

# Talk of the Town

City of Victoria

785 735-2259

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victoria@ruraltel.net



## New clinic coming to Victoria

Physical therapist Curtis Sohm and his wife Char are definitely putting down professional roots in Victoria as they build their new clinic which will house his therapy practice and a companion program that focuses on wellness.

Curtis has been working in Victoria under the name Breakthrough Physical Therapy since January, sharing the Victoria clinic space with nurse practitioner Jamie Schneider. His practice hours are Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday

from 7:00 am—6:00 pm. Currently, they have a waiting list for patients. Curtis says that they only advertised over the radio for one month; their patients mostly come to them by word of mouth, for which he is very grateful.

Their office accepts all major insurances as well as cash options. Provider referrals are welcome but not required.

Prior to coming to Victoria, Curtis had been employed at Russell Regional Hospital for over 20 years. He has served patients in Russell, Gorham, Victoria and the surrounding areas. Both he and Char, a registered nurse, say they have been treated kindly by members of the community and are “super excited” that they will be able to bring new services and expanded hours to their patients.

Among the new services they plan to provide are the Emsella chair, a non-invasive FDA-cleared device designed to improve pelvic floor strength and treat urinary incontinence; Emsculpt Neo, a device designed to reduce fat and build muscle simultaneously; an infrared sauna used to promote relaxation, improve circulation, and help with muscle recovery by reducing soreness and stiffness; red light therapy which promotes healing and rejuvenation used for both cosmetic and therapeutic purposes.

The new clinic, situated on the former site of Fork That Bakery, is being built by Straightline Construction of Hays and expected to be completed between four and six months.

Summarizing their goals, Char remarked: “We hope to improve the overall quality of our patients’/clients’ lives. We hope that along with physical therapy, our other services will make a positive impact on people’s health and well-being.”



## City Officials

### Mayor

John Schulte

Shultz@ruraltel.net

### City Council

Joe Leroux

joemilitary@hotmail.com

Ryan Lichter

ryanlichter@hotmail.com

Harland Rupp

hrupp@ruraltel.net

Matt Sander

mlsander79@gmail.com

Andy Wellbrock

awellbrock@msn.com

**City Clerk:** Jamie Sterling

**Utilities Clerk:** Rachel VonFeldt

**City Treasurer:** Jerry

Schmidtberger

**City Superintendent:**

Brad Schmidtberger

**Public Works Assistant:**

Terry Riedel

Jeff Dorzweiler

**Police Chief:** Cole Dinkel

**Patrol Officer:** Ryan Mauch

**Fire Chief:** John Weber

**Assistant Fire Chief:** Scott Wellbrock



On behalf of the Victoria Recreation Commission, Sean Rodger reports that they were able to host Clifford Clark, the 2023 KDWWP Region Four Instructor of the Year, to teach the hunter's education course to thirteen area youth (and one adult). The course included the handling of firearms, the rules and regulations in the state of Kansas as well as how to set traps.

The Victoria Greenway Trail is currently closed.

Basketball forms will be out soon.

Residents are encouraged to like and follow Victoria Recreation on Facebook to stay current on their activities.



**With October being Fire Safety Month and November being Thanksgiving, this is a fitting time to express our sincere appreciation to all of our volunteer firefighters for all that they do to keep our community safe.**

**John Weber, City Chief  
Scott Wellbrock, Asst. Chief  
Kami Weber, Secretary  
Cole Dreiling  
Justin Braun  
Walker Braun  
Jared Burkholder  
Wyatt Dreiling  
Dylan Kuhn  
Doug Kuhn  
Nathan Kuhn  
Bill Leikam  
Payden Leiker  
Thomas Leiker  
Caden Oberle  
Terry Riedel  
Quentin Rupp  
Taylor Schmidtberger  
Logan Unrein  
Grant Weber**



## ALL-SCHOOL PLAY SET FOR DECEMBER

The Victoria community is invited to a fun evening seeing our high school students on stage on **Saturday, Dec. 7 at 7:00 pm** in the production of *Superfreaks*. This is a re-scheduled date due to a previous conflict.

