



HOMECOMING 2024
October 4-5

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Homecoming 2024

Friday, October 4
Saturday, October 5

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Hall of Fame Inductees 2024
PARADE GRAND MARSHALL:
Armella Baier Schippers '49

HONORING

Class of 1974
Class of 1999
Class of 2014

&

5-Year Increment Classes



MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

----- **Friday, October 4, 2024** -----

8:00 a.m. 28th Annual Victoria Alumni Golf Classic
Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course
2:45 p.m. Pep-Assembly, High School Gym
4:00 p.m. Homecoming Parade
6:15 pm Crowning of Homecoming Royalty
7:00 p.m. Football Game – Knights vs. St. John-Hudson Tigers
7:00-11:30 p.m.... Social – V.F.W. Hall, Victoria

----- **Saturday, October 5, 2024** -----

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”

Schedule is tentative.

Check the alumni website or the USD 432 Facebook page for most up-to-date information.

Homecoming 2024 Overview

Homecoming 2024 will begin on Friday, October 4, with the Annual Alumni Golf Classic at the Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course. The 2023 tournament was the last one spearheaded by **James Brungardt '05**, who has handed the reigns over to **Matt Berens '89**. There may be a few minor changes that Matt will bring to the tournament, but for the most part, things should be very similar to previous years. Look for more information about the golf tournament elsewhere in this newsletter.

Following the golf tournament, there will be the traditional homecoming parade through Victoria. The parade will start at 4:00, and will begin and end at the Junior/Senior High School. If you would like to enter your class float in the parade, please try to be lined up by 3:40 in the west rock lot. As of printing time, it had not been determined if a meal would be available after the parade. Please check the alumni website, www.victoriaalumni.com, as well as the USD 432 Facebook page as homecoming draws closer to see if there will be a meal or not.

The crowning of royalty will be held at around 6:15. The football game versus the St. John-Hudson Tigers will kick off at 7:00. With homecoming being on October 4, it could be 100 degrees at kickoff, or it

could be 50 degrees. Regardless of the weather, the Victoria VFW will also be available for anyone who doesn't want to watch the Knights beat the Tigers. The VFW will remain open after the game as well, until 11:30.

Saturday, October 5, will start with the beautiful Alumni Memorial Mass at 4:00. Several people state that the Mass is their favorite part of the entire weekend. Many alumni are utilized during the Memorial Mass, either as servers, lectors, ushers, Eucharistic ministers, or by singing in the choir. The teamwork it takes to pull off such a service is a wonder to see.

After Mass, everyone is invited to attend the annual Alumni Banquet at the Hays VFW, at 22nd and Vine. The cost for the banquet is \$45 per person, and making your reservations well in advance is appreciated by those coordinating the event.

After the banquet, a brief Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held to honor the newest members of this prestigious group. The grand marshal and a few honor classes will also be given a chance to talk about themselves. After all of the honors are handed out, all that will be left is to dance the night away to the sounds of "Anthony and the Anamals."

\$2,000 Scholarships Afforded 3 Seniors

The alumni board of directors was able to offer three \$2,000 scholarships for the Class of 2024. These scholarships are possible due to the generous donations that come in each year, along with the support of the golf tournament and the annual raffle.

The alumni scholarships are available for any graduating senior that will be attending a post-secondary institution. The only other qualification is that the senior must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

The scholarship applications are submitted anonymously. Each application is reviewed by five members of the scholarship committee, and is judged for the applicant's involvement in school activities, as

well as service for the community, work experience, and other honors and awards. The scholarship committee doesn't even find out who the winners are until they are announced at the High School Awards Night.

This year's scholarship winners were **Quincy Pickering**, son of Dan and Mindy Pickering; **Lindsey Scheck**, daughter of **Justin '96** and Tessa **Scheck**; and **Gracie Sterling**, daughter of Shawn and Jamie Sterling.

Thank you to everyone who helps make these scholarships possible.

OH, THE THINGS WE CAN KNOW!

Lots of information available on the Alumni Website

The alumni website can be a great resource for information. There are pages for every graduating class dating back to 1922. The class pages are updated frequently as information is submitted to the association. The pages will list the members of each class, but all other information (address, phone, and email address) will only be published if the permission is given by the class member.

The website also has pages that list the following: alumni hall of fame members, homecoming parade grand marshals, alumni scholarship winners, and past alumni boards and committee members. The by-laws of the association can be found by clicking on "Info."

