

THE WARRIOR ECHO

VOL. 1 ISSUE 2

WAHOO HIGH SCHOOL

2201 N. LOCUST ST.

DECEMBER 2008

“FEED ME, SEYMOUR!”

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Veterans Day Assembly Draws a Large Local Crowd

by Kali Kramer

Hundreds of people from the Wahoo area file into the bleachers. The red and blue choral robes and band uniforms draw the spectators attention to the front of the gym. The two schools along with the local branches of the military united for this special celebration.

"Our veterans are the ones that let us have a democracy," stated Ryan Mueller.

On Nov. 11, Wahoo and Bishop Neumann High School students came together in the WHS gymnasium to honor local veterans. Each year WHS Honors American Government students along with their instructor Ryan Mueller organize the event to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for their country.

WHS and BNHS got the job done by working together to make the event as special as possible. The Wahoo and Neumann choirs and bands combined to entertain the audience. The two choirs sang "God Bless America" under the direction of WHS director Julie Baker-Anderson along

with BNHS director Brian Botsford and WHS accompanist Rhonda Obert. Danielle Shukis, WHS senior, also sang a solo during "God Bless America."

The two bands performed "The National Anthem," "America," "The Patriot," and "Salute to America's Finest" under the direction of WHS band director Eric Snyder and BNHS band director Johann Couton. The "Salute to America's Finest" is a medley that includes the theme song to each branch of the military. (During each branch's song, veterans stood to honor their own.)

"Our veterans are the ones that let us have a democracy."

- Ryan Mueller

Nebraska Secretary of State John A. Gale spoke to the audience. Gale was born in Omaha, Neb. He graduated from Carleton College in Minnesota in 1962 and from the University of Chicago Law School in 1965. After graduating from law

school, he worked for private businesses and for the government. Gale moved his family to North Platte, Neb. to practice law privately and stayed put for 29 years. He now serves as the Nebraska Secretary of State.

Honors American Government students assisted Mueller (WHS Close Up Sponsor) in setting up the assembly. To begin the program, Wahoo VFW Beaver-Bartek 4502 and American Legion Post 82 posted the colors. Megan Brown, Kali Kramer, and Carrie Nabity recited the "Pledge of Allegiance." Kyle Willis read introductory remarks while Caitlin Watts read a story about what Veteran's Day means to her. Skye Sabatka introduced Nebraska's Secretary of State John Gale and Matt Hornung concluded the 2008 Veteran's

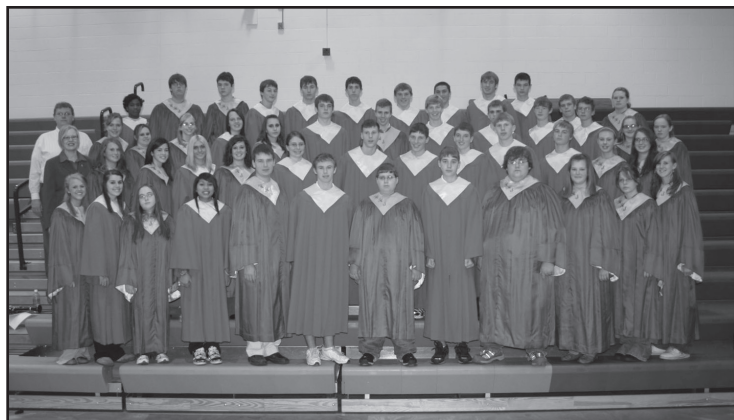
Day Program with a closing quote by George S. Patton.

"Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men. It is the spirit of the men who follow and of the man who leads that gains that victory."

With a moment of silence to honor the veterans, the colors were retired and the assembly concluded. Thanks to all the veterans that took time out of their busy schedules to come to the annual Veterans Day assembly.



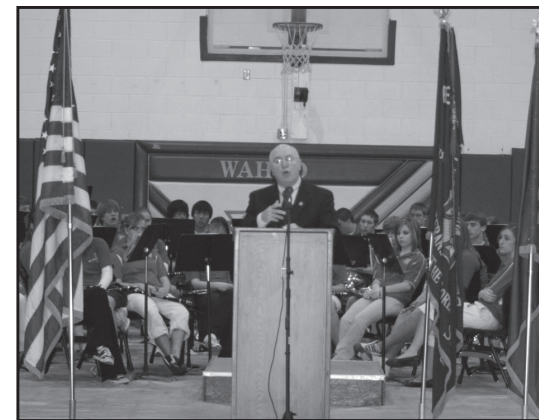
WHS and BNHS bands combine during the Veterans Day assembly to perform musical selections in honor of the veterans.



WHS and BNHS choirs combine to sing "God Bless America" at the Veterans Day assembly on Nov. 11.



Local veterans stand and salute the American flag during the "Pledge of Allegiance" on Nov. 11.



Secretary of State John Gale speaks about his passion for Veterans Day and the importance of serving our country in many different ways.

ECHO STAFF

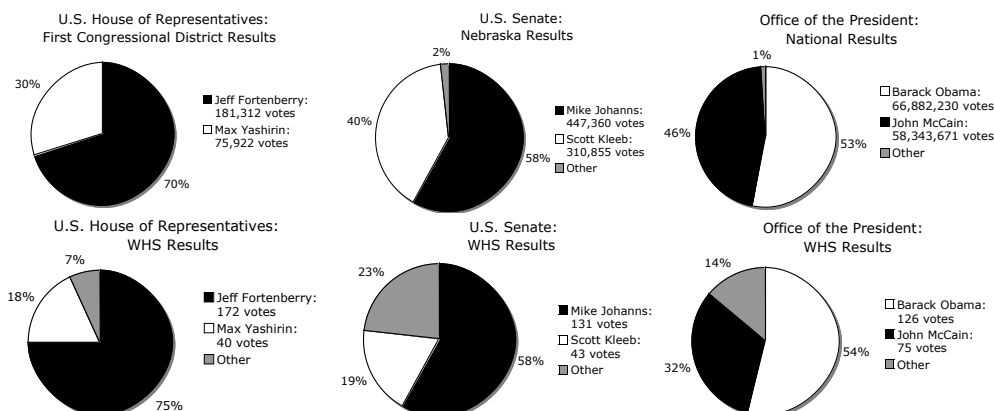
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The votes are in...

On Oct. 23, Mr. Mueller's honors American government class staged a mock election in the high school that included the Presidential, House, and Senate races. Here's how our results measured up against those of the Nov. 4 general election:

General Election Results



WHS Election Results

Weis' Winning Smile Welcome in Wahoo



In her spare time, Pia enjoys spending time with her friends. Here, Pia hangs out with her friend, Nicoletta Modlinski.

by Ian Hoppe

Stepping off the plane into the fresh, midnight Nebraska air, Pia Weis arrived at the end of a 26-hour journey from Duisburg, Germany. The conclusion of this voyage ushered in the beginning of an adventure that would last nearly a year, and that would introduce Pia to a plethora of new faces, ideas, and challenges.

In coming to the United States, Pia was unsure of what she would meet.

"I didn't really expect anything," she said.

However, since she has stayed here over several months, she has observed some marked differences between the culture of the United States and that of Germany.

