



WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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Wahoo Public Schools

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Holiday musical performances set the tone before welcomed winter break

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." ~Norman Vincent Peale

WHS choirs and bands create holiday cheer for the ear

Music touches people in so many different ways and on Dec. 17 the magic of the holidays was brought to Wahoo High School on the tips of some very special wands.

When vocal music director Audra Barrick waved her magic wand at 7 p.m., the beautiful music of the Wahoo High School Concert Choir filled the Little Theatre.

After Concert Choir sang "Riu Riu Chiu," a 16th Century Spanish villancico (a Spanish Renaissance song), all choirs combined for several holiday favorites such as "Oh Holy Night," "Silent Night," and "First Noel."

B Sharps then crooned "Sounds of Advent" and a wonderfully unique arrangement of "Jingle Bells."

"My favorite song is 'Riu Riu Chiu' because it's different," said junior Eric Curran. "The chorus was challenging to learn because it is

written and sung in Spanish."

Concert Band, led by the mystical baton of Eric Snyder, took over with Robert Longfield's "Passacaglia on an Old English Carol" and concluded the first half of the concert with Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker Suite."

"Christmas is my favorite time of year," said senior Kelsy Luers.

"The Nutcracker Suite' is so much fun to play because the tempo gets so fast at the end. It makes me smile," Luers added.

Luers made others smile, too, by wearing a lighted Christmas tree hat during the concert.

Guest artists James Anderson, Chris Clark, Kyle Mitchell and Silas Miller kicked off the second half of the annual event with an electric performance of "Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24" as performed by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

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WHS choirs combine to bring holiday cheer to friends and family members on Dec. 17.

Wahoo Middle School music leaves no one out in the cold by Cassie Nicholls

If the holiday spirit hadn't kicked in yet, many jumped into the mood after attending the 2007 Middle School Holiday Concert on Dec. 13 in the Wahoo High School Little Theatre.

The sixth grade Apprentice Choir began the show by performing "The Snow is Falling Still" and "Holiday Lights," which was performed with the Theatre's lights off. A holiday mood was set as each member of the choir turned on their green, red, or white flashlight.

Beginning Band performed four magnificent holiday favorites: "Good King Wenceslas," "Jingle Bells," "Children's Carol," and "Jolly Old St. Nickolas." During "Jolly Old St. Nickolas," band director Eric Snyder and the band changed the name of the song to "Jolly Old St. Nickelback" because sixth grader Ben Wotipka rocked out on the drums during his solo.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Choir performed next and a large crowd they were. They performed "African Noel" and "In December"

with soloists Courtney Jones, Payten Foster, Gadreal Zeleny, Morgan Talbert, Ashlen Groff, Frankie Hass, Mikayla Gall, Ty Kander, Tara Burkley, Hailie Nervig, Lindsay Sabatka, Danielle Lindgren, Ashton Grell, Krystal Lindgren, Aubrey Voboril, and Mitch Snyder.

"Seventh and Eighth Grade Choir amazed me this year with their three-part harmonies," said middle school choral director Audra Barrick. "Next semester they might try four-part harmonies like the high school group."

Seventh and eighth grade band was a treat for the ears. They performed "Dance of the Slippery Slide Trombones," "Two Austrian Carols," and "Christmas Delight."

Middle School Jazz Band concluded the show by performing an old favorite "Frosty the Snowman" and "Deckin' the Halls."

Each of the choirs and bands spent a lot of time preparing for the holiday concert and it paid off when many family members and friends turned out to soak in a little holiday cheer.

The Moose is loose at Wahoo Elementary School!

by Benishia Seimer

A moose pulling Santa's sleigh? Isn't that a job for a reindeer? Rudolf? Christmastime is a time for miracles and if you believe, you can do anything!

The Wahoo Elementary kindergarten and first graders told the story of "Marty the Moose" through music on Dec. 4. Marty wanted desperately to pull Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve, but everyone doubted Marty because everybody knows that "Mooses can't fly".

Elementary music instructor Kristin Laughlin started preparing for the holiday concert in mid-October.

Some of the characters included reindeer, candy canes, elves, a snow-

man, a bird, Christmas trees, Sugar Plum fairies, Father Time and of course Marty the Moose.

"The kids were excited to perform for their families," said Laughlin. "I think it was a success. The kids were ready."

Marty the Moose was played by first-grader Thatcher Sunday. He enjoyed playing the hopeful Marty.