The alumni newsletter has a section of the website where past editions can be read over and over. A brief history about the Victoria school system can be found under "History."

If you'd like to look at pictures of past homecoming celebrations, there is a page for that too. The pictures date back to 2004, and some of the "kids" in those pictures are now parents themselves, with their children now enrolled at Victoria Grade School.

Finally, the website has an online store where almost all of your alumni transactions can be processed. Membership dues, banquet tickets, golf tournament payments, raffle tickets, general fund, and scholarship fund donations can be made at any time using the website.

The alumni website has more information than most people realize. Give it a look and take a stroll down memory lane.

DID YOU KNOW?

Beginning in 2008, the Alumni Board of Directors began selecting a Grand Marshall for the homecoming parade.

Each Grand Marshall has been a graduate of the Victoria school system.

The board considers many things when selecting an individual to receive this honor. Attempts are made to select someone from a reunion year, but this cannot always be accomplished.

The first Grand Marshall was Alvin Schmidtberger (pictured at right), leading the Homecoming Parade in 2008.

Oh, the things we can know by visiting the Victoria Alumni Website at VictoriaAlumni.com.



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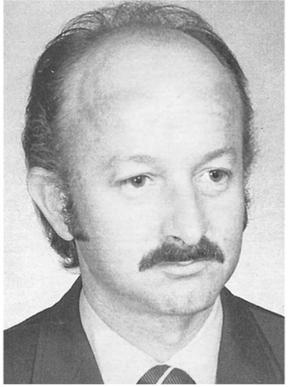
Contact



HALL OF FAME 2024

VERNON GIEBLER
NORMA KEENAN
BRENDA K. BRAUN MEDER '74

VERNON (VERN) GIEBLER, age 89, spent most of his life teaching, performing, conducting, or listening to music. Thirty-five of those years were spent educating students from grades 1 through 12, both vocal and instrumental music.



Vernon grew up in Hays, Kansas, graduating from St. Joseph's Military Academy in 1953. He started at FHSU as a business major but upon hearing musicians practicing outside Picken Hall, later changed his major to music, his first real love.

In 1958, he graduated with a degree in music education and in 1964 he received his Masters degree in the same field. In 1958, Vern began his teaching career in Dorrance, Kansas, and in 1959 was recruited to come to Victoria where he remained until 1970. He thought about a hiatus from teaching at this time but then went to help out the Luray school system where he remained for three years. In 1974, after the resignation of Benny Schulte, Vern returned to Victoria and remained there until his retirement in 1994, hence

devoting 31 years to VHS.

While teaching and during his retirement years, he was always a member of various musical groups. Vernon played bass in the Hays Symphony Orchestra and trombone in the University Brass Quintet as well as the Hays Big Band. You could always hear him with area dance bands, including Jay Leonard, Eddy Linn, Freddy Joe, and the Jimmy Maxwell Orchestra. He was also honored to play one "gig" with the Guy Lombardo and Jimmy Dorsey Orchestras. He finished his dance band circuit with The Big Band Reunion.

Vern resides in Hays with his wife of 15 years, Lori Giebler. He still goes to the family farm each day doing daily maintenance and mowing.

NORMA KEENAN Although it's been many years since Norma Keenan was the vocal music instructor for the Victoria district, she still recalls how much she "loved the talent at Victoria", and the high ratings she and her choirs received for three consecutive



years. Her musical memories include bringing in guest conductors such as Ken Shaheen from Barton County Community College who praised her choirs with positive comments.

Norma taught in Victoria from 1970 to 1978. Prior to that, she taught one year at Alta Vista and one year at Dighton.

Growing up on a farm near Hoisington, Norma graduated from Hoisington High School in 1946. She attended Marymount College in Salina for three years and later graduated from KU in 1953 with a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education.

After retiring from Victoria, Norma worked at FHSU in the business office for several years. She also was invited to judge a number of times at the La Crosse Music Festival.

In her retired years, Norma has loved gardening and always enjoyed classical music and concerts. She says she misses attending concerts now as she is no longer able to drive at night. She remains active in the KU Alumni Association, Sigma Alpha Iota Music Fraternity, and Theta Phi Alpha Sorority. Locally, she is a member of the VFW Auxiliary, Daughters of Isabella, and the Christian Mothers Altar Society of St. Fidelis.

