



South O'Brien High School The Wolverine Roar

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Community Support Brings New Scoreboards to South O'Brien

By Ethan Schwarz and Bode Bailey

Through the community's support, South O'Brien High School installed new scoreboards at the football field and in the west gym. The scoreboard project began last spring. Local businesses were invited to a presentation to gauge interest in the venture. The reception was positive, so work on the project began. South O'Brien purchased the scoreboards from Daktronics out of Brookings, South Dakota, last summer.

Area businesses were offered four options for sponsorship: Super Anchor, Anchor, Founding Partner, and Premier Partner. There are only two spots for Super Anchors. These top-level sponsors have static signage at the top of both scoreboards and other digital content, multimedia, and hospitality benefits.

The second level, Anchors, has many of the same benefits as Super Anchors, like a spot on the scoreboards. Unlike Super Anchors, there are four spots available for Anchors.

There are twelve spots for Founding Partners and no limit to Premier Partnerships. Founding Partners get Multi-Media benefits and both levels get digital content benefits. Athletic Director Heath Reichle, who facilitated the scoreboard project, said there are openings for a Premier Partner. However, the top three tiers are full.



During football season, fans and players enjoyed the new scoreboard that offered dynamic graphics.

When asked about the motivation behind purchasing the new scoreboards, Reichle said, "It was definitely time to update, for sure some new ones in the gym but when we got going, we decided to include the football one as well." With all the facilities updates at the school as a result of the bond passing, Reichle said South O'Brien wants to be on the cutting edge. "There are not a lot of schools in the surrounding area that have the new scoreboard technology. I am willing to bet within the next ten years, 90% of schools nearby will have these improvements."

Reichle further said that he believed the new scoreboards changed the atmosphere of South O'Brien athletic events. "There are ways to keep fans engaged through music, videos, trivia, and many more activities. It's also a great way for businesses to gain exposure and show their support for our school district."

Reichle emphasized that the potential of the new scoreboards is vast. "What we can do with the new scoreboards is only limited to the imagination." The school has already begun experimenting with player graphics, sound effects, and ads on the scoreboards, but Reichle says that this is only the tip of the iceberg. "We could even do an elementary night, where we play a movie on the football field scoreboard and offer popcorn. Everyone can bring blankets and sit on the field."

Reichle continues, explaining that the only thing limiting the scoreboard is the time to create content. "It's a lot of work creating new content, so it's a matter of how much time we have."

According to Reichle, the goal is to have the scoreboards entirely student-driven. Junior Alex Griebel and Senior Carter Halverson of the Yearbook Business Team have already been working with Reichle to create graphics for the scoreboards. Reichle hopes to also have the two create spotlight videos for businesses. Reichle envisions having students being completely in charge of the scoreboards by basketball season. "We'll be able to see the creative side of

SCOREBOARD SPONSORS

Super Anchors

Security State Bank and Savings Bank.

Anchors

Iowa State Bank, O'Brien County AG, CS-Agrow/Concrete Guys/Hicks Electric, Pioneer (Bird Seed, Edwards Ag Service, Eric Magnusen, Heying Ag Service), Farm Bureau - Dani Rehder, and DEKALB-AsGrow.

Founding Partners

Prairie Market, Dan's Electric, Keep Aim, Pixow, Eldridge Family Funeral Home, Prairie View Campus, South O'Brien Insurance, Crouch Construction, Nicholson & Edwards Grain Co, J & K Real Estate, J & K Insurance, Jons Gallery, R1 Excavating, Orange City Area Health System, Bunkers Feed & Supply, and Ziegler Cat.

Premier Partners

Mark's Pump, B & K Plumbing & Heating, I29 Sports, The Wash House, Roseland Trucking, B & R Excavating, Family 1st Dental, Paullina Hardware, Klay, Veldhuizen, Bindner, DeJong, and Halverson, & De Jong PLC, and Dau Construction.

students who will be creating and building all of the content featured on the boards."

Reichle concluded by reflecting on the amazing community support for the project. "Support like this doesn't happen

in every community. The support was overwhelming. Businesses are getting much more for their investment now than previously. It shows that they really care about the school and what we are doing here."

Athletic Director Heath Reichle works with Publications Business Team members senior Carter Halverson and junior Alex Griebel to create graphics for the new scoreboards.



South O'Brien Holds Blood Drive in East Gym

By Alexandra Grimm and Avery Halverson

Students and staff rolled up their sleeves to help save lives by donating blood. On Friday, October 25, from 10 to 2 pm, South O'Brien High School hosted a blood drive. This event is offered every fall and spring at the high school. Flyers were posted around the school to advertise the event and en-

courage people to make donation appointments. LifeServe, a blood donation organization, set up their equipment in the East Gym in preparation for the blood drive.

