

## Champs X 2!

# All-Starz sweep state

**Travis Ruschmeier**

Staff Writer

Aitkin All-Starz made state history at this year's state dance competition by placing first in both jazz and high-kick. It was the first time in Class A that a team has won both titles. Head coach Lisa Roth said, "I think it's amazing, it's a dream come true!"

This year has been a great season for both jazz and high kick. Both teams went undefeated this season. Jazz danced to the song "Jar of Hearts" and High Kick danced to the song "Rocky."

This year's Jazz team's biggest obstacle they had to overcome was to beat the five time state champions Duluth Marshall, which they did at state. In preliminaries Aitkin was tied with Duluth but Duluth won the tie breaker by a half point. In the finals Aitkin came out ahead, winning the state championship.

High Kick's biggest obstacle was to beat last year's state champion Cannon Falls. After preliminaries Aitkin was in first place of the twelve teams. The All-Starz came out for finals and they did great with no mistakes. With their dance routine this year they



**The High Kick team performed to a Rocky montage.**

were able to land themselves the championship title.

Roth was inspired to start coaching because she was on the Crosby-Ironton dance team through high school and her mother was the one who started the Aitkin All-Starz. Her personal goal at the beginning of this dance season was to win both titles, which she accomplished. Lisa said, "Giving them good dance routines and dances they like gets them to dance as hard as they do. Hard work, great dedication and good routines are what have made us successful.

"All the dancers this year have stepped up and been the best they could be. Everyone this year got along super and were able to dance well together."

Even though the All-Starz were favorites to win both championships, they all knew it wasn't as easy as that. They knew they had to dance hard and do the best they have done all season.

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# A teacher to be admired

↓ **Leah Bardwell**

Staff Writer

Mrs. Steinke is a short term teacher who took over for the previous English teacher, Mrs. Stampe. What's behind the smiles and giggles of this teacher? Does what you see meet the eye?

Her goals in life are to be happy, healthy and to be the best person she can be. She likes drama movies and romantic comedies. If she could have one superpower she would want to bend time, so she could accomplish everything in her day. Her favorite animal is a dog because they're affectionate, loyal and playful. One thing that nobody knows about her is that her baby is due on her birthday.

She would rather read a book than see the movie. Mrs. Steinke said, "The movie can never do justice to the subtlety of a book. The movie is someone else's interpretation."

She misses having snow, but she appreciates the warmth that we have. In the next 15 years she sees herself in the prime of raising her family and well established in her teaching career. Although she didn't make a new years resolution, she wants to stay on top of her responsibilities.

Students really get under her skin when they talk during directions and ask her to repeat all of them, and when they do that,

she'll point to the board to where the directions are.

Steinke was a Latin teacher for six out of seven years. "Latin was great fun but also a challenge because it's a language that isn't spoken, so students didn't have comfort. (I had) small classes of about 15 students, so you get to know them better," Steinke says.

Teaching Latin is very similar to teaching English, because they did vocabulary and they read literature, although they had to translate things from Latin to English.

Her philosophy on teaching is, "I believe that every student is capable of learning equally well though unique in their own ways. I believe that a relationship of trust is the foundation of learning, and my responsibility is to bring out the best in each student and prepare my students to be capable, culturally literate citizens."

She thinks that students will benefit learning from her because she is creative, flexible, practical, has high expectations, brings energy and a fair chance into learning.

She likes things to be neat, because outer order creates peace, and messy is distracting to her. She likes AHS because everybody is warm and welcoming, co workers have been professional, students are very hard working and bright. "I'm a pretty optimistic person and still have yet to see the downside," Mrs.

Steinke said, "We're the 'Turkeys.' That's what I call people when they're being silly."

She was excited when she heard there was a job opening here, and she didn't think she'd get the job, but when she got it she was very grateful instead of having to wait a few years for a job to open up.

Her nicknames are Lux and Luxie. One thing she plans on doing over the remainder of the school year is to make teaching her own, or adapting. How does she plan this? "Baby steps," she said, quoting Bob in "What About Bob."

Her favorite book is Anna Karenina by Leo Tolstoy. She loves the story of Levin and his discovery. After years of searching, his baby is born at sunrise, and it gives his life purpose. He finds the meaning of life.

Her favorite songs are, "That's Beautiful to Me" by Jaron and The Long Road to Love because her husband proposed to her during that song. Also she likes the song, "All This Time" by One Republic because her husband and she danced to that at their wedding.

She realized that she wanted to be a teacher one specific night when she was a sophomore. She remember contemplating what she'd like to do, and that night teaching seemed like the perfect career because she'd still learn and could serve others.

