



# Bulldog's Bark

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Volume 35 Issue 4-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2025



## A "Mayor-y" Little Christmas Concert

By Olivia McQuinn  
Staff Reporter

The elementary winter concert is always a big hit throughout the community. Mrs. Michele Kelley and the sixth graders put on a show on December 8. When asked about what the concert meant to Mrs. Kelley, she said, "The elementary winter concert is always so rewarding for me! This year was no different! I especially loved seeing so many people pack our gym to watch the show! The community's support means everything!"

All elementary students also performed a song with their class. The show was called "The Curious Case of the Missing Mayor: A Slightly Suspicious Holiday Whodunit."

The sixth graders that

participated were Easton Fletchall, Elli Wiederholt, Brylie Luke, Caroline Gillespie, Paisley Schwebach, Jase Adcock, Nova Chambers, Amelia VanHorn, Maddie Page, Laith Wallace, Avian Evans, Parker Runde, Jasper Heyde, Glenn Sterkis, Trent Strough, and Jackson Varney.

Glenn, Laith, and Avian were comedic hits of the night. Glenn said, "I had a lot of fun acting; it was very fun. I also got to eat marshmallows!" Laith commented, "It was fun acting, and Mrs. Kelley is a great teacher! The marshmallows were also very good. Sitting on the bench the whole night hurt my butt, and Glenn is very funny." Avian

stated, "I enjoyed having the experience of being a hippie, and Mrs. Kelley is a great teacher."

The first class song of the night was "Snowberry Hill," sung by grades K-5. Fourth graders sang "Where did he go?" followed by kindergarten singing "He's the Grumpiest Guy." The 3rd grade class performed "Deputy Jingleton," and the 2nd grade sang "Penny Pine." The final songs were "Clues! Clues!" from 1st grade and "The Mayor is the Man" by 5th grade. The night ended with grades K-6 singing "Beautiful Light" and "Reprise: Snowberry Hill."

This concert was especially unique for Mrs. Kelley because

she wrote all of the lines that the 6th graders acted out and came up with different lyrics to the songs that were sung. Mrs. Kelley said, "The sixth graders were absolutely phenomenal! I can't say enough about them! I put a huge challenge in front of them, and they didn't just rise to the occasion, they knocked it out of the park! Each person really took on the persona of their character and brought it to life! I am so very proud of them!"

Great job to all of the elementary students on an amazing performance! Congratulations to Mrs. Michele Kelley and the 6th graders for a great show!



# NEWS

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## Sleighting the Performance: Winter Concert Highlights

By Tasha Stoll  
Staff Reporter

The high school winter concert was held Tuesday, December 9, in the gym starting at 7:00 pm. The sixth-grade band started off the night performing "Lightly Row," "Good King Wenceslas," and "6-Note Sleigh Ride."

Next, the junior high band played "Up On The Housetop," "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas," and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Then, the junior high and high school choir sang "Carol of the Bells," "Silent Night," and "Figgy Pudding." Mr. Kirby, the band teacher, said,

"Each group did fantastic, and it was a great showcase of their talents and hard work. I was very happy with their performances, and I can't wait to see what next semester brings."

To end the night, the high school band closed out with "Hampshire March," "And To All A Good Night," and "Santa the Barbarian." High school band member Jude Spence stated, "I had a great time playing my saxophone during the Christmas concert!" It was a very festive and joyful night; thank you to everyone who came and watched!



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# NEWS

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**First row:** Mrs. Kendle Luke, Nathan Cook, Brody Palmer, Arianna Lewis, Zaylee Ginther, Phoebe Poff, Aubree Varney, Denver Wilcoxson, Mrs. Mallory Oldham. **Second row:** Goldie Eckard, Madison Atkinson, Laiklee Newman, Elliott Slagle, Evelyn Newcomer, Easton Butler, Kinzlee Raymond, Kolsyn Moffat. **Third row:** Ely Walder, Kate Strueby, Landon Burgess, Easton Wiederholt, Addyson Gibson, McKinley Vietz, Brandon Strough, Benjamin Tucker, Daxston Abreu

## Candy, Classes, and Careers: The Second Grade Update

By Lindsey Hailey  
Staff Reporter

The second-grade class is having a very busy year. This year, there are 24 students in the class, and they are led by their teachers, Mrs. Kendle Luke and Mrs. Mallory Oldham. Mrs. Luke says she really enjoys being with this group. "I love to watch my students learn and grow from all the hard work they put in," she said. "I also love to watch them have fun and enjoy being in the classroom."

