


# THE WARRIOR ECHO

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WAHOO HIGH SCHOOL

2201 N. LOCUST ST.

MAY 2011

A large group of students, including boys and girls, are posing for a group photo in front of a large, modern geodesic dome structure. The dome is made of a complex network of white metal beams forming triangular patterns, with glass panels. The students are dressed in casual attire, including hoodies, t-shirts, and jackets. Some are wearing blue and white clothing, possibly school-related. They are arranged in several rows, with some sitting on the ground in the front and others standing behind. The background shows a stone wall and some greenery.

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# Hardworking Herrera

Mr. Herrera has been teaching at WHS for five years. He currently teaches Woods, CAD, Carpentry and Construction, and Architectural Drawing, and sponsors Skills USA. We asked Mr. Herrera several questions about being a teacher.



Mr. Herrera works on his latest project.



Mr. Herrera and his family. (L to R) Son Joe (7), daughter Hannah (4), daughter Nora (1) and wife Vickie.

## What are your hobbies?

I enjoy computers, woodworking and watching sports.

## Tell us about your wife and kids.

I married my wife Vicki in 1999. We have three children. Joseph is 7 and in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade. He loves monster trucks, wrestling and playing Wii. Hannah is 4 and attends Happy Hearts preschool. She loves dancing and being a princess. Norah is 1. She loves to eat and snuggle.

## What is your favorite thing about teaching?

Working with young people teaching a subject I enjoy. Being a positive role model for students.

## Why teach industrial arts?

It's a subject I always enjoyed in school. My dad was in the construction business and I always helped him, so I have a background in this area. I also played sports and admired my coaches and wanted to give young people the same positive experiences I had.

## What are your favorite projects that you do in class?

The mantle clock is the coolest project because we use all of the skills in the woodshop to produce a replica of an antique clock. This same clock sells for \$300 online and we produce something similar for around \$15. In the process, the students put all of the skills they learn to work. It also is a very nice project they can keep and use forever.

## What sport(s) do you coach? What do you like about coaching?

I'm an assistant football coach. I coach offensive and defensive line. I enjoy coaching a sport that I love and I get to compete in each week the way I used to as an athlete.

## Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

I see myself teaching and coaching here at Wahoo. I love my job, and I don't have any desire to be an administrator or to work at another school. This is a great school and I'm proud to be a Warrior.

## What is your masters degree in?

It is in curriculum and instruction. I'm taking classes towards a masters in Industrial Technology as well.

# All About Anne

by Anna Hornung



Anne and her friends back home in Germany.

She traveled thousands of miles from Bad Doberan, Germany just to come to Wahoo, Nebraska. She wanted to see what the U.S. was like. Now she is a junior at WHS.

"I wanted to do and see something different," said Anne. "I didn't want to wait until I was 20 or 30 to come here."

Since arriving at the U.S. she has seen many differences, especially in the school system.

"The entire school grading system is different. We are graded on a scale from one to six. One is the best and six is the worst. They also have a block schedule, which means we don't have the same classes everyday," she explains "In our school you are more on your own. We also have many more projects and homework. Also, we learn British until 8<sup>th</sup> grade, then we start American English in 9<sup>th</sup> grade."

Another major difference from Germany is that kids can drive when they're 16 years old here. "We don't have this opportunity, so we have many trains, busses, and taxis."

Germany seems to be more economy friendly. "We have more trees and forests and less fields. We also recycle a lot. We recycle plastic, paper, bottles, and electronics. Everything is separated into different bins." Said Anne.

Two more differences are "Kids text a lot more here than they do back home. Also, many students here have jobs, where in Germany kids just don't have time for them."

Anne is involved in extracurricular activities. She participated in One Act and Book Club. However, she only had one line because she just wanted to see how

the whole process works. Book Club has read Unwind by Neal Shusterman and The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins.

"I love to read books. At first it wasn't that easy to understand stories in English. It took time and sometimes I had to ask people what the words meant."

Like most teenagers, Anne likes music. "I am a fan of All-American Rejects, Pink, Nickelback, Beyonce, Rhianna and Alicia Keys. I listen to the same music back home because most of the time they play American music on the radios."

