



# Bulldog's Bark

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Volume 35 Issue 8-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

APRIL 2026



Junior Prom attendees, front row: Brooke Robinson, Josi Moffat, Cayleigh Spaulding, Kaitlin Porterfield, Avery Calhoun, Abriana Straughn. Back row: Jax Heyde, Max Hilton, Zander Heyde, Dalton Taylor, Wes Bashor, Aiden Graham, Cooper Spaulding, Hudson Groomer, Parker Ginther, Emmett Meyer, Konnor Keough.



Senior Prom attendees, front row: Cortney Merrigan, Hannah McQuinn, Kenzi Santa Cruz, Olivia Blessing, Dani Van Draska, Miley Davis, Eva Cameron, Katie Libby, Ally Santa Cruz. Back row: William Ellsworth, Jaren Stoll, Hayden Swan, Russell Kerwin, Vincent Smithson, Evan Gregory.

## Prom 2026 Lights Up the Night

By Allie Schieber  
Staff Reporter

Prom 2026, held on March 28, was truly a night to remember, filled with laughter, excitement, and moments that will last a lifetime.

This year brought a new twist to the traditional celebration. For the first time, the promenade took place at Stanberry High School, allowing the entire community to come together and be part of the experience. Friends, family, and community members gathered to watch students and their dates be announced, as well as to witness the crowning of this year's Prom King, Hayden Swan, and Prom Queen, Olivia Blessing.

Following the promenade, juniors and seniors traveled to

Northwest Missouri State University, where the dance and dinner were held in the Student Union ballroom. The elegant setting provided the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable evening. After the dance, students returned to the high school for Project Prom, where junior parents organized a fun-filled night complete with activities, food, and prizes.

The success of Prom 2026 was the result of weeks of preparation and dedication. Juniors and seniors participated in numerous fundraisers for Project Prom to help create a memorable event, and the junior class spent an entire school day transforming the ballroom with decorations and personal touches.

Class sponsor Ashley Schmitz shared her appreciation, saying, "I really appreciate everyone helping to make the new format for the gala such a success. I think this year went well, and everyone enjoyed the night. I look forward to seeing what next year's junior class comes up with."

Junior class president Brookelynn Robinson also reflected on the experience: "I had a lot of fun helping prepare the gala, and I hope that the junior class made the seniors' prom memorable!"

While much of the event happens behind the scenes, the effort of the junior class and their parents played a huge role in bringing the night together—from planning After-Prom to organizing food and prizes. Their hard work ensured that Prom 2026 was not



Prom queen and king Olivia Blessing and Hayden Swan.

only beautiful, but meaningful for everyone involved.

Thank you to the junior class and all who contributed to making this year's prom such a special and unforgettable event.



# NEWS

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**STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL**

APRIL 2026



Front row: Kaci Porterfield, Kaitlin Porterfield, Ellie Dias, Hannah McQuinn, Olivia McQuinn, Harper Heyde, Josi Moffat, Brooke Robinson. Back row: Avery Calhoun, Charlotte Jennings, Ally Santa Cruz, Hannah McMillan, Katelyn Shisler, Vincent Smithson, Lane McGinley, Cortney Merrigan.

## Annual Honors Banquet



By Olivia McQuinn  
Staff Reporter

The annual Honors Banquet was hosted on March 25 at the First Christian Church of Stanberry. This banquet is a great way for the community to recognize the top four students of each class. Freshmen involved were Kaci Porterfield, Charlotte Jennings, Katelyn Shisler, and Harper Heyde. Sophomores involved were Ellie Dias, Hannah McMillan, Olivia McQuinn, and Lane McGinley. Juniors involved were Avery Calhoun, Kaitlin Porterfield, Josi Moffat, and Brooke Robinson. Seniors involved were Ally Santa Cruz, Hannah McQuinn, Vincent Smithson, and Cortney

Merrigan. Senior Cortney Merrigan commented, “The honors banquet is a great experience! I am so grateful that we have community members who care about us and put together events for us. Our community is so supportive! I am thankful for their recognition of the work that we put into our academics!”

