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# Homecoming 2016

Friday, September 23  
Saturday, September 24

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Hall of Fame Inductees 2016

**Parade Grand Marshalls:**

Howard '46 and Aquina Leiker Rajewski '46

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Marge Rome '58 – President  
John Schulte '96 – Vice-President  
Det Roth Younger '58 – Secretary  
LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80 – Treasurer  
Rich Billinger '68  
Rick Rajewski '69  
Rose Dreiling Rifford '70  
Mary Beth Leiker Fisher '76  
Kathy Dreiling-Amrein '76  
Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78  
Jane Baier Schumacher '79  
Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82  
Kaylene Jacobs Gabel '95

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

John Schulte '96  
Kaylene Jacobs Gabel '95  
Tami Braun Haberkorn '90  
Det Roth Younger '58  
Marge Rome '58  
Rita Rome Gross '47  
LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80  
Verda Goetz Werner '55  
Mary Rome '65  
Connie Windholz '74

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Marge Rome '58  
John Schulte '96  
Det Roth Younger '58  
Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82

### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Deb Leiker Dreiling '79  
Mary Beth Leiker Fisher '76  
Gerard Wellbrock '86  
Loren VonLintel '90  
Stacy Schmidtberger '94  
Kori Braun – Advisor

## HONORING

Class of '66

Class of '91

Class of '06

&

5-Year Increment Classes



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

----- Friday, September 23, 2016 -----

8:00 a.m.....20th Annual VHS Golf Classic  
Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course  
2:00 p.m.....Open House – V.F.W. Hall, Victoria  
4:00 p.m.....Homecoming Parade & Pep Rally – VHS  
5:00 p.m.....Barbecue & Walk Thru Halls of VHS  
7:00 p.m.....Football Game - Knights vs. Otis-Bison  
9:00 p.m.....Social – V.F.W. Hall, Victoria

----- Saturday, September 24, 2016 -----

4:30 p.m.....Memorial Mass – Basilica of St. Fidelis  
5:45 p.m.....Social/Banquet – Rose Garden Banquet Hall, Hays  
9:00 p.m.....Dance “Anthony And The Anamals”

# HALL OF FAME 2016

GENE WELLBROCK, TAMMY KIPPES SAUER, CHRIS JANZEN

## GENE WELLBROCK '56

was born to George and Wilhelmina Wellbrock on June 27, 1937. He is the fourth of six siblings, all graduates of VHS. They are **Arlene Pfeifer '50**, **Varian Wellbrock '51** (deceased), **Gladys Pfeifer**

**'53**, **Mary Lou Mirkovich '59** and **Rosann Welser '63**. Gene and his classmates will celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> reunion at this year's homecoming.



Following graduation, Gene attended Fort Hays Kansas State College for one year before returning home to help his father at his Phillips 66 service station doing mechanic work. Gene later purchased the business.

On November 4, 1961, Gene was married to Joan Schmidt in Hays. Victoria has been their home since their marriage. They raised three VHS graduates, and they all reside in Hays with their spouses. They are **Gerard '86** and **Tammy Wellbrock**, **Hyle** and **Ann Hugunin '91** and **Michael** and **Christine Weber '95**. Seven grandchildren bring much joy to the entire family.

Gene enjoyed being involved in and volunteered for many different activities and organizations. If you attended Victoria High School games you would have heard him doing the PA for the home football games and announcing for the Victoria Eagles baseball games for many years. He was an original member of the VHS alumni board.

Working with youth was always exciting for Gene. Assisted by his wife, they were sponsors for the CYO while his youngest sister was in high school. They supervised different events such as hayrack rides, talent shows, Christmas caroling, visiting shut-ins, and spiritual

activities. Prior to there being a REC commission, he helped organize and coach little league baseball. He volunteered in the Cub Scouts, mainly at their Court of Honor when the Scouts were recognized for their achievements.

A member of The Basilica of St. Fidelis, Gene served on the parish council and with other great volunteers helped organize many fundraisers for the church. He is a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree Knights of Columbus member and has served in many capacities at both the local and state level. He chaired two state Knights of Columbus conventions held in Hays with some activities held in Victoria. You may have seen him as a cross guard at the grade school prior to religion classes. Helping present medals for the Special Olympic participants at their events at Fort Hays State was an activity he always found time for.

Gene felt a need to do civic duty and served on the city council and was also mayor. He was a local volunteer fireman and fire chief and later served as the Ellis County Rural Fire and Emergency Preparedness Director. Prior to retirement Gene was an insurance agent.

Even though Gene always seemed busy he still had time for his family and fun. He enjoyed barbequing, woodworking, and all sports and was an avid golfer. He attends football and basketball games and keeps in contact with his golfing friends.

Nearly nine years ago Gene suffered a massive stroke affecting his mobility which has affected his speech. Despite this, he still has a positive attitude and you will always find him with a smile on his face. He is grateful for all of his blessings, especially family and friends.

Upon notification of being selected into the 2016 Hall of Fame, Gene was very elated but wondered why he was deserving of such a great honor. Gene wishes to thank the VHS Alumni Association for this great honor.

## TAMMI KIPPES SAUER '91

is the daughter of Ramona Kippes and the late **Norman Kippes '59**. She graduated



summa cum laude from Kansas State University and is a former teacher and library media specialist.

She has two siblings, **Kathy Kippes Ricke '92** and **Jason Kippes '94**.

Since 2005, Tammi has been a full time children's book author who also presents at schools and conferences across the nation. She has sold 28 picture books to major publishing companies. In addition to winning awards, Tammi's books have gone on to do great things. **CHICKEN DANCE: THE MUSICAL** is currently on a national tour; **NUGGET & FANG** was a featured book at the 2015 Scholastic Book Fair; **YOUR ALIEN**, an NPR Best Book of 2015, was recently released in Italian, Spanish, Korean, and French; and **MOSTLY MONSTERLY** was selected for the 2012 Cheerios Spoonfuls of Stories program. Her most recent book, **MARY HAD A LITTLE GLAM**, debuted on August 2, 2016.

