

THE WARRIOR ECHO

VOL. 2 ISSUE 3


WAHOO HIGH SCHOOL

2201 N. LOCUST ST.

FEBRUARY 2010

Got Time?

Volunteer opportunities abundant in Wahoo



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EVAN C

"Life is not a dress rehearsal - we should always give our best performance!"

Reece gives her all every day

by Mahala Egr

We all know Mrs. Reece as our high school speech and drama teacher, but there is so much more going on behind the scenes!

Did you know that Mrs. Reece grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico?

Or that she has two children?

That she would love to have the lead in a Broadway musical?

Or that she started a community theatre?

Diane (Bjornborg) Reece lived in Albuquerque until her junior year in high school when her family moved to Grand Island, Neb. She earned her bachelor's degree from UNL in 1972 and has lived and taught in Nebraska ever since.

Reece teaches speech and drama part time at WHS, directs theatre productions, and sponsors the Speech and One Act teams. She's been teaching at WHS for the past 11 years.

"I really do enjoy the students and I believe speech and drama builds self confidence in people," said Reece. "It is rewarding to be a part of that growth."

Directing high school students is not an easy thing to do when they are so busy and cannot commit to being at rehearsals.

"The highlight is always when the production all comes together and you see students who are nervous and unsure become confident performers who are havng a great time!" said Reece.

Reece has directed many plays outside of WHS, too.

One of her favorite plays to direct is "Godspell".

"It has it all: creative acting, pantomimes, audience participation, great music, and of course a very serious 'make-em cry' ending," said Reece.

Reece loves "Godspell" so much that she even had the cast sing a song from "Godspell" at



Mrs. Reece

her wedding.

One of Reece's pet projects away from the hustle and bustle of the high school is the community theatre she started. The Lofte is a old barn that she along with "an incredible group of people" cleaned up and transformed into a theatre. It is probably no surprise that when the new theatre opened in 1977, the opening production was "Godspell".

"It was such a challenge," said Reece. "It was an awesome experience to have a dream and see it actually become a reality!"

The theatre is still going strong with a full-time director, one of Reece's former students.

Mrs. Reece loves eating out at different restaurants with friends, reading, graphic arts, and hanging out with family: husband Bill (works for the UNL Foundation), son Jonathon (lives in Alaska), and daughter Abbie (working on her masters degree for Architectural Design at UNL).

"We are a crazy bunch," said Reece.

Reece has other dreams, too. She would some day love to live in a cabin on a lake, star in a Broadway musical (despite that fact that she says she can't sing!), teach a "gifted class", and go to Alaska.

Whatever Mrs. Reece does, we know she will give her best performance!

Out with the old and in with the new. The new Lofte Theatre in rural Manly, Neb., (right) opened about four years ago. The "old" Lofte Theatre (below) is still standing, but was sold to a church group.



Peavy's Top 5

Senior Jeff Peavy shares his five favorite things.

by Mahala Egr

Jeff Peavy has lived in Wahoo his whole life and attended St. Wencelaus until fourth grade. He's been a WPS student ever since. Jeff is an avid video gamer and in his spare time he likes to hang out with his girlfriend and friends. He is also very fond of these five things:

Cell Phone

It's an Alltel Banter, because I could not talk to anyone. I usually text a lot.



Laptop

My Acer helps me message people who are far away. I check sites, type papers, and e-mail my peeps.

Car (Not pictured)

It's a 2000 Plymouth Neon. It gets me around fast. I drive a lot~about 100+ miles a week.



Puka Shell Necklace

It's Hawaiian. It's important to me because I got it from a dear friend and I fixed it. I wear it almost every day.

X-box 360

It passes the boredom. I play Halo 3, Call of Duty, and Modern Warfare 2.



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“Back To the 80s... The Totally Awesome Musical”

By Mahala Egr

It was a blast from the past. It was light saber fights to heart-breaks. It was a “Totally Awesome Musical”!

