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### **Academic Decathlon Fundraiser**

#### ***RedSky Lounge Partners with Twin Cities Band Atomic Flea to Save Mankato Academic Decathlon Program Scheduled to be Dropped from the 2009-2010 ISD 77 Budget Plan***

**Mankato, Minnesota, March 18, 2009**—RedSky Lounge today announced an upcoming fundraiser at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2009. The event will take place at RedSky Lounge with a portion of sales going directly to the Academic Decathlon fund for ISD #77.

“It is our intention to raise the \$6000 to cover the costs to keep Academic Decathlon as an extracurricular offering this School District,” said Dawn Bentley, a member of the 1990-91 academic decathlon team at Mankato West. “AD gave me the ability to embrace all learning styles, the self-reliance needed to obtain an academic scholarship, and the confidence to fight to maintain this program in ISD 77.”

Bentley, who heard about the proposed budget reduction through fellow decathlon alum, channeled her passion for the program into an effort to save it. She developed the website [www.savemankatowestad.com](http://www.savemankatowestad.com) and is collecting donations to privately fund the program.

Minneapolis-based pop-rock quartet Atomic Flea has been on the local Twin Cities scene for over 10 years. Their third and strongest release to date, Babadebaba, was co-produced by Ben Durrant (Andrew Bird, Roma di Luna) at Crazy Beast Studio. Babadebaba presents a collage of signature pop tunes mixed up with more spacious, introspective songs accompanied by a multimedia package includes a new website ([www.AtomicFlea.com](http://www.AtomicFlea.com)), and a complete 11-episode graphic novel inspired by the album’s title track.

“We wanted to provide a venue and a portion of sales to help Bentley’s efforts in saving the academic decathlon,” said Ryan Stroup, General Manager and Owner of RedSky Lounge. “By partnering with her we are able to positively impact youth in the Greater Mankato community.”

#### **About RedSky Lounge**

RedSky Lounge is a unique multi-part lounge, offering free private event space, serving classic cocktails, wines and craft beers while offering a menu with major flavor and flair.