

The Scratching Post

September, 2024

Tackle Hard and Run Fast! By Kyrie Roldan



The football season has started, and the boys have already been working so hard. Returning players have been playing great with the freshmen, and the coaches are looking forward to this season. According to Coach Avila, he is looking forward to seeing the team improve in all aspects. Coach Wenger stated, "I am looking forward to working as a team, winning some games, and doing our best." With the team's hard work and dedication, the coaches and

players have seen much improvement already!

With a few games under the boys' belts, the team has recognized senior Isaac Olsen as a team leader because of his significant roles on the team. Olsen is the team captain and plays everywhere except for defensive back! According to Olsen, "We are a pretty young team, and even though we have



lost some games, we will continue to improve." Learning from Olsen's experience is freshman Aron Knaub. With such a large group of seniors graduating from last year, Knaub and the other freshmen have some big shoes to fill. However, Knaub isn't worried about this new role; he stated, "It has been pretty good so far. We've had our ups and downs, but we work together and get through it."

With ten players, a majority of whom are freshmen, the boys work fantastically through the ups and downs, and they don't let it affect them while they are on the field. They will experience



great things together as they build a strong foundation. So, if you want to see the improvements of our Wildcat Football team, mark your calendars—we wouldn't want you to miss out!

BANNER COUNTY SCHOOL

PREPARING THE STUDENTS OF TODAY FOR THE WORLD OF TOMORROW!

Running for Fun!

Cross-country is a sport that requires very little additional equipment. The most needed accessories are a water bottle and a pair of running shoes. The reason, well, this sport is solely running. Competing in cross-country events takes a person of strong character filled with drive and determination. Why? The racers at the high school level run in races that are five kilometers long (3.2 miles)! Grit is needed to be a cross-country runner, and Banner County has one individual who has it, Colesen Gilbert.



Gilbert is a freshman with a year of cross-country experience from junior high. First-time coach Olivia Terrones is helping Colesen train this season. By alternating training styles, Gilbert can further develop his endurance and speed, both attributes needed to succeed in cross-country. Coach Terrones also focuses on developing the mental fortitude needed for these arduous races.

Terrones and Gilbert are reaching the midway point of their season. Gilbert keeps setting goals with each race and strives to improve his personal time record. If you ever want to see a group of students who love running hills and won't complain about a little extra running, watch a cross-country meet. The crowds cheer for all competitors to finish these daunting races while the racers leave everything they have on the course. The best of luck goes out to Colesen as he continues his cross-country ventures this season!



Wildcats at State Fair

At the end of August, Mrs. Groves and Mrs. Knaub took Makynna Boettcher, Kambrie Loutzenhiser, Shawnie Mason, Luke Olsen, Jackson Onstott, George Teeple, and Mason Vargas, to the State Fair in Grand Island. While there, the group earned 3rd place in the Quiz Bowl, and Shawnie Mason placed 3rd in the Spelling Bee. According to the coaches and competitors, their favorite part of the State Fair was the Quiz Bowl because they worked together and had fun. However, the students had to work hard to qualify for this amazing trip. Students were selected for the team based on last year's GPA and NSCAS test scores.

Overall, the competitors did amazing but expressed that they would like to work on scoring higher for next year. According to Jackson Onstott, future competitors must "Work hard in your classes and pay close attention because it will help you succeed." So, if you are a middle school student and would like to possibly attend the State Fair, keep your grades up and try your best on the NSCAS State Assessments. We are looking forward to what next year's State Fair competition will be like. Congratulations to this year's State Fair competitors and way to represent Banner County School! - By Kesmera Palu



Bump, Set, Hit, and Never Quit!

The Lady Wildcats have been diligently hitting their way through the volleyball season. Eleven dedicated girls have been making strides in their skills under the guidance of Head Coach Boettcher and Assistant Coach Stricker. With a large group of incoming freshmen, both coaches are eager to work with this group and integrate them into the team. This young team is led by returning senior Karleigh Leslie, who has proven to be a fantastic leader. Leslie says, "There can be much pressure being a team leader and role model. I have to be an example both on and off the court, but I'm glad the girls are learning from me." Leslie and the coaches are eager to see what this year's team will do and how far they can go with teamwork.

Team bonding is needed since the team is composed of various experience levels. One drill during practice that helped develop their teamwork was singing during their passing drills. The addition of singing has also improved their positivity and sportsmanship. With the development of sportsmanship and improving team morale, the Wildcats have set additional goals for themselves. The team wants to improve passing, serving, and communication. Hopefully, their last goal will be met by focusing on these goals, resulting in a win over Creek Valley during Homecoming week.

As the Lady Wildcats progress through their season, we can only watch and see how far they can go. With positivity and teamwork, the team can go far. By implementing what they practice into games, the girls will chip away at their team goals and inch closer to their primary goal of defeating a rival school. Keep your heads up, Wildcats, and push to accomplish your goals!



