

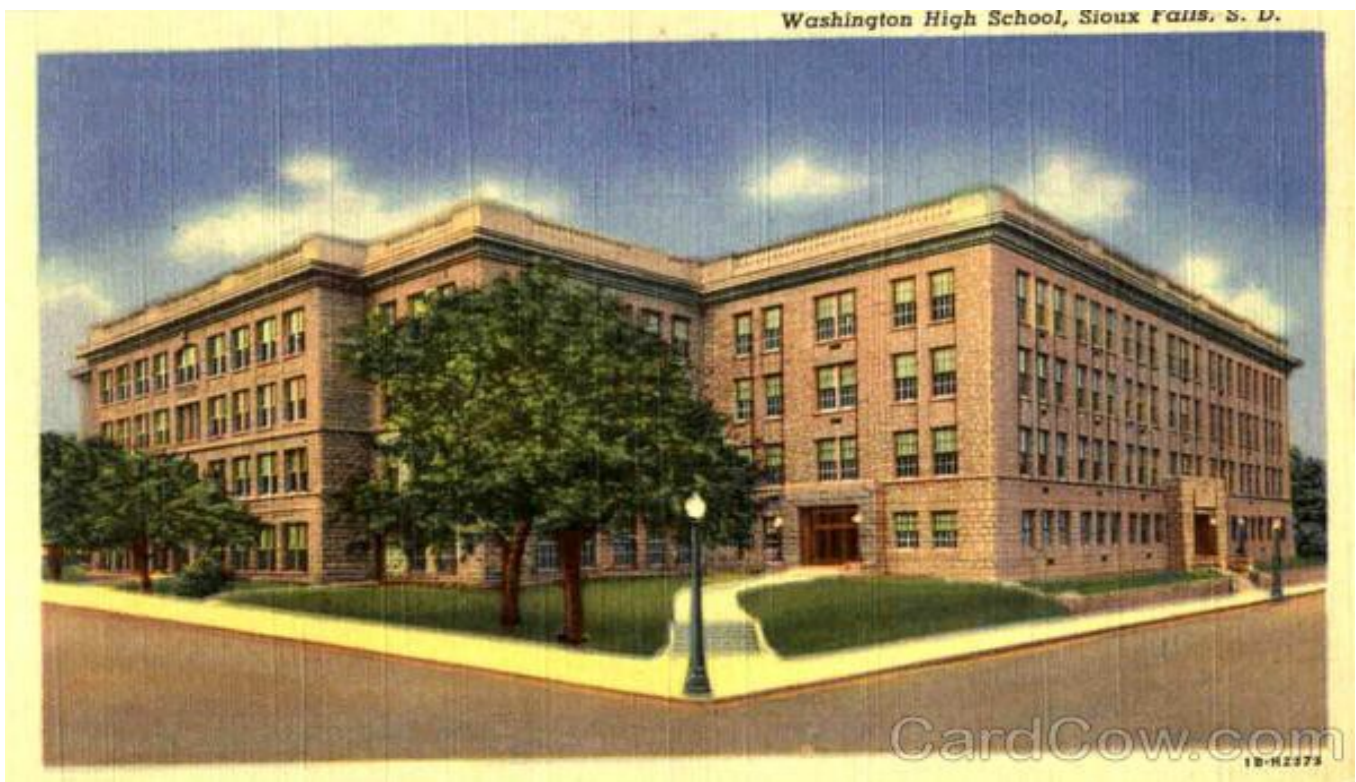
THE ALUMNI
ORANGE & BLACK

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL, SIOUX FALLS, SD

Serving the Classes of The Great '50's Decade. Photos and Stories Requested!

Published in memory of our Founder Jack M. Phillips '54. Issue #03-26

orangeandblackonline@gmail.com 2261 Lauren Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89134



Thank you to dedicated Classmates that are reporting to the O & B!
Mary Montoya '59, Jim Carlson '58, Eric Gustafson '58, Peg Teslow '57
& Virtual Executive Assistant Bill Lobe '59

Please [CLICK HERE](#)

to send your news, stories & photos plus Letters to The Editor to Keep the O & B ALIVE!

