

Soles for souls collected



The National Honor Society's shoe drive ended this Monday. NHS was able to collect 130 pairs of shoes. These shoes will be sent to Haiti and will primarily be used to build a playground. Thank you everyone who participated and donated a pair of shoes! (photo by Nichole Lucas)

Students prepare for finals today, Monday

by Emily LaGrant

Finals week has arrived! Today marks the first semester testing in over five years. It's a big stepping stone, but a necessary one to some teachers.

"I think the semester tests are a great idea. I think it's good preparation for those students heading off to college," says Mrs. Besler. "It could be worse. My niece's finals are 20% of her final grade."

The semester tests are being broken down into two block-scheduled days (today and Monday) and will account for 5% of a student's class grade, though this percentage might change next semester.

The reactions from the student body are mixed. Logan Fronatt commented, "I came from a big school in Florida where we tested every semester. Last year it was a shock not to. I do think semester tests are helpful."

Meanwhile Emma McDowell states, "I don't think finals are the best idea because of so many throwaway tests. I just end up getting stressed out for no reason."

Perhaps some classes have easy

finals, but that isn't the case for many. Most finals are giving students a small dose of the future because of the stress and work that comes with. No test is agonizingly hard, but attempting to study and prepare for multiple tests at once can be a daunting task.

If you're a student, don't let the nerves get to you. These finals aren't pass or fail situations. Just remember, a little review can go a long way. Don't stress yourself out, but don't be afraid to crack open your textbook. Most of all, make sure to eat breakfast and get plenty of sleep. It's the oldest advice in the book, but your brain will thank you during test time.

Nichole Winter offered perhaps the best advice, though. "I think that the finals aren't stress-worthy because they're only 5% of your grade, but you should still prepare and try and do well because you want to feel proud of yourself and prepare for the future," she said.

And after all, isn't that what it's all about?

Musicians present winter concert



The band and choir performed the music they have been working on this semester Monday night. Above: Lawson Roof plays the chimes. Right: The mixed choir performs. (photos by Becca Hill)



Coach Andrews earns 150th dual win



Tanner Parmely dominates his Postville opponent Tuesday night. (photo courtesy of MV Athletic Boosters)

by Emily Krapfl

When the Wildcats left Postville Tuesday night, Coach Andrews brought home something special: his 150th dual win.

At Postville, the Wildcats faced the Postville Pirates and the Clayton Ridge Eagles. The Wildcats started off the night by defeating Postville with a final team score of 38-20. Wrestlers who won their matches during this dual were Carson

Wright (pin), Tanner Parmely (pin), Robert Hildebrand (pin), Mitch Smith (13-1 decision), Dylan Wright (11-1 decision), Alec McDowell (pin), and Kaleb Kruse (forfeit).

Next, the Wildcats wrestled Clayton Ridge and won with a final team score of 54-15. Wrestlers who were successful during this dual were Carson Wright (forfeit), Tanner Parmely (forfeit), Robert Hildebrand (pin), Mitch Smith (pin), Dylan Wright (pin), Alec McDowell (pin), Eric Heims (pin), Kaleb Kruse (pin), and Canyon Richardson (forfeit).

Coach Andrews had this to say about his team's performance: "I thought we came out slow tonight versus Postville, but as the night went on I was happy with how we responded wrestling Clayton Ridge. These were two good team victories for us as we head into this final week before Christmas break."

On Saturday, December 12th, the Maquoketa Valley team traveled to Aplington-Parkersburg for the Keith Vry Invitational. The team finished in 6th place out of 14 teams.

With only wrestling six varsity wrestlers on the day Coach Andrews was definitely pleased with the results. "To come to a tournament of this caliber with only six varsity wrestlers and to come away with all six scoring points is a good thing."

Alec McDowell led the way with a championship at 182 lbs. He earned this by beating ranked opponent Cruz Vera (AGWSR) by fall in 2:55. Cole Kruse finished the day with a third place medal by beating Nick Schnoebelen (Regina) in the third place match by a score of 2-0. Other wrestlers placements were as follows: Tanner Parmely 4th, Mitch Smith 4th, Dylan Wright 4th, and Eric Heims 5th.

