

THE CHARGER

Students to lead P/T conferences

Abby Oliver
@AbbyOliver27

As the end of first quarter in the school year approaches, WHS teachers prepare for fall parent-teacher conferences. This year, USD 329 plans to implement a new student-led method into the conferences.

"This will be used to empower student's accountability for our progress and success," WHS principal Jan Hutley said. "It will be driven by students' individual plans of study."

This process should allow students to be more involved in the parent-teacher connection. It will also create more accountability and responsibility for their academic performance at school.

"I think these conferences will be beneficial to everyone involved: students, parents, and teachers," WHS biology and anatomy teacher, Brandi Miller said. "Students will be able to communicate clearly with parents, and parents can communicate with both teacher and student at the same time. Teachers will also have the opportunity to set goals and expectations one-on-one students and parents will have direct knowledge of those goals."

WHS parent-teacher conferences will be held 4-8 p.m. October 24-25 in the WHS commons.

Students attend SAFE conference

Jayna Keller
@whscharger

Fourteen students from Wabaunsee High School SAFE Club attended the Kansas Teen Transportation Safety Conference October 2-3.

The goal of the conference was to help educate students on the dangers of distracted driving and the consequences of those decisions.

Students participated in five different sessions over the two days. Throughout the day, there were plenty of different speakers to listen to, driving simulations and different booths set up for the students to get more information.

SAFE has many different ideas for the upcoming year. The group plans to invite Miss Kansas to come speak to WHS, speak to the elementary schools on the importance of seatbelts and conduct seatbelt surveys to have an idea how many students actually wear their seatbelts. One of the sessions was for the SAFE teams to come up with new ideas for their school. "We are invited to learn ideas, more ways to be safe, new laws, changes in technology and ways we can inspire others," SAFE Sponsor Marilyn Workman said.

Tennis ends season



Autymn Schreiner hits a backhand at Seaman Sept. 1. Schreiner and the rest of the team ended the season Friday at Hesston in the regional tournament.

Kaytlyn Meseke
@kaytlyn_nelle

WHS tennis ended the season at a difficult regional tournament Friday at Hesston.

The Chargers highest seeded player, junior Autymn Schreiner, fell just short of a state appearance. Schreiner was seeded number six at regionals and her first match was against Ashten Halls from Sabetha. Schreiner defeated Halls with a score of 9-1 and moved on to the second round. Schreiner then played Halle Krehbiel from Hesston and lost 6-0, 6-1, putting her in the consolation bracket. Schreiner then played Isabella Matteucci from Sacred Heart to determine who would go to state. She won her first set 6-3, but lost her second set 7-5, and lost in a super tiebreaker 10-5. Schreiner finished her second year with a 23-10 record.

"She had a really great season, so it's disappointing to end with such a tough match," coach Brendan Praeger said. "She improved every part of her game over the course of the season, so she should be in a great position to compete for a spot at state next year."

Sophomore Lily Ogden also finished her second season with a fall to Matteucci. Ogden entered the day as the ten seed played seven seed Matteucci in

her first round, losing 9-2. Ogden ended the season with a 16-15 record.

Seniors Kylie Evans and Kinsey Stuewe entered the tournament being the number 23 seed due to a random draw. Evans and Stuewe battled against Bernhardt and Isaac from Hillsboro, losing 9-6. Evans and Stuewe ended their final season with a record of 12-13 together.

"The seeding was particularly tough at this regional," Praeger said. "The seventh-seeded doubles team was undefeated, and everyone in the top-11 went to state last year, so we knew at the beginning of the day we would have a hard path."

Seeded number 13, sophomores Kendyl Bolinder and Raegan Feyh played the 19 seed Bernhardt and Plenert from Hillsboro. Bolinder and Feyh won the play in game 9-4, moving them into the first round where they played the four seed Hubbard and Unruh from Hesston. They lost 9-0 ending their season with a 16-16 record together.

As a team WHS won two regular season meets this year at Wamego and Clay Center, along with bringing home medals from most meets. "I think this is one of the best years for us," Schreiner said. "We won a couple of meets and all improved. Personally I got a lot smarter at knowing what to do with the ball."

Sports raise disease awareness

Kendyl Bolinder
@BolinderKendyl

October is International Breast Cancer Awareness month, as well as National Down Syndrome Awareness month. Charger sports teams are helping spread the word through upcoming events.



