

HOMECOMING 2021 September 17-18

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Homecoming 2021

Friday, September 17
Saturday, September 18

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Hall of Fame Inductees 2021

Parade Grand Marshall:

Vitus Lang '50

HONORING

Class of 1970 & Class of 1971

Class of 1995 & Class of 1996

Class of 2010 & Class of 2011

&

Reunion Classes for 2020 & 2021

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

----- Friday, September 17, 2021 -----

- 8:00 a.m. 25th Annual Victoria Alumni Golf Classic
Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course
2:00-3:30 p.m. Open House – V.F.W. Hall, Victoria
4:00 p.m. Homecoming Parade & Pep Rally – VJSHS
5:00 p.m. Walk Thru Halls of VJSHS
6:30 pm Crowning of Homecoming Royalty
7:00 p.m. Football Game - Knights vs. Trego Eagles
9:00-11:30 p.m. Social – V.F.W. Hall, Victoria

----- Saturday, September 18, 2021 -----

- 4:00 p.m. Memorial Mass – Basilica of St. Fidelis
5:15 p.m. Social – V.F.W. Hall, Hays
6:00 p.m. Banquet – V.F.W. Hall, Hays
9:00 p.m. Dance “Anthony and the Anamals”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

John Schulte '96 – President
Bernie Schulte '88 – Vice-President
Rick Rajewski '69 – Secretary
LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80 – Treasurer
Pat Sander Legleiter '65
Patty Dreiling Dreiling '66
Joyce Berens Newell '67
Rich Billinger '68
Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76
Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78
Jane Baier Schumacher '79
Nolan Schmeidler '03
Matt Sander '03

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

John Schulte '96
Tami Braun Haberkorn '90
Det Roth Younger '58
Marge Rome '58
LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80
Verda Goetz Werner '55
Connie Windholz '74
Rhoda Windholz Urban '76

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Marge Rome '58
John Schulte '96
Det Roth Younger '58

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Loren VonLintel '90
Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76
Gerard Wellbrock '86
Peggy VonFeldt Klaus '89
Meagan Schmidtberger Wellbrock '02
Kori Braun – Advisor

After No Banquet Last Year Big Plans Are in Mix for 2021 Celebration

Pandemic Won't Spoil This Year's Homecoming Festivities

Homecoming 2021 will begin as usual with the 25th annual VHS Golf Classic at Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course on Friday, September 17. It is hard to believe that this is already the 25th golf tournament presented by the Alumni Association. James Brungardt '05 has been hard at work getting everything organized so that this year's tournament will run smoothly.

For those not attending the golf tournament, the Victoria V.F.W. will be available for a social event starting at 2:00 and concluding around 3:30. Refreshments will be provided.

The Homecoming parade will start at 4:00 and will begin and end at the Victoria Junior/Senior High School. This year the parade will be led by grand marshal **Vitus Lang '50**. Following that, there will be a pep rally at the school, after which you can tour VJSHS. The crowning of royalty will be held at 6:30 and the football game versus the Trego Eagles will kick off at 7:00.

Following the game, all alumni and guests are invited back to the Victoria V.F.W. for an evening social, which will be held until 11:30.

Saturday's events begin with the Alumni Memorial Mass at the Basilica of St. Fidelis at 4:00. This Mass will be the first time that the choir will sing together in more than a year, and everyone is looking forward to hearing their wonderful sound again.

After skipping last year due to the pandemic, the annual Victoria Alumni Banquet is back on for 2021, and there are some big plans in the works. The banquet and dance will be held at the Hays V.F.W. Hall, located at 22nd and Vine St in Hays.

The Alumni Board expects a large turnout this year, so some special accommodations had to be made. This year, a maximum of 350 people will be allowed into the banquet. The main hall at the V.F.W.

will not hold that many people, so the smaller dining hall will also be used.

