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**bison alumni newsletter**

fall 2021 vol. 58



## Heritage Days 2021

Left: Richie ('68) and Jody Backer Crocker ('73) were chosen honor family of this year's Heritage Days parade. They rode in the parade with their grandchildren. Below left: '90 classmates walk the bricks in the parade. Below right: Mark Graff ('75), grand marshal, and his wife, Linda, ride in the parade.





The Bison Alumni Newsletter exists to keep McCook High School alumni connected to one another and to McCook. It is published biannually in the spring and fall and mailed or e-mailed at class request and cost to entire class only. It also is posted to [www.bison-alumni.com](http://www.bison-alumni.com)

Did you know you can donate to the Bison Alumni Newsletter online? It's easy. Go to: <https://www.nebcommfund.org/give/mccook-community-foundation-fund/> and click on the red button "Donate to this fund," then click on Bison Alumni Newsletter. Scroll to the bottom to select an amount provided, or type in a custom amount. Under notes, please give one of two options:

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Have you moved, changed phone numbers, or have a different e-mail address? Please let your class rep or the BAN know. Class reps, please send your database changes by Aug. 1 for the fall newsletter and Feb. 1 for the spring newsletter. E-mail [kerrialong@gmail.com](mailto:kerrialong@gmail.com) or write to Bison Alumni Newsletter, P.O. Box 665, McCook, NE 69001

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## Autumn in McCook

It's autumn in McCook, and this year has been an especially nice one. Moderate temperatures and gorgeous shades of yellow, orange and red on the tree-lined streets of McCook are the things dreams are made of.

This autumn marks my family's eighth one here. My memories don't date as far back as the alumni's who share their favorite autumn memories on pages 10-11, but I can relate to many of them — football, Homecoming and all the festivities that come with it, the cooler days, and the beauty of the seasons changing.

Leaves are my favorite part of autumn. For me, they're a feast for the senses. In addition to the lovely colors, I love the crunchy sound they make when stepped on, how they smell when they are wet, the way they fall from the trees like confetti.

Heritage Days parade has become a family favorite. We sit at the same spot each year, at the end the route, where my kids usually manage to get more than their fair share of candy as parade participants empty what's left of their candy stashes.

My kids look forward to trick or treating along Norris Avenue on Halloween. My 10-year-old scored some regular-sized candy bars from one generous home on Norris this year. As a family, we like picking apples at Klooz Farm. Once, I brought a bag of Jonathans to my now-92-year-old grandmother who says they're the best for apple pies and she has a hard time finding them in Denver.

Soon, Santa Claus Lane will be up on Norris Avenue.

It's a hit with our kids as well, especially when my husband tells a story that coincides with each picture as we drive up and back down Norris. He has us laughing until we're crying as he comes up with a new story each trip. How sweet the memories those of you who grew up here must have of the Christmas characters coming back year after year.

There's something so comforting and reassuring about traditions and seasons, things you can count on to come around each year.

McCook has some incredible traditions and longevity, from hand painted Christmas characters that have been around for nearly seven decades to businesses such as Mac's Drive-In that has been in existence for nearly eight decades and still looks like a wonderful blast from the past.

There are exciting things coming up too, including Norris Alley, between the Fox Theater and Keystone building, that is being completed as I write this. The Norris Institute has worked to create this open-air plaza to honor Senator George Norris and be a spot for folks to gather and talk about the good ole days — and the good days yet to come in McCook.

I hope you enjoy another trip down memory lane in this issue of the BAN. Until we chat again in the spring, take good care, and Go Bison!

#### NEWSLETTER NOTES



Kerri Long,  
BAN editor



# ALUMNI

## IN THE NEWS

**Karen Buchta Bredthauer ('71)** and her family were highlighted in Nebraska Life magazine, Sept/Oct 2021. The article was titled "Buffalo Tale," and showcases their ranch and raising of Bison to support their family.

**Monica Conroy ('72)** recently became supreme president of the Benevolent, Patriotic Order of DOES of the United States of America. The group's mission is to exemplify the principles of patriotism, charity, loyalty and love; to acknowledge a belief in God; to promote charitable works, patriotic ceremonies and social functions to instill hospitality and a spirit of love, patriotism and fellowship among its members; to exist independently from the Benevolent, Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America, but always

with the desire to work in harmony with them and to keep uppermost in mind the idealism of Elkdom.

Monica, born and raised in McCook, is the second oldest of seven children. She attended St. Patrick's grade school as did all her siblings. After graduating from MHS, she worked for a year and felt called to serve God in a special way. She joined the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln in 1973. She served in various vocations during her time, and after eight years, left the Order but still remain very involved in supporting them. She returned to McCook and worked for Sehnert's Bakery until 1991.

Monica became a Doe in 1989 with McCook Drove #3, NE. She was initiated at one meeting and then installed as Color Bearer the next. Monica took a job in Omaha working for Baker's Supermarket and transferred her membership to Omaha No.1, NE.

After a year in Omaha, Monica moved to Bulverde, Texas, a small town north of San Antonio, to be a baker at a hometown bakery. She transferred her membership to San Antonio #51, TX serving as president in 1996, receiving her password from SP Ellie Brown, for the Diamond Jubilee of the Does Organization. She changed jobs and worked for Albertson's Grocery Chain, starting in Kerrville, Texas and commuting an hour each way to attend meetings. She was transferred to Austin, Texas, and later to Harlingen, Texas, serving as president in 1999. Monica served as Texas South District president in 2000. She moved back to McCook in 2004 to help take care of her dad and was manager of the Sara Lee Thrift Bread Store. She served in that capacity 11 years until economic situations forced the company to close stores. Monica now is office manager for Booe Machinery in McCook.

Monica transferred her membership back to McCook. She began serving as president in 2008. She is currently both secretary and treasurer for the Drove. She has been a Grand Lodge member since 1996.

**Richie ('68) and Jody Backer Crocker ('73)** were chosen honor family of the 2021 Heritage Days Parade. The lifelong residents of McCook raised their children here and are raising four grandchildren. Jody has impacted many children in McCook through her service to the YMCA, pool, and library. She believes that all children need to have programs available to them that keep them engaged in learning, interacting, and contributing, all while having fun. Award presenter Trevor Taylor ('92) joked with the crowd that if it wasn't for Jody, and her mother Alvina Backer, "none of us would know

Please see **Alumni** on Page 4

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how to swim in Red Willow County.”

Richie has been involved in farming with his father and grandfather, along with a career of 43 years as a clerk for the railroad. He still found time to coach little league baseball and assist Jody with her many programs.

**Seth Denney ('90)** retired from NTV News in October after 22 years in the industry. He plans to spend more time with his family and run his business, Seth Denney Painting. Seth moved with his family to McCook when he was in eighth grade. He earned his Radio/TV Communications degree from Hastings College. According to the NTV website, the thrills of doing something new every day and meeting interesting people are what drove Seth to become involved in news.

Seth started out as a weekend anchor at KHAS-TV5 and then as a sportscaster for KNOP-TV in North Platte.

Family, former teachers and coaches, and past and present co-workers shared their favorite memories and wished Seth well in a video during his final broadcast.

**Chad Graff ('85)**

Chad Graff ('85) and his wife, Joann Falkenburg, have opened their 6th Floor space in the Keystone to the public to showcase their collection of art and have been featured in the McCook Gazette. The natural light and panoramic views of McCook create a vibe conducive for community engagement and creativity as well.

