

Forest Breeze

Volume 75, Issue 3

December 19, 2008

The Hunt Is On!

By Cassie Olson

For the first time *The Forest Breeze* is doing our own version of the Medallion Hunt. The medallion is somewhere on the high school grounds, in a public place, not in private areas such as lockers, cars, classrooms, etc. We do not look kindly upon nor do we condone people skipping class to look for the medallion.

The prize for finding the medallion is a \$30 Visa Gift card you can use anywhere! You

can even use it for those small presents around the holidays. If you find the medallion, bring it to Ms. LeVake's room (374) during passing time or before or after school, and you'll receive your prize then. If nobody finds the prize today or over the weekend, a second clue will be released on Monday, and again on Tuesday if needed.

Clue #1

I'm shiny, silver and round

Come find me outside on high school grounds,

Up high or down low, maybe between,

Start to look, try and find me.



Happy Holidays From The
Forest Breeze Staff

Staff: Clockwise from ribbon- (Outer Ring) Kyle Arbuckle, Katlin Johnson, Kellie O'Brien, Eric Snidarich, Jake Hipp, Charlie Nelson, Cassady Zebro, Dennis Sprute, Liz Brown and Krysta Nelson. (Inner Ring) Megan Daly, Johanna McDowell, Cassie Olson and Dan Lindahl.

School Resumes Jan. 5



What are you doing over winter break?

“Hanging out with friends.” Brittany Phipps, 11	“I’ll be at home probably building snowmen!” Mallory Baker, 11	hanging out with friends, and sleeping in. Jenny Warwick, 11	snowboarding.” Phylicia Nguyen, 10	Lynda Rupp, Sciences
“I might head to Chicago to see family, it depends on the weather.” Ken Mikolajczyk, Social Studies	“I’ll be staying at home, very exciting.” Mark Brisbois, 10	“Working, sleeping and celebrating my 18 th birthday.” Abby Lund, 12	“Sleep.” Andrew Riley, 11	“I’ll be fixing my car and working.” Jessica Lathrup, 12
“I will be playing hockey.” Nick Kelley, 12	“I’m going to my grandma and grandpa’s house,	“I have to go to my aunt’s house and I’m going	“I’m going to Lake of the Woods for a fishing trip.” Andy Bochman, 12	“I’m going to Mexico with my family.” Lauren Hobe, 10
			“Driving to Ohio on Christmas Eve.”	

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

‘Go tell it on the mountain...’

The Hills
The lowdown on where to go sledding

By Daniel Lindahl

I’m talking about the real hills, better known as sledding. You might ask, why sledding? Well, it’s the most fun you can have on a toboggan for one. Also, there are many sledding enthusiasts at FLHS, and a lot of them don’t know where to go to get their sledding fix. So, I’ve compiled a few choice areas for the sled fan inside of you. All the slopes on this list are free of charge.

Topping off the list is the **Forest Hills Golf Course**. It’s the most versatile place on the list because of the many options of hills. Many people I talked to recommended Forest Hills as their top sledding experience.

Coming in a close second is the **St. Peter’s** hill. Some believe the best days of this legendary slope are in the past, but St. Peters is now starting to regain its reputation for being the place to go, especially for the younger generation, and if there is a large amount of snowfall it becomes an even greater slope.

Coming in third is the **Elim Lutheran Church** in Scandia because of its great steepness. Some other places to consider if you are willing to go the extra

miles are Como Park and the park in Chisago. (The one with the huge slide) Both hills are very large and a great sledding experience, but they aren’t as close to Forest Lake.



Another recommendation if you don’t find these slopes suitable is to find a 4- wheeler or snowmobile and get towed behind it, remember to be safe and wear a helmet if you are going to attempt this.

Alan Anderson, teacher and local sledding expert, recommends the great slopes in South Dakota, “You can use the frozen cow pies as jumps,” he said. This slope is the

bottom of the list because of the travel that is required.

There are a few tips for finding great slopes on your own. First, look for a hill that not only looks tall, but also steep. A lot of people look for hills that are tall, but realize quickly that it doesn’t pack the punch a steep hill can offer. A less obvious tip is to look for places that might not have snow, but have a great slope. If you find a place like this you might be able to transport snow and make a hill out of it. Make sure to look at driveways for opportunities as well, but be cautious of a possible lack of snow in the surrounding area, and make sure you have the home owner’s permission first.