## Spencer Goble earns the title of Student of the Week

**Steph Orpen**

Staff Writer

Spencer Goble is a Senior from AHS. He attends many activities such as National Honor Society, Band, Knowledge Bowl, and Baseball, which keeps him very busy. His favorite class is Human Biology because "Dissecting cats was an outstanding experience," Spencer said. His favorite school memory was, "The great band heist of 2010." His favorite things to do outside of school are to go fishing and to work.

The people he admires the most are his parents. "They're the hardest working people I know," Goble said. He was asked what it was like to be a Snoball candidate and he said, "I've had better weeks, but it wasn't too bad."

The scariest thing he has done was going to Paul Bunyan when he was 5 years

### "Dissecting cats was an outstanding experience."

old. Spencer's favorite actor is Morgan Freeman because he doesn't do bad movies. His favorite actress is Dakota Fanning, because they have the same birthday. His favorite movie is, "The Shining," because it's the closest thing to perfection that I've ever seen."

Spencer said his plan after high school is to "Go to Duluth for pharmacy, make lots of money and implement a 26-point plan to build an empire."



**Spencer Goble is a dedicated student in AHS.**

# Knowledge Bowl continues on

**Sarah Chute**  
News Editor

Aitkin has three Knowledge Bowl teams. Each team consists of four acting members and one alternate. Knowledge Bowl is for students in 9-12 grade; they practice every Wednesday morning.

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, Knowledge Bowl teams went to a region competition where they determined who would continue on to the Section competition. To continue on, teams have to place in the top 21 at the Region competition. Two of our teams placed high enough to continue. They will be competing at section competition on Tuesday, Feb. 28. Section competition will determine who goes on to State. "It's very hard to get to State. You basically have to be in the top 5 out of 85 teams in your section," said Mr. May.

Mr. May is in his eighth year of coaching Knowledge Bowl.

Knowledge Bowl competitions start with a 60-question written test. All five members of the teams take this test. After the test portion, there are four oral rounds, each worth 45 points. Mr. May described this as "team jeopardy."



**Potential Motion Squad holds their trophy proudly.**

May loves going out for lunch when competitions end. He was in Knowledge Bowl during high school and coaching brings back good memories. His least favorite part of coaching is when the students do not show up for practice.

As Mr. May said, "I think we have some very intelligent kids." Way to go Knowledge Bowl and good luck on Tuesday!

## Choir and Band Contests are successful for AHS students

**Leah Bardwell**  
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Feb. 8 the AHS concert choir went to contest. They sang "Hark I Hear The Harps Eternal," "Baba Yetu," and "If Music Be The Food of Love." "Baba Yetu" seemed to have been a popular favorite when Kyle Daun, Sam Franda, and Kelsey Rom were asked what song they liked the best. It was Kelsey's favorite because she liked the melody.

Sam has been in choir for three years, this being her fourth. She sings soprano, but has done some alto. She states that the high point of the contest was the mix of all the different parts; the low point was the waiting that they had to go through to do their songs. She also sings in the Church Choir.

Kyle is a tenor in the AHS high school choir. He says that he has the possibility of singing all the parts, (soprano, alto, tenor) but bass is "Too low!" His definition of music is "combinations of sounds soothing to one's ear, that which would provide a meaning, understanding, or purpose for such 'music.'" The low point of the contest was that there was an "evil" judge, and some of the Aitkin contestants "felt the fire." Even though he says that professional music is "not likely," he will be singing in his free time when he's out of high school.

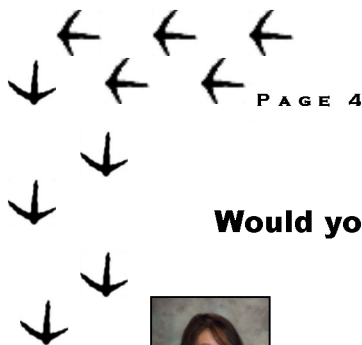
Kelsey's definition of music is "A melody that speaks to you and makes you move." She has been in choir since the sixth grade until now, and is planning to go on with music. She is a soprano, but has done some alto parts. The high point of the contest was, "the perfect mix of sopranos, altos, ten-

ors, and bases." The low point was, "the loss of parts at certain areas."

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, the band had a contest here at the school, that's why you might not have noticed some of the kids that were walking around, all dressed up in outfits that we don't see on a usual day at AHS.

Sarah Ambuehl is in handbells and she states, "Music is undefinable. It can be a feeling, a song, or anything that makes you happy." The handbell choir members played "Fantasy in G Minor." She states that it was a fun song. This is her first year in handbells. She plays trombone, piano, violin and a little bit of guitar. Music is a big deal to her and her family. She enjoys playing and is going to play until her hands fall off. Even though the handbells got off tempo, they got a superior.