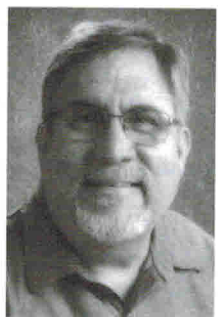
Tammi's contribution to children's picture books continues with countless awards, but most importantly, her books are being enjoyed by children throughout the world. Moms, dads, grandparents, and teachers are all captivating the attention of little ones as they share Tammi's books.

Tammi, along with her husband **Ron '92**, and their children, Julia and Mason, live in Edmund, Oklahoma.

**CHRIS JANZEN** began his teaching tenure at VHS in the fall of 1986. He began as the German, English, and

## HALL OF FAME 2016 Continued from Page 2

yearbook teacher and planned on staying for one year. He had thoughts of moving



to New Mexico, where he had visited and fallen in love with the art and culture.

However, those first few years at Victoria High School were

such a positive experience that he's now looking forward to retiring within a few years from a very satisfying career.

Chris was born in Ellsworth, Kansas, to Edwin and Dixie Janzen. Along with his sister, Dana, they lived on a farm until moving to Great Bend, where Chris attended school before moving to Hays at

the beginning of his freshman year of high school. In the late 1960s, one still heard German being spoken quite frequently in businesses and on the streets. That exposure, and the fact that he was of German heritage, encouraged him to study the language all four years at Hays High School, graduating in 1972. He received a degree in German from Fort Hays State College in 1976, and squeezed in a life-changing backpacking trip to Europe in 1974. He spent most of the time in Germany, but also traveled to most of the northern European countries, as well as Morocco, Africa. He made a returned trip to Europe in 1977, after graduation from college.

Mr. Janzen lived in Greeley, Colorado, from 1978-1983, where he taught German and English in the nearby towns of Keenesburg and Eaton. Returning to Hays to manage the Golden Ox restaurant

made him realize how much he enjoyed and missed teaching. He received a Masters in English from FHSU in 1986 and certification in Spanish in 2006.

At VHS Chris enjoyed directing the school plays for 15 years, usually alternating a comedy with a serious drama every other year. He was also the junior class sponsor for approximately 20 years, meaning he helped raise money from concession stands to plan numerous proms. Today his goal is to expose students to great literary works, fire up their imaginations, and instill in them a desire to see and experience the cultures of the world. He says that it's gratifying to have students tell him they put their German or Spanish to use while on a job or a vacation.

Chris still enjoys traveling, being involved with the Hays Arts Council, collecting art, and visiting New Mexico.

## Alumni Assoc. Supporting Effort to Replace Gym Floor

### Your Donation Helps Your Alma Mater and Could Be Tax Deductible

The generosity of the alums of VHS is certainly appreciated as donations for the gym floor replacement have been outstanding. The decision to begin fundraising for the floor was made in late 2015. The floor wasn't in terrible condition, but an upgrade would be advantageous for the students. Unfortunately, the school district was not at a point fiscally where they could appropriate the funds necessary to replace the floor, and that is when the school asked if the Alumni Association would conduct this fundraiser. It was last November when the Alumni Association mailed a request for financial assistance regarding the gym floor at VHS.

The grand total collected as of July 1 stands at just over \$16,000. The lowest bid for the replacement of the floor was just under \$53,000. The good news is that we are 30% of the way to

reach the bid. The bad news is that there is still a long way to go.

There is something that you can do to help, and you might even receive a little assistance with your taxes in doing so. All donations made to the Alumni Association (a 501(c)3 non-profit organization), including donations for the gym floor, may be tax deductible. Of course, always consult with your tax advisor, as each individual's tax situation is unique, but for most people, the deduction is there for the taking. The Alumni Association will send a receipt to all donors to enumerate your contributions for 2016.

To donate to the gym floor fund, go to the inside back page of this newsletter, and there you will find the annual membership form. Please fill out the form and give whatever you can spare for the gym floor at your alma mater.



U.S.D. #432 NEWS



Randy Stanley has retired from USD 432. Randy began teaching in Victoria in the fall of 1993 as a science teacher at the Middle School. He most recently had been the physical education teacher as well as being a track and cross country coach. Randy was inducted into the VAA Hall of Fame in 2013. Dan Rogers has been hired to replace Randy as the physical education teacher and **Amy Scheck Schoenrock '93** is the new head track coach.

**Anne Ruder Dinkel '90** has resigned as the high school girls basketball coach. Anne will remain with USD 432 as the Kindergarten teacher. **Kristin Huser '14** has been hired as the new girls basketball coach.

Zach Nelson has resigned as the assistant girls basketball coach.

Deb Bottorf has resigned as high school head volleyball coach. Sara Nuss has taken her place as coach.

# VHS Alumni Association Welcomes Victoria High School Class of 2016

Jacy Braun is the son of **Terry '86** and Krista **Braun**. Jacy plans to attend North Central Kansas Technical College in Beloit and study agriculture equipment repair.

Kendra Braun is the daughter of **Doug '80** and Machell **Braun**. Kendra will study cosmetology at the Hays Academy of Hair Design.

Brandon Brungardt is the son of Kevin and Jennifer Brungardt and the late Dawn Brungardt. He will attend North Central Kansas Technical College in Beloit and study welding.

Taylor Corley is the son of Robert and Michele Corley. Taylor will enroll at Kansas State University and study computer science.

Brady Dinkel is the son of **Kurt '86** and **Shanna Robben Dinkel '89**. He will attend Kansas State University. Brady is the grandson of **Otto '57** and **Carol Rome Dinkel '59** and **Steve '67** and **Fran Miller Robben '67**.

Joseph Dortland is the son of **Darrell '89** and Kayla **Dortland**. Joe plans to study finance at Kansas State University.