Coach Andrews also said to have all six of his varsity wrestlers place in the top five was another good accomplishment as we head into the final week before Christmas break.

MV also had six JV wrestlers competing at the meet, and this was highlighted by a first place finish from Kaleb Kruse at Hwt. Every single MV wrestler JV or Varsity won at least one match this past Saturday.

Girls basketball faces two tough conference teams

by Kristi Goedken

On December 8th, the Wildcats hosted #1 ranked Springville on their home court. The Wildcats were able to rally a hard fought battle in the first quarter with a score of 16-15 in favor of the Orioles. Playing hard through out the whole game, the Wildcats well short and tallied their first lost of the season with a score of 62-49.

"We got off to a very good start in this game," stated Coach Moenck. "I was very pleased with our energy in this game. But like every good team does Springville answered. They're a very good team and you can miss the shots that we did and make the mistakes that we did and beat teams like Springville. We have to be more discipline on defense and more opportunistic on offense. We will get better and it starts with us as coaches."

Statistical leaders were junior Brianna Mensen with 19 points followed by Sam Wall with 8 and Megan Mensen with 7. The Wildcats were 6 of 15 from the line for 40% on the night. The Mensen sisters were able to pull down a combined 20 rebounds between the two. As a team, the wildcats collected 34 total for both offensively and defensively. Erin Digmann was able to contribute 2 blocks.

December 11th, the Wildcats traveled to Bellevue Marquette to take on the Mohawks on their home court. Maquoketa Valley was able to pull away with a hard fought win that turned into a nail biter. Your Wildcats won 49-48.

"We knew going into this game it was going to be a very tough environment to

play in," stated Coach Moenck. "Coming off a tough loss on Tuesday I was interested to see how our team would respond. Again, I was very pleased with our effort. To be honest that is what won us this game because we were not a disciplined basketball team again tonight on both ends of the floor. I thought Payton Ries and Brianna Mensen had outstanding games for us on both ends of the floor. Payton showed a lot of toughness, which is something we have been lacking for a while."

Brianna Mensen led to scoring with 17 points followed by Payton Ries with 16. Wall, Digmann, S. Hoeger, M. Mensen, and Goedken were also able to add points for the win. The girls were able to increase their free throw percentage for this game up to 63% making 10 of 16. Payton Ries tallied 9 rebounds followed by M. Mensen with 8, Digmann with 6, and Goedken with 5. The Wildcats' defense allowed for 25 steals on the night and 6 blocks.

"Sam Wall hit a shot with just under two seconds on the clock to win the game," recalled Coach Moenck. "For a freshman to step up and take a shot like that says a lot about her. Bellevue Marquette had a shot to win the game at the end but it came up short. I really love this team and how much they care and love playing for one another. We just need some things to carry over on game nights."

Tuesday night the Wildcats were able to add another win to their record over Lisbon with a final score of 48-17. Tonight the girls will travel to Winthrop to take on the Buccaneers.

what's up?

What are you doing over Christmas break?

by **Tate Trenkamp**

Stefanie Hansen: Reading
Eric Heims: Sleeping
Mrs. Temple: Grading portfolios
Nichole Winter: Relaxing
Brenden Hogan: Doing homework and seeing the new Star Wars movie
Laisee Shakespeare and Natalie Neuzil: Making cookies
Ryanne Flanagan: Start and finish my Christmas shopping
Cassie Westhoff: Babysitting
Megan Wulfekuhle: Spending time with my family

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Sienna Becker

You have done some outstanding work in government class. What do you enjoy most about the class? I really enjoy being informed about the current events as well as how our constitution was formed.



The class has many purposes, but why is the class personally valuable for you? It makes me really appreciate our government and the freedoms we have because I realize how hard it was for our founding fathers to form our government.

What's the most interesting take-away from the class? The most interesting thing I have taken from this class is how ISIS has formed their own government and how they carry out their plans and how they recruit people. It's amazing.

—Sienna was nominated by Mr. Cassutt

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Shaylyn Trenkamp
Activity: Speech



What events are you in for speech?

