



GOBBLER GOSSIP



Lockdown
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Week
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What is in the Tunnels Under AHS?

By Mitchell Fontaine
Whatever Editor

At some point in your career here at AHS, most of you have probably wondered what is in the tunnels under the school. For those that don't know about the tunnels, there are several that run underneath different parts of the school, and they can be accessed through the cardio room by the old gym. Now, for the first time ever, the purpose of the tunnels, and what is inside them is revealed to the public, through an exclusive interview with Mr. Lake (a retired teacher from AHS), and a first-hand account of exploration of the tunnels.

So, why were the tunnels originally built? According Mr. Lake, their main purpose was for heating. Steam was pumped from the old heating plant, located where Aitkin Iron Works is now, to other buildings throughout the town, such as Butlers, the Courthouse, the old St. James church, and, of course, Aitkin High School.

Mr. Lake said, "In the winter, you could walk down the street and see where the tunnels were because all the snow was melted." That would mean that all these buildings are in fact connected through the network of tunnels. Now, I'm sure you're wondering, what is down there now, and can those other buildings still be accessed?



One of the tunnels under AHS. Mitchell Fontaine photo.

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Independent Study Suspended Until Further Notice

By Mitchell Fontaine
Whatever Editor

After school on Wednesday, October 24, 2012, it was announced to the faculty and any student who remained in the building that Independent Study (I.S.) was suspended until further notice. Of course, this news spread quickly, and there was outrage from the students. On the social networking platform Facebook, there were over 20 posts related to I.S. privileges being revoked. Adam Burke, a senior at Aitkin High School, had this to say regarding the Facebook status explosion, "I've never seen that many people (upset) about the same thing before." Another group of students expressed the ban of I.S. as "bull (excrement)". Mr.

Miller, Social Studies teacher, said, "I don't like it, but I think there are certainly accountability issues that need to be addressed." So I.S. is gone, and students are certainly angry about it. But why was it taken away?

Cathy Hughes was asked what the exact reason for I.S. being taken away was, and she responded "Because we need to reevaluate out methods of knowing where kids are; we have kids in places they shouldn't be." Rumors are going around that an unspecified group of 9th grade students were smoking marijuana in the bathroom, and that was why I.S. was removed.

Mrs. Hughes said that "That was part of a bigger picture. We need to re-look at our

system of keeping track of students. We have students going all over the school who didn't go where their passes said." When asked how he felt about it, Jack Dagen, a senior, explained, "If we can't just punish the kids who are smoking weed, why do we have to punish the whole school?" Travis Kern, senior, said, "They could have been smoking in any class. If we all smoked in first hour, would they take that away too?" Well, as Mrs. Hughes stressed, the student smoking weed was part of the problem, but it brought to light a larger issue, that is, the system for keeping track of students is failing.

The obvious question at this point is, when, if ever, will we get I.S. back? Many students need I.S. to do their

homework, as many have sports or jobs after school. Jeremy Paulbeck, sophomore, explained why I.S. is so valuable, "I.S. is a breeding ground for Sophomore behavior. It is an integral part of the AHS curriculum."

Mrs. Hughes explained that Mr. Pederson is gone for the rest of the week, but when he gets back next week, it should be reinstated. However, it most likely will not be the same. Mr. Pederson will meet with the teachers and other faculty to determine how I.S. will be run in the future. So, while it's not gone for good, the next few days might be a little rough for students in college classes, or anyone with a lot of homework. Let's hope we get I.S. back soon!