## Opinion Poll

**Would you like to be able to eat/drink during downtime in class?**

**Serena Wood** Staff writer



Tessa Wise—"Yes. So I can stay hydrated during the day."



Shellby Fisher—"Yes. Because I get thirsty"



Brandie Weston—"Yes. Because I'm hungry, and sometimes don't get to eat breakfast."



Travis Beens—"Yes please. Because I think it's a ridiculous rule."



Ryan Rondeau—"Yes. Because I'm bored, I just want to eat and drink. I don't get why they don't allow it. There's nothing wrong with it."



Shawn Lindgren—"Yeah. Even though I already do it anyways."

## Fighting Words

**Adam Dunbar**

Staff writer

Students? Angry? No way. It's just teenage frustration. They'll calm down eventually. It's always black and white for them. Or is it? Question: What happens when you have a child that lets it all go. One that never stays angry without a reason that has legitimacy to it? What happens when that child writes about his findings? Find out.

Since the sixth grade, this student has made it a quiet passion to eavesdrop in on things that just aren't that child's business. Listening in on arguments, understanding where both sides come from. Shocker! 'Twas not the kid that doth snap foremost. 'Twas the one entrusted to teach that attempted to snip down the one asking. The child's favorite scenario was that of the following, generalized for the layman reader:

Student: "What do you mean? Is there a special way to do this? I feel as though I am being led in circles."

Teacher: "You've got a book. Figure it out."

Student: "You're the best. I've got right now, and I need this done."

Teacher: "Get to work."

Student: "This doesn't seem fair."

Teacher: "Get. To. Work."

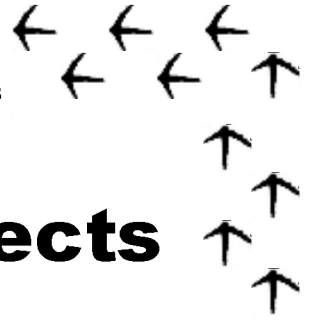
And this is the spark of conflict. A great many teachers do this with such skill that the child often confuses them with lawyers. Another issue the child has noticed is vindictive behavior. For voicing an opinion of a book, as well as stating a flaw that was noticed, the teacher has shut this child out of in-class conversation. Another student targeted before this child had the same problem and is still shut out every so often.

The child has shown respect, and when a query is mistaken for malicious intent, and is replied to with an angry retum, the child shows less and less respect. This is the child's only flaw in argument. When mistaken for malicious intent, the child takes it as an angry retum. Specifically, disrespect for not knowing the child's motive when they have spilled their questions in careful, long, apologetic (even for simply asking the question) ways.

This problem needs to be noticed by more than those affected. The child has finally seen enough, which is surprising considering the year when this child came to Aitkin. Some teachers need to learn that

some students are honestly asking for help, and not out to make the teacher's life miserable. What is drilled into kids heads is to ask questions and question what they do not know. The child sees so many of these morals being violated in the form of angst between teachers and students. To learn one must question the unknown. And those who have decided to teach must allow questions. If they do not know, be a role model and be honest with the child. "You've got a book. Figure it out." Is not an acceptable answer. "You've got a book. Can you find it?" May be an acceptable question to the student. If the student says that they cannot find it, the teacher must be honest with the student and say that they don't know. Maybe then the teacher can help find it or problem-solve.

The child knows not all teachers are guilty of this outrageous act, but the few still have impact on the children. The child also knows some children are hellions that are simply disrespectful and mean. All the same, the child knows there is a middle ground for teachers and students. If that middle ground is achieved, more students will retain greater amounts of knowledge, and there will not be that one smart child with straight A's, there will be hundreds.



# Media can have harmful effects

**Chelsea Ryappy**  
Staff Writer

The fact is no one can seclude themselves from the media. It's everywhere, from billboards, televisions, internet, magazines; even transit buses are driving advertisements. A person can't walk down the street without media and all these impossible "perfect" images being shoved down their throat. This kind of environment we live in is toxic, to both children and adults of our society.

Today's society is so stuck on being in the "in crowd" or being "perfect" in all reality no one is perfect and the thought of even trying to achieve something that's impossible just enrages me. Who gives the definition of beauty? Who gives the definition of style? Who gives the definition of being "cool"? Besides the media? The media controls people more than they realize, it's everywhere consuming our minds and bodies! What happened to being original, being beautiful without makeup, clothes, or some fancy haircut?