The 6th Floor is open to the public Thursdays 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. A community open house is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 20, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**Mark Graff ('75)** was selected grand marshall of the 2021 Heritage Days Parade. Mark earned an accounting degree from Kearney State College and worked as a CPA in Kansas for a few years before returning home and beginning a career that is now in its 38th year.

Mark spends a ton of time volunteering locally.

Nationally, he has served with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Bankers Association, the Graduate School of Banking – University of Wisconsin, and the Western States Director Education Foundation.

On a state level, he has served with the Nebraska Bankers Association, Nebraska Diplomats, Nebraska Beginning Farmers Board, Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, Nebraska Community Foundation, and most recently on the state board for TeamMates.

Award presenter Trevor Taylor ('92) joked that it may be easier to list what Graff has not been involved with on the local level over the years. Many groups have benefited from his leadership, including McCook Area Chamber of Commerce, McCook Economic Development Corporation, McCook Community Foundation Fund, McCook Envoys, MCC Indians Boosters, McCook Legion Baseball Boosters, McCook Optimist Club, McCook United Way, Community Hospital Health Foundation, Heritage Hills Golf Corporation, High Plains Historical Society of McCook, Leadership Mc-

Cook, The Norris Institute, and several roles with St. Patrick Catholic Church.

**Kasha Messersmith ('11)** was featured on the front page of the McCook Gazette and in her alma mater Mid-Plains Community College's website for her business, Kasha's Cakes. She appreciates the support she's received from her hometown. "They were always very supportive of all aspects of my art journey," she said of teachers and students. "Whether it be complimenting me on my artwork in the hallway, or going along with my outlandish ideas for prom decorations. They always had faith and encouraged me to keep creating. So thank you to McCook. For being a community that allows artists to thrive, and for the outpouring of love and support!" You can see her incredible bison cake she made for her class's 10-year reunion on Page 7.

**Matt ('82) and Shelly Sehnert** sold their award-winning bakery to Andrew and Alix Ambriz this summer. Andrew, who was the McCook Economic Development director from 2017-18, and Alix are excited about their return to McCook with their sons Isaiah and Zander, and continuing to serve patrons at Sehnert's Bakery and Bieroc Cafe. They have expanded their breakfast menu to include several items from avocado toast to French toast, eggs benedict, and more. Matt and Shelly continue to be part of the operations.

Tyler Loop ('01)

Adam Siegfried ('03)

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# Hegwood has big dreams for McCook's future

McCook has been watching a building on B Street transform. It's being managed by Josiah Hegwood ('17). The property manager for Blackwood Enterprises LLC, a company owned by his dad, James Hegwood, moved back to McCook this spring.

Shortly after moving back, Josiah and his wife, Tori Tietz Hegwood ('16), welcomed their first child, Theo. Tori is a stay-at-home mom, copy writer and substitute teacher for McCook Public Schools.

"We wanted to move back to be close to our families," Josiah said. "We figured that if God wants us here, he'll make everything happen. It all just fell in to place."

In just a few weeks, the family sold their home in Lincoln and bought a home in McCook.

The 520 West B Street project, Bethany Village, is working with a restaurant franchise as well as a local person to open a sit-down restaurant. Josiah plans to keep one unit available for pop-up shops who need space for short term, a weekend or a few days. One unit is still available to lease.

He's added a second floor to the building for a one-bedroom and a two-bedroom apartment with a shared balcony to create a modern aesthetic to the exterior and provide additional housing, which is much needed in McCook.

"Our goal has always

been to better the community," Josiah said. "James and I want to provide things the community wants and enjoys."

Josiah moved to Lincoln after graduating high school. He graduated with an associate's degree in applied therapy sciences in 2018 and worked part-time with the UNL massage therapy team for three years. During this time he realized he couldn't work in this profession full time due to his wrists, but working in this industry taught him valuable business management skills and

how to be an independent contractor.

Four years ago Josiah was itching to get out of McCook. Now, he and Tori are glad to be back home again.

"McCook is such

a welcoming community," he said. "I didn't notice it that much as a kid, but now that I'm a parent, I've realized how safe and easy it is to raise a kid here."

From a business perspective, Josiah appreciates the hub McCook is for southwest Nebraska and northwest Kansas.

He and Tori have big dreams for the future, including an Escape Room they're currently working on and a fun plex at some point.

"Entertainment is a big need," Josiah said. "We have heard that there aren't enough things to do in McCook for children around ages 8 to 13. Blackwood Enterprises and Tori and I



The Hegwood family, Josiah ('17), Tori Tietz ('16) and Theo, moved back to McCook this spring.

personally hope to create more opportunities for them in McCook."

Josiah, the second oldest in his family, has eight siblings: Taylar, Isaac ('19), Joshua (a senior this year), Kaedi (sophomore), Brielle, Ezekiel, Elyas and Jasek.

His favorite memories

of high school include a game-winning shot by Travis Wallen in a basketball game against Chase County, cheering for the Bison football team in the student section, choir classes, classes with Mr. Reiners, who taught anatomy and physiology, and being a TA.



Josiah Hegwood ('17) is managing the development at 520 West B Street in McCook. It will have commercial units for lease and second floor apartments.





The class of '70 celebrated its 50 + 1 year reunion during Heritage Days Sept. 24-25. From left are: Back row: Teresa Houghtelling Mihm, Cathy Reid Barna, Mary Stubblefield Arvin, Barb Lehmkuhl Estes, Karla Hester Harris, Jo Hunt Schmidt, Debbie Elmschaeuser Sitzman, Rod Spencer, Lori Bath Metzger, Susan Ide Petz, Leslie Swanson Butler, Kathy Tirrill Doyle, JoAnn Treinen Decker, Tess McCarville Brown, Kathy Stewart Swanson, Rich Webb, Bob Wilcox, Lawrence Herron, Jim Corder, Chuck Bunstock, and Marilyn Weyeneth Klem. Front row: Vic Larson, Dick Rogers, Allen Huff, Steve Wilcox, Michael Chrisman, Mike Neiman, Clyde Davis, Scot Rainbolt, Dana Mackey, Jim Gohl, Larry Tincher, Steve Sines, and Rich Linegar.

## GO BISON!

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### McCook Bison Fight Song

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Fight with might and main  
Every man in his position helps  
to win this game Rah! Rah!  
On McCook High, On McCook High  
Strength and courage team  
That's the way boys, that's the  
play boys, let's win this game  
B B BIS S S SON BIS SON  
Repeat song.

Same musical score as Old Wisconsin

Dr. Warren L. Jones, D.D.S. ('65)

Dr. Melanie Jones-Wier, D.D.S.

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The MHS class of 2011 got together at The Coppermill Sept. 25 during Heritage Days for its 10-year reunion. Pictured are, from left, front: Jennifer Kircher, Aubrey Riemann, Shelby Hudson, Sierra Bustamante, Emily Wood, Amberette Burkey, Kasha Messersmith, Jon Solorzano, Morgan Schaeffer, Ben Vetrovsky, Tanner Samway, Alex Hopkins, and Nathan Priebe. Back: Karen (Clapp) Rima, Amber (Sydow) Hopkins, Gretchen (Sehnert) Dixon, Lance Stewart, Olvido Davila, Meagan (Carfield) Paul, Ross Stewart, Derek Chancellor, Grant Wilcox, Bryan Cox, and Christian Conroy.

