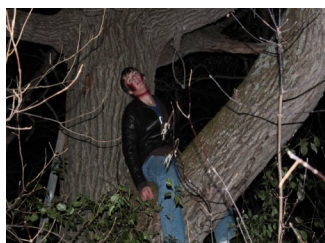


# Haunted Trail is Success

**By Mariyah Espeseth**  
Staff Writer

Some people wondered where the idea of The Haunted Trail came from, "Shelly Milbradt did it last year for her Civics Community Service project, I thought it was a moderate success, but a great idea that could be improved on." Mr. Miller said. The Haunted Trail had an amazing turn out, Peer helpers raised about \$500.00 dollars. There were people that came that weren't even from the Aitkin area, "More people showed up to go on the trail than I expected." Mr. Miller said. When you walked down the street there wasn't a pole without the haunted trail poster on it. It was well advertised and the turn out proved that.

The main attraction was just the regular haunted trail but they also had a kiddy



trail. When you went down they had leaders tell you a story and take you down the trail. There were zombies running about, dead people in trees, violin and banjo players, and at the end there was a scary graveyard where you couldn't see because of the smoke machine, plus you got attacked by the dead bodies on the ground. To top it off, Cooper came at people with a chainsaw.

The Peer Helpers did a great job with the haunted trail, there were hundreds of screams and laughs, "For being a school activity, it was really fun, and I think that it was a great success, there were a lot

of people there, and you could tell they were enjoying it. I felt really bad when I stepped on one of the people laying there in the graveyard though."

Brooke Nelson said.

"It was fun, it made me scream, but it could've been a little longer and scarier." Ashley Mate' said.

The idea of doing it next year is still being debated but Mr. Miller said, "It exceeded expectations, I would've liked to have more students outside of Peer Helpers to help, if we do it next year we want more people involved."

## Yearbooks go on Sale Today

**By Nicole Hammond**  
Staff Writer

Are you interested in looking back to the memories you made in high school? Do you remember that one dance and that one picture that was taken and you would like to see it again? Well, here's your chance! Yearbooks are now on sale as of early October. Right now, it is a presale, for \$40 per yearbook. They are on sale for \$40 right now. The deadline for the pre-sale is December 21<sup>st</sup>. The reason they do a pre-

sale is so that kids will be able to afford to buy a yearbook. This year, if you know someone that can't afford to buy one, you can donate one to them. When the pre-sale is over, the yearbooks will raise to an additional ten dollars more, so the total will be \$50. The deadline for all yearbook sales is the last day of school. You can pick up an order form in the office, or the art room, and you turn them into Mrs. Real. The money payments will also be turned into Mrs.

Real. Checks, or cash will be accepted. If you are writing a check out, make sure it goes to Aitkin High School. Also, if you want to you can order your yearbook online at the following website; [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com).

**Buy a  
Yearbook  
Today!**

## NHS: The Scoop

**By Casey Otto**  
Staff Writer

National Honor Society also known as NHS was established in the year 1921. NHS is for students who not only succeed in school but also in the community. It is an organization for students to use academic talents to make a difference, but you also have to be active in the community and participate in a school program. The four columns are Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Character. The criteria for Scholarship is maintaining a 3.5 GPA.

The criteria for Leadership is resourceful in proposing new problems, applying principles, and making suggestion. Demonstrates initiative on promoting school activities. Exercises influence on peer in upholding school activities. Contributes ideas that

improve the civic life of the school is able to delegate responsibilities. Exemplifies positive attitudes. Inspires positive attitudes. Demonstrates academic initiative. Successfully holds school offices or positions of responsibility, conducts business effectively and is dependable. Is a forerunner in the classroom, at work, and in school or community activities.

The criteria for Service is willing to uphold scholarship and maintain a loyal school attitude. Participates in some outside activity; Girl Scouts; Boy Scouts; church groups; volunteer services for the aged, poor or disadvantaged; family duties. Volunteers dependable and well-organized assistance, is gladly available, and is willing to sacrifice to offer assistance. Works well with others and is willing to take on difficult or inconspicuous responsibilities.



**Executive board of NHS**  
**Brianna Fuller-Vice President,**  
**Mackenzie Thompson-**  
**President, Amanda Kurtz-**  
**Secretary, Broc Kokesh- Treasure**

Cheerfully and enthusiastically renders any requested service to the school. Is willing to represent the class or school in inter-class and interscholastic competition. Does committee and staff work without complaint.