Joshua Dreiling is the son of **James Dreiling '88** and Linda Dreiling. He will attend North Central Kansas Technical College and study heating, plumbing, and air conditioning repair. Joshua is the grandson of **Norman '55** and Joann **Dreiling**.

Bailey Hobbs is the daughter of Terry and **Suzanne VonLintel Hobbs '88**. She will study criminal justice and compete on the tennis team at Barton County Community College. Bailey is the granddaughter of **Dennis '56** and Kay **VonLintel**.

Wheaton Hockersmith is the son of Jesse and Primrose Hockersmith. Wheaton will enroll at Fort Hays State University and major in agronomy.

Joseph Jones is the son of Cheryl Hemken. Joseph will study heavy equipment operation at North Central Kansas Technical College in Beloit.

Lane Kisner is the son of **Jeff '86** and **Janine Windholz Kisner '86**. He plans to enroll at Kansas State University and major in agricultural business. Lane is the grandson of **Mary Catherine Miller Windholz '55**.

Shianne Klee is the daughter of Aundria Pasek and Brett Woods, and Robert and Marie Klee. Shianne will study radiology at Fort Hays State University.

Joshua Labandeira is the son of Tacey Steckline and Jeff Labandeira. Joshua will attend North Central Kansas Technical College in Hays and study plumbing, heating, and air conditioner repair.

Brianna Leiker is the daughter of Farron and Amy Leiker. Brianna will enroll at Fort Hays State University and study radiology.

Eric McAlonan is the son of Aleck and **Sandy Schmidtberger McAlonan '83**. Eric plans to join the workforce.

Jayden Newbold is the daughter of Andrea and Mike Urban and Darin Newbold and Susan Newbold. Jayden will enroll at Mid-American Nazarene University and study biology.

Parker Riedel is the son of **Terry '86** and Gina **Riedel**. He will study plumbing, heating, and air conditioner repair at North Central Kansas Technical College in Beloit. Parker is the grandson of **Frank '49** and Mabel **Riedel**.

Kiley Schmidtberger is the daughter of **Michael '90** and Marcey **Schmidtberger**. She will attend Cloud County Community College and study early childhood education. Kiley is the granddaughter of **Larry Schmidtberger '73**.

Abigail Schremmer is the daughter of Paul and **Renee Urban Schremmer '89**. Abigail will attend Fort Hays State University.

Madison Schremmer is the daughter of Paul and **Renee Urban Schremmer '89**. Madison will study photography at Fort Hays State University.

Taylor Stramel is the son of **Stephen Stramel '95** and **Nichole Schmidtberger Stramel '98**. He will study plumbing, heating, and air conditioner repair at North Central Kansas Technical College. Taylor is the grandson of **Bill '74** and **Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78** and the great-grandson of **Fritz '56** and Anita **Braun**.

Julia Wagner is the daughter of Micheal and **Jody Lapka Wagner '97**. She will attend Fort Hays State University and study pre-physical therapy. Julia is the granddaughter of **Ron '65** and Jane **Wagner**.

Grant Weber is the son of **John '89** and **Kami Wellbrock Weber '94**. He will study plumbing, heating, and air conditioner repair at North Central Kansas Technical College. Grant is the grandson of **Charlotte Braun Weber '65** and Neal and **Pam Brown Wellbrock '72**.

# Changes Abound for Homecoming 2016

Perhaps “abound” may be exaggerating a little bit, but there are a few important changes from previous years that you should be aware of. Let’s begin with an item that isn’t changing much: Homecoming Friday, September 23.

Once again Friday will begin with the annual Alumni Golf Tournament. The tournament will be held at the Fort Hays Golf Course and will begin with registration at 8:00 a.m. The tournament itself begins at 9:00. For those who aren’t involved in the golf tournament, the Victoria VFW will be available starting at 2:00 p.m. for alums to gather prior to the homecoming parade. The parade begins at 4:00 p.m. and will start and end at VHS. After the parade, a Pep Rally will be held on the front lawn of VHS. A barbecue will be held at 5:00, and during that time, you can roam around the halls of VHS, reminiscing about your time at your alma mater. The Homecoming crowning of King and Queen occurs around 6:30, and is followed by the Knights taking on Otis-Bison at 7:00. The Victoria VFW will again be available after the game for a social. The cost for the evening social is \$5 per person to cover the cost of the snacks and beverages that are provided. The Friday night \$5 fee is waived if you pre-register for the Saturday night Banquet.

Now, onto the aforementioned changes: Homecoming Saturday, September 24. Almost everything is a little bit different from previous years, so please read carefully. Saturday begins with the Memorial Mass at the Basilica of St Fidelis. The time for the Memorial Mass will be 4:30 pm. This is a little bit of a late start compared to previous years, but the Basilica will be used for a wedding earlier in the day, and the alumni’s Mass was pushed back a little bit to help accommodate all parties.

## Raffle Tickets Help Fund Four Scholarships

Four VHS graduates from the class of 2016 were awarded \$1,000 scholarships for the upcoming year. Recipients this year were Brady Dinkel, Joe Dortland, Jayden Newbold, and Julia Wagner.

To help fund these scholarships, a cash raffle will be held at this year’s homecoming banquet. Five winners will be drawn and the prizes will be \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200, and \$100. You can find a sheet of raffle tickets included with this newsletter. If you would like to print more tickets, go to [www.victoriaalumni.com](http://www.victoriaalumni.com) and look for “Raffle Tickets” on the main page. Click on the link, and you can increase your chances of winning.

You may win multiple times in the same year, just like **Galen Goetz '73** did last year when he won both the \$500 and \$200 prizes. Galen was so pleased to win the top prize, that he donated the \$200 prize back to the Alumni Association.