Norma is the mother of four: **Tammy Keenan Thorson '76**, who

HALL OF FAME 2024 (CONTINUED)

currently lives in Kansas City and works in San Francisco; **Greg '78**, who lives in McPherson; **Carolyn Keenan Boxberger '80**, who resides in McPherson; and **Terry '83**, who was killed in a car accident in 1981.

At the age of 95, Norma is honored to be remembered as a valued faculty member in Victoria.

BRENDA KATHERINE BRAUN MEDER '74 was born in Hays, Kansas, on November 4, 1956, the daughter of **Albert '53** and Stella (Huser) **Braun**. Her siblings are **Linda Braun Beilman '75**, **Doreen Braun Koerner '79**, and **Doug Braun '80**. Her father passed away in 2015 but her mother is still living in Hays. She attended school in Victoria, being in the first class **Marge Rome '58** ever taught. Two of her most impressive teachers in high school were Norma Keenan and Vernon Giebler, the other Hall of Fame recipients this year.

Brenda attended Fort Hays State University majoring in communications with an emphasis on theater. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1980. She completed a Masters degree in 1986 also in communications with emphasis on theater. Theater has always been her preferred, personal form of artistic expression. Her favorite memories of high school were participating in forensics and speech contests.

Brenda's first full-time job was working for the Hays Chamber of Commerce where she met many people who were interested in the arts. She ultimately made a transition to the Hays Arts Council and has now been its Executive

Director for the past 34 years. She has been a promoter of the arts in all forms be it theater, music, sculpture, painting, photography, composition, poetry, and the list goes on. She has expanded from a program known as "Famous Figures" in a few schools to include 12 elementary schools in three counties and she has included many other art forms. Her passion is not to make them artists but to instill in them a lasting appreciation for the arts.

In 2017, when politics and budgets were forcing profound decreases in funding for the arts, Brenda was featured in a Wall Street Journal article praising her innovation and dedication to carry on in spite of the hurdles. Her highlighted quote in that article: "When you're about what is important to you, you will find a way."

Brenda served as the host and associate producer of Smoky Hills Public Television series "Kansas Arts Today" for 110 episodes over a 13-year period. She interviewed over 150 visual, performing, and literary artists. The series received multiple Kansas Association of Broadcasters awards.

In her primary job at the Hays Arts Council, Brenda has curated, organized, and mounted hundreds of exhibitions by local, regional, and national artists. She organizes four seasonal Art Walks in multiple locations throughout downtown

Hays which draw up to 1,500 arts lovers. Some of the performances for the Fort Hays State University Encore Series are available for matinee shows. Through the outreach noted above, Brenda coordinates this with the 12 schools so that every child in grades K-5 has a chance to see a professional performance each year. There are also summer arts classes available for children and adults at the Arts Council. She is the pronouncer for the annual Ellis County Spelling Bee, and this will be her 26th year as the reader of names at all FHSU graduation ceremonies.

Even with all this, Brenda considers her greatest

accomplishment as being mother to her sons, Nate and Heath. Nate and his wife, Sara, have two children, Canon and Harlo. Heath and his wife, Kelli, also have two children, Olivia and Wren. Fortunately, they all live in Hays as well.

Brenda has never taken an art history course. Her expertise comes from her experience and her passion for all forms of art, especially theater. When asked what bit of wisdom she would pass on to the younger generations she says "Everyone has something to contribute to their community. Just get out and do it."



Alumni Welcomes Class of 2024

Kennidy Amrein is the daughter of Clint Amrein and **Jennifer Pfeifer Berens '01** and the granddaughter of **Steve '75** and **Mary Baier Pfeifer '75**. Kennidy plans to attend Fort Hays State University and major in social work.

Kendall Braun is the son of **Chris '86** and Shauna **Braun** and the grandson of **Pete Braun '62**. He plans to attend North Central Kansas Technical College in Hays and major in HVAC.

Brody Brungardt is the son of Nick Brungardt and Crystal Brungardt. Brody will attend Fort Hays State University and major in business.

Trenton Day is the son of Madeline Sweet. He will attend North Central Kansas Technical College.

Greg Huser is the son of **Galen Huser '86** and Shelly Huser and the grandson of **Leon Huser '61**. Greg plans to enter the work force as a farmer and truck driver.

Jasmin Miller is the daughter of Shawn and Shauna Chance. She plans to attend Cloud County Community College and major in nursing.

Jadyn Peterson is the daughter of Brock Peterson and Sara Wehling-VonLintel. Jadyn plans to attend North Central Kansas Technical College to pursue a pharmacy technician degree.

