GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED ✳ DO WHAT'S RIGHT ✳ DO THE BEST YOU CAN

OFFICE INFORMATION

✳ Important phone numbers:

Attendance: 406-268-6251
Counseling: 406-268-6330
Finance: 406-268-6317
Main Office: 406-268-6250
Records: 406-268-6315
Nurse: 406-268-6332

✳ Important To-Do's:

- **Update PowerSchool Information:**
  - Please remember to update phone numbers and addresses that may have changed over the summer.
  - Call or email Debbie at:
    - 406-268-6337 or
    - Debbie_Munson@gfps.k12.mt.us

Click here to read handbook:

- **Activity Participation Forms:**
  - If you do not want your student to participate in certain GFHS clubs and/or organizations, you need to complete the ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION form.

✳ **GFHS Events and Sports Travel forms**
Click Here
GFHS TRANSPORTATION FORM

✳ **SPRING SPORTS PARTICIPATION FEES**

Sports participation fees must be paid prior to competing in any sport. Fees can be paid at the finance window next to the GFHS Main Office.

✳ Attendance Notifications:

GFHS Parents/Guardians
In order to receive attendance notifications regarding your student, you must be signed up with PowerSchool!
Call attendance for support!

REGULAR			PLCT			EARLY OUT			ASSEMBLY (40 MIN)		
PERIOD	START	END	PERIOD	START	END	PERIOD	START	END	PERIOD	START	END
0	7:00	7:54	0	7:07	7:54	0	7:24	7:55	0	7:05	7:55
1	8:00	8:53	1	8:00	8:47	1	8:00	8:31	1	8:00	8:48
2	8:59	9:52	2	8:53	9:40	2	8:36	9:07	2	8:53	9:41
3	9:58	10:51	3	9:46	10:43	3	9:12	9:43	ASSEMBLY	9:46	10:26
4	10:56	11:49	4	10:49	11:36	4	9:48	10:19	3	10:31	11:18
LUNCH	11:49	12:19	LUNCH	11:36	12:06	5	10:24	10:56	4	11:23	12:10
5	12:25	1:18	5	12:12	12:59	6	11:01	11:33	LUNCH	12:10	12:40
6	1:24	2:17	6	1:05	1:52	7	11:38	12:10	5	12:45	1:32
7	2:23	3:15	7	1:58	2:45				6	1:37	2:24
									7	2:29	3:15

Principal's Message:

Dear Bison Family,
We begin the 4th quarter this week! This is the final countdown to the end of the 2025-2026 school year. We still have a lot going on for our students and staff, so we'll need to buckle up for the spring ride!
I look forward to the next few months. Parents of seniors, please stay updated on senior information through this newsletter. If you have any questions you can always call the GFHS Main Office.

Go Bison!
Geoffry Habel

✳ Make Up ACT: Tuesday, March 31st

- **For Juniors who still need to take it**
- **MC Room 210**
- **Starts at 7:50am**

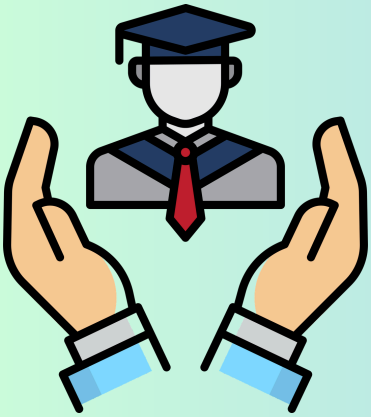
✳ Spring Break Starts Thursday:

- **No School Thursday (4/2), Friday (4/3), or Monday (4/6)**
- **School offices closed**

✳ Looking Ahead:

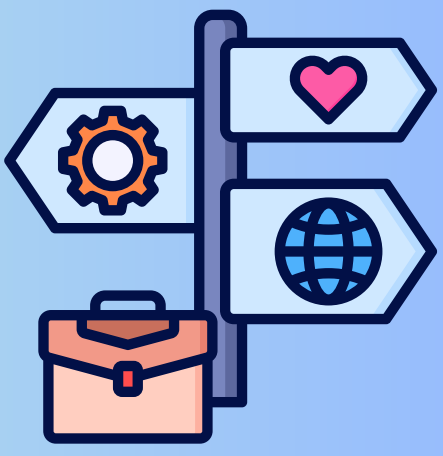
- **We will have an early out on Thursday, April 9th.**
- **School is dismissed and buses will run at 12:10.**

