

THE CHIEF GAZETTE

Friday, April 16, 2010

Do You Know What's in That?



In today's fast-paced world, energy drinks have become a very common source of energy. Young people have especially taken to the colorful cans. With names like "Monster" or "Rock-Star", how could teenagers not be drawn to them? But there are real health concerns that go along with this growing fad.

Energy drinks basically contain sugar, vitamins, herbs, and lots of caffeine. Caffeine is the ingredient that gives the body energy. In high amounts, caffeine can also make a person agitated, irritable, and sleepless. People could also experience increased urination, abnormal heart rhythms, an upset stomach, and dehydration. Energy drinks also have a very high "crash and burn" effect, with seizures often times accompanying the crash.

The United States does not require caffeine dosages to be posted on a food label. So, a person has no idea how much caffeine they are ingesting at one time. A person could easily overdose on caffeine. France has even banned Red Bull for this reason when an 18 year old athlete died while playing basketball after drinking four cans. Mrs. Louis is against this and commented, "It is a blatant, irresponsible business practice designed to sick children into bad behavior. In my mind, it borders on criminal behavior." Many people are urging the FDA to change this and protect people.

Young adults can easily be sucked into reckless behavior without thinking about consequences. If you choose to drink energy drinks, please do some research and know your body in order to protect yourself.

Rogena Warner

Senior Gift

Every year the senior class must donate a tree and give a gift to the school. The class of 2010 has not decided what tree they would like to donate to the school's forest, but they have decided on what they would like to give to the school. It took a long, hard time to figure out where to put it and what the gift will look like. One thing was certain though, the gift we wanted to give the school. Under the scoreboard by the football field, they will put a rock with 2 pink rose bushes on each side of the board. The rock will be engraved with, "In memory of Sue Neumann". Next year when football starts again, everyone will be able to see the memorial, to remember all the good times we all had with Ms. Neumann.

By: Amber Rietveld

NEWS

Important Dates for Seniors

With the school year coming to an end, seniors need to remember some important dates. The first important date is Wednesday, May 12, 2010, which is senior awards night. It is a night when awards and scholarships will be handed out to deserving seniors. This event will take place in the high school cafeteria at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, May 18, and Wednesday, May 19, 2010, are final exams. All teachers of seniors will give a final exam to be completed on either of the days. The graduates will receive their final grades in the mail. Any senior who fails to take a final exam could fail that course of study and possibly fail to meet graduation requirements. Remember these are FULL DAYS of school.

Wednesday, May 19, 2010, is senior check out. Seniors will pick up student release forms in the high school office before the beginning of that school day. At the conclusion of the day, these forms must be turned in with all the necessary signatures to the high school office. If any money or books are owed, or if there is lock/locker damage to the locker that you were assigned to, there will be an assessment for repair charges. No diploma or report card will be issued until all obligations are paid, including detentions.

Wednesday, May 19, 2010, is senior supper. You may either have chicken or fish. The seniors will get to see the senior slide show and hear their history, read by Brock Pahlow.

Friday, May 21, 2010, will be the senior canoe/tubing trip. The seniors leave school at 9:00 am. Any student creating serious problems at the supper or the canoe trip will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony.

Sunday, May 23, 2010, is the big day! Graduation will be in the high school gymnasium at 1:00 pm. Day time practice will be on Thursday morning, May 20, at 9:00 a.m. Seniors participating in graduation exercises must report to the high school gymnasium for practice. Graduation day, seniors must report to the F/CE room no later than 12:15 pm.

Make this day a day to remember, and remember to dress accordingly for each day.

By: Amber Rietveld



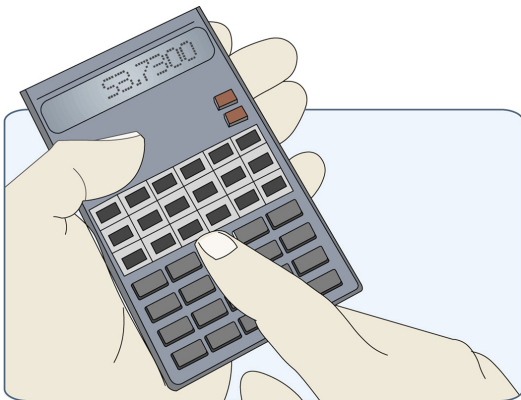
Math League

This year's math league students have been working very hard for the competition at UW Stevens Point. Mr. Hanson takes a little time out of his classes to help prepare his math league students. He works hard to have everyone learn and understand what he is teaching.