Every October, the volleyball teams hosts a "Pink Out" game, hoping to spread awareness about breast cancer. "Pink Out" shirts are designed and sold in the fall. Proceeds are donated to help people battling breast cancer. The team suits up in pink uniforms, and encourages the crowd to come decked out in pink to cheer them on. This year's theme is "Fight like a Girl." The game takes place Thursday. The basketball team also participates in spreading awareness with a "Pink Out" game in the winter. This tradition has been carried on at Wabaunsee for several years.

The football team is wearing "DS" stickers and the blue and yellow Down Syndrome Awareness ribbon. The program first started when Chad Simon, a parent of a child with down syndrome in Northwest Kansas, contacted several football teams, asking them to wear these stickers on their helmets through the month of October.

SueAnn Wanklyn, a para at the high school, approached coach Rutledge about participating in spreading awareness.

Wanklyn's son, a senior on the Wamego High School football team, has Down syndrome. She hopes this will help spread the message that, with help and acceptance, anyone can accomplish anything, if given the opportunity.

There was not much discussion educating the players about Down syndrome, but Coach Rutledge briefly spoke with the boys about how what they are doing is about much more than just a sticker. He encouraged them to think about those who don't have the same opportunities as they do in life, school, jobs, etc., because of disabilities like this. He also spoke with them about the use of the word "retarded" as a derogatory term, and how it mocks those who did not choose, but were born with a disability.

"It's important to give them our respect. It's like having a part of them out there with us," sophomore Dawson Schultz said.

Opinion | Haunted houses provide great fun

Hannah Mumpower
@Hlump01

Working in a haunted house is by far the best thing a person can do in October.

For the past six years, I have volunteered to work at Celebration's Haunted Opera House in Wamego during the entire month of October. All profit from ticket sales goes directly toward restoring the building that holds the haunted house, previously the Leach Opera House.

Celebration's Haunted Opera House, located at 5th and Elm in Wamego, opens every Saturday in October 7-10:30pm. Tickets are \$10, but advanced tickets can be purchased from any member of the haunted house for \$7. Additional information can be found at hauntedoperahouse.com.

This experience has been one of my favorite by far, but the amount of work that goes into a haunted house can be a bit more than most people might think. Every year the walls of the basement get torn down and we start building the layout of the haunted house from scratch. Most items and supplies

we use are recycled from past years or transformed into something new. The only funding we get is from ticket sales from the previous years, so we spend only where we see it necessary.

One downfall of working in a haunted house is that every Saturday night in October is booked, however in my opinion it is entirely worth it. It may seem barbaric, but scaring people is fun, even more so when they are people I know. Working in the haunted house has become somewhat of a hobby for my family.

Another thing that makes working in a haunted house interesting is that you develop a sixth sense when it comes to scaring people. Last year our haunted house crew took a trip to Zombie Toxin in Junction City. This was my first time going through a "real" haunted house. I have to admit that I was not impressed with the scare level, but I attribute most of it to the fact that—even though I had never been before—I knew where the scares would happen.

From my experience working in a haunted house, I start to no-

AREA HAUNTED HOUSES

Zombie Toxin in Junction City is one of the more popular haunted houses in Kansas. It opens every Friday and Saturday in October 7:30-11:30 p.m. as well as Thursday, October 25 and Wednesday, October 31. Regular admission is \$18 per person and a Speed Pass is \$25. For more information visit zombietoxxin.com.

Three more popular haunted houses include The Beast, Edge of Hell, and Macabre Cinema Haunted Attraction located in Kansas City, Missouri. All three are owned by Full Moon Productions. Single tickets for each attraction start at \$27. They also sell package deals for entrance into multiple houses. Opening times vary. Visit fullmoonprod.com for information.

Another haunted attraction closer to home is the Topeka Haunted Woods. The Haunted Woods is a 1/2 mile trail filled with haunting creatures. Cost of entry to the trail is \$20 per person. Also offered is Zombie Laser Tag at \$10 per person. Topeka Haunted Woods is open every Friday and Saturday in October from 8-11pm. For more information visit topekahauntedwoods.com.

tice small details of a room such as places where lighting is different or places where there could be something or someone concealed. As I walked through Zombie Toxin I continually had my head on a swivel looking for the next scare and nine times out of ten I was able to spot something before it happened. Regardless, I was still impressed with the overall layout and vibe of Zombie Toxin.

While Zombie toxin was not what I expected, I still enjoy work-

ing in our haunted house. Despite having long weekends in October it is totally worth it, and nothing beats the satisfaction of scaring people you know. I would love to see anyone who can come at the haunted house any Saturday this month. If you have any questions about the haunted house or wish to buy tickets, don't hesitate to reach me at hannahmumpower@usd329.com.