

b a n

www.bisonalumni.com

bison alumni newsletter

spring 2024 vol. 62

A Colorful Attraction in Downtown McCook



In this issue:

Class Reunions - Pg. 3
Beautify McCook - Pg. 4
The Yard - Pg. 6
Creative District - Pg. 8

Pfanstiel NFHS Award - Pg. 10
Class Reunions - Pg. 11
Portraitist Chris Brown - Pg. 12
Class notes - Pg. 15
In Memory & Thanks - Pg. 18

Last spring's edition detailed the journey of creating the community mural in downtown McCook. Today it is totally finished and enjoyed by citizens every day.



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. It is emailed and posted to www.bisonalumni.com

Did you know you can donate to the Bison Alumni Newsletter online? It's easy.

1. 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.
2. Scroll to the bottom to select an amount provided, or type in a custom amount.
3. 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 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.

Have you moved, changed phone numbers, or changed your last name? Please update your information on the website so your classmates can find the most current information.

Do you have a new email address or can't get into your account? E-mail Tori at mccookbisonalumni@gmail.com or write to Bison Alumni Newsletter, P.O. Box 665, McCook, NE 69001

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

BAN Executive Committee:

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

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

Note from BAN Editor

Hello everyone!

I hope that this newsletter finds you well, wherever you're reading from. Each time I log onto our website and see how many different places that our alumni are, it boggles my mind a bit.

McCook is such a special place, so it's no wonder that staying connected is a priority for many, whether you graduated 5 years ago or 50.

And McCook is ever-evolving. Each season I wonder if I'll have enough stories to fill the pages, and then each issue I've ended up having to wait on a story or two until the next issue.

There are so many people committing to growing and developing McCook and its offerings. I'm excited to showcase a few of the latest developments in this newsletter.

As my boys grow older, I'm more and more grateful for these trailblazers. Though McCook is small in population, there are so many fun events and activities that we can go and do as a family.

It's truly a wonderful place to be raising kids.

I hope that you're enjoying the spring weather like we have been. That first day that I get to open up all the windows in the house may be my favorite day of the whole year!

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or story ideas, I would love to hear from you! You can email me at mccookbisonalumni@gmail.com.

Until next time,

-Tori





Class of 1963 Reunion

From left to right - Pepper Morris, Richard Wilson, Steve Hardy, Becky (Uhrich) Wright, Bob Harris, Duane Peterson, Dick Cappel, Clarence Gillen, Kent Wright, George Clough, and Jim Blumenthal



Class of 1993 Reunion

The McCook High School Class of 1993 "POPPED" into town for their 30-Year Class Reunion. They're kinda cool, kinda classy and "KINDA CORNY". Members of the class of 1993 roam this great country and are very proud of their Bison Heritage. We are grateful to be joining in this year's Heritage Day's Celebration! Bison Pride Forever! "93"



Above: Back Row L-R

Tonya Mosher French, Matt Roth, Kelsie Cappel Sather, Glenn Morgan, Lanette Kinne, Ben Woods, Brian Haverkamp

Front Row L-R

Joann Pick Barenberg, Scott Tirrill, Stacey Wieser Patterson, Marsha McKain Kesselring, Veronica Gull Anderson Kotrous, Stacy Winters, Steve Carr, Billy Howard, Mark Colling, Gregg Premier, Nate Schneider and James Stevens



BEAUTIFY MCCOOK

By **Ronda Graff ('94)**

First impressions matter.

And that is why a group of volunteers formed LightUp McCook two years ago. Their goal was to create a positive first impression for visitors as well as to have a welcoming and inviting atmosphere for residents in their own hometown. The group just wanted to make something happen.

The effort began by installing holiday lights along the rooflines of downtown Norris Avenue and the trees in Norris Park in 2022.

As the group took on more projects, the group evolved into Beautify McCook, which has blossomed into a year-round effort to improve the community aesthetically - literally and figuratively.

Once the lights were installed on the McCook skyline for the winter season, the group turned its attention to bringing color to the

downtown during the spring and summer months with blooming flower pots.

For summer 2023, Beautify McCook oversaw the installation of planters on every corner of downtown Norris Avenue to bring a spot of color and vegetation.

To maintain the plants during the hot summer months, several volunteers, including Gary Wiemers, Bruce McDowell and Steve Lenhart, took turns watering each planter every day.

When winter returned, the contents of the planters were replaced with holiday greenery.

The projects have happened through a variety of donations, from financial donations, donations of time or in-kind donations, such as 1,000s of feet of holiday lights from McCook's ACE Hardware. Funding is being overseen by the McCook Community Foundation Fund, with all donations to the projects tax-deductible.



None of these projects are big on their own, but cumulatively they will make an impact on the community. The slogan of the group is "one light, one flower, one project at a time."