Quincy Pickering is the son of Dan and Mindy Pickering. He plans to attend Fort Hays State University and major in cyber security and minor in business.

Dalton Robben is the son of **David Robben '99** and **Melissa Crathorne Robben '98** and the grandson of **Mike '74** and **Sandy Robben**. Dalton plans to enter the work force as a farmer.

Lindsey Scheck is the daughter of **Justin '96** and Tessa **Scheck** and the granddaughter of **Jim '73** and **Becky Schmidtberger Scheck '73** and Rick and **Marilyn Braun Giebler '80**. She plans to attend the Hays

Academy of Hair Design for cosmetology training and will also pursue an associate's degree in business through Fort Hays State University.

William Scherrer is the son of William and **Jenna Schumacher Scherrer '04**. William will attend Fort Hays State University and study business and construction technology.

Eli Schmeidler is the son of **Kent '95** and Carla **Schmeidler**. He plans to attend Barton County Community College and study physical education.

Landon Schmidtberger is the son of **Jake '97** and **Joyce Robben Schmidtberger '89** and the grandson of **Kathy Kuhn Schmidtberger '64** and **Louise Braun Robben '57**. Landon plans to attend North Central Kansas Technical College and study welding.

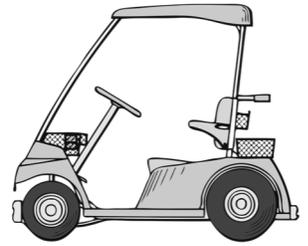
Chase Schumacher is the son of **Crystal Schumacher '00**. He will study personal finance at Fort Hays State University.

Seth Schwein is the son of Nicole Hartman. Seth plans to attend Fort Hays State University and major in agri-business.

Gracie Sterling is the daughter of Shawn and Jamie Sterling. Gracie will study esthetics at the Bellus Academy in Manhattan, Kansas.

Good Luck
Class of
2024

FORE: It's Annual Golf Tournament Time Again!!



by **Matt Berens '89**

Please plan on joining us on Friday, October 4, at the Fort Hays Municipal Golf Course for the VHS Annual Alumni Golf Tournament. Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. with a shotgun start at 9:00. By 9:14, it's likely **Gerard Wellbrock '86** will have already lost 2 golf balls.

If you plan on playing, please text me your entry at (620) 351-1021 NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 25 so I can ensure we have enough carts for everyone.

During registration, cinnamon rolls will be provided by **Mary Jo Schulte Rome '71**. Lunch will be served "at the turn" courtesy of **Brenton Hoffman '09** and **Matt Sander '03**. The cinnamon rolls and lunch are more than worth the cost of the tournament. So, if you look at it that way, you can get in a round of golf for free, as long as you pay for your breakfast and lunch.

The tournament costs \$50 per player or \$200 per team. Golf carts will be available for rent at \$30. Sponsorships are also available. A corporate sponsorship is \$100 or \$50 for a hole sponsorship. If you'd like to pay for a sponsorship, please send that to the alumni association ASAP so that you or your business can be recognized for your donation. New this year will be the opportunity to Venmo your payment during registration. Traditional payments made via check, cash, or the alumni website will be accepted as well.

A HUGE thank you for everyone who either played or helped out last year. We had a great turnout and hope we can do the same this year. Remember, you do not have to be a graduate of Victoria to play in the tournament. We will take anyone's money. Hope to see everyone out at the course. And thank you again for the continued support of the Victoria Alumni Association.



ABOVE LEFT: **Matt Sander '03** checks out his golf cart during the 2023 VHS Alumni Golf Classic.

ABOVE RIGHT: Sisters **Judy Gross Wahlen '69**, **Mary Lou Gross Rupp '74**, and **Carol Gross Kuhn '76** pose before golfing in 2023.

RIGHT: Golf carts are ready to go for the 2023 VHS Alumni Golf Classic participants.





1960's The Class of 1964 is excited to celebrate their 60th class reunion at homecoming 2024. Classmates are asked to contact Darrell Dinkel at dinkdf@comcast.net or at (303) 882-0257 to check in on the plans.

Steve '69 and Teri **VonFeldt** celebrated their 50th anniversary on July 13, 2024. They have three children, **Stacy VonFeldt Sheikh '94**, **Angie VonFeldt Steinheider '99**, and **Scott VonFeldt '03**; and eight grandchildren.

