



WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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Wahoo Public Schools

Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

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It's a "A Black and White Affair"
WHS 2007 Junior/Senior Prom has students stepping out in style. by Katie Snyder



2007 Prom court from left: 2006 prom queen Danielle Ludi, 2007 candidates Annelisa Chvatal, Heather Marks, Danielle Kellner, Cassie Havelka, Brittney Zetocka, Beth Tyler, Chris Roberts, Laramie Lindgren, Greg Sohl, Jake Wiebold, Tyler Pacas, Ben Shanahan, and 2006 prom king Dan Dunbar. Crown bearers: Maddie Pfeiffer and Jack Sutton.

Shoes – \$60. Tux – \$100. Dress – \$250. Memories of "A Black and White Affair" – Priceless.

After a lot of time spent planning, shopping, and decorating, students finally walked the red carpet and through the doors of the Wahoo Elementary School gym on Saturday, April 21, to dance the night away.

"It was a blast hanging out with friends and decorating for prom," said junior Haley Clayton. "It was a lot of hard work, but it paid off in the end."

The gym was elegantly decorated in black and white with red rose petals scattered along the floor and on the tables.

"Prom knocked my socks off!" said senior Sarah Gottschalk. "It was decorated beautifully and the juniors did a magnificent job."

Prom candidates included seniors Anna Chvatal, Cassie Havelka, Danielle Kellner, Heather Marks,

Beth Tyler, Brittney Zetocka, Greg Sohl, Chris Roberts, Ben Shanahan, Tyler Pacas, Laramie Lindgren, and Jake Wiebold. Beth Tyler and Chris Roberts were crowned this year's prom queen and king.

When the last dance came to an end, students boarded the buses to Papio Fun Park for Post Prom festivities. For the second year, they enjoyed the go-carts, laser tag, miniature golf, and much more. Students partied the night away playing games, eating good food, and winning great prizes.

Prizes this year included a futon, a stereo, a luggage set, an iPod and two refrigerators.

"Post Prom quite possibly was the highlight of the evening," said senior Jesse Sabatka.

Many students agree that "A Black and White Affair" was another great experience on which the 2007 seniors and other students will look back fondly.

WHS Students Get Up Close and Personal in D.C.
by Victoria Jonas

"Ten square miles surrounded by reality."

Thirty Honors American Government students were faced with the "reality" of Washington, D. C. on their nine-day trip for the annual Close Up event March 16-24.

WHS juniors arrived two and a half days before the actual Close-Up program began, which gave them an opportunity to enjoy some free time in the area.

"It really gave us some great bonding time," said junior Katie Miller.

Each day brought a different adventure in and around the city. Stu-

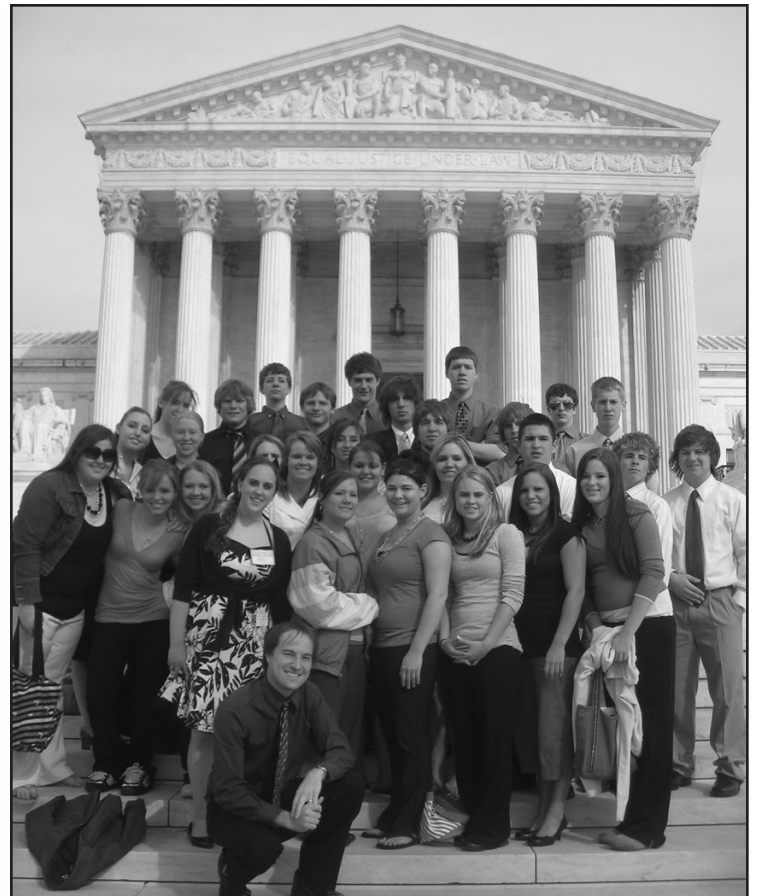
dents had the chance to visit many monuments and memorials including the Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, Holocaust Museum, U.S. Capitol Building, Smithsonian Institute and Mount Vernon.

