

HOMECOMING 2017
September 29-30

IN THIS ISSUE

A Peek Behind the Scenes of Board	2
Howard & Aquina...Grand Marshalls	3
Class Notes	4
Remembering Mama	8
Class of 1975 Is a Little "Off".....	8
Lack of Options Causes Crowding.....	9
Raffle Helps Fund Scholarships	9
VHS: Not Much Has Changed	10
Homecoming Parade.....	11
The Right Beverage...Golf Fun	12
In Loving Memory.....	13
Nomination Form.....	15
Schedule of Events	16
2017 Upcoming Events	16

Windows covered at VJSHS



The Victoria Junior/Senior High School is shown with the new energy efficient material covering the top portion of the windows.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Marge Rome '58 – President
John Schulte '96 – Vice-President
Det Roth Younger '58 – Secretary
LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80 – Treasurer
Pat Sander Legleiter '65
Rich Billinger '68
Rick Rajewski '69
Rose Dreiling Rifford '70
Kathy Schulte 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
Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76
Gerard Wellbrock '86
Loren VonLintel '90
Stacy Schmidtberger '94
Kori Braun – Advisor

When the Victoria Junior/Senior High School was built in the late 1940s, electricity was slightly more expensive and it was a relatively new technology. In order to minimize the school's dependence on this pricey technology leap, large full pane windows that reached clear to the ceiling were installed in order to maximize the amount of free sunlight to illuminate the classrooms. For the most part, that plan worked wonderfully, especially on the south side of the building. Only on the cloudiest days were our teachers forced to turn on the overhead lights, and then the classrooms all looked a little bit different because they weren't beaming with sunshine.

All of that wonderful glass however, began to cost more than it was saving once the school became more modern with air conditioners in each classroom. The large windows not only let in the sunlight, they were an excellent place for the cold air to escape out of the room. Something had to be done, and the school board decided to continue to upgrade VHS. Starting this past summer, the top 2/3 of each window was covered with energy efficient materials. The auditorium's three large windows were almost completely covered, with only the lowest panes still showing. The savings were noticeable almost immediately. The air conditioners were not running as often during the day and the students seemed to enjoy having a little less noise to contend with while they studied.

A Peek Behind the Scenes of the Alumni Board

The Alumni Board of Directors typically meets about five or six times a year. The meetings are always productive and there is usually laughter in the room. Even with only five or six meetings a year, it gets old sitting in the same room every time, so the board tries to mix it up by meeting at a restaurant once or twice a year. This past June, the board met at Gutch's Bar and Grill in Hays. After informing the waitress that there would need to be separate bills for each person, she began taking drink orders. Some ordered tea and others thought that a beer sounded like a good idea. **Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82** was one of those that ordered a beer, but there was a problem. The waitress wasn't sure if Sandy was old enough and asked to see her ID. Sandy somewhat loudly proclaimed "I am 52 years old," but the waitress insisted that she didn't look that old and made Sandy show her driver's license. That was the first of many laughs had that night.

A short time later, the fact that there was a vacancy on the Alumni Board was brought up. Typically, filling a vacancy on the Board is a time consuming process. Due to not having a waiting list of individuals wanting to serve on the board, names of potential members are brought up and debated, with a candidate or two being agreed upon by the entire board. After being selected, the candidate is contacted by Alumni President **Marge Rome '58** to see if he or she is willing to serve. Since the candidates are often contacted without knowing that they are being considered for the position, they usually ask for a few days to think about this. In a few cases, the candidate declines the position because they just don't think they can fit the responsibilities of serving on the Alumni Board into their schedule, and then the existing board members begin the task again of selecting the next potential member. It can at times be a long, drawn out process.

However, that was not the case when **Jane Baier Schumacher '79** agreed to join the Alumni Board in June 2016. The board was meeting in Hays when Jane's name was brought up to fill a vacant seat on the board. Everyone seemed to agree that Jane would be an excellent choice and that she should be contacted. Rather than waiting until after the meeting, **Kathy Dreiling-Amrein '76** grabbed her phone and sent a text to Jane asking if she wanted to serve on the board. In short order, Jane texted back and said that she would like to be the next board member. Jane was then sent another text telling her that the board was at Gutch's and if she had the time, she was welcome to join them. A short time later, Jane walked into the meeting and was welcomed. It only took about 20 minutes from the time that Jane was sent the initial text until she was seated with the board, a record that will be hard to break.

At the next alumni meeting, **Mary Beth Leiker Fisher '76** announced that she would be resigning her seat on the board, effective at the end of Homecoming 2016. This is the second time that Mary Beth has submitted her resignation, the first having been in 2014. Back then, the Alumni Board was able to persuade Mary Beth into rescinding her resignation, but now she has decided that the time is right for her to turn her seat on the board over to someone else. A big thank you goes out to Mary Beth and her husband Ernie for all the time that they dedicated to the Alumni Association.

Patty Sander Legleiter '65 has agreed to take Mary Beth's seat on the board. Patty and her husband Harry reside in Hays

Below is a letter from Pat introducing herself to the Alumni Association:

I thank the alumni board for the opportunity to serve. In recent years it's become my pleasure to attend VHS homecoming events. I cherish the people, old and young, especially those who grew up together even if for only four years. Renewing friendships has become a treasure. I appreciate all that the board does to celebrate our roots and traditions.

For those who do not know me, I grew up on a farm north of Walker where my brother, **Steve '68**, and his wife, **Bonnie Schmidtberger Sander '71**, make their home. The greatest joy in our life is our faith and our children. My husband Harry and I are blessed with six daughters and sons-in-law, thirteen grandchildren ages 4 - 24 with a new addition to join our family late this summer. We both thoroughly enjoy retirement. We are grateful for more time to spend with family and friends, leisure and traveling, hobbies, service in our parish and community. I first retired from Immaculate Heart of Mary as co-director of Faith Formation. Along with ministering to the people and children for 26 years, the ministry included liturgy preparations, and art and environment which I continue to help with on a volunteer basis. I retired a second time, officially 8 years later, as administrative assistant.

Life has and always will give us occasions and challenges to rise up to, new experiences and opportunities. I will enjoy and do my best to serve.

