



WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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Wahoo Public Schools

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Lincoln, Here We Come! *Boys basketball team makes the state playoffs for the first time in seven years.* by Cassie Havelka



Above: The WHS Boys Basketball Team earn the 2007 District Championship with a season record of 22-1.

Another one bites the dust!

The Wahoo Warriors entered sub-districts with a record of 19-1 when they took on the Raymond Central Mustangs on Feb. 20. Wahoo went into half-time leading with a score of 28-17. The Warriors led the rest of the game, and won 56-43.

Wahoo moved on to play Neumann in sub-district finals Feb. 22. The Warriors never trailed during the game and ended up winning 54-

39, moving them into district finals to play Boys Town Monday night at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont.

"If you had told me before the game that our two leading scorers, Greg Sohl and Ben Shanahan, would combine for just 11 points, I would have thought we were in a lot of trouble," said Head Coach Kevin Scheef.

"Justin Barry had a great game

for us, as did Taylor Murren and Jake Wiebold. Tyler Pacas has played two great games for us at Districts. Neumann was really trying to take away Greg, and they did that, but we had other kids really step up and do a great job for us," said Coach Scheef after the Neumann game.

Wahoo took on Boys Town Monday night at Midland. It was yet another exciting game for the Warriors. The game was close throughout the night, with the Cowboys ahead by three at the half.

The last four seconds were extreme with the Warriors leading by one. The Cowboys had the ball when the buzzer went off at the end of fourth quarter, but in the end it was Wahoo over Boys Town, 58-57.

WPS would like to send the boys off to state with a pep rally scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, at 2 p.m. at the WHS gymnasium. The public is invited to attend.

The Warriors will be playing at the state tournament on Thursday, March 8 at 7 p.m. against the Ashland Bluejays at Pershing Auditorium in Lincoln.



Senior Justin Barry goes up for two. Barry was lead scorer with a total of eighteen points for the game against Boys Town.

Red Dawgs Strut Their Stuff During WPS Exhibition Basketball Games by Kari Darnell

The Nebraska Red Dawgs wheeled into Wahoo on Friday, Feb. 2, to play exhibition games at the elementary, middle and high schools throughout the day and into the evening.

The Red Dawgs started their morning with an exhibition game against faculty and staff at the elementary school where third, fourth and fifth graders got to watch the exciting game.

"It felt good to show everyone in Wahoo what wheelchair basketball is all about and I like being able

to show my teammates my school and where I live," said Wahoo fifth grader KJ Russ, who has been a Red Dawg for four years.

Fourth grade teacher and high school basketball coach Mr. Wes Kramer said that the most challenging thing about playing was "NOT falling backward in my chair—it didn't have a fifth wheel!"

Mr. Kramer added that he was impressed with the Red Dawgs' "interaction and camaraderie" and the "friendship among teammates."

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Above: The Red Dawgs with Coaches Dave Ruback and Mike Kult line up prior to the start of the game at the elementary school.



Right: WES fifth grader KJ Russ shows off some of his moves while he and his friends warm up for the game.

Wrestlers Meet and Exceed 2007 Goals

New Head Coach Foster looks forward to next year.
by Cassie Havelka

One hundred thirteen pins later WHS junior Klint Spangler, Cedar Bluffs senior Neil Bowman and junior Nate Buchanan all qualified to represent Wahoo/Cedar Bluffs at the state wrestling tournament at the Quest Center in Omaha on Feb. 15-17.

Bowman earned the State Runner-Up title losing to first place winner Andrew Totusok from Omaha Gross in the 285 pound weight class.

Bowman also earned two team awards for 2007: "Most Falls" and "Outstanding Wrestler." WHS senior John Myers was voted "Most Valuable Wrestler" and Cedar Bluffs senior John Kern earned the "Academic Excellence" award.

The team's main goals this year were to improve on last year's results and to improve from week to week.

"The guys did an excellent job all year," said Head Coach Darold Foster. "They accomplished both goals."

The team exceeded this season's goal of earning 80 pins by ending the year with an impressive 113.

Coach Foster predicts Spangler, Buchanan, and WHS freshman Matt Hornung will be key wrestlers on next year's team and he is already setting higher goals for next year.

One goal will be "to qualify more wrestlers for the state meet," said Coach Foster.

National Signing Day Brings Letters of Intent to Two WHS Students

by Victoria Jonas



Above: WHS Head Coach Chad Fox along with proud parents Russ and Carrie Barry look on as Justin signs his letter of intent with UNK.

Feb. 7 marked National Signing Day the first day high school seniors are allowed to sign binding National Letters of Intent with colleges. Often scholarships are involved in this process.

When the day arrived, this year two WHS students signed with their chosen schools.

Justin Barry signed to play football at the University of Nebraska at Kearney on Feb. 7 and has been offered a scholarship.

"I'm pretty excited about playing football there," said Barry after signing with UNK.