Women from local churches, headed up by Debbie Nickell, put together a dinner for all attendees as well as the administration of Stanberry High School. The meal consisted of a salad, grilled chicken, green beans, pasta, with cookies and ice cream for dessert. Superintendent Dr. John

Davison, Principal Jason Dias, and Counselor Elizabeth Simbro were all invited to attend. They also asked a guest speaker to come and say some words to the students. This year, the speaker was Dr. Shannon Luke. She spoke on the importance of community

within academics. Stanberry High School Principal Mr. Jason Dias said, “It’s a great way to honor our top kids in each class. Dr. Luke, one of our own, did a great job talking to the kids.”

Congratulations to all these students on such an amazing accomplishment, and keep up the hard work!

Check out the school website [www.sr2.k12.mo.us](http://www.sr2.k12.mo.us) for daily announcements, lunch & breakfast menus, monthly calendar, teacher websites, and much more! Also, follow Stanberry Bulldogs on *Facebook, Instagram, & TikTok!*

## Academic Team Post Season Honors



Hudson Groomer

**1st Team  
GRC West  
All-Conference Team**



Lane McGinley

**2nd Team  
GRC West  
All-Conference Team**



Kaitlin Porterfield

**Honorable Mention  
GRC West  
All-Conference Team**



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# NEWS

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STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

APRIL 2026



Mrs. Roxanne Hoover  
High School Science Teacher

## End of an Era: Mrs. Hoover Retires

By Lindsey Hailey  
Staff Reporter

This year, we are honoring one retiree, Mrs. Hoover. Mrs. Hoover has had a big impact on our students, staff, and community. As our high school science teacher, she has been teaching for 32 years, having taught at nine different schools across Missouri and Kansas combined. Mrs. Hoover has served as the high school science teacher at Stanberry for a total of 22 years.

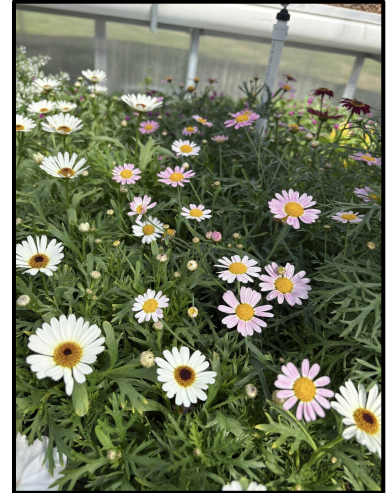
Student Avery Calhoun stated, "Mrs. Hoover helped develop my interest in science when I previously didn't have much of one, and

she helped me realize that I want to go into the medical field after learning from her and listening to what she says."

In addition to teaching, Mrs. Hoover has dedicated her time to coaching the Science Olympiad team for 20 years. For 17 of those years, her teams qualified for state: 2005–2011, 2013–2015, and 2020–2025. She has also served as a junior class sponsor, helped with the student council, and worked as a junior high track coach.

Mrs. Hoover commented, "I will miss the kids. I love the laughter and the things kids say. There isn't any other job like teaching. You can laugh and cry all on the same day! I'm also excited to start the next chapter of my life!"

Thank you, Mrs. Hoover, for everything you have done for our staff and students! We wish you nothing but the best as you move into retirement!



## Spring Blooms in the Greenhouse

By Tasha Stoll  
Staff Reporter



This year is the fourth year of the greenhouse being open. The greenhouse is growing many different items, including annual flowers, potted arrangements, hanging baskets, and veggie packs. Ag teacher Mrs. Noble and her 6th hour greenhouse class have been working very hard to prepare for the flower sale taking place in the greenhouse. She commented, "I think the greenhouse is a great learning experience for students, and I love that it gets us out of the classroom. I enjoy seeing the hard work of the greenhouse class pay off, and the creativity that they have when it comes to making up arrangements. We hope that you can come

support us this spring during our annual plant sales!"

