



WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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March 2008

Wahoo Public Schools

Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

www.wahooschools.org

Bond Issue Election Scheduled for Tuesday, March 11

by Felicia Brazda

District patrons will go to the polls on Tuesday, March 11 to vote on a \$6.6 million bond referendum.

Approximately 45 percent of the bond will fund a 750-seat performing arts center, the first in Saunders County, and classrooms dedicated to instrumental and vocal music. The existing band and vocal classrooms would then be remodeled into regular classrooms for other high school courses, allowing the district to accommodate its continued growth in enrollment. The two high school science rooms would also be remodeled to meet modern safety standards.

In addition to the fine arts improvements, the Little Theatre would be remodeled into a physical fitness area.

The weight room would then be turned into a wrestling center. If the bond issue doesn't pass, the district would be forced to spend \$150,000-\$250,000 for an elevator to make the existing weight room handicapped accessible.

The track, which is used by both Wahoo area schools and the community, would be resurfaced to the tune of around \$200,000.

To improve building safety, there are plans to install a sprinkler system in the middle school and high school, and remodel the front office area of the high school so that staff will be able to directly monitor who enters the building.

Two new elementary classrooms will also be built completing the elementary master building plan.



Conceptual sketch of the building with the proposed addition. View from the north-east.

"The school Bond election provides a number of real solutions, to real problems, at a very real value," said steering committee member Bill Reece. "But, it goes much further. It speaks to our District's identity."

"It will send a message that Wahoo continues to be progressive and decisive, providing innovative educational experiences for its students," added Reece.

For more photos see page 4.

Warriors take it to the buzzer in win against the Tigers in sub-districts

by Sami Timm

Swoosh! The Wahoo Warriors boys basketball season came to an end when Wahoo lost to Neumann at the sub-district finals at Seward on Feb. 21 with a score of 66-76.

The Warriors came out to an early lead against Neumann and led 12-5, but Neumann came back to take a 15-14 lead after one period.

During the fourth quarter, Wahoo made one last run. With scores from Layne Moore, followed by two free throws by Taylor Murren, the Warriors closed the Cavaliers' gap, cutting their lead to four points. A series of Cavalier free throws closed the Warriors out by ten points.

One of the most exciting games of the season came when Wahoo played David City on Feb. 19 in District action in Seward.

Wahoo won the game when Murren sunk a 35-foot shot at the buzzer that allowed Wahoo to escape

with the one-point win over David City, 62-61.

"It was a tremendous high school basketball game that we were very fortunate to win," said Head Coach Kevin Scheef.

The Warriors came out with a win on Feb. 18 in the first sub-district game against North Bend, 63-53.

"It was a tough win. Neither team was able to pull away through 3 quarters," said Scheef.

The whole game was very close. The Tigers led 31-29 at half time. By the start of the fourth quarter, North Bend had a two-point lead over the Warriors. The entire game saw a lead of no greater than six points until the final two minutes, when a cascade of free throws sealed the Warrior victory.

Sub-district play for the Warriors was exciting, but as temperatures warm, athletes are ready to move outdoors.



Taylor Murren puts up a jumper in the game against David City on Feb. 19. The Warriors upset the Tigers 62-61 in the last quarter. Murren was named first team All Conference. Grant Anderson and Austin Watton earned All Conference Honorable Mention.

Some people lift weights. Cheerleaders and dancers lift spirits.

Gotta Dance!

by Cassie Nicholls

When this group of girls has the chance to “sit it out or dance,” you can bet they’re gonna dance!

The 2007-08 WHS dance team is a fairly large group of girls that includes seniors Katie Snyder and Haley Clayton, juniors Benishia Siemer, Hilary Plybon, Sami Timm, Taylor Flessner, and Brittany Swartz, sophomore Annie Divis, and freshmen Erin Walker, Kylie Krecklow, and Jessica Barry. These girls have performed during half times at many football and basketball games this year to entertain the crowds with their fun and funky moves on the dance floor.

Of the three types of dances performed, most of the girls are into hip-hop, which evolved from the old school “funk” hip-hop dances (remember break dancing?) of the 70s and 80s. Now, hip-hop music and dance is a little different. Dancers perform more upright moves rather than the floor moves of break dance.

The dancers also learn Pom dances that are performed with pompons. Using the poms draws attention to the precise and tight arm motions characteristic to the style. Pom dances also incorporate technical dance skills like jumps, turns and leaps.

Jazz dance integrates techniques similar to ballet and requires the strength to perform jumps and turns gracefully.

This year co-captains Siemer and Snyder chose the music and choreographed most of the dances, but some dances came from the National Dance Alliance camp they attended at Wesleyan University in June 2007. Each year the dancers try to attend a camp to improve technique, learn new dances and do some good old-fashioned girl bonding. By the end of the week, the team had won a spirit award for their enthusiasm and commitment to dance and received a spirit stick.

The team also competed at the first annual “Peace, Love and Dance” contest at Arlington High School on Jan. 27. Although they didn’t place



The dance team performs during basketball game half times.

in any team dance categories, Snyder and Timm were finalists in the individual categories—turns, leaps, and toe touch—with Snyder taking first place in leaps.

