



Bulldog's Bark

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Volume 35 Issue 6-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2026



Front row: Queen Cortney Merrigan and King Jaren Stoll. Back row: Katelyn Shisler, Alyssa Wallace, Alana Evans, Hannah McQuinn, Danielle Van Draska, crownbearer Jacqueline Maronde, last year's Queen Trista Lager and King Decker Heyde, crownbearer Aiden Luke, Evan Gregory, William Ellsworth, Hudson Groomer, Jake Holtzclaw, Sam Simbro.

Superheroes Save the Day: Bulldogs Sweep Trenton for Sportswoarming 2026



By Tasha Stoll
Staff Reporter

This year's Sportswoarming was moved around due to bad weather cancelling school on the original date of Friday, January 23. The theme was "Superheroes," and many students dressed up for the spirit days. All junior high and high school students were given the opportunity to decorate a section of the hallway and one shopping cart as their float. The winners of the hallway competition were the sophomores, and the winners of the shopping cart competition were the seventh graders.

On February 6th, Stanberry held the

Sportswoarming basketball games. During seventh hour that day, there was a pep assembly that included the announcement of the candidates, recognition of the wrestlers and basketball team members, and the cheerleaders showing off some of their cheer moves. Later that evening, both the boys and girls teams played Trenton. The girls played a strong game, winning 43-29. The Lady Bulldogs have been having a great season, and games like these are amazing to watch. The boys also came out with a big win, defeating Trenton 55-40.

During halftime of the

girls' game, the 2016 boys basketball team was recognized and cheered on for their accomplishments and hard work during their season when they earned *The Gauntlet* title (going undefeated in both basketball and football that year, and winning state championships). Then, during the boys halftime, coronation took place. The freshman attendants were Katelyn Shisler and Sam Simbro; the sophomores were Alyssa Wallace and Jake Holtzclaw; and the juniors were Alana Evans and Hudson Groomer. The senior candidates were Hannah McQuinn and William Ellsworth, Cortney Merrigan and Evan Gregory, and Danielle Van Draska and Jaren Stoll.

The 2026 Sportswoarming king and queen were Jaren and Cortney. Cortney stated, "It's definitely sad that it was my last Sportswoarming, but I couldn't imagine a better way to end it. I love my team, and it's so much fun playing with them. We have really good chemistry, and winning together is a blast. Winning queen was the icing on the cake for my last Sportswoarming." Jaren added, "It felt good that we came out and started the game strong. We were playing better than we had the last couple of games. When we got to halftime, it felt good to win king in my

(continued on Page 2)

NEWS

Volume 35 Issue 6-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2026

(continued from Page 1)

final Sportswarming, but it was also exciting that we got the job done and won.”

After the basketball games, volleyball was held for grades 9–12, and everyone had a blast. The dance, originally scheduled during Sportswarming

week, was held on January 31st due to the weather. There was a great turnout; everyone looked nice and danced the night away.

Thank you to everyone who helped make these events possible and to everyone who came and made these nights so special!



Dr. Fallon L. Stiens, DDS
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STANBERRY, MO

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

Allison M. Jennings, CPA

210 North Park, P.O. Box 226
Stanberry, MO 64489-0226

Office: (660) 783-9001
Fax: (660) 783-2155

Email: allisonmjennings22@gmail.com

NEWS

Volume 35 Issue 6-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2026



First row: Mrs. Reagan Craig, Sadie Sager, Emily Luke, Emerald Affuso, Lukas Regalado, Meleigha Henggeler, Audrey Jensen, Kambry Brown, Bentley Moffat, Elizabeth Moore, Mr. Dylan Morris. Second Row: Adeline Newcomer, Lucas Strueby, Julianne Mattson, Lawson Hague, Rhett Wiederholt, Kaelyn Wiederholt, Daisy Runde, Bentley Vietz, Casen Sullivan, Braylee Thomas. Third Row: Wyatt Taylor, Madison Donovan, Peyton Runde, Wynston Vinzant, Nora Shisler, Max Jensen, Ella McMillan, Jackson Jensen, Daniel Simbro, Dreya Parman.

Fourth Grade Bloom in the Classroom



By Lindsey Hailey
Staff Reporter

The fourth grade classes have had a very fun year so far! The classes are taught by Mr. Dylan Morris and Mrs. Reagan Craig. So far this year in math, the students have done a lot with the four operations. They have been expanding on what they know about basic facts to solve problems with bigger numbers. The class spent a lot of time on long division during the first semester of school. This semester, the students are focusing on patterns using input/output tables and solving for variables. Looking forward, the fourth graders are preparing to start working on fractions. This is always something a little different than the class is used to, and it will be a good challenge for them.