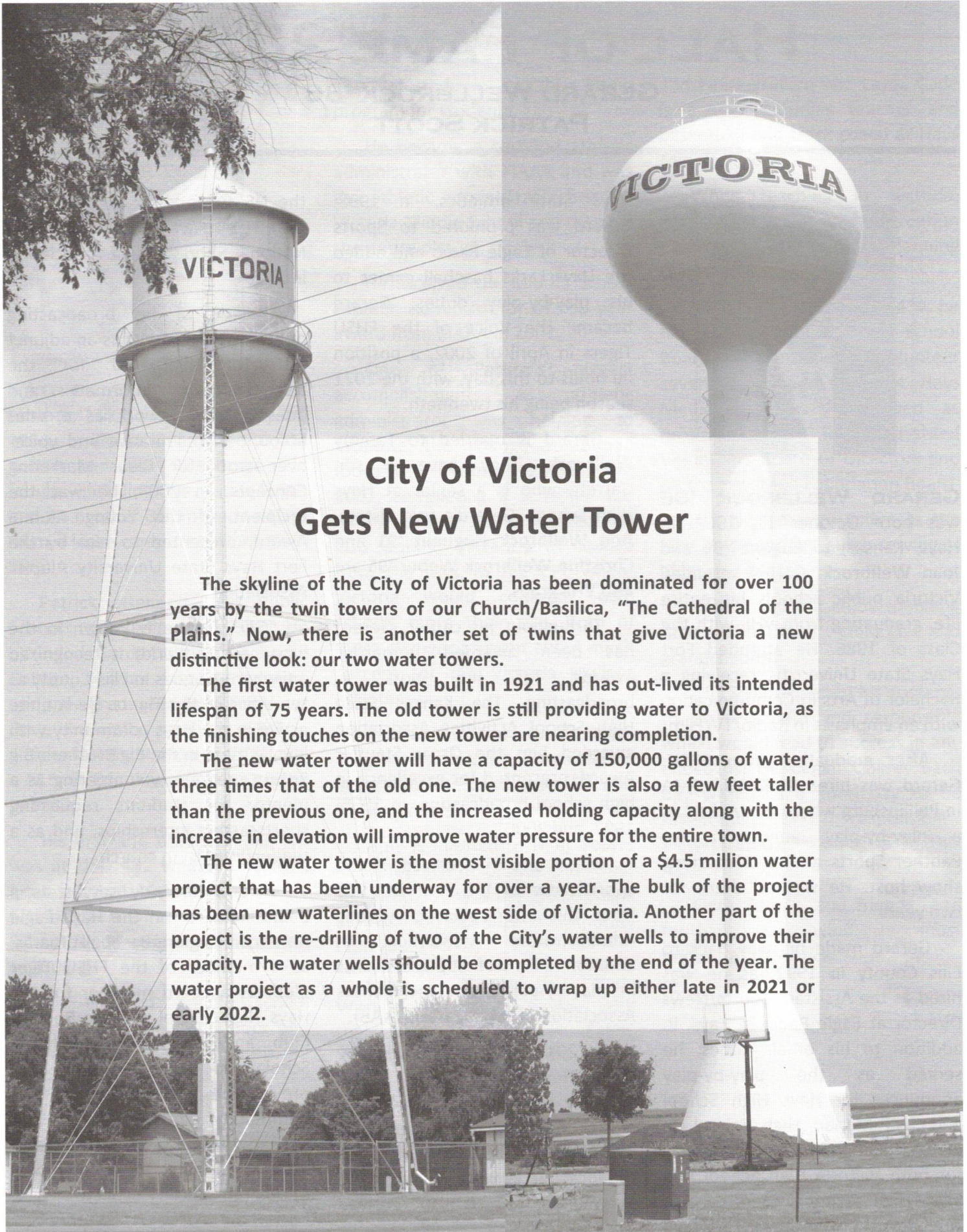
The reservations for the banquet will be made on a first-come-first-served basis. Do not wait until the week of homecoming to sign up for the banquet. Send in your reservation form (found on Page 15 of this newsletter) early to ensure you will be allowed entrance. Once the capacity of 350 is reached, no more banquet reservations will be accepted.

The events in Hays will start with a social hour, beginning around 5:15. The plan is to have the meal served around 6:00. Following the meal, the honor classes will be given a chance to inform all those present about their classmates' accomplishments. There will be two 50-year classes honored this year: 1970 and 1971; two 25-year classes: 1995 and 1996; and two ten-year classes: 2010 and 2011.

The tradition of welcoming the homecoming parade grand marshal at the banquet will also resume in 2021, with both the 2020 and 2021 grand marshals being introduced. In 2020, **John Braun Sr. '49** held the honor and this year **Vitus Lang '50** will serve as grand marshal. Be sure to congratulate both of these fine men for fulfilling this prestigious honor.

The Alumni Hall of Fame inductions will also resume at this year's banquet. Two candidates were selected to enter this renowned group. Former grade school teacher and coach Pat Scott and **Gerard Wellbrock '86**, distinguished alum, will be the newest inductees into the Hall of Fame. Their biographies can be found in this newsletter.

After all of the honorees get their moment in the spotlight, it will be time for a dance. Anthony and the Anamals will provide the entertainment for the evening. The festivities will conclude at midnight, wrapping up a triumphant return to the tradition of the Victoria Alumni Banquet.



City of Victoria Gets New Water Tower

The skyline of the City of Victoria has been dominated for over 100 years by the twin towers of our Church/Basilica, “The Cathedral of the Plains.” Now, there is another set of twins that give Victoria a new distinctive look: our two water towers.

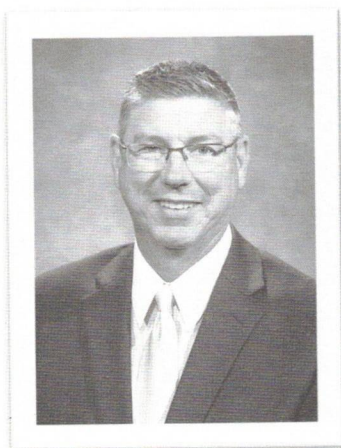
The first water tower was built in 1921 and has out-lived its intended lifespan of 75 years. The old tower is still providing water to Victoria, as the finishing touches on the new tower are nearing completion.

The new water tower will have a capacity of 150,000 gallons of water, three times that of the old one. The new tower is also a few feet taller than the previous one, and the increased holding capacity along with the increase in elevation will improve water pressure for the entire town.

The new water tower is the most visible portion of a \$4.5 million water project that has been underway for over a year. The bulk of the project has been new waterlines on the west side of Victoria. Another part of the project is the re-drilling of two of the City’s water wells to improve their capacity. The water wells should be completed by the end of the year. The water project as a whole is scheduled to wrap up either late in 2021 or early 2022.

HALL OF FAME 2021

GERARD WELLBROCK '86
PATRICK SCOTT



GERARD WELLBROCK '86

was born October 11, 1967, in Hays, Kansas, to **Eugene '56** and Joan **Wellbrock**. Gerard attended Victoria public schools his entire life, graduating from VHS with the Class of 1986. He attended Fort Hays State University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with an emphasis in Radio/TV/Film.

After graduating from FHSU, Gerard was hired at KKAN/KQMA in Phillipsburg where he worked as a play-by-play announcer for Panther Sports and as a morning show host. He worked there for two years.