After the Memorial Mass, there is another change. The Alumni Banquet for 2016 is being held at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall, which was formerly known as The Fanchon. Even though we are returning to the building that held the Banquet for 12 years (2002-2013), we have another change as we will be occupying the west side, while our friends from TMP will be on the east side, celebrating their homecoming as well. Even though the west side is known as the “small” side, there is ample room to hold our Banquet.

One final change that has been put off for several years. The cost of the banquet had to be increased to \$30 per person. The Alumni Association has been absorbing rising costs of seemingly everything for many years and has been able to keep the cost of the banquet at \$25 since 2003. However, this was the year that the Board of Directors voted to increase the price by \$5. Even with this increase, the Alumni Association will still not be covering the true cost of the banquet, which is projected to be \$40 per person.

To sum up: The Homecoming activities on Friday will be pretty much the same as previous years. If you’re planning on attending any activities on Saturday, it might be a good idea to read this article again.

## 1965 and 1966 VHS Football Teams to be Recognized at Homecoming 2016

It was 50 years ago that back-to-back undefeated seasons were completed by the Knights. In those two seasons, the opponents only scored 57 points, while the boys from Victoria compiled 547 points. The Knights held their opponents scoreless 9 times during those twin undefeated seasons.

In honor of these impressive records, the Victoria Alumni Association would like to invite all members of these two teams to participate in Homecoming 2016. The Alumni Association will have a parade float available for you, but the task of decorating it will be left to whoever volunteers first. At the football game, you will be recognized prior to the game, and at the Saturday banquet, we will have a special place set aside for you to sit with your teammates so you can reminisce about your great achievement 50 short years ago.

If you are planning to attend, please fill out and return your reservation form as soon as possible so that proper plans can be made to accommodate you and your teammates. If you can’t make it for the Saturday banquet, but would like to ride in the parade and be recognized at the football game, please contact your former center, **Rich Billinger '68** at [richb@ruraltel.net](mailto:richb@ruraltel.net) or you can call him at 785-623-0115.

# Class Notes



**1940's** **Class of 1946** – We want to recognize you as the remaining members of your class to reach your 70<sup>th</sup> class reunion from Victoria Rural High School. Our records show that you were 31 members strong when you graduated and now 11 of you remain. You are: Alice M. Kuhn DeHart, Lavern Goetz, Mary Lou Leiker Hickman, Ruth Shook Hoard, Alice Herl Kreutzer, Betty Kippes Morrow, Remegia Mermis Quint, Aquina Leiker Rajewski, Howard Rajewski, Rita Wasinger Retherford, Lucy Dreiling Roth, Donald L. Sander, and Armella Huser Schmidt. Your classmates, Howard and Quinie Rajewski, have been chosen to be the joint Grand Marshalls of the homecoming parade. Make your plans now for September 23 & 24, 2016, and join your alumni association for this year's homecoming celebration.

**1950's** **Class of 1951**, it seems like yesterday that you were celebrating your 60<sup>th</sup> reunion from Victoria Rural High School and now five years have passed and it is time for number 65. We know you are up to another gathering of classmates. This year's dates for homecoming are September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Your reservation can be found in this newsletter. It is always heart-warming to see all of you.

**Sister Paul Ann Dinkel '51** is looking forward to being part of homecoming weekend. She assures us that she will be home to celebrate her 65<sup>th</sup> reunion from Victoria High School.

**Class of 1956**, we are expecting a nice representation from your class for your 60<sup>th</sup> class reunion happening on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. We hope you are making plans to join us for a great weekend. Don't forget to send in your raffle tickets along with your registration form.

**1960's** **Class of 1961**, the time has come to celebrate your 55<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion. Hopefully you

can rally your classmates and join us for a special celebration. Reservation forms can be found in this newsletter. Save the dates for September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Lloyd Hammerschmidt '63** and his wife, **Cheryl Schmidtberger Hammerschmidt '64** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a Mass, dinner, and dance on April 30, 2016, at Corpus Christi Church in Lawrence with family and friends. The event was hosted by their three children Dawn Hill, Shane Hammerschmidt, and Dain Hammerschmidt. They are the proud grandparents of nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Lloyd and Cheryl were married April 30, 1966, in St. Fidelis Church, Victoria.

**Don Sander '65** and his wife **Carol Vonfeldt Sander '66** celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June. They have 2 children, 3 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. Don is currently employed as plant manager for Cequent Corp. in Fairfield, IA. Carol celebrated her one year anniversary in April as a cancer survivor.

**Mary Kay Billinger Pfeifauf '65** and her husband, George, hosted a visit in August from **Cindy Truan Dinkel '65** and husband, **Darrell Dinkel '64**, **Cheryl Schmidtberger Hammerschmidt '64** and husband, **Lloyd Hammerschmidt '63**, and **Patty Sander Legleiter '65** and husband, Harry Legleiter. The couples toured lower Michigan which included stops in Frankenmuth (a German city), Tetsosky, Traverse City, Mackinaw City and Island, and ended in Port Huron, Michigan. This scenic route included views of four of the five Great Lakes.

**Members of the 1965** and **members of the 1966** undefeated Victoria Knights football teams are invited for special recognition during Homecoming 2016. Plans are to introduce you at Friday Knights football game and again at the homecoming banquet. This honor is long over-due. Please contact Rich Billinger at 785-623-0115 or richb@ruraltel.net if you will be able to attend.

**Class of 1966**, we have heard that some of you have been busy organizing your 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion from Victoria Rural High School. It is always a treat to see so many of you. We are anxious to hear your comments about your accomplishments as the Class of 1966. We know there are many. You can find your reservation and membership form in this newsletter. Don't forget to get in on the alumni fund raiser.

**Mary Gemma Rome Keberlein '67** and her husband, John celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary May 7, 2016, with a family dinner in Kansas City. Their children are Josh and Danielle Keberlein, Henrick and Claudia Keberlein, Jen and Geoff Hanggeler, John Francis and Simon, and Jeff Keberlein. They have four grandchildren. John and Mary Gemma were married May 7, 1976, in St. Fidelis Church, Victoria.