And Beautify McCook continues to expand in 2024. To provide funding for flowers every summer and replacement of the holiday lights as needed, the group has formed "Friends of Norris." Businesses, individuals and organizations can be-

come "Friends of Norris" by contributing at least \$150 a year toward the project. The "Friends" will be recognized on social media and online as well as invited to a gathering in October.

Beautify McCook is also looking to expand beyond downtown McCook with a project to help homeowners make improvements who can't physically or financially do it themselves. This may be painting siding, tidying up a front yard or fixing a



Christmas Lights on Norris looking north



Christmas Lights on Norris looking south



Keystone Business Center decorated for the holidays

District, which is working to revitalize downtown McCook through various projects from upstairs housing to new lighting.

Beautify McCook is supported by Celebrate McCook, an account that was established years ago at the McCook Community Foundation Fund to “celebrate McCook.”

And that is what this group is doing.....celebrating McCook by making things happen. To learn more about Beautify McCook, follow them on Facebook or visit the MCFE website at mccookfoundation.org.

broken fence. This effort is being led by the young adults in the community who want to help those who want to Beautify McCook but just need a little help.

Other possible projects include new bike racks in the community, an outdoor sound system throughout downtown, and additional electricity to meet the needs along Norris Avenue and in Norris Park.

The ideas keep coming. The only limitations are time - volun-

teers can only get so much done, and by money - all of these projects do need funding.

The group is working closely with the newly formed McCook Creative



Above - Gary Wiemers out watering plants



Left - Bruce McDowell taking his turn to tend to the flowers

Herrmann - Jones
Funeral Chapel

A legacy of
compassionate
care and service

Michael Swanson, Funeral Director

607 NORRIS AVE.
McCook NE 69001

308.345.3000
FAX 308.345.3003

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

Bison Dental
General Family Dentistry

912 W. 12th Street, McCook
bison.dental@hotmail.com

308.345-1470
www.bisondental.com

The Yard

A NEW SELF-SERVE TAP ROOM IN MCCOOK

Tyler Loop ('01) has an entrepreneurial spirit that can't be squashed. And McCook has benefitted from it once again.

While McCook residents have enjoyed pizzas, wings, and in-house crafted beer at the Loop Brewing Company for years, Tyler saw an opportunity to expand the entertainment and beverage options in McCook.

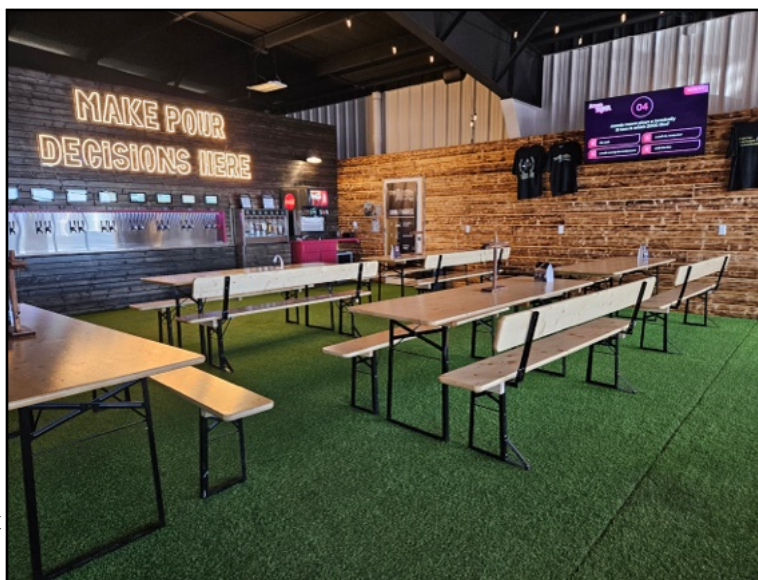
Thus, The Yard was dreamt up.

The name and vision was two-fold, drawing inspiration from both 'backyard' and 'train yard'. Tyler wanted The Yard to feel like a backyard party, where laughter echoes

and friendships blossom. It's a place for laid-back enjoyment, and it has quickly become a favorite meet-up spot for locals.

In relation to the 'train yard', the name also pays homage to the Loop Brewing Company's logo and the train watching that is a staple at the Loop.

What sets The Yard apart as a new experience in town is its diverse array of offerings tailored to cater to every taste and preference. From their signature Loop Brewing Co beers, crafted with passion and precision, to handcrafted cocktails



'Make Pour Decisions Here' where you can get any beverage using a card that tracks each ounce as it's poured. There's also rolling questions on the TV for trivia lovers and dexterity games on the table to challenge even the most skilled hand

A photo wall is available to document your night of fun, along with games like cribbage, chess, and Jenga



and refreshing seltzers on tap, there's something to delight every palate.

