



# Bulldog's Bark

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Volume 34 Issue 9-2024-25

STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL

May 2025



2025 graduates front row: Maranda Evans, Allison Cook, Paige Campbell, Hannah Stevens, Trista Lager, Payton Williams, Marli Hilton, Brea Jensen, Jencie James. Middle row: Damien Webb, Wyatt Taylor, Devin Strawhacker, Lindsay Sherman, Paige Woods, Decker Heyde, Treston Williams, Jordyn Wright. Back row: Brody Carroll, Kaiden Keough, Cooper Adcock, Cameron Affuso, Calvin Smithson, Gabe Simbro, Colby McQueen.

## The Class of 2025 Graduates 24 Students



By Kaitlin Porterfield  
Staff Reporter

The 2025 graduation ceremony started at 2 pm on Sunday, May 11th in the gym. To start off, the band played "Pomp and Circumstance" as the graduating class was led to their seats by junior class President Eva Cameron and Vice-President Vincent Smithson.

To begin the graduation ceremony, the salutatorian, Decker Heyde, gave his speech. As part of his presentation, he talked about how he enjoyed growing up with the people he did and wouldn't have wanted it any other way. After Decker finished his speech, he and Jordyn Wright read the class history. In the class history, the boys talked about many funny memories the class had shared together. Next, High School Principal Mrs. Lisa Craig read

the scholarships and awards each graduating senior received. She also shared what each of their plans are after graduation. After the awards, Paige Woods, the valedictorian, gave her address. She mentioned how everyone needs to live in the moment and enjoy their life while they live it. After Paige's speech, Superintendent Dr. John Davison introduced the speaker, Jeff Osborn. Mr. Osborn highlighted some key points in his message to the graduates such as, always helping out your community. Mrs. Craig then presented the graduating class as School Board President Brent Jennings awarded each senior graduate with their diplomas.

To end the graduation ceremony, Decker happily led his fellow classmates in the



Decker tells a story about a bouncy ball to the class as the salutatorian.



The class lines up and Mrs. Craig announces their awards and plans for the future.



Mrs. Craig places the honor of the valedictorian medal on Paige Woods.



Wyatt and Maranda enter the ceremony arm-in-arm.



Cooper and Jordyn exit the ceremony looking cool in their shades.



As class president, Decker instructs his fellow classmates to move their tassels and throw their caps in celebration.

switching of the tassels. As the graduates concluded with their tassels, the band played "Pomp and Circumstance" for the seniors to exit the gym. When graduate Marli Hilton was asked how she felt at graduation she replied, "It was a bittersweet moment! Seeing everyone in the crowd who

came to support us was very memorable and made me feel very appreciative. I'm excited to start this next part in my life, but I will definitely miss this school and community!"

Congratulations to the 2025 graduating class, we can't wait to see what your futures hold!

# NEWS

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## 2025 Graduate Plans and Awards

### **Cooper Adcock**

Plans to enter the workforce and continue his fencing business  
Congratulations Cooper!

### **Cameron Affuso**

Plans to attend Missouri Welding Institute  
**Cameron has won:**  
Missouri Welding Scholarship  
Elicia Elizabeth Eiberger Memorial Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Ralph Pierce Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Cameron!

### **Paige Campbell**

Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University and major in Marine Biology and will be part of the Cheer Team  
**Paige has won:**  
University Scholar Award from Northwest Missouri State University  
Hawthorne One-Year Educational Grant  
Kameron Ty Wallace Memorial Scholarship  
Frederick W Schneider Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Paige!

### **Brody Carroll**

Plans to enter the workforce in the construction industry  
Congratulations Brody!

### **Allison Cook**

Plans to enter the workforce in the welding industry  
Congratulations Allison!

### **Maranda Evans**

Plans to attend North Central Missouri College and major in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

### **Maranda has won:**

A+ Scholarship from North Central Missouri College  
Phil Gray Memorial Scholarship  
The Brilliant Stanberry Class of 69 Scholarship  
Mollie J and Nelson G Allen Scholarship  
Bulldog Endeavor Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Maranda!