Pictured right and below, classmate Kasha Messersmith made an incredible Bison cake that was a huge hit at the reunion. The cake even had smoke that came out of its nose. You can find her business, Kasha's Cakes, on Facebook. Her business page actually froze up for a few days because of all the traffic after alumni shared pictures of her bison cake. More info on Kasha and her cakes are on Page 4.



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MCFF's **Hometown Heritage Club** recognizes friends who care deeply about the future of our community. These generous supporters have made provisions in their estate plans to benefit the McCook community.

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**Grateful for the past, preparing for the future**

# McCook Bison Booster Club Annual Fundraising Drive



Dear Supporter:

It is time once again for our annual fundraising drive for the Bison Booster Club. We are thankful for a full year of sports for our McCook Bison and each team had successful seasons! We are so proud of these athletes and the Bison Boosters strive to continue to be an integral part of enhancing their high school experience. Thanks to our generous supporters, we have been able to help fund numerous projects this past year that directly benefit our Bison athletes. Some of our recent projects include:

**Sprint timing system for all teams**  
**Vertimax training system**

**Various sports equipment**  
**Various sports banquets**

**Weight room equipment**

All of these projects and purchases would not be possible without your belief in the athletic programs and your donation to Bison Boosters. Your continued support has truly made a difference for these dedicated athletes.

As you consider your donation, remember that charitable gift of \$25 or more to the Booster Club will include a listing of your name and business on the back of the program at our sporting events.

Please cut out the form below and send along with your tax deductible donation to:  
Bison Booster Club, PO Box 1051, McCook, NE 69001.

Please make checks payable to Bison Booster Club.

If you have questions, please feel free to call any Bison Booster Club Board Member:

Scott Barger, 340-3237  
Pat Fawver, 340-0891

Tom Wiemers, 340-6831  
Joann Barenberg, 340-2113

Jason Loop, 340-4157  
Lindsey Foster, 293-0045

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## McCook Bison Boosters Membership

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Amount of donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**Silver: \$50 - \$99**

**Bronze: \$25 - \$49**

Please indicate how you want your listing to appear:

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# Norris Alley a new gathering place on the bricks

Alumni now have a new gathering place in downtown McCook.

Norris Alley, a beautiful open-air plaza between the historic Fox Theatre and Keystone building, is nearing completion.

The plaza is now open to the public and engaging for a wide variety of community uses, from Friday afternoon FAC gatherings to a space where local musicians and artists can showcase their work; a space for quiet moments, small gatherings, and even private events.

The Norris Institute also plans to use the space

as an active tool to educate the public about the legacy of George Norris, one of the most remarkable leaders of the 20th Century, who paved the way for rural futures through bringing electricity to our communities, in an environment where greater numbers can be reached.

Nebraska architects Alley Poyner Macchietto designed the multi-purpose gathering space that honors McCook's natural elements and local landscape. Sampson Construction began construction early this summer.

It was 10 years ago that Linda Graff, wife of Mark Graff ('75), began to dream about making over the under-utilized parking lot when she rented the space as part of their daughter Jayme's ('99) wedding reception. When the McCook Economic Development Corporation was going to re-pave it with asphalt, she

urged them not to until she and Mark, and others, could find a better use for it.

"Norris Alley is living proof of how one's dream can turn into reality with the support of a community," Mark said. "Linda had a dream to turn the parking lot between the Keystone and Fox Theater into a gathering place and active event location supporting our vibrant downtown. With the financial and emotional support of a great community, the dream has turned into

reality. It's a great example of the power of community!"

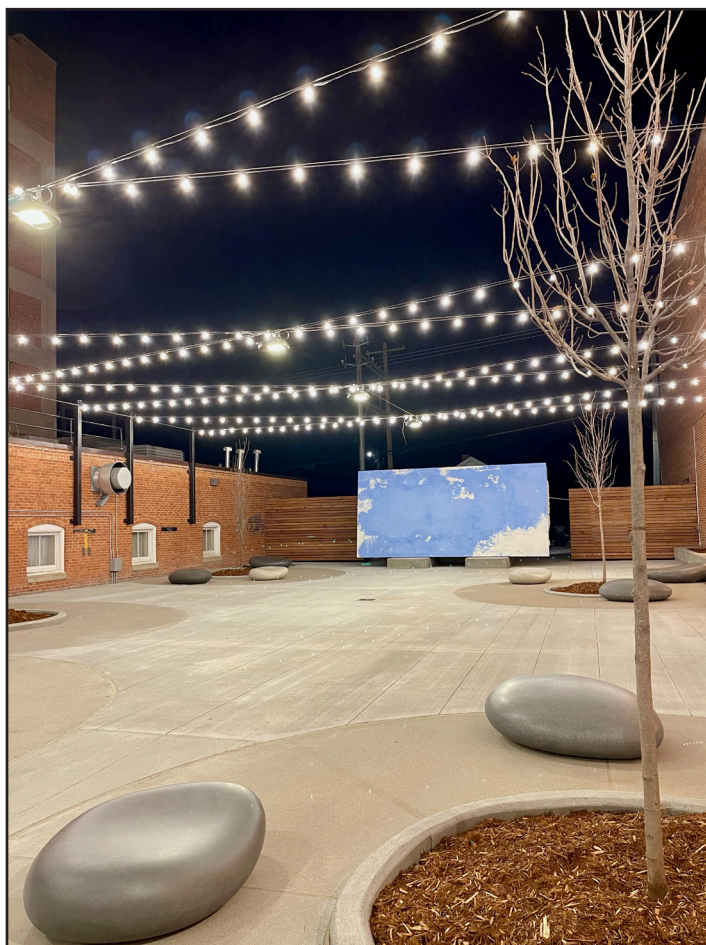
Los Angeles and Omaha based artist Mike Nesbit created

a massive concrete art piece called the Blues Wall for the space. Fabricated in Omaha, a towering crane delivered the piece, which is meant to capture the most notable landmark of the Midwest: the skies. Chad Graff ('85) solicited donations specifically for the piece.

'Norris Alley is living proof of how one's dream can turn into reality with the support of a community.'

-Mark Graff ('75)

The project has won widespread support. The Sherwood Foundation granted \$50,000 for the project and Peter Kiewit Foundation pledged a \$50,000 challenge grant to attract new donations to bring this project to reality.



Norris Alley, a gathering place and event location between the Fox Theatre and Keystone building, is nearing completion.

**Norris Alley will be a catalyst for McCook's dream of a creative future that starts downtown and expands outward.**

Become part of that dream today by pledging your support to Norris Alley, a new open-air plaza between the historic Fox Theatre and Keystone building.

The Norris Institute has raised 85 percent of projected funds. We need you to help us fully fund Norris Alley. To contribute, go to <https://www.georgenorris.org/donate>

Now is our time. This is your chance.

# What do you like most about

We asked "What do you like most about McCook in autumn (past or present)?" on our Facebook page. Following are alumni's responses.