In science, the students have talked about Earth's changes, like volcanoes, weathering, erosion, rock formations, and earthquakes. They also studied plant and animal adaptations. The class just finished up their units on force, motion, and simple machines. Mrs. Craig said, "The students always love hands-on activities for science. I would say their favorite so far this year was making milk carton catapults." These were used to launch marshmallows, collect data, and find averages. For this activity, students used two different sizes of marshmallows to test how mass impacts a launch. The students really enjoyed it!

When asked what his

favorite part of teaching fourth grade was, Mr. Morris praised the students' character. "My favorite part is how hard-working, determined, helpful, kind, and respectful they are," he said. "They are always willing to lend a helping hand to me and to their classmates. They are flexible and willing to make changes to our schedule to accommodate our learning, which I really appreciate!" He added that he is looking forward to watching them grow and get ready for fifth grade.

Currently in ELA, the students have been working on identifying the author's purpose and point of view. They are also learning about different types of sentences and how they impact a story. To practice these skills, the fourth grade is reading the

book *Matilda* and analyzing the characters. Students have enjoyed this so much!

The classes also have a "fourth grade challenge" going on in ELA. If a student shows Mrs. Craig a piece of figurative language in their own reading book and identifies it, their class gets a point and the winning class gets a reward. They have been working so hard and cannot wait to see who wins.

Mrs. Craig noted that her favorite part of the year has been watching the students grow academically. "They always have smiles on their faces and carry a positive attitude," she said. "They are such a hard-working and respectful class. I am lucky to be their teacher!" Good luck to the fourth graders for the rest of their school year!

NEWS

Volume 35 Issue 6-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2026



First row: Lane Ellis, Gabriella Regalado, Quincy Cameron, Jaicee McGinley, Emilee Groven, Brenzlee Moffat, Chandler Albright. Second row: Charlotte Schultz, Madelyn Sidwell, Blaine Schieber, Grayson Wiederholt, Kayla McQuinn, Carter Mattson, Hummer Studer, Quinn Heyde, Brantly Donovan. Third row: Trevor Strough, Jared Henggeler, Liam Wilson, Harlan Eckard, Caiden Jensen, Miguel Leon Escamilla, Emily McMillan, Noah Beggs.

Eighth Grade Wraps Up Junior High

By Tasha Stoll
Staff Reporter

This year's eighth grade class has achieved many accomplishments so far. Now that they are over halfway through their last year of middle school, they have been preparing to move up to high school. This year, they have been involved in many athletics, including boys and girls basketball, boys football, girls softball, wrestling, and track is about to begin. They have all had very successful seasons.

In addition to sports, students have had the opportunity to participate in clubs such as FCCLA, Science

Olympiad, Scholar Bowl, and STUCO. The high school and junior high also had the opportunity to decorate a section of the hallway and a shopping cart during Sportswarming week. The winning classes would receive breakfast. The eighth grade class worked very hard on their hallway and placed second.

Their class sponsor Mrs. Eckard stated, "They worked hard on their float building and decorating their hallway, which earned them a pizza party." The eighth grade class was very excited to win a breakfast pizza party and showed lots of

enthusiasm.

Class president Kayla McQuinn commented, "Every unexpected moment turned into a memory I'll always carry with me. Even though nothing stays the same forever, I'm grateful for the time we had and the joy it brought into my life." The class is trying to make the most of these last couple of months in junior high.

Coming up, the eighth grade class still has a Spring Awards Night, where they will receive awards for wrestling, track, and Science Olympiad. This will be their last one before high school. We wish all

the eighth graders luck with the rest of the school year!

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NEWS

Volume 35 Issue 6-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2026



Front row: Elli Wiederholt, Lennox Horne, Brooklyn McMillen, Chelsea Weatherd, Maddi Page. Back row: Macie Baumli, Quinn Heyde, Charlotte Schultz, Trent Strough, Brady McMillen, Gabriella Regalado, Sophia Taylor.