With these tools, you can not only enjoy the recommended places above, but also find new areas that are likely to be even better. Make sure to remember to be safe and respectful, especially if there are young children around.

By Kellie O’Brien Afton Alps Hastings, MN 55033 www.aftonalps.com Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 9:30a.m.-9:30p.m. Fri. – Sat. 9a.m.-10p.m. Sun. – 9a.m.-9:30p.m. Lift Ticket: \$39 weekend all day \$33 weekend (sat & sun) 2 pm to close \$33 holiday 2 pm to close \$27 weekdays Monday-Friday \$27 nights 4:30pm-close Rentals: \$24 (Ski & Snowboard)	Gold \$45 Sunday – Friday & Non Holidays Nights \$20 4 Hr. \$30 8 Hr. \$35 Gold \$40 Rentals: <i>Ski</i> 4 Hrs. \$24 8 Hrs. \$27 Gold \$29 <i>Snowboard & Boots</i> 4 Hrs. \$29 8 Hrs. \$32 Gold \$34
Wild Mountain Taylors Falls, MN 55084 www.wildmountain.com Hours: Mon.-Fri. 10a.m.-10p.m. Sat. 9:30a.m.-10p.m. Sat. late night 4p.m.-1a.m. Sun. 9:30a.m.-9p.m. Christmas Eve Day 9:30a.m.-3p.m. Christmas Day Noon-10p.m. Lift Ticket: \$40-open to close \$29- 4p.m.-close (Mon-Sat), 3p.m.-close (Sun.) Rentals: \$25 (ski & snowboard)	Welch Village Welch, MN 55089 www.welchvillage.com Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 10a.m.-9p.m. Fri.-Sat. 9a.m.-10p.m. Sun. 9a.m.-9p.m. Christmas Eve Day 9a.m.-2p.m. Christmas Day- CLOSED Lift Ticket: Everyday All Day \$45 Afternoon (1pm) \$40 Night (5pm) \$35 Rentals: <i>Ski</i> \$30 <i>Snowboard</i> \$30
Spirit Mountain Duluth, MN 55810 www.spiritmt.com Hours: Sun.-Thurs. 9a.m.-8p.m. Fri.-Sat. 9a.m.-9p.m. Christmas Eve Day 9a.m.-5p.m. Christmas Day 1p.m.-9p.m. Lift Tickets: Saturday & Holidays Nights \$20 4 Hr. \$35 8 Hr. \$40	Lutsen Mountains Lutsen, MN 55612 www.lutsen.com Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9a.m.-4:30p.m. Sat./Sun./Holidays 9a.m.-4:30p.m. Lift Ticket: \$48/day + tax Rentals: <i>Standard Ski Package</i> @window \$31 Online \$26 <i>Snowboard</i> @window \$40 Online \$35



Christmas break is right around the corner, so much time and so much to do. What are your plans for the break? Well, we’ve composed a few lists of what students and staff are doing, classic movies to pick up, top songs to sing throughout the break, and so…”I’m offering this simple phrase, to kids from one to ninety two, although it’s been said many times, many ways, Merry Christmas to you.”

‘All I want for Christmas is…’

By Cassady Zebro
Having a hard time choosing what you want from Santa for Christmas? Need some ideas that may spark an idea? Here’s a list of gifts other students are wishing for this year.

“I got it early, but a snowboard.”
Senior Scotty Nelson

“I want to meet Jason Mraz.”
Senior Katie Nolden

“I want a car.”
Senior Jake Marier

“I want a tattoo.”
Senior Cherri Franklin

“I want new clothes and my ears triple pierced.”
Junior Danielle Dressel

“An iTouch.”
Junior Bri Culp

“An iTouch or a new truck.”
Junior Danny Jerczek

“The Wii fit.”
Junior Tisa Phinney

“I just want to have a Happy Christmas with my family, and Nick.”
Garrett Renn

“For Christmas I want a pony and my two front teeth.”
Sophomore Joe Lesnar

“I want a hippopotamus.”
Sophomore Andrew Youngquist (spelling)

“I want a Wii.”
Sophomore Linnae Simons

“I want a red Rider BB Gun.”
Sophomore Zach Vidlund

“I want a blackberry.”
Miranda Rennick



‘Do you hear what I hear?’