"Beauty of the season change." -Jerda Thompson Garey Vickers ('57)

"Football games and pep club, leaves of many colors, and school. So many great and not so great memories." -Kerry Strayer Herrod ('62)

"Driving down Norris and H street seeing all the beautiful colored trees!" -Miranda Payton ('14)

"Bison football, McCook College Campus Husker football." -J. Borgman ('69)

"Bison football." -Fred Petsch ('77)

"Changing of seasons." -Bob Elder ('74)

"The trees changing colors." -Carolyn Corder Bird ('57)

"The cooler weather is my favorite! Along with chili and cinnamon rolls!" -Becki Keenportz ('83)

"Bison football, especially homecoming (Pep Club painting store windows

downtown, decorating the islands on Norris Avenue, parading from the high school downtown and holding a pep rally at Norris and C Street)." -Dotti Park ('66)

"Bison football." -Diana Tuller Kudera ('68)

"Driving on the streets with leaves swirling around in the wind. McCook has the most beautiful tree-lined streets." -Dee Dunworth Doyle ('76)

"The pretty colors of the trees and flowers. Barnett Park and the river! Cooler temps." -Dana Clark ('79)

"Homecoming activities — spending the summer with Pep Club making the Homecoming decorations for Norris Ave., soap scrimmage, bonfire, Homecoming Parade and each class having its own truck, the football game and dance. I especially loved getting the big white mum corsage with the red M and gold football charm. Those were magical times!" -Carol Hayes Fritz ('74)

"I used to work at McCook Greenhouse years ago, and made hundreds of those white Mums with the letter M. Very proud of and still love my hometown." -Monica

Schaaf-Miller ('60)

"Homecoming!" -Cathy Unger Thompson ('81)

"Cooler weather and leaves changing colors." -Lavenda Shields Elmer ('83)

"Heritage Days, fall colors." -Sue Byrne Dutcher ('84)

"Ever since I was a kid Heritage Days weekend has always been my favorite weekend! When I was in high school I loved fall because that meant pep band on Friday nights!" -Rebecca Gordine Stark ('06)

"The smell of drying leaves in the cool mornings. The end of irrigation season and the start of hunting season." -Bill Hoyt ('74)

"The beautiful Sumac at the football bowl. Gorgeous." -Patt Graff-Price ('64)

"Jiffy burgers! I also like them in the winter, spring and summer!" -Laura Kelley Erskine ('85)

"Bison football." -Marilyn Miller Wilson ('68)

"McCook had glorious trees that became a plethora of color in the fall." -Tom Grafton ('73)

"The changing color on the trees. On a dry breezy day, the leaves dance in the streets. The sound of the leaves when the wind blows." -Kim Sekavec O'Dea ('75)

"Autumn brought crisp temperatures and community spirit. We cheered for the Bison on Fridays, the Huskers on Saturdays. Neighborhood trick or treating under a spooky moon was October's grand finale." -Dixie Kiel Martin ('71)

"In grade school they had a fall festival (Fun Night). Each classroom was set up with a game (cakewalk, shave a balloon, et cetera) followed by homemade pumpkin pies in the 6th grade room. I loved it and think about it often." -Cherril Smith Serdy ('67)

"The changing color of the trees, Bison football and the coming together during homecoming (Pep Club decorating all the islands on Norris Avenue, painting store windows downtown, the band, pep club and student body marching from high school to corner of Norris and C street for pep rally)!" -Jean Hallowell ('67)

"My mom always made our school clothes, which meant

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# McCook in autumn, past or present?

a trip to DeGroffs, Brown-McDonald and Penneys to pick out patterns, fabrics and to coordinate with sweaters in those stores." -Cheri McNew Sahm ('67)

"I love McCook in any season but fall is my favorite. All the decorations and events!" -Kathy Biggins Bradley ('79)

"The drive south of town heading toward Kansas where the trees bend over the road in oranges and yellows. I don't live in McCook anymore, but when I think about that drive I can still feel the warmth of the afternoon with the crisp mornings and the smell of fall in the air..." -Alison Hofer Villalobos ('04)

"What I like about fall is finishing up my canning, walking through the leaves on a nice cool day and hot tea or chocolate in the evening. One particular tree in McCook I try to visit each year is between East D and E. It is an oak tree that turns red, yellow, and orange. I have been going there since my oldest daughter was a baby. I missed a few walk bys but drive by for sure. It's the prettiest tree." -Cathy Real Davis ('68)

"Bison football!" -William David Howell ('81)

"Watching the trees turn colors and Santa Claus lane." -Bill Lyons ('64)

"Marching band!" -Judy Kuper Sweney ('67)

"Football." -Marc Harpham ('82)

"Homecoming." -Carol Lyons Dolan ('66)

"Football and all that came with it! Marching band practice and performances, pep rallies, Homecoming festivities and shenanigans!" -Lynda Arterburn Kreutzer ('79)

"Marching band practices on cool Friday mornings at Weiland field and the beautiful red color of the sumac at the west end. Football games followed by The Bison Corral." -John Wagner ('58)

"Cooler weather but not winter yet!" -Heidi Molsbee Englade ('65)

"Color of the sumac, band marching at football games on Friday nights. Great fun!" -Vicki Gasch Russell ('62)

"Football games at Weiland Field, gorgeous sumac, and Bison Corral dances at the

Y after games. Great memories!" -Susan Sautter Cox ('60)

"Beautiful trees, Bison football, pep rallies, the smell of leaves burning, dragging main, great people always, brownies at the bakery, and of course the awesome smell from the packing plant hanging over town! Love my hometown!" -Jerry Turman ('72)

"Bison football, volleyball (of course), cooler weather (I live in Arizona), trees changing color (no trees in Arizona, LOL). -Stephanie Ankersen Starnes ('00)

"The sumac turning at Weiland Field and hearing the band's early morning practices on that same field." -Susie Hutt Trupp ('65)

"In my day it was the smell of burning leaves. They don't do that anymore." -Robert Hockman Sr. ('57)

"Football games in the bowl, marching band down Main Street, smell of leaves burning and seeing everyone back at school at McCook High!" -Mary Jo Stephens Weigand ('65)

"Fall days, evenings always

welcome after hot muggy and buggy summer. Colorful leaves floating from the variety of trees lining Norris Avenue. Riding our bikes to the library and YMCA." -Constance Arana Jones ('65)

"My memories of pumpkin carving and trick or treating. And a fond memory of my Mom pointing out what always appeared as a witch in the sky on a broomstick at night on Halloween when we were driving to town from our country farm to go trick or treating" - Barb Kelley Czarnick ('82)

"The beautiful fall colors. High school in the fall was the best. We were always busy with posters on Norris, parades, pep rallies and Homecoming. A nice break from dragging Main." -Christine Baird Davis ('70)

"The trees on West J made a beautiful canopy over the street. Football games, homecoming parades and all the activities that went with it." -Barb Ohlson Knapper ('70)

"The trail down on the north side of the Republican River bridge south of town, sumac a big part of that too." -Linda Hein ('65)

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Kim Butler photos



In 1957, alumni along with members of the high school's M Club worked together to assemble and paint rocks that would create a 66-foot by 78-foot M on a hillside south of McCook on the property of Jerry and Donna Butler ('50). Over time, the site has become an unofficial landmark of the city of McCook and is well known as M Hill.

The M was initially intended to be maintained by the M Club and athletes from the high school, however, since approximately 1970, the site has been maintained solely by the Butler family. They have worked to replace rocks, spray weeds, repair vandalism, and periodically repaint the site. The task of looking after the M now rests with Jerry and Donna's son, Steve Butler ('73). In keeping with family tradition of maintaining the site, along with Bison pride, Steve organized a Go Fund Me project to raise money to repaint the M for the first time since 2010 so that it will continue to stand out for as a symbol of McCook for decades to come.

