

William Cook

FROM FRONT PAGE

The system described lasted from 1865 to about the time of World War II, or about 80 years. The State of Kansas had gradually started having influence on how public schools were conducted and requiring more standardization of coursework. Many one-room schools in Neosho County ceased to operate between 1940 and 1950 by merging districts together. One example from 1947 was the merger of #55-Pleasant Ridge, #58-Valley, #49-Clover Dell, #77-Oak Grove and #76-Kimball school districts into #102-Kimball Grade School. The ability to bus the students to school became necessary. Similarly, prior to the availability of school buses, the students in the few high schools either lived very close by or had to be transported by parents. Many rural students lived with town families or rented rooms so they could stay in town during the school week, living on their own. Prior to the school mergers, school lunches were not generally available.

More school mergers occurred between 1950 and 1965, in some cases requiring a new school building. Large areas of territory, with busing available, made for larger, more competitive classes and increased opportunity for extra-curricular activities. About 1965 the State of Kansas wanted to see even further merging of schools to assist with curriculum standardization. This led to what were to be known as Unified School Districts. Throughout the time when the one-room schools were the primary system, they operated separately from the high schools. The State wanted all schools to be part of a Unified School District, including students from Grade 1 through High School. Within a short period of time Kansas had reduced its number of school districts from roughly 12,000 down to about 320. The majority of Neosho County became three USD's. Chanute, Erie and a union of Stark, St. Paul, Galesburg and Thayer in 1966. The union of the four smaller districts was quickly found to be an unworkable situation with operating four high schools and four grade schools. The Erie district was fully encircled by this district with a small exception around Shaw and north along

Big Creek. Public meetings were held to discuss a further merger into what would be the first Consolidated Unified School District in the State. A vote was held in the Spring of 1967 and approved. The Fall of 1967 found CUSD #101 operating three high schools and five grade schools with the high schools at Stark and Galesburg ceasing to operate and being bused to Erie. This was the first such consolidation in Kansas. The past 58 years has seen a further reduction to approximately 283 school districts in Kansas

The School Board voted in the Spring of 1986 to close the Stark Attendance Center. The next change came about near the time of the vote approving the construction of a new high school at Erie. Most of the area around St. Paul voted to leave to merge with USD #506—Chetopa. Then most of the area around Thayer voted to leave to merge with USD #447—Cherryvale. The Galesburg Attendance Center was converted to become Galesburg Middle School and the former Erie High School campus was converted to become Erie Elementary School including students from the entire District.

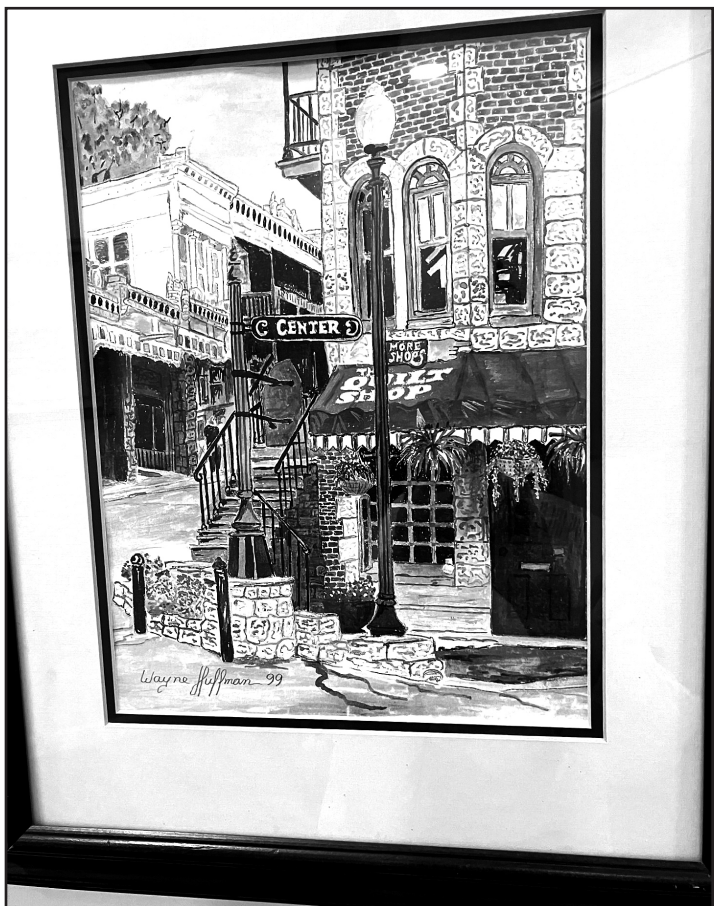
One hundred years ago very few eligible students in Neosho County attended some high school classes with an even smaller percentage graduating. By the 1940's, approximately half of the eligible students attended high school. Today, the statewide high school completion rate is around 90 percent and that of USD #101 is knocking on 100 percent each year.

The past 80 years of public education in Kansas has seen a slow progression from the one-room schools to large geographic areas becoming single school districts with students from pre-school classrooms, Kindergarten, grade levels and high schools, including opportunities for dual college credits. A multitude of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities have been added beyond the standard academic curricula. The school family has expanded over and over again as it went from one-room schools where nearly all families were neighbors to a situation where USD #101 students can live as much as 45 miles from each other. Thus, the schools have become the great uniter in modern society.



