



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

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We digest the news one story at a time

Graduation in the sun?

The debate about
outside ceremony
is finally over

Kori Flowers
Opinion Editor

Graduation will be held outside this year! Or will it? Yes, it will. No, it won't.

The debate over the location of the graduation ceremony has raged on for over a week, and at this point, there will be **no** outside ceremony.

Sharayah Erickson originally came up with the idea of graduation outside because, "It'd be fun, and something different." If graduation is outside, it will be the first outside ceremony Aitkin High School has ever experienced. It would be an amazing send-off for this year's seniors.

If graduation was held outside, it would have to be held on the football field. This raises numerous problems. Mr. Pederson pointed out the problems of having the ceremony there would be: Bad field conditions, a big setup production, and bad weather ruining the ceremony, among other things. Besides this, turnout for previous graduations indicates that the stands would be packed and there would still be people left without seats.

Mr. Stifter experienced an outside graduation when he graduated from college. "There were lots of mosquitoes," he said of the experience.



Class of 2010

Yes, an outside graduation would be cool, but perhaps not temperature wise. While it is stifling in the gymnasium (and that squeaky fan really doesn't help), outside the temperature could be anywhere from hot and humid to very, very chilly.

Graduation will be in June. We have no way of predicting weather conditions leading up to and on the day of graduation. The football field could be an absolute muddy mess. Not only that, but janitors have to set up lights, a sound system, and chairs and stands for the musical entertainment. If the weather turns bad, equipment could get ruined, and the whole thing would have to move inside anyway.

Preparation for graduation takes a lot of time. If an outside ceremony is rained

out, all the equipment will have to be taken down, fixed or cleaned if water damage occurred, and set up again inside. If the weather changes at the last minute, there will not be enough time to set up inside.

At this point in time, the only way the seniors can experience an outside graduation is if they can somehow get around all the obstacles in the way and past Mr. Pederson's verdict. The only way that can happen is if someone appealed to the school board. The final word in the matter is that graduation is held inside no matter what. We can all agree we don't want graduation postponed. This year's seniors are on the last leg of high school, and don't want any setbacks before they're out of here!

National FFA Week opens doors

Thomas Zasmeta
News Editor

The Week of Feb. 22-26 was National FFA Week. Tuesday was Carhartt Day, Wednesday was Flannel Day, Thursday was Overall Day, and Friday was Mud Boot Day. FFA is one of the largest youth organizations in the country. Our FFA chapter puts this on every year to let students know about the organization and their activities.

FFA was first created in 1928 and has evolved into a vital part of Ag. classes. It is now ranked No. 1 in terms of youth development.

The job of the FFA is to promote and develop the potential in students through the agriculture classes. "It promotes leadership skills, personal growth, and career success," said Mr. Irwin, the FFA advisor. His favorite part of the week is knowing the members care about and are committed to the program. He also likes seeing students develop qualities at the development events at the Regional, State, and National level, which he said is the best part of FFA. President Miranda Paulson agrees that the best part is the competitions.

But what if you don't know if FFA is right for you? Mr. Irwin said he would visit with them and inform them about all the events and opportunities. Paulson said, "You can be as involved as you want. It doesn't have to be a huge



Joe Elvecrog, a sentinel and a proud supporter of the FFA.

time commitment if you don't want it to be."

There is the idea that FFA is just for farm students. This is false. It is for anyone who is looking to explore careers and leadership opportunities. FFA can provide a great education in not only agri-

culture, but in forestry, natural resources, plant science, etc. It makes people aware of how important agriculture is to America.

If you have any questions about FFA talk to Mr. Irwin, Miranda, or any other FFA members.

Lost in Wonderland is theme for this year's prom

Kristy Hoge
Sports Editor

This year's prom theme is "Lost in Wonderland" and held on April 24, 2010 with the grand march and a dance to follow. Prom is for 10-12 grades but being a sophomore you have to be asked by a junior or

senior. The prom committee consists of: Kaitlin Konsor, Brittany Searle, Kelsey Dagen, Jozie Tveit, Bobbi Studniski and Casey Edwards. "Prom is going to memorable because of the theme probably, it's like Alice in Wonderland" Brittany Searle

stated.

The dance and dinner will be held at the 40 Club Convention Center again this year. The DJ will be the same as previous years. Events for prom are grand march, dinner, dancing, a movie and more details to come!

What's your most memorable/favorite memory about this year so far?