On June 5, two coats of durable paint were applied to the M with the help of Kenny Lienemann of Lienemann Painting and Tree Service, who volunteered his time and equipment to get the job done.

Steve extends his thanks and appreciation to all those who contributed their time and money to help make this project a success.





*This girls basketball team picture from 1912 was e-mailed to the BAN from a man named Daniel Deitch in San Francisco. The girls are pictured at the original high school that stood where Central is now and was either an intermural team or part of the Girls Athletic Club. They competed between themselves or between classes. No competition was held with other schools until 1970. Several years ago, Daniel, who appreciates and enjoys history, purchased a photo album from an antique store in Port Costa, north and east of San Francisco. The album had belonged to Miss Helen G. Thursby, and seems to span a period of time from right around the turn of the 20th century into the years of the first world war, at least. Daniel did some research on her online, and found that she graduated from the University of Wisconsin. Besides teaching at Mc Cook, she also taught in San Francisco in the 1930s. It appears she died in Alameda, next to Oakland. In addition to coaching girls' basketball, she was likely involved in physical education, as there were some postcards from boys on the baseball team as well. A number of postcards in the album were made from snapshots, as was a common practice back then, and they are addressed to her with the dated postmark.*



## High Plains Historical Society - Museum of the High Plains

Help to preserve the legacy of Southwest Nebraska's rich history by becoming a donor to the High Plains Historical Society today! Memberships are \$20 per year and include the benefits of a quarterly newsletter, previews of new donations or items on loan, four historical postcards and discounts on upcoming 2022 tours! Conserve the history of early homestead, railroad and commercial families at the museum. Each 2022 donation membership is vitally important to our continued operation. Thank you in advance for your support!

**Mail checks to: High Plains Historical Society, 413 Norris Ave., McCook, NE 69001.**

Please include your email and mailing address and we will return your 501(c)3 receipt and four postcards.

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# class notes

Please send your news and contact info changes to your class rep. Class news items are due to the BAN Oct. 15 for the fall newsletter and April 15 for the spring newsletter. Phone numbers are in area code 308 and addresses in McCook (69001) unless otherwise specified. Deaths are on Page 19.

1945: -John Hubert, 901 Sunset, 345-4534 or jehubert@swnebr.net

1948: Mary Lou Drake, 1515 West 2nd, mloudrake@gmail.com

1949: Our condolences to the family of Clara Lebsack Adams, class rep, who passed away in June.

1950: Needs a class rep. E-mail kerrialong@gmail.com

1951: Sympathies to the families of classmates who passed away and to our classmates whose spouses passed away: Martin Petersen's wife, Lula Petersen; Marcia Miller Pryor's husband, Gene; Marien Meininger Walters; Betty Wilcox Jussel's husband, Bill; Eva Paxton Messinger's husband, Wil-lard; Dwight Gallatin; and Bob French. -Janice Eisenbarth Waddell, janicewaddell@outlook.com and djmoskal34@gmail.com

1952: Thanks to everyone who donated to cover the expense of mailing the BAN. Our sympathy to the families of classmates who have passed away. Please see Page 13. -Peggy Appleyard, 1006 E. 4th St., 345-6486

1953: Hope all had a great summer! Condolences to the families of Bob Maag and Anita Plourd Denzer. Have a great holiday season! Please note my new address. -Pat Rogers

Schmid, Kinship Pointe, 1500 East 11th St. Apt. 204, 345-3081, pschmid1953@gmail.com

1954: -Ethyl Logan Siegfried, 506 E. 6th St., 345-7789

1955: All is quiet here on the home front. We 80 year olds are still alive and living well. I checked with Goldie Edwards Paolazzi who lives in New Jersey as to how she fared with the flooding from Hurricane Ida. Six to 10 inches of water in her basement and the rest of her home is fine. She said that there was lots of "crap" down there that needed thrown away anyhow. I think that a few of the rest of us can probably identify with keeping a host of "treasures" that are no longer useful and just haven't found the urge to sort and clean house. We graduates live from coast to coast so if something untoward happens, there is a chance one of us could be involved. Any '55er coming to visit close by, give me a call or e-mail and I'll invite local classmates to gather at a restaurant to celebrate. It will be catchup time. Keep in touch. My cell number is 340-7689. -Dick Trail, 201 W M St., dickt@swnebr.net

1956: -Ann Tondreau Trail, anntrail@swnebr.net, 201 West M Street. Cell: 340-3578

1957: Bison ladies lunch on the fourth Thursday each month at 11:30 a.m. at Pizza Hut in McCook for all 1957 Bison class ladies who can attend. -Beverly Dinnel Rhea, 418 West 10th, 345-5543, bprhea1@hotmail.com

1958: -Judy Chinn Wortley, 810 West 12th, 344-9122, judy\_wortley@yahoo.com

1959: Thank you to Mary Sue Hormel Harris for her dona-

tion to our class. As you know, donations are used for our class expenses such as mailings, e-mailing, reunions, etc. If you would like to make a donation, make a check out to the Class of 1959, send to me, and I'll deposit into our class savings account. Please remember to send any home address, e-mail additions or changes to me. Happy holidays to each and everyone one of you — 'til the spring newsletter!

-Janet Eckhardt Rich, 1301 West 1st St., McCook, NE 69001; jrlr@centurylink.net; 345-2703.

1960: -Pat Wakefield Fredde, 1109 West 4th St., 345-1222, p.free1960@gmail.com; Connie Carlson Bennett, connieb1942@netscape.net

1961: We are looking at having our 60th class reunion in McCook in Sept. 2022. We need to know how many would be interested in coming. Nancy Thompson Wethersholt will be calling on as many of you as she can. We'd like to know by Nov. 15, 2021, so we can get the food and motels lined up. Contacts: Jo Ann McMullen Brand, 777-2094, cell 737-8326, jobrand961@gmail.com, Jean Reynolds Parry, #2 Georgia Ct., 340-2977, parryj@gpcom.net, or Dian Keene Trail, 345-5116, 340-3484, cdtrail@mccooknet.com

1962: -Tom Buresh, 1212 Norris Ave., 345-5441, tnburesh@msn.com

1963: Some classmates around Hurricane Ida had some damage but are OK. Save the week-end of Heritage Days in 2023 for our 60th reunion. -Lorraine Rose, 719-339-2803, Lorraine-golds@me.com; Peg Decker Bell, 970-522-3008, bellpeg44@gmail.com; and Dick Cappel, 308-350-0363, dick@cappel-sales.com

1964: Condolences to the families of Sharon Cox Gruhn

(7-1-20), Stan Hoyt (7-17-21) and Pat Hoyt Forch. Her husband Jamie passed away 8-31-21. Please send your donations for the newsletter to: Class of 1964, c/o Gloria Shepherd Mefford, 202 Seminole Dr, McCook, gloriamefford@icloud.com, 308-737-7787; or Cheri Beckenhauer, 204 Longwood Dr, Papillion, NE 68133, cheri.beckenhauer@gmail.com, 308-340-0421.

1965: -Steve Batty, sbatty@mccooknet.com, 345-4021, Linda Taylor, ltaylorvk@gmail.com, 345-3682.