The last pillar is Character. The criteria takes criticism willingly and accepts recommendations graciously. Consistently exemplifies desirable qualities of behavior. Upholds principles of morality and ethics.

NHS benefits its member by giving them a sense of leadership, team skills, and a sense of confidence. It helps the members get out into the community. NHS helps make your transcript look good but it's not just to make it look good it is also to help colleges to decide who the exempt. Colleges look for all of the qualities that the Four Pillars stand for. Sophomores, if you want to be recognized get more involved in the community and school programs.

## A Person to be Remembered

**Dacia Sjolund**  
Staff Writer

He was nine years old, and his cousin eight, when they got on an airplane by themselves. They went from Duluth to Portland, Oregon. Where they were supposed to meet their grandparents. When they arrived, their grandparents were nowhere to be seen.

"We hung out at the airport for two hours, playing on the moving floors," he chuckled while reminiscing. "My grandparents thought the arrival time was two hours later, once they showed up, everything was fine," he said. They continued on to have a great trip, visiting places such as, Mt. St. Helens, Long Beach, and the Pacific Ocean. On their way back they saw the beautiful sights of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, and the Black Hills of South Dakota.

This adventure is part of what turned him into who he is today. Who is he? He is none other than Aitkin's very own Sean Smith.

A great influence in Smith's life was his grandfather. "He was a father figure to me, I looked up to him," Smith said.

"When I was young, I just thought everything was cool, but then as I got older, I started to appreciate the historical meaning of things," Smith said.

Initially Smith thought he was going to go to Bemidji State. "I went there, and didn't really get a strong vibe," Smith said. Next he tried Concordia. He went to a dinner there, and decided that Concordia wasn't for him either. Next he tried St. Johns, and he was sold right away. He found St. Johns to be very friendly and welcoming.

Smith had a strong passion for football from the get go. "I love every form of football," Smith said with a smile, "it's the ultimate team sport." He joined football and baseball in high school. "I like the mental aspect of baseball, and the nice weather." He continued on to play football at St. Johns, and even became a football coach here at Aitkin High School.

He graduated from St. Johns in 2009. He was looking for a job, when he got an interview here in Aitkin. He soon found out he got the job.

"I like teaching people new things," Smith said. "I like it when kids get excited about learning."

One thing Smith likes about himself is that he has a good work ethic. He has a positive outlook towards life, and is a "glass half full" kind of person.

One thing Smith doesn't appreciate so much is that he sometimes procrastinates. "I have to work harder than usual," Smith says, "Sometimes I need to use my time more wisely."

You can count him with the dreamers, if he wasn't a teacher, he would be a professional hunter and fisherman. He would even have his own television show. When he was young, he wanted to grow up and be a pilot or a professional athlete.

Smith is most proud of his classroom. He takes pride in his work, and accomplishments, and for this, we thank him.

# P.A.L.S. Off to Another Great Year

**By Tyler Bliss**  
Staff Writer

P.A.L.S. is a club that Mackenzie Thompson created last year to encourage students to get involved with Special Olympic, advocate Special Olympics and provide inclusion throughout the school. Currently there are thirteen students, 6 athletes in the club along with the paraprofessionals and Mr. Carlson. P.A.L.S. is an acronym that stands for, "Playing And Learning Students."

Last year in the "Spread the Word to End the Word" fundraiser they raised 300 dollars. All of the money raised went to Special Olympics to buy new uniforms. The main

drive of the fundraiser is to end the use of the word "retard." Their t-shirts this year have a quote by Dr. Seuss that says, "today you are you, that is truer than true, there is no one alive who is youer than you. This quote encourages them to be themselves no matter what and to be proud of who they are. The goals of P.A.L.S. this year is to continue providing inclusion and to partake in the polar plunge on March 3, 2012. They also plan on doing another "Spread the Word to End the Word" fundraiser, so come and show your support for Special Olympics in the month of March. Information will be posted before the fundraiser.



**Last Years Picture of P.A.L.S. at The "Spread the Word to End the Word" fundraiser.**

## Reeves Succeeds in School, Sports

**By Mackenzie Thompson**  
Staff Writer

Jack Reeves is this weeks' Student of the Week. Jack was born on September 24, 1993 and has since been pushed and encouraged by his family to do well in school and sports.

