



**Joplin Eagles**

# **"JHS Class of '64"**

**Issue 48**

**Class Newsletter February 2026**

## **"A Few Days Late & Several Dollars Short"**

### **"Hello JHS Class of '64 Classmates & Friends!"**

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Here we finally are with some long awaited class news. Not much to say here other than I would like to thank our beloved classmate Karen Trenary Hix for her donation to this issue and it's exactly what's been asked for in the last 47 issues, that's right, 47 issues as this the 48th that's been done. We started out with myself, Phyllis Payne Sapp and Jeanne Looper Smith contributing to the newsletter. Phyllis had many other commitments pop up and had to drop out, fortunately she remains on the sidelines doing the class scholarship donation and I thank her for that. Jeanne relocated back to Florida so that left me as the Lone Ranger. We started with class bios and doing a quarterly video inserting two class bios that can still be read on the class website. David De Tar, I promised to get that to you at the reunion, I bow from the waist as I'm just late doing so. Go to <https://joplinmo64.com/> just click on newsletters on the banner at the top. Input and ideas from classmates dried up so, a decision was made to do the newsletter every four months. Truthfully, that dog ain't hunting very well either, and that's why I thank you Karen Trenary Hix for helping me fill spaces and wish others would do the same. If not, I wonder if it's worth my time and effort to do a newsletter at all. You see, I read Facebook timelines of classmates that post on their timeline of things they have done or involved in and damned if I don't say to myself that is something that would be great in the newsletter. I get the feeling at times that it's sort of like going to the shooting range and you don't have any bullets for your gun or better yet, I'm ready to yell charge, look over my shoulder and I don't have any troopers to charge with. Think about contributing, it's free.



## Renewing Old Friendships

Not long ago I moved from Tulsa, OK back to Missouri, which allowed me to reconnect with old teenage friends. Back then we "dragged" Main St, walked the falls, giggled at sleepovers, and tried the latest fashions and hairstyles. Then we graduated, married, and went our separate ways. We lived in different cities. We were busy raising kids and building careers. Now three of us have all moved back to Joplin and re-connected like we were never apart. Our roots remain strong and intertwined in Southwest Missouri.

## A Birthday Gathering

One day in January 2025, Evelyn Smith Steele, Mary Lee Cole Keeling, and I met at Evelyn's house to celebrate a January birthday. We enjoyed lunch together and played a card game. It was so much fun that we decided to continue meeting for regular outings.

## Mini-Reunions and Heartfelt Connections

One Wednesday we drove to Republic, MO to visit Donna Drake Helton. She was unable to make it to the class reunion, so we took a "mini reunion" to her. Donna welcomed us warmly, and her sister, Ann, had delicious cookies prepared for our visit. While social media helps us stay connected with distant friends, nothing compares to the warmth of an in-person hug or handshake.

## Exploring Joplin

Our most recent adventure was an afternoon outing in Joplin. We start with lunch at Speedy Burrito. Although I am not usually a fan of Mexican food, I found something to enjoy. The beautiful atmosphere and friendly staff made it a pleasant experience. We even tried fried ice cream for dessert! After lunch we explored the impressive sidewalk art at Schifferdecker Park, inspired by a recommendation from our friend, Judy Greenwood Muhr at the class reunion. It was a sweltering day, so we continued our walking inside at the Harry M. Cornell Arts & Entertainment Complex downtown, where we enjoyed the cool air and beautiful surroundings.

## The Joy of Reunions

It has been fun spending time together, reliving the carefree days of our youth, sharing the current escapades of our grandchildren; and making new memories together. While our older bodies may now show the marks of years long gone and our curfew is now determined by the sunset instead of midnight, all that fades away and we are once again young and carefree – enjoying life again. Strangers may look at us and see three old ladies but, in our hearts, we are young again!!!