1966: Condolences to the family of Russell Moorhous. -Tom Murphy, 303-421-5539, tomurphy6671@gmail.com

1967: Regarding the class account, we really need another person on the account. -Jean Harmon Hallowell, 903 W 7th St., 345-7663, terhall5@hotmail.com

1968: -Sue Coady Doak, sdoak@swnebr.net; -Susan Andrews Thomsen, salt6768@charter.net

1969: -Debbie Krieger Jenkins, 1411 West 5th St., 340-7526, debbie\_ann\_s@hotmail.com

1970: Our class had a great 50 plus 1 reunion in September. We are already planning our 55th reunion so stay in touch through contacting me. -Diana Newton Butler, 402-699-4029, dianabutler52@yahoo.com

1971: Sandi Boyd Pettera summed up the Class of '71's 50-year reunion perfectly. "Condolences to the families of those who are gone, regrets to those who couldn't make it and smiles to those who did make it." Until next time that our paths cross, Godspeed. We are still in need of email addresses for about a third of our classmates so that you may continue to receive the alumni newsletter.



Please forward your email addresses to [scapp@gpcom.net](mailto:scapp@gpcom.net) or to Kathy Wallen at [dankatw@gmail.com](mailto:dankatw@gmail.com).

1972: Our 50th reunion will be September 16, 17, and 18, 2022. -Anne Unger Confer, 1111 Norris Ave., 340-5924, [Anne\\_confer@yahoo.com](mailto:Anne_confer@yahoo.com).

1973: I am still hoping to hear from classmates with updated e-mail addresses as well as any changes in snail mail addresses. Please contact me with your updates! -Mary Anderson Dueland, 112 E N St., 737-6111, [dmdue@outlook.com](mailto:dmdue@outlook.com)

1974: -Peg Augustyn Andrews, 5512 Barrington Court, Lincoln NE 68516. 308-737-8843

1975: Please send donations to help pay for the newsletter and send your e-mail address additions or changes to Kerri at [kerrialong@gmail.com](mailto:kerrialong@gmail.com). -Dari Tucker Olson, 705 W. 5th St., 340-3595, [dariolson@gmail.com](mailto:dariolson@gmail.com)

1976: -Diane Wilson Lyons, 1007 E. 1st St., 345-2189, [pdlyons@gpcom.net](mailto:pdlyons@gpcom.net)

1977: Time flies as in 2022 it will have been 45 years since we graduated. I would like to take a poll to see if you are interested in having a 45-year class reunion, or just to wait an additional five years and just hold our 50-year class reunion? Is there a preferred time of year? Please email me your preference at [scottps@charter.net](mailto:scottps@charter.net) -Scott Schneider, [scottps@charter.net](mailto:scottps@charter.net); -Class Treasurer Charlotte Hays Dunsworth, P.O. Box 83, Culbertson, NE 69024, 737-6558

1978: -Jerry Calvin, 807 W. 13th St., 737-9778, [pepsidude2004@gmail.com](mailto:pepsidude2004@gmail.com); -Mara Lee Weskamp-Ebert, 707-363-2432

1979: -Robin Frick Calvin, 807 W. 13th St., 340-2401, [craft-whiz@swnebr.net](mailto:craft-whiz@swnebr.net)

1980: -Peggy Ruppert Messenger, 308-737-7767, [peggymessenger@swnebr.net](mailto:peggymessenger@swnebr.net)

1981: -Clifva Luther Budke, P.O. Box 59, [cbudkembe@aol.com](mailto:cbudkembe@aol.com)

1982: No plans for a 40th reunion in 2022. Contact me if you would like to plan it. I would appreciate it if you would please e-mail me updated mailing and e-mail addresses. Thanks! -Sara Wiemers Rippen 103 Courtney Ln, [sara.rippen@gmail.com](mailto:sara.rippen@gmail.com)

1983: -Janice Howell, [pcshowell@gmail.com](mailto:pcshowell@gmail.com)

1984: Needs a new class rep. Donations can be sent to Dawn Hess Foster, 305 Apache Dr., 340-0135, [dawnfostr1965@gmail.com](mailto:dawnfostr1965@gmail.com)

1985: -Annette Kool Wagner, 345-3852, [acwagner2@gmail.com](mailto:acwagner2@gmail.com)

1986: Sadly, our class lost our friend and dear classmate, Jim Hackney, on August 1. Please consider the family's gofundme page: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jim-hackney-family-fund> -Michelle Hubert Doorn, 28328 463rd Ave., Davis, SD 57021-6127, [michelle.doorn@k12.sd.us](mailto:michelle.doorn@k12.sd.us)

1987: Donations to Class of 1987 c/o Andy Hofman, 903 Missouri Ave., 340-9602, [andy\\_hofman@yahoo.com](mailto:andy_hofman@yahoo.com). -Rich Barnett, 340-0815, [rich@highplainsradio.net](mailto:rich@highplainsradio.net)

1988: -Pat Weskamp, [pweskamp@outlook.com](mailto:pweskamp@outlook.com)

1989: -Chanin Monestero, [cd\\_monestero@hotmail.com](mailto:cd_monestero@hotmail.com)

1990: -Jeanette Cappel Wonderly, 519 Buffalo Street, Benkelman, NE 69021, 883-1960

1991: -Michelle Henrickson, [s-mhenrickson@hotmail.com](mailto:s-mhenrickson@hotmail.com)

1992: -Jason Loop, 18 Wedgewood Dr., 345-1977, [jloop@ocsmccook.com](mailto:jloop@ocsmccook.com), -Trevor Taylor, 904 W 4th St., 345-6518, [tmtaylor98@gmail.com](mailto:tmtaylor98@gmail.com)

1993: -Joann Pick Barenberg, 901 W R St., 345-8703, [jbarenberg@mnb.bank](mailto:jbarenberg@mnb.bank)

1994: -Stephanie Hays Stevens, 1606 W 2nd St., 345-5688, [voiceonhold2@gmail.com](mailto:voiceonhold2@gmail.com)

1995: -Carmen Irwin Lervold, 15788 W. Acapulco Lane, Surprise, AZ 85379, 623-322-9281, [bisonclass95@cox.net](mailto:bisonclass95@cox.net)

1996: -Anne McCarville, 40110 Prairie View Dr., Cambridge, NE 69022, [amac513@hotmail.com](mailto:amac513@hotmail.com)

1997: Connect with us on Facebook: "McCook High School Class of 1997." Any interest in a 2022 gathering? -Lisa Beckenhauer Pomajzl, 1650 Karol Kay Blvd., Seward, NE 68434, 402-826-7050, [bepuzzled2@yahoo.com](mailto:bepuzzled2@yahoo.com)

1998: -Brian Symington, Brian. [Symington@gmail.com](mailto:Symington@gmail.com)

1999: -Vanessa Lytle, 909 East G St., 340-3863, [vlytle9969@gmail.com](mailto:vlytle9969@gmail.com)

2000: -Anna Dueland Hunnicutt, [mccook2000@gmail.com](mailto:mccook2000@gmail.com)

2001: -Shaelin Monzon Stiver, 706 East 3rd St. Apt. B, 340-5408, [shaelinstiver@gmail.com](mailto:shaelinstiver@gmail.com)

2002: -Laura Lyons Plas, [lpas@esu7.org](mailto:lpas@esu7.org)

2003: -Jill Hansen Purvis, [aj\\_purvis@hotmail.com](mailto:aj_purvis@hotmail.com)