"Here, you just talk to people—people on the street just talk to you, although they don't know you," said Pia. "In Germany, this thing would never happen."

Pia, a 16-year-old exchange student, arrived in the United States early this semester. Her friendly smile has been a welcome addition to the halls of WHS.

But, moving to a new school can be difficult for any student. Enrolling in a school that is located in a distant nation, whose culture is far-removed from that to which one is accustomed, and where the language differs from one's own, can be a trying challenge indeed. Yet this is precisely the challenge Pia has undertaken this year.

While attending WHS, Pia plans to complete a course of study involving a number of classes, including Spanish 4, English 11, and Honors American Government.

This spring, Pia will take part in the annual Close-Up trip to Washington, D.C. She is greatly anticipating the excursion, as she hopes to learn more about American culture as well as the structure of the U.S. government.

In Germany, Pia was instructed in a diverse course of study including Latin and religion. According to her, students in Germany are granted a much smaller voice in the selection of their course schedule than are their American counterparts. Rather, all students are required to complete certain courses in order to graduate, much as is the case in the United States, although there is a larger number of required courses in German schools, and the selection among electives is limited.

When a student reaches secondary school, he or she is granted some liberties in choosing the languages and religions he or she prefers to study. Having a natural fascination for languages, Pia studied Spanish, Latin, and English—a course of action which enabled her participation in the student exchange program.

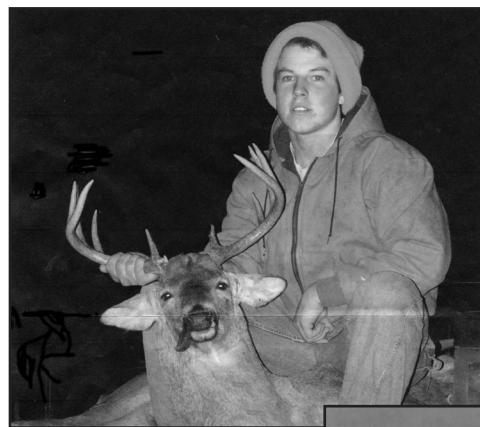
That program brought Pia to Wahoo, where she has been involved in a variety of activities. This fall, she ran with the cross country squad, and the winter season has seen her on the basketball court with the Lady Warriors. In addition, Pia plays the piano with the jazz band. These pursuits have allowed her to integrate herself within the student body and express her interests and abilities in sports and the arts.

Of course, Pia does grow homesick on occasion. She misses her family—mother, Annette; father, Lutz; and younger sister, Lena;—as well as her friends and pets. In Germany, Pia keeps a rabbit, Karla; and a dog, Lotte. The rich, much-advertised flavor of the chocolate of her home is also sorely missed.

Although the initial transition may have been challenging, Pia Weis has proven that she possesses the capacity to adapt and overcome any obstacles that confront her. As she begins her second semester at WHS, she will undoubtedly conquer any such impediments that she may encounter.

Getting to Know You: A WHS Student-Profile

by Megan Brown

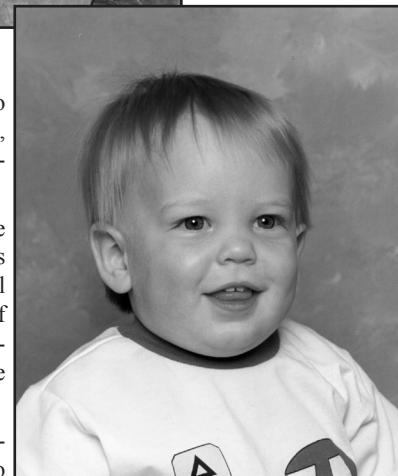


Cole Barry bags a buck.

Yes it's true that Wahoo High School is a small school, but you still might not know everything about everyone.

Cole Barry is a sophomore at Wahoo High School. He is active in football, basketball and Project Extra Mile and if FFA (Future Farmers of America) starts up here at WHS, he would join that too.

Farming is one of his favorite things to do and he loves to help harvest the crops because he gets to drive the combine. After graduation, he plans to attend a two-year college and get a degree in something that has to do with agriculture.



One-year-old Cole smiles for the camera.

"I like to work outdoors," said Barry. He would also like to take over the family farm one day like his father, who happens to be his idol.

Barry was born on March 28, 1993 to Mike and Deb Barry. He has one older brother, Jake a junior at WHS, and two younger sisters, Darcy an 8th grader and Laura a 7th grader at WMS. Barry's grandma, Rita Janecek, works in the school cafeteria.

Another one of Barry's favorite hobbies is hunting. He mostly hunts for deer, pheasant and raccoons. He eats the deer and pheasants and sells the raccoons to Gary Hansson (aka the fur guy) for money.

He likes to hunt and ride four-wheelers with his best friend Christian Hohl.

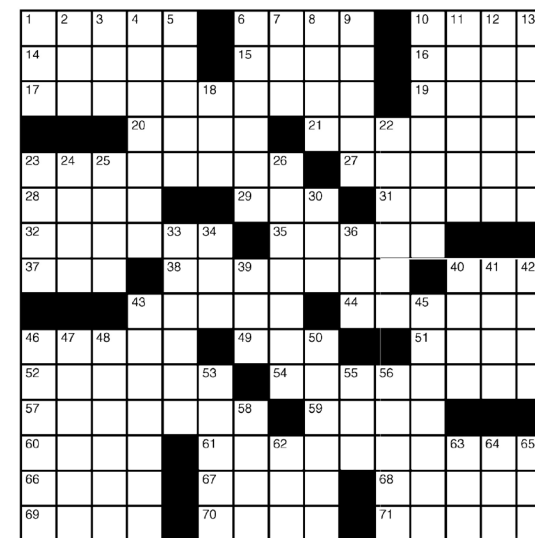
"Cole is always there for you when you need him," said Hohl.

Barry enjoys watching football with his friends, too. His favorite college football team is the Oregon Ducks and his favorite professional team is the Green Bay Packers.

You might not know Barry personally, but now you know a little bit more about him.

Crossword

ACROSS
 1 Lotion botanicals
 6 Suffer defeat
 10 Blemish
 14 Early insect stage
 15 Tel ___-Jaffa
 16 Saintry circle
 17 Burn to ashes
 19 Gray or Moran
 20 Sub shop
 21 Isolated ethnic community
 23 Kent's alter ego
 27 Fusing material
 28 Blood-related
 29 Oolong or pekoe
 31 Lascivious looks
 32 Tenant
 35 Diplomatic agent
 37 Make a request
 38 More prepared
 40 Genetic stuff
 43 Tag
 44 Spots
 46 Church recesses
 49 Minute div.
 51 BA word
 52 Hungers for
 54 New model's debut
 57 Sticks together
 59 Declare
 60 Track shape
 61 Diminish in value
 66 Withered
 67 Famous cookie man
 68 "M*A*S*H" locale
 69 Old Russian VIP
 70 Longest river
 71 Guide



