Barbells?!?

During the summer of 2024, it was learned that there were two large holes in the concrete under the thick mats in the LHS weight-lifting area located in the mezzanine above the Jake Noel Gymnasium. It was decided, given insufficient time to repair them before the start of school, that the weight equipment would be moved to the middle school stage for 2024-2025.

The holes have since been filled and repaired but guess where the weight equipment has been moved for the 2025-2026 school year? OK, you give? Believe it or not, what was originally the high school library will become the weight room. Much of the equipment had been moved as of mid-June (see photo).

You may be asking yourself some questions now. *Like where's the high school library now?* A portion of the old, open courtyard was enclosed to initially make a computer lab, middle school art room and new restrooms. A couple years ago it was decided that one library was sufficient to serve both the middle and high schools and it was put in what had been the computer lab. (Students are each issued a Chromebook now so the need for a computer lab is much less.) *But what's now going to be in the mezzanine?* It is going to have artificial grass put on it and will be used by various sports teams (golf, track, baseball, etc.) when it is too cold or wet to practice outdoors. Times change quickly as does the utilization of space within the district's buildings.



New weight room for 2025-2026 (Photo courtesy of Walter Logan)

LHS ALAMO Yearbooks are Online

Don't forget you can view any of the LHS ALAMO yearbooks through 2016 online. These were scanned a handful of years ago and it is by far the most viewed page of the Alumni Association's website. The website page where the yearbooks can be viewed is www.LouisianaAlumniAssociation.org/alamos_yearbooks.

Should you have photographs or clippings you believe would be of interest in helping to preserve the history of LHS, contact Mindy Webert at 314-580-5903 or via email at LHSAlumniLouisianaMO@gmail.com.

SCAM ALERT!

CAUTION!!! Beware of scams which portray themselves as our Association. These come via email (and now on Facebook too) and are shown to be received From: Louisiana Alumni or Louisiana Alumni Site (or similar). They offer memberships, sell merchandise, etc. Please **DO NOT** pay membership dues to or purchase apparel from them thinking it is the Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association.

New LHS Counselor Takes Over

Jamie Gollaher joined the LHS staff last summer (2024) after the newsletter content was finalized. She is a Class of 2000 graduate of Silex High School. Jamie attended Bradley University and graduated with her Bachelor of Science degree in Communications in 2004. She completed her Master of Science in Education with an emphasis in School Counseling in 2007 from Missouri Baptist University. Jamie has worked in elementary, middle and high schools as a school counselor and this year was her 11th year in education. She is currently working on her Psychological Examiner Certification from Missouri Baptist.



LHS Counselor, Jammie Gollaher (Photo courtesy of LHS)

Jamie is no stranger to Louisiana as her mother, Marian Kuntz, worked at Stark Bro's for nearly 40 years and Jamie worked there some while in high school and college. She also completed her elementary counseling practicum at Louisiana Elementary with Tammy Shireman in 2007. She currently resides in Frankford with her husband Grant and her daughter Carly. As a family, they enjoy camping, gardening, and family game nights. After her first year at LHS, Jamie said "I am excited for what's ahead and proud of the relationships I have built so far."

Meet the New Girls Basketball Head Coach



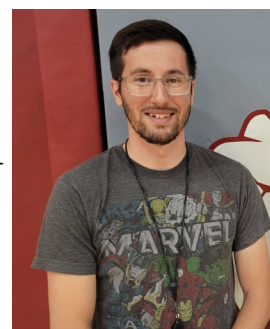
Taking over from Derrick Branstetter, as the new LHS Girls basketball head coach, is Grant Fricke. He is from the small town of Winfield, Iowa. He was a multi-sport athlete there playing soccer, golf, track, cross country but basketball was always his passion.

Grant walked on to play basketball at Culver-Stockton where he played for three years. His senior year he did his student teaching at Unity High School in Mendon, IL, which prevented him from playing basketball. That year Unity's basketball team took 3rd place in the state which made for a fun run.

He taught for 2 years before taking a position in Pilot Grove MO where he was for six years. Last year he taught and coached at Mark Twain. He resides in Center, MO.

He indicated he loves to press, create turnovers and score. Grant will evaluate the team's skills to determine what style offense he will run. On a mid-June afternoon, two trainers were working with the players on skill development prior to their practice.

Fricke is currently slated to teach middle school history. Welcome to Louisiana Coach Fricke.



Girls Head Basketball Coach Grant Fricke (Photo courtesy of Walter Logan)

Contact the Louisiana Chamber of Commerce for local information or lodging at info@louisianamochamber.com or 573-253-5201.





News from our Superintendent

Visiting with Dr. Tom Ward in June, he shared information about legislation that had passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate but was awaiting Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe's signature. It includes a great deal, impacting education in our state. It is expected he will sign the legislation, but he could strike portions out, etc. The Governor has till July 15 to sign or veto it. If neither are done, it automatically goes into effect.