The two-act play, co-directed by Kori Braun and Ruth Ann Zimmer, tells the story of a big-city journalist writing a story about the current state of modern mental health facilities. Her research takes her to a hospital populated with a unique group of quirky inmates who imagine themselves to be crime-fighting superheroes. At first their superhero fantasies are an entertaining diversion, the wild delusions of unstable minds, UNTIL something unusual happens that makes her wonder...

**Class**

**Notes**



Yearbook adviser Kori Braun reports that the Yearbook Class is offering a new advertising option this year. Businesses are able to purchase a wall banner, which will remain hung 24/7 throughout the entire school year and are renewable each year. They are displayed outside of the concession stand/cafeteria for optimal visibility.

Braun also reports that she recently took eight students on a field trip to explore the future of drones in agriculture. They went to Sump Ag north of Randolph, Kansas. In her words, "It was fascinating."



**For the first time since 2019, trash rates are going up. This increase is due to an increase in the fees charged by Ellis County at the transfer station. The county is increasing their fees by 10%, and the City has to follow suit. The new rates are \$20.65 for residential customers and \$42.50 for each dumpster. The change of rates will be seen on the utility bills dated December 1, 2024. The City does offer a reduced rate for senior citizens, which reduces the residential rate by \$1.50 per month. If you would like to sign up for the senior citizen rate, please stop by City Hall, and bring a photo ID with you. All senior citizens that signed up for the reduced rate previously will be given the new reduced rate.**

## — People in our Neighborhood —

Steve Arthur, a 20 year resident of Victoria, actually has ties that go way back. His Great Great Grandfather Ulrich Tholen originally came from Victoria and later homesteaded around the Angelus and Oakley area where Steve grew up.

Steve and his wife Charmion moved here when she was offered a teaching position at FHSU as an instructor in Interior Design, and he accepted the position as director at the Ellis Public Library. He will retire from that post in November.

Steve says the most enjoyable part of his library job was using it as a teaching platform. "I am an unabashed believer that a library serves as an informal educator." Motivated by that belief, he introduced STEM to Ellis nearly 20 years ago, in the form of rocketry which then grew into robotics, CAD, coding, 3D printing, and astronomy. He was also involved in astrobotany, participating as an experiment with NASA growing Chimayo chilis for the International Space Station and making it a community project.

A graduate of FHSU, Steve earned a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in biology. During that academic time, he became involved in researching the history of Walker Army Airfield, an endeavor that "would consume three years of my life."

An Army veteran, Steve was stationed in Ft. McClellan, Alabama, Ft. Polk, Louisiana, Augsburg, Germany, and Bad Tolz, Germany, working as Military Police and later in an armored cavalry unit.

"I'm a child of the Apollo Era," Steve says. "I built my first rocket in 1973" and his passion for rocketry continues to this day. He is proud of the program he introduced to Ellis kids, recalling a "most glorious moment when we showed up at the Ellis County Fair with 40 rocketry entires. From that point on there were more and more groups from Hays building rockets and entering them in the fair." Three of his oldest students continue to build and fly high-powered rockets for their university teams and one has finished his Ph.D in aerospace engineering.

"In my retirement, I want to provide STEM education to under served communities and provide other kids the same opportunities I did for the kids in Ellis. We have entered a second Space Age. What better way to get in on the ground floor of it. Rocketry today is nearly as sophisticated as what you see NASA and Space X do daily."



*Save  
the  
Date*

Plans are set for the second annual Victoria Holiday Market on Nov. 22 at the VFW from 6:30 10:30 pm. A cash bar will be a part of the evening's offerings.

According to organizer Andrea Schmidtberger, over 20 vendors will be marketing their wares including jewelry, cosmetics, clothing, and food items. There will also be free giveaways and no admission will be charged.

Anyone interested in securing a spot as a vendor should contact Andrea at 785 656-2208. Kaylee Robben is the other organizer for this event.