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DOWN
 1 Will Smith title role
 2 PC group
 3 Tolkien baddie
 4 Plain to see
 5 More rational
 6 Lasso
 7 Eggs to Caesar
 8 Web location
 9 Makes equal
 10 "Ode to the Westwind" poet
 11 Ceremonial procession
 12 Cromwell or Goldsmith
 13 Skin creams
 18 Oak's cousin
 22 Flag of a military unit
 23 Poet Teasdale
 24 Small Hawaiian guitars
 25 Shocking color, maybe
 26 Teaser
 30 Tropical black cuckoo
 33 Pencil topper
 34 CSA soldier
 36 Victory sign
 39 DDE's rival
 40 Dreadful
 41 New Jersey hoopsters
 42 Junior exec
 43 Tool for evening
 45 Nationalist
 46 Confront boldly
 47 Goes to show
 48 African desert
 50 Crude
 53 Family car
 55 St. crosser
 56 Packs of playing cards
 58 Big rig
 62 D.C. wheeler-dealer
 63 Exist
 64 Place to drive from
 65 Corn serving

--solution on page 4

Our Shining Starr Returns to Wahoo

by Kali Kramer

"It's a journey of a lifetime!" Patricia Starr, the bicycling beauty queen from Wahoo returned from her bicycling trip to Atlantic City, New Jersey with her husband Gabriel Gonzales and her partner Tony Aitkens.

Starr competed in the 2008 Miss Senior USA pageant. The pageant was held in Atlantic City, NJ at Harrah's Hotel and Casino. People often fly or drive the number of miles to NJ, but not Starr. Tony Aitkens, Starr's nutritionist rode along side Starr from Nebraska to NJ. The two of them traveled 1,400 miles for Music Education.

They rode their bicycles to raise money for music scholarships at Wahoo Public Schools. So far this foundation has raised around 7,000 dollars. The scholarship is to be given to one band student and one choir student.

"She loves giving back to her community," stated Julie Baker-Anderson and "There are not any other opportunities for music scholarships except for this," stated Eric Snyder.

When Starr arrived in Atlantic City, she was greeted by Atlantic City police officers.

"The police escort from Ocean City through three

other towns before approaching Atlantic City will be remembered forever," said Starr.

She also participated in a Commencement Parade before the Miss Senior America Pageant. One of the sayings for this years pageant was "Laisse Le Bon Temps Roulette," also known as "Let the Good Times Roll!"

Starr wore a red velvet gown during the ceremony. When she heard her name called out, she stepped forward from the row of ten finalists.

"My heart was beating so fast I thought

it was going to jump out of my RED gown that I had selected to identify with our Big Red image," says Starr.

It was her goal to bring something that meant a lot to her from Nebraska. When it was her turn to show the audience what she came to do, she walked across the stage and sat down at the seven foot Grand Piano that had a dozen red roses sitting on top of it. The audience applauded and some were even crying.

"I had goose bumps all over my body, I can still hear the thunderous applause ringing in my ears, and this is only a segment of my Journey of a Lifetime!"

"My heart was beating so fast I thought it was going to jump out of my RED gown that I had selected to identify with our Big Red image."

-Patricia Starr



Patricia Starr plays during the WHS assembly on Sept. 19. Starr went on to place in the top ten at the Miss Senior America Pageant in Atlantic City, NJ, after a long bike ride.

The WHS Show Choir sing and dance for Starr during the Sept. 19 assembly. Shortly afterward, she announced the creation of a music scholarship to benefit the WHS music department.



Choir Honors Bestowed Upon WHS Vocalists



Vocalists practice long hours to earn their spots on area honor choirs. From left: Hillary Fick is an All-State alternate, Eric Curran is an All-State alternate and member of the Doane College Honor Choir, Dustin Jaskulski is a member of the Doane Honor Choir, Joe Naby is a member of the UNO and Doane Honor Choirs, Carrie Naby is a member of the UNO and Doane Honor Choirs and Megan Brown is a member of the UNO Honor Choir.

All-State Choir Requires Rigor and Lots of Practice

by Megan Brown

Imagine standing alone in front of a judge who waits to evaluate every note you sing. The music begins. There is no turning back. One wrong note and it's over. You know the music. You're on pitch. You've finished singing. A sigh of relief.

"I practiced every day for nearly all summer. And I took voice lessons with a voice coach and worked with her on the songs once a week," said senior Eric Curran

On Oct. 11 many students across Nebraska felt this way as they tried out for All State Choir, but only a few actually made it. While no WHS students were named to All State this year, senior Eric Curran and junior Hillary Fick were named alternates for Bass I and Soprano II, respectively. All State hopefuls had to learn six potential try-

out songs which were; "Musicks Empire," "Alleluia," "Ave Verum Corpus," "Neckereien," "Sleep" and "My Soul's Been Anchored In The Lord," this year. Along with those songs, the All State hopefuls needed to be able to sing scales, which are primary pitches of a key or mode arranged within an octave, and arpeggios, which are the sounding of the notes of a chord in rapid succession instead of simultaneously.

"I felt nervous but excited that I had the chance to try out again." Fick said.

The night before the auditions, the list of potential songs was cut to three leaving "Alleluia," "Neckereien" (a German song translated to "Flirtation") and "Ave Verum Corpus" (Latin). Fick and Curran worked on the songs since the beginning of the summer.

Solutions

R	E	S	T	E	R	S	T	E	R	N	I	L	E	S	A	R	S	A	R	T
A	V	E	R	O	R	E	A	M	O	S	A	M	O	S	E	R	E	S	E	R
E	A	T	E	I	A	T	E	D	E	P	R	E	C	I	A	T	E	O	V	A
T	I	E	S	T	A	V	E	R	S	A	V	E	S	C	H	E	R	E	O	C
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A	N	A	D	N	A	R	E	R	L	A	B	E	L	E	S	P	E	S	I	E
A	N	A	D	N	A	R	E	R	L	A	B	E	L	E	S	P	E	S	I	E
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N	A	R	I	N	A	T	E	R	A	T	E	R	A	T	E	R	A	T	E	R
O	H	A	L	O	S	P	O	T	L	A	R	V	A	L	O	S	P	O	T	L
T	O	S	P	O	T	L	A	R	V	A	L	O	S	P	O	T	L	A	R	V

Twilight Series Appeals to All Ages

by Ali Anderson

Move over Harry. Edward's in town!

The story that started as a vivid dream for Stephenie Meyer, turned into a fantasy that captivated tween girls with a heart for romance. The forbidden love between a mysterious vampire and an innocent schoolgirl might remind some of a "Romeo and Juliet" like love story.

Hailey Sloup, sophomore, has been a fan of the series since the very beginning.

"The 'Twilight' series is more descriptive and more detailed than any of the Harry Potter books," said Sloup.

"'Twilight' has a little romance, sci-fi, mystery and action," said Sloup.

"Edward is just perfect," confessed Sloup. Edward's mysterious demeanor fascinated many readers.

Isabella Swan, or Bella, the typical teenage girl suffering through a divorce between her conflicting parents, moves to her father's home in the town of Forks, and meets drop-dead gorgeous Edward Cullen and his family. Bound by infatuation and destiny, Bella and Edward become the victims for anything hostile.

Stephenie Meyer's vision of "Twilight" changed reading in schools. It seems as the increasing popularity climbs, more students checked out the series than any other book. The dynamics of Meyer's writing flows through every page and engages the readers' minds so that they are glued to the book.

