

Community News

Arcadia High School alumni banquet deemed a success

SUBMITTED TO THE TRIBUNE

Even though Arcadia High School closed its doors at the end of the 1965 school year, the annual alumni banquet is still being held on Memorial Day weekend. This year, the 2025 banquet was held Saturday, May 24, at the Community Center in Arcadia with 62 attending. The membership also includes the junior, sophomore, and freshman class of 1965. The banquet was catered by the Chickens Mary's and served by the Stansbury brothers of Arcadia, Open Door Mission Church Youth.

Enclosed with the invitation to the banquet this year was the deceased for 2024, prepared by Marilyn Flagg, historian. The change of addresses, phone numbers, etc. was enclosed and also prepared by Marilyn. The 2024 financial report done by Shirley Landon, treasurer, and the 2024 minutes completed by Virginia Smith, secretary, were handed out at the banquet.

Social hour was from 1 to 3 p.m. followed by lunch and a business meeting. President Pat Morris of Arcadia welcomed the 40 alumni and 22 guests. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Merle Engle. The invocation was by Richard Page.

At the opening of the business meeting, President Pat Smith Morris (Class of 1964) introduced alumni officers Vice President Tom Watt (Class of 1968); Secretary Virginia Harris Smith (Class of 1964); Treasurer Shirley McKinstry Landon

(Class of 1956); and Historian Marilyn Coonrod Flagg (Class of 1962) and thanked them for all the work they have done for this year's banquet.

There were no objections or corrections to the 2024 minutes or the 2024 treasurer's report. They stand approved as presented.

Richard Page led the nominations and election of officers. Michael Sheffield and Sharon Foster were also on the nomination committee.

Richard Page nominated Tom Watt for president in 2026 and Pat Morris for vice president. Michael Sheffield made the motion to accept and Lilly Sheffield seconded Michael's motion. All in favor voted yes and motion carried. Shirley Landon will remain as treasurer; Virginia Smith as secretary and Marilyn Flagg as historian.

Special recognition was given to members of the 60th (1965); 70th (1955); and 80th (1945) this year.

Those attending from the 60th class were Roselda Burge Carter and guest Teresa Kennedy; Terry Bright; and Linda Montee Underwood and guest John Underwood.

Attending from the 70th were Virgil Curnutt and guest Benjamin Curnutt; Mary Lee Eggen Payne and guests Ron and Cindy Morton.

There were none in attendance for the 80th class.

All 22 guests were asked to stand and be recognized.

Tom Watt, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, announced the winner of the 2025 A.F. Bowlus/

Betty Kirksey Scholarship as Lainey O'Dell. Lainey is the great-granddaughter of Jack and Mary Lee Payne.

Since Lainey lives in Alabama and unable to attend, her grandparents, Ron and Cindy Morton and great-grandparent, Mary Lee Eggen Payne, attended and spoke in her behalf. Lainey was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. Katherine Shead was awarded an additional "AHS" scholarship in the amount of \$1,000. Katherine is the granddaughter of Larry Shead. Because of her graduation, Katherine and Larry were unable to attend.

Any child, grandchild, or great-grandchild of Arcadia High School Alumni may apply for a scholarship.

Marilyn Flagg led the memorial service for alumni deceased since the last meeting. Those remembered were Mary Coonrod Bournonville; Robert (Bob) Morozzo; Yvonne Blair Gazaway; Helen Cambers Green; Elmer R. Carpenter; Marilyn Ferguson Nuzum; Philip Harris; Don Kauble; Carl F. Morris; Donald E. (Gene) Stevens; Patsy Fanning Scott; Elizabeth Burge Buchanan; Sandra Hanson Hamby; Doyleene Shoemaker Chapman; Mary Jo Wozniak McKinney; David Beerbower; Mike Carpenter; Priscella Krieger; and Jack Hurst.

The roll call, which consisted of the following and the 1945, 1955, and 1965 classes listed above, was done by Tom Watt:

1949 – Jerry Skidmore, Billy D. Yoos and guest William Yoos

1950 – Betty (Clarkson)

Skidmore

1953 – Bobby Charles and guests Bobby Harris and Paul Harris

1954 – Esther Engle Cousins and guest Janice-Crooks, Gary Peterson and guest Patty Peterson

1956 – Shirley (McKinstry) Landon and guest Tina Caldwell Hooks

1957 – Merle Engle, Francis M. Jones and guest Karen Kay Tripp, Lilly (Turner) Sheffield, Lou Sheets and guest Linda Sue Sheets