The math league is doing very well this year. They are currently in 2nd place cumulatively after the first two meets. When I asked Mr. Hanson if math league is doing better this year than in the past, he replied, "Yes, we are doing a little better this year. Last year we started out in 2nd place also, but the scores slipped a little. We didn't make it into the top three." I also asked Mr. Hanson if he is doing anything different this year compared to the past years. He commented, "We haven't really been doing anything different; the only thing that has changed is that we are preparing the AP students a little better. Mr. VanderHeyden has offered to help us this year with the preparing process." By Mr. VanderHeyden helping out with the AP students, the scores have gone up this year in math league, and this helped us get a higher placement.

I also asked him how he picked his math league students, Mr. Hanson stated, "First I look for good mathematicians and for outstanding work on assignments and tests, and then after that I take the people who are interested in being on math league." I was wondering what Mr. Hanson's favorite part of math league was, he said, "My favorite part is receiving the scores after the meets when the math league has done well." Mr. Hanson is very proud of his math league students, and he wants all of them to keep up the good work.

By: Stacey Krull



Home Town Grill



It was once known as Dick and Genies and then Wickies. Wickies was owned by Dick Wickesberg, who

also owns River Rail, so the food was very much alike. But today, there is a new owner of the restaurant right across the street from our school. It will be called Home Town Grill in the near future, and it is now run by Cathy Anaya. She said, "I bought this restaurant because I love this town, and I grew up here." She plans on changing the menu in a month or two, but for now she is going to leave it the same. She plans on adding a lot of Mexican food and having Friday fish fry specials. "As for now, the prices will stay the same but may change as soon as the new menus are made, but it is too early to say what they're going to be." Cathy replied. She has owned a restaurant before, which was also called Home Town Grill, and it was right next to Johnson's Hardware about 20 years ago. I asked Jenny McCandless, an employee there now, how she feels about the change of owners. She mentioned, "The new owner is very, very nice, and I feel that the business will run very well with the new owner." There will be no changes in the staff as of right now.

By Austin Hooyman

NEWS

Sturgeon

It's that time of the year again; the sturgeon are beginning to spawn. People from all around the area are going to be strolling into town to get a good look at these historic creatures. At many of these spawning sights you will be able to see the DNR net and tag these giant fish. The most popular area to look for these sturgeon is at Bamboo Bend; however, you can find them in other spots like behind the River Rail. Tim Conradt recently built a giant wooden sculpture of a sturgeon which is very impressive, and if you want to check that out, it is currently parked at Bamboo Bend. Sturgeon can grow up to seven feet long and weigh in at around 200 pounds. Sturgeon return to the same spawning sight that they were born in, to spawn eggs of their own. The average male Sturgeon can live up to 55 years of age, and the females can live up to an astonishing 150 years old. Many people consider the Lake Sturgeon to be a living fossil. I'm happy to say that this once protected species is now on the uprise.

By Thomas Dahlke

Teen drinking

As everyone knows, the drinking age is 21 years old. But there are times when kids who are underage choose to drink, which is illegal in the state of Wisconsin, and you will get a fine if caught. On top of getting in trouble with the law, you will get in trouble with the school as well. You will have to sit out of sports if you are an athlete.

I decided to ask some high school students if they have ever been with a friend or friends when someone had the idea to drink alcohol. Out of seventeen high school students, twelve of them said yes they have been in that situation. Then I asked a middle school class, and fourteen out of twenty-two said they have been in this situation. On average, every day 11,318 teens try drinking for the first time, and Americans drink the heaviest in their teens to mid-twenties.

By: Austin Hooyman

Turkey Hunting

As many of you know, spring turkey hunting started last week with the youth hunt. The youth hunt is for children 10-15 years old. All they need to have is a turkey license for the youth hunt. Their parent or guardian must be in sight and sound of the youth. The adult can't carry a firearm during the youth hunt. The regular turkey season opened this Wednesday for everyone else. Spring turkey season is six weeks long, and goes from Wednesday until Sunday every week.

