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#### bison alumni newsletter

fall 2022 vol. 59

# Heritage Days 2022 Remembering the 80's







Top left are the parade's honor family Bryant ('71) and Peggy Harr ('76) Brooks. Left two pictures are Heritage Days Royalty 2022. Below, past rolyaty alumni also made an appearance.



Top is MHS marching band. Below is the US Flag starting off the parade

Cover photography provided by Tami Pochop with Freeze Frame Fotos



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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.bisonalumni.com

Did you know you can donate to the Bison Alumni Newsletter online? It's easy. Go to: https://www.nebcommfound.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: 1. Donation for class mailing/e-mailing costs (please specify which class and if it is in memory or honor of someone). 2. Donation for general Bison Alumni Newsletter expenses. Type in your contact information, then you can enter your credit or debit card numbers. Voila! Donation made! (And you saved yourself a stamp!)

Have you moved, changed phone numbers, or have a different email 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 Tori at mccookbisonalumni@gmail.com or write to Bison Alumni Newsletter, P.O. Box 665, McCook, NE 69001

Have you registered on www.bisonalumni.com yet? If not, please do so today! It's like an online reunion. We currently have more than 2,000 alumni registered at this site.

Connect with us on Facebook! Search Bison Alumni Newsletter-McCook NE High School Alumni.

#### **BAN Executive Committee:**

Scott Bieker (\*88) Bob Ihrig (\*69) Diane Wilson Lyons (\*76) Peggy Ruppert Messinger (\*80) Terra Ellerton Michaelis (\*94) Jessica Grafel Vrbas (\*97) Pat Westkamp (\*88) **RAN editor:** Tori Tietz Hegyro. sbieker@gmail.com rmihrig@aol.com pdlyons@gpcom.net peggymessinger@swnebr.net brianterra@msn.com

**BAN editor:** Tori Tietz Hegwood ('16)mccookbisonalumni@gmail. com

New BAN Editor

Hello! My name is Tori Tietz Hegwood, and I am so excited to take over as the Bison Alumni Newsletter editor.

I've been working as a copywriter and copyeditor for the last two years, after my graduation from Capella University with a Master's Degree of Educational Psychology. I feel so lucky to be able to turn my passion and love for writing into a career. And working on a freelance basis allows me to spend more time at home with our son.

When Kerri first contacted me about this position, it seemed like it would fit right in to my skillset. I've lived in McCook my whole life, graduating from MHS in 2016 and MCC in 2017. My ties to the community have always been strong.

You may have seen my husband featured in the Fall 2021 issue of the BAN for his real estate around McCook. His job was one of the reasons that we decided to move back to McCook last year, but the other big reason was because we welcomed our son, Theo, in May 2021. Both of our families live in McCook, and we were excited to raise our son closer to family.

Being back home in McCook has been such a great experience. Though there were many things that we enjoyed about Lincoln in the three years that we lived there, the community and relationships that we have here were wonderful to return to.

I know my writing style will look a little different than Kerri's, just like hers looked a little different than Randy's. But I'm excited to help guide the BAN into it's next era. There is truly no place like McCook.

I'm always open to suggestions, stories ideas, or just a quick introduction. You can reach me at mccookbisonalumni@gmail. com.

Thanks to everyone who has helped me settle into this role over the last 6 months. I think there are great things to come!

-Tori





#### Class of 1982 Reunion

Shown first row, from left, Nancy Jacobsen Broadfoot, Brenda Anderson Hayes, Kelly "Head" Powell, Jodi Pierson Bennett, Michelle Macfee Pearson. Second row, JP Wallace, Kathy Lorentz Custer, Christina Eckhardt Banister, Nancy Trail Nelson, Lisa Winston Felker, Laura Stevens Ohlson, Barb Kelley Czarnick, Shannon Evans Woitaszewski, Joanie Johnson Eastman. Third row, Brett Lauer, Steve O'Dea, Roger Henthorn, Pat Weigel, Paul Paz, Roseanne Palic Bauchert, Doris Carmichael Eisenhart, Brenda Eckhardt Anderjeska, Cheryl Cappel Blackwell, Donna Koetter Friehe, Victor Purvis, Sara Weimers Rippen, Tim Vap. Back, Todd Foster, Scott Ackerman, Jay Hancock, Casey O'Donnell, Dave Taylor, Pat Howell, Brian Moreau, Brad Flaska, Jeff Blank. Attended but not pictured: Matt Sehnert, Michelle Mason Johnson, Kent Johnson, Cindy Chitwood Pohl, Charlayne Corder Brawdy, Marc Harpham, Sarah Polly Hoehner, Chris Hoehner, Bill McDonald, Sonyha Krizek Einspahr.



#### Class of 1952 Reunion

The Class of 1952 had its 70th Reunion on October 7th at the Heritage Senior Center. Several classmates and their spouses were in attendence. Shown first row are Peggy Appleyard, Freda Shreffler Clapp, Alice Hiatt Harpst and Barbara Cotton Wood. Back, Margaret Bible Moore, Kay Cashen Flaska, Don Roberts, Dan McCormick, Yvonne Ruppert West, Henry Koch, and Don McMaims.



Walter ('81) and Rachel ('80) Thompson Hampton, owners

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# **BISON TENNIS**

A HISTORIC SEASON LED BY ALUMNI

#### By Terra Ellerton Michaelis ('94)

Bison Boys Tennis team grabbed the first Boys Class B State Title for McCook High School on October 14th at the Woods Tennis Center in Lincoln.

