

HOMECOMING 2024
October 4-5

Homecoming 2023 Successful Despite Setbacks

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Homecoming in 2023 was once again a great success thanks to the hundreds of people who participated in the various events throughout the weekend.

The alumni board works hard all year to plan and organize the homecoming festivities. Although most homecoming activities seem similar to the previous years, each homecoming has its own uniqueness to make them memorable. Homecoming 2023 will definitely be remembered for the major setbacks experienced by the alumni board.

The 2023 Homecoming was first thrown off kilter a month prior to homecoming when Harry Legleiter, husband of board member

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
Anne Ruder Dinkel '90
Nolan Schmeidler '03
Matt Sander '03

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Det Roth Younger '58
Connie Windholz '74
Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76
LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80
Tami Braun '90
Anne Ruder Dinkel '90
John Schulte '96

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Det Roth Younger '58
Patty Dreiling Dreiling '66
John Schulte '96

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

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

HOMECOMING SETBACKS ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Hungry golfers enjoy lunch at the Homecoming Golf Tournament. Patty Dreiling and Harry Legleiter usually helped with serving lunch, but in 2023 Leroy and LeeAnn Schmidtberger took a turn at helping them out.

2023 PARADE GRAND MARSHAL MARVIN SCHMIDTBERGER

Marvin Schmidtberger '52 was thrilled to be selected as the 2023 parade Grand Marshal. After graduating from VHS, Marvin spent 18 months working for the Union Pacific railroad. Soon after, he met his wife, Nancy Staab. They were married in January of 1955. He then worked for Harman Oil for two years. He and Nancy then moved to Salina, where he worked as an outside salesman for Firestone Tire and Rubber Company.

In 1959, he was promoted to territory representative, a promotion that meant another move to Pratt, where he and Nancy have lived ever since. His job involved a lot of traveling, so when the chance to buy a local tire shop came up in 1961, they did not hesitate. They ran the tire shop for 28 years, often being the first shop to offer new innovations such as duals on tractors, radial farm tires, etc. In 1989, they sold the shop to Cooper Tire out of Hutchinson.



Grand Marshal Marvin Schmidtberger is flanked by his wife Nancy to his right during the Homecoming 2023 Parade.

Next was a venture into commercial real estate in many different cities around Kansas. In 1994, Marvin got involved in banking, where he remained for 26 years. He said banking was a new venture, but he enjoyed it. Marvin and Nancy are both retired now, and have split time between Pratt and their winter home of Rancho Mirage, California. Rancho Mirage has been their winter home for 30 years.

Marvin and Nancy say that life has been good to them. They enjoy going to their grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's activities, which they find very rewarding.



Members of the Class of 2003 enjoyed each others company while participating in the 2023 Homecoming Parade.



The Class of 1983 was just one of the alumni classes participating in the 2023 Homecoming Parade.

LOTS OF EFFORT GOES INTO A SUCCESSFUL HOMECOMING

The weekend started off as usual with the annual alumni golf tournament. While the tournament itself is held the Friday of homecoming, the actual work on the tournament begins in July. That is when the fundraising for the golf tournament commences. Letters are mailed out to area businesses to ask for donations to help defray the costs of the tournament. These fundraising letters are where the corporate and hole sponsorships originate. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for the golf sponsorships, please send an email to info@victoriaalumni.com, or mail your request to PO Box 382, Victoria, KS 67671.

Work on the day of the tournament commenced around 6:45 a.m. as **James Brungardt '05**, **Jared Pfeifer '07**, and **John Schulte '96** gathered to get everything organized. Other golf volunteers, such as **Rich Billinger '68**, **Rick Rajewski '69**, **Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76**, **Bernie Schulte '88**, **Nolan Schmeidler '03**, and **Cole Dreiling '08**, showed up around 7:30 to get their marching orders from James. The actual golfers started arriving around 8:00 to begin registering. Cinnamon rolls were available during registration courtesy of **Mary Jo Schulte Rome '71**.