It is estimated that the diet industry alone is worth anywhere between 40 to 100 billion (U.S.) a year selling temporary weight loss (90 to 95 percent of dieters regain the lost weight). The American research group Anorexia, Nervosa and Related Eating Disorders Inc. says that one out of every four college-

aged women uses unhealthy methods of weight control—including fasting, skipping meals, excessive exercise, laxative abuse, and self-induced vomiting. American statistics are similar. Several studies, such as one conducted by Marika Tiggemann and Levina Clark in 2006 titled "Appearance Culture in 9 to 12-Year-Old Girls: Media and Peer Influences on Body Dissatisfaction," indicate that nearly half of all preadolescent girls wish to be thinner, and as a result have engaged in a diet or are aware of the concept in dieting. In 2003, Teen magazine reported that 35 percent of girls 6 to 12-years-old have been on at least one diet, and that 50 to 70 percent of normal weight girls believe they are overweight. Overall research indicates that 90 percent of women are dissatisfied with their appearance in some way.

The Barbie doll proportions, for example, found that her back would be too weak to support the weight of her upper body, and her body would be too narrow to contain more than half a liver and a few centimeters of bowel. A real woman built that way would suffer from chronic diarrhea and eventually die from malnutrition. Jill Barad president of Mattel (which manufactures Barbie) estimated that 99 percent of girls aged 3 to 10 years old own at least one Barbie doll. Today's models weigh at least 23 percent

less than the average women. Fashion magazines produced significant increases in self-reported depression, stress, guilt, shame, insecurity and body dissatisfaction relative to women exposed to images of average weight women from magazines.

We'll never escape the media, and we'll never stop consuming the media without even acknowledging the fact that we are, but what we can do is be happy. A person should be happy without materialistic things, but what the media sticks in your head is you'll only be "happy" if you lose that extra 10 pounds or if you buy a popular product. Anorexia and bulimia is as high as ever in the U.S. due to children as young as the age of six trying to be impossibly thin in order to feel accepted. Today's society is too corrupt in media to even acknowledge themselves as unique!

Our children will keep starving themselves, our depression rates will only keep increasing, our happiness will never be reached to full extent, and our society will only be focused on being in the latest craze of something completely ridiculous in order to be accepted. The sad fact is that we can't censor these harmful media images from our society to improve the better well being of ourselves. If not already our whole society will be consumed in media body image.

## Drinks should be allowed in class

**Kennedy Swanson**

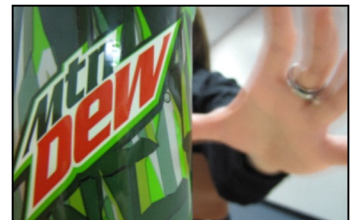
Opinion editor

Wouldn't you like to be able to drink when you're just sitting in class doing homework, and not have teachers tell you to put it away?

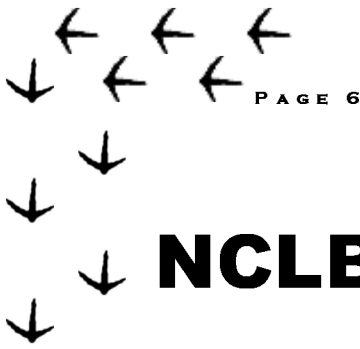
Bottles that you can reseal after you take a drink should be allowed in class. If it falls it won't spill because the top

will be on. Even if it isn't water. It should be a privilege as an upperclassman to be able to drink pop or coffee. I understand the carpets could get stained but we could not have carpets or the juniors and seniors only get this privilege. The computer classes are a different story. We shouldn't have anything in there. But in every other class I don't see why

not. If we could have drinks, students would be more awake during afternoon classes. Also the pop machines now have diet and diet is worse for you than regular pop. Then the only thing teachers would have to worry about is if it's a reasonable bottle or not.



**A student reaches for a drink.**



# NCLB: A good idea gone wrong

**Dacia Sjolund**  
Variety Editor

No child left behind is a program designed to help improve the quality of education for all schools and all the students within the public school systems. As lovely and helpful as this may sound, there have been some difficulties executing this Act, and it has some serious flaws.

The basics of No Child Left Behind are that nationwide public schools issue out tests to evaluate the education value of each school. Then based off those tests scores the Federal government decides if actions need to be taken to improve certain schools and help them meet the standards. The goal of No Child Left Behind is to have a 100 percent passing rate, which is a completely ridiculous notion.

"This is something that needed to happen," says Mr. Miller. He finds switching (or trying to switch) over to a data driven system is advantageous. He believes that in education teachers sometimes go with their gut feeling but this forces them to look at the data and really see where they stand.