**1970's** **Class of 1971**, it is reunion year number 45 for your class. Give some thought to coming home and getting reacquainted with classmates from those treasured years of high school. Your alumni association looks forward to seeing you and hosting a wonderful weekend for you. We are sure you will not regret it. Spread the word and mark the calendar for September 23 and 24. Get those raffle tickets mailed back. You could be a big winner and help support your alumni association.

**Class of 1976**, we are looking forward to seeing many of you at homecoming 2016. The exact dates are Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. You can find your reservation form for the weekend in this newsletter or on the website at [www.victoriaalumni.com](http://www.victoriaalumni.com).

**1980's** **Class of 1981**, it is reunion time for your class. Homecoming is scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> this year. Hopefully you will mark your calendar and join us for the weekend.

**Marla Braun Wasinger '83** and Danny Stecklein were married June 3, 2016, at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Hays. Marla is a graduate of Fort Hays State University and is employed by Hays USD 489 as a second-grade teacher. Her husband is a graduate of Fort Hays State University and is employed by Dillions. Marla is the daughter of **Ron '61** and Gloria **Braun** and Danny is the son of **Edna Rome Stecklein '50**.

**Class of 1986**, your alumni association invites you to join us for homecoming 2016 the weekend on September 23 and 24 to celebrate your 30<sup>th</sup> class reunion. We know you have some wonderful memories you need to be sharing. Your homecoming reservation is in this newsletter. Don't forget to get your membership updated and send in your raffle tickets.

**1990's** **Class of 1991, Important Notice!!** Your 25<sup>th</sup> **Class Reunion** will be celebrated September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of 2016. That is just a few short weeks away. You are our honored guests and have a special place on the program. Get your spokesperson ready to clue us in on the interesting facts about the **Class of '91**. Hopefully, we can get some of you to participate in the golf tournament Friday morning. Remember—"Yesterday's Hopes Are Today's Dreams; Today's Dreams Are Tomorrow's Memories." Your class officers are Ann Wellbrock Hugunin, Mike Werner, and Kim Freitag Dreiling. We anticipate an exciting weekend ahead.

**Class of 1996**, it is time to be thinking about coming home for your **20<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion**. We are sure all of you have news to share with your classmates. Some of you have never been back for a reunion. We encourage you to get your class back for a fun weekend. It's not too early to be planning that float entry and various other activities for the weekend. Your alumni association is planning another great weekend. Your participation is a must!! We are anxious to see all you.

**2000's** **Jim Billinger '00** and his wife, **Emily Gatschet**

**Billinger '02**, announce the birth of a daughter, Maria Elizabeth, born December 30, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. She has three older brothers, Leo, 6, Henry, 4, and William, 2. Her grandparents are **Gib '63** and **Carol Stramel Billinger '65**.

**Class of 2001**, be sure to mark the calendar for September 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. It was 15 years ago that you graduated from VHS. This would be a perfect time for you to gather and share those great memories of life at Victoria High School. Give it some thought. Support your alma mater. Take advantage of the raffle tickets enclosed in your newsletter. You need not be present to win.

**Tyler Dreiling '03** and his wife, Tricia, announce the birth of a son, Tanner James, born March 11, 2016. He has a big sister, Hayden, 2 years old. His grandparents are **Cletus '79** and **Rose Ann Kuhn Dreiling '77**. His great-grandparents are **Allen '55** and **Connie Brungardt Dreiling '53** and **Estella Schippers Kuhn '56**.

**Class of 2006**, you are the 10-year honor class this year and the youngest of our honored classes. Hopefully many of you will be coming back for homecoming. Please honor us with your presence at the banquet Saturday evening. You have bragging rites that night and we are anxious to hear about that special class of 2006. Check the website for photos from last year's activities. Your alumni association provides a weekend filled with memorable activities.

**Cole Dreiling '08** and **Corinna Gagnon '10** were married April 23, 2016, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis. Cole is owner of Dreiling Pipe Testing, Victoria. Corinna graduated from Fort Hays State University with a degree in nursing and is employed at Hays Medical Center. Parents of the groom are **Joe '84** and **Brenda Dreiling**. Grandparents are **Norman '55** and **JoAnn Dreiling**

**Katelyn Lang '08** graduated from the University of Kansas in May 2016 with a bachelor of science degree in journalism with an emphasis in strategic communications and a minor in business. She is employed with a music production

company as the marketing director in Lawrence. Katelyn is the daughter of **Daren '83** and **Dana Dreiling Lang '84** and the granddaughter of **Marlene Kisner Lang Saver '60** and **Jeannette Kippes Dreiling '60**.

**2010's** **Joslyn Lang '10** and **Cole Hanna** were married April 9, 2016, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis. Joslyn is a 2014 graduate of Kansas State University with a bachelor of science degree in secondary education with a concentration in English. She is attending the George Washington University's College of Professional Studies, Washington D.C., pursuing a graduate degree in publishing. She is employed at the Washington Business Journal. Her husband is a 2008 graduate of St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Overland Park, and a 2012 graduate of the University of Kansas with a bachelor of arts degree in history. He commissioned in the United States Army in 2012 as an ordnance officer and currently serves in the United States Army's 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) Fort Meyer, Virginia, as a Captain. Joslyn is the daughter of **Daren '83** and **Dana Dreiling Lang '84** and the granddaughter of **Marlene Kisner Lang Saver '60** and **Jeanette Kippes Dreiling '60**.

**Class of 2011**, you have made it to the first milestone as members of the Victoria Alumni Association. It is time to celebrate your 5-year reunion. Get your calendars marked for September 23 and 24. There are lots of activities planned and we don't want you to miss out. It is time to touch base with one another. Get your \$5 membership paid and update your current address on the membership/homecoming reservation form found at the back of this newsletter or on the website at [www.victoriaalumni.com](http://www.victoriaalumni.com).