Cast members practiced until almost 10:30 on some nights to try to perfect the musical and those late night practices sure made a difference. Some practices ended in disaster, which worried many: they weren’t sure if the musical would ever come together. But, sure enough, when the lights came on at the elementary school, everything came together and the musical was a hit.

“From where we were two days before the actual musical, we made drastic improvements,” said Joel Gensler who played Alf Bueller. “It ended up being a great show!”

The musical cast performed on Nov. 12 for the elementary and middle schools. These youngsters saw only a few scenes, which made them want to come back for more.

On Nov. 13 and Nov. 14 the audience filled every seat at the elementary school to enjoy the show. This musical took parents on a journey back to the 80s. They found themselves singing along to songs or recognizing outfits, dresses, and the Rubik’s Cube. It was like going back to their high school years.

All the tough practices and time spent with cast members came to end on Sunday, the last night of the show.

“My favorite part of the musical was spending time with the people in it,” said Carrie Nabity who played Ms. Brannigan.

Some of the 80s tunes performed were “Kids in America”, “Total Eclipse of the Heart”,

“Footloose”, “Video Killed the Radio Star”, “Walking on Sunshine”, “Man in the Mirror”, “Mickey”, “(I’ve had) The Time of my Life”, and many more.

“My favorite memory was when I was trying to sing my solo (“Material Girls”) and Tyler Schaben almost strangled me with the boa,” said Kayla Coffey.

Now for those who have been dying to know how all of those wacky kids came out in the end, here are some answers.

Tiffany (Megan Brown) and Corey (Kyle Willis) did end up going to the prom together because Tiffany finds out how big of a jerk Michael Feldman (Jake Barry) was.

Michael Feldman the “cool kid” ended up going to prom with... himself!

Michael won the class election by a landslide. Feargal “the nerd” (Derek Virgil) was laughed at when he unveiled his invention of the CD.

Eileen, “the new girl” (Mahala Egr and Melissa Ford) found out Michael sent her all the fake love letters. After receiving one asking her to prom, she says yes to Michael. He tells her it was all a joke. Her hopes and dreams were crushed. But, Feargal stood up for her and beat up Michael. Eileen and Feargal go to the prom together, fall in love, and eventually get married!

Ms. Brannigan (Carrie Nabity) and Mr. Cocker (Zach Gropp) worked everything out despite the fact Ms. Brannigan was in a “swimsuit” magazine.

In the end all had “The time of their lives,” at their prom.



“Back to the 80s” snapshot from the top: A broken-hearted Eileen (Mahala Egr) is serenaded by her friends Alf (Joel Gensler), and Corey Jr. (Kyle Willis). Don’t worry, be happy was the message of the day.

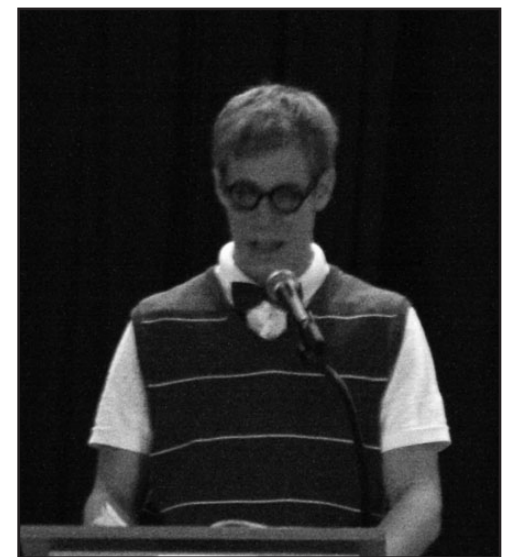
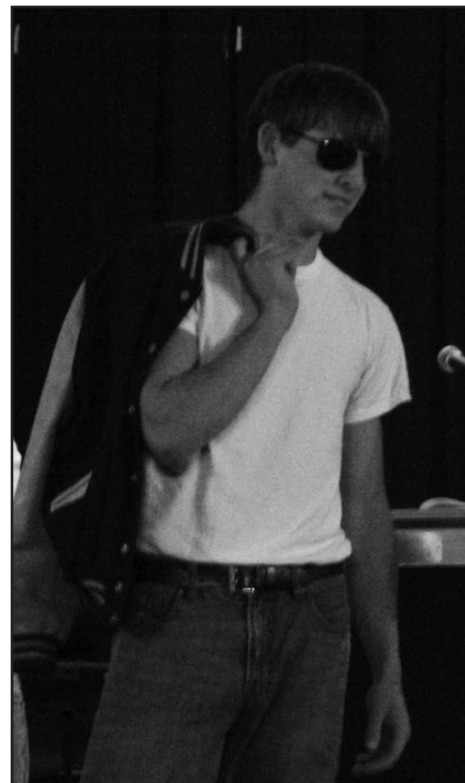
Tiffany (Megan Brown), unaware that Corey has a mad crush on her, tells him all about her “love” for Michael.

