

The Ranch Hand

Volume 43, Number 3

Fall 2024

“Under the guidance of the Catholic Church, provide a safe home for all youth who have experienced physical or emotional trauma, where every act is done with love to help them discover the dignity of the human person and learn the skills to manage life’s challenges.”

HOTR Residents Successful at Badlands Learning Center

Home On The Range is excited to formally announce the opening of our own school; Badlands Learning Center (BLC). BLC officially opened on June 3, 2024. BLC is a year-round non-public school. BLC offers online courses to HOTR youth through North Dakota Center for Distance Education and North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.

HOTR is proud to announce that we have added a wonderful special education teacher to our staff. Robin R. was hired in April 2024. She brings to the table a wealth of experience and passion working with our kids. Robin writes and implements individualized education plans for our students and collaborates with our education and clinical teams, as well as custodians/guardians to ensure education plans are effectively implemented. Robin conducts formal and informal assessments to gather data and student progress and informs the education and clinical teams.

HOTR has had a long time dream to have an occupational therapist on our team. We were very excited to add this position to our education team with the opening of Badlands Learning Center. Laura’s vision is to work with the children, educators, and HOTR employees to assess, create and implement techniques and interventions to help students better do their daily living tasks. The goal is to help our youth develop coping skills, self-regulation techniques and independence they can use in the classroom, in their dorm and therapeutic groups, and then build on these skills to use when they leave HOTR.

Our Education Director is Jeff Bertelsen. Jeff has been with HOTR for more than 25 years, and has been involved in our youth’s education program for the last four years. Jeff has a great deal of knowledge and experience working with our youth. He is also the owner/handler of Brutus, our very own therapy dog in training, who spends his days in the classrooms with Jeff, providing our youth comfort, support and free floor cleaning after snack time.

We also have filled all our Learning Coach positions. Our learning coaches directly supervise our youth during school and offer assistance to our youth while they are in the classroom. Our learning coaches also interact with our residents doing various group activities during the non-school portion of the day. Our learning coaches are an essential part of the education team, as well as providing learning opportunities for our youth by facilitating a number of different groups, including but not limited to working out, crafting, or art groups.

We have seen and witnessed the academic success in our boys and girls, but what do they think about school? We asked and here’s what some of them said:

#1: *“BLC has helped me get back into learning and enjoying it, BLC has been different from any other school experience because it’s more of a small environment so it’s*



Badlands Learning Center staff:
L to R: Devan B., Sunni H., Skylar S., Megan C., Jeff B., Robin R.

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HOTR Ranch Hand

Official Publication of
Home On The Range



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Financial Support

HOTR does not receive direct financial support from the Bismarck Catholic Diocese. Care rates charged for services cover approximately 75% of the actual cost. The remainder must be raised through gifts, grants, our agricultural operation, fundraising events, and investments.

Financial Statements Available

A copy of the most recent HOTR financial statement is available to persons or organizations upon request. Please contact our business office at (701) 872-3745.

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Summer Spiritual Summary

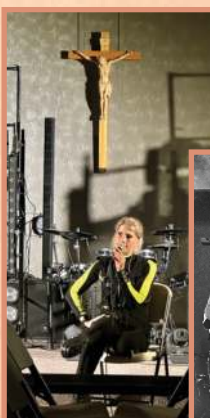
This summer, there were a lot of fun, Christian-based things for the children to get involved in. Two groups, Hip Hop and Hope and The Trampolines, were here to perform and minister to the children at two different times. Both groups did a live concert, and then broke into smaller groups to reflect, pray and talk about goals for their future. The members of the groups then did fun activities with the kids such as dancing, kick ball, basketball, and skate boarding.

We hired a full-time pastoral assistant. He will be working with Father Nicholas Vetter to help provide spiritual guidance and lead the children's groups. Some of the boys and girls attended the Praise in the Badlands concert in Medora featuring Nick Hall and Sanctus Real.

Plans are underway for a lot of exciting things to take place in our spiritual department.



Hip, Hop and Hope



The Trampolines

easier to stay focused and pay attention to my work and there's less kids so if you ask for help you can have more one on one time with the teacher so they can help you understand, its feels good to finally have an opportunity and a place with the necessities to do school and not have any distractions so I can succeed in school, I can have a better future now that I can get the education I need, also this is a safe place to be you and not be scared to ask questions an feel judged by other people and you can be you and have the resources to be great.”