**Andy Schmidtberger '11** and his wife **Ashley Wellbrock Schmidtberger '13** announce the birth of a son, Elijah Michael, born July 16, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. His grandparents are **Tim '79** and **Pam Schmidtberger** and **Leon '83** and **Joan Wellbrock** and his great-grandparents are **Regis '62** and **Wilma Pfeifer VonLintel '51**.

## Boys Basketball Team Finishes Third at State for Third Time

For the third time in VHS history, the boys basketball team finished third at State. The 2016 Knights entered the Class 1A Division II tournament as the 6<sup>th</sup> seed and defeated Lebo in their opening game 70-58. In the semi-final, Osborne defeated Victoria 43-33 and sent the Knights to the consolation game where they were able to defeat Hanover 63-60. In the 60 plus years of VHS basketball, this was the sixth boys team to make it to a State Tournament.

The 1954 team qualified for the Class B tournament held in Hutchinson. The Knights were a little bit awestruck when they reached State, because they were

playing for the very first time on glass backboards. Despite their unfamiliarity with the strange backboards, they were able to defeat Howard to open the tournament. Next was a close loss to Partridge, and the Knights settled for third by defeating Baldwin by 15 points.

The Knights from 1973 qualified for State for the first time as a 2A school, but were defeated in their opening game by eventual champion Frankfort. Likewise, the 1988 Knights bowed out in their first game against Washington, losing in overtime by 2 points. The 1991 Knights were able to win their first game of State

against the top seeded Troy Trojans, but lost to LaCrosse in the semi-finals. They bounced back in the consolation game and claimed 3rd over Alma-Wabaunsee.

The 2011 Knights faced top-ranked Hanover in the State opener of the 1A Division I tournament. In a close game, Victoria edged the top-seeded Wildcats. The next opponent was South Haven, and the Knights were on the losing side of a close game. Unfortunately they also lost to South Gray-Montezuma in the consolation game, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> and capping off a successful season.

## VHS Athletes Compete in State Baseball Tournament

In the spring of 2013, the Victoria School District was invited to enter into a cooperative agreement with the Russell District to field a baseball team. The Russell team was facing dwindling numbers and was in danger of not having a squad. The addition of Victoria's athletes was a perfect fit and the two districts have competed together ever since.

Even though Russell had been a 3A school, and Victoria had competed at the 1A level, the combined schools were required to compete as a 4A team. This meant that after the regular season, the boys from Russell and Victoria were competing against teams that were from larger and unfamiliar schools.

The cooperative had almost immediate success, qualifying for state in 2014 and finishing 3rd. That was the first appearance by a Victoria baseball competitor at a state tournament since 1974, when the Knights won their last title. This past season, the Russell/Victoria squad again qualified for state, and defeated their first opponent, Goodland, by a final of 13-3. The semi-final game was against Baxter Springs, and the Russell/Victoria team fell 11-1. The consolation game versus Topeka-Hayden was cancelled due to weather delays, allowing both teams to finish tied for third.

Victoria baseball teams have competed at State 14 times, including the

two as Russell/Victoria. The Knights have won the title six times, finished runner-up four times, and claimed third a total of four times.

Baseball State Champions	Baseball Runner Up	Baseball Third Place
1963	1967	1962
1965	1970	1973
1966	1971	2014
1968	1972	2016
1969		
1974		

## Paying Dues Insures You'll Receive Spring and Fall Newsletter

Did you know that the alumni newsletter is published twice a year? It's true, but some alums only receive one issue. That's because the fall newsletter is mailed to every member of the Alumni Association, but the spring newsletter is only sent to people who have paid their dues for the current year.

Here is how it works. It's actually pretty simple. If you pay your dues each year, you'll receive both newsletters. If you don't pay your dues, you'll only receive the fall newsletter. That's all there is to it. A mere \$5 in annual dues is a very minimal amount to pay! The dues help

cover printing and mailing costs of the newsletter.

There are some other situations that need to be explained. All Honorary Members—those who graduated 50+ years ago—will receive both newsletters, as will all Lifetime Members. You might be asking, "How can I become a Lifetime member?" Once again, it's pretty simple. Go to [www.victoriaalumni.com](http://www.victoriaalumni.com) and scroll

down towards the bottom of the page. There you can find a Lifetime Membership Calculator. Enter the year you graduated and the last year you paid your dues. If you aren't sure when you last paid dues, leave it as "Inactive." When you have both of those fields entered, click on Calculate and you will see how affordable a Lifetime Membership really is.

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

Please help your newsletter committee. If you wish to see your family information, a death, birth, marriage, anniversary, or other news, appear in the newsletter, please submit it to VHS Alumni Association, PO Box 382, Victoria, Kansas 67671 or email to [info@victoriaalumni.com](mailto:info@victoriaalumni.com).



# This is the Big One! You don't want to be left out!!!

By Randy Leiker '70

The VAA Golf Classic on Friday, September 23, is the 20<sup>th</sup> annual tournament we have organized. I know of several alums who haven't missed one alumni tournament since we started playing the sand green course that wrapped around the VHS football field. In the early days (before cell phones), Tom and Det Younger would have a buffet in their back yard for the golfers. Thanks to the dedication of the Alumni Board members and volunteers, this annual golf get-together has evolved from the sand greens course to a beautiful 18-hole golf course with blue grass fairways and bent grass greens. When I talk with some of the original golfers, they all have fond memories of the early tournaments. They tell some great stories, with many that can't be printed or repeated. What happens at the golf course stays on the golf course.

Since this is the 20<sup>th</sup> annual tournament it sure would be great if we could get 20 teams. Money raised at the tournament still goes to the Alumni Scholarship Fund. Over the last 20 years the Scholarship Committee has helped many deserving seniors on their road to higher education.