Choral Reading and Ensemble Acting

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

The bonding and getting to know the people in your groups.

What have you learned through this event? CR- It's a group effort; everyone has to give 100% to succeed.

EA- When stretching your comfort zone in speech, the limit does not exist!

Who is your speech role model? Oh my. Mrs. DeVore, Ali Holtz, Stacey Murray, Taylor White, Emily LaGrant, Noah White, Kate Huber, Emilee Muller, and many more!

If you could coach a large group speech event, what would it be? Reader's Theatre because it brings together all kinds of people, tells a story, and can be totally unpredictable!

Name: Emma McDowell
Activity: Speech



What event are you in for speech?

Improv and TV news

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

I like the improv practices because they are so fun and memorable

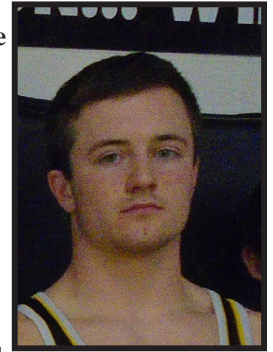
What have you learned through this event? I'm going to know how to edit videos after being in TV news, which is useful.

Who is your speech role model? I've never been to a speech contest or watched anyone, so I don't have a role model, yet.

If you could coach a large group speech event, what would it be? Probably short film because I like making videos, and I would like to help others make some.

Athletes of the Week

Name: Alec McDowell
Sport: Wrestling



What weight are you wrestling at this year?
182

What are your goals this year?
Bring home a medal from state

What's the hardest part of wrestling?
Everything is hard

What's something about wrestling non-wrestlers may not know?
Don't wear ankle socks ever

What's a great warm-up song?
"Money and the Power"

Do you have any pre-meet traditions?
Make fun of Kaleb Kruse

Name: Brock Hillers
Sport: Basketball

What position do you play?
Point Guard

What do you enjoy most about basketball?
Fast Breaks

How does this year's team differ from past teams?
We work hard and like to score

What's your favorite drill in practice?
The Chair Drill

What's your least favorite drill?
W Drill

How do you mentally prepare for the game? Watch White Chocolate Highlights on Youtube

What's the best motivational song out right now?
"White Iverson"



Meet the Freshmen



Blake, Emma, Kelsey & Pedro

Name: Kelsey Ries
Siblings: Kendra and Krista
Activities you plan to be involved in: softball, speech, musical, and play
Favorite subject: Spanish
Career aspirations: radiologist
Hobbies: hang out with friends, shopping
Something cool about you: I have blue eyes

Name : Emma McDowell
Siblings: Alec and Lizzie
Activities you plan to be involved in: drama, speech, Spanish club
Favorite subject: social studies
Career aspirations: teacher (high school or elementary)
Hobbies: writing
Something cool about you: I don't have an appendix

Name: Pedro Chavez
Siblings: Alex, Dalia, Karla, Junior
Favorite subject: science
Career aspirations: become a chief
Hobbies: gardening
Something cool about you: I was born from a Hispanic family

Name: Blake Becker
Siblings: Sienna
Activities you plan to be involved in: football, baseball, basketball, speech, FFA
Favorite subject: social studies
Career aspirations: grounds keeper
Hobbies: sports, farming, raking baseball fields
Something cool about you: I'm good at snow skiing.

—typist: Kristi Goedken

Angie's Angle

by Angie Wilson
Some Gifts are Bigger Than Others



Christmas is right around the corner. Do you have all of your gifts bought? Are you hoping that the things you wrote on your list will appear Christmas morning? Although, Christmas isn't solely about the presents we receive the majority of the focus of this holiday is material things. I am not going to lie: buying presents and giving them to others is one of my favorite things to do. I love to see the reaction they get after unwrapping the present. Happiness flows through their body and I just get this satisfied feeling in my stomach that I just did something good.

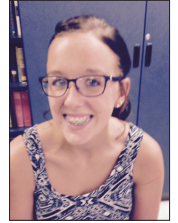
It's those smiling faces that hand us the present that should realize the best present of all if having them in our life.