2004: -Nicole Hedke Sutton, [nicole\\_sutton@live.com](mailto:nicole_sutton@live.com)

2005: -Kate Wolford Wawrzynkiewicz, 12129 S. Hansen Rd., North Platte, NE 69101, 340-9156, [katewaz05@gmail.com](mailto:katewaz05@gmail.com)

com

2006: -Julia Lyons Krebs, [julia.krebs25@gmail.com](mailto:julia.krebs25@gmail.com)

2007: -John Swanhorst, 9 Mashie Dr., 340-1648, [jswanhorst@gmail.com](mailto:jswanhorst@gmail.com)

2008: -Cory Gaston, 712-204-3052, [cmg\\_4@hotmail.com](mailto:cmg_4@hotmail.com)

2009: Needs a class rep. Parent rep, -Doug Skiles, [dskiles@slbwcpa.com](mailto:dskiles@slbwcpa.com), P.O. Box 36, McCook, NE 69001

2010: -Shane Wallen, [shane\\_wallen@hotmail.com](mailto:shane_wallen@hotmail.com)

2011: -Jaci Saalfeld Weissert, [saalfeldjn@gmail.com](mailto:saalfeldjn@gmail.com), 340-6254.

2012: Needs a class rep. Parent rep, -Sherri Stang, 345-4240, [sherri@mnbl.com](mailto:sherri@mnbl.com)

2013: -Tricia Mitnik Wagner, 340-3209, [pwagner@chmccook.org](mailto:pwagner@chmccook.org), Gavin Harsh, 340-7178, [gharsh\\_20@hotmail.com](mailto:gharsh_20@hotmail.com)

2014: Miranda Payton, Text 340-5380, 1507 West 5th St., McCook, [mirandapayton14@gmail.com](mailto:mirandapayton14@gmail.com)

2015: -Marlys Brenning, 340-8496, 424 N Church St, Elm Creek NE 68836, [mebrenning@gmail.com](mailto:mebrenning@gmail.com)

2016: Needs a class rep. Parent rep, -Tom Bredvick, 345-4240, [Bison2016@bredvick.com](mailto:Bison2016@bredvick.com)

2017: Lexi Gross, [lgross69001@icloud.com](mailto:lgross69001@icloud.com)

2018: Needs a class rep. [kerrialong@gmail.com](mailto:kerrialong@gmail.com)

2019: Needs a class rep. [kerrialong@gmail.com](mailto:kerrialong@gmail.com)

2020: Lydia Risenhoover, [lydiarisenhoover75@gmail.com](mailto:lydiarisenhoover75@gmail.com), 340-7433

2021: Needs a class rep.

# Jessica Olson Mikoloyck **chases the light**



SunnyFreckles Photography

Jessica Olson Mikoloyck ('97) taught herself photography 11 years ago and has steadily built a photography business in Scottsbluff.

Capturing who her clients are makes photography rewarding for Jessica Olson Mikoloyck ('97), who has built a successful business, SunnyFreckles Photography, in Scottsbluff over the past 11 years.

It sort of began by chance when Jessica agreed to take engagement pictures for her friends. Since she worked during the day, she took the photos in the evening's golden hour — one hour before sunset, when lighting is soft, rich, and just right.

Today, it's common for photographers to take photos outside, but it wasn't that common 11 years ago; most photographers did their work in studios with backdrops back then.

So, when Jessica shared on Facebook her first photos that she took around town with her point-and-shoot camera and edited with an online editing tool, she had great reception.

"I was taking appointments 15 minutes later," she said.

Jessica used the name

SunnyFreckles Photography on the watermark of her first photo, and the name has stuck. It came from her first e-mail address that she created when she was introduced to the internet in Mr. Randall Datus's government class.

"I had a face full of freckles and I loved being outside," she said.

Jessica admits she didn't really know what she was doing the first two or three years, but she led with curiosity and learned through trial and error. She eventually upgraded her camera and editing software.

"I made lots of mistakes along the way, but to me, I had to learn it the hard way," she said.

**Why the name SunnyFreckles?**  
It was her first e-mail address she created in high school government class.

One lesson learned the hard way was to use a camera that has two memory cards in case one fails. This happened when she was using a camera with a single memory card. She spent two years and reaching out to three companies to get the images back. She eventually was able to connect with the company who made the memory card, and in four days, she had the card back with all the wedding photos. She surprised the couple at their niece's birthday party with a slide show and prints of their wedding. She has since helped others retrieve images from failed camera cards.

Among Jessica's favorite memories is a wedding she photographed at Grand Central Station in New York City. She loves how she was able to capture the shadows of people walking through station behind the bride and groom. The story of how the impromptu wedding happened (it involved a chance meeting with a wedding officiant on the subway)

## About Jessica Olson Mikoloyck

- Graduated in: '97
- Met her husband, Nick, at McCook Community College, where she majored in criminal justice and music.
- Especially enjoyed Mr. Datus's government class, which is why she chose criminal justice as a major.
- Fondly remembers her hair freezing in the winter on her walks from her home to St. Pat's.
- Loved show choir and hand cutting hundreds of tickets for the annual show.

makes this photo even more meaningful to her.

"I burst into tears after I took it," she said. "It was the most amazing thing ever."

Jessica, who doesn't have a studio, still prefers to shoot outside, chasing the perfect light. From a teenager with a snake wrapped around her neck to a boy in a suit on a wakeboard in a lake, her photos are as unique as the people she has

Please see **Mikoloyck** on Page 18



SunnyFreckles Photography

Jessica Olson Mikoloyck ('97) took this senior photo of a teen who wanted to wakeboard on a lake after his family got a boat.



# NOTES FROM ALUMNI

I really enjoyed the latest Bison Alumni Newsletter. I generally read it cover to cover. It brings back such wonderful memories of growing up in McCook, a town and time of where we kids could play outside all day, walk to school, swim at the pool all summer, and leave our homes and cars unlocked. We had such a great life growing up in McCook!

The article on Felliing Field in the last newsletter brought back the most vivid memories! I spent many, many evenings at Felling Field as my brother, Craig Rutledge, played baseball each summer. So, I thought I might write a short memorial to him. He was two years younger than I and we didn't do a lot of things together but summer baseball was a family event. He would have been in the class of '74, but you may remember he was killed in a car accident in Sept. of 1972.

When we were little, Craig mostly played with Brad Hershberger, who constantly got the two of them in minor problems, while my sister, Gloria Rutledge Thelen ('73)

and I played together – or very often fought.

Craig was quite the athlete. In addition to baseball, he also played football, was on the wrestling team, and did shotput and discus in track. For baseball games, we would get there early to make sure we got our candy from the concession stand and had time to play on the playground. We would sit in the stands cheering for his team along with Mom, the loudest to cheer and whistle of everyone there. Craig was one of the best pitchers they had so he was often disappointed to have to play first base or be the catcher, however he was often the only player who could actually throw the ball all the way from first to third base or home to first base fast enough!

All three of us took piano lessons but I don't think Craig ever learned to read music, and he really didn't like to practice. He would come home from his lesson with a new piece to learn and ask Dad to play it so that he could hear what it was supposed to sound like. Then he would just play it by ear! However, when he got sweet on Peggy Augustyn ('74), he wanted to play the classical version of "Love Story" for her. So, he did learn and practiced it until he played it quite beautifully.

Once he started working

at the Elks Club as a busboy and watering the greens, that was it for baseball. In fact, he thought he might like to manage a club like that as a career.

