



WAHOO PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

Volume 21, No. 9

May 2008

Wahoo Public Schools

Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

www.wahooschools.org

"A Night Under the Stars" sets the mood for the 2008 Junior-Senior Prom

Manicure: \$28 - Prom Tickets: \$40 - Dinner for two: \$60 - Prom Dress that you will never wear again: \$270 - "A Night Under the Stars": priceless!

"A Black and White Affair" sounds nice, but why not spend "A Night Under The Stars"?

The junior class spent hours decorating the elementary gym for the big night. Decorations were carefully purchased, put together and placed. Silver stars hung from the ceiling and

framed doorways against a dramatic black background.

Just before 7:30 p.m. on April 12, students started pulling right up to the front entrance of the elementary school where they dropped off their cars to be valet parked for the evening. Once inside, couples

by Katie Sloup

walked down the red carpet and into the gymnasium-turned-starlit-ballroom.

Coronation began at 8 p.m. with the introduction of the prom candidates, which included Jennifer Hackman, Amber Henkel, Meagan Mensik, Katie Miller, Kali Pfeiffer,

Katelynn Snyder, Grant Anderson, Logan Kellner, John Krejci, Camdyn Kavan, Jake Stewart, Austin Watton. Crown bearers were Sydney Moline and Cort Gensler.

Amber Henkel and Austin Watton were crowned 2008 Prom Queen and King. Watton is the son of Diana and Mark Watton. He plans to attend UNO or Northwest Missouri State where he will major in business. Amber Kay Henkel is the daughter of Cindy and Rod Henkel. She plans to attend UNO where she will major in psychology.

The 2008 prom was organized by the junior class with the aid of class officers Erin Curran, Benishia Siemer, and Alison Thomsen, and class sponsors Abbie Huenink and Michelle Krecklow.

"There were certainly early mornings and late nights (more than usual) as the junior class really pulled together to make Prom 2008 memorable for everyone," said Huenink. "But, it was truly reward-

--continued on page 3



2008 Prom Court (from left): 2007 Prom Queen Beth Tyler, Katie Miller, Meagan Mensik, Jen Hackman, Katie Snyder, Kali Pfeiffer, 2008 Prom Queen Amber Henkel, King Austin Watton, Jake Stewart, Grant Anderson, John Krejci, Logan Kellner, Camdyn Kavan, 2007 Prom King Chris Roberts. Crown bearers are Sydney Moline and Cort Gensler.

Middle School students show how they can lead by example

"The best example of leadership, is leadership by example." ~ Jerry McClain.

by Courtney Clifford

After two long days of testing, Wahoo Middle School students participated in a student-led field day on Apr. 16 on the high school football field from 1-2:30 p.m. Looking down onto the WPS football field from the parking lot last Wednesday, one would witness what could be described as pure chaos, but taking a closer look revealed that six organized events were happening simultaneously.

The Middle School Unity Council and the WMS Student Council organized and led the day's activities. Students split into six groups and participated in six different activities including games like tag, Simon Says, and wheelbarrow and crab walk relays.

One of the activities was a partner blindfold game where one student gave directions to another while they tried to weave in and out of cones, go under a hurdle, through a hula hoop,

--continued on page 4



Wahoo Middle School students participate in the wheelbarrow race on April 16.

Callan brings back prize for fiction

by Sami Timm

"The Snake's Eyes Never Lie. They would never see the man again." Or so the judges of the Midland Lutheran College Fiction Writing Contest were led to believe. Wahoo High School junior Alex Callan was awarded second place in the contest for his short story "Snake Eyes" and took home a \$100 prize.

Callan got the inspiration for his story because he has always been a fan of war. The story takes place in a bar in Columbus, Georgia. Three soldiers are sitting in a bar talking about the end of the Vietnam War when a man walks in and settles himself right next to the three war veterans. The man is Vietnamese; he immediately starts talking about how he fought in the war for the Viet Cong. The man explains how he was captured by the U.S. and to stay alive he had to fight for the enemy - the U.S.

Callan was very surprised and happy to find out that he won such an honored prize. Callan has already



WHS junior Alex Callan with his second-place certificate.

put the money in his college savings account.

"If you want to write a good story, don't try so hard. It will just come to you," said Callan.

"The harder you try, the farther away you get from what you actually want to write," he added.

To read "Snake Eyes," log on to the Wahoo High School web site at www.wahooschools.org.

Post Prom all fun and games with Kirby, air hockey and laser tag by Felicia Brazda

After a "night under the stars" on April 13, the Wahoo High School students were "hypnotized" at this year's post prom event at Elkhorn's Thunder Alley.

Since the early nineties, Wahoo High School students' parents have organized special post prom events that have kept kids from going out after prom and making choices that may be destructive. Plus, it's fun for everyone.

Twelve brave volunteers succumbed to a deep sleep when Dr. Kirby McGill hypnotized them. Volunteers included Chris Clark, Abbey Grandgenett, Jen Proctor, Camdyn Kavan, Taylor Kavan, Dave Stuchlik, Kyle Willis, Ashley Sloup, Katie Stuchlik, Chris Ludi, Josh Williams, and Brittany Asche. They laughed, cried and spoke in a "foreign" language at the mere suggestion of McGill.

