

# Plattsmouth Alumni Association

Linking the Past with the Future

Published April 2026

**PLATTSMOUTH SCHOOLS HISTORY:** For nearly 170 years, Plattsmouth Community Schools has played a vital role in shaping generations of students, families, and the broader community. From its earliest beginnings in 1857 to the present day, the district has been built on a strong foundation of academic excellence, community pride, and lifelong relationships. Yet, despite this rich and meaningful legacy, there is currently no single, comprehensive record that captures the full story of our schools—no central place where the people, milestones, traditions, and achievements that define PCS are preserved and shared. For more than a decade, conversations and efforts have been underway to explore the creation of a dedicated PCS history book—one that would thoughtfully document and celebrate the district’s remarkable journey.

That vision is now beginning to take shape. In partnership with Idea Bank Marketing, a firm known for its successful work with school districts in marketing and communications, the process of developing a professional, high-quality history book is officially underway. This ambitious project will span approximately 170 years of PCS history, bringing together archival materials, photographs, and personal stories that highlight the heart of the district. Special attention is being given to capturing memorable and meaningful stories from Plattsmouth High School students, staff, and teams, as well as the accomplishments, traditions, and defining moments that have shaped the identity of PCS over time. Work has already begun to gather and organize these stories, ensuring they are preserved for future generations.

As this project moves forward, it represents more than just a book—it is an opportunity to honor the past, celebrate the present, and inspire the future of Plattsmouth Community Schools. The completed history book is anticipated to be available for purchase in 2027, coinciding with the district’s 170th anniversary celebration. It will serve as a lasting keepsake for alumni, current students, families, and community members alike—something that can be treasured and shared for years to come. If you have questions, would like to contribute, or want to learn more about this exciting initiative, please reach out to Dr. Richard Hasty at [rhasty@pcsd.org](mailto:rhasty@pcsd.org).

## **Celebrate Tradition at the 26th Annual PHS Alumni Banquet!**

**Mark Your Calendars!** The Plattsmouth High School Alumni Banquet is celebrating its **26th year** on **May 23, 2026**, at **Plattsmouth High School**—and you won’t want to miss it! This cherished annual event brings PHS graduates together for an evening of memories, laughter, and celebration. Whether you’re reconnecting with old friends or making new ones, this banquet is the perfect way to honor your class and the legacy of PHS.

### **Honoring Milestone Reunions**

In 2026, we will be celebrating several milestone class reunions, including: **2001** – 25 years; **1996** – 30 years; **1991** – 35 years; **1986** – 40 years; **1981** – 45 years **1976** – 50 years; **1971** – 55 years; **1966** – 60 years; **1961** – 65 years; **1956** – 70 years **1951** – 75 years

### **Reserve Your Spot Today!**

Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with nostalgia and camaraderie. **Reserve your seat today** by visiting <https://plattsedfoundation.org/alumni/> or by completing the form on the last page of this newsletter.

We can’t wait to celebrate with you on **May 23, 2026!** See you there!

# PHS Hall of Fame



**Jon Hardy**, nearly a lifelong resident of Plattsmouth (45 years), attended Plattsmouth Community Schools graduating with the class of 1992. He is the son of Sam (1973) and Jeannie Williamson Hardy (1972).

While in high school, he participated in track, cross country, and golf. He was a six-time state qualifier – three in track and three in cross country, in addition, earning captain and MVP for both track and cross country during his senior year.

Jon worked as a lifeguard for the Plattsmouth Community Pool while attending Metro Comm College studying law enforcement, worked in the Corrections Division for the Cass County Sheriff's Department and began working for the Plattsmouth Police Department in 2001. In 2002, Jon Hardy graduated from the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Academy.

As a twenty-five-year member of the Plattsmouth Police Department, he was four-year member of the South Metro SWAT team, and the department's training coordinator being promoted to Sergeant in 2024. He has been certified by the Cooper Institute of Physical Fitness and holds certification in FEMA National Incident Management. In addition, Jon is an instructor in the use of force, CPR/BLS, taser operation, firearms, active shooter situations and is the Police Department's drone operator.

