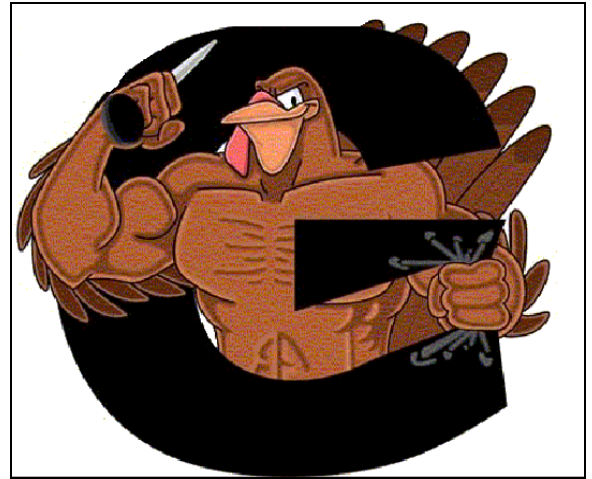


# The Gobbler Times

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## Mystery Places at AHS

**Ethan Croatt**  
Sports Editor

Did you know Aitkin High School has many places to hide a dead body? Places that you and I walk by every day, and never give another glance. In fact, there could be someone in there right now...I'm just being facetious, but our school does possess some interesting mystery places. For instance, AHS has underground tunnels. The school also has a dark room, man holes that pop up in random classrooms and doors that lead to mystical places. The most intriguing place though, is a man cave that used to exist under our very own auditorium stage.

Most of you are probably aware of the tunnels but, if you are not, here's the scoop. Thanks to last year's Gobbler Gossip story from Mitchell Fontaine and checking them out with head custodian, Jim Bright I was able to find out some information. They were used as heating, connected to the old heating plant which was the old Aitkin Iron Works building and to a few other buildings in town like Butler's. They are currently blocked and records are kept in them. "The school has to keep the records for so many years and then they can be tossed," said Jim. The



**The door leading to the ceiling of the auditorium.**

question though is, what is behind them now?

Aitkin High School has two dark rooms, one in the media center and the other residing in the drafting room. The dark rooms were used to develop negatives and make prints before digital photography. The rooms are equipped with a red light for when you were working on your prints. Library aid,

Darla Croatt, said "Mr. Cox used to use it for his class but it's not currently used besides storage."

If you've ever had a class in either the drafting room or with Mr. Carlson you may have noticed a slight give in the floor. This is because there are manholes covers in them. "They lead from these rooms to the rest of the city's sewer system,"

says Mr. Jacobson. So, are we secretly housing the Ninja Turtles as well?

During sporting events in the old gym, a person might spot a small door which is located by the platform on the northeast side of the gym. Maybe you've wondered where it leads. "There are air handling units, duct work, and sprinklers up here," said Jim. The door is an entrance that leads to a room that houses the air handling units. In this room there is another door that leads into the ceiling of the auditorium. I guess it wasn't as magical as I was expecting.

Last but not least, the auditorium man cave. "The stage was designed to fit a grand piano under it," said Mrs. Blake, "but it was made too small." There were a few individuals though who did put it to use. No one knows for sure what went on under there, but with a little imagination I think we could all come up with something that could have all too well happened. "There used to be a man cave but I put the kabosh on it," said Mrs. Blake. The entrance to the land of mischief is now boarded up tight with a piece of plywood. So, there we have it folks, mysteries of AHS are now cracked.



# AHS has healthy finances

**Hailey Everson**  
Staff Writer

Aitkin High School is sitting in excellent financial shape with plenty of money in the bank, according to district officials. According to Tiffany Gustin, "AHS is at a very healthy fund balance with just under \$13 million across all funds."

Each year the school is given so much money from the state to go per student. According to the Minnesota Department of Education, in 2011 the school was given \$9,358 per student and they spent \$8,658 of that. The difference calculated is \$700 dollars that were not spent per student.

In 2012 the state gave the school \$9,177 for each student and the school spent \$8,342 dollars of that towards the student, leaving \$835 dollars not spent on the students. There are 1,233 students between AHS and Rippleside and with that \$832 per student not being spent it adds up to \$1,029,555 that was added to the fund balance this year.

Brainerd High school in comparison to AHS received \$10,421 for each student and spends \$10,403 per student, leaving \$18 left over. BHS has 1,969 students and that \$18 not spent per student times the number of student's means that they added \$35,442 dollars to their overall fund balance this year.

Gustin said, "The school has money in the bank. How much at any given



**Aitkin High School.**

time depends on cash flow. School districts need savings accounts just like individuals do."

