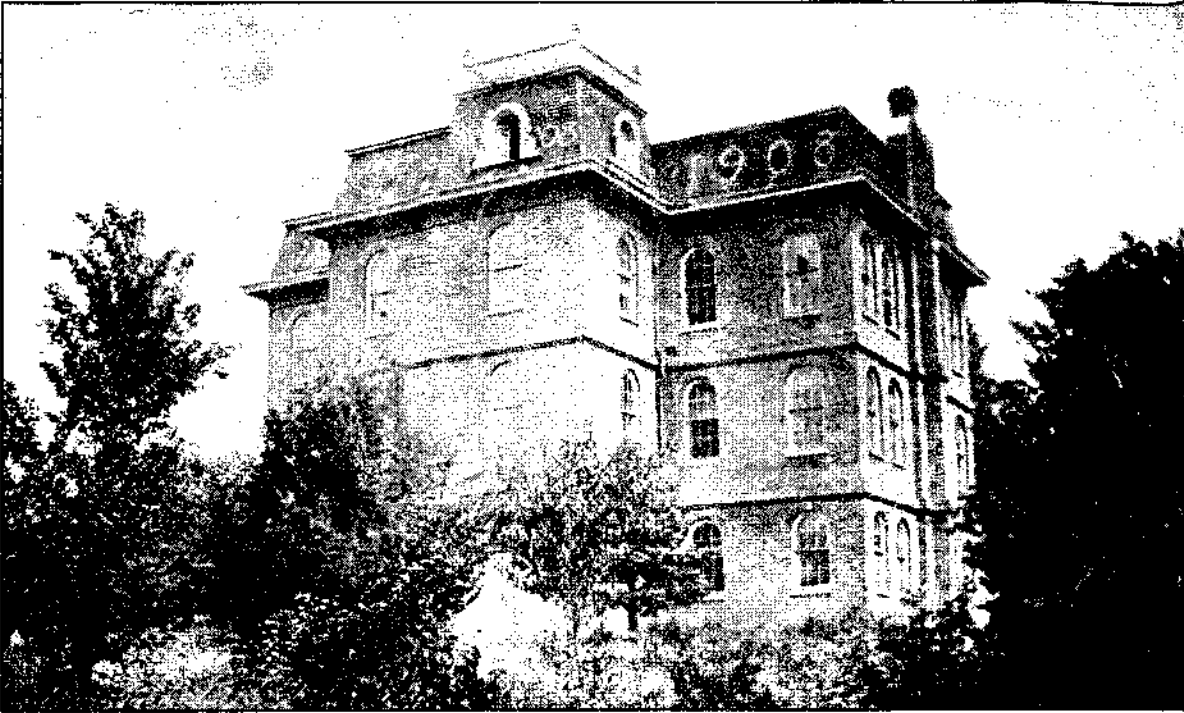


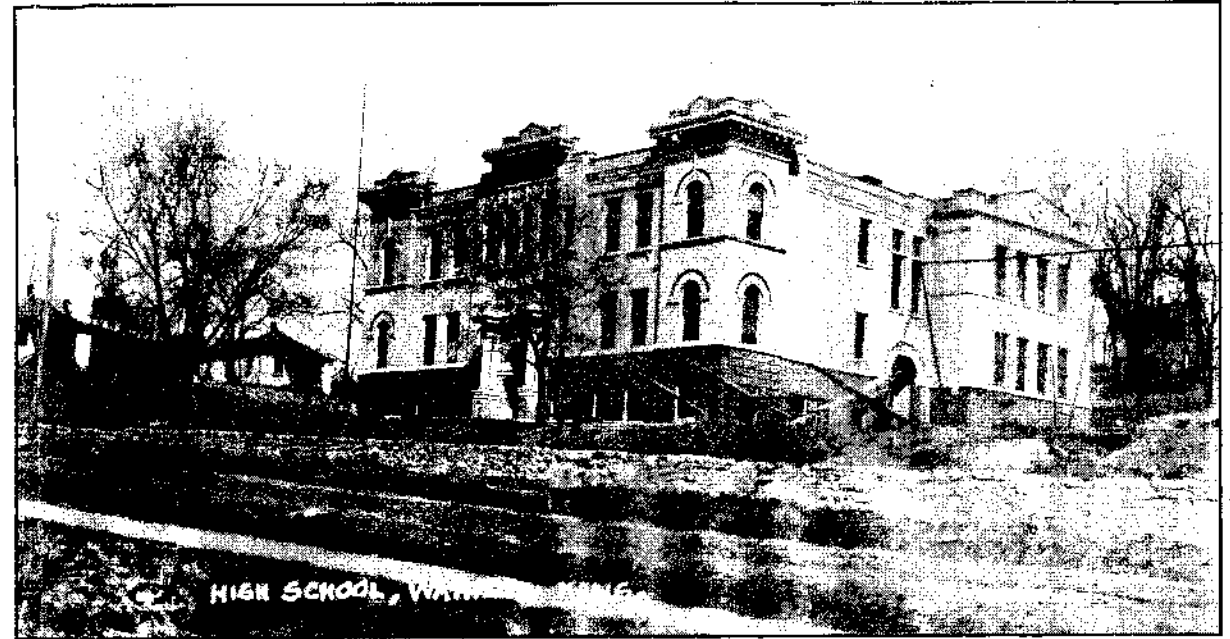
# Remembering Wathena High School buildings

July 7, 2011

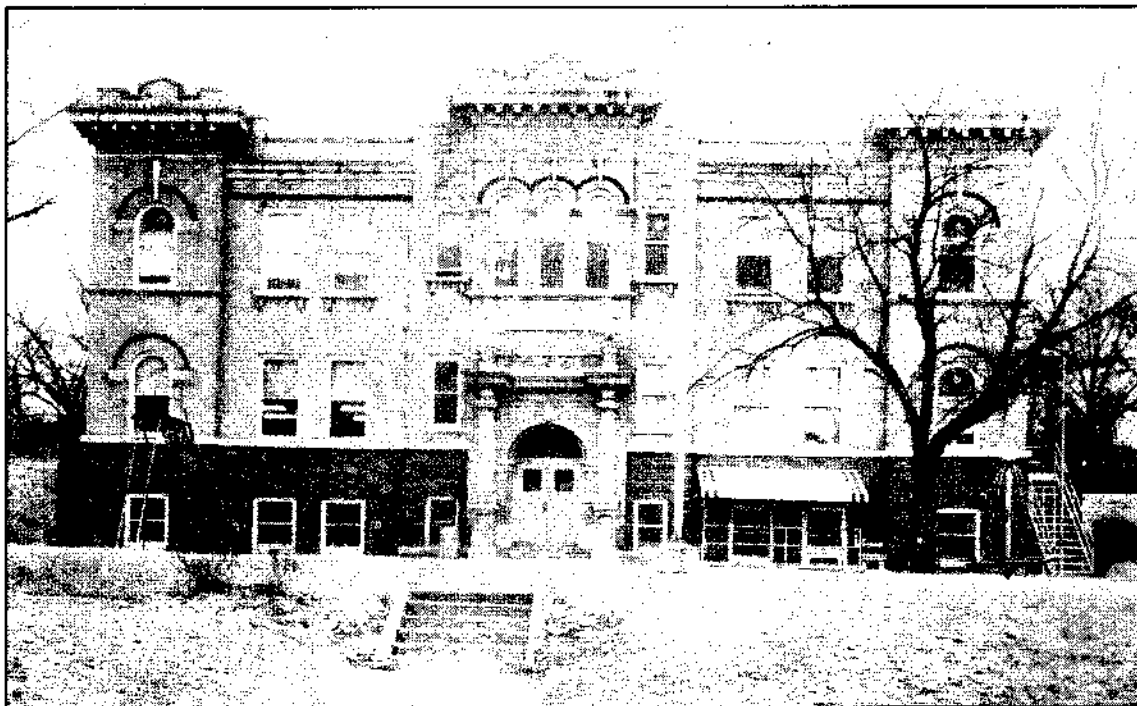
Wathena High School alumni recently submitted photos of WHS buildings over the years. Wathena and Elwood School districts consolidated last year to become Riverside School District. This fall will mark the first year that students will share buildings. The present Wathena High School will be known as Riverside High School and the middle school will be located in Elwood.



*This 3-story brick Wathena High School is believed to have been built in 1870 and was prestigious for its time. It was used from 1870 to 1910. By 1908 the school had become over crowded and it was decided to build a new school.*



*Wathena High School built in 1910 was located on the land now known as Wathena Heights apartment complex along North Third Street. In 1909 construction began on the new high school which was built near the old school (shown at left). It housed the grade school students as well as the high school and opened in March 1910.*



*When the present day high school was built in 1930, the old high school/grade school (also shown above right) was used just for the grade school. In 1966 a new grade (still used today) opened.*



*The lawn at Wathena High School, at one time, had shrubs and pillars. A gymnasium and other additions were completed later. This structure is now being used as Riverside High School.*