Craig had many friends, not the least of which was Terry McCorkle ('74), with

whom my mother is still in contact. In fact, he was trying to support his friend, along with Duane and Rex, the night of the car accident. He was a very good person and is missed every day.  
-Merrilee Rutledge Sissel ('72)



Remembering MEF founder  
Al Cuellar ('56)

The McCook Educational Foundation is a non-profit organization created as a source of support to enhance educational opportunities for students at McCook Public Schools.

MEF awards \$29,650 in scholarships annually. To date, it has awarded \$253,200.00. It also facilitates the backpack program, field trips and perfect attendance awards.

To donate/more info:  
Joann Barenberg,  
jbarenberg@mnb.bank  
Jason Loop,  
jloop@slbwcpa.com

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**EDUCATIONAL**  
**FOUNDATION**

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**Dal Wood ('48)**  
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## In memory

### Bob Maag remembered for teaching, band achievements

Bob Maag ('53), beloved teacher and accomplished musician, died May 11 at the age of 86.

Bob began to love music at the beginning of high school when the band director handed him a tuba.

He earned a bachelor of music education degree in 1958 from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, where he was a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Gamma Lambda Band fraternity and Theta Xi. He received a master of music degree in 1962. Bob was a charter member of the UNL Band Alumni Association.

On July 19, 1958, he married Joy Ann Schmidt, who studied piano at UNL. That same year the couple moved to Waverly, where Bob began teaching as a vocal and instrumental teacher for kindergarten through 12th grade and Joy taught elementary music. During his 33-year career at Waverly, Bob developed an instrumental music program recognized statewide for its excellence.

The varsity band consistently earned top honors in marching and concert competitions and participated in festivals in Rapid City, Winnipeg, St. Louis, Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Va., where it won the Sweepstakes Award, and Orlando. In 1981, he received the Waverly Area Kiwanis Club "Service to Youth and Community Award" and in 1983, he was honored with a school/community roast, which established a scholarship still awarded annually to outstanding band students. After retiring from Waverly, he taught elementary school band in Lincoln Public schools for four years, then worked

part-time for 18 years in the sheet music department at the downtown Dietze Music store. In 2008, he founded the Waverly Area Community Band that he conducted for eight years.

Bob was a charter member and past president of Nebraska State Bandmasters Association, where the varsity band was invited to perform at the state convention in 1983 and 1990. He co-authored a book titled "History of the Band Movement in Nebraska," published in 2006 that earned him NSBA's Distinguished Service Award. In 1988, he received the NSBA's highest honor, the Donald A. Lentz outstanding Bandmaster Award and also the National Band Association Citation of Excellence.

He was a member of the National Association for Music Education and a lifetime member of the Nebraska Music Educators Association. He served as the NMEA Band chairman from 1977-1979 and was inducted into the NMEA Hall of Fame in 2013. He was a lifetime member of the NEA and the NSEA.

Bob was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Waverly for over 60 years, where he served as choir director from 1958-1971 and continued to sing in the choir and play in instrumental groups. Bob played tuba in the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra for 18 years, the Lincoln Municipal Band for 24 years and the Lincoln Community Concert Band for 19 years.

Bob is survived by his wife, Joy; three children; 10 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



SunnyFreckles Photography

*This photo embodies everything Jessica Olson Mikoloyck ('97) loves about photography: being outside, finding the perfect light, and capturing her clients' personalities.*

#### Mikoloyck continued from Page 16

photographed.

She loves when clients become friends, saying that the process of getting to know her clients so she can capture them lends well to becoming close.

Jessica appreciates her small community for supporting her business. She has spent next to nothing in advertising, thanks to her repeat clients and word of mouth advertising.

"All I wanted to do when I left home was go somewhere bigger," she said, "but

Scottsbluff has been the perfect environment not only to raise my kids, but also build my business."

Jessica and her husband, Nick, who does IT work for a call center, are parents to Gavin, 19, and Annie, 11. In the winters, when photography slows down, she substitute teaches and works at H&R Block.

Her website is [www.sunnyfrecklesphotography.com](http://www.sunnyfrecklesphotography.com) and you can find her on Facebook as well.



# In memory

Each class expresses sincere condolences to the families. Many of their obituaries are posted on the Bison Alumni Facebook page and on [bisonalumni.com](http://bisonalumni.com)

Principal: Ron Clark

Teachers: Jamie Forch, Roger Tinkham

1941: Ardis Randel Vukas

1943: Virginia Reynolds Bolle

1944: John Sines

1945: Phyllis Rutt Grine

1946: Stuart Teter

1947: Shirlee Farber Calahan

1948: Willard Messinger

1949: Clara Lebsack Adams, Dorothy Friehe Henton, Muriel Olson Miller

1950: Gene Pryor, Dean Roedel

1951: Bob French, Dwight Gallatin, Marian Meininger Walters

1952: Dick Belknap, Bill Jussel, Lulu Hidy Petersen, Janice Koetter O'Grady

1953: Robert Maag, Anita Plourd Denzer

1954: Darrell Benjamin, Opal Cross Huntley, Herb McNutt, Willard Roedel

1955: Audrey Doyle McChesney, Dick Nelson

1956: Frederick Hummer, Wayne Schow

1957: William Bauer,

Marvin Burham, Sharon Hollars Crowe, Arlene Pick Lasnesi, Marian Schuler Lieske

1959: Gary Bloomgren, Yvonne Rice Tickles, Gayle Goolsby Wegener, Gregg Wood

1962: Joseph Burns, Bob Stuver

1963: Leanne Garver James

1964: Sharon Cox Gruhn, Stanley Hoyt

1965: Lynda Martin Springer

1966: Russ Moorhous, Lee Wilhelm

1968: Bill Lytle

1969: James Trail

1971: John Ball, Christy Lebsack Terwey

1972: Kim Wiemers

1973: Cathy Giespert Bell, Carolyn Smith Shadley

1974: Mike Shields

1976: Deb Maris Petty

1978: Cynthia Orman Wickizer, Lenny Shepherd

1979: Danette Donohue Baxter

1981: Reba Seybold Solko, Garry Unger

1986: Jim Hackney

1988: Timothy Matson

1993: Callie Noe Conley

1998: Danny Kinkade

2003: Amber Baker Hernandez

2009: Daniel Scott

# Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who contributed their time, money, pictures or articles to the BAN:

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Josiah Hegwood ('17)  
Steve Butler ('73)  
Steve Butler  
Lois Cain ('44)  
Blanche Williams Stoller ('54) in memory of Cynthia Orman Wickizer ('78)  
Donna Holloway Bull ('44)  
Dick Kraft ('57) in honor of and in memory of 1957 classmates  
Kathie Southard Harmon ('62) in loving memory of

Bob Stuver ('62)  
Daniel Meister ('79)  
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Peggy Appleyard ('52) in memory of Dick Belknap

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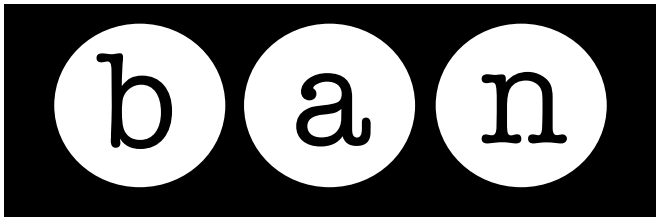
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