

West Sioux wrestling working its way through early season injuries.

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## HRH has had our back

Read about Betty Dunnam in next week's issue

### Kratochvil will miss her 'work family' at hospital

BY KATIE ANDERSON  
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Deb Kratochvil started her career at Hawarden Regional Healthcare on Labor Day of 1974. She's had different stints at HRH and if you are getting the calculator out to do the math, it adds up to 27 years at HRH.

"It is just time, it is time to retire," Kratochvil said.

Deb wears many hats. She is the occupational health nurse, the employee health nurse, the diabetes educator. Her fellow employees say

she is modest about how important she is to the overall nursing duties.

"Don't ever let her underestimate her abilities," co-worker Jeanna Negaard said. "When I started here, she was just a shining star, a resource and just very, very humble."

Working at HRH has been wonderful according to Deb, who says the environment is homey and everyone is close.

"It has been such an honor to work with such a work family, it truly is a work family here," Deb said. "This community and how we have grown,

See **RETIRING** on page 9



Kratochvil, Dunnam retiring after over 50 combined years of service

## Owl has new habitat at Prairie Woods

It was found injured in 2021, still has limited flight and sight

BY RENEE WIELENGA  
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Look who is back at Oak Grove Park.

An owl that was found injured by a N'West Iowa family will make its home at the new bird mews at the Prairie Woods Nature Center.

Smiles spread across the faces of Spencer Gort of rural Doon and his 5-year-old daughter, Mataya, on Saturday, Dec. 3, as Sioux County naturalist Sunday Ford held up the barred owl for them to get a closer look before she placed it in the bird mews for the first time.

"She's come a long way from when I last saw her," Spencer said. "She's so much larger.



A barred owl held by Sioux County naturalist Sunday Ford remains cautious as Spencer and Mataya Gort of rural Doon get the first look at the bird last Saturday, a year after they found it along the side of the road near their farm. The bird was given to Sioux County Conservation for care and public educational purposes and will be housed in the new bird mews there. Photo by Renee Wielenga

She's a beautiful bird. It's exciting she's still here."

The female raptor has limited flight and sight due to injuries sustained around

Thanksgiving 2021.

While driving home with his daughter

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Hawarden held its Festival of Trees.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

Snow and lights are in the air, joy and laughter everywhere! As we celebrate this blessed season, we count you among the many reasons that gratitude fills our hearts and minds all year long and especially at Christmastime.

Best wishes to you and yours!



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