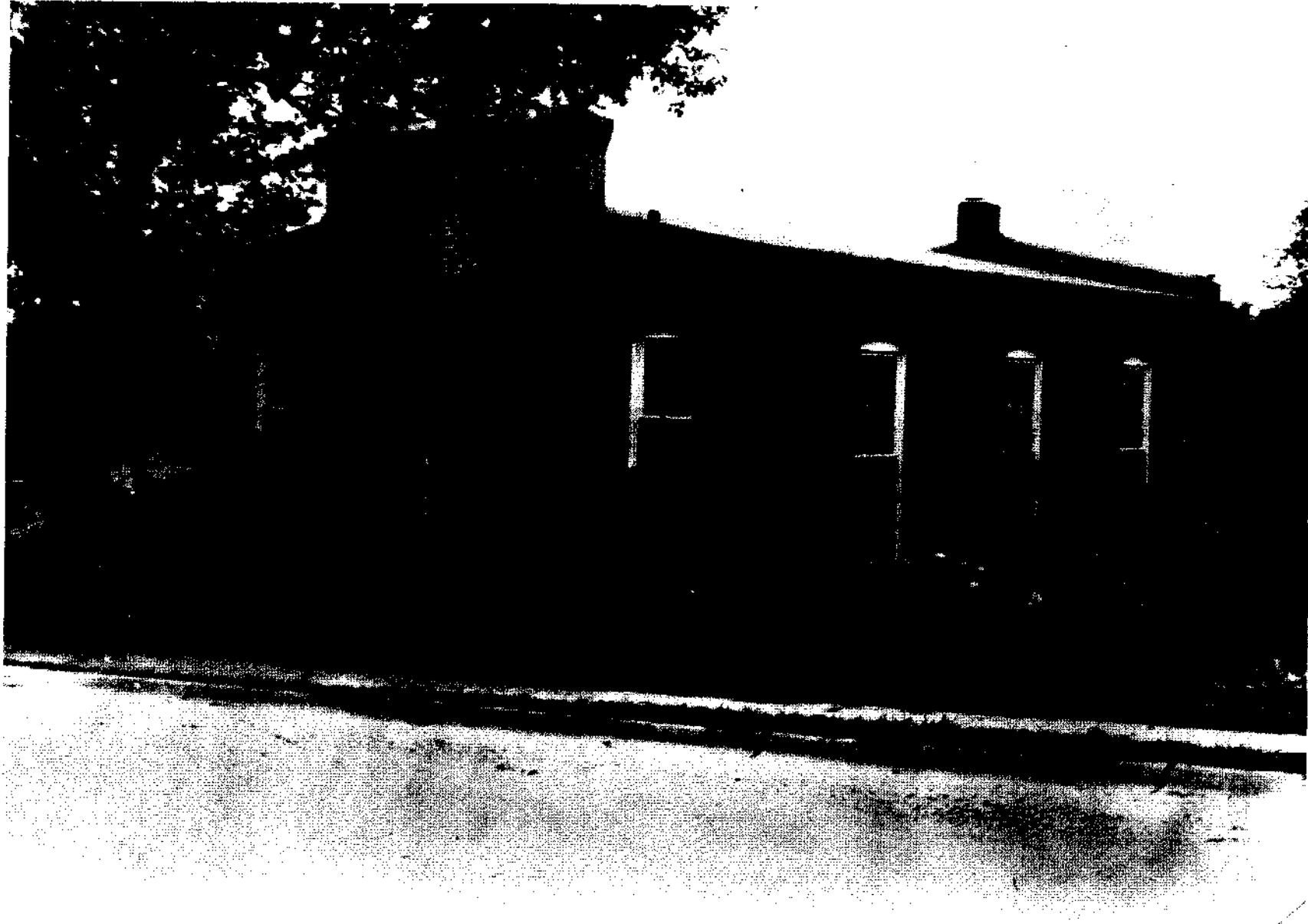


High School, Wathena, Kans.

1920's

## ***BRICK SCHOOL HOUSE, WATHENA, KANSAS***

This black and white photograph shows the first brick school house used as a colored school in Wathena, Kansas. The one-story structure was built in 1870 by Alfred Larzelere at the cost of \$10,000.





Class of 68  
Senior Prom



Class of 68  
Senior Prom



Class of 68  
Junior Prom 1967



Class of 68  
Junior Prom 1967



1965 - 1968

Debi Petitt

Pam Thompson

Carol Hartman (Goin)

Ju Ellen Hewins

Debbie Herring - Ramona Gabriel

Pat  
Cubical





### WHS Class of 1984

Members of the Wathena High School 25 year class of 1984 who gathered at the annual alumni reunion June 13 are pictured above: Front row--Teresa Wiedmer Oliver, Sue McKernan Welborn, Kim Kendall Kline, Laura Cook Barger, Trudy Foley Vertin, Renee Redmond Clary, Nancy Greub Drake. Back row-- Adam Booth, Mike Schultz, J.T. Wyatt, Rochelle Thomas Greenwood, John Hontz.

6-18-09.



### WHS Class of 1959

The Wathena High School 50-year Class of 1959 was honored at the annual WHS alumni reunion held June 13 at the high school. Class members attending are pictured seated from left: Millie Prawl Nold, Deanna Carnes Tucker Hewins, Mary Lou Frankovich Bruton, Pat Young Simpson, Judy Marolf Lamm, Kay Propheter Schultz, Virginia Schiltz Shaw. Standing: Don Gilpin, Larry Evans, Joyce Nold Sundell, Tim Johnson, John Schiltz, Darlene Hart Stallworth, Eddie Bensyl, Donna Euler Thornton, Edie Ann Hewins Kelm, Charles Allen, Norma McVey Wisler, Norman White, Douglas Pohl, Barbara Roark Roberts, Donna Kirkland Mason, Glenn Ewan. Attending, but not pictured: Nova Sityy and Wally Anderson.

6-18-09.

6/18/09



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6-18-09



### WHS Class of 1984

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# Take trip



## THS Class of 1984

The Troy High School 25-year class of 1984 was honored at the annual alumni reunion held May 23. Class members attending are pictured— Back row: Lori Masters Tollefson, Carrie Chase Blevins, Laralce Sandy Shelton, Roberta Nelson Caples, Glenn Marriott. Front row: Doug Meng, Julia Simpson Chumbley, Laurie Klaus Simpson, Ronnie Shelton, Jill Jarrett Huss.

Sixteen Wathena 8th grade students attended Washington Workshop May 10-15 in Washington, D.C.

Pictured are:

Front row: Rep. Lynn Jenkins, Klaranda Behrens, Chyann Thomas, Tyler Newton, Kyle Studer, Theresa Elder (sponsor), Mark Newton (sponsor).

Middle row: Allie Simonin, Conner Schultz, Emily Elder, Brooke Pepper, Charlie Travis, Andrew Daugherty, Regan Butts.

Back row: Ariel Diggs, Savannah Davidson, Amanda Blake, Dominique McCabe, Mercedes Christman, Reggie Butts (sponsor), Shannon Diggs (sponsor), Sherri Duncan (sponsor).

Highlights of the trip included: Mount Vernon, several museums, the Capitol and time with Rep. Lynn Jenkins, Ford's Theater, Memorials, Library of Congress, Arlington Cemetery, and a river cruise on the Potomac.

The students would like to thank everyone for donations and support that made the trip possible.

## Wathena School Honor Students

### 4th Quarter

#### High Honor Roll 4.0

7th Grade - Kimberly Euler, Erica Halter, Zachary Halter, Keira Juhl, Kelsey Meng,

8th Grade - Klaranda Behrens, Emily Elder, Dylan Gabriel, Conner Schultz.

Freshmen - Paden Halter, Derek Nold, Collin Studer.

Sophomores - Andrew Euler, Christian Griffin, Jacob Singleton.

Juniors - Mary Nelson, Elliott Nold.

Seniors - Cara Johnson, Brandon McClain, Hadley Munger, Sawyer Vertin.

#### Honor Roll 3.50-3.99

7th Grade - Caelan Blair, Christopher Boeh, Jared Deeken, Bree Hawkins, Drew Hoffman, Koehly Lawson, Kimber Waelti, Britain Wendt, Blake Wilson.

### 2nd Semester

#### High Honor Roll 4.0

7th Grade - Caelan Blair, Kimberly Euler, Erica Halter, Zachary Halter, Drew Hoffman, Keira Juhl, Kelsey Meng.

8th Grade - Klaranda Behrens, Ariel Diggs, Emily Elder, Brooke Pepper, Conner Schultz.

Freshmen - Sawyer Adkins, Paden Halter, Derek Nold, Collin Studer, Lauran West.

Sophomores - Andrew Euler, Christian Griffin, Jacob Singleton.

Juniors - Mary Nelson, Elliott Nold.

Seniors - Cara Johnson, Brandon McClain, Hadley Munger, Jill Sarver, Sawyer Vertin.

#### Honor Roll 3.50-3.99

7th Grade - Christopher Boeh, Jared Deeken, Bree Hawkins, Koehly

## Troy School Honor Rolls

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester

#### 4.0 GPA

12th Grade- Kimberly Clary, Jesse Marriott, Kerya Wykert

11th Grade- Kia Grable, Hana Speaks, Kenneth Tharman

10th Grade- Mackenzie Clary, Steven Clary, Whitlea Klaus, Peter Masters

9th Grade- Olivia Bennett, Katie Smith, Haley Whetstone

8th Grade- Paige Fenley, Johanna King, Tanna Meng, Reece Simpson, Tanner Weishaar, Jacob Winkel

7th Grade- William Boeh, Elizabeth Hale, Zachary Huff, Holly Stegall, Alanie Stock

#### 3.5-3.99 GPA

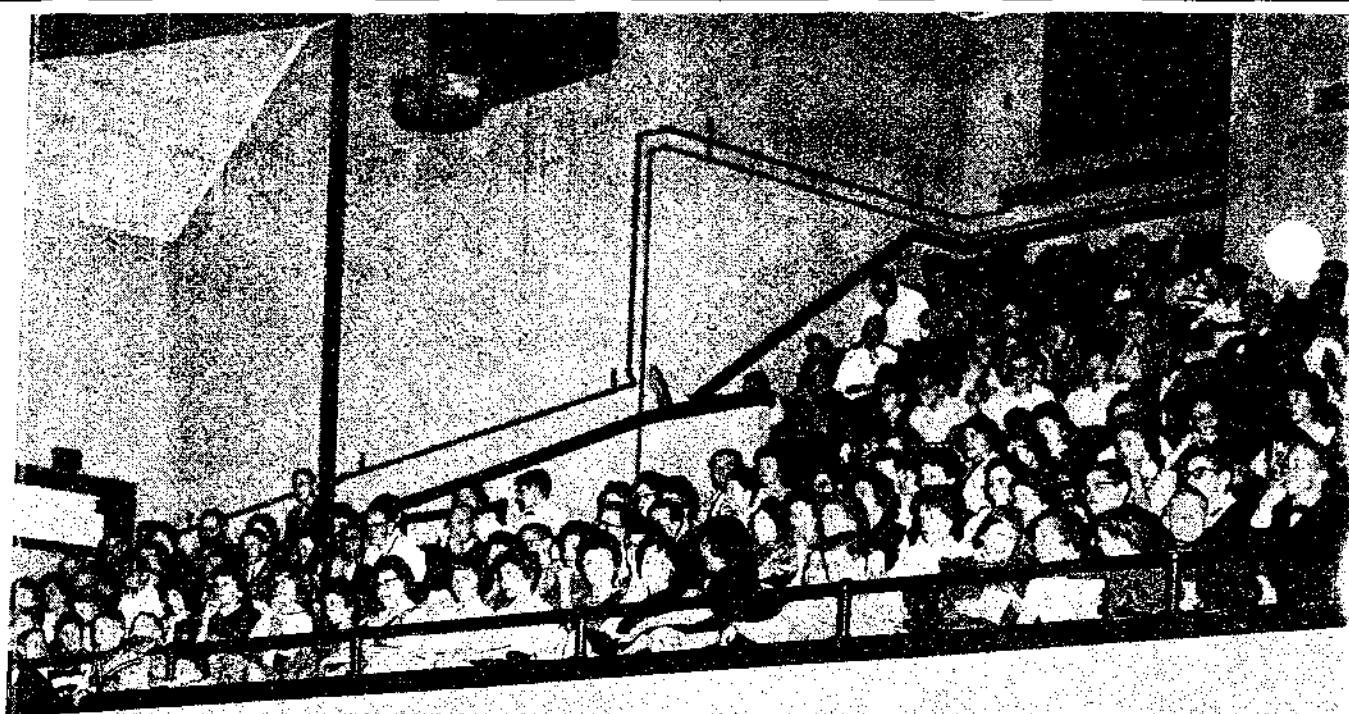
12th Grade- Colin Greaser and Sarah Grueb, Keiffer Whetstone