Her town consists of about 12,000 people, it also has some tourist attractions. There is a main shopping street with lots of bakeries. They also have a movie theatre. "Tourists visit the town for our old church and an unique train. It's from 1886, one of the oldest in Germany. It is the only train in Germany that still burns coal in the oven. This train also goes through the town." said Anne. "The church is the only one that is still standing that was built by a group of people called the 'Cistercians's"

Anne is very close to her family. She has missed them a lot since she has been here. She lives with her mom in an apartment. "Even though my parents are divorced, I have a very good relationship with my dad." Then she says "Suddenly I miss the little things that I never paid much attention to." For example at Christmas time her family plays a game called Carasta. "I don't like the game but I missed playing it this year."

Anne has experienced many new things this year. One of her favorites has been the lock-in at church and One Act. She had one line in the play because she wanted to see what it was like.

Anne also participated on the speech team, competing in the poetry event. She presented one poem in both English and German. The basis for the competition is whether or not the feeling or tone of a poem translates.

"She did that, competed and made the final round." Mrs. Reece explains. Anne ended up getting fourth place and a medal.

"Anne worked and knew the German poem," said Mrs. Reece. "We had to go over the English translation. We had to make sure it was clear and really practiced it."

The poem that Anne recited was one that she had to memorize in seventh grade called "The Glove" by Friedrich Schiller. As for preparing for the district meet, they just kept going over the poem, practicing it. They also have had other people listen to it that haven't heard the words so they could help her with the pronunciation.

Although she didn't medal at Districts, she still had a great season.

When she goes back home she will miss some friends, having no school stress, and especially the cookie dough blizzard.

## Freshman Phillips loves friends, football and facebook

Tye Phillips is a freshman at Wahoo High School. His five favorite things are football, his friends, Black OPS, baseball and facebook.



1. Football- "My all time favorite sport."

3. Black OPS- "The best video game invented."

4. Baseball- "My second favorite sport."



5. "It makes talking to friends easier."



2. Friends- Jacob Wirka and Zach Luben- "They are hilarious."

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# Performing Arts Department to welcome new *digs* come fall 2011!



From top: The high school choir, jazz band, concert band and show choir perform at the POPs Concert on May 10. This was the last concert to be performed in the high school gymnasium.



The POPs Concert on May 10 marked the last performance to be held in the high school gymnasium, or the elementary school cafeteria, or the pod area, or the... well, you get the picture. After two long years of being homeless, the new theatre will come alive with the sound of music, drama, dancing, laughter and probably even some tears. Beginning this fall, the new theatre will be up and running.

New music classrooms will be filled with giddy students and teachers, and a new stage will be waiting for whatever WPS students have to offer. This is truly an exciting time!

Julie Baker-Anderson shares her excitement:

"Mere words cannot explain the excitement and anticipation I have for the opening of the new theatre. It is so exciting to be a part of a "dream" that Wahoo has had for its students for so many years! There are so many past music and drama teachers who worked so hard to make the best out of the "Little Theatre" and the space they were given to work with. So, without a doubt, it is an honor and a privilege to be one of the first music teachers in Wahoo to use this beautiful, brand new facility.

"I envision the many possibilities the new theatre will bring, the quality of the productions we are going to be able to bring to the community, and the incredible opportunity for our students to experience a REAL theatre. It truly does seem like we are living part of a "dream" that has taken so many years to realize.

"The new theatre means that our students are going to FINALLY be able to experience theatre and concerts the way they were meant to be experienced. No one REALLY knows what our choirs sound like because they have never been able to HEAR them in an environment that was conducive to proper sound.

"Our students also have never really experienced the kind of environment that a new theatre will provide. All of those things we work on in class as far as dynamics and making certain sounds with our voices, were always lost in the abyss of the huge space of the gym.

"I also am sooooo proud of our students because the last couple of years they have contributed so much as far as setting up and tearing down the gym for each and every production. I could not have done it without them, and Joseph Nabity who would always take on the daunting task of setting up the sound. I am very fortunate to have had so much help from these students and would not have made it the last two years without them.

"The new theatre will mean, having our own space to rehearse, not having to guess where they are going to stand, and being a lot more prepared for concerts and competitions. In the past, there was always so much "guess work" because we just were never able to practice in our own space. The new theatre will change all of that, and I think that our parents and community are definitely going to notice the difference in the quality of our performances.

