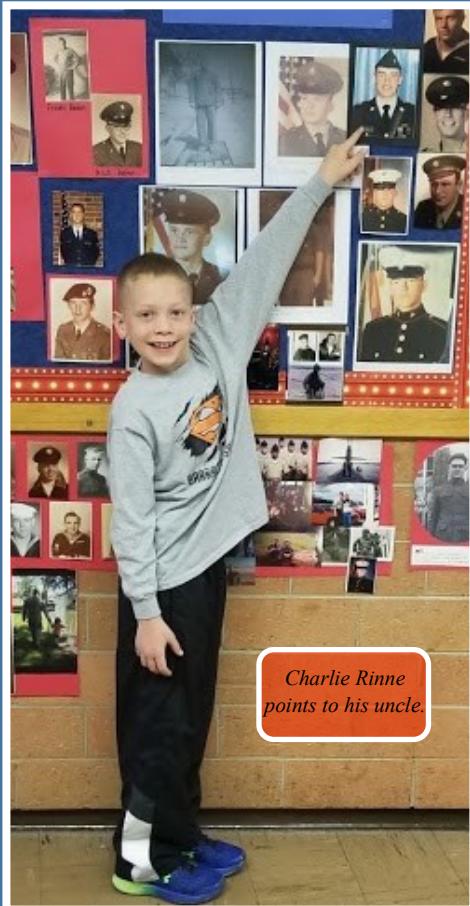
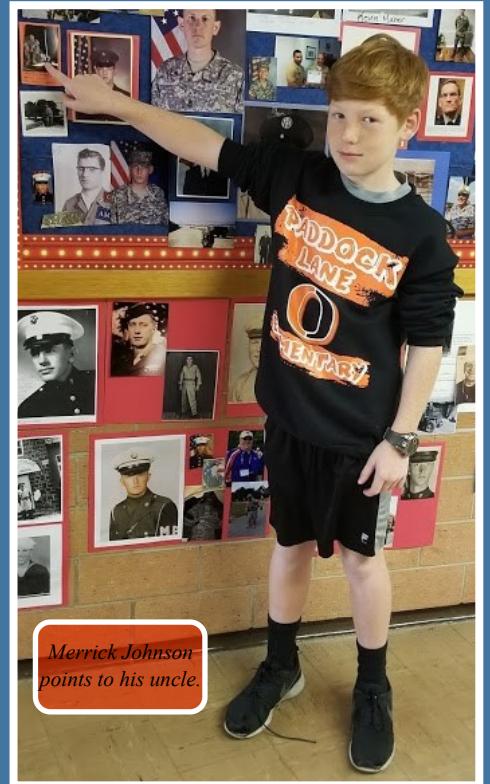