#2: How has BLC helped you? “The BLC, is a good learning prgram that is currently helping me with my GED and with online classes that I have found to be enjoyable.” How has BLC been different than any school experience you've had? “A lot of online school and more engaged with the school work as well as more helpful teachers and learning coaches. You can go at your own pace as well doing a more online course.” How does it feel to now have success in school? “I wouldn't say it's very different but definitely a lot more helpful with the work and more engaged.” How does this success make you feel about education now? “I would say it's been well.”

#3: “BLC helped me to get so far. 3 certificates in construction. It is way easier and more calm than other schools. It feels good and makes me feel like I'm actually learning something. The experience has been good.”

#4: “BLC has helped me. I like BLC because it makes everything eaiser. IU can always go back to a unit if I need to review it for a test or an examine. The teachers are always very nice and are willing to help us. Usually in normal schools, you have a certain amount of time to be able to talk to your teacher. Or minimum a singular hour on here, your teachers are availabe 24/7 pretty much. The teachers are always ready to help you here, usually just an email, phone call or test. They all know their classes very well and they are always willing to give you extra helping stuff if you're on an IEP. BLC makes learning so much eaiser; you are learning at your own pace and on your own time. Sure, the classes are expensive, but they are worth it. I personally love this because it allows me to do classes that I wouldn't be able to do in normal high school. It even has some musical instrument classes, and they are pretty fun. They even have classes to get you certified for stuff. They even have a class about aerospace and planes; it's fascinating looking. Also, I have completed 3 classes and well on my way to completing 2 more classes at this very moment I'm 5 assignments ahead in geometry. And 12 assignments ahead in Foundations of Programming.”

Badlands Learning Center is open year-round. Because of the campus location and school staff, the academic schedule is flexible and can be changed according to the child's needs and/or holidays and residents' home visits. The children attend school from 8:00 - 10:00a.m., and then again from 1:00 - 3:00p.m. Our youth participate in clinical or activity groups in between the class sessions. We are fortunate to have four classroom areas, two classrooms for boys and two classrooms for girls.

BLC stats since June 3, 2024

Students Enrolled	33
Classes passed	46
Credits Earned	23
One student passed 5 classes, for a total of 2.5 credits.	



Badlands Learning Center



68th Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match

It was a beautiful day for the 68th Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match and it went off without a hitch! The week prior to the rodeo, Martin Construction removed all the arena dirt and it was moved to a new location to provide additional parking. The arena dirt was replaced with new sand. It was packed and leveled off and the last thing to do before getting the arena ready with banners and flags. This year, new archway signs were added to the entry way.

Before the Match started, there was a special presentation on generations of bucking horses presented by J Bar J Rodeo. Running in the arena with heads held high were prized N.F.R. (National Finals Rodeo) mares and their colts. Taking everyone's breath away and showing off for the crowd was Straight Jacket, who has gone to the NFR many times, but also sired many NFR colts.

There was a long-go of 28 rides. This was the first year the roster wasn't completely filled with contestants. The short-go featured twelve cowboys with the highest scores from the long-go. The highlights for some guests were the twelve horses in the short-go round. Names like Buggy, South Point, Moose, In the Lu, Painted Commotion and many other NFR broncs were showcased in the short-go round. At the end of the day, Brody Cress was named the 2024 Champion. He had won the Match in 2021.

Plans are now underway for the 69th Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match. The rodeo committee works hard all year to get ready for one of the best Extreme Bronc Riding events in North Dakota. It all takes place on August 2, 2025!



2024 Champions Ride Match Champion was Brody Cress! 90 points on J Bar J's Straight Moonshine



Long Go

Cowboy	Bronc	Score	Place
Logan Cook	Soul Lunatic	87	1
Chase Brooks	Rough Motion	86.5	2
Brody Cress	Stacked Deck	86	3/4/5
Sage Newman	Ruby Girl	86	3/4/5
Zac Dallas	Lyin' Lunatic	86	3/4/5
Weston Patterson	Fancy Streak	85.5	6
Cash Wilson	Disco Inferno	84.5	7/8
Wyatt Casper	Choctow Bingo	84.5	7/8

Short Go

Cowboy	Bronc	Score	Place
Brody Cress	Straight Moonshine	90	1
Brody Wells	South Point	89	2
Q Taylor	Painted J	88.5	3
Kolby Wanchuk	In the Lu	87.5	4
Cash Wilson	Painted Commotion	87	5/6
Sage Newman	Buggy	87	5/6

***Congratulations to our 2024 Champion with
176 total points - BRODY CRESS!***

A special thank you to all our sponsors who make the **Champions Ride Match** a huge success!



