

Osseo Supt.

Osseo Area Schools announces Cory McIntyre as new superintendent.
Page 9



CEAP

CEAP looks to gather a record-breaking amount of food at events this March.
Page 7

Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019

Champlin Park sophomore wins state title, scores a perfect 10



(SUN POST STAFF PHOTO BY ANTHONY IOZZO)

Champlin Park sophomore Chaney Neu performs her floor exercise routine Feb. 23 in the AA state gymnastics meet at the University of Minnesota's Maturi Pavilion. Neu won a state title in every event, including breaking a state record in the all-around with a 39.125 and becoming the first to score a perfect 10.0 on the vault in state history.

Story on Page 13

Liberians rally at state Capitol as immigration deadline looms

Rep. Phillips, AG Ellison offer support for DED holders

By **KEVIN MILLER**
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As the deadline for

congressional or presidential action on Deferred Enforced Departure for Liberians creeps ever

closer, Liberians, their supporters and elected officials rallied at the State Capitol Feb. 22, calling

for either a presidential extension of DED or legislative action to protect those who are impacted.

DED is a legal immigration status granted to Liberian nationals who

were seeking refuge from the Liberian civil in the early 1990s.

Since 1991, Liberians with either Temporary Protected Status or Deferred Enforced

Departure status have been able to legally reside and work in the United States. Minnesota has

See **DED**, Page 2

Volume 75, No. 10

Index

Opinion-Page 4
Calendar-Page 8
Metro-Page 11-12
Sports-Pages 13-19
Public Safety-Page 23
Classifieds-Pages 20-22

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PUBLIC NOTICES: See pages 18-19



Champlin Park gymnastics



Champlin Park sophomore Chaney Neu and others react to her perfect 10.0 score on the vault on Feb. 23 in the AA state gymnastics meet at the University of Minnesota's Maturi Pavilion.

(SUN POST STAFF PHOTO BY ANTHONY IOZZO)



(SUN POST STAFF PHOTO BY ANTHONY IOZZO)

Champlin Park sophomore Chaney performs on the balance beam Feb. 23 in the AA state gymnastics meet at the University of Minnesota's Maturi Pavilion. Neu had her best performance on the beam all season, winning her state title with a 9.675.

Perfect

Neu wins five titles, breaks state records in vault, all-around

By **ANTHONY IOZZO**
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Champlin Park sophomore Chaney Neu came into Saturday's AA individual state gymnastics meet with lofty goals but five state titles and two state records were not a part of them.

Neu became the first in state history to have a perfect 10.0 vault, and she also set a state record with her state championship all-around performance with a 39.125. Neu won state titles on the balance beam, uneven bars and floor exercise, as well.

"My goal is to just hit my routines and I had getting a 10 on vault on the back of my mind, but no, I did not think I was going to get gold on everything and get a record," Neu said. "No, I didn't think that."

Neu's vault performance was during the fourth rotation, and it sent the entire stadium into an uproar.

She started her vault run and didn't seem to blink the entire time. There was a brief moment

Five golden events

All-around: 39.125*
Vault: 10.0*
Floor: 9.7125
Bars: 9.7125
Beam: 9.675

* Broke state record

of silence when she catapulted herself up into her flip, but when she planted herself on the mat without any movement, the cheers rippled throughout the University of Minnesota's Maturi Pavilion.

The 10.0 scores started to come in within a minute. One, two three and everyone cheered and waited for the final judge to put down her score. When the final sign flipped with a 10.0, Neu screamed and hugged everyone around her.

"At sections, I had just the slightest foot movement, so I was trying super hard to stick it," Neu said. "Once I stuck it, I knew I would probably get a 10, but I saw the three 10s and thought, 'Please be another 10.' When it was, I couldn't believe that it actually happened, and I was super happy."

The excitement also caused a

STARS of the WEEK

Top star



Name: Chaney Neu

School: Champlin Park

Grade: Sophomore

Sport: Gymnastics

Highlights: Neu dominated the AA state meet with five state titles, a record all-around score of 39.125 and the first ever perfect 10.0 vault in state history

Other stars

Donovan Durand (sophomore) Champlin Park-boys swimming

Durand finished second overall in 4:57.7 in the 500-yard freestyle in the 5AA section meet to advance to the state tournament

Juan Fraire-Morales (senior) Brooklyn Center/Concordia Academy-wrestling

Fraire-Morales won a 5AA section title at 120 pounds to advance to state for the second time

Jagger Schack (sophomore) Osseo-wrestling

Schack won a 5AAA section title at 220 pounds to advance to state for the second time

Mikaelah Counce (freshman) Champlin Park-girls basketball

Counce finished with 16 points on Feb. 21 in a 58-54 win over Prior Lake

See **State**, Page 14

Brooklyn Center/Concordia Academy wrestling

Fraire-Morales advances to AA state meet with section title

By ANTHONY IOZZO

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Senior Juan Fraire-Morales is headed back to state after winning the 120-pound bracket on Feb. 23 at the 5AA individual wrestling section meet at Orono High School.

Fraire-Morales (31-7) went 3-0 to claim the section title and had three pins.

He won his first-place match in 1

minute, 27 seconds over Totino-Grace's Michael Loger, and he pinned Benilde-St. Margaret's Graham Imholte in 45 seconds and Columbia Heights' Matt Benson in 1:24 earlier in the meet.

Junior Simeon Dossen (19-9) was the next closest to earning a state berth. Dossen (132 pounds) took third with an 8-7 decision over Robbinsdale Cooper's Sam Thurston, but he did not get a chance at a wrestleback.