This year, there are only six students, but once they go into the greenhouse, they get to work watering, planting, rearranging, sweeping, and now cutting flowers. The greenhouse will be open four days a week for people to come in and buy. Greenhouse student Avery Calhoun said, "I enjoy seeing how the different plants require different things in order to live and thrive. I've learned how certain plants thrive with different amounts of watering."

The greenhouse will open Friday, May 1st 3:30-5:00 and Saturday, May 2nd 8:30-2:00.

# NEWS

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FFA State Degree recipients Jaren Stoll, Hannah McQuinn, Cortney Merrigan, Danielle Van Draska.



State FBLA attendees Hannah McMillan, Cortney Merrigan, Katelyn Shisler, Harper Heyde.

Hannah McQuinn, Danielle Van Draska, Cortney Merrigan, and Jaren Stoll were each recognized for earning their State Degrees, the highest honor the state of Missouri can award for outstanding leadership, community service, and Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. Additionally, Brock Hutchcraft and Hudson Groomer were selected as state delegates and attended meetings focused on leadership and agriculture.

The State FFA Convention was held in Columbia, Missouri, on the Mizzou campus. While at state, students enjoyed dinner at Texas Roadhouse, visited the mall and Bass Pro Shops, and attended two sessions for the presentation of FFA awards. Alana Evans stated, "State FFA was a fun experience all around. Although the contest didn't turn out as well as we were expecting, there were many memories and friendships gained. We had time to bond with our chapter and learn more about how FFA can guide you toward your future. I am extremely proud of my teammates and blessed to

have another year of memories ahead of me."

FBLA Districts were also held at Northwest Missouri State University on February 5, followed by the State FBLA Leadership Conference in Springfield, Missouri. The students who advanced to state for FBLA were Kaitlyn Porterfield, Hannah McMillan, Cortney Merrigan, Katelyn Shisler, and Harper Heyde. Kaitlyn competed in Business Communications, Hannah McMillan in Introduction to Business Communication, and Cortney Merrigan in Advanced Accounting. Katelyn Shisler and Harper Heyde competed in Broadcast Journalism, where they placed 3rd at state. They will now advance to Nationals in San Antonio this July.

Katelyn commented, "We went to a social event on the last night and had line dancing and dance-offs." While in Springfield, students attended workshops, went shopping, dined at Olive Garden, and attended the Awards of Excellence ceremony.

Congratulations to both FFA and FBLA on their hard work and all the awards they have earned this year!

## Bright Futures: FFA and FBLA Light Up the State Stage

By Lindsey Hailey  
Staff Reporter



Once again, this year's FFA Districts were held at Northwest Missouri State University on March 31 and April 1. The teams that competed in districts included Entomology, Agronomy, Farm Management, Nursery Landscape, Floriculture, Dairy Cattle, Forestry, and FFA Knowledge. Four teams qualified for state: Agronomy, placing 5th overall; Entomology, placing 10th; Dairy Cattle, placing 8th; and Nursery Landscape, placing 7th. Floriculture and FFA Knowledge also participated at districts, both receiving 15th place. Finally, Forestry received

8th place and Farm Management received 14th place.

In addition to the contest teams, Kaitlyn Van Draska and Charlotte Jennings were selected to participate in the State FFA Chorus. Kaitlyn Van Draska also participated in the Beginning Ownership Recordbook Contest, earning a gold ranking. Jaren Stoll was recognized for State FFA Proficiency in Diversified Agriculture Production, and Danielle Van Draska was recognized for State FFA Proficiency in Veterinary Science Placement, as they both placed first in Area One.

# Congratulations

**Stephen L. Luke, P.C.**  
Certified Public Accountants

**Allison M. Jennings, CPA**

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BULLDOG'S BARK 4

# NEWS

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**STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL**

APRIL 2026



Front row: Kaitlin Porterfield, Brooke Robinson, Josi Moffat, Hudson Groomer, Jaren Stoll, Vincent Smithson, Aiden Graham, Jax Heyde Emmett Meyer. Middle row: Hannah McQuinn, Olivia McQuinn, Kynzee Adcock, Lane McGinley, Parker Evans, Trinity Regalado, Eva Cameron. Back row: Alana Evans, Avery Calhoun, Ally Santa Cruz, Cortney Merrigan, Ellie Dias, Hannah McMillan, Blanche Eckard, Allie Schieber, Alyssa Wallace, Kenzi Santa Cruz, Dani Van Draska.

