

The Scratching Post

March 2024

FFA Auction Recap

by Adam Knaub

This year's FFA auction was a huge success!

The FFA members put together an auction once a year to raise money for the chapter. A lot of team-

work goes into all of the planning and preparation for the auction. Thanks to everyone's efforts, the FFA chapter has raised enough funds to travel to district competitions, state competitions, or the National Convention next school year. Funds will also be used to help maintain ongoing projects at the school, like the greenhouse.

Planning for the silent auction began last fall. FFA members reached out to community members and surrounding businesses for donations to be auctioned off. The FFA chapter was able to collect over 120 live and silent auction items! By separating the silent auction from the FFA banquet, the FFA members hoped for a better turnout, and they were right. Based on observations, it seemed like there were more community members present than just FFA member's families. A delicious free-will donation meal of pulled pork and various sides was served to tide over everyone's appetites while the silent auction took place. Between dinner and the silent auction, there were two games participants could play before the live auction began, which helped raise even more money for the chapter.

With so much going on, it was important to keep track of who won bids, either a live or silent auction item. The items, donors, money amounts, and bidder numbers were accurately tracked in spreadsheets to keep everything in order. The evening concluded with checking everyone out with the correct tabulations and guests walking away from their new items.

The auction was a huge success. We had a little over 200 people attend. Thanks to everyone attending, the FFA members were able to raise \$21,000!

Continued on page 6.



BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL

PREPARING THE STUDENTS OF TODAY FOR THE WORLD OF TOMORROW!

The Spiel on Speech

By Grace Fankhauser

This speech season, the team has had a massive increase in participants, comprised of fifteen students. The team was guided by returning coach Mr. Caudillo. With five returning team members, the team had many opportunities to continue to grow throughout the season.



A challenge to overcome this season was adapting to everyone's busy schedules. To accommodate their individual busy schedules, Mr. C. required at least two practices a week to be eligible to compete. Mr. C. was able to do this by making practices available before or after school and even on OEFs. Along with meeting the practice requirements, students were expected to maintain eligible grades.

On March 7th, the speech team held an Eats & Speech social event at the school for their last performance for the regular season. Parents, participants, and anyone wanting to watch the students were welcomed to the school to observe the students perform their speeches. The Eats & Speech event was the last performance for the competitors before their District competition.

The Wildcat Speech team could only send five participants to compete at districts. The intent was to send around ten students to districts in hopes of grasping a seat at the state competition, but due to prior engagements, the Close-Up trip to Washington D.C., many students wouldn't be allowed to compete at districts. The school could have been penalized if these students had qualified for state and couldn't attend the competition. So, on March 11th, Keira Bolander, Lydia Grant, Abigayle Jones, Destiny Kraft, and Kesmera Palu headed to District Speech. With the odds stacked against these participants, they tried their best and came away with more experiences to apply to next year's season.

Even though the speech team didn't send anyone to the state competition, the team was quite successful during the season, with many of the students walking away with medals. Another achievement for the team this year was taking 2nd place at the MAC competition. The team has been to many competitions and improved more every meet. With more participants attending speech meets, students had more learning opportunities to learn new techniques for the next season. Congratulations to this year's team for all their achievements and hard work.





Senior Spotlight



Marie Hein

This month's senior spotlight features Marie Hein. Marie is described as caring, happy, loyal, and resilient. We asked Marie about her high school years and what she plans to do after high school.

Q: What extracurricular activities have you participated in?

A: Volleyball, Basketball, One-Act, FFA, and 4-H.

Q: What are your goals for this year?

A: To pass all my classes and to graduate.

Q: What are your plans for after high school?

A: To go to college for horse training.

Q: What is one of your favorite classes and why?

A: Art because I get to do different drawings.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to younger students?

A: Stay on top of your work and remember to smile.



Ti Gaasch

This month's senior spotlight also features Ti Gaasch. Ti is described as funny, adaptable, and determined. We asked Ti about his high school years and what his future plans are.

Q: What extracurricular activities have you participated in?

A: Football, Basketball, and FFA.

Q: What are your goals for this year?

A: To graduate and make it out of high school.

Q: What are your plans for after high school?

A: To go to WNCC and become a certified welder.

Q: What is one of your favorite classes and why?

A: Metal Fabrication, I like working with metal and welding.

Q: What is one piece of advice you would give to younger students?

A: Don't give up because you lost. It is not over until you win.



More FFA Teams Qualify For State Competition

by Brentsen McGowan

The FFA kids were back in action for their last qualifying competition before they head off to state in April. This last competition consisted of Meat Judging, Natural Resources, Biotechnology, and Agronomy. However, our students only participated in Meat Judging and Natural Resources.