Martz Named Student of the Week

Jenny Siegford
Staff Writer

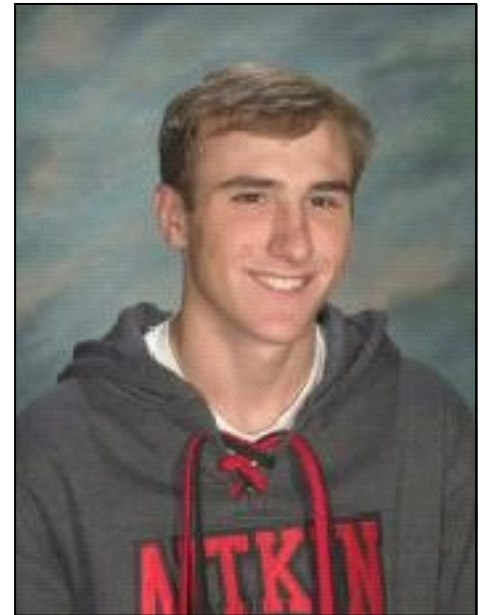
In every school we have students at Aitkin High School that should be recognized for their hard work and bright personality. The student of the week this week is a junior, Josh Martz. When Josh was asked how he feels about being AHS person of the week he replied, "Honored, it shows me that all my hard work and hours of blood, sweat, tears and good grades are paying off." Josh has been working really hard this year to keep up his grades and being a good role model.

After thinking awhile Josh decided what he might want to do after high school. He plans on going to the University of Southern California with his best friend Will Provost. He wants to get a degree in business and video game design.

Josh keeps busy in the Aitkin community. He is in Peer Helpers, football, tennis, choir, and a lot more. When not attending school activities he loves to eat, spend time with family and friends, play video games, and just do anything to keep him going. Josh says, "I like staying active in the school and staying busy." Josh's inspiration is Leeroy Jenkins and Josh's light of his life.

Some qualities Josh believes he has are being nice, sympathetic, energetic, and compassionate. Josh says, "It leads to a happier lifestyle." The one word Josh describes himself as is a dragon. "If you know me you'll understand," Josh replied.

Josh Martz is not just a good student and athlete; he's a good person to get to know and loves meeting new people. Congratulations Josh on being student of the week!



Josh Martz

Lockdown System set in place at AHS

Brian Wold
Staff writer

Recently this year the school has purchased a new security system with one in the north entry and one in the northwest. Mitchell Fontaine thinks that it is a little over board to make students and other visitors push the buzzer if they want to come into the school during school hours.

The school claims that it is only for the safety of the students, and to help keep better track of who is coming in and out of the school. The system is a box mounted on the brick walls of the two entrances that have cameras on them. When you push the red button it takes a picture and it sends it to the

high school office for them to let you in.

One of the other things that the security system solves is that they don't have to have a staff member sitting at the northwest entry for the whole day to monitor everything.

Krysta said some of the down falls about this is that when a student wants to get in the school at a later time to get books or something out of their locker, they can't because the doors are all locked and there is no one to let them into the school. Mitchell says that the new system is not liked because it makes the buzzing noise that you would think a prison door would make when it is unlocked.



Residents entering the high school during school hours must use the intercom to enter. Picture taken by Brian Wold



Biolo Is Our New English Teacher

Casey Mindrum
Staff Writer

Many of you may know her by Ms. Biolo but there's a lot more to her than meets the eye. Claire Aya Biolo is one of the many new and fabulous teachers at Aitkin High School. She teaches 8th grade English and Myths and Legends. Although she was born in Oakland, California she very much enjoys teaching in the small town of Aitkin. When asked if she liked teaching here, she replied, "Yes! It is a great place with supportive staff and awesome students."

Ms. Biolo grew up and went to high school in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and later ventured over to UMD for college. Claire knew she wanted to be a teacher since she was in seventh grade saying it was because she had such a great English teacher. She became a teacher to help her students the way that her teachers had



helped her. She believes that the most important thing you can do as a teacher is to help motivate your students to learn. She also finds her fellow staff to be nice and

very helpful to her. Ms. Biolo was also asked what made her decide to teach English and she said: "I'm good at it (and I'm terrible at just about everything else.)"

As well as attending college at UMD, Claire traveled to Italy to study abroad and went to Japan and Mexico and learned a lot while she was there. Although it may seem like she has a lot to do, Ms. Biolo also likes to dance, sing, hang out with friends, and go on hikes while she's not teaching in the school. Another interesting fact you may not know about Ms. Biolo is that she likes to eat raw eggs and can supposedly 'burp like a champ'.

