

The Gobbler Gob

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Mr. Henke's class planking in the old gym.

The original plankstas

David Alvarez

Staff Writer

Many people get hooked on new trends but the one that is standing out at the moment is planking. The rules of planking are: You must lie face down and your arms must be flat on your side with feet straight down. The challenge of planking is trying to get a good picture of yourself on

a bizarre spot and making it original.

While many people find this trend addictive, more mature people find it ridiculous. There was a man who died planking when he fell down a seven story apartment, but that hasn't stopped committed plankers around the world. I'm guilty of planking it's a super addicting trend you

always get a good laugh out of it and it's a good way to get outside and do something with your life.

Many kids in Aitkin High School go planking. I guarantee you that if you ask people about planking most of them will tell you they've planked or say they know what it is. It's happening all around the world and I don't think it's going to

From Sloppy Joes to Savings

Dacia Sjolund

Variety Editor

Aitkin's Business Professionals of America team held their annual Sloppy Joe Supper on Jan. 19, 2012, in the Aitkin High School Cafeteria. The turnout was great. Lots of hungry mouths came to feast upon the freshly made sloppy joes and accompanying corn, chips, rice crispy bars, and Vic's famous cookies. The supper was held from 4 to 7. Word spread quickly and yielded a hefty amount of hungry donors.

The money goes towards paying for Aitkin's BPA chapter competition state fee. (Each chapter must pay this fee to qualify to go to the competition.) The money earned also goes towards transportation and lodging for multiple day competitions.

This year's BPA team consists of: Jack Reeves, Emily Campbell, Bobbi Seibert, Amanda Kurtz, Cassie



BPA Members are working hard at their benefit.

Sandberg, Erin Host, Gabe Courier, Dan Klucas and the BPA Chapter and Region 5 president, Sarah Chute.

"I think we have a really great team this year," Sarah said enthusiastically.

There will be a region competition in Grand Rapids on Jan. 26-27, 2012. It

will decide who goes on to state. Good luck at regions BPA!

Chilean students on strike; Spanish students pen pal-less

Leah Bardwell

Staff Writer

An Aitkin High School Spanish Class was supposed to have Chilean pen pals, but when Chile's students went on a strike, all the plans fell through with that.

Students in Chile are demanding a free education. Their protesting has made many schools and universities shut down for more than five months. Chileans want the govern-

ment to spend more money to make the education better for each student.

The families in Chile are paying 85 percent of the universities' expenses, while the government only pays 15 percent. The only students who get in nearly free are the ones who are the poorest students, with the luck that they get grants, low-cost loans and scholarships.

When students were asked what they'd ask the Chilean pen pals,

Mckinzi Hogg Franz said, "What do you do for fun? What's your school like?" Dacia Sjolund would ask, "What is your favorite subject in school? What hobbies do you have?"

When students were asked about the strike that the students went on, Dacia said, "I think it's justified, sounds like the government was ripping off parents and students. I'm disappointed; I was looking forward to talking to the Chilean students."

Jablonski's road to recovery

By Stephanie Orpen
Staff Writer

Sixteen-year-old Jack Jablonski, a sophomore hockey player of Benilde-St. Margaret, was checked in a tournament game against Wayzata MN on Dec 9th, 2011 within minutes of the game ending. Jablonski was hit from behind, which caused him to crash into the boards, knocking him to the ground. He couldn't feel his legs, or even move his hands. He was lying on the ground for several minutes, paralyzed.

Jack is hospitalized in Hennepin County Hospital. Jablonski has many supportive people praying for him all around the world, and people there for him at all

times. The doctors explained that Jack may never be able to walk again, or even thought he wouldn't move, but shockingly he has been fighting through this. He is now able to sit up in a specialized chair for short periods of time. His parents even gave him a tour of the Hospital floor.

The next game Benilde-St. Margaret played Jablonski's younger brother Max, led the team out on the ice wearing Jack's number 13 jersey signed by all the team players supporting his brother. The crowd went wild when Max was introduced as a member of the Red Knights. Keep praying for Jack Jablonski.