Great Falls High School Counselor Corner



USE THE QR CODE OR CLICK HERE FOR SENIOR CLASS NEWS

USE THE QR CODE OR CLICK HERE FOR COUNSELOR NEWS



TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED ✳ DO WHAT'S RIGHT ✳ DO THE BEST YOU CAN

GFHS Fine Arts At A Glance

3/2-3	AA Band	Davidson Auditorium	Symphonic band misses 3/2-3
3/4-7	All-Northwest (Delphian)	Tacoma, WA	Delphian misses 3/4-6
3/17	Band MIOSM	Davidson Auditorium	
3/18-21	Chamber Orchestra Tour		Chamber misses 3/19-20
3/19	Choir MIOSM	Old Gym	Delphian misses per 5-7
3/23	Spring Choir	Davidson Auditorium	
3/24	Orchestra MIOSM	CMR	
3/26-28	Symphonic Band Tour		Symphonic band misses 3/26
3/30	Orchestra Concert	Davidson Auditorium	
3/31	Band Concert	Davidson Auditorium	
4/9-10	District Music	GFHS/CMR	Some students miss per 5-7 4/10
4/14	Delphian Concert	First United Methodist	
4/21	Rhapsody Recital	First United Methodist	
4/30-5/2	Spring Drama	Davidson Auditorium	

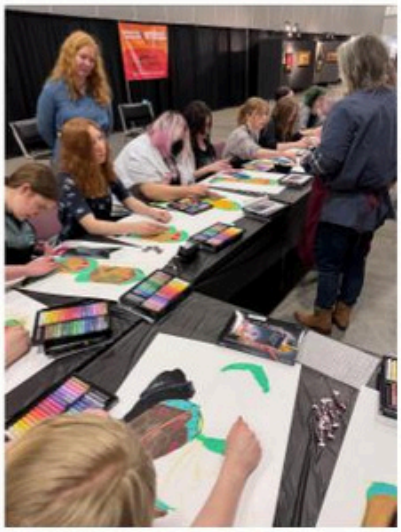
March is Youth Art Month!

GF Library K-12 Art Exhibit
Open until April 28th, 2026

YOUTH ART MONTH
COUNCIL FOR ART EDUCATION

Shifting Layers
Jules Lucero

Dahl Gallery, GFHS
OPEN to the PUBLIC
On View Through May 2nd, 2026



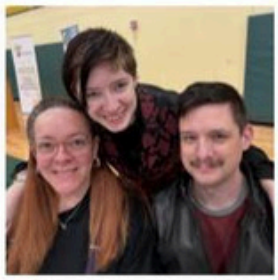
Congrats to senior **Julianna Graef** for receiving a **$1500 scholarship** from the **Out West Show & Sale** as well as the **$800 Chigbrow Scholarship**! Julianna will be studying graphic design next fall. Way to go, Julianna!

We also want to thank all the community members who support our students through experiential learning opportunities as well as financial support for them to follow their dreams!

At left: Pastel Workshop provided by artist Brenda Wolf and the Russell Country Credit Union and the Great Western Art Show!

ONGOING Student Exhibits:

02/23/2026, 2nd floor display cases
02/10/2026, Art @ Buffalo Blanc
03/05-04/28/2026, GF Public Library, GFPS K-12 Youth Art Month Show
March, State Capital, Helena, MAEA Youth Art Month (YAM) Exhibit, no reception, open to the public

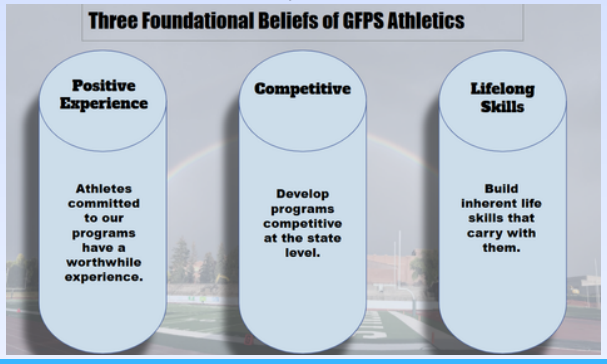


Congrats to **Kiara Clark,**
Art Department Outstanding junior!

Left: Clark with her father and step-mother.
Below: All Department GFH Outstanding Juniors.

