

GOBBLERS

AITKIN HIGH SCHOOL



3

Gobble

Musical Auditions a hit

By Rachel Stiner and Nicole Radtke

Staff writers

There were auditions for the musical “Bye Bye Birdie” in the auditorium on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Wednesday, November 23 at 3:30 p.m. The musical is only for Choir students.

“Bye Bye Birdie” is a funny and rock n’ roll play where Birdie is a resemblance of Elvis Presley. It is about Conrad Birdie coming home from the military and people are happy to see him. Someone gets picked to be kissed on national television and Kim is that lucky girl, but her boyfriend Hugo Peabody gets jealous. If you want to know more you will have to watch the play yourself.



When we asked Mackenzie Thompson how she feels about the musical, she replied by saying “I think its going to be a fun musical for our group, because there’s a lot of talent in our choir.” We also talked to her about what she thinks about the musical they are doing and she likes that it’s a play from the 60’s because all the costumes are fun and everyone will have fun with it.

Everyone should have fun acting out this play, and we should all go support their talent when the show hits the stage in the spring.

Parts-Actors

Alberto Peterson-Lyle Nyberg, Rosie Alvarez-Amara Blake, Mae Peterson-Mackenzie Thompson, Conrad Birdie-Alex Anderson, Kim MacAfee-Emily Lundgren, Hugo Peabody- Broc Kokesh, Mr. Harry MacAfee-Alec Kinzer, Mrs. MacAfee-Kristin Salmonson, Randolph MacAfee-TBA, Gloria Rusputin-Chesna Matteson, Ursula Merkel-Taylor Smith, Ursula’s Mother-Sarah Chute, Ed Sullivan-Mitchell Fontaine, The Mayor-Jack Reeves, Maude/bartender-Ryan Anderson Harvey’s Father-Aj Johnson The Mayor’s wife-Sarah Ambuehl Harvey-Mitchell Fontaine, Penelope-Morgan Schoonover, Alice-Amanda Kurtz, Helen-Emily Hansen, Deborah Sue-Mikayla Michelatz, Margie-Kassie Kokesh, Nancy-Theresa Johnson, Suzie-Erin Host, Two sad girls-Nicole Host/Cassie Sandberg, Karl-Joe Johnson, Freddie-Isaac Novak, Police man-Cody Zink, Dish washer-Kyle Daun.

Fish House Parade a great success

By Ashley Mate’

Staff Writer

The World Famous Fish House Parade has been a huge tourist attraction for Aitkin. Every year people from all around the state come to Aitkin to see the parade. This attraction gathers around 5-10 thousand people every year. The parade always lies on Black Friday, the Friday after Thanksgiving every year at 1 p.m.

This year there were many other activities around town that were going on. Including, pancake breakfast, craft sale, Mr. And Mrs. Santa Claus, sloppy joe lunch, Kinship chili and soup cook off, live music by the band McInnis’ Kitchen, Fish House Tales Awards, and the Bremer Bank Fish House stew.

The main idea of the parade is to show off the fisherman’s crazy and bazaar fish houses. The best looking, fun-



A previous winner in the parade.

niest, most creative idea wins. One year there was a hot tub fish house float, that was one of the most creative ones I have seen. One of the most popular parts of the Fish House Parade, is at the very end. After the parade, Santa sits in the back of a truck with a ping pong ball gun, and shoots out hundreds of colored ping pong balls. These ping pong balls represent different discounts at different

stores. There were three colors, red, yellow, and green. Because the parade is on Black Friday, everyone loves the crazy ping pong ball sales.

So if you ever happen to be in Aitkin for Thanksgiving, make sure you go to watch the world Famous Fish House Parade! You will not want to miss out on all the fun and crazy activities Aitkin has to offer!

One Act Play Gets Started

By Casey Otto
Staff writer

"Note to Self" by Bradley Hayward is the play that the one act crew will be performing this year. Levi Perrine said, "The play this year is a comedy and it's actually very funny." One act is a competitive theatrical performance. Each of the plays is about 35 minutes in length. They will be performing one public performance and there will be no charge. The sub-sections competition is taking place in East Central and is open to the public. On January 28, sections are being held in Hibbing.