Aitkin has certainly acquired a wide range of talented teachers and we are pleased to call Ms. Biolo one of our own. So next time you see her around school make sure you give her a warm welcome and wish her the very best.

Injuries in High School

Megan Welshons
Staff Writer

With high school sports becoming more and more demanding, as well as stressful, and time consuming, the students that join in on them have been getting worn down. They don't get sleep or when they do it is not even close to what they need. Experts say that the lack of sleep in teens hurts them and their bodies. That they don't sleep much then comes in and are expected to play at top notch in the game. The students then begin to push themselves past what they are capable of, than pushes their muscles and whole body over the edge as well.

Injuries in high school sports can hurt them for life and also make it so they could possibly have to quit the team in high school. There have been some years in Ait-

kin that we have had up to 4-5 kids out of their sports because of an injury that happen during that sport. These students that become injured in sports can miss out of school and loss motivation, which puts them behind then.

There are protective measures to be taken to try and prevent injuries during game time. The Minnesota High School League has made the rule that athletes must have a baseline concussion test in the case that the athletes suffer a head injury during play. Some other prevention measures would be knee brace for weak and already hurt knees, ankle braces are what a lot of athletes are starting to wear as protection from twisted ankles. Athletes have gone as far as using mouth guards and athlete supporters during all and any sport to protect themselves. The best way to protect your-



self is to stay in shape, stretch and warm up properly before any practice or completion.



Aitkin Volleyball Girls Never Give Up!



Brian Wold
Staff Writer

The volleyball team has been having a pretty dam good year; they have won a couple very tough games. But the ones that the lost were against some very good teams like Onamia and Braham; there record coming into sections is 13-5. The captains of the volleyball team are Melissa Paulson, Kassie Kokesh, and Mikayla Michaletz. The other seniors on the team are Krysta Haugly, and Dacia Sjolund. The girls tied with Onamia to take second in the conference, Kassie Kokesh says that there highlight of the year is beating Onamia because it was a very intense game and they haven't beat them in so

long.

Braham is the number one team in the section. The Aitkin volleyball girls have been surprising everyone by what they can do this year. Now that sections have started we will see on Wednesday the 23rd if they can come out one top when they play moose lake/willow river rebels, for the first round in sections. The game will be at home so hopefully the gym is packed to cheer them on. If they win, they will keep on advancing in sections, the next game they will be playing is on Friday in Cloquet. The game on Friday will be either against Pine City or Mora. Good luck to all the senior girls and the rest of the team in sections.

Aitkin Gobblers Are Still Fighting!

Chris Carlberg
Staff Writer

The Aitkin Gobblers have had a rough start to the season to say the least with, as of Tuesday, a 1-7 record. Now with a recent win against the #3 seed in their section, has the gobbler luck turned around? We will find out at the upcoming semi final game.

On oct.12 Aitkin played Esko for their final home game and lost 14-16. Following Esko, on Oct. 17, they played against Moose lake/Willow River and were crushed 42-0. The following week they played Duluth Marshal and lost yet again in a much closer match 27-28. However when it came down to it they pulled of an (18-8) game against Greenway on Oct. 23 putting Aitkin in the semi-finals. Saturday at 2pm they will be playing the #2 seed Esko, for a shot at the section finals.

Even though Aitkin has had a rough season, there have been several big plays in the past four games. In the last Esko home game, Jake Lynn threw a bomb to Peter Zasmeta which was run in for a 95 yard touchdown pass. In the last game against Green Way several individuals made big plays. Peter Zasmeta made a 75 yard scoring pass from Jake Lynn and the



final score was made by Lyle Nyberg who made a TD off a 45 yard return interception.

After interviewing several players Brendon Hachten, Ben Peterson and Josh Martz, I received the players opinion on this season and what they expected for the future of Aitkin football. Brendon Hachten said, if Aitkin becomes section champions the team will have met his expectations for the season. Josh had expected more wins from Aitkin this year, but is looking towards a bright 2013 Season. Ben thought

the 2012 season could and should have been better but expects the team to progress through the years especially looking at the class of 2017.