GFHS WEEKLY ATHLETICS

SPORT	DAY	DATE		OPPONENT	LOCATION	LEVEL	VARSITY	JV
SB	TUES	3/31/2026	GFH	FERGUS	GF MULTI SPORTS	JV		4:00 PM
SB	THURS	4/2/2026	GFH	BILLINGS WEST	GF MULTI SPORTS	V-JV	3:00 PM	5:00 PM
BASE	THURS	4/2/2026	GFH	BILLINGS SENIOR	OLSON/WARREN	V-JV	3:00 PM	3:00 PM
BASE	THURS	4/2/2026	GFH	BILLINGS SENIOR	OLSON/WARREN	V-JV	5:00 PM	5:00 PM
TF	FRI	4/3/2026	GFH	BILLINGS SKYVIEW	BILLINGS	V-JV	12:00 PM	
SB	SAT	4/4/2026	GFH	BELGRADE	BELGRADE	V-JV	11:00 AM	1:00 PM
TE	SAT	4/4/2026	GFH	BILLINGS SENIOR	BILLINGS	V	11:00 AM	
TE	SAT	4/4/2026	GFH	BILLINGS SKYVIEW	BILLINGS	V	2:00 PM	



TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED ✳ DO WHAT'S RIGHT ✳ DO THE BEST YOU CAN

GFHS TITLE I STATUS

<u>Great Falls High</u> is a Title I high school, which means we receive federal support to help ensure every student has access to a high-quality education.

- Our goal is to improve academic outcomes for all students by providing the resources and support they need to succeed.
- If you ever have questions or concerns about your student's progress, please don't hesitate to reach out to their counselor or associate principal.
- We are here to partner with you and problem-solve together.

Paul Culbertson, Associate Principal	406-268-6322	Students A-G
Tami Faulkner, Associate Principal	406-268-6313	Students H-N
Shianne Currey, Associate Principal	406-268-6314	Students O-Z
Chad Getten, Guidance Counselor	406-268-6334	Students A-C
Amy Schoenen, Guidance Counselor	406-268-6338	Students D-G
Clint Houston, Guidance Counselor	406-268-6336	Students H-L
Rosie Rossberg, Guidance Counselor	406-268-6333	Students M-R
Dana Freshly, Guidance Counselor	406-268-6335	Students S-Z

MORE STUDENT SUPPORTS:

- **<u>NO Saturday School:</u>**
  - Spring break
- **After School Support - 3/30/26**
  - **Math 3:20-5:10pm in South Campus 108**
  - **English 3:45-5:10 in Main Campus 211**

***Watch here for weekly updated information**

TREAT OTHERS THE WAY YOU WANT TO BE TREATED ✳ DO WHAT'S RIGHT ✳ DO THE BEST YOU CAN

GFHS TITLE I STATUS

WE WANT ALL FAMILIES TO KNOW

- **We Care Deeply About Your Child's Success:**
  - **Our teachers and staff are committed to your child's academic achievement, personal growth, and well-being, striving to help them become confident, capable, and responsible individuals.**
- **We Foster Growth Beyond Grades:**
  - **We focus on developing lifelong skills like problem-solving, self-advocacy, responsibility, and work ethic, preparing students for future success in and out of the classroom.**
- **We Challenge and Support:**
  - **We hold high expectations, pushing students to grow while providing compassion, encouragement, and individualized support to meet their unique needs.**
- **We Build Relationships:**
  - **Our staff strives to be trusted mentors, creating a safe and welcoming space where students feel valued, heard, and motivated to succeed.**
- **We Invest Time and Heart:**
  - **We work with many students daily and pour our energy, compassion, and resources into helping each child progress, even when faced with challenges.**
- **We Work as a Team:**
  - **Your child's success is a collaborative effort. We need your support to reinforce expectations for your child to be in class every day so we create an environment where learning thrives.**

We are a Second Home: Our school is more than a place for learning—it's a community. We are here for our students and families from 7:00 a.m. until late in the evening, offering support, connection, and care.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK:

Week of 03/29-04/04/26				
Orchestra Concert	03/30/26	Monday	AUD	7:00-9:00pm
ACT Make Up	03/31/26	Tuesday	MC 210	8:00am-1:30pm
Band Concert	03/31/26	Tuesday	AUD	7:00-9:00pm
Pre College Advisory	04/01/26	Wednesday	HUB	10:30-12:00pm
STUCO Full Council Meeting	04/01/26	Wednesday	HUB	10:49-11:36am
Associate Principal Appreciation Day	04/01/26	Wednesday		All Day
MT Air National Guard	04/01/26	Wednesday	HUB	11:36-12:06pm
No School/Spring Break	04/02-04/06/26	Thursday-Monday		All Day
Para/Aides/Tutor Appreciation Day	04/02/26	Thursday		All Day
School Librarian Appreciation Day	04/03/26	Friday		All Day

ParentSquare

CLICK HERE!