Running for class president, Michael, (Jake Barry), shows the student body what he’s made of.

Brainiac Fergal (Derek Virgil) unveils his newest invention, the compact disk, that is suppose to store and play music in a whole new way. His classmates laugh at him, but he gets the last laugh, and the girl, in the end.



A blast from the past. Molli Miller, Kendra Pearson, Samone Clayton, Kinsey Clark, Matt Horning, Melissa Ford, and Matt Spicka perform “Man in the Mirror”.



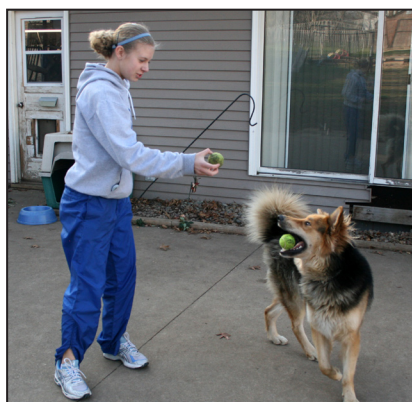
Volunteer!



By Emily Brodahl

Give a day. Get a day.

In an effort to inspire people to give back to their communities, Disney is giving away a free pass to either Disneyland in California or Disney World in Florida in exchange for one day of volunteer service. For more information, go to <http://disney parks.disney.go.com>.



Kayla Bennett enjoys being a Jr. Mate (above) and Michaela Curran (left) tries to teach an old dog a new trick at the Saunders County Lost Pet Society through a volunteer opportunity set up by the WHS Student Council.

Students at WHS provide community service in many ways. Here are just a few:

- FBLA ~ Trash collection along HWY 77
- Student Council ~ Dog walk at SCLP; Canned Food Drive
- Jr. Mates ~ Mentor
- WHS Football Team ~ Saunders County Clean-Up Day
- Transitions ~ Recycling
- NHS ~ Annual Blood Drive

There is truly something for everyone, so look around and see how YOU can help!

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn about yourself, make yourself feel good, and most importantly help those who need it.

Personally, I have had a phenomenal experience volunteering. I've met many new people, learned a lot, and I got a chance to help. It may sound

weird to some, but volunteering could be the single most important decision you ever make.

The state of Nebraska is ranked second in the nation for the percentage of people who volunteer. Yet that percentage is only 38.9%, less than half of our residents! Maybe it's time we should consider raising that percentage.

We live in a world where people are constantly in need of assistance, so the opportunity to volunteer is everywhere. Even here in the small town of Wahoo there is a lot to be done. The school and surrounding churches routinely organize blood drives, which help save lives.

"Volunteering is important," said freshman Alicia Iverson. "Because it helps people in need."

If you don't want to literally donate blood, sweat, and tears, you could try other things like volunteering at the library or mentoring. Other opportunities include helping with Meals on Wheels, or

a more seasonal opportunity at the county fair. Regardless of what you choose, you will be helping others and nothing feels better than that.

"Volunteering helps our community," said sophomore Dylan Kellner.