The seltzers are provided by another local company, The Prairie Sage Canning Co. This mobile business is run by McKenzie Schmitz ('12) and sells unique and tasty creations of every flavor and variety. Beyond the seltzers available at The Yard, McKenzie also sells homemade artisanal BBQ sauces, marinara, jam, pickles, and more.

And for the non-alcoholic connoisseurs, there is a selection of nitro cold brew coffee, root beer, and sodas that are just as tasty.

Every beverage is self-serve and paid for by the

ounce. Meaning that if you want to sample an array of beers, the possibility is right at your fingertips.

But The Yard is more than just a watering hole; it's a playground for the young at heart. Inside, you'll find an eclectic mix of backyard and bar games, from cornhole to darts to board games.

The Yard also hosts a variety of events including music bingo, yoga classes, play productions, and even more to come.

So whether you are looking to enjoy some live music, cheer on your favorite team on the TVs, or just want to sit and chat with friends, there's something for everyone to



The Yard Storefront located at 801 W C St Suite 5B in McCook

do at The Yard.

Soon, there will also be food available as they add a food truck in the parking lot. You won't have to choose between going to the Loop for pizza or The Yard for drinks. The food truck will bring it all to one place with pizza, pretzels, salad, and more being offered right outside The Yard's door.

When you head into The Yard for a drink, you're likely to see another alumni face. Alex Hopkins ('11) was recently hired as the general manager of the Yard.

Alex has worked at the Loop for 7 and a half years. So, when Tyler decided to expand and needed someone to run the day-to-day at The

The Yard Hopper will be making its debut in April in The Yard parking lot



Yard, he knew just the guy.

Alex still lives and breathes the McCook Bison Spirit as he works throughout the district every day as a full-time technology specialist.

His wife and fellow alumni, Amber Hopkins ('11), also works for the school district as a para at the elementary school. McCook is truly home for them.

The Yard is more than just a destination; it's a celebration of community, friendship, and the simple joys of life.

So, whether you're seeking a laid-back afternoon with friends or a spirited evening of revelry, head

on down to The Yard.

They can't wait to welcome you to their backyard experience.



Hopkins clocking in for a night of fun at The Yard

The Garrett House
 The Garrett House, located at 1001 Norris Ave., McCook, NE is available to rent on a short term basis for weekend getaways, reunions, showers, small parties, etc. The home features 7 bedrooms with 1 King bed, 2 Queen beds, 6 Twin beds, 3 futons, and 3 bathrooms. To book your stay at The Garrett House call Golden Plains Realty 308-345-4108 or Melanie Goodenberger at 308-345-7709.

**COLFER, WOOD, LYONS & WOOD
 LAWYERS**

Tom Colfer ('28) (1910-1999)	Dal Wood ('48) (1930-2005)	Phil Lyons ('74)
Paul M. Wood ('80)		Emily M. Wood ('11)

P.O. Box 100 I 124 West C, McCook I 308.345.5063
 FAX 308.345.2426 I cwlwlaw@gmail.com

McCook Working to Become Nebraska's Creative Hot Spot

By Ronda Graff ('94)

In October 2023, McCook became an official certified Nebraska Creative District, the 15th community in the state to receive the designation. By early 2024, more than two dozen communities were named Creative Districts across the state with the number of communities applying for the designation to reach into the 40s.

Why are so many communities vying for this designation and what does it mean to become a Creative District?

A creative district is also an economic tool, proposed by Sen. Mike Flood of Norfolk and approved by the Nebraska Unicameral. The Nebraska Creative District Program utilizes the arts as an economic driver to support communities in Nebraska by telling their stories and elevating the value of the arts.

The McCook Creative District officially encompasses downtown McCook between East First and West First Streets, from A Street by the train depot to I Street north of the McCook City Library. It

was designed to be walkable by those who live in

the community or who are just visiting.

But McCook's Creative District organizers know that the entire community will benefit from this designation. Future plans will include collaboration with the McCook Schools, McCook Community College, the YMCA, and local art organizations, groups and individuals, both inside and outside the creative district boundaries.

McCook is especially honored to receive the designation from the Nebraska Arts Council, as the late Gov. Frank Morrison of McCook established the state-wide organization while governor in the 1960s.

The McCook Creative District is "housed" under the McCook Arts Council, as a non-profit or



Art council art show for Big Give in Creative District

governmental agency had to serve as the district administrator. This is a volunteer board, which was formed 40 years ago by Floyd Hershberger and continues to serve a vital role as the coordinator and promoter of arts in McCook and Southwest Nebraska.

The board currently oversees the Creative Dis-

trict, determining what that designation looks like moving forward, but with a focus on the mission set forth in the designation.

