

New teachers, guidance counselor

Written by Wauneta Breeze
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The staff at Wauneta-Palisade Schools features two new teachers and a new guidance counselor. From left, Marilyn Houdek, ag/voc tech program; Janae Harris, guidance counselor; and John Adams, high school social studies classes. (Sheri Hink-Wagner | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Sheri Hink-Wagner

The Wauneta Breeze

Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools have two new teachers and a new guidance counselor for the 2013-2014 school year.

One of the new teachers comes to Nebraska after teaching in Virginia, the other has taught previously in Nebraska and Wyoming.

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W-P's new guidance counselor is a Wauneta native and has previously served at four other schools across Nebraska.

Marilyn Houdek

Marilyn Houdek, originally from Schuyler, Neb., joins the W-P staff as the new ag/voc tech teacher.

She will be teaching animal science, farm management, agriscience, woods, welding, ag mechanics, agribusiness and crop and soil science. Houdek will also serve as the FFA advisor.

When asked what she is looking forward to about teaching at W-P Houdek said, "The students here seem really excited to learn new things and the community is very supportive and they want me to succeed."

Houdek's previous teaching posts include Rising City, Neb., Shelby, Neb., and Torrington, Wyo.

Her educational background includes a degree in K-12 physical education from Chadron State College. She also holds degrees in agriculture education and industrial technology from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Houdek does not currently have a coaching post, but may help coach junior high track.

Houdek's family includes two sisters, a brother, two nieces and three nephews. She is currently

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living on a farm by Palisade.

“I am really looking forward to the privilege of teaching these kids,” said Houdek of her new post at W-P.

John Adams

John Adams comes to W-P after teaching in three cities in Virginia—Roanoke, Buena Vista and Staunton.

At W-P Adams will be teaching high school social studies which includes American history, world history, American government and world geography. He will also co-teach a current events class.

Adams, originally from San Jose, Calif., has been educated on both coasts of the United States. He went to high school in Fremont, Calif., and then went to a couple colleges in that area. He earned his BA in history from Southern Virginia University and his MAT in secondary education from Liberty University.

Adams, his wife and their four children (plus one on the way) are living on the south divide. Their children’s ages are 6, 5, 3 and 1. Their newest arrival is expected to join the family in February or March.

“My family has already met a lot of the community, and the people here just seem to be the

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nicest in the world. I can't wait to meet more of them," said Adams.

Adams will not be coaching any sports this year at W-P. Although he said, "If someday they want me to coach an ice hockey team, I would be glad to do so."

Adams is excited to begin his teaching career at W-P. "I love teaching and have always wanted to do so. My family and I have worked hard so my wife can stay home with the kids while I follow my dreams. Being in Wauneta, and teaching at the public school complete my dream; now I only have to keep it going and keep improving all the time, explained Adams. "I hope to be of use not just to my students and the school, but also to the community."

Janae Harris

Janae Harris will serve as the K-12 guidance counselor at W-P schools during the 2013-2014 school year.

Harris is originally from Wauneta. She said she is looking forward to, "the opportunity to work with so many familiar people at the school and in the community, as well as meeting new people."

Harris earned her Bachelor's degree in 4-9 education with endorsements in natural science and language arts at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She graduated from UNK in May 2010.

She is currently working toward her Master's in secondary guidance counseling from UNK. She expects to graduate with her Master's degree in December 2014.

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Harris has previously taught at Pender, Southern Valley and McCook Junior High.

Harris and her 9-year-old son, Evan, live in McCook.