Helping Hands for Haiti a hit for senior project

Dacia Sjolund
Staff Writer

Ask yourself: What could I do to help others that would also make me feel good? That is the precise question Cassie Seguin had in mind when coming up with a civics project, and she struck gold.

She and Ashley Maté put their heads together and came up with Hands for Haiti, a dinner fundraiser. It was held on Dec 1, 2011. They sold ornaments in addition to plates of food at the Moose Lodge, to help raise money for kids in Haiti.

"I like this project because with little effort we can make such a big difference," Cassie said. They were allowed to use the Moose Lodge free of charge. Ashley's mom, being a caterer, donated all of the food necessary for the benefit. Cassie also received a HI-C Cooler from McDonalds, and Señora Boer-



Ashley Maté served food at the Moose Lodge.

have donated desserts for the supper.

The cost was \$5 for adults, \$4 for students, and \$3 for kids. If the kids donated a

box of crayons for the children in Haiti, then they ate for free. The Christmas ornaments made a world of difference. They

drew in over \$60, being sold for between \$8 and \$20.

"We used to feed 180 kids for \$50 a day," Senora said. "Now, they only feed those kids every other day." On the days the kids don't eat at the school, they have to eat at home, and a lot of the children don't have homes.

"People are more giving and motivated when something bad happens. After the shock people become more aware, but then after a little time, the people are forgotten. Sometimes, that is when they need our help the most."

"I feel really good about this project," Cassie said. "We earned over 507 dollars!" The money raised by Cassie and Ashley goes with Dr. Severson directly to Haiti, to help the children. The girls raised a lot of money, and made a difference in those children's lives. Great work girls!



The Art of Tebowing

Cassi Tetrick

Sports editor

Tebowing: (vb) to get down on one knee and start praying, even when everyone else around you is doing something completely different. In the NFL many players have their own way of celebrating a touchdown or great play such as Aaron Rodgers thrusting his hips out and pretending to move his hands past an imaginary championship belt.

Tebowing originated from Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow. Before every game Tebow gets down on one knee and gives thanks to God for helping him have such a successful football career. Tebow believes that he would not be able to play as mythically amazing as he does without God's help... in the fourth quarter.

Tebowing has spread across the nation from the Afghan local police to the bottom of the ocean to the wedding alter. Four students at a New York high school were suspended for Tebowing in the hallway, with more than 40 other students participating; they were supposedly "blocking" the hallway. I can't even fathom how authority thinks that's an atrocious act, bowing down?

We have our fair share of Tebowists at Aitkin High School, students such as Will Provost, Dean Lynn, Ryan Rosemore, and Jaron Brezinsky to name a few. These boys and other friends have Tebowed many places such as Target, Taco Bell, the lunch table, even on the basketball court. In Will's eyes, Tebowing is not just something you do; it's a way of life.

GB² (God Bless, Go Broncos)



Dean Lynn, Jaron Brezinsky and Ryan Rosemore Tebowing at Target.

What do you find most annoying about facebook?

Jack Braton

"truth is it bugs the (heck) out of me."



Colton LaPlante



"really long statuses that are about nothing, I click on it read the WHOLE thing, expecting it to be funny and its stupid and wasted 10 minutes of my life."

"When people blow up news feeds with pointless conversations, and when people upload pics of themselves 5 times a day...everyday"



Chelsea Ryappy

Tyler Bare



"drama."

Wrestlers Sweep the Mat

Chelsea Ryappy

Staff Writer

As we all know it's wrestling season again. The guys have been conditioning, putting in hours of training, and hard work to succeed in their goal of being champion. This season has gone very well so far for the team.

Adam Jackson (senior on Varsity) started his wrestling career as a youngin in kinder-

garten. I asked what got him started in wrestling he said, "My cousin and being under the big spotlight." I later asked Shawn Phillip (also a senior on Varsity) what would be his ultimate achievement. He said, "Going to state as a team and as a single. Score and score often."

The diet for the guys varies on weight class; some have a lighter diet than others. One of the biggest challenges

for Adam Jackson "I was watching everyone else drinking pop and eating whatever they wanted. That really bugs me." Shawn Phillip's response was, "We don't get snack breaks."

The accomplishment of the entire team this year is thrilling; they all have proven their hard work has paid off.

