

# THE WARRIOR ECHO

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WAHOO HIGH SCHOOL

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# Thanks and Congratulations to the 2008-2009 Echo Staff!



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# Diving Into Government

by Jacob Barry



Above: The 2009 Close-Up girls pose for a picture on Capitol Hill Day

Get a little closer. Come on! There you go, nice and close! Just dive right in!

On March 27, at 3:30 a.m., 26 WHS juniors set out to get a closer look at their government in the center of it all, Washington D.C.

They left with high spirits, but hit a snag early into the experience. Their plane flight was canceled due to technical difficulties. No worries, they rebooked, rerouted and revamped. Fifteen hours later they had all finally arrived in D.C. in one piece. With the day taken by flight failure, students and sponsors hit the hay and prepped to begin their D.C. experience the next day.

The students awoke early to beat the rush to George Washington's residence, Mount Vernon. Following Mount Vernon, the tour went north to Baltimore. There the students explored the birthplace of "The Star Spangled Banner", Fort McHenry.

Sunday the group took a self-guided tour of Arlington National Cemetery. Here they observed the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. They were also able to see the burial site of John F. Kennedy and the home of General Robert E. Lee, the Confederate General.

After the austere tour of Arlington the group used the subway to speedily get to their tour of the Washington Monument. At the monument the group was able to ascend to the look out center at the very top.

"It would have been a sweet view if it wouldn't have been so cloudy," said Matt Hornung. This feeling of disappointment due to the clouds, which obscured their view of the National Mall, was unanimous among the group.

From the Washington Monument the group walked to the Holocaust Museum. This was an eye opener for many of the students as

they were able to see first hand the injustices of the Holocaust. The museum personalized the experience by providing pamphlets, which contained true Holocaust stories. These pamphlets allowed the students to follow along as they traveled through the museum. At the end of the day, the group checked into the official Close Up program.

During their experience with Close Up the students were able to investigate many memorials in Washington D.C. Some of these memorials included the Korean War and Vietnam War Memorials.

"My favorite memorial was the World War II Memorial," said Joe Nabity. "It is very representational of the severity of the war and how big it was."

The students were also able to examine the memorials of many influential leaders such as Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Thomas Jefferson.

Full speed ahead they went into Wednesday, when students joined with their original group and had the opportunity to meet with Nebraska representatives and ask them questions on topics of interest that they discussed earlier with the Close Up program, and also questions pertaining to the future of Nebraska. The group had the privilege of meeting with Senator Ben Nelson and Congressman Jeff Fortenberry.

On Wednesday night the group was able to experience a drama straight from Washington D.C. They attended the play "Shear Madness" which was held at the Kennedy Center. This play got the audience involved in their production and was a big hit among the students.

Thursday was a memorable day in which the students were able to take part in a live taping of C-Span, which is a nationally televised government program in which experts debate on

current events. The topic for the Wahoo students was gun control. Two WHS students, Derek Virgl and Skye Sabatka, actually had a chance to take part in the show.

"I was nervous but it was exciting. I would do it again in a heart beat," said Virgl about his participation in the show.

The last day of their trip was utilized to reschedule the first Friday's events that the group missed due to flight cancellations. They started the day by taking a bus ride north to Annapolis, Maryland. Here the group trekked across the Naval Academy campus. They toured the facilities of the large campus and learned Wahoo High isn't so strict after all. After the group ate a delectable lunch in downtown Annapolis they partook in a tour of the National Cathedral.

All in all the Close Up experience was a good one. The students learned a lot and had fun doing it with minimal problems for the sponsors.

"The class this year was awesome and the students were great," said sponsor Mr. Ryan Mueller. "We had a lot of good experiences and over all it was a fantastic trip."

Below: Megan Brown, Jacob Barry, Matthew Hornung and Carrie Nabity at the Washington Zoo,



Above: Skye Sabatka and Kali Kramer at World War II memorial



Above: Sam Cook and Derek Virgl are holding the Washington Monument up.



To the Right: Close-Up students line up at the National Cathedral on their last day

# 3 Strikes and You're Out!

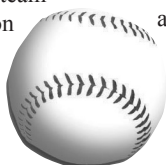
by Kali Kramer

Having ended the season with a 4-19 record, the 2009 Wahoo-Prague-Raymond Central baseball team ended their season with some great memories that will last a lifetime. This year's team was led by Clint Ohnoutka, the team's only senior from Raymond Central. Since this team only has one senior they heavily relied upon the underclassmen.

"We're a very young team and we always have room for improvement," said head coach Mike Bomar.

This hard-working team had a great coaching staff of five that helped out with all 18 players. At the beginning of the season each player set his own personal goal. This is where the coaching staff came in to play. They wanted to try to help each and every one of these talented players reach their goals.

"I wanted to start varsity and to be consistent



with what I do," said centerfielder Trenton Raymond. Raymond ended the season starting in centerfield on the varsity team.

"I wanted to win at least ten games," said infielder Christian Hohl. Although Hohl's goal was not met, he "had fun while it lasted."

The team had many ups and downs, but a couple games that will never be forgotten are the ones played against DC West and Blair. The DC West game was pretty close, up until the seventh inning.

"We had a two out rally in seventh where we scored nine runs," said infielder Branden Walling. "We also came off with a win!"

They also had a great win against Blair.

"I really enjoyed our game against Blair because I pitched a good game and we beat a very good team," said infielder Cole Barry.