One of the major flaws is that each state develops their own tests. The major problem with that is the Federal government compares the scores from state to state.

"In reality one school could be failing but it may be equal to or scoring even higher than passing schools in other states," Miller said.

Another problem with the system is that two percent of the students are exempt from taking these tests so in some cases schools are failing to meet the standards because of their disadvantaged students, which leads us into our next problem.

When schools fail to meet the standards several years in a row, they start to feel the penalty. First the Federal

*"In reality one school could be failing but it may be equal to or scoring even higher than passing schools in other states."*

**Mr. Miller**

Social Studies teacher

Government withholds funds from the schools, which could only be detrimental for the schools overall wellbeing. In some cases they fire half the staff including the principal and administration. That alone puts a lot of pressure on teachers. Mr. Miller provided some insight explaining that some teachers like to complain and blame things on their home lives.

"Teachers are supposed to better students no matter what." Miller believes that even failure is okay. "It's not leaving a child behind. It's a teaching method and it provides motivation for students."

One of the upsidess to the No Child Left Behind Act is that states (including Minnesota) can sign a waiver and be exempt from the punishments while still holding themselves accountable and continuing to take the tests.

The biggest problem is that we have people, the politicians, trying to tell educators how to improve when in reality the politicians have little to no clue as to what goes on in the public school systems. It doesn't seem right to take advice from those who don't know what they are doing, or what they are talking about however good their intent.

"I think this affects the students the most," Miller says. "Students are getting tested up the wazoo, and losing instructional time because of all the testing.

A schools success is being defined by Math, English, and Science. I don't think students realize that is why we cut some of the creative classes like art out of the curriculum."

All in all I believe No Child Left Behind has been a worthy waste of our time. It organized the schools to a data driven system, but the politicians should take this as a lesson that they're doing something wrong. They either need to get rid of the system all together and let the schools look to the state for help, and try to accomplish on their own system within the state. Otherwise they need to fix some of the flaws in the system, and realize their own "mortality." They need to step off their pedestal and understand that something needs to be fixed because this system hasn't been working yet, and it's been around since the 1970's. Something they also need to understand is that there will never be a 100 percent passing rate, because there will always be hindering factors to that goal. If they keep this in mind, then there is a great chance that we can better ourselves as a country.

"Education needs to get better, but nobody knows what that means," Miller says. "We all know we need to improve, but boy that's hard."



## Boys hoops keeps plugging away

**David Alvarez**  
Staff Writer

The boy's basketball team is still working hard. With a record of 8-15 captains Jaron Brezinsky and Alex Anderson lead the gobblers into their last games of the season. According to Nathan Ehnstrom the goals for the rest of the season is "to win two more games, Pine City and Crosby, and win one playoff game." The boys start every game with as much hard work and determination to win. The boys

have great coaches to work with every day. head coach Fowlds has been coach for a few years now and is a good fit for our boys. The Gobblers work hard in practice every day and work on their weaknesses.

Gobbler boys sometimes get together as a team and have meals. When asked if the team is scared about any of the upcoming games Nay Nay (Nathan Ehnstrom) said, "I'm not scared of other teams."

The Gobblers attract many different fans to their games. We have the Sheriff Scott Turner attending some games, and it's nice to see our teachers and principals from both the high school and elementary school at the games. There will be even more fans coming out to the last games of the season. They play rival Crosby-Ironton for the last game of the year on March 2, so everyone bring your school spirit!

## Girls basketball team having an impressive year

**Joe White**  
Staff Writer

The girls basketball team had a very solid year teaming up to make their record 14-11. They have been one of the most aggressive girls' basketball teams I've seen here at Aitkin High School. Tuesday, Feb. 21, they defeated the Pine City Dragons 57-37 to make themselves a three game winning streak. Top scorers were Carene Bayerle with 16 points, and Mikayla Michaletz with 15 points. The

two girls combined to have an impressive 19 rebounds.

Saturday, Feb. 18, they hit the road to play against the Procter Rails. They came back victorious with the end score being 60-50. Carene Bayerle once again led the team with 18 points. Madi Newton got 4 triples to score up 12 points for the Gobblers as well.

Thursday, Feb. 16, the girls stomped the East Central Eagles 69-24.

Congratulations to coach Rob Williams for having his 100<sup>th</sup> victory that night.