Sometimes we can't always choose whether or not we are going to volunteer. Students in National Honors Society, or studying in Mr. Mueller's government class, may be required to put in some

"Volunteering is important because it develops the mindset of service to others."
-Mr. Mueller

community service hours. We can't just see these as "assignments" though. These requests for service are more than just a requirement, they are ways to get us into the community. They can teach so much about ourselves and those we help. These assignments help us see the bigger picture, they help us see just how big the world is, and that we can't just sit in our own little corner and let everyone else suffer. It's our duty as citizens of this planet to help it grow and work smoothly.

"Volunteering is important because it develops the mindset of service to others," said Mueller. "It's also part of your civic responsibility, which is why I require it for my class."

For those of you who want to help paint this bigger picture, pack up your

brushes, your easels, your canvases, your hearts, and get ready to go on a trip of a lifetime. The churches in our little town of Wahoo travel far and wide to help people around the country. If you want to help people while feeding your desire for adventure, this type of volunteering is for you. You meet lots of new people, get to hear the stories of those who have been affected by a tragedy or a disaster, get to have fun while helping, and most importantly you get to aid in the healing of those who have been broken.

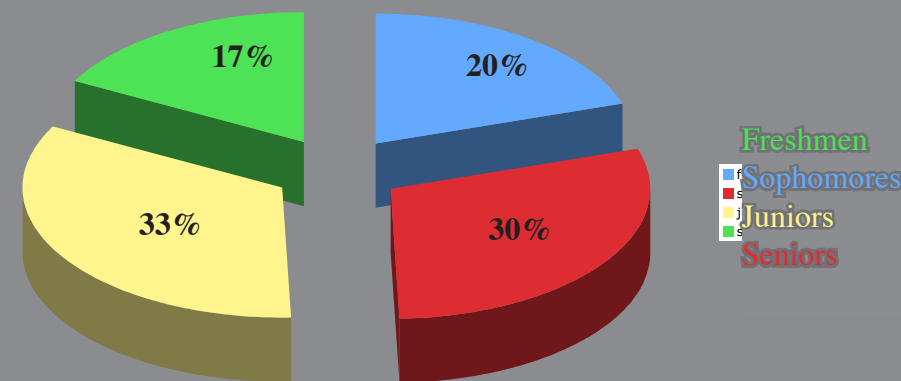
No matter how you look at it, nothing changes the fact that volunteering is ever-present, and that we cannot sit around and do nothing while others suffer. It doesn't matter what you do, big or small, each little step makes a difference. Our lives are too short and the to-do lists too long. We have to start today.

In the words of John Legend, "The future started yesterday, and we're already late."

So what can and will you do to help make this a better place?

"Volunteering is important because it helps people in need."
-Alicia Iverson, freshman

Percentage of Students Who Volunteer at Wahoo High.*



*Of those who were surveyed.

Freshmen	Sophomores
13	18
Juniors	Seniors
13	14

Average hours worked during the school year and the summer of 2009

Locations, Locations, Locations...

Many people want to volunteer, but the trouble is trying to find the perfect place. Here are some businesses in the area that are looking for volunteers:

- Saunders County Fair ~ Saunders County Historical Museum
- Wahoo Public Library ~ Wahoo Public Schools
- Wahoo Area Churches ~ Blood Drives
- Saunders County Pet Rescue

We need you! So, as soon as you finish reading, get on out and lend a helping hand!



Pin to Win

by Jessica Hedges

On Feb. 2, the Warrior Wrestling team faced its biggest opponent, Wahoo Bishop Neumann. Last season the Warriors beat the Cavs by only a few points, so this year the Warriors came to the dual knowing that it was going to be a battle on the mat.

With Wahoo having open weight classes at 103, 112, 140, and 145, they had to fight hard for every point.

Matt Hornung and Zach Roumph earned big points by pinning their opponents in less than 3 minutes. Corey Davis collected 6 team points for an injury forfeit during his match. Randy Else earned 4 points for a Major Decision 12-3.

Neumann kept up with Wahoo during the whole dual collecting pins and points along the way. The team were Wahoo 28 and Neumann 33 with just one match to go.

Wahoo faced its last match of the night knowing that a pin was needed to win. Wahoo sophomore Schyler Shannahan faced off against Neumann junior Andre Mytty at 135.