As the registrations were being handled, the crew in charge of lunch—**Brenton Hoffman '08** and **Matt**

Sander '03—started to deliver the vittles for the day. The lunch is arguably the best part of the golf tournament, with the only possible exceptions being the cinnamon rolls or the complimentary beverages that are provided. Brenton and Matt entrusted **Leroy '74** and **LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80** with the care of the meal until it was actually served.

The golfing itself was handled in the usual manner. Mulligans were needed by some, while others were more fortunate. Laughs were had by all and stories from years ago were shared, although some of the stories may have been skewed either by the fog of time or by ego. Most of the golfers were able to finish in time to get back to Victoria for the Homecoming Parade.

The parade also takes more work than people realize. The alumni board considered many people to be the 2023 Grand Marshal and were thrilled when **Marvin Schmidtberger '52** accepted the honor. **Joyce Berens Newell '67** and **Patty Sander Legleiter '65** spent many hours arranging for the cars that carried Marvin and the Hall of Fame inductees—**Verda Goetz Werner '55** and Dave Gottwald.

FORE!!!

Victoria Alumni Golf Tournament

by Matt Berens '89

It is time to start dusting off those golf clubs and putting your team together for the 2024 VHS alumni golf tournament at The Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course, on Friday, October 4. A HUGE thank you goes out to **James Brungardt '05** for all his hard work and dedication the past several years running this annual tournament. We will make sure he enjoys a stress-free tournament this year with several beverages! Also a BIG congratulations to the winning team last year of **Mark (Sparky) Robben '82, John Dreiling '83, Carl "Mush" Dinkel '86, and Darian "Dink" Dinkel '89.**

The alumni golf tournament is a great event no matter your handicap. Whether you are an avid golfer, or a hack like fellow alumni **Gerard Wellbrock '86, Bernie Schulte '88, Kevin Klein '89, or Jared Pfeifer '07,** this



THREE TERRYS AND A JEFF — With Terry Riedel unable to attend, last year's "Terry" golf team consisted of Class of 1986 members (left to right) Jeff Kisner, Terry Klaus, Terry Braun, and Terry Gasper.

is the tournament for anyone.

We also have teams with a theme. Usually it is classmates that join up for the day to reminisce about the good old days. Others have treated the day as a way to gather for a mini-family reunion. Then there is the "Terry '86" team: **Terry Klaus '86, Terry Braun '86, Terry Riedel '86, and Terry Gasper '86.**

This tournament is a great way to catch up with old friends while enjoying a beverage or two. It is wonderful to see the great turnouts we have had the past several years. Hopefully we can continue that tradition and enjoy a beautiful day out on the golf course. Please look for further details in the fall alumni newsletter.



Pictured left to right: **Austin Gagnon '08, Jared Pfeifer '07, James Brungardt '05** (outgoing golf tournament director), and **Cole Dreiling '08.**



Pictured left to right from the Class of 1989: **Darrell Dortmund, Matt Berens** (incoming golf tournament director), **Kevin Klein, and John Weber.**

LOTS OF EFFORT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

The football game and surrounding activities were entirely handled by the staff and students at the school. After the game, the Friday night social at the VFW took the help of all available board members including **Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78**, **Jane Baier Schumacher '79**, and **Anne Ruder Dinkel '90**. The spouses of board members also contributed more than most people realized. By the time the VFW was closing, the alumni who started their day at the golf tournament were exhausted and ready for a break.

Luckily, events on Saturday didn't begin until 4:00 p.m. with the Alumni Memorial Mass. Kathy spends several weeks rehearsing with the choir to create the beautiful music that everyone enjoys. Many alums are asked to participate in the Mass as servers, cross bearer, lectors, ushers, gift bearers, Eucharistic

ministers, and greeters.