Dr. Thomas Ward,
(Photo courtesy of LHS)

This legislation calls for fully funding the "formula" as established for school districts. That means that each school district will receive from the State of

Missouri \$7,145 per student. This is up from \$750 per student districts received from the State for the 2024-2025 school year.

As mentioned last year, the State mandated starting salary for first-year teachers in 2024-2025 be set at a minimum of \$40,000 with the minimum for those teachers with a Masters + ten years of experience at \$46,000. Louisiana R-II abides by these minimum salaries. Many districts, including Louisiana, are receiving Baseline grant funds from the State for having added a "compression lane" for the first four steps in the salary schedule.

Another item included in this legislation is that no cell phones will be allowed in schools. Cell phones have become a major issue for teachers in the classroom. In 2024-2025, Louisiana R-II banned them totally for elementary and middle school students but allowed high school students to have them in their lockers only. Ward indicated even if this does not get signed by the Governor, the Missouri School Boards Association, through the superintendents, will implement such a ban.

This legislation allows schools to count students who are expelled or suspended from school to be counted as present. This will help improve attendance rates which impacts funding. Grade level equivalency is addressed in this legislation as well. The State has added another category to the scoring levels on the Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests. This makes those scoring at the Basic level are now deemed to have knowledge appropriate for their grade level. Previously, the students had to score Advanced to be considered "at grade level."

Many school safety items are put forth in this legislation. Dr. Ward indicated the Louisiana R-II district is planning to make some improvements to building entrances to enhance the safety and well-being of their students.

Ward mentioned he was excited about the new elementary principal taking over in 2025-2026. (see article at right)

The Class of 2025 was the 150th graduating class from Louisiana High School. Dr. Ward said to be sure and share that. There were four graduates in the Class of 1875. R. R. Rowley, for whom the annex at the school on Jackson St. was named, was the Valedictorian of the class. He later went on to become a teacher, principal and superintendent of Louisiana R-II Schools.

Dr. Ward said recruiting qualified and certified teachers is still VERY challeng-

ing for schools and ours is no different. Research shows new teachers average 2-3 years in education before they leave seeking another career.

Open enrollment has been a hot-button topic in Jefferson City the last year or two. It would allow any student to attend any public school of his choice regardless of where they live. Some proposed bills have even included taxpayer-subsidized vouchers to help parents pay for tuition at private schools. This past legislative session the Missouri House of Representatives passed open enrollment while the Senate talked about it only one day, dropped it, and it "died". Dr. Ward said he received a few calls from parents of students in other districts who thought open enrollment had passed. They were inquiring about their children attending Louisiana. He does not believe it would be that traumatic for our district.

When asked about any concerns he had over the possible dismantling of the US Department of Education, Dr. Ward said he believes grants and other funding will be transferred to other departments. He is concerned that federal education grants may become block grants for which private schools would be eligible. That would likely reduce the amount available to public school districts.

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) has mandated that any homeschooled students or those taking classes virtually must be allowed to compete in athletics and other activities (i.e. FFA) at the school district in which they reside. Louisiana has allowed this for a year or two.

When asked about the financial health of our district, Dr. Ward indicated the District's goal for carryover funds at the end of June (the FY end) is 28%. At the end of the '24-'25 year we are at 34% and the '25-'26 budget is estimating a 32% carryover.

Dr. Ward was excited to share that the district will be bringing in well-known educator, author and speaker Dr. Ruby Payne on September 15th. Her extensive work across education, social services, criminal justice, healthcare, and the workplace, focuses particularly on the culture of poverty and its relation to education. Her presentation will be on a Monday, thus allowing Louisiana educators and those in many of the surrounding districts to attend as a result of their 4-day school week. Parents and district patrons will be invited to attend as well.

New Elementary School Principal

Carey Scherder will serve as the new elementary principal starting this school year. She married her high school sweetheart, Brian, and they've been married for over 20 years. Together, they have two sons — Brendan, who will be a junior at Bowling Green High School, and Carson, who will be entering 8th grade. Scherder attended Westminster College for her bachelor's degree, Missouri Baptist for her Masters and William Woods University for her Specialist. When asked why she chose to enter education, Carey said she loves kids and enjoys instilling in them the joy of learning new things.



Carey Scherder, Louisiana Elementary Principal (Photo courtesy of Carey Scherder)

Though she grew up as a Bobcat and has lived in Bowling Green her whole life, Carey does have roots in Louisiana. Her maternal grandmother, Dorothy Kuna Knock, was from Louisiana and her dad, Lloyd Kuna, served as the head of Stark Brothers when Governor Lloyd Stark went to serve his term in Jefferson City. Carey has a deep appreciation and love for the beauty and charm of Louisiana.