The class is made up of Daxston Abreu, Madison Atkinson, Landon Burgess, Easton Butler, Nathan

Cook, Goldie Eckard, Addyson Gibson, Zaylee Ginther, Arianna Lewis, Kolsyn Moffat, Evelyn Newcomer, Laiklee Newman, Brody Palmer, Phoebe Poff, Kinzlee Raymond, Elliott Slagle, Brandon Strough, Kate Strueby, Benjamin Tucker, Aubree Varney, McKinley Vietz, Ely Walder, Easton Wiederholt, and Denver Wilcoxson.

The students have been hitting the books in all their main subjects. In Reading, they are learning how to find the main idea of a story and how to use parts of a book, like captions and headers, to answer questions. In

writing, they are practicing how to write reports that give information on a specific topic.

Math has been all about numbers, as the students practice adding and subtracting up to 100. They are also learning a lot in Social Studies. They have been studying the different branches of the government to see how they work. They also learned about Native Americans across the U.S. by looking at how they lived, the art they made, and the different types of homes they built.

Even with all that work, the second graders are still

finding time to have fun. For many, the best parts of the year happen outside the normal lesson plan. Easton Wiederholt said his favorite memories so far were the Halloween Party and Homecoming. "We got to ride on the trailer and throw out candy," he said. Laiklee Newman, said, "My favorite thing about school is talking to my friends and having a nice teacher."

The year is off to a great start for these students. Good luck to the second grade as they finish up the the school year!



# NEWS

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DECEMBER 2025



**First row:** Chrystal Chrisman, Olivia McQuinn, Trinity Regalado, Blanche Eckard, Emma Mattson, Allie Schieber, Kynzee Adcock, Ellie Dias. **Second row:** Tess Edson, Alyssa Wallace, Lane McGinley, Jax Davis, Zach Welch, Rylan Worley, Blake Mercer, Hannah McMillan, Tasha Stoll. **Third row:** Keegan Schultz, Thor Cameron, Lucian Simmerman, Parker Evans, Jastin Affuso, Drew Parman, Jake Holtzclaw, Brant Jensen. **Not pictured:** Jontae Bond

## The Class of '28 Take On Sophomore Year!

By Allie Schieber  
Staff Reporter

The Class of 2028 kicked off the school year with a strong group of 27 students. This year's members include Kynzee Adcock, Jastin Affuso, Jontae Bond, Thor Cameron, Chrystal Chrisman, Jax Davis, Ellie Dias, Blanche Eckard, Tess Edson, Parker Evans, Jake Holtzclaw, Brant Jensen, Emma Mattson, Lane McGinley, Hannah McMillan, Olivia McQuinn, Blake Mercer, Drew, Luke Phipps, Trinity Regalado, Allie Schieber, Keegan Schultz, Lucian Simmerman, Tasha Stoll,

Alyssa Wallace, Zach Welch, and Rylan Worley. The class is sponsored by Natalie Strough and she praised their work ethic, noting, "They are very creative and always willing to help. They were the first class to finalize their float design and are always ready to do their part."

The sophomores welcomed two new students, Zach Welch and Chrystal Chrisman, who have quickly integrated into the group. Early in the semester, the class traveled to Parnell, Missouri, to attend a DocuDrama depicting the

realistic aftermath of a car crash and the vital roles of emergency responders. Following this, they attended a mock funeral in Maryville, where families of crash victims shared powerful messages on the importance of safe driving. The day concluded with lunch and a visit to Dairy Queen.

Beyond the classroom, every member of the Class of 2028 is involved in at least one extracurricular activity. Sophomores are also preparing for their first attempt at the ACT this coming March.



