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THE KERKHOVEN Banner

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Volume 124, Issue 22



The main building of the now KMS Elementary stood for decades as the center-point of the Murdock Public School district. Built in 1918 in the height of a worldwide pandemic, the structure was a testament to the determination and dedication to education by the populous of the village and surrounds.

Determination in the face of adversity Murdock schoolhouse was built despite conditions of the era

by Cormac Dodd

Many have studied the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1918, a prior epidemic of clear relevance for those who in 2021 seek solutions in another era... in short, seeing what can be learned from the past -- or perhaps catharsis in historical precedent.

Replacing an old schoolhouse, residents of Murdock were determined to leave a legacy which members of Kerkhoven, Murdock and Sunburg school district still profit from today: the elementary school in Murdock.

Still in use after renovations and additions to infrastructure, the school was erected during one of the most tumultuous and fraught years in the town's history, at the fiery intersection of WWI, the Spanish Flu, in what was a year of fires, devastating much of the state.

Lately, KMS schools have grown, absorbing students from outside the district. But even as conversations begin about expanding the site, talk is of additions rather than moving to another location. The structure, new in 1918 and built during a period when person-to-person contact could prove lethal, has served KMS k-6 students well (and prior to consolidation in 1978, all grade levels of Murdock Public School) and is standing evidence of the endurance

of its earlier residents.

"They built a school we still use during the Spanish Flu," said Murdock Elementary Principal Jeffrey Keil. "I think that's special. It shows what they were capable of when they worked together."

A number of hardships collided in Minnesota in 1918, but the citizens of Murdock still managed to build infrastructure of great consequence.

In 1918, 125,000 cases of influenza were reported in the state of Minnesota, resulting in 7260 deaths. By contrast, COVID-19 cases number 916K in the state, resulting in 9606 deaths. And so the death rate for the Spanish Flu was higher than that of COVID-19. As histori-

ans have noted: alive one day, dead in three.

The Original Building

A look through the pages of the Murdock Leader, the city's official newspaper before its closure in 1939, shows published news headlines that give one the impression of a town near crisis, especially in January of 1918 when two fires caused destruction and blemished

the start of the new year.

In an article published on January 24th, later that month, the Minnesota state fire marshal reported a \$339,728 loss statewide the year before. That would be ahead of a year that was epoch-making in terms of its forest fires, a devastation incited by droughts.

To begin the year, on Wednesday, January 10th, the Great Northern Depot burnt in Murdock and

toward a blaze so lurid the depot was quickly deemed to be beyond saving.

The Murdock Leader reported the fire could have been prevented. Its genesis was likely a carelessly discarded cigar or cigarette.

"As we go to the press the fire is still burning owing to the fact that they had large quantity of coal in the building. Our citizens have to be thankful that the morning was so calm or many of the adjoining buildings would also have been destroyed," read the article.

These damages were even more lamentable in a community whose highest priority, at least at the start of the year, was the war effort, in a period when frugality at home was the ambient assumption.

October of 1918 would serve as more of a bookend for the year of fires, when a devastating forest fire raged through Minnesota, leaving thousands homeless and killing hundreds in Cloquet and Moose Lake.

By that time, too, the Spanish Flu spread through Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Spanish Flu brought strain and anxieties amid the mass casualty event that was WWI. One-third of the world's population had become infected with influenza; comparing one pandemic to another, the death rate from the Spanish Flu was higher than that of COVID-19. (Continued on page 5)



Murdock's voice at the time, the Leader, spoke of the many perils facing the world at the time of construction. But residents there banded together anyway to erect the two-story modern school house.

Hide collection benefits critical wildlife habitat

by Cormac Dodd

A white bin on the corner of 12th Street and the business alley in Kerkhoven has sprung up again this winter.

Driving across the state, one will encounter many such bins, some white, some orange, on street corners and in front of shops. Hunters can donate deer hides to these locations in the interest of preserving critical wildlife habitat, as accomplished through the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association.

Mike Kohlman is on the banquet committee for the Swift County Deer Hunters, a local MDHA, and has been a member of the organization for 22 years.

He checks the bin every other day, routinely, peer-



This bin behind Don's Building Center in Kerkhoven has been collecting hides for the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association, with proceeds used to heighten wildlife habitat.

ing into a box that, insulated, keeps the hides from the public eye. A resident of Murdock, he handles the Kerkhoven area

for Swift County and drives the 27 miles to Clontarf every few days, whereupon he delivers the hides to the Swift County Wildlife Habitat Center. (Continued on page 6)

County treasurer: Appoint rather than elect?

by Reed Anfinson

No one showed up at the Swift County Board of Commissioners meeting last November 23 for the public hearing on making the county treasurer's position appointed rather than elected.

No one wrote the county board with an opinion taking the county voters out of the picture on the treasurer's position.

"Are there any comments?" Commissioner Gary Hendrickx, District 1-Appleton, asked.

"I don't think so," Chair Joe Fox, District 4-Hegbert Township, replied.

Hendrickx then moved to close the public hearing with a second by Commissioner Pete Peterson, District 3-south Benson and Torming Township.

With no further discus-

sion, the motion passed with Hendrickx, Fox, Peterson, Commissioner Ed Pederson, District 2-north Benson and Benson Township, and Commissioner Eric Rudningen, District 5-Kerkhoven, voting in favor of closing the hearing.

While the public hearing was short, the discussion on passing a resolution to make the treasurer's position appointed and approving a two-year contract with Treasurer Ron Vadnais was not.

The process for moving the treasurer's position to one appointed by the county board was set in motion last month when Vadnais formally notified commissioners that he would not file for an 11th four-year term in 2022.

Counties were given the authority to make the change under a law passed by the Minnesota Legislature. Under the state statute, it says counties



Swift County Treasurer Ron Vadnais

can make the change when:
 (1) There is a vacancy in the office;
 (2) The current officeholder has resigned. (Continued on page 3)



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Ted Here.....

Funny how little things will jog random thoughts and memories. The other day we were having coffee with a young couple and I happened to mention the musical classic, 'Scandinavian Hotshot.' It was performed live, said I, on the Lawrence Welk Show.

Blink. Blink.
Another coffee drinker with us at the table, of my vintage, said, "They've probably never heard of Lawrence Welk."

Dah. I hadn't even thought that Welk and his Champagne Orchestra performed for over three decades, from 1951 to 1982, would be something unknown to these 'kids.' As I recall it was a black and white variety show (later adding color) featuring a lot of big band music and musical acts. To be honest I didn't care for the show... it was for 'old' people.

But one of these acts happened to be Stan Boreson, who sang and played the accordion. Stan was introduced to the television audience by the famous Myron Floren, sort of Welk's Ed McMahon and an accomplished accordionist himself.

Boreson laid down his 'Scandinavian Hotshot' for infamy that show, and it's been watched many times in our household. (Google: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q_oo0b0WJED)

The point isn't really even the act, but rather the perspective that age shines on things. The younger generation does not see issues and events through the same eyes as mine. But hopefully education and awareness will bring to light those events in our history which really do need to stand out and be seen uniformly.

I said in jest that 'Scandinavian Hotshot' would live in infamy. This week, however, passed a date "which will live in infamy." December 7, 1941 was the day in which the Empire of Japan had 'awakened a sleeping giant' (a disputed quote attributed to Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto) by bombing Hawaii's Pearl Harbor.

It was December 8, 1941 when President Franklin Roosevelt made his acclaimed speech to the nation, announcing the unprovoked attack which caused the United States to formally declare war against Japan.

There are many other moments in history which Americans, no matter what generation, should and must know. These are not simple flashes of history... they are blocks which form our foundation. December 7, 1941 is

one of the most fundamental, and one we as citizens should remember and honor. Others?

•July 4, 1776. Of course this is where our story as a nation makes a huge leap forward with the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

•July 1-3, 1863. The Battle of Gettysburg was a turning point in the Civil War that helped preserve our union. According to the website Britannica, "...Robert E. Lee's invading Army of Northern Virginia sustained a defeat so devastating that it sealed the fate of the Confederacy... Within two years the war was over, and before the end of the decade the South was temporarily transformed by Reconstruction."

•April 4, 1968. On a balcony of a Memphis motel, civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. King "had a dream" that one day all people regardless of race or creed could live in harmony and all enjoy the fruits of the 'American Dream.' That dream has not been fulfilled as of yet, but some great strides have been taken. They must continue for the U.S. to be a truly great nation.

•June 17, 1972. The Watergate scandal starts to unfold when burglars are caught in the office of the Democratic National Committee. This led to an intense investigation as the crime was linked to the Nixon Administration, leading to the eventual resignation of President Richard Nixon. The experience has jaded Americans' views of U.S. politics ever since, and many '... gates' have followed. Few political activities are left unscrutinized in its aftermath.

•September 11, 2001. Terrorists hijack three airliners and fly them into the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. A fourth crashes before its intended target, possibly the U.S. Capitol, after passengers sacrifice themselves to overtake the hijackers. The U.S. along with the entire world are transformed by this act, which really put terrorism on the main stage. So much innocence was lost that day, and it will truly 'live in infamy.'

These and many other important dates are bipartisan in nature, and are instruments by which we understand ourselves, our nation and world. They are not subject to perspective, shaded by the date on which we were each born. As the old soap opera introduction went, "These are the days of our lives."



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

More locals rendezvous on other side of the globe

To the Editor;

I read with interest Gary Lierman's letter and his dining experience with Lee Egerstrom in Cairo. My husband, Walter, and I had a similar experience. We were visiting Istanbul Turkey and somehow we made a contact with Robert (Bob) Jorgenson (class of 1959, KHS) and wife Joyce (Carlson) both teaching in an American school. They were

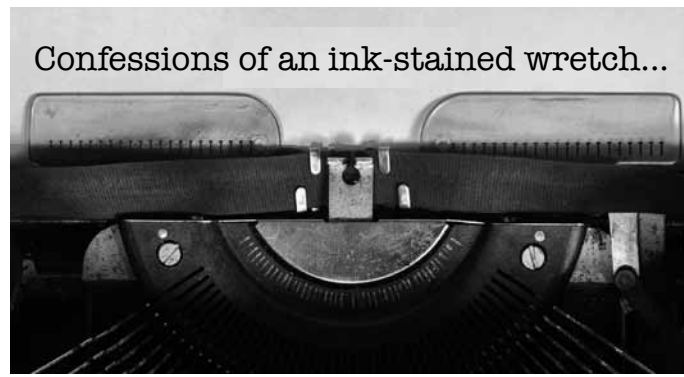
so kind to meet us at our hotel in Istanbul from their home across the city. After a lively visit and renewing news of Kerkhoven, they invited us to their home which was part of a gated compound and the school. Joyce cooked an American meal and it was much appreciated. In detail they (Bob and Joyce) explained how we could arrive back to our hotel at night. We followed their directions to our hotel so we

went by taxi, by boat, then city bus and finally to our "home." We safely arrived that night with total strangers.

Thanks, Gary, for reminding me of our Istanbul friends. Kerkhoven always reminds us of our connections whether socially or physically or just genuine friendship.

Alice C. Nelson
Wayzata

OTHER VOICES



Confessions of an ink-stained wretch...

Remembering Bob Dole: "Every farm was a Defense plant"

by Lee Egerstrom

America has lost another hero. Bob Dole, who died early Sunday, is being remembered for a lot of reasons in obituaries and public salutes. They don't need to be repeated here, but I would like to share with you some Dole moments you wouldn't know.

One occurred over breakfast at a sidewalk café in Rome, near the U.S. Embassy. Sens. Bob Dole, R-Kan., and George McGovern, D-S.D., were at the United Nations World Food Conference in November 1974, three months after Gerald Ford succeeded Richard Nixon as president.

I joined them and two of their agricultural policy aides for breakfast. The entire table conversation was about how Secretary of State Henry Kissinger arrived the night before and totally reversed the U.S. food aid policy positions stated and advocated by Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz.

It was an uncomfortable domestic power play staged in front of the world. Neither Dole nor McGovern could see how they could attend that day's conference session without being dragged into the Washington power struggle. It was bad enough that this Washington correspondent for the Ridder Publications newspaper chain was with them, although they both got sympathetic treatment in the article I wrote for the Aberdeen American News and Wichita Eagle.

So what did Dole and McGovern do? They secured a car from the embassy and went on a quick trip to northern Italy to visit sites they were at during World War II.

For hard and fast politics it seems unconscionable that Dole and McGovern were

extremely close friends. For journalists who covered them, however, they had too much in common to keep them apart.

Both were leaders in food and agriculture policy. Both represented largely agrarian states. Both would seek the presidency. Both would devote most of their lives to public service in one capacity or another.

Military service in World War II was one of the latter.

McGovern was a pilot who flew bombing missions out of Italy. Dole was horribly injured by a German artillery shell when the Allies were taking Italy. There was a fraternity among members of Congress who served in that war and is represented to this day by the Hart-Dole-Inouye Federal Center at Battle Creek, Mich.

Phillip Hart, wounded at Utah Beach in the Normandy Landing; Daniel Inouye, who lost an arm and became a Medal of Honor recipient for battle heroics in Italy; and Dole, who lost use of his right arm in a similar battle in Italy, were treated for injuries at Battle Creek. All would become U.S. senators.

A former Washington correspondent colleague, Al Eisele, told of an evening session of the Senate when friends Dole and Hart (D-Mich.) were debating amendments to some bill. After lengthy debate one of the senators said to the other, "You must have got some bad blood or something in the Army."

Insiders in the chambers howled in laughter. What wasn't widely known is that the Army was short of blood for surgery. Dole and Hart were the same blood type. So, when one went into surgery, the other was positioned side by side and his heart and vascular system kept the other alive.

In an earlier column, I mentioned how the 1976 national election was a rarity in that my



news bureau focused on the vice presidential candidates and let other media cover the presidential race between Ford and Jimmy Carter. My colleague Eisele covered Sen. Walter Mondale's vice presidential campaign primarily for the readership interests of our St. Paul, Duluth and Grand Forks newspapers. I covered Dole's vice presidential campaign primarily for our readers in Kansas.

One morning on the campaign trail, the Dole contingent went through the Sioux City, Iowa stockyards. Camera crews got the pictures of the candidate with livestock, the purpose for the visit. I couldn't resist being a little playful, however.

"Senator, are those Spotted Poland China hogs in that pen?" I asked. "Sure looks like it to me," Dole responded.

This was the "softball" question, as media calls them. Dole was looking for. He then gave the traveling media a briefing on how important lard was for making munitions for the military and how those beautiful and heavy hogs in the pen provided both food (Spam) and ammo for Dole's Army.

What I remember from that moment, however, was Dole telling us all that every farm in Iowa and the Midwest "was a Defense plant."

So true. My dad kept raising a Spotted Poland China mix of hogs long after the pork industry scaled back on fat. But I'll never forget the shocked look on a stockyard worker's face when a U.S. senator knew anything about hog breeds. Or a Washington correspondent, for that matter.

FDR's Infamy Speech

President Franklin Roosevelt, December 8, 1941.

Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the

maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that

the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American

Continued on page 3)

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Swift County treasurer

(Continued from page 1)

has notified the county board that the officer will not file for the office;

(3) And there is a signed contract with the county board and the incumbent auditor, treasurer, auditor-treasurer, or recorder that provides that the incumbent officer will be appointed to the position and retain tenure, pay, and benefits equal to or greater than length of service.