Patty Sander Legleiter

Howard & Aquina Rajewski

Serve as 2016 Parade Grand Marshalls

Howard and Aquina Rajewski, seated, are surrounded by their children at the 2016 VHS Alumni Homecoming Banquet at the Rose Garden in Hays. Howard and Aquina served as Grand Marshalls of the VHS Homecoming Parade earlier in the day. Pictured with them are (from left) Richard '69, Leann '85, Neal '71, Rosann '75, Joann '78, Susan '74, and Roger '80.



Howard and Aquina Leiker Rajewski, 1946 graduates of VHS, served as Grand Marshalls for the 2016 Homecoming Parade on September 23, 2016. They were chauffeured by their oldest son, **Dr. Richard Rajewski '69**. This was the 70th reunion year for the 1946 graduating class. The 1946 class had 30 graduates, twelve of whom are still living. The only other classmate able to attend the reunion was **Ruth Shook Hoard** who drove over 1,000 miles by herself from Tuscon, Arizona, to attend the reunion. Howard and Aquina enjoyed reminiscing about old times with "Shookie," while the Rajewski children "adopted" her and heard many stories about the good old days when Ruth's father was the mail carrier for Howard's family.

Howard and Aquina were married August 25, 1948, in Victoria and made their home on the Rajewski farm south of Victoria. In the early years, Howard worked construction in Hays and farmed in the evenings and weekends. Aquina tended to the house and spent many hours working alongside Howard to make the farm profitable. As the years went by and they were blessed with seven children, they expanded their acreage for more cultivation and pasture to support a growing dairy operation. It was on the farm that Howard and Aquina taught their children the value of hard work and faith in God. Howard especially taught his children how to live their lives espousing the value of stewardship, to leave things better than you found them; while

Aquina taught the children the importance of education, performing every task to the best of their abilities, and standing up for what they thought was truthful and right. Devotion to God was present in daily mass and in early First Friday masses at St. Boniface Church, meal time prayers, and the nightly rosary recitation before bed. Howard and Aquina's children are thankful for those and many other valuable lessons taught to them by their parents. Howard and Aquina still live on their farm south of Victoria and both still enjoy tilling the garden soil, growing vegetables and flowers, and cruising around the farm on the Gator. They celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in 2016.

All seven of Howard and Aquina's children attended VHS, three of which were valedictorians of their classes. **Richard '69** lives in Hays and is a physician at Hays Family Medicine. **Neal '71** lives on and manages the Rajewski farm. **Susan Kisner '74** lives in Hays and is the business manager for Immaculate Heart of Mary parish. **Rosann Schippers '75** lives in Wichita, Kansas, and is an accountant for Petroleum Property Services. **Joann Wheeler '78** also lives in Wichita and is a school nurse for Maize South Middle School. **Roger '80** lives in Lawrence, Kansas, and is a research professor in the Pharmaceutical Chemistry Department at Kansas University. **Leann Fortino '85** lives in Olathe, Kansas, and is a math professor at Johnson County Community College. Howard and Aquina have 15 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Class Notes



1940's

Class of 1947, we would like to congratulate you on your upcoming 70th class reunion from Victoria Rural High School. Homecoming is set for September 29th and 30th.

Pat '49 and **Theresa Lang Dreiling '48** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary October 15, 2016, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis, Victoria, with a Mass which was celebrated by their grandson, the Rev. Father Kyle Berens. Pat and Theresa have four children, **Carolyn Dreiling Berens '71**, **Paul Dreiling '72**, **Keith Dreiling '78**, and **Craig Dreiling '81**; 11 grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

1950's

Class of 1952, hopefully we will be seeing some of you at homecoming in the fall. We know many of you are still very active members of your communities and would enjoy getting together with your classmates for your 65th class reunion. Begin making plans for September 29th and 30th. If any of you have your graduation picture, please get it to Marge Rome so a copy can be added to your class list on the VHS website.

Julian Huser '53 and his wife, Norma, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary August 27, 2016. They were married August 25, 1956, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Munjor. They have one son, Bryan; four daughters, Rebecca Huser Kahler, Beverly Huser Brungardt, Bonnie Huser Philip, and **Bernadette Huser Fischer '82**; 12 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Ted Crawford '54 and his wife, Cecelia, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on October 2, 2016. They have four children and nine grandchildren. Four of their grandchildren are Victoria High School graduates. **Aaron Crawford '10** is in the Air Force, stationed in Georgia, **Audrey Crawford '13** is a student at Fort Hays State University, **Austin Crawford '15** is a student at Kansas University; and **McKayla Crawford '15** is a student at Benedictine College.

Paula Schumacher '56 is editor of USS Hannah News, editor consultant of North Magazine, grant writer for Northland Shepherd's Center, federal grant writing consultant for Regional Hispanic Contractor, Dallas, Texas, and a speaker in 2016 for Shepherd's Center of America and Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

Gene Wellbrock '56 and his wife, Joan, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary in November of 2016.

Patsy Crawford Dreiling '56 informs us that her family, including children, spouses, grand and great-grandchildren, now numbers 75. She is very proud of each one of them.

Tom Karlin '56 and his wife, Laura, were present for Tom's 60th class reunion. All four of their children are married and collectively have blessed Tom and Laura with 10 grandchildren ranging in ages from 16 years old to 10 months. Tom's 80th birthday was spent with his entire family for a three-day vacation at the Washington coast. Tom and Laura live in Lakewood, Washington.

Joan Toepfer Collins '56 was unable to join her fellow classmates for their 60th class reunion because of family obligations. She is living in Wichita and keeps busy in her retirement with her church at St. Francis of Assisi. She takes part in two Bible studies a week, volunteers at Kansans for Life, leads a prayer group in her home twice a month, and belongs to two book discussion clubs. She also spends time with her sister, **Rita Toepfer Brungardt '43**, who is 91 years old.

Class of 1957, we want you to begin planning for your 60th class reunion. You have always been one of the classes to have a wonderful turnout every year for this special weekend. The homecoming dates have been set for September 29th and 30th.

1960's

Class of 1962, it is your turn to be honored on the occasion of your 55th class reunion. Homecoming 2017 will take place on the weekend of September 29th and 30th. You have a very close-knit class and let's see if this can be a repeat performance of your 50th reunion.