There are some plans in the works for some money. "AHS will be getting a new Mac lab and a new PC lab before April for testing." A few weeks back when asked the same question she said, "There are no

computer lab replacements in the current year's budget. However, replacing a lab is a high technology priority and will be considered later in the school year in coordination with other project planning." She also said we need the new computers because testing cannot be done effectively on the current ones that we have.

## Aitkin Student has a Truck Break-in

**Darin Doely**  
Staff Writer

According to the police report on October 23, an AHS student's truck was broken into on school grounds. The truck was broken into during school hours while it was parked in the tar parking lot. There were three people that helped get into the truck. They pried open the back sliding window, but they ended up breaking the window in the process. Two Sony Xplod

1100 watt speakers, two 12 inch Pioneer subwoofers, a grey iPod nano, and an iPod touch were all taken. The total of all the items that were stolen from the vehicle was valued at \$1,950.95. The first offenses were felony aid and abet theft. The penalty for this is five years in prison, a \$10,000 fine, or both.

The second offense was a misdemeanor tamper with motor vehicle. The penalty is 90 days imprisonment and \$1,000 fine. The suspects did not use a vehicle to

take these items, instead, they walked through the alley behind the tar parking lot. One jumped the fence while the other two waited.

Once they broke into the truck they handed the subs over the fence and walked away with them to their house in Aitkin. They had seen this truck around town and at the homecoming game and heard the subs in the truck and wanted to take them.



## No Shave November

**.Marissa Kinzer**  
News Editor

You may have noticed the various posters around the school, the announcements about donating money to the Cancer Society, or even seen the scraggly looking men around the school and thought to yourself: Why do the teachers look like cavemen? Well, these men are participating in No-shave November, a fundraiser to help support and raise awareness for Prostate and Breast Cancer.

This is the first year the Aitkin High School teachers are participating in the No-Shave November fundraiser. The teachers participating in the fundraiser shaved off all their facial hair the day before the first. For some of the teachers, there wasn't a whole lot to shave off. The teachers showed up the next morning and showed off the absence of their facial hair and surprised some of the students.

There are jars placed in each teacher's room for students to donate money. The teacher with the most money raised at the end of the month receives bragging rights over all of the men, seemingly ranging from adolescence to a Grizzly Adams likeness. The money raised from no shave November is donated to the American Cancer Society. The idea behind No-Shave November is the money you donate is supposed to be the money you would save from a month of not shaving. This could be the money saved on waxing sessions or razors and shaving cream.

Many teachers have their own way of winning over the votes. Various campaign posters have been strategically placed around

the school to sway students' opinions of some of the teachers. Mr. Miller offers a chance to decide his final beard type when you donate money. Some teachers (Mr. Jaskowiak) are even bribing the votes with incentives such as gift cards and even some of them blackmailing others. Many teachers find Jaskowiak a tough competitor and many have begun to campaign against him. Mr. Miller has put up various campaign ads to sway voters' ideas of Jaskowiak. He posed questions such as; "Does Jaskowiak use performance enhancing drugs?" Their campaign posters make voters think twice before they donate to Skov, because nobody really knows what he is doing with the money. Who knows, he might be donating to himself.

Mr. Jaskowiak has raised a lot of speculation within the competition. He very strangely showed up the next Monday morning with a partially grown beard, quite farther along than most. This only leaves one explanation: Beard Enhancing Drugs, according to Miller's political poster.

Mr. Smith is probably the little guy within the competition. His nickname, "Babyface" fits him well; he can hardly grow a beard. He will probably get the pity vote because he can hardly grow any hair so he will be one to watch out for.

Mr. Richters has a similar technique; he hardly has a beard either. If you look very closely, squint your eyes until they are almost closed and turn your head a bit, you can see a tiny little hair peeking out from his chin. Richters, unlike most of his competition, is trying to avoid all the mud-slinging tactics

and try to just use sales pitch.

Each teacher has their own reason for participating in No-shave November, whether it is to raise money and awareness or just trying to grow a beard for the first time. But in the end the teachers agree that it is all about donating money for the great cause.

So, who is your favorite? This upcoming week is your last chance to vote, all the candidates need your votes. Go vote for your favorite teacher, and their beard, and in the meantime help benefit the American Cancer Society by donating some of your money.



Mr. Richters door, riddled with propaganda posters.

## What do you think of the no shave November contest?

Alexa Saibert- "I think it's cool that our teachers care about cancer."



Mr. Richters- "It is an interesting idea to raise awareness for certain cancers. It has been a great way to raise money for this cause."