Leading up to the state tournament the Bison boys earned the #3 seed at 1 singles, #8 seed at #2 singles, #4 seed at 1 doubles and #1 seed at 2 doubles. This put them in a great position to make some noise at the tournament. We knew it would be a battle between us, Elkhorn North and Lexington, as all three teams were deep and had battled with us in earlier meetings.

The first day of the tournament saw three of the Bison state entries receiving firstround byes. Our #2 singles player Kaiden **Porter**, (son of Stacey Gonzales Porter '95) played his first match versus Omaha Brownell/Talbot/ Concordia, winning 6-0, 6-1.

After that first match it was a constant flurry of matches with our teams playing in multiple places at the



This group travelled to a sectional qualifier this past summer in Omaha. One team qualified for the World Team Tennis Championship in Florida.

(b)(a)(n)

same time. To let the others know they were cheering all on, an occasional "Go Bison" yelled during the matches would be repeated by the others!

Porter had a close 2nd round match, defeating Lincoln Christian 7-5, 5-7, 13-11; #1 singles Nathaniel Miller defeated Beatrice 6-0, 6-1; #1 Doubles team of Evan Humphrey and Lincoln Michaelis (son of Brian Michaelis '94 and Terra Ellerton Michaelis '94) defeated Elkhorn 6-3, 6-2; the #2 doubles team of Joel Miller and Payton Dellevoet (son of Jodi Young Dellevoet '95) defeated Nebraska City 6-1, 6-1.

**Porter** had a tough 3rd round match, losing to Elkhorn North 1-6, 0-6 moving him to the consolation rounds on Friday. **N. Miller** defeated Lexington 4-6, 6-3, 10-6 to move to the semifinal round on Friday. **Humphrey** and **Michaelis** defeated Lexington 6-3, 6-0 to also move to the semifinal round Friday, and J **Miller** and **Dellevoet** beat

Kearney Catholic 6-2, 6-1, putting them in the semifinal round. With three of our four entries in the semi-finals we led the team standings by 2 points over Elkhorn North and 4 points over GICC after the first day

of matches.

The second day of the tournament started with



The team prepared over the summer for the fall season.

**Porter** losing in the consolation round to Mount Michael 4-8, which moved him to the 7th place game. He lost to Crete in that match 4-8, earning him a solid 8th place, which was where the team needed him to be.

Next up was a pivotal match in the #1 doubles spot where **Humphrey** and **Michaelis** faced a highlyfavored Elkhorn North team, who had beat them easily twice before state. The Bison team came out on fire and downed Elkhorn North 6-3, 6-0, putting them in the finals!

Meanwhile, anotherB State Champions! Coatimportant match was takingMatt Wiemers ('87), andplace at #1 singles where NGreg Larson, along withMiller faced GICC. N Millerunteer coaches Chad Gradoutlasted GICC 3-6, 6-3, 7-5('85) and Karlie Duelandin a marathon match that put('14) were asked to handN Miller in the finals.out the gold medals to th

The #2 doubles team with **J Miller** and **Dellevoet** had a key match playing Elkhorn North and handled them easily, 6-1, 6-3.

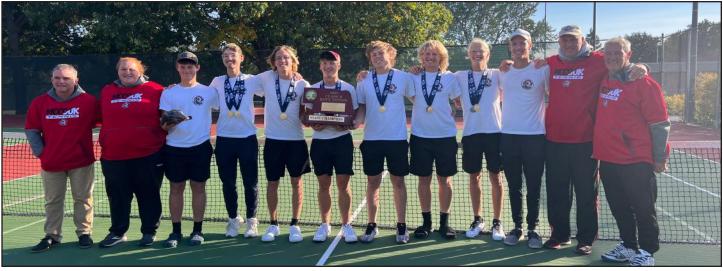
We ended the morning session with all three of our teams in the finals! Many fans from McCook and across the state were starting to feel the excitement. We clearly had a great shot to take it all.

The final matches were all excellent. **N Miller** at #1 singles took runner-up at state losing to a tough Crete opponent 6-2, 6-2. The Bison doubles teams brought all they had to the finals matches. **#1 doubles** defeated Mount Michael 6-1, 6-3 to take home gold. **#2 doubles** defeated Lexington 6-4, 6-4 to earn their gold.

The players will tell you that earning the individual medals was sweet, but the sweetest moment of all was when the McCook Bison were announced as the Class B State Champions! Coaches Matt Wiemers ('87), and Greg Larson, along with volunteer coaches Chad Graff ('85) and Karlie Dueland ('14) were asked to hand out the gold medals to their team. It was an unforgettable experience for all.

Coach Wiemers discussed afterwards how it was extra special to have alumni and former players help lead this team to a histroic achievement. Karlie Dueland ('14) played on the Girls Tennis Team throughout high school and has been volunteering with the boys team

s Championship in Florida.



Coach Chad Graff ('85), Coach Karlie Dueland ('14), Reid Loop, Lincoln Michaelis, Joel Miller, Payton Dellevoet, Evan Humphrey, Kaiden Porter, Nathaniel Miller, Jonny Frank, Coach Matt Wiemers ('87), Coach Greg Larson

for a number of years. She will be moving into an assistant coach with the girls team this spring. Chad Graff ('85), who played tennis with Coach Wiemers in high school, moved back to McCook two years ago and began volunteering with the Bison team.