Carey says when away from work she enjoys the outdoors, especially kayaking. Of course, with her two active sons, following their athletic endeavors fills a great deal of her time.

She has been in education for over 20 years. Carey started as a middle school science teacher and has been an Assistant Principal (two years at Louisiana Elementary), Gifted Teacher, and a Primary Principal (at Mark Twain grades K-2). One thing Carey has learned is that change takes time. She is excited about being a part of the Bulldog family again.

ALUMNI CONTACT INFORMATION

Below is the contact information of LHS alumni serving in our Association in key rolls. Feel free to contact them directly as the need arises.

Cindy Blaylock, President
Louisianaalumni@yahoo.com
573-754-2109

Danette Robinson DeBourge, Treasurer
deedebourge@icloud.com
573-356-6385

Tina Chidster, V.P. & Scholarship Chair
tinachidster@gmail.com
573-754-0535

Mindy York Webert, Membership/Alumni Roster
LHSAlumniLouisianaMO@gmail.com
314-580-5903



Louisiana R-II Staff Retirements

On the last day of classes (a half-day) three staff members of the district were honored at a retirement luncheon. They were Debbie Baker, Sonja Burse Knox and Scott Pursifull. Dr. Ward shared that these three will be VERY difficult to replace.

Debbie Baker served 16 years as custodian and much more at the elementary school. She was the first person children saw each morning as she greeted them outside regardless of the weather, would help them out of the car/bus telling them to have a good day and even give em a hug if they were upset. Sometimes to calm them down she'd even walk them to their room and by then all was fine. A fun memory she shared was "I was taped to the wall 3 times by students over the years!" Teachers and students signed two pillows for her retirement gift. In retirement, Miss Debbie, as she was known, plans to catch up on stuff around the house, clear out the garage, go campin' and fishin' and, of course, spend time with her grandchildren.

Sonya Burse Knox was with the district for 26 years! She started as an elementary aide (now referred to as paraprofessionals) for three years and a custodian during the summers. She then applied for and got the high school custodian job where she spent most of her time though she worked in all three schools both on

day and night shifts. Sonya was far more than a custodian. Her warm, welcoming nature allowed her to be a mentor, confidant, and "cheerleader" to students. She enjoyed watching kids grow during their high school years. Sonya said so many kids say they wanna get out of here but then return and say they wish they could've stayed longer. She looked forward every day to turning on the lights, keepin' the kids safe and the schools clean.

Scott Pursifull served Louisiana R-II for a total of 24 years. He started as a maintenance assistant under Loren Sloppy. When Loren retired, Scott ultimately assumed Loren's role as district maintenance director. He said there have been lots of changes during his tenure pointing out HVAC upgrades to computer-based systems, paved parking lots, new track & bleachers, better bathrooms, windows and roofs (no more bucket brigades needed when it rains). When asked what tasks he looked forward to doing Scott said, oddly enough, the solitude of plowing snow at nights and painting. On the other hand, he didn't look forward to maintaining athletic fields and servicing the 104 HVAC units on the roofs each summer when it was often 104 degrees. Even as Scott says his knees are going bad, he plans to travel during July and then decide what he'll do to keep busy in retirement.



Debbie Baker (Photo courtesy of Walter Logan)



Sonya Burse Knox (Photo courtesy of Walter Logan)



Scott Pursifull, (Photo courtesy of Walter Logan)



Christmas Window Decoration

For years, the Christmas season kicks off in Louisiana with a parade and Santa Claus coming to town on Thanksgiving weekend. The last couple years there has been a concerted effort to light up downtown with

lighted displays especially in the vacant store fronts. The Alumni Association has participated since the beginning by decorating a window. This year in the former Family Drug's store window the Association had the display below.

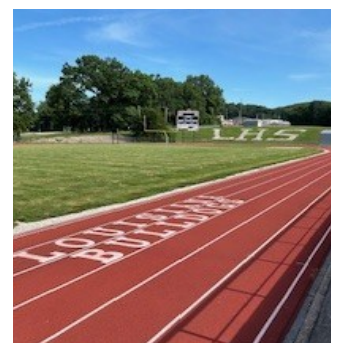


LHS Alumni and Friends Christmas Window (Photo courtesy of Walter Logan)

LHS / LMS / Louisiana News Briefs



Four new park benches and 3 new picnic tables (one handicap accessible) have been placed in Henderson/Riverview Parks. This was a Rotary project with some grant money and donations by John Sitton and others... The Louisiana Area Historical Museum exterior has been fully repaired and renovated and now work has begun on remodeling and upgrading the second floor... The LHS Class of '74, in recognition of their 50th reunion, donated to the District a concrete bulldog which is on "pawtrol" outside the high school entrance (see photo)...Will O'Donnell, LHS '99, returned home as the lead comic at a very successful Comedy Night fundraiser put on by the Buffalo Township United Fund...Three seniors received athletic scholarships, one in football and two in softball ...The LHS softball team was again recognized as an academic all-state team by the state softball coaches/ association...The playground at the elementary school has been fenced in for safety and security purposes...Though not sanctioned by MSHSAA, our junior high track & field team captured a second consecutive state title.