At the same time, Vadnais' letter was presented to the county board, a proposed two-year contract between him and the county for his continued service was also presented. That contract would run from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2023.

Vadnais was elected to his 10th four-year term in November 2018. The term runs from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2022. Officially, it ends the first business day of 2023, which is January 3.

Year one of the proposed contract between him and the county would go from Janu-

ary 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022. Officially, his last day as an elected official would be January 3, 2023, the first business day of the new year.

Then starting January 3, 2023, the county board would appoint Vadnais as the county's financial officer, with his contract running until December 31, 2023.

During this second year of the contract, the county would likely be advertising for someone to fill the position with Vadnais then assisting in the transition process. He could resign his appointed position before the end of the second year of the contract through mutual agreement between him and the county board.

Vadnais was first elected to the treasurer's position in 1982 and rarely faced opposition as he easily was consistently re-elected.

Proposed contract and appointing the treasurer

The proposed contract does two things: it allows the

county to move ahead with making the treasurer's position appointed and establishes retaining Vadnais, the basis for his pay and his title during the contract period.

"The parties wish to execute this contract to provide that the incumbent officer will be appointed to the position and retain tenure, pay and benefits equal to or greater than the officer's length of service," the proposed contract states.

Under the contract, Vadnais retains the title of county treasurer. To cancel the contract requires the mutual consent of the county board and Vadnais.

With the public hearing officially over, the county was free to move to make the position appointed and approve a contract with Vadnais. Both actions were required to move ahead with making the position appointed. Also, four of five county commissioners must vote in favor of the action.

"A supermajority is needed

(Continued on page 6)

THREE BUNS AND a HURRICANE®

BY ALISON NELSON



O Christmas Tree

"Well, that's not gonna hold," I thought to myself . . .

We have had no block of time this season to take a family outing and find our perfect Christmas tree. It's something we look forward to every year, whether that be going out to cut our own, or just choosing one at a nursery. Depending on the schedule, each has been acceptable.

There have been all kinds of conditions for cutting down trees at a tree farm. We've almost gotten our car stuck in muddy ruts at the tree farm. One year we were out in the brown grass in just sweaters and jeans. Jesse got down on the ground to cut the tree and came up with a bunch of burrs on his back; his sweater was never quite the same. We have also hunted for trees in brown grass and layers of long underwear, with people complaining about cold toes and faces.

The Christmas before the triplets were born, Jesse, Axel, and I tromped through many inches of snow, with drifts so high we could put the tree on the roof of our Jeep Cherokee without much reaching. That was good, since the tree was huge and I was quite pregnant.

When there isn't time to get to a tree farm, we stop in at a nursery somewhere and bring home a precut tree. It's not quite the Griswold-esque excitement, but it's a fresh tree, a small business, and a good time.

This year we couldn't even fit that in. On an outing for some miscellaneous necessities the other night, I decided to just bring home a tree. It would be days until we could find time to go, and at that point it almost feels too late.

I found a couple of trees I liked - one for the living room,

and a smaller, spindly one to put by the piano. I went inside to pay while a guy set out tying the trees to the roof of my car.

"Well, that's not gonna hold," I thought to myself, as I came out from paying and saw what he had concocted. I was already a little nervous to be driving it home in the wind. Maybe I was just nervous, and it would be fine. He'd done this many times.

I kept watch through the sunroof, and as I made my way through town, it was pretty clear the trees were not anchored securely. By the time I got out of town they had slid back quite a ways, and off to the side. I could barely see the trunk of the bigger tree anymore. And I had only reached 38 mph.

Alongside Highway 12 I pulled over and adjusted them as best I could, in the dark. I wrapped the loose twine around some branches, but only from the passenger side so I was not standing next to passing traffic. When that seemed a little better, I continued down the shoulder with my flashers on, at only about 18 mph.

Good grief, this was going to take all night.

Even that was not enough to keep them from moving. I pulled over again and grabbed the trunk of the little tree to see how well it was held, and took the whole thing off in my hand. When I say little, I mean about six feet tall but gangly, long but lightweight. I opened the back end of the vehicle and threw that tree in there, closed the gate, and went around to the other side.

Now the tree on the top was even less tight. I wrapped some more branches and did what I could to secure, continuing down the side of the road again. It screeched on the roof as I crept along, which re-

ally rubs nerves the long way. A Christmas tree screeching across the car roof is a fingernails-on-a-chalkboard kind of cringing sound. But worse, I think, because neither the fingernails nor the chalkboard are in danger of blowing into oncoming traffic.

I pulled over a final time, grabbed the heavy-duty scissors I keep in the console (seems weird, but it has come in handy many times), and cut the twine. With no coaxing at all, the tree rolled off the roof and into the ditch. Now what? I was still many miles from home, it was minus four degrees, and Jesse was at a meeting.

With traffic whizzing by, I opened the back end again, grabbed the tree, and shoved that one in as far as it would go. Since there were a few feet sticking out, I had to open the window and maneuver the top through, then close the gate again, and hope the window stayed down while I drove the rest of the way.

Relieved, I got back in the car and put the pedal to the metal. I was spending no more time out that night. Annoyingly, the interior lights stayed on in the car while I drove because the back window was open. But I made it home with no more stops, no more roadside adjustments, no more screeching.

We've had many memorable tree trips - the ruined sweater, the high drifts, the time we brought our new puppy, and once when the twine broke and Jesse held it through the sunroof the rest of the way home. And now this time, where I thought I would "quick grab a tree and be home," as I told my family.

Of course this happened three days after I carefully vacuumed the car, now covered in pine needles. Merry Christmas to all.

FDR's Infamy Speech

(Continued from page 2)

lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

And this morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak

for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost,

but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph -- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.



Friends-
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PUBLIC NOTICES

"BECAUSE THE PEOPLE MUST KNOW"

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TO DETERMINE WHETHER A PUBLIC NUISANCE EXISTS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY, WHETHER ABATEMENT OF A PUBLIC NUISANCE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY BY THE CITY OF MURDOCK IS REASONABLE AND NECESSARY, AND DETERMINATION OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE PRIVATE PROPERTY.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., in the Murdock City Hall, 300 Frederick St., Murdock, Minnesota, during the regular meeting of the Murdock City Council, the Council will hold a public hearing to consider the abatement, by the City of Murdock, of an alleged nuisance condition on private property located at 632 Main Avenue, Murdock, Minnesota, consisting of a dilapidated building, an unlicensed vehicle, and an accumulation of old car parts, tires, broken electronic equipment, trash, rubbish and worthless or unused materials or articles, and the special assessment for costs of abatement of said nuisance condition against the above property which is legally described as follows:

Parcel 1
Part of Bresnahan's Addition to the City of Murdock, Swift County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at a point on the north right of way line of Main Avenue which is 25 feet west of the southwest corner of Lot Seven (7), Block Twelve (12) of said Bresnahan's Addition; thence northeasterly, perpendicular to said north right of way line of Main Avenue, a distance of 120 feet; thence northwesterly, parallel to said north right of way line of Main Avenue, a distance of 75 feet; thence southwesterly, perpendicular to said north right of way line of Main Avenue, a distance of 120 feet to the north side of Main Avenue; thence southeasterly along the north right of way line of Main Avenue a distance of 75 feet to the point of beginning.

Address: 632 Main Avenue, Murdock, MN 56271

Owner: Elizabeth Naig

The Council shall first determine whether a public nuisance exists on the above-named real property based on whether the conditions unreasonably annoy, injure, or endanger the safety, health, morals, comfort, or repose of any considerable number of members of the public.

Second the Council shall determine whether abatement/removal of the public nuisance by the City of Murdock is reasonable and necessary and the time limit in which the property owners/occupants have to remove the public nuisance prior to the City of Murdock entering premises and removing the offending item or items and cleaning up the nuisance.

If a condition is determined to be a public nuisance and must be abated by the City of Murdock, the special assessment is estimated to be the following minimum amount for the above-described property: \$800.00

A reasonable estimate of the impact of the special assessments will be available at the hearing for review. Written and oral objections regarding the proposed special assessments against the above-named properties will be considered at the public hearing.

NO APPEAL MAY BE TAKEN AS TO THE AMOUNT OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS UNLESS A WRITTEN OBJECTION SIGNED BY THE AFFECTED PROPERTY OWNER IS FILED WITH THE MURDOCK CITY CLERK PRIOR TO THIS PUBLIC HEARING OR PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER AT THE PUBLIC HEARING.

PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA STATUTE SECTION 429.081, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS, ANY AFFECTED PROPERTY OWNER WHO IS NOT PRECLUDED BY FAILURE TO OBJECT PRIOR TO OR AT THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS HEARING MAY APPEAL TO THE DISTRICT COURT BY SERVING NOTICE UPON THE MAYOR OF MURDOCK OR THE MURDOCK CITY CLERK, AND BY FILING SAID NOTICE WITH THE COURT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DISTRICT COURT WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS OF SERVING NOTICE UPON THE MAYOR OF MURDOCK OR THE MURDOCK CITY CLERK

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Sections 435.193 to

**SECTION 00 1113
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

- i. CHIPPEWA AND SWIFT JOINT COUNTY DITCH 9
- ii. CHIPPEWA AND SWIFT COUNTY JOINT Drainage Authority
- iii. KRAGERO AND BIG BEND TOWNSHIP, CHIPPEWA COUNTY, Minnesota
- iv. ENGINEER PROJECT NO. 15-18675
- v. General Notice

1. Chippewa and Swift Joint County Drainage Authority (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
2. **Chippewa and Swift Joint County Ditch No. 9 (JCD 9)-Bid Package 1**
3. ISG (the Engineer) Project No. **15-18675**
4. Bids for the construction of the Project will be received by ISG (the Engineer) electronically through QuestCDN until December 30 at 10:00 AM local time. At that time the Bids received will be posted publicly online.
5. The project includes the following major quantities of Work:
 1. Open ditch cleaning with spoil removal through wetland/cattail marsh areas.
 2. The installation and removal of construction mats used for access.
 3. Hauling of spoil out of wetland areas and leveling in offsite upland areas.
 4. Site erosion control and stabilization including seeding, bio-roll, and rip rap

2. Obtaining the Bidding Documents

1. Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found at the following designated website:
2. Quest Construction Data Network (QuestCDN)
3. www.questcdn.com
4. The QuestCDN eBidDoc number is 8086872. For assistance and free membership registration, contact QuestCDN at 952.233.1632 or info@questcdn.com.
5. Bidding Documents may be downloaded from the designated website. Prospective Bidders are urged to register with the designated website as a plan holder, even if Bidding Documents are obtained from a plan room or source other than the designated website in either electronic or paper format. The designated web site will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated sources.
6. Bidding Documents may be purchased for download online through QuestCDN for a fee of \$15.00.
7. The bidder must electronically submit the proposal online using the designated website. The bidder must pay an online bidding fee off \$30.00.
8. A pre-bid conference call for the Project will be held on December 20, 2021 at 3:00 PM. Attendance at the pre-bid conference call is encouraged but not required.
 - a. Virtual Meeting Room:.....<https://tinyurl.com/yck472pd>
 - b. Phone Number:(612) 474-1960
 - c. Conference ID Number:....781 672 803

1.03 INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS

For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

This Advertisement is issued by:

By: Mark Origer, P.E.
Title: Civil Engineer
Date: December 3, 2021

END OF ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
B22, 23, 24c

435.195, any county, statutory or home rule charter city, or town making special assessments may in its discretion defer the payment of that special assessment for any homestead property owned by a person sixty-five (65) years of age or older or retired by virtue of a permanent and total disability for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments, and homeowner shall make application for deferred payment of special assessments on forms prescribed by the county auditor of the county in which the homestead is located.

Adoption by the Council of the proposed special assessments may be taken at the hearing, and the property owners have the right to prepay the entire special assessments to the City of Murdock, and partial prepayment has not been authorized by ordinance. Prepayment of the entire special assessments may be made no later than 14 days after the date the resolution is passed.

Kim Diederich, City Clerk
City of Murdock
B22 & 23c

KMS PUBLIC SCHOOL
Independent District No. 775
Board of Education
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, December 13, 2021
7:30 PM
KMS High School
302 North 15th Street
Kerkhoven, MN 56252

AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order
2. Approve meeting agenda

3. Public comment
4. Approve minutes
5. Approve bills and electronic fund transfers
6. Trailblazers Presentation
7. Approve Re-issued FY21 Audit reports
8. FY2022 Budget Updates
9. Certify Final 2021 Payable 2022 Levy
10. Project Oversight Committee report
11. Personnel: transfers, appointments and resignations
12. Dec 1, PK-12 enrollment
13. Principal reports
14. Policy Updates
15. Superintendent's report
16. Other reports
17. Adjourn

PILLSBURY TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS

The Pillsbury Township board has changed its meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the month of December 2021, and the months of January and February 2022. These meetings will be held at the Bill and Dorothy Broberg residence located at 845 150th Ave. SE, Kerkhoven on the second Tuesday of the month.

On Tuesday, March 8th, 2022, the Pillsbury Township board will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Kerkhoven fire department training room prior to the Pillsbury Township Annual Meeting which is scheduled to start at 8:00 p.m. at this same location.