Jack & Debra Phillips

Letters to the O & B



Dale Peterson <dale0712@nwi.net>
wrote on February 21, 2026

Dear Debra,

I am happy to make my annual contribution and very much appreciate your willingness to continue the O&B and the work that you are doing in archiving newsletters. I tried to peruse the site you sent me but was unable to. Will try again later. Thank you for all you are doing.

Peace, blessings and love
In Christ Jesus,

Dale T. Peterson
Class of '56

Editor's Note: Our primary goal was to establish a digital archive to preserve all of Jack's newsletters in one place for perpetuity. It was a significant undertaking to organize the collection, especially considering some years he produced as many as 17 editions. While we did not include the Special Editions he wrote following each passing, the site now features a dedicated page honoring Jack as the Founder, a complete library of newsletters, and chronological lists of the WHS deceased by class. I invite you to peruse the site at www.whsalumninews.com (<https://whsalumninews.com>) when you have time.

Dale, regarding your contributions, I believe Jack mentioned that he had released you from your commitment to this project. Please know that you do not need to continue your financial support. My newsletters are quite different from Jack's; as I don't possess his unique "gift of the pen", the content relies heavily on what others submit to me.

Thank you again for your kindness and for everything you have done to support his memorial.

Debra

Ronald Larson <rnertime@sio.midco.net> mailed "snail mail" on March 4, 2026

Ron, your continued patron support was received! Much appreciated!
Yet another surprise! Thank you so much for your encouragement!

From Ron Larson
Class of '59

Jim Carlson <jimandpeg@sio.midco.net> wrote on March 8, 2026

AMAZING, SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES:

THESE REALLY WORK! I checked this out on snoops and it's for real!

1. AVOID CUTTING YOURSELF WHEN SLICING VEGETABLES BY GETTING SOMEONE ELSE TO HOLD THE VEGETABLES WHILE YOU CHOP.
2. AVOID ARGUMENTS WITH THE FEMALES ABOUT LIFTING THE TOILET SEAT BY USING THE SINK.
3. FOR HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE SUFFERERS ~ SIMPLY CUT YOURSELF AND BLEED FOR A FEW MINUTES, THUS REDUCING THE PRESSURE ON YOUR VEINS. REMEMBER TO SET A TIMER.
4. A MOUSE TRAP PLACED ON TOP OF YOUR ALARM CLOCK WILL PREVENT YOU FROM ROLLING OVER & GOING BACK TO SLEEP AFTER YOU HIT THE SNOOZE BUTTON.
5. IF YOU HAVE A BAD COUGH, TAKE A LARGE DOSE OF LAXATIVES; THEN YOU'LL BE AFRAID TO COUGH.
6. YOU NEED ONLY TWO TOOLS IN LIFE - WD-40 AND DUCT TAPE. IF IT DOESN'T MOVE AND SHOULD, USE WD-40. IF IT SHOULDN'T MOVE AND DOES, USE DUCT TAPE.
7. IF YOU CAN'T FIX IT WITH A HAMMER, YOU'VE GOT AN ELECTRICAL PROBLEM.



Georgia (Severson) Johnson <gjtn7odsf@aol.com> wrote on April 20,2026

70th anniversary of the Class of '56

Hi Debra,

It was brought to my attention recently that this is the “70th anniversary of the graduation of the Class of '56” It was a great year and I have fond memories of all of the friends from that time. Over the years, I have become the unofficial record keeper of the deceased list and most of the current addresses for our class.

Our last reunion was in 2018 and we called it our 80th birthday year get-together. Now in our 70th year it would nearly be impossible to have another since so many of the class have moved away from Sioux Falls and no longer have ties to the city, not to mention age and infirmities.

I appreciate the time and effort that you must put into keeping the O&B going and know that Jack would be so proud.

I encourage any of your readers to let me know any updates to either of my lists. Currently, I have listed 238 deceased out of a class of 471. Not too bad do you think?

Best wishes to the class of '56 and look forward to hearing from you soon!

Georgia (Severson) Johnson
Class of '56

TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS BY WRITING TO LETTERS to the EDITOR!