By Johanna McDowell
Do you ever hear students in the halls singing their favorite Chist-mas song and then it’s stuck in your head the *whole day*? Well, here are a few songs that you can sing along to all day long.

- 1. We Wish you a Merry Christmas
- 2. Jingle Bells
- 3. Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow

- 4. Deck the Halls
- 5. Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer
- 6. Santa Claus is Coming to Town
- 7. Silent Night
- 8. Rockin Around the Christmas Tree
- 9. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- 10. All I Want For Christmas is You

Top Christmas movies of all time



By Cassady Zebro
Curious as to what movie you should rent to get in the spirit over holiday break? Interested in having that relaxing, do-nothing-lay-on-the-couch-for-hours watching movies day? If you’re wondering what movies to pick up, here’s a list of some top holiday films from the past.

Movies

- 1. *It’s a Wonderful Life*
- 2. *Miracle on 34th Street*
- 3. *Scrooge*

- 4. *White Christmas*
- 5. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*
- 6. *A Christmas Story*
- 7. *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*
- 8. *Home Alone*
- 8. *The Nightmare before Christmas*
- 10. *Elf*



Coming soon...
New movies released over break

By Elizabeth Brown

Thursday, Dec. 25
Marley & Me: starring Jennifer Aniston and Owen Wilson

The Spirit: starring Gabriel Macht, Samuel L. Jackson and Sarah Paulson

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: starring Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett

Last Chance Harvey: starring Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson

Bedtime Stories: starring Adam Sandler, Guy Pearce, Keri Russel

Friday, Dec. 26
Revolutionary Road: starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, and Kathy Bates

Valkyrie: starring Tom Cruise, Kenneth Branagh, and Bill Nighy

Waltz with Bashir: starring Aril Folman, Ori Sivan

Wednesday, Dec. 31
Defiance: starring Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber

Good: starring Viggo Mortensen, Jason Isaacs



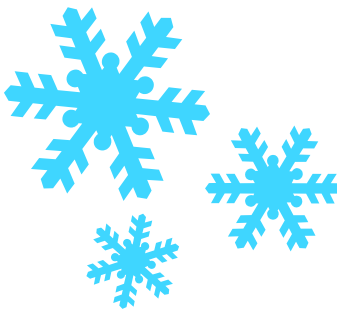
‘I’m Dreaming of a White Christmas’

By Megan Daly
With the Christmas break coming up, students may be looking for suggestions on how to spend their time off. These activities collected from internet surveys may give you some helpful ideas.

- 1. Skiing and snowboarding
- 2. Sledding (see sledding article)
- 3. Snowball fights
- 4. Building a snowman
- 5. Snowmobiling
- 6. Building snow forts
- 7. Holiday shopping
- 8. Ice fishing
- 9. Watching movies
- 10. Ice skating

Holidazzle up your holiday

By Katlin Johnson
This year Minneapolis will be welcoming the Holidazzle Parade for the 17th year. The parade is a Minneapolis winter tradition, sporting many bright lights, quite festive floats, celebrity grand marshals and 250 costumed characters from various children’s stories. The Holidazzle tradition is going on Thurs-Sun, beginning Friday, November 28th and ending on Sunday, December 21st. It is on the Nicolette Mall between 12th and 4th streets, starting at 6:30pm.



Headlines we wish for in 2009

Created by Dennis Sprute



Angelina:”Yes, babies 10 & 11 are on the way” ... in the meantime, Brad is back with Jen Aniston



Environmental miracle: Glaciers grow again!



Huge oil well found in United States. Gas prices below 50 cents!

Unbelievable: Detroit Lions win Superbowl!



Serving a bowl of mediocrity

By Charlie Nelson

So this is where the road ends once again. We are back to old fashioned Gopher Football. Hopes rise in the beginning of the season only to fall further than we thought possible. After this long and painful fall from grace, we have landed in the desert sands of Arizona ready to play the University of Kansas in the Insight Bowl.

The Gophers were certainly looking golden at the beginning of the year. Minnesota had an impressive 7-1 record with their only loss to reigning Big Ten Champion Ohio State. With spirits riding as high as Coach Brewsters’ ego, the smell of Roses seemed to be in the air. The only thing standing in the Gophers’ way was the Big Ten, and the Big Ten stood strong. The Gophers lost their last four games in humiliating fashion and now are back to reality. The Gophers are in another mediocre bowl game after another surprisingly predictable season.