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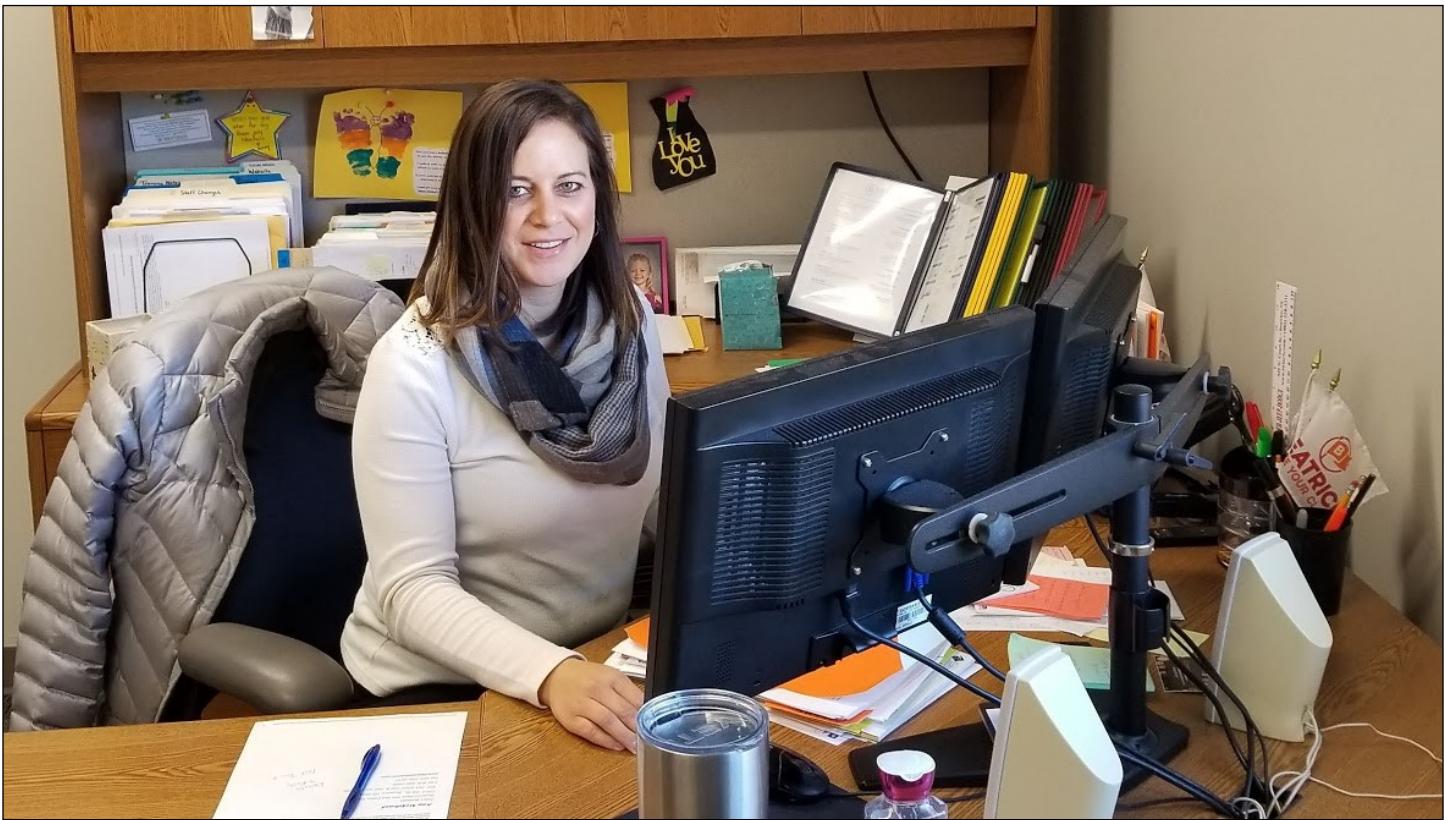
November 2018



Paddock Lane honored veterans with a bulletin board displaying pictures of veterans related to students.



## Employee of THE month



(above) Administrative Assistant Danielle Fairbanks helps Beatrice Public Schools run smoothly while keeping busy in the community.

## Fairbanks named Employee of the Month

Danielle Fairbanks, administrative assistant to the superintendent, was the October employee of the month.

"Danielle has a thankless job that often times is overlooked and underappreciated by staff," said her nominator. "Danielle is always kind, welcoming and quick to help anyone who comes to see her. She spends countless evenings away from her family attending meetings, organizing events, and writing reports for our district," added the nominator.

She wears many hats and is expected to know many things. "Even when Danielle doesn't have the answer someone is looking for, she is quick to find the answers that are needed," said the nomination.

She also keeps track of so many items and paperwork for teachers and staff. One staff member shared - "if it weren't for Danielle and her patience, my licenses would expire and continuing education would be lost."

Not only does Danielle spend countless hours at school, but she is also very involved in the community. Danielle is on the Main Street board and helps to promote Beatrice and all it has to offer. She continues to think about ways to best market not only the community, but she also finds ways to place Beatrice Public Schools at the forefront through the Facebook page and the website.

"Danielle is a bright individual," said her

nomination. "Danielle has only been in the position for a few years, but the amount of knowledge she has for the position is amazing."

Another staff member noted - "I can always rely on Danielle to help with questions that come my way. Even if I am asking a question for the second time, Danielle is patient!!"

Danielle is always willing to help whenever and where ever she can. "With the changes in several administration positions, Danielle has added job duties and supports the administration with a guiding hand to ensure their questions are answered. I am proud to have Danielle as a co-worker!"



in the know

Keep track of what is going on in Beatrice Public Schools.

Go to <http://www.beatricepublicschools.org/vcalendar/>

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[www.beatricepublicschools.org](http://www.beatricepublicschools.org)



“  
Tell me and I forget.  
Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn.  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



## Students learn valuable skills building a house

High school students had the ultimate hands on experience last year when they built a home with the help of local artisans. And now it can be yours. It is currently for sale through Kracke Real Estate.

This home features an open floor plan where the kitchen features soft-close drawer and doors and you can converse with others in the living room while you cook! Look out the large windows of the living room and see fields next to your back yard.

The large master bedroom has a cut out ceiling, walk in closet and master bath with a sit-down shower. The laundry area just off the kitchen is next to the second bedroom and second bath.