On January 19 the guys had a home match against

the Hibbing Bluejackets. Jordan Chouanard, (senior on varsity) ranked third in Class 1A, wrestling at 152, pinned Levi Ballek in a minute 3 seconds. Colton LaPlante, (senior on varsity) wrestling at 106, pinned Doug Fillbrant in 56 seconds. Brian Wold, (Junior on varsity) wrestling at 138, pinned Slade Rybeck in just 53 seconds. The Aitkin Gobblers defeated the Hibbing Bluejackets 54-20 in a non-conference meet for their third-straight win! Great job!

Aitkin All Starz All The Way

Joe White

Staff Writer

The All Starz dance team has always been driven to be successful, and that's exactly what they were at this year's Northern Lights Conference. The All Starz dance teams got first place in every category this year for both varsity and junior varsity, high kick and jazz.

"We wanted to show everybody that we're ready for what's coming," said Madi Benz after her high kick performance. Madison Johnson, Kennedy Swanson, Kari Steece, Chesna Matteson, and Amara Blake received the Northern Lights all Conference Dancer medal for 2012. To be an all conference dancer you have to be on varsity high kick and jazz. If you happened to miss the conference, the team travels to the Moundsview Invitational this weekend. They will also be hosting sections at the Aitkin High School on Feb. 11, so come cheer them on. The dates for the Minnesota State Dance Competition are Feb. 17 for Jazz, and Feb. 18 for High Kick.

The varsity's head coach is Lisa Roth, and the assistant coach is Andrea Schoonover. The captains are Amara Blake, Kari Steece, and Chesna

Matteson. The choreographers are Amara Blake, Brianna Fuller, Chesna Matteson, Kennedy Swanson, Alissa Tuenge, Bailey Barber, Kassie Kokesh, Kari Steece, and Morgan Schoonover. The girls practice together four days a week from 4-7 p.m. working hard to be the best team they can be. Already this season, they have received first place in high kick at Albany and Pine River Backus. They have also received first place in jazz at Alexandria and Pequot Lakes. Not to mention the takeover at the Northern Lights Conference. Team captains, Chesna Matteson is, "Fully Confident," that the team will do well at state. "We've changed a lot of the dance routine, but always for the better," she also said.

The JV Black Team's head coach is Dena Pribbenow with captains Anna Olsen and Shianne Teas. The JV Red Team's coach is Jenna Kuiken with assistant coach Paula Fisher. This year they have the most participants than any other year, with 71 girls total! All of the All Starz teams are undefeated this year. It is almost impossible to understand what dance is all about unless you go and watch one of their mind-blowing performances. Go cheer on the All Starz!



Brianna Fuller (Varsity) Strutting her stuff for another great victory.

Lady Gobblers Take Control

“We’ve made a constant effort on building up players, not tearing them down.” - Coach Rob Williams

Sarah Chute
News Editor

The Ladies won their third –straight game against Deer River on January 19. Four ladies scored double digits leading to a final score of 67-39.

As of Thursday, January 19, the Lady Gobblers were 8-6. Head Coach Williams said that their record is pretty good. “We let a couple games slip through our fingers, but I like the way the girls are playing.” Williams stated. Each game, the team is progressing; taking the work done in practice and executing it on the court.

“We don’t have standouts on the team...and that’s what makes us better.” said Williams. The one thing the team is working on im-

proving is their consistency; consistently boxing out and consistently finishing shots.

Coach Rob Williams’ favorite part of coaching the ladies is the opportunity to have a positive influence on the ladies, not only in basketball, but also in life. “We’ve made a constant effort on building up players, not tearing them down.” Williams said when referring to his fellow coaches.

Williams is very proud of his team and appreciates the dedication of each player. The team loves when the stands are filled so be sure to come out to their next home game on Thursday, February 2 against the Onamia Panthers.



Carene Bayerle making a hoop against Greenway.

Boys Basketball team Hopes for a turn Around

Travis Ruschmeier
Staff Writer

The Varsity Boys Basketball team has a record of 5-7. They have had a rough start to the season but are hoping to turn that around in the rest of the season.