The mission of the McCook Creative District is to cultivate a vibrant community and diverse creative economy through collaborative opportunities for artistic and cultural expression. To achieve that mission, a top priority for McCook's Creative District is to create a paid part-time art coordinator position, a long-term goal of the local art community.

"The late Cloyd Clark actually came up with the concept of an arts organizer more than 20 years ago," according to Matt Sehnert ('82), who helped lead the applica-



Deonne Hinz hosting St. Pats art day at the Art Guild

tion process for McCook's Creative District. "Yes, it has taken a while, but we are so glad to see it finally come to fruition."

Another goal specific to the McCook Creative District includes creating a "48 in 48" tourism program, where visitors disembark from the Amtrak train in McCook — 48-county — and spend two days — or 48 hours — exploring the local art offerings.

And this summer, the Creative District, along with several other local groups, are bringing "Third Thursday's" to downtown McCook, highlighting artists, businesses and organizations on the third Thursday of the month from May through October.

The creative district has also brought many local entities together for a common goal of making McCook an arts and culture destination - or to be Nebraska's Creative Hotspot. Just a few organizations involved in the Creative District include

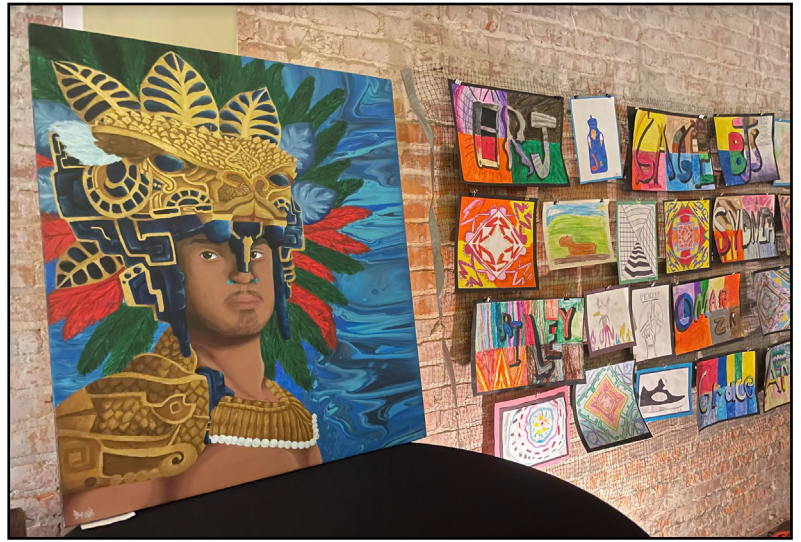
the McCook Community Foundation Fund, the McCook Economic Development Corp., the City of McCook, Community Hospital, and the McCook Chamber.

The creative district designation came with a \$10,000 Nebraska Arts Council Certification Grant. McCook has used these funds to create a Creative District website, mccookcreativedistrict.com, to highlight what McCook and Southwest Nebraska already has in place.

The website will also be home to all that we hope will happen in the near future involving arts and culture.

The designation also opens up other financial opportunities, specific to creative districts. McCook's Creative District helped spearhead the application for a Nebraska Department of Economic Development planning grant.

In March 2024, McCook



Art Council art walk for Big Give

was awarded a \$100,000 Civic and Community Center Financing Fund grant which will be used for a variety of projects, from the image and identity of McCook to revitalized downtown.


There will be a lot of changes because of the Creative District designation and the collaboration that is happening so check-in on social media

for updates and make plans for a visit to McCook, Nebraska's Creative Hotspot.

Amtrak Stop in McCook




Support your hometown of McCook with...



...and make McCook an even better place to call home.

MCFF and the McCook Philanthropy Council encourage current and former residents to consider a planned gift to their hometown. Support the community that supported you and your family by leaving five percent so your hometown can thrive.



www.mccookfoundation.org

Alum receives NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award

Shawn Pfanstiel ('04), a proud graduate of McCook High School, has brought immense glory to our alma mater through his dedication, passion, and relentless pursuit of excellence.

Having completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, Shawn continued his academic journey at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he earned his master's degree. Armed with a wealth of knowledge and a burning desire to make a difference, Shawn embarked on his teaching career, which has now spanned an impressive

16 years at Grand Island Northwest.

Shawn's impact extends far beyond the walls of his classroom. His unwavering commitment to his students, coupled with his innovative teaching methods, has inspired countless individuals to discover and nurture their musical talents.

In recognition of his exemplary service and selfless dedication to teaching music, Shawn was recently bestowed with the prestigious 2022 NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award. This esteemed accolade, presented by the

Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) on behalf of the NFHS, is a testament to Shawn's outstanding contributions to the field of music education.

Shawn's passion for music transcends boundaries, enriching the lives of students and communities alike. His tireless efforts have not only fostered a culture of excellence but have also instilled values of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance in his students.