If students register to donate blood three times in high school, they will earn a red cord for graduation. However, that's not the only reason stu-

ents gave blood. Senior Ashlynn Gunnerson explained, "It's something easy I can do to help people." LifeServe plans to visit South O'Brien again in the spring to host another blood drive.

Senior Brett Evans squeezes a stress ball as he donates his blood for the first time.

Students and Staff Cast Their Votes in Mock Election

By Alexandra Grimm

South O'Brien joined 164 other Iowa high schools in a straw poll election. A total of 199 South O'Brien High School and Junior High students participated among 29,000 students statewide. During 3rd period on Monday, October 28, Mr. Yates' government students passed out ballots in each class. The straw poll was conducted to gauge students' political preferences and to practice participating in Iowa's government.

A week later, South O'Brien government students held a mock election on Tuesday, November 5, the same day as the national election. They prepared signs that

encouraged students and staff to register to vote. Signs with lists of the candidates were posted around the school on Friday and Monday.

On election day, students and staff stopped by Mr. Yates' room to place their votes in the ballot box. Government students signed up for times throughout the day to monitor the election process. Senior Ethan Schwarz said, "It's a great opportunity for students to get involved in the election process. It was cool being able to see staff and students come together and participate in the election we held."

This wasn't the first



Seniors Abby Nelson and Reese Lundquist enjoy making a sign encouraging students and staff to vote in the mock election.

mock election held at South O'Brien. Mr. Yates explained, "I think I've held a mock election every year I've taught government class, so that would be 26 years." He also said, "I do it to give

students an opportunity to be a part of the voting process. I want them to understand how simple, quick and easy it is to participate in our government."



Sophomore Meredith Hunt places her vote in the ballot box in Mr. Yates room.

RESULTS	
Straw Poll	Mock Election
Presidential Candidates	Presidential Candidates
South O'Brien	Donald Trump 82%
Donald Trump 83%	Kamala Harris 13%
Kamala Harris 10%	Other Candidates 5%
Other Candidates 7%	
Statewide	House of Representatives
Donald Trump 83%	Randy Feenstra 80%
Kamala Harris 10%	Ryan Melton 20%
Other Candidates 7%	

High School Halloween Fun

By Grace Keen, Amelie Wilson, and Ella Friedrichsen

South O'Brien High School students enjoy Halloween festivities to wrap up the month of October. FFA Members held their annual Halloween Party on Tuesday, October 24, where they ate pizza and other delicious snacks. In addition, they carved pumpkins and dressed up for a costume contest. The winner of the spooky contest was sophomore Will Stout, who dressed

up as a blind referee.

On Halloween, students were encouraged to dress in their costumes for the school day. During DISCOVER time, students could decorate goodie bags to use for trick-or-treating around the school. They were able to go from classroom-to-classroom to gather candy being handed out by staff members who were also dressed up.



Business Teacher Mrs. Schmidt hands out candy to senior Ella Friedrichsen and sophomore Amelie Wilson for Trick-or-Treating during free DISCOVER.

What is your favorite Thanksgiving meal?



Freshman
Connor Hedberg
"I like eating a big juicy ham."



Sophomore
BreLee Rasmussen
"I love mashed potatoes and gravy!"



Junior
Damian Villarreal
"Rhubarb pie is my favorite."



Senior
Ashlynn Gunnerson
"Ending a good meal with apple pie is awesome!"



Staff
Beau Ruleaux
"Stuffing is my all-time favorite for the holidays."



Staff
Jodi Weber
"I love a good smoked turkey."

FFA Test Plot Harvested in Late October



Senior Nate Rohlfsen and junior Logan Dau load the planter in the spring for the 2024 growing season.

By Derek Paulsen and Alex Griebel

South O'Brien FFA members harvested the test plot, just west of Paullina, in late October. The beans came out on Saturday, October 19, and the corn was taken out on Monday, October 21. It was a good year, according to test plot manager senior Caden Wittrock. "I was very pleased this year. I thought the plot did very well considering how much rain we got during early summer and how little we got this fall," commented Wittrock.

Seniors Caden Wittrock and Reese Lundquist and juniors Logan Dau and Austin Negus were responsible for the harvest this year. To become part of the South O'Brien FFA test plot team, FFA members must sign up at North Campus. Along with the 4 who helped with the harvest, several other FFA members worked on the test plot this year, including seniors Makenna Wallin, Nate Rohlfsen, Billy Lange, and Ryan Fuller and juniors Alex Griebel and Brody Van Beek.

The test plot committee worked to produce the best yields possible out of the plot, starting with planting last spring.

With harvest complete, the managers will begin preparations for next year.

Several FFA members have contributed to the success of the FFA test plot located west of Paulina. Pictured here are seniors Reese Lundquist and Nate Rohlfsen, junior Logan Dau, area farmer Gord Wittrock, junior Austin Negus, senior Caden Wittrock, junior Alex Griebel, and senior Billy Lange during planting season last spring.