Gary Stramel '62 and his wife, **Arlene Urban Stramel '64**, celebrated 50 years of marriage June 4, 2016.

Robert Gerstner '63 and his wife, **Twyla Stang Gerstner '63**, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary August 20, 2016. Their children are **Jackie Gerstner Leiker '86** and **John Gerstner '92**. They have two grandchildren.

Patty Sander Legleiter '65 gives a big shout out and thank you to the VHS Alumni Board for keeping the Alumni Association alive through the newsletter and homecoming reunion events. Connecting with friends and classmates is priceless. She and Harry have enjoyed it all for the past several years and plan to continue.

Jerry Dinkel '66 says he has great memories of being a part of the 1965 football team and the 1966 state champs' baseball team. "Great teammates and fantastic coaches in Tony Pfeifer and Mr. Willie Wilson!"

Class Notes

continued

Michael J. Dreiling '66 and his wife, Karen, have been married for 47 years. He retired from Cessna after 30 years of service. His retirement is spent traveling with his wife and enjoying his eight grandchildren. He has a part-time job driving a grain truck and enjoys working in his wood shop.

Judy Kippes Sherlock '66 and husband, Steve, have been married for 43 years. Judy worked in her nursing career and spent 13 years as a daycare provider and was a faith formation teacher for 33 years. She and Steve lived in Lamar, Colorado, for 38 years. Steve owned banks in 19 locations in Colorado and Kansas. After 45 years in banking, they sold the banks and are now retired and living in Buena Vista, Colorado. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.

Sylvia Basgall Gross '66 and her husband, Jerry, were married 45 years in October of 2016. They have been doing some traveling and enjoy country dancing. They are kept busy enjoying their nine grandchildren.

Regis Schulte '66 and wife, Brenda, have a son, Matt and a daughter, Kimberly. They have three grandchildren. Regis graduated from Wichita State University in 1985 and worked at the Coleman Company for 44 years. While working at Coleman, Regis received six product design patents. He retired in 2013 and is active in the St. Francis of Assisi Church in Wichita.

Class of 1967!! You are front and center as the **50-year honor class** for Homecoming 2017. Last years' honor class had a fantastic representation. Hopefully you will be able to match their spirit and enthusiasm with a good number in attendance for all the homecoming events. Save the date for September 29th and 30th. You should all have a class picture of your graduating class which will be posted in the newspaper and on the VHS website.

Brenda Schmidtberger Yoder '67 and her husband, Rocky, celebrated five years of marriage October 1, 2016.

Rick Rajewski '69 continues practicing family medicine in Hays which he has done for the past 38 years. School is never finished: he recently passed his 6th family medicine board exam. He has been on the VHS Alumni Board for several years and has enjoyed working with all the board members and being a photographer for the homecoming weekend. His wife, Vicki, is a retired dialysis nurse. They have three children: Joshua is a Chrysler/Dodge master service technician in Kansas City, Justin is a mechanical engineer in Cologne, Germany, and Jeremiah is an IT senior network administrator for Air Methods in Denver. They have three grandchildren. Rick enjoys running, boating, fishing, and participating in Marked Men for Christ ministry. He gives a heads up to his classmates: **"Class of '69—Get ready for number 50!"**

1970's Jackie Brungardt Prickett '71 married Joe Prickett in 1992. She retired from American Family Insurance in 2009 and now operates Faith & Finance Group, a 401 (c) 3 non-profit. She and her husband own J. Prickett Agency, Inc. A son, Scott, is in the United States Navy Reserve and a computer systems specialist; daughter, Chrystal, is programs director at Vatterott College; and son, Cole, is in culinary school in Kansas City, Missouri.

Neal Rajewski '71 operates the Rajewski farm south of Victoria and is a very active member of St. Boniface parish. Neal has served on the parish council and has helped with many of the improvements around the parish like restoring the priest's house and building the new parish hall. He also serves as the caretaker of the cemetery. An avid polka and square dancer, Neal enjoys attending many area dances with Deb Schmeidler.

Class of 1972, it's time for a class reunion and it's number 45. Can you believe that? We would love to have you join in the fun on September 29th and 30th.

Bryan VonFeldt '73 and his wife, Nancy, have returned from their EXPAT assignment in the Philippines on July 30, 2016. Bryan retired from Texas Instruments in August of 2016 after 39 years of service with the company. They have now moved to the town of New Braunfels, Texas, for retirement.

Mitch '75 and Julie Brungardt Weber '79 celebrated their 34th wedding anniversary April 17, 2016.

Karl Berens '76 has been promoted to vice-president of general services at Cancer Treatment Centers of America in July of 2016. He and his wife, Pattie, live in Bixby, Oklahoma. They have two grandsons, ages three and one.

Robert D. (Bob) Dreiling '76 and wife, Nin, were married in 1981. Bob has been an electrician for 39 years and 26 of those years with his brother-in-law, Bob Herl, and his sister, **Ellie Dreiling Herl '77**, at RDH Electric, Inc. Bob and Nin have two daughters, one son, and six grandchildren. He is the son of **Patsy Crawford Dreiling '56**.

John F. Schmidtberger '76 and his wife, Trish, have been married 32 years. Their identical twin daughters are both doctors and their third daughter is a senior at the University of Arkansas. They are living in Garland, Texas.

Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76 and her husband, Allan, became grandparents for the first time on April 17, 2016. Mia Lynn Lang was born to Kathy's daughter, Holly, and her husband, Colton Lang. **Cora Braun Schulte '55** is Mia's great-grandmother.

Class Notes

continued

Class of 1977, hopefully you will want to be part of Homecoming 2017 to celebrate your 40th class reunion. Wow! Your class roster goes on and on. We are expecting to see you out in record numbers.

Joann Rajewski Wheeler '78 is on the National Board for School Nurses (NASN) representing Kansas school nurses. Joann and her husband, Rory, live in Wichita. She is the daughter of **Howard '46** and **Aquina Leiker Rajewski '46**.

1980's **James Rohleder '81** and his wife, Elaine, celebrated 30 years of marriage in August of 2016.

Connie Robben Linder '80 and husband, Roger, are the proud grandparents of a granddaughter, Arya, born June 28, 2016. Her great-grandmother is **Doris Braun Robben '55**.