PARENTSQUARE INFORMATION:

ParentSquare is the new district communication tool.
Click on the links below for more information:
GFPS District Letter
Getting Started Guide

Free and Reduced paperwork makes a HUGE difference FOR EVERYONE connected with GFH.

Please CLICK HERE to apply!

CONNECT WITH US!

Social Media

- GFH Website: https://gfhs.gfps.k12.mt.us/
- Instagram: @greatfallshighbison
- Facebook: @GFHBISON

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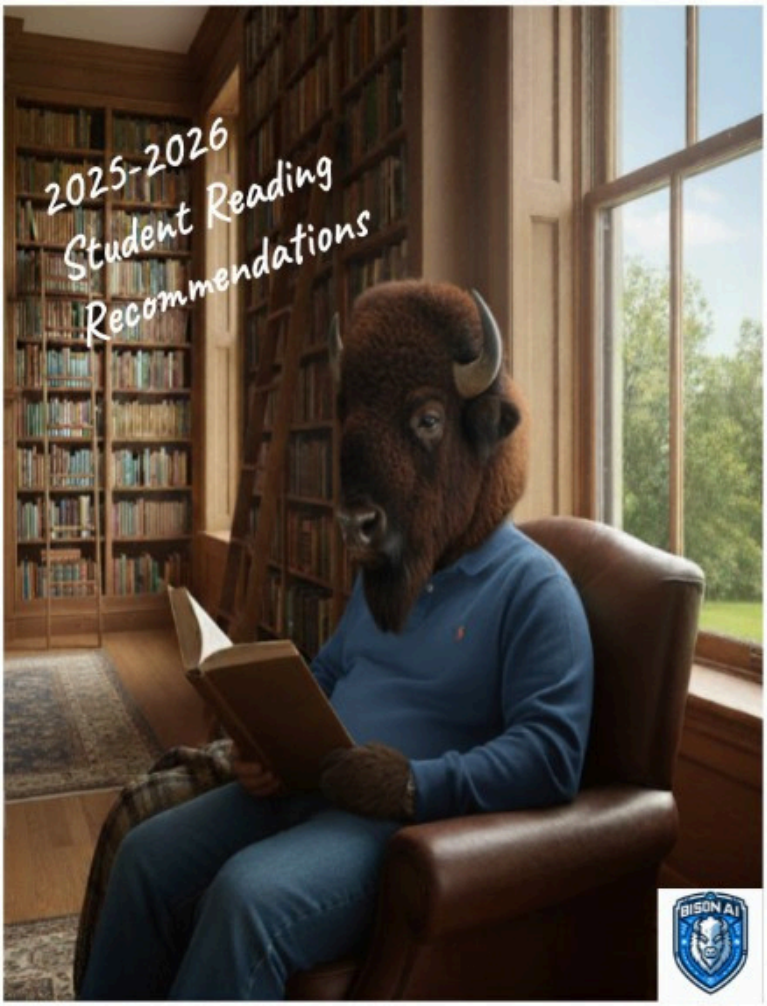

Have you finished a book from the Great Falls High Library this month that you want to share with the school?

Complete a "Student Recommendation" card to be placed by the book you read.

Include:

- Author
- Title
- A brief description of the book (we have examples)
- Why you recommend this book

On the Back:

- Your Name
- ID Number

When you complete the card, your name is put in a drawing to win a $10 gift card from Big Dipper Ice Cream, a $10 gift card to MacKenzie River Pizza, and a $20 gift card from Cassiopea Books. The drawing will be at the end of each month.

GFHS PROFILE OF A LEARNER

LEARNER TRAITS, SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS (9TH – 12TH GRADE) THAT WE BELIEVE WILL MAKE EVERY STUDENT BETTER:

GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL IS COMMITTED TO TAKING STEPS EVERY DAY TO INSTILL THESE QUALITIES INTO OUR STUDENTS:

CRITICAL THINKER

- Investigate a question with an open mind
- Evaluate sources of information for reliability
- Integrate different viewpoints
- Synthesize information to take action

STRONG COMMUNICATION SKILLS

- Articulate ideas to a targeted audience effectively
- Use conflict resolution strategies effectively
- Actively listen for understanding
- Collaborate with others
- Reflect on their communication with others

