



Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press

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The 2026 All School Reunion Committee Welcomes You Back

Whether you attended for a partial year or graduated from here...whether you taught a partial year or your whole career, you are welcome to join any or all the festivities, maybe you had kids that went here and got to know all the parents...there will be something for you. The committee made sure of that. Since we've been keeping track, members include Deb Olson, Deb Sandon, Del Houghton, Larry Magstadt, Annette Batholomaus, Richard Paolinelli, Ann Kunrath, Gary Johnson, Kenny Fischer, Paula Schmautz, Paul Erdelt, Sandy Dewald, Bonita Moch, Rhonda Binder, Lynda Magstadt, Kim Kinev, Mercedes Clark, Sandy Argent, Patsi Moch, Juleen Johnson, Rob Dewitz. Please thank these members and remember, we need another crew for Steele's 150 All class reunion in 2031. There is a ton you can do remotely, and we probably will get started at the POST 2026 MEETING sometime in July, if interested, please mention it to a current member. Not only is it a good way to reconnect to a simpler life, you can do it as a class, as a family, etc. Just grab one category like Food, Entertainment, Clean-up, Parade, etc....report back to the committee on what your plans would be and that's one more thing the committee can check off their list. One such project deserves a big shout out...Paula (Thorness) Schmautz helped greatly working remote as she digitized all everyone's address so we now have a spreadsheet! Huge thanks to you Paula.

Sidenote: If you didn't get a letter this year, we don't have

your correct address...please update it at registration and at the food line at the AmVets.

We have a few late notices... the KC Swimming Pool is having a fun run and open house Saturday after the parade. See the ad in this week's Ozone for details. The other will be that we will have a photo booth at the AmVets for anyone that wants a picture with their classmates or teachers from about 4pm to 6pm. The pictures will be printed at that time and all pictures will be printed on the reunion facebook page and on the free site of steeleozone.com following the event. If you didn't rsvp for the dinner, but want to stop by the photo booth, please do so during that time.

You will be hungry and we will be ready for you. Friday, area firemen will have a burger feed outside the AmVets. You have our great local establishments ... Mad Moves, All American Café at the AmVets, the Coffee Cup Food Court all in Steele, Country Town Café in Tuttle, Wolff's Bar & Grill and Lakeside in Dawson, and don't forget the surrounding areas, Tappen Roadhouse, Fox Hole in Robinson, Legacy Bar and Harvesters Cafe in Pettibone...on Saturday, we will have 4 food trucks...Hot Mandy's, Reister Meats, Taste of B's, and 3 Brothers. Each will have something special for you from breakfasts to desserts, pulled pork sandwiches to burgers...and everything in between.

The festivities kick off with registration and school tours at the school from 4 to 6 on Friday, then before the parade 9am to 10:45am before the parade.

Our grand marshals for the parade are all present and past school staff! We have float trailers set up just for you. We will pick you up in front of the old school where the busses still pull up before and after school. You can park on the North side of the street or in the parking lot and we will get you seated on the float. One celebrity driver will be our own Perry Bartholomaus, so be sure to say hello to Bart!

We will have live music Friday night, Saturday in Veteran's Park, at the dinner, and on the Street in front of the Depot.

A car and vendor show will

follow the parade, and again, there is a whole lot going on with individual classes, so check with yours or the one above or below and again, to make sure

you don't miss a class reunion, please update your address with a committee member.

Welcome Home!



Steele's first State sports championship came 60 years ago. They invite other State Champs to all meet at Amvets this Friday at 4:30...absolutely, everyone is welcome. Pictured above is their last get together held in 2025.

1966 State Baseball Champs extend invite

By Richard Paolinelli

It's literally the dream of every kid who has ever picked up a baseball bat. Bottom of the ninth, bases loaded, two out, trailing on the scoreboard, and down to the last strike before clearing the bases with one swing of that bat.

In 1966, the dream was the reality for the Steele Legion baseball team. Coming off a loss to Minot in the state championship game in 1965, a motivated Steele squad had marched through the 1966 season undefeated. After claiming titles in both district and regional play to advance, Steele won its first two games in the state tournament. The team found themselves back in the championship game for the second straight year, this time against Velva.

Velva had put up two unearned runs against Steele's ace, John

Lippert, and Ron Blotsky in the game. Meanwhile, Steele's bats hadn't been able to get anything on the board through eight innings. In the eighth, with Lippert and Blotsky both out of innings to pitch, John Aurit came on to pitch. Aurit would keep Velva off the board, striking out four batters.

Then came the inning every player dreams of... with an ending only a Hollywood script writer could produce.

John Hanson singled to lead off the inning. Bob Tollefson pinch hit and reached on a fielder's choice. Tom Homsey then drew a walk to load the bases with no one out.

Velva summoned their ace and he promptly struck out the next two batters, bringing Blotsky to the plate. Homsey remembers the final pitch of the game as if it were yesterday.

"I know it was a 3-2 pitch," Homsey recalled, "because I was off with the pitch. Ronnie hit the ball over the left fielder's head."

"He hit it so hard," recalls Assistant Coach John Argent, "that it hit the bottom of the fence and bounced back. If it's any shorter it bounces over for a ground rule double and the game is only tied."

Blotsky made it to third base in time to watch the play at the plate. Hanson and Tollefson had easily scored to officially tie the game. Head Coach Buzz Argent waved Homsey in.

"I remember standing on third and looking in," Blotsky said. "It was a close play at the plate."

"The throw came in high," John Argent remembers. "Tom just managed to slide in under the tag."

(See "State Champs" on page 8)

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