Submitted photo

The image above is by Ila Caploino, 'Winter Dusk.' The image to the right is by Wayne Huffman, Eureka Springs, Ark. both are watercolors. The Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. This exhibit runs through October 3, 2025. There is no admission fee, but gifts are always appreciated. Additional information and to arrange for a private tour contact 620431-7807 or thechanuteartgallery@gmail.com.



Chanute Art Gallery

Up Close & Personal, The Inspired Lens, Bad Art and Old Friends

The Gallery is BACK and moving ahead with full force. The exhibits chosen for the re-opening were so well received that two of them are held over for the next exhibit, unfortunately Jake Vellapondo's pieces were not available to be held over.

In that space in the Elly McCoy Gallery are photographs taken by Elaine Colvin during a trip to Italy.

"The Inspired Lens" reflects the beauty and spirituality of Italy.

Also, on display are macrophotographs taken by Hilary Shepard. Titled "Up Close

& Personal" the display zeros-in to the intimate relationship between insects and nature. The colors are breathtaking, and the subjects are seen at their best.

The Chanute Library exhibit of "Bad Art" remains a visitor's favorite, with many questioning the label "bad art" being attached to such special offerings which occupy the south gallery. A note of appreciation is due to the library for the art programs they offered both adults and children during their summer reading programs.

Alicia Fickel made several selections from the Gallery's

Core Collection to exhibits in the Patio and Center Galleries. The number of artists/works shown either in August or September is an impressive look at work done by local and area artists. In addition to the excellent quality of the work, veteran fans of the gallery are drawn back in their memories to the individuals who created the pieces and of their strong contribution to the early years of the Gallery.

The selections shown in August and in this exhibit, provide

an opportunity for visitors to see some of the treasures in the Gallery's Core Collection.

The Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. This exhibit runs through Oct. 3. There is no admission fee, but gifts are always appreciated.

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thechanuteartgallery@gmail.com.

Missing man

FROM FRONT PAGE

The search was conducted with individuals on foot, ATV's, horseback, and aircraft. The search was unsuccessful. At the time there were a couple of alleged possible sightings of Mr. Shumate, one claiming to have seen someone similar hitchhiking on US69 near Pittsburg. The Erie Police Department investigation into Mr. Shumate's disappearance was unsuccessful.

Since that time the Neosho River has flooded a few times.

On Feb. 13, 2023, the Sheriff's Office received a report of a human skull that had been found the previous day by people looking for deer antler sheds. Investigators collected the skull and were taken to the location of its discovery. The area is prone to flooding from the river. Investigators searched for any other remains or clothing in a large area around where the skull was found. This search yielded nothing.

The skull was taken to the Washburn University Forensic Anthropology lab for testing. The testing estimated that the skull was likely from a male.

The Sheriff's Office requested assistance from the KBI with the investigation. Familial DNA samples were collected from a member of the Shumate family. DNA profiles were sent to PTC Laboratories in Texas.

On Monday, Aug. 25, the Sheriff's Office received the DNA analysis confirming that the skull is the remains of Jay Shumate. The cause of death is unknown. A Sheriff's Office investigator has notified the next of kin.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Weekly Deputy Activity Report

08/19 Incident report; 21350 Lakewood Place, Chanute.
08/20 Grass fire report; Trego Rd .2 miles north from 170th, Erie.
08/20 Car/deer accident report; U59 Hwy. .4 miles from 40th, Parsons.
08/21 Single vehicle injury accident report; Queen Rd. 350 ft. north from 10th, Parsons.
08/22 Incident report; 1503 W. Cherry, Chanute.
08/22 Traffic stop; U169 Hwy. and 170th, Chanute. Cited the driver, Tami Burch, 45, Chanute, for driving while suspended.
08/23 Traffic stop; K47 Hwy. and 1st, St. Paul. Cited the driver, Jonathan Ladner, 22, Perkinson MS, for no proof of insurance.

insurance.

08/23 Traffic stop; U169 Hwy. and 70th Rd., Thayer. Arrested the driver, Trevor Rinne, 23, Independence, for driving under the influence of alcohol, transporting an open container, possession of a firearm while under the influence of alcohol, failure to stop at stop sign, and driving on the wrong side of the roadway.

08/24 Traffic stop; U169 Hwy. and 170th, Chanute. Cited the driver, David Morris, 57, Thayer, for speeding and driving while suspended.

08/24 Single vehicle non-injury accident report; K47 Hwy. .3 mile east from U59 Hwy., Erie.

08/24 Two vehicle non-injury accident report; 310 Mission Dr., St. Paul.

08/24 Incident report; 319 S. Lincoln, Erie.

SUNDAYS: Free Drinks with Dine-in



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If you have a child or know of a child who you think has delays or special needs, contact Korenne Wolken, Director of Special Education at ANW Interlocal.

Areas of special education include birth through age 2 (infant-toddler), early childhood disability, developmentally delayed, visual impairments, including blindness, hearing impairments, including deafness, deaf-blindness, autism, traumatic brain injury, emotional disturbance, specific health impairments, speech or language impairments and gifted.

Parents are advised that all special education services are designed to offer the utmost in educational opportunities for each qualifying student, as well as to provide assistance and support in the are of physical, mental, emotional and social growth. State and federal laws are followed in providing each student with a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Call (620) 473-2257 if you have a child or know of a child who may need special education services.