At the time "Twilight" was released in bookstores on Oct. 5, 2005, no one paid much attention. But, those who read and became involved with the growing relationship between Bella and Edward drooled over the second novel, "New

Moon", which was released on Sept. 6, 2006. This new and intriguing story introduced a new character to Bella's life, Jacob Black.

Bella and Jacob's friendship took a new turn when Bella discovered Jacob's secret. He was a werewolf. Her two loves are mythological monsters.

The third novel, "Eclipse" turned heads as well on Aug. 7, 2007. The love between Bella and Edward was tested even more when "Eclipse" was released.

The escalating number of fans grew dramatically when "Breaking Dawn" came out on Aug. 2, 2008. The now famous series attracted every sort of fan.

Whether interested in a love story or just fascinated with vampires, every street, bookstore and school was piled high with this series.

Not all fans of the series are teen girls. WHS media specialist Dave Privett has started reading the books.

"I decided to read the book [Twilight] because there were so many kids reading it and I wanted to see what the buzz was about," said Privett.

The demographic of readers of "Twilight" are mostly teenage girls, but many boys and mothers are reading the books along with their sisters, girlfriends and daughters.

Junior Megan Brown's mom, Terese Brown, is enjoying the series, too.

"The books are just so captivating and mesmerizing that you need to plan a whole day to sit and read them," she said.

As the popularity of "Twilight" increases, adoring fans placed it above the infamous Harry Potter saga. It shows the recent trend in appeal to the magical and mystical world of mythology.

Topping the best-seller lists, this series has made its mark.



Twilight Takes a Bite Out of the Box Office

by Ali Anderson

Teenage girls flocked to see the drama that kicked "High School Musical" off the top of the movie charts and rained on the parade of "Quantum of Solace." The immediate response to the popularity of "Twilight" astonished many people. The anticipation of the movie increased dramatically as the release date neared.

The intense love story between a brooding vampire, Edward, and a self-conscious, over-emotional teenager, Bella, grabbed the attention of millions of fans as it raked in 70.6 million dollars in its opening weekend Nov. 21. It also gave Catherine Hardwicke the biggest opening ever for a female director.

Originally, it was rumored that "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince" moved its release date due to the fierce competition. Some thought "Twilight" might ruin Potter's performance at the box office, but Warner Brothers says it isn't so.

One thing is for sure, the movie's success can't be ignored. "Twilight" had earned a profit of over \$150 million as of Dec. 14.

Many avid "Twilight" readers have been highly anticipating the premier of the movie. Because of the recent popularity of vampires, the mysterious, or supernatural, teenage girls find Edward even more appealing. The handsome and mysterious Edward has emerged as a fan favorite. "Team Edward" t-shirts can be seen almost everywhere.



Capturing the undeniable romance between Bella and Edward is never going to be just, because no words can begin to describe the passion in their relationship. One benefit of "Twilight" the movie was that the characters were so passionate and emotional throughout the book and that really came across in the movie. However, it's hard to get into a character's head when watching a movie like you can when reading a book. In the book, a moment inside a person's head can last five pages, but it will only last a second in the movie.

The popularity of the movie also catapulted the book back into the top ten best sellers lists all over the country.

As of now, the sequel, "New Moon," is in pre-production, but without Hardwicke directing. No fear, Robert Pattinson will be back as Edward and Kristen Stewart will be back in the role of Bella. Thank goodness!

Are you a fan? With all the hoopla surrounding the latest book and the release of the first movie in the series, we wonder, "What do WHS students think?" Here's what you said:

Book:

- 73% Love It!
- 21% Really Like It
- 3% Like It
- 3% Don't Like it

Students have read the book an average of 2 times.

Movie:

- 60% Love It!
- 20% Really Like It
- 20% Like It
- 0% Don't Like It

Students have seen the movie an average of 2 times, so far.

74% belong to "Team Edward"
26% belong to "Team Jacob"

Are you a *Twilight* expert? Take this trivia quiz and see!

1. From what country does Pattinson hail?
 - A. Scotland
 - B. Ireland
 - C. England
 - D. Canada
2. "Twilight" is not the first book-turned-into-movie in which he has appeared. What is?
 - A. "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"
 - B. "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix"
 - C. "Nicholas Nickleby"
 - D. "The Golden Compass"

ANSWERS: 1-C, 2-A (Pattinson also appeared in "Goblet of Fire" came first), 3-A, 4-B, 5-C.

3. Pattinson went on a tour of "Hot Topic" stores to promote the movie. What city was he supposed to visit before it was cancelled due to out-of-control crowds?

- A. San Francisco
- B. Seattle
- C. Dallas
- D. Chicago

4. Another starring role for Pattinson, "Little Ashes," released this year, had the actor playing what famous artist?

- A. Claude Monet
- B. Salvador Dali
- C. Henri Matisse
- D. Vincent Van Gogh

5. In a recent interview with Entertainment Weekly, Pattinson reveals his favorite actor is who?

- A. Marlon Brando
- B. James Dean
- C. Jack Nicholson
- D. Clint Eastwood

Drama... Mystery... Intrigue

Audrey 2 says "FEED ME!" and Seymore will stop at nothing to satisfy her hunger!

“Feed me, Seymore! I want food!” Seems reasonable, but what if it’s revealed that those words are coming from a “plant” and food he craves is human blood? So goes the plot of “Little Shop of Horrors,” the musical directors Diane Reece and Julie Baker-Anderson chose for this year’s musical performance.

“Little Shop of Horrors” can be classified as one of the longest running musicals on Broadway. It started as a spoof of science-fiction movies, but became a Broadway favorite. The musical opens in Ms. Mushnik’s Flower Shop where you meet three of the main characters: the beautiful Audrey (played by junior Megan Brown), the nerdy boy Seymour (played by junior Tyler Schaben) and Ms. Mushnik (played by junior Kinsey Clark).

Audrey, attempting to keep Ms. Mushnik’s store open for business, encourages Ms. Mushnik to check out the “alien” plant that Seymour has discovered. The fly-trap looking plant, named Audrey II, intrigues Ms. Mushnik. The plant’s name evolved from Seymour’s secret love for Audrey.

The plant, to no surprise, brings customers rushing in. As a reward, Ms. Mushnik invites Seymour and Audrey to dinner but, to Seymour’s disappointment Audrey is going on a date with the successful but abusive, dentist Orin Scrivello (played by junior Joe Nabity). Due to Seymour’s disappointment, Audrey rejects the offer and tends to The Audrey II. As the night progresses Seymour finds out weird secrets about the plant; it talks and it hungers for human blood.

To get the plant by, Seymour pricks his fingers and feeds the plant his own blood. The little drops of blood only tie the plant over for a little while. As the Audrey II grows bigger, so does his appetite for human blood, which eventually can only be satisfied with whole human sacrifice. Seymour has many choices about the magnificent plant.

The musical commentary throughout the musical was provided by the “Skid Row Girls,” which included Ali Buckmaster, Christyna

Dewberry, Hillary Fick, Ford, Janelle Jordan, Kali Kramer, Carrie Nabity and Emily Widger.