1970's **Jim '73** and **Becky Schmidtberger Scheck '73** celebrated their 50th anniversary on April 20, 2024. They have four children, **Amy Scheck Schoenrock '93**, **Jason '94**, **Justin '96**, and **Jared '99**, and 12 grandchildren.

The Class of 1974 will be celebrating their 50th class reunion at Homecoming 2024. Members from the class are invited to participate in the parade on Friday October 4th. They will be having a pep band for the parade. Contact Dan Schippers if you want to be included in the band. In the evening, there will be the football game, or the home of Gary and Brenda Wellbrock Gross at 658 Pfeifer Ave will be available for a class gathering. Bring your drinks and join us to catch up on current life events and share all the great memories. The Class of 1974 will be an "Honor" class at the Homecoming banquet on Saturday night.

1980's **Clyde '83** and **Jenny Ruder VonLintel '86** welcome their first grandson, Augustin Thomas (parents Colten and Hannah VonLintel) born on April 2, 2024. Augustin's great grandparents are **Allen '62** and **Mary Kuhn Ruder '62**.

Dennis '86 and **Jody Meder Dinkel '86** welcome another grandchild, Magdalena (Maggie) Rose

Wheeles (parents Kiley and Thaddeus Wheeles) on May 28, 2024. Magdalena's great-grandmothers are **Rosie Braun Dinkel '60** and **Lena Scheck Meder '56**.

Amy Younger Siebenmorgen '87 and her husband, Matt, announce the birth of their first grandchild, Ava Ashlen, born September 11, 2023. She is the daughter of Cole and Jayden Siebenmorgen. Ava's great-grandmother is **Det Roth Younger '58**.

Bernie '88 and Janet **Schulte** welcome their first grandchild, Eden Rae Flesher (parents Janae and Nate Flesher) on April 2, 2024. Eden's great-grandmother is **Cora Braun Schulte '55**.

John Ruder '89 and his wife, Jennifer, welcome another granddaughter, Peyton Maria (parents Jace and Anne Ruder) on September 6, 2023. Peyton's great grandparents are **Allen '62** and **Mary Kuhn Ruder '62**.

1990's The Class of 1999 has reached the milestone of 25 years since they graduated from VHS. They will be honored at the homecoming banquet on Saturday, October 5, in recognition of this achievement.

2000's **Matt Sander '03** and his wife, Erika, welcomed their third daughter, Lainey Rae Sander, to the world on April 2, 2024. Lainey's grandparents are **Steve '68** and **Bonnie Schmidtberger Sander '71**.

Jessica Kuhn Beims '05 and her husband, Britton, announce the birth of their son, Hank Bo Beims on November 30, 2023. Hank's grandparents are **Marvin '64** and **Mary Kuhn**.



CLASS NOTES



2010's **Colin Schmidtberger '11** and his wife, Stephanie, announce the birth of their son, Liam James, on July 22, 2024. Liam's grandparents are **Leroy '74** and **LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80** and his great-grandparents are **Leroy '52** and **JoAnn Braun**.

Connor '14 and **Haley Robben Gagnon '15** announce the birth of their son, Banks Norman, on June 7, 2024. Banks' grandparents are **Jason Robben '96** and **Rosa Leiker '97** and his great grandparents are **Norman '72** and **Linda Robben** and **Marilyn Suppes Leiker-Pfannenstiel '78**.

The Class of 2014 will be the youngest honor class at the Alumni Banquet on Saturday, October 5, in recognition of their ten year reunion.

Bryan Dome '15 and his wife, Lori, announce the birth of their daughter, Lucy Lynn, on March 17, 2024. Lucy's grandparents are **Stuart '82** and **Tammi Dinkel Dome '85**.

Kiley Schmidtberger Beagley '16 and her husband, Braden, announce the birth of their son, Briggs William, on June 7th, 2024. Briggs' grandparents are **Michael '90** and Marcey **Schmidtberger**.

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**, **Charlotte Braun Weber '65**, and Neil and **Pam Brown Wellbrock '72**.

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

2024 Reunion Classes

The reunion classes for 2024 date back to the class of 1944. For those of you who did not excel in math class, that would mean that the Class of 1944 would be celebrating their 80th reunion at this year's homecoming. How wonderful it would be if they could

join us at the alumni banquet. As far as any board member can remember, we've never had any class celebrate their 80th, so this would be a record. All the classes celebrating their reunion in 2024 are listed below.