The cast consists on Levi Perrine, Cody Zink, Taylor Smith, Molly Moriarty, Elise Courtmanche, Lindy Lahmann-Sharbonda, Erik Sanbeck, Joseph Fontaine, Ileeyah Armstrong, Tiana Keezer, Mya Conway, Kristin Miller, and Theresa Johnson. Levi added, "Each of the actors this year are playing multiple characters in the play. For instance I personally have actually been cast for five roles in the play." Even with the cast the play can't be performed with out the tech. Crew of Nikki Courte manche, Jared Zollner, Amanda and Kelsey Rom.

I asked Mrs. Real and Levi how

they think everything is going so far. Mrs. Real said it is always hectic at the beginning and is stressful but it will come together like it always does. Levi replied, "Well, we lost quite a few very talented actors last year, but we have got several who already know what they're doing, and have done this before. The main thing will be fine-tuning for competitions, which I think we'll do just fine. We've been having a lot of fun, and Mrs. Real is doing a great job again this year, so I feel pretty good about this season."

Butler's Has New Plans For Aitkin

By Sara Miller
Staff Writer

Butlers has new plans mapped out for the future. The owner, Sylvia Allen, wanted to change basically the whole building around. The basement is supposed to turn into a restaurant and performance area. The main floor is supposed to be a shopping arcade. The top floor is going to be for event space and

stage performances. They plan to do the main floor first, then the Opera House second, then the basement. Sylvia Allen bought Butlers because she didn't want the building to be lost. There may be teenage job opportunities at the new Butlers. All of the information about this new place will be in the Aitkin Independent Age. Overall, they plan to be completely finished with the project by 2014.



Ten things to do on Christmas

By Brittany Ince
Staff Writer

1. Number one you should always be shopping no questions asked what so ever!
2. Snowmobiling on trails be sure to bundle up its quite Antarctica out.
3. Make a family of snowman put some sugar on them make them sweet and sexy
4. Tubing at Prime Time is pretty

- prime
5. Skiing at Spirit Mountain is awesome be careful though the spirits might get you
6. Skating at the rink with all your pals have a good old time
7. Decorating your house with pretty lights make it look like a town in there
8. Snuggle by the fire and eat cookies

- and drink hot chocolate
9. Bake cookies with your grandma make sure to dip it in milk
10. Last but not least sledding down mount Everest don't get up with the abominable snowman

Be good kids have a fun Christmas be safe and you better watch out and DON'T LIE or you know what happens!!

Levi is our SOTW

By Dacia Sjolund
Staff Writer

Levi Perrine has been dubbed this week's student of the week. He was pleasantly surprised to find out he was student of the week.

"I work hard to get things done, and that is compensation in itself, but being acknowledged for that is a nice plus," he said.

Levi's favorite part about school is being able to hang out

with friends, and fellow one actors.

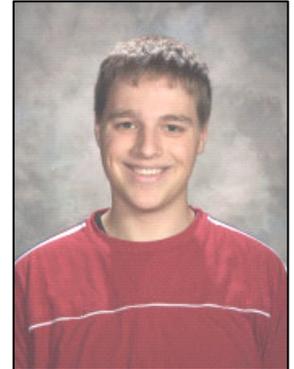
"They're all clever and witty folk, and they're good for a laugh," Levi stated.

Levi thinks he is good at most subjects, but he is the best at English. One thing Levi thinks he needs to improve on is to not procrastinate so much.

Something Levi appreciates most about his teachers is when they not only understand the

topic, but can explain in a way everyone can understand it. Also, even if he doesn't understand it, they will explain it until he does. He says Mr. Michaletz is one of those teachers.

Levi has worked hard in his studies to get where he is now, this is why he is student of the week. Great job Levi!



Levi Perrine, Grade 12

How did you find out Santa is a fake?



Travis Bare- My older brother told me....



Ashley Judnitch - My mom told me....



Kayli Beneke- I snapped off Santa's beard during a mall visit. It was then clear what was going on, plus I was 14.



Brittney Ince- Mr. Steinke said to our class "Santa isn't real you idiots."



Mackenzie Thompson- "I was laying in bed excited for Christmas when I had forgotten about my letter I was supposed to leave by his cookies. I knew it was past my bedtime but I had to bring it out. I walked out to the Christmas tree to find my father eating all of the cookies I made Santa. It was then clear to me that Santa was my parents.



Evan Ferdelman- I found out when I discovered pre wrapped presents saying "From Santa."