### **Decker Heyde**

Plans to attend State Technical College and major in Electrical Distribution Systems  
**Decker has won:**  
A+ Scholarship and the John M Thomas Scholarship from State Technical College  
Lester Birbeck Scholarship  
Hawthorne One-Year Educational Grant  
Kameron Ty Wallace Memorial Scholarship  
The Bulldog Pride Family Scholarship  
Courtney Goforth Memorial Scholarship  
Gentry County Cattleman Association Scholarship

Raymond Sager Post 260 American Legion Scholarship  
Tri-State Ford FFA Scholarship  
Gentry Lions Club Scholarship  
JC Club Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Collin Sager Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Decker!

### **Marli Hilton**

Plans to attend Southwestern Community College and major in business and run track  
**Marli has won:**  
Track Scholarship from Southwestern Community College  
Lester Birbeck Scholarship  
Beverly Shisler Scholarship  
Kameron Ty Wallace Memorial Scholarship  
Alva and Nina Faye Hughes Scholarship  
Knights of Columbus Local Council Scholarship  
The Bulldog Pride Family Scholarship  
Andrew Clifford Armstrong Scholarship  
SEA Scholarship  
Shelter Insurance Foundation Scholarship  
Local PEO Scholarship  
Young Dual Credit Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Mollie J and Nelson G Allen Scholarship  
JC Club Scholarship  
Collin Sager Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Marli!

### **Jencie James**

Plans to attend get her RN License  
Congratulations Jencie!

### **Brea Jensen**

Plans to attend Southwestern Community College and major in nursing and play softball  
Brea has won:  
Softball Scholarship from Southwestern Community College  
Kameron Ty Wallace Memorial Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Mike Workman Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Brea!

### **Kaiden Keough**

Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University and major is Sports Management  
**Kaiden has won:**  
Merit Scholarship from Northwest Missouri State University  
Raymond Jennings Scholarship  
FDH Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Kaiden!

### **Trista Lager**

Plans to Northwest Missouri State University and major in Pre-Physical Therapy  
**Trista has won:**  
Merit Scholarship from Northwest Missouri State University  
Kameron Ty Wallace Memorial Scholarship

Frederick W Schneider Scholarship  
Daniel Memorial Scholarship  
Frank and Marjorie Carroll Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Trista!

### **Colby McQueen**

Plans to enter the workforce in the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry  
Congratulations Colby!

### **Lindsay Sherman**

Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University and major in Business Management  
**Lindsay has won:**  
Academic Excellence from Northwest Missouri State University  
Beverly Shisler Scholarship  
Frederick W Schneider Scholarship  
Daniel Memorial Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Lindsay!

### **Gabe Simbro**

Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University and major in Animal Science  
**Gabe has won:**  
Academic Excellence and the A+ Scholarship from Northwest Missouri State University  
Lester Birbeck Scholarship  
Hawthorne One-Year Educational Grant  
Phil Gray Memorial Scholarship  
SEA Scholarship  
Raymond Sager Post 260 American Legion Scholarship  
DAR Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Gabe!

### **Calvin Smithson**

Plans to enter the workforce  
Congratulations Calvin!

### **Hannah Stevens**

Plans to North Central Missouri State University and major in Elementary Education  
**Hannah has won:**  
A+ Scholarship from North Central Missouri College  
Phil Gray Memorial Scholarship  
MSTA Regional Scholarship  
FDH Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Hannah!

### **Devin Strawhacker**

Plans to continue working for Premier Ag  
Congratulations Devin!

### **Wyatt Taylor**

Plans to attend North Central Missouri College and major in Radiology  
**Wyatt has won:**  
Kameron Ty Wallace Memorial Scholarship  
Phil Gray Memorial Scholarship

Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Ralph Pierce Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Wyatt!