Lyle Stai
Pillsbury Township Clerk
B21 & 22c

(Continued on page 9)

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- Collision Repair
- Paintless Dent Repair
- Loaner Cars

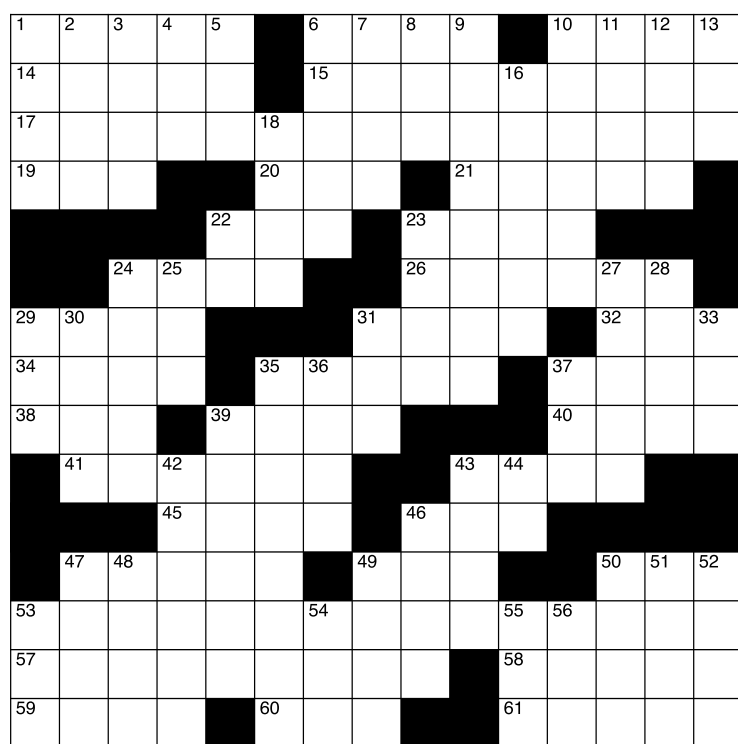
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130 2nd St. SE, Pennock, MN
FREE ESTIMATES

CLUES ACROSS

1. Polish city
6. Very eager
10. Identifies a specific person or thing
14. Tennis great Naomi
15. One concerned by professional advancement
17. PGA Championship reward
19. A fashionable hotel
20. Norse mythology afterlife location
21. Stood up
22. Car mechanics group
23. Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)
24. Broken branch
26. Astronomy unit
29. East Asian nursemaid
31. "Airplane!" actor
32. Exclamation that denotes disgust
34. "Batman" villain
35. Downfalls
37. Philippine province
38. Once-vital TV part
39. Valley
40. Tax
41. Classic Scorsese film
43. Subway dwellers
45. Book part
46. Taxi
47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
49. Swiss river
50. Founder of Babism
53. Have surgery
57. Withdrawal from a larger entity
58. Lot's father
59. Greek war god
60. 2,000 lbs.
61. Lemur

CLUES DOWN

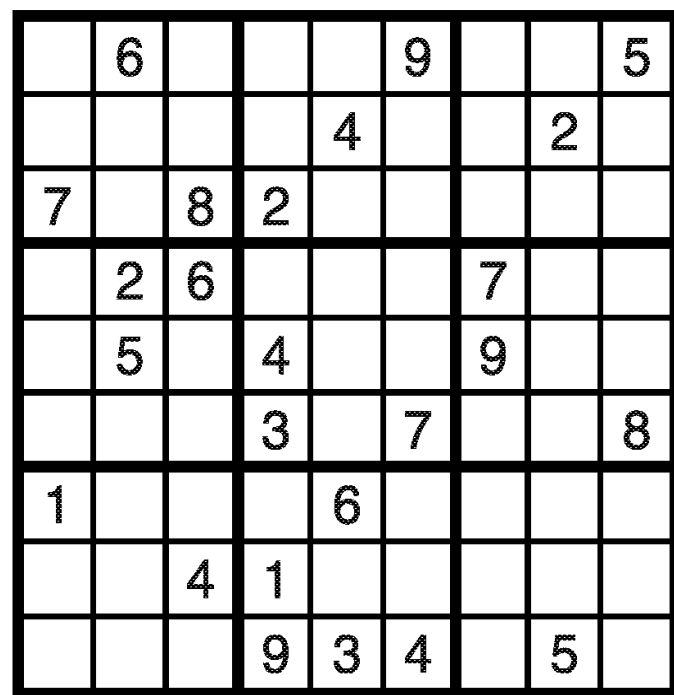
1. Quarrels
2. Right away
3. Comedian Carvey
4. Egyptian unit of weight
5. A Brit's mother



6. Tropical tree
7. One who speaks Gaelic
8. NHL legend Bobby
9. Vacation spots
10. Military personnel
11. Shakira's don't lie
12. Wimbledon champ
13. Teletypewriter
16. Mistakes
18. Whale ship captain
22. Thus
23. From end to end
24. Kids love him
25. One and only
27. Fencing swords
28. Taxis
29. Basics
30. Refuse of grapes
31. Go quickly
33. French ballet dynasty
35. Most open

36. Popular soap ingredient
37. US time zone (abbr.)
39. Items of food
42. Backbones
43. Infrequent
44. Blood type
46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter
47. Dutch colonist
48. Pike
49. Egyptian sun god
50. A cardinal is one
51. From a distance
52. Bolivian river
53. N. American student organization (abbr.)
54. River (Spanish)
55. Chinese life force
56. Chinese surname

SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

FOOD SERVICE WORD SEARCH

A F H T K M B O B A P L L I B T B C R V
F F A U R P U K D M Y D L A A Y E E S V
N A E M G L R K P T R H B L O U T L H C
C M G A O R B M F I S A Y B T G N K O G
E I N N E S U H B H R D H T P O E A D S
E L B A K H S Y A T Y N F K I S C P P H
P Y T G B F L R E K R H P T K U I G D A
L S T E I R E N L E P F A L I V B G P
T T A R A I D K S N F N V K E C R A M P
U Y K E K E I E R P I K N I B S E O T Y
C L E G R C R M S B V V R B S D S B T H
I E O L T V P L M S A E L E R H R I V O
G F U L A M A O S L T E T L C E Y Y L U
C K T T N I C T U U M S H N T N P O B R
G D I O C K E R E C E O T U N K A P A L I
M O H E I K N R N H H L U T E D A R V D
N Y P S C C A U U C M O E U M G H M G B
T S H I U H E P T R C S L K D F I H E T
P L T P C E S A N R E V R E S U O R Y K
I V Y N R F T Y B C A B B N V Y F E G C

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

- BARTENDER
- BILL
- BUS
- BYOB
- CHARCUTERIE
- CHEF
- COMBINATION
- COUNTER
- EARLY BIRD
- FAMILY STYLE
- HAPPY
- HAPPY HOUR
- HOTNESS
- LUNCH
- MANAGER
- MENU
- RESERVATION
- SERVER
- SERVICE
- SHARE
- SPECIALS
- TAKEOUT
- TICKET
- VALUE

Answers on page 11



SWIFT COUNTY Minnesota

Financial Statement

SWIFT COUNTY
P.O. BOX 207
BENSON, MN
56215

For the year ended December 31, 2020

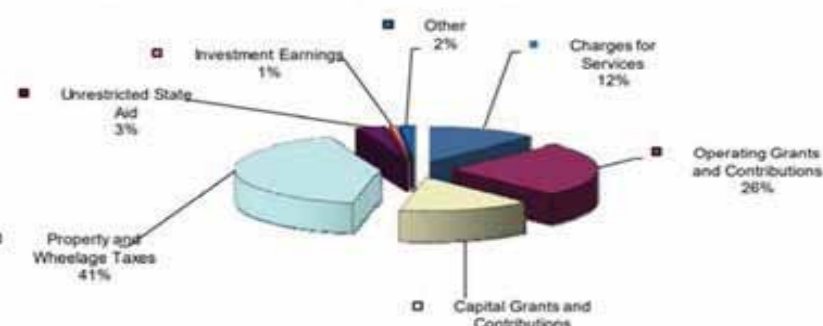
The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of financial information concerning Swift County for interested citizens.

Questions about this report should be directed to Kimberly Saterbak, County Auditor at (320) 843-4069.

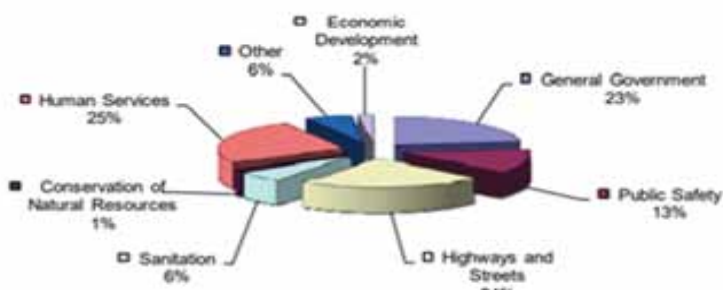
A FULL AND COMPLETE COPY OF THE COUNTY FINANCIAL STATEMENT IS AVAILABLE ON THE SWIFT COUNTY WEBSITE (www.swiftcounty.com),

UPON REQUEST BY CALLING (320) 843-4069 OR BY WRITING TO
THE SWIFT COUNTY AUDITOR, PO BOX 207, BENSON, MN 56215.

Governmental Activities Revenues by Source 2020



Governmental Activities Expenses by Function 2020



2020 COUNTY OFFICIALS

Table listing 2020 County Officials: 1st District Commissioner Gary Hendrick, 2nd District Commissioner Edward Pederson, 3rd District Commissioner Pete Peterson, 4th District Commissioner Joe Fox, 5th District Commissioner Eric Rudningen, County Administrator Kelsey Baker, County Auditor Kimberly Saterbak, County Assessor Joe Tschida, County Attorney Danielle Olson, County Recorder Carla Roberts, County Sheriff John Holtz, County Treasurer Ron Vadnais.

A User's Guide to County Financial Statements

Basic Financial Statements

Swift County's basic financial statements consist of three parts: government-wide financial statements, fund financial statements, and notes to the financial statements. The management's discussion and analysis and certain budgetary comparison schedules are required to accompany the basic financial statements, and therefore, are included as required supplementary information.

Government-wide financial statements display information about the county's financial reporting entity as a whole, except for its fiduciary activities.

Fund financial statements display separate financial information for the county's governmental and fiduciary funds. Fiduciary fund information is presented in aggregate by fund type.

Notes to the financial statements provide additional information and disclosure for information in the financial statements.

Governmental activities are generally activities of the county financed through taxes, intergovernmental revenues, and other non-exchange revenues.

Financial reporting entity consists of the primary government (county), organizations for which the county is financially accountable and other organizations for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the county are such that exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

Primary government is a term used in connection with defining the financial reporting entity. The primary government is the focus of the financial reporting entity. For the county, the primary government presents the financial activities, funds, or accounts directly under the control of the county board.

Discretely presented component units while part of the reporting entity, are presented in separate column in the government-wide financial statements to emphasize that they are legally separate from the county.

County Governmental Fund Types

The General Fund is the general operating fund of the county. It is used to account for all financial resources, except those that are required to be accounted for in another fund.

Special Revenue Funds are used to account for the proceeds of specific revenue sources that are legally restricted for specified purposes.

Debt Service Funds are used to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of principal, interest, and related costs of general long-term debt.

Capital Projects Funds are used to account for financial resources to be used for the acquisition or construction of major capital facilities.

County Proprietary Fund Types Internal Service Funds are used to account for the financing of the goods or services provided by one county department to another, on a cost-reimbursement basis.

County Fiduciary Fund Types

Agency Funds are used to account for assets held by the county as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governments, and/or other funds; for example, taxes collected and held by a county for a school district.

Character Classification of County Expenditures

The county's governmental expenditures are classified by character or the periods expenditures are presumed to benefit. The county has the following character classification:

Current operating expenditures are presumed to benefit the current fiscal period.

Debt services are presumed to benefit prior fiscal periods as well as current and future periods and include amounts expended for the payment of principal, interest, and other costs associated with debt.

Capital outlays are presumed to benefit current and future fiscal periods and include amounts expended for the construction or acquisition of county capital assets.

Intergovernmental represents sources transferred by the county to other governments.

Classification of County Functions

Functions are a group of related activities aimed at accomplishing a major service or regulatory program for which the county is responsible. The county has the following function classifications:

The general government function includes expenditures for general county activities such as the county commissioners, county attorney's office, county treasurer's office, county assessor's office, the planning and zoning office, and other county general service offices.

Public safety related to the objective of protection of person and property and includes expenditures for corrections activities, operations of the sheriff's department, civil defense, and emergency services.

Highways and streets include expenditures relating to the construction and maintenance of county highways and streets.

Sanitation involves expenditures for the removal and disposal of waste and includes county solid waste collection and disposal, recycling, and sanitary sewer program.

Human services represent activities designed to provide public assistance and instructional care for individuals unable to provide essential needs for themselves. These programs include child support collection, child welfare, chemical dependency, medical assistance, and others.

Health involves all activities involved in the conservation and improvement of public health. This function includes expenditures for the county public health department, home health aide services, other nursing services, maternal and child health, supplemental nutrition programs, and programs to protect public and private water systems.

Culture and recreation involves cultural and recreational activities maintained for the benefit of county residents and visitors. These activities include county libraries, parks, and other recreation programs.

Conservation involved activities designed to conserve and develop such natural resources as water, soil, and forests and includes such programs as soil and water conservation county extension, water planning, and other.

Economic development activities are directed toward economically developing the area encompassed by the county and providing assistance to and opportunity for economically disadvantaged persons or businesses.

Summary of Governmental Funds Revenues and Expenditures For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Summary of Governmental Funds Revenues and Expenditures. Table with columns: General, Road and Bridge, Welfare, Revolving Loan, Solid Waste, Ditch, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Total Government Funds. Rows include REVENUES (Taxes, Licenses and Permits, Intergovernmental, etc.), EXPENSES (CURRENT, DEBT SERVICE), and CHANGES (Net Position, Inventories).

A Summary Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds December 31, 2020

Summary Balance Sheet of Governmental Funds. Table with columns: General, Road and Bridge, Welfare, Revolving Loan, Solid Waste, Ditch, Debt Service, Capital Projects, Total Governmental Funds. Rows include Cash and Pooled Investments, Taxes Receivable, Restricted Cash, Accounts Receivable, Loans Receivable, Due from Component Unit, Due from Other Funds, Due from Other Governments, Advances to Other Governments, Prepaid Items, Inventories, Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Fund Balances.

Summary of Swift County's Statement of Net Position - Governmental Activities December 31, 2020

Summary of Swift County's Statement of Net Position - Governmental Activities. Table with columns: ASSETS (Current and Other Assets, Capital and Noncurrent Assets), DEFERRED OUTFLOWS OF RESOURCES, CURRENT LIABILITIES, LONG-TERM LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES, NET POSITION (Net Investment in Capital Assets, Restricted, Unrestricted, Total Net Position).

Summary of Swift County's Statement of Activity For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Summary of Swift County's Statement of Activity. Table with columns: EXPENSES, PROGRAM REVENUES, Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position. Rows include GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES (General Government, Public Safety, Highways and Streets, Sanitation, Human Services, Health, Culture and Recreation, Conservation of Natural Resources, Economic Development, Interest) and Total Government Activities.

Summary of Swift County's Change in Net Position - Governmental Activities December 31, 2020

Summary of Swift County's Change in Net Position - Governmental Activities. Table with columns: 2020, 2019. Rows include REVENUES (Program Revenue, General Revenue), EXPENSES (General Government, Public Safety, Highways and Streets, Sanitation, Human Services, Health, Culture and Recreation, Conservation of Natural Resources, Economic Development, Interest), and CHANGES (Net Position, Net Position - Beginning of Year, Change in Accounting Principle, NET POSITION - END OF YEAR).

A Summary of Fiduciary Net Position For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Summary of Fiduciary Net Position. Table with columns: Social Welfare, Private-Purpose Trust Funds, Custodial Funds. Rows include ASSETS (Cash and Pooled Investments, Taxes For Other Governments, Total Assets), LIABILITIES (Due to Others, Due to Other Governments, Total Liabilities), DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES (Property Taxes Collected for Subsequent Period), NET POSITION (Restricted for: Individuals, Organizations, and Other Governments).

A Summary of Internal Service Net Position For the Year Ended December 31, 2020

Summary of Internal Service Net Position. Table with columns: ASSETS (Cash and Pooled Investments, Accounts Receivable, Total Assets), LIABILITIES (Accounts Payable), NET POSITION (Unrestricted).

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Benson-KMS JV gymnasts open season with a win

by Pam Rohner Swart

The Benson-KMS gymnastics team had a strong season opener. They earned 123.550 points to beat Marshall's 96.05.

On vault, Gwen Wilcox came in first with 8.35, Mya McGeary was in second with 8.15, and Sophia Hilleren in third place with 8.1. Also competing on junior varsity vault were Hannah Rosen, 7.9; Brooke Hoberg, 7.6; Sophia Krusemark, 7.55; Emma Krusemark, 7.4; and Elise Duncan 7.25.

On uneven bars, in first place, Gwen Wilcox, 7.5; second, Emma Krusemark, 7.2; third, Mya McGeary, 7.1. Also competing were Brooke Hoberg, 6.9; Olivia Noble, 6.4; Ava Noble, 6.1; Sophie Hill-

eran, 5.4; and Taylor Vanheuveln, 5.3.

