

**SUNBURST**



Superintendent Tim Tharp multi-tasks at his desk in his office at NTCHS. Tharp recently began his first year as Superintendent of North Toole County District #2.

## Student Helps Capture Escape Convict

By ALISON WATSON

On his way home from practice on Thursday Aug. 26, Kamron Ratzburg (soph.) and his father noticed Hawaii Akane, a convict who had escaped in Great Falls, attempting to hitch hike. "He was wearing a green jacket and was off in the hills east of Sunburst" Kamron noted. His father notified police and the convict was picked up shortly afterward.

A few hours later, Akane was found 17 miles East of Sunburst. Akane was alone, unarmed, and in bad condition. He did not resist the capture and was almost glad because he needed to be taken to the hospital, according to officer Jeff Robins from the Shelby police department. The convict is currently in good condition.

Akane escaped while being transferred from Lewistown to Deer Lodge. The company transporting him is called

See CONVICT CAPTURED 5

See THARP 5

## New Superintendent Shakes Things Up

By VERONICA GILLUND

A new man has recently taken over the halls of North Toole County High School (NTCHS) for the 2010-2011 school year. Tim Tharp, 40, of Sydney, Montana, was hired by the school board as the new superintendent of NTCHS, replacing John Hvidsten

who retired last year.

Tharp said he has been in education "34 years . . . since I was six." This will be his 18th year, however, as an educator. Tharp taught math and history in Scobey for eight years and then moved to Dutton where he was the Dutton/Brady superintendant for nine years.

Tharp became acquainted with some of the Sunburst faculty through basketball tour-

naments. When the superintendent position opened up at NTCHS, he said it was only natural that he apply for the job. "I made a connection with the people (of Sunburst), and the school had a reputation for excellent academics, a good budget, and increasing school numbers," Tharp stated.

As far as school policies go, no new changes will be made to NTCHS. "I plan to tweak things as needed," Tharp said. The greatest change Tharp wishes

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# Head of Homeland Security Visits Sweetgrass Port

By MAHKIA CLARK

At the Border Patrol Station outside Sunburst, there was recently an unusual sight: black Apache helicopters and members of Secret Ser-

vice. The excitement was due to the arrival of Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and Senators Max Baucus and Jon Tester for facility tours and

meetings on August 25. Napolitano, Baucus, and Tester toured the Sweetgrass port of entry to view the current technology. Chris Muller, a reporter for the Shelby Promoter

who covered the visit explained that the port tour included the fraudulent document detection lab, the vehicle inspection center, and the mobile surveillance system. Muller

See NAPOLITANO VISIT 5

## Initiation: Keeping Traditions

By ANGIE CHRISTIAENS

Freshmen initiation or as some would call it, "Senior-Freshmen Buddy Week," is a long-standing tradition during Spirit Week of Homecoming. Each senior chooses his or her own freshman buddy to dress up for the week. With the new superintendent, however, many students question whether this tradition will continue.

Superintendent Tim Tharp has approved initiation for this upcoming homecoming. He said, "I like the concept of getting the freshmen involved, but I don't like the negative indication meant by the word 'initiation'."

"I have no problem with it (initiation) as long as it doesn't get out of line - what the freshmen are made to do," said Mr. Dunk, student council advisor.

Senior Patrick Buckley said, "I'm happy that initiation is here to stay, and I think it gets the freshmen more noticed in the school."



Senior Nicole Fleisher poses before Stonehenge in England during her summer trip to Europe.

## Summer Globe Trotting Students

By VERONICA GILLUND

During this past summer, several NTCHS students traveled the globe. From Australia to Chicago, and Europe to Washington, D.C., these students expanded their horizons outside of their communities.

Senior Mahkia Clark traveled to New York City to sing at Carnegie Hall with the American Honors Performance Series for five days in June. Receiving a standing ovation and encore to a sold out crowd was her greatest achievement while on her trip.

Senior Veronica Gillund, junior Amanda Tharp and sophomore Stephanie Gliko all traveled to Chicago, Ill. for FCCLA. The

girls were there for seven days in the first week of July. Gillund went as a State Officer. Tharp earned a gold medal for competing in the Career Investigation event by investigating music education. She said that while on the trip she learned much about FCCLA, including the meaning and the benefits. Gliko traveled to evaluate the Chapter Showcase Manual event. Gliko said that she noticed that the ethnic diversity in Chicago is much greater than that of Sunburst.