After Mass, the Alumni Banquet was held at the Hays VFW. The banquet is organized weeks in advance by the board as best they can, but a few hiccups invariably pop up every year. Hopefully most of the people attending the banquet don't notice the hiccups. After the banquet, a short program honoring Marvin, Verda, and Dave was held. A few reunion classes were also allowed a short time to brag about their class's accomplishments. Then, all that remained was to dance the night away with the assistance of Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations.

In conclusion, Homecoming 2023 was a success thanks to the many people who gave their time to make this association's events great.

Homecoming Setbacks

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Patty Sander Legleiter '65, passed away. Even though Harry didn't graduate from Victoria, he was an integral part of each homecoming. Harry would drive the beverage cart at the golf tournament, and was famous for his cookies that were served at the golf course. With Harry's passing, Patty also was unable to assist with most of homecoming, which the other board members completely understood.

About 10 days prior to homecoming, the alumni board suffered another setback when **Patty Dreiling Dreiling '66** was severely injured in a car wreck on Interstate 70. Patty Dreiling was traveling to Patty Legleiter's house to make arrangements for the Alumni Memorial Mass when the accident occurred. Patty's injuries were severe enough that she spent four weeks in the hospital. Thankfully, Patty has recovered from those injuries.

With Patty D, Patty L, and Harry unavailable to help with Homecoming, the remaining board members quickly stepped in to cover their tasks. The day after

Patty's accident, **Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76** and **John Schulte '96** got the Alumni Mass arrangements made. The Pattys were also in charge of running the registration desk at the golf tournament. **Bernie Schulte '88** and **Nolan Schmeidler '03** stepped in for them and did an excellent job.

With the absence of Harry, a new beverage cart driver was needed. **Rich Billinger '68** and **Rick Rajewski '69** took over and had a wonderful time. Patty and Patty also had helped with serving the lunch at previous golf tournaments. **Leroy '74** and **LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80** rearranged their schedules so that they could help with the lunch.

Although Patty, Patty, and Harry were deeply missed at last year's homecoming, the remaining board members pulled together to try to fill the huge holes that the three of them had left.

Everyone is looking forward to having Patty D. and Patty L. back for Homecoming 2024!



CLASS NOTES



1940's

Alice Kuhn Dehart '46 says that even though she lives in Renton, Washington, she still considers Victoria to be her home.

1960's

Mary Schulte '68 retired in May of 2023 after 50 years in the banking industry.

Rick Rajewski '69 retired in 2020. He has since rejoined the alumni board, and is enjoying his second "tenure" with the board. He encourages anyone who would like to serve on the board to let another board member know of your interest so you can be considered the next time a vacancy is created.

1970's

Frank Younger '70 and his wife, Joleene, celebrated their 50th anniversary in March of 2023. They have two children, **Tonya Younger Cole '91** and **Chris '95**.

Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76 was honored as the Grand Marshal for the 2023 Thomas More Prep Homecoming Parade. Kathy is the daughter of the 2022 Victoria Grand Marshal **Cora Braun Schulte '55**.

1980's

David Kisner '83 just wants to thank everyone who helps make the alumni association a great organization.

Craig Braun '86 and his wife, Marcia, became first time grandparents on June 15, 2023. They welcomed Laramie Kate Griffith, daughter of Cooper and Madison Griffith. Laramie's great-grandfather is **Pete Braun Jr. '62**.

Troy Sander '88 was chosen as President-elect to the Kansas Livestock Association. Troy has been a member of the KLA for 25 years, and has served on numerous boards and committees during that time.

1990's

Curtis Wellbrock '96 and his wife, Jeanna, announce the birth of their son, Thomas Lawrence, born May

23, 2023. Thomas' grandparents are of **Wayne '67** and Diane **Wellbrock**.

John Kuhn '99 and his wife, Raena, announce the birth of their daughter, River Evan, born on December 1, 2023. River's grandfather is **Marvin Kuhn '64**.