"The hardest was to know when to say my lines," said Thatcher. "I knew everything."

At the end of the performance everyone found out that Marty the Moose wasn't giving up and that Christmas was a time for miracles.

Anything is possible if you believe!

Wahoo boys' basketball team 5-2 after Holiday Tournament by Hunter Richmond

The Wahoo Boys Basketball team is on the rebound!

The Warriors finished last season with a 22-2 record and trip to the state play-offs that ended in the first round at the hands of a fierce Ashland-Greenwood team. All five of the 2006-07 starters graduated leaving a variety of positions to be filled.

This season, Wahoo faced Bennington for their season opener and were defeated 75-49. David Stuchlik led the team with 16 points and 6 rebounds. Austin Watton added 13 points and 5 steals.

"Bennington has an excellent team, they are the more experienced of the two," said Warrior Head Coach Kevin Scheef.

In game two, the Warriors beat the Seward Blue Jays 50-48 in a battle on the road. Stuchlik again led the team with 21 points and 9 rebounds. Taylor Murren proved dominant as Wahoo's point guard putting up a solid 14 points and made the game winning lay-up.

"Seward is a solid class B team. It was great to go out and get a victory against them," said Scheef.

Game three was an easy victory in the eyes of the Warriors. They toppled Conestoga 76-41. Murren scored a career-high 22 points, with 5 assists and 5 rebounds. Stucklik

and Grant Anderson combined to add 21 points to the final score.

"This was a good win for us," said Scheef. "We played hard and took care of the ball."

Wahoo then defeated Fort Calhoun 66-59 in a conference match-up. This was a key win for the Warriors.

"We knew this was going to be a very tough game for us going into it, said Scheef. "We really battled and made the plays we needed to in the fourth quarter to win."

Murren again led the team with 17 points. Anderson put up a career high 15 points. Stuchlik had 12 points and 9 rebounds.

Despite a couple of hard-fought losses, the Warriors are enjoying a winning 5-2 record going into 2008. For more game highlights, go to www.wahooschools.org.



Senior Austin Watton goes in for a layup against Bishop-Neumann during the Holiday Tournament.

Wahoo girls' basketball ready to go the distance by Taylor Kavan

The 2007-08 girls basketball team has the potential for their biggest year since the team made a trip to the state tournament in 2003.

The Warriors are returning a lot of experience to the court this season with four last season starters.

Returning starters senior guards Amber Henkel and Abbey Grandgett are in position to lead the Warriors during their final season.

Juniors guard Jordan Hinrichs and post Mallory Shanahan are starting again this year.

Senior guard Kari Darnell and junior post Taylor Kavan return from last year as the top two subs. Kavan will fill in the only open starting spot.

Senior transfer Kelsey Loos, from Yutan, will see a lot of varsity playing time to help Shanahan and Kavan at the post positions.

Coach Linda Walker is now on her eleventh year as head coach for



Senior Amber Henkel tries to add to the score at the foul line against Bennington.



Senior Kari Darnell shoots for two early in the season.

the Lady Warriors. Walker feels that this is going to be a strong year for the girls' basketball team.

"We have a lot of experience back," said Walker.

Walker is expecting a lot out of this team and expects them to win most of their games.

The strong points for the team this season is quickness, their ability to press well, transitioning, and of course the returning experience. Hinrichs and Henkel are the top leaders for this season. They do a good job of keeping positive energy on the court. Shanahan is expected to be a stand out player inside the paint.

"The top seven girls should develop a really strong nucleus," said Walker. "I feel that this team should go to state this year."

The girls keep a positive outlook on the season and have started out really well with a 4-3 record. For game highlights, go to www.wahooschools.org.

WHS Wrestling Warriors cash in as new season begins



Wahoo Alumni Committee Co-Chair Eric Gottschalk presents Wahoo Head Wrestling Coach Darold Foster with a check totalling \$1,500 dollars to purchase of wrestling warmups and other equipment. Left to right: Wahoo Activities Director Jason Libal, Eric Gottschalk, Darold Foster, and Wahoo Alumni Committee Co-Chair Scott Tingelhoff.

Attention Parents of Wahoo High School Students

On Wed., Jan. 23, Registered Nurse Joyce Keske will be presenting very important information regarding sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) to all 9th - 12th grade students at WHS. **Parents who DO NOT wish to have their child attend the presentation, need to send a letter stating they want their child excused from the presentation. Letters must be received by Terry Kopish or Mary Specht by Jan. 18 or it will be assumed the parent/guardian has given passive parental consent for their child to attend the presentation.**

As a service to our community, Joyce will offer a presentation to **parents only** on Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the WHS library.