Senior Angie Christiaens traveled to Washington, D.C. and to Australia. After winning the Marias Electric essay contest, she toured the nation's capi-

## NTCHS Goes Green

By LARA CLARK

It's good for the environment: Recycling in schools. Nicole Fleisher and Lara Clark had an idea of bringing recycling to NTCHS. According to Fleisher, the reason they wanted to do this is "because it's good for the environment." Fleisher also says it's pointless to waste all the paper that the school consumes.

Fleisher and Clark proposed the idea to the superintendent shortly after school began. In response, he ordered some bins and will be picking them up in a few weeks.

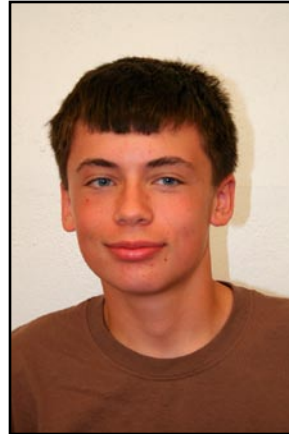
Students cleaning out their binder, locker, or anything else, can throw paper products in the tubs or bins located throughout the school. All the misprints and miscopies can go into a bin to save the environment.

There will be tubs in every room and bins in the hallways. There is no reason to throw away a ton of paper. Recycle and go green.

# Meet the Freshmen

**Jacob Alborano**

**Residence:** Shelby  
**Birthday:** August 18  
**Interests:** Football, hunting, fishing, baseball  
**Summer Fun:** Vacation Fairmont Hot Springs, Kalispell  
**Goals in High School:** Good grades  
**Toothbrush Color:** Blue



**Matthew Becker**

**Residence:** Shelby  
**Birthday:** July 25  
**Interests:** Pep band, trumpet, watching *Bonanza* reruns  
**Summer Fun:** Four wheeling, swimming  
**Goals in High School:** Honor Roll  
**Toothbrush Color:** White



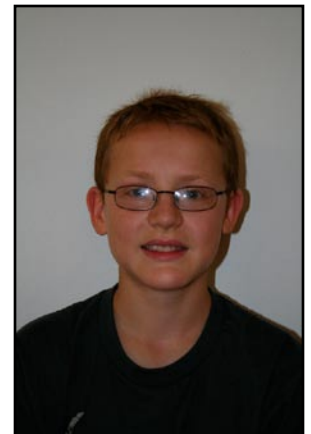
**Jose Endrina**

**Residence:** Kevin  
**Birthday:** August 6



**Austin Epperson**

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** October 20  
**Interests:** Riding four wheelers and snowmobiling; playing football in his own time.  
**Summer Fun:** Went to Oregon to visit family  
**Goals in High School:** Pass classes, Honor Roll  
**Toothbrush Color:** Red



# Meet the Freshmen

## Mason Kearns

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** June 22  
**Interests:** Basketball, football, hunting  
**Summer Fun:** Boating, backpacking  
**Goals in High School:** Pass classes, make honor roll  
**Toothbrush Color:** White



## Connor Overcast

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** September 2  
**Interests:** Video games, electric guitar  
**Summer Fun:** Hiking, kayaking  
**Goals in High School:** Honor roll, driver's license, Chemistry  
**Toothbrush:** White/green



## Erika Postma

**Residence:** Kevin  
**Birthday:** February 28  
**Interests:** Music, volleyball  
**Summer Fun:** Tubing at Tiber and floating Marias River  
**Goals in High School:** Go to state in volleyball  
**Toothbrush Color:** Blue Oral B



## Cameron Richmond

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** August 1  
**Interests:** Football, outdoors  
**Summer Fun:** State baseball  
**Goals in High School:** Good grades, do well in sports  
**Toothbrush Color:** Green



## Austin Robbins

**Residence:** Kevin  
**Birthday:** December 18  
**Interests:** Football, video games: NFL: Madden, NBA, 2K10  
**Summer Fun:** Whitefish, went to lake  
**Goals in High School:** Stay eligible  
**Toothbrush Color:** Blue



## Tylor Tomsheck

**Residence:** Sunburst  
**Birthday:** August 30  
**Interests:** Football, mechanics, programming  
**Summer Fun:** Work  
**Goals in High School:** Pass classes  
**Toothbrush Color:** Green



## Henry Zell

**Residence:** Shelby  
**Birthday:** November 8  
**Interests:** Hunting, fishing, basketball, wrestling  
**Summer Fun:** Playing at Tiber  
**Goals in High School:** Pass classes  
**Toothbrush Color:** Clear



# CLASS OF 2014

# Convict Captured

From 1

Community Counseling and Correction Service (CCCS). Company policy required that the convict be cuffed before custody was changed; however, this did not happen according to Scott Mansanti, the CCCS transportation manager. Akane escaped and somehow managed to travel over 80 miles in less than two days. Police are still investigating who assisted him. Masanti apologized and promised disciplinary action once his investigation is complete.