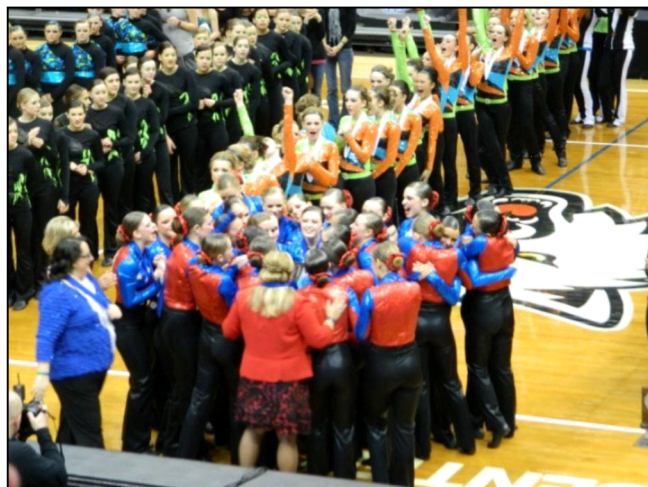
"It's an honor to have that many wins, but honestly I found out about it today," said Williams after the game. Bailey Nordean, Madi Newton and Carene Bayerle each bucketed 14 points. Defensively the girls brought the pressure forcing 30 turnovers and many of them across the floor for a basket.

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Coaches this year were Roth and assistant coach Andrea Schoonover. Captains of both jazz and high-kick were three outstanding seniors, Amara Blake, Chesna Matteson, and Kari Steece.

The choreographers this year were Amara Blake, Brianna Fuller, Chesna Matteson, Kennedy Swanson, Alissa Tuenge, Bailey Barber, Kassie Kokesh, Kari Steece and Morgan Schoonover.

Congratulations to all the Aitkin All-Starz this season and congrats again for making state history with your dance this year.



**The All Starz High Kick team celebrates its title.**



## Emily Lundgren: Female athlete of the week

### Raelyn Stiner

Staff Writer

Emily Lundgren is our female athlete of the week. Emily defines sports as, "something that takes athleticism, practice and will to win." She has been playing sports forever. Well, ever since she could walk, she exclaims.

Emily's favorite sports are basketball and track. Why is basketball Emily's favorite? She described that as "we are a family." Track is also her favorite because your success is based upon how much you put into it. She said she enjoys being involved "because I get to play a sport and hang out with friends."

How did Emily get involved in sports? Well, she says, "In elementary school all of my friends and I did it together." Emily got to like sports so much because of the competitiveness. And it's something you have to work for. Also you can see success out of your work.

In Emily's free time the sports that she likes to do are water skiing, run-

*"We may not be winning in all of our games but the relationship we have as a team is better than any of the wins."*

**-Emily Lundgren**

ning, basketball and tennis. After high school she sees herself playing sports. Emily says, "I am running track for Scholastica." Her favorite athlete is "Adrian Peterson because he is super duper fast! And he utilizes his speed really well and I wish I could do the same."

In basketball, Emily thinks this season has gone pretty good, and they are above .500. She and the team have become really close. Emily says, "We may not be winning in all of our games but the relationship we have as a team is better than any of the wins."



**Emily Lundgren**

## Jaron Brezinsky: male athlete of the week

### Cassi Tetrick

Sports Editor

As a young child Jaron Brezinsky would always attend local sporting events with friends in hopes to play for the Gobblers when he got older. He excelled in sports at a young age, Jaron and other teammate Dean Lynn would spend days at Jaron's house shooting hoops or go to the baseball field in the summer for pickup games with other friends.

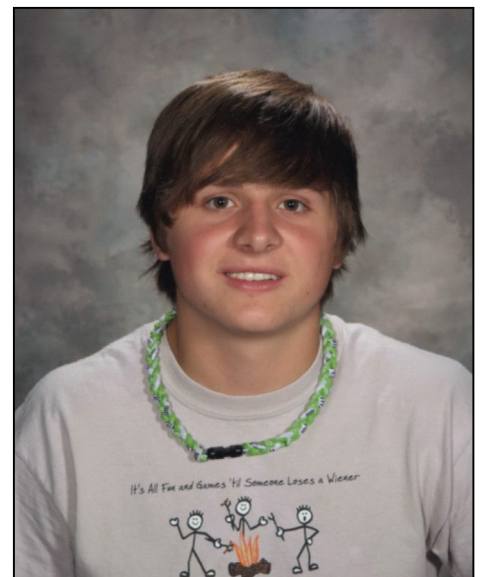
Jaron is on Varsity Basketball and Baseball with a starting position in both sports. After high school he plans on attending Riverland College in Austin, MN to play baseball and possibly basketball for them while getting a degree in Criminal Justice.