Stanberry JH Scholar Bowl Takes the Stage

By Olivia McQuinn
Staff Reporter



This year's Junior High Scholar Bowl team is hitting its stride with a fresh roster of six members: Austin Sterkis, Macie Baumli, Brantly Donovan, Trevin Smithson, Brady McMillen, and Liam Wilson. All six of these students are new to the Scholar Bowl scene this year, making every match a valuable learning experience.

So far, the team has competed in four matches against King City, Pattonsburg, St. Joseph Christian, and Worth County. While the final scores resulted in losses, the Bulldogs proved they can keep pace with the best; two of those matches were decided by a narrow margin of only two questions.

The team's mindset remains focused on resilience.

Trevin shared his perspective on staying sharp during a high-pressure round: "If you get one wrong, don't give up and get the next one wrong too," he said.

Coach Mrs. Porterfield is optimistic about the team's trajectory as they gain more experience behind the buzzers. "I feel like with each match we get a little more comfortable, and I'm hoping we are successful at our next meet," Mrs. Porterfield commented. "This is a great group of students who have a wide range of knowledge. They just need a little more confidence."

Good luck to these students as they continue their season and put their knowledge to the test!

Stanberry Spellers Secure Top Spots at Gentry County Competition



By Olivia McQuinn
Staff Reporter

The annual Spelling Bee took place on February 4th, bringing together top spellers from Stanberry, King City, and Albany. Students from the 5th through 8th grades competed in the event, showcasing their skills in both written and oral formats.

Stanberry was well-represented on the leaderboard this year. In the 6th-grade division, Maddi Page earned a second-place finish in the written spelling bee. Following that success, 7th grader Brady McMillan also secured a second-place win in the written competition for his grade level.

When asked about his preparation for the big day, Brady credited his success to a steady routine. "I practiced a lot

so it came naturally to me," he said.

The students' hard work did not go unnoticed by their mentors. Advisor Mrs. Palmer expressed high praise for the entire group's performance and attitude during the season.

"Our school's spelling bee participants should be incredibly proud of themselves for the hard work and dedication they showed throughout the competition," Mrs. Palmer stated. "Preparing, practicing, and standing up to spell in front of others takes courage and commitment, and they represent our school with confidence and determination."

Congratulations to these students for their impressive accomplishments and for representing Stanberry so well!

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"There's Somewhere Like Home."

BULLDOG'S BARK 5

NEWS

Volume 35 Issue 6-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2026



FFA members drive their tractors to school during FFA week.



Members listen about what happens at Bichelmeyer Meats.

Stanberry Students Shine: FCCLA competes, FFA Travels to Kansas City, and FBLA Heads to State

By Allie Schieber
Staff Reporter

This month has been incredibly busy within the Stanberry organizations, and 2026 is already off to a fantastic start!

FCCLA kicked off contest season in January where some of the chapter members participated in the NWMSU Region 1 Star Event Contests. Those members included: Dani Van Draska and Kaci Porterfield- Interior Design, Alexa Horne and Kaitlyn Van Draska- Food Innovations, and Hannah McMillan attended as a student judge. Each group received great feedback and ended the day well. FCCLA also had a fun night on February 13th where the chapter got together and had laser tag in the gym.

On February 4, the FFA chapter kicked off the new year with an exciting and educational field trip to Kansas City. Members

toured Bichelmeyer Meats, where they received an in-depth, eye-opening look at how beef is processed and the many stages involved from start to finish. Students gained valuable insight into the agricultural industry and saw firsthand the dedication and precision required in meat processing.

After the tour, the group headed to Sky Zone, where they had an absolute blast enjoying some well-earned fun—without a single accident! The day wrapped up with dinner at Raising Cane's, the perfect ending to a memorable trip.

When asked about the experience, Parker Ginther shared, "I learned a lot about how beef is processed and the different stages of it, and what it looks like. I had a blast at Sky Zone and I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to go."

Looking ahead, the

chapter is excited to celebrate National FFA Week from February 22–27. The week will be packed with fun activities and school spirit, including: Monday: Pajama Day, Tuesday: Camo/Orange Day and a Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament, Wednesday: Hat Day and Drive Your Tractor to School, Thursday: FFA T-shirt Day and a Community Breakfast from 6:45–8:00 a.m., Friday: Black and Gold Day, Saturday: FFA Church at Saint Peter's Catholic Church at 5:15 p.m.