Senior Spotlight —Karleigh Leslie

This month's senior spotlight features Karleigh Leslie. Karleigh is described as passionate, groovy, and outgoing. We asked Karleigh about her high school years and what her plans are for after graduation.

Q: What extracurricular activities have you participated in?

A: Speech, One Act, Basketball, Volleyball, Cats Committed, Track, and Close up

Q: What are your goals for this year?

A: To grow as a person.

Q: What are your plans for after high school?

A: Attend college to study Physical Education and Training.

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

A: Art because it's a calm class for me.

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

A: Get your stuff done before it's too late and be the best you can be.





Westco FFA Field Day

On August 28th, seventeen FFA members participated in the Westco Field Day, which has become an annual tradition for our students. Students may miss out on a day in the classroom, but plenty of learning occurs during this event. From hands-on activities to experiments, our students had a wonderful opportunity to explore new avenues within the agriculture world.

Students rotated through six stations throughout the day, some inside and others in the fields. Topics varied from learning about the newest farming equipment, the application of robotics in agriculture, a thorough explanation of the skills needed to be a certified diesel technician, learning about balancing nutrients within animals' diets, genetic engineering with crops to make them more resistant to Nebraska's high winds, and methods to control weeds. However, many students' favorite part was when they visited their first station. Within this station, students had the opportunity to work with steers. A standard part of ranching life in Banner County, however, students learned a valuable lesson: sometimes you don't need fancy equipment to identify the various parts of a steer's stomach. Just some anatomy knowledge and a will to help an animal in need, but it helps to have the ability to suppress your gag reflex.

Thanks to the generous business sponsors and agriculture professionals who donated their time to this event, our FFA members could see how agriculture plays an essential role in everyday life. Banner County School strives to allow students to have hands-on learning experiences that will benefit their understanding of the world and allow them to open their minds to all of the possibilities awaiting them.



FFA Meat & Cheese Fundraiser Coming Soon!

From Oct. 1st –14th, FFA members are selling in-person and online various food items to help raise funds for their trips, expenses, entry fees, and FFA Jackets.

Online orders are shipped directly from the business while in-person orders will be delivered around the first week of December.

If interested, contact an FFA member to put in your order!

Thank you for supporting
Banner County's FFA Chapter!

Wildcat Favorites

- Beef sticks
- Summer Sausage
- Meat & Cheese Boxes
- Cookie dough tubes
- Chocolates
- Candies
- Mints
- Mixed Nuts
- Cheese Spreads
- Seasonings
- Soup Mixes





Board Briefs

September 9, 2024

Awards and Recognitions

President Ron Johnson commended the following students:

-New STUCO Officers: Isaac Olsen, President;

Makynna Boettcher, Vice President; Abigayle Jones, Treasurer; Destiny Kraft, Secretary; Class representatives; Kes-mera Palu-11th, Lydia Grant-10th, Tate Olsen-8th, Luke Olsen-8th, Kambrie Loutzenhiser-7th, Quincy Boettcher-7th

-Students who competed at the State Fair Quiz Bowl, earning 3rd place: Makynna Boettcher, Kambrie Loutzenhiser, Shawnie Mason, Luke Olsen, Jackson Onstott, & George Teeple. Shawnie also placed 3rd overall in spelling!

-All of the Banner County School students who participated in the Kimball-Banner and Scotts Bluff 4H Fairs:

Eli Allen, Meat Goat Showmanship, Purple & Division Place Gold; Meat Goat Market, Purple; Meat Goat Market, Purple & Grand Champion

Karle Dittbenner, Sheep Showmanship, Blue; Market Lamb, Blue

Saryah Mason, Meat Goat Market, Blue; Original Pencil Drawing, Blue; Decorated Cookie Jar, Blue; You Design It, Purple

Shawnie Mason, Meat Goat Showmanship, Blue; Meat Goat Market, Blue, Purple; Original Pencil Drawing, Purple

Madalinn May, Meat Goat Showmanship, Purple; Meat Goat Breeding, Purple; Meat Goat Market, Blue; Sheep Showmanship, Purple; Sheep Breeding, Blue; Market Lambs, Purple, Reserve AOB

Tobey May, Sheep-Breeding, Blue

Gabe Olsen, 4-H Beef Showmanship Junior, Purple, Reserve Champion; 4-H Market Steers/Heifers, Blue, Purple; Biscuits/Scones, Purple; Loaf Quick Bread, Blue, Market Beef Ultrasound, 2xBlue; Sighted Archery Junior, Purple, Grand Champion;