Compiled by Olivia Landrus

Band and Choir prepare for NY

By Mackenzie Thompson
Staff Writer

On June 3, 2012, the Aitkin High School band and choir will be traveling to New York City. It's a tradition for the band and choir to go on this trip every three years, having the chance to share their musical talent with more than just the residents of Aitkin County. This traditional trip in past years took place in Florida, but was recently changed to New York.

One might wonder how the band and choir could afford a trip like this...well, that's why they host various fundraisers. So far this year, the students in band and choir have sold magazines, fruit, cheese-cake and now currently cookie dough. If you would like to support their trip to New York, get in touch with a member and buy some cookie dough today!

The agenda for the New York trip is a busy one, but the members in band and choir will be able to experience



Aitkin students will get a taste of the Big Apple this spring.

something that they may never get a chance to again. On Sunday, June 3, the band and choir members will depart for New York. On Monday, June 4 they will arrive in New York, check into their hotel, walk around the Yankee Stadium, go to the Empire State building and tour Times Square. Tuesday, June 5 they will enjoy a tour of Central Park, visit Greenwich Village,

have a choral performance at the St. Paul Chapel, see the 911 museum, go shopping and see the Broadway production of Mary Poppins. Wednesday, June 6, you better tune in to NBC at 8 a.m., because the band and choir members will be on your TV... They will also visit the Intrepid Museum, have a band performance, go to Times Square, see the Broad-

way production of Sister Act and also have time for an elegant dinner cruise in the harbor. On Thursday, June 7, they will see the St. Patrick's Cathedral, tour Radio City Music Hall, shop in the Rockefeller Center, visit China Town, Little Italy and ride the Subway back to Times Square to catch their bus ride home.

As you can see, the band and choir members will definitely be busy, but they will have experienced great cultural and musical aspects that New York has to offer, inspiring them to use music in their futures. If you would like to know more about the band and choir trip to New York, ask your fellow students in band and choir or contact Mrs. Blake or Mr. Halverson, the band and choir directors.

Please support members of band and choir, because they are very excited to share their talents and to go on an adventure that they will never forget!

Peer Helpers Are Helping Out Again, this time with paint brushes

Nicole Hammond
Staff Writer

Every year the peer helpers from the Aitkin high school do different events and activities. This year the leaders for peer helpers wanted them to help out the community in some way. The perfect chance came up when Mr. Keith Nentl asked the school if the eleventh and twelfth grade peer helpers would like to update the appearance of the warming house located by the city park here in Aitkin.

The warming house is the building that belongs with the skating rink. In the warming house, people can warm up, as well as borrow skates to use for ice skating.

The peer helpers were asked to paint the warming house for service project fundraising. The reward for painting is \$280 donated to the high school for activities that happen with peer helpers, such as pizza, and end of the year bowling parties with their mentees.

Mrs. Doyle says, "It's a good time to work together, and we are giving back to the community." When the peer helpers were asked about this volunteer job, they all agreed and thought it was a good idea. Tyler Michaletz and Kristen Salmonson have picked the colors out that they will be using. They have picked a deep blue color, and a lighter blue. They have decided to do a win-

tery theme for the new paint job, so travel on over and see what kind of marvelous work they have done.

Mrs. Doyle would also like to give a big thanks to the bus drivers, Gary Ladehoff, and Pat Nicko for the transportation, to the warming house and back to the Aitkin high school. Mrs. Doyle and the students really appreciated it. Bob Nicko and Keith Nentl were very generous as well. They brought the paint for the peer helpers, as well as pop, and subs to snack on. They helped clean up and were very kind to everyone. The peer helpers project has been a success.

By Mariya Espeseth

Staff Writer

Opinion Poll

What is one thing most people don't know about you?



Shawn Phillip: I love to read.



Joe White: I always wear black pants.



Benjamin Peterson: I was born in Las Vegas.



Adam Jackson: I'm actually a genius, and I believe in the death penalty.



Brittney Ince: I've been to Alcatraz.



Mr. Henke: I rode my motorcycle around the entire Lake Superior, I didn't see a moose.

Facebook is not as safe as you think. O_o

By Ashley Landrus

Staff writer

Recently a new article has come out about Facebook on a website called Aclu.org. The article is called "is Facebook really stalking you?" I asked a few students around the school what they thought about this odd article.

Kaylee Nelson 12th grade- She doesn't really know what to think it might be true. She thinks we should have privacy on the internet.

Katelynn Stofferahn 12th grade- said she has not read the story but thinks it would be unfair and wrong if it is true from what she has heard about it.