The team standings ended up McCook 50 points, Elkhorn North 35.75, GICC, Crete, Lexington. The Bison tennis team showed incredible fight this year with many successes. Coach Wiemers reached his 200th boys dual win during this year. 5 of the 6 varsity players, N Miller, J Miller, Humphrey, Michaelis and Dellevoet reached 100 wins and the FIRST ever boys tennis Class B team title was won. All of the state participants were honored with All-State honors. N Miller, Humphrey and Michaelis were named to 1st Team, J Miller and Dellevoet were named to 2nd Team and Porter was Honorable Mention.

McCook is proud of the character, heart and determination their Bison boys showed during the entire season and especially at the state tournament. All of the players have made many friends with other teams, esMany friends and family travelled to support the team.



pecially ones from the west.

One example came when a player from the Scottsbluff team asked if he could hold Michaelis's grandma's sign that read "Go Bison" during the 1 doubles match against Elkhorn North. The 2 doubles team played their friends from Lexington in the final and it was a fun, loud match as both teams were cheering their team on. The singles players had great experiences with their opponents also, enjoying the fun of the game.

The team will lose three seniors in J Miller, Humphrey and Dellevoet, but there will be new players ready to take on a varsity role next year!

(b)a)n





# What do you like most about Heritage Days, past or present?

"I like gathering in the park for events, listening to local music, shopping at vendor booths, grabbing lunch at the food trucks. Visiting with other McCookites all around town is the best part." -Dixie Kiel Martin ('71)

"I remember when the vendor booths used to be a big deal, now it's few and fewer. However, I still enjoy walking what booths are there, the parade, live music, and the food trucks." -Jessica Murray Wilson ('01)

"Seeing the classes that came back during Heritage Days for their class reunion. Love watching them in the parade."- Diane Wilson Lyons ('76)

"I liked when they were German Heritage Days, after the Germans who settled in our area. Loved the food." -Patt Graff-Price ('64) "Our firefighters use to have a competition shooting a barrel across a rope in the air with hoses of water. I don't remember what it was called but bring it back to honor these heroes and let them show their skills."-Dotti Park ('66)

"Back in the late 1970's, those German dancers with the slapping routine! Loved it! Bring them back!" -Lisa Schaaf ('80)

"Years ago (many years) when we were kids, they used to have a dance in the auditorium."-Natalie Phinney Rickel ('80)

"Street dance." -Jennifer Lukich ('89)

"Definitely the parade. I used to enjoy shopping in the park the most." " -Amber Sydow Hopkins ('11) "The parade!"-Rebecca McKillip Drullinger ('09)

"Helping my Cub / Boy Scouts in the parade when I wasn't working. Including the year we lashed together a signal tower in the parade duty generally because it was fun and gave me a break from Criminal Investigation."-Bill Hoyt ('74)











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Adam Siegfried ('03)

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### Class Reunion -Parade Float Winner



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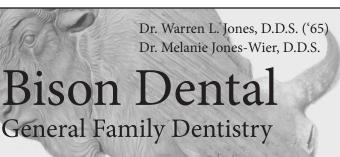
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Class of 1992 Heritage Days float

Class of 2002 Hearitage Days float



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# Alum seeks to help hometown with housing shortage

Housing is an issue in almost every community and McCook is no exception.

So the McCook Economic Development Corp. is taking a proactive step to address the issue with the addition of a Housing Development Director.

Amanda Engell (formerly Slattery) stepped into the newly-formed role last month, joining the team at the MEDC.

Engell graduated from McCook High School in 2015 and from the University of Nebraska at Kearney in 2019 with a degree in interior design and construction management. She also interned with Wilkins ADP (Architecture Design Planning), working on kitchen and bath designs. Her husband, Will, is a sales manager at Wagner Chevrolet Buick and they got married three days before Engell started her new job.

Since starting as the housing development director, Engell has immersed herself in current MEDC and statewide programs, with the plan to make those resources available throughout the community. She also plans to dive deeper into the current housing market, including those houses not in use or those residences which need upkeep.

As Engell learns the ropes of her new job, she continually hears about the role of housing in nearly every issue affecting the community. "There is not a lot of incentive to move a business to our community if there isn't housing for the workers," Engell said.

In regards to the current state of housing in McCook, Engell said there has not been a lot of housing development in recent years.

"The current stock is older, needs rehabbed or needs to be torn down," she said. "One idea is to find funding to deal with vacant or dilapidated houses."

And the rental market is not a lot better, with the common response to finding a rental being "good luck," she said. "But housing shouldn't be left up to luck."

She added, "We need to educate landowners on being landlords and develop additional rental properties."

As for the future of the housing situation, the MEDC already has sev-



eral goals on the agenda and that is where Engell will play a vital role: to move those projects forward, including finding a developer to build a new apartment complex or duplexes.

She will also spend her time making connections with potential builders, getting the word out about resources available for new or upgraded housing. And down the road, the position may also involve property management but the priority is to develop more housing to address the community's needs.

And Engell has a good understanding of construction jobs and working with contractors on projects, according to MEDC Director Charlie McPherson.

"We are excited to have her on our team and Amanda understands the importance and scope of the work ahead with our housing needs," McPherson said. "She will be the person in direct contact with any developers in the area who have an interest in building housing and connecting them with resources, both local and statewide, as well as possible use of TIF financing and LB840 funds."

And there is a dire need for housing.

According to a recent community housing study, McCook is 200 residences short of what is needed, McPherson said. "This affects the workforce, talent recruitment, even families returning to the area," he said. "Anyone looking to come here is looking for a house."

Engell admits that she doesn't have much experience in housing or this line of work.

"But I've got great mentors and an EDC board ready and willing to help me," she said. "And I'm excited to be

back in the community and working with people to make things happen here."

She is also excited to get involved in the community and make a difference.