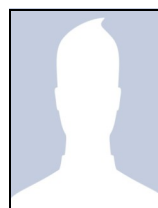
Savannah Matheny- "I think it is kind of cool. It's going to be interesting seeing all the teachers afterward."



Brian Barneveld- "It's about the beards, not the prizes."



Dylan Keating- "I Think It's a great idea. I love the lumber jack vibe I'm getting and the cookies."



Kaitlyn Scharrer- "It's a great way to raise money."





# May is Teacher of the Week

**Kalley Duggan**  
Staff Writer

Mr. May is this week's teacher of the week. Most of you might know Mr. May as the coolest seventh grade science teacher ever! He teaches seventh grade science, Botany, Genetics, and Ornithology. He is also the Knowledge Bowl advisor. Mr. May was born in Watertown, Minnesota and grew up in Crosby, Minnesota, where he also went to school and was a pretty mean wrestler on the wrestling team. Mr. May graduated from Crosby-Ironton High School in 1995. He then went to Central Lakes College and graduated in 1997. After that he went to the University Of Minnesota- Duluth, to become a Teacher.

When asked if teaching was his dream job he stated, "No, I don't know what my dream job is. I would have to say it would be something to do with weight lifting." When asked what his perfect world would be, he stated, "My perfect world

would be weight lifting, hunting, and being a family man."

Mr. May first started teaching at Aitkin High school in the fall of 2000. He said, "I love teaching because of the kids, the clientele, the long summer, and of course the school lunches." According to Mr. May he does not have a favorite class to teach. He said, "I like them all because of the change of pace." Mr. May also said, "The reason why I became a teacher is because of an inspirational teacher I had in high school." He quoted himself as, "I know a little about a lot of things, but not a lot about anything."

Mr. May's classes are known for authority with a lot of humor mixed in. He is also known for his soft, never too loud voice while teaching a PowerPoint. Depending on what class you are in, you can learn about bugs, plants, mold on bread, controversial experiments, parasites, testing hypotheses, tadpoles, deer liver, along with many other fun experiments and labs. Mr. May's classes are unforgettable.



**Mr. May**



**Jeremy Paulbeck**

## Jeremy Paulbeck awarded Student of the Week Honor

**Peter Yunker**  
Staff Writer

Jeremy is a junior and was born and raised in Aitkin and is this week's student of the week! He has a long ranging list of activities and is an exemplary student. Jeremy participates in Knowledge Bowl, Student Council, Peer Helpers, Jazz Band, Chem Club, & #SWAG.

Going into details about one of his current activities, Knowledge Bowl, he described it as "The most hallowed of AHS extracurriculars, is a veritable Olympiad, a sparring of the minds, and enjoyable for even the most underutilized of gray matter." He said his inspiration to be such a good student is "teachers and such." He hopes to be a junior until the end of junior year.

Suave Ocean Breeze is Jeremy's Shampoo and conditioner of choice and it works wonders, as his flowing mane is one of his most defining features along with his towering stature and overall buffness. When asked about Jeremy, Edmund Simonson was quoted saying, "He is a great friend, but is also really buff and good at sports." Jeremy's favorite high school memory was when Mrs. Brucker unintentionally used a racial epithet in class.

Jeremy will dwell the halls of AHS for the next year and half until he graduates in the class of 2015 and looks to go to college, and pursue a career in math or physics.



# Dia de los Muertos

## ‘Day of the dead’ comes to AHS

**Haley Cannon**  
Opinion Editor

Many of you, hopefully by now, have noticed a large colorful display on the third floor. Some students have actually stopped and taken time to look at all the details of the display.

The Spanish display is about the Day of the Dead. What is Day of the Dead you many ask? Well, it is a holiday celebrated throughout Mexico and around the world in many other cultures. The holiday is focused on family and friends gathering to



**Rachel Curtiss modeling the Spanish display**

pray and remember the others that have died.

In Mexico, the celebration is called a bank holiday. The celebration takes place

on October 31, Nov. 1 and 2. The holiday also connects with All Hallows Eve, All Saints Day and All Souls Day. Some of the traditions connected with the holiday include building altars called ‘ofrendas’ honoring the deceased with sugar skulls, marigolds, and the favorite foods and beverages of the departed. Also, the family and friends visit the graves and place gifts and favorite possessions of the deceased.

After talking to some of the Spanish students, I learned they really liked helping with the display and enjoyed learning about The Day of the Dead, especially when they participated in the face paintings! Don’t forget to say thank you to the Spanish students and Senora Boerhave for spending so much time decorating and making the display for all of us students to enjoy on our way to class.