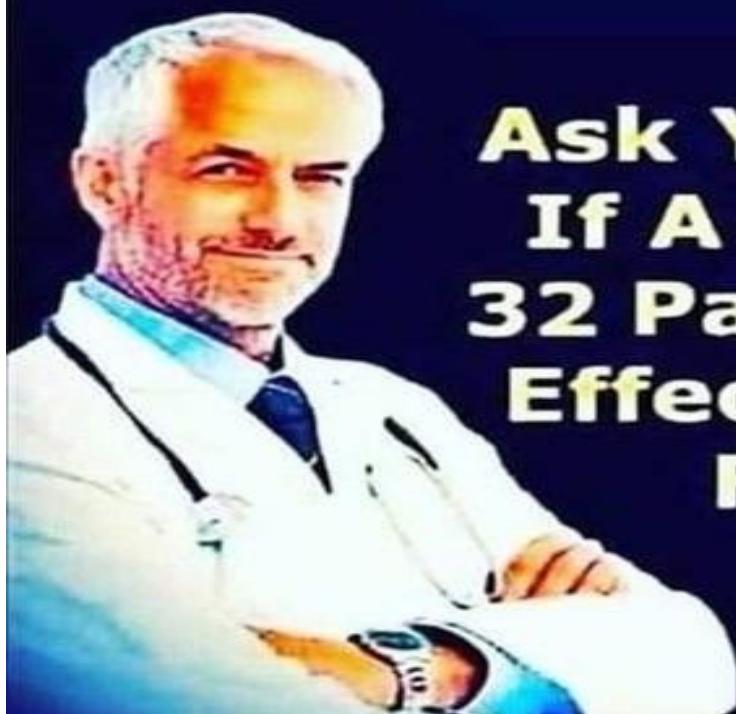
Karen Trenary Hix

**THE IDEA HAD TO  
COME FROM SOMEWHERE**



**WHY SHE'S MAD VOLUME 1**





**Ask Your Doctor  
If A Drug With  
32 Pages Of Side  
Effects Is Right  
For You.**

**Sometimes I get  
road rage  
walking behind  
people at the  
grocery store.**



## HUSBAND:

I want you to have this bracelet. It belonged to my Grandmother.

## WIFE:

Why does it say,  
"Do not resuscitate?"

We still have 15 classmates unaccounted for. If you have any idea where these classmates could be, feel free to share with us so we can update our class directory. The blue font is where they were living when we lost contact with them.

**"Please check these names and help find our missing classmates"**

*Gary M Colvin*

*Rayma Jean Coy (Tulsa, OK area)*

*James "Jim" Hilton*

*Clair Howard*

*La Donna Miller*

*Carol Munson (Wrench) (Bell, MO)*

*Emma Nunn*

*Judy Osborne (Gardner) (Joplin)*

*Richard Lee Pearson*

*Patty Riley (Brewer) (Joplin)*

*Naomi June Shelton (Possibly Deceased but cannot verify)*

*Drucilla Short*

*Robert Joe "Bob" Smith*

*Jack Sneed*

*William "Bill" Ray Stow*

## **"If You Change Your Contact Information"**

Please help us out. Don't forget to include us on any changes in your contact information. If you should move or change telephone, snail mail address or email address please let us know. It's very easy and you may do so by clicking on the following link [joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com](mailto:joplinmo64@joplinmo64.com), and enter your information, then click "Send".



We extend sympathy to the family of our classmate, Capt. Rich Ames of Frisco, TX  
<https://share.google/jkizTBefdP78G6wIA>

Our thoughts and caring are sent to our classmate Dennis Smith and family for the passing of his lovely wife, Nancy. <https://share.google/EyFDUIDMjNtNty1AH>