2000's

Michael Brungardt '00 and his wife, Jeanette, announce the birth of their son, AJ, born on May 25, 2023. AJ's grandparents are **Bob '68** and **Shirley Riedel Brungardt '68**.

Cory Unrein '03 and his wife, Tiffany, announce the birth of their son, Zane Alexander, born on October 1, 2023. Zane's grandparents are Glen and **Michele Schumacher Unrein '81**.

Tara Schumacher '07 and Oscar Rooney Runyon IV announce the birth of their son, Bostyn Larue, born on February 12, 2023.

Amber Unrein Younger '07 and her husband, Joel, announce the birth of their son, Klay Alan, born on December 11, 2023. Klay's grandparents are Glen and **Michele Schumacher Unrein '81**.

Cole Robben '09 and Jayde Jantzen announce the birth of their daughter, Levyn Kay, born on August 23, 2023.

2010's

Garrett Dreiling '10 and his wife, Tara, announce the birth of their daughter, Dawson Lea, born on February 28, 2024. Dawson's grandparents are **Joe '84** and Brenda **Dreiling**.

Falynn Wasinger Rogers '11 and her husband, Dan, announce the birth of a daughter, Evelyn Jae, on October 13, 2023.

Kameron Dinkel '11 and his wife, Natalie, announce the birth of their son, Kayce Joseph, born on November 27, 2023. Kayce's grandparents are **Dale '83** and **Kris Newton Dinkel '86**.

Cody Scheck '11 and his wife, MaKayla, announce the birth of their twin sons, Easton and Channing, born on February 2, 2024. The twins' grandmother is **Sandy**



CLASS NOTES



VonFeldt Scheck '82 and their great-grandfather is **Jim VonFeldt '61**.

Kelton Unrein '12 and his wife, Marrisa, welcomed a son, Korbin, on January 19, 2023. Korbin's grandparents are Curt and **Diane Kuhn Unrein '83**.

Zach '12 and **Sarah Kuhn VonLintel '13** announce the birth of their daughter, Norah Elizabeth, born on November 15, 2023. Norah's grandparents are **Darin VonLintel '86** and **Joe '73** and **Diane Sanders Kuhn '83**.

Lane Braun '13 and his wife, Arrica, announce the birth of their daughter, Gracie Mae, born on July 11, 2023. Gracie's grandparents are **Rick '82** and **Janice Braun**.

Colten '13 and **Audra Nowak Leiker '14** announce the birth of their daughter, Sadie Jo, born on February 28, 2024. Sadie's grandparents are **Keith '84** and **Karen Leiker** and her great-grandmother is **Sheila Leiker-Page '60**.

Ashley Dome Urban '13 and her husband, Kole, announce the birth of their daughter, Kollie Jean, born on February 13, 2024. Kollie's grandparents are **Stuart '82** and **Tammy Dinkel Dome '85**.

Megan Rogers '14 and Brennan Foster announce the birth of their daughter Gracelyn Taylor, born on January 7, 2024. Gracelyn's grandmother is **Melinda Weber Rogers '80**.

Kristin Huser Werth '14 and her husband, Brayden, announce the birth of their daughter, Sophie Dawn, born on November 13, 2023. Sophie's grandfather is **Galen Huser '86** and her great-grandfather is **Leon Huser '61**.

Ryan Bleske '15 and his wife, Kaitlynn, announce the birth of their daughter, Madison Paige, born on February 21, 2024. Madison's grandparents are Calvin and **Sharon Kuhn Bleske '83**.

Maegan Karlin Scholz '15 and her husband, Caleb, announce the birth of their daughter, Jennaya, born on September 21, 2023. Jennaya's grandparents are **Tom '83** and **Saundra Meder Karlin '84** and her great-grandmother is **Lena Scheck Meder '56**.

