



G O B B L E R G I Z Z A R D

JANUARY 22, 2010

We digest the news one story at a time

Cold Days Bring Sno-Daze!

Emilee White
Staff Writer

We can all definitely agree that winter has brought some freezing weather, but it has also brought us SNO-DAZE! And what better way to kick off the Sno-Daze festivities than watching the candidates dress up? Kyle Hoffman, Kristy Hoge, Ray Smith, Miranda Paulson, Collin Burke, Abi Nadeau, Cody Fossum, Stephanie Bandow, Nick Sundholm and Shelby Kokesh are our 2010 Sno-Daze candidates!

On Monday they walked around school wearing a sign that said "I'm a Sno-Daze Candidate." Tuesday they came to school dressed in their cowboy boots and hats to go along with the cowboy/cowgirl theme. Wednesday they dressed up as famous celebrity couples, and they all looked surprisingly like their characters! Thursday all the candidates dressed up like little babies...they looked so precious!

Sno-Daze continued on Page 2



Abi Nadeau (front, left), Shelby Kokesh, Kristy Hoge, Miranda Paulson, Stephanie Bandow, Nick Sundholm (back, left), Ray Smith, Kyle Hoffman, Cody Fossum and Collin Burke posed for a picture after being named Sno-Daze candidates.

Step into the wild, wild west at the Sundance Café

By Brett Skattum
Staff writer

The Sundance Café is the school restaurant this year, hosted by Ms. Irwin and her occupational food class. "This class will teach kids how to work as a team, develop some restaurant skills, and maybe even get you prepared for a culinary career," said Ms. Irwin.

The Sundance café is featuring a western theme, which gives you that down home country feeling. "Never done it before. It's fun," Ms. Irwin said. The menu has all those hearty meals that Momma used to make, such as hamburgers and fries, soups, salads and sandwiches. The restaurant includes some very refreshing beverages such as pop, coffee, milk and water.

Come down January 26 to be served by the Sundance café open from 11:50 to 1:00.

It's a great class which consists of Brittany Hannah, Zach Miller, Bobbi Studniski, Emilee White, Trevor Kruse, Shawnee Skaj, Lexi Brush, Erica Evans, Casey Edwards, and Jozie Tveit. Be sure to stop down and check it out or grab a menu. The store will be closing May 26, 2010.

FFA Poultry team takes fourth in Brainerd

By Kori Flowers
Staff Writer

The FFA Poultry and Wildlife judging teams traveled to Brainerd on January 12 to participate in a competition. Also happening on that day was the Winter Rally Workshop open to competitors hoping to improve their judging skills.

FFA revolves primarily around judging skills, meaning that the competitors are the ones who judge various examples of whatever falls into their category. An example of this is that a member of the poultry team

would determine which chicken would be the best in competition.

Other teams participating were from Black Duck, Brainerd, Staples, Grand Rapids, and Long Prairie.

The poultry team received fourth place in competition. Unfortunately, the wildlife judging team was disqualified because the forestry team, which is in their category, has already won a trip to state competition. Because only one team is allowed to go, the wildlife team could not go on.



Jordan Grunenwald, Micheal Flowers, Anthony White, Justin Petrie, Emily Cambell, Dylan Otto, Taylor Venne, and Luara Peggs posed for a picture.

SHIP forms to help people eat right

By Jerry Ruschmeier
Special to the Gobbler Gizzard

America is getting obese and officials have decided that eating right needs to start in children and young adults asap. SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Program) is a combination of school and county officials along with interested and concerned students and adults.

On Dec. 7 2009, there was a SHIP meeting discussing the topic of food nutri-

tion in the schools. This topic was chosen by SHIP for the northeast region of Minnesota as its most important topic. During the meeting the committee decided on a couple of the points in which they felt would be most successful, and could make a difference. These points of interest were: Sites outside of the cafeteria offering appealing low fat items, promoting healthy food and beverage choices, and collaboration between food service staff and teachers.