It wasn't looking too good for Shanahan after Mytty took him down twice, but after the

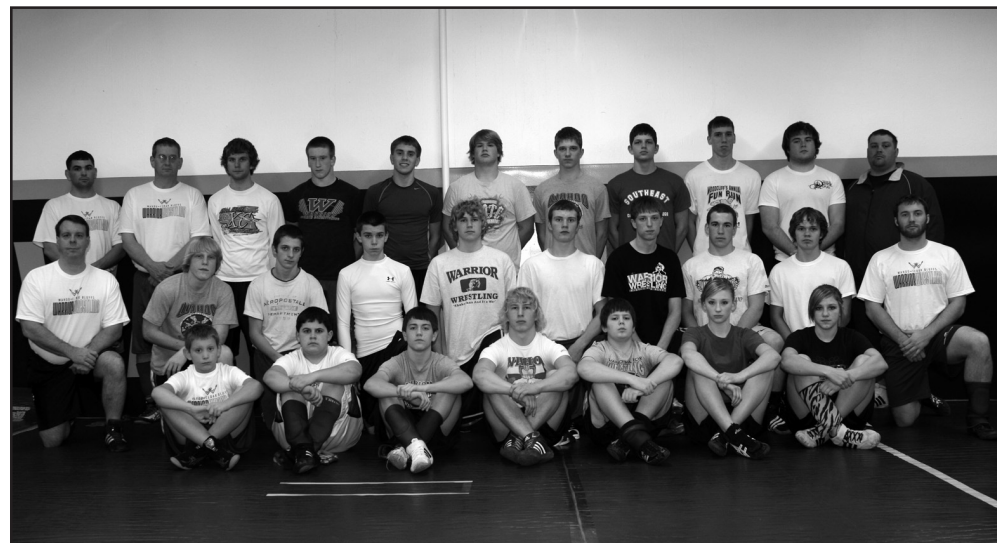
second take down Shanahan got in gear and reversed Mytty to his back collecting 3 points. Going into the second period, the match score was Shanahan 7: Mytty 4. It took just 34 seconds in the second period for Shanahan to pin Mytty securing the win for Wahoo.

"I think we've been fighting a lot more in match up until the end," said Coach Foster.

Districts, held in Schuyler, are scheduled for Feb. 12-13. The top four wrestlers will go to the State Tournament. Our hopefuls for State this year are Randy Else, who has a record of 17-16; Joel Gensler, with a record of 25-4; and Matt Hornung and Corey Davis are hoping for their second trip to state with record of 15 -11 (Matt) and 23-9 (Corey). Zach Roumph has a record of 19-11 and Colter Mattson is yet another hopeful with a record of 10-14.

"We probably have one of the toughest districts in the state," said Coach Foster. "Skutt, Boys Town, and Schuyler are in our District."

The State Tournament is at the Quest Center in Omaha, and scheduled for Feb.18, 19, and 20.



2009-2010 Wrestling Team

Physical Education Weight Lifters of the Quarter

These students have exhibited outstanding effort and attitude for the second quarter while exercising in the weight room for PE-1 and Strength & Fitness classes. Their continual efforts demonstrate positive leadership and character to their peers.

Strength & Fitness:

Sean Lindgren
Mattie Murren
Sadie Murren



PE-1:

Darcy Barry
Kyle Zelany

FALL SPORTS REVIEW

by Skye Sabatka

Softball- Softball had a slammin' '09 season. The girls started out great and only saw improvement along the way, finishing with a record of 30-5. Ending the season by placing 3rd at state, the team also had 6 players named to All-State Teams and Honorable Mention:

Volleyball- The volleyball team's season concluded with great overall scores for the team. A 22-10 season kept the girls on their toes at all times. The team had 6 girls that earned Local and Regional Honors as well.

Cross-Country- The cross-country team got carried away with their running and had a wonderful '09 season. The team as a whole completed every race by taking 7th placing or better every time. The team also sent Michaela Curran, Jake Barry and Matt Hornung to state with Curran taking 1st for the girls and Barry in the top 40, with Hornung not far behind placing 62.