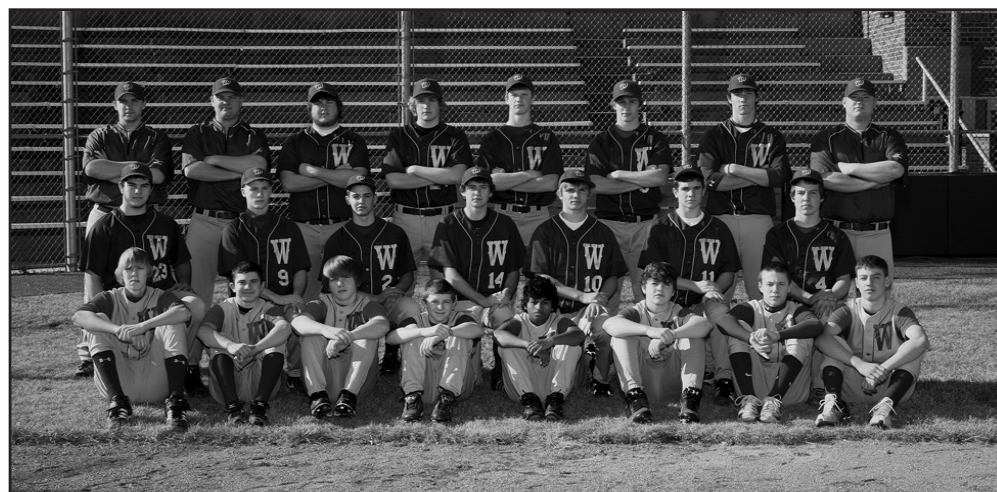
Although their season may not have ended up the way they wanted it to, they played as a team and many are looking forward to playing throughout the summer.



Cole Barry is about to hit one into the outfield.



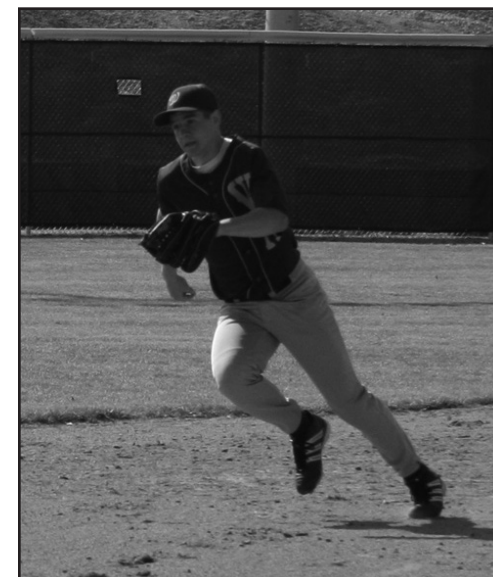
Trenton Raymond is on his way to home plate scoring a run for the Warriors.



2009 Wahoo-Prague-Raymond Central Baseball Team



Branden Walling trying to tag a player out at first base.



Christian Hohl sprinting towards a loose ball at second base.

# WHS Boys Golf a Season of Ups and Downs on the Links

by Ali Anderson

The WHS boys' golf team faced tough competition all season, but was able to bring home some impressive scores.

Senior Taylor Murren putted to a first place at the Waverly Invite with a 38, where the team brought home first place with a team total of 170.

Seniors Jake Tenopir, Taylor Murren and Ethan Brock provided the essential skills and leadership qualities needed to be senior team captains and leaders to the younger players.

"Jake Tenopir [shows] maturity, common sense and leads by example," said Coach Jayson Iversen. "Taylor Murren [is a] high quality player and is vocal."

As the season progressed, the athletes improved. The players showed determination and strength towards meeting their goal. Tyler Urban, Jake Myers, Nick Schroeder, Tyson Jelinek

and Ashton Ferguson contributed to the team throughout the season.

"It is definitely a lot of fun," said senior Brock. "The bus rides are great."

The team pushed through a tough David City Invite and took first place. Ethan Brock shot a 76, which was good enough to earn fifth place. Murren and Tenopir were not far behind with an 80 and 86.

Recently at Conference Murren shot a 76, putting him in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

"Murren is playing well right now," said Iversen. "Our district is tough, but he has a good shot at making it [to state]."

Iversen pushed the players to the max in order to be at the top of their game. The team's high spirits made for a hopeful and interesting year.



2009 WHS Boys Golf Team

# Track Season off to a Great Start

By: Skye Sabatka

The 2009 girls and boys track season got off to a great start this year with some very impressive improvements from last year. Records are being broken if not closely followed by the Wahoo athletes.

The boys have been fairly consistent throughout the season so far.

“We’ve won some meets and gotten second at some meets,” said Head Coach Randy Shada.

Shada’s goal for this season is to regain the Conference Title, which has been Arlington’s for the past two years. Before that, the title belonged to Wahoo for four years straight. He also wants get as many members to qualify for state as possible.

Greg Milliken set a new Yutan JV Invite record in the long jump.

“It’s been a great season so far, and it’s still not over yet,” said Shada

The girls’ team is accomplishing a lot in both field and running events. Warriors Erin Curran, Michaela Curran, Morgan Hancock and Mattie Murren finished the 3200-meter relay at th North Bend Invitational with their best time of 9:43.

“We’ve had a consistent ‘Top 3’ placing streak at all of our meets so far,” said Head Coach Steve Shannon.

One of Shannon’s top goals for the season is also to regain the Conference Title from Arlington, and to qualify as many girls as possible for state. He believes that there are at least six to eight girls that could compete at Burke High on May 22-23.