On balance beam, in first place, Taylor Rohner Swart with 7.9; in second Olivia Noble, 7.8; third, Mya McGeary, 7.5. Also competing were: Torie Andrews, 6.9; Sophia Hilleren, 6.6; Ava Noble, 6.3; Hannah Rosen, 6.2; and Maddie Anderson, 6.1.

In floor exercise, in first was Mya McGeary, 8.5; second, Sophia Hilleren, 8.0; Elise Duncan, 7.95; Sophia Krusemark, 7.8; Brooke Hoberg, 7.1; Taylor Vanheuveln, 7.0; Grace Nagler, 6.9; and Alyse Swanson, 6.8.

All around, in first place was Mya McGeary, 31.25. In second, Sophia Hilleren, 28.1; and in third place Naomi Sternke, Marshall, with 22.95.

Benson-KMS gymnastics second at Morris Invite

by Pam Rohner Swart

There was tough competition against NLS at the Morris Tournament held Saturday, December 4th. The B-KMS gymnasts gave it their all and came in second behind NLS.

NLS scored 139.7 for the win, in second was Benson-KMS with 134.1, in third Morris with 119.2 and in fourth, Park Rapids with 115.6.

Each team had the opportunity to have eight gymnasts per rotation with five going toward each team's total score.

On floor exercise Libby McGeary earned first place with 9.5 and Elise Duncan earned fifth place with 8.9. Also competing on floor were Gwen Wilcox, 8.7; Mya McGeary, 8.45; Lexie Hoberg, 8.4; Torie Andrews, 8.2; and Olivia Noble, 7.9.

On uneven bars Libby Mc-

Geary placed first with 8.9, in fifth was Elise Duncan with 8.3. Also competing on bars were Taylor Rohner Swart, 8.1; Torie Andrews, 7.8; Gwen Wilcox, 7.3; Lexie Hoberg, 7.2; Olivia Noble, 6.9; and Mya McGeary, 5.6.

On balance beam in third place was Elise Duncan with 8.6 and in fifth place was Hannah Rosen with 8.2. Also competing on beam were L. Hoberg, 7.7; O. Noble, 7.2; L. McGeary, 6.7; Rohner Swart, 6.3; M. McGeary, 6.1; and Wilcox, 5.5.

Competing on vault were L. McGeary, 9.1; Andrews and Wilcox with 8.5, A. Hoberg, 8.4; Rohner Swart, 8.3; O. Noble, 8.2; and Rosen with 8.1.

In the all around Libby McGeary placed third with 34.2 and Lexie Hoberg placed fourth with 31.7.

Saints lose to BBE, 56-43; Holloway leads 63-52 win over Canby

by Wally Loven

The KMS boys traveled to Brooten to face Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa in a non-conference tilt last week Thursday, and lost 56-43 to the Jaguars. It was the season opener for both teams. "We knew going in that BBE was a very good team... they returned a lot of players from last year and were just one game away from state," Saints head coach Matt Fragodt stated after the loss "I knew we were going to see where we were early in the season."

The Saints opened Camden Conference play this past Monday at Canby and, led by sophomore forward DeAndre Holloway's 20 points, picked up their first win of the season, 56-43. "It was a rough and tough game," Fragodt stated on Tuesday morning. "The game got really physical in the second half... we struggled at times when that happened."

The boys will face MAC-CRAY in Clara City on Friday night, then host Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley at home in a non-conference game on Saturday, Dec. 11.

BBE 56, KMS 43

Down by just four points at the half, the Saints saw the deficit quickly expand to 15 as BBE came out with a barrage of three-pointers and a 38-23 lead with less than five minutes off the clock. The big lead was more than the Saints could overcome as the Jaguars went on to the 56-43 win.

But for the game opening bucket, the Saints trailed throughout most of a very close first 18 minutes. The

score was tied at 12 apiece on a Gavin Thorson three-pointer, and again at 18. BBE managed to open the spread to 25-18 with some over three minutes left in the half but the Saints rallied back to trail by just two points when the Jags closed out the scoring with about 45 seconds left.

The Jaguars came out on fire in the second half... Gannon Walsh opened with a three-pointer, then it was Luke Dingman twice in a few seconds before Will VanBeck drove the basket for two more and the 38-23 lead with just 4:15 played in the second half. Isaac Rudningen scored to stop the bleeding before DeAndre Holloway connected on a three-pointer, quickly matched by BBE's Kaden Peiper. Gage Thorson later capitalized on a three-point play, scoring a bucked and converting the only free throw the Saints made on the night (one for just three attempts), to make it 43-33 with 10:20 to play.

Another BBE three-pointer and later another, Dingman's third of the night, put the lead back up to 15 points. After Holloway hit his second three, BBE went into an offensive "freeze" to close out the win. Peiper led all scorers with a 20-point night while Dingman finished with a double-double, 12 points and 10 rebounds. "I thought we played well for 32 minutes," Fragodt commented. "They went on that run right out of halftime and that was the difference."

The Saints' offense was pretty well balanced with Cortez and Holloway, a 6'6" sophomore forward in his first

(Continued on page 6)



Drew Johnson snared a rebound in the Saints opening game at BBE last week. --photo courtesy of Randy Olson, Bonanza Valley Voice

Trey Gunderson lone champ, Fighting Saints 5th at Big Lake Invite

by Wally Loven

The Fighting Saints grapplers kicked off the new season this past Friday, placing fifth among eight teams at very competitive Big Lake Invitational. The Saints came out quite well in the tournament considering that they wrestled with five open weights. Four of KMS' nine wrestlers reached the finals, Trey and Coy Gunderson, Noah Johnson and Masyn Olson. Only Trey Gunderson came home with a gold medal. Jason Jones finished with a third place medal, Jett Olson placed fourth and Ely Johnson, Aaron Jones and Colin Johnson all came up short in their matches

for fifth place.

Two teams went into the day listed in the state rankings. Big Lake holds the seventh spot in Class AA while Royalton/Upsala is ranked fourth in Class A. The Royals edged the hosts 207 to 204.5 for the team title. Following Big Lake was (A) Minnewaska Area 168, and (AA) Sartell 135.5, then KMS with 117, (AAA) Minnetonka at 115.5, (AA) Pine City/Hinckley Finlayson 95 and (A) Pierz 79.5.

Sartell dominated the finals as they claimed four individual champions while Big Lake nailed down three. Royalton had two champs as did Minnetonka. Minnewaska Area was the lone team with-

out an individual champion.

Here are KMS' Individual results and a few highlights:

*106: Trey Gunderson, Seeded 1st, placed 1st. The Saints' top ranked 8th grader wrestled a total of 3:17 on his way to his title. In his opening match with Alex Hendrickson (Sar), his fourth take down of the first period had his opponent right to his back. The pin came at 1:07. He did the same in his semi-final match with (Mtk) Isabella Heany, getting the fall at :47 following his second take down. Gunderson drew Royalton/Upsala's Roy Simmons. He led 2-0 early in the 1st period before muscling Simmons to his back for his third pin of the day at 1:23. Champion: Trey Gunderson, KMS.

*113: KMS open. Champion: Charlie Palm, Mntka.

*120: Noah Johnson, Seeded 3rd,

placed 2nd. Braxton Peetz (PCHF) got in early on a single leg but Johnson came out of it with a beautiful throw, putting Peetz right to his back. The pin came at 1:04 of the first period. Next up, Johnson needed an over-time period to defeat Chase Smith (MA, 9th grade) after surrender in a third period reversal that tied it up at 4-4. The KMS junior battled his way through a scramble before scoring the take down for the sudden victory, 6-4 decision. Big Lake's 4th ranked senior, Cash Sixberry, quickly scored three takedowns, the third put Johnson right to his back for the pin and the title at 1:14. Champion: Cash Sixberry, Sartell.

*126: KMS open. Champion: Christian Noble, Big Lake.

*132: KMS open. Champion: Spencer Johnson, Sartell.

(Continued on page 6)

ACGC spoils Lady Saints' opener, 55-48

by Wally Loven

The KMS girls' new season opened last week, Tuesday, in Grove City, a non-conference game with Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City. The Lady Saints got their season off to a frigid night shooting the ball, resulting in a disappointing 55-48 loss to the Falcons. While the Saints had difficulty buying a basket, ACGC countered with very good success from

the field, connecting on over 53 percent of their field goal attempts. "They are a very young and upcoming team," Saints coach Justin Johnson stated afterward. "They shot the ball really well tonight and we shot poorly. That was the difference."

The girls have a busy week ahead with four games in eight days, starting at MAC-CRAY last night, Tuesday.

(Continued on page 6)

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KMS Winter Sports Preview

Senior-laden Saints look to experience, depth as keys to successful season

by Wally Loven

Fighting Saints boys basketball head man Matt Fragodt hopes that the return of four starters and eight seniors will help his team to expand on the six wins of a year ago as he begins



Gavin Thorson was on the court for a lot of minutes the past two seasons. At 6'1", "Gavin is a good enough shooter that when he is on, look out," coach Matt Fragodt noted.

his eighth season at the helm. But for all-purpose 'blue-collar' worker Isaac Call, his entire team is back. It will not be easy to replace the elder of the two Call brothers however, as Isaac wrapped up an outstanding career with 639 points, 220 of them coming as a senior (12.2 ppg). The Saints' leading scorer last season also led the team with 252 rebounds, 143 assists and 123 steals in his four seasons as a starter.

Starters returning to a team that finished with a 6-13 record, 5-11 in Camden Conference play, are sharpshooting senior guard Alex Call, along with two more seniors in Gage Thorson and Drew Johnson, both forwards, plus junior guard Isaac Rudningen. Call will begin the season on the shelf due to a football injury with hopes of a full return by the end of January. Until then the remaining returning starters will be joined by Jared Cortez, a sophomore and a guard, along with seniors Gavin Thorson and Jacob Garies, with Hunter Kallstrom, a soph, all vying for the fifth starting spot.

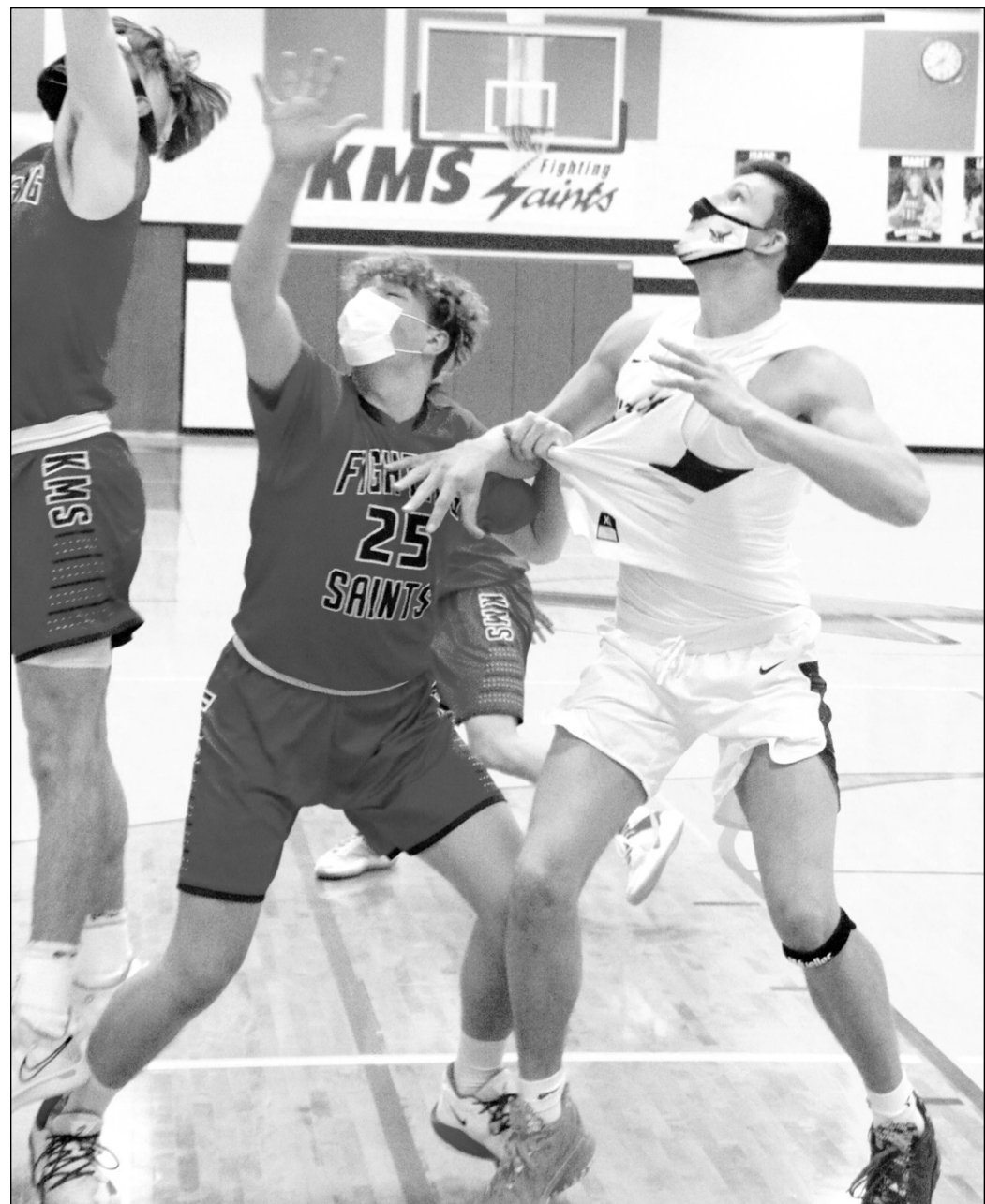
Last season got off to a weird beginning with all of the unknowns created by the pandemic and the restrictions that came into play with COVID. To top that off, Alex Call suffered an injury in the season opener that sidelined him for a good part of the year then another injury put him out of action for a few more games, returning to the line-up with just 10 games remaining in the regular season. After a win over Ortonville and then defeating Dawson/Boyd in the season finale, the Saints appeared to be heading into the Section 6A play-off game with Ortonville on a high note. Instead, the end came quickly when they learned that a previous opponent had tested positive, automatically invoking a 10-day quarantine... their season came to a sudden and disappointing end..

Looking ahead to what hopefully will be a more 'normal' season, nothing will come easy for the KMS boys in the ever-tough Camden Conference. Both Lac qui Parle Valley and Central Minnesota Christian finished the year at 8-2 in conference and 14-2 overall. The two teams split their two regular season meetings, then CMCS defeated the Eagles before knocking off Southwest Minnesota Christian for the 3A title and a Class A State Tourney berth. They lost their first round game to Sleepy Eye St. Mary's.

That said, coach Fragodt gives the nod to CMCS as the 'team to beat' in the Camden North. Minnesota's 7-1 mark in the South was good for that title. The Vikings were ousted from 3A play by LQPV. "CMCS will be a favorite again this year," Fragodt stated. "The rest will be very tough overall. There were some star players that graduated last year though from a lot of the (North) teams. I also think the South teams are going to be very strong this year."