Football- The 2009 season flew quickly, but successfully. This young team shut out Arlington in the first round of the State playoffs and held its own with Bishop-Neumann in the second round only to lose that game 26-21. The season ended with a 6-4 record.

Girls Golf- Inclement weather shortened the golf season, but the girls golf team, only in its second year, placed 13th at State. Sophomore Emma Harris recorded an individual 13th finish at State, a great way to end the season.

Lady Warriors Clinch Capitol Conference Championship



2009-2010 Girls Basketball Team

The Lady Warrior basketball team is off to yet another amazing start. This young team shows their strength and leadership on the floor. After 13 games, the girls sit with only three losses at the hands of Seward, Lincoln Christian and Gretna. Yet, each were intense battles that show that Wahoo is a force to be reckoned with.

The Warriors faced D.C. West on Jan. 25 on a home court and came away with a solid win in the first round of the Conference Tournament. The women posted a 71-21 victory over the Falcons earning their spot in the semis against Syracuse. Again Wahoo won by a big margin, 70-41. They faced off against Bennington on Jan. 30 and after a battle on the boards, took the championship with a 54-51 victory over the Badgers.

The girls started off the season with a seven-point win over the ranked Badgers from Bennington. The very next day the Warriors battled against all-class ranked power Seward. The girls stayed with them throughout the whole first half, going into the locker room at half time down by only two. Unfortunately for the Warriors, the Blue Jays pulled away near the end.

Even though the Warriors' hard-fought battle didn't end quite the way they wanted, the girls kept their heads up and went on to win their next four games all with large margins of victory.

The Warriors rode their victory to the Holiday Tournament featuring Nebraska City, Lincoln Christian, Wahoo Neumann, and of course Wahoo. The girls played Lincoln Christian in the first round, and unfortunately fell short by just four points, but the next day they came back and won third place by beating Nebraska City 84-13.

The girls then went on to win four more games.

"I like when we play really well and beat good teams," said sophomore post Katelyn O'Brien.

The Lady Warriors worked hard defeating both North Bend and Omaha Mercy by ten points each.

Three regular season games remain on the schedule before sub-districts begin on Feb. 15. Be sure to catch the action against Ashland-Greenwood at home on Feb. 13.



On Feb. 3 Sean Smith signs on to play football at Concordia University.

Warriors ~ Hearts of Champions

Boys basketball team shows heart on the court.

by Jacob Barry

"They're a lot of fun to watch. They play with heart, and most of all they play as a team," said avid fan and high school cafeteria employee, Rita Janecek. That has been the story of the year for the Warriors, playing as a team.

You can see the teamwork of the Warriors in their scoring. There isn't one stand out player. They are very even almost every game. Greg Milliken leads the teams' scoring average, averaging 14.3 points per game, followed closely by Jacob Barry, Max Cook and Josh Discher averaging 11.5, 9.3, and 8.9 points per game respectively.

The Warriors started off the season beating a ranked Bennington team. When it felt like they couldn't pull of the win, the team pulled together. They played with heart and passion and managed a win despite the lack of confidence from their fans.

"It felt good to beat a ranked team to start to season," said sophomore Max Cook.

"When our defense is up, we succeed," has become a motto of Coach Mike Bomar's. This has proven to be a very true statement on several occasions, including the Fort Calhoun game on December 18th. The Warriors had a handy lead over the Pioneers, and they knew it. They were laidback with their 20-point lead. They thought the game was in the bad, but the Pioneers fought their way back into the game.

"Had we played great defense the whole time the game would have been over in the third quarter," said senior Sam Cook.

"If we want to beat the good teams we are going to need to step up the defense for the whole 32 minutes of a game," said junior Greg Milliken. This entitles more hustle and less second chance opportunities for the Warriors' opponents. Which means better rebounding on the Warriors behalf. Currently Barry leads the Warriors on the boards, averaging 7.8 rebounds per game. Barry is followed by Discher and Lindgren averaging 6.6 and 3.9 rebounds respectively.