Sergeant Hardy has saved several lives in his career. He received a letter of commendation in 2012 for resuscitating a patient. Most famously while on patrol, he observed smoke coming from a residential home in Plattsmouth and rescued a citizen who survived from that house fire. For that display of valor, he was awarded the Plattsmouth Police Department Life Saving Award in 2019 and the Nebraska Funeral Directors Association Hero Award in 2020. In all, he has received three lifesaving awards (2 with police; 1 with fire), 3 Plattsmouth Police Dept letters of commendation and has been appointed an Admiral of the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska in 2004.

Giving back to his community has always been important to Jon. He has served in the Plattsmouth Volunteer Fire Dept for twenty years, rising through the ranks to his current position of 1st Assistant Chief. His service continues that of his father and grandfather, who also proudly served in the Plattsmouth Volunteer Fire Department. He has served as a coach for various youth teams and has donated time to teachers and coaches in the community by offering no-cost CPR classes to them. He has been named a Lord of the Realm for the Plattsmouth Harvest Festival in 2024 and in 2019 Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the year. He and his wife, Lisa, have two children, Krista (2022) and Brandon. Sergeant Hardy has been a life-long dedicated servant to the Plattsmouth community and has been selfless in his service.



## Cecil McKnight Memorial

# GOLF



# TOURNAMENT

**9/26/2026**

**BEST BALL SCRAMBLE**  
8:00am - Registration  
9:00am - Shotgun Start

**Team Cost \$400**

SAVE THE DATE

Lake Ridge Golf Course  
Beaver Lake, Nebraska

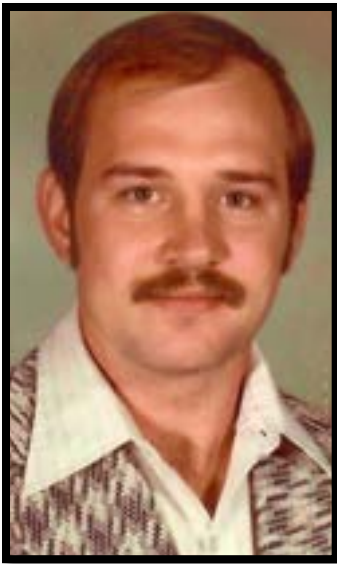
Register: 402-298-8513

Open to all levels of golf players.

### FEES

Event Sponsor - \$1,500    Team - \$400  
Lunch Sponsor - \$500    Hole Sponsor - \$150





**Dr. Tom Sharp** is one of ten children of Roy and Alma Sharp. He grew up in Plattsmouth, Nebraska and attended K-12 public school. His family's long-time business continues to be a towing/salvage/mechanics service. During his school years, Tom participated in multiple PHS activities, including college-prep courses, baseball, football, basketball, track, play production, class officer, student council, National Honor Society, band and choir as well as participating in the Episcopal church. Unfortunately, he also experienced a life-altering car/train accident in his junior year. He was a passenger in a car that claimed the lives of two PHS senior girls, Pam Henning and Cheryl Wilson.

After graduation in 1972, Tom attended Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, where he met his future wife, Martha Ghormley from Lincoln. Married since 1975, they raised five children, Marla, Tara, Karen, Valerie and Kyler.

Tom has two master's degrees from UNL, a specialist degree from UNK and a PhD from UNL. His areas of study included curriculum/instruction, secondary principalship, professional administrative and supervisory with his doctorate in educational leadership and higher education.

For fifteen years Tom taught 7-12 math, play production, advanced English comp and coached baseball, volleyball, basketball and track. He then served as a school superintendent for 24 years in Nebraska and Missouri public schools. Even after becoming a school superintendent, he taught dual-credit college level English comp and college level algebra as well as tutoring math to UNL athletes.

Tom Sharp daily demonstrated educational leadership. As a superintendent of schools, he displayed his knowledge of school finance in a unique application of bond funding which saved his school district's existence. He also created an innovative interlocal agreement to enhance learning opportunities and bring about eventual consolidation which brought praise from both the Lincoln Journal Star and the Nebraska Commissioner of Education. In the legislative arena he fought against proposed legislation harmful to public education and was honored by the state governor for his testimonies and published position papers.