As we celebrate Shawn's well-deserved recognition as the 2022 NFHS Out-



standing Music Educator of the Year, we also reflect on the profound impact he continues to have on the lives of those he touches. His dedication to nurturing the next generation of musicians serves as an inspiration to us all.



**CARPENTER
BRELAND**
FUNERAL HOME &
MONUMENTS

*Celebrating 50 years of
BOUNDLESS care*



YEARS OF *Excellence*

**COMMUNITY
HOSPITAL**

1301 East H Street • PO Box 1328
McCook, NE 69001 | 308.344.8285



Class of 1968 Reunion

The MHS Class of 1968 celebrated their 55th reunion over Heritage Days. Festivities included Thursday night at the Coppermill, Friday at Mike & Laura Ford's home and Saturday at the Museum of the High Plains.

Front Row: Dave Pfeffer, Russell Rude, Lori Lebsack Backer, Susie Andrews Thomsen, Sue Coady Doak

2nd row: Linnay Sevier Wells, Julie Wilcox Karre, Nancy Stewart Campbell, Cathy Buckley Jones, Paula Coleman Harris, Mary Yohe Nichols, Christina Giespert Marts, Don Riggs, Cheri Lingle Taylor, Alan Nokes

3rd row: John Wacker, Robert Delano, Bill Madron, Mike Treinen, John T. Vap, Terry Hollowell, Colleen Wasia-Fuentes, Mike Schneider, Ron Tirrill

Not pictured: Diane Baker Fisher, Lynda, Budig Baumbach, Mike Ford, Fran Frease Russel, Julie Lebsack Dickerson, Kathy Peters Larson, Diane Remington Dugger, Dick Rogers, Greg Rohs, Ed Wiles



Class of 2003 Reunion

MOUSEL, BROOKS, SCHNEIDER, MUSTION & SHIFFLET, P.C., L.L.O.

John F. Hanson ('57) J. Bryant Brooks ('71) Nate Schneider ('93)

101 West C St., McCook
308.345.1600

www.mbgslaw.com
FAX 308.345.1602

Bison Alumni
'72, '73, '04 & '07

308.345.5520

123 West B Street, McCook

www.MNB.Realty

Kate Warner - Broker
Randy Bauer ('73) -
Associate Broker



Star Player

Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame portraitist Chris Brown ('94) captures the state's athletes in top form

As long as Louisiana keeps producing world-class athletes, Chris Brown has a job, and what a job it is. He is the portrait artist to stars — Louisiana sports stars, that is.

Since 2009, Brown has been the official portrait artist for the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in downtown Natchitoches. During those past 14 years, he has painted 158 portraits of hall of fame inductees, including stellar athletes such as Archie, Peyton and Eli Manning, as well as Shaquille O'Neal, three-time Super Bowl champion

coach Kim Mulkey, who recently coached her LSU women's basketball team to the NCAA National Championship. The impressive list goes on.

"Getting to paint some of the most famous athletes in the world is inspiring," says Brown. "Being able to start with nothing and create something absolutely new to the world is intoxicating." Actually, Brown, who was born in Nebraska and now resides with his wife and son just north of Fort Worth, had a pretty good run as an athlete. He played college baseball at Cowley College in

Kansas before moving on to play at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, where he studied art and art education. He also chalked up a fairly successful six-year career playing for minor

league teams owned by the Chicago Cubs and the Texas-Louisiana/Central Baseball League.

Brown, however, walked away from baseball in 2003 when he traded in his glove, bat

and ball for paints, brushes and a new career as a professional artist. Slowly building up a portfolio of commissioned paintings, Brown got his big break in 2009 when Northwestern State University's basketball team slam dunked a sound-of-the-buzzer first-round tournament playoff win over Iowa State University. The university commissioned Brown to do a painting to celebrate the victory.

As luck would have it, Doug Ireland, chairman of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame, was present when Brown presented the painting to the university. After the ceremony, Ireland asked Brown if he would like to apply for the position of official portrait artist for the hall of fame. Brown jumped

at the opportunity, sent Ireland a sample portrait, and got the job.

Ireland speaks highly of Brown's work and his relationship with hall of fame inductees. He gets these new members personally involved in his work. Not only was Brown a respected college and professional athlete, Ireland says, but he also was an accomplished artist whose style has contributed significantly to the hall of fame's identity.

"Chris was very good

Chris, Paula, and Maddux posing with Peyton Manning at the LSHOF Museum.



Kevin Faulk, eight-time Mr. Olympia Ronnie Coleman, four-time world champion steer wrestler Steve Duhon, and — among others — the incredible champion basketball player and





when he came on board as our official artist,” says Ireland. “The growth in his artwork, and the expansion of his repertoire, has been so impressive to watch. There’s no decision I’ve made since becoming chairman in 1990 that I am any more gratified by than selecting Chris to be our artist. He has become an invaluable member of our team. His emergence as one of America’s premier sports artists is well deserved.”