"I never expected to get hypnotized," said senior Abbey Grandgenett. "It was weird, embarrassing and funny to hear what happened after it was all over with."

After everyone had a good laugh watching the hypnotized, they

took off to have fun with laser tag, go-carts, bowling and video games.

Of course, post prom wouldn't be post prom without awesome prizes. Students put their wristband number on the tickets they earned throughout the evening for a chance to win great prizes. Mallory Shanahan won a flat screen TV; Whitley Jelinek won an iPod; Logan Kellner won a GPS; Ambrey Semrad won an HP printer/scanner; and Hunter Richmond won a futon for his college dorm room.

"Prom was fun but post prom was awesome. I'd have to say that laser tagging was the best," said junior Shelby Partridge.



Senior Jake Stewart shows the punching bag what he's made of during post prom!

Light a fire! Spark the imagination! Read a book!

Three titles have kept the WHS reading club busy this semester. "Daniel Half Human: and the Good Nazi," "The Road of the Dead," and "Pride and Prejudice" have provided a mix of topics and genres to keep everyone in the book club interested.

by Cassie Nicholls

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body," -Joseph Addison

Wahoo High School has its athletes, musicians, and academics and now it has a group of avid readers, too!

"I'm glad we have a book club, it pushes me to read more!" said active book club member Hillary Fick.

The WHS Book Club began in January 2008 with the help of media specialist Dave Privett, drama and speech instructor Diane Reece and WHS parent Lois Fick. This new addition to our extracurricular activities at WHS meets once a month to determine the books they want to read for the following month. The books the group has read so far have been *Daniel Half Human* by David Chotjewitz, *The Road of the Dead* by

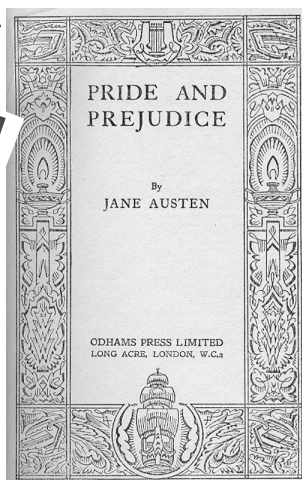
Kevin Brooks, and *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen.

During the meetings, they talk about the book they read during the previous month. They listen to each other's perspective of the book and each other's opinions of each of the characters in the book.

"It's interesting to see how differently we can all perceive the same book," said book club member Kinsey Clark.

They decide on what book they want to read for the following month. They do so by selecting a few books and then voting as a group.

Each book is provided to the members of the club for \$5 a book. The Book Club is accepting new members at anytime, so anyone is welcome to attend. For more information, go to the school's website www.wahooschools.org.



Washington D.C. welcomes WHS students during their annual pilgrimage

The beautiful, and famous, cherry blossoms of Washington, D.C. were in full bloom when over 30 students participating in the WHS 2008 Close Up class arrived in the city for their annual pilgrimage.

Students spent nine days in the nation's capital seeing and participating in a wide variety of activities.

Students spent the first two and half days of the trip exploring the city independently of the Close Up program. During this self-guided tour, students saw the National Cathedral and the Naval Academy, which boasts a large campus and strict military guidelines.

Students also explored Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Md., and Mount Vernon, home of George and Martha Washington.

Prior to the official start of the program, students also visited Arlington National Cemetery where they saw the final burial place of nearly 300,000 veterans as well as witnessed the solemn changing of the guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Students also had the opportunity to see John F. Kennedy's gravesite as well as the home of Confederate General Robert E. Lee.

A trip to Washington D.C. isn't complete without touring the National Mall where students visited the Washington Monument and strolled amongst the cherry trees.

One of the biggest impacts of the trip was the opportunity to experience the Holocaust first hand as many original artifacts were on display in the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

The remainder of the week, students explored many other attractions. Not only did they explore many of the famous war memorials (Korea, Vietnam, WWII), they also visited other important monuments (Lincoln, FDR, Jefferson).

Program instructors worked individually with students to give them the history of the monuments as well as give them time to survey them individually. Students also met with other students from around the country to share opinions and debate important issues that face the U.S.

Wahoo students had the opportunity to meet with Nebraska Senators Ben Nelson and Chuck Hagel, as well as Congressman Jeff Fortenberry, who were eager to answer stu-



Students in Ryan Mueller's Honors American Government class make their annual trip for Close Up.

dents' questions in a unique one-on-one forum.

The following day, students attended the play "Shear Madness" at the Kennedy Center. This was a highlight for many students as the murder mystery plot involved the audience in solving the case.

"This play was hilarious. Definitely one of the highlights of the trip," said junior Taylor Kavan.

On the final day students awoke early for a tour of the White House where they walked through history in many of the White House's historic rooms. They then had the rest of the day to explore the city independently, some viewing the National Archives while others went to Georgetown.

