

FFA students show true blue and gold at state convention

by Ryan Goedken, FFA reporter

On Sunday April 19th, 35 students from the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter traveled by bus down to the State Leadership Conference in Ames. Knowing that we would have our hands full, we went into all of the contests seeking the goal of 1st place. With over 10 contests going on, it was up to the members to show their true blue and gold and go all out.

All of the events kicked off on Monday with Andrew Palmersheim participating in Extemporaneous Speaking. Andrew used his skills and knowledge of farming to bring home a silver. Also on Monday, Kaleb and Calvin attended the delegate business session and officer elections to vote for the new state officers.

Not only were there just contests going on, but we also got to see some true talent during the FFA Idol and talent show. This showcased the many great talents that people have and how they can brighten someone's day.

Receiving a silver rating, Jay Wessels, Nick Bagge, Katelyn Goldsmith, and Trent Westhoff got to show off their Biotech skills by answering questions and taking a test to expand their knowledge on the growing industry. The trio of Amanda Fortman, Jenna Bonert and Amber Bonert showcased their capability to buy and sell products and get them marketed to sell fresh produce in the area of Ag Communications. These girls wound up with a 4th place gold at state. Band and choir was well underway while practicing for their performances at the sessions. Kristin Brehm, Laisee Shakespeare, Katelyn Goldsmith and Patrick Hansen put in hard work to show their talents in instruments and the power of a voice. The last awards received on Monday were the Blue and Gold award which was accepted on stage by Kristi Mensen.

That night we all decided to go to the fun night where there was various activities including dancing, bingo, bowling, and many others.



The MV FFA delegates pose on the state at state convention.

On Tuesday the freshman were excited to start their contest by participating in the Greenhand Test. Amanda Engelken and Josie Young gave it all they had and Amber Engelken got 3rd place overall, and Josie received a silver rating. Farm Business Management was a test that expanded your knowledge on farming topics. In this contest, Ryan Goedken, Matthew Lansing, Andy Huber and Alex Richter brought home a silver rating. New this year at MV, we created a poultry team that consisted of Kevin Steffen, Cassie Burkle, Laisee Shakespeare and Kaleb Handel. This team went all out and brought home a silver rating at state. With hard work on his proficiency, Dylan Salow accepted his 2nd place proficiency award in the area of ag fabrication and design. Dylan also attended a special luncheon.

The Marketing Plan team also competed on Tuesday. This team consisted of Kristi Goedken, Emily Krapfl, and Angie Wilson. They were marketing R & R bale forks. They received 9th place for a silver rating. FFA Alumni Drew Wilson and Madi Gibbs also competed at State Convention in the area of Ag Discussion. Drew received a gold rating and Madi re-

ceived a silver rating.

Iowa Farmer Today Journalism Award was accepted by Calvin Orcutt. Next was the Iowa degree photo where 621 members got their Iowa Degree. Those getting their Iowa FFA Degree from Maquoketa Valley were; Laisee Shakespeare, Cassie Burkle, Alex Richter, Travis Knipper, Andy Huber, Kaleb Handel, Andrew Palmersheim, Calvin Orcutt, Kaleb Kruse, Ryan Goedken, Kristin Brehm, Kody Orcutt, and Curtis Nefzger. One last award was received by Kaleb Kruse where he became a STATE Star in Agribusiness for his SAE project.

We would like to thank Joe Hoeger for taking us down and back on the bus, along with Sharon Goedken and Karen Palmersheim for driving school vans down with food and our bags.

As you can see state convention showed lots of potential for Maquoketa Valley FFA for this upcoming year as we brought home several ribbons and placings.

Sports Connection

Boys finish sixth at home meet

Monday night the boys track team hosted 15 area schools and finished sixth out of 15 teams by scoring 32 points. Anamosa won the meet with 115 points.

MV point scorers:

100M Dash: Ryan Parmely, second, 11.56

800M Run: Derek Salow, first, 2:01.43 (personal record)

400M Hurdles: Kyle Wilson, fourth, 1:00.15

4x400M relay: sixth, 3:45.99

4x800M relay: second, 8:31.55

Long jump: Zak Harbach, sixth, 19-01

The boys also competed at Monticello last Thursday night. MV finished third with 63 points. Anamosa won the meet with 189 points.

