



LAST CLASS of the Oakland School, Kuestersteffen, Brenda Bogle, Janet January, 1964 (front, from left) Lloyd Hoyle, Bruce Seybold, Debbie Cope, Charlon Walker, Patricia Kuestersteffen, (center, from left) Floyd Hoyle, Susan Cope, Darla Leonard, Jean Barbara Stockebrand was the teacher.

Remember when . . .

Remember when going to a rural school was common in Woodson County? In 1964-1965, the last country school in Woodson County history came to a close 60 years ago. From the late 1800’s to the 1960’s, Woodson County reportedly had over 75 little country schools that were spread across the county near the many little farming communities of the time.

The mostly one-room school-houses were attended by all ages, sharing a single teacher and books. Each school was maintained by a community wide effort with the families taking turns procuring fire-wood, providing supplies, caring for the horses that the students may ride, and sometimes even housing the local teacher! Two schools vied for the title of the very first school according to oral histories: the first was a log cabin close to the Verdigris River near Toronto, and the sec-

ond is a structure close to Neosho Falls. Both were recorded in 1858.

All schools were organized into Township Districts during the 1860’s, and there were a total of five at that time in Woodson County. Later in 1865, laws were set for all schools to be numbered consecutively, and it was reported that Neosho Falls and Toronto both wanted the honor of being named the first district, but the distinction of being District #1 went instead to the Whitney School in the northern part of the county in Liberty Township.

Like Liberty, most of the schools had names of communities that are now just memories retold in family stories. Keck, Kalida, Batesville, Durand, Belmont, Defiance, Nikkeltown, Rose, and then names such as Pumpkin Koleg, Possum Trot, and Knowledge Hill are just a few. The districts which evolved into more recent

memories and had some staying power were Piqua, Neosho Falls, Toronto, and Yates Center, which at the time was District #51. Over the years, the small country schools began consolidating and closing their doors.

In 1952, several schools joined the Oakland School District #44. For the next several years, the school was converted into a modern facility, according to state specifications. It had running water and a small school bus. The school term of 1964-65 was the last for the Oakland School as it became the final rural school in Woodson County to close its doors, a special history of our county shutting down with it. In 1965, that school district was consolidated with several surrounding school districts and became known as Woodson School District #366.

Obituaries

Catherine Hunsperger



Catherine Hunsperger Health, in Shawnee Mission.

Cathy was born Oct. 11, 1959, in Lawrence, the daughter of Bill and Irma (Watkins) Haas. She grew up in Lawrence and graduated from Sante Fe Trail High School. She attended Manhattan Christian College for one year following high school.

She spent the majority of her working life as a CNA and had been employed at Yates Center Health & Rehab, Greenwood County Hospital, in Eureka, and Allen County Hospital, in Iola.

On July 30, 1991, she mar-

ried Randy Dale Hunsperger, at the Humboldt Methodist Church. They made their home in Yates Center for the past 20 years.

Cathy loved the time she spent with her family, especially her grandchildren. She was a talented poetess often writing poems for those experiencing grief. She enjoyed crocheting and had taught many in her family to crochet. She enjoyed the outdoors and hunting, especially deer hunting. She tagged her buck this last season.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Irma.

She leaves behind her husband, Randy; her children, Josh Hunsperger (Tosha), of La Harpe, Charity Cartright (Quentin Lee), of La Harpe, Jeremiah Cartright, of Humboldt, Cheyenne Hunsperger Smith (Dawson), of Buffalo, and Cody Hunsperger (Courtney), of Yates Center; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a brother, Charles Haas (Kathy Thomas), of Yates Center; two sisters, Connie Caban, of Sarasota, FL

and Colette Moore, of Lubbock, TX; several nieces and nephews; many other relatives and friends.

Family services were held at the Hunsperger farm. Campbell Funeral Home assisted the family.

Paul Brogan

Paul Eugene Brogan died Monday, March 31, 2025.

Services are pending. A complete obituary will be printed as soon as it is available.

ANW Special Education

Due to weather the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of ANW Special Education Interlocal #603 was held via Zoom Wednesday, Feb. 12.

The meeting was called to order by president Dawn Wilson at 6:01 p.m. Present were Dawn Wilson #101, Taeler Carr #256, Robin Griffin-Lohman #257, Joyce Allen #258, Nicole Goodwin #387, and Cassie Cleaver #413. Absent were Chuck Bishop #366 and Jamie Henderson #479.

Administration present were director Korenne Wolken, Amy Welch, Camille Kerr, Emily Williams and Julie Defebaugh. Others present were Kim Heslop, Amber Wheeler and board clerk Kristi Houston.

Motion was made by Goodwin, seconded by Carr to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Olson to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

Board member Jamie Henderson arrived (via Zoom) to the meeting during the association report at 6:08 p.m.

Association report: Heslop reported that the bargaining unit ratified the proposed leave language in negotiated agreement with a 60% affirmative vote. Will be attending trainings for IBB; needing a school psychologist to join the negotiation team, sending surveys for concerns or issues.

Public open forum, none. Correspondence to the board, none. Board members report, none.

Board training topic: director Wolken spoke about transportation reimbursement from the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE).

Director Wolken reported on the following:

Payroll error in January with our bank sending out direct deposits twice. Landmark Bank reversed the second payment and most of the money was recovered. Remaining amounts are collected from the employee or Landmark Bank.

W-2’s mailed Jan. 30th. Due to post office delays, employees given option to pick up W-2 with photo I.D. ANW Administration team attended the annual KASEA Winter conference in Wichita.

The MOE/Excess cost report due date was extended to Feb. 16 by the state. ANW’s report will be submitted before then.