Class of 1982, it is class reunion time; number 35 to be exact. VHS Homecoming weekend is always a great time. Get your calendars marked for September 29th and 30th. It's not too early to get your class excited for all the events.

Glenn Dinkel '82 and **Jamie Miller '85** were married June 3, 2016 in Hays. Glenn is the son of **Rosie Braun Dinkel '60** and Jamie is the daughter of **Iris Rome Miller '64**.

Gerard Wellbrock '86 was honored by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters with 2nd place for play-by-play of Fort Hays State University state football during the 2015 season. Gerard is the son of **Gene '56** and Joan **Wellbrock**.

Class of 1987, it is reunion time. Hope to see you back in the area to celebrate your 30th class reunion. September 29th and 30th are the dates scheduled for this event.

1990's **Jerry Braun '91** accepted the position as middle school gifted instructor with the Hays West Central Kansas Special Education Coop which serves Victoria, Hays, Thomas More Prep-Marian, Ellis, and LaCrosse for the 2016-2017 school year. Jerry is the son of **John '49** and **Josie Braun**.

Class of 1992, we hope you realize that you will be honored as the **25-year honor class** for homecoming 2017. Your Alumni Board has been busy making plans for the weekend of September 29th and 30th and we hope you are doing the same. You will have a spot on the program to boast about your years at VHS.

Darren Windholz '93 and his wife, Jill, announce the birth of a girl, Aliyah Grace, born July 27, 2016. Grandparents are **Alfred Windholz '65** and his wife, Judy.

Curtis Wellbrock '96 and his wife, Jeanna, welcomed twin daughters, Elizabeth Jean and Ann Marie, born December 28, 2015. They are the granddaughters of **Wayne '67** and Diane **Wellbrock**.



Couples enjoy the wedding march at the beginning of the 2016 Alumni Homecoming Dance at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall in Hays. Music was provided by Anthony and the Anamals.

Class Notes

continued

Class of 1997, it is time to be thinking about coming home for your 20th class reunion. We always have a great turnout for the 20 year class. Don't let your fellow classmates and Alumni Board down. Let us know if we can get you a class list. Be sure to check www.victoriaalumni.com for the names and addresses of many of your classmates.

Cindy North Zadina '97 and husband, Chris, recently moved to Baytown, Texas with their family where Chris took a position as assistant store manager for Loves Convenience Store in Port Arthur, Texas.

Mike Brown '97 and his wife, Blythe, announce the birth of a son, Ellis Dean, born September 1, 2016. He has a sister, Emersyn, 4.

Brandon Robben '99 and his wife, Michale, announce the birth of a son, Franklin Michael, born December 5, 2016. His grandparents are **Rick '76** and **Marla Brungardt Robben '78**.

2000's

Michael Brungardt '00 and his wife, Jeanette, announce the birth of a son, Luke Michael, born May 13, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. His grandparents are **Robert '68** and **Shirley Riedel Brungardt '68**.

Class of 2002, be sure to mark the calendar for September 29th and 30th. It was 15 years ago that you graduated from VHS. Come and join in the fun-filled weekend and get caught up on families and careers.

Seth Schulte '02 and his wife, Abby, announce the birth of a son, Benjamin Otto, born July 20, 2016. Benjamin has a brother, Ethan, seven years old and a sister, Alice, two years old. His grandfather is **Tom Schulte '70**.

Jasmin Blum '04 married Johanees Wusthoff in 2014. They are the parents of a son, Mats. She has returned to her work as a dentist in the Berlin, Germany, area. Jasmin was an exchange student living with Bob and Nancy Piatt for the 2003-2004 school year.

Jessica Kuhn '05 is planning to be married to Britton Beims of Concordia, Kansas, in October of 2017 in Victoria. She is living in Herriman, Utah, where she was transferred with the FDIC in 2015. Jessica is the daughter of **Marvin Kuhn '64**.

Anita Ervinsdottir '05 was married in Oslo, Norway, in June of 2016 to Havard Solheim. They live in Oslo. Anita lived with Bob and Nancy Piatt for the 2004-2005 school year as an exchange student at Victoria High School.

Greta Kaufeld '06 is in the process of relocating from Seville, Spain, to Nijmegen in the Netherlands where she has been

offered a fully-funded PHD position in her field of psycholinguistics. Greta was an exchange student at Victoria High School for the 2005-2006 school year and lived with Bob and Nancy Piatt.

Class of 2007, begin making plans for your 10-year reunion from Victoria High School. You are our youngest honor class and the future of Victoria Alumni Association. You need to be thinking of a spokesperson to tell us about the mighty class of 2007. You have bragging rights as the 10-year-reunion class. We hope to see many of you for homecoming festivities on September 29th and 30th.

Jared Pfeifer '07 and his wife, Morgan, announce the birth of a son, Nash Steven born December 9, 2017. He has a brother, Owen, 1. His grandparents are **Steve '75** and **Mary Baier Pfeifer '75**. His great-grandmother is **Lucy Schippers Baier '54**.

Cade Scott '08 and his wife, Tiffany, announce the birth of a son, Lakin Robert, born July 18, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. He is welcomed home by a brother, Graham, 2½ years old. His grandparents are Pat and Gia Scott.

Janae Brungardt Tidwell '08 and her husband, Alex, announce the birth of a boy, Makson Jude, born October 4, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. Grandparents are **Chris Brungardt '81** and his wife, Bertha. Great-grandparents are **Jim Brungardt '55** and his wife, **Gladys Kippes Brungardt '58**.

Austin Gagnon '08 and his wife, **Sheena Herl Gagnon '07**, announce the birth of a daughter, Collins Edith, born December 23, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. Her grandparents are **Danny '72** and **Pat Herl**.

2010's

Class of 2012, you have made it to the first milestone as members of the Victoria Alumni Association, that being the 5-year-reunion class. Your classmates would love to hear what you've been doing. It is time to think about returning for Homecoming 2017.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Willie Wilson sent a generous donation which was applied to the gym floor replacement. He wants you all to know that he is now a great-granddad for the second time with a little girl, 18 months old, and a little boy, 6 weeks old. "Hope you all have a great time at homecoming and special thanks to Marge and Rick. I know it will be well organized and good luck on the weather."