MV point scorers were:

100M Dash: Zak Harbach, fifth, 11.92

800M run: Derek Salow, first, 2:05.8

110M Hurdles: Colin Wendt, fourth, 19.13

400M Hurdles: Kyle Wilson, third, 1:01.14

High Jump: Eric Deutmeyer, second (tie), 5-06

Long Jump: Zak Harbach, first, 19-02

4x100 relay, Mitch Neuzil, Alec McDowell, Jeremy Fischer, Angel Rumbo, sixth, 50.50



Bryan Meyer-Kemp races to the finish at the Monticello meet. (photo by Shaylyn Trenkamp)

4x200: third, Ryan Parmely, Zak Harbach,

Derek Salow, Kyle Wilson, third, 1:37.49

4x400: Colin Wendt, Derek Salow, Kyle Wilson, Brenden Hogan, fourth, 3:50.47

4x800: Jeremy Fischer, Colin Wendt, Alec McDowell, Brock Hillers, second, 1:10.81

Last night the boys ran at Cascade. Results will be in the next issue.



Austin Stogdill gets the handoff from Kyle Wilson in the home meet Monday night.

Boys golf team competes at Monticello in Triangular

The golfers finally had some good weather Monday, but that didn't prove good enough to defeat Bellevue and Monticello. Monticello won the meet with 162 strokes, Bellevue was second with 190, and MV had 218.



Steve Huber

MV scores

were: Dylan Salow-45; Jordy Downs-56; Jordan Schindler-58; Steve Huber-59; Logan Fronatt-59; and Cole Willenbring-61.

Coach Andrews said he was hoping for better scores for the meet. "Overall I have been very pleased with how we have been practicing. Just have to show it in the meets. Hopefully...we can put in all together...as we head into conference on Monday."

Girls team improves scores at Bellevue

The girls golf team competed in a triangular Monday afternoon at Bellevue and finished third with a 238 behind Monticello with 191 and Bellevue with 236.

The girls' scores were: Emily La-Grant- 60; Riley Sternhagen- 61; Shaylyn Trenkamp- 63; Megan McNamara- 54.

Coach Andrews noted his athletes' hard work. "It was great to see all the girls in the low 60's and Megan to get a personal record of 54. The girls have been working hard in practice so to see them improve is a great feeling. I know Emily was not feeling well so to see her fight through that and come away with a 60 was good to see. Shaylyn and Riley continue to show signs of improvement so if we can keep all four girls improving we should be able to have a respectable conference finish."

what's up?

by Riley Kay Sternhagen

What was your favorite part of prom?

Steve Huber: The hypnotist

Amanda Fortman: The dancing

Cassie Burkle: The music

Minnie Chalisa: Dancing and riding the bus. I loved everything.

Taylor Guthrie: The hypnotist. By far.

Savannah Salow: Dancing with everyone

Cody Ries: Watching Taylor Swift and Elsa

Travis Knipper: Watching the hypnotist

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Ryan Fischer



You recently helped moved some tables without being asked to. Then you were assertive and recruited some other people to help. That's positive leadership. Who has been a positive leader in your life? What did he or she do? My parents have been positive leaders. They have taught me respect and hard work.

What are some other leadership positions you've had? I was in a leadership position on the football team this past season.

If an underclassman asked you how to become a better leader, what would you say? Always do what is right.

—Ryan was nominated by Mr. Tuetken.

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Megan Beaman

Activity: Spring play

Megan Beaman is an extremely hard worker, is always asking what she can do to help, and is not afraid to step out of her comfort zone on stage. — Mr. DeVore



What one-act play are you in? What's your role? I'm in Super Heroes with great power comes ordinary responsibility. I'm playing the X-men character Storm.

What do you enjoy most about this play? I enjoy going to practices and seeing how everyone can come together and make this play into something great.

You have been a great help with set construction. What have you enjoyed most about that? I've enjoyed getting to help with the hands on projects, and bringing the play together. And they actually trust me painting things.

What will audiences enjoy most about this show? I think people will enjoy that we are bringing in many superheroes, quoting Tony Stark, "We have a hulk." And seeing how they're great, and powerful superheroes doing regular thing will be pretty funny.

Name: Emily LaGrant

Activity: Spring play

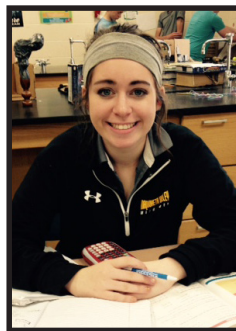
Which one-act play are you in and what role do you play? I am in *Selfie* and I play Sam.