The SHIP committee will continue with meetings based on these interests. The meetings are open to anyone and students are encouraged to participate; after all this is for the students. These meetings consist of small group work, committee discussion, and a free meal.

For more info contact Amy Wyant (Frau) at ait-kin.wellness.amy.wyant@gmail.com.

Sno-Daze / Continued from Page 1

And finally, Friday they all came to school supporting Aitkin High in their black and red school spirit.

Coronation for the crowning of our Sno-Daze royalty took place Wednesday in the auditorium during 7th period. After a slideshow with funny candids and cute baby pictures, plus some intense waiting... Ray Smith was crowned our 2010 Sno-Daze King and Miranda Paulson, our

Sno-Daze Queen! Congratulations on winning best dressed to both of them!

The week of the 19th through the 22nd, the rest of the school had their own dress up days: Tuesday was cartoon character, Wednesday was senior citizen, Thursday had an 80's theme, and Friday was school spirit day. There's a fun pep fest Friday during 7th period to go along with the festivities.

Also, don't forget about the dance on Saturday from 8-11 p.m. in the old gym. This is a semi-formal event open to all students grades 9-12. Cost is \$12 per couple or \$7 per person, but it's a little more at the door. Make sure you get your guest passes before Saturday! The theme is Black and White, but you don't have to wear just black or white. Be sure to make it for some fun dancing and a good time!

What would you do to make the school better?

Michael Hansen



Nap Time

Brittany Searle



Paint the school the school colors

Eric O'Neil



Hackey Sack

Heldi Klingelhofer



Make I.S. required

Jenna Kuiken



Extend study hall to one full period.

Anthony White



More food at lunch

It's The End of the World As We Know It... And I Feel Fine!

By Kori Flowers

Opinion Editor

About a two weeks ago, while I was at work, the topic turned to 2012. No, not the movie, although it was briefly commented upon. We were talking about the date of the end of the world.

While my coworkers raged on and on about how we will all die or be plunged into the dark ages, I thought about the research I had done on my own about the end of the world, and here's what I know.

Out of all the religions of the world, very few focus on the end of all things. And only Christianity is making a very big deal about it, ex: Armageddon, the Rapture, the paradise or punishment afterward, etc. The rest are very accepting of the inevitable end.

People have been predicting the end of the world for ages. Some thought that one thousand years after the birth of Christ would end the world. It obviously didn't. Nostradamus made thousands of predictions that can be interpreted many ways; the end of the world was one of them. One religious man in the 1800s predicted the end of the world down to the date and time. He and his followers waited on top of

a hill for the end to come. They waited the whole day. When the end didn't come, instead of admitting he was wrong, he changed his date and did the same thing all over again.

The Mayan calendar isn't like ours. It's actually many formulas carved into a circular rock tablet in one of their temples. The symbols start on the outer edge and spiral inward. In the very center, the last symbol is supposed to represent the date December 21, 2012.

Try Google-ing 'the end of the world', '2012', or 'Mayan calendar', and millions of links will show up saying that the world will end this way, that way, and all ways. It was so daunting to sift through, I didn't even try to find the name of the religious doomsday sayer above. According to them, the end will come through solar flares, changing weather patterns, asteroids; the list goes on and on.

Personally, I think it's all rather ridiculous. **IF, IF**, the world is going to end, there is little to nothing we can do about it, so why worry? Even if we start changes to prevent environmental problems now, our efforts will not have enough time to take effect. And if our 'end' comes from somewhere else...so what? We can adapt. We can survive.

If all the electricity and power is shut down due to a solar flare...we can just build new technologies that do work. If the weather starts changing and we're plunged into an ice age...we survived the last one—without all the modern technology we have now. If an asteroid hits earth...it'll be nasty for a while, no doubt. But plants and animals survived the last one (that big one that wiped out the dinosaurs), and life continued on.