"EVERYTHING we do from here on out is going to be enhanced and improved due to the fact that we finally are able to perform in the environment we were meant to be in. Sound, lighting, atmosphere....it will all be a new experience for EVERYONE! No more struggling with microphones, tripping over the tarps, and being frustrated because the students cannot be heard in the gym. I CANNOT WAIT!

So, has all of this been worth the wait?

"ABSOLUTELY! WITHOUT A DOUBT! The past two years have been VERY taxing for us and at times, just down right frustrating. However, knowing that a new theatre was just on the horizon, made the difficult task of doing concerts and musicals in the gym easier. There were times on concert days when I would give Mr. Libal or Mr. Arent a frustrating look, and they would look at me and say "Julie, the new theatre is coming! Just hang in there!"

We are all hanging in there and are looking forward to building and improving with the help of the new theatre.



The builders have been hard at work since spring 2010. Since not many people are allowed in the construction area, it's hard to know how much progress has been made. These photos show the shell of the theatre lobby (above and left). Excitement is building as we are just months away from the grand opening!



These Nights...  
 are fun, memorable, special, bittersweet,  
 and best of all mark the end of a childhood  
 and the beginning of something special and new  
 for the WHS Class of 2011.

*"I remember when..."*

...the WHS Class of 2011 can finish this sentence with thousands of memories from the very first day of pre-school until graduation on Sunday, May 15. Whether they were feeling the love or suffering from whatever "drama" school has a way of serving up, these students survived the last month of high school~projects, tests, papers, etc~with flying colors and have great moments to look back on, including the whirlwind of activities that started in mid-April when they decided, as a group, to go to Worlds of Fun.

Kylie Krecklow and Colter Mattson took the idea to Mr. Libal who approved it at once.

"This is a great group of kids," said Mr. Libal. "I knew they would follow through with whatever they needed to do to get themselves to Worlds of Fun, and once there would represent WHS responsibly."

When the seniors made this decision, they also committed to a couple of short weeks of fundraising to earn the money needed for transportation to and from Kansas City. Several members of the senior class and their parents either donated baked goods or washed cars on April 17 at a car wash/bake sale held at Gottschalk's Athletic. The day was cloudy and cold, but members of the community showed up, helping students raise almost a thousand dollars for the trip.

In the weeks following the car wash, students worked baseball concessions at Sam Crawford and ran the concessions for the Frontier Conference Championship Track Meet held at the high school.

In the end, students raised well over two thousand dollars in just 15 days.

Mya Nicholls put in a lot of hours, volunteering for almost every single fundraiser.

"I worked so many events because I wanted to contribute to our senior trip," said Mya. "Plus, I felt like I really earned my right to go."

Then, the day arrived. Students started filing into the high school parking lot at 6 a.m. on May 1 to load the buses for Worlds of Fun. While several tried to sleep, others played games, sang, or listened quietly to their iPods (or MP3s) during the four-hour trip. And, since the day was, once again, cloudy and cold, Worlds of Fun wasn't crowded at all. The lines were somewhat short, so students could go on their favorite rides as many times as they wanted.

"Worlds of fun was my favorite," said Emily Brodahl. "Spending time on the bus with friends I haven't had much time with lately was a lot of fun. We goofed around the whole time, singing and playing some intense rounds of 'the alphabet game.'"

Not everyone enjoyed the bus ride, though. Mahala Egr said that it wasn't much fun at all, but she had a great time at Worlds of Fun.

"Worlds of Fun was the best," said Mahala. "The Mamba was crazy and it was so fun to be there with the entire class!"

After a full day of FUN, the buses unloaded in the school parking lot around 11 p.m. so students could get home for a decent night's sleep. A night of good sleep would be needed, too, so they could

board the buses again at 8:30 the very next morning.

For the past five years, seniors have enjoyed a senior skip day at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, and this year, the class made enough money through their fundraising efforts to pay for the outing on May 2.

Students enjoyed a full day at the zoo with beautiful spring weather, new and old zoo exhibits, and a sack lunch prepared by WPS lunch ladies Mo Kavan, Rita Janecek and Carol Brabec.