11th Grade- Brittany Clary, Emily Cluck, Kayla Hixson, Ross Libel, Jared Meng, Ashley Miller, Colby Miller, Bailey Morgan, Hannah Simpson



Doniphan County 4-H'ers attending C Smith, Mavrick Smith, Madison S k Row- Katie Crandall (counselor)

A



W.H.S. (1961) auditorium

5. Mrs. Dulach, Dubach, ...  
(Waltham)

- Front (1)  
 Row (2) Esther Carhart  
 (3) Myrtle Gulp  
 (4) Fossie Dubach  
 (5) Grace Carhart  
 (6) Kienmoff  
 (7) Allen Kibler  
 (8) George Kibler  
 (9) Kienmoff  
 (10)

- 2nd Row (1) Harold Carhart  
 (2) Jessie Finley  
 (3) ?  
 (4) Hazel Dubach  
 (5)  
 (6)  
 (7)

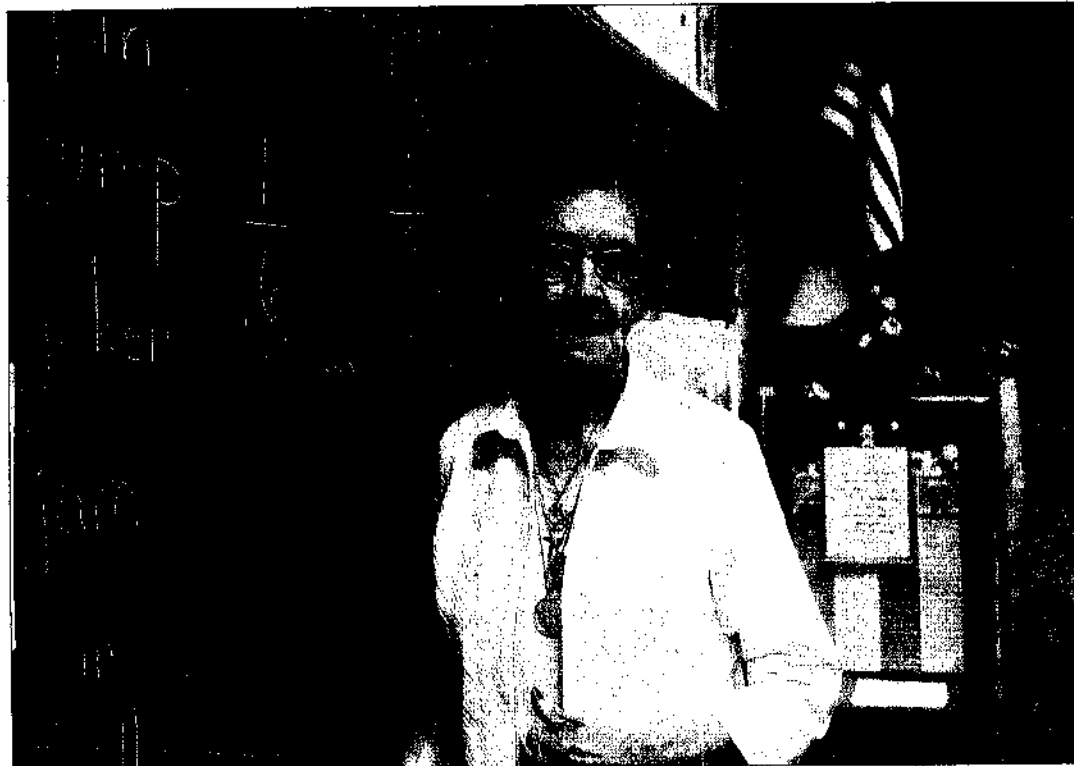
- 3rd Row: (1)  
 (2)  
 (3)  
 (4) Ben Dubach  
 (5)  
 (6)

4th Row: (1)  
 (2)  
 (3)  
 (4)  
 (5)  
 (6)

# Joseph News-Press

JOSEPH, MISSOURI • 164TH YEAR • **FRIDAY**, MAY 23, 2008 • NO. 29 • 50 CENTS  
stjoenews.net

**ROSELLE SLAUGHTER** | Wathena School District celebrates long career



JESSICA STEWART/St. Joseph News-Press

## Longtime teacher has touched many lives

By JULIE WILLIAMS  
St. Joseph News-Press

**W**ATHENA, Kan. — If it's possible to rule with a relaxed fist, then Roselle Slaughter has mastered the technique.

Ms. Slaughter, who reached her 60th anniversary of teaching this year, commands the attention of a room of first-graders. With a gentle voice that spurs the students to action, her voice says sit in their seat or read from a book.

She starts each day by giving the students an opportunity to tell her what they have on their minds before quizzing them on numbers, days of the week and spelling.

"To see the kids advance, this is where they start to read, and by the end of the

### She started in 1948

Roselle Slaughter, pictured above, a first-grade teacher at Wathena Elementary School, has been teaching for 60 years. Ms. Slaughter started teaching at the age of 19.

year you see you have some excellent readers," Ms. Slaughter said. "It kind of makes you happy that you've helped them get that far."

At a celebration for Ms. Slaughter on Wednesday evening, Wathena School District Superintendent Mike Newman said that after talking with the state department, he could find no other teacher with as a career as long as hers.

"There probably has not been a person who has touched as many lives (in Wathena) as Mrs. Slaughter," he said.

About 70 people attended the festivities, including former students, co-workers, parents of students and family members.

When she first began teaching in 1948, it was at the country school located east of Wathena. She moved to the Wathena School District in 1966, where she went from teaching all eight grades to teaching just sixth grade.

She made the move to first grade three

## Longtime teacher has touched many lives

CONTINUED FROM Page A1

years ago, and recognizes that the profession has changed since her country school days.

"You could meet the parents every day, they would always come to school — we had so many activities," Ms. Slaughter said. "Every year is different, every day is different."

Teaching second generations of former students isn't uncommon for Ms. Slaughter, and many students and parents request her to stay one more year to ensure that it will happen in their family.

"That makes you feel good," she said. "You kind of know that you're doing your job pretty well."

Before hitting the 60-year milestone, even a broken hip (which she said healed speedily thanks to her doctor, a former student) couldn't keep her from returning to her students last fall.

Now that Ms. Slaughter has hit that mark — which is a goal that has been in her mind for some time — she isn't sure how much longer she'll teach.

"Now you're to the point where what do you do if you quit?" she said. "You have to have something to do to keep you going. Probably the only thing that's really kept me healthy is just being around the kids."

Preschool teacher Erin Jackson, who still remem-

bers being in Ms. Slaughter's sixth-grade class, now works across the hall from her former teacher and shakes her head when she thinks that Ms. Slaughter also could have taught her dad if she had been at the right country school.

"She's just really relaxed with (the children) and lets them hang on to her and love her," Ms. Jackson said.

Leslie Rull, who also works with Ms. Slaughter and whose children were in her class, said seeing the teacher and her students in the hallway reminds her of a hen and chickens.

She said Ms. Slaughter is remarkable because she adapts to change as well as or better than other teachers; and even works on the

computer with her students.

In Wathena's other first-grade classroom, Barbara Laipple has even more connections, which include a husband and three children taught by Ms. Slaughter.

"I don't know of any others in my experience teaching that have taught that long," she said. "... Usually you see more 25 to 40 years, but 60 — that's quite a record."

Wathena resident Judy Studer remembered when her daughter, now 37, was a student of Ms. Slaughter's.

She said her daughter and her friends stayed after school every day just to be around their teacher for a little longer.

"(Ms. Slaughter) had to tell them it's time to go home," Ms. Studer said.

“She's just really relaxed with (the children) and lets them hang on to her and love her.”

ERIN JACKSON,  
Wathena preschool teacher

# elle Slaughter feted for 60 years of teaching

## She has taught 1200, at least

By Paul Stewart  
Chief reporter



Roselle Slaughter is presented a gift by USD 406 Superintendent Mike Newman and Elementary Principal Cindy Murphy during a special recognition ceremony for her 60 years of teaching.

Newman said that, in preparing the celebration of Slaughter's teaching career, the school had attempted to find out if anyone else in the state of Kansas had taught as many years. No such information was able to be obtained from state records.

The Chief was able to sit down with Slaughter -- and her family -- last Friday, as she was answering telephone calls and opening mailed cards -- offering congratulations on her teaching accomplishment.

Slaughter was quick to point out two specific things. "My goal has been 60 years (of teaching). I wanted that record." She also frankly stated, "I have NOT retired -- yet!"

Asked to look back on both her personal, as well as her chosen career, life Slaughter said she has been a lifelong

(See Slaughter, page 8)

MAY 29, 2008 - T.K.C.  
**Slaughter-**

continued from page 1

Wathena resident. Her formal education started at Lehman, a one-room schoolhouse on Columbus Road. "Kenneth Dryer was the teacher, of grades one through 8. I walked to school. It was probably a mile or so. Sometimes I cut across the fields." She then attended, and graduated in 1947 from, the Wathena High School.