"I love my class because we are very close and everyone gets along well," said Class President Alyssa Wallace. "I'm excited to see where life takes us because we are such a motivated and talented group."

As the first semester draws to a close, the Class of 2028 looks forward to a busy schedule of sports and activities. We wish them the best of luck as they continue their sophomore year and look forward to following their journey to graduation!

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# NEWS

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Ms. Emma Fountain

## Future Teacher in the Making

By Tasha Stoll  
Staff Reporter

For the first semester of the 2025 school year, Stanberry R-II had the pleasure of hosting one student teacher, Ms. Emma Fountain. Ms. Fountain was student teaching in Mrs. Korinne Noble's high school ag room, beginning her tenure on August 18 and concluding it on December 5. During her time, she took over all of the agriculture classes offered, including Ag Science 1, Livestock Science, Ag Business, Ag Structures, Crop Science, and 8th Grade Exploratory Ag. Ms. Fountain was simultaneously completing her college coursework at Northwest Missouri State University, from which she successfully graduated on Friday, December 12th. Her future plans involve seeking and signing a contract to teach high school agriculture education in central Missouri. Mrs. Noble stated, "I enjoyed getting to know Ms. Fountain and watching her go from nervous and insecure about her teaching abilities, to confident in what

she taught each day and creative about the activities she did in class. I feel like we worked well with each other, and I even learned a few things while watching her teach."

Ms. Fountain shared her positive reflections on the experience, stating, "I really enjoyed getting to know the students and being able to see how differently each one of them learned and grew throughout the semester. During my time at Stanberry, I was able to take over all of the agriculture courses. I really enjoyed my experience at Stanberry and I'm leaving with so much gratitude, memories, and a clearer sense of the teacher I want to be. Thank you to all the staff and students for welcoming me and supporting me during my time here!"

The students and staff of Stanberry R-II are immensely grateful to have Ms. Fountain's amazing company during the semester and wish her the best in the rest of her teaching career!



## Dear Santa...

By Lindsey Hailey  
Staff Reporter

Santa and his elves are going to be very busy over the next few weeks at the North Pole. They are currently putting the finishing touches on presents and getting everything ready for the big delivery on Christmas Eve. After looking at all the requests from students this year, it is clear that Santa has a lot of work to do. The gift ideas range from small tools all the way to a full vacation.

The high school students are keeping things practical this year. Most of them are asking for clothes, new shoes, and truck parts. In the junior high wing, the wish lists are a bit more digital. Students there are requesting Roblox and Fortnite gift cards, LED lights for their rooms, and digital cameras. Other popular items include phones and Hydro Jugs. Even some seventh graders are getting in on the fun, as Blaze Hutchcraft and Ryker Horne said they are hoping for a



Barbie Dream House.

The elementary students have a wide variety of interests this holiday season. Many are asking for creative gifts like bracelet makers, makeup kits, and 3D printers. Others are hoping for classic toys like Nerf guns, Transformers, and Barbie DreamHouses. Some students are also wishing for electronics like the Nintendo Switch or Labubu figures, while others just want a new bed set for their room.

It isn't just the students who are looking forward to Christmas morning. The teachers have made some requests of their own as well. Mr. Maronde is asking Santa for socks, tools, and an Amazon Alexa. Meanwhile, Mrs. Palmer is dreaming of a relaxing vacation. It looks like it will be an exciting holiday for everyone. We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas!





# SPORTS

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STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2025



Bulldog wrestlers-front row: Kaleb Evans, Sam Simbro, Connor Jenkins, Baylee Albright, Alana Evans, Cayleigh Spaulding, Brodie Gibson, Evan Gregory, Rylan Worley. Back row: Head Coach Ray Walder, Assistant Coach Laverne Smithson, Keegan Schultz, Zander Heyde, Thor Cameron, Emmett Meyer, Vincent Smithson, William Ellsworth, managers Ally Santa Cruz and Katie Libby.



Congratulations,  
**Vincent** on  
your 100th win!!