“We’re going to try to find a way to get it back,” said Shannon, “This group is extremely hard working and extremely unselfish, so they are willing to do anything to help the team.”

Some of the girls that have broken records this year are Sadie Murren with the 300-meter hurdles with a time of 48:05, beating Coach Kim Brigham’s 1988 record. Erin Curran missed breaking her mom’s record of 5:13.3 in the mile by 6/10<sup>th</sup> of a second. Currently the 3200-meter relay, including team members Erin Curran, Michaela



Billie Polivka gets ready for a jump



Layne Moore runs ahead for a lead on Bergan



Nick Dobesh races to the finish line.

Curran, Morgan Hancock and Mattie Murren, leads all classes in state with their time of 9:43, which is two seconds off the school record, which won state last year. Finally, the 1600-meter relay, which includes team members Kayla Bennett, Morgan Hancock, Mattie Murren and Michaela Curran, sits at second in class B with the time of 4:10.



2009 Girls Track Team

## Seniors sign on for sports

Graduating athletes take the first step in their collegiate careers.



Alex Callan will play football next fall with the Dana College Vikings.



Mallory Shanahan signed with the Nebraska Wesleyan University basketball team.



Eric Curran signs on to run cross country and track with the Midland Lutheran Warriors.



Taylor Murren will play basketball and golf with CCC in Columbus.



Erin Curran will run cross country and track at Black Hills State University.



Layne Moore signs on to play football with the Wayne State Wildcats.

# You Can't Stop the Beat... April 18, 2009

By: Kali Kramer, Skye Sabatka and Cassie Nicholls

## A Night in Paris



Nancy Kramer, Kali Kramer, Rylea Meyer, Greg Nabity, and Launa Cook set up the arch.



Oops! Tyler Schaben and Lindsay Dreyer sweep up the glitter that they spilled.



A bevy of beauties flaunt their dresses.



Seniors Ashlie Petersen and Hilary Plybon reach for the sky!

## And the polls are in...

Girls! You are the winners! You spent the most on prom this year! On average girls spent \$351.47 on Prom and Post Prom. Boys spent an average of \$235.40.

Some of the costs included the costs for dresses, tuxes, flowers, hair, accessories, shoes, and other expenses.



Michelle Krecklow, Carol Fiala, Shauna Fiala, Gary Brown, Sarah Chyatal, Derek Fiala, and Tracy Meyer help put the final touches on the window archway.

**WHS** juniors and their parents walked into the Wahoo Elementary School gymnasium on Monday, April 13 to decorate for "A Night in Paris," a major undertaking that took five days to complete. The gym, now covered with black and gold gossamer, was set to feel like Paris. Gold stars sparkled against the black background and a grand "staircase" led to a black seventeen-foot Eiffel Tower!

If students worked hard and decorated three of the four evenings prior to Friday, they were allowed to finish the task on Friday afternoon. Eighteen students decided that this would be a great opportunity to take a break from their classes.

"We decided that we would decorate so we could get out of school on Friday," said WHS juniors Derek and Jamie Fiala.

The juniors that took advantage of this offer ate lunch early on Friday and walked down the path to the elementary school where they finished setting up tables and decorating with centerpieces. They also swept the floor, vacuumed the picture set, and washed mirrors.

When all was done they lit the candles, turned the lights off, and enjoyed their accomplishments.

"I feel that decorating went really well because there was a lot of student and parent help," said prom coordinator Abbie Huenik. "Everyone was very dedicated, focused, and made it a very memorable experience!"



Prom is often the highlight of many high school students' days at Wahoo High School. On April 18 the juniors and seniors spent "A Night In Paris." At 7:30 p.m., couples starting arriving at the elementary school to walk down the red carpet into a night to remember.

The doors opened at 8 p.m. for parents and others to attend coronation. At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Arent began with an introduction of prom candidates. Queen candidates included Hannah Biehl, Jordan Hinrichs, Taylor Kavan, Jenifer Proctor, Benishia Siemer, and Mallory Shanahan. King candidates were Jacob Anderson, Garrett Bowers, Tyler Brunsting, Jared Moline, Layne Moore and Matthew Myers. Last year's king and queen, Austin Watton and Amber Henkel, and the crown bearers Abbey Meyer and Matthew Fiscus crowned the 2009 prom queen and king, Hannah Biehl and Matthew Myers.

After coronation, students danced until their feet hurt. The d.j. played music from the 90s to today; everything from Blind Melon to Lil' Wayne. Prom ended at 11:30 p.m students had a half hour to run home and change to make it back up to the high school to leave for post prom at Champions in Lincoln.



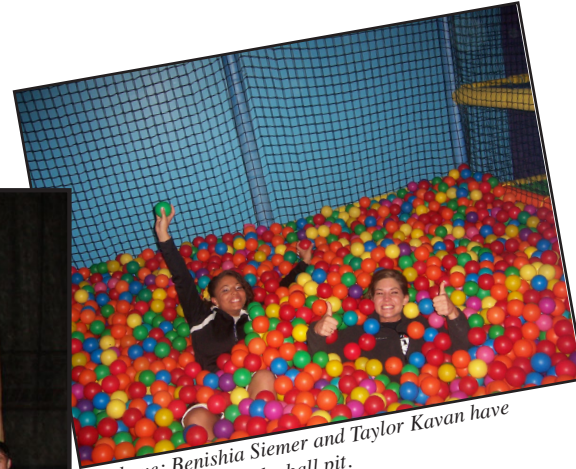
2009 Prom Court (from left): 2008 Queen Amber Henkel, Taylor Kavan, Mallory Shanahan, Jenifer Proctor, Jordan Hinrichs, Benishia Siemer, 2009 Queen Hannah Biehl, 2009 King Matt Myers, Jacob Anderson, Tyler Brunsting, Jared Moline, Layne Moore, Garrett Bowers and 2008 King Austin Watton