E-mail to: orangeandblackonline@gmail.com



“I had a rose named after me and I was very flattered.
But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalogue: 'No good in a
bed, but fine against a wall.' “Eleanor Roosevelt”

“Sometimes, when I look at my children, I say to myself, 'Lillian,
you should have remained a virgin.'
“Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)”

PEG'S PAGE

By Peg Teslow
Class of '57

ANSWER:

A **bottle cap top laundry sprinkler** is a vintage-style tool designed to fit over a soda or glass bottle, creating a shaker-style sprinkler for dampening clothes before ironing, used extensively before steam irons.



**I'm Positive You Will Not Know
What This Is. If you really know
this then you must be old.**





20 years ago we had
Johnny Cash, Bob Hope,
and Steve Jobs.
Now we have no Cash,
no Hope, and no Jobs.
— PLEASE —
DO NOT
let Kevin Bacon die.



Debra & Jack
Phillips <orangeandblackonline@gmail.com>

Editor's Page

Thank you to many of you that sent in articles, notes and memories!
It makes putting this together so much easier!

The most beautiful things in life are not things.
They're people and places, memories and moments,
Smiles and laughter!

Send us your wonderful WHS memories to share!

Wishing all Alumni Subscribers a beautiful Spring!

Debra Phillips

Contribution from Gary Conradi Class of '57
This article appeared in the
"Living Here" magazine in the Spring of 2023 edition.

Washington High

By Lindsay Hindman



Sioux Falls, SD

Onward Sioux Falls
Onward Sioux Falls
You're the best of all
All the happy days we spent here
We will oft recall
(Sioux Rah Rah)
For your colors black and orange
We will gladly die
And we will fight fight fight
for Sioux Falls High
-Sioux Falls Washington High
fight song

For over a century, the campus on the 300 block of South Main Avenue in downtown Sioux Falls has been a hub of learning. What was once Washington High School was one of the many architecturally magnificent central high schools constructed in the downtowns of cities small and large throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including many cities and towns in South Dakota and Nebraska. Today, however, few of those buildings still serve as functioning public high schools. Their respective fates varied widely—some have been torn down, others have been repurposed as apartment complexes or charter schools, and far too many sit empty, crumbling and gathering dust. But what is now the Washington Pavilion is a shining example of

travel and participate in art shows. Attending an art show where I exhibit my work in a personal booth, takes months of advance preparations and planning. I spend countless hours interacting with canvas, paint palette and brushes to create 15 to 20 art pieces to accommodate my display. I need to rent floor space at the show site, usually 10' X 20' and make hotel reservations."

"Days before the art show, I make sure my pickup is in tip-top shape. I gas it up, air it up and load it up. I pack display panels, lighting equipment, my original works, a bin with my prints and some art supplies. Then I drive to the site to unpack and set up. There is a lot of packing and unpacking involved when participating in an art show."

Beyond Nebraska, David enjoys traveling and participating in the Black Hills Stock Show Western Artists held in conjunction with the Black Hills Stock Show held in Rapid City, South Dakota; Out West Show, Great Falls, Montana; and Western Spirit Show, Cheyenne Frontier Days in Wyoming. "It's fun to meet and interact with people coming into my display. I enjoy reconnecting with other artists and meeting new ones. Artists are generous people, sharing compliments, ideas and techniques. I've expanded my skills by implementing suggestions from my peers."

David studies the background and styles of famous artists, past and present to broaden his skills and knowledge of art. "I usually study one famous artist at a time to get a better understanding of their background, their mindset, choices of subjects, colors of their palette and techniques."

"Lately, I've been focusing on Andrew Wyeth. As a result, I

went beyond my usual style and painted a portrait of my great-niece, Jessa Klabenes in *Girl with Red Umbrella*. This piece was on display for the figurative show held January 2023 at the Prairie Arts Center in North Platte. It was also included in my solo exhibition at the Prairie Arts Center the following February."

David enjoys facing and interacting with the canvas and using various mediums and styles. "I study the scene and faces of people to tell a story. Art is an exciting, diverse profession with endless facets: styles, subjects, color combinations and mediums. I am fortunate to make a career in a profession I value and enjoy. Therefore, I plan to continue my study of art, expand my skills and enter more shows. I experience great satisfaction when people view my work, appreciate it and smile."