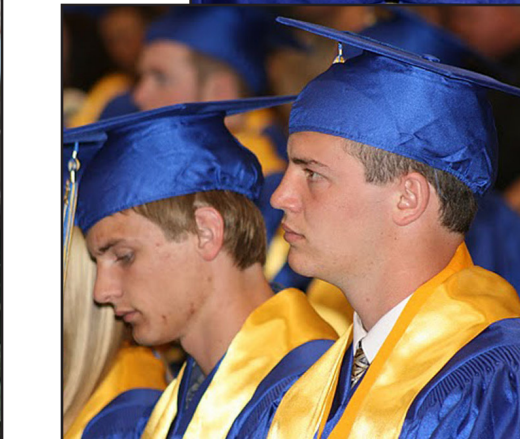
As tired as students may have been, they returned to the high school in time for work study students to report to their jobs and athletes to get to their practices.

With just six days of high school left, these seniors had a lot on their plates~Culture Day, papers, projects, and final exams, not to mention spring sports~conference and district meets/tournaments were held during this time, too.

If that weren't enough, Honors Night brought several of the seniors to the high school gymnasium where they received honors, awards, and special scholarships on May 9. And, what seems like the blink of an eye, they were celebrating their last day of school on May 11.

The seniors went from their fifth period classes to the gym where they participated in a graduation rehearsal and picked up their caps and gowns. Later that day, they met up again at Hilltop Country Club for a catered reception hosted by members of the faculty and staff of Wahoo Public Schools. Then at 7 p.m., much of the senior class participated in the annual baccalaureate ceremony, which was held in the elementary school cafeteria.

Many students then began their own celebrating with family and friends, but came together one last time for the graduation ceremony on May 15, a day many wish would last.



**WHS Class of 2011**  
 Song~"Those Nights" by Skillet  
 Colors~Black & Yellow  
 Flower~Lily (The lily represents friendship & devotion.)  
 Motto~"Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths." Walt Disney



## Memories from State...

by Anna Hornung

What a wild ride! Once again, the girls basketball team made us proud at The Devaney Center in March by taking second in the State Tournament. They may be the second-rated girls basketball team in the state, but they are number one in our hearts! This is one group of great athletes~dedicated, determined and FUN!

**Erin Walker-** Before the district final game I accidentally put my shorts on backwards. I didn't realize it until my teammates told me before we took the floor for warm-ups. I was so embarrassed but at least everyone could get a good laugh. When Mattie tripped on the camera cord during announcements.

The bus rides and locker room preparation before the games.

Every time we took the floor the crowd erupted making our stomachs drop. The feeling is unforgettable.



**Morgan Hancock-** My favorite memory is getting to actually play! I missed the whole season because of my knee. It felt awesome to put that jersey on and actually get to sub in! Mattie tripped during name announcements.

**Jessica Barry-** I liked making it to the championship of course but I really liked just getting to spend time with my teammates, we grew closer as a team in just one weekend.

**Mattie Murren-** My favorite memory was getting to play basketball with my sister and teammates. It was super fun and I'm going to miss playing with them.

**Kayla Bennett-** My favorite memory was driving from the high school to the Devaney on state championship day getting

escorted by the fire truck and having everyone cheer us.

**Lois White-** It was awesome making it to state, and even though we didn't win, the time I had at state with all my basketball girls was so much fun! Just hanging out and bonding for like three days straight!

**Sydney Hancock-** Playing on the Devaney court. Just being out there when the crowd is going wild it makes your stomach go crazy. Being apart of that team was incredible.

**Katelyn O'Brien-** My favorite memory of state is when we are waiting to take the court for the championship and you can see all the fans dressed up and supporting you. You get a huge adrenaline rush and butterflies like crazy.



**Alison Brodahl-** Going to spaghetti works.

**Sadie Murren-** My favorite part of the state tournament was the atmosphere, with our great fans, and playing with my awesome teammates, especially my sister Mattie."

**Caroline Hohl-** When Coach Walker did the "Cockroach" dance and made all of the basketball girls do it too at our pep rally before we went to the state championship. Every girl was rolling on the floor with their hands and feet waving in the air.