Gerard made his way back to Ellis County in 1992, as he was hired as the Assistant Sports/News Director at Eagle Radio in Hays. In addition to his on-air duties, he served as the play-by-play announcer for Hays High School and TMP-Marian High School as well as some post-season games for both Victoria High School and Ellis High School. Gerard also served as the color analyst for Fort

Hays State athletics. In 1998, Gerard was promoted to Sports Director of Eagle Radio and added the Hays Larks baseball games to his play-by-play duties. Gerard became the Voice of the FHSU Tigers in April of 2002, a position he holds to this day, with the 2021 season being his twentieth.

Gerard is married to Tammy Wellbrock. They have a son Garrett, who is a senior at Hays High School. Gerard's two sisters, **Ann Wellbrock Hugunin '91** and **Christine Wellbrock Weber '95** are also VHS grads.

Throughout his career, Gerard has been awarded numerous awards for his work in broadcasting. The Kansas State High School Activities Association awarded him the Oscar Stauffer Award, presented for excellence in high school broadcasting, in 1996, 1997, and 2000.

He also received the Sportscaster of the Year in 1999 from the Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, in addition to his six first place awards in play-by-play from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters (KAB).

In 2012, Gerard received the Hod Humiston Award, given annually to a Kansas broadcaster who has made significant contributions to the field of sports broadcasting as well as work in the community. Gerard also received

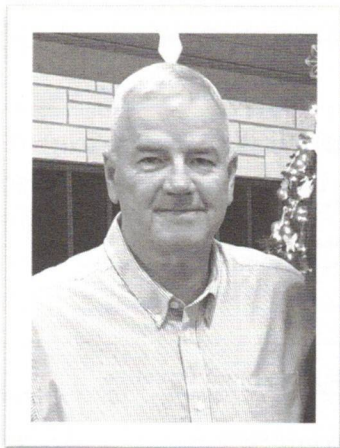
the NSMA Kansas Sportscaster of the Year Award given by the National Sports Media Association in 2016.

Outside of his broadcasting duties, Gerard serves as an adjunct instructor at FHSU for the Department of Informatics and does part-time work as a sales account representative and voice-over work for Clear Marketing Concepts. In 2004, he was the recipient of the Young Alumni Award, presented to him by the Fort Hays State University Alumni Association.

"Ger" (as he is known in the broadcasting world) is recognized anywhere he goes in Ellis County as the Voice of the Tigers. He is quite active in the Hays community with involvement in the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program, volunteering as a mentor for students requesting sportscasting internships, and as a reader/liturgist in church.

Gerard currently serves as a board member on the Hays Eagle American Legion Baseball Teams, as a member of the FHSU Tiger Club, as a board member for the Hays High School Athletic Booster Club, and serves on the Alumni Scholarship Committee. He has previously assisted with the Community Campaign efforts for the FHSU Foundation and served as a board member for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate).

HALL OF FAME 2021



PATRICK SCOTT and his twin brother, Mike, were born May 14, 1954, in Great Bend, Kansas, to Robert and Mary Lee Scott. The family, including his sister Susan and his brother Bill, moved to Hays from a lease camp near Gorham in 1957.

Patrick attended Hays Public Schools graduating in 1972. He attended Garden City Community College, Kansas State University, and then graduated from Fort Hays State University, receiving a B.S. in Elementary Education in 1976 and a M.S. in Education Administration in 1983.

His first and only teaching job was at USD 432 where he taught grades 5-8 at Victoria Elementary School and then at Victoria Middle School for 32 years before retiring in 2008.

He coached middle school basketball, football, and track and high school football and tennis. He

also started a weight lifting program for students.

He became a certified athletic administrator with KIAAA and was the athletic administrator first for Victoria Middle School and then for the entire district.

He received the Middle School Athletic Administrator of the year award from KIAAA in 2007.

One of Patrick's biggest accomplishments as athletic administrator was helping to facilitate the change to 8-man football for Victoria High School in 2001, completing a schedule the month before school started. He also worked diligently to change from the MCL to the CPL where Victoria would compete with schools more their size. Both of these changes brought about much success for the Victoria student athletes.

Patrick is married to Gia Scott. They have 2 children, **Amy Folkerts Sellers '02** and **Cade Scott '08**, and 5 grandchildren.

Amy is married to Matt Sellers and they live in Olathe with their son Teddy. Amy is the dance coach at Johnson County Community College.

Cade is married to Tiffany Werner and they live in Hays with their 4 children: Graham, Lakin,

and twins William and Layla. Cade is a social studies teacher and basketball and track coach at Hays Middle School.

While teaching in Victoria, Patrick served on the Recreation Commission and the City Planning Commission.

Since retiring from USD 432, he has served on the USD 432 School Board and continues to volunteer several days per week at Hays Medical Center. He served as president of the HaysMed Volunteers Board of Directors and on the HaysMed Foundation Board.

He is also very active in the First Presbyterian Church serving as elder and deacon.

Patrick and Gia enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren.

Mr. Scott expected his students to be respectful and responsible which would lead to success in any endeavor. He began classes each day with "it's a good day to be respectful and responsible". Victoria students lived up to this motto!

Faith, family, and friends (and football) are what is most important to Patrick.

I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.

~ Edward Everett Hale, author of "The Man Without a Country"



Victoria Alumni Association
Online Payment Store

VHS Alumni Association
PO Box 382
Victoria, KS 67671

E-MAIL
info@victoriaalumni.com

Payments made on this page will be processed via PayPal

Clicking on any **Add to Cart** button will open a new tab on the PayPal site
To return to this page, click on the **VAA - Payment** tab at the top of your screen

If you feel the need to explain your payment intentions,
for example dues paid for children, siblings or others,
please send an email to:

info@victoriaalumni.com

so that your wishes can be properly applied.

