



Senior
Mark Kathol

YANKTON HIGH

WKS APE

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

Graduating Seniors P2

Final Editorials and Reviews P2

Closing the Year with Exemplars

Three Teachers Set to Retire

BY LILLIAN EASTMAN, EMMA JACOBS AND CHARLOTTE SMITH



The three retiring teachers from YHS (Jill Mikkelsen, English teacher, Keith Goeden, social studies teacher, and Patty Kortan, English teacher) stand in front of the entrance to the school for one of the final times.

As the school year ends, Yankton High School recognizes three teachers who are retiring after long careers in education. Each has contributed to the school community through teaching, activities, and relationships built with students and staff.

Mrs. Jill Mikkelsen is retiring after forty years as an English teacher. Throughout her career, she taught at Sully Buttes High School, Timber Lake High School, Wessington Springs High School, and Yankton High School.

She has been involved in several activities including yearbook for twenty-five years, newspaper for five years, one act plays, musicals, and fall plays. Her teaching assignments have included Advanced Placement Literature and Composition, British Literature, Advanced Grammar, Freshman Grammar, Sophomore Composition, Debate, Speech, and Elements of Reading Literature.

Mikkelsen has had seven homerooms during her time at Yankton. She noted that her current homeroom, the Class of 2025, has been meaningful to her. She also mentioned the Classes of 2024 and 2018 as being especially memorable, with 2018 being the year her daughter graduated.

After retirement, she plans to take a gap year to travel. Her first planned trip is a road trip to the Grand Canyon in September. She also plans to spend time with her parents in Wyoming, volunteer at her grandson’s school in Mitchell, and work alongside her husband. She looks forward to reading, drinking coffee, sleeping in, not dressing up, and not being in a hurry. Following her year of travel and time with family, she plans to volunteer and visit the homes of authors on her personal list. She does not plan to return to teaching, stating that she would not want to teach anywhere other than Yankton High School.

Mr. Keith Goeden is retiring after thirty-two years as a high school teacher. He has spent eighteen of those years at Yankton High School. He also taught for eleven years in Wynot, one year in Laurel, and one year in New Castle. He spent time as a substitute teacher in New York.

He primarily teaches Geography and World History, along with some Early Civilization and Play Production courses. In addition to his teaching duties, Mr. Goeden has been involved in theater, oral interpretation, and junior high football and basketball.

Over the years, he has had six different homerooms, including his current group of freshmen. He identified the Class of 1995 as particularly memorable. He took that class on a field trip to New York, and many of those students went into education or became frequent travelers. He said this group helped establish a foundation for how future years would go.

When asked about plans for retirement, Goeden said he does not have a set plan but expressed interest in the idea of becoming a pirate. He shared that his favorite part of teaching has been spending time with students and being a positive influence. He offered the following advice to future educators: “Don’t take everything so seriously and just try to be a positive person and a positive influence, because we never know what students are going through and what we are teaching them might be priority number thirty-seven for them at that moment.”

Mrs. Patty Kortan is retiring after thirty-six years in education. She has taught in Scotland, at the Yankton Career Learning Center, at the Human Services Center and Alternative School, and at Yankton High School.

Her teaching assignments have included English I, English II, American Literature, Nonfiction, Forms of Literature, Business English, Science Fiction and Detective Literature, World Literature, Debate, and Elements of Reading.

She has also contributed to student life through work with oral interpretation and directing plays while in Scotland. At Yankton, she has been involved with fall play technical crew, Book Club, Cellar Door, and The Woksape.

She has had five homerooms during her time at YHS. She identified the Classes of 2020 and 2024 as especially memorable. One of her favorite memories has been seeing a student who says they dislike reading find a book they enjoy and continue reading on their own.

After retirement, Kortan plans to find another job, spend time with her children, travel, and spend time with her husband. She also looks forward to reading, crafting, and working on home improvement projects.

These three teachers have each had a lasting presence at Yankton High School. As they begin the next chapter of their lives, the school community acknowledges their years of service and commitment to students.