This musical wasn’t really heard of around WHS before the flyers started going up. When Mrs. Reece and Mrs. Anderson began eliminating musicals, they had to consider the actors/actresses they thought would try out along with the set availability they had. Audrey, Seymour, Ms. Mushnik may not be names you hear around the halls of Wahoo High. We usually call them by first names and not stage



names. These three individuals are just some of the actors/actresses that took the challenge of being in WHS’s musical “Little Shop of Horrors.”

“It was bomsky,” said Clark.

Reece and Anderson figured they would have more girls than guys try out, so they needed a play with more girls than guys on stage.

The elimination of the cast wasn’t easy for the judges. Some of the skills the judges looked for were uninhibited, strong vocals and the actors couldn’t have stage fright. The main actors cast

for Audrey, Ms. Mushnik and Seymour had to be out-going, but laid back and easy to work with. The overall cast they searched for needed to have past experience, good stage presence and dependability.

The plant’s voice was chosen because they needed a very deep, mysterious, intimidating, strong voice, which led Reece and Anderson to WHS media specialist Dave Privett.

Not only did this play take a lot of effort, it also took an enormous amount of time, sweat and worst of all frustration. The cast came together after school on Mondays and Tuesdays and Thursday and Friday evenings. As the musical performance dates got closer, the cast would occasionally work on Saturday and Sunday nights. During an average practice, the cast was anything but lazy. Typically, practice ran about two and a half hours and were spent prepping for the big days ahead of them. Plus, there were two trips made to Omaha Benson High School to get the plants for the musical.

The musical was postponed for two weeks after its originally scheduled opening in order to polish up the performances. The cast originally thought that they would perform after five weeks of practice. To make the musical perfect, they moved the play from Nov. 7, 8, and 9 to Nov. 30, and Dec. 1 and 2.

The stage crew (Molly Jones, Christina Reynolds, Kayla Coffey, and Lindsey Luers) spent many long nights painting. The crew, with the help of Bill Reece, had to convert the set plans into a one-story instead of a two-story platform. It took many hours to formulate the scene for the actors.

As the third performance night neared, the cast and crew members were exhausted. The cast agreed they probably would remember their lines for the rest of the year.

“I think it went very well, it was a fun challenge,” said Reece.

The cast wanted to perform perfectly for their last audience on Dec. 3, which included WHS friends, classmates, families and community members. The cast of “Little Shop of Horrors” sang their way to the community’s hearts.



From the top; Orin cannot get the oxygen mask off his face. Seymour feels lonely as he sweeps the floors of Mushnik’s Flower Shop. Wino, Snip is giving Seymour the chance of a lifetime. Seymour and the Skid Row girls dance their way to stardom due to the “alien” plant. Ms. Mushnik after hearing Seymour may leave worries.



From the top; Ms. Mushnik, Seymour and a wealthy customer pick out a dozen beautiful roses. Audrey dreams about Seymour loving her instead of Orin the dentist. Orin the evil dentist is hard at work showing his true evilness. Patricia Martin tries to sell Seymour an offer he can’t refuse. Seymour and Audrey now confess they want to be with each other. Ms. Mushnik accepts Seymour has her son.

WHS is Talking Turkey About Close Up



Close Up volunteers serve up healthy portions of turkey, green-bean casserole, corn, stuffing and mashed potatoes and gravy.

by Shanly Steffes

For almost half of the WHS junior class, “turkey and Close-Up” are synonymous. Why? For over a month during the fall semester, students in the Honors American Government class preparing for their Close-Up trip to Washington, D.C., are up to their wattles in all things turkey.

Over a five-week period, Close-Up students furiously sold turkey dinner tickets, while WHS Close-Up sponsors Mick Anderson, Ryan Mueller, and Larry Fauss organized the event, got the turkeys ready and recruited volunteers to help when the day finally arrived.

Close-Up students sold 1,700 tickets and made four dollars per ticket to benefit their trip to Washington, D.C., in March. Students sold to family members, friends and community members to make these outstanding numbers.

“It was awesome. It was the biggest and best turkey dinner yet,” said WHS Close-Up sponsor Ryan Mueller. “We are very grateful for the community’s continuous support.”

The day started bright and early for the Close-Up sponsors, students and parents. Students and parents began arriving between 9:45 and 10 a.m. to set up. By 10:15 a.m., turkey dinner customers were arriving to pick up their dinners. The dinner came with homemade stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, turkey, and green bean casserole. For an extra fee, ice cream and warm pie was also served.

The carry-out line started in family consumer science teacher Mary Sohl’s room, but they ran out of turkey quickly, so the line was moved to the cafeteria with the dine-in patrons.

As the day progressed, the line only got longer. From 12:30 till 2:30 p.m., people enjoyed their meals in the cafeteria.

“It was crazy,” said WHS Close-Up student Jacob Barry. “So many people came. It’s great to see the community’s support for the high school.”

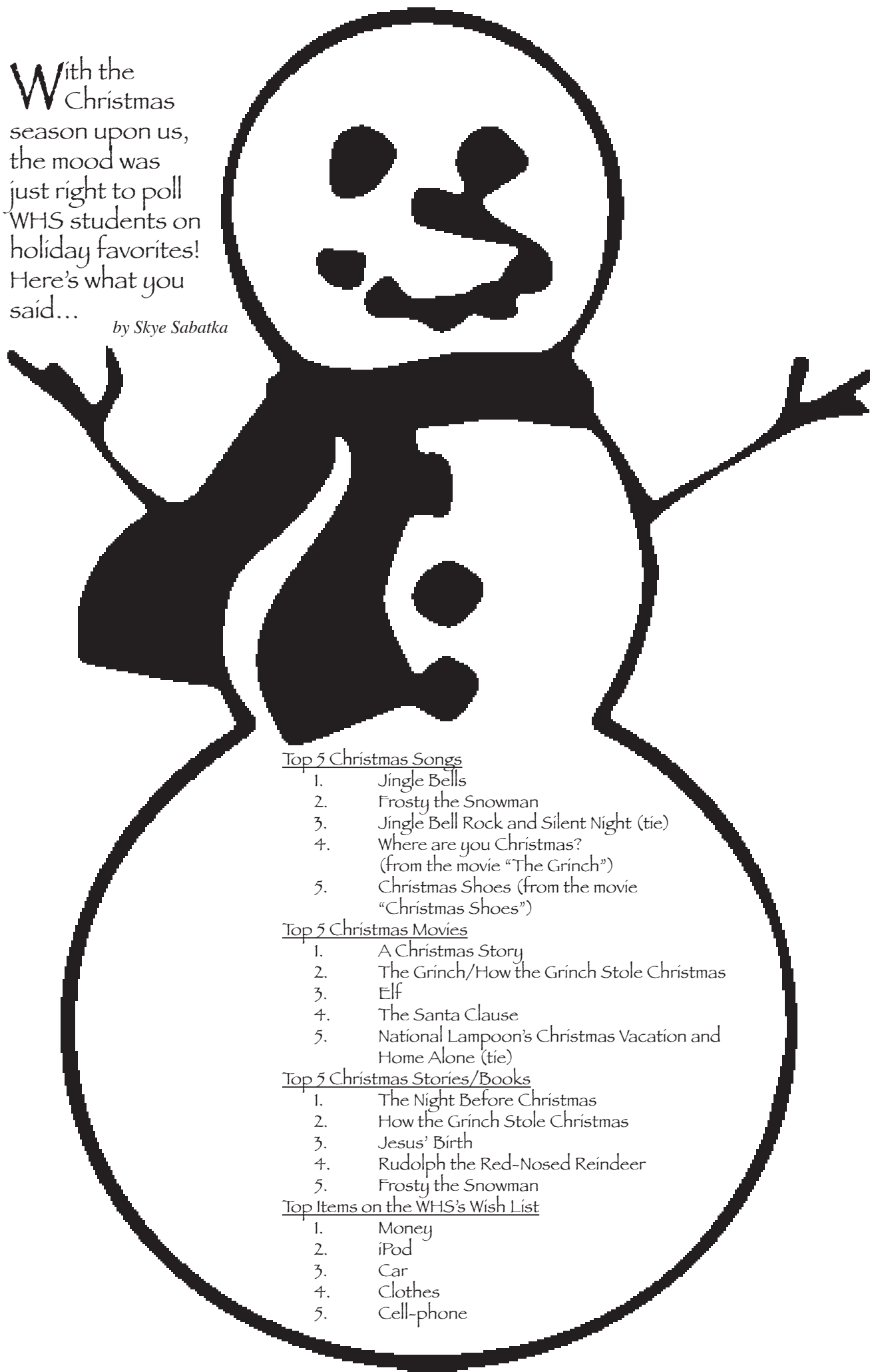
Each Close up student had his or her own responsibility to keep the dinner running smoothly. Jobs included taking out garbage, selling dessert, cleaning off tables, and taking tickets.