This year's tournament will be held at Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course on Friday, September 23. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. The entry fee this year is \$45.00 a person and is payable when you register the day of the tournament. The format is a 4-person scramble, so start getting your teams together ASAP. Last year we had our best turnout ever—we had 18 teams signed up with one team having to scratch at the last minute. We had older golfers and younger golfers and lots of tweener golfers. The older golfers are usually better dressed, more reserved, usually have some schnapps in their bags and swear in German. The tweeners try to wear matching outfits with a belt, are a little less reserved, drink more bourbon and scotch, and swear in English. The younger golfers wear whatever is almost clean, have flat bellies, drink cheap beer, and are still developing their golf vocabulary. Whatever the age group, everyone always has a great time.

Honor classes, I can't think of a better way to start your special weekend than getting together with your classmates at the golf course, having a great time, collecting prizes and souvenirs, enjoying lunch and free beverages, and making new memories. I know of several alums who only play once a year and wouldn't think of missing this tournament. It really is that much fun.

If you really suck at golf but you still want to be part of the tournament, get out your checkbook and become a sponsor. We have two types of sponsors: 1) Corporate Sponsors donate \$100.00 or more in cash/services and/or prizes. Corporate Spon-

sors get their name or business printed on a professionally made banner that is displayed at the golf course during the tournament, at the VFW hall during the social before and after the football game, and at the banquet Saturday evening. Corporate sponsors are also recognized on the alumni web site. 2) Hole sponsors donate \$50.00 and we will have a professional sign made with your name and/or your business printed on the sign. These signs will be placed on the tee boxes throughout the golf course. You can also have a sign made as a memorial to a deceased classmate or family member. Hole sponsors are also recognized on the alumni web site. Most of the money raised for the scholarship fund comes from these sponsorships. The fee we charge to play in the tournament pretty much covers the cost of reserving the golf course, the meal, the beverages, and some of the prizes.

You can also volunteer to take pictures at the tournament, help with putting out hole sponsor signs or driving the beverage cart. This has become the most coveted assignment of the tournament. Not everyone qualifies to drive the beverage cart...we do have some pretty high standards.

A \$45.00 fee is pretty steep to play you say. Let me tell you what is included in the entry fee. The right to play on the finest public 18-hole golf course in western Kansas, warm cinnamon rolls provided by **Jeanette Wagner Pfannestiel '70** and hot coffee at registration. You will receive a meal provided by Rich Guffy in the pro shop. Free beverages (compliments of the alumni



board), golf hole prizes, and souvenirs round out the list. Carts will be available to rent at the golf course for \$20.00.

Let's go over the important stuff again. Get your four person teams together ASAP. The fee is \$45.00 per person. Golf carts are available at the course for \$20.00. Be there at 8:00 a.m. Friday, September 23, for registration. You will pay your fee then as well pay for your golf carts if you need any. Shotgun start will be at 9:00 a.m. or sooner if we have everyone show up on time.

Please, please try to get your teams together ASAP and contact me, Randy Leiker, with your team players and whether you will need carts. It is very important that I get this information as early as possible so that we can plan how much food to prepare and how many carts to have available. You can call or text me at 785-259-1392 or email me at [randyl@eaglecom.net](mailto:randyl@eaglecom.net). One last thing, if you want to share a tee box with your rivals let me know so that I can make arrangements for that, too. I hope to hear from you soon and see you Friday, September 23, at 8:00 a.m.

# In Loving Memory

Linda Gasper died March 1, 2016, at Brookdale Meridian Senior Living Center, Lakewood, Colorado. She is survived by a son, **Bill '74**; three daughters, Shirley Gasper Richardson, Carol Gasper Koel, and **Sandy Gasper Jackson '70**; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Aaron Pfannenstiel died March 1, 2016, in Hays. He is survived by his wife, **Stacy Dreiling Pfannenstiel '89**; three sons, Clayton, Garrett, and Kale; three daughters, Ashtynn, Lexi, and Hannah; his mother, **Jeanette Wagner Pfannenstiel '70**; two brothers; three sisters; and two granddaughters.

**Ernie Hoffman '47** died March 4, 2016, at The Pines Nursing Home, Holton. Survivors include three sons, **Tom '76**, **Jeff '78**, and **Dave '82**; one daughter, **Kara Hoffman '85**; a brother, **Leroy '53**; two sisters, **Henrietta Hoffman Windholz '44** and **Verna Hoffman Befort**; 10 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Robert Roth died March 8, 2016. Survivors include his wife, **Lucy Dreiling Roth '46**; two sons; one daughter; a sister, **Roselyn Roth Schmidt '52**; and seven grandchildren.

Tom Younger died March 9, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. Survivors include his wife, **Det Roth Younger '58**; two sons, **David '89** and **Blaine '98**; three daughters, **Cathy Younger Boos '82**, **Amy Younger Siebenmorgen '87**, and **Beth Younger Ricke '00**; one brother; and one sister; 12 grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Francis Dreiling died March 13, 2016, at his home in Victoria. Survivors include one son, Steve; two daughters, **Janene Dreiling Schrant '79** and **Janell Dreiling '81**; one brother, Vincent; a sister, **Betty Dreiling Schmidt '54**; six grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Gladys Goetz Jacobs '47** died March 14, 2016. She is survived by five sons; a daughter; three brothers, **Laverne Goetz '46**, **Bernard Goetz '49**, and Jean (Fr. Maris) Goetz; a sister, **Laureen Goetz Farrell '51**; 11 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

**Marlene Billinger Brown '61** died March 14, 2016. She is survived by three sons; one daughter; four brothers, **Vernon Billinger '59**, **Earl Billinger '62**, **Rich Billinger '68**, and **Bill Billinger '77**; one sister, **Mary Kay Billinger Pfeifauf '65**; 12 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**Berniece Goetz Bushman '50** died March 28, 2016, at her home in Roseville, California. She is survived by one son; one daughter; two brothers, **Ron Goetz '54** and **Frank Goetz '58**; two sisters, **Verda Goetz Werner '55** and **Sharon Goetz Merrick '60**; and two granddaughters.