So what does it take to be a dancer? Students need to love to dance, commit to the long hours of practice, be comfortable performing in front of large audiences, know how to present themselves on stage,

and know how to use facial expressions to engage audiences.

Although this season has come to an end, tryouts are just around the corner for the 2008-09 dance team. Tryout information will be available at the middle school and high school offices with tryout practices tentatively scheduled to begin on Monday, March 8. Dance tryouts are scheduled for Sunday, March 16.

Need cheering up? These girls might be able to help.

by Katie Sloup

Cheerleaders are the ultimate fans.

While some believe cheerleading is not a sport, it is certain that for these 15 girls, cheerleading is a way of life!

Once tryouts are over and the cheerleading squad is named, intense preparations ensue. The squad orders uniforms, begins conditioning and training, and makes plans for summer camps and practices.

With the start of school, comes the start of fall sports and all 15 girls are ready to take to the sidelines to cheer on the football team.

During the winter sports, the girls split up to cheer for girls’ basketball, boys’ basketball and wrestling.

Seniors Haley Clayton, Elizabeth Harders, Whitley Jelinek, Bonnie Sutton with juniors Cassie Buckmaster, Rachael Shada, Janelle Jansa, and sophomores Shanly Stefes, Hailey Zetocka, Kirstin Nervig, Caitlin Watts, Stephanie Brown, Hillary Fick, Megan Brown and Ally Clark made up the 2007-2008 cheerleading squad.

“Cheerleading has been so much fun for me in all three years that I’ve been in it,” said Harders. “I’m really going to miss it!”

The cheerleaders are coached by Wahoo Elementary School teacher Kristin Laughlin and elementary aide Alyssa Knuth.

Cheer tryouts for the 2008-2009 squad are scheduled for Thursday, March 27.



Wahoo cheerleaders Hailey Zetocka, Kirstin Nervig, Megan Brown, and Haley Clayton have fun while cheering for a boys basketball game.



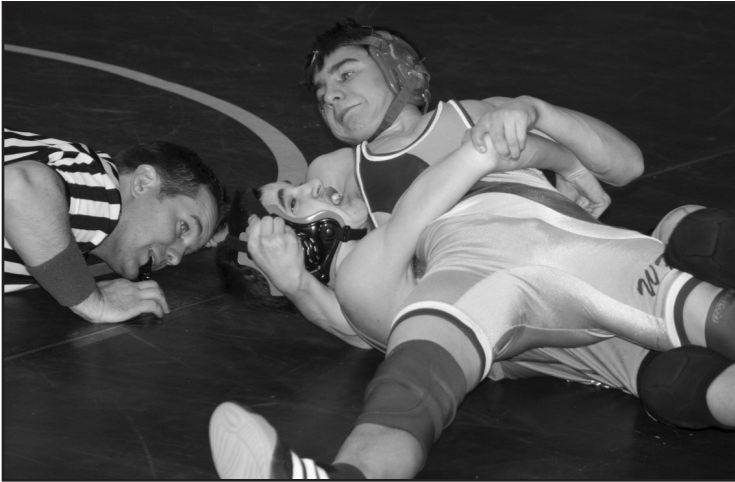
From left: Caitlin Watts, Ally Clark, Janelle Jansa, Bonnie Sutton, and Hillary Fick pump up the wrestlers.

Junior & Senior Parents!

Post Prom Meeting
March 10
7 p.m.

High School
Commons Area

Young wrestlers stick it out for the season to root Kern on at State



Cedar Bluffs sophomore Kyle Kern pins his opponent during a regular season match.

by Hilary Plybon

It's time to roll up the mats for the 2007-2008 wrestling season.

Although the year may not have gone exactly the way they wanted, the team did pull through with some bright spots.

One the down side, senior Clint Spangler fought his way through two concussions and had to quit mid-season.

Sophomore Matt Hornung was a strong contender, too, until he had to stop wrestling when he found out he fractured his ribs.

In addition to injuries, several weight classes were left unfilled this

season, which hurt the team's scoring each match when they had to record forfeits.

On the up side, Kyle Kern from Cedar Bluffs made his way to State at the Qwest Centre in Omaha. In the double elimination tournament, Kern went 1-2. He lost his first match of the tournament, but bounced back the next day when he won his first contest. Unfortunately, Kern lost his third match, which eliminated him from the tournament.

The team this year was young, but gained a lot of experience and is already looking forward to next year.

Beginning dancers make the most out of life while performing on the hardboards



Katie Snyder leads 75 youngsters in dance during the boys' basketball game against Schuyler on Feb. 15.

by Shelby Partridge

Wahoo Elementary School students danced their way into the hearts of many at the Wahoo High School boys' basketball game against Schuyler on Feb. 15.

The Wahoo dance team and cheer squad coached 75 young girls for four days preparing them for the big performance. The girls danced and cheered to Hannah Montana's hit song "Life's What You Make It."