His guiding tenet as a public school educator has always been that "the main goal of teaching is to provide multiple, meaningful educational opportunities to every single student regardless of circumstance, limitations or past performances." He always strives to teach others not to be oblivious to the needs of others. "Leadership without an eager willingness to serve is empty and not worthy of emulation." In regards to service, Sharp has been a volunteer fireman, a community club member, an economic development councilman, a church youth group sponsor and Sunday school teacher, church chairman, the coordinators for the public school foundations, the president of Nebraska Schoolmasters, the president of UNL Teachers College Alumni Association, a FEMA response training member, and a legislation advocate.

*Save The Date!*

## **6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COACH MCKNIGHT FUN RUN**

When: Saturday, November 7, 2026

[www.CoachMcKnightFunRun.com](http://www.CoachMcKnightFunRun.com)

**What:** a 1 mile walk, a 1 mile kids run, and a 5K run, Chip timed

**Where:** PHS Blue Devil Stadium and Community Walking Trail

**Why:** Fun for the Whole Family. To benefit scholarship and Plattsmouth High School Activities





**Becky Kastrick Wehrbein** is a 1993 PHS graduate. While in high school Becky was involved in multiple activities including volleyball, track and field, basketball, cheer-leading, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, National Honor Society, yearbook staff and a class officer.

In track and field, she won multiple medals throughout her career including gold medals at the NSAA State Track Meet in High Jump as a Freshman, the 4x100m Relay her sophomore year, and the 100m hurdles as a Junior and Senior, becoming the only four-time NSAA state champion in PHS history. She also received an NSAA Track and Field silver medal in the 100m hurdles her sophomore yr and 300m hurdles her senior yr. She currently still holds the PHS school record for the 100m hurdles, 300m hurdles and as a member of the 4x100m relay team.

Upon graduation, she attended Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, NE graduating Summa Cum Laude in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Science. Her college career was highlighted with multiple honors. She was a three-time NAIA Track & Field All-American, twotime NAIA Academic All-American, four-time Track & Field All-Conference Champion, Big Brother/Big Sister of the Year recipient, Homecoming Queen and Midland College Female Athlete of the Year in 1997. In addition, she was also President of Tri Phi Sorority, a Student Senate representative, President of Health Career Club, a Student Ambassador, Big Brother/Big Sister mentor, Freshman Orientation Leader, Alpha Lambda Delta and Cardinal Key Academic Society member.

She continued her education by receiving her Master of Physician Assistant Studies in 1999 from University of Nebraska Medical Center, graduating with High Honors and receiving a UNMC Regent Scholarship. Becky has been an OB/GYN Physician Assistant since her graduation, working at clinics in the Bellevue and Papillion area. She currently works at the CHI Outpatient clinic in Midlands Hospital. Becky is also an Associate Clinical Professor with the Creighton University College of Medicine where she proctors PA students in the clinical setting and lectures on Women's Health issues in the classroom. As part of the Creighton MAGIS Clinic, she volunteers at the Sienna Francis House providing free health care to the homeless population. Through the years, Becky has also provided job shadowing experience to many high school and college students interested in the Physician Assistant profession.

Becky and her husband, Chad, have been members of LifeSpring Church, Bellevue, for over 25 years and have served as Sunday School teachers and Youth Group Leaders for many years. She has been a sponsor for the PHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes, a Teammates mentor, a community representative for the PHS Academy Steering Committee, Plattsmouth Soccer Club Treasurer, volunteer Coach for Plattsmouth Youth Softball as well as for the Plattsmouth Destination Imagination Team, a classroom volunteer for the Plattsmouth Elementary School, the PTA Outdoor Classroom Committee Chair, and member of the PHS PACK Fundraising Committee. Becky has volunteered her time as a grant writer, helping to raise tens of thousands of dollars for the Plattsmouth PACK, PTA, and Soccer Clubs. Chad and Becky were awarded the Plattsmouth Optimist Club "Friend of Youth" award in 2018 for their contributions to the Plattsmouth Community. Becky and her husband, Chad (PHS '95), are the parents of Jude (PHS '22) and Sage.