# The story behind the food

**Hope Mitchell**  
Staff Writer

Many people have wondered for a while how Vic picks certain foods that she serves and why she chose them. She is bound by the fact that over 50 percent of the student body receives free or reduced lunches. Because of this the cafeteria is run by the guidelines that the government wants met by the cooks.

First Lady Michelle Obama has been championing healthy school lunches because parents have been neglecting the nutrition of their children’s meals. Most kids eat quick foods that only take a few minutes to make and eat. Everyone is on the go, go, go. Many kids have enjoyed the added healthier foods because they think that they don’t have time or money for them. All it really calls for is



**Vic works to prepare a healthy lunch for AHS students.**

just a little down time and adding the whole grains verses the white breads, or maybe adding a vegetable or fruit to your meals. Don’t eat out as much; try to eat at home more often. The fact that more people are

eating at fast food places has brought up the obesity levels a lot.

Every day the kitchen has to incorporate red and green vegetables. This is because the vitamins in them are very high

and are lacked in other vegetables, like tater tots or french-fries. Other times when we have the marinara sauce with Italian dunkers, that counts as our vegetables because the sauce has tomatoes. While the kitchen has substituted all the right things, it now has to cut our protein because of the calorie intake that we need to have as students.

Some complain about the fact that we are wasting food we have to take because of Michelle Obama’s initiative on our school lunches. And that we waste over \$8 million in food that students don’t eat in the U.S. that could be feeding the homeless who eat out of the school trashies all over the nation. But the government is just trying to get the students to eat healthier to help the wellness of the nation get better.



# Kaiser returns to AHS

**Marissa Kinzer**  
News Editor

Last year Mrs. Kaiser traded her Gobbler gear in for some Pequot Lakes Patriots gear. Mrs. Kaiser needed a change, after six years of teaching eighth grade English at Aitkin High School, and left to teach in Pequot Lakes. After a year of teaching in Pequot, she regrets leaving and is glad to be teaching back in Aitkin. "I should've never left," Kaiser said.

"The only reason why I left was because my commute was too long," Mrs. Kaiser said. Mrs. Kaiser lives about 45 minutes away. She said that it is really hard to get her kids ready to go and out the door on time, and with 7:30 a.m. meetings makes it even harder. Kaiser said that she and her husband are trying to sell their house and looking to buy a house within a five mile radius of Deerwood to help shorten the commutes of both Mrs. Kaiser and her husband.

Mrs. Kaiser really missed AHS while she was teaching in Pequot. She said, "They [AHS] converted me to a Gobbler right away. I could never really wear any of the Patriots gear; I secretly wore Gobbler gear underneath." By teaching in Pequot Mrs. Kaiser shortened her drive from 45 minutes to fifteen minutes, which was basically the only thing she liked about her new job. She said that she really missed all the good students and great staff at AHS. Kaiser took over at Pequot Lakes for a retired teacher and taught English 10, Honors English 9, American Literature, British Literature and College Public Speaking.



**Kaiser hard at work correcting papers.**

Kaiser said that she had to relearn a lot of things to prepare her for all the new classes she needed to teach. Kaiser left Pequot and came back to Aitkin because there wasn't a lot of support for her and the culture was not what she wanted. She preferred Aitkin's culture much more.

This fall Kaiser began teaching once again in Aitkin. She loves being back and seeing all the familiar faces. Kaiser said that she enjoys teaching the classes she loves, especially

compared to the classes she taught last year. This year she is teaching eighth grade English, Creative Writing, and Myths and Legends.

She said she feels more confident teaching in Aitkin the second time around. While in Pequot, she learned how to become a better teacher. She also had to reeducate herself so she could teach the classes she did there and because of this she became more knowledgeable. "I was getting into a rut because I was teach-

ing the same things over and over again," Kaiser said, "It felt good to learn more and come back a more educated teacher."

"Things came back to me pretty quickly. The hardest thing was transitioning from teaching mainly sophomore and senior classes to going back to teaching Middle School," Kaiser said. After teaching many upper level classes last year she feels like she is meant to be teaching Middle School.

Mrs. Kaiser enjoys running, reading, camping, being outside, watching concerts and golfing. "I'm a total book nerd!" Kaiser said. "I never stop teaching. With my daughter starting preschool, I've tried to teach her to stick up for herself and be kind and a friend to everyone," Kaiser said. Kaiser loves to have fun with her kids, she enjoys pulling pranks, being goofy and scaring them. Her kids, Kacie and Cole, don't let up, they do the same things right back to her. She would like to start coaching tennis again, but it would require a lot of time and energy from both herself and her family.