WORK ETHIC

- Persevere to complete difficult tasks
- Understand how to balance time and priorities
- Use intrepersonal skills and seek resources to help complete tasks
- Complete activities to the set standard and show pride in work
- Integrate academic skills with workplace skills to demonstrate readiness for life beyond high school

PROBLEM SOLVER

- Integrate other points of view into the problem-solving process to generate an optimal solution
- Evaluate information and compromise to reach a solution
- Identify healthy risks and take them when needed

INTEGRITY

- Behave empathetically to others
- Self-regulate
- Follow through
- Consider the good of the whole and act accordingly
- Do the right thing while demonstrating grace, pride, and kindness, even when it is difficult
- Apply talents to better their community

Great Falls High School Historical Article Of The Week

Tribune article from June 2nd, 1996

PAM SPENCER
GFHS CLASS OF 1974

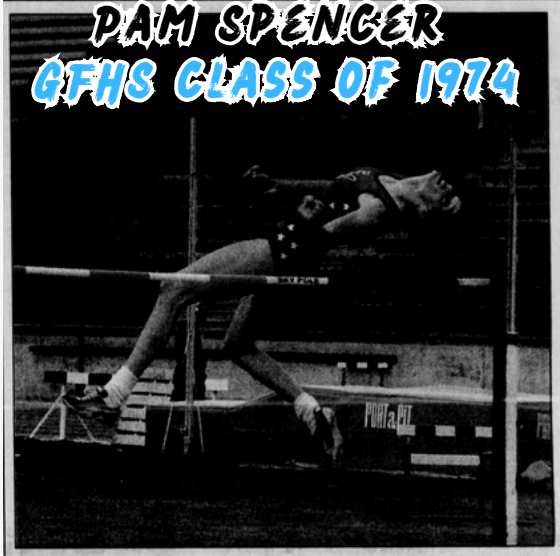

Photo courtesy of Pam Spencer

This is the high-jump form that Pam Spencer flashed in the late 1970s and early '80s when she set an American record of 6-51/2, and also qualified for three U.S. Olympic teams.

The Pam Spencer file

- **Age:** 38.
- **Birthplace:** Moses Lake, Wash.
- **Career:** High jump coach at Cal State-Northridge; secretary of athletes advisory committee for U.S.A. Track and Field organization.
- **Education:** Graduated from Great Falls High in 1974, earned bachelor's degree from Cal State-Northridge in 1981.
- **Family:** Married to Eric Marquez. Mother of daughter Nicole, 10, and son E.J., 6.
- **It's a fact:** Set American record in high jump in 1981 (6-5½). Made U.S. Olympic teams in 1976-80-84.

Inside

- Two decades ago, Great Falls athlete Pam Spencer never realized just how far her ability to carry over the high jump bar would take her/3C

Photo courtesy of Pam Spencer

The Spencer family these days includes Pam and her husband, Eric, and their two children, Nicole, 10, and E.J., 6. They live in southern California.

Former local athlete has enjoyed

High times competing in the High jump

"My goal is to be an Olympic coach. I think I'm headed that way. That would be a real highlight for me." _ Pam Spencer

By SCOTT MANSCH
Tribune Sports Writer

Pam Spencer was 10 years old when she was first introduced to the high jump bar.

"My girlfriend — I can't even remember her name — dared me to do it," she said. "So I jumped over it, and I've been doing it ever since. ... Who ever guessed jumping over a stick could take you so far?"

The high jump is still taking her places. Recently, Spencer returned from the Olympic Track and Field Trials in Atlanta, where she awarded the medals in the event.

The former Great Falls High basketball and track star, a former American record-holder and rare three-time U.S. Olympian, is the subject of this month's Great Falls Tribune "Where Are They Now?" feature.

Spencer, 38, is married to a former college basketball player, Eric Marquez. They have two children, 10-year-old Nicole and 6-year-old E.J., and live in California where Pam is the high-jump coach at Cal State-Northridge.

Just as was the case during her long competitive career, Spencer is these days chasing an Olympic dream.

"My goal is to be an Olympic coach," she said. "I think I'm headed that way. That would be a real highlight for me."

Not that her career lacks highlights.

A three-time state champion high-jumper and all-state basketball player for the Bison, Spencer graduated in 1975. She attended Seattle Pacific and then transferred to Cal State-Northridge, competing in basketball and track and both schools.

Her illustrious high-jumping career included three Olympic Teams (1976-80-84) and an American record-setting jump of 6-5½ in 1981. Because of her talent, she traveled extensively.