You see, presents don't have to be the one way to show that you care for someone. Every year I stress over finding the right present for both of my godmothers. I stress because I want to find a gift that will make them happy but also make them feel special. One year, they both were stressing over the same thing and so they didn't get me anything at all. Instead, they each wrote in a card about how much they love me and a set date where we could spend the whole day in each other company. This was my favorite present of all. I didn't get a new pair of shoes or the electronics that I wanted, but after that moment I realized how they don't mean anything to me. It's those smiling faces that hand us the present that should realize the best present of all if having them in our life.

So next time you struggle to find the perfect gift or don't receive something that you wanted, be sure to think about what the bigger gift is and the present of those individuals in your daily lives.

Do's and Don'ts of Break

by Shaylyn Trenkamp



No fear, no fear, it's finally here! The holidays are on our heels and school will soon be over for the year of 2015! What does this mean? Why, it means study up on some of these pointers to make the end of this year the best part of it yet!

Do finish out the semester(and the semester tests) with a bang! Study and make these final grades count -- in a good way.

Don't avoid your family this holiday break. Some people don't get to celebrate the holidays with their families, so cherish every moment you have with the people who love you most.

Do get in the holiday spirit! Smiles, hugs, and gifts of love are all more than appropriate at this time of year!

Don't make resolutions you won't keep. If you want to be serious about them, make them realistic goals, as well as goals you are determined to achieve.

Do plan some seasonal activities. Maybe ice skating or a movie night if the snow stays hidden away, but hopefully sledding and snowball fights are somewhere in the future of your break!

Don't leave out your friends. Sometimes your friends are your real family, and they deserve the spirit of the holidays as well. Get together with the people you can't live without and make the holidays everything they are meant to be.

Do get some sleep and recharge for second semester. I hear it will be the best semester yet if we make it so!

And of course, have a jolly, happy Hanukkah, Ramadan, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year! Happy holidays to all and to all a good break! :)

Best Buds



Megan Rausch & Olivia Hoeger
by Emma McDowell

How long have you been friends?
Since 3rd grade

Favorite thing about each other?

Megan: She's hilarious

Olivia: We get along very well and can joke around

Favorite memory?

Going to Wisconsin Dells together

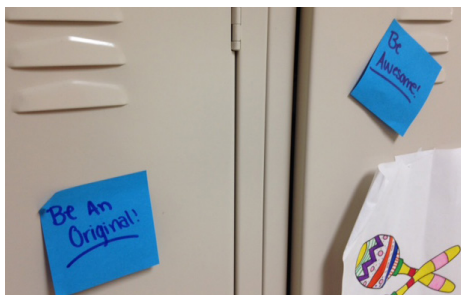
What would your friend order at DQ?

Megan: She would get chicken strips

Olivia: M&M Blizzard

Positive vibes shared

Monday morning students were pleasantly surprised to find sticky notes on their lockers with a positive message like "You are beautiful" or "Be the change you want to see." A motivational poster for finals also appeared.



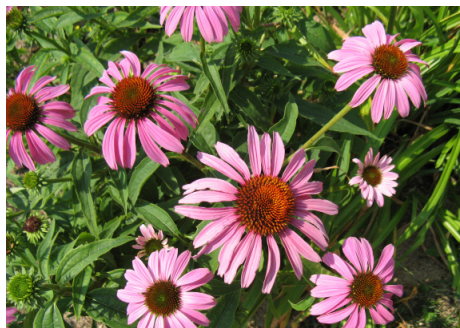
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Kristi Goedken

From Mrs. Spellerberg: Kristi had two photographs selected to be on display at the Regional Medical Center's new River Ridge Pavillion. They conducted a photography contest and two of her entries were selected. One is displayed in the specialty clinic hallway and a second photograph is displayed upstairs as you enter the patient room area. In addition, one of the photos was also selected to be used in the Regional Medical Center's 2016 calendar for the month of July. Congratulations, Kristi!

What made you decide to enter the contest?

I've taken a variety of pictures since joining 4-H that I later entered at the fair. I felt that I had a good selection to choose from and I had nothing to lose by entering. I hadn't heard back for awhile so I figured none were use but once I received the call I was ecstatic. It felt rewarding to have my two of my pictures be displayed in the new Pavilion as well as the calendar for the month of July.