"Yelling at Mrs. Irwin for yelling at someone else"

-Hannah Spicer



"Bass Lake"

-Kevin Leblanc and

Quinn Cummings



Not pictured:

Quinn Cummings

"Breaking the school record for points"

-Nick Sundholm



"Winning the Christmas tournament"

-Tom Lalond



Access denied: This page is categorized as opinion

Kori Flowers
Opinion Editor

Every student in the school has faced this problem: It's research time for that big project. The Internet here at school has all the answers, and the speed to boot. The problem: Every site that could have potential information is **BLOCKED!**

It always happens, and you can always tell when it does. In the quiet of the library, the sounds of a student raging at a computer can be clearly heard. It is frustrating, for a start, and if every site you try is blocked...goodbye project, hello F.

Let's look at the pros of the blocking system. It will keep us students on task and not wasting time playing games, looking at dirty pictures, or doing anything unproductive. It can also protect the computer system itself from sites that contain nasty viruses that could really mess up the system. It's the perfect system.

But where does protection of the students and computers go too far...or not far enough?

The filter umbrellas over any site that it deems "unproductive" or "bad". The categories are: audio-visual (YouTube or anywhere with videos), games, forums

(Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter), parked (I don't know what that means), and much, much more.

But sometimes, the filter is wrong about its diagnosis. The site is blocked even if it doesn't contain the content stated on the block.

For example, a perfectly harmless site (helpful content and virus-free) that I have used here at school for *years* recently was blocked. I'm still not sure why.

Game sites have been blocked. Sites to listen to music (never mind that these sites have their own mature content filters built in) are gone.

As for "forums," I can see why we can't update our status during school. But if the forum is about professors discussing economic problems of the Soviet Union during the Cold War, why can't we use that site for our project?

The filter doesn't check every site for what the content is about. If it is classified as one of the categories that need blocking...it's blocked.

Yeah, blocking these sites work... but what about the stuff that slips in the gaps? Like eBay? Or Amazon.com? I was able to access both these sites from a com-

puter at school. I even got onto a site that *really* should be blocked. I was so surprised to get to that site.

And, as anyone who knows teenagers will tell you, we have an uncanny ability to find ways to goof around on a computer, no matter what obstacles are in our way. Everyone knows how to get to the game sites, or the sites to listen to music. There are sites that show videos, or seemingly "helpful" pages that have links to games. Besides that, students know how to get past the block.

It covers what it shouldn't, and doesn't cover what it should... I don't think it's good enough. Kids are still wasting time.

And what's the problem with that?! If we want to watch that clip of the skateboarding dog, why can't we? It's our time; if we want to procrastinate and not work on the project, that's our problem. Let us take the responsibility, and the consequences.

It seems that in the past few years the blocking system has gotten harsher, and yet things still slip through the cracks. It would be expensive to replace, but what's more important: Our protection, or our education?

Gobblers continue success on the mat

Beau Ekelund

Staff Writer

The Aitkin Wrestling team went to Mille Lacs on Feb. 19. It was a tough battle down there but we lost. The score was Mille Lacs 34, Aitkin 28. Now we are 10-8.

Also last weekend we had a wrestling tournament here at the high school. The line up for Aitkin was, Dan Nordean, record 3-10, Joe Elvecrog 20-14, Travis Bare 9-19, Adam Jackson 14-13, Brian Wold 19-18, Dalton Stevens 27-5, Jordan Chouanard 25-5, Isaac Novak 23-13, Kevin Handt 13-18, Adam Bast 3-10, Andrew Bast 9-24, Levi Stifter 13-11, Brett Skattum 4-16, and Cooper Blau 16-16.

Before the tournament Coach Lamke said, "What are you looking for in each individual this weekend? In the individual I'm looking for us to come out with fire and effort and to wrestle very well."

On Friday after the wrestling was done, we had six wins and six losses. When asked if he was pleased with the wrestlers for the first day, he said, "Yeah, the wrestlers wrestled really well tonight. Hopefully tomorrow we will pick it up again and have quite a few going to state."

On Saturday, we had seven wins and five losses for the first round, but when we got into the night wrestling it all



Sections medal winners from Aitkin are: Dalton Stevens (front, left), Brian Wold, Joe Elvecrog, Adam Jackson, Kevin Handt (back, left), Isaac Novak, Cooper Blau, Jordan Chouanard, Brett Skattum, Levi Stifter.

changed. Here's the rankings for Aitkin: Adam and Andrew Bast did not place; Sixth Place - Travis Bare, and Dan Norden; Fifth Place - Brian Wold and Cooper Blau; Fourth Place - Kevin Handt and Brett Skat-

tum; Third Place - Joe Elvecrog, Levi Stifter and Adam Jackson; Second Place and going to state - Dalton Stevens and Isaac Novak; First Place and going to state - Jordan Chouanard.