Taylor '16 and **Hollie Reinhart Stramel '17** announce the birth of their son, Jack Wilson, born on January 3, 2024. Jack's grandmother is **Nikki Schmidtberger Bell '98**, great-grandparents include **Bill '74** and **Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78**, and great-great-grandparents are **Fritz '56** and **Anita Braun**.

Grant '16 and Sara **Weber** announce the birth of their son, Cameron Lavon, born on November 20, 2023. Cameron's grandparents are **John '89** and **Kami Wellbrock Weber '94** and **Troy '85** and **Geralyn Huser Schippers '88**, and his great-grandparents are **Paul Schippers '55**, **Leon Huser '61**, and **Neil and Pam Brown Wellbrock '72**.

Abigail Schremmer Zahn '16 and her husband, Logan, announce the birth of their son, Malakai Sage, born on September 12, 2023. Malakai's grandparents are Paul and **Renee Urban Schremmer '89**.

Cole Schmidtberger '18 and **Jalyn Dinkel '21** were married on September 23, 2023, in Hays. Cole is the son of **Mike '90** and **Marcey Schmidtberger**. Jalyn is the daughter of **Jay '95** and **Janea Scheck Dinkel '96** and is the granddaughter of **Bob '73** and **Connie Berens Dinkel '74**, **Joe Scheck '70**, and **Paul '72** and **Judy Sander Dreiling '69**.

Morgan Leiker Slipke '18 and her husband, Easton, announce the birth of a daughter, Jordie Lee, born on October 23, 2023.

Morgan Braun '19 and **Morgan Dorzweiler '21** were married on October 21, 2023, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis. Morgan Braun is the son of **Chris '86** and **Shauna Braun** and the grandson of **Pete Braun '62**. Morgan Dorzweiler is the daughter of Harry and **Mandy Tholen Dorzweiler '98** and the granddaughter of **Jim '69** and **Jane Tholen**.

2020's

Nick Dreiling '20 and **Patience Dickerman** announce the birth of their daughter, Parker Lynn, born on August 7, 2023. Parker's grandfather is **Jim Dreiling '88** and his great-grandparents are **Norman '55** and **JoAnn Dreiling**.



In Loving Memory



Richard Braun '68 passed away July 13, 2023, at HaysMed Center. He is survived by one son; two brothers, **James '65** and Andrew; one sister, **Patty Braun Baalman '66**; and two grandsons.

Paula Schumacher Palermo '56 passed away July 18, 2023. She is survived by her husband, Carl; one son; three step-children; one sister, **Jeanette Schumacher Younger '50**; ten grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

Art Wagner '66 passed away July 25, 2023, in Owasso, Oklahoma. Survivors include his wife, **Joyce Rohr Wagner '68**; three sons; two brothers, **Ron '65** and **Gary '69**; one sister **Jeanette Wagner Pfannenstiel '70**; and seven grandchildren.

Danny Werth, husband of **Christy Younger Werth '05**, passed away August 6, 2023, at HaysMed Center. Other survivors include two sons; one daughter; his parents; and his father and mother-in-law, George and **Myra Younger Younger '78**.

Harry Legleiter passed away August 22, 2023. Survivors include his wife, **Patty Sander Legleiter '65**; five daughters; three brothers; two sisters; and 14 grandchildren.

Norma Schmidtberger passed away August 25, 2023, at Overland Park Regional Medical Center. Survivors include one son; two daughters; four brothers, Irvin, Leon, Gary, and **Melvin Schmidt '68**; ten grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Val Schumacher '75 passed away August 25, 2023, in Victoria. Survivors include one sister, **Vicki Schumacher Schmidtberger '80**; two nephews; two nieces; two aunts, **Jeanette Schumacher Younger '50** and Rosetta Feltis; and many cousins and friends.

Gary Arnold passed away September 27, 2023, at the University of Kansas Health Center. Survivors include his wife, **Bernadette Sander Arnold '58**; one son; three

daughters; ten grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.