Isaac Olsen, 4-H Beef Showmanship Senior, Blue, 4-H Market Steers/Heifers, Blue, Purple; Accessory-Original Made from Metal, Purple, Grand Champion; Breeding Heifers, Blue, Red; Market Beef Ultrasound, 3xBlue; Sighted Archery Senior, Purple, Reserve Champion; Unsighted Archery Senior, Purple, Grand Champion;

Luke Olsen, 4-H Beef Showmanship Intermediate, Blue; 4-H Beef Market Steers/Heifers, 2xPurple; Cow/Calf, Purple; Dinner Rolls, Purple, Reserve Champion; Market Beef Ultrasound, Blue, Purple; Unsighted Archery Intermediate, Purple, Grand Champion; White Bread, Blue

Tate Olsen, 4-H Meat Goat, 2x Blue; 4-H Meat Goat Showmanship, Blue; Horse Showmanship Intermediate, Red; Meat Goat Ultrasound, Blue, Purple; Trail-Intermediate, Red; Western Horsemanship-Intermediate, Purple, Reserve Champion; Western Pleasure I - Intermediate, Red

Trace Olsen, 4-H Meat Goat, 2xBlue; 4-H Meat Goat Showmanship, Blue; Meat Goat Ultrasound, 2xBlue

Ethan Valverde, Meat Goat Showmanship, Blue; Meat Goat Market, Blue, Purple;

Austin West, 4-H Beef Showmanship Intermediate, Blue; 4-H Market Steers/Heifers, Red; 4-H Meat Goat, 2xBlue; 4-H Meat Goat Showmanship Intermediate, Blue; Breeding Heifers, Purple; Market Beef Ultrasound, Blue; Meat Goat Ultrasound, 2xBlue

Approve cost share with County Sheriff for School Resource Officer training program

Approve a 50% cost share with the Banner County Sheriff's Department for SRO training course fees, travel, and expenses.

Approve purchase of snowblower

Approve purchase of snow blower attachment from Sandbergs for \$8250.

Adopt Budget, Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Adopt the following Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025: General Fund: \$4,792,791; Depreciation Fund: \$280,044; Employee Benefit Fund: \$114,507; Activities Fund: 145,512; School Nutrition Fund: \$163,426; Special Building Fund: \$566,594. TOTAL BUDGET: \$6,062,874 and UNUSED BUDGET AUTHORITY: \$512,464

Approve Tax Request Resolution, Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Approve the District's Tax Request for the 2024-2025 school fiscal year: the General Fund is set at \$2,571,540, Tax levy .729 and the Tax Request for the Special Building Fund is set at \$246,044, Tax levy .069. The total tax levy will be \$.799 per \$100 of assessed value.

Complete minute of the September 9, 2024 BOE meeting can be found at: www.bcswildcats.org

BCPS Foundation News

Congratulations 2024 VIP

Parking space winners:

Joe Foland—Football

Jack & Jeri Revell—Volleyball

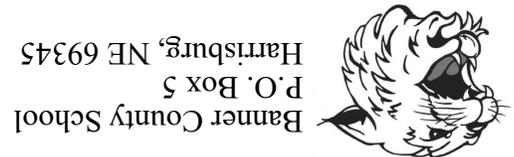
THANK YOU



**for sponsoring the Homecoming
Tail-Gate party!**



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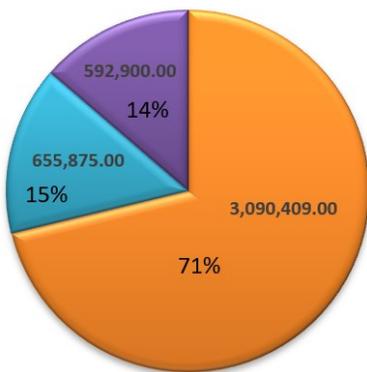


24-25 BUDGET SETS HISTORICALLY LOW LEVY

This year's budget and tax levy were approved at the September 9th, BOE meeting. The levy for both the General Fund and the Special Building Fund totals \$0.7998 per \$100 valuation, which will continue to support quality student programming and the maintenance of our school facilities.

Banner County School is the "heart" of our community. Beyond the education of our youth, our school facilities are enjoyed as a meeting place for friends and neighbors during events and activities such as 4-H, MatCats Wrestling, and WarCats Football. Our school also contributes to the economic well-being of many Banner County residents. Over 45% percent of this year's budget will go back to Banner County residents—28 of our 42 employees—through salaries and benefits.

Distribution of GF Expenditure



■ Students ■ Administration ■ Facilities

With the endorsement of our School Board members, I am proud that our school budget continues to support quality academic, athletic, and activity programming for students. From earning college credits while still in high school, to developing athletic ability and leadership, to building a performance repertoire and experiencing workplace skills—students can meet or exceed their personal goals in a uniquely flexible learning environment.

The lion's share (Wildcat's share!) of our budget goes directly to students. As it should.

Yours in education,