Dan Dally, varsity player said, “Season has been good so far, we are trying to turn the basketball program around, with

a little more work it should end a great season.”

Dally has been on the varsity team for about three years now, but has been in basketball since elementary school.

With many games left in the season, they have much time to get everything turned around and end a great season!

Their next game is against Hinck-

ley- Finlayson on Jan. 31, at 7 p.m. They have home games against Isle on Feb. 9 and Feb. 10 against Ogilvie. Both games are at 7 p.m. With 11 games left in the season we hope to win them all! Junior Varsity games are the same dates and start at 6 p.m.

Good luck to all basketball players and have a good rest of the season!



Female athlete of the week

Male athlete of the week

Raelyn Stiner

Staff Writer

Mikayla Michaletz is our female athlete of the week in Aitkin High School! Her favorite sport is volleyball because its super fantastic! Mikayla says, "I love my team and I love the team chemistry and to be successful!" when she's asked what she liked about basketball.

She has played basketball since seventh-grade. The way she describes practices for basketball was "Intense and lots of scrimmages and conditioning." Her athletic plans for after high school is to play volleyball somewhere and she says that would be awesome!



How did Mikayla come to like basketball? She liked it right away. She loved watching varsity games with her dad when she was little. What other sports is she interested in? She said, "Well all sports, but in school I play volleyball, basketball and softball."

Her favorite class in school is lunch and physical education. Mikayla says, "I love to eat and I don't have to think." She adds, "In physical education you can let loose and bum off some steam instead of sitting in a desk." Her goals for this season is to have a home play off game and to make it pretty far in sections this year!

Kennedy Swanson

Staff Writer

Dean Lynn is this week's male athlete of the week. When he was little his parents played basketball with him. Now that he is all grown up he plays center on varsity and has since tenth grade. Before the games Dean goes to Danny Dally's to hangout. Then when he gets ready he listens to Jay-Z in the locker room and makes sure his shoes are double knotted.

"I didn't think I would be doing this good this year," he said. His greatest accomplish this year so far is scoring more points than in any other year. The team was "Playing good in the holiday tournament." As team they have goals, some are to beat Crosby, play as a team and hangout as a team. Dean's individual goals are to be a good teammate and to play good.

Peter Zasmata said, "Dean is a really good player, great teammate, almost always has a good attitude, and is one of our best passers."

Dean's basketball hero is Nathan Enstrom. "He's cute and a good leader," Nathan said. Nathan is also really good player. Dean's favorite basketball memory was when Seth Provost dislocated his finger. "It looked cool," Dean said.



Hockey games go on

Errin Platz

Staff Writer

Hockey has been having a lot of controversy lately, due to the whole Jack Jablonski situation, which has been nothing short of tragic. It really makes us open our eyes to the way hockey is being played, "Hockey is a sport that's very intense, has a lot of action, and can get your anger out" Michaela Zebro said in an interview. She has played hockey her whole life and from what it sounds like she's not going to stop playing.

Michaela plays defense for the Mooselake Rebels. She played hockey her whole life. I guess you can say that every sport has its consequences, and you just have to be willing to take that chance in getting hurt. Michaela got to telling me about how stoked they are for their upcoming games, the last few games were pressuring but very exciting to kick off for the season. One of the goals she plans to achieve for her and the team is to stay out of the penalty box. For the

team, they want to keep their head in the game at all times, which sounds like a pretty good goal to have.

You're going to have your ups and downs, for some people that's enough to stay out of the game for others that's just a scratch. I can definitely agree that hockey is a good sport to watch, nothing is boring about it. It is intense and there's a lot of unexpected surprises that come along the way.



What's hot in One Act!

By Sarah Chute

New s Editor

They have been practicing for months. They know their lines and the show. They will soon be traveling to competition, but how much do we know about them?

"Note to Self" is this year's One Act Play. The show consists of short clips from high school student's lives. Each student is dealing with a different issue from Facebook to energy drinks to cell phones.