Jack said, "I am very proud being picked and I think I will do a good job representing the class of 2012." Even though Jack is the student of the week, he is also a merit finalist. In order to become a merit finalist, you have to score within the top 1percent on the SAT. Jack felt very happy when he received this information.

Jack is involved in various sports and activities throughout the school and community such as; cross country, madrigals, jazz band, choir, band, BPA, knowledge bowl, tennis, boy scouts and P.A.L.S. Jack is starting to prepare early for tennis this year, because he thinks that the team will have a chance at making it to state.

Jack's favorite subject in school is Spanish, because it's fun learning about different cultures and languages. Since it



**Jack learning the high moral standards that Mr. Cox has to offer.**

was too hard for him to pick just one favorite teacher, Jack picked his top two teachers, Mr. Miller and Mr. Mehr. Jack said that Mr. Miller does a good job with getting you to think about things and Mr. Mehr makes math accessible to all students.

Jack especially had a hard time when asked to name his idol, but digging into the depths of his thoughts, Mr. Cox's name came up. Jack stated that, "Mr. Cox has lived a fulfilled life and shows high

moral standards in his classroom." This is why Jack views Mr. Cox as his idol and because he's a great teacher.

Jack said that the Aitkin High School education that he has received has exposed him to a variety of studying techniques and learning styles, which he is thankful for.

This summer Jack went to the Boundary Waters and partook in online summer courses. He plans to attend University of Missouri, Washington University in St. Louis and become an internal medicine doctor. He has a big goal, but he's sure to succeed.

The one piece of advice that Jack would give to Aitkin High School would be to "Stay Golden." The school is sure to stay golden with more students like Jack Reeves who are making a difference. We congratulate Jack on all of his accomplishments throughout his high school career and wish him the best of luck when he begins his life adventure after graduation.



## Calling all Talents!

**By Brittney Ince**  
Staff Writer

Mariya Espeseth is having a show of talent the date is undecided because she needs YOU so she can set a promised date. Basically her hope of it is that people will be excited about it and it will be something everybody can enjoy, both teachers and students.

Mariya said, "If anyone knew me when I was younger they would know that I was very shy and I would never go up in front of people, but because of things like one act and piano recitals I am a much more confident person in everything I do, and it helps me in school and lots of other events."

Mariya is doing this for her Civics community service project, she thinks it's a problem in our school because, "There aren't enough things in our school that let us open up just for the heck of it".

"I really hope it all turns out and it can be something we can do every year please sign up even if you're scared, the point is we all have a talent and nobody should be afraid to show it off."

If you want to contact Mariya call her or text her at 1218-838-9694 or if you see her in the hallway just stop her and she'll add you to the list.



## Walk. Run. Roll.

**By Kayli Beneke**  
Staff Writer

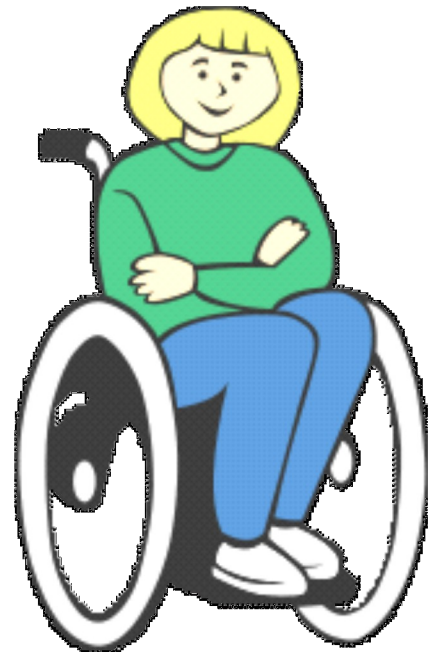
Brittney Ince and Miranda Trotter's community service project for Mr. Miller was a 5k run starting at the Aitkin Fair Grounds and following the fit city route. Brittney said "I think I did an absolutely good job on it, I think I deserve an A+++++ because Miranda and I both did a very good job organizing it and we did it for a great cause."

About 30 people showed up and they raised over a thousand dollars. There were lots of donations and volunteers. It wouldn't have been possible for this to be such a success without all the help from Brittney's family and friends.