Last time the Gophers made it to a bowl game was the 2006 Insight Bowl against Texas Tech, the game that cost then head coach

Glen Mason his job. In their return to Arizona, the Gophers have another tough Big 12 school as an opponent with the Jayhawks lining up across the line of scrim-

defense. The Gopher defense is young and talented but has shown holes when facing good offenses. It will be very interesting to see if the Gophers can stop KU quarterback Reesing and the 23rd ranked Kansas offense.

On the other side of the ball, the Gophers must rely on the connection of Adam Weber and Eric Decker. Decker is obviously the anchor of the offense with just short of 1000 yards receiving and his game changing ability. When Decker missed games at the end of the season, the offense changed drastically and was ineffective scoring and moving the ball. If Minnesota can get the ball in Decker’s hands and assemble some sort of a run game, then we will have a competitive game.

Look for an excited Gopher team running onto the field in Tempe on New Years Eve. The Gophers have a tough and prepared opponent however, and this game could help test how Tim Brewster prepares his team as a head coach.



New Year's Resolutions to follow

By Kyle Arbuckle

Have you thought of your new year's resolution for this year? If not, you still have plenty of time to decide what you are going to say. Here are some of your classmates' resolutions. You could maybe get some ideas from them and form your own.

Senior Adam Rucker

“To understand and do my homework.”

Junior Scott Sova

“Make my Dodge Dakota even cooler.”

Junior Tyler Firkus

“Make my Chevy cooler than Scott's crappy truck.”

Sophomore Jordan Patrick

“To get a job at a non-fast food place.”

Junior Katie Kuhnert

“I am going stop eating at fast food places.”

Senior Danielle Goodale

“I want to think more positive in bad situations.”

Future Finance

By Megan Daly

2009 is finally here. Although 2008 was an exciting year in both good and bad ways with the election of our next president, Rising and dropping gas prices and the stock market insanely going up and down, people are wondering if their financial situations are here to stay. A stable income these days seems to be a luxury. But how do finances in the New Year affect teens?

According to the Department of Labor (DOL), Minnesotan teens often work in retail or service jobs earning minimum wage. Minimum wage in the United States is currently set at \$5.85 but will rise to \$ 7.25 by July of 2009 if a bill is passed through congress. So that leaves a \$7.25 an hour paycheck to pay for a teen’s necessities. Granted, most teenagers don’t have house payments to make, they don’t have loans to pay off and credit card debt is hardly a worry, so what worries

young people the most? Paying for vehicles. Gas seems to be a top priority for teen drivers along with insurance and repairs.

After the election, prices per barrel of crude oil dropped to what seemed to be a staggering low after dollar amounts went through the roof to fill up a gas tank. The Federal Energy Agency has produced an outlook on next year’s gasoline prices. For 2009 they project the average national price for one gallon of gas to be \$2.22.

In retrospect, things seem to be looking up for employed teens. Basic purchases seem to be dropping in cost and the struggle to pay up at the gas station will soon be in the past. With the New Year comes new finances, and so far, the revision and price reduction seems to be in the general interest of the public.

Bowl games worth watching

By Jake Hipp

College football creates added excitement to the Holidays. Over the years there have been many exciting bowl games and every year there are bound to be at least a few because there are so many. Remember the games listed below are just the ones we thought were noteworthy. You always hope for the big bowl games to be close but the mediocre teams also have very intense games.

All times are central.

Bowl Game

Insight Bowl

Chick-fil-A Bowl

Outback Bowl

Capital One Bowl

Rose Bowl

FedEX Orange Bowl

AT&T Cotton Bowl

Allstate Sugar Bowl

FedEX BCS National Championship

Matchup

Kansas vs. Minnesota

LSU vs. Georgia Tech

Iowa vs. South Carolina

Georgia vs. Michigan State

Penn State vs. USC

Virginia Tech vs. Cincinnati

Texas Tech vs. Ole Miss

Utah vs. Alabama

Oklahoma vs. Florida

Date and time

Dec. 31, 4:30 P.M.

Dec 31, 6:30 P.M.

Jan. 1, 10 A.M.

Jan. 1, 12 P.M.

Jan 1, 3:30 P.M.

Jan 1, 7:30 P.M.

Jan 2, 1 P.M.

Jan. 2, 7 P.M.

Jan 8, 7 P.M.