"In order to keep Mc-Cook thriving, people my age need to step up and take on these challenges, working side-by-side with those who have been doing the work," she said. "And then at some point, those people can sit back and enjoy the fruits of their labor in a great community."



Sixty-five years of friendships and memories were enhanced at class of 1957 mini reunion

held on October 7 th. After a lunch at Tequillas restaurant, class members and guests moved to the High Plains Museum for an afternoon of reminiscing and fun. Door prizes were

donated by Carolyn Bird and Jerda Garey Vickers. Ierda served as the master of

ceremonies for the day. Kay Jankovits and Lillian Kehler proceeded with the gifting.

Museum board president Carol Schlegel welcomed the group and shared visions for the future at the museum.



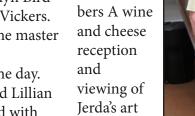
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Grateful for the past, preparing for the future.



**1957 Class Reunion** 

Museum curator Connie

Brown provided history

of the museum and Mc-

of the development

Cook. The memorial

service was

conducted

by Andrea

Bower and

Karen Lacey

honoring the

75 deceased

class mem-

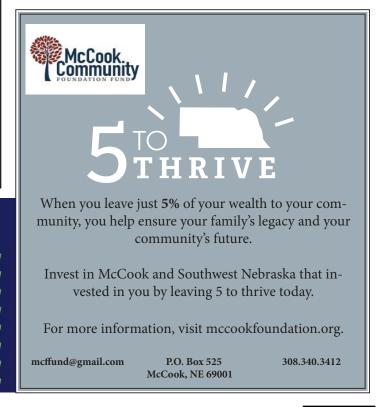
exhibit followed and the class of

they utilized the event to

reunion activities. A donation of \$100.00 was made to the Bison Newsletter.



61 joined as Front row: Stan Wells, Jerda Garey Vickers, Larry Rich Second: Cleve Trimble, Ron Andrejeski, Richard Kraft Third: Beverly Rhea, John Hanson, Kay Jankovits Fourth: Karen Lacey, Lillian Kehler, Alta Leibrandt, Andrea Bower Top row: kick off their Janet Panzer, Otto Weigel, Larry Hoyt



# **Big News: The Bison Alumni Newsletter is Going Digital!**

The year 2022 is here. And with it are coming big changes to the Bison Alumni Newsletter.

As we all know, the price of everything is climbing by the day.

The cost of continuing to print the newsletter has not been exempt. While this cost has been passed off to the classes, it's become more and more difficult for some classes to keep up with the cost increases.

For the last few years, the board has evaluated what the future of the BAN is. Was it sustainable to continue to print and mail issues twice a year? How can the BAN stay accessible to as many

alumni as possible while still remaining costefficient?

The board consulted the data we have available. They looked at how many classes had already switched over to emailonly newsletters. They evaluated the number of emails on our list and how many alumni only had mailing addresses.

Ultimately, as the board mulled over these questions and numbers, a vote was taken to decide the future of the BAN. With the vote, the decision was made to switch to digital-only newsletters.

Beginning with the Spring 2023 issue there will be 4 easy ways to access the BAN.

1. Add your email to our list by joining bisonalumni.com 2. Send your email address to your class representative. 3. Email mccookbisonalumni@ gmail.com with your email address. 4. View the BAN directly on bisonalumni.com

We know that not every classmate is on the website, and we want to make it as easy as possible to join. So, outlined on the next page are some of the key features and buttons on the web-

Some class representatives have also discussed providing paper copies that they print and distribute themselves to their classmates. You may want to check in with your class representative to see if this is an option for you.

The board wants every alumni to know that this decision was not taken lightly and that they value each and every one of you that reads, enjoys, and contributes to the BAN twice a year.

Tori, the new BAN editor, is more than happy to help with any questions or problems that you have. You can reach her

Open to all ages **2ND ANNUAL** and all countries! **RED WILLOW COUNTY** At least one of your birding locations must be at the Red Willow State Recreation Area. January I - December 31 WILLOW Go to VisitMcCook.com for COUNTY RED BIRDING CHALLENGE application, details McCOOK

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This is a great

place to start. It

has lots of helpful

at mccookbisonalumni@ gmail.com or 308-340-7354. You can also reach out to Diane Lyons at 345-

We are so excited to see where the Bison Alumni Newsletter will go and

what it will become in the coming years. Like with everything, change is inevitable. But we believe

that great things are on the horizon.

Go Bison!

### bisonalumni.com How to sign up for the first time

1. Go to bisonalumni.com and click "Join Here"

Hover your mouse

issues of the BAN

here is see the various

2. Find your profile by searching your name or clicking your class year

	Classmate Profiles				an
Sign In		ion. <u>Guest Members</u> are list 1945 1946 1947 1943	ted below. 1971 1972 1973 1974	1997 1998 1999 2000	
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	1933 1934 1935	1959 1960 1961	1985 1986 1987	2011 2012 2013	1.

3. Click "Join Here" and you will be prompted to provide information, such as your email nd mailing address.

#### JOIN HERE!

If you are Josiah, please click here now to create your login! Participation in this site is free. There are no fees of any kind.

### **Once you've created your account, here are** some of the key buttons.

Click here to view obituaries and in memory posts for classmates. You can view the latest or search a specific classmates.

If you know a classmate that should be

Need some help? Have a question?

Please send us an email!

mccookbisonalumni@gmail.com



the classmate.

# **BAN Welcomes Board Member**

Over the summer, Pat Weskcamp from the class of 1988 joined the Bison Alumni Newsletter Board. We were so excited to welcome him aboard!