And then there's the Mayan calendar. How accurate can it be? Yes, the Mayans are renowned mathematics (they came up with the concept of zero), but after a thousand years, how close can they be? Will it be **exactly** December 21, 2012? **EX-ACTLY**? I don't think so.

The descendants of the Mayans aren't panicking either. The Mayans view the end of their calendar as the world turning over a new leaf, and the beginning of a new age. And just because the calendar ends, doesn't mean the world ends. It just means it's time to throw out the old one and start again on a new one. I think I did the same thing three weeks ago.

On Saturday, December 22, 2012, I will roll out of bed, straighten up, and laugh at all those people that thought the world would end. **That** I am sure about.

Senior Year, Does it have to be a Drag?

By Emilee White
Staff Writer

Senior year...the best time of your whole high school career, right?...Well not so much for me. No open lunch, no locks on our lockers, a cold school, hardly any Ag department, half a lunch period, and we can't even go to our lockers at lunch anymore. Maybe it's just me, but I have no desire to come to school anymore. In my opinion, this school has its goods and its bads, but it seems lately this year it has more bad things than good. I never thought I would say this, but I cannot wait to graduate and get out of here. Don't get me wrong, this school has potential, but it's just not the kind of environment I want to be in anymore.

I have heard kids call this school a "prison" and a "concentration camp." With statements like that, it just goes to show this

school isn't what it used to be. I understand that it's the student's actions that mostly affect how our school is run, but most of those troublesome kids have graduated!

This is now and that was then. Every year is a new beginning so give us a chance. There are quite a few kids that have dropped out and either went online or to alt school. Obviously they think that is a better option than being here in the high school. I have to admit, if I wasn't a senior, I probably wouldn't go here, I probably would be going to alt school. Mostly for the fact that I feel like I'm wasting my time here. Instead of attending classes I don't necessarily need, I could be working and making money or going post secondary and getting a free year of college.

I've been looking forward to senior year since well before the sixth grade,

and now that it's finally here, it's no different than any other year, it's not special. It seems that all this school is sometimes is a big popularity contest and it's all about who your parents are and who you know. Homecoming had candidates that you see all the time running for things. Why not have people that aren't big shots in this school be nominated for things for once? It makes me sad to see that everyone is so wrapped up in who they are and how many friends they can have. It seems that if you're not, in other words, famous in this school, that you're left out of things and almost ignored. When you're a senior you think you have seniority, but we can't even get ahead of everyone else in the lunch line anymore like last year. We get treated like little kids and I think this school needs to stop being so power hungry.

*****Big Babies*****

By Kori Flowers
Opinion Editor

In Speech, it's customary to compare critiques after rounds; with coaches, friends, and even opponents. There's the usual crits: slow down, enunciate, and change your posture. A good judge will rip a speech to pieces, find something you did right, and give examples of how you can improve. An honest judge is one of the best pushes for improvement. But then there are the judges who add that sweet little "Good Job" at the end even when they know, the performer knows, and the audience knows that the kid did not do a good job.

Why add that "Good Job" if the kid sucked? Maybe in some parallel dimension, the kid actually did a good job. Could the "Good Job" refer to the fact that the kid actually stood up and did their speech? Or maybe it's because of that mindset that adults get: that we're precious little angels that must be protected, coddled, and must never feel the sting of disappointment.

In some elementary schools, they don't use red pens to correct papers because "they're too harsh." Harsh? **Red ink** is harsh? It shows they did something wrong and now they know it's not the right answer. They learned! If they don't know it's wrong, how will they know if it's right? If they don't truly understand that that's the wrong answer, how will they learn? But

some parents and teachers see children as delicate and cannot ever know failure. 'To fail is the ultimate shame. If our children fail, they will lose confidence. They won't succeed! They won't live the life we want them to live!'