Turkeys roost in trees during the night and fly down in the early morning, so it's important to get to your hunting location well before sunrise, to ensure the turkeys won't be able to see you before you're all set up. Calling is a good way to lure the big boys in. There are many different types of calls; slate, box, and diaphragm are the most popular. Decoys are another great thing to use when you're out hunting. It gives the birds something to look at and puff up to. Spring turkey hunting is a good way to spend time in the outdoors and have some fun trying to hunt an elusive bird.

By Zach Snortum

Let the Games Begin

On Friday, April 16, 2010, the games will begin at the 2010 Midwest Horse Fair. If you love horses, or animals in general, consider attending the Midwest Horse Fair on April 16-18.

Known as one of the biggest equestrian events in the nation, the Midwest Horse Fair takes place annually at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. There are many activities to take part in at the fair including: all-day shopping, clinics to learn at, and barns full of animals on exhibit. This is the best attraction for any horse-enthusiast and should not be missed.

A daily pass for the Fair is \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door. They can be purchased in advance at Mills Fleet Farm or any Mounds location. There is also a PRCA Rodeo on Friday night and a Show Jumping Grand Prix Show on Saturday, in which tickets are \$5 after the general admission ticket. This is a cheap, yet very fun, weekend of excitement.

This year's Midwest Horse Fair has many new attractions. One large attraction, literally, is Big Jake, the world's tallest living horse. He is a nine-year-old, Belgian draft horse from Poynette, Wisconsin. He stands at six feet, ten and three-quarter inches tall. He weighs in at 2,500 pounds and eats about 40 pounds of hay a day. He will appear daily at the Midwest Horse Fair, as well as at the Friday night Rodeo.

Come join Big Jake and animal-lovers from across the nation at this year's Midwest Horse Fair. It is an event that can't be missed!

Rogena Warner



Life Without Internet



Can you imagine living life without technology, especially without the internet? As you already know, the internet is an electronic and

extremely fast way of sharing and receiving information, and a great way of communicating. Did you know that people have always shared and communicated information with one another? Hundreds of years ago it was by mounted couriers carrying letters. When I asked Mrs. Ligocki how life would be without the internet, she responded, "I remember life without Internet. Internet is a wonderful thing! But the students are missing out on other avenues because they have the internet."

When I went around and asked some high school students, pretty much all of them said, "Life would be boring. We wouldn't have any email and wouldn't be able to talk to friends and post pictures or comments for friends and family to see, especially on Facebook or MySpace." While some others said, "I can find many ways to entertain myself." While the older generation are used to life without the internet, having to live without the internet would effect more of the younger generation, who have become dependent on the Internet as a basic accessory to life that if he or she does not have Internet, they get bored easily. Aren't we glad that we have the internet?

Ilene Sanchez

SPORTS



Chief's Baseball



The Shiocton Chiefs had a week full of games, starting at Bonduel on Monday. Shiocton had a good game except for three errors that caused the three runs that allowed the Bears to take the lead and win 3-1. Dylan Van Straten hit a solo homerun to give the Chiefs their only point. There were a bunch of hitters who went 1-3 to add to the hitting average, but it wasn't enough. Several people, however, are upset with the officiating that Bonduel provides because the umpires are from Bonduel. In the first inning, there were runners on first and second base. The runners took off and went to advance to the next base, and as the runner who slid into third (and was clearly under the tag) the umpire called him out. This ended the inning and instead of having two runners in scoring positions for the next batter, we were forced out to the field. Had our fifth batter gotten his at bat and had a base hit, the final score could have been 3-3 and gone into extra innings. The game otherwise was very well played, and pitcher Derek Van Straten threw an incredible game.

Then came Pacelli at home, and we looked like a completely different team. The Chiefs gave up 16 runs and only scored 2. "Several errors and Pacelli crushing the ball were the main reasons we lost," says Thomas Dahlke. The one positive aspect was that the Chiefs got to let some of their pitching crew get to showcase their throwing abilities, and the underclassmen got some at bats as well.