The coaching staff, players and the fact that his brother goes to UNK all played a role in the decision-making process.

Two days later Erica Miller signed with Dana College in Blair after receiving a scholarship to play softball.

"I am super excited and looking forward to being a part of their softball team, as well as just being able to gain new experiences," Miller said.

Miller plans to major in accounting, which also aided in her decision to attend Dana.



Above: Dana Head softball Coach Marcy Roff, Coach Christian, and Rob and Mary Miller watch while Erica signs her letter of intent with Dana.

Magazine Money Makers Earn a Spot in the Hummer

by Kari Darnell



From left: juniors Madelyn Tvrdy, Sam Polivka, Kali Pfeiffer, Bonnie Sutton, Amber Henkel, Brian Koranda, and Kyle Kastanek.

Pizza and limos and mags! Oh my! Every year the junior class sells magazine subscriptions to help raise money for the spring prom and top sellers are treated to a limo ride to Pizza Hut for lunch.

On Jan. 10, seven juniors took a ride in a limo to Pizza Hut for lunch to be rewarded for their seller efforts. Juniors Sam Polivka, Amber Henkel, Kali Pfeiffer, Madelyn Tvrdy, Brian

Koranda, Bonnie Sutton, and Kyle Kastanek all sold 12 or more magazine subscriptions to qualify for the ride.

Bonnie Sutton won an mp3 player for selling 32 magazine subscriptions, the most this year. All magazine proceeds went to the 2007 Prom Committee to help pay for prom decorations, picture frames, and a DJ.

Lady Warriors' Season Ends at Sub-Districts

by Tricia Shanahan



2007 Lady Warriors

The Wahoo Lady Warriors ended there with a season 16-7 record.

"We had a great season," said Head Coach Linda Walker.

"The girls played with heart and it resulted in this season's success, which began with the holiday

championship win over Bishop Neumann," Coach Walker explained.

Other season highlights include finishing runner up in the conference regular season, and beating cross-town rival Bishop Neumann three times ending the season strong.

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Can You Spell.....

by Christine Holm



Fourth grader Lindsey Hartshorn placed second in the third and fourth grade division.

“Asphyxiation?” Hmm. Can you use it in a sentence?

On Feb. 16 while many students were enjoying their day off from school, 160 students from around the county gathered at Wahoo Elementary School for the Saunders County Spelling Bee.

Ten local area schools participated. Students came from Ashland, Bishop Neumann/St. Wenceslaus, Cedar Bluffs, Mead, Platteville, Prague, Raymond Central, St. John’s, Wahoo, and Yutan to compete in the Spelling Bee.

Three divisions were represented: third and fourth graders, fifth and sixth graders, and seventh and eighth graders. Trophies were given to the top three spellers in each division.

Wahoo Elementary fourth grader Lindsey Hartshorn placed second in her division.

Wahoo students who participated in the Spelling Bee were third and fourth graders Lindsey Hartshorn, Jake Scheef, Tyler Ruzicka, Avery Freeman, Elise McIllaney, Tyler Cuda; fifth and sixth graders Parker Nicholls, Patrick Hancock, Darian Coffey, Evann Vrana, Janae Urban, Jocelyn Slosser; and seventh and eighth graders Aunbrea Zeleny, Emily Brodahl, Cloe Davidson, Mitch Snyder, Dylan Kellner, and Jesse Cuda.

Union Bank, First National Bank, Wahoo State Bank, Tier One Bank, SunMart, Wahoo Super, In-spro, American Family Insurance, Frontier Coop, State Farm Insurance, Virgl Implement, and Pizza Hut sponsored the event.

Wahoo faculty and staff served as the pronouncers, recorders and

Pippa White Brings Her One-Woman Show to Wahoo High School

by Katie Snyder

Actress Pippa White visited the halls of Wahoo High School on the morning of Feb. 1 to perform her one-woman show, “Voices Of Ellis Island,” a captivating story portraying the frightening, inspiring, and even amusing experience of coming to America, from several different immigrants’ point of view. She dazzled the students with her amazing ability to change from character to character.

In her twelfth year performing solo, her One’s Company! productions are described as “part theatre, part storytelling, part history.”

White has performed in 26 states including New York, California, and Alaska.

One of the many things White does is hold workshops for budding performers.

Following her performance WHS English, Drama and Speech students had the opportunity to participate in her workshop, where each student was given advice by White after performing his or her poem for “Poetry Out Loud.”

“Poetry Out Loud” is a new competition to hit Wahoo High School this year. Each student chose one poem to memorize. On Feb. 21 70 students participated in the first round of the competition, judged by Connie Dillow and Vicki Bromm.



judges for the contest.

Mead student, Olivia Johnson won first place in the seventh and eighth grade division and will go on to represent Saunders County at the Midwest Spelling Bee to be held on March 17 at the Children’s Museum in Omaha.