That's the problem. Parents want to live through their kids. It's the mother that signed her daughter up for dance- even if the girl maybe wanted to play basketball- because the mother wanted to be a ballerina when she was a little girl. It's the father that expects his son to be quarterback- even though the kid's a shrimp who probably won't even make the team, and would rather be playing video games anyway- because the father was quarterback and expects his son to follow his footsteps. They want to relive the fun they had...through their kids.

We're not allowed to live our own lives anymore. Parents have to organize and run everything, and not allow us to learn on our own.

Here at our high school, we must be watched. I'm not talking about going to the lockers during lunch; that's someone else's article. I mean teachers feel they must monitor us at all times to discourage any misbehavior. Given the bathroom bandit scandal, this is a good idea, but some teachers are going too overboard about it, while some don't seem to care at all. In other

cases, we are told exactly how to do an assignment, and we are not allowed to add any of our own flairs. We can't be creative. The classes where we can be creative, like art, band, or choir, are always the first to receive budget cuts. How can we be creative if we don't have the right tools to express ourselves?

Being monitored at all times, not being able to express ourselves, never being allowed to fail and therefore never succeed...what will happen to us in the years to come? I see either two options about what happens once we are released into the big wide world to fend for ourselves: We will either remain with the feelings of being watched, of not being allowed to express ourselves, and that we can never succeed. Or, once we are released from the constraints of parents and teachers (in other words, **college**), we will go nuts, drinking, partying, and behaving in other self-destructive ways. We will only end up hurting ourselves and those who care about us.

Perhaps it is those who care about us- or care too much or too little- that are the problem.

To adults, children stay babies long after we have grown out of diapers. But we're done being babies. Let us grow up.

Gobbler Girls improve with win

By Joseph Elvecrog
Staff Writer

The Aitkin girls basketball team came home with a convincing 69-30 win against the Hinckley-Finlayson Jaguars Tuesday night. Meredith Chaput scored 21 points in the win. Lena Montano scored 9 and Allie Carlson had 8 points for the Gobblers.

The team fell to a hot shooting East Central Eagles team 81-61. After trailing 37-24 at the half, the girls battled back and pulled within 3 points. However, the 3 point shooting of the Eagles didn't help matters. Meredith Chaput scored 23 points, while Kristy Hoge recorded 11, and Carissa Herron added another 9 points.

The girls played in the border battle in Crosby on Thursday night where the team lost to the C-I Rangers by a score of 64-37. Lena Montano led the Gobblers with 10 points, while Elizabeth Mattson and Kristy Hoge added 7 and 6 points each.



Allie Carlson (right) looks to pass against Greenway Jan. 9. Meredith Chaput (above) drove in for a shot.



The Aitkin Girls lost to Pine City on the night of January 15, 2010. With the score tied up the AHS girls went into over time unfortunately the girls lost, 66-72. The girls' current record as of January 20 is 9-6. Aitkin

Aitkin High School sports schedule

Friday, Jan. 22
Boys Basketball
Pine City at Aitkin, 7 p.m.

Wrestling
Royalton at Aitkin, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 23
Dance
Aitkin at Pine River, 12 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 25
Dance
Aitkin parents night, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 26
Girls Basketball
Rush City at Aitkin, 7 p.m.

Boys Hockey
Sauk Centre at Aitkin, Breezy Point Arena, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 28
Boys Basketball
Aitkin at Duluth Marshall, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball
Mora at Aitkin, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 29
Girls Basketball
Aitkin at Ogilvie, 7 p.m.

Wrestling
Aitkin at Pine City, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 30
Boys Hockey
Two Harbor vs. Aitkin at Hallett Community Center, 7 p.m.

Wrestling
Aitkin at Grand Rapids Tournament, 11 a.m.

Monday, Feb. 1
Boys Basketball
Rush City at Aitkin, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball
Aitkin at Isle, 7 p.m.

Walker-Hackensack-Akeley vs. Aitkin at Breezy Point Arena, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 4
Boys Basketball
Aitkin at Mora, 7 p.m.