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## NOMINATIONS FOR PHS ALUM OF THE YEAR

**The Plattsmouth Alumni Association is seeking  
Nominations for the 2026 ALUM OF THE YEAR.**

Nominations will be accepted until **May 1, 2026**

Please submit nominations to: Plattsmouth Alumni Association, Attn: Alum of the Year Committee

P.O. Box 283 Plattsmouth, NE 68048

The recipient will be selected based on the following:

**\*Individual must be a PHS ALUM \*Contributions to the betterment of his/her community**

The nominator should submit a biographical statement of the nominee, to include a brief family history and accomplishments the individual has made during their life since graduation (please state year of graduation). The nominator must submit a brief statement explaining why they have nominated this individual and that the candidate can attend the banquet.



**Michael (Mike) Todd Wilson** is a 1991 graduate of Plattsmouth High School. He is the son of Todd Wilson (PHS '64) and Pat Wilson Piper (PHS '67). Mike attended Kindergarten through 2nd grade at Plattsmouth Central Elementary School, but then moved to Lincoln, NE, with his mother for eight years. He visited his father here in Plattsmouth every other weekend. Mike's firefighting ambitions began at just three years old. As a child, he was a fixture at the local station, pedaling his Big Wheel or racing on foot whenever the fire whistle blew. His dedication was so intense that his kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Lambert, had to move his desk next to hers to keep him from bolting—while his classmates would jokingly block the door to keep him in class. For Mike, the fire service was not just a career choice; it was a lifelong calling.

During Mike's time in Lincoln, he was a member of the Boy Scouts of America and earned the rank of Eagle Scout in June 1988. The Boy Scouts is where he began developing his leadership skills and helping people throughout his community. In 1986, Mike received the National Medal of Merit Lifesavers Award from the B.S.A. for his calm response in safely rescuing 5 young children from a house that was beginning to catch fire. In 1987, Mike joined the Lincoln Fire Department Explorer Post 888. There he learned firefighting and basic first-aid training from the Lincoln Fire Dept.

In 1988, Mike returned to Plattsmouth to live with his father for the start of his high school years. During his Sophomore and Senior years of high school he participated in football and wrestling. Following his 1991 high school graduation, Mike moved to Murray, Nebraska, where he joined the Murray Volunteer Fire Department. During his tenure through 1994, he earned his State of Nebraska EMT license and was appointed as the department's Training Officer in 1993. Following high school, Mike gained experience with several local businesses before finding his professional home at Schmidt/OFC Liquid Trucking. He has dedicated the past 25 years to the company, serving as their Safety/Fleet Coordinator and Driver.

In 1994, Mike returned to Plattsmouth, finally of age (21) to become a 2nd-generation member of the Plattsmouth Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department. Mike received his State of Nebraska Firefighter I Certificate from the Nebraska State Fire Marshal in 1996, was elected among his fellow rescue members as the Rescue Squad Lieutenant in 1997. He was appointed by his Fire Chief, Michael Kief, to the department's Fire Lieutenant position the next year. From 1999 to 2004, Mike was elected as 1st Assistant Fire Chief for the department and served in this position for 6 years. In 2005, following an election by his peers and an appointment by the Mayor, Mike became the Fire Chief of the Plattsmouth Volunteer Fire Department. Over the past 21 years, he has distinguished himself as the longest-serving Fire Chief in the department's history, a record dating back to 1880.

Mike has been appointed and received numerous honors during his career with the PVFD including being appointed by Nebraska's Governor to serve on the Cass County Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) and is still active with the Cass County LEPC as the Hazmat Transportation representative. He is a past advisor leader for the Omaha Fire Department Explorer Post. That experience helped his oldest son, Dakota, jump-start his career in the fire service as a 3rd-generation member. The National Safety Council's Greater Omaha Chapter honored Mike with the Public Servant Award, recognizing his outstanding leadership and successful efforts to modernize Plattsmouth's Emergency Medical Delivery System. As the Fire Chief, he worked with the Plattsmouth Mayor, City Council, and Administration for 4 years on a project to provide a full-time paid paramedic to the Plattsmouth EMS Department. The Plattsmouth EMS Department is now staffed as a combination department with both paid and volunteer staff. In 2021, Mike retired from Plattsmouth EMS after 30 years as an EMT/EMS provider. He is an active member of the International Association of Fire Chiefs. Conjoining with the Missouri Valley Division MVD IAFC and the Volunteer and Combination Officers Section.

