

School board

OBITUARIES

FROM FRONT PAGE

In his own report, Palser touched on five areas specifically: June 2025 policy updates, a board policy, field trips, a water drainage issue at Galesburg and the 2024-25 budget closeout report.

For Coover and Bachman, they attended a KASB training seminar on state assessments, spending three days in Topeka.

“I had no idea what I was getting into,” Coover shared.

The session focused on all four levels of each standard.

During the seminar, each teacher completed a 54-question test with each question getting progressively more difficult.

“One was the easiest, and 54 was the hardest,” Bachman teased, “so I started out strong.” “It was very enlightening,” Coover added. “There was so much information. I would do it again.”

Bachman concluded with a statement parents and guardians might find very helpful.

“They are trying to modify (state assessment scores) to be more ‘parental friendly,’” he said. “I’m glad they are admitting the flaws and willing to address it.”

Brown shared the state passed a law that requires school district buildings to incorporate a cardiac response plan, similar to a fire drill.

“A cardiac arrest is different than a heart attack,” Brown explained, adding that the goal is to have an AED (automated external defibrillator) within 3 minutes at any of the sites. She said using an AED within 3 minutes of an emergency drastically increases the chance of surviving.

She also shared a video with the board. Part of her presentation included adding an EKG scan “for our kids.”

“The cost is \$20 per person and there are grants and funds for parents who cannot afford it,” Brown added.

Brown hopes to have a booth set up during “Bean Week” to share the information.

“The Response Plan we have to file with the State,” Palser said, adding he sent a proposal to KASB for review.

King was straight to the point in his message.

“We have four vehicles in the transportation system that need to be replaced,” King started.

One suggestion he made was the district replace the 1993 Chevy pickup at the elementary school with an ATV. He also inquired if the board could consider authorizing purchases to a certain amount for vehicle purchases rather than waiting up to a month until the next meeting.

The district’s “backup bus” is in it last year of being an eligible vehicle for the district.

“It still passes inspection,” Palser said.

King also complimented his drivers.

The district has nine bus routes of which two are driven by mini-buses.

Magner also shared several pages of reports and data from the Kansas Communities that Care during her presentation.

Palser shared the good news that “bullying dropped significantly.”

“It’s all good news for us,” he said on that front, but added, “Vaping is a major deal at the high school.”

The board was also made aware of possible fundraising issues moving forward. The line from KASB’s recommendation that was most discussed was the following:

“Promotion of commercial or private financial interests either through direct sales or through promotion of competitive goods or services by students and employees is not fundraising and is prohibited at school, on school property, or at school-sponsored events.”

“We are a small district and rely on our local businesses,” said Board President Brad De-Meritt.

After a 15-minute executive session, the board approved a two-year plan on teacher negotiations as presented. After another 20-minute executive session, the board approving personnel decisions (listed in this edition) as well as pay raises for all hourly staff, certified staff and administrators – except for the superintendent.

Kathleen (Kathy) Marie Ford

Kathleen (Kathy) Marie (Defenbaugh) Ford passed away peacefully from this life to the next on June 18, 2025, in Chanute, Kansas, with her loving sons by her side. Kathy was a devoted mother, grandmother, and sister, cherished by those who had the pleasure of knowing her.

She was born to George and Ula Defenbaugh of rural Stark/Walnut, Kansas, on December 20, 1952, where she spent her childhood.

Later in life, Kathy moved to Chanute, where she raised her two sons, Rodney and Scott. Throughout her years, she maintained a beautiful home that served as a loving environment filled with warmth and laughter.

In addition to being a dedicated mother, she ran a daycare for many years, playing a crucial role in nurturing and shaping the lives of numerous children in the community, including her beloved granddaughter, Kaitlyn.

Kathy was first married to Larry Harding and later divorced. Later, she married Allen Ford and they also divorced.

Kathy’s nurturing spirit was further reflected in her passion for gardening. In her spare time, she poured her love into a vibrant garden brimming with various plants and flowers, which brought joy not only to herself but also to others she shared them with. Kathy was also known for her baking skills, delighting friends and family with her delicious pies and cookies, all made with love. Throughout



her life, she found companionship and joy in the many cats she had as pets, each one holding a special place in her heart.