Girls Basketball
Aitkin at Braham, 7 p.m.

Boys Hockey
Aitkin at Bagley, 7 p.m.

Girls Hockey
Aitkin at Wadena-Deer Creek, 7 p.m.

Wrestling
Aitkin at Staples-Motley, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 5
Boys Basketball
Ogilvie at Aitkin, 7 p.m.

Mid-season: Wrestlers Succeeding

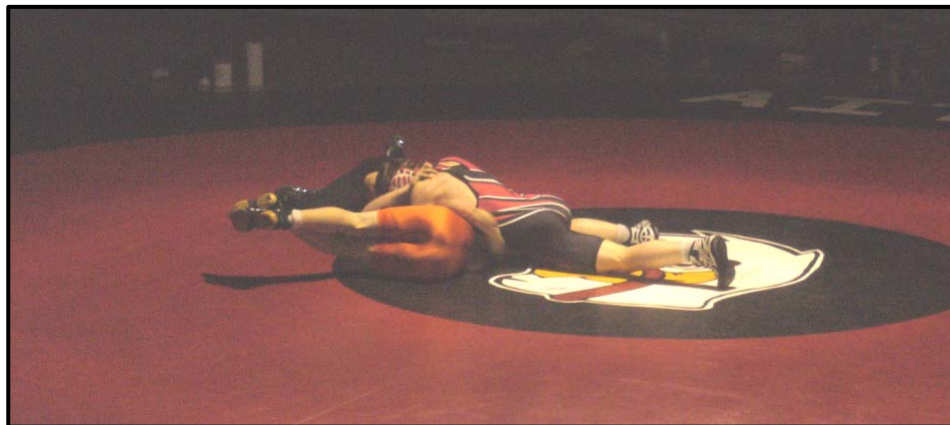
By Bobbi Studniski
Senior Writer

This season's wrestling team has been doing pretty well. The guys have had seven matches and two tournaments. They are 6-2. The team had a match at home against Ogilvie on Tuesday, January 12th. The match was won with help from all the wrestlers and it came down to the heavy-weight round.

At the Big Bear they placed 15th out of 31 teams and at Mora they placed 7th. Top placers at Big Bear were: Dalton Stevens- 3rd, Joe Elvecrog- 6th, and Brian Wold- 8th.

At Mora placers were: Dalton Stevens and Jordan Chouanard placed 2nd, Joe Elvecrog placed 3rd, Andrew Bast and Brian Wold placed 4th, Adam Jackson and Brett Skattum placed 5th, and Travis Bare and Cooper Blau placed 6th.

They had the Rick Lee Invitational tournament against Bemidji at the high



Kevin Handt grapples with his opponent.

school and had a huge section match on January 19, against Crosby-Ironton and Onamia. They will wrestle at Onamia.

Each member of the wrestling team has wrestled in a different amount of

matches. But they all have worked very hard. They have five matches and five tournaments left in the season. They have a match tonight at home against Royalton, go to help cheer them to a win!

MJ Would be Proud of All-Starz

By Kristy Hoge
Staff Writer/Sports Editor

Dancers are performers, athletes, artists, graceful, rhythmical and yet they are competitors of high degree. The Aitkin All Starz have it all. The All Starz currently have an amazing 6-0 record for the Varsity High Kick team. The Varsity Jazz team is 1-1 so far. The Aitkin All Starz are known for their remarkable dance performances and how many years they have gone to state now. This is an accomplishment because of how close this team is. I asked Arika Fairchild, a captain along with Heidi Klingelhofer and Jenna Kuiken, how they are this close; her answer was, "The bonding we all have with each other. There are 31 of us but we all get along. There is hardly any drama." You would be dead wrong if thought the dance team is not close. Just imagine all the long bus rides to competition I could believe that they just have one

splendid time. This year is one of the best for getting along between the girls. They absolutely love hanging out together.