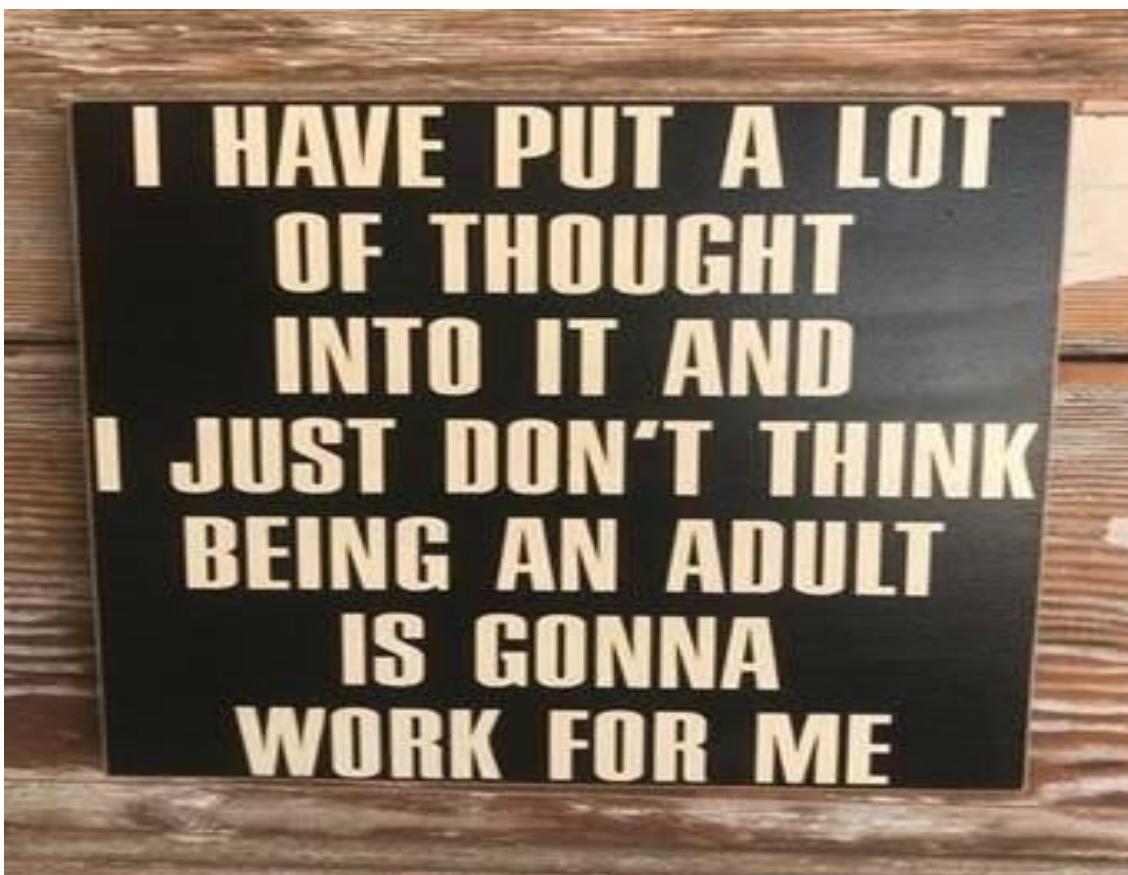
We offer our condolences to our classmate Gail Heller Smith and family for the passing of her husband, Russell. <https://share.google/CRIGWH1eeqJegOL9h>

Our classmate John Myers passed away on January 17, 2026 in Dallas, TX - **No Obit**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of our classmate Jeanne Looper Smith's passing. <https://www.atlantiscremations.com/obituaries/jeanne-smith>

I would like to take a moment and comment on the passing of Jeanne. We developed a strong connection when she moved back to MO and married former classmate Ross Smith. Jeanne came to work for my company doing script writing as well as a video production assistant and I was forever thankful to have her in that position. We traveled from the East Coast to the West Coast and did some great video production work for the American Truck Historical Society based in KC and she even offered input in the edit suite. I told her we'd have some fun but priority is getting a good product done. She was working our booth inside the registration room and I asked if she'd like to climb in my golf cart and tour the grounds. I'd love it she said. So, she climbed in, I said fasten your seatbelt, she was looking all over for it then started hitting on me as I was laughing out loud.