Looking at the recent game against Green Way Aitkin has just as good a chance of becoming section champs as anyone, and being fired up from the recent win, maybe an even better chance. So remember to cheer on our football players at the next section semi-final game on Saturday. Good luck gobblers against Esko this Saturday.



Lisa Anderson Female Athlete of the Week!

Krysta Haugly
News Editor

Lisa Anderson is a sophomore on the varsity tennis team here at Aitkin. She is also involved in basketball and track. When Lisa isn't playing tennis she enjoys spending time with her family and friends or practicing her basketball skills.

This year Lisa is playing doubles with junior Lindy Lahmann-Sharbonda. They have been playing doubles with each other for two years now and have a team record of 6 and 12. They recently traveled to Duluth to play against Crosby in a section game but were unfortunately defeated in both sets 0-6 and 2-6.

They plan on being partners again next year but it's the coaches who decide who will be playing singles or doubles and who their doubles partner would be. They have challenge matches in the beginning of the year to see where their skills are and then the coaches try to match up some of the girls to create the strongest team overall.



Lisa first started playing tennis because her older brother, Alex, was in tennis and she wanted to do what he did. Alex is also the person who Lisa tries to play like, she thinks he is an aggressive player and his serve is "awesome" and she simply likes the

way he plays. Lisa believes her serve is the strongest and most consistent part of her game; she knows that if her serve is off, her whole game must really be off. The thing Lisa would like to improve on the most is her slice approach shot which takes place as she is coming up to the net.

Lisa enjoys playing doubles more than singles because then "you don't have to run as much." The thing that Lisa finds most challenging is her attitude, "I have to keep my head together because it's a mind game and I can't lose focus." She tries to relax the tension by shuffling her feet back and forth; Lisa described it as her "horse-thing."

Lisa's biggest personal rival is the Crosby girls with Meredith Silgen and Shannon Lundgren in particular. Lisa would like to advance to state next year and eventually be able to play a sport in college. Lisa's advice she would like to give to any tennis player wanting to play on the varsity team would be to "practice on their own, take practice seriously and have fun or you won't stick with it and be dedicated."

Tunnels continued from page 1

I was fortunate enough to explore the tunnels, under the supervision of the Superintendent, Mr. Novak. There are two tunnels that branch off of the cardio room. One of them leads to a large, low-ceilinged dirt area. That extends about 30 feet back, and then leads to a small crawlspace that goes underneath the old gym. The second tunnel is very much like a small hallway, and is filled with old records and files from past students. Whenever you hear that something will go on your "permanent record" that's what they're talking about. Following the winding hallway past all

the files, there is another doorway. Through that door, the tunnel continues, but a cinder block wall was built to block it off. Any information as to what was on the other side was unobtainable, which raises the question, why? Is there something down there that the school is trying to hide from us? So while the tunnels once connected AHS to other buildings in the city of Aitkin, they are now used for storage. Maybe someday that wall will be knocked down, and we will really know what is on the other side.





The Excitement of 2012 Deer Opener

Brad Nelson
Staff Writer

The deer opener in Minnesota is just over a week away. Next Saturday morning an "army" of blaze orange, over 400,000 will hit the woods and fields in pursuit of the whitetail deer season. Deer hunting in Minnesota is a big event and exciting time of the year for everyone around here.

I don't know about you but I'm pumped for the 2012 deer opener this year. I think this year will be a successful year for most people around the state. I think the deer population is up this year which you can see by all the deer laying on the road or when you're driving you see a lot of them in the ditches and also in people's yards. I also think with this year's first wolf hunt it will make this year's hunt better but most of all make the 2013 deer hunting season better because not as many yearlings will be killed and can grow up and then we will have a bigger population around the state. Then if we get a bigger population around the state next year I hope they will let us take two deer for each hunter.