The girls on this year's squad bust their tails to be all they can be. They put in lots of time to better their team. They practice at home, before practice, at the team scheduled practice and on Saturday's if they don't have a competition. This year has been stellar; the All Starz are doing just wonderful. It helps that they put in all this time. They once again are making Aitkin proud.

State is a word that is in the All Starz back pocket. Their goals this season for High Kick are to just improve from last year, they made it pretty far so I'm sure they can match last year or even beat it. For Jazz they want to make it to state and then to the state finals. They are a team that usually makes it there. "As a veteran, it's more

excitement on the way down. The only time I get nervous is when we are waiting to perform and before awards" Arika stated when I asked what the feeling is like and if there was a lot of pre dance jitters. One of the best feelings at state is when the captains pull the curtain back for the rookies to finally reach the excel floor. It's a big goal for the All Starz but I'm sure they can do it.

Not so many people know how dance is judged. There are ten different categories they are judged on. Three of them are solely on kicks; two are on execution, three on choreography and one on overall presentation. They get a number between one and ten to decide how good they do. The best the girls have gotten was a nine; that is really good for them. Good job All Starz keep up all the hard work and keep making Aitkin proud. Good luck!!

Lighting Hockey Starts Off

By Brett Skattum
Staff writer

The boys hockey team has been coming out strong so far this year with a winning record. The team is made up of Crosby, Aitkin, and Pequet Lakes. The head coach of the team is former NHL player Shawn Chambers. The team has been hanging in there maybe not as well as last year but that won't stop them. Taking to coach Chambers just the other day I had the chance to ask him about the team, I asked who do you feel stands out as a player "well Collin, Sam, Cody, Tyler, Conner seem to be my top players". What

were your goals for the season "keep on working on the defense". Do you feel like you have reached your goals "we will have to see when we face Detroit Lakes, and Park Rapids." Our own Aitkin kids have been contributing to the team's success starting with Jace Goodmanson, the bruiser always trying to make the play happen, Colin Burke, the Adrian Peterson of hockey with explosive breakaways and sly shots, and Sammy J, the mad hater known for his sick hat tricks. The team is looking forward to sweeping the competition. After talking to Jace, I asked him to describe the team in one word and he said

"super-awesome". be sure to follow the Northern Lake Lightning as they smoke Prairie Centre Area on the 26th.



Sammy J playing good D.

Boys Bounce Back!!

By Levi Stifter
Staff writer

The boy's basketball team started off slow losing their first five games. The games were close to the end and every Aitkin player played hard till the end. Their luck changed at the Aitkin QB tournament when they took 1st. In their first game they beat Hill City by the score of 70-61 and in the championship game they beat McGregor by a score of 65-46. In the game against Onamia last week Nick Sundholm was the leading scorer and led the rebounds with 7, Nick also leads the team this year in total points with 186. When asked about the Onamia game coach Fowld's said, "I don't think there was one key play but I would have to say our defense in the second half allowed us to build a lead." Leaders that have stepped up this year for the basketball team on

the court have been Nick and Tom Lalond, Tom also does many things off the court to help the basketball team be successful. When asked how they matched up against East Central Fowld's answered, "We matched up very well with East Central. They had been playing better as of late but so have we."

The team is not where they wanted to be at this point in the season. / They were hoping that they would be at least .500. They are only three games from that at 4-7 if they keep improving they should be able to reach it. "We need to continue to play strong aggressive defense. We also need to improve our basketball IQ and our shooting percentage. There are many things we need to improve on but those are the big ones," Coach Fowld's stated. On Tuesday January 19, 2010 Nick Sundholm

scored 1,000 points. Congratulations. Some of the games that they have coming up are Pine City on Friday January 22nd and Duluth Marshall Thursday January 28th.



