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Official Newspaper of Larned, KS
and Pawnee County
Eight pages



Kay Warner



Rod Bauer



Leo Schraeder



Ray Patterson

Four Inducted Into Burdett-Rozel Pawnee Heights Hall Of Fame

BY: C. TABLER

ROZEL—Last Friday evening, between games between Kiowa County and Pawnee Heights, four new members were inducted into the Burdett-Rozel-Pawnee Heights Hall Of Fame. They were Kay Warner, Rod Bauer, Leo Schraeder and Ray Patterson.

The Hall of Fame was established to recognize and honor individuals who have made a significant contribution to the traditions and reputation at Burdett, Rozel and Pawnee Heights High Schools.

Kay Warner taught at Pawnee Heights for 23 years, retiring in 1996, but she continued to donate countless hours volunteering at the Elementary and Junior High schools. She also served as a School Board member for eight years. Kay has funded and awarded a Warner Family scholarship for over twenty five years. Kay has generously given much of herself to Pawnee Heights Schools.

Rod Bauer was a member of the first graduating class of Pawnee Heights after consolidation. He was an outstanding athlete that competed in track in high school and at Wichita State University. After graduating from college he returned to Pawnee Heights and taught and coached various sports. He taught at Pawnee Heights for 21 years and also taught at Larned High School until his retirement in 2012. A prolific writer, Rod is the author of several books about life in a small rural town.

Leo Schraeder, a World War II veteran, left the farm and went back to college to earn degrees in math and history. He began teaching at Rozel High School in 1957. He continued through the unification years and taught at Pawnee Heights until his retirement in 1981.

Leo spent a decade developing, and breeding, a wheat specifically designed to withstand the harsh western Kan-

sas environment that is still available today. He named it "Tut", after an Egyptian King. Leo passed away on March 10, 2013.

Ray Patterson was a graduate of Rozel High School in 1961. He was a key member of the Rozel High School State Championship basketball teams of 1959 and 1960. He continued his education at Dodge City Community College where he became the only two-year, three-sport letterman in DCCC history. He lettered in football for two years at Wichita State University.

In 1986, Ray returned to education at Pawnee Heights, teaching and coaching. He eventually served as athletic director, principal and in 1997 became Superintendent. In 2009, Ray received the prestigious KSHSAA Governor's Award, honoring his statewide impact on youth, athletics and education. Ray retired in 2009 and passed away in 2011.

Larned Girls Get Home Game in Sub-State Boys On the Road to Lakin

BY: C. TABLER

It's "Win Or Your Season Is Over" time for Kansas high school basketball teams as Sub-State playoffs begin this week.



The Larned Girls, based on records as of last Saturday, take a 16-6 record into the playoffs and that earned them a seeding of number 6 in Sub-State 2 of the Larned Sub-State and a first-round home game against

Scott City. That game will be played at the Larned Middle School on Friday, February 27 at 6pm. It will be the only game that evening.

Scott City, the 11th-seeded team has a record of 8-12 but did defeat Larned, at Scott City, back on February 10th, by a score of 36-31. If Larned wins, they would next play the winner of the Beloit-Cimarron game. That game would be played on the home court of the higher-seeded team.

The Larned Boys brought a record of 6-16 into the seedings which placed them 14th of the sixteen teams. They will be on the road on Thursday, February 26, traveling to play

Lakin. That game will tip off at 6pm. The winner of that game will play the winner of Southwestern Heights and Goodland. That game will be played on the home court of the higher-seeded team.

Following the first two games, played on home courts, the tournament will move to Larned for championship games. Boys championship games will be played on Friday evening, March 6 and the Girls championship games will be played on Saturday evening, March 7. Two Boys teams and two Girls teams will advance out of the Larned Sub-State to play in the State Championships in the following week.

Tiller & Toiler To Be Delivered on Fridays

New Delivery Date To Begin In March

Due to changes of printing times at printing headquarters in Russell, Larned's Tiller & Toiler will be in your mailbox on Fridays instead of Thursdays.

Main Street Media, the parent company of the Tiller & Toiler prints a sizable number of newspapers in Russell. Due to the sale of some out-of-state newspapers, printing days and times have had to be adjusted, forcing the delivery time of the Tiller & Toiler to late afternoon on Thursdays. Thus, the papers will be delivered to the Post Office on Thursday afternoon for Friday delivery. Papers should be available in the newspaper racks and at area outlets, such as Casey's, by Thursday evening.

Another change that customers will notice is that the Tiller & Toiler will come to you in a half-fold format instead of the previous quarter-fold format, something the Post Office has been requesting for some time. All of these changes will happen the week of March 2.

The deadline for news copy, legals and advertising will remain the same, Tuesdays at 2pm. Thank you for your continued support and readership of The Tiller & Toiler.

Pawnee Co. Sheriff's Office Spotlights Connor Upson

February Deputy Spotlight: Connor Upson

Deputy Upson graduated high school in 2021 and attended Barton County Community College for one year before pursuing a career focused on serving the community.

From 2022 to 2024, Connor worked as a para-educator at Larned Elementary School. During that time, School Resource Officer Officer Perez encouraged him to consider a career in law enforcement.

In 2024, Connor joined the Pawnee County Sheriff's Office and began his career working in the jail. In 2025, he was selected to move to patrol and attended the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center from June 27 through October 3. Since graduating the academy, Deputy Upson has been proudly serving the citizens of Pawnee County on the road.

Outside of work, Connor enjoys spending time with his family and friends.

We're proud to have Deputy Upson as part of our team and appreciate his dedication and commitment to serving our community.

(Deputy Upson was recognized after his graduation of KLETC, we are now wanting to recognize his success, like most of our deputies he started in the Jail and worked his way to Road deputy.)



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