In case you've never had the pleasure of meeting Pat, he answered a few question to help everyone get to know him better.

#### Q: What is your favorite memory from your days at McCook High School?

A: One of my favorite memories from MHS is art class where I could let my creativity flow. I was not that good, but I remember enjoying art class. My other favorite memory is cruising Norris and B Streets with friends on the weekends.

#### Q: What have you been up to since then?

A: After leaving MHS in 1988 I graduated from **McCook Community** College with an Associ-

ate of Arts and **Bellevue University with** a Bachelor of Science in Management of Human **Resources. I currently** take care of my dad, and I am also the rental coordinator for Norris Alley in beautiful downtown McCook. This is the abridged version of my life since MHS, but I will keep this short, so I don't bore everyone.

#### Q: What do you enjoy most about BAN?

A: I enjoy BAN to read what my former classmates are currently and have been doing since high school. The newsletter is a great way to stay connected with people that I may have lost touch with.

#### Q: What made you want to join the BAN board?

A: Being involved in my community is very important to me and especially McCook where I



grew up, so BAN is close to my heart, and I want to help ensure it continues.

Thanks so much to Pat for sharing!

The Bison Alumni Board is still looking to add a few more board members to the team.

Board meetings are held about twice a year over Zoom. So, you don't need to live in McCook to join the board. You simply need to enjoy the Bison Alumni Newsletter and want to give a few hours

of your time to keep it functioning well.

The Bison Alumni Newsletter means something different to each of us. The board helps guide the BAN so that it continues to keep all alumni connected to McCook.

If you want to be considered for joining the board, please email Tori at mccookbisonalumni@gmail. com.

### We are always looking for

#### new article ideas

Do know an alumni doing something incredible or have a story that you want featured?

Or do you have information about an upcoming reunion or photos from a recent class reunion to share?

Send us an email at mccookbisonalumni@gmail.com

Bison Alumni '72, '73, '74, '04 & '07 Randy Bauer ('73) Broker

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# A Family's Poppin' Dream Come True

Have you driven down Norris Avenue with your windows down lately and thought, 'What is that wonderful smell?' I know I have! And it's thanks to Joel and Taryn Placzek Arterburn

Joel and Taryn Arterburn started out as your quintessential high school sweethearts. Joel was a year older than Taryn graduating in 2006 while she graduated in 2007. Both stuck around McCook, attending MPCC, and playing basketball and softball respectively. Eventually, life took them to Kearney and then Omaha to finish their degrees.

In 2010, they got married and were starting to get settled into their careers. Post graduation, they were living in Wahoo and each commuted in a different direction for work. kids exper uniquely 1 that they of Now...v popcorn?! dream of 1 a popcorn

In 2012, the pieces seemed to fall in place for the Arterburns to move back home to McCook. A teaching job came open for Joel and a position in physical therapy came open for Taryn. Joel moved to a few different teaching positions throughout McCook Public School and now fills the role of high school counselor. Taryn recently celebrated 11 years with Southwest Nebraska Physical Therapy and is still loving her job.

They eventually had their three children, Bently, Harper, and Drake, and have loved being able to raise them in their hometown. Joel mentioned how special it is to be able to go to places around town that were special to the two of them growing up and share those memories with their kids. Both parents are excited to be able to continue to watch their kids experience all of the uniquely 'McCook' things that they did.

Now...what about the popcorn?!

Well, it was always a dream of Taryn's to open a popcorn store. She was always passively looking for a space in McCook that would work to make this dream come true, but the right fit didn't come along. That is until the Arterburns heard about a space that was becoming available on Norris Avenue.

The right place, the perfect timing, and plenty of help from three smaller sets of hands turned this dream into a reality. Poppin' on the Bricks opened to the public in February 2022.

Poppin' on the Bricks is now open and offers both gourmet and basic flavors of popcorn in a size to fit everyone's needs. Their available flavors rotate often, so there's always something new to try! Happy munchin'!



Joel and Taryn in their new storefront alongside their children, Bentley, Harper, and Drake

Poppin' on the Bricks in downtown McCook



# Second chance with first love pure bliss

The year was 1976. VHS tapes were first introduced in Japan, and the following year in the U.S. The Apple Computer Company was founded, and Jimmy Carter won the election to became the 39th U.S. president. It was also the year that Rose Weskamp ('78) and Terry Pinkal ('76) started dating.

"He was a senior and I was a sophomore," she said. "We had so much fun while we dated. We attended every dance, Color Day, Homecoming and Prom together."

The two had a typical high school romance. Their first date was bowling and eating pizza at Pizza Hut.

As they grew closer, Terry, who worked construction at the time (and still does) would write "Terry loves Rose" on the beams of houses on which he worked. They passed love notes to each other in the hallways. Rose documented their relationship in a Hallmark date book she bought at Farrell's Pharmacy.

The two parted ways in the Hinky Dinky parking lot. When Rose got out of the car, Terry recalls telling her "We're going to be together again some day."

They both dated other people, married, and had kids: Rose has a daughter, Deanna. Terry's daughters are Tiffanie and Kellanie. Rose moved to California. Terry lived in McCook, Arizona and Colorado before eventually moving back to his hometown. They later divorced their spouses.

They didn't have much contact over the years, but did see each other as friends on a quick stop when Terry and his family were riding motorcycles near where Rose lived.

When Terry happened to be driving by Rose's mom's house while she was moving her to Brookdale, he offered to help. Later, when Rose moved her mom, who had dementia, into her home, she asked

Terry for advice on how to make her bathroom safe for her mom. They would talk for hours on the phone while Rose scrolled through the Home Depot website.