When painting portraits, Brown works mostly from photographs of the inductees, especially



long past hall-of-famers. Though some portrait painters prefer their subjects to be physically present during the process, Brown says the new photographic technology works well for him when new hall-of-famers choose photographs that are composites of all the teams they played on during their careers, or when they select an image that expresses a special moment when you can see “the emotion in their faces.”

He wants them to relive that moment again in their portraits, and only a photograph taken at that time captured that expression. In addition, photographs enable him to show inductees exactly what the portrait will look like before he starts.

“Portraits are the toughest form of art simply because you have to be exact, especially with

someone that is world famous,” says Brown. “Literally everyone knows what they look like. For me, the person in the portrait needs to be thrilled with it. It’s not enough for them to be happy with it. That keeps the pressure on to make sure I do the very best I can. I used to get nervous when the hall of fame inductees saw their portraits for the first time. Now I get excited to show it to them. I suppose confidence comes with experience.”

Painting portraits to please, however, has its challenges. Each person has unique facial features and that’s why he never gets bored painting them.

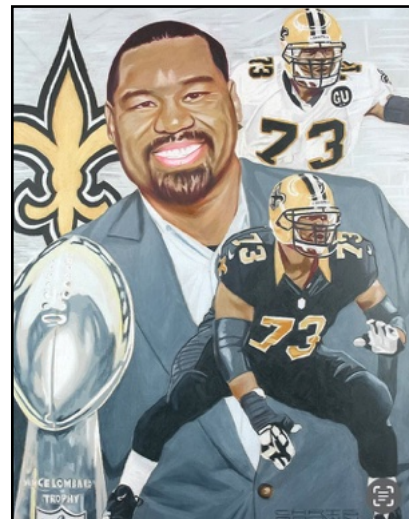
“Studying faces can be fascinating,” says Brown, whose studio wall is covered with 8-foot-tall paintings of Louis Armstrong,



Poseidon and Jesus. “If you are ever talking to me face to face, I’m probably studying your features and working through them in my mind.”

Next year a new crop of athletes will enter the hall of fame and Chris Brown will be at his easel.

Reprinted from Louisiana Life



HOME Where Your Story Begins

Your hometown real estate experts:

Melanie Goodenberger '85, Beth O'Dea '79,
Christi Evans '79, Shannon Woitaszewski '82,
Shalynn Reichert '09, Lyle Brown, Leeann McCarty

GPR

Golden Plains Realty

907 West B Street, McCook, NE
308-345-4108, GPRHomes.com

Do you have an article idea?

We want to hear it!

Do you 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

- PRINT IT WITH -



THE 'A' TEAM

- ALL BISON ALUMNI -

- '88 Janie Woodruff Bredvick
- '94 Rich Dack
- '05 Jared Muehlenkamp
Constance Ferneau Stone
- '18 Elise Stevens Larington

acmeprint.co • local since 1932

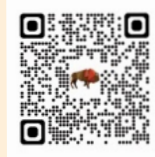
4TH ANNUAL
RED WILLOW COUNTY NEBRASKA

BIRDING CHALLENGE 2024

JAN. 1ST - DEC. 31ST

Open to All Ages and All Countries!

At least one of your birding locations must be at the Red Willow State Recreation Area.



Go to VisitMcCook.com for application, details, and birding locations.



All challenge finishers will earn a patch!

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 March 31 for the spring newsletter. Phone numbers are in area code 308 and addresses in McCook (69001) unless otherwise specified. Deaths are on Page 18.

1945: -Greetings to classmates Class of 1945, still hanging in there. Please email me or write about your condition and doings. My email is jehubert@swnebr.net --- Home address is still 901 Sunset Rd. McCook NE 69001. We may have several thousand dollars to divide. (just kidding). Best regards , John Hubert

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

1949:

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

1951: - Dennis Moskal djmoskal34@gmail.com

1952: -Peggy Appleyard, 1006 E. 4th St., 345-6486

1953: Condolences to the family of Sylvia Pearson Patterson. Hope you all have a great summer! - 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: McCook's Heritage Days will be 15-21 September this year. The parade will be on Saturday the 21st. We will mark 69 years graduated in May. I have nothing planned in the way of a formal reunion

but call me if you plan on being here I'd be happy to set up a restaurant date for we locals and anyone else that would like to get together. My cell number is 340-7689. -Dick Trail, 201 W M St., dickt@swnebr.net

1956: -Note the writeup for the class of '55. Same thing applies to the Class of '56. Nothing formal planned but Ann can arrange a dinner date for the locals and all others interested. - 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: We are in need of check donations made out to Class of 1958 and mailed to PO Box 704, McCook, NE 69001.

