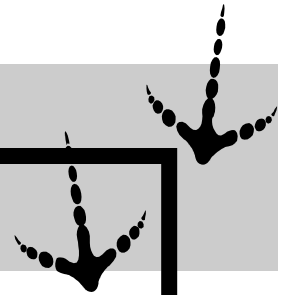


AITKIN

Nov, 5, 2010

# Turkey Tracks

Volume 4, Issue 3



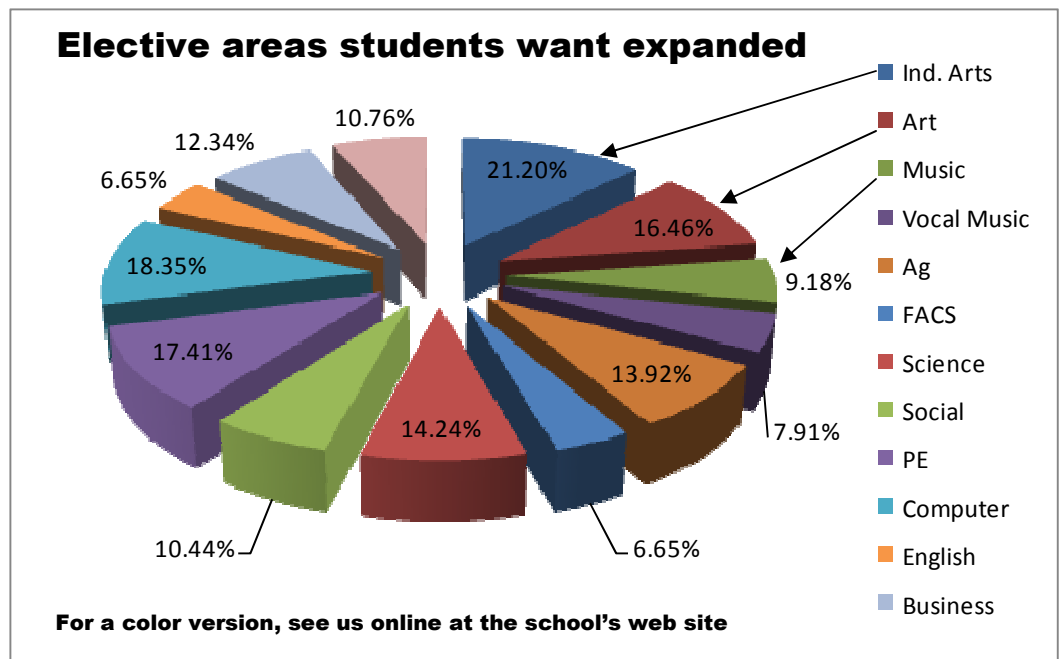
## Schedule change in store?

Survey sought out student input on future scheduling

**Becca Durbin**  
Variety Editor

The School Board directed Mr. Pederson to post a survey on scheduling for grades 9-12. The survey was posted because there has been some complaints that students are unhappy with the number of classes that we currently offer. Students have said that they would like to be able to take more electives, which is difficult with a six period day. This especially affects those who are in Band and Choir because these both are year-long elective classes.

In the survey students were asked how they would feel about having an elective course before school started (zero hour) and 25 percent of the students that completed the survey said that they would be interested. They were also asked if they felt that they had enough elective choices and 55 percent said no, they don't feel like we have enough elective choices. Students were asked if



*"We want you to be successful no matter where you go."*

**Mr. Pederson**  
AHS principal

they would be interested in adding another elective class within the school day and 35 percent said yes and 34 percent said no. Also, according to the survey the three subject areas that students want electives added to are Industrial Arts, Computer classes, and PE classes.

According to Mr. Pederson, the school board and administration is taking the results of the survey seriously and may make some of the proposed changes. "It is a possibility and we need to investigate different options for students so there is a good balance and we

can provide the best education possible," he said. "We want you to be successful no matter where you go."