Employee of the Year Recognized

BY COLLIN EBBENS

Commentary

There are many important employees at Yankton High School that oftentimes do not get the recognition they deserve. These are the many hard working people that keep the building running behind the scenes. The Employee of the Year this year is Paul Sangster, who works in the maintenance department at the high school. He has worked for 25 years with the school district and has been at the high school for three years. He originally started out at the district wide maintenance department and then moved up to the high school. His job around the school is mainly to do repairs. He can perform electrical work and plumbing, and also cleans up messes around the school. When asked what his favorite part of his job is, he replied “The people and the students. When I go through the commons, I can catch a glimpse of the students’ interactions.” His favorite memories at the school so far take place while working with the maintenance crew. He says working with the rest of the crew “makes some of the more unpleasant jobs fun.” He also added, “There are a lot of people that help maintain the building and I am part of an awesome team.” Paul Sangster is a humble individual who certainly deserves Employee of the Year. He has a great outlook on life and has contributed significantly to his community and job. Maintenance work is some of the most important work that keeps Yankton High School running, which is why Paul Sangster has certainly earned Employee of the Year.

Boys’ Tennis Sees Success

BY ELLIA HOMSTAD

The Bucks’ Tennis season is off to a strong start. They are the reigning State Champions and are looking to reclaim that title for another season. Notable leaders include senior Zac Briggs with a 12-2 record, senior Patrick Kralicek with a 13-1 record and juniors Harrison Krajewski and Chris Rockne with an 11-3 record. Their overall team record is 12-2 with their only losses being to RC Stevens and SF O’Gorman. Some of the milestones reached by the team include: Harrison Krajewski and Zac Briggs each earning their 100th Career Varsity Singles Victories this season along with earning their 100th Varsity Doubles Victory this year. Harrison and Zac are the #1 Doubles team in school history while Krajewski only needs 4 more varsity singles victories to become the #1 Singles player in school history. Their season will continue until May 22-23 for the State Tournament in Sioux Falls.



SUMMER CLASSES
BEGIN MAY 19

ENROLL NOW

 **SOUTHEAST**
Technical College

605-367-6040 | admissions@southeasttech.edu
SOUTHEASTTECH.EDU

Greenhouse is Blooming

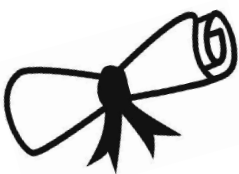
BY EMMA JACOBS

Brandon Wagner’s Fundamental Horticulture class explores a green atmosphere of planting basics and new experiences. A greener path with flowers, vegetables, fruits, and trees teaches students about responsibility, patience, and the natural world of healthy eating. Tuesday May 6, 2025 marks the sale date of all the plants. Brandon Wagner and his students will be selling their plants to the community at CMTEA building. This event is open to the public, and it is encouraged to take home as many plants as desired.

Brandon Wagner and Boston Frick (junior) double check the flowers and other plants growing in the CMTEA greenhouse.



PHOTO BY KAITI LADWIG



WOKSAPE



“THE WISE BOOK”