Besides CMCS and LQPV, Renville County West (11-5/13-6) and MACCRAY (8-9/8-11) finished ahead of KMS in the North, while Russell-Tyler-Ruthon (10-6/12-7), Tracy-Milroy-Balaton (10-6/10-9) and Lakeview (8-8/8-9) were at or above the .500 mark in loop games.

Fragodt feels that the road through Section 6A will also have more than its share of bumps. "Our section might be the toughest in the state," he said. "Hancock finished second in the state last year and they have some players



Gage Thorson, a senior forward listed at 6'1", begins his third varsity season and second as full-time starter. "Gage has improved every year he has been at the varsity level," coach Matt Fragodt said.

back. BBE, Ashby and Wheaton will all have strong teams. The North half is also very tough too, with New York Mills, Henning and Breckenridge."

Ashby went into 6A South with an undefeated mark last season at 17-0 but were trounced by West Central Area (15-5, but who are now bumped to 3AA), who in turn lost to Hancock in over-time. The Owls then defeated North champion, Mahnomen-Waubun (21-1, and a 75-72 semi-final winner over NYM, 17-3), their only loss of the season, 72-71. Hancock went on to defeat Nevis and S.E. St. Mary's in the state tourney before losing, 61-60, to Hayfield in the Class A finals.

Besides competition from the above, the Saints will have to contend with the likes of BBE (16-5 and lost to Nevis in 5A semi-finals last year) and Benson (8-11 in Section 3, Class

AA), both newcomers to 6A, plus holdovers Parkers Prairie (15-5) and W/H-N (7-7) in the South. The North also had Henning at 14-6 and Hillcrest Lutheran Academy of Fergus Falls at 12-6, finishing over the .500 mark, plus newly added Breckenridge (13-7 in 8AA last season).

So how does coach Fragodt see this year's Saints fitting into what looks, at least on paper, to be a pretty rugged season ahead? "We return a team that only lost the one senior and our depth is incredible," he stated. "Our team has lots of experience and that will help with the loss of Alex for the beginning of the year. We have some very talented young players that will go along with our eight seniors. The team is ready to go, especially on how last year ended with being quarantined during the start of the playoffs."

(Continued on page 14)

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KMS Winter Sports Preview



Sharpshooting senior guard Alex Call will begin the season on the shelf due to a football injury, with hopes of a full return by the end of January. "Alex is one of the best players in the Camden Conference," coach Matt Fragodt stated. "He has led our team in points per game for the past two years and can put up points from anywhere on the floor, outside and inside."



Isaac Rudningen has been the point guard for the past two years. Coach Matt Fragodt stated, "He has a knack for being able to get to the hoop and finish."

Boys Hoops

(Continued from page 13)

Fragodt gave a thumbnail sketch of his starters and key players, what he expects of them and what they bring to the floor on a nightly basis:

With Call sidelined, Fragodt will look to his two (possibly three) seniors and three-year starter, junior Isaac Rudningen, along with a sophomore, Cortez, to provide leadership. Gage Thorson, a senior forward listed at 6'1", begins his third varsity season and second as full-time starter. "Gage has improved every year he has been at the varsity level," Fragodt said. "He will again be looked at to be more of a scorer. He is a very smart player and puts himself in spots to succeed." Thorson added 147 points last season, bringing his career total 237 going into his final season. His 8.2 ppg average was good for fourth highest on the team last season. He also snared 83 rebounds, dished out 20 assists and had 19 steals.

The second senior and a six-foot forward, Drew Johnson, is one of the Saints' sparkplugs. "He is a very strong defensive player," Fragodt said. "He is the guy that gives our team a lot of energy when he makes hustle plays." Also going into his second full season as a starter, Johnson averaged 4.2 ppg (75 points as a junior) and was the Saints' third leading rebounder with 67 boards. He also contributed 31 assists and 26

steals (both good for third on the team) last season. His 45 points as a sophomore leaves him at 120 career points with a year to go.

Rudningen broke into the starting line-up as a freshman and pumped in 171 points in his first varsity season. His 176 points last season (9.2 ppg) was good for second on the Saints' squad, and he begins his junior season at 346 total points. He was also second with 49 assists and 33 steals to go with his 63 rebounds, which earned him a spot on the Camden Conference Honorable mention squad. Listed at 6'1", "Isaac has been our point guard for the past two years," Fragodt stated. "He is really reliable handling the ball... he has a knack for being able to get to the hoop and finish. He has become a lot stronger and can defend against anyone."

Cortez broke into the starting line-up during his freshman season and was very productive... 126 points (7.0 ppg. avg), had 44 rebounds, 15 assists, along with 15 steals. A guard, "He moved up to the varsity level late last season and finished out the year on a high note," the coach said. "This year he will be a full time varsity player and can shoot the ball very well. He is one of the smartest players I have coached. Jared will also be able to play the point for us in different situations."

The three most likely candidates at this early date to fill that fifth starter spot include a pair of seniors, Gavin Thorson and Garies, along with a sophomore, Kallstrom. Thorson was on the court for a lot of minutes the past two seasons, scoring 54 points as a 10th grader and adding another 56 last season, averaging 3.2 ppg. He also nabbed 34 rebounds, had 12 assists and nine steals. At 6'1", "Gavin is a good enough shooter that when he is on, look out," coach Fragodt noted. "As long as his confidence is high he is a tough player."

Garies was used sparingly last season but the guard brings a lot of hustle and great work ethic to the floor. "Jacob is a very hard worker," Fragodt said of the senior. "He does all the things that make a great team a great team." His playing time increased as time went on last season and finished averaging a point per game, dished out five assists and nabbed 29 rebounds and had four steals

Kallstrom also saw more and more playing time later in the season and won a full-time spot on the varsity bench. In somewhat limited minutes, he pulled down 26 rebounds, had six assists and four steals to his credit. Kallstrom will give the Saints some much needed size and muscle. "Hunter has become a very strong player," Fragodt said of the 6' soph. "We saw it in football and his strength really helps him. He is also very athletic. He is not afraid to go down in the trenches and make things happen."

Junior Jaiden Henjum, a 6'1" guard, will see an expanded role this season after getting his feet wet at the varsity level a year ago. He picked up a dozen points in somewhat limited time as a sophomore.

Another player to watch for is a 6'6" sophomore, DeAndre Holloway.

This group will have to wait until the hopeful return of the 6'3" shooting guard Call. "Alex is one of the best players in the Camden Conference," coach Fragodt stated. "He has led our team in points per game for the past two years and can put up points from anywhere on the floor, out-

side and inside. His injury will keep him out until February and we are looking forward to his return."

Injuries have kept Call from moving high up the career scoring ladder here after missing about half of his junior season. He came back to score 148 points in the 10 games in which he played. The long-range sharpshooter hit 15 of his 58 field goals from beyond the arc last season as he averaged 14.8 ppg after his return. He now sits at (unofficially) 949 career points and should be available for about the final 10 regular season games in his final year. He also finished last year with 55 rebounds along with 15 assists and as many steals.

Here is the KMS boy's roster for 2021-22:
Seniors: Alex Call, Adam Froehlich, Jacob Garies, Drew Johnson, Tanner Ronholdt, Gage Thorson, Gavin Thorson, Melvin Viksboom.

Juniors: Travis Engelke, Jaiden Henjum, Jacolby Nash, Daniel Reisinger, Isaac Rudningen, Cory Starr, Jacob Walsh.

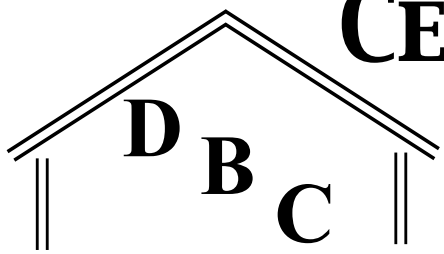
Sophomores: Connor Auge, Carter Auspus, Landon Bratsch, Jared Cortez, Bruno Dalgadillo, Logan Duke, Zavier Gonzalezs, DeAndre Holloway, Luke Jeseritz, Hunter Kallstrom, Malaki Lee, Ethan Moat, Quin Peterson, Beau Quisberg, Austin Simmonds, Evan Zimmer.

Freshmen: Boyd Doering, Matthew Garies, Clayton Olson, Luisao Padilla.



Drew Johnson is one of the Saints' sparkplugs. "He is the guy that gives our team a lot of energy when he makes hustle plays," coach Matt Fragodt said.

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KMS Winter Sports Preview

Lady Saints look to experience, depth as they embark on new 'hoops' season

by Wally Loven

"This should be the deepest team that I have had so far," commented Saints head girls hoops coach Justin Johnson as he enters his fourth year at the helm. "If we can improve each day and be fundamentally sound we should have a very competitive season." Johnson's optimism comes as a result of six returning players, three of them starters, with extensive varsity experience. That's not to say there are no holes to fill... the two seniors gone from their 6-14 fin-

ish a year ago leave big shoes to fill as Johnson looks to replace his top scorer and top rebounder.

Gone are Maret Gjerde, who led the Saints' offense with a 14.2 ppg average, tallying 283 points in her final year including a team-leading 52 three-pointers. She finished her high school career with 903 total points. Gjerde also led or was among the top with 48 assists, nabbed 88 rebounds and had 41 steals. Lauren Krieger was the team sparkplug... Not the big offensive threat (215 career points) but a tenacious

rebounder (team high 151) to go with 40 steals. Johnson acknowledged that filling their shoes will not be an easy task. "Maret was by far our best offensive weapon a season ago and Lauren had a motor that just never stopped. They will be tough to replace."

Johnson will look to his three returning starters and captains to step up, including a pair of seniors, Grace Collins and Hayley Demuth, along with Josie Gjerde, a junior. They, along with two more juniors, Julia Carlson and Shakira Olson, have been projected as the early starters but Johnson expects competition, significant minutes and contributions from several others including another junior, Elsa Gjerde, who played a significant role off the bench last season. Also in the mix will be a pair of freshmen with no varsity experience, Emily Wagner and Maddie Luft (for KMS... Luft was a varsity player for YME last season). Coach Johnson and his staff of Tracy Hagen (JV), Ryan Luft (C-Squad), Luke Armstrong (eighth grade), and Taylor Erickson (seventh grade) will be left to sort that all out.

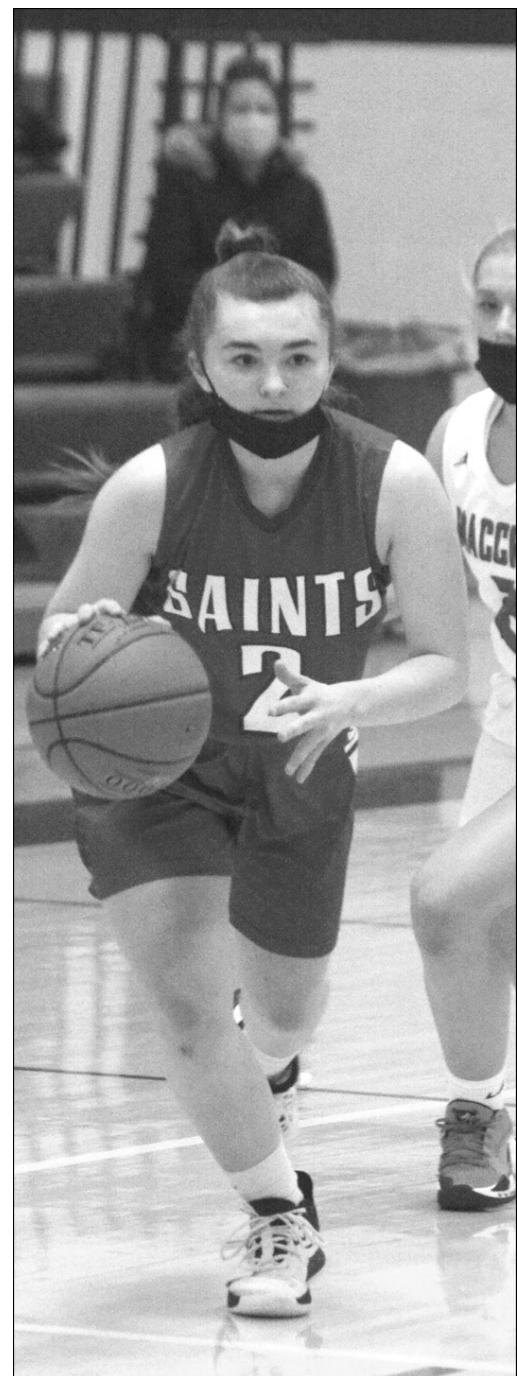
In recapping last season, the Saints' 5-11 Camden Conference North record placed them behind Lac qui Parle Valley (9-0), MACCRAY (7-3) and CMCS (7-3), and ahead of RCW (3-6) and D/B (0-10). The girls came on at the end of the season to win three of their final six regular season games before a Section 5A win over Laporte. Their season ended with a hard fought, 51-47, loss to Browerville-Eagle Valley.

Looking ahead to the coming season, the Saints face much the same battles as usual in the ever-competitive Camden but have been moved to Section 6A after a six-year stint in 5A and will see a new set of teams come season's end. "I expect that CMCS is the likely favorite in the Camden North," Johnson predicted. "MACCRAY will have a solid team as well. If we progress and play up to our ability, we should be in contention." And in the South? Who else... "Minnesota," he said. The Vikings were unbeaten last season at 25-0 and the Class A State champs. They are 86-2 over the past three seasons with two state titles (possibly a third had a tournament been completed in the 2019-20 season).

Johnson's pick for the team to beat in KMS' new section is Hancock. The Owls went to the 6A semi-finals with an 18-0 mark where their season ended, a 50-49 to West Central Area their lone loss. WCA then defeated Henning to advance to the Class A State Tourney where they were ousted by BBE.

Others in the South finishing last season over the .500 mark were Parkers Prairie at 15-4, Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley at 9-7 and Wheaton/Herman-Norcross at 9-8. Rounding KMS' half are Ashby (3-15), Benson (moved from 3AA, 4-13), Brandon-Evansville (9-10) and Ortonville (1-19).