The long day came to an end by around 2:45 p.m. when just about everyone had cleared out. Once the dirty jobs were done, parents and sponsors packaged the leftovers away. When the school was back to normal, it was time to lock the doors and head home. Still by the end of the students were grateful, and now it is up to next year’s Close Up students to keep the turkey dinner craze going!

WHS Loves Christmas Time!

With the Christmas season upon us, the mood was just right to poll WHS students on holiday favorites! Here’s what you said...

by Skye Sabatka



Top 5 Christmas Songs

1. Jingle Bells
2. Frosty the Snowman
3. Jingle Bell Rock and Silent Night (tie)
4. Where are you Christmas?
(from the movie “The Grinch”)
5. Christmas Shoes (from the movie
“Christmas Shoes”)

Top 5 Christmas Movies

1. A Christmas Story
2. The Grinch/How the Grinch Stole Christmas
3. Elf
4. The Santa Clause
5. National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation and
Home Alone (tie)

Top 5 Christmas Stories/Books

1. The Night Before Christmas
2. How the Grinch Stole Christmas
3. Jesus’ Birth
4. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
5. Frosty the Snowman

Top Items on the WHS’s Wish List

1. Money
2. iPod
3. Car
4. Clothes
5. Cell-phone

Thrifty Holiday

Uncertain economic times are a reminder that the best gifts come from the heart, not the wallet

Unemployment is up; our 401 (k)s are down. Banks are looking for bailouts, and homeowners are trying to avoid foreclosure. It is certainly not the holiday season to be stringing garlands or \$100 bills up your staircase.

But that doesn't mean you have to cancel Christmas. It is possible to celebrate without conspicuous consumption.

We've talked to frugality experts to bring you a guide to having a thriftier -- but still wonderful -- holiday season.

THOUGHTFUL GIFT GIVING

While less cash for gifts can seem like a major holiday downer, spending cutbacks can be an opportunity to re-examine the meaning of the holidays.

It's a time to look at the quality of the gifts we're giving, not just the quantity. And giving quality gifts requires some pre-planning.

Sharon Harvey Rosenberg, "The Frugal Duchess," suggests taking an inventory of the folks on your gift list before you start shopping: Who are they?

What do they like? What do they need? The results can be very thoughtful, meaningful gifts that don't necessarily cost a thing.

Here are a few suggestions for thoughtful gifts:

•**Gift baskets:** Customize a basket to your recipient's interest. Home-assembled baskets can cost as little as \$10 to \$15 (compared to pre-assembled baskets running \$50 and up). A few these examples: Spa items from the discount racks at Marshall's, TJ Maxx, Bed Bath & Beyond or even the drug store; bakeware and supplies from the dollar store; gardening supplies from Home Depot or Target. The items can be assembled in a basket/container you already own or pick up at a thrift shop and personalized with things like notes or recipes. Package the whole thing up with cellophane and a

big bow.

•**Childhood books:** Find out your recipient's favorite book. You can look for a vintage book (even some first editions can be had inexpensively) on eBay or Amazon.com and at second hand bookstores. Customize with an inscription.

•**Written notes:** Telling someone how you feel about them is truly priceless. Write a personal letter about "what you mean to me" or "what you taught me." You can also gram the note for added impact.

•**Handicrafts:** Do you knit? Sew? Scrapbook? Bake? Put those skills to good use on handmade gifts. The key, however, is to know your audience and be careful about what you spend on supplies. Buying hundreds of doodads for your scrapbook can easily set you back more than a traditional gift. Watch those pennies.

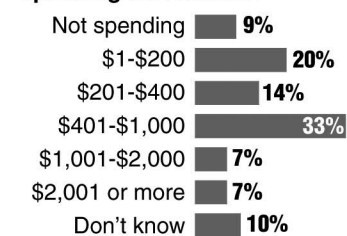
•**Photos:** Gathering all the grandkids for a photo is infinitely more meaningful than another jogging suit.

Ipsos-McClatchy Poll

Spending less

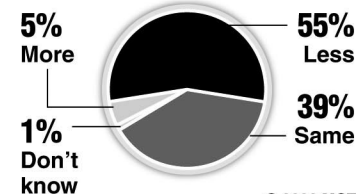
People plan on spending less this holiday season.

How much do you plan on spending this season?



Plan to spend	Plan to spend
\$840	\$500
Avg. amount	Median amount

Compared to last season, do you plan on spending ...



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Source: Ipsos poll of 1,068 adults, Dec. 4-8, 2008; margin of error: +/- 3.0 percentage points
Graphic: Melina Yingling

Average Cost of the Top 5 Gifts on WHS Wish List

Money (the more the better!)

iPod

\$75-\$390 (depending on the type)

Car

\$500 (but you might need to hold it together with duct tape)
\$2,000+ (safe, reliable, used)