"I've been to Russia, all over South America, Europe and Japan," she said. "I first went to Japan when I was a junior in high school, with an AAU track team. For two weeks we traveled all over and competed. What an eye-opener it was. From then on I was hooked. I guess I've been traveling for track and field ever since."

Spencer was born in Moses Lake, Wash. Because her dad, John, was in the Air Force, the family traveled often.

Though John Spencer retired here after a career as a senior noncommissioned officer at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Pam's track and field exploits enabled her to continue to travel.

"It seemed like there was no teen-ager with her," said John. "She went from a little girl to a traveling lady in such a hurry."

Neil Eliason is partly responsible for that. He was a highly successful prep track coach at Flathead High in Kalispell and later at Flathead Valley Community College. His Flathead Valley Timberettes club, a summer AAU track team that traveled extensively, attracted Spencer's attention.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

This feature takes a look at past sport stars from northcentral Montana and what they're doing now. To nominate someone, call the Tribune sports department at (406) 791-1470 or fax us (406) 791-1431.

"We had these bright orange florescent uniforms, with green trees in the middle of our shirts," Spencer said with a laugh. "They were awful. But we traveled. That summer with him is my first memory that track and field was ,what I wanted to do, when I knew that it was really going to take me places."

Said Eliason, who has relatives in Great Falls and is retired at Swan Lake: "We haven't had a lot of 'em much better than her in Montana. She was definitely at the top of the heap. She worked real hard at it."

Just a year out of high school, Spencer qualified for the U.S. Olympic team in the high jump. The 1976 Montreal Olympics gave her some valuable experience.

"To this day, I don't remember jumping there. I just blanked out," she said.

In 1980 she was a much more experienced jumper and easily made the Olympic team, but the Americans boycotted the Moscow

See SPENCER, 3C

May 31st 1981

USA Nationals

Here are the final results from Saturday's events at the Track and Field Association-USA National Championships at Wichita State University's Cessna Stadium:

High jump — 1, Pam Spencer, Naturite TC, 6-5 ¼, American record; old record 6-4 ¾, Louis Ritter, TWU, 1980. 2, Mary Cragoe, Mississippi, 5-11 ¼. 3, Kym Carter, Wichita, Kan., 5-11 ¼. 4, Wendy Meyle, U. of Illinois, 5-9 ½. 5, Camille Cockerman, Dallas Metroplex Striders, 5-7 ¼. 6, Beets Kolarik, Kansas State, 5-7 ¼.

Articles courtesy of:

The GF Tribune,
Houston Post and
Newspapers.com

Spencer: High jump star still in love with the sport

FROM 1C

Games.

"That was disappointing, because I was at the top of my game," she said.

Indeed, in 1981 she set a new American record with a jump of 6-5. She later established a new mark at 6-51/2, which was but 1/12 inches off the world record.

But then she hurt herself.

"I hurt my knee lifting weights," she said. "I just never came back as strong. I was out of balance."

Although she still qualified for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, finishing 11th, Spencer never again jumped as high as 6-5. "I definitely feel like I had a lot more to give," she said.

Spencer said her coaches in Great Falls, people like Robert Miller, Ralph Halverson and Cathy (Olson) McGregor, had much to do with her athletic development.

"Cathy was the first woman coach I had who seemed to know what women were capable of," she said of the former Bison girls' basketball coach. "She worked us very hard, and it paid off."

Today, Spencer is a personal trainer coach, having been at Northridge for four years. She's also a certified yoga instructor, and, though in excellent shape, she resists the urge to jump over the bar.

"My knees creak," she said.

Spencer is also an official with USA Track and Field, in both drug-testing and athlete advisory capacities. Although she still travels extensively, she hasn't forgotten where home is.

"I get back to Great Falls all the time to see my folks," she said. "I try to always come for the State Fair, and I was there last year for my 20th reunion."

Predictably, Spencer's family is very athletic. "Nicole, she's the basketball player," said Spencer. "We call her Rodman, because she's quite the agressive rebounder."

Her family comes first, but Spencer's Olympic experience continues. "It was such a thrill for me to be in Atlanta," she said, having just returned from the Olympic Track and Field Trials.

Clearly, this woman's love affair with the high jump — and the Olympics — continues.

"Being an Olympian is like being in a very exclusive club," she said. "It's something not a lot of people get to experience, and nobody can ever take it away from you.

"Track and field made it possible for me. I think it's the greatest sport. It has something for everyone. I mean, if you can't jump, maybe you can throw. If you can't run fast, maybe you can run far."