Kaiser said that there might be many misconceptions people have about her. Despite her messy desk, Kaiser said that she is actually a very organized person. People might also think that she is ditzy because she laughs a lot and likes to have fun. Mrs. Kaiser said, "I believe that learning should be fun, but it should serve a purpose. I love to see students talk and get excited about different things." The last misconception people might have about her is that she is always pregnant; she's not.

Mrs. Kaiser said that it's like night and day, she is so glad to be back.



# What happened to good music?

**Joseph Fontaine**  
Variety Editor

As I walked through the halls of my school, listening to my iPod, I decided to change songs. Pulling out said device from my pocket, I paused 'Grímur Á Miðalnesi by Tyr' and began to scroll through my music. I quickly began to notice a reoccurring theme in the music on my iPod; little pop music. Call me a hipster, but I don't enjoy modern pop/hip-hop music. I don't understand when the change from 'I Get a Kick out Of You' to 'The Fox' happened, but might I say that I dislike where music has gone. Indeed, there are still titans out there who can produce jaw-dropping melodies and heart turning lyrics, but the ridiculousness of the quality of popular music nowadays is outrageous. I believe that hard rock and symphonic metal artists should act as a harbinger of the new music age, currently bereft of seriousness.

*Call me a hipster, but  
I don't enjoy modern  
pop/hip-hop music.*

With a good portion of my free time revolving around music, I think there should be a larger variety of music that I can chose to cover or listen to. Granted, there are hundreds of great artists that are going undiscovered, due to lack of promotion opportunities, not money. Still the current music demographic is majorly dominated by hip-hop/rap, with rock coming in a close second, tied with alternative. Classical, jazz, metal, and alternative are genres that are severely underrated and should be brought up to the top of the charts. I do realize that it mostly lies in opinion, but I believe that most people haven't been

shown the greater music genres, because they refuse to accept that stereotypes of metal and jazz are not always true. "It's just a bunch of scary guys yelling about killing," says an anonymous civilian, when asked their opinion on metal. Although there are bands, like Slayer, whose lyrics focus on more morbid topics, many metal artists' lyrics revolve around the lore of their ancestors, or the honor of ancient warriors. With ingenious use of chord progression and goose-bump raising melodies, one could say that these songs sound beautiful.

In conclusion, many genres of music are going unnoticed or disrespected merely because they don't fit the social norm. I believe that the best way to raise these genres to their deserved popularity is to expose people to them, and attempt to break down the stereotypical barriers that people insist on raising, due to lack of experience with the particular genre of music.

## Lessons learned on the elk hunt

**Aaron Rinta**  
Staff Writer

My story begins about 15 miles north of a little town called Ennis. This town is on the far west side of Montana. My grandpa Dean, my dad, and I spent one week in a 12 by 15 foot canvas tent.

The first day we arrived about noon. We shoveled out a spot that was big enough to put up the tent. Once we got the tent up we took and shoveled some of the snow back onto the sides of the tent to keep the wind from getting under the tent walls. Once we were done with the tent we decided it was time to get some firewood. Since the tent was heated by a barrel stove we needed quarter of a cord (Cord=about one full truck box) to last the week. My dad and I got in the truck and started driving farther up the mountain.

There was only a foot of snow on the ground so with chains on the tires we drove right through it. We found a couple dead pine trees that would be perfect for firewood. Dad cut the trees with the chainsaw while I stacked it in the truck. When we

got back to camp we split all the wood so we could fit it into the stove. It was dark before we got all of our stuff setup and ready for the week.

The next morning we were up before dark. My dad and grandpa got onto the four-wheeler and started up the mountain on the north side of the valley that we were camped in. I started out on foot for the southern mountain. I walked all the way to the top that morning hoping to run across some tracks going across the mountain. When I reached the top I looked at my watch that said 10:15 a.m. I had left camp at 5:30. I decided to head back to camp because dad had told me lunch was at 11:00 I reached camp shortly after 11:10.

After breakfast we switched sides. Dad went in the direction I had while grandpa and I went the other direction. We returned to camp around dark to make supper. We did the same thing on day two, three, and four. Nobody had even found a fresh track.

On day five I found a lone set of tracks heading up the mountain. I followed the tracks up and down the mountain and

they had crossed the road twice. The second time I crossed the road I gave up and walked back to camp. That night I got to see an elk for the first time on our trip.

I was walking up a hill and I heard something coming through the trees. I ran the bolt on my rifle to put a round in the chamber. When he came through the brush I saw that he had antlers and started to get excited. I wanted to shoot at him so bad but I knew I couldn't. I couldn't shoot because he didn't have brow tines. The rule where we were hunting said that bulls had to have 4 inch brow tines before we could shoot.