"Like a lot of graduates, the first thing on my mind was to go out into the world, find work and make money. Well, I worked at Big Smith in St. Joseph for one year. But, I had three aunts -- Margaret Juhl, Inex Ramsel, and LeeEtta Schmille -- and all of them were teachers. So, I guess [teaching] school just rubbed off on me," she said.

Slaughter attended Highland College for 8 hours, and then took an additional 4 hours of correspondence courses. In 1974 she received a teaching degree from Northwest Missouri State College at Maryville, Missouri.

While still a teenager, she began teaching [for 6 years] at Columbus elementary, grades 1 through 8. Then, she taught 3rd grade at Elwood for one year. Then she went to the Gladden School, teaching grades 1-8, for 13 years. When consolidation took place in 1966, Slaughter moved to the Wathena elementary classroom, where she taught 6th graders.

"Three years ago, Mrs. [Cindy] Murphy [elementary principal] asked me if I would teach the first grade, and that's where I am now. I like ALL kids, but I do think the first graders are a bit more lovable," she said.

Reflecting back on the country school days, Slaughter recalled, "Back then, you got to meet and visit with parents more. Today, in a day's time, I think I'm with my students more than their parents are."

Asked about the early teaching days, Slaughter was quick to point out that -- even with grades 1 through 8 in the same school -- class sizes were much smaller. At Columbus, in 1948-49, we had outdoor plumbing. But, we also had a nice playground and ballfield. At Gladden, some of the kids rode their horse to school each day." Both of these former one-room schoolhouses are residential homes today.

Of those school years, Slaughter added, "The big kids helped the little kids. We had one-half hour recesses, in the morning and afternoon, and one-hour lunch. Every Friday we relaxed from our lessons. Then, we could go on a hike or go to another school and play ball." She admitted that during some student ballgames, she even served as the pitcher.

Slaughter, who said her starting teachers pay was \$75 a month, also addressed the longevity of her career. "Teaching is not just a job for a paycheck. You have to like kids. And, above all, you have to be able to relate to them."

The veteran teacher also admitted that she prefers math as the main school subject. "I had trouble with it when I was in school. But my dad helped me with it." Of today's world with computers, Slaughter remarked, "Computers -- I would have to say the kids know more about them than I do."

With son Jerry and daughter Nelita looking on, Slaughter remarked that she taught him from the second through 8th grade, and her from the 5th through 8th grade. Both were attending the Gladden School.

Son Jerry added, "There were two of us in the graduating class. I was the salutatorian, second to Chisty Bahr. And we were the last 8th grade class there."

# Former St. Joseph clergyman faces child porn charges

CONTINUED FROM Page A1

On Monday, a church in St. Joseph turned over a desktop computer that Ratigan previously used as his personal computer, where detectives found the same type of pornographic images, court documents state.

Detectives found more images Thursday while serving a search warrant of his belongings, where they found pornographic images

of a 3- or 4-year-old girl.

Officer Darin Snapp, public information officer for the Kansas City (Mo.) Police Department, said he could not comment on the case as the investigation is still ongoing. According to court records, additional digital media belonging to Ratigan is being reviewed for evidence and several female victims are being interviewed.

According to a statement released by The Diocese of Kan-

sas City-St. Joseph, Ratigan has had no parish assignment since January.

"The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is profoundly saddened to learn that Father Shawn Ratigan has been charged with the possession of child pornography. Charges came about after the diocese discovered troubling images on his personal computer and sought the advice of local law enforcement professionals,"

the statement said. "First and foremost, the diocese is concerned for the safety and welfare of the unidentified children and their families. We acknowledge that the use of pornography is a very painful and corrosive influence in our culture, and we pray for the recovery of any child who has been exploited in this manner."

The diocese said Ratigan was the parochial administrator for

both St. Mary Church in St. Joseph and St. Joseph Mission in Easton, Mo., from July 2005 to June 2009. According to *News-Press* archives, he also led First Monday, a mass for young adults on the first Monday of every month at Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Ratigan is being held on a \$200,000 cash bond.

Kim Norvell can be reached at kim.norvell@newspressnow.com.

# Wathena ends its 121-year tradition graduating Wildcats

CONTINUED FROM Page A1

The baseball and the wrestling teams are already called Riverside. Some buses already have the name painted on their sides.

Pam Clark, a business teacher at Wathena High School who will retire this year after 29 years, said at first she didn't realize how close the school was to the river. It's close enough to make sense.

"You can see the river, there's a road right outside of town that runs right along side the river," she said. "I had no idea the river came that far back in here but it does."

The Wathena campus will have pre-kindergarten through second grade and high school grades nine through 12. Elwood will have pre-kindergarten through second-grade students and third through eighth grades.

And Andrew Euler will have his memories as the school's last class valedictorian.

"It's a real honor to be able to achieve that and have the school end after that and re-start," he said. "There will be more to come, but not from Wathena."

The last day for Wathena schools will be next Wednesday. But Thursday, seniors spent the most part of the morning cleaning out their lockers, loading up their cars and checking out in the office.

"It's the same as what we've



ERIC KEITH/St. Joseph News-Press

The last class of graduates from Wathena High School practice their graduation on Thursday morning in the Wildcats gym during their final day of class.

done for the past eight years since I've been principal," Mr. Blair said. "I think the seniors are excited, it's their last day. We're going to have our senior picnic after our graduation practice is over."

A steady flow of seniors flooded into the school office jostling for position in front of school

secretary Doris Schweder's desk ready to check out for the day. Ms. Schweder has seen this play out since 1978 when she came to work at the school. She remembers being just as excited when she graduated from the school in 1958. She said she'll miss the Wildcat but is excited about the change.

"The Wildcat is the main thing," Ms. Schweder said.

She thinks the combining of the two schools will run smoothly. There isn't the school rivalry with Elwood like it is with Troy, she said.

"We had more rivalry with Troy sports-wise," she said.

It's a rivalry almost as old

as the school. Wathena High School was organized in 1889 under Principal E. J. Mathes, according to a history of the school written by teacher and historian Glendon Hartman. The first class graduated in 1890. By 1895 the school had grown from an enrollment of 21 to 53 students. The school moved into its present building in 1909. Additions were made in the 1990s.

Looking at the flip board of graduating classes in the school cafeteria, custodian Don Kirkland shares his own history. He graduated from the school in 1962 and has worked in maintenance there for more than 20 years. His children went here, too.

Mr. Kirkland said 1965 was the largest graduating class at the school with 58 seniors. He remembers undefeated football seasons in 1932, 1944 and 1970. He'll miss the school but he also thinks the consolidation is progress.

"I think it can be a good thing if it's handled right," he said.

Jacob Singleton, class salutatorian, said it's pretty overwhelming for him to be in the last Wildcat class. He's kept a few things like Wildcat cups and other items for keepsakes. He's been at Wathena schools since kindergarten.

"It's kind of a shame. I'm going to miss it," he said.

Alonzo Weston can be reached at alonzo.weston@newspressnow.com.





Monte D. Engeman



Ethel M. Tucker



John W. Kirkland



Lois A. Shellenberger



Robert G. O'Kane



Wanda L. Canter



Mrs. Ione D. Groh  
*Spon.*



J. G. Williams  
*Prin.*



Wanda L. Ewan



Eloise Christine Zaragoza

# WATHENA

Spokane  
Idaho

## 1952



Elmer F. George Jr.



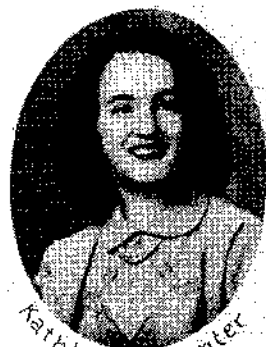
Le Doit A. Meeks



Gordon D. Wakeman



Darlene J. Canter



Kathleen A. Canter



Carl J. Arnold



Betty L. Moss



Marjorie A. Shuster



Virginia H. Thornton



Joseph R. Johnson



Adolph Jr. Weyant

# School & Youth

*The Kansas Chief*  
 "Oldest newspaper in Kansas"  
 Serving all of Doniphan County

## WHS Alumni Reunion Saturday

The annual Wathena High School Alumni reunion will be held Saturday, June 4 at the Ramada Inn in St. Joseph. Social hour begins at 6:00 with dinner served at 7:00.

A business meeting will be held in the afternoon at 1:00 at the high school.

Honored classes this year will be the 50-year class of 1955, the 25-year class of 1980 and the graduating class of 2005.

Members of the class of 1955 are pictured at the right.

Members of the class of 1980 are pictured below:

Top row: Larry Cluck, Amy Eisiminger, Daniel Embrey, Joel Euler, Kenneth Evener, Laura Fleek, Anthony Gibson.

2nd row: Denise Greub, Sponsor Kathleen Schmidt, Supt. Charles Watkins, Principal Larry Keesling, Sponsor Robert Sebbert, Eva Hewins.

3rd row: Gale Recob-Higdon, Milton Hoffinan, Mary Theresa Israel, Jerry Jermain, Gary Jermain, Ekea Kwant.

4th Row: Carla Laipple, Leroy Leffler, Joyce Livingston, Tammy Manthe, Kimberly McCollum, Dennie McCourt Jr., Kelly McKee.

5th row: Cheryl McKernan, Kimberly McMullen, Daniel Miller, Dennis Miller, Robert Miller, Thomas Miller, Angela Nold.

6th row: Lance Peterson, Connie Rathmann-Studer, Edward Readman, Anthony Recob, Raymond Rohrer, Kathy Russell, Karen Ryser.

Bottom row: Janet Schmilie, Kevin Shaw, Shelly Shuster, Kathy Snodgrass, Lawrence Stalcup, Wayne Ward, Mark Wiedmer.



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# Wathena High School Alumni Reunion June 2

This year's honored classes at the Wathena High School reunion will be the 50-year class of 1957; 25 year class of 1982 and the 2007 graduating class. (See 50-year and 25-year photos on this page).

