



South O'Brien High School The Wolverine Roar

Editor: Edie Oliver

Assistant Editors: Reagan Draper and Jinger Nieuwenhuis

If You Missed the Concert, Yule Be Sorry

By Derek Paulsen, Carter Halverson, Averie Logan, and Luis Salazar

The South O'Brien High School and Junior High Music Department performed their annual winter concert on December 7, 2023. Band director Becky Meyer and choir director Becky Lickiss selected musical pieces to get the audience into the holiday spirit. Student favorites included "Jingle Bell Rock," "Baby, It's Cold Outside," and "Winter's Lullaby."

Band Director Becky Meyer said, "I was pleased by the performances of all of the groups. They worked hard leading up to the concert. Our most energetic song was the performance of 'Jingle Bell Rock' by the jazz band." This was the jazz band's first public performance of the year. She added, "By playing music that wasn't necessarily traditional, I believe that we captured the audience's attention."

The concert band, concert jazz, concert choir, junior high concert band, and junior high concert choir all entertained the audience at the evening concert. Choir Director Beck Lickiss said, "The kids worked hard to prepare for the concert so to see how well it went was very awesome. It was a great way to start the holiday season, and I loved seeing all the support from the audience."



Becky Lickiss leads the crowd in a surprise rendition of "Happy Birthday" to celebrate Band Director Becky Meyer's birthday.



The high school concert choir, soprano section sings "Winter's Lullabye" under the direction of Becky Lickiss.



The high school concert band, under the direction of Becky Meyer, plays "Nathan Hale" at the concert on December 7.

DJ Hansen Becomes New Girls Basketball Coach

By Cole Cox and Mitchell Enger

DJ Hansen, a graduate of South O'Brien in 2004, has stepped into the varsity girls basketball head coach role. Coach Hansen has been a special education teacher for South O'Brien for 13 years. Coach Hansen also has 13 years of coaching experience in football, basketball, and baseball. Although he took a break from coaching, Hansen is excited to be back working with athletes. Hansen said, "I had a young family and coaching took too much time away from my family." Now that his family is a little older, he's excited to step back in as a coach. He says his assistant coach Kyle Pauslen has been a huge asset to the team this year. Coach Hansen added, "We have learned from Coach Yates, which helps us be on the same page. Kyle works with the guards while I work with the post." Hansen's wife Abby has also coached basketball at Zion St. John in Paullina. They have three kids. He likes spending time with his family, reading, and watching sports in his free time. He and his family all have a love for sports and a passion for helping others.



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Three Upperclassmen Serve as Volunteer Firefighters

By Alex Sage, Justice Frerk, & Jayven Miller



Junior Ryan Fuller and senior Jordan Wulf are proud to serve local fire departments. Fuller volunteers with the Sutherland Fire Department. Wulf is with the Paullina Fire Department.

Three South O'Brien upperclassmen currently serve as volunteer firefighters. Seniors Jordan Wulf, Colin Odenbrett, and junior Ryan Fuller have found a sense of fulfillment in helping people in need and building connections with others through their work as volunteer firefighters.

Senior Jordan Wulf, who serves as a Paullina firefighter, said, "Being a firefighter gave me another way to help people in need." Jordan wanted to become more involved in his community. He feels a sense of accomplishment when he's helping others. He has been a volunteer firefighter for almost a year. Wulf's experience working with the equipment will be beneficial in his future career as a diesel mechanic. Wulf trains twice a month with other firefighters.

Senior Colin Odenbrett wanted to become a volunteer firefighter to help people in need. He has been part of the Primghar Fire Department for six months. While being a firefighter, Odenbrett can make connections with other people in the community. He was inspired to join the department by his brother, Zach Wohlert, who is also a part of the Primghar Fire Department. He hasn't



Senior Colin Odenbrett (right) stands on a fire truck with his brother Zach Wohlert (left) during the figure eight races in Primghar.

done too much training yet; however, Odenbrett was excited to help at the local figure eight races in Primghar during the summer.

Junior Ryan Fuller is also motivated to help people and feels a sense of achievement when he is volunteering for his community as a Sutherland volunteer firefighter. He has been with the department for just over a year. Fuller said, "Being a firefighter has helped me build connections with people in the community." His dad, Bomber Fuller, has been a volunteer firefighter for seventeen years and encouraged Fuller to volunteer as a firefighter.

Whether it's firefighters or first responders, emergency personnel are always needed in our communities. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a firefighter, contact one of the local fire departments.