Lightning's season ends after tough loss

Dylan Otto

Staff writer

The Northern Lakes Lightning hockey team ended their season on Feb. 22 in the second round of sections. They lost by a score of 8-1 against Sartell.

They were playing a good game until the third period. The first period they fought against Sartell and it ended with Aitkin down by 1-0. In the second period they kept the fight up and it ended at 4-0 Sartell. In the third and final period of the

game Aitkin gave some slack to Sartell and it ended with a 8-1 loss to Sartell.

In the end it was a good season for the Lightning. It ended with no major injuries to anyone on the team and the players learned a lot of new stuff this year.

Gobbler boys lose tough one against ML/WR

Team comes back against Deer River

Kristy Hoge
Sports Editor

The boys basketball team is 12-12 on the year and they are in fourth place for the conference. Their recent game was against Moose Lake and they lost a tough battle 60-71. Nick Sundholm and Ray Smith combined for 43 points, with Nick having 24, Ray with 19. Other scoring were Andrew Wekshon's 6 points, and Tom Lalond's 5 points. The guys have accomplished some goals from the beginning of the season but they still want to get better and strive for the best that they can be. Nick stated, "We've been doing well, I just hope we can transfer it into the playoffs."

The boys played Deer River on Tuesday. After a nail-biting second half, the boys tied with Deer River within the last three minutes. The air of excitement in the gym was infectious. The scores remained almost tied as the seconds counted down. The Deer River boys train valiantly to scrape a lead with the remaining time. Finally, with only seconds left in the game, the Gobbler boys pulled a smidgen ahead and won by one point.

There are only two games left in the regular season; they are against Rush City and Crosby-Ironton. C-I is the last home game. Come on out and support the boys the rest of the season. Good Luck!



Nick Sundholm drove down the court against Rush City earlier this season.

Lady Ballas are going to sections!

Bobbi Studniski
Staff Writer

The Gobbler Lady Ballas had a decent season with an overall record of 14-12. Their most recent game was against Crosby-Ironton. Sadly the Rangers beat the Gobblers 48-37. The top scorers were Meredith Chaput with 17 and Carrisa

Herron with 10. Other scorers in the game were: Elizabeth Mattson with 4, Allie Carlson with 3, Miranda Paulson with 2, and Melissa Paulson with 1. Meredith also scored a 3 point shot in the game. For the seniors, since it was their last home game, and all the girls were very emotional.

The Ballas played in the Section 7 -2A playoffs against Esko on Wednesday. They lost a tough game by a score of 64-50. Meredith Chaput cut the lead to 5 with 7:30 left in the game on a 3-pointer, but Aitkin went cold and Esko made its free throws down the stretch.

Athletes of the Week

Mattson muscles over foes

Brett Skattum
Staff Writer

Elizabeth Mattson is a senior student athlete at Aitkin High School. Her favorite color is purple and she loves to go sailing and skiing when she has the time. Elizabeth is a two sport athlete; from tennis to basketball she's running down her competition.

Elizabeth has been attending Aitkin High School since ninth grade, coming over from Crosby. Her transfer has been good for Aitkin, as she has been an asset to both the tennis team and the girls basketball team. Elizabeth is a Beatles fan. She said she enjoys classic music – even the Rolling Stones – but she will listen to what ever she is in the mood for.

When talking to her, I asked what her most memorable high school sport moment would be. She said, “The senior powder puff game.” Her sport career so far is “not what I expected,” said Elizabeth.

Her favorite sport is tennis because you are able to play it no matter your age and you don't need a team of people. After high school, she plans on attending NDSU and maybe go for social science or something like that. She looks forward to the school's honey BBQ bites for lunch. When asked if she could describe herself in one word it would be “facetious,” and for those of you who don't know, facetious means to be joking or funny in a sometimes inappropriate way.



Elizabeth powers to the rim.



Ray Smith attacks the basket.

Ray said What?! Ray said NO!!

Joseph Elvecrog
Staff Writer

Senior basketball player Ray Smith describes himself in one word as tired. Ray said, “Basketball is a means of relaxing. Going out onto the court feels almost like a serene environment, besides the elbows to the chest and basketballs to the head.” Ray practices whenever the gym is open. Ray said, “The most memorable part was being able to pull together as a team and win some games.” Before a game, Ray hopes he doesn't score on the other teams basket.