1958 – Joyce McKinstry Turner, Laura Coonrod Felt

1959 – William Page, Michael Sheffield

1960 – Hilda Cockman

Page, Jerry Coonrod and guest Jan Steele

1961 – Howard Holland and guest Louise Holland

1962 – Marilyn (Coonrod) Flagg, Joyce (Elliott) Maycumber, Helen (Morris) Nichols, Ronnie Smith

1963 – Sharon Barnard Foster, Richard (Dick) Page

1964 – Ronnie Kellogg and guest Barbara Kellogg, Virginia Harris Smith, Steve Morris, Ronnie Portwood and guest Mary Portwood, Pat Smith Morris, Sherry Swafford Page

1966 – Jerry Morris, Larry Smith

1968 – Don Schaub, Sherry Sisney, Tom Watt and guest Phyllis Watt

Billy D. Yoos (Class of 1949) was given an award for being the "oldest" alumni. Virgil Curnutt (1955) was awarded for traveling the "Most Distance."

The school song was led by Jan Steele. Jan is the daughter of Richard (Dick) Steele, longtime music teacher in the Arcadia High School.

The benediction was led by Merle Engle.

The servers were the Stansbury Brothers (Camryn, Wyatt, and Timothy), of Arcadia, Kansas Open Door Mission Church Youth and Judy Stansbury.

Items from the past

Six injured when driver takes turn too fast

25 Years Ago

2000

June 7

Lovers of western culture will have the chance to browse and shop June 17 and 18 at Fort Scott Community College, when a variety of vendors will be there for the Echoes of the Trail 2000 Annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering and Celebration of the West. In addition to the poets, singers, and chuck wagon cooks featured at the event, there will be more than a dozen artists, merchants, and skilled craftspeople on hand, offering an assortment of western wares.

50 Years Ago

1975

June 7

Members of the Drywood 4-H Club enrolled in Foods and Nutrition proj-

ects met at the home of their leader, Mrs. Don Simpson, Lisa Simpson directed the group enrolled in "Tricks for Treats."

75 Years Ago

1950

June 7

BETHEL By Mrs. W. Collins – Lon Farrell is now employed at the Western Insurance Company. Len Farrell has signed up with a wheat harvesting gang for the summer and will follow the harvest on up to Canada. He reports the weather being very hot—105! Cream puffs, 5 cents; cup cakes, 2 for 5 cents.

100 Years Ago

1925

June 8

W.M. Lasure sustained a fractured right arm, Miss Rosie Hawkins, a dislocated elbow' John Mead, two

fractured ribs, and four other persons sustained bruises and contusions when a car belonging to Mr. Mead overturned yesterday at the corner of National Avenue and Eighteenth Street. Witnesses said Mr. Mead attempted to make the sharp turn while going at considerable speed.

125 Years Ago

1900

June 7

Following is a list of janitors employed for the different schools next year: Central school, W.A. Preston, \$55; Eddy School, Thomas Lowe, \$45; Plaza school, John Johnson, \$27.50; Ivy School, E.V. Squires, \$26.25; Margrave school, M.J. Wilson, \$27.50; Main Street school, J.A. Reeds, \$26.25; and High School, E.J. Richardson, \$30.

Courthouse repairs

Continued from Page 1

"I think we need to not be so stringent that it excludes bidders," Milburn-Kee said. "When I see recommendations, that's what it means, it's not mandatory ... there's plenty of people in our community that can do this kind of work."

Shane Walker said repairs have been put out for bid in past years and companies "never bid on it," with the most recent example being a project for repairs to the front porch in 2022.

"People don't have the crews big enough to do it," he said. "You don't want this to be a two-year project."

There was discussion on the size of the bid docu-

ment and its contents, which Shane Walker said also includes a 10-year plan.

He said an incident occurred in 2005 in which hot oil was sprayed off the roof of the building "into the treasurer's office and ruined a \$30,000 printer" and several computers. The document helped protect the county.

"We need to make sure we have the money and we know where it's coming from," Milburn-Kee said.

As county officials discussed funding the work, Susan Walker said money in the jail sales tax fund can be used for courthouse repairs. In 2015, voters passed a .4% county-wide retail sales tax to fund a bond issue for the jail.

"It was part of the vote in the actual statute," she said.

Susan said funds were intended to construct the jail, but can be used for

operations, according to the statute. She said past commissions have used those funds to lower the mill levy.

"They've also set money aside for courthouse repairs. They knew there was deferred maintenance," she said. "From a financial perspective, I would pay the bonds down quicker, but there are needs."

Shane said repairs are needed on the roof and elevator, the latter of which could be shut down by the state "if we don't spend about another \$130,000 on it." He said a new elevator would cost about \$1.5 million or the current elevator could be fixed "to get by for another 15 years."