This will help with Bison Alumni Newsletter and cost of mailing information to classmates for the reunion via US Mail or email addresses. Any amount would be appreciated... thank you in advance! For questions you may email or call the following:

kent.kotschwar@gmail.com or phone 308-345-7579; or

lilleibrandt@comcast.net, or phone 970-689-7497.

1959: By now you should have received the 65th Class Reunion letter that Honey Lou so graciously agreed to write again; thank you, Honey Lou!

I hope you're planning to come and party with us - well, as much partying we can do at our age.

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

If you would like to make a donation to our class, make your check out to the Class of 1959, send to me, and I'll deposit it into our class savings account.

Janet Eckhardt Rich, 1301 West 1st Street, McCook, NE 69001; jrlr@centurylink.net; 308-345-2703
See you in September!

1960: - Pat Freddep.free1960@gmail.com; Connie Carlson Bennett connieb1942@netscape.net

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: -Lorraine Rose, 719-339-2803, Lorrainegolds@me.com; Dick Cappel, 308-350-0363, dick@cappelsales.com

1964: 60th Reunion - Heritage Days, September 20-22. \$50.00 a person, which includes food for a Meet & Greet, buffet dinner, buffet breakfast & incidentals like building rent, etc. The park will be full of vendors, band shell programs, activities galore and golfers may arrange

at Heritage Hills.

Please send updated contact info and your interest in attending pronto to: Sharon Huegel #308-340-3474 or Pat Forch #308-340-6326 who will get you a registration form and specific details.

Send (do not email) the registration form and check, payable to Class of 64, to Gloria Mefford, 202 Seminole, McCook NE 69001. Please join bisonalumni.com so you can also receive details from there. Looking forward to seeing you. Please connect with other classmates and share this information. Thank you all!

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

Continued on next page



SAMWAY
Floor Covering & Furniture
(308) 345-1952 1801 US-83 McCook NE

class notes cont.

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: Great news! The class of 69 will be having a 55th reunion! Please come if you can!

We will meet at the Eagles Club, Friday September 20th at 5 p.m. Food is served from 5-7 and cash only. You may order whatever you'd like off of the menu.

We all had such a fun time at our 50th, we thought it would be nice to reunite once again.

Through out the rest of the summer, we will send reminders. Please, we need everyone's help getting this out to as many of our classmates that you may still be in contact with. The closer we get, we will need a count on approximately how many will be attending. Any questions please contact:

-Debbie Krieger Jenkins, 1411 West 5th St., 340-7526, debbie_ann_s@hotmail.com
-Margie (Mustion) Hauxwell 308-340-1616
-Bob Ihrig 308-350-8968
-Steve Peres 61-267-0698

Please join our Facebook - 1969-McCook High School Class of 1969

We hope to see you there!

1970: 2025 and our 55th

reunion is "just around the corner" - - - so start making your plans now. We plan to have our celebration during Heritage Days - - September 20th - 22nd, 2025. More information will be sent via email. Please contact Diana Newton Butler for any questions or changes in your email address. Email at dianabutler52@yahoo.com or text at 402-699-4029

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: -Mary Anderson Dueland, 112 E N St., 737-6111, dmdue@outlook.com

1974: -Class of 1974 50th class reunion is September 20 & 21 in McCook. Please send me your email address whether you plan to come or not. Make your hotel reservations as soon as possible!! My email: pegandrews18@gmail.com 308-737-8843 Please contact me.

1975: We will be celebrating our 50th class reunion Memorial Day weekend 2025! Watch for future updates! -Dari Tucker Olson, 705 W. 5th St., 340-3595, dariolson@gmail.com

1976: -Diane Wilson Lyons, 1007 E. 1st St., 308 340-8439, pdlyons@gpcom.net

1977: -Scott Schneider, scott.schneider.np@gmail.com; -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, craft-whiz@swnebr.net

1980: We have started the planning of our 45th reunion for the 13 and 14 of June 2025. Please watch for more posts on Facebook; 1980 McCook High School Class of 80-BAN. or Bison class of 1980 photos. Peggy Messinger 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, dawnfostr1965@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: -We are working on putting together a fall reunion with more details to come. Chanin Monestero, cd_monestero@hotmail.com

1990: -2025 is our 35th class reunion. If you want to do something, please go to our facebook page and submit ideas or email me at wonderlytj@gmail.com. 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, 511 West 2nd Street McCook NE 69001, 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, bepuzled2@yahoo.com

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

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

2000: -Anna Dueland Hunicutt, mccooc2000@gmail.com

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

shaelinstiver@gmail.com

2002:- Laura Lyons Plas,
lmpas@mpsomaha.org

2003: -Jill Hansen Purvis,
aj_purvis@hotmail.com

2004: -Nicole Hedke Sutton,
nicole_sutton@live.com

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

2006: -Julia Lyons Krebs,
julia.krebs25@gmail.com

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

2008: -Cory Gaston, 712-204-
3052, cmg_4@hotmail.com

2009: Needs a class rep. Parent
rep, -Doug Skiles, dskiles@slbw-
cpa.com, P.O. Box 36, McCook,
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.3513@gmail.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.