When I got back to camp I told dad about it and he said that he had seen the same one. On day six we headed up the mountain in the same spot and while sitting there I had a herd of 20 run out in front of me. I took aim at the lead cow which was the biggest one in the herd.

That night even though I was short three rifle rounds, we had an 800 pound cow elk hanging next to our tent. The experience taught me that patience pays off.



# Brooke wins Big Buck!



**Brooke with her beautiful 212 pound, 8 pointer**

**Aaron Rinta**  
Staff Writer

It has been a slow season for the deer hunters. There haven't been many tales to tell this year but we managed to find Brooke Miller, an Aitkin High School student who had a story worth telling. Brooke is

in 10<sup>th</sup> grade and has been hunting for 10 years. Opener night (November 9) Brooke bagged her 212 pound 8 pointer on some private land near Palisade.

Here is her story: "It was opener night, it was a nice evening. It wasn't too cold and there was no wind. The entire day I hadn't seen a thing, same with the afternoon

hunt. It was about 5:30 p.m. My dad and I were just getting ready to leave, when I took one last glance out over the field. That's when I saw a buck walking out of the woods. It wasn't going to stay very long, and it wasn't going to stop walking. So I shot it while it was in motion. I ended up gut shooting it. But that's how I got my buck."

## Deer numbers down so far in 2013

**Aaron Rinta**  
Staff Writer

The deer hunting season is off to a slow start. The first three days of the deer

season is down 8 percent from last year. Last year the deer season was 12 percent below the average. The deer hunters in MN harvested 77,008 deer in the first three days of the season. Last year the season provided

185,000 deer to the hunters. The most deer ever taken was in 2003 with 290,000 deer harvested. The DNR believes that the number of hunters is increasing. They sold 10,000 more tags than they did in 2011.



# All Starz Changing it up!

**Alexis Wagner**  
Staff Writer

"The team to beat this year is yellow medicine east," says Coach Lisa Roth. In the dance sections the Aitkin All Starz got moved from section 2A to section 4A, the girls now compete with Pelican Rapids, Pierz, Hawley, Frazee, Bagley, Duluth Marshall and Crosby-Ironton.

The All Starz also moved into a different conference and some of the teams they compete with are Crosby-Ironton, Pierz, Pine River-Backus, Pequot Lakes, Detroit Lakes and Wadena. These changes were made because other dance teams wanted it that way.

There are three dance teams and a total of 65 girls on

the teams. The captains this year for the Varsity High Kick team are Kalley Duggan, Allie Steece, Mariah Trotter and Madisen Kuppich.

The Varsity Jazz Captains are Jenna Bordwell and Maddi Johnson, and the choreographers are all the captains plus Kaley Considine, Karsten Larson, Samantha Ellis and Shelby Fisher.

The girls had their first dance performance on Tuesday November 19 and it went awesome, the energy of the dancers and audience was very high. The next performance is Nov 25 at 6 p.m. in the old gym. Come support the All Starz!



**Mariah Trotter, Allie Steece, Madisen Kuppich, Kalley Duggan**

## Whippersnappers Start the Season

**Bryan Haugly**  
Staff Writer

The Aitkin gobbler wrestling team started practice on Nov 18. This year's captains are Jack Braton, Dan Nordean, and Alan Bast. Also, the new wrestling posters are hanging around the school.

Starting the season with no seniors and a very young team, captain Jack Braton says it will be a rocky start but as the season progresses it will get better and in the end the team will be stronger for next year. Returning state participants are Jared Novak, Tyler Bare, Noah Landrus, and Alan Bast.

The first match for the Gobblers will be at home on Dec 3. It will be a triangular match against Hibbing, and Rush City/Braham. All the wrestlers are looking forward for the season and are hopeful for some victories.



**The 2013 Wrestling Team**



# Basketball kicks off their year

**Mallory Milbradt**  
Staff Writer

The Aitkin boys basketball started off the team season with their first practice on November the 11<sup>th</sup> at 6 a.m. They have their first game to-night away against Pequot. They have had four scrimmages against Isle, Big Fork, Upsala, and Pine River.

Bryan Haugly said "I hope for great results from all the hard work we have put in this season and the previous season, and have all the hard work pay off!"

The boys hope to improve from last year and try their best this season. They are all excited for their season to take off and play at every game.

The captains for this season are Sam Hanson, Ryan Anderson and Nathan Ehnstrom. Congratulations boys.

Unfortunately Nathan



**Guys get pumped up before the big game!**

was injured during football season and had to get surgery

on his wrist. He will be able to play once it is all healed. Good

Luck this season boys!