### **Damien Webb**

Plans to attend Missouri Western State University and major in Computer Programming  
**Damien has won:**  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Collin Sager Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Damien!

### **Payton Williams**

Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University and major in Early Childhood Education  
**Payton has won:**  
Merit Scholarship from Northwest Missouri State University  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Payton!

### **Treston Williams**

Plans to enter the workforce in the construction industry  
Congratulations Treston!

### **Paige Woods**

Plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University and major in Pre-Pharmacy  
**Paige has won:**  
Academic Excellence and the A+ Scholarship from Northwest Missouri State University  
Hawthorne Charitable Trust Scholarship  
Anthony F. and Helen J. Castle Scholarship Foundation  
Better Business Bureau Student of Integrity Scholarship  
Lester Birbeck Scholarship  
Kameron Ty Wallace Memorial Scholarship  
Erma E Alldredge Scholarship  
Gentry County Cattleman Association Scholarship  
MFA Foundation Scholarship  
Kenneth & Rosemary Williford Scholarship  
Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship  
Tri-State Ford FFA Scholarship  
Carl Messner QUWF Scholarship  
Gentry County Farm Bureau Scholarship  
Leadership Northwest Missouri Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Paige!

### **Jordyn Wright**

Plans to attend Kansas State University and major in Ag Business Management  
**Jordyn has won:**  
K-State Academic Scholarship  
Kameron Ty Wallace Memorial Scholarship  
Gentry County Cattleman Association Scholarship  
Ronnie Mercer Memorial Scholarship  
Congratulations Jordyn!



# NEWS

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Seniors walk down the hall in cap and gown with the kindergarten students.



Students in the senior and kindergarten classes grab a quick group photo after their walk through the hall.



Their final activity included getting the parachute out and playing different games together.

## Seniors Start New Tradition

By Marli Hilton  
Staff Reporter

The senior class this year decided to start a fun, new tradition with the kindergartners. They planned a walk through the hallway in their cap and gowns, and decorated graduation caps for the kindergartners to wear as they walked with them. The seniors, Mrs. Craig, and the kindergarten teachers planned a few weeks in advance, by ordering and decorating caps. They also came up with a plan for what activities would take place the morning of the walk.

On Friday, May 2nd, seniors dressed up in their cap and gown, and brought the caps they decorated a week prior to their assigned kindergartener. Teachers and students, juniors through 1st grade, lined the hallway as the seniors made their way down to the kindergarten classrooms for the big surprise. Once the seniors had made it to the rooms, they outfitted the kindergarten students with their caps. Hugh Sagan was very surprised to see the seniors come, and he said he liked pretty much everything, but he especially liked walking

down with his best friend, senior Jordyn Wright. The seniors and kindergartners then made their way back through the hallways to the gym, with students and teachers cheering them on. Once in the gym, they all took a group picture, and made a "time machine" video that made it seem as if the kindergartners were transforming into the seniors. The kindergarten walked behind a big piece of paper one direction, and the seniors walked out the other direction, making it seem as if the kindergarten class had skipped to senior year. They all then grouped up and played with a big colorful parachute, throwing it up into the air while holding onto it, and then running under to sit on the edges, creating an air pocket to sit under. The kindergartners also took turns running under it and making it to the other side before it hit the ground. Kindergartner Peyton Luke enjoyed walking with her cousin Marli Hilton, and she had a lot of fun playing with the parachute.

## SENIOR 2025

Overall, this was a very fun and memorable experience for both seniors and the kindergartners, as well as the students and staff who watched the walk through. When asked what her favorite part of the walk through was, senior Trista

Lager commented, "giving the little kids their caps." Thank you to our seniors for all that you have done and left for our school, and thank you to everyone who has supported them throughout the years! Good luck in this next chapter of your lives!



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A few of the senior boys enjoy dinner at Blind Box BBQ.



Students enjoy dinner at The New Theatre & Restaurant before watching "Jersey Boys".