They became good friends who talked often. During the COVID lockdown when Rose was in a funk and didn't return Terry's calls for awhile, he drove cross-country and surprised her. He invited her to come back to Mc-Cook and hunker down. She accepted his invitation.

A memorable stop at a mini mart in Laramie, Wyo., cemented in Rose's mind that Terry was

#### **Community Housing Study**

The 2022 Survey was necessary to plan our next steps forward to address the current and changing housing needs in our community. The information gathered will also help identify and attract developers to invest in housing needs. It also was a requirement for many state and federal grant aids to assist in funding new developments. The 2022 Community Housing Study is funded by McCook Economic Development Coorporation with assistance from LB840 funds and a NIFA Housing Study Grant

For more information, contact Charlie McPherson charlie@mccookne.org or 308-345-1200

MCCOOK ECONOMIC

ELOPMENT CORPORATION

Why do a housing study?

Created: Clary Village (16 units) Quillan Courts (16 units)

housing study

housing study

Helps Us: Identify Current Needs Attract Developers Fulfill Grant Requirements more than a friend.

He had shown up for her when she needed him over the past few years. With her daughter going off to college, she realized that she could make herself and what makes her happy more of a priority in her life.

"The mini mart clerk had a ukulele, and I asked him to serenade us," Rose said. "The only song he knew was 'You've Got a Friend in Me' from Toy story. Hearing the lyrics, I felt like God grabbed me, took my blinders off, and said, 'I've been putting this amazing man in your life for a couple of years now. It's time to start focusing on yourself.' I saw Terry in a different light."

During that trip, they made their relationship official. They even bought each other replica rings of the ones they had given each other in high school. Rose said the best part of the early part of their relationship is that they could bypass the awkward stage.

"Second chances with

first loves is pure bliss," Rose said. "We both had beautiful families and love our kids. I wouldn't change anything. But man, it is so stinking good the second time around."

Today they are engaged and live in McCook. They are enjoying this new season of life where they have time for themselves, each other and their families (they now have seven grandchildren together). Together they are remodeling and flipping homes. They bought land north of the hospital on which to build their dream home.

They don't have a wedding date set, but Rose did get the mini mart clerk's phone number in hopes he will play at their union the song that brought them together again.



### Second time around....42 years later



#### Attend MCC with a little help from Mc-Cook College Foundation!



Scholarship deadline is March 1.

For more information, call 308.345.5233.

www.mccookcollegefoundation.



# 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 20.

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

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

1949:

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

1951: Janice Eisenbarth Waddell, janicewaddell@outlook. com and djmoskal34@gmail.com

1952: Our sympathies to the families of classmates who have passed away. -Peggy Appleyard, 1006 E. 4th St., 345-6486

1953: -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: 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. -Jerda Thompson Vickers - jvickers@ mccooknet.com

1958: -Kent Kotschwar@gmail. com and LeAnna Leibrandt, email llleibrandt@comcast.net

1959: Thank you to all that responded to my email regarding if you would receive BAN via email or not. I really appreciate your promptness. Thank you also to the following classmates for their donation: Marianne Colling, Honey Lou McDonald Bonar (in memory of Roger Buffington), and Don Taylor.

Please remember to send any home address, email additions or changes to me.

I hope everyone had a nice, enjoyable summer and may you have a blessed Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas!

Janet Eckhardt Rich, 1301 West 1st St., McCook, NE 69001; jrlr@centurylink.net; 308-345-2703.

1961: 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: Save the weekend of Heritage Days in 2023 for our 60th reunion. -Lorraine Rose, 719-339-2803, Lorrainegolds@ me.com; Peg Decker Bell, 970-522-3008, bellpeg44@gmail. com; and Dick Cappel, 308-350-0363, dick@cappelsales. com

1964: Please send your donations for the newsletter to: Class of 1964, c/o Gloria Shepherd Mefford, 202 Seminole Dr, Mc-Cook, gloriamefford@icloud. com, 308-737-7787; or Cheri Beckenhauer, 204 Longwood Dr, Papillion, NE 68133, cheri. beckenhauer@gmail.com, 308-340-0421.

1965: -We recently lost our classmate Ernie Weyeneth. Ernie made many things happen for McCook by donating funds to many major projects. Several people have contacted us about doing a memorial for Ernie. We are planning on placing a bench in Norris park in honor of Ernie in front of the bandshell. We would have a plaque on the bench ""In Honor of Ernie Weyeneth and the Class of 1965". If you would like to contribute to the bench ,please send a check to " Class of 1965 Memorial Fund " to PO Box 704, McCook, Nebraska 69001. Steve Batty, sbatty@mccooknet.com, 345-4021

Linda Taylor, ltaylorvk@gmail. com 345-3682

1966: -Linda Sines Clark, lindaclark0606@gmail.com, 707-695-9170

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: We are already planning

our 55th reunion so stay in touch through contacting me. -Diana Newton Butler, 402-699-4029, dianabutler52@yahoo. com

1971: 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 sclapp@gpcom.net or to Kathy Wallen at dankatw@gmail.