## St. Fidelis News

In keeping with the holiday spirit, St. Fidelis will once again provide gifts for needy families. The parish welcomes donations to help with this project. Christmas food boxes will also be provided to those who sign up. Contact Andrea Schmidtberger at the Parish Activity Center (785) 735-2777. These programs are funded by the proceeds from the St. Fidelis Thrift and Gift Shop.

A big thank you is extended to the faithful volunteers who give their time to this endeavor!





## CHEER NEWS



The Victoria Knights cheerleaders have a busy fall schedule. In addition to cheering at the Knights' games, they will be participating in three competitions. On Nov. 9, they will be performing at the TMP-Marian fieldhouse. Next, they will travel to state competition to be held in Topeka at the Stormont-Vail Events Center. Last, they will host a home competition on Feb. 8. Sponsor Micah Hilbert reports that the girls are practicing hard and very excited about their prospects.

Squad members include Leeya Martinez, Brinly Lichter, Hailey Anderson, Saige Moos, Leah Dinkel, Ashlyn Washburn, Lyla Rodger, Larryn Braun, and Zoe Dinges.



## VES NEWS

By Deena Clark, Elementary Principal

Exciting things are happening at Victoria Elementary School. Mrs. Karen Nowak and myself are in the process of getting their dogs, Libby and Cruize, registered to work in the schools as therapy dogs. Both dogs have successfully passed their exams and will also be volunteering at nursing homes and the local hospital to complete their requirements. Our students are eager to welcome their new 'study buddies' when they report for duty!

Another recent highlight was Fire Safety Day, hosted by the Victoria Fire Department. The event featured multiple stations with students rotating throughout the morning to watch exciting demonstrations and participate in fun activities like a fireman's uniform relay and a tug-of-war with a fire hose. As always, this day was a huge hit with the students. The winners of the Fire Safety poster contest received an extra special reward: a chauffeured ride to school in a fire truck!

Our fifth grade students were recently invited by the Heartland "Give Day" Foundation to participate in a philanthropic event. Each fifth grade student was given \$10 to donate to a charity of their choice. Mrs. Huser's class traveled to Hays for their "Giving Day" where they made their charitable contributions.

It's been an eventful and heartwarming season at Victoria Elementary!

## Sophomores learning geometry through new program

This year's sophomores at VHS are learning geometry in a totally new way. After attending training in Denver, math instructor Christie Sander and shop instructor Kelby Parton have a new curriculum called Geometry in Construction. During their training, they were expected to do the activities and learn just as the students would. According to Sander, "We both had to go outside our comfort zone: I worked with tools and he learned the geometry."

The focus is on team-building and durability/employability skills. All geometry concepts are viewed through the construction lens. It is a two-hour block each day, split between math class and the shop. Recently the students built two doghouses to prepare for a larger project, a playhouse which will be raffled off with proceeds going to help purchase supplies and tools for future projects. They will also be doing smaller projects commissioned as a service to the school and community.

Sander stressed that the curriculum is not watered down; it covers all the topics of a traditional geometry course and is research based. It allows for students to explore ways to solve problems that best fit their strengths. It allows for struggle and creativity, which will build confidence and problem solving.

Class members are assigned between 20-40 geometry problems per week and have access to any information/resources they may need to help them solve them. They have about two class periods each in the classroom to work on the problems as a team. Students work together to come up with ideas and strategies to solve the problems.

Anyone interested in purchasing raffle tickets for the playhouse and in supporting the program can contact any sophomore or Parton or the high school office. Tickets are \$20 each or five for \$100.



Former VHS graduate Karen Dinkel Nowak returned to her alma mater this fall as the new FACS instructor, replacing Connie Braun.

To make her job more enjoyable, she has a brand new kitchen to work in, thanks to a total remodel that was done over the summer. Kord Hilbert was the contractor for the job.

Pictured above are Nowak with students Lyla Rodger and Cidnee Werth as they worked on a foods experiment.