A favorite of many was George Washington's home, Mount Vernon.

"It was fascinating to see how he must have lived," said junior Jennifer Hackman.

Wahoo students also met many different people from around the country. Holly Styskal and Sam Polivka roomed with two other Close Up students from Ohio.

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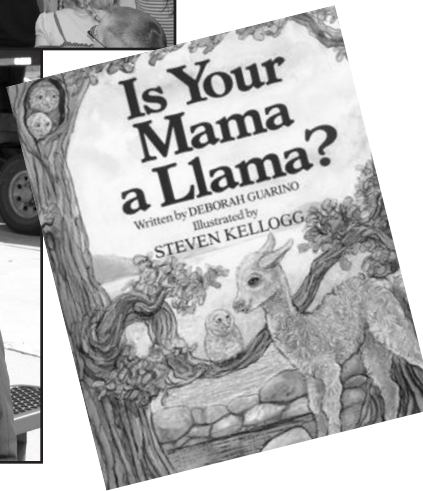


2007 Close Up

Llamas, Billy Goats and Trolls - in the Classroom!



Clockwise from left: Mark Celesky performs an oral interpretation of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff"; Zorro the llama meets Mrs. Britton's kindergarten class; "Is Your Mama a Llama?" is a very popular children's book these days; Celesky in Mrs. Britton's classroom; Celesky introduces the billy goat.



Learning the letter "u" has never been so fun!

On April 5, Mark Celesky performed a "live" reading of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" for Mrs. Britton's kindergarten class to cap off a week of studying the lucky letter "u".

The class had previously acted out the story with props focusing on "u" sounds used in describing the "ugly" troll "under" the bridge.

Just for fun, Celesky also read "Is Your Mama A Llama?" and tied the stories and learning together by bringing a baby goat and "Zorro" the

llama to school.

"Any time you provide children with an interactive experience, it makes a more meaningful impact on them," said Mrs. Britton.

Students enjoyed the experience so much that they wrote about it in their journals afterward.

Celesky made so much of an impact that some kids checked the books out from the library to read again and again, and some have made plans to visit Zorro at the Lincoln Zoo this summer with their families.

Saunders County Health Services Announces Free Athletic Physicals

Saunders County Health Services will be performing athletic physicals for elementary, junior high and high school students living in Saunders County free of charge.

Appointments for the physicals will be available on Monday afternoons from 2:00 until 6:00 p.m. at the Coleman Clinic beginning May 21 through July 2.

It is asked that all students bring

a physical form as well as a urine specimen with them so the staff is able to complete the physical.

If you would like additional information about this program or have any other questions, please call Tricia Fox (443-1403) or Earl Sheehy (443-4191).

Students who do not schedule appointments during those times will be charged the regular athletic fee.

WHS FCCLA Member Named to 2007-2008 State Officer Team



Junior Joe Dobesh is Wahoo's first ever FCCLA state officer.

Members of the Wahoo FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) Chapter attended the FCCLA State Leadership Conference April 1-3 in Lincoln.

"Jazzin' it with FCCLA" was the theme of the two-day meeting for over 1,100 family and consumer sciences students and advisors representing 124 chapters across Nebraska.

Attending from Wahoo were sophomore Cassie Buckmaster and junior Joe Dobesh.