In the Natural Resource competition, the students had to take a written test about soil composition. In the team round, students analyzed soil maps and determined the best location to build a basement or plant crops. The last part of this exam was determining the composition of a soil sample and animal identification. Adam Knaub, Isaac Olsen, Brendyn Onstott, and Andie West formed the Banner County team that took on this challenge. Adam earned a blue ribbon by placing 6th while Isaac placed 8th and earned a purple ribbon. The Natural Resources team has qualified for State based on the students' placements.

Meat Judging consisted of Retail Identification, Class Placement, a 20-question test, and a Maturity Placement test. In the Retail ID, the competitors had to identify the species and the cut of the meat. In the 4 classes of placing competition, students placed the meat cuts from best to worst. The participants on this team are Nathan Clement, Ti Gassch, Tobey May, Brendyn Onstott, and Jacob Parsons. Blue ribbon recipients for this competition included Tobey, Jacob, Brendyn, and Nathan. With this placement, the Meat Judging team qualified for State.

As the FFA season comes to an end, our FFA members are fine-tuning their skills before departing for the State competition. The thirteen FFA members who form six teams (Meats Judging, Welding, Natural Resources, Livestock Management, Public Speaking, and Ag Mechanics) will be traveling to Lincoln to compete at the beginning of April. We wish the FFA team members the best of luck as they prepare and compete at the State-level competition!



Congratulations to our students earning
NSAA Academic All-State Recognition
for the winter activities season!

Boys Basketball: Nathan Clement & Isaac Olsen

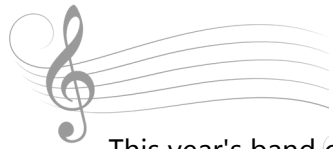
Girls Basketball: Leeigh McGowan

Speech: Isaac Olsen



Great Job Wildcats!





Bringing Back Band

by Brianne Woodral



This year's band clinics have been enjoyable for the Banner County participants. The students have had many opportunities to attend band clinics, which have many chances to meet new people and learn new skills. The band clinics are not requirements for the class, but a learning opportunity to improve oneself.

Students walk away from these clinics with a new appreciation for the band. Senior band member, Grace Fankhauser stated, "At the Bridgeport clinic, I learned new terminology to improve my playing." The students improve their band skills as well as social skills while attending the clinics. A sophomore band member, Abby Jones stated, "Building a bond with people is my favorite part of the clinics." While attending the clinics, the band directors also get to play a part. Mrs. Wounded Arrow stated that some of her favorite memories from the band clinic is the time spent on the trips with the students.

Generally, the band clinics have been an astounding opportunity for our students to learn and get out of their musical comfort zone. As this is Mrs. Wounded Arrow's last year teaching, she has gone out of her way to give her students many learning opportunities. Thanks to all of her hard work and dedication, the Banner County Band will be able to carry on with her legacy next year.



Friday, April 26th
 9:00am-10:30am
 PK - 4 yrs. old by Oct 31st 2024
 K - 5 yrs. old by July 31st 2024

Banner County School
 200 School St.
 Harrisburg, NE 69345
 Phone: 308-436-5262



**Learn to play.
 Play to learn.**

FFA Auction Recap continued from page 1.

The FFA chapter has decided to donate \$1,195 to the FFA boosters for helping provide the meal and taking time out of their day to help with the event. The FFA would like to send out a huge thank you to all of the boosters for helping with the food and the donors for helping make the event possible. Without everyone's support, we wouldn't be as successful as we are, and we definitely wouldn't be able to complete so many enriching learning projects. Thanks again for supporting the Banner County FFA Chapter.

There will be a **Blood Drive** at Banner County School on April 12th from 8:30a.m.-12 p.m. The Blood Drive is open to ALL community members!

⇒ Students over the age of 17 can donate *without* parental consent, but you must acquire parental consent if you are 16 years old.

⇒ If you plan to donate, please ensure you drink plenty of water before the donation.

Sponsored by the Banner County National Honors Society



Save the Date for Dental Day!

⇒ 2nd - 6th grade have the option to have dental screenings and sealants applied on April 11th.

⇒ 7th- 12th grade students are eligible for a dental screening on April 11th.

⇒ PreK-1st grade students are eligible for fluoride treatments on April 17th.

If you wish to have your students participate in the dental treatment based on their grade level, please return the consent form. This will be sent home with your students soon. Consent forms are due before the dental treatments.