Rosie Kreutzer Staab passed away November 4, 2023, at Cherrelyn Assisted Living Center in Littleton, CO. She is survived by three sons; one daughter; one brother, **Francis Kreutzer '63**; one sister, Melva Marmion; nine grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Dennis VonLintel '56 passed away November 19, 2023, at Via Christi Care Center, Hays. Survivors include three sons, **Chris '83**, **Darin '86**, and **Loren '90**; one daughter, **Sue VonLintel Hobbs '88**; three brothers, **Robert '53**, **Regis '62**, and **Roger '62**; one sister, **Judy VonLintel Murphy '60**; 19 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Otto Dinkel Jr. '57 passed away December 1, 2023, at HaysMed Center. He is survived by his wife **Carol Rome Dinkel '59**; one son, **Kurt Dinkel '86**; one daughter, **Kim Dinkel Cavanaugh '81**; four grandchildren; six step-grandchildren; and 11 step-great-grandchildren.

Paul Urban passed away January 6, 2024, at HaysMed Center. He is survived by his wife, Julianna; one son, **Steve '82**; two daughters, **Judy Urban Link '70** and **Joyce Urban Werth '71**; 11 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Verda Goetz Werner '55 passed away January 13, 2024, at Via Christi Care Center, Hays. She is survived by her husband, Ivan; one son, **Michael '91**; two daughters, **Rhonda Werner Fionda '79** and **Patti Werner Woschitz '80**; two brothers, **Frank Goetz '58** and **Ron Goetz '54**; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. Verda was honored as a new member of the Alumni Hall of Fame at Homecoming 2023. She was an elementary teacher at Victoria Elementary School for 27 years. Verda was also a dependable editor of the alumni newsletter for many years.



In Loving Memory continued



Mary Jane Braun Unrein '53 passed away January 20, 2024, at Via Christi Care Center, Hays. She is survived by two sons; four daughters; four brothers, **Leroy Braun '52**, Clarence Braun Jr., **Wayne Braun '64**, and **Allen Braun '72**; one sister, **Lorita Braun Berens '61**; 12 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

Gladys Wellbrock Pfeifer '53 passed away February 1, 2024, at HaysMed Center. Her survivors include her husband, **Norman Dale '52**; three sons, **Steven '82**, **James '83**, and **Alan '89**; two daughters, **Geralyn Pfeifer Windholz '81** and **Kimberly Pfeifer '86**; two sisters, **Mary Wellbrock Mirkovich '59** and **Rosann Wellbrock Welsler '63**; 19 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Norman Dale Rajewski passed away February 16, 2024. He is survived by three sons; his mother, **Albertine Pfeifer Rajewski '49**; one brother; and two sisters.

Clarence Braun Jr. passed away February 21, 2024, at HaysMed Center. He is survived by three brothers, **Leroy '52**, **Wayne '64**, and **Allen '72**; and one sister, **Lorita Braun Berens '61**.

Karen Schueler passed away February 22, 2024, at HaysMed Center. She is survived by her husband, **Sam Sander '60**; her children, **Chuck Beery '86**, **Adam Brown '89**, Amy Beery, Bradley Beery, **Scott Sander '92**, **Chris Sander Loomis '94**, and **Jill Sander Bosch '98**; one brother; two sisters; and 12 grandchildren.

Darlene Ruder Werth '58 passed away February 27, 2024, in Hays. She is survived by one son; three daughters; one brother, **Allen '62**; one sister, **Patricia Ruder Lang '56**; 14 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Time to Nominate 2024 Honorees

Hall of Fame

The Alumni Hall of Fame had its inaugural year in 2002. Since that year, 62 individuals have been inducted into this prestigious club.

The inductees all have one thing in common — Victoria. There are teachers, principals, superintendents, janitors, cooks, secretaries, school board members, and coaches that have been enshrined for their work in the Victoria School District.

There are also Hall-of-Famers who have been honored for the work that they accomplished outside of the school system. That group includes business owners, government officials, the founding members of the alumni association, authors, musicians, members of the media, and philanthropists.