For more information, please contact WHS guidance counselor Terry Kopish or school nurse Mary Specht at 443-4332.

WHS One-Act “knew it all” in kindergarten

Share Everything. Play Fair. Don't hit People. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life- learn some and think some and draw and plant and sing and dance and play and work every day some. Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder.

--Robert Fulghum, 1986

by Felicia Brazda

That all sounds simple enough. Right?

“All I Really Need to Know, I Learned in Kindergarten,” the best-selling book by Robert Fulghum, was made into a short, one-act play and was this year’s Wahoo High School drama department’s selection for one-act competition.

The WHS one-act cast competed at the One-Act Conference Competition at The Loft in Manly, Neb., on Nov. 19. Outstanding Performance Recognition was awarded to sophomore Tyler Schaben, and seniors Chris Clark, Whitley Jelinek, Kelsy Luers, and Katie Snyder and the team placed third overall.

On Nov. 27, WHS staff and students got a treat when the drama club performed the play in the WHS Little Theatre.

The play had a little bit of everything – humor, music, a good message – and was performed by an ensemble – in this case, a group of people with no specific parts with almost everyone on stage throughout the whole play.

“I was really pleased how it all came together,” said director Diane Reece. “The cast did a great job portraying the author’s message.”

“I was also excited about the set Laura Houfek created,” said Reece. “The simplicity of the set provided a colorful backdrop for the various scenes.”

The cast was looking forward to competing at Districts on Dec. 1 at Omaha Mercy High School, but due to dangerous road conditions, WHS had to pull out of the competition ending the 2007 One-Act season.

WHS musicians selected for UNO Honor Choir

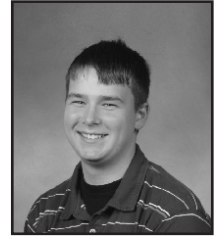
“Those who wish to sing always find a song.”--anonymous



Megan Brown



Caroline Nabity



Joe Nabity



Dani Shukis



Katie Snyder



Lindsay Knutter

by Molly Jones

On Oct. 23 some of Wahoo High School’s most talented singers sent audition tapes to the University of Nebraska at Omaha for the chance to participate in the UNO Honor Choir. Students were required to submit the recordings to judges who evaluate the performances of each student singing a solo and practice scales.

Joe Nabity and Katie Snyder will be joining the UNO Mixed Honors Chorus and Carrie Nabity, Lindsay Knutter, Dani Shukis, and Megan Brown will be joining the UNO Women’s Chorus on Jan. 18 and 19 for the festival with a performance on Jan. 19 at 4 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the Willis A. and Janet S. Strauss Performing Arts Center.

“I am excited to be able to participate in an honor choir such as this one,” said sophomore Carrie Nabity.

“These talented individuals will have the opportunity to work with world class directors,” said WHS choral director Audra Barrick.

These students will be working with directors Dr. Gregory Gentry from Arizona State University and Dr. Matthew C. Harden from the University of Nebraska in Omaha.

Dr. Gentry is the chorus master for The Phoenix Symphony. He also teaches graduate and undergraduate conducting and literature at the Arizona State University’s Katherine K. Herberger College of the Arts. He will be directing the Mixed Honors Chorus.

Dr. Harden is an assistant professor of Concert Choir at UNO. He teaches conducting, choral literature and studio voice there as well. He will be directing the Women’s Honor Chorus.

“This is a chance for highly talented high school students to work together and sing wonderfully challenging music,” said Barrick.

For more information regarding the UNO Honor Choir Festival Concert, go to <http://music.unomaha.edu/events>.



2007 One-Act Cast



Senior Laura Houfek is grossed out as she “cleans dishes” and senior Kelsy Luers looks on in disgust.



Dress rehearsal seems to be going well for Tyler Schaben, Megan Brown, Kelsy Luers and Skye Sabatka.

WHS festive music gets folks ready for holidays

--continued from page 1

Swing Choir, under the magical direction of Kristin Laughlin, entertained the audience with best-loved contemporary tunes “Baby, It’s Cold Outside,” “Christmas Time is Here,” and “A Christmas Portrait.”