Class of	Celebrating	Class of	Celebrating	Class of	Celebrating
1944	80 years	1969	55 years	1999	25 years
1949	75 years	1974	50 years	2004	20 years
1954	70 years	1979	45 years	2009	15 years
1959	65 years	1984	40 years	2014	10 years
1964	60 years	1989	35 years	2019	5 years
		1994	30 years		



High School Art Program Goes Beyond the Classroom

Kaylene Jacobs Gabel '95 is entering her sixth year as the art teacher at USD 432. After a successful 20+ year career in graphic design, she eagerly embraced the opportunity to teach when the art instructor position opened. Now, she teaches students from preschool through high school and has introduced commercial art projects into the high school curriculum.

Drawing on her 15 years of experience in the sign industry, Gabel was inspired to incorporate modern art practices into her teaching. With the support of several grants, the art program

acquired a vinyl plotter, heat press, and large format printer. These tools have enabled the Digital Media Pathway to flourish, allowing students to create vinyl decals, posters, banners and more. Initially, the projects served the district and its staff, but word quickly spread in the small town. The Digital Media class, affectionately known as “the vinyl class,” has taken on various community projects, including vinyl jobs for the City of Victoria and Sunflower Bank.

Last winter, the class undertook the task of designing new banners for the VHS gym. The Central

Prairie League added another school, the Chase Kats, making the old set of gym league banners incomplete. This project was a collaboration with **John Weber '89** and **Grant Weber '16** from Weber Body Shop, where Gabel's sign-making expertise proved invaluable. The new banners not only represented the entire league but also replaced the outdated felt sewn banners.

Featured in the photo above are the 2023-24 digital media students: **Sienna Schmeidler '25**, **Brody Nowak '25**, **Kennidy Amrein '24**, and **Lindsey Scheck '24**.



Student Art Beyond the Classroom

ABOVE: Pictured around the sign the class created for the Victoria Municipal Pool are **Brody Nowak '25, Wyatt Griffin '25, Aiden Dinkel '26, Sienna Schmeidler '25, and Jillian Schmidt '25.**





In Loving Memory



Agnes Mae Dreiling Karlin '48 passed away October 28, 2016, in Wheat Ridge, CO. Survivors include one son, two daughters, and one grandchild.

Joan Dreiling Sudman '48 passed away April 14, 2019, in Hayfield, MN. Survivors include her husband, Owen; one daughter; and two brothers, Ruben and **Bernard '54**.

Alice Schulte Schmidt '47 passed away August 25, 2020, in Meza, AZ. She is survived by two daughters, two sons, nine grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

Mary Margaret Dinkel Younker '48 passed away November 1, 2022, at Via Christie Village, Hays. She is survived by two sons, two daughters, six grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and one brother.

Valerian H. Brungardt '47 died January 5, 2023. Survivors include his wife, Frankie; four sons; one daughter; and three grandchildren.

Valeria Toepfer Pelzel '44 passed away January 19, 2023, in Wichita. She is survived by her husband, James; one son; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Paula Schumacher Palermo '56 passed away July 28, 2023, in Kansas City. She is survived by her husband, Carl; one son; three stepchildren; 10 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Patty Braun Baalman '66, of Grinell, Kansas, passed away March 21, 2024. She is survived by one son; one daughter; six grandchildren; and two brothers, **James '65** and Andrew.

Donna Urban Leiker '65 passed away March 23, 2024, at her home. Survivors include her husband, Larry; one son; one daughter; two brothers; one sister; and four grandchildren.

Ferdinand "Fred" Weigel, Jr '47 passed away March 24, 2024, at the Russell Regional Hospital. He is survived by his wife, Joan; one son; one sister, **Vera Weigel Degenhardt '51**; nine grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Donna Mae Engel Woolen '68 passed away March 29, 2024, in Gilbert, AZ. She is survived by her husband, Glen; one daughter; two grandchildren; and four sisters, **Sandy Engel Caballero '71**, **Paula Engel Robben '73**, Joyce, and Joan.

Patricia "Patty" Schrant Anschutz '85 passed away April 2, 2024, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by two daughters; her mother; four sisters, **Marilyn Schrant Joy '77**, **Lucy Schrant Conness '79**, **Marjorie Schrant Straub '81**, and **Pam Schrant Irwin '87**; and seven grandchildren.