Board Briefs

March 8, 2024

Awards and Recognition

President Ron Johnson commended the following students and staff:

- Students of the Month - Matias Bocanegra, Grade 2 and Keira Bolander, Grade 11.
 - Wyatt Reichenberg - was the 190# runner up at the Nebraska state wrestling championships in Omaha on February 17th FFA district contest at Kimball on March 6th:
 - Agronomy Team placed 10th: Abigayle Jones 20th overall, Marie Hein 21st, and Janie Fonseca-Warm 27th.
 - Meats Judging Team placed 3rd: Brendyn Onstott was 11th overall, Tobey May 13th, Nathan Clement 15th, Jacob Parsons 18th, and Ti Gaasch 34th.
 - Environmental & Natural Resources Team placed 5th: Adam Knaub was 6th overall, Isaac Olsen 10th, Andie West 28th, and Brentsen McGowan 32nd.
- The Meats Judging and Environmental & Natural Resources Teams qualified for the state contest in Lincoln on April 3-5.
- Congratulations to the K-2 girls and the 1-2 boys basketball teams - both teams did a fantastic job this season.

Appoint Board of Education Member

Motion to appoint Ryan Olsen to the Banner County School Board of Education for the remainder of the vacated term ending December 2026. Passed with a motion by Jake Knaub and a second by Laura Baker.

Accept Certified Staff Resignation

Accept the resignation of Sandy Wounded Arrow with gratitude for 19 years of excellent service to students of Banner County School. Passed with a motion by Douglas Olsen and a second by Laura Baker.

Approve Classified Salary Schedules

Approve a 2% increase in the base pay on classified employee salary schedules for Class A, Class B, Class C, and Class D. Passed with a motion by Jake Knaub and a second by Douglas Olsen.

Approve Request for Bids to Purchase Suburban

Approve a motion to seek bids to purchase a low-mileage Suburban or 10 passenger an for use on activity and/or routes Passed with a motion by Douglas Olsen and a second by Megan Allen.

Approve Request for Bids to Sell 2001 Chevy Suburban

Approve request for bids to sell fleet vehicle #19, a red Chevy Suburban, with a starting bid of \$3,500 to be sold in "as is" condition. Passed with a motion by Douglas Olsen and a second by Laura Baker.

Approve Principal's 2024-2025 Salary

Approve Troy Holmberg's' salary of \$92,500 for Banner County School PK-12 Principal for the 2024-2025. Passed with a motion by Jake Knaub and a second by Douglas Olsen.

Read the complete March 8, 2024 minutes at www.bcswildcats.org

2001 Chevy Suburban For Sale

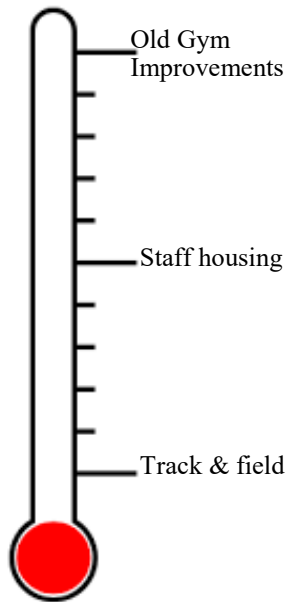


- School activity and route bus with 160,000 miles
- Minimum bid \$3,500.00
- Bids due by 3:00pm on May 6th, 2024
- Bid awarded at the May 13th, 2024 School Board meeting

Call Tod Wenger at 308-436-5262 with questions

Email, mail, or deliver bid to evelyn.browne@bcswildcats.org or to Banner County School, P.O. Box 5, Harrisburg, NE 69345

The Banner County School Board reserves the right to decline all bids.



CAN you save your beverage cans for BCS?

CAN Recycle Program coming ...

CAN earnings will support projects!

HARRISBURG, NE 69345
 CURRENT RESIDENT or PO BOX

Banner County School
 P.O. Box 5
 Harrisburg, NE 69345



Banner County School **APRIL 2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No School/ Easter Break 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am HS Track @ Creek Valley 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FFA State @ Lincoln TBD JH Track @ Leyton National Guard Rep 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FFA State @ Lincoln 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FFA state @ Lincoln Regular School Day 	6
7	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD JH Track @ Bayard School Board Meeting 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00pm HS Track @ Creek Valley 	10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dental Day 2nd-6th 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No School/Teacher Work Day 8:30-12:00pm NHS Blood Drive 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00am HS Track @ Alliance
14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Trip 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior Trip 	16	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Music Contest @ Alliance WNCC Rep Dental Day PK-1st 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No School/Teacher Work Day ACT Testing TBD JH Track @ Kimball 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No School TBD HS Track @ Pine Bluffs 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prom
21	22	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD JH & HS Track @ Scottsbluff 	24	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kindergarten field trip @ Legacy of the Plains 	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OEF/Teacher Work Day Quiz Bowl @ Bayard PK-K Round-Up 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD JH & HS Track @ Creek Valley
28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD HS Track @ Kimball 2nd grade field trip to Bridgeport Agsplosion 	30				