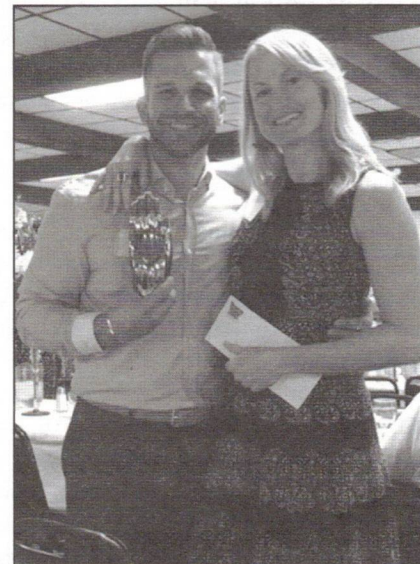
Remembering Mama Pays Off in the End

At the annual alumni banquet, the guests are automatically entered into a door prize giveaway. There are around 20 prizes given away, on a first come first serve basis. One of the early winners this past year was **Eric Pfeifer '96**. Eric went up and quickly grabbed a gift card from a local restaurant. Once he sat back down, he studied the prizes a little closer, since he was seated near them. And then he noticed the item that he should have chosen. It was a little pair of hands, folded in prayer, arranged like a trophy. Eric thought that his mother **Diane Younger Pfeifer '73** would love to have this in one of her display cabinets, and was kicking himself for not having seen it before selecting his gift card.

As the prizes continued to disappear, the trophy hands went unclaimed until they were the last item

left to give away. Eric quickly jumped out of his seat, ran to **Rich Billinger '68**, who was conducting the drawing, and asked if he could return his gift card and take the hands sculpture for his mother. Rich agreed and took back the gift card and gave Eric the sculpture. Now the final door prize of the evening would be a gift card, and Rich reached into the hopper and drew the name of the person to receive the card, **Jennifer Lapka Pfeifer '99**, Eric's wife. So Jennifer went up to retrieve the gift card that her husband traded in 30 seconds earlier.

As an added bonus, Eric decided that he wouldn't give the trophy hands to his mother, but he would sneak it into one of her cabinets the next day, and see how long it took her to discover it. It took Diane several weeks to find the gift that her son lovingly left for her.



Eric and Jennifer Pfeifer hold their door prizes at the 2016 Homecoming Banquet and Dance .

Class of 1975 Is a Little “Off” But Finally Manages to Get Together

In 2015, the class of 1975 gathered for their 40th class reunion. The turnout was fair, with about 10 of the classmates getting together to celebrate the occasion. But something did not sit well with the members who had

gathered. They thought that they should have done a better job of coaxing their absent classmates into returning to Victoria for such a big occasion. So a plan was set into motion to gather once again the following year to celebrate their 41st high school reunion.

Many phone calls, emails, and other forms of communication were made among the class of 1975 trying to get a better turnout for a class reunion in an “off” year. Some members still were not able to attend, citing work needs or that their distance from Victoria was too far to travel. But the persistence of Jim Hart and Margaret Brungardt Gifford paid off. There were 25 of the 47 graduates from the class of 1975 gathered at Homecoming 2016 and they had a wonderful weekend. There is even a rumor that they may be gathering again for their 42nd reunion this fall.



Members of the Class of 1975 pose for a reunion photo.

Lack of Options Causes Crowding at Hall, But Doesn't Dampen Spirit of Attendees

The 2016 Victoria Alumni Banquet will be remembered by everyone who planned the banquet as well as for those who attended for many reasons.

For the planners, the location for the banquet was a scramble to find a place, any place, to hold the event, since when the announcement of the date for Homecoming finally was received, all venues for the banquet were already taken. After much searching, only one option remained—the smaller side of the Rose Garden Banquet Hall.

For the attendees, an exceptional meal was provided by the Rose Garden staff, the Hall of Famers were introduced, and Anthony and the Anamals put on a great show for the dance.

The most memorable part of the banquet, however, was having an almost overwhelming number of people show up. The line to get a drink at the bar was 30 deep at one point. Even though the tables were meant to seat eight, almost all of the tables ended up with ten. Space was at a premium for everyone in the room. When **Rich Billinger '68** first welcomed everyone to the banquet, he

acknowledged that the guests were all packed in tightly, and that they would all have to try to make the best of it.

There were so many people at the banquet that the entire dance floor was covered with tables. Those tables needed to be moved before the dance could begin. Many alums pitched in to clear the dance floor, and with little trouble, the dance was able to begin. But now there was a new problem. The people who were seated at those tables suddenly didn't have a place to sit. So they were forced to join other tables that were already

overcrowded. Once again, this just meant that people would have to try to cooperate to enjoy the evening. The alumni members made the most of the situation and proved that the situation could still be enjoyable and proved that point with an outstanding number of them visiting and dancing into the early morning hours.



The Rose Garden room was crowded, but it didn't spoil the fun for the many alumni attending the 2016 Alumni Homecoming Banquet.

Raffle Helps Fund Scholarships

The 2016 annual alumni homecoming banquet was capped off with the drawing of five raffle winners. The raffle and the golf tournament are the two main sources of funding for the scholarships that are awarded each spring. This year, there will be four \$1,000.00 scholarships offered to graduating VHS seniors. The

scholarship committee takes a great deal of time in selecting the best candidates every year, making sure that each application is given the proper consideration.

Raffle winners for 2016

- 1st Prize \$500 — **June Braun Donahue '58**

- 2nd Prize \$400 — **Fritz VonLintel Durall '59**
- 3rd Prize \$300 — **Patsy Crawford Dreiling '56**
- 4th Prize \$200 — **Bonnie Schmidtberger Sander '71**
- 5th Prize \$100 — **Mary Kay Billinger Pfeifauf '65**

VHS: Not Much Has Changed in 65 Years

There were 23 graduates in the class of 2016 and there was a striking oddity noticed as they completed their high school careers. A large number of their parents were also graduates of VHS. In fact, over half of the 2016 class had a parent or parents who were VHS alums. There were 15 of the 23 that became second generation VHS alums, and nine of those also became third generation.