(Photos courtesy of Vicky Keely)

Where Are They Now???



Mrs. Mary Hampton

The Association thought it would be nice to feature the Hampton family who have devoted over 100 years educating students in our District. They were known to us as Mrs. Hampton, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Barber, and, today, Ms. Barber carries on. Education has long been a pillar of teaching for the Louisiana R-II School District. For the Hampton family education has been a calling passed on for three generations. It all began in May 1953 when **Mrs. Mary Hampton** graduated from the then Hannibal-LaGrange College where she earned an AA degree. She began her teaching career teaching kindergarten that fall in Pattonville. From that beginning her teaching career spanned 32 years. Districts in which she taught included Curryville, Calio, Bevier, and Frankford. In those districts she taught 5th and 6th grade combined classes. It was also during that time Mrs. Hampton spent summers attending the then Northeast Missouri State Teachers college, Kirksville where she earned a BS in Elementary Education the summer of 1964.

In September 1966 Mrs. Hampton came to the Louisiana R-II School District. She taught 5th grade self-contained classroom. When the 5th and 6th grades were departmentalized, she taught 5th grade and 6th grade science. She was thrilled! Teaching science was her passion. Mrs. Hampton retired from teaching in 1986.

Her daughter, **Mary Ann Hampton Anderson**, graduated in 1957 from Louisiana R-II High School. She then attended Hannibal-LaGrange College and graduated with an AA in Elementary Education degree in May 1959. Mary Ann married Charles Roy Anderson Jr. that August. That September Mrs. Anderson taught in the New Hartford Elementary School. It was a two-room rural school. 28 Students ranging from first grade through the eighth grade greeted her. That was quite a year for all! There were no discipline problems, fights or arguments. The older students helped the younger ones. At the end of that school term Mary Ann realized that to be the best teacher she could be she resigned her position to attend Northeast Missouri State Teachers College. She graduated the summer of 1961 having earned her BS in Elementary Education. In September of that year Mary Ann began teaching first grade for four years and a half year teaching second grade at the Field Elementary School Louisiana R-II School district. She resigned in February 1965. For the next ten years Mary Ann did serve the district as a substitute teacher and part-time teacher. Returning to full-time teaching in 1974, she taught third grade at the Meriwether School for three years then completed her teaching career teaching first grade at the Louisiana Elementary School. She retired in May 2003, having taught two generations of students spanning a career of 32 years. Retirement didn't last long for Mary Ann. In 2004 she worked full-time as a receptionist in her daughter's medical office in Kansas City for 10 years. She continued working part-time until May 2019. Mary Ann and her husband moved to Kearney, MO in 2005. Today she stays active attending the activities of her Styles grandchildren as well as participating in many of the activities of the Kearney Senior Center. She says, "Louisiana will always be home. Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog!"



Mary Ann Hampton Anderson

Another of Mrs. Hampton's daughters, **Harriet Sue Hampton Barber** began her college career at Hannibal-LaGrange College where she received an Associate of Arts degree in 1962. In the fall of 1962, she transferred to Northeast Missouri State Teachers College, and in 1964, she and her mother received their Bachelor of Science degrees in Education, graduating in the same class. Harriet began teaching First Grade at the Meriwether School in 1964. When the new primary school opened, she began teaching Second Grade. The new school had an open classrooms design with no walls, and this design was used to enhance a new pedagogical approach wherein teachers taught in teams. She was one of the participants from the district who traveled to Oklahoma and Connecticut to observe team teaching and to learn about this approach to instruction. As a result, the Primary School became a location where other teachers could come and observe the process of team teaching. While teaching full-time, Harriet pursued a Master of Arts Degree in Teaching at Webster University where she graduated in 1987. She retired in May 2003. Following retirement, she became a substitute teacher in the district and served frequently in that capacity until March 2020. Harriet continues to enjoy retirement in Louisiana and is grateful for the many rewarding years she had in the district with colleagues whom she admired and by whom she was inspired.



Harriet Sue Hampton Barber

Mrs. Barber's daughter, **Heather C. Barber** graduated from Louisiana High School with the Class of 1996. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood degree at Hannibal-LaGrange College graduating in 2001. Ms. Barber began teaching in Bowling Green. She taught first grade and worked in Title I Reading from 2001-2006. Heather continued the family teaching tradition in Louisiana R-II in 2006, where she worked in Special Education and Title I Reading. She was hired to teach First Grade in 2023, and as luck would have it, she is in her aunt's former classroom! She is looking forward to welcoming her next group of students in the Fall of 2025.