Wahoo High School experienced a first at the conference when Dobesh, currently serving as the Regional Vice-President, earned a spot on the 2007-08 Nebraska FCCLA State Officer Team.

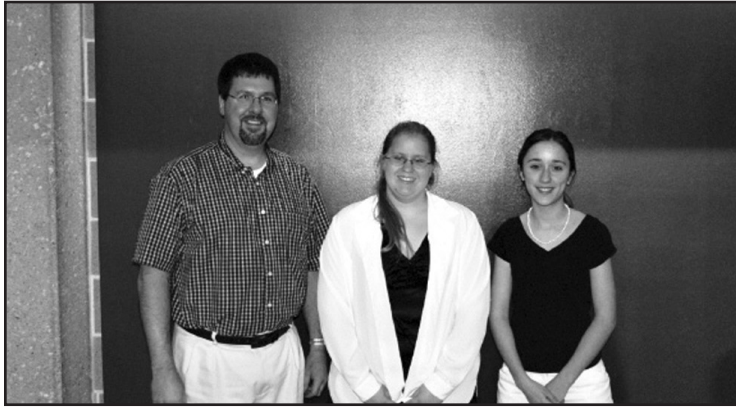
"It's an honor to be elected to serve FCCLA in this capacity," said Dobesh.

Dobesh will attend FCCLA Leadership Academy in June at Doane College in Crete, Neb. where state officers will plan for the coming year. He will also attend Nationals in Anaheim, Calif. July 8-12.

To be a state officer, each candidate must go through an interview, a test and extensive public speaking.

Dobesh also participated in STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) with an illustrated talk. This is his second time qualifying to compete at the State Leadership Conference.

Class B All-State Honor Performs at UNOmaha



Class B All-State band members Joy Nelson and Alison Thomsen take time for a quick picture with their band director, Mr. Eric Snyder, after their concert at UNO.

Wahoo High School Band senior Joy Nelson and sophomore Alison Thomsen performed with the 2007 Class B All-State Honor Band on the University of Nebraska at Omaha campus on March 17.

They were selected through a try out process in which students from all Class B schools from across the state of Nebraska participated. Thomsen was selected first chair

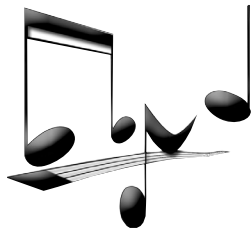
flute/piccolo and Nelson was selected first chair oboe.

"It was really cool," said Thomsen. "We got right to work and learned three really hard pieces in one day."

Thomsen and Nelson were featured in one song as a flute/oboe duet.

"I was very proud of these two girls," said Snyder. "They did an outstanding job."

"I'm excited for the future," he added. "I can see more band kids trying out for and making All-State."



2007 Close Up

"It was awesome," said Styskal. "I love meeting new people."

Every evening, students participated in workshops or debates.

"I learned a lot in the workshops that I had never known before and I found out what [political] platform I identify with," said Austin Watton.

During their one night off, students saw the play "Meet John Doe" at the famous Ford's Theatre.

"The trip to Washington, D.C. is a government teacher's dream," said American Government Teacher Ryan Mueller. "It gives students such a unique opportunity to learn about our history and our government in a personal and meaningful way. The students have worked really hard in preparing for the trip and I'm really proud of them."

District Music Contest Competes with Prom Timing *by Cassie Havelka*

"Sing. Sing a song. Make it simple to last your whole life long. Don't worry that it's not good enough for anyone else to hear. Just sing. Sing a song!"

While many students were preparing for prom, some WHS students were preparing for their performances at the District Music Contest held on April 21.

And while some WHS students sang, and sang "good enough" for others to hear, others played their hearts out.

This year 17 students performing in small groups, including soloists and duets, represented WHS at Districts. Concert Choir, B Sharps, Concert Band, and Jazz Band performed in the large ensemble categories.

Eric Curran's vocal solo performance, Alison Thomsen's flute solo, Leah Hanson's trombone solo, and Molly Calfee's snare drum solo all earned "superior" ratings this year, the highest rating awarded by the judges.

"I was surprised with my rating," said Hanson. "I was really ner-

vous and my mouth got really dry, so I didn't think I played that well."