WE'RE ONLINE!!!

The Victoria Alumni Association will now accept payments on the alumni website: www.victoriaalumni.com. This is not a replacement for the tried and true method of mailing in your payments, this is just an additional option for sending in your fees.

To utilize this new feature, simply go to the aforementioned alumni website and look at the menu on the left hand side of your screen. The second item down is "Online Payments." Click on that and you will be taken to the Alumni Online Payment Store.

On the Payment Store page, almost all items that are normally offered by the Alumni Association are available for purchase. Alumni dues, banquet reservations, scholarship and general fund donations, raffle tickets, and golf tournament payments can all be made online.

The lone item not offered online is the Lifetime membership. A Lifetime membership purchase is unique to each individual and must be made by special arrangement. If you would like to purchase a Lifetime membership, send an email to info@victoriaalumni.com and arrangements will be made so you can get your Lifetime membership online.

All transactions are handled securely by PayPal, and you will receive an email receipt immediately following the completion of your transaction. If you need to explain your payment intentions—for example if you are paying for someone other than yourself, you can send an email to info@victoriaalumni.com so that your wishes can be honored.

Membership Dues

Dues: \$5 per person per year

One Year \$5.00 USD

Add to Cart

2021 Banquet Tickets

Banquet Tickets can be purchased online
until noon on September 15, 2021.

Number of Banquet Tickets

1 Person \$40.00 USD

Add to Cart

Scholarship Fund Donation

Scholarship Fund Donation

Five \$5.00 USD

Add to Cart

General Fund Donation

General Fund Donation

Five \$5.00 USD

Add to Cart

2021 Raffle Tickets Donation

Raffle Tickets can be purchased online
until noon on September 15, 2021.

Raffle Tickets

One Ticket \$5.00 USD

Add to Cart

Raffle Tickets paid for here will be filled
out for you and entered into the drawing.

Raffle drawing will be held at the Alumni Banquet
on September 18, 2021.

Need not be present to win.

2021 Golf Tournament Sponsorships

Sponsorship Levels:

Hole Sponsor \$50.00 USD

Add to Cart

2021 Golf Tournament Registration

Golf Registrations can be purchased online
until noon on September 15, 2021.

\$50 per Golfer

1 Golfer \$50.00 USD

Add to Cart

2021 Golf Cart Rental

Golf Cart Rentals can be purchased online
until noon on September 15, 2021.

\$30 per cart

1 Cart \$30.00 USD

Add to Cart

4 VHS Seniors Receive Alumni Scholarships



Thanks to the financial support of Alumni Association members, the Alumni Board was able to award four \$1,250 scholarships in 2021. This is the second year that the scholarships given to graduating seniors could be at this level.

This year's scholarship recipients were Jalyn Dinkel, Valerie Dome, Lydia Sander, and Kinley Windholz. The scholarships are funded by the annual alumni raffle, the golf tournament, and donations made by individuals.

Special thanks go to the scholarship committee who make the difficult scholarship selections.

Raffle Ticket Sales Support Senior Scholarships

This year the alumni raffle prizes will be \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200 and \$100. Tickets are \$5 each or \$40 for ten tickets. A sheet of raffle tickets is included with your newsletter, but if you would like additional tickets, there is a link on the Alumni website: www.victoriaalumni.com — on the Home Page under the Homecoming heading.

You can also pay for raffle tickets on the new Alumni Online Payment Store using the link on the Alumni website (see article on Page 6). Any raffle tickets purchased online will be filled out for you automatically and entered into the drawing.

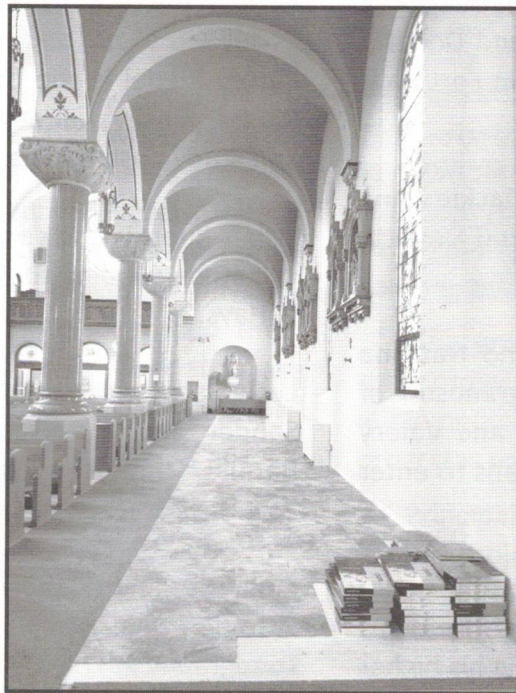
Update on the Basilica Restoration

As first reported in the spring Alumni newsletter, our historic Basilica of St. Fidelis is undergoing a complete restoration on its interior. This is a major project that will take over a year to finish.

The first phase was the painting of the walls. To assist the painters, a massive scaffold was erected inside St. Fidelis so that the painting could be done safely and efficiently. While the scaffold was in place, the windows at the very top of the Basilica were inspected, and since the windows were easy to access, the decision was made to refurbish them at that time. Broken glass was replaced and re-leading was done.

The Stations of the Cross were attended to also

while they were off the wall during painting. They were given a good cleaning and the gold on the Stations was repainted by Tim Linenberger, the contractor the church hired for the painting of the entire church.