2023: Needs a class rep.

Loop Brewing Company 

Locally Crafted Brews Since 2011

The LBC
Restaurant & Pub



404 West A Str.
McCook, NE

The Yard
* Loop Brewing Co Taproom



801 West C Str.
McCook, NE

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



Scholarship deadline is March 1.

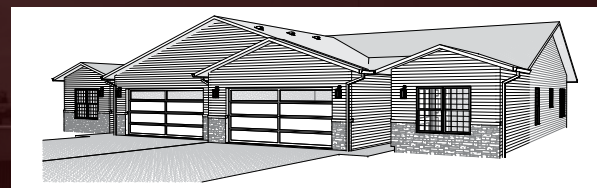
For more information,
call 308.345.5233.

www.mccookcollegefoundation.org

MEDC Duplex Homes in Construction

Construction is underway on one of the many housing projects occurring in McCook. The MEDC is excited to partner with Arrowhead Construction on providing duplex homes that are available for sale.

Contact your preferred local realtor today for additional information, or reach out to Amanda Engell, Director of Housing Development
amanda@mccookne.org or 308-345-1200
www.mccookne.org/housing



- 1400 SF home
- Both 2 and 3-bedroom options
- 2 Bathrooms - One reinforced for storm safety
- Attached 2 Stall Garage
- HOA for Snow Removal & Lawncare

Sale Price: \$274,900

Location: Cheyenne Road & Seminole Drive (North of Our Saviors Lutheran Church)

Thanks!

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

All of our advertisers

Class reps

Ronda Graff
Tyler Loop
Alex Hopkins
Chris Brown
Shawn Pfanstiel
Steve and Carrie Skiles
Peggy Appleyard
Venee Kramer (Heimerl)
Jean Grant

MHS Class of 1966 Donation in Memory of:
Karen Culton (Evans)
Carla Meyers (Winters)

MHS Class of 1958 Donation in Memory of:
Jacque Russell Olberding

MHS Class of 1952 in Memory of:
Beverly Brooks (Morris)
Louis Dulaney
Martin Ortiz
Dr. Tom Hassler

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

'42 - Dr. Donald Brooks

'44 - Ruby Thurston (Aman)

'45 - Paul Sines

'48 - Claire Anderjaska (Uerling)

'49 - Eloise Breitling (Farber), Anne Rothmeyer (Jones), Phyllis Morris (Waddell)

'50 - Clayton Corey, Kenneth Peters

'51 - Nanette French (Baumfalk)

'53 - Richard Dike, Sylvia Pearson (Patterson)

'54 - Patricia Clamp (Weeter), Wayne Jones

'55 - Shirley Jeffers (Wagner), Alvin Leach

'56 - Gary Bengé

'57 - Norma Reiners (Klein)

'58 - Gary Walker

'59 - Wayne Baker, Gerald Fortkamp, Mary Sue Hormel (Haris)

'60 - Judy Vodehnal (Weintz)

'61 - Gary Dolan, Robert "Bob" Garcia, Jean Reynolds (Parry)

'62 - Neal Meints, Ronald Tennant

'64 - Virginia Stroup (Jensen), George Ike, Joyce Huffman (Moore), Howell "Rusty" Wylie, Dean Schmidt

'67 - Marleen Parde (Bales)

'70 - Alan Reiners

'71 - Larry Bass, Nancy Rupp, Carolyn Sue Spradlin (Sorenson)

'72 - Deanna Jenkins (Morgan), Kathleen Vontz (Hartwell), Steve Stubblefield

'75 - Lyn Reynolds, Randy Unger

'76 - Lori Weber

'77 - Kim Kitt (Svatora)

'80 - Kevin Carfield

'81 - Terry Grossman, Kim Loose (Rouse)

'84 - Mary Becker (Eddy)

'85 - Kenneth Pollnow

'03 - Tyler Donohue

'21 - Matthew Hoffman

Faculty -

John Jurgensen
Stanley Spomer



Bison Alumni Newsletter
P.O. Box 665
McCook, NE 69001 USA



1001 W B St, PO Box 385
McCook, NE 69001

(308) 345.7040 • Fax (308) 345.7050
www.krd-fcu.org

Grateful for the past, preparing for the future.