Male Athlete of the Week

1,000 is Sundholm's Lucky Number

By Thomas Zasmeta
News Editor

Nick Sundholm plays hard and that is why he is our Male Athlete of the Week. On Tuesday Nick scored his 1,000th career point. He is about 40 from setting the boys basketball record for scoring. Nick is only the third player in Aitkin boys basketball history to score over 1,000. When asked about this his coach, Ryan Fowlds, said, "Any time you can have a player score 1,000 points is a great accomplishment, and it is well deserved."

Nicks' greatest accomplishment was the Christmas Tournament his junior year in which he scored 37 points against McGregor and 65 points in two games. His favorite memory was when he was on the court with both of his brothers.

Nick says that his greatest strength is his ability to create, and to stay focused

and calm under pressure. His favorite part of basketball is the rush of being under pressure in a close game. His least favorite is losing.

I asked Nick if he had a pregame routine. He said he doesn't really. He listens to music before a game and that's about it.

Nick is one of the three captains. Coach Fowlds picked him because of his basketball IQ, which he believes is Nicks' greatest strength. Fowlds says that Nick is a unique player because of his IQ and his ability. He also told me that Nick is a 94% free throw shooter this season.

This week Nick was our Male Athlete of the Week. Within the next few weeks week he will be the boy's basketball scoring leader. Good luck Nick and congratulations.



Nick Sundholm

Female Athlete of the Week

'Respect' Mighty Montano

By Beau Ekelund
Staff Writer

Lena Montano is a senior and on the girls varsity basketball team, and is excited to be the female athlete of the week. Lena is the female athlete of the week because, she works hard and focuses on what she is doing for the team. She said that, "I know my role and execute it." Also Coach Williams said that, "She brings a tough attitude that we need."

Also she brings' toughness out on the board when she plays', and she also listens and tries to help the team out when she can. Coach Williams also said that, "She is one of our better athletes and she is strong... She can play both inside and outside on offense and defense it really helps us, because we can mix and match her with quiet a few different players."



Lena Montano goes for a lay-up against Greenway.



'The Most Bizarre, Ridiculous Production'

One of a Different Kind Play

By Dylan Otto

Staff Writer

This year's One Act play at Aitkin High School is called "Killing Bill; The World's Worst Shakespeare" directed by Mrs. Julia Real. Mrs. Real picked "Killing Bill" as this year's One Act play because it made her laugh when she read it, and would be a good competition piece.

The play is about a newspaper reporter's interview of a crazy director. This director turned the Shakespeare play "King Lear" into a weird presentation with gigantic pancakes and flying forks. The real presentation of "King Lear" normally takes four hours; the crazy director made it in fifteen minutes. The one act is a play within a play.

The cast of the play is quite large with 20 students.



This year's cast was an ensemble group, comprised of 19 actors, one tech crew member, and one 'sane' director.

When asked if it's difficult rehearsing with the large cast

Mrs. Real responded, "Yes, because each cast member

needs their own individual attention and with such a large cast it's hard to give that attention."

Rehearsals for the play started on November 16th. There are rehearsals 3 times a week, which last about an hour and forty-five minutes.

The way this play works is unique. There is an actor/actress that is the body of a character and a actor/actress that provides the voice. The body person does the actions and the voice person does the talking for the body person.

This play was open to the public at the high school auditorium on January 15th at 7 o'clock. There will be another performance Friday 22nd again at 7 o'clock. The sub-section competition will be on January 23rd. It will be open to the public, and it starts at about 9 A.M.

~*~*~*~Speech Overview~*~*~*~

By Beau Ekelund

Staff Writer

This year's Speech team has 26 students participating and eight of them are new to Speech this year. They come from all age groups, from 7th grade all the way to 12th grade, and are in all different categories. They pick the speech they are doing it out of interest or talent, and then practice hard on that speech so they can do well at each meet. They keep the same speech during the whole

season. Some students can double enter, and can perform two different speeches in two different categories. Many newcomers prefer to perform in the Dramatic Duo category so that they have someone to perform next to. Coach Lindgren wants everybody to do their best that they can do on what they have. Also he said that, "Everybody can be in speech".