With the painting completed, the next phase is to refinish every pew—all 202 of them. The pews have been taken out in sections, and while each section is out, the tile floor under that section has been replaced. After all of the pews and the flooring under them are completed, the final phase will be to replace the carpeting in the aisles. The pews are being refinished by **Dennis Braun '74** and his son **Dusty '03**.

All of these projects were needed, and each had to be done in the correct sequence so that all of the parish's goals could be accomplished.

Alumni Welcomes Class of 2021

Justin Braun is the son of **Terry '81** and **Deb Brungardt Braun '87** and the grandson of **Leroy '52** and JoAnn **Braun** and **Larry '62** and Jeannie **Brungardt**. Justin plans to study welding at North Central Technical College in Hays.

Jalyn Dinkel is the daughter of **Jay '95** and **Janea Scheck Dinkel '96** and the granddaughter of **Bob '73** and **Connie Berens Dinkel '74**, **Joe Scheck '70**, and **Paul '72** and **Judy Sander Dreiling '69**. She plans to major in finance at Fort Hays State University.

Valerie Dome is the daughter of Aaron and Kolleen Dome. Valerie will attend Fort Hays State University and major in secondary teacher education specializing in history.

Morgan Dorzweiler is the daughter of Harry and **Mandy Tholen Dorzweiler '98** and the granddaughter of **Jim '69** and Jane **Tholen**. She will attend North Central Technical College in Hays and study business technology.

Kaden Dreiling Rome is the son of **Deb Rome '84** and the grandson of **Gary '58** and **Janice Bell Rome '65**. Kaden will attend Fort Hays State University.

Trenton Engel is the son of Darin and **Jackie Lang Engel '86** and the grandson of **Don '64** and Donetta **Lang**. He plans to study computer science at Fort Hays State University.

Quenton Engel is the son of Darin and **Jackie Lang Engel '86** and the grandson of **Don '64** and Donetta **Lang**. He plans to enter the workforce.

Peyton Englert is the son of **Cory '99** and **Natasha Dreiling Hammerschmidt '98** and the grandson of **Frank '80** and **Brenda Kuhn Dreiling '78** and **Valery '70** and Linda **Hammerschmidt**. Peyton plans to enter the workforce.

Drayden Karlin is the son of Aaron Karlin and Dedra Karlin and the grandson of **Larry Karlin '67**. He plans to work until he makes a decision regarding his higher education.

Brooklyn Kuhn is the daughter of **Curt '94** and Rochelle **Kuhn**. Brooklyn will attend Sterling College and major in graphic design and advertising and will play tennis.

Rylee Hockersmith is the son of Jesse and Primrose Hockersmith. He plans to join the Marines.

Abby Hugunin is the daughter of Hyle and **Ann Wellbrock Hugunin '91**. Abby will attend Fort Hays State University.

Jason Karst is the son of Mark and **Shannon Brungardt Karst '90** and the grandson of **Jerry '62** and Mary **Brungardt**. He will study to become an electrical technician at North Central Technical College in Hays.

Lucas Klein is the son of **Kevin Klein '89** and Kay Harder. Lucas will study sports and exercise science at Fort Hays State University.

Kyle Pickering is the son of Dan and Mindy Pickering. He will study welding at North Central Technical College in Hays.

Jayvon Pruitt is the son of **Amanda Pruitt '98**. Jayvon will attend Garden City Community College where he will join the football team and the band.

Kinsey Riedel is the daughter of **Terry '86** and Gina **Riedel**. Kinsey will attend Fort Hays State University and study business management.

Ethan Rupp is the son of Eugene and Erin Rupp. He will study welding at North Central Technical College in Hays.

Lydia Sander is the daughter of **Chris '95** and Christie **Sander** and the granddaughter of **Steve '68** and **Bonnie Schmidtberger Sander '71**. Lydia will attend Fort Hays State University.

Emily Sterling is the daughter of Shawn and Jamie Sterling. She plans to study medical diagnostic sonography at Fort Hays State University.

Class of 2021 (continued)

Lucas Stramel is the son of **Stephen Stramel '95** and **Nichole Schmidtberger Bell '98** and the grandson of **Stanley '69** and **Patricia Stramel** and **Bill '74** and **Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78**. Lucas plans to enter the workforce.

Kinley Windholz is the daughter of **Chris '90** and **Kristy Dreiling Windholz '92** and the granddaughter of **Norman '55** and **Joann Dreiling** and **Julius '70** and **Susie Dreiling Windholz '69**. She plans to study political science at Kansas State University

Graduating Seniors Leave Mark on Community with Civics Projects

“These projects are a great way for the students to leave a lasting legacy,” ~Principal Dylan Dronberger

By Nancy Piatt
Hall of Fame Inductee '11

This year's Victoria graduating seniors will have left their mark on the school and the community in a unique way, thanks to the civics projects they completed for Kate James' civics class.

Working for the whole semester, the class, in small groups, strived to solve a problem their team identified: new bleachers for the football field, a new sound system for the football field, new landscaping on the school grounds, redoing street signs, reaching out to the elderly in the community through various communication means, and reaching out to the young as part of a recycling effort.

Depending on their project, the work involved planning, publicity, fundraising, meeting with administrators and other public officials, grant writing, surveying relevant people, coordinating with businesses and church contacts, as well as physical labor. Each team agreed that they increased their social and civic awareness as well as built stronger communication skills and teamwork.

For the bleacher project, the team raised almost \$4,000 in sales from popcorn balls and secured the rest of the needed funds from donations. In total, they raised \$7,000.

