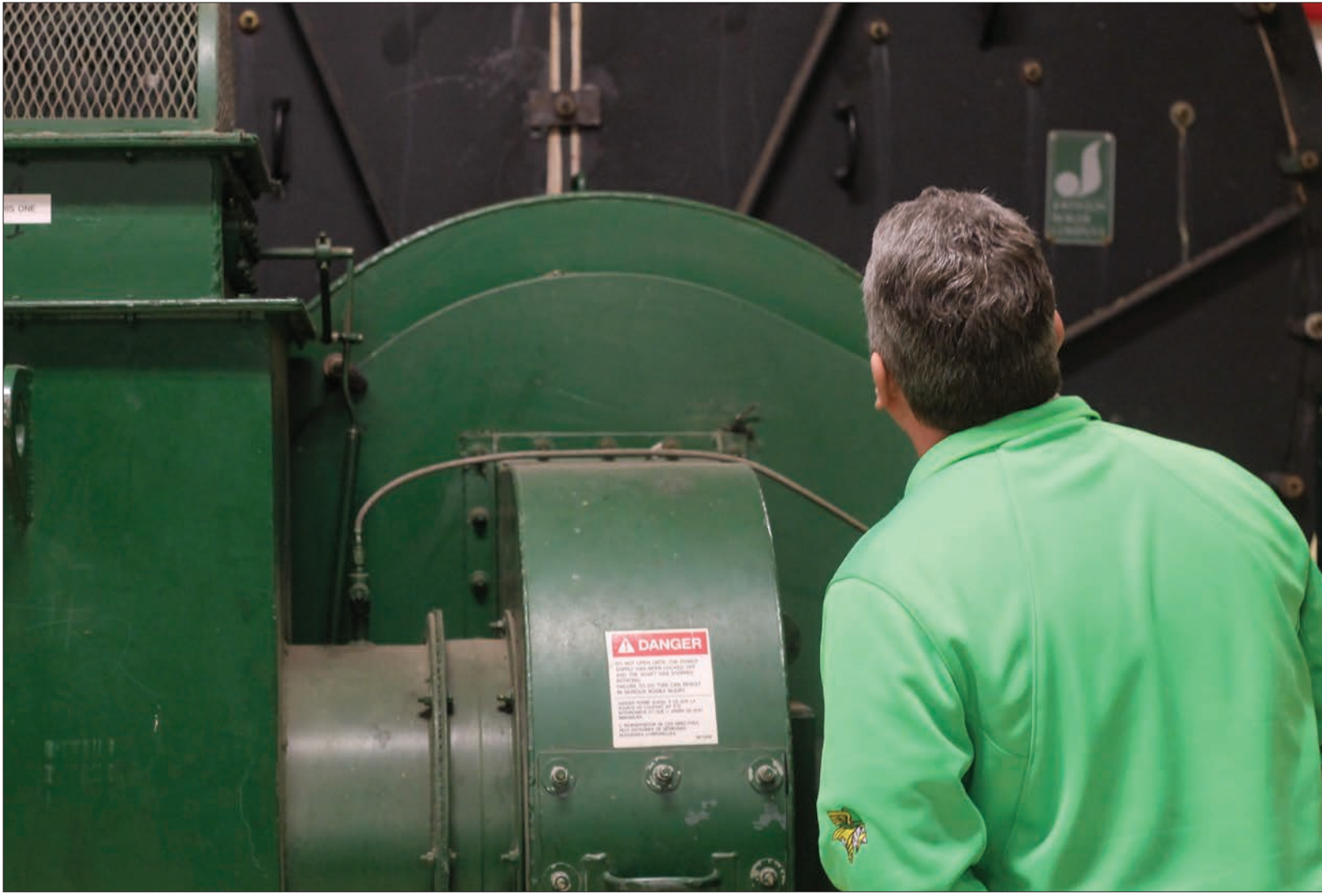


What lies below

Basement tour uncovers the world beneath the school

By Trevor Mieczkowski & Sydney Benson
STAFF REPORTER & PHOTO EDITOR



ABOVE: Assistant principal Tom Beach examines the boiler. “The various factors, like the humidity and the temperature of the outside, all come into play and they have to time it just right,” Beach said. “That is why sometimes during the day it might get too hot, when that happens they have to back off to cool it down.”



ABOVE LEFT: Engineer Rick Robb uses these water testing kits to maintain healthy water standards in the school. “We test to make sure we are within the limits the state and chemical companies want us to be at, so we don’t rot out the pipes,” Robb said. “These pumps are from when the school originally opened in 1966.”

BELOW LEFT: These pipes help regulate school temperature. “What they do is chill the water as cold as they can get it and then they shoot it through the pipes,” Beach said. “Then all these pipes go into the room and the fans blow against the individual pipes, which cools down the air and that sends either cold or hot air to the rooms, depending if it is heat or air conditioning.”