Heather C. Barber

In closing, the Hamptons are proud and privileged to have served the families of the Louisiana R-II School District. Together they have contributed more than 100 years educating students, working with administrators, fellow teachers and school board members. The legacy of teaching has now been passed to Heather.

Help Us Recreate LHS' Football History

This year Ben Nichtula (LHS '25) was named to the all-state team. Last winter, once I completed my off-season tasks, I ran out of "football" things to do and started pondering, "Who's the last LHS player to get all-state in football?", "How many have we had in the history of LHS football?" What began as simple questions turned into a monster. Unfortunately, I learned a previous coach had emptied a couple file cabinets full of statistics, etc. into a dumpster. I knew it would be difficult to recreate.

I went through the old ALAMOs and took photos of the individual photos, recorded the season narrative, and recorded post-season honors and school records when they were available. I also recorded things that had to do with the history surrounding football like when the "L" was put on the hillside and then when the "HS" was added. I was also able to find all the coaching records for football as well as some of the school football records. Some people I've reached out to snapped pictures of newspaper articles, pictures, etc. and sent them to me. I also contacted the Clarence Cannon Conference secretary and received everything the conference had (post-season awards, meeting minutes, etc.).

It's been one of the coolest projects I have ever worked on, especially after growing up and knowing many of the coaches, players and hearing stories, but frustrating at the same time because I know there's more out there.

I am nowhere near finding everything, especially the early years. If anyone has old newspaper articles, photographs, scrapbooks, etc. that they would like to add to this little history project, just snap pictures of what you have and email them to me. I'll add it to my file (contact information below). At some point I will make this public when it is closer to completion. Go Bulldogs!!

Stephen Gschwender, Head Football Coach, gschwenders@louisiana.k12.mo.us



In Memory of Betty Peecher...



Betty Lou Peecher, 95, formerly of Louisiana, passed away on June 20, 2025, while surrounded by family at her home in Washington, Missouri.

Betty, daughter of the late Russell and Mary Finney, was born on December 18, 1929, in Springfield, Illinois. She was united in marriage to George Lindsey Peecher on June 6, 1954, in Greenfield, Illinois and the couple spent 67 wonderful years together.

She attended Greenfield High School and graduated in 1947. Later she attended Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois where she earned an associate's degree. Two years later she was able to attend Illinois State University and earned a B.S. in Elementary Education in 1953.

Upon graduating she moved to Roxana, Illinois where she taught second grade. While in Roxana she met the love of her life, George. They met at a diner and began dating in January 1954. By June of the same year, they were married. The couple later moved to Louisiana where Betty began substitute teaching and later would begin her full time teaching career; in all, she lovingly devoted herself to 33 years in the Louisiana School District.

Betty is survived by a son, Roger Peecher and wife, Cindy Peecher of Arrow Rock, MO; a daughter, Mary Lou Littrell and husband, Robert of Washington, MO; and 5 grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Louisiana Public Library.

Honoring Our Local Veterans

Louisiana Community Betterment Association and American Legion Post 370 are pleased to announce that they have joined together to raise funds to construct the Louisiana Community Veterans Honor Roll Memorial Board. This project is long overdue for our community. Please join us in making this project a success by purchasing a yard sign for you or your family member that is or has served in the United States Armed Forces. These yard signs can be proudly displayed in your yard on Memorial Day, 4th of July, Veterans Day or any time you want to pay tribute to your loved one. The sign includes a photo, name, branch served, rank and years served.

Every dollar from the proceeds of the sale of the yard signs will be used to pay for the construction of the Veterans Honor Roll Memorial Board. Veterans Honor Roll Board PLAQUES will be sold separately from the yard signs. These Plaques are only for those who are, or have been, a resident of the 63353 area zip code OR a past or present member of American Legion 370. They are 12" x 6", made of stainless steel, and will display the Veteran's name, branch, rank, and years served. The plaques will be permanently placed on the outside Honor Roll Memorial Board at the American Legion Post 370, and will be viewed for generations to come, honoring all those who have served.

If you have any questions or need more information call Bill Huckstep at 573-754-0367, Diana Huckstep at 314-640-4420, or Marcie Bureson at 573-567-6774.



Yard sign and plaques (Photos courtesy of Walter Logan)



In Memory of Beatrice "Bea" Goodin (Henry)



At 97 years of age, Bea passed away on July 18, 2024, in Louisiana, Missouri. Born on March 10, 1927, in New Hartford, Missouri, she was the daughter of Emery and Ermal (Reese) Henry. She lived most of her life in Louisiana, Missouri and has owned the same home since 1953, living there until 2020 when she moved to Lynn's Heritage House.