Some of the boys "get low" at the prom dance



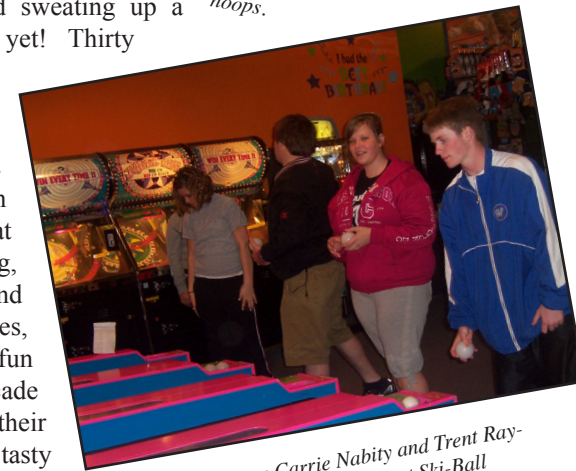
Courtney Clifford smiles for a picture with 2009 Prom King Matt Myers



Above: Benishia Siemer and Taylor Kavan have fun swimming in the ball pit.



Above: Hailey Zetocka and WHS 2008 alumni Jae Beachler shoot some hoops.



Above: Carrie Nabity and Trent Raymond dominate at Ski-Ball

Twisting the night away! After a fun-filled night of dressing to the nines, dancing the night away and sweating up a storm, prom wasn't over yet! Thirty minutes after the lights went out in Paris, students and chaperones loaded the buses and headed to Champions Fun Center in Lincoln for even more fun! The early morning at Champions was spent bowling, go-carting, singing karaoke and arcade gaming. Students won prizes, such as teddy bears, bouncy balls and fun little toys, with tickets from the arcade games, expended even more of their energy running around and ate some tasty food while there.

At about 3 a.m., students reloaded the buses to head back to the high school, where more fun awaited! Back at the school, students learned about their futures as told to them by a fortuneteller and many played a huge game of Twister! Some had their caricatures drawn while others gathered tables talking about their event-packed nights. Around 4:30 to 5:00, the students enjoyed a nice, hot breakfast and entered their names into a bucket for a chance to win cool prizes! Around 6 a.m., students left the building to go home. Whew! What a great night that will be hard to forget. Prom 2009.



To the left: Senior boys Garrett Bowers, Chris Ludi and Ethan Brock try their hardest to release the coin at just the right time.

# All About Anna

by Eric Curran



Freshman Anna Hornung

She is often seen strolling down the hallway, with her faithful friends Nicole and "R.C." tagging alongside.

Anna Hornung is the daughter of Todd and Lisa Hornung. She was officially welcomed into the world on July 21, 1993, at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital in Lincoln, Neb. Anna attended South Center District #70 for her elementary education. Following her graduation from District #70 in 2006, she made the difficult jump to the next level of education by transferring to Wahoo Middle School.

# Wahoo WAITS with Donahue

by: Ali Anderson

Star and team captain of the boy's basketball team. The beautiful and popular prom queen. Straight-A students. Teen parents? It has happened. It can happen.

Students are becoming accustomed to the idea of teenage pregnancies. Whether peer pressure is the cause of sexual activity among youngsters or curiosity gets the best of them, this worries parents to no end.

"Physically, emotionally, psychologically kids are not ready to have sex," said Terry Kopish, WHS counselor

WAIT instructor Shelly Donahue spoke at Wahoo High on March 18. Donahue explains the importance of abstinence. Her humor and brutal honesty makes students laugh, squirm, and moan in disgust.

"She is one of the people on the front line," said Kopish. "People will mock her saying her program isn't working but in fact it is working very well."

Donahue spoke to every grade in the high school separately. One exercise Donahue showed the students involved splitting the males and females up in different rooms. There they had to describe the perfect date. What would you wear? Who would pay? Where would you go?

"Everyone was open-minded when we talked as a group," said freshman Dan Clark.

Caitlin Watts described her favorite part. "It was seeing the boy's answers and they were the same as ours. I expected them to say girls got to pay and wear bikinis."

Based on recent studies the average age of girls starting to have sex has increased from an average of 15 years old to 17 years old, showing that girls are waiting longer to become sexually active.

"It was hard at first, but then I made friends and got used to it," she said. "It was a bigger environment, and there were a lot more people."

This was not the first time Anna had moved to a new place. When she was 10, she and her family moved from their house in Wahoo to a new house south of town.

Anna's hobbies include hanging out with her friends, shopping, and playing sports. Anna is also kept company by her dog Karl and her two cats Macy and Lillian. Besides her friends and pets, Anna's main other interest is in food, most notably ice cream.

Anna currently is a freshman at Wahoo High School, where she maintains a rigorous class schedule. Of all of the classes she is enrolled in, Anna most enjoys art and physical education.

"I like the teacher, and it is a fun class," Anna said, concerning both classes.

Anna is not only busy in school, but outside of school as well. She is an active participant in cross country, and qualified for the State Cross Country Meet. She is also currently a member of the girls' track and field team.