The purpose of the survey was to help decide how students would feel about having a true seven period day. This would mean that classes would be about five minutes shorter but our passing time would be cut to three minutes. This isn't a set in stone deal. The School Board just wanted to see how students would feel about this and determine if this was something they should consider in the years to come.

## Student of the Week

## Megan Makes it Happen

**Chris Hughes**  
Sports Editor

Megan Rubbelke makes it happen, as she is the student of the week. She has shown dedication and hard work towards her academics and school involvement. These and other impressive qualities make her the student of the week.

When informed of being chosen student of the week Megan said, "I am very honored to be receiving this recognition for my hard work." Megan always strives to be the best at everything she does. She said, "I always try my hardest because I want to do the best I can." Kevin Hughes said, "I can't think of a harder worker than Megan. She is always busy doing something and is involved in about a million things."

Megan is a senior and involved in many extracurricular activities. Some of these include girl's tennis, National Honor Society, Peer Helpers, Student Council, Madrigals, and S.A.D.D. and she is the Student Council president. Megan said, "Being involved in so many things can get pretty stressful at times, but I really enjoy being in all these groups." She is very involved in these programs and puts lots of time and effort into making them better.

Megan also shows an undying commitment and dedication towards her academics. She is one of the top students in her grade. She has chosen to take the more challenging path academically. She is taking many tough classes such as International Relations, Comp, and Calculus. She said, "Even though Calculus is one of the



**Megan Rubbelke in Spanish Class.**

toughest classes I've taken, I really enjoy it."

Her plans after high school are to attend the U of M for ethnomathematics, which is

the study between mathematics and culture. After that, she wants to travel the world making sure to visit Switzerland, a favorite destination of hers.

## Foreign Exchange Student of the Week

## Troy Will Be Missed From AHS

**Michael Flowers**  
Staff Writer

The Foreign Exchange Student of the Week this week is Troy Elisco Wesson. Troy's last day of High School at AHS was Friday, Oct. 29. He is flying out on Sunday, Nov. 7. When asked how he liked it here he said, "It's nice and I really liked the people." Troy is 14 years old and lives in La Esperanza, Honduras. Troy has two parents and two sisters. Troy came to the U.S. on July 31 and visited his uncle who lives in Oregon. Then, he went to live with John Scott, who was his host family, on August 17.

Troy is in the 10th grade. Troy's favorite subject is science and his favorite classes were band, baking, and biology.

When asked how many friends he had made while at Aitkin he said, "About 20 but I don't remember their names." Aitkin is much smaller than the town he lives in, which has a population of about 11,500 people. Also, asked on how different the weather was from home he said, "Right, now it would be about mid 60s in Honduras." When asked about how different the culture is from his own he said, "Mostly the same but the language is different." When asked how many times he had seen snow before he said "I had seen it once before." When Bryan Zenke, in Troy's band class, was asked if he would miss Troy he said, "Troy is awesome and he will be missed."



**Troy Elisco Wesson**

## The Man, the Legend, Mr. Scruton



**Mr. Scruton stands guard outside his door**

**Chris Hughes**  
Sports Editor

In Aitkin High School, there is one thing that can be expected everyday when going down the third floor hallway. That is Mr. Scruton standing outside his room greeting everyone with a, "Hello!" or "How's it going?" Mr. Scruton could be described as a typical Social Studies teacher; he is married with a 5-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter living the typical American life. However, many people do not know he is also an ex-marine. That is right, he was previously in the marine infantry. During his time in the military, he was a marksman instructor and a squad leader. As a squad leader, he was in charge of about 12 people, was stationed in Hawaii, but also served in Desert Storm. Mr. Scruton

travelled to many different places as a marine including Hawaii, Thailand, The Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.

After his time in the military, he switched to teaching. Mr. Scruton said, "I have always enjoyed kids and thought it would be interesting and fun to be a teacher." Therefore, he gave teaching a try and found he really enjoyed it. He said, "I really enjoy teaching and the kids."