The cast consists of Mya Conway, Lydia Lahmann-Sharbonda, Ileeyah Armstrong, Elise Courtemanche, Joseph Fontaine, Molly Moriarty, Erik Sanbeck, Theresa Johnson, Lindy Lahmann-Sharbonda, Kristin Miller, Taylor Smith, Cody Zink and Levi Perrine with a technical crew of Nikki Courtemanche, Amanda Rom, Kelsey Rom and Jared Zollnor. Mrs. Real is their director. This is her third year of directing One Act.

According to Mrs. Real, "The show doesn't have a main character but rather ensembles with Levi being a book-end." Each member of the cast has their own time to shine. The cast is not embarrassed to step outside of themselves to make the show better. Mrs. Real stated that the biggest competition is East Central. Their director has been in charge of One Act for 25 years, is on the state One Act board and requires all of her cast to be in drama class. Despite all of this, Mrs. Real has faith in her cast.



Taylor Smith rehearses a scene from the One Act Play "Note to Self."

Levi Perrine, a senior and third year One-Actor, states that his favorite part is "Hanging out with the cast and causing Mrs. Real's gray hairs and wrinkles." On a different side of the coin, when talking about his director, he said, "She's great and knows what she is doing. She keeps a level head."

The cast will be having their first public performance on Friday, January 27,

at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. The following day, they will travel to East Central for Sub-Section Competition.

Be sure to wish One Act cast and crew good luck at Sub-Sections after attending their public performance! Hopefully, they won't cause too many more gray hairs and show East Central what we Gobblers are made of.

Jaques Art Center looking for student submissions

By Angela Dayton
Staff Writer

The Wildlife art students are putting their drawings in a drawing contest, but this contest isn't just for the wildlife art students, it's for every one. The Jaques Art Center is having a drawing contest, which

students could win a ribbon prize. The art will be on display.

Mrs. Real said, "That Art Contest is a great opportunity for students to show their art work in a professional art showing and a great way for other students to talk with other artists." Aitkin students have won awards in the contest in the past.

Students must submit a digital image or photo by Feb 1. The Artist notification is on Feb 7, the opening exhibit is Feb 24, and the opening reception is on Feb 25. The drawing contest is being held at Jaques Art Center. If you have any more questions you can visit their web site www.jaquesart.com or visit the art center.

Vintage sled run goes on with no snow

Travis Ruschmeier
Staff Writer

The Iron Hub Bog Busters and Aitkin Sno-Drifters held a vintage snowmobile run at Aitkin's VFW. Even though there was no snow they still made it happen again! Iron Hub Bog Busters were started in 2000 with only a couple snowmobiles. Now they don't even know how many snowmobiles they have.

They mostly have vintage Scorpions and a few other kinds. There are snowmobiles that are in rough shape to snowmobiles that you would think just came off the production line! At this year's Aitkin Ride they brought about 15 snowmobiles.

Even with no snow many people still showed up. There were about 80 vin-

tage snowmobiles at the show this year. The no-snow winter definitely had an effect on how many people were there.

This year the Sno-Drifters did not have to play a big part in the show. With a winter when we have snow they are the group that get all the trails ready and not only for this ride. They get all of the trails in the Aitkin area ready for snowmobile travel.

The past week it finally got cold and hopefully that means snow is around the corner! Many people are anxious for snow and to start snowmobiling.

Aitkin's VFW holds the vintage ride and allows anybody to show up and see the vintage sleds. This year even with no snow the place was still packed inside. I'm sure they were very happy to see everybody once again.

There are a couple other vintage rides planned around the Aitkin area and hopefully they can happen considering that we get snow. One is a vintage ride from Tamarack, MN to Lawler, MN which is put on by the Tamarack Sno-Flyers on Jan. 28, 2012 at 9 a.m. with registration being in Tamarack. It is their 23rd annual ride. They put on a huge show! In the past there has been up to 800 snowmobiles!

Scorpion Homecoming is another show held in Crosby on Serpent Lake, Feb.



Sleds of many brands at the ride.

4, 2012. Scorpion Homecoming is a casual, free and fun event. On-Ice display is from Noon-3 p.m. A trail ride is from 3:15-4:30. Many people come to just look at all the different snowmobiles and some people bring their snowmobile for people to look at. A lot of fun is had by all!

