

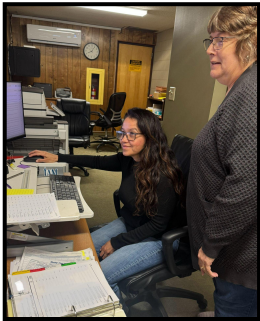
End of an Era, Start of a New Chapter

By: Kaylee Doyle, Guest Writer

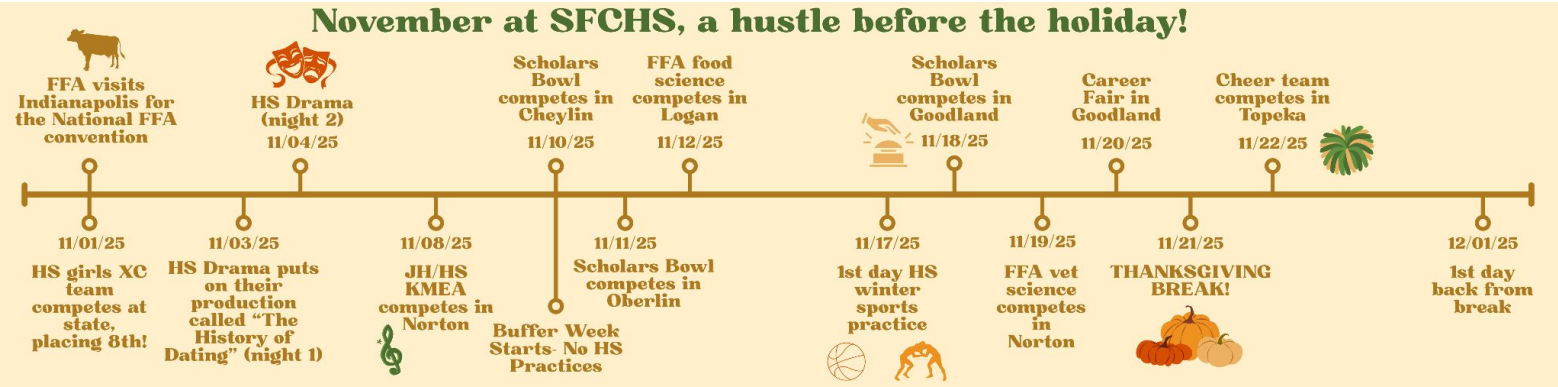
Traci Neitzel, USD 297 District Clerk, retired on October 31, 2025. Traci was the District Clerk for 15 years, replacing Sharon Olofson in 2012. Sharon started training Traci in 2011. Before Traci started working at SFCHS, she worked at what is now FNB Bank for 27 years, but was ready for a change and had always thought that this would be a good job. As a District Clerk, she did payroll, bills, food service reporting, and cared for the teachers. Traci graduated from SFCHS and will always stand by the Indians.

Traci was able to have long term training before she took over and she wanted to offer the same benefits to her replacement. In December 2024, Mrs. Tania Quintero started training to take over Traci's position. Cateline Isely joined the team this fall, working part-time in the District Clerk's office.

Photo Credit: Kaylee Doyle
Passing The Baton: Traci Neitzel works with Tania Quintero on the computer.



The biggest thing that has changed since Traci started working here is that there has been a significant technological change. Some of the things that have stayed the same are that she still does quite a lot on paper, works with the teachers, and gets sent many orders. She will miss seeing the kids walk by and stop in the most. Past District Clerk's for USD 297: Carol Lockard ~1951-1963, Martha Schultz Aug. 1963 - May 1987, Sharon Olofson Aug. 1987 - Dec. 2011, Traci Neitzel Jan. 2011 - Oct. 2025, Tania Quintero Dec. 2024 - present.



Cheyenne Indian News Word Search Puzzle

Word list for both puzzles:

S	N	W	A	Y	B	C	X	X	J	B	L	I	Y
N	N	U	Q	P	V	Z	S	K	F	M	L	A	I
S	K	C	X	T	H	S	C	D	A	Z	Y	F	Y
I	N	O	D	T	I	U	H	H	A	Z	I	N	G
N	L	M	I	U	E	N	O	U	U	M	W	P	V
S	R	M	D	B	R	B	L	K	D	N	H	U	O
T	I	U	R	V	A	B	A	I	I	Y	Y	M	Y
R	X	N	A	V	R	F	R	U	T	P	J	P	M
U	J	I	M	E	C	W	S	J	I	C	C	K	M
M	G	T	A	T	H	V	B	C	O	S	L	I	I
E	H	Y	C	E	Y	U	O	E	N	C	E	N	M
N	B	U	B	R	F	D	W	X	I	K	R	P	T
T	S	E	X	A	N	O	L	O	N	A	K	I	K
B	V	L	N	N	J	P	Q	A	G	O	V	E	H