BELOW: Props for past school productions reside in the basement as well. “Remember, the Performing Arts Center is a shared facility. So although it’s located at North, it’s actually a district facility, so we share it with all the other districts,” Beach said. “It’s better now that we have recently built the performance art area over at Brownell, which helped take all the pressure and time constraints. We have sets — just about everything down here.”



FACES IN THE CROWD

Jack Flynn

Not often will a sophomore in high school say their biggest achievement in life is to be living in America, but for sophomore Jack Flynn it is.

Flynn was adopted from South Korea’s capital city, Seoul. Flynn came to the U.S. by a 14-hour plane ride when he was 6 months old. Flynn was born Kim Do Kyun, which means ‘even way’ in Korean.

Although Flynn is interested in visiting his native country, he wants to continue living in America for many reasons.

“I like being in the U.S. because I am able to have freedom of speech and religion, a great education, be eligible to go to a good college, (have) a democratic government, (I don’t have) to be in an orphanage, and (I have) a real family.”



John Huskin

A lifelong passion for cars has led sophomore John Huskin to consider a career as an engineer.

“If you work on a car you learn new skills. You get to make something your own. With cars, you can generally enjoy it by driving it. You can even enjoy it by working on it,” he said. “I just like doing stuff. I like taking apart things and making them better. You’re creating things. I just love the automotive industry.”

Huskin feels that he already thinks like an engineer and enjoys using physics and math skills.

“It’s similar to like being a mechanic,” Huskin said. “The way I think is just kind of the way an engineer thinks, like math and science and physics.”

Huskin says he’s worked on lots of cars, and his ‘86 red and gray Mustang pulled the sophomore float in the 2015 homecoming parade.



Natalie Barstys

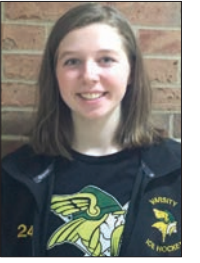
Typical sophomores are about 15 or 16 years old. Sophomore Natalie Barstys, however, technically just turned 4.

Barstys was born on February 29, or Leap Day, which is the extra day at the end of February that happens every four years.

“The most annoying thing about being born on leap year is when people figure out that I’ll technically be in my 20s when I die or insist that I don’t have a birthday on non-leap years,” Barstys said.

However, there are still positives to being a Leap Day baby.

“One benefit would be that my birthday is that much more exciting when it’s actually a leap year,” Barstys said. “I would not change my birthday if I could.”



By Darcy Graham

FIVE MINUTES WITH Library media technician Amanda Pata

By Trevor Mieczkowski
STAFF REPORTER

Trying to find a hidden object using only its GPS coordinates may seem challenging. However, for librarian Amanda Pata, it is a hobby. Pata and her family frequently go geocaching and log the different objects they are able to find.

Pata started geocaching when she and her husband, physics teacher Don Pata, started dating.

“I had heard about it, and it seemed interesting because I really like to travel and being outdoors, and when geocaching first started, most of the geocaches were out in the woods or along hiking trails,” Amanda said. “That really kind of called to me because I like camping and hiking, and this is something that you can do while doing that.”

An object’s difficulty is ranked from easy to hard on the Geocaching App. The app also gives geocachers an approximate location and a clue to help them locate what they are looking for.

“You might find an Altoids box that has a magnet in it underneath a bench or you might find a water bottle that has been painted brown, hanging from a branch in a tree, if it is an outdoor one,

or you might find an ammo box buried in sticks or in a tree trunk that’s dead,” Amanda said.

Each object is accompanied by a logbook and sometimes a little trinket to trade out with a different one. For example, a geocache could contain an old coin, but in order to take that old coin, the finder must replace it with another little item, such as toy. But for her, it is about more than the trinkets.

“I think that for us, it is more about where the geocache is and less about what is in them,” Amanda said. “Now that we are taking our kids geocaching, they like to find things like tops or little stickers people leave behind.”

Amanda and Don Pata spent a whole year finding one geocache a night. In addition to geocaching in Michigan, the Patas have also found some in different states and different countries.

“So we have been trying to keep track of the milestone geocaches, like number 900 we did at the old Tiger stadium with the kids, number 1,000 we did in Hawaii, I think number 800 I found in Germany while visiting my sister,” Pata said. “We have found geocaches in 12 states, we’ve found almost 1,000 in Michigan.”



ABOVE: Library media technician Amanda Pata enjoys the hidden treasures within geocaching. “Sometimes the people who make the geocache leave something nice, which is called the first to find,” Pata said. “They might leave something like a lottery ticket or an interesting coin.”

DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS

Curious, helpful and motherly

WEAKNESSES

Reality TV and realistic fiction

INSPIRATION

My mom. She is hardworking. She raised us to really value hard work and to see the results in what we do.

DREAM VACATION

I love Alaska. Mr. Pata and I went there for our honeymoon on a cruise, so I would love to go to Alaska, but not on a boat, and do some geocaching.

FAVORITE FOOD

Anything Mr. Pata will make for us, I guess. I am kind of a nacho fan, kind of an Italian food fan. Anything that is not asparagus, also known as “asparagross.”