An anonymous source 12th grade- said she thought it is very wrong of the creators to be able to stalk people on the internet from face book. We should be able to do what we want with out worrying about if face book is stalking us or not.



Access Denied!

By Sara Miller
Staff Writer

Have you ever tried to use the school's internet and the very thing you need to open, is blocked? Unfortunately, it happens to me all of the time. I find one thing in particular that I need information about, and I can't open the site. It really gets my blood flowing.

Granted, I know they block things for a reason at school, and its probably for the best. I truly think that not everything needs to be blocked. Just the other day, I had to look something up for World Cultures, and the page I tried to access was blocked. It wasn't even a question that could be taken the wrong way or perverted at all. It was a question about how many languages that specific country spoke.

I do understand why they block most things on the internet. Thanks to a couple different people that have to ruin it for us all by downloading pom at school, checking Facebook, or MySpace (if anyone has one these days), Seriously? Save it for when you get home. Most people that have to look something up for a class assignment can't get to the information they need, because everything is blocked.

That can be a major problem for the student, considering that site is probably the only one that will give them the information they need, and lucky for them, that assignment that they're trying to finish is probably due the next day. If the school could just cut some slack on the access blocking, it would be nice. I'm sure people like me would appreciate it a billion.



Early start? I think YES!!!!

By Casey Otto
Staff writer

Early start sounds like a crazy idea to some people and don't think it is such a good idea. I believe that it is.

The cons of an early start would be we would have to wake up earlier and consequently have to go to bed earlier. I know that it is hard for people that have to work until ten o'clock. People will complain more. In my opinion they can just suck it up and stop whining in general.

The pros of an early start is getting out of school early and doing more of the things you want to. Some people would have an hour or more before they had to go to work. Some teachers actually are here earlier then we think.

I know there are a lot of people reading this don't agree with me that will



Aitkin High school

keep what they think. I came from a school that started at 7:30 a.m. and it was because it is a larger school district that had two bus routes, high school was first then the elementary school that started an hour later. I prefer that over the time we have now. Chelsea Ryappy said, "When you are

tired you can't focus." That's true but what's stopping you from going to bed earlier. I know what some of you are thinking you have work until ten p.m. if you can't handle your school work and work the you shouldn't have a job. I know that I can function and focus on school with only three hours of sleep. Shawn Phillips agrees with me that an early start would be better because we get out an hour early.

It's one hour earlier then normal, it's not a bad thing. Most students in my opinion complain too much as it is about how early it is for starting school now, get over it. I want school to be an hour earlier. If you can get up at five a.m. to go walk out to the deer stand and sit and wait for a deer to come, even though half the time you see nothing, you should be able to come to school at 7:30 a.m..

Standardized Tests need to go

By Mackenzie Thompson

Staff Writer

Standardized tests have been around since the 1800's stressing students out and making their confidence levels plummet. These tests started in China, when those who wanted to have a government job were required to take an exam based on Philosophy and Poetry. Then in 1845, Horace Mann brought these tests into public schools for the first time using the Throldike Handwriting Scale. This was a test that would measure the quality of a student's handwriting.

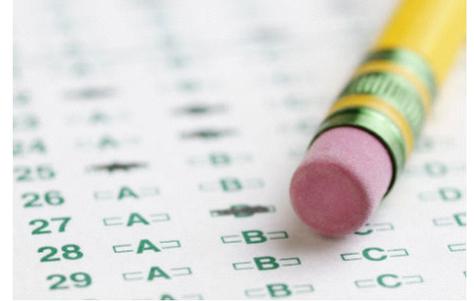
Standardized tests have certainly evolved in time; including all subjects that one student would learn in school. Even though these tests are based on what students should be learning in school, they are not an accurate way of measuring a student's academic ability. I say this not only because most assume that if you do well in school, you will do well on the standardized tests, but because many students have great academic ability, but they aren't able to show that on the test.

There are many different ways of learning, in which each student is different. The main styles of learning are; sensory, intuitive, visual, verbal, active, and reflec-

tive. Each of these learning styles influences how a student learns something and if these are not provided within the standardized tests, how are those students who don't learn the "test" way supposed to do well on that test? With past year's results, we definitely need a new method of measuring ones' academic ability.