## National Honor Society Inducts New Members

By Olivia McQuinn  
Staff Reporter



The National Honor Society (NHS) inducted 10 new members on April 8 in the multipurpose room at Stanberry High School. The inductees included sophomores Olivia McQuinn, Kynzee Adcock, Lane McGinley, Parker Evans, Trinity Redalgo, Ellie Dias, Hannah McMillan, Blanche Eckard, Allie Schieber, and Alyssa Wallace. Current members Vincent Smithson, Ally Santa Cruz, Kenzi Santa Cruz, Cortney Merrigan, Hannah McQuinn, Eva Cameron, Danielle Van Draska, Jaren Stoll, Kaitlin Porterfield, Brookelynn Robinson, Avery Calhoun, Josi Moffat, Jax Heyde, Emmett Meyer, Hudson Groomer, Alana Evans, and

Aiden Graham, along with advisor Mrs. Elizabeth Simbro, provided a meal before the ceremony. The meal consisted of chicken alfredo, salad, dinner rolls, and a variety of desserts. Mrs. Simbro commented on the organization, "Our cabinet members did a great job leading the induction ceremony for the NHS. Although I am sad to see our seniors graduate and move on, I am excited to see how our new inductees follow in their footsteps."

After the dinner, NHS President Jaren Stoll gave a speech about the organization and what it means to be inducted. He said, "The NHS banquet was good; I was happy with the turnout. I was happy with

how many members applied, and I am excited to see what they will do in the NHS to help our school and community." The inductees' names were then called to receive a pin and certificate, and a cord was presented to them by the senior who escorted them. After signing their names in the NHS book of inductees, they each lit a candle and recited the organization's pledge.

To be inducted into the NHS, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. A committee of teachers also evaluates their leadership skills, voluntary service, and character.

We are so proud of all the hard work these students have put in. Congratulations to all of the inductees!



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# NEWS

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First row: Mrs. Terri Holtzclaw, Dane Farnan, Nova Chambers, Caroline Gillespie, Hunter Rhoades, Jackson Varney, Easton Fletchall, Zayne Worley, Grayce Gade, Mrs. JoAnne Lewis. Second row: Olivia Jennings, Maddeline Page, Parker Runde, Kyler Newman, Jasper Heyde, Myles Evans, Elli Wiederholt, Paisley Schwebach, Abigail Jensen, Violet Strueby. Back row: Jase Adcock, Axton Henggeler, Gwyneth Cameron, Delila Wilson, Brylie Luke, Glenn Sterkis, Tucker Runde, Laith Wallace, Lincoln Lindner, Trent Strough. Not pictured: Amelia Vanhorn.

## Sixth Grade Charges Toward Junior High

By Tasha Stoll  
Staff Reporter

This year's 6th grade class has worked very hard and has kept busy. Mrs. Lewis's class has covered a significant amount of territory in ELA and Social Studies this year. The students have read numerous novels and worked on the mechanics of comprehension and writing. Mrs. Lewis stated, "This year has flown by! This class is full of interesting personalities who really seem to enjoy each other (for the

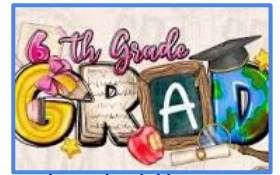
most part!). As they move into junior high and later high school, I hope they remember their elementary years fondly and continue to reach for the stars."

Mrs. Holtzclaw's class also became fluent in equations, created models of elements and molecules, and gained an understanding of geography and the world around us. Throughout the year, they have created electromagnets, planned and priced a family

holiday meal, and built and tested solar ovens while making s'mores. Mrs. Holtzclaw remarked, "This year has gone so quickly, and I cannot believe it is already the end of April. I know they are all excited for junior high, and I wish them the best with their learning, sports, and all the fun junior high includes!"