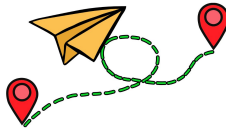


Jordyn, Colby, and Calvin "break out" at BRK Through KC.



The girls work together to win the game show.

## Seniors Head to KC



By Lindsey Hailey  
Staff Reporter

Senior trip started on Wednesday morning, May 7th. The seniors met their senior sponsors, Mrs. Kristine Palmer and Mrs. Kirsten Maronde, at the school at 8:30am to check-in and do bag checks. Those in attendance were Cooper Adcock, Treston Williams, Maranda Evans, Jencie James, Paige Campbell, Brody Carroll, Wyatt Taylor, Hannah Stevens, Marli Hilton, Jordyn Wright, Colby McQueen, Decker Heyde, Payton Williams, Paige Woods, Lindsay Sherman, Trista Lager, Calvin Smithson, Cameron Affuso, and Gabe Simbro. Then, at 9:00 am, they took off to Kansas City. Senior trip had three fun filled days of activities planned. When asked what he was excited to do on senior trip, Wyatt replied, "The New Theatre &

Restaurant, as well as the break out room and getting to bond with classmates; spending time with my class before we all go off on our own."

To start off their trip, the seniors headed straight to Chicken N Pickle for a couple hours. After that, they went to Game Show Battle Rooms for an hour or so. During their free time, they were able to explore and shop at Legends Outlet shopping center. That evening they attended the New Theatre and watched the play "Jersey Boys".

The next day was just as fun. On Thursday morning, they went to BRK Through KC, where they all participated in escape rooms. Once they finished up there, they headed to Arrowhead Stadium where they all went to tour the



Seniors visit Arrowhead Stadium. Front row: Decker Heyde, Paige Campbell, Treston Williams, Cameron Affuso, Trista Lager, Payton Williams. Back row: Maranda Evans, Hannah Stevens, Wyatt Taylor, Calvin Smithson, Gabe Simbro, Jencie James, Cooper Adcock, Jordyn Wright, Colby McQueen, Brody Carroll, Paige Woods, Marli Hilton, Lindsay Sherman.

whole facility. Next, they had the choice to go shop at Legends shopping center or go back to the hotel and hangout to wait on dinner. That night, they had dinner at Blind Box BBQ and for dessert went to get ice cream. They spent the remaining time swimming and playing card games.

On the final day, they left the hotel at 8:30 am and went on a coffee run to Dutch Bros. They departed for home at 9:30 am Friday morning. Marli was asked what she enjoyed most on

the trip and she replied, "I really loved getting to do one last fun thing with my class before we graduated. All the activities they planned for us were exciting, and I loved going to get ice cream!"

Overall, the seniors had a good time on their final school trip! Stanberry R-II is very proud of these 2025 graduates, and we can't wait to see what each and every one of them does in the future. Thank you for being a part of the Bulldog family class of 2025!



# NEWS

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Mr. Kirby directs the choir members.



Junior high and high school bands showcase their talent.



Sixth grade band members wow the crowd with how far they've come this year.



Decker Heyde accepts his awards from Mr. Kirby and Band Booster President Amber Spence.

## Band and Choir Showcase Talent at Spring Concert

By Hannah Stevens  
Staff Reporter



On Wednesday, April 30th the band and choir held their spring performance. The evening kicked off with the 6th grade band playing, "My Dreydl", "Skip to My Lou", "Oh, Susanna", and "William Tell Overture". The audience was very pleased with how well they performed.

Next up, was the junior high and high school Choir. They performed "A Festive Alleluia" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot, "J'entends Le Moulin" by Emily Crocker, and "Tongo" by Greg Gilpin. They did a phenomenal job and their vocals were perfectly tuned.

The junior high and high school band came together to round out the evening. They played "Black Forest Overture" by Michael Sweeney, "Lincoln Posy" by Michael Sweeney, and "the Big Circus March" by

Robert E. Foster. Band and choir director Mr. Kirby stated, "I am very proud of all these students have accomplished since the beginning of the year. All ensembles have shown growth and I can't wait to see them continue improving next year."