The run was to sponsor Spina Bifida and all the money will be donated to

the Spina Bifida Association. Brittney and Miranda were inspired to donate to Spina Bifida Association because of Brittney's sister Danielle Ince has Spina Bifida. Danielle has the most severe form of Spina Bifida called Myelomeningocele which caused her to be paralyzed from her ankles down. It's where the spinal cord itself protrudes through the back.

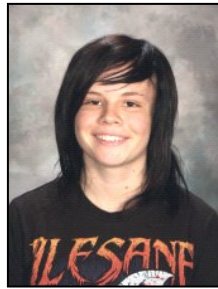
I asked Brittney why she felt it was so important to do something for this cause and her response was, "Because my sister has it and I see her struggle through it everyday and more and more kids are born with Spina Bifida every day, I want to see them try to help improve their Spina Bifida by finding activities that they can do and finding better treatment for it."



## Should school start later?



Yes, because teenagers are more known to stay up later at night.  
-Emily Dinger, Junior

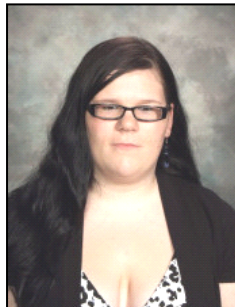


Yes, people would be more alert.  
-Errin Platz, Senior



I think it might benefit us to sleep longer so we can be more alert in class.  
-Ashley Landrus, Senior

It would be the exact same thing if we do have school later, because then everybody would go to sleep later as well.  
-Katellynn Stofferahn, Senior



I think it would be a better idea because we would be more awake and you would have enough time to eat and get ready for school.  
-Sara Miller, Junior

Compiled by Kaylee Nelson

## AHS needs to offer more foreign languages

**By Dacia Sjolund**  
Staff Writer

Have you ever thought to yourself, "How cool would it be to know another language?" I'm happy that Aitkin offers Spanish as an elective, but I can't help but think how nice it would be if we could have more language options.

When I walk down the hallways I feel immense pride to see the Spanish culture proudly displayed in our school. When I think of adding another language to the schools curriculum, I think it would be nice to see some of my own heritage, such as different European cultures.

I went to the principal to get his opinion on the matter. I brought some interesting statistics with me. I surveyed 244 students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. I asked them: Would you like to see more foreign language classes offered at Aitkin High School?



**Thank you in many different languages.**

Out of those students 79 percent said yes, and 21 percent said no. The 193 students, who said yes, suggested 329 options of various languages. Out of those 329 suggestions 102 or 31 percent were German, 85 or 26 percent were French, and 24 or 7 percent were Italian. The remaining 36 percent consisted of 21 different languages.

I presented him with these statistics, and asked him if it was at all possible to get more

foreign language classes. He said, "Nothing is impossible." I asked him if it was up to him, what language classes he would choose. He said Chinese because of the way the economy is. He said if he were to start anywhere he would add foreign language classes while kids are in elementary school. I think that's a great idea, but why not give us the option? Instead of forcing us to take two foreign languages in elementary school, allow us to choose in high school. Students are more willing to learn when they are interested in what they are learning.

There is always the option of taking classes online. I think most would agree that online classes just aren't the same as regular in person classes. Online classes are less hands on, and that can make it difficult to understand.

Spanish is great, I love Spanish, but it has taught me that the world out there can be very different than what I'm used to. Now I want to learn more about other cultures, and see what life is like for other people.

What can we as students do to help get more language classes in Aitkin? We can talk to Mr. Pederson or Mr. Novak about how much we would enjoy having more classes. Money is always a factor, but if we convince them this is what we want, then they can help us make it happen.

What we're asking for isn't a change in school policy; it's not going to harm anyone in any way. What we want is to learn, and gain a better understanding of the world around us. This is why I, along with many others, believe Aitkin should get more foreign language classes.

## Another Football Season in the Books

**By Kevin Chalich**  
Staff writer

On October 25<sup>th</sup> the Aitkin Gobbler varsity football team traveled to Crosby to take on the Rangers in their first playoff game of the year. Both teams battled it out and the gobblers managed to pull ahead in the second half of the game with a 45 yard pass to Peter Zasmeta. Unfortunately, however, the Rangers would not let it last.

"It was really close," said senior running back Brandon Barthel, "We were ahead 15-14 with a minute left but then they scored with 30 seconds left and won."

"It was a devastating loss" said junior offensive lineman Jared Steel.