"Every year the dance team coaches elementary girls and does a half-time performance at a basketball game," said WHS dancer Benishia Siemer. "This year was a good performance, and I hope the girls learned a lot."

The cost for the event is \$25 and covers the cost of the girls' performance t-shirts.

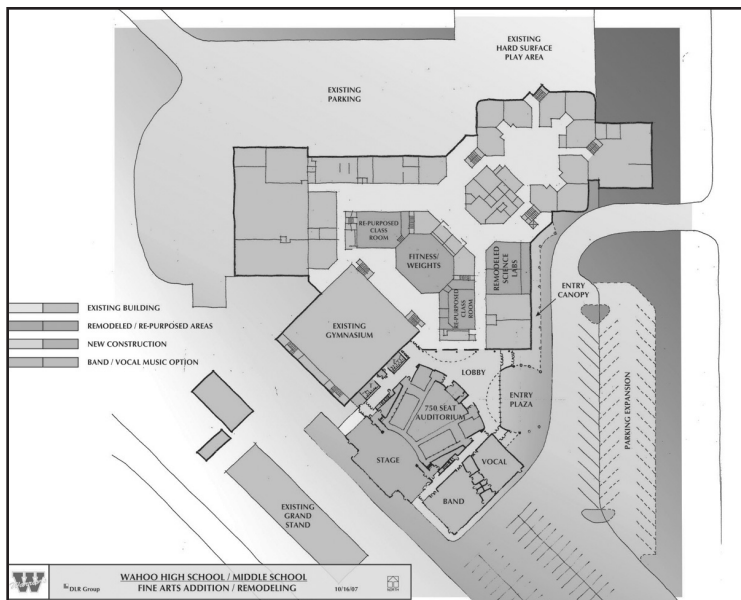


Hannah Montana's song "Life's What You Make It" was a big hit with the elementary dancers.

This newsletter is created and published by the journalism class of Wahoo High School. Any comments or suggestions should be directed to Mrs. Carol Mertl at (402)443-4332 or email <cmertl@esu2.org>.

Wahoo Public Schools is seeking substitute aides and part-time bus drivers. If you love working with students or are interested in driving a bus on a part-time basis, please call or stop by the superintendent's office located at 2201 N. Locust to pick up an application. (402) 443-3051

The proposed improvements to the high school help bring the building into the twenty-first century.



"I'm thinking now that maybe this is my/our chance to give back to this community that has so richly blessed my family for five generations."--Christine Tyler

Left: Floorplan of the proposed changes to the high school. Below: View from the northeast.



Wahoo High School hosts nine schools for 2008 Conference Speech Meet

by Molly Jones

On Feb. 16 Wahoo High School hosted for the first time the Nebraska Capital Conference Speech Meet.

About 150 students from Arlington, Ashland-Greenwood, Bennington, Conestoga, DC West, Fort Calhoun, Raymond Central, Syracuse and Wahoo converged on the high school to compete in events including duet acting, poetry, oral interpretation of drama (OID), informative speaking, entertainment speaking, humorous prose, serious prose and persuasive speaking.

Wahoo Speech members pre-

pared for weeks for this meet. The theme, "Speechers' Paradise," took on a tropical look. Laura Houfek spent a week making each school their own sign and conference contestants were greeted with the giant "Welcome" poster made by WHS sophomore Jessie Hedges.

While some Wahoo students ran off copies of ballots and signs to hang on doors, senior Kelsy Luers assembled baggies for each school filled with candy and toys.

As contestants waited to compete, they spent time practicing and playing games.

One popular game was sculpture building. Each school was given a plastic bag filled with items such as cotton balls, a Styrofoam cup, shiny foil paper, a ribbon and tape. Each school was required to use some or all of the items given to them to build a unique and creative sculpture. Syracuse and Fort Calhoun tied for first place in this contest.

When the teams got down to business, Wahoo came up with three finalists: seniors Laura Houfek and Kelsy Luers for their performance of the duet "The Tooth Hurts"; Luers for her interpretation of poems on re-

ligion in schools; and seniors Laura Houfek, Whitley Jelinek, and sophomores Joseph Nabity, Tyler Schaben and Megan Brown for their oral interpretation of drama performance of "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten". Luers was awarded fourth place in poetry and both she and Houfek received second place in duet acting.

In the end, Raymond Central took home the NCC title.

On March 4, the Wahoo Speech Team will travel to districts at Omaha Skutt.



Speech team members from nine different schools met at Wahoo on Feb. 16 for the annual Conference Speech Meet.

WHS senior prepares for State Conference

by Benishia Siemer

On Feb. 11 and 12 WHS FCCLA member Joe Dobesh helped prepare for the 2008 FCCLA State Leadership Conference.

The conference will be held in April at the Pershing Auditorium in Lincoln.

Joe Dobesh is one of eleven FCCLA state officers organizing the conference.

"This conference should be a great success," said Joe Dobesh. "We are looking forward to the speakers, a big turn out, and some pretty fun activities."



WHS FCCLA President Joe Dobesh.