The parameters for the Hall of Fame are as follows: To qualify in the school personnel

category, the nominee has to be an employee of the Victoria School District. Nominations that are made for the alum-at-large are for alums who have made a significant contribution of their time and talent to their fellow man. You may not nominate yourself, only others may nominate you.

To be considered for the 2024 Hall of Fame, a nomination must be received by June 1, 2024. The nomination must be in letter form, with reasons why the person being nominated deserves this honor. There is also a form on the alumni website, www.victoriaalumni.com, that can be helpful in making a nomination.

Any valid nomination which is not selected will be re-considered each subsequent year for five years.



Victoria Welcomes New Dollar General Store Managed by VHS Graduate

A day that was much anticipated for the citizens of Victoria came on December 18, 2023. This was the day when the new Dollar General store opened its doors for business.

A lot of effort was required from numerous people. A great many hours were spent researching and working in order to get Dollar General into Victoria. But now that the store is here, all that effort was worth it.

The store is managed by **Mike Rome '86**. Mike had

previously worked for FedEx. But when this opportunity came up, Mike jumped at the chance. The store has nine employees.

Dollar General has a wide variety of frozen foods, groceries, beer, health care items, arts and crafts, office supplies, greeting cards, and a small amount of clothing.

The store is open every day except for Christmas Day. The next time you are back in Victoria, take the time to visit your home town's newest store.



St. John's Place Transformation in Progress



The former St. John's Rest Home will soon be transformed into a multi-function building known as St. John's Place. The first phase of the project will consist of 12 apartments. Construction of this phase is to begin in April of 2024, and is set to conclude by June of 2025.

The Ellis County Historical Society is also leasing a section of the building to house a new branch museum. The museum will be focused on the

Volga-German heritage of Victoria and the surrounding area.

Further phases of the buildings' renovation are planned to include more apartments, a childcare facility, and a public area for meetings and gatherings.

For more information, please visit www.victoriakcommunity.com.



Victoria Community Coalition board members, as well as other Victoria community citizens, have been working hard to prepare St. John's Place for the first phase of the renovation of the old St. John's Rest Home. Pictured above at right is where plans are to refurbish the area into one two-bedroom apartment and two one-bedroom apartments, as well as an entrance to the building at the far northwest corner of the picture. At left is the hallway between the sections. Workers have been tearing out ceiling tiles and sheetrock walls bringing them down to the red iron support beams in preparation for their future transformation into apartments. The group has done a lot of the work themselves to save on demolition expense.

ST. FIDELIS HIGH SCHOOL
1922—1940



VICTORIA
RURAL
HIGH
SCHOOL
1941—1966

VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL
1967—2010

VICTORIA JUNIOR/SENIOR
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Scholarships & Raffles Go Together Like Love & Marriage — or maybe Cake & Ice Cream?

The alumni board has decided to increase the value of the scholarships that are given to graduating seniors.

In 2023, three scholarships were given for \$1,750 each. For 2024, three scholarships will be offered, but the value for each will be \$2,000.

These scholarships are funded through the alumni golf tournament, the annual cash raffle, and through the generosity of donations given to the scholarship fund. Look for the scholarship winners to be announced in the fall newsletter.

The 2023 raffle was once again a huge success. Over 1,300 tickets were entered into the drawing, and

only five were pulled as winners. For those of you who paid attention in math class and more specifically the subject of probabilities, those numbers would explain why your ticket probably wasn't pulled as a winner. The real winners, after all, are the seniors who will receive this year's scholarships.

Raffle winners for 2023:

\$100 **Frank '80** and **Brenda Kuhn Dreiling '78**
\$200 **Vera Mermis Galliard '55**
\$300 **Robert Sander '59**
\$400 **Leroy Schmidtberger '74**
\$500 **Jane Baier Schumacher '79**