With a survey done on fifty students currently in grades ten, eleven and twelve, only six of those students think that the standardized tests that we have now are fine. The other 44 think that we either should base academic ability on school work, GPA, or use a different form of tests. What do you think? Should students be provided with a new method of testing that will provide them with all styles of learning, so that if they learn differently from the student sitting next to them, they will still have an equal chance at passing the test?

According to standardized-testing.com, the worst tests to give are ones that are timed and include multiple choice questions. Now, how can standardized tests accurately read a student's academic ability if they are using the worst methods of testing? Does the "No Child Left Behind" act come into play, because that certainly has done nothing for those students who haven't



"met" the standards of these tests. President Bush had the plan of making improvements in the system of testing, but we haven't seen much improvement since the day the act passed.

If we had the chance to change the method of testing to a combination of the learning styles, we would most likely see a growth in test scores, because students would be provided with the bare essentials that they would need to pass the standards of the test. It seems as though the only solution here is to remove "No Child Left Behind" from the schools and use new and better methods of measuring academic ability to improve the scores and confidence in the students of the twentieth century.

Do Seniors have the Freedom they Deserve?

By Kayli Beneke

Staff Writer

I feel like as seniors we should have more freedom. In the world outside of school we are told that we are adults. We are told that we need to be prepared for the real world. How are we being prepared by not being able to leave the school if we feel sick? Is that what you do at college, does your mom drive three hours to get you out of school? No, you are old enough to be able to handle yourself.

There are a lot of us that are 18 years old and are legal to live on our own yet we can't go to our lockers after lunch? Or we can't be trusted to leave during lunch? It's understandable that students in the past lost their privileges, but is it fair

that we never got a chance? If students don't come back to school than that is the consequence that they have to pay.

We are told to act like adults, yet we don't get the freedom that an adult would. I wouldn't go as far as saying this place is a prison, but I definitely feel like we should get the freedom we deserve as seniors, whether it is open lunch or just having to come to school to take the classes you need and only the ones you need. Being a senior now feels no different than being a seventh grader besides the fact that the boys voices aren't squeaky anymore. I'm not saying that I think seventh graders should be able to take off during lunch and run the streets, but as seniors I think we deserve a little more freedom. This is our last year

here, how do you think we should remember it?



Boy's Basketball is Blasting Off

By Travis Bare

Staff Writer

The boys basketball season kicked off last Monday when they had their first practice of the year. Last year they had a rough season but they look to turn that around this year. Some of the players say that practice is tougher and more serious this year with the addition of more conditioning.

"It might suck now but it will benefit us in the long run,"

said senior captain Jaron Brezinsky. When Jaron was asked how he feels about the upcoming season, he responded, "I feel good, we have a lot of young talent that is going to have to fill spots from last year." Jaron had also said that their plan for the season is to win games and most importantly, play as a team.

The boys had a jamboree on Saturday here at the high school. When Jaron was asked how he thought they did he explained, "I thought we did pretty well, we

just need to build and keep building team chemistry going into the rest of the season."

When Jaron was asked how he felt about the team he said, "we're a very talented team with four returning starters and a lot of younger kids that have stepped up, I feel confident starting this season."

Girls rush to get season started

By Peter Zasmata

Staff Writer



The girls' basketball team will play the opening game of the season tonight against the Rush City Tigers. The girls played well in the scrimmage last weekend and they are working together and are ready to start. The lady Gobblers are returning varsity players this year and the experience will be a benefit to the team. Mikayla Micheltz, Melissa Paulson, Emily Lundgren, Maddie Newton and Carene Bayerle will be the five starters but the Gobblers have a talented bench that will be ready to contribute.

The Rush City Tigers will come ready to play as usual and they will give the lady Gobblers a challenge.

The Tigers team consists of 6 seniors and 2 junior so they have an experienced varsity team returning as well.

The girls begin their season with three home games so, mark your calendars and come to cheer on the lady Gobblers; Friday Dec 2 VS Rush City, Monday, Dec. 5 VS Greenway-Coleraine and Friday, Dec. 9 VS Braham. The girls are prepared and excited to come out strong and start this year on a good step.

Come watch the girls and learn the new cheer, "we've got spirit yes we do, we've got spirit how about you?" our response will be: "We've got more, look at the score!" Seriously, come and support the lady Gobblers. Good luck girls.

Aitkin All Stars ready for the season

Ashley Mate'
Staff writer

The All Stars High kick Dance team have played a big role in Aitkin for the last 20 years. Head coach Lisa Roth, has worked extremely hard with the dancers to insure they make it to state every year. Most of the dancers on the team have been involved with dance for many years.