Saying Goodbye to Class of 2025

BY OLIVIA CHIPMAN & HARPER DEN HERDER

Riley Ackley
Northeast Technical College
Veterinary Science

Taylor Tucker
Mitchell Tech
Human Services

Braxton Adams
SDSU
Human Biology

Jordyn Cunningham
MMU
Nursing

Taylor Hamburg
Workforce
Undecided

Bryce Kral
MMU
Accounting

Sophia Petheram
USF
Psychology

Jackson Slowey
Lake Area Technical College
Equipment Operator

Adison Uhall
MMU
Education

Aiden Anderson
NDSU
Mechanical Engineering

Lemis Del Valle Santiesteban
Undecided
Undecided

Aidan Harrell
Oklahoma State University
Zoology

Patrick Kralicek
Undecided
Undecided

Kenzie Phipps
USD
Dental Hygeine

Trinity Sommer
SDSU
Animal Sciences

Alyssa Underwood
Workforce
Undecided

Avery Anderson
Northeast Technical College
Veterinary Science

Max Diedrichsen
Workforce
Undecided

Thomas Harrell
Undecided
Exercise Science

Claire Kramer
Dordt University
Business Administration

Nathan Pietila
SDSU
Pre-Med & Biochemistry

Andrea Sotelo
Military
Army - Active Duty

Deagan Vitek
Workforce
Undecided

Brayen Anderson
Workforce
Undecided

Alivia Dimmer
USD
Pre-Dental Hygiene

Chloe Hatch
USD
Psychology

Jackson Kuehler
Workforce
Ultimate Edge & Landscaping Mechanical Engineering

Thomas Reardon
SDSU
Mechanical Engineering

Ryder Stach
Mitchell Technical College
Diesel Mechanic

Emma Warnock
USD
Nursing

Jozie Anderson
Undecided
Medical Biology

Daniela Duarte
Tecnologico De Monterrey
Physical Therapy

Laura Hauck
USD
Kinsiology

Rain Lane
SDSU
Animal Science

Oliver Reindl
USD
Music Education

Joshua Stapish
Trinity Bible College
Undecided

Connor Warren-Slaba
Northwestern College
Exercise Science

Elizabeth Andrews
SDSU
Interior Design

Lillian Eastman
USD
Nursing

Brayden Heine
Lake Area Technical College
Fixed Wing Pilot

Ryker Larsen
MMU
Business

Irelyn Reisner
UNL
Forensic Science

Briley Steffensen
University of Alabama
Education & Musical Theater

Lincoln Watson
Workforce
Undecided

Josey Anstine
West Texas A&M University
Equine Dentistry

Grace Eastman
Workforce
Undecided

Emma Hladky
USD
Biology

Jacksen Lawrence
Wayne State College
Social Sciences

Taylor Reynolds
Northeast?
Fine Arts

Renee Stehlik
USD
Musical Theater

Natasha Wells
USD
Chemistry

Brooklynn Bakley
Undecided
Veterinary Technician

Collin Ebbens
Workforce
Undecided

Kenzie Hladky
Workforce
Undecided

Makeda Lehn
Workforce
Humane Society

Parker Riley
MMU
Nursing

Jordon Stephenson
Workforce
Undecided

Reagan Wenisch
Southeast Technical College
Surgical Technician

Cayden Benson
USD
Business Administration

Gunnar Edmisten
Workforce
Undecided

Payton Hoel
Undecided
Undecided

Evelyne Lima-Zapon
Augustana University
Undecided

Elizabeth Robinson
Workforce
Undecided

Brynne Stohr
Northeast Technical College
Nursing

Taylor Wenzlaff
SDSU
Aviation

Alivia Berry
USD
Kinesiology

Aja Eilers
Undecided
Undecided

Joshua Horn
USD
Political Science & History

Kaden Linneman
Lake Area Technical College
Manufacturing Tech

Keaton Roth
Workforce
Undecided

Alexander Stone
SDSU
Civil Engineering

Lance Weverstad
Workforce
Undecided

Derrick Biel
MMU
Criminal Justice

Cedric Ekroth
SD School of Mines
Metalegerical Engineering

Addison Huber
Southeast Technical College
Business Management

Hope Llewellyn
Workforce
Cosmetology

Kelly Roth
Mitchell Technical College
Powerline Construction

Justin Stratman
NE Community College
Animal Science

Alexia Wheeler
Workforce
Undecided

Chloe Blom
USD
Health Sciences & Pre-Med

Cayden Ellis
SDSU
Mathmatics Education

Kaden Hughes
Mitchell Technical College
Agriculture Technician

Mason Livingston
Lake Area Technical College
Equipment Operator

Trey Rothschadl
USD
Secondary Education

Trinity Strike
Workforce
Undecided

Melecia Whisler
Workforce
Undecided

Addison Boese
USD
Health Sciences

Melania Enfield
SDSU
Radiology Technician

Mac Humpal
Mitchell Technical College
Powerline Construction

Haley Luke
SDSU
Engineering

Cheyenne Roubideaux
USD
Nursing

Miguel Suarez
Western Governor University
Network Engineering and Security

Danica Winckler
Grand Canyon University
Elementary & Special Ed.