Making reservations this week for the Wathena High School annual alumni reunion were: Donald Manville 1934; Bettie Manville Brown 1939; Norma Haupt Tucker 1946; Art Tucker 1946; Lucille Wood Nelson & guest 1946; Jack Euler & guest 1947; Wilma Gummig 1947; Howard Gummig 1948; Judy Kiefer Gummig 1948; Darlene Benitz Treu 1949; Everett Euler 1950; Juanita Jones Euler 1951; Marjorie Pohl Martin 1951; Carl Arnold & guest 1952; Elmer George 1952; Betty Benitz Gilpin & guest 1953; Mary Jean Schuman Mosser & guest 1953; Molly Euler Horner & guest 1955; Helen Kirkland Anna 1955; Betty Green Srader 1956; Lester Shalz 1956; Dale Weber & guest 1956; Jerry Euler 1957; Marilee Madinger Shalz 1957; Karen Ann Ritter Boos & guest 1957; Douglas Pohl & guest 1959; Linda Ramsel Benitz 1963; Ronald Benitz 1965; Karol Madinger Bembrick & guest 1965; Melinda Madinger Miller 1966; Lon Sollars & guest 1966; Lee Brandt 1967; Deb Pettitt Schultz 1969; Sue Winkel 1974; George Euler 1977; Jack Winkel & guest 1977; Darryl Wyatt 1979; Vicki Koehler Wyatt 1981; Brian Koehler & guest 1982; Heidi Engemann Blair & guest 1988; Bill Butterworth & guest; Glendon Hartman 1971; Nancy Kiehnoff Foley 1975; Dana Foley 1976; Pat Erb Hunt 1958; David Hunt 1982; Ruth Kirkland Grable 1950.

The event will be held Saturday, June 2 at the Holiday Inn in St. Joseph. Social hour begins at 6:00 with supper served at 7:00. Entertainment will be musical selections and arrangements by Ken Bittiker. A business meeting will be held June 2 afternoon in the school cafeteria at 1:00.

## Two HCC Track Athletes Named All-Americans

Highland Community College track coaches James White and Tom Bond took five track athletes who qualified for the national meet to Texas last weekend. Two of those athletes returned as All-Americans based on the quality of their performances.

Kristen Block, sophomore from Hiawatha, broke her own school record and placed 5th in the heptathlon. The heptathlon consists of the 100 hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200 meter run, long jump, javelin, and the 800 meter run. Kris's mother is Lu Olson.

Kyle Hamrick, freshman from Knob Knoster, MO, placed 4th in the discus throw with a toss of 155 feet and 1 inch. Kyle is the son of Mark and Terri Hamrick.

		<b>WATHENA SENIOR CLASS</b> 1957					

*Photos by Brazy*

# WHS Alumni Reunion this Saturday

Over 200 have announced plans to attend the Wathena High School Alumni reunion at the high school Saturday, June 13 with social hour beginning at 6:00 p.m. Dinner and program will follow beginning at 7:00.

This year's honored classes will be the 50-year class of 1959; the 25 year class of 1984 and the 2009 graduating class. Speaking for the class of 1959 will be Virginia Schiltz Shaw. Speaking for the class of 1984 will be J.T. Wyatt.

A business meeting will be held at the high school beginning at 1:00 in the multi-purpose room. Refreshments will be served.

Reservations were made this week by: Alan Vertin '78, Trudy (Foley) Vertin '84, Geary Engemann '62, Linda (Walter) Engemann '62, Karen (Ritter) Boos '57 and guest, Adam Booth '84 and guest, Carol Hartman '68, Virginia (Hoffman) Skinner '50, Dallas Pohl '61, Evelyn (King) Pohl '63, Norma (McVey) Wisler '59, Bob Wisler '58, Joe Barger '81, Laura (Cook) Barger '84, James Hart '68 and guest, Fred Allen '64 and guest, Doris Delzeit '76, Letha (Holaday) Gabriel '44, Jack Euler '47 and guest, Dorothy (Kirkland) Lester '53 and guest, Rochelle (Thomas) Greenwood '84, Dennis Hart '70, Timothy Johnson '59 and guest, Rose (Hart) Flack '66 and guest, Art Tucker '46, Norma (Haupt) Tucker '46, Ronald Benitz '65, Linda (Ramsel) Benitz '63, Kathleen (Canter) Meeks '52 and guest, Teresa (Wiedmer) Oliver '84, Aileen (Tony) Hunter '49, Phil Benitz '55, Clinton McVey '62, Joanne (Gilpin) McVey '64, Lawrence Vertin '40, John Hontz '84, Jill Hontz '85, Janet (Herr) Jeffers '65, Heidi Blair '88 and guest, Glendon Hartman '71, Cara Johnson '09, Jill Sarver '09, Colton Bauman '09, Ruth (Kirkland) Grable '50, Bill Ryser '47, Donna (Euler) Thornton '59 and guest, Robyn (Euler) Johnson '81 and guest, Everett Euler, Jr. '50, Juanita (Jones) Euler '51, Doug Pohl '59 and guest, Howard Gummie '48, Judy Kiefer Gummie '48



## WHS Class of '59

Class members pictured are:

Top row: Wally Dean Anderson, Charles William Allen, Flora Marie Bruns, Eddie Neil Bensyl, Deanna Marie Carnes, Donna Jean Caton (D), Eugene Douglas Elder (D), Donna Marie Euler. 2nd row: Glenn Daryl Ewan, Mary Louise Frankovich, Lawrence Dean Evans, Judy Marie Gibson, Donald Wayne Gilpin, Darlene Jane Hart, Janice Faye Livingston (D). 3rd row: Raymond W. Kirschbaum (D), Donna B. Kirkland, Sponsor Josephine Kiefer (D), Supt. Lee Corder (D), Eda Ann Hewins, Norma Jeane McVey. 4th row: Timothy Brian Johnson, Alicia Lee Miller. 5th row: Joyce Joan Nold, Judith Kay Marolf, Douglas Frederick Pohl, Millie Ann Prawl, Oliver Walter Propheter, Yvonne Kay Propheter, Ronald Frederick Rice (D), John Andrew Ramsel. 6th row: Wallace Eugene Redmond (D), Barbara Rose Roark, John R. Schiltz, Virginia L. Schiltz, Edward James Shellenberger (D), Nova Jacob Silvy, Rita Mary Theis, J.L. (Sonnie) Vandever (D). Classmates who did not graduate at WHS: Norman White and Patricia Young. (D=Deceased.)

## WHS Class of 1984

Members of the WHS class of '84 are pictured below: Karen Abbett, David Bauman, Adam Booth, Tracy Chambers



Patricia HEWINS



Robert HART



Peggy GABRIEL



Elaine DEEKEN



Marilyn STUDER



Dallas POHL



Thelma Irene WEIS



Larry STUBBS



Conrad Benzyl  
Sponsor



LEE CORDER  
Supt.



Josephine Kiefer  
Sponsor



Richard D. SHALZ



Carol Jean GILPIN



Carol Agnes RITTER

# 19 WATHENA 61 HIGH SCHOOL Senior Class



Mary Louise RAMSEL



Shirley ORCUTT



Gene CATON



Patricia RAMSEIER



Harry SOLLARS



Judith MOSKAU



Francis Vernon WILSON



Murelene ELDER



John STUDER



Sandra Avonne ARNOLD



Shirley BENITZ



William SCHILTZ



Patricia Jean EULER



Marguerite WAKEMAN



Harry BAUM



Jean Grace KING



Virgene HAMILTON



Mary Jane EISIMINGER



Denny Earl BILLUPS



Diana MITCHELL



FRIEDA PAULINA SAUER



WILLIAM GENE WILSON



DONNA M. FRANKOVICH



THOMAS WAYNE WRIGHT



SHARON KAY STUNZ



JOHN TURNER WATT



CHARLENE L. BOYD



PATSY ANN WALTER



Leah Thomas



Supt.  
Lee Corder



Lyle Moddlemog



PATRICIA ALENE WARREN



LINDA L. ABSNER



LINDA KAY ELDER

# WATHENA SENIOR CLASS

1962-63



DONALD LEE PROPMETER



DONITA MAE WALTEMATH



PAUL RAYMOND BURKET



CHARLENE C. THEIS



JOHN MARTIN EULER



WANDA JEAN SCHUMAN



SHARON CHARELENE MYERS



NICHOLAS LEO GABRIEL



LINDA SUE RAMSEL



ROBERT WARREN WAKEMAN



PHYLLIS JEAN HAUPT



CLIFTON PARRON ISREAL



EVELYN MARIE KING



LEROY SALMON



BEVERLY LIPPIE



JERRY EUGENE BAUMAN



SHARON L. (NEWTON) RUHNKE



LELAND DELONG



BEVERLY JEAN MILLER



CHARLES RAY SULLOWLD

*Photo by Gray*



Doug Dunn



Vicki Geissert



Kevin Vertin



Diana Euler



Jean Grable



Ron Meers



Marillyn Clark



Geady Engemann  
sponsor



Robert Blunt  
superintendent



James Koftan  
principal



Charles Bramlage  
sponsor



Kristin Bauman



Jack Winkel

# Wathena High School 1977



Mike McKernan



Tim Haedt



Roger Orcutt



Karen Hrenchir



Stacy Kline



Steve Miller



Shirley Sharp



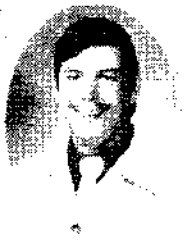
Tim Snodgrass



Jeanan Swoboda



Doyle Dinning



John Barger



Tressa Gage



Walter Sigris



Jerri Hewins



Kevin Laipple



Karen Zwaduk



Jerry Remmers



Susan Stephens



Ed Black



Liz Jeffrey



Roger Miller



Della Atkins



Randy Foley



Doug Barger



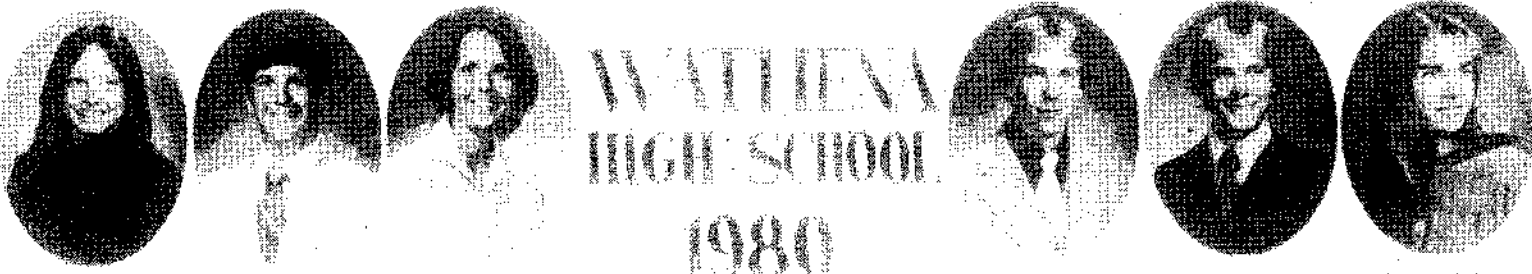
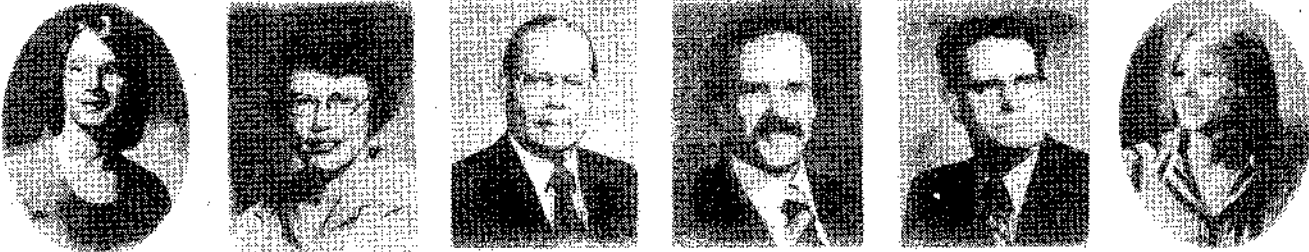
Annette Ward