For the speaker project, the group secured some of their funding from the school district after the team

met with the administration. They also had to research the various kinds of equipment and come to a decision of what would best serve their purpose.

The landscaping project ended up reaching beyond the team as other students expressed an interest in helping and some have agreed to see that the upkeep of the plants and shrubs will be tended to in the future.

The street sign team repaired 28 signs and used their skills as “tactile learners” to produce new, improved signs. They agreed that their work definitely required attention to detail.

The group that chose the recycling project says they wanted something that would be “low cost, but high impact,” and selected the kindergarten class to become their partners. They supervised the kids in a city clean up and then did some classroom time with them, talking about recycling and providing them with coloring books on the topic.

The group who chose senior citizens' needs as their project researched the impact of isolation and implemented home visits, gift baskets, and pen pal programs to help address that need.

Principal Dylan Dronberger commented that “These projects are a great way for the students to leave a lasting legacy.” He also complimented Ms. James on implementing this concept as a bridge between community and school.



CLASS NOTES



Since most of Homecoming 2020 was cancelled last year, many people missed out on their class reunions. All classes that had to cancel a reunion in 2020 are encouraged to come back to Victoria on September 17 and 18 for Homecoming 2021. All of the "regular" reunion classes will be around as well. With this many people coming back, this could be the biggest homecoming the town of Victoria has ever seen. The classes that are expected to be back this September are:

75th Reunion: 1945 & 1946
 70th Reunion: 1950 & 1951
 65th Reunion: 1955 & 1956
 60th Reunion: 1960 & 1961
 55th Reunion: 1965 & 1966

50th Reunion: 1970 & 1971
 45th Reunion: 1975 & 1976
 40th Reunion: 1980 & 1981
 35th Reunion: 1985 & 1986
 30th Reunion: 1990 & 1991

25th Reunion: 1995 & 1996
 20th Reunion: 2000 & 2001
 15th Reunion: 2005 & 2006
 10th Reunion: 2010 & 2011
 5th Reunion: 2015 & 2016

1950's **Al '50** and **Arlene Wellbrock Pfeifer '50** celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on October 15, 2020. They have been blessed with five children; **Dave '74, Tom '76, Annette Pfeifer Lane '77, Jeff '79, and Tim '82**; 20 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Leroy '52 and **JoAnn Braun** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 5, 2021. They have three children, **LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80, Terry '81, and Tim '87**; 8 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren.

1960's **Rich '68** and **Jeani Billinger** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, May 29, with a Mass at the Basilica of St. Fidelis, officiated by Fr. Mike Scully. A social and dinner followed in Hays for family and friends hosted by their children and grandchildren.

1970's **Jeff '79** and **Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82** have relocated from Hays to the Lake of the Ozarks in Roach, Missouri.

1980's **Kona Austin Errebo '81** moved to Holcomb, Kansas, last summer to become the school district's library director. Kona oversees four school libraries. Kona said, "My daughter, Melanie Gifford, is a school counselor in the

Holcomb School District. Now I get to enjoy three of my grandkids anytime I want."

Dale Brungardt '86 has taken a job as Director of Finance for the Kansas Department of Education in Topeka. Dale was previously the Superintendent with the Ellsworth School District.

Judy Braun Brummer '89 has received the Werth College Outstanding Teaching Award for 2021 at Fort Hays State University. Judy is a professor of Mathematics at Fort Hays State University. Judy is the daughter of **John '49** and **Josie Braun**.

1990's **Jerry Braun '91** was selected as the Kansas Special Education Professional of the Year for 2020 by the Kansas Association of Special Education. Jerry is the gifted education instructor at Hays Middle School, as well as several other districts as part of the Hays West Central Kansas Special Education Co-op. Jerry is the son of **John '49** and **Josie Braun**.

Travis Hammerschmidt '98 and his wife Alisha announce the birth of their daughter, Alivia Kay Hammerschmidt, on March 24, 2021. Travis' parents are **Allen '68** and **Karen Sander Hammerschmidt '70**.

Blaine Younger '98 won the 2020 song writers contest sponsored by the Country Stampede. As a reward for winning, Blaine performed on the Country



CLASS NOTES



Stampede 2021 main stage. Blaine is married to **Suzu Hansen Younger '02**.

Jennifer Lapka Pfeifer '99 founded a non-profit in 2015 called Rightfully Sewn which creates jobs and opportunities in Kansas City through the business of fashion. They offer seamstress training for women who have obstacles to employment and programming for fashion designers. Following a temporary pivot to manufacturing masks for hospitals during the pandemic, they have grown to three locations and over 20 employees. Jennifer is married to **Eric Pfeifer '96**.

2000's **Preston Dreiling '00** and his wife Tianna announce the birth of a daughter, Josie Rose, born June 1, 2021, in Salina. Josie has five siblings: Preslyn, 10; Verlin, 9; Emalyann, 7; Susie, 4; and Harold, 2. Grandparents are **Frank '80** and **Brenda Kuhn Dreiling '78**.

Austin '06 and **Sheena Herl Gagnon '07** announce the birth of a son, Ridge Lawrence, born March 25, 2021. Ridge has an older sister Collins and older brother Gary. His grandparents are **Danny '72** and **Pat Herl**.

Michelle Hansen '07 and Justin Jewett were married June 19, 2021, at Christ Community Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Michelle graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Cell Biology. She is employed by the University of Kansas Cancer Center.

Brittany Goetz Dakin '09 and her husband Jared announce the birth of a son, Ryder Patrick, born on June 17, 2021. Ryder's grandparents are **Rod '82** and **Maria Dreiling Goetz '86**.