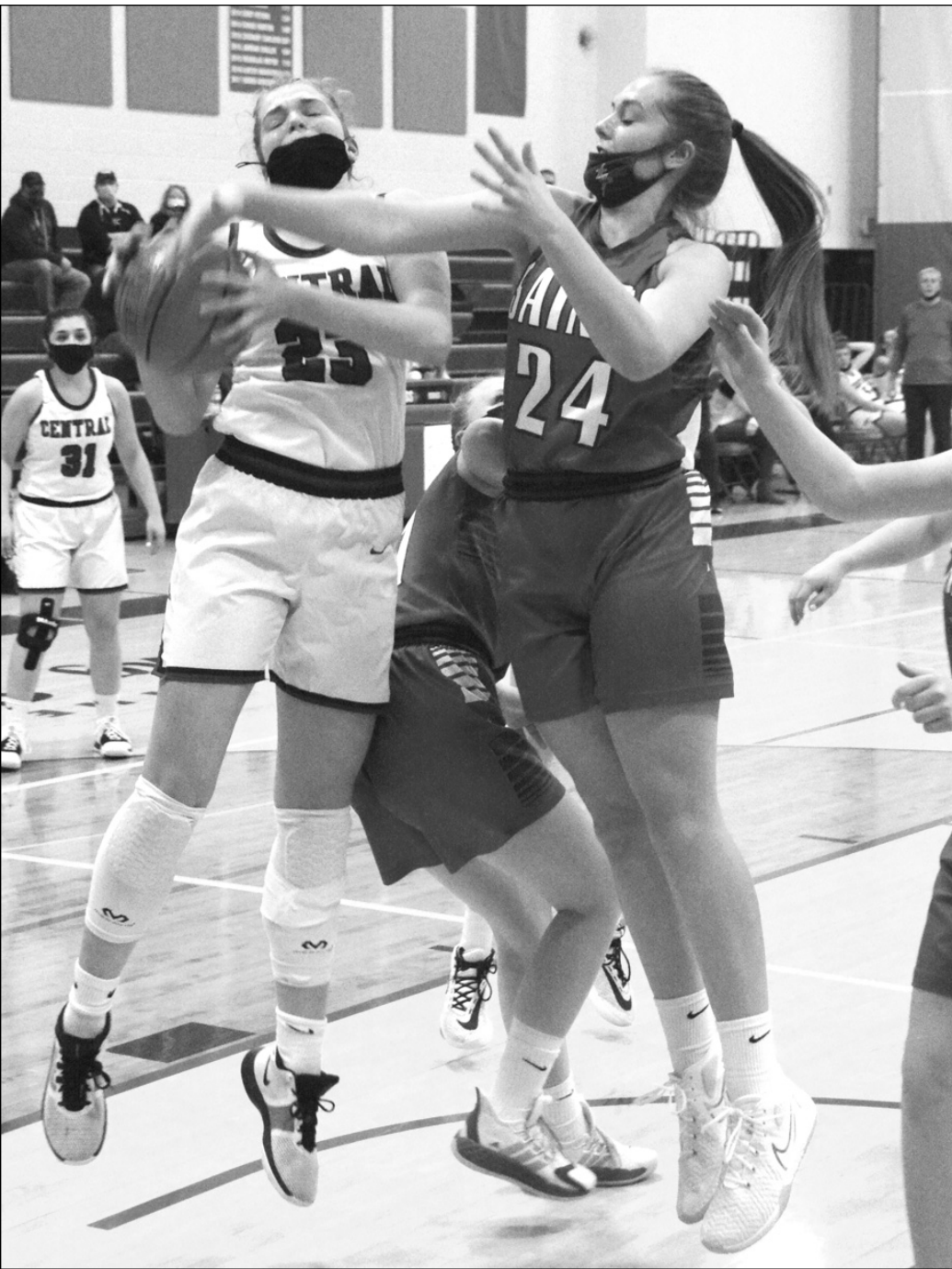
WCA (17-6) and Battle Lake (8-11) now move to the North along with Breckenridge (12-7, down from 8AA). They are joined by Ada-Borup (6-12), Henning (20-2), Hillcrest Lutheran Academy (6-12), Lake Park-Audubon (13-3), Norman County East/Ulen-Hitterdahl (6-10), New York Mills (14-5), Park Christian (7-12), Rothsays (3-16) and Underwood (17-4).



Grace Collins, senior guard, begins her second season as a starter. "Grace's confidence grew as the season progressed last year," coach Justin Johnson noted. "We will need her to take on more responsibility with the ball in her hands this season. She is very quick and is one of our better shooters."

Johnson talked about the Saints' prospects for the coming season. "Besides the six girls that got a lot of experience at the varsity level last season, we are likely mixing in two or three very young girls that we feel are making big contributions," he said. "Our strength will be our overall athleticism so we're hoping to play a style of basketball that matches that athleticism." He shares a bit about his individuals:

(Continued on page 16)



Hayley Demuth begins her second season as a starter at the post. "Hayley is looking stronger and more confident in the post than a season ago," coach Justin Johnson stated. "She is a very good low post defender and is long enough to help control the paint." A summer knee injury slowed her progress some. "But she should be ready to go," Johnson added.

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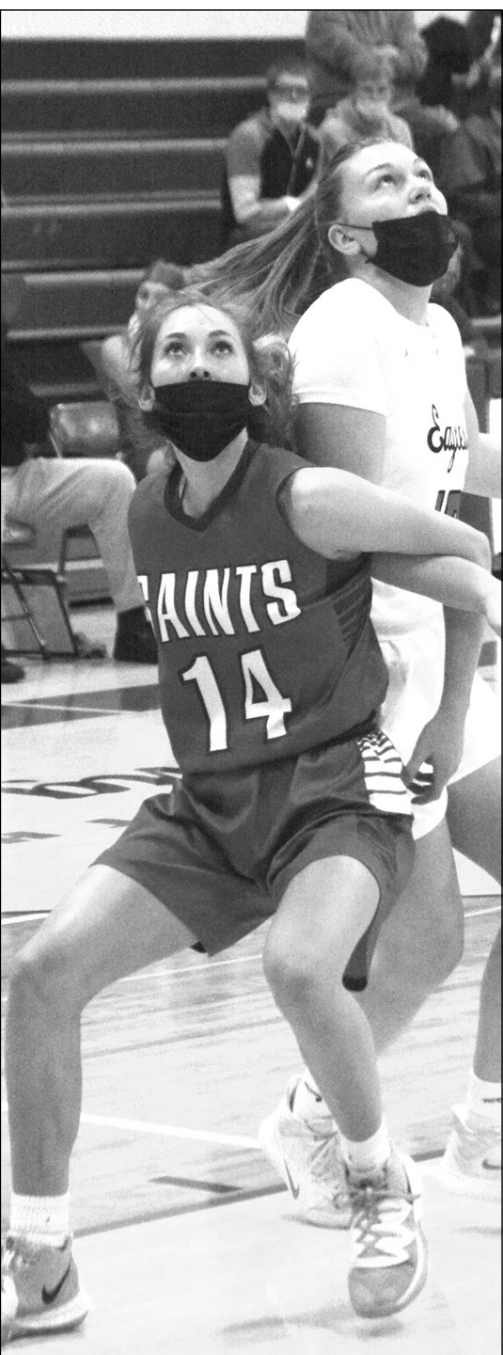
Girls Buckets (Continued from page 15)

Collins, senior guard, begins her second season as a starter. She averaged 3.5 ppg (71 points) last season and added 18 assists, 60 rebounds, 22 steals and also blocked five shots. "Grace's confidence grew as the season progressed last year," her coach noted. "We will need her to take on more responsibility with the ball in her hands this season. She is very quick and is one of our better shooters."

Demuth begins her second season as a starter at the post. She scored 123 points in her junior

season (6.8 ppg avg.) including 11 three-pointers. She also snared 60 rebounds, had 14 steals and a team-high 11 blocked shots. "Hayley is looking stronger and more confident in the post than a season ago," Johnson stated. "She is a very good low post defender and is long enough to help control the paint." A summer knee injury slowed her progress some. "But she should be ready to go," Johnson added.

"Julia had a nice sophomore season for us and we need her to take another leap forward this year," Johnson said of Carlson, his undersized junior post player. She picked up valuable experience coming off the bench much of last season, earning the Saints' 'Most Improved Player' award. Carlson counted seven three-pointers among her 99 points scored, a 5.0 ppg avg., and posted KMS' best field goal percentage (42.2%). She also dragged in 65 rebounds and dished out 15 assists. "For what she lacks



Junior Shakira Olson moves from a top bench player as a sophomore into the starting line-up. Her versatility allows her to split her time as either a guard or to play the post. Coach Justin Johnson refers to Olson as the team's 'Swiss Army knife.'



Josie Gjerde earned Camden Conference Honorable Mention honors last season after pumping in 138 points as a sophomore, the Saints' second leading scorer. "Josie will take full responsibility at point guard and we will be asking a lot of her," coach Justin Johnson said of the junior. "She is our best ball handler and our leading scorer of returning players. She is also likely our most consistent shooter," he added.

in size at the post, Julia is not lacking in toughness," Johnson added. "And she has a great outside shot as well."

Johnson's fourth starter and tri-captain, Josie Gjerde, earned Camden Conference Honorable Mention honors last season after pumping in 138 points as a sophomore (6.9 ppg), the Saints' second leading scorer. Gjerde knocked down 16 shots from beyond the arc and hit 67.4% from the free throw line, had 18 steals, blocked five shots, and her 108 rebounds were a Saints' second best. "Josie will take full responsibility at point guard and we will be asking a lot of her," Johnson said of the junior. "She is our best ball handler and our leading scorer of returning players. She is also likely our most consistent shooter," he added.

Another junior, Shakira Olson moves from a top bench player as a sophomore into the starting line-up. Her versatility allows her to split her time as either a guard or to play the post. She scored 40 points last season, nabbed 26 rebounds, had 13 steals, five assists and a pair of blocked shots. Johnson refers to Olson as the team's 'Swiss Army knife.' "We like what she has to offer at both the guard and post positions," the coach stated. "She is long and athletic and will be a tough match-up for most teams."

Elsa Gjerde spent her sophomore year as a 'super-sub,' a role that every team desperately needs to be a success, and that may again be her role. She found the range on three three-pointers last season while averaging just under 15 minutes played per game. Despite her somewhat limited playing time, her 31 assists were third best on the team. She also had 29 rebounds and 16 steals. "Elsa is not a flashy player but does the small things well," Johnson said. "Her biggest strength is her defense but she can score from long range also. We look for her to knock down some deep balls for us."

Johnson is also counting on a pair of freshmen to bolster his line-up. It appears that Wagner is ready to take the leap to the varsity floor and contribute. "We're looking for Emily to play big minutes for us this year," commented Johnson. "She is incredibly quick and anticipates very well on defense."

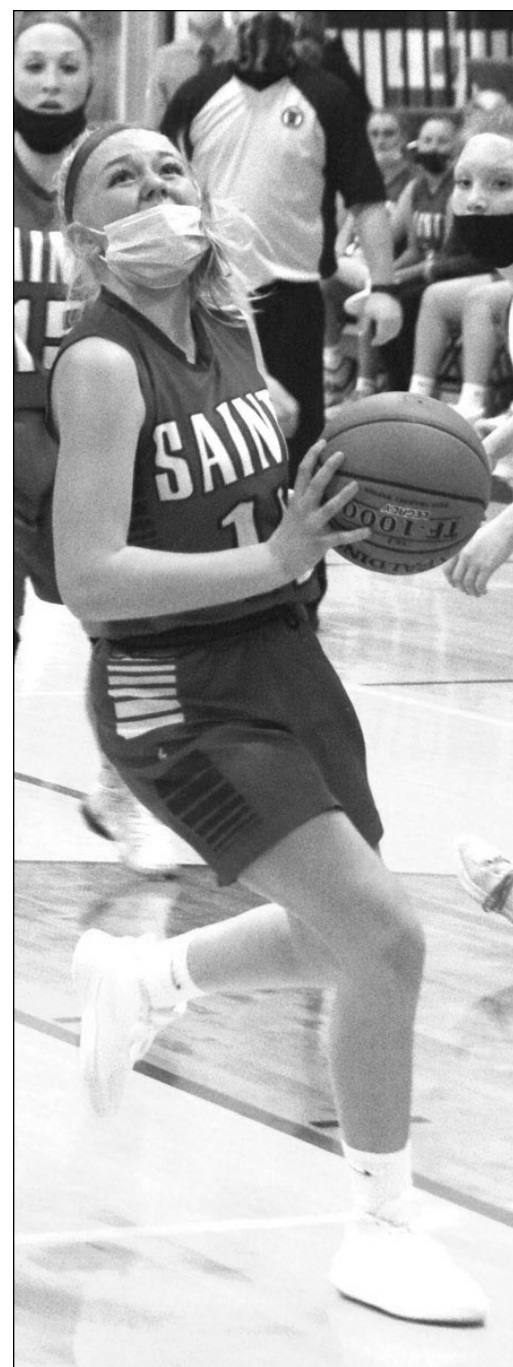
Another newcomer expected to make an impact as a freshman is Maddie Luft, the daughter of C-team coach Ryan (former KMS boys head coach). "Maddie will give us some great length that we have not had around here in a while. She has the ability to impact the game on both ends of the floor," Johnson said of the new arrival to KMS. "She will be a bit limited early in the season as she is coming back from a knee injury." Johnson added that once up to full speed, Luft could slide right into the starting line-up somewhere.

It's not often that an eighth grader finds her way to the varsity floor but Acelynn Hacker may be the exception this season. Johnson sees this youngster as a possibility to contribute. "Acelynn has a chance to earn major minutes as well," he said. "She is another very athletic guard that could give a defense fits."

Here are the Saints rosters: (No roster as yet for seventh and eighth grade)

Seniors: Grace Collins, Hayley Demuth, Karla Padilla.

Juniors: Julia Carlson, Shae Fath, Elsa Gjerde, Josie Gjerde, Kenadie Hamstad, Alana Hettver, Shakira Olson, Katlyn Peters.



"Julia had a nice sophomore season for us and we need her to take another leap forward this year," coach Justin Johnson said of Julia Carlson, his undersized junior post player. She picked up valuable experience coming off the bench much of last season, earning the Saints' 'Most Improved Player' award. "For what she lacks in size at the post, Julia is not lacking in toughness," Johnson added. "And she has a great outside shot as well."

Sophomores: Anissa Demuth, Katelynn Marquardt, Sophia Oerter, Eben Overcash, Lily Ronholdt, Caleigh Wilke.

Freshmen: Avery Davis, Maddie Luft, Gabby Miller, Ella Molenaar, Savannah Peterson, Alissa Thompson, Emily Wagner, Kaliyah Walker, Izzy Wirth, Emily Zurn.

Eighth grade: Acelynn Hacker.
Seventh grade: Mamie Luft.