This was not Akane's first attempt at escape. He was originally sent

to jail for armed robbery when he was only in his late teens. In 1998 he had another escape attempt when he jumped in a car that had the keys in it. Police pursued Akane in a high speed chase and he crashed. He is now 32, 5'7", and a 160 lbs.

# Tharp

From 1

to make in the school is greater communication with the administration, the staff, and the students. "I want people to know that they can come in and talk to me, and that they are welcome in my office," he said.

Tharp's hobbies include reading science fiction

books and hunting. He plays the tuba and he is part of the EMT program, the fire department, and the sheriff's department.

This is Tharp's first year in the last 17 that he has not been directly involved with volleyball. "Love it! Go fight, kill, win," he said.

# Napolitano Visit

From 2

said, "What they have in Sweetgrass is pretty state-of-the-art."

Border Patrol Agent John Miller stated that the planning process for this event was very involved, taking several days and communication with the national Secret Service.

According to Muller, another component of Napolitano's visit included a round-table discussion with local law enforcement in which conversation was held on improving communication between ports of entry and increased funds for tighter security.

At the round-table discussion Napolitano said

"Between your ports of entry you've got to have some manpower, infrastructure, and technology. Those are the kinds of things that allow us to know if someone is trying to escape detection and cross the border illegally."

Muller was personally impressed with Napolitano, calling her professional, cordial, and willing to listen to our local needs.

# Globe Trotters

From 2

tol learning about government and politics. For three weeks in July Christiaens flew to Australia for a basketball MonDak (Montana and North Dakota) program. At the end of this basketball program, she received the hustle award.

Senior Nicole Fleisher and junior Jayleen McAlpine toured Europe

for two weeks with the People to People student group. Fleisher said that she learned about the differences of government and that she was able to handle herself and situations without her parents. McAlpine said that she discovered how to travel successfully in large group. She also learned patience.



Senior Angie Christiaens pets a kangaroo in Australia during her summer basketball trip.

# Activities

## Curtains Rise for Speech and Drama

By LARA CLARK

Speech and Drama is an individual or dichotomous competition recently approved by the School Board as a new activity for the 2010-2011 NTCHS school year.

The meeting for this activity was in the auditorium Sept. 2. Competitors perform scenes from plays or recite speeches before a panel of three judges. There are many genres for speech and drama: some humorous, tragic, and dramatic.

Although Superintendent Tim Tharp is not sure who the coach will be, there were two people who expressed interest in coaching.

The season's schedule includes competitions in Shelby, Cut Bank, Conrad, Simms, and Malta. The first meet is October 30 in Shelby.



## Dance "Kix" Off Their Season

By VERONICA GILLUND

The Sophisti-kix dance team is up to ten members this year, making this the most members they have included in four years. The advisor, captains, and members are all optimistic in looking forward to a great season.

Members of the Sophisti-kix include Ashlee Simmes, Jacoba Hauschulz, Alex Watterud, Whitney Aschim, Amanda Tharp, Alison Watson, Erika Postma and Chimane Hastings. Senior

Simmes, a fourth year member said, "I love the rush when performing in front of a home crowd and I'm excited for it to be my senior year of dance and getting to know the new members!"

Captains Veronica Gillund and Hali Miller began choreographing dances for the upcoming season this summer. They also worked hard to prepare for a larger team and a more uniform system of practicing. Miller said, "I'm really looking forward to

See KIX 7

# Opinion

## Mosque Plans Near Ground Zero Spark Controversy

By MAHKIA CLARK

A proposed structure in Lower Manhattan, New York City has led to controversy and protests.

This plan is insensitive to the victims of 9/11 and their families. Of course the Islamic patrons in the area deserve a place of worship. However, it should be built in a less controversial location.

Normally the development of a Muslim mosque wouldn't be a national issue because Americans value freedom of religion and the right to build places of worship. The building's use isn't in question, only the location. The mosque is under fire due to

the fact that the site where it is being developed lies two blocks from the site of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) believes the entire Ground Zero controversy is "pure racism" and that Americans suffer from "Islamaphobia"-hatred for Muslims. They refer to an assault on a man assumed to be Muslim at a protest rally. PSL supports their "brothers and sisters in the Muslim community." They also claimed that mosque-opposers don't believe in freedom of religion, specifically the right by religious groups to build sacred worship

sites.