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

2010's **Garrett Dreiling '10** and his wife Tara announce the birth of a son, Eli, born July 6, 2021, at Hays Medical Center. Eli's grandparents are **Joe '84** and **Brenda Dreiling**. Great-grandparents are **Norman '55** and **JoAnn Dreiling**.

Katelyn Lang '12 graduated from the University of Kansas in December 2020 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Engineering. She graduated in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism. She is employed with FSC Consulting Engineers as a Fire Protection Engineer in Overland Park. Katelyn is the daughter of **Daren '83** and **Dana Dreiling Lang '84** and the granddaughter of **Jeanette Kippes Dreiling '60** and **Marlene Kisner Lang Sarver '60**.

Audrey Crawford Dougherty '13 and her husband Tyler announce the birth of their daughter, Benelli Ann, born on February 10, 2021. Audrey is the granddaughter of **Ted '54** and **Cecelia Crawford**.

Ashley Dome Urban '13 and husband Kole announce the birth of their daughter, Remi Alan Urban, on June 8, 2021. Remi's grandparents are **Stuart '82** and **Tammi Dinkel Dome '85**. Ashley and Kole moved to Gorham, Kansas, this summer. Ashley will be the new preschool teacher at Victoria Elementary this fall.

Julia Nowak '17 and Noah Gfeller were married on November 7, 2020, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis. Julia graduated from Fort Hays State University in 2021 with a degree in Nursing.

Hollie Reinhardt '17 and **Taylor Stramel '16** were married November 20, 2020, in Abilene, Kansas. The industrious newlyweds opened Udderly Wild, a store in Hays, Kansas, on January 16, 2021. Hollie says their store offers clothing, shoes, soaps, candles, jewelry, and much more! Taylor is the son of **Stephen Stramel '95** and **Nikki Schmidtberger Bell '98**, and the grandson of **Stan Stramel '69** and **Bill '74** and **Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78**.



NEW ADMINISTRATORS FOR USD 432

The Victoria school district had to replace both administrators following the 2020-2021 school year. While not ideal, this was a good time to “reshuffle” the duties and responsibilities of each administrator.

Former Superintendent Kent Michel spent part of his time as grade school principal. The former junior/senior high school principal was Dylan Dronberger. Going forward, the superintendent will split time as the junior/senior high school principal and the grade school principal’s primary concern will be the younger schoolkids.

Mr. Michel has taken a job with the Hiawatha school district and Mr. Dronberger has moved to Ohio to be closer to his wife’s family.

Kimberly Woolf began her new duties as superintendent and junior/senior high principal on July 1. Mrs. Woolf brings 29 years of experience to her new post: 16 years in the classroom and 13 years in administration. Since 2008 she has served as the principal of Stafford Elementary/Middle School. Prior to that, she worked in the El Dorado school district as a reading and math interventionist. Her other classroom experience was as a

sixth grade teacher in the Ellinwood school district.

Mrs. Woolf holds a Master of Science degree in Educational Administration from Texas A & M and earned her district certification from Newman University in 2019.

Deena Clark, formerly a counselor at Hays Middle School, was selected as grade school principal. Mrs. Clark has worked in districts of all sizes from 1A to 6A and has taught kindergarten, second, third, fourth, and sixth grades. In addition to working as a teacher and counselor, she has been a district and building test coordinator and district accreditation specialist. She is in her 27th year in education.

Graduating from FHSU in 1994 with her Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education, she later added an English Language Learners endorsement. She earned her Master’s degree in School Counseling in 2001 and completed her coursework for Administration/Building Leadership in 2012.

She and her husband Wes have three sons, Lane, 25; Logan, 21; and Landen, 16. As a family, she says they enjoy attending sporting events, traveling, camping, water sports, and just spending time together. Prior to living in Hays, they have lived in Clay Center and Cimarron.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to join the staff at VES and look forward to meeting the students, parents, and members of the community,” Mrs. Clark remarked.

LONG TIME USD 432 SHOP TEACHER RETIRES

Longtime shop teacher Bruce Engel has retired. He spent his entire career, including his student teaching, in the Victoria district. During his tenure, Engel worked for five superintendents and four principals.

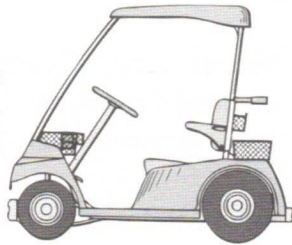
He commented that, over the course of time, the titles of the classes he taught changed many times, but the content was always the same. Engel recalls that early in his career there was a push to do away with traditional Industrial Arts classes and move to tech labs. Under Superintendent Pat O’Brien’s direction, he started a tech lab at the middle school, but like many new ideas, in time the trend reversed and wood labs returned emphasizing the importance of the traditional skills.

Mr. Engel’s replacement is Kelby Parton, husband of **MaKayla Crawford Parton ’15**.

Car Wash Effort Aside, the Annual Golf Tournament Will Go On

by James Brungardt '05

Earlier this summer my good friend **Jared Pfeifer '07** and I took it upon ourselves to help raise money for the VHS Alumni Association, so we put on our swimsuits and headed to the VFW parking lot for a community car wash. Poor Jared sat there all day in the heat and didn't have a single customer.



While I was washing Jared's wife's car, I decided it would be best if we went back to the old proven fundraising methods and just having a golf tournament.

Please plan to join us **Friday, September 17, at the Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course**. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM with a shotgun start around 9:00. If you plan to play in the tournament, please call or text me at 785-735-4279 no later than September 10 so I can ensure we have enough carts and prizes. Last year we were close to running out of carts so please do your best to contact me in advance, the sooner the better.