As the evening wrapped up, senior band and choir members were recognized, along with letters handed out to participants. Mr. Kirby awarded Charlotte Jennings with the Director's Award and Decker Heyde with the John Philip Sousa Award, Choral Award, and Musician Award. Decker commented, "The strides we made were very easy to see from the last concert to the spring concert. It was a fun year." Congratulations to Charlotte and Decker and great job to all band and choir members!



Konnor Keough, Evan Gregory, Lucian Simmerman, Jax Heyde, Decker Heyde, Band Director, Mr. Kirby, Accompanist Marsha Dias, and Ellie Dias are shown after completing top notch performances at state competition.

### State Band Results

**Decker Heyde-Vocal Solo-Gold**  
**Ellie Dias-Trumpet Solo-Gold**  
**Jax Heyde-Vocal Solo-Silver**  
**Brass Sextet-Ellie Dias, Evan Gregory, Jax Heyde, Decker Heyde, Konnor Keough, Lucian Simmerman-Silver**



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Cortney competed in the Advanced Prepared Public speaking competition.



Paige, Cooper, Jordyn, and Colby were all awarded their State Degrees.



Copper received his State Proficiency in Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication.

## FFA Members Attend State Convention

By Maranda Evans  
Staff Reporter



On April 23rd a select few of our FFA members and Advisor Mrs. Korinne Noble left the school to attend State FFA in Columbia, MO. The students who attended were: Jaren Stoll for his SAE Record Book; Cortney Merrigan in Advanced Prepared Public speaking competition; Cooper Adcock, Jordyn Wright, Colby McQueen, and Paige Woods received their State FFA Degrees; Allie Schieber, Tess Edson, Kynzee Adcock, and Olivia McQuinn attended for Dairy Cattle Judging; Cooper Adcock also went to receive his State Proficiency in Ag Mechanics Design and Fabrication; and lastly Eva Cameron and Avery Calhoun attended as delegates. When Cortney was asked about state she replied, "It's very rewarding to make it to state after working hard for the contest. It's fun to compete and watch other

members from our chapter succeed." Once they arrived in Columbia, they attended the opening ceremony where Cooper received his proficiency award. After they were done, they traveled back to their hotel for the evening.

The next day on the 24th Cortney gave her speech and the dairy cattle team competed. Once finished there they traveled to Midway Golf and Games for some fun. Then they finished up their evening by going to Texas Roadhouse for dinner. FFA advisor Mrs. Korinne Noble said, "State convention is always one of my favorite events. I enjoy celebrating student successes and seeing them recognized in front of 10,000 other FFA members in our state." Finally, to finish up their trip, our senior FFA members received their State Degrees at the closing ceremony on Friday the 25th.



State convention attendees included front row: Eva Cameron, Cortney Merrigan, Allie Schieber, Kynzee Adcock, Olivia McQuinn, Paige Woods, Tess Edson, Avery Calhoun, Advisor Mrs. Korinne Noble. Back row: Cooper Adcock, Jordyn Wright, Colby McQueen, Jaren Stoll.

We are so proud of each and every one of these students. It is amazing to have seen all of their hard work lead up to this. We are excited to see what next year has in store for the

returning FFA members, and even though we are sad that our seniors are leaving, we are excited to see where their next adventure leads them!