The 3-car garage will hold all of your toys. The unfinished basement has 2 egress windows and roughed-in areas for

2 more baths - just design your own basement. The home is located at 712 South 25th St. and is listed for \$237,500.

Brett Wells, owner of Brett Wells Construction LLC, worked with the students. Wells said he wanted to be involved because he continues to see a need for youth working in the trades in Beatrice.

"I wanted to teach kids that they can make a living, do a good job and be a tradesman," Wells said. "I'm always looking for employees that are self-starters and have some skills."

"The students worked in every part of building the house and once given some direction, they stepped up and got their hands dirty," said Jim West, industrial technology teacher at BHS.

He added that they plan to build another home, but "it is contingent on selling this house. We are so thankful for the contrac-

tors that partnered with us on this project. They were all willing to wait for payment until the house could be sold so the students could be a part of the project."

Hands on learning is most effective for retention of information. Research shows that learners retain only 5 percent of material presented through lecture and 30 percent of material through demonstration. Hands-on participation, on the other hand, can lead to as much as a 75 percent rate.

Building this house had other rewards. BHS principal Jason Sutter said he has seen the pride in the eyes of the students that were involved "in something bigger."

"They developed skills and were able to see opportunities," Sutter added.

For more information on the house contact Donald Kracke at 402-432-3462.

## Making a Difference

# Foster grandparents make a positive difference



*'Our Grandma Sharon is such a great addition to our classroom with the extra support and care she gives our kids. When she is not here, her presence is missed.'*

Karla Shelley, special education teacher



*"Aldine Linder is a wonderful foster grandma for all three of our second grades. We have students read to her, especially kids that need extra practice. They all want to read to her! She sits by kids to help keep them focused. She helps students read activities that they need help to read. Before school begins we sometimes have Aldine help kids fix work that they need to redo from the day before, she helps us keep our classrooms organized including putting out new books or placing their papers into mailboxes. She always wants to be busy."*

Connie Leech, second grade teacher

*"Grandma Pam works with fourth graders in my class. Grandma Pam loves reading to my students and helping them with their work when needed. She makes my job much easier when it comes to copying and laminating. We're very thankful for Grandma Pam."*

Sydney West, ACP teacher

*It has been very rewarding to have the grandparent program at Paddock Lane. The support and knowledge Pam Reed brings to me personally as a special education para is outstanding. She is always on time and always knows what is next on the schedule. The best part is Pam loves the children.*

Judy Oltman, ACP-2 Para

*"The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well."*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*Do you know a difference maker?*

Contact Doris Martin at [dmartin@bpsnebr.org](mailto:dmartin@bpsnebr.org) or 402.223.1539 so he or she can be featured in an upcoming issue.

They first staked their claim with Beatrice Public Schools and are now making a difference every day

## **Greenwood uses food to encourage people**



*'Both my time growing up in Beatrice and in the BPS system were greater influences on my future career paths than I realized at the time. I first developed a curiosity in the area of Business thanks to my Accounting classes junior and senior years with my amazing teacher Mr. Langford. This led to my first career path in both public and private accounting when I graduated from Washington University in St. Louis. I also pursued a minor in education as part of my undergrad degree as I really valued the impact my high school teachers had in my life. Growing up in a small community where everyone looked out for each other also played a significant role in forming my heart as an adult to invest in my own local community which has led to my current career and lifelong dream of owning a restaurant with a related nonprofit foundation.'*

Heather (Brinkmeyer) Greenwood



**Beatrice Public Schools All-Stars  
Heather Greenwood, class of 1990**

After a few years in the accounting industry, Heather Greenwood realized she had a passion to pursue a different path that provided greater opportunities to invest in people. "I decided to pursue a Masters in Secondary Education and when my husband and I moved to Colorado in 1999, I began my 13-year career teaching Business Education at Arapahoe High School in Centennial, CO.," said Greenwood.

During these years she also started a monthly food ministry program in a low-income Hispanic neighborhood in Denver and began realizing her love for building a community over shared meals.

Life brought her family some personal challenges during this season and in the summer of 2012, they decided to step away from their comfortable suburban life and moved their family to Uganda, Africa for a year of volunteer service.

"It was the best decision we ever made," said Greenwood.

When she and her family came back to the states in 2013 she began working on her business plan to open a community cafe. "My husband, Troy, and I opened GraceFull Cafe and founded its nonprofit 501(c)(3) partner GraceFull Foundation in historic downtown Littleton, CO in May, 2016," said Greenwood.