## Locked In: Bulldog Wrestling Takes the Mat

By Allie Schieber  
Staff Reporter

As the fall sports season wraps up, winter athletics are already heating up, and the Bulldog wrestling team is charging into the 2025-26 season with confidence and determination. This year's squad consists of 14 wrestlers: 11 boys and 3 girls who are ready to make their mark on the mat.

The team's seniors include William Ellsworth, Evan Gregory, and Vincent Smithson. The juniors competing this season are Zander Heyde, Emmett Meyer, Cayleigh Spaulding, and Alana Evans. The

sophomore class features Keegan Schultz, Thor Cameron, and Rylan Worley, while freshmen Baylee Albright, Brodie Gibson, Sam Simbro, and Kaleb Evans round out the roster.

Led by head coach Ray Walder and assistant coach Laverne Smithson, the Bulldogs have already shown promise. The girls kicked off the competition on November 25 at the Girls' Scramble in Lathrop, gaining valuable experience against tough opponents. The team then hosted its home opener on December 2nd—a night

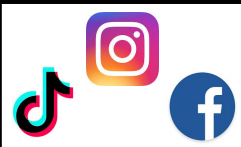
that proved especially memorable as senior Vincent Smithson secured his 100th career win. This impressive milestone is a true testament to his years of dedication to the sport.

Wrestling is as much a mental battle as it is a physical one, and Coach Walder emphasizes that mindset in his coaching. "Pain is temporary, pride is

forever," Walder said, a quote that captures the grit and perseverance required to succeed on the mat.

With a strong mix of experienced leadership and emerging talent, the Bulldog wrestlers are set for an exciting season. Best of luck to the team as they continue to compete and represent their school with pride.

Follow the Bulldogs on  
Instagram, TikTok &  
Facebook!



BULLDOGS BARK 6



# SPORTS

Volume 35 Issue 4-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2025



Bulldog basketball cheerleaders-front row: Josi Moffat, Olivia McQuinn, Ally Santa Cruz, Hannah McQuinn, Kenzi Santa Cruz, Harper Heyde, Zoey Chambers. Back row: Charlotte Jennings, Blanche Eckard, Tess Edson, Kaitlyn Van Draska, Alyssa Wallace, Kaci Porterfield, Avery Calhoun, Kaitlin Porterfield, Head Coach Jessica Gaona.

## Game On, Spirit Up



By Olivia McQuinn  
Staff Reporter

Basketball cheer kicked off its season over Thanksgiving break, hosting Mound City for the home opener on November 25. This year's squad features 15 cheerleaders: seniors Kenzi Santa Cruz, Ally Santa Cruz, and Hannah McQuinn; juniors Josi Moffat, Avery Calhoun, and Kaitlin Porterfield; sophomores Olivia McQuinn, Blanche Eckard, Alyssa Wallace, and Tess Edson; and freshmen Zoey Chambers, Harper Heyde, Charlotte Jennings, Kaci Porterfield, and Kaitlyn Van Draska.

Senior captain Kenzi Santa Cruz is optimistic about the year ahead, noting, "I'm excited to start the

season and to see our hard work pay off." The Albany Tournament made for a busy week for the squad, with the team cheering through four consecutive days of games from Wednesday to Saturday. Fans have already enjoyed a variety of stunts and dance routines during game breaks.

Head Coach Jessica Goana is equally enthusiastic about the season. "I'm excited to see the impact this larger roster will bring," she said. The girls have been experimenting with several new stunts they hope to debut as the season progresses.

Good luck to the squad for the rest of the season!

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!

## POSTSEASON FOOTBALL

### AWARDS:

### All-District

#### 1st Team:

**Pax Schieber-Running Back  
& Return Specialist  
Luke Phipps-Offensive Line  
Drew Parman-Punter**

#### 2nd Team:

**Aiden Graham-Tight End  
Sam Simbro-Kicker**



### All-State

#### 2nd Team

**Drew Parman-Punter**



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# OPINION

Volume 35 Issue 4-2025-26

**STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL**

DECEMBER 2025

It's  
Your  
Call



By Lindsey Hailey  
Staff Reporter

*What are you looking  
forward to over break?*



Eighth grader  
Carter Mattson, "Seeing my  
family."



