

THE WABAUNSEE COUNTY

SIGNAL-ENTERPRISE

VOLUME NO. 140, NUMBER 41 • ALMA, WABAUNSEE COUNTY, KANSAS 66401 • USPS 496-340 • THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025

\$1.00

New USD #329 Administrators
Excited To Work As A Team

The Charger Newspaper | Macy Alderman, Sarah Denton leditor in chief, staff writer

Some familiar faces will be returning to USD #329 next year, as former employees Jan Hutley and Hillary Lowery will return as K-12 principal and K-12 assistant principal.

For the past three years, there has only been an elementary principal and a combined high school and junior high principal. Next year there will be three administrators who will share responsibilities of all three schools.

Brittany Haupt will serve as K-12 administrator intern. She previously worked in Nebraska for Elkhorn Public Schools and held roles in extracurriculars like FBLA.

“We’re excited to have her on board and believe she’ll be a strong fit for our team and the district,” superintendent Troy Pitsch said.

Lowery spent several years at Wabaunsee as the elementary P.E. teacher, and Hutley served as principal of the elementary school and high school. Both left Wabaunsee to further their careers at other schools. Lowery was a consulting teacher for special education in Topeka, and Hutley was an assistant principal at Washburn Rural.

“I loved my time here at Wabaunsee, and when I left to go work on developing some more admin skills, my goal was always to end up back here,” Lowery said.

Hutley said she is returning after three years to continue to serve the community. “I served communities wherever I’ve gone. I feel like that’s what I try to do, to serve families and community — the whole community, that’s what drew me back.”

The three administrators will be rotating throughout the buildings in order to become accustomed to working with all of the age levels.

“All of us will be involved at every school. Every student at every school will know each one of us,” Hutley said.

“We will have three administrators: a head coach, two assistant coaches, and they will be cross-trained on campuses,” Pitsch said.

The administrators see both benefits and challenges with the new arrangement. “I can say from before when I was the elementary principal, you always want to be everywhere. When I was in Alma, I felt the need to be in Maple Hill and vice versa. So, that most definitely is a challenge. We should be covered administratively in every location, but I’m still going to feel that pull.”

“Every building runs a little bit differently, and I think that it will help to get a pulse for how each building runs and the specific needs of that building,” Lowery said.

Hutley and Lowery both said their experience has prepared them to work with students at every level. “I’m excited about adding junior high or middle school kids to my experience level, because that’s the only thing I haven’t done. I’m pretty fired up about that,” Hutley said.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

American Legion Post #32 Memorial Day Services
21-Gun Salute Ceremonies at Eskridge Cemetery, McFarland Cemetery, and Alma Cemetery



Grave of Steven F. Clark – Eskridge City Cemetery



Grave of Vernon Dean Senne – McFarland City Cemetery



Grave of Quentin L. Katt – Alma City Cemetery



MAILING LABEL	HIGHLIGHTS		INDEX:	
	Sports Happenings – WHS Track	3	Classifieds.	21
	2025 City & School Elections Information.	9	From Our Files.	6-7
	Post #3: 150 Years of History, Maple Hill.	11-14	Community Calendar . .	7
	WHS Students Compete At FHSU Tech Fair	17	Legals.	22
	Mission Valley Prom	18-20	Courthouse News	5
			Extension Connection . .	14
			Professional Ads	23
			School Calendars.	3