HIERARCHY
VETERAN
COMPETING
DRAMA
GRADUATED
SCHOLARS BOWL
TRAINING
VOLUNTEERING
PAYROLL
UNDERCLASSMEN
HARMONY
INSTRUMENT
BILLS
BUFFER WEEK
MUSIC
CLERK
PUMPKIN PIE
PAYROLL
COMMUNITY
HAZING
AUDITIONING
MUSIC

R	Q	M	Q	R	S	J	D	T	B	I	L	L	S
V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	I	N	G	G	W
C	G	B	M	U	S	I	C	Z	T	Z	I	O	F
O	I	R	U	N	G	A	U	N	B	A	J	K	M
M	T	H	A	F	H	R	L	Z	B	Q	Q	T	F
P	R	L	Z	K	F	A	A	X	L	F	X	Z	Q
E	A	R	R	G	P	E	R	D	G	S	E	A	M
T	I	R	O	W	A	U	R	M	U	L	H	U	H
I	N	X	L	R	Y	U	L	W	O	A	Y	C	X
N	I	V	E	R	R	W	N	N	E	N	T	K	X
G	N	C	M	M	O	Z	W	X	G	E	Y	E	X
V	G	T	F	C	L	L	C	I	U	X	K	N	D
K	L	D	R	P	L	O	M	K	T	Q	A	Z	Q
U	N	D	E	R	C	L	A	S	S	M	E	N	M

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Cheyenne Indian News



From hierarchy to harmony

By: Nina Martin

As a kid, you probably watched movies and TV shows where underclassmen were always picked on by the older, tougher jocks. Those portrayals might have made you nervous about what high school would really be like. But when you finally got here, you quickly realized that reality did not quite match what you saw on screen. However, that has not always been the case. In past years at SFCHS, there were clear divisions between grade levels and seniority played a much bigger role in how students interacted.

I was curious about how and when this change even started, since now all grade levels intermingle with each other. I interviewed two teachers who had attended SFCHS to hear about their high school experience and how it differed from the present day students. *(See the teacher interviews on page 2.)*

As we heard from the interviews, freshmen used to have to participate in a lot more "hazing" traditions than they do now, such as singing an "I love you senior" song whenever the seniors wanted. They also had to stand in the back of the lunchline and park out by the practice field.

In the time between Mr. Morrow and Mrs. Dietz's high school years, we can see that the power dynamic decreased in those 20 years. From when Mrs. Dietz graduated to now, the hierarchy at SFCHS has slowly faded away.

Even though there is less of a hierarchy, there are still some differences between the activities that freshmen and underclassmen can partake in. For example, freshmen are not allowed to attend prom, they are only allowed to be prom servers. Freshmen and sophomores are also not allowed to leave for lunch; only upperclassmen are permitted to leave. Recently, however, the new

parking spots painted by the National Honor Society (NHS) over the summer brought back an old hierarchy tradition.

After the completion of the parking spots, NHS members were able to choose their parking spots before other students, with seniors picking first and then juniors. In the past, the tradition at SFCHS was that seniors would park in the very front outside of the school. Juniors would park in front of the circle drive, and sophomores and freshmen would park either further down, or by the practice field. Now even though not all of the seniors park in the front, the NHS members did still have the seniority to choose where they wanted their spots.

Some might view the decrease in a hierarchy as a negative thing, but it is actually a positive shift. With the increased friendliness between different grades, it decreases bullying and harmonizes us as a school. It gives students opportunities to make more friends and have closer relationships with teammates. It gets rid of the age barrier, making communication more efficient between people with different ideas and opinions. High school may no longer look like the movies, but that is what makes SFCHS a community built on school pride rather than rank.



Photo courtesy of Wigwam 1966, captioned "Oh, Freshmen come and freshmen go; this green beanie bunch has three years to grow." Beanies were expected to be worn as a "hazing" tradition.

“Back in my day...”

Teacher Alumni Interviews with Mr. Morrow and Mrs. Dietz:
Question 1: What year did you graduate high school?

Mr. Morrow: “1993.”

Mrs. Dietz: “2013.”

Question 2: When you went to school here, were you friends with people in different grades, or only your classmates?

Mr. Morrow: “I was friends more with mostly the people in my grade and the year above and the year below. When I was in school, we did not hang out with people from all other grades. There was more of a hierarchy. We did not hang out with seniors, for instance, when I was a young freshman.”

Mrs. Dietz: “Definitely different grades. I didn’t hang out with my classmates a lot, so I had friends that were older and younger.”

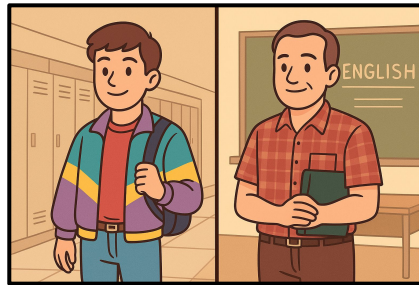
Question 3: Were there any traditions you had to partake in as a freshman?

Mr. Morrow: “One of the traditions that I got to sidestep on two occasions, was having to sing to the seniors. The tradition back then was that you always had to sing the school song when the seniors requested you to. I did not have to do that, but I did have to pump a lot of water on the football team when I was a freshman.”