This season the Warriors have been plagued by a series of less than great free throw shooting and too many turnovers. It cost them a few games this year including game against Syracuse and Crete. The Warriors committed a combined 47 turnovers.

As of late, the Warriors have found a way to combat these problems. Against D.C. West on January 16th, they committed only 9 turnovers and shot 72 percent from the charity stripe to earn a win over the Falcons.

The Warriors began the Capitol Conference tournament January 26th as the number 3 seed with a record of 7 wins and 5 losses. They were paired against Fort Calhoun, the 6th seed.

The Warriors once again narrowly defeated the Pioneers. They had an enormous 21-point lead, but the Pioneers hit some key shots late in the game to draw the game to 4 points. The Warriors managed another 8-point win over the Pioneers to stay alive in the tournament.

Their next opponent in the tournament was Ashland-Greenwood. The Warriors took an early lead and early control. It was a very heated battle until the fourth quarter, when the Warriors put the game out of reach. With their win over Ashland they clenched a Conference championship birth, something the Warriors haven't done in 3 years.

The championship was a defensive battle between the Warriors and the Syracuse Rockets. The Warriors fell short of their mark. They held the Rockets to a mere 50 points, but it wasn't enough for the Warriors weak offensive outing. They did, however, clench second place, which is very commendable for the inexperienced team. Their record improved to 9-6 after the conference tournament. Their next opponent will be Arlington on February 5th.

"I have been pretty pleased with the season so far with the exception of the Crete game. The boys have worked hard," said Head Coach Kevin Scheef.



2009-2010 Boys Basketball Team

Valentine's Day

By Emily Brodahl

February 14th

Candy hearts, boxes of chocolate, a valentine or two. February 14th is fast approaching and not all of us know what to do. So here's some advice for those without a thought. Some things to do, and some things, probably not. Listen to some of the veterans who've come to make it last, about the ideas they've had in the past...

Couples



Corey Davis and Kylie Krecklow



Q: What did you do last year on Valentine's Day?

A: Corey was wrestling at districts, but afterwards we hung out. It was fun just being together and not having to go out somewhere.

Q: What's your favorite quality about each other?

A: Kylie: He makes me laugh. He always knows just what to say to put me in a good mood. He's honest.

Corey: Her smile. She is always fun to be with.

Cole Barry and Michaela Lanik



Q: What's your pet peeve about each other?

A: Michaela: When he says "oh really?" and eggs me on.

Cole: She whines until she gets her way.

Q: What's your favorite quality about each other?

A: Michaela: He's such a dork!

Cole: She's nice and fun to be with.

Branden Walling and Kali Kramer



Q: What did you do last year on Valentine's Day?

A: Kali: We watched a movie at my house and then Branden asked me out.

Q: What's your favorite quality about each other?

A: Kali: He's loving and caring.

Branden: She's always smiling and laughing.

Chris Colon and Shanly Steffes



Q: What's your biggest pet peeve?

A: Shanly: When he freaks out about the little things.

Chris: When she says "whatever."

Q: What's your favorite quality about each other?

A: Shanly: I like that he makes me feel better when I'm sad.

Chris: Just one look at her makes me smile.

Mike Petersen and Emily Brodahl



Q: What are you guys doing on Valentine's Day?

A: Mike: Nothing Valentine's Day is a joke.

Emily: We're cynics. What can we say?

Q: What's your favorite quality about each other?

A: Mike: Her smile.

Emily: He's such a goof ball!

"All the Single Ladies..."

No longer is Valentine's Day just a couple's holiday. For those of you without a significant other, plan a party with your single friends, have a movie night, or maybe celebrate anti-Valentine's Day. Here are some ideas from a few single students of Wahoo High....

"Mya, and I are going to celebrate best friends day instead."

-Jessica Hedges

"I'm going to be doing something fun with my friends."

-Billie Polivka

"Joe, Skye, and I are going to go to Hw-Flot to celebrate."

-Carrie Nabity