"I like running because it keeps me fit," Anna said, in regards to her athletic participation.

Anna plans to attend college majoring in hair styling following high school graduation.

"I thought she had a really good message," said sophomore Emma Bartek.

It is not only girls who get Donahue's message. Boys are also choosing to stay abstinent, too.

"It is against my morals to do it now," said Sophomore Christian Hohl

"Parents are the number one reason why kids wait," said Donahue.

Being a parent, Donahue wants the best for not only her kids, but for every teenager. They need to learn from their mistakes, but not to get hurt in the process.

"I want them to have healthy relationships and marriages and to not learn it the bad way," said Donahue

Donahue told of her insecurities as a parent, "I only have one shot at being a parent and I do not want to take any chances."

Most parents are not "well equipped", as Donahue put it, to inform their kids on the rights and wrongs of staying abstinent until marriage. Adults and parents are not as all-knowing in the sense of new found pressures teens are going through these days.

Some teenagers also look up to their siblings or even their boyfriends and girlfriends in order to keep from falling under the pressures involved in dating.

"My sister has been through the same stuff as I am going through now," said junior Caitlin Watts. "I lead by example."

Donahue made it clear that she does not approve of teenagers dating until they are able to drive. Her standards are strict, yet essential, in helping children understand the important values they should live by and respect.

continued on page 10

# Science Teacher Extraordinaire

by Alison Thompsen

Mr. Steve Shannon is known to students as both a teacher and a coach. Not many are aware, though, that this educator has the vocals and bravery to sing karaoke, the patience to golf, and is an avid Husker football fan.

Not many may know, too, that teaching was not always Shannon's professional goal. He first set his sights on becoming a professional athlete for the NBA. Not until he attended college did he realize that he was not fast enough, strong enough and couldn't jump high enough that this was not the profession for him. Looking for a new career path, he decided to study pre-med at Kearney. There he pursued this degree, until he realized he wished to spend more time with his daughter, Gabby. This change of heart caused him to enroll in the teacher's college.

Shannon has been teaching since December 1993 and at WHS since 2001. During this time, he has helped coach not only football and track, but also soccer, volleyball, and basketball. Coaching these different sports has helped him not only learn the skill of organization, but has also helped him form lasting relationships with his students, which he claims is one of his greatest accomplishments of the last 16 years.

"I can't name one great accomplishment over time, but I feel success in the fact that I still have students that I am in contact with today from when I first student taught to now," said Shannon. "It makes me feel that I had a little bit of an effect on them."

Shannon has always valued his impact on the students of WHS. His interests have always lied with furthering each student's abilities. One idea he is experimenting with that would help in this area is creating a Leadership Studies class that freshmen would be required to take. It would center on finding each student's strengths and weaknesses. The class would focus on helping students discover their passions, building their strengths, and working through their weaknesses. The class would prepare them for future careers and life outside of high school. Shannon believes that the greatest challenge for students is finding what they are passionate about, not what will make them the most money. His Leadership Studies class would, no doubt, help students conquer this problem.

Throughout his years of teaching, Shannon has come to realize his favorite and least favorite aspects of teaching.



The Shannon Family: Gabby, Steve and Amanda

"My least favorite is the bureaucracy of teaching," he said. "I don't enjoy how there are so many hoops to jump through to get to something simple. By the time you get it all done, it has already lost its appeal."

His favorite aspects are the daily interactions he has with his students and he has come to like most the effect he has on each student.

"My goal is not to be the favorite science teacher, but to positively influence each student," said Shannon.

This sentiment doesn't go unnoticed by the people with whom he works either.

"Steve builds positive and long-lasting relationships with his students," said WHS principal Chris Arent. "This is definitely a gift we value as educators."

With 16 years of teaching under his belt, Shannon has come to realize one of the greatest flaws of teaching: there are never enough good teachers. He has realized that schools need to have more teachers that specialize in each subject. This especially holds true in his case as he is now teaching physics for the first time.

"I've never had experience teaching it," said Shannon. "It's my kryptonite."

Shannon's journey has been an interesting metamorphosis from dreaming of the NBA and MDs to teaching high school physics. This teacher and coach doesn't plan on quitting any time soon either. Settling in Wahoo with his new wife of less than a year, Amanda, and spending time with Gabby, a Wahoo Middle School student and athlete, keeps him on his toes.



Freshmen girls and boys compare their ideal dates.

# Down List Makes a Difference

by Skye Sabatka

Every Tuesday teachers retrieve their mail and find a multi-page document. They usually look it over and file it away. It is the weekly Academic Downs List and along with it comes a Down List Report for students in the list that shows current grades and lists the procedures for students failing one or more classes. When a student has been on the DL for four weeks, they become ineligible for all activities including sports and dances. Fair? Or not fair?

The Academic Downs List is a good thing for the school to have because although some of the students may not like it, it helps them improve their grades in the long run. The Academic Downs List tells the students which classes they are failing or doing badly in. Some of the consequences for being on "the list" are being excluded from certain school activities or sport games. Even though the students don't seem to care for the consequences, not being able to come to these events would benefit them. This would benefit them because if they were not permitted to go, they would have more time to work on their homework, late assignments, and quizzes and tests that need to be made up.