## **Sports Calendar– Nov. 22nd– Dec. 7th**

### **Friday Nov. 22nd, 2013**

- Boys Basketball vs. Pequot Lakes @ Pequot Lakes (away) 6:00PM

### **Monday Nov. 25th, 2013**

- Beginning of 2nd Tri.
- Dance Team: Performance at 6:30PM, Old Gym.

### **Tuesday Nov. 26th, 2013**

- Boy Basketball vs. Onamia @home 6:00PM

### **Monday Dec. 2nd, 2013**

- Boys Basketball V, JV, C squad vs. Hinckley-Finlayson @home 6:00PM
- Dance Team: Performance @ halftime

### **Tuesday December 3rd, 2013**

- Wrestling: Varsity & JV Triangular vs. Hibbing, Rush City, Braham 5:00PM
- Girls Basketball vs. Moose Lake @Moose lake (away)

### **Thursday Dec. 5th, 2013**

- Wrestling: Varsity & JV match (away) @Holdingford 6:00PM

### **Friday Dec. 6th, 2013**

- 7th & 8th Girls Basketball vs. Deer River @home 4:00PM
- Boys Basketball vs. Moose Lake @Moose Lake (away)
- Girls Basketball vs. Deer River @home 6:00PM

### **Saturday Dec. 7th, 2013**

- Dance Team: Competition @ Detroit Lakes



# Preview: Catching Fire

**Erik Sanbeck**  
Online Editor

In March of last year, Lionsgate Studios released *The Hunger Games*, the film adaption of the Suzanne Collins' book of the same name. The film, which follows the plot of the book extremely well, takes us to Panem, a republic which is revealed to be a futuristic United States, and the 12 districts that comprises it. Every year, a boy and a girl between 12 years old and 18 years old are selected from each district and dropped into a giant arena to fight to the death on live television.

In *Catching Fire*, we return to Panem shortly after the 74<sup>th</sup> annual Hunger Games and witness the homecoming of District 12's victors, Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark. After a brief time with their families, Katniss and Peeta are forced to participate in the Quarter Quell, a special version of the Hunger Games which occurs every 25 years.



*Catching Fire*, starring Jennifer Lawrence (*Silver Linings Playbook*) as Katniss Everdeen, Josh Hutcherson

(*Journey 2: The Lost Island*) as Peeta Mellark, Liam Hemsworth (*The Last Song*) as Gale Hawthorne, and Woody Harrelson (*Zombieland*) as Haymitch Abernathy, is officially released on Friday, November 22, although Aitkin's Rialto Theatre has been approved for a release at 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 21. Kirk Peysar, the owner of the Rialto, says he's expecting "a couple hundred people" for the premiere. The theater has had a successful past with midnight showings, the biggest crowd being around 260 people for the premiere of the second part of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Also being released in November are *Thor: The Dark World* (starring Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston, and Natalie Portman), *Frozen* (starring Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, and Jonathan Groff) and *The Day of the Doctor* (starring Matt Smith, David Tennant, and John Hurt).

# The Aitkin Band: Finding Blakesley

**Joseph Fontaine**  
Variety Editor

Working around their hectic schedules, Thomas Coyle, Sampson Perrine, and Eddy Simonson form the newly renamed Finding Blakesley, and are now talking about releasing an all-original album in the near future.

The inspiration for their new name (previously Onset/Defect/Lord Baltimore and the Masters of Reality) comes from Thomas' neighbor Jim Blakesley, who mends the toils of humanity through fixing appliances. To them, he is a true hero. When asked their inspirational figures, they listed, among others, Radiohead, The Replacements, Shellac, Skov, Pythagoras, Walter White, Jonah Perrine, and Andrew Jack-



**Finding Blakesley**

son. With humble beginnings, their first show was at Kylan Hill's grad party. Unanimously decided amongst the band members themselves, this show

was 'rough' to say the least. Eddy did let slip tales of a vision from afar, where they "played at the White House, and B-Rawk told us he dug our

bods."

In addition to their various tastes in music, they also enjoy various varieties of ketchup. Eddy claims to prefer Hollandaise sauce to ketchup, whereas Thomas has a soft spot for dirt. Sampson enjoys "as much as I can get my paws on." Well said, Sampson. When asked in a recent interview, Finding Blakesley says that they have considered transitioning from their current genre to technical post-melodic grunge-core jazz with house and math rock fusion elements, though they prefer to play bluegrass. The band will be making another appearance; a brief concert for the variety show at Aitkin High School on Nov. 30.