Captains of the dance team this year are Kari Steece, Chesna Matteson, and Amara Blake. These coaches will take part in leading their team on in the right path, and encourage them to work their hardest to be the best that they can possibly be. The choreographers this year are Brianna Fuller, Alissa Teunge, Bailey Barber, Morgan Scoonover, and Kassie Kokesh. Their job is to design and create the dance, to spice it up and make it great! Cork screw, around the world, hinges, fans, opens, straights, totinos, pirouettes, and 2nd tums are all a part of dance this year.

Most people do not

realize how much hard work the team puts in. The girls put in at least fifteen hours a week of practice, this is one of the reasons our team is so strong. All of the dancers on the team are very dedicated and hard working. During the practices they start with a warm up routine, followed by aerobics, then across the floors, (doing specific stretching across the floor, working on individual muscles), and then they do an intense

dynamic stretch.

"It's amazing what your body is capable of doing without even realizing it", said Kari Steece. It takes so much strength, and a huge amount of endurance for the art of dance, doing those high kicks and locking arms is not as easy as you think it is.

When I asked Amara Blake what she loved so much about being in dance she re-

plied, "I have been part of the All Stars for the past 5 years, and my favorite things about it are meeting new people at the competitions and new members on the team, and being with the girls on the team is like one big family, everyone is there for each other."

I also asked Kari Steece the same question and she replied, "I have been in the All Stars for the past 6 years, I like all the new people I get to meet and all the places I get to go. Competitions are very exhilarating. I love the feeling of a huge adrenaline rush right before I perform!"

This year the girls are performing to a remix of the Rocky theme song "Eye of Tiger". They have been putting a lot of time into the dance so far, hopefully it takes them straight to state again! Their first performance is November 22nd, so make sure you will be there to cheer for the team!



Wrestling season begins

Kayli Beneke
Staff Writer

When the snow starts to fall, not only are we getting ready for Christmas but it is finally wrestling season. It's the time of the year when the wrestlers have to diet to make weight and hitting up the weight room. The boys will be starting off their season with their first match on Tuesday in the old gym against Rush City and Braham. The boys are working hard getting prepared

for the season.

They finished up last years season 12-5 and Jared Novak, Brian Wold, Andrew Bast, and Jordan Chouanard continued off to state. Dalton Stevens, Andrew Bast, Kane Magness, and Kevin Handt are lost this season to graduation. "We lost a lot of talented guys," said head coach Kevin Lamke.

This year there is a difference in the weight classes, instead of 189, there are 182 and 195. Our seniors this year are Jordan Chouanard, Adam Jackson, Colton LaPlante, Cooper Blau, Chris Baker and Shawn Phillip. "There is a lot of potential this year," said Kevin Lamke. "We hope to finish up the season with a conference title and a trip to state. We hope to see lots of fan to cheer our boys on."

Kokesh off to a Kick Start

By Dacia Sjolund

Peter Zasmeta

Staff Writers

This week's athlete of the week is Kassie Kokesh! "Sports give you the opportunity to let out any frustrations and they allow you to set goals and challenge yourself," Kassie said.

Kassie believes that to be a good athlete, you need determination and a good attitude. Kassie has both of these assets, and that is why she is such a valued player.

Kassie can't pick just one favorite sport, but she loves both dance and volleyball. She would recommend either of them to anyone who is willing to try.

She thinks supporting your team is very important "Being a part of a team teaches us how to work with others. The

volleyball team and the All Starz are like family to me," Kassie said.

"There is always room for improvement," but she believes she is best at setting in volleyball, and not making many mistakes when she is dancing.

In volleyball, Kassie would like to improve on her passing skills. "Also, I would like to stop getting hit in the face or head." Kassie continued, "For dance, I would like to improve on my stamina and kick height consistency."

When Kassie isn't dancing, or dominating the court, she enjoys being with her family and friends. She also loves riding her horses Diesel and Cinch.

Kassie showed hard work and determination this last volleyball season, and will continue to this dance season. Congratulations Kassie!