David compiled two volumes of his artwork:

Visions of the West, Journey of a Nebraska Artist, Vol. 1 © 2017 and *Visions of a Nebraska Artist, The Journey Continues, Vol. 2* © 2019.

You can learn more about David Dorsey on Facebook and at his website: <https://daviddorseyart.weebly.com/>

*1*gouache-French term meaning 'opaque watercolor'.

*2*conte-Art product in the shape of a squared-cylinder stick, composed of

powdered graphite blended with a clay base. Invented by a Frenchman,

Nicolas-Jacques Conte in 1795.

*3*en plein air-French term meaning 'in the open air, out-of-doors'.

*4*pochade-French word poche, meaning 'pocket'. Compact wooden travel box

designed to be lightweight, convenient, yet large enough to provide enough paint supplies for a day's project, including a sufficient palette space for mixing colors.

Art images used with permission of David Dorsey. Photos used with permission of David Dorsey, Joan Swim and Hedda Matheson.

About the Author.

Marci Broyhill, Prairie Poet & Storyteller, was raised in rural Nebraska. Marci writes and shares her narrative cowboy poetry, which is educational and light-hearted, at a variety of venues. Marci and her husband, Kent, currently live in Dakota City, Nebraska.



The Link Halfway House
1001 Norfolk Ave
Norfolk, NE 68701
Phone: (402) 371-5310
Fax: (402) 371-7483

It is the mission of The Link to offer the recovering alcoholic or addict a safe environment in which to live and to offer assistance through professional counseling in the development of personal and social skills to ease the transition to healthy living in society.

SPRING 2023 • 61

how a historic school building can, in its second century and even long after the last school bell has rung, continue to serve as a center of learning and culture for its community.

The story of the Washington Pavilion begins in 1879, with the construction of the first school in Sioux Falls—Central School. Located near South Main Avenue and West 12th Street, Central School housed students from first through twelfth grades. But as Sioux Falls boomed, its student population quickly outgrew the space then available at old Central, and so planning began for what would become Washington High School.

The first Washington High building was designed by prominent architect Josef Schwartz to be built up around “old Central.” Schwartz was trained as a cabinet maker, and he eventually became one of the most prominent Sioux Falls area architects in the early 20th century. His skill is evidenced by the fact that more than a dozen buildings he designed are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, most of which are located in South Dakota and Nebraska. His works include at least twenty churches, most in the gothic style, as well as courthouses and a library.

In designing Washington High School, Schwartz chose black quartzite and pink Sioux quartzite for the facade, which resulted in a stunning contrast between the two materials. The four-story building also features elaborate cornices around the entire roofline, as well as

beautiful bay windows, mostly in trios.

Construction of the first Washington High School building commenced in 1905 and, and the building was completed in 1908. The construction cost \$130,000—around \$4 million in 2023. In February of 1908, Sioux Falls Washington High School officially opened to its first class of students, replacing Central High and Irving/McKinley High. W.I. Early served as the first principal, from its opening until 1936.

As Sioux Falls grew, so too did Washington High School. A south wing was added in 1922. Eventually, the old Central High building was razed to make room for further expansion, including new east and west wings, an auditorium, and a gymnasium. The last of these updates was completed in 1936 under the design direction of Robert Perkins and Earl McWayne. Perkins and Wayne, like Schwartz, were locally renowned architects, and they likewise designed several other buildings which are listed on the National Record of Historic Places. Thereafter, only

minor physical changes were made to the Washington High School campus, until the 1990s.

Lyman Fort began serving as principal of Washing High at about the same time this last expansion was completed, and continued as principal until 1944. He was followed by R.A. Beck, who was principal from 1944 to 1958, and the Ben Rossow, who served as principal from 1958 to 1971.