Eighth grader  
Brenzlee Moffat,  
"Seeing all of my family."



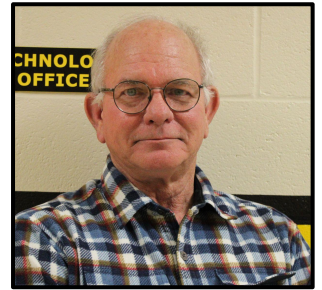
Fourth Grader  
Drea Parman,  
"Sleeping in."



Fourth Grader  
Max Jensen,  
"Opening presents."



Elementary Special  
Education teacher Rachel  
Luke, "Spending time with  
my family."



Technology Director  
Don Graff,  
"Christmas and spending  
time with family."



Freshman  
Zoey Chambers,  
"Getting out of school."



Junior  
Avery Calhoun,  
"Spending time with  
family."

## Survey Results

By Tasha Stoll  
Staff Reporter

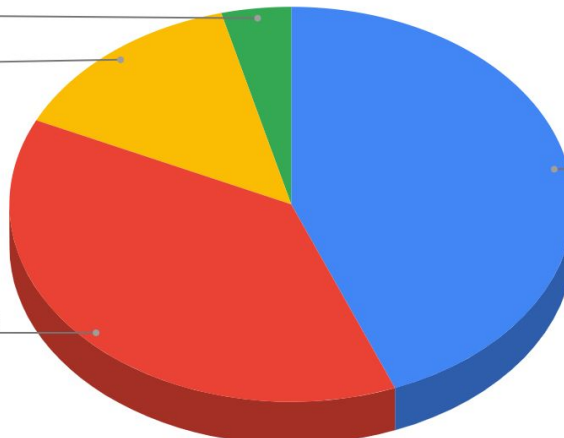
Students in grades 7-12  
were asked the question: What  
is your favorite Winter activity?  
51 students responded.

Their options included  
sledding, skiing, building a  
snowman, watching Christmas  
movies, or sleeping in on snow  
days.

Sledding  
4.0%  
Skiing  
14.0%



Watching Christmas movies  
38.0%



Sleeping in on snow days  
44.0%





# ENTERTAINMENT

Volume 35 Issue 4-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2025

## 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 November, the featured teacher was **Ms. Riley McQueen**. Who do you think December's staff member is?



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

## January Activities

January 1st-2nd-NO SCHOOL-CHRISTMAS BREAK

Monday, January 5th-No School-Teacher Inservice

Tuesday, January 6th-SCHOOL RESUMES

5:00-VBB@North Harrison

Wednesday, January 7th-7:00-Fall Sports Awards Night

Thursday, January 8th-5:30-VW@Gallatin-Tri

Friday, January 9th

7:45-FFA Greenhand Conference @ Maryville

5:00-VBB@Worth County

Saturday, January 10th-9:00-VW@Mid-Buchanan Tournament

Monday, January 12th-Saturday, January 17th-Stanberry Invitational BB Tourney

Monday, January 12th-6:00-PTO Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th-VW@Hamilton-Quad

Wednesday, January 14th-FCCLA Star Events

Thursday, January 15th-5:30-VW@Albany

Saturday, January 17th-9:00-VW@Plattsburg Tournament

Monday, January 19th-NO SCHOOL-MLK DAY

VGW@Plattsburg

Tuesday, January 20th

5:00-VBB@Home-SJC

7:00-BOE Meeting

Wednesday, January 21st-FCCLA Officer Screenings

Thursday, January 22nd-5:30-VW@Home-Quad

Friday, January 23rd-SPORTSWARMING

5:00-VBB@Home-Pattonsburg

Saturday, January 24th

JH Sportswarming Dance

HS Sportswarming Dance

Monday, January 26-VBB@ King City Invitational

Tuesday, January 27-6:30-FFA Greenhand Degree Night

Wednesday, January 28

FBLA DLC Day 1 @ MWSU

VBB@ King City Invitational

Thursday, January 29-5:00-VW-GRC@Home

Friday, January 30-VBB@ King City Invitational

Saturday, January 31st

HS All-State Band Performance

10:00-VW@Quad State-Maryville



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