A crisis plan will be developed for central office for emergencies. Looking at options including using Greenbush or Department of Homeland Security.

Categorical aid for 2025-26 is estimated to decrease by \$400 per licensed staff person. Vehicle replacements for ANW fleet looked at leasing vs. buying and state reimbursement.

Pre-service planning has

begun for 2025-26. Support staff will be July 31 and Aug. 1 and licensed staff will be Aug. 5 and Aug. 6. March 1 will be the live date for accounts payable in Skyward, our new accounting system. Payroll will be live starting in April.

ANW has an Infinitic membership which covers all districts. Member districts can access the mandatory and other trainings using ANW’s membership.

USD 413 and ANW are working together to look at data from focus groups regarding special education services.

The ANW retirement reception has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 14 at 4 p.m. before the May board meeting.

Pop-up pep squads comprising of central office staff and administration are visiting ANW classrooms in our districts to let staff know how much we appreciate them.

Emily Williams reported on related services billing Medicaid and the funding it brings.

Election of ANW Board of Directors Officers. Motion was made by Goodwin, seconded by Carr to nominate Wilson as board president. Motion carried. Motion was made by Carr, seconded by Henderson to nominate Cleaver as vice-president. Motion carried.

Ratification of Negotiation Item, Article 14. Motion was made by Wilson, seconded by Cleaver to enter executive session from 7:08 to 7:13 p.m. for the purpose of discussing items for employee-employer negotiations exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act (KOMA) to be discussed with the board of education and director Wolken present. Motion carried. Executive session ended at 7:13 p.m. Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Carr to ratify negotiation item Article 14 as presented. Motion carried.

Purchase of bus. Three buses were on lease. We are returning numbers 35 and 37 and would like to buy #36. Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Carr to purchase bus for \$41,342.73.

Public Notice

(First Published in The Yates Center NEWS on Thursday, April 3, 2025.) 14-3tc

IN THE 31st JUDICIAL DISTRICT DISTRICT COURT OF WOODSON COUNTY, KANSAS IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF Elizabeth Marleah Cullison, To Change His/Her Name to: Elizabeth Marleah Hatch PURSUANT TO K.S.A. CHAPTER 60 Case No. WO2025CV4 Div. No. **NOTICE OF HEARING - PUBLICATION** THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL WHO ARE OR MAY BE CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that Elizabeth Marleah Cullison, filed a Petition in the above court on the 7th day of March, 2025, requesting a judgment and order changing his/her name from Elizabeth Marleah Cullison to Elizabeth Marleah Hatch.

The Petition will be heard in Woodson County District Court, 105 W Rutledge St., Yates Center, Kansas, on the 15th day of May, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

If you have any objection to the requested name change, you are required to file a responsive pleading on or before May 14th, 2025 in this court or appear at the hearing and object to the requested name change. If you fail to act, judgment and order will be entered upon the Petition as requested by Petitioner.

Petitioner, Pro Se Elizabeth Cullison Address 1: 309 S Prairie St. City, State, Zip: Yates Center, KS 66783 Telephone Number: 620-305-1131

Negotiation team members. Goodwin and Henderson volunteered to be negotiation team members. Wilson will serve as a back-up for the negotiation team.

IBB Dates. Our federal mediator informed us today that he has resigned and his case load has been divided up. Therefore, we will have to wait until our new federal mediator has been assigned to us before we can schedule any dates for negotiations.

A two-minute break was declared at 7:33 p.m. The board meeting resumed at 7:35 p.m.

One executive session is needed for new business item iv and for personnel purposes.

Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Wilson to enter executive session from 7:36 to 7:52 p.m. for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel exception under KOMA of an individuals’ employee performance in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed with the board of education and director Wolken. Motion carried. Executive session ended at 7:52 p.m.

Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Carr to extend executive session from 7:52 to 8:02 p.m. with the board of education and director Wolken. Executive session ended at 8:05 p.m.

Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Allen to approve the licensed and classified personnel reports as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Carr to approve the three coordinator contracts for the upcoming school year as presented. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Cleaver, seconded by Goodwin to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Public Notice

(First published in The Yates Center NEWS on Thursday, April 3, 2025.) 14-1c

BEFORE THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF KANSAS NOTICE OF FILING APPLICATION

RE: OWENS OIL COMPANY, LLC – Application for a permit to authorize the injection of saltwater into the Bahr Lease #10LH, located in Woodson County, Kansas. TO: All Oil & Gas Producers, Unleased Mineral Interest Owners, Landowners, and all persons whomever concerned.

You, and each of you, are hereby notified that OWENS OIL COMPANY, LLC has filed an application to commence the injection of saltwater into the Mississippi at the Bahr Lease #10LH located 3112 feet from the South line and 4269 feet from the East line, of Section 23, Township 23S, Range 13E, Woodson County, with a maximum operating pressure of 0 psi and a maximum injection rate of 400 bbls per day.

Any persons who object to or protest this application shall be required to file their objections or protest with the Conservation Division of the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas within thirty (30) days from the date of this publication. These protests shall be filed pursuant to Commission regulations and must state specific reasons why granting the application may cause waste, violate correlative rights or pollute the natural resources of the State of Kansas.

All persons interested or concerned shall take notice of the foregoing and shall govern themselves accordingly.

OWENS OIL COMPANY, LLC 1274 202nd Rd Yates Center, KS 66783 620-496-6804

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Fish Fry

April 4th, 2025

Serving from 5:00PM until we run out of hungry people!

St. Joseph Parish Hall

Donation: Two for \$25 or \$13 single which includes:

- Delicious Fish
- Cheesy Potatoes
- Seasoned Green Beans
- Coleslaw and Bread
- HOMEMADE PIE and desserts!
- Ice tea, water and coffee

