

# Teacher and gatekeeper Kathy Kelly



PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

**Dave Gibson**  
Gilpin County

Born a Cornhusker and spending the rest of her life in Colorado, Kathy Kelly has been a Gilpin County resident for the last 38 years. After running her own home daycare business then working for Black Hawk Station (now named Sasquatch Casino), she accepted a position at Gilpin County School teaching first and second grade in the year 2000. Her three daughters graduated from Gilpin High School and four of her eight grandchildren now attend classes at Gilpin Schools.

Kelly's profession has enabled her to be close to her family members. She also feels a strong bond to her students. In fact, when discussing the relationship between herself and her pupils, she becomes emotional. They mean everything to her. Kelly always says hello to every student

she knows when she sees them and they return the greeting. They are as connected to her as she is to them.

Now working at the school as a librarian and teaching intervention reading, she brings kids who are struggling in that subject up to grade level. Kelly is probably most recognizable to the rest of us as the gatekeeper at Gilpin County sporting events. On the job for over 22 years, it is her smiling face that greets people at football, volleyball, and sometimes basketball games. Payment is nominal; she does it because of her love of the school and its kids.

When asked what it has been like enduring decades of the at times cold wintery weather at football contests, she shrugs it off in a "glass is half full" rather than "glass is half empty" answer typical of her personality: "We only sell tickets until halftime. After that, I'm able to go inside and get warm."

# Teacher, athletic director, and coach Jeff Schuessler



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Many of us recall favorite teachers who shaped our interests and inspired us to learn. For Jeff Schuessler, literature teacher Mike Dallas of Clear Creek High School was that special educator.

Schuessler received a Bachelor Arts degree in English Literature at Regis in 1992. While playing semi-pro baseball and coaching at Clear Creek High School the next eight years, he somehow found time to acquire his Master's Degree in English Literature in 1999.

Schuessler's decision to begin teaching English at Gilpin County School in 2000 was partly due to his literature teacher

Carmen Cassis' influence during his sophomore year in college.

He has coached girls' basketball for the Eagles from the beginning and boys' baseball 15 of the last 22 years. For seven years, the golden voice you heard calling the play-by-play at football games was his. Schuessler has acted as athletic director since 2010. Recently on a Saturday during a middle school football tournament and varsity football game, he logged a 14-hour day contentedly attending to one task or another. It is a labor of love.

Everyone affectionately calls him "Shoe." Schuessler is driven by his passion of sharing his knowledge of sports and literature with the students.

Gilpin County PUBLIC LIBRARY

## PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST

**OCTOBER 11TH - 29TH**  
NO CARVING!  
MUST REPRESENT A BOOK OR MOVIE CHARACTER  
VISIT [GILPINLIBRARY.ORG](http://GILPINLIBRARY.ORG)  
FOR COMPLETE RULES & PRIZE INFORMATION

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- HAUNTED HOUSE
- PUMPKIN PAINTING
- SPOOKY GAMES & PRIZES
- CHILI & TREATS

12 PM: HAUNTED HOUSE + CARNIVAL GAMES  
2 PM: MAGIC SHOW WITH DOC MURDOCK

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