During the week, the competitors meet after school to practice their speeches and re-

ceive critiques from coaches and other competitors. Junior High members have the option of going to Junior High meets; for the senior members, the hard-core meets begin the end of January. On any given Saturday, many "speeches" load into the short bus at incredibly early times to travel to other schools to compete.

The first junior high meet was on January 7th, 2010, and 12 students went to that meet in Foley, MN. They received 14 Superiors and 2 High

markings. The competitors that went to Foley are: from 7th grade; Amer Moren, Branie Weston, Cassie Ambuehl, and Genny Fuss; from 8th grade; Leah Thumer, and Mikayla King; from 9th grade; Lucy Rian, Lyle Nyberg, Molly McIntosh, Annie Nadeau, Sarah Ambuehl, and Kyle Daun. For seven competitors, this was their very first Speech meet. Their first official meet open to all competitors is this Saturday, January 23, 2010, at Grand Rapids.

Snowmobile Trail Report

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

By Levi Stifter
Staff writer

The weekend of January 9th and 10th we went for a 180 mile snowmobile ride. We started out in Aitkin with eight people. We rode to Denum to eat, then up to Moose Lake, back to Glen, then up to Aitkin. We left at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday morning and returned a 5:30 P.M. The trails were a little hard in the morning, but by the end of the day there were enough sleds out to loosen up the snow.

At the halfway point there was half the amount of snow, but on either side there was plenty of snow. We found some spots to play in the powder, but you still have to be careful; the stumps and dead heads will still get you. Before we left Moose Lake we filled up with gas at the price of \$2.79 a gallon. We rode the Soo Line averaging 55 mph. It did not take long to get to Lawler. From Lawler we hopped on the trail that brought us to Jack's Shack on Highway 65. From there we rode the trail that brought us to Glen, then took Highway 12 home. All the trails we rode



Levi Stifter and the Siegford crew taking a break on the way to Moose Lake.

were good except in the corners. If we keep having this warmer weather, the trails could take a drastic down turn. We could use an-

other six inches of snow or more. All around I give it a five out ten.

Fish limits hindering local bite, Crappies still hitting

By Gage Hart
Staff Writer

With all of the species of Fry, Fingerlings, Yearlings, and Adults between the different fish species, we're still limited to very few fish that we may keep in our possession. Walleye, Minnesota's prized fish, is stocked yearly just like every other species of fish, but yet the possession limit is still lower than almost other fish. Currently, the limit is six Walleyes in possession. That includes in your freezer and what you have on you at the time the DNR check you. But the DNR stock 252.86 million Walleyes into lakes of Minnesota every year. Out of the 5,493 fish-able lakes in Minnesota with a public access, there should be more than plenty of fish to go around for everybody.

But it's not only the Walleye limit that bugs people. Crappie (another well known species and very common throughout many Minnesota anglers), is also at an unreasonable count. A few years back, all of the limits were way higher than what they are now. The Crappie limit at the moment is ten, until the DNR screw us over even more, when about five years ago the limits were almost double what they are now.

Fishing also brings a lot of business to Minnesota. Businesses all around have combined to sell over a million licenses. We have the most licenses sold out of any state in the U.S. Out of all those licenses, people from all around harvest 35 million pounds of Walleye, 3.2 million

pounds of Northern Pike, and 64 million pounds of Panfish.

It seems like the fishing is starting to pick up a little bit after all of this heavy snow has froze and made the top of the lake solid. Since the snow, the fish have slowed down a little bit, but as of lately it seems like there biting in the morning shortly after the sun rises and about a half hour after the sun has set. A very good tip to catch Crappies is to tip your jig with a Minnow head. Don't fish with a bobber though, just sit there and jig for them and something good will happen. Good spots to fish are little Logan's that run off of a river (preferably the Mississippi), and fish for Northern with tip-ups and use large Northern bait.