GraceFull's mission is to provide a home in the Littleton community where people of all backgrounds can gather, eat well and be inspired to give back. GraceFull Foundation's main program is Grace in Action meals which ensures everyone has access to one good meal a day regardless of their ability to pay. "Since we opened our doors GraceFull Foundation has served over 15,000 meals to individuals that are in a season of financial struggle. Our heart is to

build a healthy community one meal at a time, both with guests that can pay and those who cannot," said Greenwood. "It is an incredible and challenging privilege every day." Greenwood encouraged people

to stop by. "You can learn more about us at [gracefull-cafe.com](http://gracefull-cafe.com) and we hope any BPS alum can stop by to share a meal with us anytime they happen to be in Colorado," said Greenwood.



**GraceFull Café Mission:** to provide a home in the Littleton community where people of all backgrounds can gather, eat well and be inspired to give back.

Troy and Heather Greenwood in the kitchen of GraceFull's Café. It is a community café and people pay what they can afford and the GraceFull Foundation picks up the difference. These meals are called Grace in Action meals.

# Board discusses safety, security of students

Administrative Assistant Danielle Fairbanks was recognized as the October Employee of the Month. She received a plaque and \$50 in Chamber Bucks.

## *Superintendent's Report*

Superintendent Jason Alexander gave an update on the Paddock Lane construction work.

Alexander then said he has had discussions with concerned parents and business owners about the need for a trainer at games. He said he, along with the high school administration, have been discussing this and have some meetings scheduled to continue to discuss the topic.

Alexander also said that the Luck of the Orange event planning is underway but the event date is being pushed to late spring.

He also said he is helping to kick off the BLAST Walking program. He encouraged board members to be at its table at the Night of the Great Pumpkin. A handout on SENCAP was shared with board members.

He shared that the initial planning meeting for the preschool video was held and ideas were exchanged. The release of the video is Nov. 7 to Jan. 1.

## *Student Report*

Hannah Rinne said the football team won last Friday for its Pink Out game. She also said the marching band finished first in Class B and third overall at its competition over the weekend. The district cross country meet is being hosted at the high school on Thursday and the last home football game is Friday, Oct. 12. The Blood drive is scheduled for Oct. 16. She reminded the board the musical is Oct. 27 through Oct. 29.

## *Committee of the Whole*

Vice-President Doris Martin said several items were discussed at the COW meeting on Sept. 27 including effective instructional models by Dr. Jackie Nielsen, and the bus grant by Alexander. He also provided a policy update. Alexander and Nielsen updated the board on the master facility plan.

## *STANCE*

Board member Steve Winter provided a brief report on LR447 which focuses on safety and LR429 which specifically focuses on school resource officers. He said the school safety and security summit is scheduled for Oct. 17 in Kearney. Winter said the STANCE group voted to waive membership dues for the 2018-19 year.

## *School, Community & Staff*

Martin reported the committee met on Sept. 21 at Beatrice Middle School. She noted that staff shared the year was off to a great start. Other topics included; the reduction of para staff, the continuing decline in the number of parents that attend conference, training staff to work with students in poverty was suggested, and compensation when attending summer training was also suggested. The administrative team received high praise as its efforts have resulted in good staff morale.

## *Discussion*

Alexander noted on the first reading of Policy 2406, Safety and Security, that the policy came from the efforts of the following district teams; crisis response, threat assessment, safety/security, administrators, and REMS. He said these groups are working diligently to assure the safety and security of our students is at the forefront of all decisions.

The first reading of Policy 3538, Memorial Guidelines, was also held. Alexander said this is not an easy topic to discuss, but this policy includes recommendations of what other crisis teams are utilizing for these situations and it fits the

proper protocols and recommended practices of Dr. John Duffey as well.

## *Administrator's Report*

Beth Cordry-Hookstra shared a handout on the CORE (level 3) program. She noted that there are currently five students enrolled, four Beatrice students and one contracted student. The program focuses on communicating needs and feelings. She added that all students are receiving group and individual therapies.

Cordry-Hookstra also shared some pictures and a summary of the recent Sensory Safari field trip to the Lincoln Children's Zoo.

## *Next Meetings*

The next board meeting will be on Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at the Central Administration Building. No Committee of the Whole meeting will be held in December.

## **Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education**

**Janet Byars**

**Doris Martin, Vice-President**

**Lisa Pieper**

**Nancy Sedlacek**

**Steve Winter**

**Jon Zimmerman, President**

## **Board of Education Meetings**

*Dec. 10, 7 p.m.*

Board of Education Meeting