More places that it could help the student in is by having to come to the detentions (academic detentions). The student could receive one-on-one help from the teachers. The fact that the students might rush to get in their homework when they hear that the "list" is coming out, is also a good thing. I think that if they are given a set time to have their homework in by, they should be dedicated to getting it in by that time. They already have a deadline in the first place for most homework and assignments, and when they don't turn it in, then it kind of is their own fault. So, having the "list" come out and making students rush to get their homework done is good, because it's like a second chance to get it in "on time".

## WAIT Training

"My parents let me start dating at age 14," explained junior Branden Walling. "The downside is that there is no where to go because you can't drive."

During the assembly Donahue described two different items; one was a waffle, and one was spaghetti.

The waffle signified a boy. The boy is just like the waffle, in the sense that he can compartmentalize his issues and not worry about them. It could be sports practice, exams or being sexually active with his girlfriend. All the issues are in separate spots and do not affect anything in his life.

The spaghetti on the other hand symbolized girl. In which her issues tend to all run together and make a mess of things. Girls are more of the romantic and have an array of feeling on every topic.

# Is the Down List a Downer?

by Alison Thomsen

The dreaded downs list. It seems as though within the downs list lay two groups of students: Those who strive to be removed from the list, and those who do not mind the hours spent in detention after school. This is where the downs list begins to fail. Let me explain.

The punishment for being on the downs list is being restricted from activities, such as going to games and school functions, which by the way goes against the school's goal to raise school spirit. While this becomes a burden for some students in this school, some are not active in extracurricular activities anyway, so the downs list does not affect them. Some of them do not care if they are missing the activities or not.

Many students on the downs list simply need extra help from teachers, which is not something to be punished for. If students were allowed extra time and received help from teachers and tutors, they would not be put on this list. So possibly instead of punishing these students, the school should be searching for ways to help them. Without help, students will begin to give up on improving their grades, knowing they have not been able to achieve passing grades on their own.

The downs list also causes problems for those who are not on the list. These students may be feeling the stress of handing in homework, so to avoid a bad grade, they decide to copy from another student and learn nothing in order to avoid the downs list. This defeats the purpose of the downs list altogether.

The penalties for bad grades are strict and harsh. They detract from student involvement and the downs list's desired effect is not yet evident. The downs list has a very long way to go until it is a system without flaws.

Although the Academic Downs List may seem like it has some down falls, in the end I believe that it does the students a great deal of good.

Both genders can have the same issues. What makes them different is how they deal with them. Boys are more carefree and straightforward with their effortless demeanor. Girls are complex with emotions that can take over and run their lives.

Peer pressure among high schoolers is extremely tremendous. Having a significant other in the midst of it all is exceptionally difficult. There are some people who have the strength to ignore all of the anxieties surrounding school, sports, social issues, relationships, family and faith.

"My girlfriend is the one I look up to," Walling explains, "I respect her wishes."

Donahue's message came through in big letters to WHS, WAIT. Waiting until marriage eliminates the risks for unwanted pregnancies. A condom does not protect yourself from everything--it doesn't protect your heart.

# Getting "Down" To It

How Far are Grades Going to Fall? by Emily Brodahl

Say goodbye to all your beloved school activities: sporting events, choir, band, FCA, FBLA, chess, and every other extracurricular, because if you're on the downs list you're not going anywhere for school unless it's to study. Wahoo High's massive downs list has caused new policies and growing disappointments, but why has it gotten so big? Principal Chris Arent isn't sure.

"It seems that students aren't motivated as much in second semester," explained Arent. "I'm not sure of the reason though."

Another reason pointed out by Arent was that fewer students are involved in activities during second semester, which can be a huge motivation in keeping grades up.

As of now, if students are on the downs list for one to three weeks they are not allowed to miss school for any activity, but can still go to school-sponsored activities before or after school. If students are on the list for four weeks or more, they are ineligible for all activities.

So what are kids to do? Are kids being punished for not being able to keep up, or are they just not putting in the effort expected by teachers? Hopefully our school hasn't fallen into a downward

spiral as the year quickly comes to an end. Maybe that is the reason for our problem. If so, how do we fix it?

"Talk to your teachers before you start to fail," suggested Arent. "If your grade goes down to a C or D, start getting help then before it's too late." Arent also recommended getting help from other classmates.

One student who was on the downs list during third quarter explained why she was failing.

"I was on the downs list because I never handed in any of my homework, I was lazy and slacked off," said sophomore Mya Nicholls. "For other kids on the downs list, I would say just get your homework done so you don't have to catch up. It's easier to maintain than to catch up."

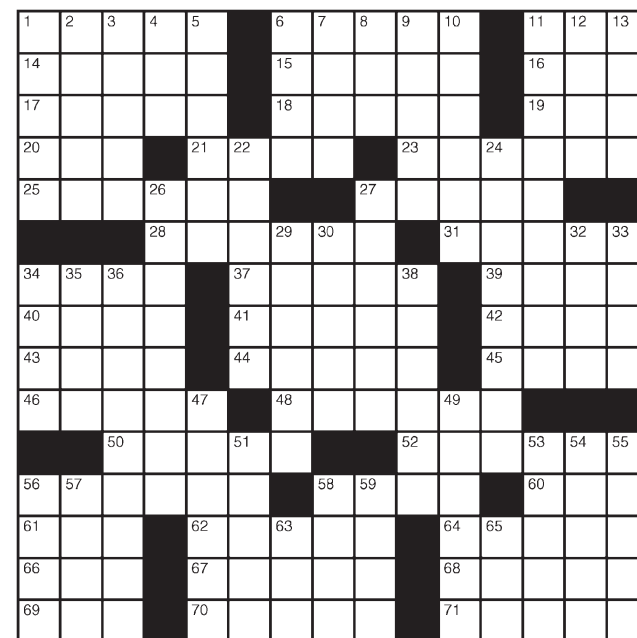
The last part of her statement makes a good point—it really is easier to maintain than catch up. Almost like running a race, it's easier to maintain one speed instead of having to speed up to catch the person in front of you.