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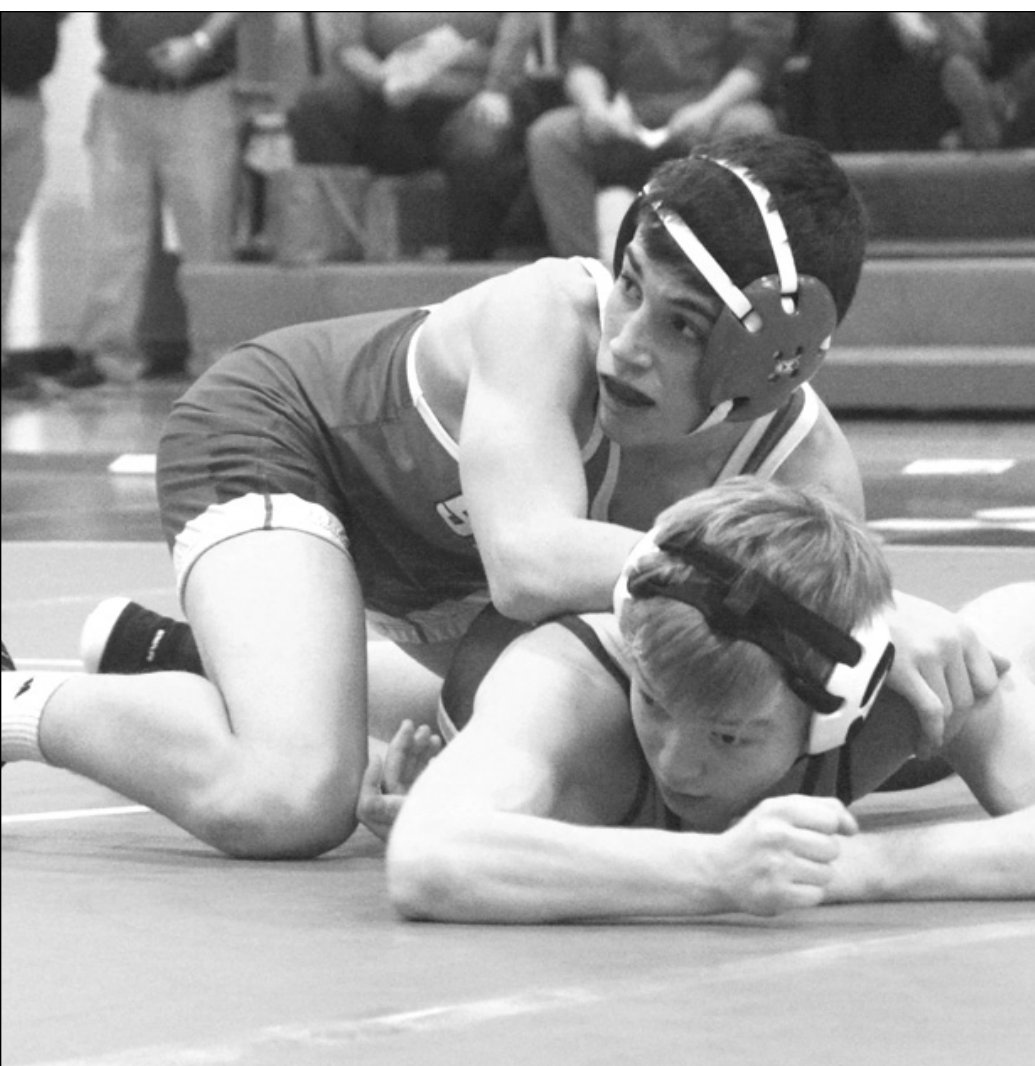
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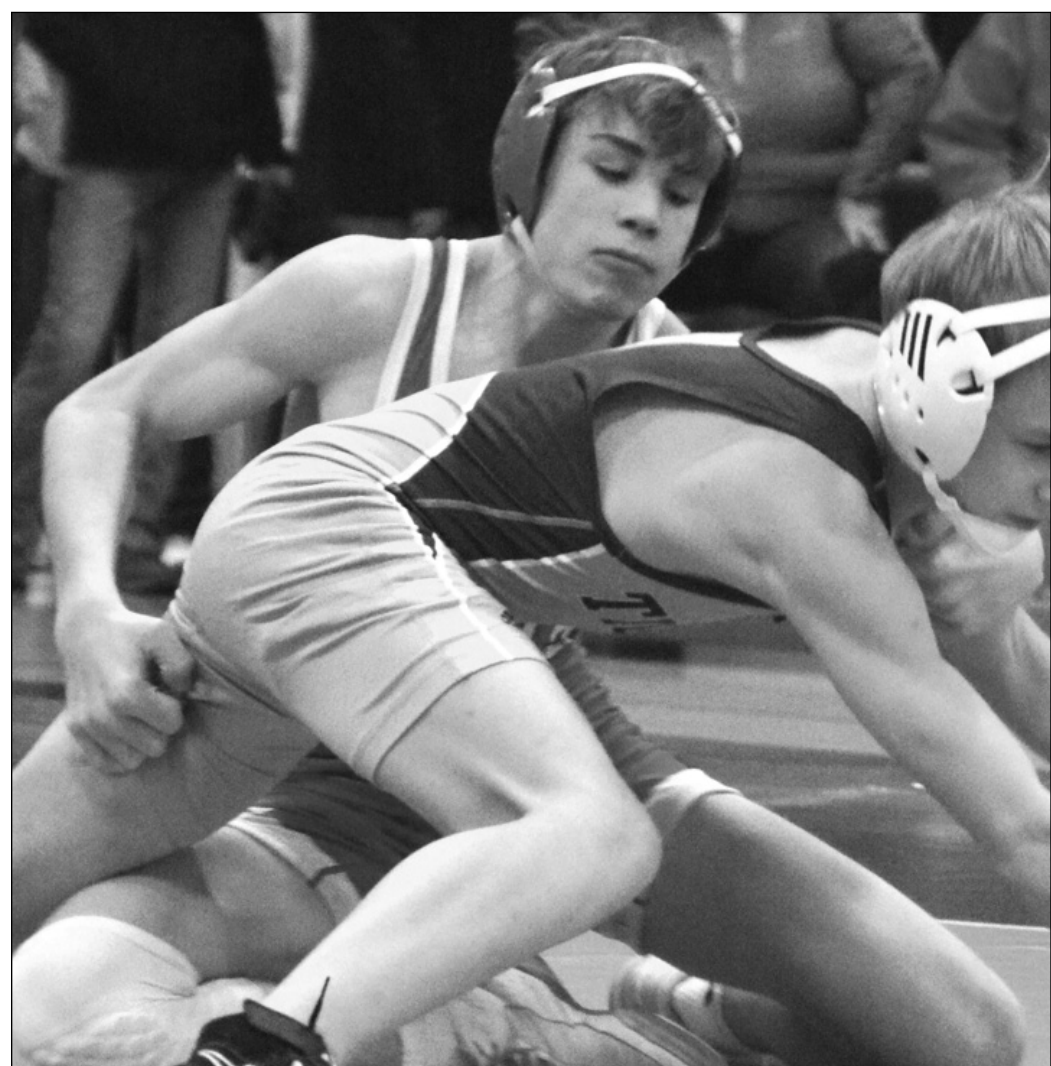
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KMS Winter Sports Preview



Senior Coy Gunderson has a 155-32 record going into this season, including 78 pins. He is ranked 4th in Class A at 160 pounds. Gunderson qualified for the state tournament last season.



Chase Magaard is a junior with a 129-34 career record, and would be counted on as one of the top performers for the Saints this season. However, Magaard is out indefinitely with a back injury sustained during the football season.

Coy Gunderson, Chase Magaard lead KMS wrestlers into new mat season

by Wally Loven

The KMS boys hit the wrestling room mats at full throttle a couple of weeks ago with hopes of improving on a 25-7 dual meet record from their last season.

With 30 wrestlers reporting for workouts, a staff of co-head coaches Craig Johnson and Trevor Mahlum, and Todd Johnson, Jesse Engler, Zach Weddington, Mark Gunderson, Tyler Carlson and Cody Peters will be honing the boys skills in preparation for the new season.

They will be looking to replace a trio of seniors that posted a total of 78 wins in 2020-21... Hunter Wilts was 18-19 last season, returning to the mat after injuries plagued him for several seasons. Also gone are two-time state tourney vet, Rick Jones (33-5, 22 pins last season and a 119-54 career record including 64 pins) and Brody Forsell (27-9, 11 pins as a senior, 83-77 career record with 60 pins). Also gone is Brandon Kallstrom, who missed most of his junior and all of his senior season to injury. His career ended with 20 wins against 58 losses and five falls.

The team returns a small nucleus of quality wrestlers, particularly in the lower weights.

Three-time state tourney veteran Coy Gunderson, who placed fourth in the 'Super-Section' -- last year's version of the state tournament -- leads the way. Now a senior, Gunderson has 155 career wins to his credit as he heads into his final season. He would be joined by another seasoned veteran in Chase Magaard but the junior with a 129-34 career record (34-4 with eight pins last year) is out indefinitely with a back injury sustained during the football season.

A full slate of action is scheduled with five triangular duals, a quadrangular dual and the Osakis Dual Tournament. Invitational tournaments are back on the table after a year off due to COVID and the Saints are lined up to take part in individual tourneys at Big Lake, the Redwood River Classic in Redwood Falls, at Benson, at Ogilvie, at the Big Ole in Alexandria, at St. Agnes, at Red Rock Central High School in Lamberton, at Murray County Central, and wrap up the season at the MAHACA Classic in Morris. The Saints will host four tri meets with Border West, United, Minnesota, Paynesville, Quad County, West Central Area and ROCORI coming here. They are looking for a team to take the place of BOLD in the final tri.

The Saints jump right into Team Section 5A tournament, following the MAHACA Classic. They knocked off Benson to advance to the 'final four' last season where they were eliminated by two-time state champion Long Prairie-Grey Eagle/Browerville. BBE then unseated LPGE-B before losing in the state Class A preliminary ('Super Section') where the Jaguars were ousted by Bertha-Hewitt, who eventually lost the state title to Kimball.

The Saints advanced wrestlers at 10 weights through the 5A individual preliminary rounds to the Section 5/6 'Super Section' state qualifier (a format developed for the pandemic). Besides the three seniors, that group included Trey Gunderson, Ely Johnson, Tanner Wilts, Coy Gunderson, Magaard, Masyn Olson and Jason Jones. Of the underclassmen, only C. Gunderson advanced to the final rounds of the state tournament.

Looking ahead to the coming season, the Saints find themselves a bit shorthanded as several boys have opted not to wrestle. Of the 29 that make up the team, 14 of them are 7th and 8th graders. Trey Gunderson is the only one of that group that has wrestled a varsity match. He had an outstanding first year, posting 32

wins in his seventh grade season. This will be a very 'green' group that takes the mat as the two Gunderson's have 64 wins to their credit while the other nine weights (if three are left open) taking part in the Big Lake opener have a total of just 86 wins.

Hopefully, with a season behind them, the Saints will be ready to compete with some of the muscle of a realigned Section 5A. The state high school league reshuffled things again for the next two seasons... no favor to the Fighting Saints. While (10th ranked, moved to 7A) LPGE/B is out, second ranked BBE remains the odds-on favorite and fourth ranked Minnesota and fifth ranked ACGC are in. Canby also is assigned to 5A. Along with LPGE/B, Quad County and Osakis were reassigned.

The following lined up for the opening matches at Big Lake last Friday. Included are individual statistics and some highlights from last season:

*106: Trey Gunderson, 8th grade. 32-5, 12 pins (career same), 67 takedowns, 163 team points... Goes into the season ranked #1 at 106. Won twice to advance to 5/6A Super Section where he placed 3rd before losing a true 2nd

(Continued on page 18)

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KMS Winter Sports Preview

Wrestling

(Continued from page 17)

match, falling short of the state final four.
 *113: Open.
 *120: Noah Johnson, 11th grade, 12-7, 5 pins (15-18, 7 pins career), 14 takedowns, 68 team points... Did not participate in individual sections.
 *126: Open.
 *132: Open.
 *138: Logan Johnson, 9th grade... First varsity action.
 *145: Ely Johnson, Senior, 22-14, 15 pins, (61-54, 31 pins career), 36 takedowns, 135 team points... Advanced to 5/6-SS with a win loss, and a win, but did not place.
 *152: Jett Olson, 9th grade, 26-9, 11 pins, (43-36, 19 pins career), 34 takedowns, 128 team points... At 138, lost both section matches.
 *160: Coy Gunderson, Senior, 34-6, 22 pins (155-32, 78 pins career), 144 takedowns, 192 team points all were team high last season... Goes into the season ranked 4th at 160 pounds... At 132, won twice to advance to 5/6-SS, then on to a 4th.
 *170: Aaron Jones, 8th grade, 1-2, (1-13 career)... Beginning first full season as varsity starter.
 *182: Owen Kidrowski, 10th grade, 2-0, 1 pin (2-6, 1 pin career), 1 pin, 12 team points... Beginning first full season as a varsity starter.
 *195: Masyn Olson, 11th grade, 18-17, 8 pins (40-54, 18 pins career), 27 takedowns, 91 team points... Won two matches to advance to 5/6-SS where he lost twice and was eliminated.
 *220: Collin Johnson, 10th grade, 8-23, 3



At 195 pound, Masyn Olson, a junior, brings a 40-54 career record to the mat this season.

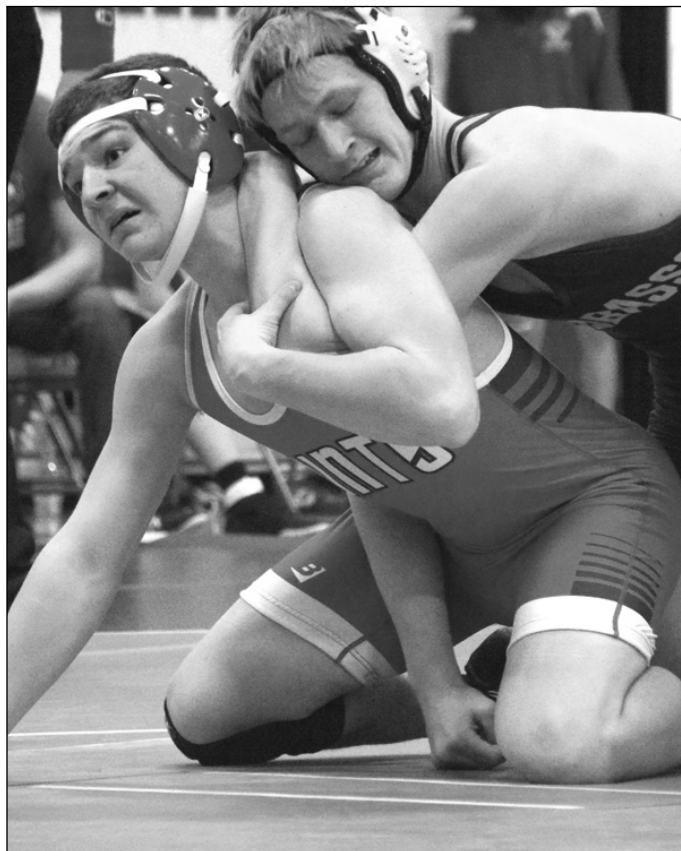
pins (10-47, 5 pins career), 4 takedowns, 48 team points... Lost twice in section tourney.
 *285: Jason Jones, 11th grade, 15-21, 10 pins (37-46, 25 pins), 21 takedowns, 85 team points... Lost his first section match then won twice to advance to 5/6-SS, won a wrestle back match following a loss before bowing out.
 Magaard, now a junior, will be conspicuously missing from the line-up and may perhaps miss the entire season. He was 34-4 last season with 18 pins (129-34 with 59 pins in his

career). He advanced to the 5/6A-SS and placed third. Another regular, Luke Froehlich, also a junior, will work his way into the line-up when individuals begin to settle into their weights as the season goes along. Froehlich was 9-25 with four pins (13-39, 6 pins career) in his sophomore season.
 Here is the KMS wrestling roster:
 Seniors: Coy Gunderson, Ely Johnson.
 Juniors: Luke Froehlich, Noah Johnson, Jason Jones, Chase Magaard, Masyn Olson.