Shiocton will face off against Wittenberg-Birnamwood on Monday at Wittenberg, and play against Iola-Scandinavia at home Thursday. The Chiefs hope to come off of two tough losses and try to get back into the race for the conference title.

Brock & Thomas

Golf

The golf season is off to a slow swing with the late snow fall that we experienced. I interviewed Adam Lembcke, a varsity golfer, about how golf is going so far this year.

Q: How is practice going and did you get on the course yet?

A: "Practice is going pretty well so far, but we haven't had many. We played nine holes for a practice, but with the ground being so wet, it's hard to get out there."

Q: So if you only practice once on the golf course where have you been having practice?

A: "Well, a few days we practiced up here at school; we practiced putting on the carpeted floors in the school. We also practiced on the driving range at Eagle Creek the last few practices."

Q: Have you had any meets yet this year?

A: "No, but our first meet is next Monday at Pine Hills Golf Course."

Q: So Adam what course are you looking forward to most?

A: "Whistling Straights! Hands down!"

If golf sounds like a fun sport to you and you want to do something after school, golf is always a good choice. It's never too late to join; ask Mr. Schwaller for more information.

By: Zach Snortum

Weight Training Tip



of the Week



By Brock Pahlow

AMAZING APPLES

The delicious red fruit that has been known for being healthy was put under the microscope to see how good they really are. Turns out, they discovered that the apple has a lot more to offer than just a tasty treat. It is recommended to eat an apple not only to keep the doctor away, but also 30 minutes before you workout. "An apple is a good carb to have at this time because its high fructose content makes it low-glycemic since the liver must first convert it into glucose," says MuscleandFitness.com. This basically means that an apple can deliver good carbohydrates and natural sugar to give you energy to lift weights. And according to recent international studies, teams of scientists discovered that apples contain Polyphenols, which have the added benefit of building muscle and burning fat. Scientists from Japan did an experiment on rats to see the benefits of eating apples, and the results showed. Not only did the rodents lose abdominal fat, but they also gained muscle and lost the "bad" cholesterol. Thusly, showing that this little fruit can make a big difference for your fitness and physique.

Coaches Corner Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson is a 1996 graduate of Menomonie High School. During his senior year in high school, he helped lead his team to a State Championship in football. Mr. Hendrickson also was a conference and regional champ in wrestling his senior year. After high school, Mr. Hendrickson went on to college at Winona State to play football and to pursue his profession in teaching. In 2001, Mr. Hendrickson graduated college with his teaching degree. In that same year, he began teaching here in Shiocton. Mr. Hendrickson started coaching right away. In 2001, he coached middle school football, boys basketball, and track. Overall, he coached track for 7 years then decided it was a bit much to be coaching 3 sports a year. In 2002, Mr. Hendrickson helped out with the Shiocton Chief's varsity football team. He also coached middle school track and basketball that same year. In 2003, Mr. Hendrickson became line-backer coach at Lawrence University. He was line-backer coach there for 6 years. Mr. Hendrickson started coaching JV Girls Basketball in 2006. He coached girls basketball for 3 years then decided to help out coaching middle school girl's basketball to prepare them for high school ball. Overall, Mr. Hendrickson has coached at Shiocton every year for the 9 years that he has been teaching here and enjoys it very much. During his free time, he likes watching movies, going shoe shopping, and spending time with his dog, Ace. He told me he has around 50 pairs of shoes and over 300 DVDs at home.

By Jared Lee Besch

Track

On Monday, April 12th, the Shiocton track team had a meet in Manawa. Three teams participated in this event, Manawa, Tigerton, and Shiocton. Shiocton girls placed first, with Manawa in second, and Tigerton in third. Manawa boys placed first, with Shiocton in second, and Tigerton in third. I asked Cassie Scott, one of the captains of the team, what she thought about the meet, "Each day I see individual and group improvements. We are coming together and working as a team while having fun and accomplishing our goals. The girls placed 1st, and the boys had a close second. I hope we continue to improve and continue to place. Our team is still smaller than most teams, but we have a lot of good athletes and big hearts." The track team's next meets are April 19th at Pacelli, and April 22nd at Princeton, come out and support the team.