One of the trademarks of Mr. Scruton's classroom is the famous yardstick so much so that it is almost an extension of him. When asked about the yardstick he said, "It's handy, it can measure things." After some humor of Scruton's he said, "It gets people's attention. When the class gets too loud I tap on something with it to get their attention." When he first

started teaching in Hampton, Virginia, he had a metal stick that he would use to get the kids attention, but when he moved to Aitkin, he switched to the yardstick.

Mr. Scruton is a favorite teacher among many students for his enjoyable classes. Kevin Hughes said, "I didn't know what to think about Mr. Scruton at first, but after a week in his class he was one of my favorite teachers." Mr. Scruton is also known for his entertaining classes. Kevin said, "Mr. Scruton made class fun and I actually liked it."

In our ever-changing world, there aren't many things you can count on. However, there is one thing that can always be expected when walking down the third floor hallway and that is Mr. Scruton greeting the kids twiddling his yardstick.

## Mr. Pederson is a Man of All Trades

**Brandon Searle**  
Staff Writer

Mr. Pederson is your principal. He is the man in charge with a wife, Michelle and two kids, Jake age 13 and daughter Sarah age 11. He drives a new dodge crew cab that's blue and seems like he's living life to the fullest.

Let's take a short trip back down his time line and see how he wound up here in our quiet little town. He was born in Tracy, Minnesota and by the age of 10, Chad had his first job "walkin' the beans," a weed puller for a huge bean field, in other words. From there he progressed to doing hog chores which involved cleaning up

after 1,200 pigs, "That sucked," he said; then, his life took a short turn and he became a life guard.

College came shortly thereafter and his interest turned to biology, more so fish and wildlife, but it was 4 years of school then 4 years of volunteer work with no guarantee of work. After that he taught life science at Belgrade-Broton Elsworth High School and was on the prom committee, coached football and pretty much did anything extra that was available.



**Mr. Pederson being jolly**

**See Pederson, page 10**



# Is The Sports Fee To High?

**Jazmin Walker**  
Staff Writer

I believe that the sports fee money should go to the particular sport a student participates in.

This year the schools sport fee was raised to \$55 for grades 7-8 and \$100 for 9-12. When asked about the increase, Mr. Stifter said, "We had to raise the price because of budget cuts, and lack of school funding. It was a choice between cutting coaches and programs or raising the price." He also said, "We are in the middle price range to what schools would normally charge."

Zimmerman has the highest sports fee right now with the junior high and senior high fee being \$250 per sport. Crosby-Ironton is at \$230 for the senior high and \$125 for the junior high putting them at number two in the price range. Hinckley

and Mora are the two lowest with \$30 for both junior and senior high.

As a fellow student in a sports activity, I would like to know that the money we give is being put to good use. All sports participate in their own fundraisers so why are we asked to give more money to the school? I believe that the money we give should be put back to our sport, meaning all the football, volleyball, etc. sport fees should be given right back to that particular sport instead of being put into a general fund before going out to the sport.

When asked how much money is given to each sport, Mr. Stifter said, "It's all just put into a general fund and whatever is left over on the bill for buses, coach salaries and traveling is what it is used for." When asked if the price will continue to go up in future years Mr. Stifter said, "I would like to think that we wouldn't raise the prices



**How much is too much for a sports fee?**

but if I'm faced with cutting a program I would have to."

## Opinion Poll

Question: What was the hardest class you've had and why?



Willow Barneveld – "Eighth grade math ,cause I didn't pay much attention."



Ashlee Kommer – "Any math class because it confuses me."



Molly Franz – "Geometry, it's completely different from any of the math than what you learn throughout high school and I don't think it one would ever really use it."



Brandon Searle – "Physics it's hard to keep up and hard to understand the power points, but it's nice cause she comes around and helps after."



## Is all this Facebook really necessary?

**Kaija Fossum**  
Staff Writer

Facebook. What a joke!!! What really is the purpose? Why do so many people find joy in this invention? How does everyone have time to update their status every minute of every day? These questions bottle my mind.