**Darcy Barry-** I love the chills I get going into the state championship!



**Sam Grandgenett-** Our student section beating every team in the "I believe that we will win" cheer.

The road to Omaha is paved with... singlets? Five wrestlers qualified for State this year and, yes, highway 92 was lined with blue, white and gold singlets, on February 17, cheering the boys to victory. Unfortunately, none of "Foster's Five" medaled, but they have some great stories to tell and fond memories that will last forever.



*Joel Gensler attempts to take down his opponent.*

**Seth Stewart-** I'll always remember walking around the hotel during state in our singlets at like midnight.

**Cameron Golter-** We, "Foster's Five," ran around the hotel at state in singlets, but sitting in the managers room in our singlets reading Cosmo magazine has to be a classic, too!



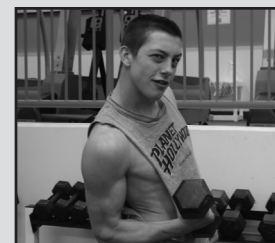
*Randy Else carefully reads his opponent and plans his next move.*

## Lifters of the Quarter

These students have exhibited outstanding effort and attitude during the third quarter while exercising in the weight room. Their continual efforts demonstrate positive leadership and character to their peers.



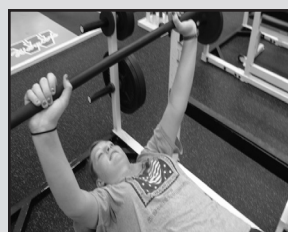
*Kayla Bennett*



*Tyler Kavan*



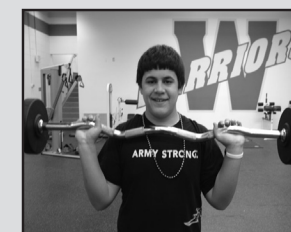
*Courtney Jones*



*Rosie Welsh*



*Nathan Redding*



*Ty Kander*

## Spring sports season plagued by bad Nebraska weather



2011 Girls Track Team



2011 Boys Track Team



2011 Boys Golf Team

*Rain, rain, go away.*

*Come again some other day.*

*Wahoo athletes want to play!*

Once again, the spring sports schedule was interrupted by several rain showers and/or thunderstorms, making it either down right dangerous to even be outside or too wet and muddy to do anything on a field, course, or track.

Despite all the cancellations and delays, the WHS boys and girls track and field teams made an impressive showing. Both ran away with the Capitol Conference Team Championships and twelve placed at Districts and will be competing for state titles at Burke High School on May 20 and 21.

State qualifiers include Darcy Barry, Emily Brodahl, Michaela Curran, Christyna Dewberry, Morgan Hancock, Tschida Johnson, Justin Lewandowski, Sean Lindgren, Mattie Murren, Sadie Murren, Shauna Tweedy, and Erin Walker.

The boys golf team, unfortunately, had no State qualifiers this year, but was able to pull out a win against Waverly, and, as always, looks ahead to bigger and better things to come.

The Warrior baseball team finished its first season under new head coach Dustin Nilius. The team loses a few strong seniors, but will work to build a powerful team for the 2012 season.

## 22 WHS Athletes Named *Lincoln Journal Star* Academic All Stars

**Eligibility:** Student-athletes who are juniors or seniors can be nominated by their coach or another representative of their high school. Nominees, however, must carry a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale and be a varsity starter. Among non-starters, one individual who contributes significantly to his or her varsity team could also be nominated.

**Making the Selections:** The *Journal Star* staff evaluated each nomination, weighing factors relating to both athletic and academic achievement. Therefore, it is possible for a nominated student-athlete to qualify for Academic All-State in one sport but not another.

Congratulations to the following Academic All Stars: Cole Barry, Kayla Bennett, Emily Brodahl, Casey Brown, Max Cook, Michaela Curran, Christyna Dewberry, Josh Discher, Mahala Egr, Morgan Hancock, Sydney Hancock, Emma Harris, Christian Hohl, Michaela Lanik, Sean Lindgren, Mattie Murren, Sadie Murren, Katelyn O'Brien, Anmerie Schirmer, Aubrey Voboril, Erin Walker, and Liane White. See WPS website for more information.

*Information gathered from Wahoo Public Schools website and the Lincoln Journal Star.*



2011 Warrior Baseball

*Golf and baseball photos provided by Jason Unger.*