So Wahoo, let's lead this race instead having to play catch up. In the words of George Edward Woodberry, "Defeat is not the worst of failures. Not to have tried is the worst failure."

## Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Part of NYSE
- 6 Rock overhang
- 11 Mr. Shmoe
- 14 Paroxysm
- 15 Hi there!
- 16 Extremity
- 17 Inert gaseous element
- 18 Edmonton pro
- 19 Inc., abroad
- 20 Vote of support
- 21 Takes a siesta
- 23 Put to work
- 25 Picks up vibes
- 27 Country on the Adriatic
- 28 Permits
- 31 Put on hold
- 34 By mouth
- 37 Wipe out
- 39 Wine vintage
- 40 Editor's mark
- 41 Come afterward
- 42 Dip chip
- 43 Adult elvers
- 44 Latin father
- 45 Calligrapher's supply
- 46 Pinch pennies
- 48 Boredom
- 50 Measure precisely
- 52 Get-up-and-go
- 56 Poem section
- 58 Loughlin of "Full House"
- 60 Time to remember
- 61 Kook
- 62 "Velcro Fly" group
- 64 Muscle
- 66 Blood type syst.
- 67 Military vacation
- 68 Bounding main
- 69 Apiece



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- 70 City on the Ruhr
- 71 Colorful salamanders
- DOWN
- 1 Sticks around
- 2 Crowd maker?
- 3 Bach's instrument
- 4 Talk sweetly
- 5 Rover's stopover
- 6 Rib cut
- 7 Hawaiian souvenirs
- 8 Ailing
- 9 Naval force
- 10 Data structure
- 11 Colorful, sugar-coated candy
- 12 Not fooled by
- 13 Bit of a whirl
- 22 Dead to the world
- 24 Recess, for example
- 26 Traveling rep
- 27 Put out
- 29 Elaborately decorated
- 30 Squander
- 32 Dearth
- 33 Greek Cupid
- 34 Dedicated poems
- 35 Cause a stench
- 36 Swamp thing
- 38 More macabre
- 47 Conundrum
- 49 One voice
- 51 Stares transfixed
- 53 Freshen up
- 54 Large in number
- 55 Sleepy signals
- 56 Crack
- 57 London underground
- 58 Tennis zero
- 59 Begin the bidding
- 63 Prof's aides
- 65 Cold cubes



# Pop...Pop...Pop Music!

by Cassie Nicholls

Music endures people's souls in so many different ways and on May 7, 2009 the inspiration was brought to Wahoo High School.

Once the clock struck 7:00 p.m., band members took their seats and waited with their instruments until band director Eric Snyder finished his speech. When Snyder finally waved his wand in the air, the concert band began by performing the theme song from the hit movie "The Patriot." They continued the performance with a piece called "Vehicle" and ended with the number they performed during many competitions this year, "Aztec Fire."

Next up were the concert choir and mixed chorus lead by first year vocal music director Julie Baker-Anderson. These two outstanding groups joined together during this performs to sing the song "Seize the Day" and also to perform the Pat Benatar song "We Belong."

This year during the Pops Concert their was two amazing soloist performing. Senior Eric Curran sang a song he's been working on with an outside director during this individual singing sessions. Also, Patricia Starr, a guest that Wahoo High School has seen many times this year played a few songs on the piano to show her love of music.

Presentations of music awards was next and their was plenty to give out. Many band and choir members lettered for the first time or second time

this year. Also, their was many individual honors given out such as the 2009 Outstanding Freshman Band Member was given to Mitch Snyder and the "Rookie of the Year" in choir was given to Kyle Willis and Brandon Gaunt.

After a short intermission the jazz band performed. They started off by performing a piece called "Abracadabra." Next they performed "Early Afternoon Blues" and "Cantelope Island" but that wasn't their last pieces of the night.

The show choir was up next and they were going to dance and isng for the audience. They performed songs called "September", "Bless the Broken Road", "Popular", "Takin' Care of Business", and the classic "Born to Hand Jive." The show choir was directed by Julie Baker-Anderson this year.

To finish off the concert, the jazz band came back out to perform again. They performed "Choo-Choo Cha-Boogie" and to end the performance "Minnie The Moocher."



Mr. Snyder and Mrs. Anderson honor music students for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

## Music Award Night

Students are Awarded for Their Skills in Band and Choir

### Nebraska Ambassadors of Music 2009 European Tour:

Brandon Gaunt, Carrie Nabity, Katelyn O'Brien, Joseph Nabity, Mitch Snyder, Sydney Hancock, Hillary Fick, Kelsey Meyer, Hannah Beihl, Alison Thomsen

### First Year Letter Winners

Max Pfeiffer, Tara Burkey, Rachel Urban, Kristal Lindgren, Mitch Snyder, Dan Clark

### Repeating Letter Winners

Kinsey Clark, Devon Sladek, Aunbrea Zeleney Ian Hoppe, Caroline Nabity, Hillary Fick, Kayla Coffey, Cristina Robinson, Sean Lindgren, Emily Widger, Janelle Jansa, Patty Thares, Alison Thomsen, Hannah Biehl, Joseph Nabity, Kelsey Meyer,