This is the final game the gobblers will play this year. The team has tried their hardest throughout the season and have finished with a 2-6 record. Now that the off season has begun, the team turns their speculations on next year's season, and with only four players leaving the team due to graduation this year, the team will have plenty of talent when they hit the gridiron next season in 2012.



**The Gobblers get fired up before a game this season.**

## Volleyball Girls Wrap Up Season

**By Peter Zasmeta**  
Staff Writer

The Aitkin Girl's Volleyball team ended their season 4 – 19. As with most high school sports the record at the end of the season doesn't tell the whole story. It is the "TEAM" effort and the behind the scenes camaraderie that is the story.

All the players seem to agree that it was a very good season; they improved from last year and grew as a team. Even when the going was tough they never gave up on each other. All you had to do was go to one game and you could see that. The encouragement the girls gave each other on the court was phenomenal. The "tick, tick, boom", that of course the fan could not quite get the hang of, the high fives, the group huddles and the sportsmanship.

Then there was the secret or maybe not so secret superstition of not shaving their legs until they won, maybe that shouldn't be a repeat for next year? Favorite memories of the players varied, going to the Gophers game and the team bonding, to the win against Isle, to beating Ogilvie in three games or the home game against Hinckley that was described simply as "epic."

The team is only losing five seniors, so most of the team will be returning for next year. The returning players are looking forward to next year, they believe that they have worked the kinks out and intend to be "beastly." Thanks girls it was fun to watch you and we will look forward to next year too.





## Tennis finishes up impressive season

**By Nicole Radtke**

Staff writer

The tennis girls had a pretty good season, only losing three out of twenty matches. Their head coaches are Jenn Waldorf and Cindy Walz, their assistant coaches are Joe Walz and Justine Nordick. The tennis girls have two student managers Alex Anderson and Dan Klucas.

There are only 15 girls on varsity, which are Amanda Kurtz, Emily Hansen, Emily Lundgren, Kristin Salmonson, Morgan Schoonover, Victoria Sundholm (12<sup>th</sup> grade), Cassie Tetrick, Jozee Fossum, Megan Welshons (11<sup>th</sup> grade), Anna Browning, Amy Chalich, Malinda Lahmann-Sharbonda (10<sup>th</sup> grade), Elise Courtemanche, Lisa Anderson (9<sup>th</sup> grade), and Claire Browning (8<sup>th</sup> grade).

There were a number of awards handed out to the top varsity players. Conference singles honors were awarded to Tori Sundholm and Anna Browning, double honors were awarded to Amanda Kurtz, Claire Browning, Emily Lundgren, and Lisa Anderson. These players have put forth their best effort and have contributed greatly to the many victories they have achieved.



**The Aitkin girls tennis team posed for a picture after one of their matches this season. They are, Top: Jozee Fossum, Lisa Anderson, Claire Browning, Anna Browning, Amy Chalich, Lindy Lahmann-Sharbonda, Alex Anderson, Dan Klucas, Bottom: Emily Hansen, Emily Lundgren, Amanda Kurtz, Tori Sundholm, Kristin Salmonson, Morgan Schoonover.**

Unfortunately however the team will have a number of big shoes to fill next year since six players will be graduating this year. But as they've showed us

the team is more than capable of surprises. We wish the team best of luck as an incredible season has come to a close.

## Aitkin All Starz are dancing into season

**By Mara Braaten**

Staff writer

One of the prides of Aitkin are coming back for another round of fighting to the top. The All Starz dance team is back in it's season, and hopes are high. They've recently started practicing towards their first performance, which is the night of Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at AHS.

The varsity team is lead by their coaches Lisa Roth and Andrea Schoonover and their captains Amara Blake, Chesna Matteson, and Kari Steece.

"I love dance because it takes my mind off of other things because of the focus it takes," states

Nicole Radtke, "it makes me feel free."

After asking many girls on the team, it seems they all have a lot of faith that this year will be great as well, and they will be trying their hardest to make it to the place they've commanded for the last years: first, the very top.

## Tick, Tick Boom!

### “Carene’s Killing it on the Court”

**By Travis Bare**  
Staff Writer

Carene Bayerle is a senior here at Aitkin High School. She is a two sport athlete and is currently playing volleyball. She has been playing volleyball for the last six years and she is the Middle Hitter for the varsity team. Carene enjoys volleyball because it keeps her active and moving. She also likes the fact that she can hang out with her friends.