Dossen pinned Minneapolis Edison's Janet Sanchez in 1:53 in the quarterfinals, and he won 13-12 over Benilde-St. Margaret's Luke Fredin in the consolation semifinals. Dossen lost 8-2 to Totino-Grace's Bryce Erkenbrack in the semifinals.

Junior Clint Garrity (14-13) was fourth at 145 pounds, dropping a 9-3 decision to Richfield's Tritian Zornes in his third-place match. Garrity defeated

Minneapolis Edison's Javonni Grimes 6-4 in the consolation semifinals and also won an 18-6 major decision over Columbia Heights' Jonathan Heveron in the quarterfinals.

Garrity was edged 7-5 to Minneapolis Patrick Henry's Jan Soto-Hernandez in the semifinals.

Sophomores Cole Garcia (138 pounds)

See **BCCA**, Page 17



(SUN POST STAFF PHOTOS BY ANTHONY IOZZO)

Champlin Park sophomore Tashina Beyioku-Alase performs on the vault Feb. 23 in the AA state gymnastics meet at the University of Minnesota's Maturi Pavilion. Beyioku-Alase finished 15th overall on the vault with a score of 9.5125.

State

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

brief moment of confusion. Neu was about to run her second vault before the entire stadium seemed to scream, 'No.' Neu laughed and walked back to the side, and everyone cheered her on again.

It was tough for Neu to top that moment, but she did have two more events after the vault. One of those events was the balance beam, which was her final event of the evening.

Neu said that the beam is her one struggle, and she was nervous after falling during her series at sections. It didn't help that she was last to go in the rotation.

"I was like, 'Hopefully I am not last,'" Neu said. "That is the only thing that I wish for and then someone tells me I am last and I am like, 'Are you serious?'"

But the nerves seemed to melt away once she was on the beam because she leapt, twisted and flipped with confidence. Once she planted her finale, she knew she had done something special once again.

Neu scored a 9.675, and it was enough for her first state title on the beam. She took sixth last season.

"I was just trying to think to take it skill by skill," Neu said. "I never in a million years thought I would get first. My goal going in was to just stick my beam routine, so when I stuck it I was super happy and super proud of myself."

Neu started the meet with the floor exercise, which she won a state title on last season, and she wowed yet again. She scored a 9.7125 to take first.

She later took first on the uneven bars with a 9.7125.



Champlin Park sophomore Emma Saksa performs on the uneven bars on Feb. 23 in the AA state gymnastics meet at the University of Minnesota's Maturi Pavilion. Saksa finished 25th overall on the bars with a score of 9.1375.

"I haven't added my blind front giants until the last couple of meets, so I was kind of nervous about that but I am super happy that I made it and super happy that my work paid off," Neu said.

So what could possibly be next for Neu after her state record performance? She said she will have more training and will learn new skills, so there should be plenty of more golds on the horizon.

Beyioku-Alase, Saksa also compete

Sophomores Tashina Beyioku-Alase and Emma Saksa also competed at state with Neu and finished well.

Beyioku-Alase participated in the vault and took 15th overall with a score of 9.5125, and Saksa finished 25th on the uneven bars with a 9.1375.

Champlin Park boys swimming



(SUN POST STAFF PHOTO BY ANTHONY IOZZO)

Champlin Park sophomore Donovan Durand swims in the 500-yard freestyle Feb. 21 in the 5AA section prelims at the Minnetonka Aquatics Center. Durand ended up qualifying for state on Feb. 23 with a second-place finish in 4 minutes, 57.7 seconds.

Durand, Phillips advance to state

By ANTHONY IOZZO

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Champlin Park sophomores Donovan Durand and Garrett Phillips will be representing the Rebels at state as both advanced from Feb. 22-23 in the 5AA section meet at the Minnetonka Aquatic Center.

Phillips was the first to punch his ticket to state in the diving competition on Feb. 22. He finished third overall with a 354.6.

Wayzata advanced to state in the other three diving spots. Eighth-grader Henry Ross won with a 398.3, and junior Ethan Wheeler was runner-up with a 385.5. Freshman Nick Haseman was fourth with a 339.35.

Durand joined Phillips on Feb. 23 in the 500-yard freestyle swimming finals. Durand finished runner-up in 4 minutes, 57.7 seconds. Wayzata freshman Matthew Gendreau won the event in 4:57.04.

The Rebels took third as a team with a 256. Wayzata won with a 665, and Spring Lake Park took second with a 333.

Durand added his second medal in the 200 freestyle. He took third in 1:47.85. Junior Dalton Stohlmann also medaled in the 200 free with a sixth-place finish in 1:53.35. Wayzata junior Ian Taraszewski won in 1:47.4, and Wayzata's Gendreau finished second in 1:47.71.

Junior Mark Kroening, senior Haven Eliason, Stohlmann and Durand added a third-place in the 400 free relay in 3:20.23. Wayzata won the event with a

State berths

Diving: Garrett Phillips (third), 354.6

500 free: Donovan Durand (second), 4:57.7

Coming up

Donovan Durand and Garrett Phillips represent Champlin Park Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 28-March 2 in the AA state swimming and diving meet at the University of Minnesota's Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center. The diving prelims are at 6 p.m. Thursday, and the swimming prelims are at 6 p.m. Friday. The finals are at 6 p.m. Saturday.

section record time of 3:10.69, and Robbinsdale Cooper took second in 3:17.49.

Mark Kroening was fourth in the 100 freestyle in 49.51 to make the podium, and Eliason joined him with an eighth-place finish in 50.98. Robbinsdale Cooper senior Jacob Boswell won in 48.08, and Wayzata senior Tim Belov was second in 48.48.

Eliason added a medal in the 50 free, taking fifth in 22.35. Irondale junior Daniel Larson won in 21.59, and

See **Swim**, Page 19