Clark Bonnstetter
USD
Music Education

Hector Enriquez Guitron
MMU
Radiology Technician

Alexis Iiams
Workforce
Undecided

Micah Maska
SDSU
Pre-Med

Rylee Rutjes
ASU
Marketing

Brenna Suhr
Morningside
Nursing

Jackson Wintz
SDSU
Pre-Mortuary

Zachary Briggs
Nebraska Wesleyan University
Pre-Med

Nolan Fennell
USD
Mathmatics

James Ireland
USD
Finance

Taylor McHugh
MMU
Undecided

Trey Sager
SDSU
Exersice Science

Isabelle Sutura
USD
Elementary Education

Owen Wishon
Mitchell Technical College
Agronomy

Owen Brinkman
Lake Area Technical College
Diesel Technician

Jarett Ferden
Southeast Technical College
Business Administration

Emma Jacobs
NE Community College
Veterinary Science

Trista Miller
Mitchell Technical College
Radiologic Tech

Anjeliena Schaeffer
Augustana University
Nursing

Joshua Swenson
SDSU
Undecided

Garret Wolhoy
Workforce
Undecided

Madison Brown
Military
Airforce

Aliya Fluke
MMU
Nursing

Brian Jensen
Military
Army

Jay Myers
USD
Teaching & Writing

Adilyn Schelhaas
Dordt University
Early Education

Linsey Tacke
USD
Pre-Dental/Medical Biology

Faith Woodruff
Undecided
Ultrasound Tech

Allie Byrkeland
Undecided
Undecided

Chloe Foote
SDSU
Pre-Physical Therapy

Ava Johanneson
SDSU
Nutrition

Easton Nelson
SDSU
Undecided

Zachary Schild
MMU
Nursing

Abby Taggart
Black Hills State University
Human Services

Mercedes Wuestewald
MMU
Psychology

Hans Calabocal
USD
Nursing

Ryker Freng
Military
National Guard

Arionna Johnson
Workforce
Undecided

Carson Ness
Northwestern College
Buisness Administration

Zayne Schramm
USD
Business

Bode Thurman
MMU
Business

Jett Yaggie
Southeast Technical
Collision Repair & Finish

Carly Cap
SDSU
Nursing

Kael Garry
MMU
Business

Deiken Johnson
MMU
Business

Cayden Nickels
Marines
Undecided

Hailey Schulte
SDSU
Nursing

Melanys Torres Valdivia
Undecided
Undecided

Cohen Zahrbock
MMU
Sports Management

Ethan Carlson
SDSU
Architecture

Ava Gilbertson
USD
Physical Therapy

Griffin Johnson
SDSU
Veterinarian Studies

Connor Nickels
Southeast Technical College
Police Science

Colton Schwersenska
USD
Music Education

Riley Tramp
Workforce
National Guard

Mitchel Zimmerman
SDSU
Business Economics

Jaclyn Carter
USD
Social Work

Tessa Gillies
SDSU
Pharmacy

Wyatt Johnson
Workforce
Agriculutre

Elizabeth Nissen
Northeast Technical College
Accounting

Sean Scott
NDSU
Biological Sciences

Aimee Tschetter
NDSU
Respiatory Care

Ray Zweber
Workforce
Undecided

Abram Chance
Concordia University
Biology

Madison Girard
USD
Exercise Science

Eleanor Johnson
SDSU
Undecided

Noelle Nockels
USD
Elementary Education

Evan Serck
SDSU
Biology

Kevin Chavez-Alarcon
USD
Business

Kenzie Giziewski
Iowa State University
Animal Science

Keenan Jones
Workforce
Undecided

Jenna Novak
USD
Elementary Education

Matthew Sheldon
MMU
Exercise Science

Olivia Chipman
USD
Nursing

Libby Glover
Military
National Guard

Anaya Jorgensen
Military
Marines

Brooklyn Offe
MMU
Nursing

Kiyah Sherman
University of Minnesota
Native American Studies

Hannah Cihak
Workforce
Undecided

Kaylee Goeden
USD
Nursing

Mark Kathol
MMU
Education

Deklan Olson
Workforce
Undecided

Lexus Sherman
USD
Dental Hygeine

Devon Coke
Military
Airforce

Addison Gordon
USD
Business & Pre-Law

Parker Kisch
Morningside College
Business Administration

Madeline Payer
USD
Elementary Education

Jorge Peraza Sanchez
Workforce
HyVee

Lucas Cordell
Wayne State College
Construction Management

Avadan Gray
USD
Undecided

Claire Koenigs
Southeast Technical College
Computer Science

Lance Payer
Workforce
K Construction

Julia Peterson
Workforce
Undecided

Abigail Cressy-Dull
Workforce
Undecided

Macon Grotenhuis
SDSU
Business

Isabella Koerner
Undecided
Accounting

Kiera Pederson
Workforce
Undecided

Cooper Shudak
Creighton University
Dentistry

Porter Cuka
USD
Medical Biology

Hunter Haas
Southeast Technical College
Cardiac Sonography

Kasey Kopejtka
Undecided
Psychology

Connor Perakslis
Dordt University
Business Administration

Julius Simonsen
Workforce
Undecided

Senior Prom



COURTESY PHOTOS



(TOP) Addison Gordon, Ava Gilbertson, Eleanor Johnson and Adilyn Schelhass, (BOTTOM LEFT) Hailey Schulte, Joesy Anstine, Chloe Foote and Jordyn Cunningham, (BOTTOM RIGHT) Rylee Rutjes, Josey Anstine, Chloe Foote, Hailey Schulte and Tessa Gillies