When Carene was asked what her strengths and weaknesses were on the court she

said her main weakness is being way to nice. Her strengths on the other hand are that she brings people up not down. She is a good role model for the younger players and kids to look up to. That is also why she is the captain for the team.

Carene is also in basketball, this is her favorite sport because she enjoys it and has a lot of fun while playing it. She is sad that her volleyball years are over but excited for her last season in basketball.



**Carene Bayerle Grade 12**

## ‘Doback’ Dominates on Defense

**By Adam Jackson**  
Staff writer

Isaac Novak, a junior this year at Aitkin High School, stands 6 feet tall and weighs 165 pounds. He is a three season athlete. He plays football, he wrestles, and is in track. He is currently playing football. He really loves defense because he likes to inflict pain when he tackles.

His favorite football game this year was against Rush City. In the game against Rush City he had 18 tackles and 1 sack. His favorite professional football player is Green

Bay Packers’ Clay Mathews, because Isaac thinks he’s a beast.

Isaac says he isn’t the best at blocking. His total sacks for this years season is 2.5 and thinks he might have over 100 tackles. In a single game, Isaac had 30 tackles against Pine City. Isaac really hates to lose in any sport but never gives up.

This year Isaac spent most of his time in the weight room getting stronger. In practice he busted his butt to get better. Isaac says, “this year we played more like a team even though the scoreboard didn’t show it.”



**Isaac Novak Grade 11**



# History of Halloween

**By Sara Miller**  
Staff Writer

October 31<sup>st</sup> is the big day that everyone loves to celebrate. That is the day everyone lets loose, dresses up, and goes from house to house to "trick or treat." Even if they don't go out on the streets to enjoy their time on Halloween, they probably throw a party. Have you ever wondered how Halloween came to be a night most people like to celebrate?

Halloween originated in a Celtic festival called the Samhain. At these festivals, there would always be bonfires, because they thought that the bonfires would bring bugs, which would also bring bats to help celebrate the holiday. Bats were a good thing to have, according to their culture. Halloween was celebrated everywhere in North Africa and Scotland. The British believed that on Halloween night, the people from the afterlife and the living would conjoin, and the dead would arise and cause mischief by destroying crops. People also believed that if they set out dishes of food for the spirits, they would come to eat it. If anyone ever left the house, they thought they should leave in a costume, because they



thought they could fool the spirits by looking like one of them. People also wore face masks or decorated their face for fun and to please the spirits. This holiday has evolved and became popular in the United States from culture exchanges, and also from television, songs, etc. In the United Kingdom, the police had made it clear to the parents of children that if their child were to play a "trick" on anyone, the parents would be prosecuted.

One tradition that Britain and Ireland used to do, was the poor would go from door to door asking for candy and food as prayers for the spirits. They would call Halloween "Beggars Night."

There are also legends and myths about stories of the Jack O'Lantern. There are

various tales of how people came up with Jack O'Lantern. In all of the stories, Jack was a lazy farmer that played tricks on the devil. In one of the stories, Jack had tricked the Devil in to going up an apple tree, and he carved a cross into the tree. The Devil was stuck in the tree. In a different myth, Jack was being chased by villagers whom he stole from, and the Devil showed up to tell Jack his time was up. Jack had asked him if he wanted to turn into a coin, and he could pay the villagers with the coin. Then when the coin disappeared, the villagers would be fooled. The Devil turned into a coin, and jumped into Jack's wallet, but little did the Devil know that there was a cross in Jack's wallet. The cross stripped the Devil of his powers, and he was stuck in the wallet until Jack would let him out. Jack would only let him out when he promised not to take Jack's soul. Jack was forbidden from Heaven from his wrongdoings, and he was forbidden from Hell, so he was stuck on Earth. The Devil had given him an ember that would never burn from Hell. Jack carved out a turnip, put the ember inside and walked around the Earth carrying the lantern, looking for a place to end his existence.

## Paranormal Activity 3: This movie will make you jump

**By Olivia Landrus**  
Staff Writer

Paranormal Activity 3 aka PA3 came out in theatres on October 21. It set a new record for midnight horror films bringing in 8 million. It is a supernatural horror film that had people jumping in and out of their seats. The film was directed by Ariel Schulman and Henry Joost who directed the independent film Catfish. The film was a prequel set back 18 years before the events of the first two films.