Kassie Kokesh

Bare the Bulldozer piles up the competition

By Adam Jackson

Staff Writer

Travis Bare, currently a senior at Aitkin High School, is this week's athlete of the week. Bare is a three-sport athlete, football, wrestling, and baseball, he is a towering 5 feet 11 inches and weighs in at 150 pounds. Travis has four brothers and three sisters. His favorite sport is wrestling "Because it teaches me discipline and to be physically and mentally tough." Travis says his favorite coach is the assistant wrestling coach, Larry. When asked why, his reply was "Because he is funny and he is one heck of a coach, he pushes you to your full-potential."

Travis is inspired to wrestle by his Dad and dearest friend Jordan Chouanard.

Travis says "my dad was a good wrestler and he wants me to be a good wrestler." "Jordan inspires me to wrestle because he is my friend and a good athlete." Before Travis steps foot on the mat, he likes to listen to Tech N9ne, Papa Roach, Hollywood Undead, and Lil Wayne "Because it gets me ready to rock and roll, not just rock, but to roll as well!" Travis' favorite professional athlete is Joe Mauer "Because he is a good athlete, he isn't cocky and he plays sports to play sports not for the money." Travis' goals for this wrestling season is to be the best that he can be." Congratulations to Travis for being this week's athlete of the week! Keep up the good work!



Travis Bare

Call of Duty: Black Ops

By: Kevin Chalich

Staff writer

Black Ops is the latest installment in the Treyarch Call of Duty franchise. The game shattered the previous record held by Infinity Ward's Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2. Once you play through this game, only then, can you see what make it a record breaker.

First off this is the first Call of Duty that takes place in the Cold War. Throughout the campaign you will visit Vietnam, Cambodia, Cuba, the Soviet Union and even the Pentagon. The story is told through the eyes of SOG/CIA operative Alex Mason and the missions you play are flashback of missions he himself carried out. In some of the missions, however, you will play as CIA agent Jason Hudson. One other character that plays a huge role in the plot is your Russian ally, Victor Reznov. Those who have played Call of Duty: World at War will already have fought alongside this man and I found it nice to see a familiar face whom which I fought through the streets of Stalingrad many years before. In Black Ops, however, the main objective is that you must try and stop a chemical weapon, called Nova Six, from being unleashed in the United States via a number broadcast. The campaign gets pretty intense, especially at the end, with a twist that completely surprised me and I must admit, left me slightly confused. Overall, it was one of the best game plots I have ever experienced. Aside from the campaign, Black Ops has a very impressive multiplayer set up. There are numerous modes that one can play including team death match, free for all, search and destroy and many more.

Plus there are special wager matches that sport enticing names like on in the chamber, sticks and stones, gun game, and sharpshooter. As you progress through multiplayer you will earn experience for leveling up and special COD points you can use to buy different equipment. Being able to buy the equipment you prefer instead of unlocking everything by leveling I a big improvement in my opinion because you don't have to worry about things you don't like. The highest level that you can attain is 50, but after that there are 15 levels of prestige in which you can get special rewards but then be sent back to level one and have to start all over again. There are multiple maps that come with the game but there are also numerous others that can be downloaded from the internet. All of this content will be sure to keep us gamer from doing our homework for hours on end.

Besides having the options of a campaign and multiplayer, Black Ops brings back the ever so popular zombie mode that was introduced in World at War. One good thing that I noticed is that instead of the game coming with just one map, there are two that you can play: Kino Der Untoten and Five. Kino Der Untoten can be played right away while Five can be unlocked by completing the campaign. There are also four other maps that can be downloaded: Call of the Dead, Ascension, Shangri-La, and Moon. I have played two of these four and they are nothing short of fun. I personally did not like the idea of Call of the Dead because it didn't include the four World War II based characters whose comments never cease to make me laugh. Along with a whole new cache of weapons to use, some new perks



have been placed in the maps alongside the original four. These new perks are Dead shot Daiquiri (your sight picture automatically aims at the head when you look down your sights), PhD Flopper (all fall damage is removed plus the ability to emit a powerful explosion by diving off of a high places), Staminup (you are able to sprint longer distances), and Mulekick (you are able to wield 3 weapons). Also the Pack-a-Punch is hidden in each map and can only be accessed by performing certain actions.

Overall I believe that Black Ops is a must play for those who are first person shooter fans or fans of the Call of Duty franchise. It has plenty of content to keep your behind planted in front on your television and entertained for quiet some time. I have had it for almost a year now and I'm not bored of it yet. If you want a game that gets you involved in the plot and at the same time scratches that itchy trigger finger, then Call of Duty: Black Ops is certainly a game for you.