This started off a discussion of how different VHS must have been for the most recent graduates versus what their parents or grandparents experienced. Of course there were the obvious similarities

through the years: the building itself, sporting events, the school play, and school dances, just to name a few. There was also an obvious difference. There weren't any computers in the building until the late 1970s and now every VHS student is issued an iPad. There didn't seem to be any way to get a good perspective of what VHS was like all those years ago compared to today.

The only way to compare VHS in different eras was to look at the courses offered to see how the educational emphasis has shifted through the years. A schedule of courses from the 1951-1952

school year was located and after going over the available courses from back then, there was one overwhelming conclusion to be drawn: VHS has barely changed.

Some of the courses have been divided to allow more specialized focus, but the overall direction of education is basically the same. The courses from 1951-1952 are listed below, with their counterparts from 2016-2017 listed next to them. It is truly stunning how little our school has changed in 65 years.

1951-1952

English I, II, III, & IV.....	English I, II, III, & IV
American History.....	American History
World History.....	World History/World Geography
	Physical Geography
Constitution and International Relations.....	International Relations/Current Events
Citizenship.....	American Government
Biology.....	Biology
Chemistry and Chemistry Lab.....	Chemistry
General Science.....	Physical Science
	Physics
	Anatomy/Physiology
	Psychology/Sociology
Business Math.....	Business Math
Algebra I & II.....	Algebra I, II & III
	Applied Math/Pre-Algebra
	Advanced Math/Statistics
Geometry.....	Geometry
Home Economics.....	Intro to Family And Consumer Sciences
	Nutrition & Personal Wellness
	Career & Family Life
	Parenting
	Living Skills
Physical Education (Boys & Girls separate).....	Physical Education (Coed)
Manual Training (Shop) I & II.....	Intro to Industrial Tech
	Remodel & Building Maintenance
	Production Welding Processes I
	Machine Tool Technology I & II
	Cabinetmaking & Furniture Design I & II
Band.....	Band
Boys and Girls Glee Club.....	Chorus

Courses No Longer Offered:

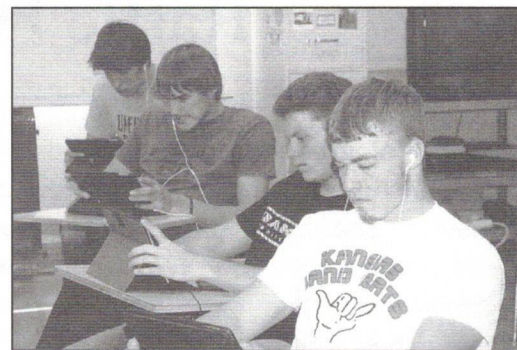
Individual Music
Typewriting I & II
Shorthand I & II
Agriculture
Bookkeeping

New Courses Offered:

Spanish I & II
Intro to Art
Art & Graphic Design I & II
Speech/Literature Genre
Leadership & Business Essentials
Digital Journalism and Imaging
Audio/Video Productions
Digital Applications I



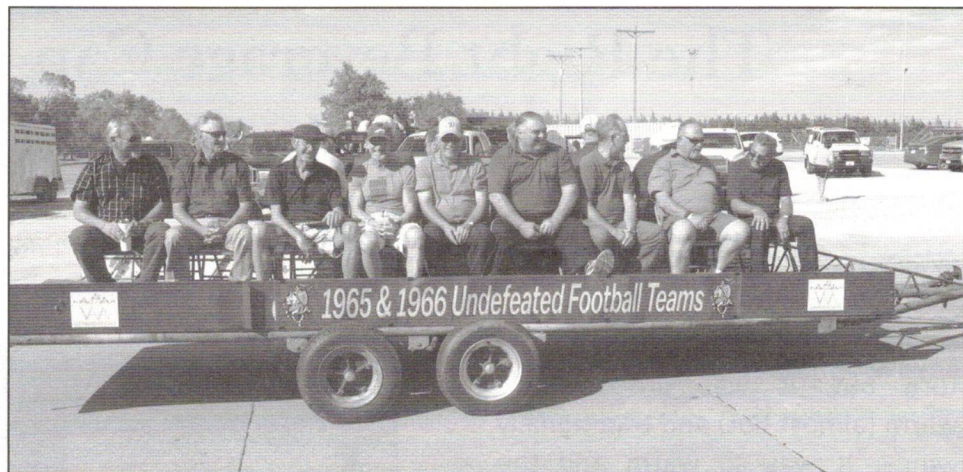
Students from the 1950s work on their typing skills under the watchful eye of Sister M. Petronilla C.S.A.



Members of the class of 2016 study with the assistance of their iPads.

H O M E C O M I N G P A R A D E

Members of the 1965 and 1966 undefeated football teams were honored during the 2016 Homecoming festivities.



Bicycles were the mode of transportation for the Junior Class in the 2016 Homecoming Parade.



The Class of 2017 chose a KISS band theme for their float to denigrate their Otis/Bison Cougar opponents during the 2016 Homecoming parade. The KISS likenesses were created by the Seniors, some of whom didn't have a clue who KISS was!



A KISS theme seemed to be all the rage as members of the Class of 2019 dressed in KISS attire and imitated the band for their float in the 2016 Homecoming parade.



The Right Beverage Can Make Even a Hot, Windy Day of Golf Fun

By Randy Leiker '70

WOW!! What a day and what a turn out. It was unseasonably warm (almost hot) and traditionally windy. It was so warm and the golfers were so thirsty that the beverage cart could barely keep up with the demand of libations. After all, everyone knows that to play good golf one must stay hydrated. There were a few golfers that stayed very hydrated and just thought they played good golf. What can we say?

The wind was gusting between 20 and 30 MPH causing Fr. John Schmeidler's hair to be a mess. Let me tell you, it's not easy playing golf with a guy who is yelling, "You Stupid Ball," and complaining about his "do" being messed up by the wind. Maybe that's why the beverage cart stayed close to my group all day. Hydration!