What's the key to good photography?

My advice would be to take a lot of pictures. It never hurts to have a large selection of pictures. I always take pictures from different angles and try capturing different objects. I have had the opportunity to take Jenna Beitz's senior pictures, capture a wedding from behind the scenes, and take lots of pictures of my cousins. You just have to practice and continue to take pictures!



Cat Attack Flashback

by Becca Hill & Amanda Fortman

2010 Five years ago the girl's basketball team was ranked 3rd in 2A. The season was getting tougher and tougher as the games went out, but the girls held out. They defeated Cascade, with Sammie Salow leading the teams with 21 points. They then went on to defeat Alburnett with Abbie Wooten leading the team with 15 points. As the first semester ended in 2010, it was the end of Ryan McNamara's senior year. He headed off to the Marines. He was greatly missed, but he was ready to move onto the next step in his life. We thank you Ryan.

2005 Ten years ago TOAD (Teens Opposed to Alcohol Drinking) started its second year. Students that had 8th hour study hall and were willing to give up there time were part of the group. During 8th hour, they would go down to talk to Mrs. McDermott's guidance class and share reasons not to drink underage. Some of the people involved were, Kyle Wooten, Alyssa Kracke, and Clair McNamara. Also in 2005 NHS was busy at work. They set up community service projects, and came up with Maquoketa Valley's NHS Nomination Process. These are the requirements that a student must make in order to be let into NHS. Some of 2005's members were Jordan Hill, Andrea Palmersheim, and Kelly Freiburger.

Wrestlers go 1-1 at Alburnett
by Emily Krapfl

On Thursday the Maquoketa Valley wrestling team traveled to Alburnett to take on the Alburnett Pirates and the Ed-Co Vikings. The Wildcats wrestled Ed-Co first and won the dual with a final team score of 60-09. Wrestlers who helped win this dual were Mitch Smith (forfeit), Cody Gibbs (forfeit), Cole Kruse (forfeit), Dylan Wright (forfeit), Alec McDowell (pin), Eric Heims (pin), Kaleb Kruse (forfeit), Canyon Richardson (pin), Justin Krapfl (forfeit), and Tanner Parmely (pin).

Next, the Wildcats wrestled Alburnett and lost with a final team score of 22-58. Wrestlers who were successful during this dual were Alec McDowell (14-6 decision), Eric Heims (forfeit), Tanner Parmely (pin), and Mitch Smith (pin).

Boys win one, lose one

by McKenzie Lansing

Last Friday the boys travelled to Bellevue to play Marquette Catholic. The boys had a tough loss with the final score being 65-58, a win for Marquette Catholic.

Coach Dunlap has a few words to say about this game. He stated that, "I thought the boys played a great game. They shot well and played good team defense. We did not rebound well and allowed too many points and put backs from Michaels. We have things to work on, but overall I am proud of the effort."

The top three scorers of this game, were Brock Hillers with a total of 21 points, Jacob Bonert with 13, and Kyle Wilson with a total of 9 points.

We had a total of 24 rebounds. The top three rebounders were Bonert with a total of 6 rebounds, and Ryan Goedken and Hillers each with 4 rebounds.

Some good things did happen as well as things the boys need to approve on. Both Hillers and Kyle Wilson were 50% with their three pointers while Jacob Bonert was 66% with his three point field goals. Brock had 3 assists and Jacob had 4 assists. Three boys fouled out which hurt us, but we still came back playing strong.

On Tuesday, the Cats hosted Lisbon. The boys played better, but lost with the final score being 73- 49, with a win for Lisbon.

"We had a slow start and were rattled by their press," says Coach Dunlap. He goes on to say, "It is a learning process for our guys and we have not seen that kind of pressure from a team yet this season. We will fix things and be much better for it down the line. Our effort was great in the second half. I loved how our press looked in the fourth quarter."

The top four scorers were Clint Krapfl with a total of 15 points, and Calvin Orcutt, Wilson, and Bonert all scoring a total of 8 points.