The movie starts with Christie the sister of Katie bringing Katie and her family some old video tapes she needs to get rid of. At first it seems to be home videos of the two sisters when they were little. When the youngest sister Christie starts to make it obvious that she has an "imaginary" friend, named Toby things start to happen. Strange things are in the home like noises and movements without a reason. Once the

mom's boyfriend Dennis starts to notice this, he puts video cameras all around the home so he can document them and spy on Christie and her friend Toby. Dennis is very intrigued by the strange things happening in the house. After a week or two of reviewing the tapes, he discovers that not only is Toby not imaginary but he is possibly harmful. Dennis and his intern friend start seeing that things around the house are becoming more and more obvious as time passes. They start to do a lot of research and detective work. That's when he discovers that someone in the family may be responsible for the demonic presence. He is still unsure where everything connects. After Christie suddenly decides to stop speaking to Toby, everything becomes more intense and dangerous for the family. That's when they flee to the grandmother's home, and that's when everything unravels.

The middle and end of the film is

where all of the suspense lies, but the beginning makes you want to keep watching even though it tends to have a lot of false alarms. It is the kind of movie where you try to prepare yourself for any jumping or screaming. It is all about making the hairs on your neck rise. To truly enjoy this movie it is important to watch the first two movies. It is a brilliant idea for a scary movie. It perfectly fits the generation we live in by changing the idea of a usual horror film and making it so realistic. They make all of these films very realistic and believable. The third Paranormal Activity is probably my favorite; it's definitely in my opinion the scariest one. The technology of this movie appears to be very thought out and very advanced. It is very believable. I totally recommend anyone to it that enjoys scary movies about the supernatural. It's ingenious.

## Mr. Cox: AHS legend

**By Mackenzie Thompson**  
Staff Writer

In the year of 1956, local Biology teacher, Ronald Cox came into the world. Born in Brainerd, Mr. Cox attended Brainerd High School, and then progressed onto college, taking courses at Central Lakes College and BSU.

Starting out with the goal of becoming a Wildlife Biologist, Mr. Cox chose his plan B. Once he realized that his dream wasn't really what he thought it would be, Mr. Cox went with plan B, becoming a Biology teacher.

Mr. Cox said that he decided to become a teacher, because of his high school Biology teacher. His Biology teacher made the subject fun and made Mr. Cox laugh. Mr. Cox enjoys his job very much and looks up to the college students that he teaches, because he doesn't know how they do it.

Mr. Cox's favorite part of his job would be June, July and August, while the worst would be the involvement of politics. When asked how he ended up in Aitkin, Minnesota, Mr. Cox said that while he was working in Idaho at the Department of Natural Resources, he received a call from Francis Wettstein, the principal at Aitkin High School at that time, asking Mr. Cox to come and work as a teacher. After accepting the job, Mr. Cox has been sharing his knowledge with the students of Aitkin ever since.

Mr. Cox plans on retiring October 13, 2013 at 3:20 pm. and when he does, he plans on going home. Mr. Cox is happily married with two children, who are now grown with lives of their own. Even though Mr. Cox considers himself too young to have a bucket list, he would like to someday go to Alaska to enjoy the scenery, fishing and hunting that it has to offer.



**Mr. Cox with his best friend, skully the skeleton.**

Mr. Cox said that he's had too many memories throughout his teaching experience to pick just one, but he has had some difficulty in the past while teaching a class lesson, with the word "function". But who's to blame him? He said that if he could re-live his life, the only thing that he would change, would be getting his masters degree earlier on in life, instead of waiting until his early forties to do so, but the rest, he can accept.

While enjoying the TV series NCIS and rooting on the Twins, the one piece of advice that Mr. Cox had to share was, "you want old pilots, young doctors, comfortable shoes, an expensive mattress and babies come after marriage."

When asked what he would do if he was a passenger on the Titanic, Mr. Cox's first response was that he would, "kick the lady off the piece of wood so he could float on it", but after having a moment to think about the situation he would be in, he said, "I would kill the people playing the violins, because it was upsetting to watch them play music, while in the background people were dying." Most people probably wouldn't admit to that, but Mr. Cox is an honest man.

If there's one thing that Aitkin High School will be missing on October 14, 2013, it will be a great teacher and person; it will be the one and only Mr. Cox.

*"You want old pilots, young doctors, comfortable shoes, an expensive mattress and babies come after marriage."*

*-Mr. Cox*