The winners—who were the winners you ask? Everyone was a winner! All the golfers, the sponsors, the fundraisers, and all the alumni who helped put on

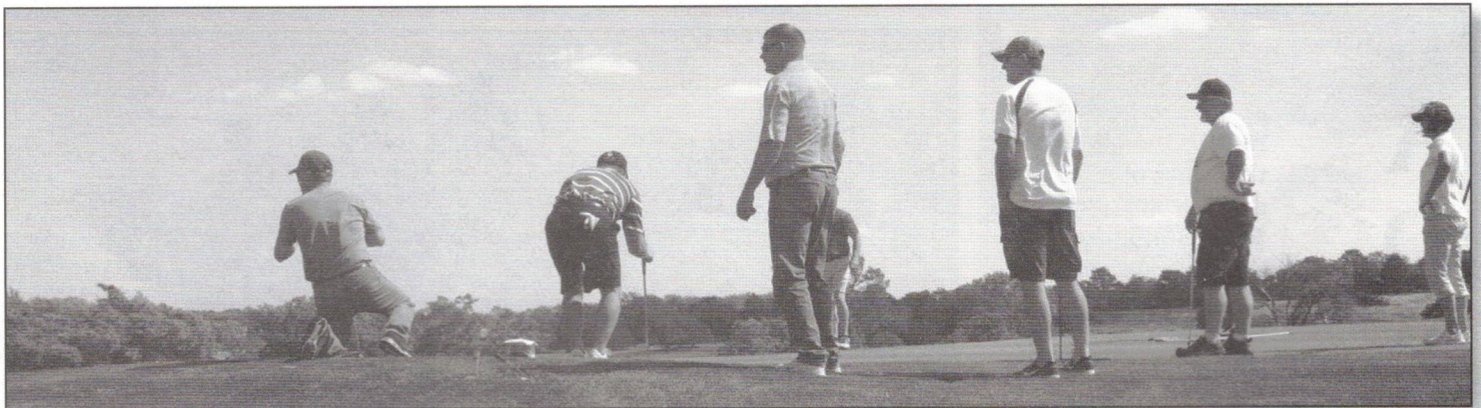


Golfing buddies Pete Braun Jr. '62 and Gary Stramel '62 stay hydrated as they travel the course during the annual VHS Alumni Golf Tournament on September 23, 2016.

another successful alumni golf tournament. The biggest winners were the VHS seniors who received the VHS Alumni scholarships.

It is hard to believe that there have been 20 alumni golf tournaments, a whole generation. I wasn't involved with the first several years but am proud to have been part of the last several years. There is a lot of hair pulling, number crunching, coordinating, and of course hydration, lots of

hydration. It is a joy seeing classmates and alumni having a good time playing golf, trash talking, and enjoying each other's company. We hope that you can join us for the next generation of the Annual Alumni Golf Tournament. There will be more details in the August 2017 newsletter. We hope to see you at the next tournament and remember to stay hydrated!



In Loving Memory

Marcella Leiker Goetz '49 died December 17, 2015, at her home in Cathedral City, California. She is survived by her husband, **Bernie '49**; five children; seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

William P. Dinkel '67 died February 17, 2016, at his home in Raytown, Missouri. He is survived by his sisters, **Pat Dinkel Cook '64**, **Betty Dinkel Schneider '65**, **Linda Dinkel Basgall '69**, **Firma Dinkel Cassai '70**; and two daughters.

Lorene "Renie" Kuhn died July 11, 2016, at her home. She is survived by her husband, **Louis '49**; one son; three daughters; four sisters; one brother; four grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters.

Emery J. Rome died July 20, 2016. Survivors include a sister, **Edna Rome Stecklein '50**.

Mary Rohleder Strunk '43 died August 16, 2016. She is survived by her husband, Nick; two sons; four daughters; 14 grandchildren; and 28 great-grandchildren.

Rita Rajewski Gibson '56 died July 28, 2016, at her home in Firestone, Colorado. She is survived by her husband, Don; three sons; three daughters; one sister, **Doris Rajewski Wellbrock '43**; 12 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Francis Joseph Kuhn '45 died August 5, 2016, at the Willow House, Hays. Survivors include his wife, Mary Jane; two daughters; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Norbert John Schmidt, 90, died August 11, 2016. He is survived by nine children, 25 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Mr. Schmidt was a teacher/coach at Victoria Rural High School in 1954-56. He led the 1954 basketball team to State, bringing home the first Victoria High School State placement in any sport in school history.

Matthew Myron Wellbrock died September 13, 2016, at Wesley Children's Hospital, Wichita. Survivors include his parents, **Curtis '96** and Jeanna **Wellbrock**; three brothers; two sisters; and grandparents, **Wayne '67** and Diane **Wellbrock**.

Virginia Windholz died October 7, 2016, at Via Christi Village Assisted Living Center, Hays. She is survived by a son, **Allen '64**; two daughters, **Susie Windholz Dinkel, '61**; and **Kelly Windholz Kaba '79**; 10 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Bernece Schulte Rohleder '33 died October 8, 2016, at Brookdale Senior Assisted Living Facility, Salina, at the age of 101. Survivors include a daughter, Lucy Rohleder Kollhoff; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Julian Huser '53 died October 15, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. Survivors include his wife, Norma; a son, Bryan; four daughters, Rebecca Huser Kahler, Beverly Huser Brungardt, Bonita Huser Philip, **Bernadette Huser Fischer '82**; a brother, **Leon '61**; four sisters, **Armella Huser Riedel-Schmidt '46**, Stella Huser Braun, **Henrietta Huser Herl '58**, and **Arlene Huser Wittman '64**; 12 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Jerry Crawford died October 28, 2016, at Rooks County Health Center, Plainville. Survivors include two sons, **Aaron '10** and **Austin '15**; one daughter, **Audrey Crawford '13**; parents, **Ted '54** and Cecelia **Crawford**; one brother; and two sisters.

Helen Meder died October 31, 2016, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by seven sons, **Jerry '69**, **Terry '70**, **Tim '72**, **Marty '74**, **Dale '77**, **Brian '81**, and **Greg '86**; two sisters; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.



In Loving Memory

continued

Lawrence Schippers '49 died November 19, 2016. Survivors include his wife, Joann; one son; a daughter; two brothers, **Paul '55**, and **Norman '61**; four sisters, Sr. Mary Ann Schippers C.S.A., **Lucy Schippers Baier '54**, **Estella Schippers Kuhn '56** and **Lillian Schippers Leiker '58**.