Bryan Haugly thinks that this year will be a successful year for deer hunting. He



10 pointer caught on trail camera.

thinks the deer population is also up with all the dead deer on road and in his yard and also at his hunting property. He doesn't think that the doe pee works to hang up in the woods or over deer scrapes. He says that deer just do there same thing by checking scrapes and just because they smell something different doesn't mean they will come in. Bryan has never seen any wolves in his lifetime while hunting for whitetails. He thinks that if the wolf hunt goes good this year the wolf population will go down and then the deer population will go

up and have a bigger population for next year and a better hunt.

Chris Carlberg thinks that the deer hunting season will be a lot better than last year. He thinks the deer population up with seeing all the deer around on road. Chris also thinks it's up because we have only been able to shoot one deer for the past few years and also the hunters mostly go for the big bucks. He thinks that the doe scent pee works for him at least because he's had a few bucks come into it before. Chris said he saw a wolf at the refuge a couple years ago while he was hunting with his friend there. He's also saw one at his house about two or three years ago while hunting. He thinks it will have an effect on deer season next year a little. But he thinks that there won't be that many wolves taken this year but will make a little difference by seeing more yearlings around.

With a big event coming up in Minnesota there will be tons of people hitting the roads and coming up to get ready. Then when the big day hits all those big hunters are going to hit the woods and hopefully be successful and safe at the same time with all those hunters out there.

Aitkin Tennis Team Wrapping up their Season

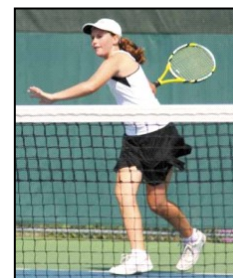
Anthony Ashton
Staff Writer

According to coach Waldorf the team finished the season 6-12. They lost in their sub-section game in Virginia 5-2. This leaves the girls ranked 3rd in the North Section behind Eveleth and Virginia. Some of the girls are on a hot streak like Claire Browning finished 2nd in sub-section play and advanced to section tourney October 16, 2012. Also Lisa Anderson and Lindy Lahmann-Sharbonda finished 4th in sub-sections advancing them to

section tourney also. The girl's season is over but individuals section tourney counties October 16, in Duluth with 3 players continued.

Lisa and Lindy lost in the 1st round of sections. Claire Browning took 2nd at sub-sections advancing to sections.

Coach Waldorf said, "It is hard to play depending on the weather." "Yes, the tennis balls don't bounce like they should. Hands freeze up and it's hard to move when you are wearing a lot of clothes and your muscles aren't as flexible when you have layers of clothes on. But it's better to play in warm weather.



Browning returns a shot.

Pork Chops for Dinner

Steph Hargrove
Staff Writer

Kassie Kokesh is a well known student that has made a great difference in our school. The pork chop dinner was just one out of many things the All Starz dance team did to help our school and people in our community. The Dance team used the dinner

to raise funds for the Aitkin All Starz; they used the money for things like new uniforms, warm-up supplies for their competitions and busing.

The Pork Chop Dinner ended up to be a great success at the end of the night; usually they have a good time doing this and many people are looking forward to a good meal before a cool night of football! Our

Dance teams are known for helping out many functions and give out a sense of pride for our school. Kassie said "We will work hard this season to give back to the community and make the town proud." Thanks to our team and all our town supporters this has been a great year out of many.



Open Lunch: For All or For a Few?

Casey Mindrum
Staff Writer

Ask almost any kid in Aitkin High School and I'm sure they will all say they want to have open lunch. While most kids just say they want open lunch, not many of them are sure how it will really benefit them. Most would probably just think about going to Subway or McDonalds for lunch and not think of all the other things they could do. I think open lunch would benefit not just the people who want a little extra freedom but the people who have jobs or other things to do after school and don't have time to run errands or just work on

projects or other school work they don't have time for in school.