Ray said one thing most people would never guess about him is he enjoys watching the food network. Over summer vacation, Ray avoids as much manual labor as possible. Ray's favorite thing to do be-

sides basketball is to just relax. Ray's nicknames are Ray and RayRay. “I idolize Dwight Howard, he is the man,” said Ray. His basketball shoes are Nike, duh. Ray doesn't know if he will play college basketball while attending UND. Ray's favorite food is lasagna, and his favorite movie is Anchorman. “It never gets old,” said Ray.

Ray enjoys any school subject dealing with science. “My favorite teachers are Mr. Michaletz, Mr. Scruton and Mrs. Brucker,” said Ray. Ray said his favorite pro basketball team and player is the Orlando Magic and Dwight Howard. Ray enjoys basketball, video games and hanging out with friends. Ray said his favorite color is blue and favorite season is Fall. “The colors are neat and the weather is good,” he said.

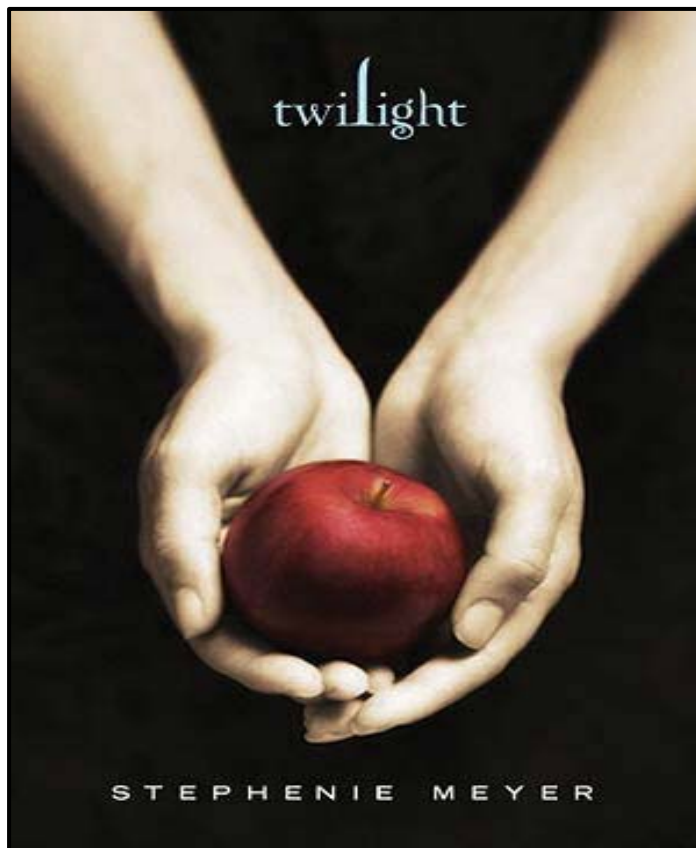
Shining some light on *Twilight*

Kori Flowers
Opinion Editor

It's the book that kicked off a phenomena. A multi-million dollar empire, a fan base that reaches *everywhere*, and more merchandise than you can shake a stick at. *Twilight*, the first book in the Twilight Saga written by Stephanie Meyer, has single-handedly changed popular culture in a big way. But is all the fuss and bother justified?

Twilight starts when a teenaged girl named Bella Swan moves to Forks, Washington. While becoming instantly popular with the students at her new school, Bella is perplexed by the Cullens, a group of siblings that seem utterly perfect, especially the youngest boy, Edward. After he saves her from impossibly dangerous situations, and doing some research, Bella confronts Edward with the theory that he is not human; namely, a vampire. Edward confirms her suspicions, and tells her that while he and his family are vampires, they do not drink the blood of humans, choosing instead to drink from animals. He also reveals the reason vampires stay out of the sun: they sparkle in direct sunlight in a way that no human can.

Edward reveals that he has been attracted to Bella by the smell of her blood, and that while it hurts him to be around her, he will not leave or hurt her. After experiencing all this and meeting Edwards family, Bella is then thrown headfirst into the vampire world, and all of its dangers. The book is not the greatest novel ever written; far, far from it. The characters lack real depth and believability.



Edward is nothing more than a "wish fulfillment" character. In other words, he is too perfect. He has no flaws. Yes, he is a vampire and supposed to be like that, and he does have some obsessive and creeper tendencies towards Bella, but those are not *his* personal flaws. It is the flaws that make the character good, and Edward is sorely lacking. There is no such thing as a perfect guy, and there are no perfect vampires. That's a laughable thought.