On a local level, he became a Lord of the Realm of the Plattsmouth Harvest Festival due to his tireless efforts assisting at the festival since his teenage years. He was also named Plattsmouth Citizen of the Year by the Plattsmouth Community Foundation for his dedicated service and commitment to the community. Mike married his high school sweetheart, Dawn (Helsley) Wilson (PHS '90), in 1993. They live in rural Plattsmouth and have 4 sons: Dakota (PHS '14), Jordon (PHS '19), Brady (PHS '24), and Presley (PHS '25) as well as a daughter-in-law, Corryn, and two grandchildren, Maverik and Maysi. Mike would use this family support as the backbone for his dedication and service to the community. Mike is honored to join the Hall of Fame, a milestone he attributes to the strong professional and family foundations of his youth. To Mike, his success is a testament to the power of mentorship and its role in shaping the community leaders of tomorrow.

Sign up for email newsletters

<http://eepurl.com/ddrSOP>

***PHS Show Choir 2026:*** This year's show choir production brought the spirit of Nebraska to life in a fun and unforgettable way. Celebrating everything from Husker football and Kool-Aid to Nebraska beef, small-town living, and of course, corn, the show delivered a humorous and high-energy performance. Featuring crowd-pleasing moments like "Johnny Football," tap-dancing cows, and even a lively butcher scene, the production had audiences and judges laughing, singing along, and fully entertained. In fact, one judge called it the funniest show they had ever seen.



The season was filled with excitement, creativity, and record-breaking involvement. A total of 52 students participated as performers, band members, and crew, requiring two buses and a full equipment trailer to travel to competitions. The show featured three costume changes, elaborate props, and custom-built set pieces—including realistic ears of corn crafted by dedicated volunteers. This lighthearted production offered a refreshing contrast to traditionally serious show choir performances, and it resonated strongly with audiences everywhere it was performed.



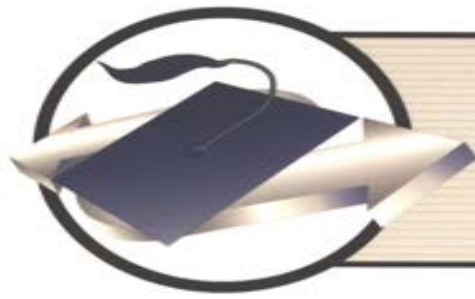
The group's hard work translated into outstanding competitive success. They earned 4th place at the Wahoo Court of Champions, captured 1st place in their division at every competition attended, and were crowned Grand Champions at the Beatrice Homestead Heroes event—both firsts in school history. Additional honors included Best Closer, Outstanding Vocalist (Karlie Gunter), Outstanding Performer (Talia Badell), Best Crew, and multiple People's Choice Awards, highlighting the group's talent across all aspects of performance.

Behind the scenes, this success was made possible through tremendous dedication and community support. Students balanced rigorous rehearsal schedules with involvement in numerous other school activities, while families, volunteers, and supporters contributed countless hours and resources. From costume creation and alterations to set design, meals, and fundraising efforts, the program thrives because of its strong community foundation. With continued support and a growing middle school program inspiring future performers, the show choir is poised for even greater success in the years to come.

***Note: A major portion of the show choir's fundraising comes from their service as servers at the Plattsmouth Alumni Banquet each year. Your generosity at this event is a key part of their continued success, and the students are deeply grateful for your support. Let's make 2026 their largest***



***donation, please bring some extra cash with you to the banquet for the tip basket or mail a donation to the Plattsmouth Alumni Assoc, PO Box 283, Plattsmouth, NE (Put Show Choir in the memo).***



# Plattsmouth Alumni Association

Linking the Past with the Future

## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Plattsmouth Alumni Association Celebration May 23, 2026