Vocalists Carrie Nabity, Kinsey Clark, Jake Snyder, Joe Nabity, Sean Smith, Hilary Fick, Michael Covington, Joy Nelson, Amanda Lowther, and Cassie Havelka, along with instrumentalists Hillary Fick, Kayla Coffey, Joy Nelson, Janice Thares, Whitley Jelinek, and Heather Manko all earned "excellent" ratings.

"This has been an incredible year of growth and I am immensely proud of our performances," said choir director Audra Barrick. "We are looking forward to even greater growth in the future."

Concert Band, Jazz Band, and the Freshman Brass Quintet all earned "excellent" ratings.

"It's like losing the District Championship at a basketball game on a last second, half court shot, said band director Eric Snyder. "Four of our entries were only one point away from an excellent rating: Concert Band, Nelson's oboe solo, Fick and Coffey's clarinet duet, and Jelinek's trumpet solo."

Both directors agree that preparing for districts can be a challenge. The judges usually change from year to year and are unknown until the performances. Students must also perform in unfamiliar surroundings, which can be nerve-racking for some.

Barrick and Snyder are very proud of how Wahoo students represented the high school and hope they keep singing. Singing their songs.



Band Director Eric Snyder helps Jazz Band prepare for Districts. Jazz Band received an "excellent" for their performance on April 21.

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>.



Senior Molly Calfee performs her district solo in front of a local audience in preparation for the competition.

Students Commit to Nebraska and Iowa Colleges

Sports play a big part as students decide where to attend college. by Cassie Havelka



Clockwise from above: Ben Shanahan signs to play basketball for Midland Lutheran College in Fremont; Sarah Gottschalk commits to a softball scholarship with Wayne State College; Beth Tyler will be playing volleyball at Iowa Central Community College in Ft. Dodge, Iowa.

As graduation approaches, seniors are making some major decisions for the future. For some students these future plans include signing on to play college sports.

Within the past few weeks, seniors Ben Shanahan, Sarah Gottschalk, and Beth Tyler have signed on to play for colleges in Nebraska and Iowa.

Shanahan signed with Midland Lutheran College to play basketball, Gottschalk with Wayne State for softball, and Tyler with Iowa Central Community College for volleyball.

"I'm excited to continue playing volleyball," said Tyler. "It was hard deciding whether or not I wanted to continue to play, but I'm looking forward to joining the Tritons next fall."

WHS Drama Class Chooses Serious Over Comical for Spring Production

"Time marches on and sooner or later you realize it is marchin' across your face!"

Witty dialogue combined with a poignant story of friendship throughout the good and the bad times, made "Steel Magnolias" a must see theatrical experience for all on.

The play was performed at the WHS Little Theatre on April 29 and 30.

"The decision to select this particular play was a group effort," said Diane Reece, WHS Drama Instructor. "The students involved all agreed they wanted a challenge, 'maybe a drama instead of a comedy.'"

This play had it all. Because of a cast size of only six, it offers a challenge in the memorizing of lines, but more importantly in the characterization of each of the unique individuals in the play.

"It was fun doing a drama instead of a typical comedy because it was such a challenge," said junior Katie Snyder who played Shelby.

From earthy, foul-mouthed Ouiser, played by Kelsy Luers, to spunky Shelby, a diabetic, who risks her life by becoming pregnant, this

play challenges the actors to develop their individual characters as well as a southern dialect.

"It was more of a challenge because there were only six cast members, which gave us a lot more lines," said senior Brittany Schaben who played Truvy.

"It was a great last play," Schaben added. "I was pretty sad that it was my last high school play, but excited at the same time."

Even though the play takes place in a beauty salon, the dialogue and characters certainly entertained the male audience.



The "Steel Magnolias" cast and crew from left: Mrs. Diane Reece, Kayla Coffey, Molly Jones, Kelsy Luers, Laura Houfek, Katie Snyder, Lindsay Knuter, Brittany Schaben, Rexann Tilson.



Left: Rexann Tilson, who played Annelle, and Brittany Schaben in character. Above: Katie Snyder, Tilson and Schaben share a moment in the beauty salon.