Before games Jaron listens to "Good Good Night" and watches a movie

*"I think I'm a leader/problem solver. People come to me with problems and I solve them."*

**-Jaron Brezinsky**

on teammate Nathan Ehnstrom's iPod. When asked what his strengths on the team are he responded "I think I'm a leader/problem solver. People come to me with problems and I solve them." His favorite basketball memory was locking Bryce Haugly in the bathroom on the charter bus for 40 minutes. On the court Jaron brings assertiveness, a good attitude and stays calm.



**Jaron Brezinsky**



# Whitney Houston's legacy

**Joe White**

Staff Writer

Whitney Houston is a person that many of us have probably never heard of before, but I'm going to explain the legacy she lived so you'll perhaps have a better understanding on why her death caused so many people to be in mourning right now. I hope you aren't already sick of all the publicity this topic has already stirred up on television and magazines.

She started as a fashion model before she became a singer and as a teen appeared on the cover of Glamour Magazine. Since then she's had seven consecutive #1 hit singles and had 26 songs hit the Top Ten. She's also won six Grammys and more than 400 other awards in her 25-year career. Her 1992 hit cover single of Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You" from "The Body Guard" soundtrack was the highlight between 1985 and

1992. A song that might have had a little bigger impact on our generation's style of music was the song "I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)." Her singing voice and career started on a downhill path after getting hooked on alcohol and cocaine.

She was married to Bobby Brown for 15 years, and had one daughter, Bobbi Kristina, before their marriage ended in 2007. In 2003, police got a call of domestic violence about Bobby and found Whitney with a cut lip and a bruised cheek. Bobby Brown arrived at her funeral service as it began, but didn't stay for long. He told ABC News, "I fail to understand why security treated my family this way and continue to ask us and no one else to move," he said. "Security then prevented me from attempting to see my daughter. In the light of the events, I gave a kiss to the casket of my ex wife and departed as I refused to create a

scene."

Whitney Houston died at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California on February 11. Beverly Hills Police Lieutenant Mark Rosen told ABC News on the scene what exactly had happened. "Ms. Houston was discovered in the bathtub by a member of her personal staff, who called hotel security. She was then pulled from the bathtub, but when paramedics arrived she was unconscious and unresponsive," Rosen declined comment on whether prescription drugs were in the room or the condition of Houston's body. "Detectives have sealed their inquiry," he said.

Her funeral was on Saturday, Feb. 18, at her birthplace of Newark, New Jersey, at the New Hope Baptist Church where she once sang growing up. There was no wake for her, only a private memorial service where Stevie Wonder, Alicia



**Whitney Houston**

Keys, and her godmother, Aretha Franklin sang. Whitney's recording of "I Will Always Love You" was played as her coffin was removed. Just like the death of pop superstar Michael Jackson, Internet sales of Whitney's songs have surged after her death. "I Will Always Love You," was the number one download on iTunes the day after she died, just ahead of Adele's "Rolling in the Deep." That song wasn't the #1 downloaded because of her death, it was because of her death that we were all reminded how much we love and miss her and her voice.

## Sarah Chute: Aitkin's own Beef Princess

**Leah Bardwell**

Staff Writer

Sarah Chute got the honor to be called "Central MN Cattlemen's Association Beef Princess 2011-2012." The Beef Princess program has been around for about 12 years. You have to fill out applications and have an interview process that you have to go through.

What made her interested? Her sister, Eva, was the 1st Beef Princess. Sarah has been involved with the industry her whole life. She goes off to different communities to promote beef and talk about what

the industry is all about.

Sarah and her family live on a farm, they have 60 cow-calf pairs, which means that there are 60 momma cows and about 60 calves. With the changing of the seasons, it makes her jobs that she has at home different. In the summertime, she makes hay, cuts, rakes, and bales. Winter, they use the hay as food for the cattle. Some of the cattle they have are raised for their meat, so they have a way different diet from the momma cows, which is based on certain things.

They raise mostly Red

Angus cattle. Sarah says that most people in the community know about the Beef Princess, but state wide not that many people know about the whole thing. Although she loves her mamma's grilled steak, she likes all type of beef.

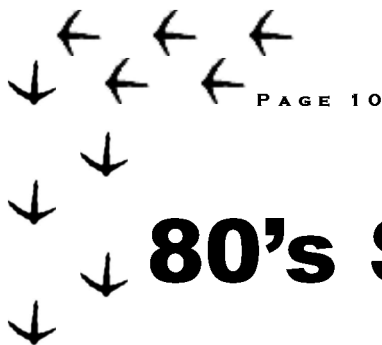
Her parents have had the family farm for 30 years, so she was born and raised living on the farm. Her dad John, Grandpa Russell and brother Thomas helped her build up knowledge, they have all taught her different steps.