Pam Propheter



Martin Orcutt



WATTIENA  
HIGH SCHOOL  
1980







DEAN MICHAEL ABBETT



BARBARA ANN BARR



BARRY ALAN BRAMBY



CHARLES MICHAEL BROWN



DONALD RAY CLARK



DELINDA SUE COBURN



ROBERT ENZY  
SPONSOR



CHARLES B. WATKINS  
SUPERINTENDENT



LARRY REESLING  
PRINCIPAL



GARY EISENMANN  
SPONSOR



DONALD RAY CLARK



LISA RENE EULER



ANNETTE JOY EVANS

# WATHENA HIGH SCHOOL 1982



ELIZABETH CATHERINE FOLEY



DIANE DEBRA HEAT



DANA MARIE HARMS



SCOTT BRADY HOFFMAN



DAVID PAUL HUNT



TINA LOUISE ISRAEL



CRYSTAL KAY JEFFREY



JOHN S. JENSEN



MARK WILLIAM KARN



RUSSELL DARREN KENDALL



BRIAN EDWARD KOFLER



PAUL RAYMOND LATHROP



RENEE F. LEWIS



PATRICK EDWARD MURNEY



ANDREA LOUISE MILLER



SHELDA MARIE MILLER



CRYSTAL MICHELLE MORRISON



RAYMOND LEE ANDERSON



LAUREL D. HILL



WILLIAM SCOTT JOHNSON



TRACY LYNN JOHNSON



AMY LYNN MILLER



KENNETH EUGENE JOHNSON



SCOTT EUGENE JOHNSON



DONALD LEE JOHNSON



DONALD LEE JOHNSON

## NWMSU Honor Students

Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, Mo., has announced the names of students who are named to the Academic and President's Honor Rolls at the end of the 2007 spring trimester. To be included on the Academic Honor Roll students must carry a minimum 12 credit hours and attain a grade point average of 3.5 or above. Students named to the President's Honor Roll attained a perfect 4.0 gpa.

Local students named include:

Academic: Kamron Winchester, Highland; Brett Gaul, Troy and Colby Elder, Wathena.

## KU Graduate

Elizabeth Kahnt of Ottawa, Kansas earned a Master of Science Degree in Education from the University of Kansas in May of 2007. Elizabeth, who obtained a B.S. in sports medicine from Washburn University in December of 2005, is the daughter of Mary and Lester Winder of Troy.

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## SUMMER GYMNASTICS CAMP 2007

June 11-14 (Mon.-Thurs)  
at HCC Wellness Center

Grades K-3, 10:00-11:15 a.m.; Grades 4-8, 11:30-1:00

CAMP FEE \$40

Call for registration forms--Fred Winter 785-550-3410

Mail Camp fee & registration to:

MAC's Gymnastics, Fred Winter, PO Box 163, Horton, KS 66439

CAMP STAFF: Fred Winter is a certified USA Gymnastics  
Instructor and a Certified Kansas Teacher K-12 Health/PE.

Call for registration forms: Fred & Charice Winter  
785-550-3410 or 785-486-2474



KAREN MARIE ABBOTT



JEFF BAUMAN



PHIL HENRY SMITH



TRACY BLAKE CHAMBERS



FRANK LOREN SMALL



APRIL LYNN COOK



RODNEY DEAN DAVIS



LOIS ELAINE DINNING



DAVID EUGENE DISMINGER



TRACY ELAINE FOLEY



TINA MARIE SCHELL MILLER



LARRY SAMON SPINADOR



RICHARD HEATON  
SUPERINTENDENT



DENIS STALEY  
PRINCIPAL



NANCY DARLENE SPEIS

# WATHENA HIGH SCHOOL 1984



SUZANNE RENEE GUY



NANCY ELLEN HARBERTSON



RICHARD L. HEATON



JOHN HONTZ, JR.

BRAY



AMY HALPER



LISA DAWN JACOBE



DEBRA RAE GERMAIN



JANETTE ANN KAME



KIMBERLEY LYNN NEFFELL



ALICE RUTH LEWIS



RONALD DAVID MILLER



ALLISON RENEE REDMOND



JEFF PAUL SCHMITT



LARRY MICHAEL SCHULTZ



ROBERT LYNN SAUER



SARAH LYNN WOODMAN



SARAH LYNN WOODMAN



SARAH LYNN WOODMAN



SARAH LYNN WOODMAN



SARAH LYNN WOODMAN



SARAH LYNN WOODMAN

# WHS reunion Saturday

The annual Wathena High School alumni reunion will be held Saturday, June 11 at the Ramada Inn in St. Joseph. Social hour begins at 6:00 with supper at 7:00. This year's honored classes will be the 50-year class of 1961 and the 25-year of 1986, along with the recent graduating class of 2011. A business meeting will also be held Saturday at 1:00 at the high school.



EVA RENEE BELL



MICKY RAY BLANTON



KELLEY LYNN BLOCHER



NORMAN VONBELL CLARK



CHARLES MICHAEL CLARY



JOHN ALLAN CLARK



CHRISTIE MAE DAVIS



DOUGLAS EDWARD DISHON



RICHARD HEATON  
SUPERINTENDENT



GARY WALKER  
PRINCIPAL  
SPONSOR



DEBRA LEA DRAKE



WILLIAM MAURICE FLECK, JR.



DEBORAH ANN GEETING

## WATHENA HIGH SCHOOL

1986



NANCY KAY GOULD



THERESA LYNN KELLER



PAMELA SUE KENDALL



MICHELLE RAE LEMMAT



NOEL CHRISTINE PADEN



PAMELA RUTH REMMERS



STACY LYNN RUHNKE



MICHAEL ALLEN SCROGGINS



TOMMY DALE SHARP



MICHAEL S. SMITH



MICHELLE R. SMITH



WILLIAM JAMES SNODGRASS, JR.