Rita Mae Brungardt Wolf '48 passed away April 8, 2024, at Capital Ridge Senior Living Center, Topeka. Her survivors include two sons, one daughter, five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

John Paul Jones '04 passed away April 11, 2024, at Wesley Medical Center, Wichita. He is survived by his wife, **Aubrey Dreiling Jones '04**; one daughter; one son; his parents; his father-in-law and mother-in-law **Cletus '79** and **Rose Ann Kuhn Dreiling '77**; one sister; his brother-in-law **Tyler Dreiling '03**; and his sister-in-law **Chelsey Dreiling '06**.

Terrence "Terry" Klaus '86 passed away April 21, 2024, at Ellsworth County Medical Center, Ellsworth, Kansas. Survivors include: his wife, **Peggy VonFeldt Klaus '89**; two sons, **Blake '09** and **Trenton '14**; one brother, **Jan '81**; his father-in-law **Jim VonFeldt '61**; his mother-in-law **Charlene Unrein '63**; his brother-in-law, **Dave VonFeldt '84**; his sister-in-law, **Sandy VonFeldt Scheck '82**; and three grandchildren.





In Loving Memory continued



Ferrill D. Standage passed away April 23, 2024, in Kingsland, Texas. He is survived by his wife, Shirley; one daughter; one son; and one grandson. He served memorable years as principal of Victoria Elementary, Junior High, and Middle Schools.

Julius C. Windholz '67 "The Painter" passed away April 25, 2024, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by two sisters, **Celeste Windholz Sander '60** and **Wilma Windholz '65**, and one brother-in-law, **Vernon Sander '54**.

Mary Ann Dinkel passed away April 28, 2024. She is survived by one son, Mark; one daughter, **Cheryl Dinkel Downes '86**; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Sander '59 passed away May 1, 2024, in Garden City, Kansas. His survivors include his wife, Linda; two sons; two daughters; twelve grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; three sisters, **Charlene Sander Rohr '51**, **Jane Sander Legleiter '58**, and **Carrie Sander Billinger '65**; one brother, **Vernon '54**; and one sister-in-law, **Celeste Windholz Sander '60**.

Nathan Francis Younger '52 passed away May 18, 2024, in Thornton, CO. He is survived by his wife, Donna; four sons; one daughter; one sister; 12 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Helen Toepfer McCourt '51 passed away May 18, 2024, in Bellaire, Kansas. She is survived by one son; one granddaughter; and one sister, **Joan Toepfer Collins '56**.

Joshua James Stegman '93 passed away May 25, 2024, in Rockwell, Texas. His survivors include his wife, Stacie; one son; one daughter; one grandson; his parents; one brother; and one sister.

Neal Schmidtberger '72 passed away June 28, 2024, in Hutchison, Kansas. He is survived by his wife, Patricia; two daughters; eight grandchildren; five brothers, **Galen '63**, **Wayne '65**, **(Alvin) Joe '68**, **Jim '70**, and **Glen '82**; and three sisters, **Brenda Schmidtberger Yoder '67**, **Pam Schmidtberger Gasper '77**, and **Myra Schmidtberger Meder '78**.

Donald "Don" Peterka passed away July 1, 2024. He is survived by his wife, **Alice Schmidtberger Peterka '62**; one son; one grandchild; and one great-grandchild.

Jeannette Schumacher Younger '50 passed away July 21, 2024, at Via Christi Village in Hays. She is survived by two sons, **Frank '70** and **Stan '77**; two daughters, **Debra Younger Gallagher '71** and **Diane Younger Pfeifer '73**; nine grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; and two sisters-in-law, **Det Roth Younger '58** and **Ethel Stegman Younger '59**.

Nancy Leiker McCoy '60 passed away July 21, 2024, at The Woodlands, Texas. She is survived by her husband, Larry; and one brother, **Wil '64**.

Connie Brungardt Dreiling '53 passed away July 29, 2024, at Via Christi Village in Hays. She is survived by one son, **Cletus '79**; two daughters, **Wanda Dreiling Karlin '76** and **Sandra Dreiling '80**; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; one brother, **Gene Brungardt '69**; and one sister, **Jane Brungardt Dinges '64**.

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.*



Are You Feeling Lucky? And Generous?

Ticket purchases help keep scholarship fund funded

If you are feeling lucky, why don't you take a few minutes and fill out a sheet of raffle tickets for the annual alumni raffle? The prizes will be \$500, \$400, \$300, \$200 and \$100.