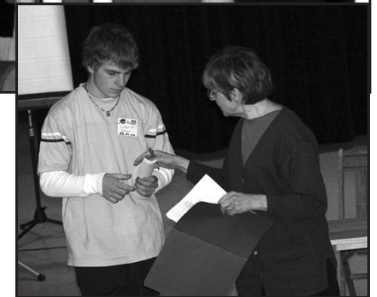
This was fifth grade teacher Mrs. Verna Rezac’s second year coordinating the event.

“All of the staff worked so willingly that the afternoon ran very smoothly,” said Mrs. Rezac.



Above: Pippa White performs “Voices of Ellis Island” for WHS students during assembly on Feb. 1.

Right: White gives junior Hunter Richmond a few pointers to improve his performance.



The nine finalists qualifying for the school finals include Alison Thomsen, Lindsay Knuter, Patty Thares, Kayla Coffey, Silas Miller, Layne Moore, Tyler Hedges, Alex Callan, and Benishia Siemer.

The Wahoo High School champion will advance to the state competition on March 10 at the Sheldon Art Gallery in Lincoln.

The National Finals will be held

on May 1, in Washington, D.C.

“I think Pippa was very interesting to listen to and she had some great pointers on becoming a good poet,” says sophomore Benishia Siemer.

With an inspiration like Pippa White, Wahoo students are sure to excel in this year’s “Poetry Out Loud” competition.

Attention!

Parents of Juniors and Seniors
are invited to attend a
Post Prom meeting on
March 12 in the WHS Commons
at 7 p.m.

Red Dawgs Visit Wahoo Public Schools

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The Red Dawgs then headed up to the middle school where they played against the middle school student council officers and faculty members in front of the entire student body.

Seventh grader and student council president Erin Walker was one of the few to get a chance to learn to play wheelchair basketball.

"My favorite part was probably dribbling because it was hard to do," said Walker. "It's hard to do two pushes and a dribble without traveling."

Middle school homerooms competed in a fundraising event for the Red Dawgs. Mrs. Walker's homeroom raised the most money. Her students won a pizza party and got to play wheelchair basketball with the Red Dawgs after school.

Friday evening the Red Dawgs took the court again during half-time of the WHS boys basketball game against Arlington to play WHS faculty and staff in the last game of the day.

The first-time players had the opportunity to learn the new rules in specialized wheelchairs made exclusively for wheelchair sports, which

can cost anywhere from \$1,800 to \$3,500.

The wheelchairs are lightweight and the wheels extend outward allowing them to move faster. Unfortunately for some, these chairs have no brakes.

WHS science teacher Mr. Steve Shannon said the hardest thing was "getting picked off by the other wheelchairs as the Red Dawgs stole the ball."

"Passing the ball was hard," added Mr. Shannon, "because of the contact and difficulty moving."

"Wheelchair basketball has become such a big part of our whole family's lives," said Lisa Russ, KJ Russ's mother and Wahoo Middle School language arts teacher. "It was fun to share that part of our life with our friends in Wahoo."

The Red Dawgs raised \$1,600 for their trip to Seattle, Washington, to compete in the Prep National Wheelchair Basketball Tournament where they placed third, losing only one game to the prep national champions.

"The money raised was awesome, but the best part for me, as a mom, was just seeing the smile on my son's face," added Mrs. Russ.



Above: Mr. Shannon is just one of the teachers who had the chance to take on the Red Dawgs during half-time of the Boys Basketball game.

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>.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Mark your calendars for March 5 & 6

Wahoo Public Schools parent-teacher conferences will be held Monday, March 5 and Tuesday, March 6.

Elementary school parents and guardians may meet with teachers from 4:30 – 8 p.m.

Middle School faculty will be available from 5 – 8:30 p.m.

High School conferences will be held from 5:30 – 9 p.m. Teachers will be available in their classrooms on a first come, first serve basis.

Hello all,

Conferences are an important time for staff and parents to interact in a formal setting.

Your student's progress at school depends on all the stakeholders—students, parents/guardians, and school staff—working together to insure that each student is having their educational needs met. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite each parent or guardian and their student to join us on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Feel free to contact the school at any time to discuss your student, but please take the time to use this scheduled time to meet with all staff that works with your student on a daily basis.

Chris Arent
Principal
Wahoo High School

Girls Basketball Season Wrap Up

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Some of the toughest opponents faced were ranked teams such as Fort Calhoun, North Bend Central Catholic, Gretna, and Neumann. Three of these teams were in our sub- and final district games.

The Wahoo girls played Raymond Central and Bishop Neumann strong in sub-district games and lead the way at the half against undefeated North Bend Central Catholic.

Unfortunately, a tough third quarter soured any chance to cap sub-districts and advance to meet undefeated Fort Calhoun.

"Our season ended 16-7 and we accomplished great things," said Coach Walker. "It was nice to have a team that played hard and finish the season stronger than what we started."

Coach Walker is looking forward to a bright future with the team.