**Leo VonFeldt '53** died April 10, 2016, at his home. He is survived by his wife **Dorothy Goetz VonFeldt '56**; one son; four daughters; one brother, **Karlos VonFeldt '55**; one sister, **Charlotte VonFeldt Sanders**; eight grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Frank Brungardt died April 13, 2016, at Via Christi Village Care Center, Hays. He is survived by five daughters, **Mary Beth Brungardt Stern '72**, **Margaret Brungardt Gifford '75**, **Marla Brungardt Robben '78**, **Melaine Brungardt Collins '80**, and **Melissa Brungardt Haley '83**; two sisters, **Rosie Brungardt Schulte '45** and **Betty Brungardt Basgall '51**; 11 grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and four step-great-grandchildren.

**Verä Rohr '44** died April 25, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. Survivors include six sons, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**Joe Dreiling '76** died April 26, 2016, at his home. Survivors include two sisters, **Donna Dreiling Miller '73** and **Linda Dreiling Rogers '78**; three nephews; and three nieces.

**Verna Viola Voos Mohr '39** died May 12, 2016, at Christian Care Nursing Center, Phoenix. Survivors include one son, two daughters, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Dawn Michele Brungardt died May 16, 2016, at Medicalodges Jackson County, Holton, KS. She is survived by her sons, **Blane '12**, and **Brandon '16**; her father and step-mother; a brother; and a step-brother.

Edna Schulte died May 30, 2016, at Via Christi Village Care Center, Hays. She is survived by a son, **Matt '83**; five daughters, **Jane Schulte Goodheart '70**, **Mary Jo Schulte Rome '71**, **Diane Schulte Gottschalk '75**, **Laure Schulte Gross '77**, and **Annette Schulte Wooldridge '84**; two sisters; 18 grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and two step-great-grandchildren.

JoAnn Schmidtberger died June 2, 2016, at Salina Regional Health Center. Survivors include her husband, **Verlin Schmidtberger '60**; three daughters; two brothers; two sisters; and four grandchildren.

**LeRoy Stang '55** died June 2, 2016, at Sunset Manor, Brush, Colorado. Survivors include one son; one daughter; a sister, **Twyla Stang Gerstner '63**; seven grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Jeanette Brown died June 20, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. Survivors include two sons, **Bradley '74** and **Kevin '80**; five daughters, **Pam Brown Wellbrock '72**, **Dee Dee Brown Schmidt '77**, **Robin Brown Schmidt '82**, **Shelly Brown Johnson '84**, and **Leslie Brown Goodspeed '02**; one brother; 20 grandchildren; and 24 great-grandchildren.

# VHS Alumni

VICTORIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 382

VICTORIA, KS 67671

## 2016-2017 MEMBERSHIP / HOMECOMING RESERVATION FORM

### Due: Wednesday, September 14, 2016

Graduating Class

Name \_\_\_\_\_

(Year)

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse / Guest \_\_\_\_\_

(Year)

Non-graduate \_\_\_\_\_  
(Year)

Associate Member

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT:** Permission to enter personal information on web site:  
*(Please disregard if you have already addressed this issue.)*

Address:      \_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No  
Phone:        \_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No  
E-mail:        \_\_\_ Yes      \_\_\_ No

Annual Membership Fee per Alum \$5.00.....	\$	_____
Number attending the banquet and dance _____ (\$30.00 per person).....	\$	_____
Donation to Scholarship Fund.....	\$	_____
Donation to Association General Fund.....	\$	_____
Donation to Gym Floor Fund.....	\$	_____
Raffle Tickets.....	\$	_____
Amount Enclosed	\$	_____

Please note any news concerning marriages, births, promotions, accomplishments, retirements, anniversaries, or change of address.

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**PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR ASSOCIATION OF ANY ADDRESS CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!**

## Beware of Imitators

On more than one occasion, graduates from VHS have come upon websites or Facebook pages that they thought were associated with the Alumni Association. These websites look like they originate from Victoria and they might even sell maroon and gold apparel with a knight on the front. But be cautious, almost all of these websites have nothing to do with the VAA. These websites are scams that are trying to get you to buy cheap merchandise or a fake membership that has no value whatsoever.

The official website for the Victoria Alumni Association is [www.victoriaalumni.com](http://www.victoriaalumni.com) and the Facebook page is [www.facebook.com/VictoriaAlumniAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/VictoriaAlumniAssociation). These are the only two sites that are legitimately associated with the Alumni Association. The VAA will not ask you for money via the internet. We still prefer to do things the old fashioned way, either by check or cash.

One Victoria alum fell victim to one of these fake websites and asked that we share his experience. After realizing that he had given his money to a scam website, he found a phone number on the scam site, called them on the phone and politely asked for his money back. The website returned his money without any argument. So if you find yourself on the wrong side of a scam website, this might be the best course of action for you to follow as well.

## Yearbooks

Your high school yearbook is something that everyone seems to enjoy looking through. You'll see faces that you haven't seen since your last reunion, and even some faces that you haven't seen since graduation. You'll be reminded of the time your team crushed your rival. You also might be reminded of events that you may prefer to forget about. Even though looking through your yearbook may only remind you of how long it has been since you were in high school, the memories will still be there.

In order to preserve all of the memories of our alums, the Alumni Association is trying to assemble a complete set of yearbooks to be housed at VHS. This request was made in the spring newsletter, and several people graciously donated their extra yearbooks. However, there are still a few yearbooks needed to make the VHS collection complete. The following yearbooks are still needed:

'56    '78    '81    '82    '83

If you have a yearbook from one of these years, and are willing to part with it, please email [info@victoriaalumni.com](mailto:info@victoriaalumni.com) to make arrangements.