Bea attended elementary/middle schools in New Hartford, Louisiana, and Vandalia, Missouri before graduating from high school in Louisiana, Missouri-class of 1946.

She pursued higher education immediately after high school. She received a Secretarial diploma at Sanford Business College in St. Louis, MO then earned a Bachelor of Science in Early Education at Culver-Stockton, MO, (Summa Cum Laude) in 1971, followed by a Master of Arts in Education Northeast Missouri State in Kirksville (4.0 gpa).

Bea's life was marked by her dedication to education and her profound impact on her students and colleagues. She leaves behind a legacy of love and lifelong learning, remembered fondly by those who knew her both personally and professionally.

Contributions in Bea's memory may be made to "Friends of the Library," an organization she passionately supported.

In Memory of Nancy Lesley...



Nancy was born on September 21, 1954, in Ferguson, MO to Charles and Rosemary Jean Lesley. She is survived by her daughter, Carina (Bill) Capps of Louisiana, MO, 2 grandchildren, Gretchen Capps of Jefferson City, MO and Ryan Capps of Louisiana, MO, 2 brothers, Rick (Kay) Lesley of St. Peters, MO and Mike (Charity) Lesley of Louisiana, MO, a sister, Kathy Smith of Louisiana, MO, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Nancy was a 1973 graduate of Louisiana High School. She attended Lindenwood University in St. Charles, MO where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. She would later continue her education, receiving her master's degree. She would return to her hometown of Louisiana to teach elementary school for the next 32 years. She retired from Louisiana Elementary in 2010. Nancy loved teaching children and would not stay retired long. She started her second career working at St. Clement Catholic School as the after-school coordinator and would eventually add Title 1 teaching to that. She spent 13 years at St. Clement School, only stopping once her health prevented her from continuing. Nancy impacted numerous children throughout her educational career.

If there was anything Nancy loved more than teaching, it was the Catholic church and the community we have here in Pike County. She enjoyed spending time with parishioners and took communion to Lynn's Heritage House until her health prevented her from going.

The family would ask that if anyone would like to make a donation in Nancy's memory, please choose either the Louisiana Elementary Bullpup Boosters or St. Clement Catholic School.



If you receive a printed copy of this newsletter and have an email address which you check, please send your email address to: LHSAlumniLouisianaMO@gmail.com

DONATIONS MADE TO THE LHS ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association accepts all donations, Memorials and Honorariums from anyone who wishes to contribute to the Scholarship Fund. The donations are tax-deductible contributions which allow the Alumni Association to continue presenting scholarships to LHS seniors who need them to further their education. Anyone wishing to contribute may send a donation to The Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association, PO Box 404, Louisiana, MO 63353 or through PayPal on the web site www.louisianaalumniassociation.org at any time. Those contributions for the Scholarship Fund should be so designated.

The following donations have been made to the LHS Alumni & Friends Association from July 2024 through June 2025:

In memory of **Becky Jamieson Allen**
From Alberta Robbins

In memory of **George Norvell**
From Dan & Danette DeBourge

In memory of **Steve Greenwood**
From LHS Class of 1975

In memory of **Mary Chatman**
From Cindy Blaylock

In memory of **Barbara Leone Anderson**
From Jeanne Galvan, Harry & Carolyn Elliott

In memory of **Colleen Pothoff**
From LHS Class of 1965

In memory of **Martha Sue Smith**
From Clark & Roberta Pointer, Sandy Orf, Cindy Blaylock

In memory of **Deceased Members Class of 1959**
From Kenneth Lamé

In memory of **Connie Chatman**
From Jeri Smith, Dan & Danette DeBourge

In memory of **Glen Edward Randall**
From Sandy Orf

In memory of **Steven "Dude" McChristian**
From Louisiana R-II School Dist. Board of Directors

In memory of **Deceased Members Class of 1964**
From Carl Littrell

In memory of **Janet Abel Chesser**
From Alberta Robbins

In memory of **William J. Ringhausen**
From Rebecca Wood, LHS Class of 1965, Pam Todd-Watts

In memory of **James (Jim) Guthrie**
From Jesse E. Woods, Cindy Blaylock

In memory of **Deceased Members Class of 1965**
From Larry Lamberson

In memory of **Charles Ray Clarkson**
From Dan & Danette DeBourge, LHS Class of 1974

In memory of **Gary Robbins**
From Alberta Robbins

In memory of **Donna Lee (Parsons) Price**
From Dennis Goodman, LHS Class of 1965