Tensions in New York are currently running so high that a taxi cab driver was murdered simply for being Muslim. Additionally, a religious leader in Florida threatened to burn a copy of the Koran on the anniversary of 9/11, thus further angering the Muslim community in the Middle East and throughout the world.

There are currently thousands of mosques operating in New York City, and over 600,000 Muslims-clearly not evidence of racism. People from President Obama to Laura Ingram, a conservative attorney, agree that Mus-

lims have the right to the build the mosque. Ingram said, "It's not an issue of the right by Muslims to build the mosque; it's an issue of sensitivity to the victims and families of the 9/11 attacks." The mastermind behind this project, Imam Abdul-Rauf, is a Muslim himself who has called America "an accessory to 9/11." According to Gerald Warner, "Polls show that two thirds of the nation are opposed to this development and regard it as an insult to the 9/11 victims." Rest the hearts of those affected by 9/11 and much of the nation: relocate the mosque to a less controversial location.

# Sports



Coach Brian Ratzburg directs senior OJay Hartzell on proper tackling techniques during a recent football practice.

## Getting Rough on the Gridiron

By **ANGIE CHRISTIAENS**

Football's first game was on Sept. 4 on the Centerville gridiron. Senior Cole Ratzburg said, "We're going to do pretty good. There are at least four or five games we can win."

The Refiner football team has 22 team members this year. They consist of three seniors: Myles Mokaté, Cole Ratzburg, and OJay Hartzell; six juniors: Scotty Bye, Cash Ehlers, Hunter Leichliter, Josh Friesen, Andrew Stevens, and Justin Hauschulz; and Cody Thomassen; six sophomores, Kamron Ratzburg, Austin Luckenbill, Kramer Potack, Cory Buckley, Ben McAlpine, and Brett Simons; and six freshmen, Cameron Richmond, Austin Robbins, Jacob Alborano, Luke Becker, Mason Kearns, and Finley Jarvis. They are also joined by their manager, Tylor Tomscheck, and their coaches, Matt Clark

and Brian Ratzburg.

The Refiners are looking for their first win against Tri-Cities Sept. 18.

### *Varsity Scoreboard*

Saturday Sept. 3  
Centerville 56 NTCHS 16

Friday Sept. 10  
Chinook 56 NTCHS 8

### **Kix** From 6

having a big group of girls to work with and (I'm) excited to switch things up a bit and try different stuff."

The team's advisor, Diana Barsness, said, "Everyone seems very enthusiastic this year and we are experimenting with some different music, so that should be the recipe for a great year. Our goal is to have fun producing some fantastic routines."

The team's first practice is to be held at 6:15 p.m. on Tuesday Sept. 14.

By **ANGIE CHRISTIAENS**

When school bells start to ring, so do the whistles from volleyball and football coaches' mouths. The Sunburst Refiners began their year hard at work on the field and in the gym practicing before school resumed.

## Getting Tough in the Gym

By **ANGIE CHRISTIAENS**

The volleyball team has already slid on their kneepads and gone to work.

The volleyball team started their season with a win against CJI (3-2). Next on their schedule was the North Star tournament during the week-

Becky Flesh, Alex Watterud, Hali Miller, Kelsey Burley, Jesse Tomscheck, Alison Watson and Titia Bloch; six sophomores, Rachel Ehlers, Brooke Lindskog, Shelby Wallace, Kylie Pattison, Haley Denison and Stephanie Gliko; and three fresh-



Junior Becky Flesch concentrates during a coordination drill at a recent volleyball practice.

end of Sept. 4. This was followed up by a game at North Star Sept. 10. The team immediately took on Dutton/Brady on Sept. 11. Regarding the upcoming season, senior Jacoba Hauschulz said, "I think it's going to be really exciting. We've got a good team this year."

This year's team consists of two seniors, Jacoba Hauschulz and Angie Christiaens; seven juniors,

men, Chimane Hastings, Erika Postma, and Caitlin Hutton. Leading the team are their coaches, Kara Sevalstead, Teri Iverson, and Kendra Hovland.

### *Varsity Scoreboard*

Saturday Aug. 28  
CJI 2 NTCHS 3

Friday Sept. 3  
1st Place North Star Tourn.

Thursday Sept. 9  
Dutton/Brady 1 NTCHS 3