Facebook really has no point to it besides making drama, drama, drama problem after problem after problem, and taking kids away from the things in life that actually matter. Its ridiculous how someone can find joy in something that just makes issues for yourself and everyone around you. Yeah its lovely to talk to your friends, reminisce about whatever floats your boat, or gossip about our wonderful life in Aitkin, but eventually someone is going to find out about it and ream you a new one for

*Facebook really has no point to it besides making drama, drama, drama, problem after problem after problem, and taking kids away from the things in life that actually matter.*

talking behind their back.

If you post something on your status that someone doesn't like they are going to call you out on it, because for some reason people have a problem with mind-ing their own business. Do people honestly care if you're sitting at home painting

your toe nails, no not really. Those types of things are just best to keep to yourself. There is nothing more annoying than people who have a hissy fit about their significant other taking a picture with someone else.

Seriously. Get over it its not like the world is going to end or anything. It's a picture not a bomb. Its nothing that's going to kill you. If you have an issue with it that sounds like a personal problem and you need to sort out your priorities. There is no reason for kids to be sitting inside updating their Facebook about how bored they are. Get up off the couch and do something with your life go for a run or get a tan. There's no reason for being a mole and pretending to be allergic to the sun. So Facebook should just pick up and leave before the entire world becomes lazy and obese.

## From One Generation to the Next

**Mandy Hesse**  
Staff Writer

The next generation looks up to the current generation for advice. Kids see, hear, and learn things from what goes on around them. So as the current generation we are role models to the next. When the young ones see us accomplishing things like: participating in sports, our classes, and having jobs to support ourselves they see that they too can accomplish those things. As each generation moves on another one takes it's place, and it would be nice if the next generation would continue to better themselves.

Everyone has someone they look up to, sometimes it's their parents, teachers, or a friend. When parents, teachers, or friends aren't present that's where the cur-

rent generation steps in. A person can be affected by more than one person, a whole group of people can make a difference, but it starts with one.

Wouldn't it be nice if all the horrible things in life would just go away. Yes, and just because your family or friends have a bad reputation doesn't mean you have to. Saying it's in your blood isn't a good enough excuse, I'm not saying family doesn't matter because it does, I'm just saying that each generation should help each to become better than the one before it.

How many generations just sit back and watch the next generation do what they want, and watch morals and values just go down the drain. The next generations are never going to know what respect, responsibility, or succeeding even means.



They're just going to think that money equals happiness instead of the little things.



# Football Wraps Up the Season

**Tanner Bear**  
Staff Writer

The Gobbler football team played their all time rivals the Crosby Rangers on Oct. 20. The Gobblers had a tough time keeping up with the Rangers offense all night. Crosby put up 449 total yards of offense. Aitkin's offense had a couple key mistakes that could have turned the score around dramatically, including five turnovers. Aitkin rushed the ball 28 times for 49 yards. Dalton Stevens led the team with 15 carries for 31 yards. Nathan Ehnstrom passed the ball for 78 yards. Jordan Moore had three receptions for 18 yards and Peter Zasmeta had two receptions for 19 yards. Adam Bast and Chris Hughes led the team in tackles, Adam having 10 and Chris having nine. The Rangers hold on to the all mighty stump for the third year in a row after defeating the Gobblers 46-0.

Last Tuesday they had their first section game of the season. The gobblers were taking on a tough team from Milaca. There were not good playing conditions for either team, the temperature was around 30 degrees and it was snowing most of the night. The power actually went out along with the whole lighting system in the second quarter bringing the game to a halt. Once they got the power back they resumed the game. The Gobblers ended up losing the game 36-0, this loss will bring the teams season to an end with a record of 3-6. The football team will be losing a lot of seniors



**Football players posed in front of the Gobbler Van with their loyal mascot.**

this year including Dalton Stevens, Evan Rhodes, Malcolm Schroeder, Martin Schroeder, Collin Wilke, Bryan Zenke, Andrew Bast, Jordan Moore, Kylan Hill, Chris Hughes, Luke Swanson, and Seth Provost. Senior captain Chris Hughes said "This is the best season we have had in four years and I

know its going to keep getting better from here on out, there is a good crop of kids below us seniors and I know they will do good things."