# One Act: Nora's Lost

**Peyton Brezinsky**  
Staff Writer

One-Act, a play put up by the students here at AHS, is usually a comedy, but something new occurred this year. This year the One Act play is a serious performance. "This has been the first serious play in at least four years" says Joseph Fontaine (who will be playing Mark, the main character's son who goes to fight in the Vietnam War). The title of this serious play is called *Nora's Lost*. Nora (played by Lindy Lahmann-Sharbonda) has the disease Alzheimer's and is recalling past events in her life. The story takes place in a nurs-

ing home, and in Nora's mind.

When asked about her hopes were for the season, Ms. Real said, "I want to go to state because I retire in four years and I'm going to be losing a lot of students after this year" Her favorite thing about the play is that is its surreal quality and that it is "like a dream". Some things she wants the viewer to understand and think about during the play are how amazing the brain is. She liked to point out that she can relate because of her age and that she has empathy for the aging. The message of the play is that we understand little of the brain and how scary that thought actually is because of how amaz-

ing it actually is.

Another question that was asked was if there were any ideas for next year's one. The response was, "A comedy because teenagers can relate better". Ms. Real also wanted to say that she is sorry to lose a lot of the cast, next year will be different without them and that the experience of one act helps us decide who we are going to be and helps us find our role in life.

## Cast- *Nora's Lost*

**Gene-** Cody Zink, **Nora** — Lindy Lahmann-Sharbonda, **Young Nora** — Elise Courtemanche, **Martha** — Molly Moriarty, **Young Mar-**

**tha** — Taylor Smith, **Mark** — Joseph Fontaine, **Robin/Caroler** — Mikaela Justen **Death** — Kristen Miller, **Nurse/Doctor** — Mya VanNurden, **Preacher/Chaplain/ Policeman** — Erik Sanbeck, **Jack/Army Officer** — Franklin Real, **Karen/Nancy/Voice 7, 16** — Vanessa Lee, **Caroler/Mary/Lilac/Voice 8, 17** — Theresa Johnson, **Saundra/Darcy/Sarah/Voice 9** — Illeayah Armstrong, **Carolers/Searchers/ Shadows: Voice 1, 4, 10, 13** — Anne Courtemanche, **Voice 5, 14, 2, 11, and 17** — Korben Cline, **Voice 6, 15, 3, and 12** — Elise Lahmann-Sharbonda

# Adventure Time is Great For All Ages!

**Erik Sanbeck**  
Online Editor

If you haven't been watching *Adventure Time*, you've been missing out on colorful landscapes, fantastic characters, and intriguing plots, along with plenty of laughs for fans of all ages to enjoy.

For those unaware, *Adventure Time* follows Finn the human and his shapeshifting dog Jake through their adventures in the Land of Ooo, sometimes being helped by the super genius Princess Bubblegum, the immortal Marceline, the vampire queen, or occasionally the Ice King, one of the most prominent troublemakers in Ooo, although he's not much of a threat to anybody.

While the show is intended for children, it's really a show for all ages to watch, with enough colors and general silliness for children and enough of an ongoing plot for adults to enjoy. Each writer for the show adds their own twist to the show, whether it's two characters that have interacted with each other in the past, or a minor



character gets an entire episode dedicated to their background.

The show also features a well-rounded voice cast, including Jeremy Shada in his voice acting debut, along with veteran voice actors John DiMaggio (*Futurama*), Tom Kenny (*Spongebob Squarepants*), Hynden Walch (*Teen Titans*) and Olivia Olsen (*Phineas & Ferb*), along with superb guest stars, such as Neil Patrick Harris (*How I Met Your Mother*), Andy Samberg (*Saturday Night Live*), Donald Glover, 'Weird Al' Yankovic, Mark Hamill (*Star Wars*), George Takei, and Lou Ferrigno (*The Incredible Hulk*).

I know I have mentioned this before, but the writers do their job on the show particularly brilliantly. They do a fantastic job bringing different characters into the mix and shedding light on a subject that may have been glossed over in a previous episode. One of my favorite episodes to date is the episode *Simon and Marcy*, which gives details about interactions two characters had in the past, which was shown extremely briefly in a previous episode. I also find it amusing how the writers deliberately slip a joke or a reference into each episode that kids wouldn't normally understand, but adults will understand fully.

Overall, *Adventure Time* has yet to disappoint me. The combination of colorful characters and brilliant writing adds up to a show for all ages. Nearing the end of the show's fifth season, the writers and artists have not lost their touch yet, and I look forward to what the entire *Adventure Time* crew has in store for us. I give *Adventure Time* five demon-slaying swords out of five.