In memory of **Deceased Members Class of 1974**
From Janet Luck Miller

In memory of **Edward L. Creamer**
From Joseph Creamer

In memory of **Kay Cox Rottman**
From Sandy Orf

In memory of **Sharon L. (Muff) Love**
From Carolyn (Stoddard) Sanderson, Artie & Lori Stoddard, Pam Stoddard & Family, Jeffrey & Kim Stoddard & Son, Mary Ann Lovell, Linda L. Ince, Charles L. Drury, Jr., Jaclyn M. McGuire, Cindy Blaylock, The Ed Muff Family, Gerald W. & Gail Smith, Bryce & Doris Love

In memory of **Deceased Members Class of 1975**
From Cindy Kilby Law

In memory of **Jonilyn Branstetter Findley**
From Walter & Cindy Logan, Dan & Danette DeBourge

In memory of **Kenneth Stark**
From Kenneth Lamé

In memory of **John Stuerman**
From Luke Stuerman

In memory of **Deceased Members Class of 1984**
From Class of 1984

In memory of **Priscilla Giltner**
From Jack & Dixie Holland

In memory of **Dr. Lawrence Stuerman**
From Luke Stuerman

In memory of **Kenneth Stark**
From Kenneth & Ruth Lamé

The following donations to the **Ellen Morrow Math Scholarship Fund** (Administered by the LHS Alumni & Friends Association) has been received From Kenneth Lamé, David Mitts/ Caterpillar match, Henry Pierce

In memory of **Beatrice (Bea) Goodin**
From Sandy Orf, Wanda Hunter, Rob & Debra Hunter, Louisiana R-II School Dist. Board of Directors, Mary Luke, Jeri Smith, Steve & Cheryl LaRue, Sharon Love, Dan & Danette DeBourge

In memory of **Sarah Stuerman**
From Luke Stuerman

In memory of **John Clinton Lovell**
From LHS Class of 1965

The following donation to the **Elizabeth Travis Lamé Nursing Scholarship Fund**

In memory of **Lois Hastings**
From Jack & Dixie Holland

In memory of **Katherine Morton Todd**
From Wanda Hunter, Cheryl Ward, Sharon Thomas, Mary Luke, Jeri Smith, Harry & Carolyn Elliott, Dan & Danette DeBourge

In memory of **Norma J. (Wharton) Richards**
From LHS Class of 1965

(Administered by the LHS Alumni & Friends Association) has been received From Kenneth D. Lamé

In memory of **Kernelle McFarland Henry**
From JoAnnette Johnson Skidmore

In memory of **Andrew Morton Todd**
From Katherine Todd

In memory of **Charla Kay (Sudy) York**
From Joyce L Robey, Gerald W. & Gail Smith

The following donation to the **Kenneth D. & Ruth Dodge Lame STEM Scholarship Fund**

In memory of **Robin Heffner**
From LHS Class of 1974

In memory of **Janet Robbins Welker**
From Alberta Robbins, Jim & Peggy York

In memory of **Lucy Convy Sheppard**
From Cindy Blaylock, Bryce & Doris Love

(Administered by the LHS Alumni & Friends Association) has been received From Kenneth D. Lamé

In memory of **David Hunter**
From Jack & Dixie Holland

In memory of **Bruce & Nancy Werbach**
From Karl & Tina Dewey

In memory of **Barbara Crow**
From Rebecca Wood

The following donation to the **Cindy Perkins Memorial Scholarship Fund** has been received From Arthur Bradley

In memory of **William (Billy) Jordan, III**
From The Jordan, King, White and Bradshaw Families, Mary Ann Lovell

In memory of **Nancy Werbach**
From Debra Hunter

In memory of **Robert F. (Bob) Elder**
From Rebecca Wood, Cindy Blaylock, Charles Stewart, Shirley Penrod, Gerald W. & Gail Smith

In memory of **Nancy Lesley**
From Louisiana R-II School Dist. Board of Directors, Pam Todd-Watts, Jeri Smith, Debra Hunter, Sharon Love, Dan & Danette DeBourge

In memory of **Homer E. Willis, Elementary Principal 1956-1976**
From Kevin & Karen Willis

In memory of **Gail Shaw**
From Cindy Blaylock

The following have made general donations (July 2024-June 2025) to the Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association:

In memory of **Robert Mannahan**
From LHS Class of 1974

In memory of **Jim Whitaker**
From LHS Class of 1975

In memory of **Harry Elliott**
From Cindy Blaylock

Marshall Bishop, Dawne Poor Stafford, Ira B. Oliver, Michael Mitchell, Joey McDaniel, Don Crapnell, Justin St. Pierre, Patty Sturm Marquitz, David Mitts, Victor Keefe, Denny & Melody DeWeese, John Wallace, Charles (Butch) Elgin