The top two rebounders were Hillers with a total of 6 rebounds and Wilson with a total of 4 rebounds.

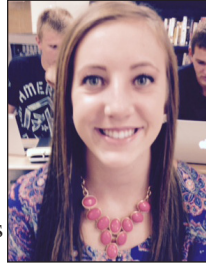
Overall, the boys did a fantastic job with free throw percentage. Krapfl, Orcutt and Bonert were all 100% with their free throws and Hillers made 50% of his free throws. Krapfl made 66% of his two-point field goals and Wilson made 50% of his three-point field goals.

The boys will travel to East Buchanan today.

Hall Smarts

by Shawnae Hoeger

It's the week before Christmas!! Everyone is in the Christmas spirit! Let's pick up on a little facts about Santa Claus. This week's contestants are Whitney Wilson, Misha Miles, Lea Ries and Rejji Smith.



1. Where does Santa live?

Whitney: North Pole

Misha: North Pole

Lea: North Pole

Rejji: North Pole

Answer: North Pole

2. What snacks do you leave out for Santa?

Whitey: milk and cookies

Misha: milk and cookies

Lea: milk and cookies

Rejji: milk and cookies

Answer: milk and cookies

3. How many reindeer pull Santa's sleigh?

Whitney: 9

Misha: 8

Lea: 8

Rejji: 9

Answer: 8

4. Where does Santa land his sleigh?

Whitney: on the roof

Misha: on the roof

Lea: on the roof

Rejji: on the roof

Answer: on the roof

5. Where did Santa originate from?

Whitney: Canada

Misha: Russia

Lea: saint Nicholas

Rejji: Scotland

Answer: Turkey

Looks like the contestants this week knew quite a lot about Santa. Lea and Misha came in first with four points a piece. Followed by them was Whitney and Rejji with 3 points a piece. Merry Christmas and a happy new year!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MV the week of DECEMBER 21, 2015

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2015

1. HS JV/V G & B BB - HOME
- Central of Elkader - JV @ 4:45 PM / V @ 6:15 PM

2. MV Board of Directors
Monthly Meeting at Johnston Elementary
- 6:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2015

1. Junior High Sports Awards
Assembly - Middle School Gym - 8:15 AM

2. 7th & 8th Grade Incentive
Activities

3. HS College Panel - Auditorium - 12th Graders @ Periods 3rd & 4th / 11th Grade @ Period 5th

4. EARLY DISMISSAL - 1:05 PM in Delhi / 1:15 PM in Earlville & Hopkinton

5. HS JV/V G & B BB - HOME
- Easton Valley - JV @ 4:45 PM / V @ 6:15 PM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2015 through FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2016

1. NO SCHOOL - Christmas
Vacation

MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016

1. Classes Resume
2. Junior High Boys Basketball
Practice Begins - After School until 5:30 PM

The Cat Box

opinions, ideas and random thoughts from the staff of The Wildcat Echo



A meow to students who have embraced the concept of finals and have shown their academic stamina and time management skills.



A meow all those ugly sweater day participants.



A meow to the excitement generated from the new Star Wars movie that came out last night.

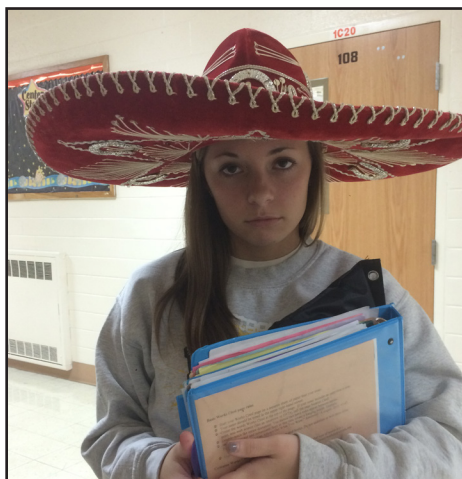


A meow to those Wildcats who gave the foyer some holiday bling and the students a whisper of support with the sticky notes on the lockers.



THIS is MV

*photos by
Flavia Xavier*





UGLY Sweater Day