Some may argue that if students get open lunch and the freedom it comes with we won't want to stop there, that they will give us an inch and we'll take a mile. To fix those worries the school should be firm with their decisions and set up guidelines. For starters I don't think that all students should get open lunch. It should be a privilege for only the seniors, but not all of them. By making it a privilege for only the seniors it minimizes people going in and out of the school during lunches and it will be something to look forward to in

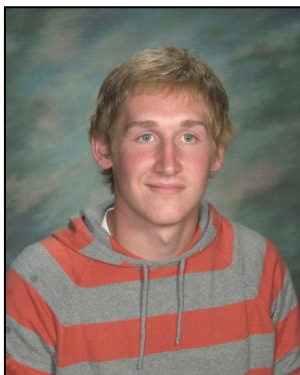
school. The school should send a form home with the seniors and have the parents/guardians fill it out saying whether or not they want their child to have an open lunch. After that, it is up to the student to earn it by staying above a certain GPA or passing all of their classes. It could possibly motivate kids to try a little harder, or at least reach that set mark in their grades so they can be rewarded with open lunch.

Another argument that could be brought up is students abusing their open lunch privilege by drinking or doing drugs. In the past those actions got open lunch taken away from students but this time around I

think the school should use different methods to help fix the problem. Just telling students not to abuse their open lunches is not going to stop them from doing it, they should know if they are caught doing something they shouldn't be doing during open lunch the consequences will be harsh. A few options would be to take away all of the senior privileges the student would have gotten or to take away his/her open lunch all together with possible detention time. Although it might take time to fine tune the guidelines and requirements I, as well as many other kids, think it would be worth it in the end.

What is your favorite Disney movie and why?

Megan Welshons
Staff Writer



Jacob Everson- "Sleeping Beauty, because I like the witches they are cute."



Nataly Milbradt- "Little Mermaid, because I love Flounder and the prince is hot."



Sabrein Anliker- "Beauty and the Beast it reminds me of Jimmy and I."



Cassie Sandberg- "Little Mermaid, because I like to dream."



Mr. Miller- "Mulan, it has the strongest female character."



Are Teenagers 'Bad to the Bone?'

Michelle Alveraz
Staff Writer

In every high school movie there's always some crazy out of control party, secret cheating rings, bullies and drugs. To be honest I have no clue who'd host these out of control parties, I've never been offered drugs on a street corner and I've never been peer pressured to drink or do something equally as stupid.

So it surprises me even more to find out parents actually think this is what all of us are doing when we go out. Granted I am the type of person to stay home, read and call it a night. But that's beside the point, I feel pretty offended when people ask my parents how they handle me at this age. Because apparently every teenager is on a rampage to be a rebel (Guess I didn't get the memo). So like any other freaked out parents they rush home to make sure I'm safely in bed watching late night cartoons instead of doing something they

wouldn't approve of.

I feel like its movies and television that get these idea's and stereotypes of what teenagers are like invading people's brains. I'm not saying we're all good or that there isn't some super ninja secret bad world I've yet to see but I feel like we deserve more credit. Everything we do or say is criticized upon our age. If we say we hate something its only because we're too young to appreciate it or it's just a stage. Anything we change about ourselves is summed up to a stage we're passing through and any beliefs we hold can't be taken as seriously as it would be if we were adults. Yet parents love to pull out the "You're an adult, act like one" and closely follow it by saying my all time favorite "We'll I'm the adult and you're the child so do as I say." Did they just contradict themselves? Oh yeah big time.

So yes we are teenagers but most of us are just trying to get by with good grades, find who we are and be ourselves.

Maybe we can sometimes be categorized as bad to the bone but I feel like a whole generation shouldn't be labeled because of how teens have acted in the past. Are teen's really the one's giving ourselves a bad image or is it just what adults want to think? I don't think anyone of any age wants to be labeled or categorized as something they aren't. Anyone of any age can be "bad", being a teen doesn't define it. It's who you are that defines you, the choices you make and who you choose to be. Everyone has the liberty to be as they are, so little by little I hope we can change the public's view on teens to something more positive.

"You see us as you want to see us..."

In the simplest terms, in the most convenient definitions. But what we found out is that each one of us is a brain... and an athlete... and a basket case... a princess... and a criminal... Does that answer your question?... Sincerely yours, the Breakfast Club."