1972: -Anne Unger Confer, 1111 Norris Ave., 340-5924, 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

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 mccookbisonalumni.com -Dari Tucker Olson, 705 W. 5th St., 340-3595, dariolson@gmail.com

1976: Condolences to the families of our classmates that we've lost since the last newsletter: John Coyle Jr., Cheryl Gillen, and Jim Petsch. They are missed! Starting this issue, we are sending out the newsletter only via email. Contact me or register at bisonalumni.com if yours changes. -Diane Wilson Lyons, 1007 E. 1st St., 345-2189, pdlyons@gpcom.net

1977: -Scott Schneider, 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; -Mara Lee Weskamp-Ebert, 707-363-2432

1979: -Robin Frick Calvin, 807 W. 13th St., 340-2401, craftwhiz@swnebr.net

1980: -Peggy Ruppert Messinger, 308-737-7767, peggymessinger@swnebr.net

1981: -Kellie Soden, 303-589-3459, RKASODEN@msn.com.

1982: 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

1983: -Janice Howell, pcshowell@gmail.com

1984: Needs a new class rep. Donations can be sent to Dawn Hess Foster, 305 Apache Dr., 340-0135, dawnfostrr1965@ gmail.com

1985: -Annette Kool Wagner, 345-3852, acwagner2@gmail. com

1986: -Michelle Hubert Doorn, 28328 463rd Ave., Davis, SD 57021-6127, michelle.doorn@ k12.sd.us

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

1988: -Pat Weskamp, pweskamp@outlook.com

1989: -Chanin Monestero, cd\_monestero@hotmail.com

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

1991: -Michelle Henrickson, s-mhenrickson@hotmail.com

1992: -Jason Loop, 18 Wedgewood Dr., 345-1977, jloop@ ocsmccook.com, -Trevor Taylor, 308-340-0131

1993: -Joann Pick Barenberg, 901 W R St., 345-8703, jbarenberg@mnb.bank

1994: -Stephanie Hays Stevens, 1606 W 2nd St., 345-5688, voiceonhold2@gmail.com

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

1996: -Anne McCarville, 40110 Prairie View Dr., Cambridge, NE 69022, amac513@hotmail. com

1997: Connect with us on Facebook: "McCook High School Class of 1997." -Lisa Beckenhauer Pomajzl, 1650 Karol Kay Blvd., Seward, NE 68434, 402-826-7050, bepuzzled2@yahoo.com

1998: -Brian Symington, Brian. Symington@gmail.com

1999: -Vanessa Lytle, 909 East G St., 340-3863, vlytle9969@ gmail.com

2000: -Anna Dueland Hunnicutt, mccook2000@gmail.com

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

2002: -Only sending out the newsletter to classmates who have an email address on file. Contact me or register at bisonalumni.com if yours changes - Laura Lyons Plas, lplas@esu7.org

2003: -Jill Hansen Purvis, aj\_purvis@hotmail.com

2004: -Nicole Hedke Sutton, nicole\_sutton@live.com

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

2006: Only sending out the newsletter to classmates who have an email address on file. Contact me or register at bisonalumni.com if yours changes. -Julia Lyons Krebs, julia.krebs25@gmail.com

2007: -John Swanhorst, 9 Mashie Dr., 340-1648, jswanhorst@gmail.com

2008: -Cory Gaston, 712-204-3052, cmg\_4@hotmail.com

2009: Needs a class rep. Parent rep, -Doug Skiles, dskiles@ slbwcpa.com, P.O. Box 36, Mc-Cook, NE 69001

2010: -Shane Wallen, shane\_wallen@hotmail.com

2011: -Jaci Saalfeld Weissert, saalfeldjn@gmail.com, 340-6254.

2012: Needs a class rep. Parent rep, -Sherri Stang, 345-4240, sherri@mnb1.com

2013: -Tricia Mitnik Wagner, 340-3209, pwagner@chmccook. org, Gavin Harsh, 340-7178, gharsh\_20@hotmail.com

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

2015: -Marlys Brenning, 340-8496, 424 N Church St, Elm Creek NE 68836, mebrenning@ gmail.com 2016: Needs a class rep. Parent rep, -Tom Bredvick, 345-4240, Bison2016@bredvick.com

2017: Lexi Gross, lgross69001@ icloud.com

2018: Adelina Wilcox, adelinawilcox@gmail.com

2019: Needs a class rep.

2020: Lydia Risenhoover, lydiarisenhoover75@gmail.com, 340-7433

2021: Needs a class rep.

2022: Needs a class rep.

### NOTES FROM ALUMNI

I currently live in Colorado. I hope everything is going well. Thank you and all individuals involved for all of your hard work with the Bison newsletter. Sincerely, Janice (Colling) Corcoran ('86)



# Flammang Values Growing Up in McCook

Growing up in Mc-Cook prepared Kris Flammang ('92) to boldly go out into the world with curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning.

"There's no replacement for growing up in a small town. When you see the same people all the time, it's hard to not get invested in their lives" he said. "Aside from being naturally curious, I think interpersonal skills and the courage to just talk to anyone have been a big contributor to my success in life. It's harder to hide in the shadows in a small town. You must put yourself out there

more."

As a kid, Kris loved the independence of being able to ride his bike anywhere and getting home just in time for dinner. He liked the familiarity and consistency of a community where things mostly stayed the same. He admits he really misses Peter's Drive-In. "Their soft drink concoctions were insane!" he said.

In high school, he appreciated how much the community supported the Bison teams. His football team made the Class B playoffs his senior year, the first year in a long time. "I know it's almost a foregone conclusion now, but I like to think we were the start of something," he said. "I really felt like the parents and community were pulling for us and happy for our success."

Kris said his coaches and teachers in all the schools were amazing. He recalls Coach John Gumb doing backflips while holding the frame of his classroom door to celebrate his students getting math concepts. Another fond memory is from PE his senior year when he teamed up with Kim Kness for a semesterlong competition in various sports. The duo won the whole thing.