In memory of **Mary Sidwell McCleery**
From LHS Class of 1966

In memory of **Robin Calvin Benjamin**
From LHS Class of 1975

In memory of **Jan Edwards**
From Cindy Blaylock

In memory of **Donald (Joe) Penrod**
From Rebecca Wood, Walter & Cindy Logan, Harry & Carolyn Elliott, Pam Todd-Watts

In memory of **James (Jim) D. Elliott, Jr.**
From LHS Class of 1975

In memory of **Alfred Baumann**
From Cindy Blaylock

in loving memory

Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association

P. O. Box 404

Louisiana, MO 63353

www.LouisianaAlumniAssociation.org

Alumni Social, Dinner and Dance Date—Saturday, October 18, 2025

(Please Print)

Name _____

First

Maiden

Last

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____ LHS Graduation Year _____

(current email addresses save us postage costs by sending this Alumni Newsletter via email)

Check this box only if the above is a new/changed address or email

Please find enclosed:

\$ _____ Financial Support Donation (check ___ if your company will match this)

\$ _____ Alumni Dinner Reservation(s) \$30 per person (Due by October 4)
No. & name(s) attending dinner _____

\$ _____ Scholarship Donation in Memory of (deceased) _____

\$ _____ Scholarship Donation in Honor of (living) _____

Short Sleeve T-shirt(s) - All sizes S - 5X **\$15 each ***

\$ _____ Circle to select size SHORT SLEEVE: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL

Long Sleeve T-shirt(s) - All sizes S - 5X **\$20 each ***

\$ _____ Circle to select size LONG SLEEVE: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL

\$ _____ TOTAL

* If you would like one or more mailed to you, list size, quantity and shipping address on separate sheet and include with this form. Add \$6 shipping each (\$21 for each short sleeve and \$26 for each long sleeve). Shirts will be available at 5 p.m. day of the event at the American Legion. You can purchase a shirt there as well while quantities last.

Payments may be made by check or via Venmo or PayPal on our website.

Make checks payable to: La. Alumni & Friends Assn., P. O. Box 404, Louisiana, MO 63353

(Please return this form along with your payment by October 4 !!)

NOTE: No confirmations or tickets will be sent. Nametag at check-in will serve as your dinner ticket.



Make your reservation today for the Louisiana Alumni & Friends Association Reunion—Space is Limited!

LOUISIANA ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 404
LOUISIANA, MO 63353

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SAVE THE DATE! ➡ OCTOBER 18, 2025 ⬅ ALL-SCHOOL REUNION

Special Class Reunion Plans

Class of 1965 – This class decided to hold their reunion on September 27-28 in the homes of classmates. For more information, contact Linda Narramore 573-754-4698, Shirley Penrod 573-754-6323 or Linda Beer 573-754-6495.

Class of 1970 – The 55-year reunion class will gather at Mark Haddock’s home at 1002 Buena Vista in Louisiana on Friday evening. On Saturday they will attend the all-school reunion social time, dinner and dance at the American Legion. If you plan to attend the Friday night gathering, contact Mark at mhaddock52@gmail.com or 314-221-5458 (phone or text) by October 10th .

Class of 1975 – The 50-year reunion class will gather to visit on Friday evening, Oct. 17th, at the Fourth Street Event Center at 7 p.m. (BYOB with light snacks available). They will ride on a float in the Colorfest parade on Saturday the 18th and then attend the all-school reunion. The “back room” at the American Legion has been reserved for class members to visit during the dance. For more details, contact Melody Capps DeWeese at 573-795-1407 (phone or text) or meldew57@gmail.com .

Class of 1980 – This class will gather on Friday, Oct. 17th at Janice Clark Tims’ family home at 4th and Noyes St. at 7 p.m. They will also attend the all-school reunion social, dinner and dance on Saturday, Oct. 18th. Contact Karen Mitts Barbano for further info at dnkbarbano@sbcglobal.net or 573-754-2331.

Class of 1985 – The 40-year reunion class will attend the football game at LHS on Friday night October 17 (7 p.m. kickoff) as a group. They will participate in the Colorfest parade on Saturday morning and later gather at The Keely Center (3523 Georgia St.) from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. Those interested will attend the all-school reunion events at the Legion. Contact Marta Ince Jines at martajines@yahoo.com or 573-795-2773 (text or call) for additional information.

Class of 1995 –This class held their reunion in June at Two Rivers Marina. Ashley Ince Skirvin is the contact person for the 30-year reunion class and can be reached at 217-430-0164 (phone or text) or Adellason3@gmail.com . She expects many of their classmates will attend the all-school reunion events at the American Legion on October 18th as well.

To the best of our knowledge as of late-June, the other special reunion classes (those with graduation years ending in 5 and 0) listed below have no plans for a special reunion. It is hoped many from those classes will return to town and attend the Alumni Association’s all-school reunion events on Saturday, October 18 (see page 1 for details).

Classes of 1960, 1990, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020