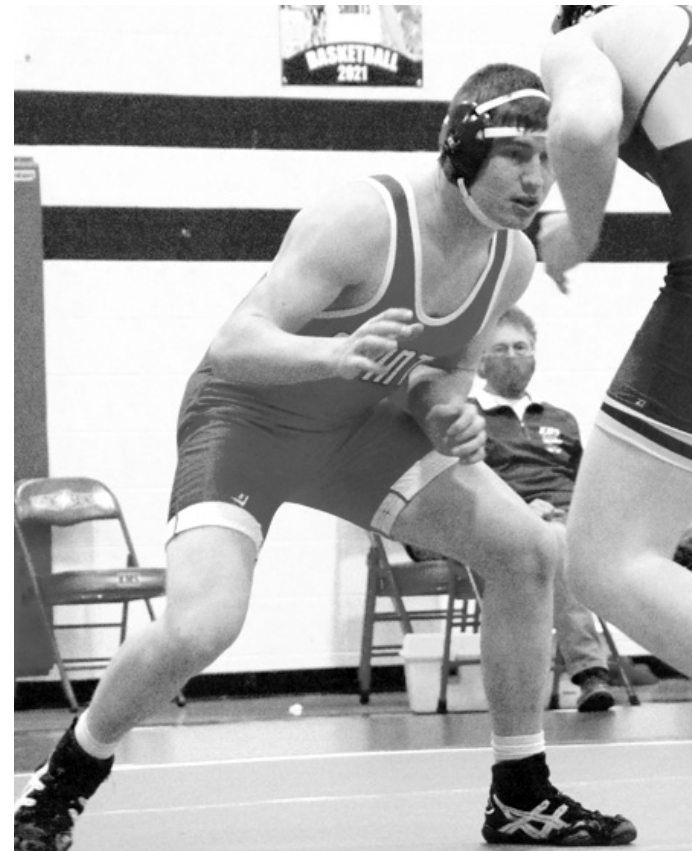
Sophomores: Collin Johnson, Landon Johnson, Owen Kidrowski.
 Freshmen: Logan Johnson, Jett Olson, Adamaris Chedle-Rodriguez, Joshua Jones, Logan Rudningen, Connor Wilts.
 Eighth Grade: Noah Collins, Gavin Feldman, Cole Froehlich, Trey Gunderson, Ethan Linhoff, Colton Noble.
 Seventh grade: Gage Feldman, Shane Froehlich, Jake Holtkamp, Oswaldo Merino, Tayton Nielson, Colin Peters, Wyatt Rudningen,



Jason Jones will again wrestle heavyweight for the Saints. He is a junior with a 15-21 record last season, including 10 pins.



Luke Froehlich is a junior this year, and he had gained some mat experience last season. Froehlich will be fighting for a stop on the varsity roster.



Sophomore Collin Johnson is slated to start the season at 220 pounds for this year's Saints wrestling team.

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KMS Winter Sports Preview

Experienced Benson-KMS gymnasts looking for a great season ahead

by Pam Rohner Swart

Back to a normal season, only better!

The Benson-KMS gymnastics team is practicing in their new Benson Activity Center and the gymnasts skill level has been soaring. Returning to the varsity line up are seniors Taylor Rohner Swart and Torie Andrews, juniors Libby McGeary, Hannah Rosen and Emma Krusemark, sophomore Olivia Noble, and freshmen Gwen Wilcox, and Elise Duncan. Also on the varsity line up this year are sophomore Sophie Hilleren and freshmen Mya McGeary and Alexis Hoberg.

Head coach Kathy Ahrndt, who's been coaching in Benson for 30 years, commented,

"The Benson-KMS varsity gymnastics team has a lot of depth this season with an 11-member squad filling the five competitive spots on each event. Against Marshall, the season opener, the team scored 135.05 points and many gymnasts tallied personal best scores. It was a terrific start and we hope to build on this momentum as the season progresses."

Last year Libby McGeary won the first ever state gold medal for the Benson-KMS gymnastics program. She also qualified to state in 2020, placing 19th overall in the all around. Last winter she improved to 13th overall in the all around (36.15) during the Class A meet, while placing first on the balance beam (9.6), 26th on the floor exercise (9.0), 32nd on the uneven

bars (8.575) and 37th on the vault (8.975).

Two seniors were lost to graduation: Makena Kelley, who earned All-WCC honors in gymnastics four times, and Ali Johnson.

This year's captains are Taylor Rohner Swart, Torie Andrews, Libby McGeary, Hannah Rosen and Emma Krusemark. Team manager is Ellie Krusemark.

The JV roster will include sophomores Maddie Anderson, Arianna Nagler, Alysse Swanson and Abby Hanson, freshman Elsie Tolifson, Trinity Schmidt and Mikayla Mortenson, and eighth graders Taylor Van Heuveln, Ava Noble, Chloe Naig, Grace Nagler, Sophia Krusemark, Brooke Hoberg and Keala Carroll.

Assistant Coaches are Julie Carroll, Kris

Noble, Dave Krusemark, Anne Duncan and Karli Aschman.

The remaining schedule is as follows:

- Dec. 9 at home vs. Litchfield
- Dec. 16 at Melrose
- Dec. 21 at NLS
- Jan. 4 at home vs. Morris
- Jan. 11 at home vs. Paynesville
- Jan. 15 at Maple Lake Tournament
- Jan. 20 at home vs. LPGE
- Jan. 25 at Redwood Falls
- Feb. 4 at home for Conference Meet
- Feb. 12 Section Meet at TBD



Senior Taylor Rohner Swart is shown performing on bars. She is one of the captains of this year's BKMS gymnastics team.



Olivia Noble, a sophomore is pictured doing a flip during her floor exercise routine. --photos by Pam Rohner Swart

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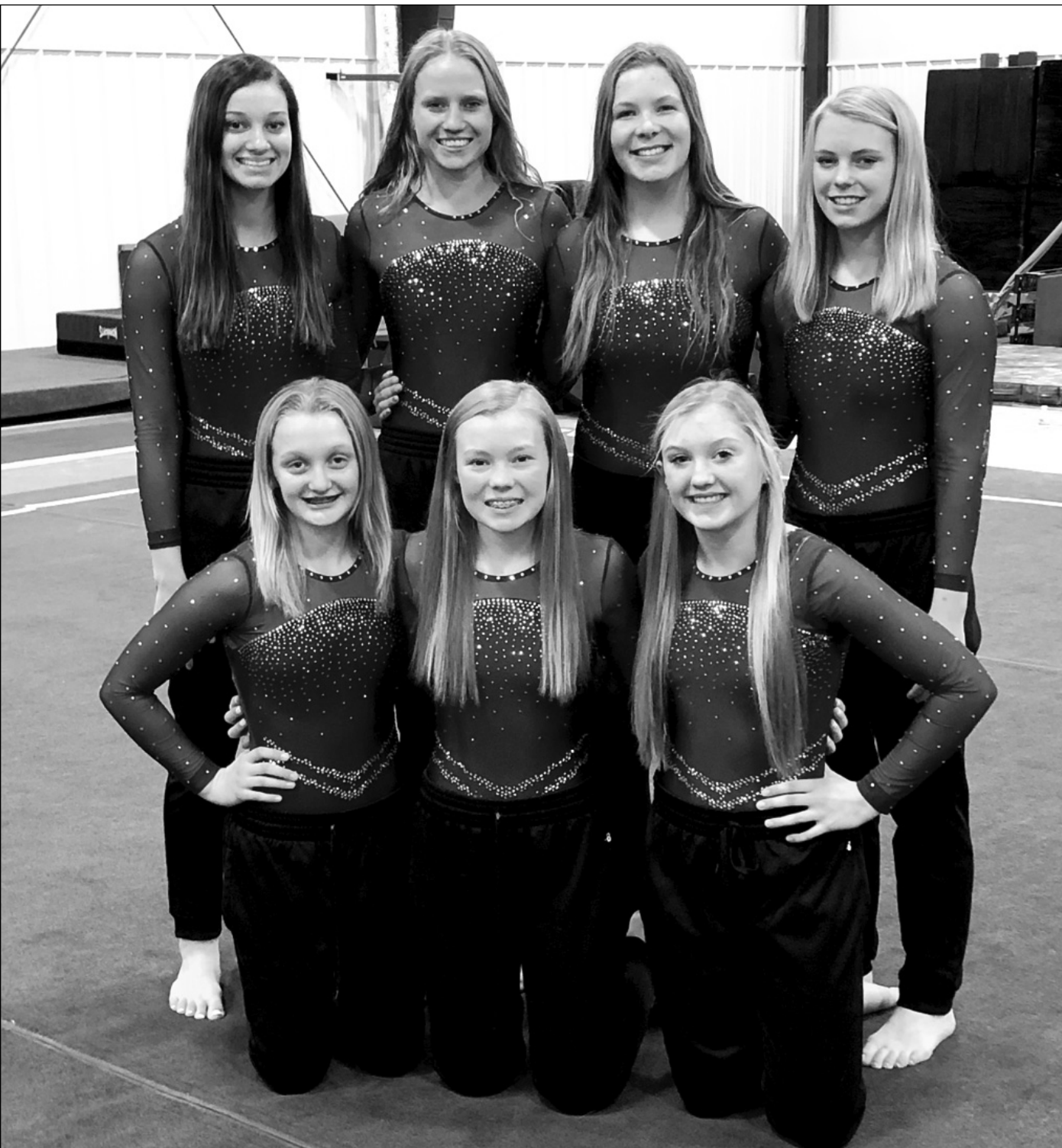
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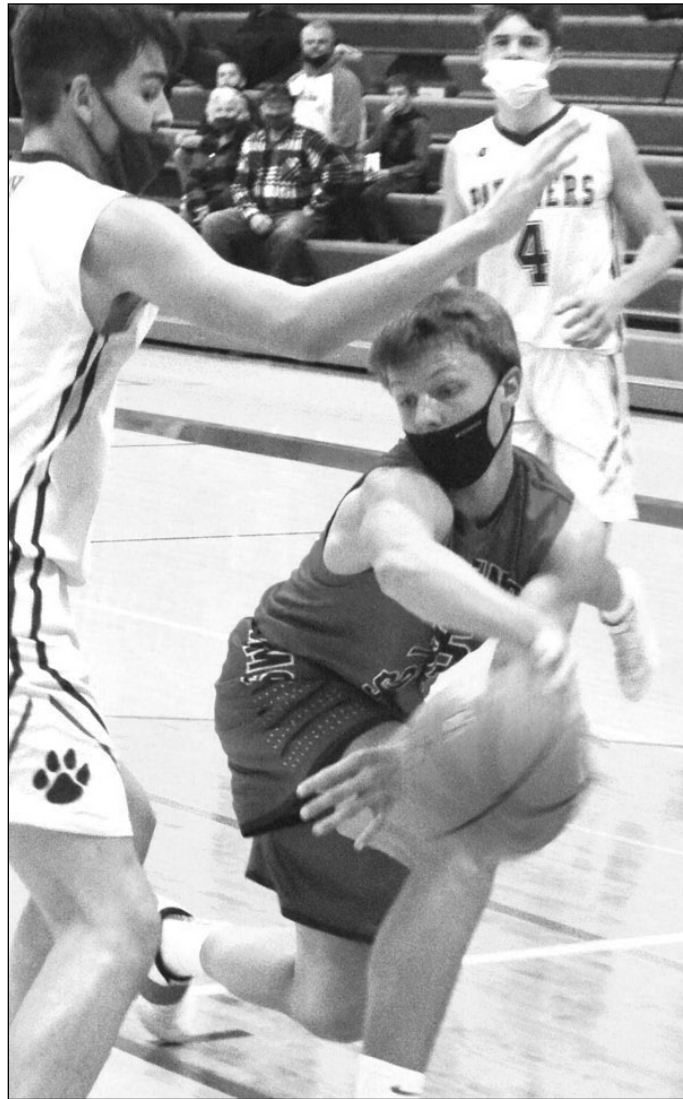
Here are the KMS girls on this year's Benson-KMS gymnastics team. Shown from left are: (front) Ava Noble, Taylor Vanheuveln and Olivia Noble; (back) Alysse Swanson, Taylor Rohner Swart, Abby Hanson and Maddie Anderson. --photo by Pam Rohner Swart



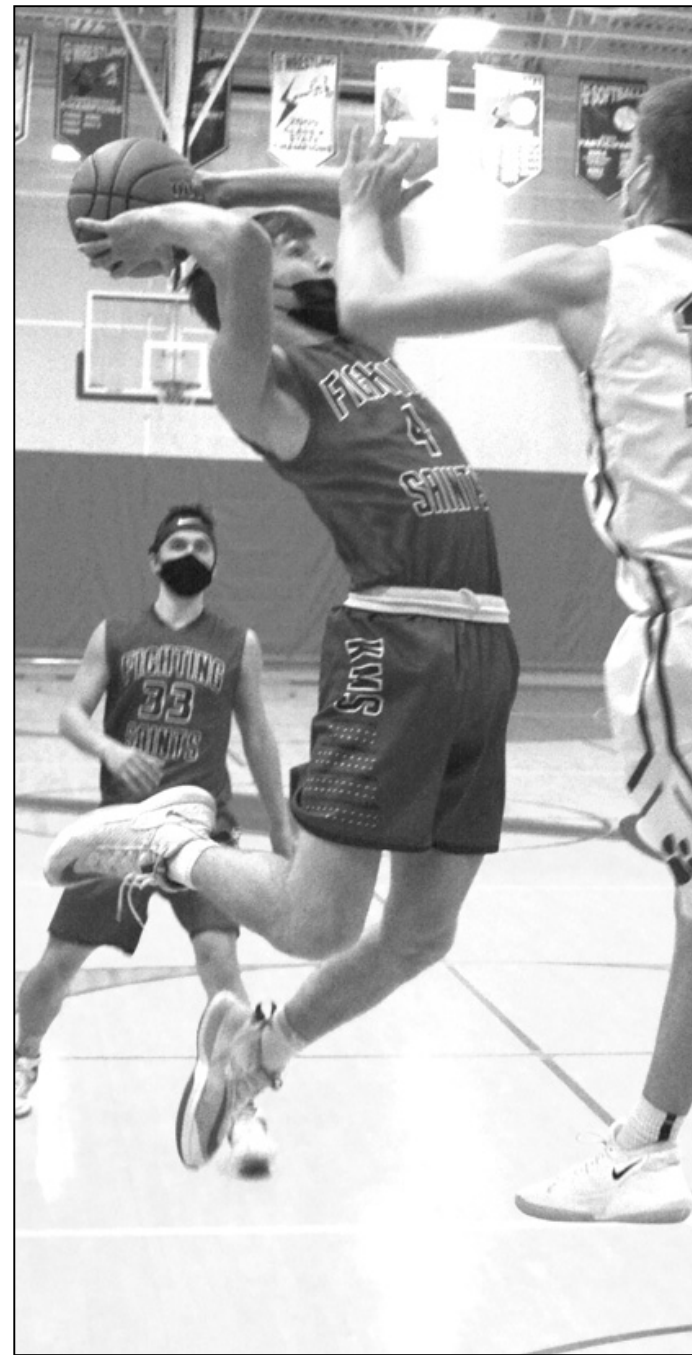
Senior Jacob Garies brings a lot of hustle and great work ethic to the floor. "Jacob is a very hard worker," coach Matt Fragodt said of the senior guard. "He does all the things that make a great team a great team."



Elsa Gjerde spent her sophomore year as a 'super-sub,' a role that every team desperately needs to be a success, and that may again be her role. She found the range on three three-pointers last season while averaging just under 15 minutes played per game.



Hunter Kallstrom will give the Saints some much needed size and muscle. "Hunter has become a very strong player," Fragodt said of the 6' soph. "He is also very athletic. He is not afraid to go down in the trenches and make things happen."



Jared Cortez broke into the starting line-up during his freshman season and was very productive. "He finished out the year on a high note," the coach Matt Fragodt said. "This year he will be a full time varsity player and can shoot the ball very well."

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