JENNIFER ANN SPANHOWER



SCOTT CHARLES STUDER



MELVIN LEON THOMAS



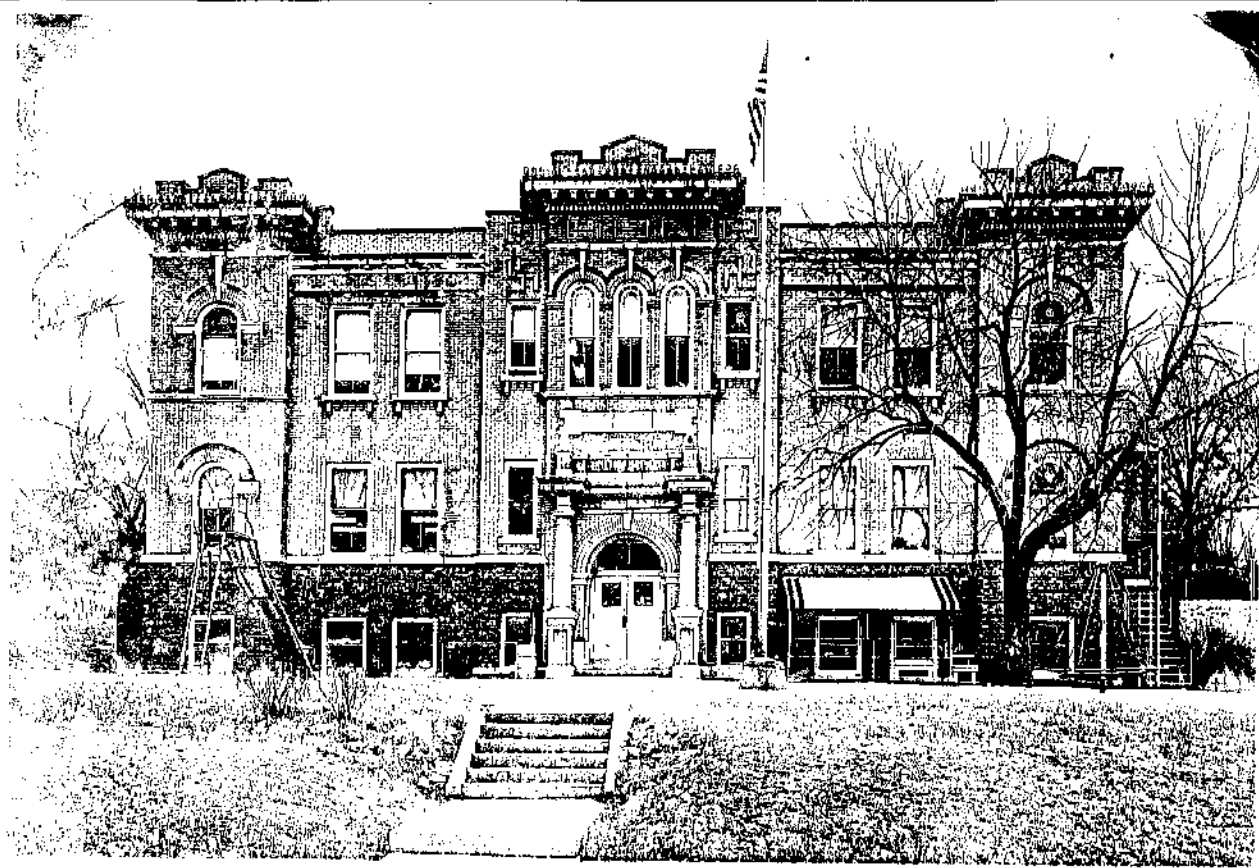
FORREST EUGENE WALTER



DAN D. WEBB



ALKA MICHELE WEBER

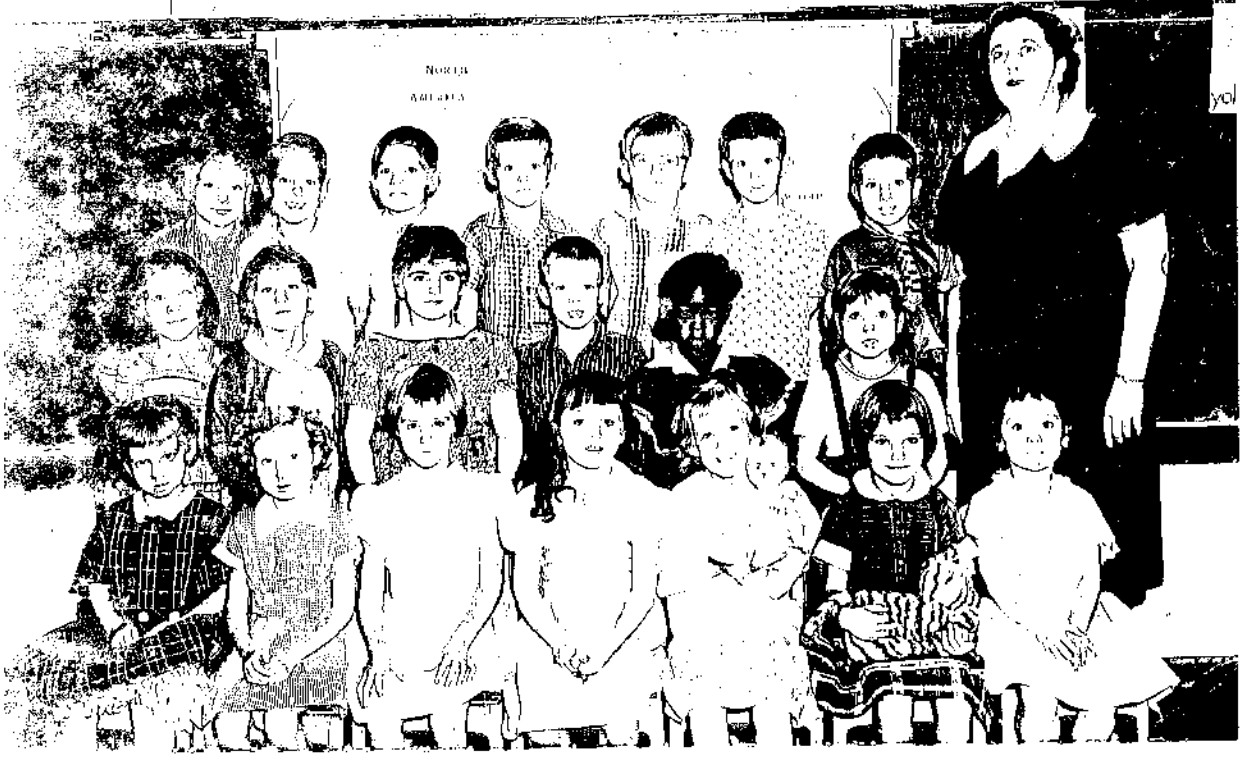


1st grade year 1937-38  
School

Watson, E.

Teacher - Mrs. F. H. H. H.  
-man  
1938 - 1st grade  
Watson, E.

1938  
No 1



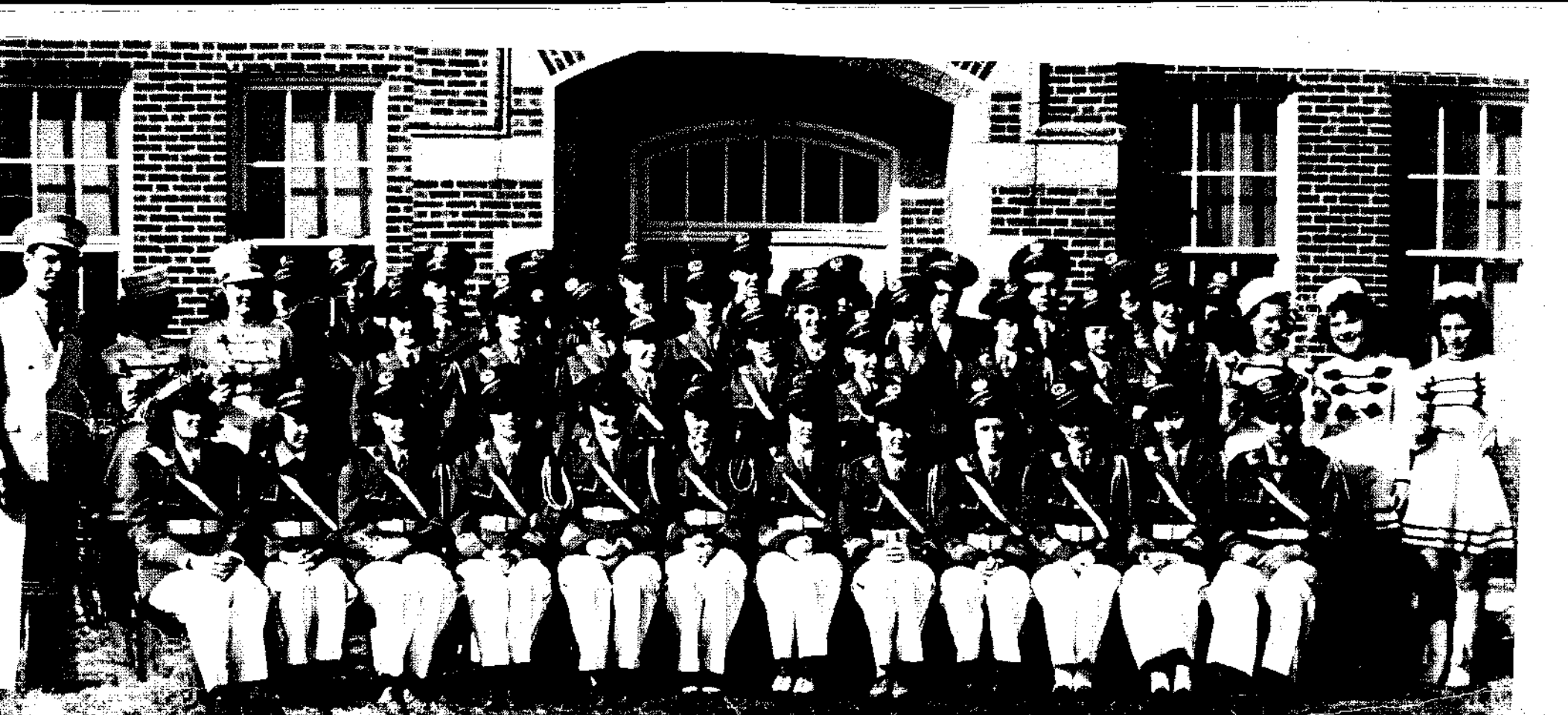
Waltham Grade School

3rd grade

1958-59 - 1st year - teacher

1959-60

1st year - 1st grade - teacher







1965 - 1968

Pam Thompson

Carol Hartman (Goin)

Debi Petitt

Jo Ellen Hewins

Debbie Herring - Ramona Gabriel

Pat

Chisler

# St. Joseph News-Press

News-Press  
 News-PressNOW | ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI • 167TH YEAR • FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2011 • NO. 26 • 75¢

## End of an era in Wathena



ERIC KEITH/St. Joseph News-Press

The last class of graduates from Wathena USD 406 wrap up their graduation practice on Thursday morning during their final day of classes. Next year the school merges with Elwood USD 486 and will be known as the Riverside High School Cyclones.

## Priest faces child porn charges

Former St. Joseph clergyman served at St. Mary Church

By KIM NORVELL  
 St. Joseph News-Press

A priest who formerly worked in St. Joseph has been charged in Kansas City with three counts of possession of child pornography after detectives found pornographic images on his church and personal computers.

According to court documents, the Rev. Shawn F. Ratigan, who formerly served as a priest at St. Mary Church in St. Joseph, was arrested at the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Eucharist in Independence, Mo., on Wednesday. Ratigan allegedly possessed multiple pornographic images

# Sunday marks final group of 34 to graduate as Wildcats

It's a real honor to be able to achieve that and have the school end after that and re-start. There will be more to come, but not from Wathena.

— ANDREW EULER, commenting on his achievement as the last Wildcat valedictorian

By ALONZO WESTON  
St. Joseph News-Press

WATHENA, Kan. — Principal Bob Blair stood at the microphone inside the Wathena High School gymnasium Thursday morning giving graduation ceremony instructions. The 34 students, some already dressed for summer vacation and wearing gold tassels draped around their neck, listened intently.

"When I say class of 2011, we're all going to stand in unison at exactly the same time," Mr. Blair ordered his charges.

When the order came, a few heads popped up sooner than others. But it was graduation practice. The students have a few more tries to get it right.

"In my 10 years as principal, I've only had one class do this right the first time," Mr. Blair informed the class.

On Sunday at 5 p.m., it will be for real. And for the 34 seniors who make up the Wathena High graduating class of 2011, it will be the last time anyone will graduate as a Wathena Wildcat. No more red and blue painted hallways. No more Wildcat pride.

Next year, Wathena USD 406 will consolidate with Elwood USD 486 and become the Riverside Unified School District 114 High School. The two schools will merge to become the Riverside Cyclones. The school colors will be Columbia blue and black.

Please see **WATHENA/Page A3**

of girls under the age of 12.

The Kansas City (Mo.) Police Department was notified of the allegations on May 13.

Court documents state that on Dec. 16, a computer repair person located the images, including "up-skirt pictures that were covertly taken," as well as a nude photo of a minor female on Ratigan's personal computer. Church officials seized the computer and turned it over to the diocese IT department for review.