"I'll always remember the smile on her face," he said.

Kris will never forget his most embarrassing moment in school: He accidentally said "orgasm" instead of "organism" while reading aloud from a textbook in Ms. Peters' science class at Central Elementary.

"I was so scared I would get in trouble, but Ms. Peters couldn't stop laughing," he said.

Kris's favorite teacher was Mrs. Weigel, who directed the choir and show choir and pushed them to be their best.

"The variety shows she directed every year were amazing productions for a school of our size," he said. He loved her sense of humor too.

Kris moved to Southwest Florida in 1997. He was a SCUBA instructor and bartender before co-founding a financial services company called LPF Advisors, LLC in 2004. His company helps people who are within five to 10 years of retirement age or already retired who have financial assets set aside and want to delegate managing their wealth to a trusted advisor. Kris counsels them on all







tions," he said. "It's the whole six degrees of Kevin Bacon effect."

### **BISON** AROUND THE WORLD

Kris Flammang ('92) and his family live in Southwest Florida. He and his wife, Meg, are parents to triplet sons Cooper, Jackson, and Quinn, and daughter Maya. He appreciates growing up in McCook. "There's no replacement for growing up in a small town," he said.

facets of their financial situation in line with their values. He also owns rentals in Florida and Mc-Cook.

"There is a big need for affordable housing that is aesthetically pleasing in small towns," he said. "I'd love to do my part in making that more of a reality in the town I owe so much to."

Kris and his wife, Meg, have triplet 15-year-old sons, Cooper, Jackson, and Quinn, and an 11-year-old daughter, Maya. They spend a month every summer at a family home in Cambridge so their kids can experience small-town living.

As a lifelong learner and FOMO sufferer, he reads, listens to music, plays bass guitar, attends musicals and sings karaoke when he travels. He hosts a golf trip with friends back to Nebraska every sum-

"They can't believe I can connect a stranger to someone they both know within three to six ques-



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### Thanks!

Thanks to everyone who contributed their time, money, pictures or articles to the BAN: All of our advertisers Class reps Scott Bieker ('88) Wally Hampton ('81) Bill Griffin ('64) in memory of Bob Best ('65) Terry Byrd ('54) Peggy Applyard ('52) in memory of Marla Sutton Kutz ('52), Alta Shepherd Rydquist ('52), Donna Madron Malany ('52), and Willian Axelson ('52) Kris Flammang ('92) Joel ('06) and Taryn ('07) Arterburn Pat Westkamp (88) Matt Wiemers ('87) Terra Ellerton Michaelis ('94) Tami Pochop



Each class expresses sincere condolences to the families. Many of their obituaries are posted on the Bison Alumni Facebook page and on bisonalumni.com

<sup>6</sup>42 - Patty Burton Wagner, Violet Cross Blume

<sup>•</sup>43 - Mary Veldron Koetter Harmon '44 - Arthur "Art" Koetter, Ina Mae Wolfe Westbrook

'45 - Wayne Messinger, Bruce Swanson

'46 - Adolph Kalinski

'47 - Donald Hein, Robert Wallen, Georgia Clark Davis

'49 - Bernice Sulzman Hayes

'50 - Dolores Traphagan Gettman, Donald Johnson, Donna Swanson Ruppert, Stanley Spahn Spahn, Nancy Coady Wilhelm

'52 - Willam Axelson, Alta Shepherd Rydquist, Donna Madron Malany, Marla Sutton Kutz, Thomas Hassler

'53 - James "Jim" Reiners, Jon Dawson, Margaret Fassler Byrd, Anita "Ann" Plourd Denzer

'54 - Dolly Dulaney Franklin

- '55 Richard Johnson
- '57 Thomas "Tom" Trail

<sup>58</sup> - Keith Crocker, Kitty Sue Troxell Young



Bison Alumni Newsletter P.O. Box 665 McCook, NE 69001 USA '59 - Larry Rothmeyer, Robert Frossard, Yvonne Rice Tickles, Sandra Peters Lutz

'61 - Harold "Bud" Kleckner, John Wilcox

'62 - Marvin Riley, Dr. John Langfeldt

'63 - Barbara Minary Masur

'64 - Mary Hassler Derauf, Jane Madison Gray, Kenneth Mizell, Larry Tuller, Roland Wesch, Terry Loose

'65 - Dennis Wilson, Ernest Weyeneth, Heidi Molsbee Englade, Robert Best, Dennis Wilson

<sup>666</sup> - Patricia Dugger Battreall, Robert McPherson

'67 - Dennis Campbel, Richard Weiss

'68 - Anna Blume Montey, Peter "Pete" Monzon, Steve Clark

'69 - Debbie Best Brandt, Kent Strayer, Rex Backer, James Trail. Robert "Bob" Allen

"71 Stanley Brenning, Julie Miles Allen

'74 - Dallas McMichael, Thomas "Tom" Cuellar

<sup>6</sup>75 - Ken Howell, DeEtte Ahrens Wilson

'76 - Cheryl Gillen, James

"Jim" Petsch

'80 - Deb Klein Reis

'81 - Kathleen McCarville Steadman

'83 - Jeff Kehr

'84 - Daniel Marks

'87 - Tony Hedrick

'93 - Christopher Ott, Nichole "Niki" Bales, Ted Dishman

'98 - Lindsay Marr Webb

'04 - Derek Dame

ʻ12 - Courtney Steer, Jacob Cash

Teachers -

Harold Bennett, McCook Schools Superintendent

Evie Caldwell, Music teacher

Dave Dunham, teacher and football coach

Ruthann Klooz, teacher