The first week of February also brought early mornings for the FBLA chapter, as members departed the school parking lot at 6:45 a.m. to attend the District Leadership Conference at Northwest Missouri State University. Several students competed, and many earned impressive finishes. Leading the way as state qualifiers: Katelyn Shisler and Harper Heyde – 2nd Place, Broadcast Journalism, Hannah McMillan – 2nd Place,
(continued on Page 7)

Check out the school website 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!

Follow the Bulldogs on
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Facebook!



NEWS

Volume 35 Issue 6-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2026



Alexa Horne and Kaitlyn Van Draska work on their FCCLA STAR Events project.



FCCLA members plan their method of attack during laser tag.



Mrs. Simbro helps Kaci Porterfield prep for her STAR event project.



Cortney Merrigan placed 3rd in FBLA Advanced Accounting.



FBLA members wait for the start of the awards ceremony at district contest.

Stanberry Students Shine...

(continued from Page 6)

Introduction to Business Communications, Cortney Merrigan – 3rd Place, Accounting II. Top 5 finishers included: Allie Schieber and Cortney Merrigan – 3rd Place, Marketing, Avery Calhoun and Kaitlin Porterfield – 3rd Place, Financial Planning, Charlotte Jennings – 4th Place, Introduction to Public Speaking, Brookelynn Robinson and Josi Moffat – 3rd Place, Social Media Strategies. Top 10 finishers: Ally Santa Cruz – 6th Place, Accounting I, Cortney Merrigan – 7th Place, Agribusiness, Jaren Stöll – 10th Place, Agribusiness, Kaitlyn Porterfield – 6th Place, Business Communications, Hannah McQuinn – 10th Place,

Business Communications, Avery Calhoun – 10th Place, Personal Finance.

State FBLA will be held April 12–14, and we wish the very best of luck to all those who qualified! Kate Shisler, a first-year member who advanced to state, shared, “We worked hard on our video and it paid off. We are so excited for the opportunity to compete at state and feel so blessed to have such an amazing community supporting us!”

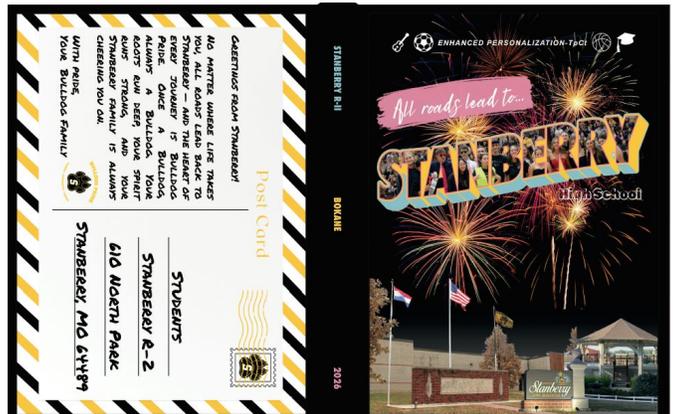
Congratulations to all of our FCCLA, FFA and FBLA members whose dedication and hard work have truly paid off. We are incredibly proud of you and can’t wait to see what you accomplish next.



Katelyn Shisler and Harper Heyde placed 2nd in FBLA Broadcast Journalism.



Hannah McMillan placed 2nd in FBLA Intro to Business Communication.



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OPINION

Volume 35 Issue 6-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

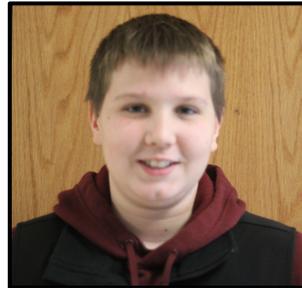
FEBRUARY 2026

It's
Your
Call



What is your
favorite song?

By Lindsey Hailey
Staff Reporter



Seventh grader,
Eli Meyer, "FL-SO-SO" by
Morgan Wallen



Eighth grader,
Charlotte Schultz,
"Disco" by Surf Curse



Sixth Grader
Parker Runde,
"22" by Taylor Swift.



Second Grader
Goldie Eckard,
"Circus"
by Britney Spears



Fifth Grade Teacher
Kristi Porterfield,
"I Am Not Okay"
by Jelly Roll



Preschool Teacher
Christina Webb,
"Save Me" by Jelly Roll &
Lainey Wilson



Senior
Katie Libby,
"Traveling Soldier"
by The Chicks



Freshman
Alexa Horne,
"Maybe"
by Sienna Spiro

Survey Results

By Allie Schieber
Staff Reporter

Students in grades 7-12 were asked the question: What is your favorite thing to receive on Valentine's Day? 53 students responded.