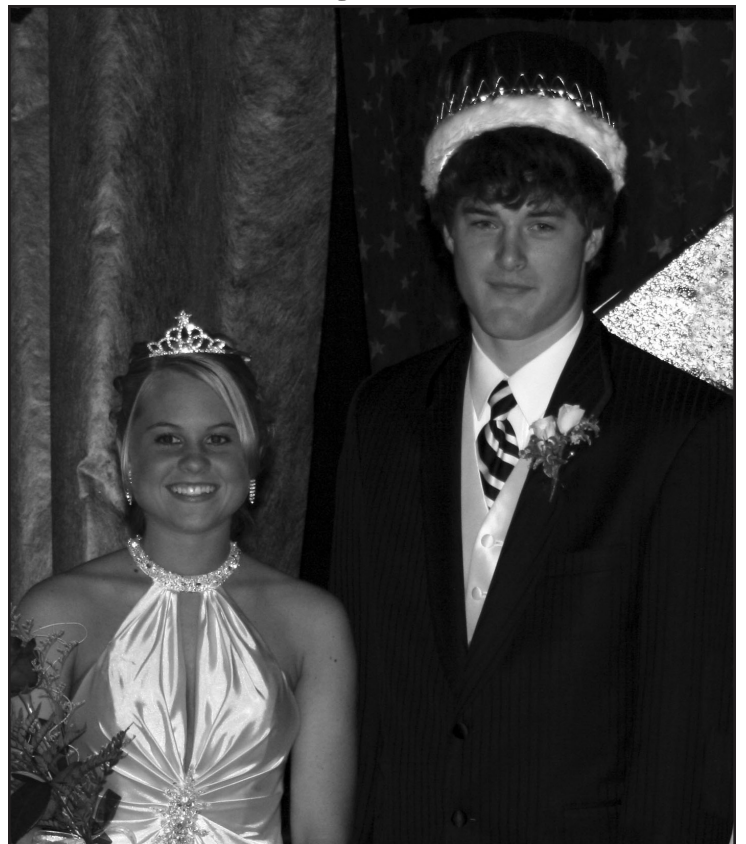
Overall, the trip was a huge success.

"The Close Up program is a great opportunity for students to learn about the history and government of our nation in an up close and personal way," said Close Up Instructor Ryan Mueller.

"We had a great trip this year. Students were able to see and do a lot and I think it's an experience they'll remember the rest of their lives," Mueller added.

"Our trip to D.C. was a once in a lifetime experience I'll never forget," said Jen Proctor.

Stars shine bright at 2008 Prom



2008 Prom Queen Amber Henkel and King Austin Watton

ing to sit back and relax and see everyone dressed up in their beautiful dresses and tuxes."

Following the dance, the stu-

dents had 30 minutes to go home, change clothes and load the buses for the short trip to post prom held at Thunder Alley in Elkhorn.

Middle Schoolers organize a day of fun

--continued from page 1

and run back to the beginning of the track to give the blindfold to the next two students in line.

Another relay was the water race. Teams of either boys or girls soaked sponges in water, ran to the first hurdle, and either jumped over this hurdle or just stepped over it. Then they would run to go under the next hurdle and squeeze all of the water out into a bucket. They then had to run back to the starting point and hand off the sponge to the next person in line.

At the end of the chaos, the students met in the middle of the field where the students who organized the event were recognized for their stellar efforts.

"Coordinating these activities takes a lot of time and really shows how much students really care about each other," said Middle School Principal Jason Libal.



Wheelbarrow races get intense between Alicia Iversen, Darian Coffey, Brook Stuart, and Brady Darnell.



"Trust me." Students lead each other through the obstacle course - blindfolded!



Dylan Kellner looks like he's going to clear the hurdle in the wet sponge race.



This day of fun was brought to the middle school by Student Council and Unity Council members. Pictured left to right: (front) Laura Harris, Michaela Curren, Sadie Murren, Aubrey Voboril. (Middle) Sydney Hancock, Jose Sotelo, Savannah DeWine and Emily Spicka. (Back) Alison Brodahl, Josh Holm, Casey Brown, and Jack Putnam.

Divis Signs with Midland Lutheran College



After yet another great year running for the WHS cross country and track teams, A.J. Divis signs his letter of intent on April 25 to run track for Midland Lutheran College. From left are Divis' proud parents Don and Nancy Divis, A.J. (seated), WHS cross country coach Karla Curran, MLC track coach Justin Horner (seated) and WHS track coach Randy Shada.

3rd Annual Ron & Tim Larsen Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament

When: Sunday, May 18
7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Where: Hilltop Country Club

Format: 18-hole, three-person scramble

Cost: \$120/team or \$40/person
(Includes golf, T-shirt, pin prizes, and lunch)
Lunch only tickets are \$5/person
Carts may be rented for \$12

All proceeds from the golf tournament will go to the
Ron & Tim Larsen Memorial Scholarship Fund

For more information, contact Steve Shannon at
sshannon@esu2.org or call 443-7693 after 6:00 p.m.

Entry forms are available at
www.wahooschools.org