Mrs. Dietz: “Yes, we had to sing the ‘I love you senior’ song to them whenever they wanted, and then we had to go to the back of the lunchline, and you had to park out by the practice field. In sports you had to carry towels and duties like that.”

Question 4: Do you think there is still as much as a hierarchy between grades from when you went to high school to now?

Mr. Morrow: “No. In fact, I think that separation between the grades, as it relates to kids hanging out with people from other grades, has almost entirely vanished. It is totally different from what it used to be.”



Mrs. Dietz: “I would say no just because I know they have changed the parking, because from what I understand the parking is not really based on hierarchy. And the lunchline is a free for all thing and that definitely used to not be a thing. Yeah, I think there is definitely not as much anymore.”

Question 5: Do you think that it is a good thing that the grades get along better now?

Mr. Morrow: “I do think it is a good thing. I think it is a lot more collegial. There is just no real animosity between upper and lowerclassmen, so I like the way it is a lot better now.”

Mrs. Dietz: “I would not say even though there was a hierarchy that we did not get along, I think it was kind of a respect thing, so I do not know if it is a good or bad thing. I like to see that everyone is being treated nicely since I do not think seniors

maybe are as much of bullies to freshmen as maybe you would have seen at a time when I was going to high school, but even then, I do not feel like I remember any severe cases of it.”

Question 6: Overall, why do you think this shift has happened?

Mr. Morrow: “I think it’s almost entirely due to social media. I think it is also due to the fact that our classes have gotten a lot smaller and we are just mixing with each other on a much larger scale. You know, it is not uncommon to see freshmen playing on varsity sports teams as well, things like that. We are just smaller and we mix a lot more.”

Mrs. Dietz: “I think it is just a different time. I think to some degree technology plays a big role in it. Everything is videoed or recorded, so people are probably a little bit more guarded in their actions.”

St. Francis Community High School

Cheyenne Indian News

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The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the school board, administrators, or instructors.

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Our past and present with KMEA

By: Alek Ramirez

KMEA, which stands for the Kansas Music Educators Association, is a contest where students are chosen to participate and compete for individual scores that show how adept they are at either playing their instrument or singing. Mrs. Fiala (the former music teacher), shared that our students have been attending KMEA since 1990, which would be 35 years!

Students who are in either band or choir can attend, but only if they are selected from their auditions, which involve recording a song and submitting it to the judges for evaluation. You can go to KMEA in junior high *and* high school if you are really passionate about going and competing! A handful of students around the school were randomly interviewed to see what their views on KMEA were and what they liked about it!

William Bailey, sophomore, said that, “It’s my first time being able to go to the Jazz Band, so I’m really excited to go. I think the

hardest part of auditioning was getting them recorded in time!”

Dillon Keller, junior, said that it was his third time at KMEA, which is very impressive! Dillon said the hardest part of auditioning, in his opinion, are the fast songs that must be played, and that the most fun part for him was to “play at the concert and to be there in the moment.”

William and Dillon both performed in the Jazz Band at the KMEA Convention held in Norton on Saturday, November 8th in Norton, where Junior High also performed.

Landyn Wilson, 8th Grade, attending KMEA for the first time, said “The hardest part of KMEA would be playing with new people, and the best part was when the director said that we played better than the high school!”

Will Keller, 8th Grade, also went to KMEA for the first time! He enjoyed getting to meet and play with new people, and that performing was his highlight.

Eight students were selected to participate on December 6th at the KMEA convention for the High School Band and Choir being held at Fort Hays State University.

A few attended when they were in junior high. Isabella Bandel, freshman, was one who went in 8th grade, which “was fun to meet new and fun people and just have the whole day to do what I love to do. I think the hardest part in auditioning is perfecting everything in your recording, even the small details.”

SammiJo Wieggers, freshman also attended in 8th grade. “The hardest part for me is getting all the high notes in the sheet music, and the best part is feeling accomplished once it’s all done.”

If you are chosen to go to KMEA and, while there, perform well, it can look really good on your resume or high school portfolio for job applications and colleges.

If you attend KMEA all four years of high school, you receive a medal during the Spring music concert Mrs. Morrow each May.

Future Farmers of America give back

By: Mrs. Dietz, FFA Advisor

Seven members of FFA, returned from Indianapolis, IN after attending the 98th National FFA Convention. Carter Matthies, senior, Paxton Parsons, Ash Barnhart, Presley Myers, juniors, Alexis Zimbelman, Addy Graham, and Reagan Milne, sophomores were joined by Mrs. Dietz and her husband, Martin on their road trip.

The action continued through the month, planning community service activities, writing letters to some veterans in our community and within our school.

The members met in the Home Ec. kitchen after school one afternoon and baked 28 pumpkin pies for the Cheyenne County Food Pantry, and donated some canned items.



The benefits of volunteering cannot be measured, but ingredients for pumpkin pie can be.

L to R: Joel Gilliland Sr., Tyce McAtee So., Paxton Parsons Jr., Cooper Donohue So., Ty Rethke So.