By: Amber Rietveld

EDITORIALS

Did We Go To The Moon?



Have you ever watched that TV special about how we never went to the moon? It had many great reasons suggesting why we never made it to the moon,

and I almost believed it until I recently watched the Myth Busters bust many of those myths. The TV special asked, "How can the flag be flapping around while it is being placed in the ground if there is no atmosphere?" The Busters went to a NASA facility where they were able to put a flag in a giant vacuum, and the result were that the flag had more movement than it did in earth's atmosphere. There were other tests done by the team. The conspiracy theorists said that the people shown running on the moon were actually people running on earth that were hanging from a cable, and with using a special recorder, they slowed down the film to half speed. The Busters tried reenacting the cable theory, and they proved this one to be busted because they were unable to duplicate this movement, even at half speed. Then they took a trip to a facility where they were able to go in a room that had one-sixth the gravity of earth (just like the moon), and they were able to perfectly duplicate the movement of a astronaut running on the moon. These were the most convincing facts for me that we made it to the moon. There were many more tests done to prove that we actually made it to the moon. So, if you're one of those doubters, I would recommend checking this Myth Busters out, and I'm sure you will change your mind. To watch this episode, you should check out the discovery channel, or it can also be found on youtube.com.

By Thomas Dahlke

How Well Do You Know Your Teacher?

Here are some facts about this week's Featured Teacher:

I am 27 years old. I attended school at Southern Door High School. I love to read, work-out, and watch ESPN. Not many people know that I used to sing with the East Wind Conservatory. I am married but do not have any children. I will never eat raw oysters again. I will go bungee-jumping before I die. I never leave my house without my cell phone. If I could be anyone for a day, I would be Pat Summit. If I won the lottery, the first thing I would do is make knock-off music videos. My favorite movie is Billy Madison. I am afraid of losing the people I love. Students think of me as funny and sarcastic. I became a teacher because I'm a control freak. The best thing about my job is I get to meet and interact with many different people, and at the end of the day, have the best stories to tell.

Rogena Warner

Dear Peggy

Dear Peggy,

I have a gay friend, and I'm starting to like him. But I'm afraid that my friends won't want to be around me. Should I hide my true feelings or come out of the closet? Thanks for helping. From, Undecided

Dear Undecided,

If you like this person you should go for it. Love comes in all different ways even if it's with the same sex, it still can be love. If your friends are true friends, they won't care. They will still be there for you and support you in your choice. So don't be scared to come out of the closet. Who cares if your friends get mad? If they are really your friends, they will support your decision.

Lending a Hand

Are you the kind of person who likes helping your friends and teachers? If you are a sophomore or a junior this year, you should choose Mentoring next year. Being a mentor involves helping your mentee on homework, playing games, and doing activities. As a mentor, you commit to spending an hour a day each week with a kid, also called a mentee. The kid, is either in elementary or in middle school. You will be assigned two kids the whole week by Mrs. Shogren. You will have the first kid on Mondays and Wednesdays only and the other kid on Tuesdays and Thursdays every week. Fridays are observation days, which means writing down what you see your mentee doing, any concerns, and what you did with both of the mentees that week. You will also need a teacher's signature to know that you were observing in the child's classroom. For example, you observe one kid this Friday and the other kid next Friday, and the pattern continues. This is a pretty easy class, but don't let this class become a reason to get an easy A. Take the class to become a role model for the younger kids to look up to.

Ilene Sanchez

Reasons to Volunteer

People volunteer for a wide variety of reasons, especially wanting to help others. There are many different reasons why students should volunteer. One reason is that you will gain job experience. Volunteer experience looks great on a resume. Besides, some of the work you do could lead to a job or a career in the future doing similar work. Volunteering reduces stress, give you hope, and raises your self-esteem. Colleges and universities today are looking for applicants who have more than just high grades. Another reason to volunteer is when you work with others, you get to know them and become friends with them, and they may give you a useful reference for a job or a college that you may want to go to. Last, but not least, is that it will bring laughter and smiles into your life and someone else's life, so start volunteering.

Ilene Sanchez

Featured Student

Here is a new guessing game for you! You all know how to play, it is just like the "How Well Do You Know Your Teacher," but the feature is one of your fellow classmates. See how much you know about the other students in our high school.

