



PHOTO BY RICK BUSSLER

Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) can be found on the sidelines of football games like this one in Medford - and other high school sporting events. While AEDs are required at all high schools and by the MSHSL during all sanctioned athletic events

## AEDs, trainers, ambulance crews play key role



Ali Mach

◀ **ROLE** from B5

However, not all schools have the same resources.

"Unfortunately, we are a small enough school where we do not have an athletic trainer on-site with us at our home events. That is something that we would love to have, and we're currently working with Mayo Clin-

ic to see what services can be provided for us," said NRHEG activities director Dan Stork.

Despite not having an athletic trainer, the community has stepped in to ensure the safety of players and fans alike.

While the school already had two on-site AEDs, local community members Nick and Erin

Budach, founders of the Finly's Wings at Work foundation, donated two portable AEDs for home and away games.

This sense of communal responsibility and generosity can also be felt in Blooming Prairie, where the local ambulance service sends an ambulance crew to every home game.

"You know, we always have situations where we have injuries. Nothing usually is severe or life-threatening, but we're very fortunate that we have a local ambulance crew and community members who are in action immediately," said Blooming Prairie activities director Ali Mach.



Dan Stork

## Local doctor covers Medford sidelines

◀ **DOCTOR** from B5

A major driving force in Van Gelder's love of medicine on the sidelines isn't only a love for helping the individual, but also his love for the community.

Van Gelder and his wife, Andrea, who teaches music, moved to Owatonna in 2010 and he said they immediately fell in love with the arts scene in the city.

Being involved in musical theater offered them both a place to be involved in the community, beyond their professions.

Owatonna is also where Van Gelder met Dr. Brian Bunkers, whom he credited as his mentor for getting into sports medicine in the local high school sports programs.

Being actively involved with students at the high school and in his practice alike, Van Gelder said he's also seen medical students begin to take an interest in sports medicine.

"I've had residents and students from Rochester at Mayo who have rotated with me for their rotations, and I tell them, 'Hey, I cover the sidelines, on Friday,' and I've actually had some of them come along with me just to see what it's like to cover the sidelines and see what happens and what you have to deal with."



STAFF PHOTO BY RICK L. BUSSLER

Dr. Timothy Van Gelder practices medicine on and off the field. Van Gelder credits Dr. Brian Bunkers for getting him involved with sports medicine in the local high school sports programs.