The following day, Ratigan failed to show up for mass. He was found unconscious in his garage in Kansas City with a suicide note apologizing to his church and his family, according to court documents. Ratigan was hospitalized for psychiatric care.

Court documents state the church diocese made copies of the images found on the laptop and turned the computer over to his family, who later destroyed it.

On May 13, a disk containing the images was turned over to detectives, who determined that many of them "were taken in and around the churches and schools Ratigan has been associated with."



Rev. Shawn F. Ratigan

Please see **FORMER/Page A3**

## Students, faculty reflect on Morris' life at Western

By KRISTIN HOPPA  
St. Joseph News-Press

The day after a 22-year-old Missouri Western State University student died after a pool accident on campus, students and faculty members reflected on the life lost and plans for the future.

DeRico Morris, 22, of St. Louis, died Wednesday following a swimming pool incident at the Looney Complex on Missouri Western's campus.

"He was always goofy, always made everyone smile," said Charonda Bozeman, 19, a sophomore at Missouri Western. "We need more people like him in this world."

Ms. Bozeman said Mr. Morris was determined, faithful and ex-



DeRico Morris

cited to graduate college.

"He was always a believer," she said of the fellow sophomore, who she had known over the past year. "He always strived to do the hardest things."

A small group of people swam recreationally in the pool Wednesday afternoon, said friend and fellow swimmer Ryan Smith, 20, a sophomore and co-worker with Mr. Morris at Missouri Western. The pair met working as maintenance staff at the college in January.

Please see **MORRIS/Page A7**

## Committee strives to convert tax doubters

By CLINTON THOMAS  
St. Joseph News-Press

The jobs of conversion and motivation keep the group in favor of a local hotel tax increase busy.

Members of the hotel/motel tax citizens committee have spent time in front of any service group or social club that would listen to rally support for a measure to raise St. Joseph's hotel/motel tax from 3 percent to 6 percent June 7.

An effort to increase the tax to 8 percent failed in November, which left the group with lots of voters to convert, all while motivating supporters to go to the polls.

Alan Clark, co-chairman of the committee, knows first-hand why the previous effort failed. As assistant general manager at Stoney Creek Inn,

Please see **COMMITTEE/Page A8**

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Business.....D6 Comics.....A4  
Dear Abby.....B4 Horoscopes.....B4

**TODAY**  
HIGH: 76° LOW: 60°

**Obama urges Israel to go back to 1967 borders**

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### On the Web

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1955-17



1955-17

Mrs. Marshall's Pictures - Teacher Wathena

1955-1956

Back Row

Gene Wilson

Donald Propheten

Mrs. Marolf

Charles Sullwold

Clifton Israel

John Swails

Front Row

Patsy Burgess

Phyllis Haupt

Linda Young

Linda Ramsel

Linda Absher

Karen Sue Miller

Front Row

Patsy Burgess

Phyllis Haupt

Linda Young

Linda Ramsel

Linda Absher

Karen Sue Miller

More

Gained Kathryn Jones  
Evan Sowards

Back Row

Gene Wilson

Donald Propheten

Mrs. Marolf

Charles Sullwold

Clifton Israel

John Swails

Front Row

Patsy Burgess

Phyllis Haupt

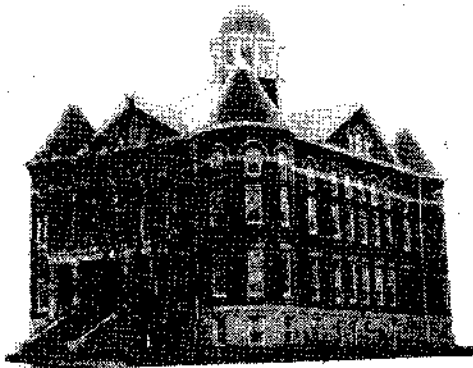
Linda Young

Linda Ramsel

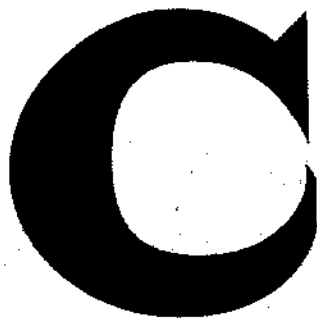
Linda Absher

Karen Sue Miller

1956-1957



Doniphan County Courthouse in Troy



VOL. 145 NO. 17

DONIPHAN COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

## Jeane Miller retires from Wathena School

A reception was held after school on May 21<sup>st</sup> to honor Jeane Miller as she retires from the teaching profession. Jeane has served in the Wathena community for the past 22 years teaching our youth the vital skill of reading.

Jeane graduated from Central High School and St. Joseph Junior College. She went on to complete a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at NWMSU in Maryville. She attended Kearney State in Nebraska and later completed her Master of Science in Education for Special Education at CMSU. Jeane completed a reading specialist's degree from CMSU and a post graduate degree from NWMSU in Elementary School Supervision. She was also certified in Brain Gym, Orton-Gillingham reading instruction, and the Irlen method of reading.

Before coming to Wathena, Jeane taught in the following schools: Todd School in Savannah, Lake Contrary School, John Glenn School and the Woodson Academy at the St. Joseph



Jeane Miller

State Hospital.

Jeane has devoted her life to helping people learn to read, serving a total of forty-seven years in education. In addition to teaching students to read, she also served as a mentor to fellow teachers in the Wathena School District. Jeane was a wonderful asset to our school district and will certainly be missed by faculty and students.

5-22-83



## Dodgeball Champions

Eleven teams competed in the dodgeball tournament sponsored by St. Joseph Catholic Church youth group at the Wathena gym Saturday, Jan. 14. The champions (pictured above) went undefeated 5-0 in pool play and then won the championship game over the pool B winners. Pictured from left are Chris Koelliker, Alan Stewart, David Dowlen, Zach Gaarder, Collin McQuillan and Roger Dowlen.

The second place team went undefeated in pool play and took the championship match to three games before falling. Pictured below left to right: Zach Euler, Danny Wyatt, Eric Weidmaier, Greg Smith, Ray Munger, Nick Baumann.

Thursday, Aug. 11, 2005



## WHS Class of '65 Reunites

Wathena High School Class of 1965 Reunion was held June 3 at the Wathena Community Center. Class members attending are shown— Kneeling: Lt/Rt Wanda Utt, Janet Jeffers, Karol Bembrick, Joyce Bottiger, Ronald Schultz, Barbara Cardwell, Glenda Poirier, Charley Studer. Second Row: Lt/Rt Sandra Wade, Judy Studer, Gerri Ament, Pam Carlson, Sandra Grable, Linda Coolidge, Jane Shalz, Dan Dinning, Lewis Meyers, Jan Laipple, Patrick Wakeman. Back Row: Patty Housh, Justina Sparks, Bill Christopher, Nick Embery, David Deeken, Keith Bauman, Ronald Benitz, Russell Moore, Dennis Juhl, Richard Hewins, Lynn Kneller, Joseph Daniel Studer. (Deceased Members: John Fulcher, Dennis Goin, Elisabeth Sauer, Donald Schultz, and Phillip Thomas)



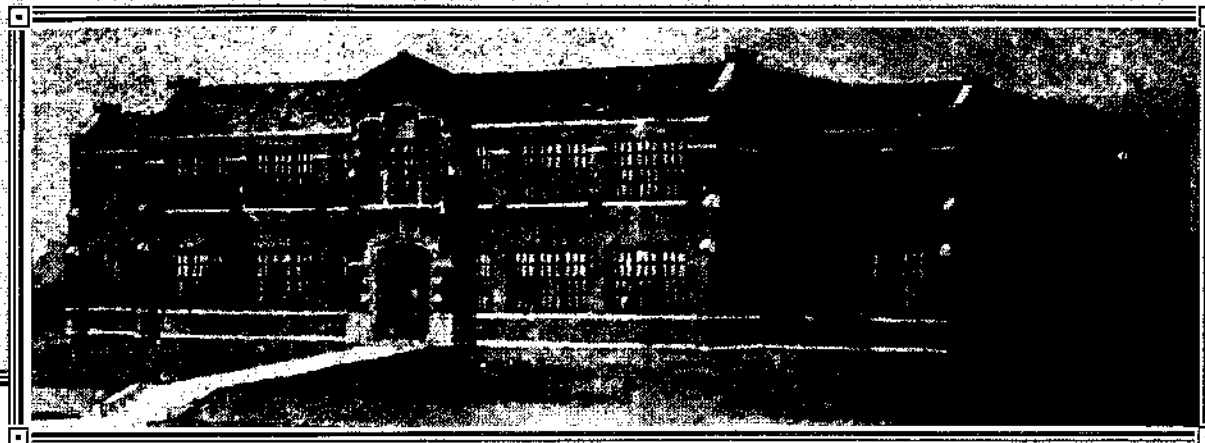
## WHS State Football Champs of 1965

The Wathena High School 1964 State Football Championship Team Reunion was held June 3 at the Wathena Community Center. Attending were— First Row: Lt/Rt Dickie Schultz, George Eisiminger, Jim Walter, Richard Hewins, Charley Studer, Patrick Wakeman, Gerald Goin, Nick Embery. Second Row: Lt/Rt Coach Lyle Modellmog, Steve Boeh, Duane Thomas, Ronald Schultz, Jr. Hartman, Richard Bauman. Back Row: Bill Christopher, Allen Hewins, Ronald Benitz, Homer Ritter, Dennis Lester, Dennis Juhl, Keith Bauman. Deceased members of the football team are John Fulcher, Dennis Goin, Donald Schultz, and Phillip Thomas).



## Former WHS Teachers

Former Wathena High School Teachers gathering with the WHS Class of '65 Class and 1964 State Championship Football Team for a reunion June 3 are pictured— Seated: Lt/Rt Leah Thomas, Lucy Shifflett, Karen Boos. Standing: Lt/Rt Jerry McCloud, Robert McKenzie, Lyle Modellmog, Carl Druart, Jim Vilander



*Photo top: A copy of the high school paper, The Wathenian, highlights the "new" school which was dedicated on September 26, 1930. School chairman L. A. Libel hosted the event along with Charles Poirier, chairman of the building committee. Arguably "the best planned and arranged" high school in the state, the Italian-style architecture featured red mottle brick, terra-cotta decoration, and a red tile roof. At this time 126 students were enrolled. Photo left: The Italianate-style building with mansard roof served as the first high school facility in Wathena in 1890.*