I am 17 years old, and I'm a junior this year. My favorite class in school is math. After school I'm planning to go on to college. I am still not decided on what college that I want to go to. The field of work I'm thinking of going into is accounting, but I'm still exploring all of the other options. I love sports; I'm in them all year round. The sports I'm in are football, basketball, and track. In my spare time, one of my favorite things to do is play basketball. If my friends described me, they would probably describe me as funny. If I'm not at home, the place I would most likely be is at my girlfriend's house, hanging out. I am very pumped to be the first featured student!

By: Stacey Krull

You Know What Really Grinds My Gears...

By Brock Pahlow

PEOPLE WHO THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!!!



In reality people, I'm only going to rant about something that I am 100% sure is true. For example, remember my rant about the Twilight movies? Well some of the senior girls must not have gotten the memo. I won't mention any names (Amber R), but somebody who must not have a clue about good movies (AMBER R), brought the next movie in the Twilight series, New Moon, and made us watch it on our senior trip to New York. Well, every single one of the guys on the bus did not want to see the movie because they knew what was

on it. Whether they found out through my article or through common knowledge I don't know, but THEY KNEW IT WAS A BAD MOVIE! Even though some of you (AMBER R) argued that, "Well, you're a guy; you would like the movie if they were all half naked girls." Well, it would probably hold our attention, but that still wouldn't make it a good movie. About 30 seconds into the movie, we decided to try and rid the sound of the stupid Werewolf versus Vampire drama by singing the infamous song "99 Bottles of Beer on Da Wall." We got to 73 before Mrs. Zeinart stopped us; unfortunately, the movie wasn't over at this time. So, as the movie continued, my eyes began to bleed from the sear pain of watching. I hope you take this as a lesson that maybe Brock Pahlow knows what he is ranting about, especially if it's about incredibly stupid movies.

The Featured Teacher is:

Mrs. Sixel!



The Featured Student Is:

Sean Klemp!



Glitter

Recently, many students have been shining brighter than usual. This is because of the use of glitter; or should I say the misuse of glitter. I've seen people this week with glitter everywhere, from their hair to their shoes. Nine times out of ten they themselves didn't put it on their bodies. It was either put on them by someone's hand that was doused with the shiny sparkles, or blown on them by the glitter in another person's hand, which then starts a glitter fight. No one wins that battle. If you don't know anything about glitter, let me tell you something, IT GETS EVERYWHERE!! Wiping it off sounds like a good idea, but it never works! It sticks to whatever you tried to wipe it off with. If it gets onto one person, it might as well have gotten on every single person in school because at the end of the day the whole school is sparkling. What is

glitter good for? In my book, it's good for nothing! Sure it makes stuff shiny, and adds a splash of color to something that is otherwise plain, but that's all. A brightly colored piece of construction paper could easily do the same thing. Like many things, moderation is key; if a little is good, more is too much. So if you see glitter, don't touch it, it only ends badly for everyone involved.

By: Zach Snortum

A Trip To Remember

As most of you know, the softball team traveled to Florida this past week. We left Thursday morning in the cold, wet snow to begin our drive to Milwaukee, WI, where we flew directly to Orlando, FL. Some of the girls had never flown before and were a little scared. Once we all got situated on the plane, things were going well. Surprisingly, no one got sick, but some were a little dizzy and had headaches. As soon as we arrived in Orlando, we needed to get our bags and get on the bus. Disney's Magical Express got us to our hotel, the wonderful Caribbean Beach Resort, with just enough time to change and get on another bus to the Wide World of Sports Complex. We had to register and get our credential cards, so we could get into the park. After getting into the park, we headed straight to the softball diamonds. We were originally supposed to have a JV game and after that a varsity game. However, there was a little bit of miscommunication, and we ended up having a scrimmage between the JV and varsity. This was followed by a varsity game against the Georgetown Visitation Cubs from D.C. It wasn't the best way to start off the season, but it wasn't exactly the worst either. The final score of the game was 0-8. It was definitely time for the pool as soon as we got back to the hotel. While we were swimming, the parents ordered pizza for us. Shortly after, it was time for lights out.