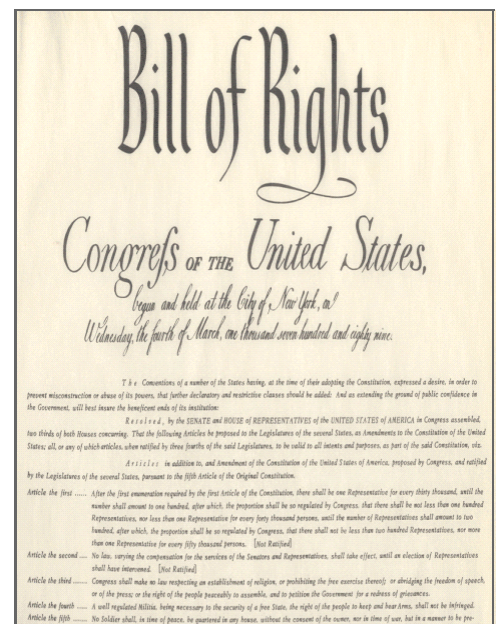
Does the First Amendment really apply to students?

Mitchell Fontaine
Staff Writer

In the first amendment, it states that all citizens of the United States have the right to express themselves through what they say. Apparently, if the school administration is any indication, that right doesn't apply to students. Students in Aitkin High School are not allowed to express their true feelings, because their voices are slashed by the stinging blade of censorship. A student is not allowed to show their exasperation through swearing when they are angry, or to say how they truly feel about other students or faculty. Drew Burke, founder of SEC-SE (Students Embracing Complete Speech Entirety, pronounced "sexy"), a student organization dedicated to giving students the right to say what they

want, had the following to say on the subject - "It doesn't take much to be SECSE, just say the first thing that pops into your head." Well said, Drew. And if the unethical-ness of clamping the icy, suffocating grip of censorship on the throats of students isn't enough, there are positive benefits of swearing as well. In a study from Keele University in England, students submerged their hands in ice water for as long as they could. The students that were allowed to swear during the experiment were able to keep their hands submerged for an average of 40 seconds longer.

So overall, the ban on swearing and speaking your mind in school needs to end. Students are people too, and deserve the right to act like it





Pitch Perfect Hitting the High Notes



Michelle Alvarez
Staff Writer

Even if you haven't seen it, I'm sure you've heard something about it. Pitch Perfect (directed by Jason Moore) is a highly comical spin on a college student's life. It follows the story of a misunderstood teen named Beca who wants to follow her dreams and fly to California to become a DJ.

But like most parents her father doesn't believe in his little girl doing something so unconventional. Being a professor at Barden University he insists Beca comes and studies for at least a year and experiments college before deciding if going to California is what she truly wants. Trying to please her, father she joins an already sinking ship called the Bella's. While Beca auditions for The Bella's, her one and only friend Jesse auditions for the Treblemakers, both not knowing it will make them enemies, or will it? In campus there's a fierce fight between The Bella's and the Treble-

makers, both a capella groups. While they used to run in the same high and mighty singing circles it all crashed the previous year at nationals. The Bella's just aren't as good or cool as they use to be. Will this year's new and unique Bella's group have what it takes to make it to nationals and redeem themselves? Watch and find out because what's better than an oddly mixed group of people singing together?

It sure got some laughs out of the audience. Even if you're not a singer yourself and you have no need for that stuffy duffy musical theater, I more than guarantee this movie will make you laugh out loud and sign along. Sure horror movies get your adrenaline pumping, and those sappy lovey dovey movies make you sigh in awe but trust me a little sing-a-long comedy will sure make your day just a tad (if not a lot) brighter.

Rating: 4/5 ****

Whose Tat is That?

As you know, in every issue of Gobbler Gossip we will have a picture of a tattoo belonging to a mystery person. Many of you may have already guessed but the tattoo shown in the last issue was of the cartoon characters Calvin & Hobbes and belonged to none other than Mr. Henke. The answer for this issue will be revealed in the following paper. Good luck!