# Tennis Ends With a Solid Campaign



**Kelsey Schlager**  
Staff Writer

The Aitkin girls had an outstanding regular season. As they smashed their way through the competition getting all conference champions and winning in sections. They finally found themselves in the semi finals, where they played Foley and had a tough loss. I spoke with Brittney

Searle, one of Aitkin's tennis captains. She said, "Everybody went out there and gave it their all, but Foley was a tough match." Playing No. 2 doubles was Kaitlin Konsor and Brittany Searle at a 2-5 loss, No. 3 doubles was Amanda Kurtz and Claire Browning pulling out a win for Aitkin. Their overall record was 12-7 ending their great season.

Making their way through individual subsections, they found themselves playing at individual sections. Nobody advanced to the second round. When I spoke to Brittany Searle she stated, "Every spot was played well and thank you girls for the awesome season."

**Brittany Searle**



Kassie Kokesh sets the ball at an earlier game.

# Girls Volleyball Comes to an End

**Cassandra Seguin**  
Staff writer

Aitkin Girls volleyball set themselves up for some success this season with an ending record of 4-16. These girls worked hard. With players like Courtney Tesch with 156 set assists, Carissa Herron with 43 blocks, and Jel Montano with 57 kills, there is no wonder why their team put up a good fight this season. Jel said, "We did good but I don't think we played up to our full potential." Also with some of the strongest hitters like Abby Nelson, Mikayla Michaletz, and also including Carissa Herron they make a good team to be a part of.

Coach Lainey Sandberg said, "The team this year learned how to trust and work with each other." One of the team's strongest games this season was against Ogilvie. Sandberg

*"The team this year learned how to trust and work with each other."*

**Coach Lainey Sandberg**

said, "We lost in five games."

The girls ended the season with a loss in three games in sections against Crosby. The final game ended with the score Crosby 25, Aitkin 21. Let's wish some luck to the girls that are moving up next season and also to next year's senior girls.

## Starting Days of Winter Sports

**Nov. 1** — Girls Hockey

**Nov. 15** — Boys Hockey

**Nov. 15** — Girls Basketball

**Nov. 22** — Boys Wrestling and Boys Basketball





## Athlete of the Week

# Abby Bumps, Sets, and Spikes to Victory

**Kaija Fossum**  
Staff Writer

This week's female athlete is Abby Nelson. Abby started playing volleyball in fifth grade and this is her eighth consecutive season as an Aitkin Gobbler. She is a right hitter and has had 21 aces, 42 digs, and 72 hit kills for the season. Her all time favorite event for her senior year was beating the Isle Huskies because, "We put everything together and played well. As a team we had 43 kills." When asked how she feels the team worked together this season she replied with, "We are a good

team, it has just been hard for us to put all the pieces together when it matters most."

Abby believes that the friendships between the girls is a very Important part of having a successful team. "We mesh well together but once we get out on the court it all seems to fall apart and once that happens it all goes down hill from there," she said.

After graduating from AHS Abby plans on attending Bemidji State to major in Biology and hopes to some day become a Wildlife Biologist.



**Abby Nelson**



**Collin Wilke**

## Wilke Takes Spotlight for football prowess

**Colton Laplante**  
Staff Writer

This week's male athlete of the week is Collin Wilke; he is a senior at AHS. Collin has been playing football for 6 years and also participates in basketball. He was shocked that he was chosen as the male athlete of the week because of the Crosby and Milaca game and also thinks that there are other potential athletes available. Collin plays defensive end on defense and offensive guard on offense. Before a game, Collin listens to hardcore music and likes to have fun with the teammates but, at the same time, he keeps his mind focused. Collin's goal for the season was to play hard and to play with heart. He says he accomplished his goal.

Collin's inspiration is defensive end Jared Allen and likes the Vikings and loves football. His favorite football memory was their game against St. Paul Harding, where he got 5.5 sacks. What he loves about his team is "they never give up, no matter how behind they are, forty points or ten they keep fighting until the end, we have a lot of people who hate to loose."