Bella is a mirror of Stephanie Meyer. She is altogether too unrealistic to be believable. Yes, she has flaws, but her flaws don't make her real. There is no conflict between Edward and Bella besides the argument of Bella's humanity. Anyone familiar

with couples will notice the fights, and the acceptance of the other's flaws. There is none of that in *Twilight*.

The setting gets points for being a good idea. The book takes place in the real town of Forks Washington, one of the rainiest places in the United States. That allows the vampires to walk around in the daytime without problems. The sparkly vampire was a very original idea. However, vampires in high school... They've been around for hundreds of years! Why would they want to be in high school? Haven't they learned all that already? 'They want to keep their humanity!' is not an excuse. Human teenagers want out of high school, not in.

The conflict in this book is patchy. The Bella-Edward-humanity-vampire thing doesn't kick off until the second half of the book. And once it does, it becomes the whole focus of the book. And as was mentioned above, there is no more conflict.

The book gets props for being fresh and original. Before popular culture got their hands on it, it was just a vampire-human romance. It was a side of vampires the literature world had never seen, and it was a new take on the vampire-sunlight myth. But the fans and popular culture have blown it totally out of proportion. It does not deserve all the hype. The book itself is poorly written, the plot is lacking, and the only thing holding it together is an impossibly perfect sparkly vampire. There are no realistic situations in the book; nothing anyone else can relate to. And following *Twilight's* glitter-laden trails comes hundreds and hundreds of vampire romance knockoffs, whose only purpose in life is to placate the rabid fan girls' appetites until the next book or movie comes out. The fan girls are more terrifying than any vampire ever created. Before them, the book was likable enough. Now it's nauseating to think about.

At the risk of being assailed by the truly terrifying fan base, I give *Twilight* the book two and a half gizzards out of five. You can all spend your money on *I Heart Sparkly Vampire* shirts and deluxe edition DVDs; I will respect its standing as a passably good and original book and continue to buy critically. Please don't stake me.

Late Crappies with Guppy Gage

Gage Hart
Staff Writer

Now that the walleye, sauger, northern, and bass seasons are over, it's time to hit the ice for some late season crappie. The adult crappies are still feeding heavy because it's only a few months before they start to spawn and they must feed to reproduce healthy offspring. The best conditions for crappie are when they hit the peak of their spawning period. This usually occurs when the water temperature hits anywhere from 62-68 degrees. They usually spawn in waters from two to four feet deep next to shore. The average female crappie usually produces about 37,000 eggs but can produce up to 65,000. The eggs then hatch within a week, and for the next few weeks they stay around the nest in protection from the males.

The season for panfish is continuous which means there is no season. You are allowed to take any kind of panfish at any given time throughout each year. They are one of the few species that are allowed to do that.

The past week really hurt the ice conditions and made the top of the lakes



Throw back crappie on Guppy Gage's late season fishing trip.

really soft. We had over 32 degree days one after another for over a week. It made the fish more active but also made it harder to get to the fish. Without four wheel drive, chains, or a snowmobile/four-wheeler, it's almost impossible to reach them.

However, there is one lake where the season for walleye and sauger is extended. It's quite a drive but it is well worth the time. The Walleye Capital of the World,

Lake of the Woods, near the Canadian border extends the walleye and sauger season an extra month. They have anywhere from 28" to 32" of ice over the lake.

The "hot" color to use out there is a jig that glows a red/pink and gold. The walleye are biting more rapidly than the sauger, which is uncommon this time of year according to the Lake of the Woods fishing review. The South Shore is home to many upon many trophy pike and walleye.

Poor riding with bad conditions on area trails

Levi Stifter
Staff Writer

The weekend of Feb. 20, a group including Brian Wold, Adam Jackson, Dalton Stevens, Dan Siegford and Levi Stifter, went for "a guy's ride." "A guy's ride" is a lot of swamp riding and playing in many different areas. The trails were in great

condition for the most part, although there was a stretch about 10 miles north of Jack's Shack where we ran into a trail that had nothing but dirt.

Talking to people from around the area we learned that the trails heading to Moose Lake were in perfect shape but the trails over by Crosby and Emily were in

rough shape. One trail groomer from the Palisade area said that the trail had plenty of snow and the trails were in good shape.

The Mississippi River going to Palisade was a pretty good ride, the Ripple River not so much. There was lots of bare ice and open water.