There are many people that cherish old snowmobiles and really take good care of them. With many people's opinion more people need to do it more often. With the newer snowmobiles looking the way they do, they all started really simple and transformed into the new snowmobiles.

Hopefully we get some snow now and will be able to hit the trails. Hope to see everybody on the trails!



A custom Arctic Cat Panther mountain sled at this years show.

No-snow winter has many people upset, and some ecstatic

Dacia Sjolund
Variety Editor

This winter's lack of snow has certainly had an effect on the usual activities of the inhabitants of Aitkin. Some people are angry at the lack of snow. It has hindered their ability to do the usual activities of winter, such as snowmobiling, snowboarding, and other recreational past-times.

"I hate it because I can't go snowmobiling or snowboarding, and it's not pretty outside because the grass is brown and ugly," said Mikaela Kleiwer, an avid lover of winter.

"It's really hard to build a snow fort with no snow," says Jared Steel. "I can't snowmobile, it's hard to walk on the lakes, and I can't make snowmen. It makes me grumpy like a Grinch."

"I kind of like it. The warm weather cuts down on bills, and it makes it easy to travel," says Mr. Gerber optimistically. The no-snow winter has left us with sunny warm days as well as frozen icy days.

"What is the point of it being cold if there is no snow on the ground? It might as well be summer," says an enraged Mitchell Swenson. Although the weather has left us discombobulated by pretending

to be winter and then faking us out, we'll just have to see what the future holds.



As you can see this winter has been without snow.

The Dead and Their Weapons

Adam Dunbar

Staff writer

The Dead and Their Weapons. A band with a progressive style. “When someone says ‘progressive’ they mean music that wants to move forward. Doesn’t follow people,” said Joe White, drummer. Mitchell Maxwell is guitarist, and Jacob Spolarich plays guitar. From the original band, As Lands and Seas, to Picnic on the Pyre, to The Dead and Their Weapons, the band has had many shows at diverse venues. “We’ve hit up Wisconsin, North Dakota... We are currently on a record label called Real Earth Records. Last summer we could’ve gone on a nationwide tour with Alistair Hennessey, all the way to California for 36 days. But, we didn’t have a good enough van. Sad truth; I could be sitting here with tons of tattoos,” said Joe. A few chuckles were exchanged at this.

Joe White and Mitchell Maxwell, guitar, told of their band’s name in a deep manner. Joe’s interpretation was that they believed the legends of their kind of music were dead and being forgotten, and that they were now their weapons, pushing forward from their footsteps “We feel that all the type of music we like is dead as far as, like, legends and the way they changed music. And we kind of want to be their weapons.” Mitchell’s interpretation was



The Dead and their weapons tumble down a hill near Brainerd.

that when people die, their legacies are always rediscovered by those with similar ideas. “We’re picking up their ideas and becoming the dead’s weapons.”

A fan of the band was questioned ruthlessly (two questions). Errin Platz,

when asked what she thought of the band, said “They’re passionate and I love that about them.” She also recommends their band with a humorous “Fo Sho.”

Speech kicks off the year with high hopes

Errin Platz

Staff Writer

This year, Speech is really going to step it up a notch. They are heading to Grand Rapids this weekend for the first speech meet of the year, I got the opportunity to sit down observe the way speech works, and I learned a lot more about speech here than I have at my other school. I got to listen to debates and watch Kyle Daun and Marissa Baker practice of the novel “Of Mice and Men.” Kyle has been

in speech for four years now and I can definitely say that just from watching his practice, is that he really knows what he’s doing.

His passion for the sport really brings the confidence out in him and the speech. I got to speak to Kyle about speech and what’s been going on for the team. “I would like to show the other schools that no matter how small Aitkin is we will compete ‘like a Gobbler.’” From what people say speech really brings out your confidence, and helps you speak your mind. “The most

challenging part of speech, to me, is to find an appropriate speech that both you and judges will find most appealing,” Kyle said.

His inspirations were because of how bad he talked in front of people, so he used speech as a way to improve himself in front of an audience. So to conclude this story, I believe that speech can do a lot of good things for people, it can almost bring yourself out more as a person and I hope that more people will consider joining speech in the near future. GOOD LUCK AITKIN SPEECH TEAM!