Frank Riedel '49 died December 4, 2016, at his home. Survivors include his wife, Mabel; two sons, **Glen '75** and **Terry '86**; two daughters, **Donna Riedel Burgess '77** and **Tammy Riedel Jacobs '89**; three sisters; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Lila Schippers died December 4, 2016. Survivors include her husband, **Norman Schippers '61**; one son; three brothers; a sister; and two grandchildren.

Lily Dinkel Meier '47 died December 9, 2016, at Hays Good Samaritan Society. Survivors include two sons, one daughter, and six grandchildren.

Millie Jacobs died December 14, 2016, at Via Christi Village Care Center, Hays. She is survived by two sons; a daughter; three sisters, Henrietta Brungardt Rohr, **Rita Brungardt Wolf '48**, and Betty Brungardt Hutchen; six grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Danny Pfeifer '83 died December 19, 2016, at his home. He is survived by his mother; one son; three daughters; four brothers, **Anthony III '74**, **Tim '76**, **Terry '78**, and **Dave '85**; and two grandchildren.

Clara Baier died January 1, 2017. She is survived by a son; three daughters; a brother, **John Braun '49**; a sister, Theresa Kuhn; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Mary Schmidtberger died January 5, 2017, at Via Christi Village Care Center, Hays. She is survived by one son; three daughters; two brothers, Robert A. Schmidtberger and **Marvin Schmidtberger '52**; four sisters, Tina Foos, **Sr. Vivian Schmidtberger '47**, **Edna Schmidtberger Ptacek '50**, and **Rosie Schmidtberger**

Leiker '54; 15 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren.

Mary Ellen Leiker Schmidtberger '52 died January 15, 2017, at Graham County Hospital, Hill City. She is survived by her husband, **Dan '53**; two sons; two daughters; two sisters, **Aquina Leiker Rajewski '46** and **Theresa Leiker Haselhorst '47**; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.



Bernadette "Bernie" Dome died January 29, 2017, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Floris; five sons, **Florian '73**, **Darrell '77**, **Marion '80**, **Stuart '82**, and **Stan '82**; one daughter, **Brenda Dome-Luff '75**; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

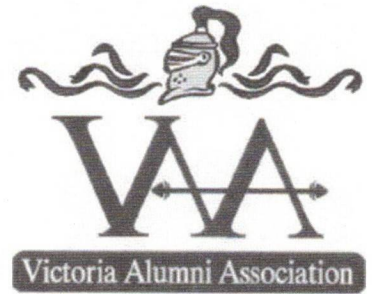
Esther Pfeifer Maher '43 died January 31, 2017, at Almost Home Inc., Great Bend. She is survived by one son; three daughters; a brother, **Bob Pfeifer '45**; two sisters, **Albertine Pfeifer Rajewski '49** and **Wilma Pfeifer VonLintel '51**; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Dolores Hammerschmidt Mermis '54 died February 18, 2017, at Apostolic Christian Home, Sabetha. She is survived by one son; three daughters; one sister; 15 grandchildren; and 33 great-grandchildren.

Gilbert VonLintel '47 died March 2, 2017, at Good Samaritan Society, Hays. He is survived by one son, Glenn; one daughter, **Gail VonLintel Brack '78**; one brother, Otto VonLintel; two sisters, **Catherine VonLintel Pfannenstiel '47** and Joan VonLintel Murta; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Sherolyn A. "Sherri" Rome Windholz '67 died March 6, 2017 at Hays Medical Center. Survivors include her husband, **Floyd '63**; two sons, Steven and **Christopher '98**; her father, Wilmer J. Rome; a brother, **Randy '88**; three sisters, **Dorothy Rome Taylor '73**, **Donna Rome Lovelady '73**, and **Betty Rome Hansen '76**.

Nomination for the Victoria Alumni Association Hall of Fame



Each year the Victoria Alumni Association inducts up to 3 individuals into the VAA Hall of Fame. There are two categories where the inductees can be selected from: School Personnel and Alum at Large.

The School Personnel category includes superintendents, principals, teachers, secretaries, cooks, custodians and other USD 432 employees at the elementary, middle, and high schools. The Alum at Large recognition is reserved for those graduates of the Victoria school system that have made a significant contribution of their time and talent to their fellow man.

Deadline for Entry is June 1, 2017.

Your Name _____

Your Graduating Year _____

Your phone # (so we can contact you) _____

Your email address _____

I nominate the following person for the Victoria Alumni Association Hall of Fame

Nominee's Name _____

Nominee's Approximate Years of Service _____

Please attach a sheet stating your reasons for nominating this person.

Mail this form, along with your nomination letter to:

Victoria Alumni Association

PO Box 382

Victoria KS 67671

ST. FIDELIS HIGH SCHOOL
1922—1940



VICTORIA
RURAL
HIGH
SCHOOL
1941—1966

VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL
1967—PRESENT

VHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P O Box 382
VICTORIA, KS 67671

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 106
HAYS, KANSAS 67601

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

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS HOMECOMING 2017

----- Friday, September 29, 2017 -----

- 8:00 a.m. 21st Annual VHS Golf Classic
Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course
- 2:00 p.m. Open House at V.F.W. Hall, Victoria
- 4:00 p.m. Homecoming Parade & Pep Rally at VHS
- 5:00 p.m. VIP Barbecue & Walk through Halls of VHS
- 7:00 p.m. Football Game Knights vs. Logan/Palco
- 9:00 p.m. Social at Victoria V.F.W. Hall

----- Saturday, September 30, 2017 -----

- 4:00 p.m. Memorial Mass at Basilica of St. Fidelis
- 5:15 p.m. Social/Banquet – Hays VFW Hall
- 9:00 p.m. Dance “Anthony & the Anamals”

2017 Upcoming Events

- FIDELISFEST —
Sunday, April 23
- ALUMNI-SPONSORED
SENIOR BARBEQUE —
Friday, May 12
- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION —
Sunday, May 14
- HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS —
Due Thursday, June 1
- HERZOGFEST —
Friday-Saturday, August 4-5
- VHS HOMECOMING 2017 —
Friday-Saturday, September 29-30