Later, Shane said there is also a need to seal the envelope in windows as snow enters bathrooms and offices during the winter months.

Beerbower said without cost figures, commissioners

can't be sure what can be done heading into 2026.

Shane said the first of three stages on repairs to the elevator is complete, and stage two is behind schedule. He said the issues have not been addressed in past years.

"We should be doing stage two now," he said. "Stage three, if we don't have it done probably by mid next year they'll shut it off and that can't happen. The problem is nobody has done anything to the building when they've been told about it, and they've been told about it for 20 years."

Shane and Milburn-Kee discussed her concerns with the size of the bid document.

"The reason it's there is that's what our expectation of fixing this building is," Shane said. "This isn't our house, this is the people's house."

"Who set that expectation?" Milburn-Kee said. "David and I are the commissioners."

Shane said the county must still follow guidelines from the State Historic Preservation Office. He said the document may contain some items that haven't been cleared out, such as the courthouse building cannot be sealed.

"We can seal the statue out there because the county didn't pay for it," he said. "There are certain things you can and can't do."

"This stuff is to protect us from liability. You have to have a bond to cover the job. If the job is a \$200,000 job, you have to have insurance to cover that, worker's comp to work for the county. There's rules."

There was discussion on viewing and taking photos of the building's roof. Former commissioner Lynne

Oharah said he has inspected the roof several times, and discussion on repairs has taken place for at least 10 years. He said the parapet is in "very bad shape" and is in danger of falling off during a storm.

"They're in that poor of repair," he said. "Repairs are needed. I don't care how you get to it, it has to be done and done right."

"If it was so urgent 10 years ago, they should have done it then," Milburn-Kee said.

Beerbower said commissioners don't plan to "kick the can down the road" any longer, but must "look at all angles."

Shane said the work could be broken up into pieces to avoid "high number bonds." Milburn-Kee said commissioners can prioritize projects rather than look at the matter as "all or nothing."

Protecting the historic district

Continued from Page 1

"It's up to us to make those decisions," he said. "If you have an ordinance drawn up and we can review it for discussion, I'm happy to entertain it. But I'm not ready to sit here tonight and vote on it because we have no idea what it looks like."

During a city commission work session in 2023, commissioners and citizens asked questions about the city joining the CLG pro-

gram. Some who attended expressed concern the program would invite more bureaucracy while others said the city is already meeting most of the requirements for the program.

On Tuesday, commissioners and Matkin discussed the matter prior to the vote. Commissioner Kathryn Salsbury said amendments could be made to an ordinance.

"The point of this is, and this needs to be extremely clear, it's not about just doing it one specific way," Wells said.

Wells said commissioners can provide input for an ordinance, which he said

could include a stipulation, if the commission chooses, which states "you can't force people to list their buildings on the historic register unless they want to." He said a new ordinance would also stipulate compliance with SHPO guidelines, and commissioners can modify an ordinance to make it fit the city of Fort Scott.

"We're drawing up a new ordinance," he said. "That's what we're doing here."

Wells said an ordinance could help solve several issues commissioners are currently dealing with.

"And let's make this easier for the city of Fort Scott and the citizens to be able to work on these historic buildings and to follow SHPO guidelines," he said.

Matkin said business owners have approached him with concerns about the length of the approval process through SHPO, and he would like to see the process shortened.

"I don't know if this is going to shorten anything," he said. "I mean honestly, if you have to go SHPO, it's not going to shorten it."

Farmer said Tuesday he had not reviewed the CLG guidelines for the state.

"Until you guys decide to do something, I don't review it," he said.

According to the Kansas Historical Society website, a national historic preservation program began in 1966 as a partnership between the federal government and states. The National His-

toric Preservation Act was later expanded to include local partnerships with the state and federal government. Under that law, the State Historic Preservation Officer and Secretary of the Interior certify local governments to participate under several federal standards.

The goal is to give control of historic preservation to local entities, according to Katrina Ringle, CLG coordinator and deputy State Historic Preservation (SHPO) officer, who presented information about the program during the 2023 work session.

Local governments adopt a historic preservation ordinance, which establishes a historic preservation commission, defines all relevant

terms, and specifies the number, composition and duties of the members of the commission, the Kansas Historical Society website states.

Fort Scott has two historic districts – one is national and the other is local. Ringle has said state law does not apply to the local district. She said the CLG would include historical landmarks or buildings throughout the city.

In July 2023, after several individuals called for the commission to disband the Design Review Board, Mayor Matthew Wells recommended the city become a CLG and place the design review board's responsibilities with the planning commission.

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