Their options included flowers, candy, cards, stuffed animals, or Lego flowers.

Stuffed animal



9.4%

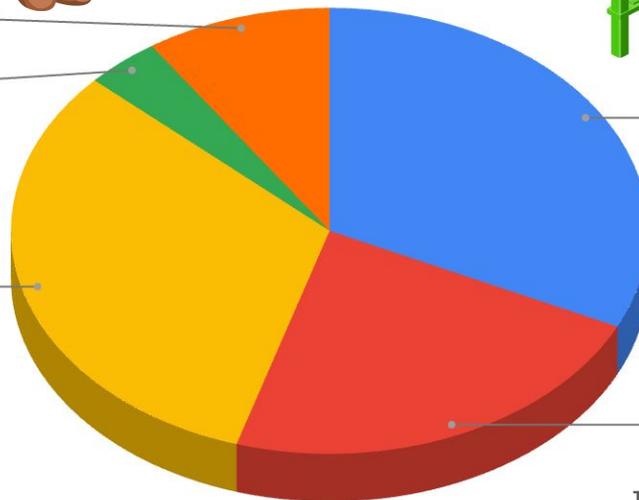
Cards

3.8%



Flowers

32.1%



Lego flowers

32.1%



Candy

22.6%

ENTERTAINMENT

Volume 35 Issue 6-2025-26

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 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 January, the featured teacher was **Mrs. Liz Simbro**. Who do you think February's staff member is?



Are you married? If so, how many years?
Yes, 13 years.

Do you have any children? How many?
Yes, 2.

What do you enjoy most about your teaching?
My friendships with staff and seeing the kids everyday

How long have you been teaching for?
4 years

What school activities were you involved in in high school?
Cheer, basketball, FCA, FCCLA, track

Interested in advertising in the Bokane (yearbook) or Bulldog's Bark? Email 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

March Activities

- Monday, March 2nd
JHSB@ Home
4:30-JHW@Rock Port
- Tuesday, March 3rd
8:00-Elementary to Robidoux Theater Field Trip
4:30-JHW@Tarkio
- Wednesday, March 4th
8:00-Williford STEM Event
10:00-ProStart-Boudreaux's
4:30-FFA@Cameron-Officer Interviews
- Thursday, March 5th-8:00-VoTech Awareness Day-Sophomores
- Friday, March 6th
END OF THIRD QUARTER
6:00-JHW@Home-Quad
- Monday, March 9th
HSSB@St. Joseph Christian
7:00-FFA Savannah CDE
5:30-JHW@Albany
- Tuesday, March 10th
MSSBDA Large Group Contest
8:00-NHS/World History @ Titanic Museum
6:15-FFA Officer Interviews
- Wednesday, March 11th
NO SCHOOL-TEACHER INSERVICE & P/T CONFERENCES
4:30-FFA Savannah LDEs
- Thursday, March 12th-NO SCHOOL-SPRING BREAK
- Friday, March 13th-NO SCHOOL-SPRING BREAK
- Sunday, March 15th-FCCLA State Leadership Competition
- Monday, March 16th-NO SCHOOL-SPRING BREAK
HSSB@King City
- Tuesday, March 17th
4:00-Baseball@Hamilton-Jamboree
6:00-PTO Meeting
7:00-BOE Meeting
- Wednesday, March 18
8:15-Junior/Senior ACT Day
4:30-FFA Cameron District LDE
- Thursday, March 19-6:45-FFA @NMC-CDE
- Friday, March 20th
Baseball@Platte Valley
8:30-Cap & Gown & Spring Sports Pics
- Saturday, March 21st-HS District Solo & Small Ensemble Contest
- Monday, March 23rd
HSSB@Home
7:00-FFA North Nodaway CDEs
5:00-Baseball@Home-East Atchison
- Tuesday, March 24th
4:00-Boys Golf@Home-Tri
5:00-Baseball@North Nodaway
- Wednesday, March 25th-7:00-Honors Banquet
- Thursday, March 26th
3:30-VT@Worth County-Early Birds
5:00-Baseball@Gallatin
- Friday, March 27th-8:45-Prom Set-Up
- Saturday, March 28th-6:00-Prom
- Monday, March 30th
HSSB@Home
4:00-Boys Golf@Maysville
- Tuesday, March 31st
8:30-FFA@NWMSU District CDE
3:30-JHT@Worth County-Early Birds