For most of this time Washington was the only high school in Sioux Falls. O’Gorman High School, a Catholic school, opened in 1961, but Washington remained the only public high school in town until Sioux Falls Lincoln opened for the 1964-1965 school year. As a result, the student population at Washington High grew along

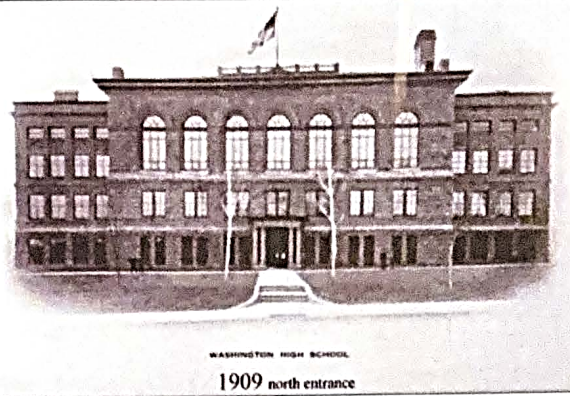
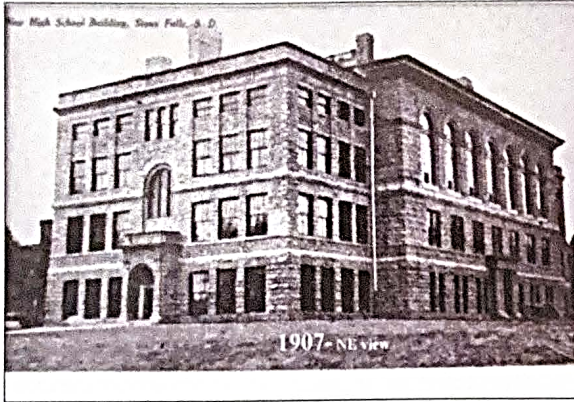


Proud Partner of Nebraska Communities

Our projects create jobs and support rural economies and the farming and ranching families who participate in Invenergy wind and solar farms.

To learn more, visit [Invenergy.com](https://www.invenergy.com).

Invenergy



with the population of its city. The Washington High building had a recommended capacity just over 2000, but the last school year before Lincoln High opened, Washington had an enrollment of 3500 students, making it one of the largest high schools in the nation!

And since Washington was the only public high school in Sioux Falls for over half a century, its illustrious list of alumni unsurprisingly includes most of the big names to emerge from Sioux Falls during the time. There are so many accomplished alumni that it would be impossible to name them all—we could probably have a Washington High alum article in every issue if we had space—but some of the notables include:

- Patrick Paul Billingsley, who was a mathematician with degrees from the United States Naval Academy and Princeton, a Fulbright Fellow and Guggenheim Fellow, and the chair of the department of statistics at the University of Chicago. He became a prominent actor in dozens of stage productions, movies, and tv shows, and served as a Fellow

of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

- Nils Boe, who served in the Navy during World War II, as the governor of South Dakota from 1965-1969, as a federal judge on the United States Customs Court (appointed by President Richard Nixon), and then on the Court of International Trade when the USCC was dissolved.

- Judge Rudi Brewster, who attended Princeton University, served in the Navy during the Korean War, attended Stanford Law School, and was appointed by President Ronald Reagan to serve on the Federal District Court for the Southern District of California.

- Judge Beth Chapman, who was appointed to the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board in 1998.

- Jerry Crider, who was a pitcher for the Minnesota Twins and Chicago White Sox.

- Daniel Dworsky, who was a prominent architect, and who also played professional football for the Los Angeles Dons.

- Joseph Jacob Foss, a World War II fighter pilot nicknamed "America's First Ace of Aces" after tying Eddie

Rickenbacher's record for enemy planes shot down. Foss later served as the commissioner of the American Football League, president of the National Rifle Association, and host of *The American Sportsman* on ABC. He also served in the South Dakota legislature for two terms, and as the governor of South Dakota from 1955 to 1959.

- Barry French, who played professional football for the Baltimore Colts and Detroit Lions

- George Keith Funston, who was president of the New York Stock Exchange

- Brigadier General Paul E. Gardner, who served as a navy fighter pilot in World War II, flew a B-26 during the Korean War, and later commanded the Civil Air Patrol of the United States Air Force

- Patricia Hermanson, a prolific writer who has worked as a journalist, editor, and author of several books, including an award-winning novel: *The Wooden Indian Resurrection*.

- Edyth Howie, a novelist who wrote mystery novels and short stories.

- George S. Mickelson, who



served in the United States Army and as governor of South Dakota from 1987 to 1993.