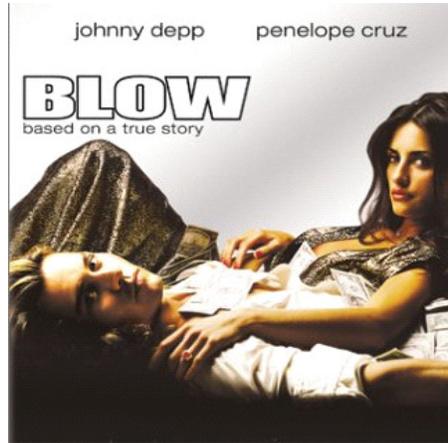
A movie about money, morals and madness

By Olivia Landrus
Staff writer

Johnny Depp and Penelope Cruz are breathtaking. The movie *Blow* brings you into a drug lord's journal. The truth is revealed about George Jung, a fugitive on the run, that tells every truth and every turn of his life.

The film is almost like a documentary of someone's life, with a little more fiction. The movie starts from the end and rewinds back to the start of George's (played by Johnny Depp) life. It explains his rough living childhood in the 1950's. His father works as hard as he can to support his family. When George sees how hard things are for his father he then decides that he will never be poor, and he promises to himself on it.

George and his best friend Tuna, played by Ethan Suplee, head west to California to figure out their lives. They are introduced to marijuana. There are a lot of charismatic characters like his gay hair-dresser friend named Derek Foreal (Paul Ruebens) who is a partner in the start of their business. It was said that they were two of the biggest marijuana dealers of the 1970's.



George meets his said to be love Barbie who is played by Franca Potente. The gang all flees to Mexico and starts smuggling in marijuana. Everything falls apart for the first time. Barbie dies of cancer, George is sent to prison for two years, and he loses a lot of money, his mother is embarrassed of him.

When George is in prison he meets his new partner in crime, Diego who is played by Jordi Molla. He is the fun relaxing friend. They decide to start smuggling in cocaine it is in the early 80's and they sweep over California with this new fascinating drug.

George meets his new Columbian girl friend Mirtha Jung (Penelope Cruz). Mirtha is kind of a mysterious crazy exotic person, who you fall in love with. They have a child together, a baby girl. She changes everything in George's life. Mirtha starts to hit borderline addiction to crack cocaine. And George hits rock bottom business wise. People are after him. Friends turn on him.

The moral of this story is the reality of an American dealer/user if you're even lucky enough to live. George is soon enough caught and thrown in prison for basically life. He loses his relationship with his mother, and father, and daughter. His wife and he are broken forever.

The best part of this movie the acting. The acting is phenomenal, the drama is so realistic. You get a certain curiosity of what that type of lifestyle would be like. Unlike some drug related movies, it takes away the glamorousness of it and shows you the reality of it. I recommend any teenager to watch this film it is very entertaining. It has dark comedy, sadness, and truth. It would maybe open someone's eyes like a confused teenager or drug addict were these types of things take you, and how it will destroy everything about you, your life.

Mrs. Nyberg, A teacher with many stories

By Olivia Landrus
Staff Writer

Subbing for Mrs. Kaiser is our newbie Mrs. Steph Nyberg. She has had a long, hard experience with the elementary children, but now she's moving a step up to our beautiful, beastly AHS. Her first impression of the school was that it is "a school full of professional models and Dancers. Everyone is very kind."

Growing up in an Amish high school, it was quite the change. Also, Mrs. Nyberg is at age 60 so the generation has changed a lot since she was a high school student. Mrs. Nyberg first arrived in Aitkin during the big flood, when she gave birth to her daughter Chloe in a boat. During the



flood Mrs. Nyberg spent time with her baby girl by reading her favorite novel, "The Hunger Games."

Mrs. Nyberg's role model is not Queen Latifah, but the legendary Davy

Crocket. She said she looks up to him for his survival in the wilderness, his love for animals, and killing animals. Mrs. Nyberg's favorite restaurant is Kentucky Fried Chicken. She loves the greasy feeling she gets all over her hands and sometimes hair after swinging through the busy drive through.

Her favorite color is aquamarine because it reminds her of mermaids. In her spare time she enjoys horseback riding, bungee jumping, snowshoeing, and modeling. Mrs. Nyberg also has a love for race car driving. After she is done subbing for Mrs. Kaiser, she hopes to pursue a career in Nascar Racing. She ends with the quote "drive it like you stole it."