The raffle is one of the main sources to keep the scholarship fund, for lack of a better term, funded.

The tickets cost \$5 each, or a sheet of ten costs \$40. There is a sheet of tickets included

with this newsletter, but if you feel the need for more, extra tickets can be found on the alumni website, www.victoriaalumni.com.

You can also pay for your tickets through the alumni online store, and your tickets will be filled out for you.

The raffle will be held at the alumni banquet and you do not need to be present to win.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State/Zip _____
 Telephone # _____

Need not be present to win

Prizes Awarded
 1st-\$500.00
 2nd-\$400.00
 3rd-\$300.00
 4th-\$200.00
 5th-\$100.00

Donation
 \$5.00 for 1 Ticket
 \$40.00 for 10 Tickets

**Victoria Alumni Association
 Alumni Fundraiser
 October 5, 2024**

Alumni Scholarship Helped Two Brothers Achieve Goals

1994 was the inaugural year of the Victoria Alumni Association Scholarship program. The first recipient was **Brandon Schmidtberger '94**, son of Jerry and **Louise Windholz Schmidtberger '72**. Five years later Brandon's brother, **Corey '99**, was also awarded an alumni scholarship.

Both brothers furthered their education by attending Kansas State University. Both were active members of the Delta Upsilon Fraternity as well as Alpha Kappa Psi (business fraternity).

Brandon served as house Treasurer for two years for the DU fraternity and President of Alpha Kappa Psi and was a member of Beta Alpha Psi, an international honors organization for accounting students. Brandon earned his bachelor's degree in

accounting and graduated in 1998. He then worked tirelessly to achieve the level of CPA shortly thereafter.

Corey earned his bachelor's degree in 2003 and continued his education at KSU graduating in 2005 with a master's degree in accounting.

An interesting side note: both brothers married young ladies that were also accounting majors. After college all four worked for KPMG, a top-five international accounting firm, in the auditing division for approximately 2 years.

Brandon began his career in the audit divisions of Arthur Anderson and later KPMG in Kansas City from 1998 to 2002. After transitioning from public accounting, Brandon spent 8 years at US Central Credit Union before moving on to his current role as

CFO of Rochdale, a credit union consulting firm, for the past 14 years. Brandon continues to hold an active CPA license. He is married, has two children, and lives in Overland Park, Kansas.

Corey also moved on to a position with Swiss Re, an international company, as a senior accountant from 2007-2018. At present he is employed by Tyr Energy as an assistant controller. As noted Corey is married, also has two children, and lives in Olathe, KS.

Both feel the alumni scholarship played a crucial role in helping them achieve their goal of earning a college degree thus paving the way for successful job opportunities throughout their careers. It has helped them to become successful business men in their current positions.

VHS Alumni

VICTORIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 382

VICTORIA, KS 67671

2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Due: Wednesday, September 25, 2024

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 _____ (\$45.00 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.

ST. FIDELIS HIGH SCHOOL
1922—1940



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RURAL
HIGH
SCHOOL
1941—1966

VICTORIA HIGH SCHOOL
1967—2010

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Three 2024 VHS Graduates Create 1.2 Mile Disc Golf Course

By 2011 Alumni Hall of Fame Inductee Nancy Piatt

Three 2024 VHS graduates can proudly identify their senior civics project in the community. **Greg Huser, Landon Schmidtberger, and Quincy Pickering** chose to create a disc golf course because they wanted something that was hands-on for them and something that would be enjoyed by multiple people.

First, they had to seek approval from City Council to proceed. Council members deemed it would be a worthy endeavor and agreed to help with a \$1,500 donation, used for buying supplies like metal, paint, and concrete. Cole Dreiling donated the pipe to create the supports.

Manual labor was definitely involved as pieces for each basket had to be welded and made to look uniform and neat. Each dig spot had to be cleared to be free of lines or any underground obstacles.

Another challenge was time management. Quincy commented, "We were working almost every day of the second semester for an average of about three hours per day." It was a close call to the finish, but they made it.

There are nine holes/baskets along the 1.2 mile course taking players through a large part of Victoria. It starts by the school and then loops around the back side of the school and football field all the way to near the beginning of the downtown area. There is an app called Udisc which allows people to see all the exact parts of the course and distance for each hole.

With the project completed and being enjoyed by many, Quincy commented: "There is a real sense of accomplishment when we drive by and see how good it looks. And, we have all enjoyed playing the course numerous times."