- Robert A Miller, who served as Chief Justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court.
- Matthew Moen, a distinguished professor, college dean, and author in the political science field.
- Harold Spitznagel, an architect known for his Art Deco masterpieces. His works include the Sioux Falls City Hall, which is considered as possibly the first public building in the United States to be built without a cornice. Spitznagel also served as Vice President of the American Institute of Architects.
- David Soul, a singer and actor best known as Hutch from the sitcom series Starsky and Hutch.

For a while even after it was no longer the only public school in town, the old Washington High School continued to educate a substantial portion of the students of Sioux Falls.

Eventually, it became part of a quartet of traditional public schools in Sioux Falls, together with Lincoln and the later-opened Roosevelt and Jefferson high schools. Owen Halleen served as principal from 1971 to 1974. Robert Caselli was principal from 1974 to 1988.

But as the dawn of a new century approached, the Sioux Falls school district realized that as beautiful as it was, the aging Washington High building wasn't ready to meet the technological and other practical demands of high school education in the 21st century. So construction was begun on a new building at a different site. And in 1992, the original Washington High School building closed, and Washington High School began a new phase of its existence at the then-new building where the school is presently located. Jan Nicolay served as the last principal of Washington High at the old building, from 1988 to 1992.

The old Washington High campus remained vacant for a while. But not long after its closing, community members who were interested in preserving the building got organized, and got to work. And through the efforts of this movement, what is now the Washington Pavilion of Arts and Sciences was born, opening its doors in 1999.

Located in the old Washington High School building, Washington Pavilion today brings learning and fun to not just high school students, but to the entire Sioux Falls area. Washington Pavilion is the lifeblood of the fine arts community in Sioux Falls, making use of the former school amenities to share the arts and sciences with Sioux Falls community members and with visitors to the area. Washington Pavilion almost feels like all the most fun parts of high school, open to the public of all ages. In the Kirby Science Center, there are more than 100 hands-on exhibits, which explore everything from prehistoric creatures to the future of space exploration. Movies are shown on the sixty-foot-wide, four-story Wells Fargo Cine-Dome. In the Mary Sommervold Hall and Belbas Theater, guests can watch performances from the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, the South Dakota Ballet, and traveling musical theater, dance, and other stage productions from around the nation and the world. Washington Pavilion's art galleries showcase the works of local and regional artists, as



well as extraordinary pieces both classical and contemporary, including a sculpture by Renoir. Little artists can make their own projects at the Raven's Children's Studio. Leonardo's Cafe is a far cry from the main cafeteria meals eaten in the building over the last century! And Washington Pavilion also continues to plan for the future, with the Sweetman Planetarium scheduled to open in summer of 2023.

Washington Pavilion also pays tribute to its history. The "Alumni Hall," which features all sorts of plaques, photos, and

memorabilia from Washington High, is a fun reminder for alumni of their time at Washington High, and lets new visitors have a glimpse at what things were like for Washington High students, faculty, and staff. These include everything from sports trophies, letter jackets, and other reminders of happy student activities, to solemn memorials commemorating the many brave Washington High students who died serving in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. A World War I memorial is presently in the planning stages. One



1912 North Side

especially interesting part of the Alumni Hall is a bookshelf completely filled with works by or about notable Washington High alumni! One work that visitors to Washington Pavilion interested in Washington High history should be sure to note is the painting *Biography* by Washington High alum and noted artist Jacqueline Rochester, which now hangs in the art center at Washington Pavilion.

The Sioux Falls Washington High Historical Committee works hard to preserve the school's history, not just through the Alumni Hall display at Washington Pavilion, but also through in-person reunions of staff, faculty, and alumni (usually meeting at Washington Pavilion). The Committee also works through its online presence at WHSHC.org.

And of course, the architectural beauty of the old building still shines through to enhance the visitor experience both inside and outside Washington Pavilion, while also serving to remind visitors of its history. The enormous windows let in natural light, while the cornices and arches help attendees of special concerts and events feel the glamor of the occasions they're enjoying inside. The entrances and facade still bear the original school name carved in literal stone.

One notable piece of Washington High that former students, staff, and faculty will remember but won't find anywhere at Washington Pavilion is a bronze bust of US



President George Washington. The bust was a reproduction cast of an original bust made in 1788 by French sculptor Jean Antoine Houdouin who met Washington in person to create it. The Washington High alumni association presented it to the principal in 1908, and it now sits not at Washington Pavilion, but in the library of the new Sioux Falls Washington High.