Collin plans on going to Mankato or Bemidji for college after high school. One thing you might not know about Collin is he loves to duck hunt and he slays them. His favorite class is RV maintenance. He jogs a lot to stay in shape during the summer and likes to lift weights, but doesn't really have time because of other sports.



## Gem of the Week

# 2010 Camaro is a head-turner

**Andrew Gage**  
**Staff Writer**

Instead of a Heap of the Week, this week, we decided to do a Gem of the Week. And the Gem of the week goes to Danny Dally and his 2010 Chevy Camaro. When I asked for a quote about his car he only said "Ask Jordan." Jordan, from across the room, answered "It's black." His Camaro is a beautiful black color with a 3.6L 312-hp V6 engine and the RS package. The RS package comes with 20" Midnight Silver painted-aluminum wheels, high intensity discharge headlights with integral LED halo rings, rear spoiler, and unique taillights. This car is quite the head turner especially since it makes your car look good in its reflection. You don't park this by the front of the grocery store.



Dannys 2010 Chevy camaro.



## One Act Starts Up

**Jel Montano**  
**Staff Writer**

Aitkin's actors arrived to prove their skills to Mrs. Real, who is the conductor of One Act, on Monday, Nov. 1, in the auditorium. There were not many that showed up but as Mrs. Real said, "It's funny, just the right number of kids show up every time, last year a lot showed up and we had a big cast and this year not that many, but it is a smaller cast." This year's play is called Kafka or

mainly called Confession. The play will consist of nine cast members and three set and tech crew members.

Mrs. Real is excited about having a smaller cast because, "you can practice more with characterization and vocal." The kids looked as if they enjoyed themselves and got to just be themselves on stage. "I really think Aitkin has a good group of kids who are comfortable being themselves on stage," she said. "And the best part is that we have a wide variety of kids, they are all different. If

they were all the same it would be boring."

Mrs. Real was very impressed with what she saw at auditions. Mrs. Real will be posting the parts on the art room door next Tuesday. The group has a lot to do with practices coming up, they will be held Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and will go from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. On Tuesday the group will be building sets. As Mrs. Real said, "Yes, it's a lot of time, but it's a lot of fun."

## Continued from Page 3 / Mr. Pederson is the Man of all Trades

However, like anyone, Aitkin. "I like it," he said. "All the kids and their parents are fun and just good people; the location is perfect you're pretty much an hour or two from everywhere." Now, on to fun things in Mr. Pederson's life. His first car was an old Toyota Corolla Sr5 hatch back, then a Pontiac Grand Am. He said, "It was real fast."

Pederson is a fan of

Mr. Peterson said his

favorite past time is hunting. In his many years involved in this sport his biggest buck was an 8 pt, and for other animals he missed the big turkey by 2 inches. "But mine still made the radio," he said with a grin. He would like to travel to Africa to hunt Cape buffalo.

In his future years he will continue teaching until he can get his educational retire-

ment. Whenever that will be, he's not sure. "I can't not work so I plan on working part time pumpin' poo!" When asked why, he said, "Because the people are always happy to see you."

He'll be number one in the number two business!" said Levi Worley.

## Quote of the Week

"I'm going to kick you in the head with my fist!"

Emily Campbell



## Lunch Menu for November 8-12

8	9	10	11	12
LONG JOHN CEREAL MILK & JUICE ----- CHICKEN FAJITAS TRIMMINGS GREEN BEANS RICE MANDARIN ORANGES	MUFFIN WITH CEREAL OR YOGURT MILK & JUICE ----- MOTZARELLA STICKS MARINARA SAUCE BAKED POTATO BANANA	BAGEL / CR CHEESE CEREAL MILK & JUICE ----- SPAGH / MEATSAUCE COLE SLAW PEARS BREADSTICK	EGG BISCUIT OR CEREAL & YOGURT MILK & JUICE ----- HONEY BBQ BITES MASHED POTATOES CORN DINNER ROLL APPLECRISP	ROLL CEREAL MILK & JUICE ----- PIZZA POCKET NACHO CHEESE VEG / DIP SHERBET