This is a very special class; we are proud of each student and glad you are a part of the Bulldog community. We wish you

a great rest of the year and good luck in junior high!



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# SPORTS

Volume 35 Issue 8-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

APRIL 2026



2026 Baseball Team front row: Michael Kerns, Jaxon Baker, Luke Phipps, Lucian Simmerman, Zander Heyde, Sam Simbro, Vincent Smithson, Jacob Jamieson, Quinn Jensen. Back row: Head Coach Jason Dias, Kenyon Affuso, Brant Jensen, Jude Spence, Justin Affuso, Brayden Dias, Konnor Keough, Assistant Coach Dylan Morris, Manager Jared Henggeler.

## Bulldogs Baseball 2026

By Allie Schieber  
Staff Reporter

As the baseball season swings into full gear, the boys have been keeping busy with multiple games each week. This year's roster features a mix of experienced upperclassmen and a strong group of underclassmen, all working together to build the program.

The team's seniors include Brayden Dias and Vincent Smithson. Juniors Zander Heyde and Konnor Keough bring additional leadership, while sophomores Luke Phipps, Justin Affuso, Brant

Jensen, and Lucian Simmerman continue to develop their skills. The freshman class—Quinn Jensen, Kenyon Affuso, Sam Simbro, Michael Kerns, Jacob Jameson, Jaxon Baker, and Jude Spence—adds depth and promise for the future. The team is led by Head Coach Jason Dias and assisted by Dylan Morris, with Jared Henggler serving as team manager.

The season began on March 20 with a matchup against Platte Valley. Despite a tough loss in their opener, the team has

continued to push forward and currently holds a 1–10 record. While the results may not yet reflect it, the program is still in its early stages and focused on long-term growth and development.

Senior Brayden Dias shared his perspective on the season, saying, "Although last season didn't go as well as we hoped, I hope for a more successful season with the young team that we have. With this being my senior year, I will do my best to make memories that I will forever cherish."

Head Coach Dias echoed that mindset, emphasizing progress and

improvement: "As we enter the second half of the season, the team has been focusing on fundamental improvements. Baseball knowledge is something that we will continue to develop, and I look forward to what this young team can become."

Although the past two seasons have served as building years, the team continues to grow stronger with each game. Through it all, the community has remained supportive, showing up and cheering on the players as they work toward a brighter future for the program.

# OPINION

Volume 35 Issue 8-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

APRIL 2026

It's  
Your  
Call



What is your  
favorite season?

By Tasha Stoll  
Staff Reporter



Seventh grader,  
Alex Holtzclaw,  
"Spring."



Seventh grader,  
Lauren Henggeler,  
"Fall."



Third Grader  
Blakely Palmer,  
"Fall."



First Grader  
Ethan Luke,  
"Summer."



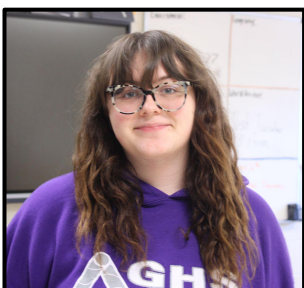
HS Science Teacher  
Roxanne Hoover,  
"Fall."



1st Grade Teacher  
Mackenzie Shifflett,  
"Fall."



Senior  
Jaren Stoll,  
"Fall."



Junior  
Mattea Williams,  
"Fall."

## Survey Results

By Olivia McQuinn  
Staff Reporter

Students in grades 7-12  
were asked the question: What  
is your favorite vacation place?  
64 students responded.