A small portion of the old Washington High campus continues to serve as classroom space. The Graham Academy Preschool, the Dakota Academy of the Performing Arts, and various Washington Pavilion camps and classes for kids all operate inside Washington Pavilion, educating the next generation of Sioux Falls students. Surely many of the young attendees enjoy their experience all the more, since they are learning in the same building as some of their parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents.

Washington Pavilion, with all its history and grandeur, thus remains a crowning jewel of the

educational and cultural scene in Sioux Falls. And the successful revitalization of this beautiful neo-classical structure is a testament to the people of Sioux Falls, and a shining example for other cities around the nation of how majestic, historic buildings of all kinds can be saved to continue to serve their communities.

About the Author

Lindsay Hindman grew up in California, MO, and Normandy, France, and now lives Sioux City, IA. Lindsay is a married mother of three, and when she's not writing she enjoys baking blue ribbon dishes for the county fair, sewing, and exploring the Midwest with her family.

We want to feature your historic photo!

Email the image and details to: publisher@livingheremidwest.com



**MIDWESTGLASS
SERVICE, INC.**

MIKE BRANDT
OWNER/OPERATOR

BUS: 402.564.3021

FAX: 402.564.7159

**2512 12TH STREET
COLUMBUS, NE 68601**

- **COMMERCIAL**
- **RESIDENTIAL**
- **PIT REPAIR**
- **WINDSHIELDS**

MOODY
MOTOR



**See how
much you can
save on your
next vehicle.**

Sales: (800) 745-5650
Service & Parts: (402) 857-3711
moodymotor.com Niobrara, NE

SPRING 2023 • 67



WHS DECEASED LIST for 2026

4/25/2026

FIRST NAME	MIDDLE NAME	LAST NAME	Class	OBITUARY LINK Red denotes NEW since last Newsletter	DOD
Vivian	Helen	Wehling	50	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/vivian-wehling	01/12/26
Richard	A.	Kinsley	50	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/richard-kinsley	01/13/26
Joan	Mabee	Tate	51	https://www.chapelhillfuneralhome.com/obituaries/joan-tate	01/20/26
Clinton	Gerald	Philips	51	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/clinton-philips	01/30/26
Lois	Stevens	Brown	51	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/lois-brown	04/02/26
Marianne	Hauge	Vatne	52	Legacy.com/obituaries/name/marianne-vatne-obituary?pid=211191344	01/22/26
James	H	Page	53	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/james-page	
Luann Kay	Loge	Greear	53	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/luann-loge-greear	01/14/26
Myrtice	McAlpin	Jellis	53	https://www.heartlandfunerals.com/obituaries/page/2/	03/05/26
Joyce	Barthel	Kemp	54	https://www.chapelhillfuneralhome.com/obituaries/joyce-kemp	02/10/26
Carolyn	Rae	Vollan	54	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/carolyn-vollan	03/14/26
Helen	Gildemester	Van Liere	55	https://www.millerfh.com/obituary/helen-vanliere	02/08/26
Mary	Ann	Leafstedt	55	https://www.heritagesfsd.com/obituary/mary-ann-leafstedt	04/07/26
Doris	Matthies	Tate	57	Barnett Lewis Funeral Home	02/11/26
Marlynne	Portz	Gustafson	57	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/marlynne-gustafson	02/12/26
Judy	L	Schmuck	57	https://www.georgeboom.com/obituary/judith-judy-schmuck	04/08/26
Judy		Harvey	58	https://www.isburgfuneralchapels.com/obituaries/Judy-Harvey?obId=48026525	04/02/26

To all the WHS Alumni Subscribers Keep the Stories Coming!

Many thanks to

Peg Teslow '57 & Mary Montoya '59,
Jim Carlson '58 & Eric Gustafson '58
for keeping the O & B informed!
and Bill Lobe'59 as Executive Editor

Please send your news, stories, photos & Letters to the Editor to our address
orangeandblackonline@gmail.com

Jack Phillips & The WHS Alumni Staff