If folks weren’t in the holiday spirit yet, there was more. The Wahoo High School Jazz Band wrapped listeners in the warmth of still three more carols. “Still, Still, Still,” Win-

ter Wonderland,” and “Up on the Housetop” sent men, women and children into the snowy chill of the night with warm smiles on their faces and holiday magic in their hearts.

“The concert went very well thanks to all of the students,” said Snyder. “The concert had something for everyone. So if you like soft and quiet or loud and fun, everyone had something they could enjoy.”

DRAM SHOP AND SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY LAWS

DRAM SHOP LAWS:

Dram shop laws impose civil liability on those individuals, licensed establishments or alcoholic beverage retailers who sell alcohol to minors or obviously intoxicated adults when the minor or adult is subsequently involved in an alcohol related crash resulting in death or injury to third-parties.

- Currently, 42 states and the District of Columbia have some form of dram shop laws including Colorado, Iowa, Missouri and Wyoming.
- These laws provide an incentive for owners of alcohol establishments to train their employees in responsible beverage service, to check IDs and to eliminate “happy hour” and other reduced drink promotions which encourage excess alcohol consumption.
- Dram shop laws are a potentially powerful tool for changing the environment in which alcohol is sold by focusing on alcohol accessibility, pricing, promotion and other factors that influence individual attitudes, behaviors and probabilities of deleterious consequences.
- Dram shop liability laws which allow individuals to sue bars for the drunken behavior of their patrons are strongly associated with lower minor and adult fatality rates (Whetten-Goldstein et al. 2000).

WHY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE RETAILERS SHOULD BE POTENTIALLY LIABLE FOR INJURY OR DEATH TO THIRD-PARTIES:

- Vendors of alcoholic beverages profit from the sale of these beverages.
- Vendors of alcoholic beverages have control over pricing and promotion which have a direct bearing on alcohol consumption.
- Vendors are in the best position to observe those who are consuming alcohol and control the amount they are consuming.
- It is a violation of the law to sell alcohol to a minor or an obviously intoxicated adult.

ARE DRAM SHOP LIABILITY LAWS EFFECTIVE AND DO THEY REDUCE ALCOHOL-RELATED CRASHES?

- Research suggest that dram shop liability laws can significantly reduce single vehicle nighttime crash deaths, alcohol-related traffic crash deaths and total traffic crash deaths among minors (Chaloupka et al., 1993; Sloan et al., 1994, 2000.).
- In 2001, researches found a 5.8 percent decrease in fatal crashes from dram shop liability and other studies have shown a similar deterrent effect from dram shop liability by 3 to 5 percent.
- States with a high level of dram shop liability have more publicity about the impact and more servers and managers in licensed establishments are aware of potential liability.

SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY LAWS:

Social host liability laws are an extension of dram shop that imposes potential civil liability on individuals in a non-commercial setting i.e. social hosts who provide alcohol to minors or obviously intoxicated adults when the minor or adult is involved in an alcohol-related crash resulting in death or injury to a third-party.

- A common source of alcohol for youth is the youth’s own home or adults providing the alcohol.
- Social host liability laws can deter parents or other adults from facilitating underage drinking parties or purchasing or providing alcohol for underage youth.
- In a telephone survey of 7,021 U.S. residents, results showed that age of drinker (young) was a factor most strongly associated with harsher judgments of civil liability (Wagenaar et al. 2001).
- Although community norms concerning adult accountability and responsibility toward underage youth accessing alcohol are increasingly observable, there is little research on the effectiveness of social host liability laws.
- Currently 32 states have some form of social host liability either through statute or case law, including Colorado, Iowa, and Wyoming.

Champ earns a place in Britton's students classroom and in their hearts *by Jenifer Proctor*

Snap! Crackle! Pop! And so it began. Students in Michelle Britton's kindergarten class at Wahoo Elementary School learned about the life-cycle of a chicken.

To help students learn about the lifecycle of a chicken, they took a hands-on approach and cared for 25 fertilized eggs during a 21-day incubation period.

Each day a student had a special job that helped the baby chicks develop. They made a big chart to keep track of the number of days and the stages of development. Students also looked in books and followed along on posters to help them see what it actually looks like inside the egg.

"Children love to learn," said Britton. "Children learn best when they are able to fully experience what is being taught. What better way to learn about the lifecycle of a chicken than to actually bring the eggs into the classroom and experience it firsthand!"

Every day a different student got to turn the eggs in the incubator, just like a mother hen would do.



Students are excited to have Champ, the sole surviving chick after a one-month, hands on unit of study in Michelle Britton's kindergarten class.