Modest Michaletz: Hakuna Matata

Krysta Haugly
News Editor

Mikayla Michaletz is a senior at Aitkin High School. Every day she is seen with a smile on her face or concentrating on homework. Mikayla is an honor student as well as a three-sport athlete. Mikayla is involved in many extracurricular activities including student council, Students Against Destructive Decisions, National Honor Society, Peer Helpers, Madrigals and Youth Group. Mikayla's friends described her as someone who always has positive energy, care-free and simply great. She was even described as "Hakuna Matata" and "supercalifragilisticexpialidocious." In Mikayla's spare time, she enjoys reading, dancing, singing, jumping on a trampoline, and dancing and singing at the same time.

This last summer Mikayla spent her time teaching swimming lessons to younger kids. Mikayla says that she loves children and could spend all day with kids except when they are annoying and then she wants to punch them in the face. Mikayla



has a big family with her two brothers and sister. She loves her big family and wishes it were even bigger. When asked if Mikayla wants a big family she replied with, "Yeah, eight kids, actually seven kids is better, I like seven." There is one thing Mikayla isn't sure of and that is what she would like to major in when she attends college. Mikayla is debating between elementary education and pre-med. Mikayla is looking at the University of Minnesota Morris or University of Wisconsin River Falls for her college selection. Both schools have division III volleyball teams, which Mikayla would like to play in college. Both schools put a huge emphasis on grades and education, which is very important to Mikayla, and both offer elementary education and pre-med.

The person that has had the biggest influence is her madre, as she called her. Mikayla said her mother is "great, she inspires me to live my life freely and to follow the path the Lord has made for me, to branch out of my comfort zones and to love everyone." Mikayla is captain in all of her sports, which include volleyball, basketball and softball. Her favorite sport is volleyball because of the team component. She believes to be able to succeed with volleyball, you need every person that is on the court and not rely on one star player. Volleyball is like a family to Mikayla, it creates special bonds. Sports are a big part of Mikayla's life. They have taught her many life skills such as patience, dedication and confidence.

Mikayla would describe herself as someone who is weird, loud, quirky, and outgoing except for when she has to portray her talents, and then she gets self-conscious and nervous. Mikayla loves people and if she spends too much time by herself, she gets depressed. Mikayla loves to sing and loves music. She started singing at a young age at church and at camps. She believes music can portray many different messages and explain every mood. Someone who has been through everything with Mikayla is Jenae Herron. She and Mikayla have been best friends for 16 years. Their families are also neighbors and very good friends. A lot of their family friends came into their life from her mother, Becky, doing daycare for 12 years. Mikayla helped a lot and one thing Mikayla remembers especially well is helping change the dirty diapers. Family is very important to Mikayla. She loves to have family movie nights or game nights. Mikayla's brother, Tyler, only has one arm and this inspires her to always work harder because if he can do it, there is no reason why she cannot. Mikayla is excited for the upcoming games in the volleyball season and is happy to see how well the team works together.

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The Unfortunate Life of Cassi Tetrick

Megan Welshons
Staff Writer

Cassi Tetrick was found June 24, 1994 in a dumpster outside of Chinatown, New York. Shari and Kelly Tetrick found her after that they were being chased by the mafia. They decided that even though she was not the cutest baby, they couldn't let her die like that. So, while they were on the run they decided to escape with their new baby to Minnesota. They then soon realized that she had some serious health issues. She had to be watched by many doctors until the age of

four, because of her moments of extreme rage on the people around her. There was a night that she crawled into her parent's bedroom and bit off her father's ear.

After that incident, Cassi was kept in a mental hospital for two weeks. At that time they decided that she needed to develop social skills, so her parents enrolled her in Rippleside Elementary. She then became known as The Child of Rage. The teachers and adult staff were scared for the other children. These events went on until she reached high school and created

friendships with other students.

One of her "close" friends, Nataly Mibradt, took her under her wing to bring Cassi to reality. Unfortunately, Cassi idolized Nataly to the point that she cut and dyed her hair to look like Nataly's. She got surgery to be shorter and even tried to eliminate Nataly's boyfriend so they could be together everyday. Nataly then became scared of Cassi and had to move out of state and change her name. Cassi went crazy with anger and burned the whole town down. To this day it's believed that Cassi is still looking for her best friend, burning towns as she



goes...