



# Blue & White

A Weekly Production from the MHS Journalism Class

P.O. Box 580-Montezuma, IA 50171- [www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx](http://www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx)



ABOVE: Koby Shoemaker (11) makes a stunning entrance as Shelby Helm (12) looks on intently. Shoemaker plays Max Detweiler and Helm plays Maria Rainer in the musical.

BELOW: Helm and Vance Bushong (12) hold hands as they sing the song "Something Good." Bushong plays Captain Georg Von Trapp in the Musical.

Photo credit: Chase Talbert



## Montezuma's Musical Menagerie

One month out from MHS's production of "The Sound of Music"

By Chase Talbert

It's hard to believe that there is only a little bit over a month until this year's musical, "The Sound of Music," premieres.

The musical has been directed by Ms. Mary Pohlmann for the last four years, and she is feeling even better about the show this year than she has in years past. Musical show dates are November 4th at 7pm, the 5th at 3pm, the 11th at 7pm, and the 12th at 3pm; these are the first and second weekends of the month. Pre-sale tickets are available for only five dollars at Montezuma State Bank until November first, as opposed to eight dollars on the night of the show.

Despite the ease that they perform on show night, the hard work they put in during their morning and Saturday practices begins with anything but. Before even being able to begin practice Ms. Pohl-

mann, Ms. Marinkovich, the assistant director and choreographer, and Ms. Roorda, the costume director must make sure that the play can even be put on. They ensure that the show dates do not conflict with anything else, get the rights and royalties so that the show can even be legally put on, and finally hold auditions for the cast of the musical.

After they are sure the show can be put on, the fun starts—morning practices for the main roles, and several Saturday practices from nine in the morning until four in the afternoon for the entire cast. Morning practices consist of individual character work on both their lines and songs. Saturday practices are the more strenuous ones, both in length and content, during these they go through the play scene by scene, work on growing and developing people's characters.

The weekly practices have been paying off, however, with over a month away until the play Ms. Pohlmann believes the cast is currently at a six out of ten in terms of preparedness, which is significantly better than they were at this time last year.

This is not the only improvement made since last year, Ms. Pohlmann had something to say regarding this, "Each student has grown from musical to musical through the ownership of their character and through their preparation."

Ms. Pohlmann's current feelings about the musical as a whole are mostly positive, she believes that this year's cast is very strong overall and has a good mix of children from various grades. While the musical has had great singers every year, but does being in the musical improve an individual's singing abilities and abil-

ity to develop a character?

Ms. Pohlmann thinks there is a definite correlation between being involved in the musical and an improved singing and acting ability. One of Ms. Pohlmann's favorite parts of being play director is seeing the entire cast individually come together to help each other improve and result in the finished product which can only be achieved through everyone trying their hardest and being better than they were before.

Finally, Ms. Pohlmann wishes to say to the community, and anyone planning on or just thinking about seeing the musical, "The "Sound of Music" is something that the cast has been hard at work to perform this November. It is a musical that will be enjoyed by many age groups and contains beautiful and classic music. You won't want to miss it!"

## Missed an issue? No problem!

The Blue & White is now online.

Go to [www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx](http://www.montezuma-schools.org/BlueWhite.aspx) to see our previous issues!

## MHS Receives Grant from Prairie Meadows

By Brayden Stockman

Over the summer, the weight room added three more pieces of equipment to its supply, from Prairie Meadows in Des Moines. Megan Carlson, who has been a Physical Education teacher, Health teacher, Varsity Girls Track coach, and Junior High Volleyball coach at Montezuma Community Schools for eight years, received the equipment through a grant application that she had submitted.

This grant application was for the Community Betterment Grant, a grant that funds moderately-sized products \$100 to the generous \$99,999. Carlson's grant application was titled Safe Jumping for All, and requested foam plyometric boxes that students could use to jump higher in a safe manner. The grant was gifted to Carlson for \$990, which she then used to purchase the boxes.

Carlson is very grateful for the grant from Prairie Meadows, stating, "I am very thankful for Prairie Meadows' generosity to our school and our Physical Education program."

"The grant from Prairie Meadows will benefit our students greatly. As we put more emphasis on keeping our kids active and healthy we can use the plyo boxes to do just that. It is good to know that a business like Prairie Meadows is willing to help small communities like Montezuma!" said Technology Coordinator and varsity football coach Tyler Baethke.

The boxes received from the grant are currently being used by Carlson and various others as an exercise for the legs, and Carlson thanks Prairie Meadows for giving her the ability to help her students in new ways.

## Superintendent Spotlight: Dave Hoeger

By Carrie Jennings

Dave Hoeger is the Montezuma School District's new superintendent. Though he has had much experience working in schools in the past, this is his first year of being a superintendent.

Hoeger grew up in Dyersville, Iowa, a small town about 25 miles west of Dubuque. He attended and graduated from West Dubuque High School.

He went on to attend the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa to pursue a degree in accounting. However, he felt like the business world was not what he wanted to go into, so he switched to a math education major towards the end of his freshman year.

He went on to teach junior high and high school math at a variety of different schools before ending up back at his own high

school, West Dubuque. He worked there for six years, eventually becoming an administrator, then an assistant principal, and then principal. Overall, he has taught for fifteen years.

Having been a high school administrator for many years, he was eager for a change. When he heard that Montezuma was looking for a new superintendent, he was quick to apply.

He was also drawn to Monte because it is a size similar to the town he grew up in, and it is settled in a nice part of the state.

As a superintendent, Hoeger has many tasks to undertake. He "works for

the school board to deliver the goals that they desire."

He also assists with staffing the school and has people who report to him. "A passion of mine," Hoeger adds, "is finding additional opportunities for students."

He also says that being in the education field is a good challenge as he is always looking for ways to improve aspects of the school.

Despite spending quite a bit of his time at school, in his free time, he is usually pursuing his passion of woodworking. Though he makes bowls and even desks, he also makes much larger furniture

and tables for his home.

Hoeger enjoys spending time with his family as well. He has a wife, Jane, two daughters who live in San Diego, and a son who lives in Chicago.

So far, he is greatly enjoying working and living in Montezuma. "The community is tightly wound, and everyone is very supportive of the school."

To the Montezuma community and the staff here at the school, he would like to say this: "Thank you all so much for the welcome my wife and I have received and for being so understanding and helpful."

DAVE HOEGER, right, is the new superintendent at Montezuma. A former principal at Western Dubuque, Hoeger is enjoying his new position at the helm of Montezuma Schools

Photo credit: Carrie Jennings



## The Blue and White Staff



## Calendar of Events

**Thursday**  
SICL Cross Country @ Colfax-Mingo - 4:30 pm  
Varsity Volleyball Tournament @ TBA - 5:00 pm

**Friday**  
Teacher PD Day - No School  
Varsity Football @ Cardinal - 7:00 pm  
**Saturday**  
FFA State Soils @ Iowa State

**Monday**  
JV Football @ North Mahaska - 6:00 pm

**Tuesday**  
JH Football @ Lynnville-Sully - 4:15 pm  
Volleyball Regionals @ TBA - 7:00 pm

**Wednesday**  
No Activities

**Thursday**  
Cross Country State Qualifier - 3:00 pm