I told her at the start when she began working that I was big in communications, if you leave me a text, an email or voicemail and you haven't heard from me in a reasonable amount of time you may presume I'm dead. For instance if I leave you a message like, can we start at 7 tomorrow, just send me back a 10-4, or are you up for dinner at 6, 10-4. That will keep me happy, as typical 10-4 is maintaining communications that you got my message. About two years later she was working on a script and sent me a text about a guy we interviewed, she asked do you want his truck history comment in the script. I was tied up with another project and about 4 hours my cell text went off. I saw it was from Jeanne and popped it open. All it said was, "Where in the hell is my 10-4?" She remembered from 2 years ago that it was my pet peeve. We will miss you girl, save us a spot.



**SAY WHAT YOU WILL  
ABOUT WOMEN BUT  
I THINK BEING ABLE TO  
TURN ONE SENTENCE INTO  
A SIX HOUR ARGUMENT  
TAKES TALENT.**

**EXERCISE  
MAKES YOU LOOK  
BETTER NAKED.**  
—♦—  
**SO DOES WINE.  
YOUR CHOICE.**

# **3 Deadly Terms Used by Women**

## **#1 Fine**

THIS IS THE WORD WOMEN USE TO END AN ARGUMENT WHEN SHE KNOWS SHE IS RIGHT AND YOU NEED TO SHUT UP.

## **#2 Nothing**

MEANS SOMETHING AND YOU NEED TO BE WORRIED.

## **#3 Go Ahead**

THIS IS A DARE, NOT PERMISSION, DO NOT DO IT.

**BEING KISSED  
WHILE YOU'RE  
ASLEEP IS ONE OF  
THE PUREST  
FORMS OF LOVE....  
UNLESS YOU'RE IN  
PRISON.**



**We are still patiently waiting for your bio to be added to the wall of fame.**

**There is plenty of room to add folks to the bio section, how about joining in?**

No excuses for the distribution of this newsletter, it was one that we were waiting on several items we knew that needed to be in and we were waiting to see if it happened so we can keep it up to date. Some happened, some haven't.

As I stated previously this makes the 48th class newsletter we've done since April, 30th 2010. So, that's going on sixteen years. When I started I set everything up in Microsoft Publisher and have continued to do the newsletter in Publisher. Effective on October 16th of this year Microsoft will no longer support Publisher and I won't even be able open the past 48 files. However, all 48 files are saved in a PDF format, I'm safe with that and that's a good thing as Forrest Gump would say. All newsletters on our webpage are saved in a PDF file so, they will be there to view. When doing the newsletter, I just pull up the last one in Publisher, wipe all material out, saving each page knowing that all I need to do is fill in with updated material.

I have a couple of choices of apps that I can purchase and I should be able to import the past pub files into them and we should be home free.

Again, I want to acknowledge Karen Trenary Hix for her contribution and saving me the time to find something to fill up the page that you sent, I very much appreciate the time you took to put it together and send to me. Hopefully, this will inspire others to come forward and drop us a filler at [64joplinmo@gmail.com](mailto:64joplinmo@gmail.com). Hey folks, it'll just take a little bit of your time and may keep the newsletter alive. Doing one every 4 months may turn into doing one when I have the material to put one out. That could be 2 months or 6 months, the ball is in your court.

On the previous page I believe we have 46 classmates that sent a bio in and we published. I also believe that 6 are no longer with us. That leaves 40 that are here and ready to Rock N Roll so what has taken place in the last 16 years with you? I'm not looking for "Gone With the Wind" material, just an update as to where you may be now, what's been a blessing other than you'll still one of the 40 here, what hill you've climbed and made it a positive outcome.

Sometime back we polled classmates about how often we should have a class reunion and settled on every 3-years. Well, June of 2025 was our 61st reunion and that means we will be blessed in two years for our 64th class reunion and we're the class of '64 and this should be a very special event for us to celebrate,

I anticipate that we will still keep the month of June opened and most likely the first or second week. Our goal has always been low cost to attend and I'm proud to say that we've maintained that with the help of the classmate donations as that makes it possible to spend two days with us for \$30 to \$35 a person. Our hat goes off the Holiday Inn and the complete staff as they come through every year helping us fulfill our low cost goal so all can attend and we make it easy to see that happens. Just keep June 2028 open and come be part of a great time, you'll love it. DK



**Dave Knisley**