Let me tell you, morning came too soon. We had enough time to get ready and eat a little something, and it was back on the bus we go. Once into the sports complex, it was time for batting cages. As soon as we were done with that, it was time to play; Killingly High from Connecticut was our next match up. The game started off really well; however, in the last couple innings, we ended up losing. Right after we were done with that game, we had another game to play. Our next game was a loss against Boardman Lady from Ohio. Back to the hotel we went and right into the pool. Later that night, a few of us went to Magic Kingdom and went on some of the rides. Space Mountain was the favorite ride of the night. We were supposed to have a curfew because we had practice the next morning. However, our lovely coaches let us have the whole day off. NO PRACTICE!!

Some of us traveled in groups to explore. Our group decided to go out for breakfast in the morning and then go to Animal Kingdom. Animal Kingdom had a few rides; one included getting soaked. Yet again, there was a favorite ride of the day, Expedition Everest. This is a roller coaster ride that takes you up on a mountain and then down, backwards. It was really fun! That afternoon we went back to the hotel and swam and laid out in the hot sun. For dinner, we decided it would be fun to go to Epcot. Epcot is the park that has many different countries in one spot. A couple of people went to Japan, and some went to China for dinner. It was really fun to try different foods. After dinner, we thought it would be a good idea to go on some rides. We probably should have thought twice about that because some of us didn't feel too hot after the space simulator. The ones who did feel okay went on the test track after. Our beds were calling our names when we got back to the hotel. After the last couple days, we needed some sleep.

Sunday was our busiest day. Both the JV and varsity had two games, and we had some charity work to do. The 6 am wake-up call was just enough time to get ready and eat a little something, and then it was time to go on the bus to the sports complex. Varsity had two games against Bonny Eagle High from Maine. We did lose both, but we learned a lot being down there. The JV team played South Lewis and also lost both. After we were done playing, we headed up to the ESPN Grill at the sports complex for lunch. It had to be something quick because we had to go back to the hotel, change, and get on another bus to go to Give the Kids the World place. When we arrived at the place, we were told what we were going to be doing, which happened to be washing windows, sanitizing toys, and emptying garbages. After the work was done, we got a tour of the place and what happens there. I think that many of us felt good about doing the work after we



found out what it was for. Give the Kids the World is kind of like Make A Wish Foundation. They give families who have sick kids a place for a week to be away from doctors and have as much fun as they can. Once the tour was done, we went back to the hotel, showered up, and ate before heading to Downtown Disney to do some shopping. Downtown Disney is where all the big shops are. If you had to do any shopping for anyone else (or yourself), that was the place go.

Monday was another whole free day. My group went to MGM, also known as

Hollywood Studios. There were two big rides at MGM, Tower of Terror and Rockin' Roller Coaster. We went on each of these rides twice, and they got even better every time. We also went to the American Idol Experience. It was really cool; they had people at the park audition. After that, the top three performed in front of the audience. At the end, the audience voted, and the one who won then performed at the final show at the end of the night. If they won that show, they received ticket to jump in the front of the line at an actual American Idol audition. Later that night, we went back to Magic Kingdom because we were able to go to a dessert buffet and watch the fireworks on the Tomorrowland Terrace. It was pretty amazing! When we got back to the hotel, most of us packed up so that the next day all we had to do was grab our bags and leave.

Tuesday was kind of hectic. We needed to get all of our bags packed and checked. We didn't have to be checked out until 11, so we laid out in the sun until then. Tom also took us out for lunch before we left. At 3 pm, it was time to say goodbye to Disney. We got back on the Magical Express and headed to the airport. After going through security, we just sat around until it was time to board the plane. Many of us slept on the plane; we had a long week and were really tired. We arrived at the Milwaukee airport and got our luggage as fast as we could. It was nice to know we were in Wisconsin again, but we missed the nice weather of Florida. We got back to Shiocton at about 11:45 pm. It was nice to sleep in my own bed again.

Overall, this trip was great. We learned quite a bit about softball. We may not have won any games, but the experience was well worth it. As a team, we bonded. No one got lost, no one got hurt, and only one person got sick. I hope we can do it again sometime!

Laura Gomm