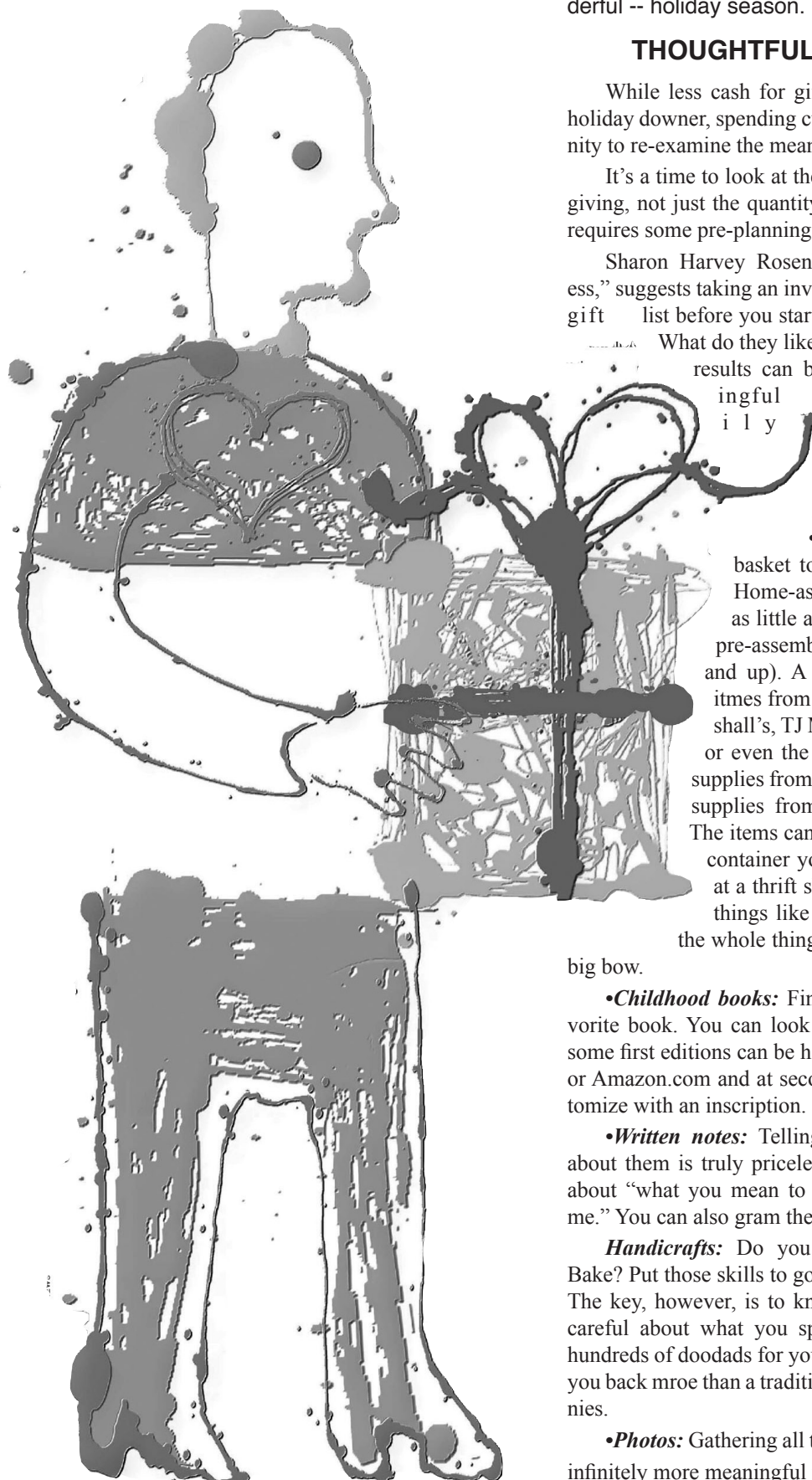
Clothes

Jeans \$40 on sale at the Gap
\$94 at The Buckle

Hoodie \$35 at the Gap
\$50 on sale at The Buckle

Cell Phone

iPhone \$320-\$750
But you can still get a free cell phone with a service plan!



Winter Sports Season Begins At WHS

by Eric Curran

Boys Basketball

The 2008-2009 season appears to be rather promising for the Warrior boys' basketball team.

"We're not worried about last season," said head coach Kevin Scheef, in regards to last year's 12-9 season.

Rather, he said, the team of 27 focused athletes is ready to move ahead with the 2008-2009 season. Scheef is confident seniors Tyler Brunsting, Alex Callan, Jason Demaray, Kreig Lacey, Jared Moline, Layne Moore, and Taylor Murren will provide leadership for the team and will help propel their teammates to success.

"The boys have maintained a positive attitude thus far during practice," said Scheef.

"Overall, we just want the team to be the best it can be this year," he added.

On Dec. 5, the Warriors began their season by paying a visit to rival Bennington Badgers. The boys were defeated 55-71. However, the team came out strong against Logan View led by Taylor Murren, who scored 40 points in a 91-52 blowout. The team also hopes to play strong at the Holiday Tournament, which starts on Dec. 29 at WHS.

Girls Basketball

The Warrior girls' basketball team is set to dribble down the court during the 2008-2009 season.

"Our goal is to have a great season and get to State," said Linda Walker, the head girls' basketball coach.

Coach Walker also went on to explain her excitement for this season, and that she would be working with 22 dedicated, hardworking athletes. Her confidence lies with seniors Jordan Hinrichs, Taylor Kavan, and Mallory Shanahan, who will provide leadership for their fellow teammates.

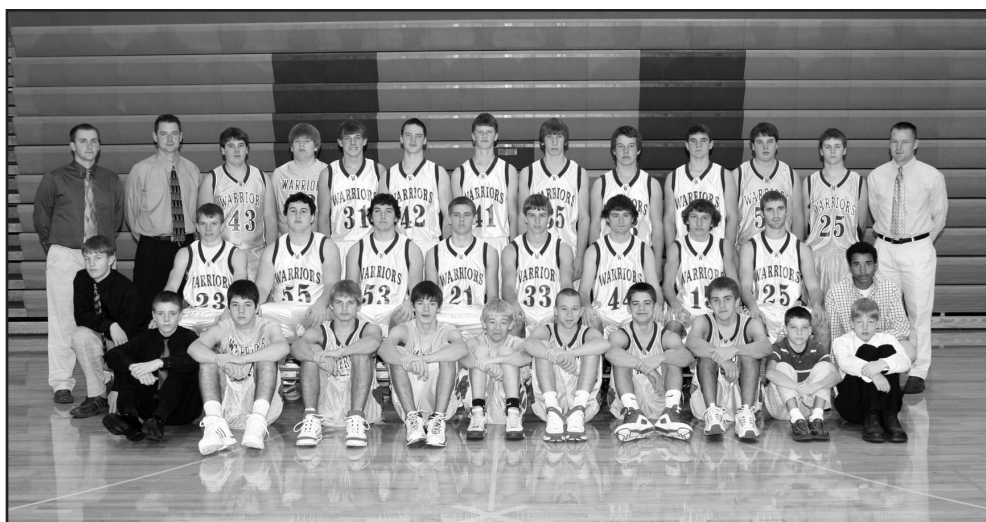
"Practice should be fun, but focused," said Walker, concerning the team motto. "These are what we've got to have this year: First, we must be in tremendous shape. Second, we must have mental toughness, and third, we must give one hundred percent in practice so that it shows in games. If we accomplish all three of those things, then I think we will do great this year."

On Dec. 5, the Lady Warriors opened their season on the road with a win against Capitol Conference rival Bennington. The Warriors outplayed the Badgers 57-47, led by Mallory Shanahan, who scored 20 points. So far, the Warriors are 1-1 on the season, and are looking forward to a successful Holiday Tournament, which starts on Dec. 29 at WHS.

Wrestling

The Warrior grapplers are prepared to take the mat this season.