### Superior Ratings at District Music Contest

Flute Solo: Alison Thomsen

Alto Saxophone Solo: Mitchell Snyder

Trombone Solo: Joseph Nabity

Piano Solo: Mitchell Snyder

Clarinet Quartet: Kayla Coffey, Hillary Fick, Rachel Urban & Mitchell Snyder

Saxophone Quartet: Mitch Snyder, Tina Robinson, Hillary Fick & Kayla Coffey

### Jazz Band

Saxophone: Mitchell Snyder, Tina Robinson, Hillary Fick & Kayla Coffey

Trombones: Joe Nabity, Tara Burkey & Sean Lindgren

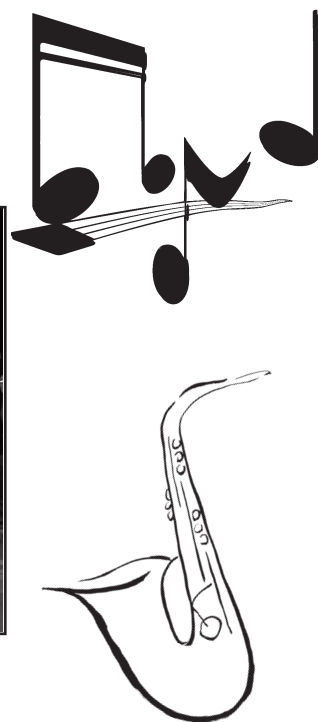
Trumpets: Kinsey Clark, Devon Sladek, Aunbrea Zeleny, Ian Hoppe & Krystal Lindgren

Rhythm Section: Max Pfeiffer, Dan Clark & Carrie Nabity



Above: Jazz Band gets their groove on.

Below: Choir sings their hearts out.



# We'll Always REMEMBER

by: Shanly Steffes

"I present to you the Class of 2009," announced WHS principal Chris Arent on May 10. To some seniors, that phrase played a movie of memories maybe for some a quick second and for others the whole day. This is the last day the Class of '09 sat in the WHS gym as students.

The graduation ceremony started at 1 p.m. in the WHS gym. The bleachers were filled with anxious family members and blue chairs were lined up in rows awaiting the seniors. Roses sat on the stage signifying the class flower.

The ceremony came to life when the band started playing "Pomp and Circumstance." Students wearing the traditional graduation robes started walking in. WHS superintendent Ed Rastovski gave his welcoming speech to the seniors as they sat in nervous anticipation of their biggest day, the beginning of the end.

The ceremony proceeded when the Wahoo Concert Choir Small Ensemble directed by Julie Baker-Anderson, sang "Always There," a slow song that hit close to the heart to some graduates and their families. Valedictorians Eric Curran, Erin Curran and Ian Hoppe reflected on their school years and imagined what their futures may hold.

Honor cords and awards were given out to the top 15 percent of the class: Jacob Anderson, Alex

Callan, Eric Curran, Erin Curran, Jordan Hinrichs, Ian Hoppe, Matthew Myers, Anthony Prochaska, Mallory Shanahan, Ashley Sloup, Patricia Thares and Alison Thomsen.

The class song "Say Goodbye" by Skillet then echoed in the background as the graduates searched for their parents to present them with a token of thanks to those who have influenced them throughout their school years. As the song ended, the graduates returned to their seats with tears in their eyes and their big moment approached.

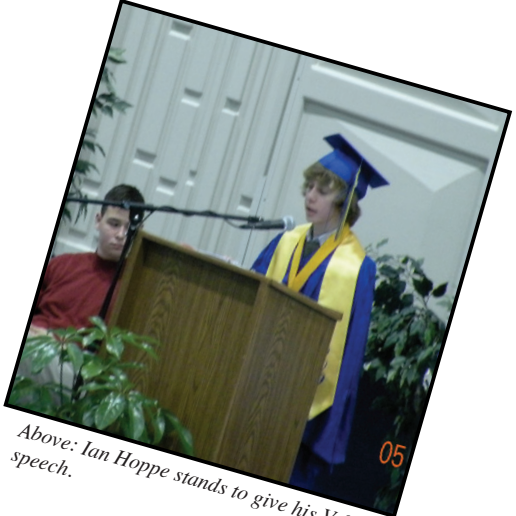
As the seniors looked at the diplomas stacked in front of them, they knew this was it. As Arent read each graduate's name, board members Al Grandgenett and Mary Ann Tingelhoff handed out the diplomas and senior class advisor Carol Mertl presented each with their class flower. The graduates felt happy and sad at the same time.

"I present to you the Class of 2009," announced Arent at the end of the ceremony.

This was it. The Class of 2009 couldn't call themselves students, but better yet, alumni. The graduates moved their tassels to the right side of their graduation caps signifying that they had truly earned this diploma. The WHS graduates would walk away with friends, tears, laughs, knowledge and memories to last a lifetime. The class of 2009 will never really ever "say goodbye."



Above: Ben Pokorny embraces his mom with a huge hug.



Above: Ian Hoppe stands to give his Valedictorian speech.



Above: The honor students received their awards.



Above: Julie Baker-Anderson and Wahoo Concert Choir sing a Small Ensemble for the graduates.



Above: The 2009 graduates celebrating the receipt of their diplomas.



Above: Eric Curran delivers his Valedictorian speech proudly.



Above: Erin Curran delivers her speech to her the audience.