Learning Spanish as a second language

by Taylor Kavan

¿Habla usted Español? Sí? No?

Many Wahoo Elementary School students have been learning Spanish with the help of WHS Spanish teacher Susan Dinsmore-Talbott's Spanish 3 and 4 classes.

On Nov. 13 high school Spanish students took their skills to the elementary school to spend time with the younger students.

"This is a great opportunity for both the elementary and the high school students," said Dinsmore-Talbott.

Unfortunately, only one out of 25 eggs hatched successfully. Many of the chicks were unable to break through the shell or inner lining. This led to a discussion in the classroom on how hard it is for a baby chick to hatch even when they are fully developed.

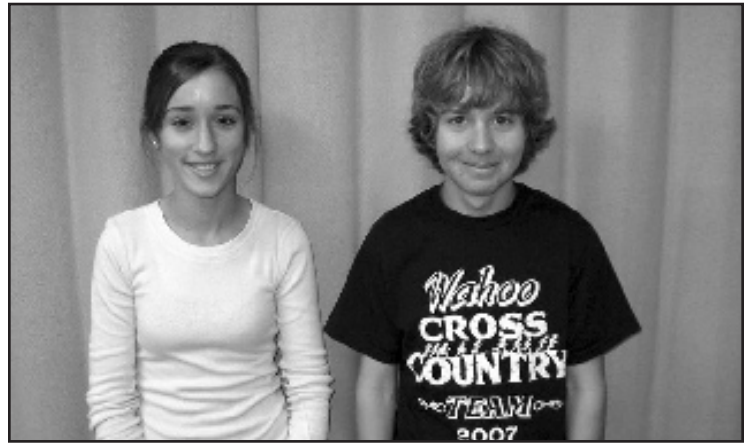
Although Britton's students were sad that only one chick hatched, they were thrilled that one little guy made it and named the baby chick "Champ."

Since only Champ hatched, Britton brought in several more newly hatched chicks so that the kids could observe the next level of development.

Students took on the daily responsibility of feeding and caring for the chicks. The children were very happy to have the chicks in the classroom and really enjoyed taking care of all of them. It helped them learn to be more responsible and take on tougher tasks.

This is truly a hands-on learning experience that the children will always remember.

Thomsen and Hoppe set to take action in Lincoln



Alison Thomsen and Ian Hoppe are ready to spring into action for the Attorney General's Youth Advisory Council.

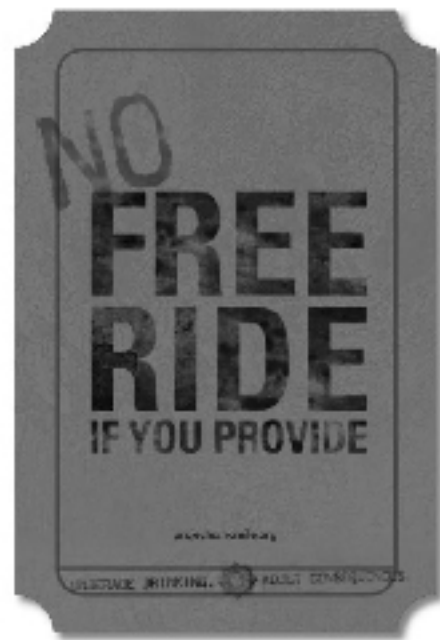
Attorney General Jon Bruning has announced that Wahoo High School students Alison Thomsen and Ian Hoppe are among 125 high school juniors and seniors selected from across Nebraska to serve on the Attorney General's Youth Advisory Council (AGYAC).

The council is designed to involve Nebraska's youth in the processes of government and law. It also provides a forum for members

to express their views by facilitating an open dialogue with the Attorney General.

AGYAC will participate in a series of events at the State Capitol in Lincoln this spring including meetings with members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches. They will also tour the Nebraska State Penitentiary.

For more information, please visit the AGYAC web site.



Adults who host an underage drinking party, or provide or sell alcohol to a minor, can be held civilly liable if the intoxicated minor injures or kills someone. That's right. You could lose your shirt, your house, your business. There really is no free ride if you provide.

Under Nebraska criminal law, you can spend up to a year in jail, receive a \$4,000 fine or both if you provide alcohol to a minor. Recent sentences ranged from two months to a year in jail. Sometimes there is a free ride . . . to jail.

Underage drinking. Adult consequences.