



On the way to state Abby and Morgan Hennen and Lydia Sussner waved. Inside



Leading Willmar Minnesota native Jon Konold has team in the semifinals. Page 6

The Minnesota Mascot

Congratulations Champs! Special Edition inside

Home of Boxelder Bug Days — Minneota, Minnesota

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Wednesday, November 14, 2018 • (USPS - 351-880) • No. 17 • 128 years - Established in 1891



It was like a mob scene on the court after the Minneota Vikings won the Class A State Championship Saturday. Morgan Hennen and Lydia Sussner hugged as Sydney Larson (left), Abby Hennen (1), Abby Frie with Lizzy Gillingham behind her, McKenna Yost, Brooklyn Nelson and Abby Rost. Behind them in the stands, many people raised their hands and clapped approved of the state championship. Photo for the Mascot by Brian Jeremiason.

An emotional meeting with the president

By Scott Thoma
Mascot Staff Writer

Chassidy DeRoode, the guest speaker during Veterans Day ceremonies at Minneota Public School and also at St. Edward's School on Monday, retired nearly a year ago from the Air Force after 20 years of service.

"If someone said to me that they were considering entering the military, I would highly encourage it," she said. "I think everyone should in some capacity."

DeRoode, who was an "Army Brat" and lived with her family in two continents and four states before she was even in sixth grade, and her husband Adam, who grew up in Ghent, both joined the Air Force on the same day and left for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas on Nov. 19, 1997, although they didn't know each at

the time.

Their paths would cross several times in the first few years and eventually fate brought them together in Germany after being in the Air Force for 10 years.

After dating for 18 months, they married in July 2010. Their daughter Avery was born a year later in Clovis, NM, and son Colton was born in Belleville, IL, in 2013.

After serving their country for 20 years and 12 days, the DeRoodees both retired on Nov. 30, 2017.

"It makes me very proud," said DeRoode when asked how she feels serving that many years. "My children will both know that we served our country for a long time. And we would do it all over again."

The DeRoodees now live in Ghent and recently purchased the 117-year-old former St. Agnes

Convent School and are renovating it for their own home, although they are going to return the outside to its original appearance as much as possible.

Chassidy told those in attendance during the Veterans Day programs about her time in the Air Force and the many missions she flew as an Aerospace Medical Technician in two MAJCOMS (Major Command); Charleston Air Force Base, SC (Air Mobility Command, AMC), where she started her career and was known as a "floor technician". She also served at Cannon AFB, NM (Air Force Special Operations Command, AFSOC), where she was a flight chief.

On July 10, 2007, DeRoode was assigned to the 86th Aeromedical Squadron when she got a surprise that she still considers the proudest moment of her military life.

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Chassidy DeRoode
Photo by Sue Jacobson

Weather

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
Nov. 7	30	22	0.00
Nov. 8	29	19	0.00
Nov. 9	20	07	0.00
Nov. 10	27	05	0.00
Nov. 11	31	20	0.00
Nov. 12	21	07	0.00
Nov. 13	33	07	0.00

Outlook:
The highs for the week will be in the 30's and 40's with lows in the 20's and teen's.

Chances of rain/snow highest on Friday (45 percent).

Happy Dear Santa Letter Week and American Education Week!

Veterans: 'You have our back' — Lincoln Elementary, Ivanhoe

By Byron Higgin
Mascot Publisher

"We rely on you — you have our hearts; We Honor You — the Heroes of Red White and Blue ... For all you do — For all you've done, we honor you!"

The strains of the song, "Thank You Veterans" rang out at Lincoln Elementary school in Ivanhoe on Monday as the Fifth and Sixth Graders joined their voices in honor of veterans everywhere.

"It's one small way to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice," said student Parker Bradley.

The school joined forces with the Ivanhoe VFW to pay tribute to veterans in their community.

Student Lucas Rybinski told the history of Veterans Day, saying it began in 1938 when it was made a legal holiday.

A "Fifty Nifty United States" selection by the third and fourth graders presented each and every state as important landmarks in the history of the United States.

Even student Lincoln Jerzak joined in with folding the American flag.

The Kindergarten issued a "Thank You" to all the veterans, each with a pole and a letter on it spelling "Veterans."

It was a small way, each small child could get a chance to interact with veterans.

Guest Speaker Byron Higgin, Mascot Publisher, said the students "Veterans" theme fit right in with his speech — which let the kids know what a "veteran" was, how they were the guardians for all of them and how the goal was to allow everyone in the United States to be free.

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Taryn Panka and Ruth Jerzak saluted the American Flag in Ivanhoe on Monday.

Countryside Auto Minneota LLC * Pre-owned vehicle sales

2013 Ford Fusion
\$9,500

2008 GMC Acadia
\$7,900

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