With five letter winners returning, the team of 16 Wahoo and three Cedar Bluffs wrestlers appears to have good prospects this year.



2008 Boys Basketball Team



2008 Girls Basketball Team



2008 Wrestling Team

Head coach Darold Foster is confident that his team will fare better than last season. Under the leadership of juniors Matt Hornung and Corey Davis, along with Cedar Bluffs senior Kyle Kern, he believes that the Warriors will be in a better position for success.

"We want to win the majority of our duels," said Foster.

"We also want to increase intensity in practice and matches, and to keep focused all the time," he added.

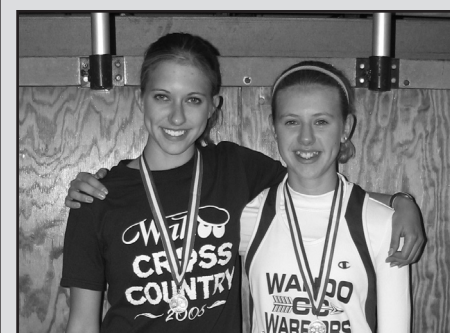
On Dec. 4, the Warriors came in second after a hard fought triangular against Ashland-Greenwood and Raymond Central.

The Warriors will take the mat on Dec. 20 at the Wahoo Invite, which starts at 9 a.m.

Fall Athletes Honored For Their Accomplishments



The Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star named Sarah Chvatal and Morgan Hancock to their C-1 All-State 1st teams. Honorable mentions went to Jordan Hinrichs and Aubrey Voboril. The Wahoo Newspaper announced the all area teams as well. 1st team: Sarah Chvatal, Morgan Hancock, Mattie Murren, and Aubrey Voboril. 2nd Team: Taylor Flessner, Sydney Hancock, Jordan Hinrichs, and Mallory Shanahan.



Senior Erin Curran qualified for Super-State Cross Country with a time of 15:16, ranking her fourth in the state. Freshman Michaela Curran qualified for All-State Cross Country with a time of 15:59.5. Erin and Michaela also ran to a 1-2 finish respectively at the State meet in Kearney on Oct. 24.



On Dec. 3 the Wahoo Newspaper announced all area volleyball honors. First team: Katie Sloup and Mahala Egr. Second Team: Jenifer Proctor and Emily Brodahl. Honorable mention: Taylor Kavan and Ashley Sloup. The Omaha World-Herald also gave honorable mention to Katie Sloup and Mahala Egr.



Seniors Layne Moore, Matt Myers and Taylor Murren earned Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star honorable mentions for the 2008 football season.

WHS Student Council shows that they can pass muster by volunteering their time and organizing a blood drive.



Clockwise from right: Morgan Hancock makes the most of “pooper scooping”; Shepherd mix “Bo” gets lots of attention from Aubrey Voboril, Michaela Curran and Jamie Fiala; Fiala and Matt Hornung show that Bo is a favorite; Student Council chooses a beautiful day to volunteer at Saunders County Lost Pets; Patty Thares has a snack after donating blood; Erin Curran works during the blood drive.

Boots and Chaps under Cowgirls' Hats

High School Rodeo Takes its Toll on WHS Seniors

By: Skye Sabatka

The sweat runs down her face. Muscles tense to keep her on her horse. Her mind focused on one thing. Heart pounding. Body in a frenzy. The rope is tossed. You're off in an instant. Your knees hit the ground in the dirt, dust and mud. Your hands hit the air. Goat tied!

Rodeo. It's just an "8 second ride"... right? Wrong! Just ask Wahoo High School seniors Jaclyn Vermeline and Felicia Brazda members of the Nebraska High School Rodeo Association (NHSRA).

Vermeline has been a member of NHSRA for almost a year. She joined in spring 2008 but before joining, Vermeline was and still is an active member of 4-H and this past summer was crowned Wahoo Saddle Club Queen. She has always loved rodeo and getting started in all of the activities that have involve horses and rodeo has been a great learning opportunity for her.

"It's a great experience and has great competition," said Vermeline. She loves the people, the atmosphere, the horses and the all-around aspect of how country and down-to-earth it is.

Aside from all the pros, the cons to being in NHSRA are also realized by Vermeline.

"Being involved [in the rodeo] takes a lot of my time and money," she said, "that's the only down side."

She does love, however, to spend time with her horses, Chrome and Daisy. She practices with them at her home, the Wahoo Arena, and 3V Stables in Ashland. Vermeline competes in barrel racing, pole bending, and goat tying events. Goat tying is her favorite.

"Exhilarating. Breathtaking. Heart-pounding," said Vermeline of competing, "4-H is nothing compared to this!"

Brazda, is also quite adamant toward the life of rodeo and competing.

"This is the one thing that I'm really good at!" said Brazda.

Brazda actually introduced Vermeline to the NHSRA and has been in it herself since the fall of 2007. Brazda is also involved in local 4-H competitions and training her horses.

"Being involved in NHSRA makes my adrenaline pump!"

Brazda explained. Brazda got started in NHSRA with the help

of her mom. After she told her about it, Brazda attended different tutorial clinics and began to practice barrel racing. Since then, the events she has been involved in are pole bending, barrel racing, goat tying and break away.

Brazda's favorite event just so happens to be the one that she very first started in; barrel racing. Brazda has gone to 4-H state and placed fifth in pole bending out of all Nebraska competitors.

With her horses, Scat, Poco and Rookie, Brazda is setting herself up for great success. She has trained all of her horses by herself and still trains them and practices with them every chance that she gets. She practices with them at home, the Wahoo Arena and 3V Stables in Ashland.

The NHSRA is an organization that enables students in high school to participate in Rodeo events just as a professional would. The events are taken just as seriously as in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA). NHSRA is an amazing extracurricular activity that any high school student can participate in as long as they meet certain association standards and requirements.

For instance, students must have passing grades in at least four of their classes and at the end of every semester, a high school transcript must be provided to the NHSRA. There are also membership dues. Whenever performing, a full outfit is required; which consists of jeans, boots, a long sleeved button down shirt and, the cowboy hat. These must be worn from the beginning to the end of the rodeo. The two main seasons for rodeo are from April to June, and from August to October. Being in the NHSRA requires hard work, determination, and patience.

Both plan to stay involved in rodeo even after high school. Vermeline plans to attend college at Southeast Community College, Beatrice or UNL and keep up with college rodeo. Outside of rodeo, she plans to study equine massage therapy or equine science.

Brazda would also like to pursue a college education and maybe, someday, professional rodeo. Still undecided on where she wants to go to college, Brazda knows that, besides competing in rodeos, she would like to go into a profession that allows her to work with horses.

So rodeo, just an '8 second ride'? No! With all of the opportunities for women in this day and age, sports are no longer restricted to just one gender. That even goes for rodeo. No longer should rodeo be looked at as the tough, dangerous pastime for cowboys, but now as the true-grit, aggressive sport for cowgirls, too!



Above Clockwise from L to R: Vermeline throws her hands into the air as she finishes tying her goat. Vermeline once more quickly hopping onto her horse in the Goat Tying event. Brazda rounding the barrel in Barrel Racing. Brazda again flipping her goat to tie it in the Goat Tying event.