She is an active member in 4-H and FFA as well as



**Sarah poses before a parade**

many more extra-curricular activities. She likes the rural area, so being a "City-slicker" wouldn't be one of her dreams.



# 80's Style Is Coming Back

**Chelsea Ryappy**  
Staff Writer

Since the years of the 1980's to present day today, the style of clothing trends have changed in urban communities. In the 1980's to the early 1990's the tight clothing was sweeping the streets of the urban areas of the U.S. Then, in the 90's to the mid 2000's baggy clothing was in. Companies such as Perry Ellis, Tommy Hilfiger and Fubu were on the rise in the years of 1990 till 1999; then clothing companies such as Rocawear, Sean John, Akademics, Enyce, and Omavi took over the years of 2000 to 2005.

There are many reasons why the urban fashion trends have changed throughout the years, but the main reason is the rap and hip hop scene. Especially now days we are constantly exposed to new technology so advanced that media and trends are always being set. Along with music always being available (iPods and other music devices).

In the 80's artists such as Big Daddy Kane, Run DMC, Too Short, and the 2 Live Crew wore fitted to tight clothing. Run DMC even had the youth of that time wearing shoes with no laces just by making a song about it! Then in the 90's the artists such as Biggie, 2pac, Ice Cube, Snoop Dogg, Wu Tang, Bone Thug N Harmony and Kriss Kross brought the baggy clothing to the urban streets. Two very famous songs by Kriss Kross that got a lot of airtime which were called "Jump" and "Warm it up" got a lot of kids to wear their baggy clothing backwards.

In the 2000's Jay-Z, P Diddy (who is just called "Diddy" now), Nas, DMX, and Nelly got a lot of people to wear products that were made by them. Rocawear was created by Dame Dash but sponsored and worn all the time by Jay-Z. Once Jay-Z wore the product many young people bought it because he is such a popular rap icon. That's how big of an influ-

ence these artists are in the clothing scene; they change it up every time and people then result in changing their wardrobe in their own closet.

Today this scheme has taken a change into another direction, and that direction is the "fitted adult look." The companies that are controlling the mainstream media are True Religion, Laguna Beach and Levi jeans, Lacoste, Polo, Ed Hardy, Gucci and Louis Vuitton. If you watch many rap or hip hop music videos today you will see many artists with these name brands on them. Ever since artists such as Jim Jones, Lil Wayne, Gucci Mane, T.I, Ludacris, and Kanye West had some type of merchandise of these high priced brands on them in their videos or in public. The demand for them has skyrocketed in communities. Many people will go to great heights to match the "swag" of the artists they see on television.

Not only have artists

influenced the fashion style of today and in the past, but also television shows, movies, and celebrities. What the media wants the media gets.

Women's heels trend from small heel to chunky heels every year, to keep high heel shoe demand up and popular. Money and profits are also another huge fashion forward to urban communities.

Women went from dresses and skirts, to pants and shirts, to now pretty much as daring as they try to pull off. Along with culture changes and lessened conservative guides, today's society is run by sex. Sex sells everything and anything, if a tunic is considered sexy; it suddenly is "in style." Our standards and social morals may have dropped in our society extremely compared to way back then, but along with standards of loving have changed so have standards of looking.

## Music is continually changing with time

**Errin Platz**  
Staff Writer

We all know the people out there that love music and the art of how it is created, but does everybody know where it all started and where it came from? Everybody, and I do mean everybody, has their own style and taste in music. Some people have a variety of music they listen to, and others have just one or two genres that they enjoy.

Obviously over the

past 100 years we have had all kinds of music created, and I think there's plenty more genres waiting to be discovered. The genres are obviously the roots of the music, which may seem quite complex because they range from now to a long time ago, but music now has come a long ways since the Mozart and Beethoven days. If you compare the Beetle days to the Skrillex people listen to today you definitely notice the difference with

the sounds, beats, and lyrics in the music. There is a lot inspiration coming from our music origins which is making us expand our taste in music. There is a lot more diversity in music now than 60 years ago, but those artists then are what's making our music so great today.

There are a lot of debates on music and how it is being presented, in the 1940s-50s the music was a little more

sheltered and innocent with their lyrics, and stage presence, now we are open like a book. No matter what genre you listen to whether it's country, rock, rap, metal, pop, grunge, hardcore, or punk we're more rebellious and want our voices to be heard. In conclusion, I believe we have come far with music, but I don't think we're done yet, there is much more talent that is going to come along and sweeps us off our feet.