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Plan Now for Year-End Giving

It may seem like a long way away to file your 2024 tax returns, but now is the time to talk to your family and financial planner about year-end giving to charities like Home On The Range. As a 501(c)(3), your financial donation is tax-deductible (according to your tax-filing status). A financial contribution can be a personal check, online donation, or maybe even a distribution from your personal I.R.A. The donation can also be made in memory or honor of a loved one, friend, or special event like birthdays or anniversaries.

Home On The Range Foundation also accepts financial contributions. The principal amount in the Foundation is never used, only the accrued interest. There may be special state tax credits for North Dakota residents who contribute \$5,000 or more. Just make your donation payable to Home On The Range Foundation.

Home On The Range kindly accepts and appreciates all donations, memorials and Foundation contributions to provide services and care for children. Plan early, but please always consult your accountant, tax advisor or financial planner for what is best for you and your family.



Scan to donate

HOTR is Celebrating 75 years

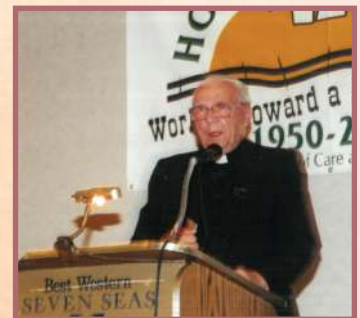
Home On The Range is celebrating 75 years of helping children and families. We are hoping to put together some exciting events and special gifts. In the meantime, let's reflect on some highlights in our history:

25 years ago (1999)

- ~ HOTR's census was 99 boys and girls at three facilities (Sentinel Butte and Fargo, ND and Glendive, MT)
- ~ The ND Knights of Columbus celebrated their 40th anniversary of the Shamrock Project.
- ~ HOTR website was now on internet sites like Beach Area Community Club and Guidestar.
- ~ The Champions Ride co-champion winners were Rod Hay and Glen O'Neill.
- ~ Plans were being made for a roast of Father Fahnländer in honor of the 50th anniversary.

50 Years ago (1970)

- ~ The census was 49 boys.
- ~ Ray Schnell and Clem Casey, two original HOTR directors, passed away after 20 years of service.
- ~ The Champions Ride Saddle Bronc Match winner was Ralph Maynard.



Father Fahnländer



Ralph Maynard

In 1999, Brother Sam Larson asked the girls to write a prayer about how faith has helped them cope with substance abuse. This is the prayer and it is timeless.

Lead us, Jesus, in the right way;
Help us to see Your way - all the way.
Guide us through this day.
Give us strength and courage through rough and tough times.
Do not let us fall and help us to put our full trust in You.
Help us rely on You and know You are always there for us.

We have made serious mistakes in the past
And need your help to change our ways.
We have hurt You,
Others and ourselves.
Jesus, please listen to us now as we pray to You,
As you are the only one we can depend on living the life we should.

How beautiful and graceful You are.
Thanks for this day and the life You have given us.
Thanks for everything and sharing Your life with us.
Help us to mature spiritually,
And have a loving relationship with You in this world,
And continue that relationship with You in heaven.

O, Most Holy Trinity:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
We praise You.
We worship You.
We adore You.
And we thank You for just being our God.

***Thank you to these sponsors for their support at the
Dakota Scramble Golf Tournament!***



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The 2024 winning team was: Tel L., Sean S., Jack S., and Jess M.



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<https://hotrnd.com/>

Upcoming Events

23rd Annual Basket Bash
Friday, November 22, 2024
Wibaux, MT Fairgrounds

Giving Hearts Day
Thursday, February 13, 2025
givingheartsdays.org
24-hour online fundraiser

Home On The Range is on Facebook and Instagram! Become a fan by searching for “Home On The Range” and “Home on the Range Champions Ride Match” and stay informed of our events and activities.



Our organization provides a therapeutic ranch environment for boys and girls who are disadvantaged, neglected, problematic, predelinquent and delinquent. Children of all races, creeds, and colors are served at our facility located in Sentinel Butte, North Dakota.