Her light touched many lives, and her memory will forever be cherished by all who were fortunate enough to cross paths with her.

Kathy is survived by her two sons, Rodney (Colleen) Harding of Olathe, KS, and Scott Ford of Chanute, KS; her granddaughter, Kaitlyn Ford of Chanute; and her brother, Robert Defenbaugh of Hoisington, KS. She is preceded in death by her parents.

Kathy’s legacy of love and kindness will live on in the hearts of those she leaves behind, reminding them always of the impact one person can have on many. Memorials are suggested to the Carlie Challenge and can be left with or mailed to the funeral home.

A Celebration of Life Memorial Service will be held Saturday, July 26, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at Wickham Family Funeral Home, 500 North Forest Ave. Chanute, KS.

Christopher J. Carter

Christopher J. Carter, 64, of St. Paul, Kansas died at 3:03 p.m., Wednesday, July 2, 2025 at his residence in St. Paul.

Chris was born September 22, 1960 in Parsons, Kansas, a son of James E. and Charlotte (Smith) Carter.

He grew up in St. Paul and graduated from St. Paul High School. He attended Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas and Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas.

Chris was currently the CEO of Industrial Crating, Inc. in St. Paul. He was a board member of Prairie Mission Retirement Village in St. Paul and active in the National Wooden Pallet and Container Association. Chris enjoyed his family, hunting, fishing, playing golf and visiting with people.

He was a member of St. Francis Catholic Church in St. Paul.

Survivors are a son, Steven (Gib) Carter, and his girlfriend, Amber Blume, of Salina, Kansas; his daughters, Lisa George, and her husband, Harrison, of Erie, Kansas, Kelli Carter, and her spouse, Keenga Carter, of Greensboro, North Carolina, and Jackie Fulkerson of Kansas City, Missouri; his grandchildren, Rylee Altman, Quinnlee George, Talon George, and Greyson George; a brother, Jamie Carter, and his wife, Pam, of Joplin, Missouri; his sisters, Becky Smith of Farlington, Kansas, Margaret



(Meg) Beezley of Afton, Oklahoma, and Lori Carter of Girard; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Chris was preceded in death by his parents, a brother; Steven Carter, on September 7, 1982; a sister, Pamela A. Dent, on August 1, 2024.

Funeral Mass will be at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, July 12, 2025 at St. Francis Catholic Church in St. Paul with Fr. Matthew Davied as Celebrant.

The Rosary will be at 6:00 p.m., Friday, July 11, 2025 at St. Francis Church in St. Paul where the family will receive friends until 8:00 p.m. Friends may call at the church after 2:00 p.m., Friday.

Memorials are suggested to an Education Fund and these may be left at the Church or the Smith-Carson-Wall Funeral Home, 518 W St. John, Box 258, Girard, 66743.

Condolences may be sent to www.wallfuneralservices.com

Lucy Sally Bell Frost

Lucy Sally Bell Frost, 83, of rural Mound Valley and a former St. Paul resident, passed away at 11:31 p.m., Friday, July 4, 2025, at the home of her daughter, Alice Abbe, near Neodesha.

Lucy was born on January 25, 1942, at St. Paul to Caryle and Cordy Bell (Thompson) Ward. She grew up at St. Paul and attended schools there.

She and Elbert Clark Frost were married on July 5, 1963. He preceded her in death on September 6, 2004.

They lived near the Big Island at St. Paul, Labette City, and briefly in Colorado before settling at Mound Valley in 1965.

Lucy was a homemaker and caregiver. She helped her mother take care of her younger siblings when she was younger. She then went on to care for her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Lucy enjoyed sewing, baking cakes for family and friends, cooking, having family over for dinner, gardening, and canning. She had a kind heart who loved her family and friends deeply. She would often share the produce from her garden and her canned produce with family and friends.