Make your plans to attend the 26th Annual Alumni Banquet NOW! A wonderful opportunity to visit with old friends and make new ones. Held in the Gallery of the beautiful CTE building on the Northwest corner of the PHS campus at 1916 Old Highway 34 in Plattsmouth. Accessible through Doors #60, & #61. Return the reservation form below before May 14, 2026, make checks payable to Plattsmouth Alumni Association and send to P. O. Box 283 in Plattsmouth, NE 68048. Registration and credit card payment is also available via the Plattsmouth Education Foundation Website at <https://plattsedfoundation.org/alumni-banquet/>

Any questions/concerns call: Sandy Holman McKnight at: 402-298-8513 or go to the Plattsmouth Alumni e-mail: [plattsmouthalum@gmail.com](mailto:plattsmouthalum@gmail.com)

**Doors open at 5:00 PM Dinner at 6:00 PM**

### DINNER RESERVATION

\_\_\_\_\_ Number attending at \$30.00 per person TOTAL due \$\_\_\_\_\_ (please list all names attending below)

PHS Alum	Yes - No	Grad. Yr.	_____	Name	_____	(include Maiden name if PHS grad.)
PHS Alum	Yes - No	Grad. Yr.	_____	Name	_____	(include Maiden name if PHS grad.)
PHS Alum	Yes - No	Grad. Yr.	_____	Name	_____	(include Maiden name if PHS grad.)
PHS Alum	Yes - No	Grad. Yr.	_____	Name	_____	(include Maiden name if PHS grad.)

Time to pay Annual Plattsmouth Alumni Association Membership Dues - \$10.00 Annual or \$150.00 for a Lifetime Membership here or online at <https://plattsedfoundation/alumni/> Help us keep our membership records current, provide us with your current address even if you do not plan to attend the annual banquet.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Register for the free E-mail Newsletter, go to Mail Chimp at: <http://purl.com/ddrSOP>

Enclosed is my Annual Membership dues fee of \$10.00 per person	\$ _____
Enclosed is my Lifetime Membership Dues fee of \$150.00 per person	\$ _____
Enclosed is my donation to the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund	\$ _____
Enclosed is my donation to the Alumni Association General Fund	\$ _____
Enclosed is my donation to be used in the following way: _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____

Send check to Plattsmouth Alumni Association, P.O. Box 283, Plattsmouth, NE 68048 The Alumni Association is under the 501(c)(3) tax umbrella of the Plattsmouth Education Foundation A receipt will be returned for donations.

Plattsmouth, Nebraska 68048  
P.O. Box 283  
Plattsmouth Alumni Association

# Class Notices

**The PHS Class of 1956** will celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion by gathering together at the Plattsmouth Alumni Association All-School Banquet on Saturday, May 23, 2026. All class members are asked to send in the reservation page in this newsletter with payment to save your spot at the table! Contact: June Wagner at 402-235-2638 or Nancy Painter at 402-493-1932 with questions.

**The PHS Class of 1973**, wants classmates to **Save the Date** for a **55<sup>th</sup> Reunion on June 23, 24, & 25, 2028**. Please update your contact information by emailing or texting Kathy Solomon. [katherine.solomon1973@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.solomon1973@gmail.com) / 402-297-4845

**The PHS Class of 1976**, has 3 exciting events planned for their 50<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion Year! On Friday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, they will gather at the Plattsmouth VFW at 5:00pm. On Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, they will come together for dinner at the Rock Hill Windmill Event Center at 5:00pm with dinner at 6:00pm. The committee also encourages all classmates to join them at the Plattsmouth Alumni Association Celebration on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to collect their 50 year PAA pin and introduce their 50 year scholarship winners to the Association. Use the information in this newsletter to register! Questions? Contact Jodi McKnight Traut at [jodi\\_traut@yahoo.com](mailto:jodi_traut@yahoo.com)

**The PHS Class of 1981**, is planning a Fall Harvest Festival 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion Weekend! On Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> meet at the Plattsmouth VFW, dressed like it is 1981. On Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, following the Grand Parade, the party starts at 7:30 at the **Main Event** (former Plattsmouth Journal office, 410 Main St.) Questions? Contact: Kirsten Wood at [booklover1230@yahoo.com](mailto:booklover1230@yahoo.com) Or Edie Pignotti at [ejpignotti@gmail.com](mailto:ejpignotti@gmail.com)