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## Intermediate Track and Field Day





# NEWS

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## JH/HS Field Trip to The Hangar





# OPINION

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**STANBERRY R-II SCHOOL**

May 2025

It's  
Your  
Call



*What are you  
looking forward to  
most about summer?*

By Lindsey Hailey  
Staff Reporter



**Eighth grader  
Addison Graham,  
"Golf"**



**Eighth grader  
Kaitlyn Van Draska,  
"Swimming"**



**2nd grader  
Brody Sego,  
"Swimming"**



**2nd grader  
Carli Luke,  
"Swimming"**



**Superintendent Secretary  
Anita Noble,  
"BBQ with family."**



**Elementary Secretary  
Tori Hague,  
"Going to the pool with my  
boys."**



**Freshman  
Hannah McMillan,  
"Hanging out with friends."**



**Freshman  
Blake Mercer,  
"Volleyball"**

## Survey Results

By Maranda Evans  
Staff Reporter

Students in grades 7-12  
were asked the question: *Which  
of the following activities would  
you want to do this summer?*

67 students responded.

Their options included  
fishing, camping, hiking,  
amusement park, working  
(boring), or swimming.

**Fishing**  
14.9%



**Working (boring)**  
19.4%



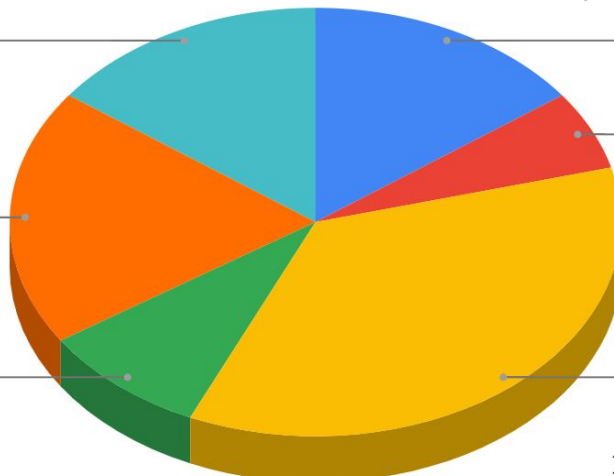
**Amusement Park**  
9.0%

**Camping**  
14.9%

**Hiking**  
6.0%



**Swimming**  
35.8%



# ENTERTAINMENT

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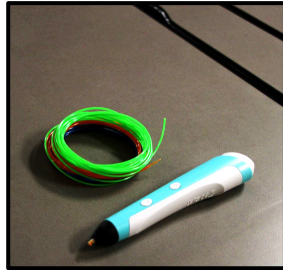
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## Tinker Time

By Kaitlin Porterfield  
Staff Reporter



For the last edition of *Tinker Time* we are featuring 3D pens. Stanberry R-II has six of these pens. They came with three different colors of filament. The pens are rechargeable and can be used on many different projects. For example the eighth graders just used them on their Westward Expansion Gold Rush project. When eighth grader Baylee Albright was asked what she used the 3D pen for she replied, "I used the 3D pens to make hills on my box." Thank you for following along this year with all of our editions of *Tinker Time*!



### 2024-2025 Bulldog's Bark Staff

Marli Hilton  
Maranda Evans  
Lindsey Hailey

Kaitlin Porterfield  
Hannah Stevens

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

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!



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# ENTERTAINMENT

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## Brutus' Corner

By Hannah Stevens  
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 April, the featured teacher was **Mrs. Kali Newcomer**. Who do you think this year's final staff member is? We'll reveal the answer in the September's edition of *The Bulldog's Bark* so check back in next school year.

Are you married, if so how many years?

**Yes, 20 years**

Do you have any children, how many?

**3 kids, 1 to many LOL**

What do you enjoy most about teaching?

**Planning period**

How long have you been teaching for?

**Teaching for 8 years**

Were you in any school activities growing up?

**FFA, softball, basketball manager, track**

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PODCAST

## The Scoop

With Marli Hilton

featuring Senior Students

## News to Me, News Flash

Welcome back to my podcast featuring students, teachers, and staff. During these podcasts I will talk about anything and everything, from favorite past times to who your inspiration is.

Listen to the ninth and final episode of the season [here](#) with special guests Mrs. Mrs. Eckard, Mrs. Hoover, and senior students.

Thank you for tuning in this year to *The Scoop*.



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