She is survived by her children, Terry Raymond Ward of Parsons, Lucy Thomas of Mound Valley, Alice Abbe of Neodesha, and David Frost, and his wife, Dana of Parsons; ten



grandchildren; many great grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; her sister, Cordy Ann Hill of St. Paul; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son, Michael Frost; son-in-law, Kenneth Thomas; five sisters; and two brothers.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, July 11, 2025, at the Carson-Wall Funeral Home in St. Paul with Pastor Mike Blake officiating. Burial will follow the service in Hope Cemetery at St. Paul. The family received friends at the funeral home in St. Paul from 7 to 8 p.m., Thursday evening.


Memorials are suggested to Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, and these may be left at or mailed to the Funeral Home, 403 Main St., St. Paul, Kansas 66771.

Online condolences may be left at www.walfuneralservices.com.

Kazmier Butch Ptasznik

Kazmier Butch Ptasznik, 76, of Erie, died at 8:35 A.M., Friday, July 4, 2025 at the Prairie Mission Retirement Village at St. Paul.

Further obituary information and service arrangements will be announced by the Pierce-Carson-Wall Funeral Home later.





ACROSS THE TRACKS

Volunteers Needed for Annual Bean Pots for Reunion Week

On the Sunday before and after the Old Soldiers & Sailors Reunion, July 13 and July 20, the famous “Bean Pots” will need to be set up and taken down. Anyone willing to help, please meet at the “bean line” at 7 a.m. on the designated days.

With a good number of volunteers, this should only take a couple of hours. See you there.

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - Be a part of history Help cook and serve beans during Reunion Week with the annual free Reunion beans Friday, July 18.



Carol's

"It's The Blooming Service That Counts"

Plants • Balloons • Flowers

106 N. MAIN • ERIE KS.

244-3698

R & F Farm Supply Inc.

10200 Hwy. 59 • Erie, KS 66733



Phone: 620-244-3275 Fax 620-244-5578



Hours: Tuesday - Thursday: 11-2 & 5-8
Hours: Friday: 11-2 & 5-9
Hours: Saturday: 11-2 & 5-9

Phone: (620) 244-3454

Come enjoy a juicy KC Strip this weekend!

Reunion Week we will be open for lunch on Friday July 18th but closed for dinner to enjoy the bean feed! Saturday lunch we will be open during the Reunion Scramble golf tournament but we are closed Saturday night for in house dining while hosting Two Class Reunions.

We will be offering ToGo orders until 8 and allowing the public to join us after 8 for Robbi Bell and her unique sound on the patio!



511 N Main St
(620) 244-3661

We will be closing at noon, Friday, July 18.

Be sure to call your refills in if needed, and look forward to seeing you at Reunion Week.

Free in-town delivery to Erie and St. Paul.

Morgan Buntin – Owner/Pharmacist
Open: Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 5:30 pm

WE’LL DO IT!

Sales • Service • Installation • Estimates

WHITE PLUMBING

112 N. Main St. • Erie • 620-244-3283
8:00-5:00 Mon. - Fri.

Leave those messy plumbing jobs to the professionals. We have experience with residential and commercial plumbing systems. Call us for friendly, knowledgeable service and fair prices.

- SINKS
- BASINS
- TOILETS
- SHOWERS
- SEPTIC TANKS
- FLOODED BASEMENTS



AUTO-HOME-LIFE-HEALTH FARM-CROP-COMMERCIAL

WELCOME TO THE 152ND OLD SOLDIERS & SAILORS REUNION

Broc Mattox.....Broc@nvinsurers.com
Breleigh Harris Breleigh@nvinsurers.com
Julie Kincaid.....Julie@nvinsurers.com
Mike McGuire,,,,,,,,,,,,Mike@nvinsurers.com
Don Smith don@nvinsurers.com

201 S. Main St., Erie (620) 244-3768
221 S. Main St., Walnut (620) 354-6150



CONTACT US TODAY!

TOPEKA OFFICE
(785) 205-5253

PITTSBURG OFFICE
(620) 308-7450

WASHINGTON DC OFFICE
(202) 225-6601

SCHMIDT.HOUSE.GOV

My office can help with federal agency issues!
Veterans Benefits • Social Security Applications
Passport Processing • Internal Revenue Service (IRS)