Their options included  
*beach, mountains, ski, camping,*  
*or international travel.*

**Ski**

4.8%

**International**

6.3%

**Mountains**

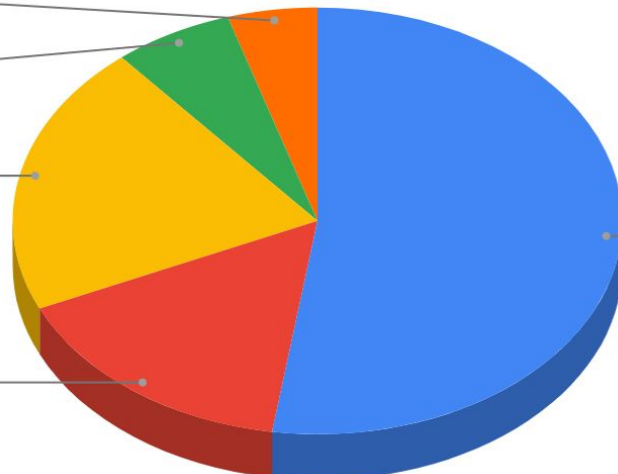
20.6%

**Camping**

15.9%

**Beach**

52.4%



# ENTERTAINMENT

Volume 35 Issue 8-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

APRIL 2026

## Brutus' Corner

By Allie Schieber  
Staff Reporter

Each month *The Bulldog's Bark* will feature a school staff member. It is your job, based on the clues, to guess who the staff member is. The answer will be revealed in next month's issue. In March, the featured staff member was **Mrs. Sarah Schieber**. Who do you think April's staff member is?



Are you married? If so, how many years?  
**Yes, 8 years.**

Do you have any children? How many?  
**Yes, 4.**

What do you enjoy most about your teaching?  
**Helping grow kids' brains, and being surrounded by awesome students.**

How long have you been teaching/working at Stanberry?  
**7 years**

What school activities were you involved in in high school?  
**Softball, track, FCCLA, Choir, Theater, StuCo, Math Club, & Science Club, Teen Advisory Board**

Interested in advertising in the Bokane (yearbook) or Bulldog's Bark? Email [seckard@stanberryschools.org](mailto:seckard@stanberryschools.org) for details.



### 2025-2026 Bulldog's Bark Staff

Lindsey Hailey  
Allie Schieber

Olivia McQuinn  
Tasha Stoll

Advisor: Sidney Eckard

Signed letters to the editor are encouraged and printed at the staff's discretion. Letters may be sent to Bulldog's Bark, 610 N. Park Street, Stanberry MO, 64489

## May Activities

- Friday, May 1st
  - 8:00-Last Day of Preschool
  - 4:00-VT@Mound City
- Sunday, May 3-7:00-Baccalaureate
- Monday, May 4
  - 9:00-BG@Cameron (GRC)
  - 5:00-Baseball@Home-NEN
- Tuesday, May 5
  - 8:15-Graduation Practice
  - 11:00-VT@Princeton-GRC
  - 11:00-JHT@Princeton-GRC
- Wednesday, May 6
  - Senior Trip
  - 8:00-K-1 & 2-3 Field Trip
  - 4:00-JV Golf Meet @ Stanberry
- Thursday, May 7
  - Senior Trip
  - 8:00-4th Grade Youth Safety Day @ Hundley-Whaley
  - 8:00-3rd Grade Field Trip to Safety Acres
- Friday, May 8
  - Senior Trip
  - 8:00-4-6 Field Trip
  - 8:00-Preschool Screenings
  - 5:00-Baseball@Gilman City
- Saturday, May 9-VT@Districts
- Sunday, May 10-2:00-Graduation
- Monday, May 11
  - 8:00-4-6 Track & Field Day
  - 5:00-Baseball@Home-Nodaway Valley
- Tuesday, May 12
  - 8:00-4-6 Track & Field Day-Make up Day
  - 7:00-JH/HS Awards Night
- Thursday, May 14
  - 7-11 Field Trip
  - Baseball@Districts
- Friday, May 15
  - 11:00 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
  - Baseball@Districts
- Saturday, May 16
  - Baseball@Districts
  - VT@Sectionals
- Monday, May 18
  - Teacher Workday
  - Baseball@Districts
  - 7:00-BOE Meeting
- Friday & Saturday, May 22/23-VT@State



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