Thank you to all of you who showed up last year. I loved seeing all the regulars along with a lot of new faces. We had a great turnout and I hope we can do the same again this year.

I'd also like to thank the alumni association board members for all their time and effort in getting sponsorships and making all of the necessary arrangements.

In addition to their regular duties, I'll also be looking to one of these great volunteers to give me a ride home after the tournament. This will help me avoid an awkward conversation with my wife when I get home. I tell you that now so that if one of you see me leaving with one of the pretty ladies from the Class of 1970, you'll know that I just needed a ride home. This event would not happen without the work of those great people.

The only thing I was able to do last year was sucker **Cole Dreiling '08** into buying some shirts for the winners. Cole has once again graciously volunteered to sponsor shirts for the winners. This world needs more giving people like Cole—thanks buddy.

Jeanette Wagner Pfannenstiel '70 will provide cinnamon rolls for you to enjoy during registration. These rolls alone are worth the cost of the tournament.

Matt Sander '03 has taken charge of preparing a gourmet lunch for all golfers this year. The only time I've had Matt's cooking was on a trip to the lake back in 2002. Hopefully, his cooking skills have improved over the years, but if they haven't, just remember that they sell beef jerky and chips at the pro shop.

Remember, you do not need to be a graduate of VHS to play; we will take anyone's money. This is an event to raise money for a good cause, so be sure to invite all golfers to come out and enjoy the festivities.

The tournament costs \$50 per golfer or \$200 per team. Golf carts will be available for rent, and will cost \$30. Sponsorships are also available. A corporate sponsorship is \$100 or a hole sponsorship is \$50.

I hope to see everyone out on the course again this year and I invite any new faces to join us for another great tournament. This is a great fundraiser, and it relies on the support and participation of the VHS faithful, so please come out for a great time and support this wonderful event!





In Loving Memory



Robert "Bob" Dinkel '50 passed away December 11, 2020, at Solomon Valley Manor, Stockton, Kansas. He is survived by his wife, Marge; two daughters; three grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren.

Kimber Rose Lane of Gardner, Kansas, passed away January 10, 2021, at Children's Mercy Hospital. She is survived by her parents, Russell and **Annette Pfeifer Lane '77**; one brother; three sisters; and her grandparents, **Al '50** and **Arlene Wellbrock Pfeifer '50**.

Carol Karlin '62 passed away March 28, 2021. She is survived by two sons; five brothers, Darrell, **Francis '64**, **Larry '67**, **Tony '74**, and **Tom '83**; one sister, **Marilyn Karlin Wagner '71**; and one granddaughter.

Don Lang '75 passed away April 9, 2021, at Diversicare Nursing Home in Haysville, Kansas. He is survived by one son; a brother, **Robert '80**; and a sister, **Marilyn Lang Nuss '82**.

Dennis Leiker '58 passed away April 26, 2021, at his home with his family at his bedside. He is survived by one son; a brother, **Wil '64**; and a sister, **Nancy Leiker '60**.

David Leiker '75 passed away at his home on April 26, 2021. He is survived by one brother, **Randy '70**, and a sister, **Mary Beth Leiker Fisher '76**.

Roger Brown '79 passed away May 1, 2021, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by two sons, **Chad '02** and **Clint '04**; two brothers, Richard Jr. and Rodney; three sisters, Colleen Schmitt, **Jolene Brown Purvis '74**, and Galene Stecklein.

Don Staab passed away May 9, 2021, at Good Samaritan Society of Hays. He is survived by his wife, Gerti; one son, **Karl '90**; one daughter, Amy Staab; and two grandchildren.

Carolyn Windholz Pfannenstiel '63 passed away May 26, 2021, at Salina Regional Health Center. She is survived by one son; one daughter; two brothers, **Virgil '54** and **Otto '69**; a sister, **Charlotte Windholz Blake '58**; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

George Lang '42 passed away June 2, 2021, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by a son, a daughter, seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Arlyn Schumacher passed away June 7, 2021, at Good Samaritan Society of Ellis Nursing Home. He is survived by his wife, **Clarita Dreiling Schumacher '58**; a daughter, **Michele Schumacher Unrein '81**; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Harold Stegman '54 passed away June 18, 2021, at Wheatland Nursing Center Russell. He is survived by a brother, **LeRoy '52**; two sisters, Evelyn Alexander and **Bernice Stegman Wiewel '59**.

Doris Hammerschmidt Werth '58 passed away June 20, 2021, at her daughter's home in Olathe. She is survived by two daughters, **Vicky Werth Gonzales '81** and **Judy Werth VonFeldt '85**; a brother, **Dennis '65**; five grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Marvin Dreiling '44 passed away June 22, 2021, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; two sons; three daughters; two brothers, **Charlie '51** and **Jim '63**; two sisters, **Lucy Dreiling Roth '46** and **Theresa Dreiling Ellis '57**; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Roselyn Roth Schmidt '52 passed away July 4, 2021. She is survived by three sons, three daughters, 11 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

VHS Alumni

VICTORIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 382

VICTORIA, KS 67671

2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Due: Wednesday, September 15, 2021

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 _____ (\$40.00 per person) | \$ _____ |
| Donation to Scholarship Fund | \$ _____ |
| Donation to Association General 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!



Victoria Elementary School received a major upgrade over the past year. An elevator was added to the east end of the building to allow easy access to the classrooms on the top floor. This elevator was long overdue, and is greatly appreciated by those who have trouble climbing stairs.