What do you like most about your character? Sam is

so dedicated and puts her heart and soul into her goals.

How are you like/unlike your character? I am very goal oriented as well, but unlike her, I don't take it to the extreme. I can chill sometimes.

What will the audience enjoy most about the spring play trio? Each play brings something unique to share. Some parts are funny, and some parts are serious. There's something for everyone.



Athletes of the Week

Name: Zak Harbach

Sport: Track

What are your favorite events to run at a track meet?

The 4 by 2 and the open 100

What do you think about when you run? Honestly nothing

How do you mentally prepare for a race? I have Clint, Alec, and Fisch give me a pep talk

What's your favorite part of practice? Working long jump

What did you eat for breakfast? Usually whatever cereal we have

Name: Riley Kay Sternhagen
Sport: Golf

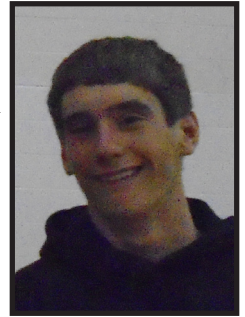
What do you enjoy most about playing golf? I enjoy the competition. It's really nice to know how you score

against some of the best players in surrounding schools. I also love being out in the nice weather and making new friends or golfing with old ones.

What's something about the sport that non-golfers wouldn't realize? There's a lot of exercise. After playing at some courses, you finally understand what your grandparents meant when they said they had to walk ten miles to school uphill both ways.

What are your golfing strengths? I'm really patient while golfing, which is not something I am during any other time. My chipping and putting are usually pretty good, too.

Favorite memory from the golf course? My favorite memory would either be Emily yelling at me for leaving behind a free ball, or blasting music while golfing with Jenna Beitz.



Quotastic

by Mikaela Reth

"Where is the Life we have lost in living? Where is the wisdom we have lost in knowledge? Where is the knowledge we have lost in information?" ~ T.S. Elliot



This quote really made me think. For three simple questions, this is a loaded message. As I think about it, though, the point I believe Elliot tries to make is so true. As we go through the motions of everyday life, how much do we really live? How much do we look at everything around us and really take it in? We so easily miss what's right in front of us every day because we allow other activities and the stress of them to take over our lives.

Moving on to the next questions, we all spend at least thirteen years in school getting our minds filled with the information the government thinks we need to know. We have no control over what we are taught until high school. Even then, our schedules are so packed full of required classes that we have little room to take the classes that we want and really explore who we are as people.

I once saw a meme that read, "If someone isn't good at art, people say, 'that's ok not everybody is artistic' but when someone is not good at math or science they're 'dumb' or 'not trying hard enough'..." While I'm not a fan of the poor punctuation and grammar of this, it's so true! It's well known that some people excel in one and are borderline awful in the other. I know the struggle of a creative mind in an academic setting. My creativity bounces everywhere and makes it constantly hard to focus--even in my favorite classes. This all makes me wonder what would happen if we had classes for the more artistic. This would really help people to discover who they are and I'm a huge advocate for individuality. Imagine how much more knowledge we could attain if only the world didn't revolve around everybody knowing the same information and progressing at the same rate. We don't see this as much in high school, but the younger kids are being shoved onto the educational bandwagon more and more. We lose so much by being loaded with information. It's only after we're out of school that we might get the chance to live a little and really learn some more.

Angie's Angle

by Angie Wilson

Little Blue House

Little - small in size
Blue - color between green and violet
House - a building for human habitation



What do all these words together mean in reference to me? Sunshine.

Have you ever walked into a room and there is that one person who can light up the entire atmosphere without saying a word? I know a lady who lights up my day whenever I walk into her little blue house. She isn't famous, she isn't energetic but she wears something that not everyone wears every day. A smile. I love that little blue house. Every time I step in I know I will gain more knowledge than before I step out. That woman is full of wisdom. I love sitting down and listening to the stories of the old days. You see, it's not the house I love, it's the woman who lives inside the house. Sometimes we forget those around us who make the things we do even more enjoyable. A church isn't a church without the people. A party isn't a party without at least one person. A gift isn't a gift unless someone gives it. Life isn't life without people living it.

My point is we find happiness in the people who surround us. Just like the little blue house down my road, it's the little old lady inside that make it special.

Cutie

by Megan Hogan

This cutie is a sophomore. She lives in Manchester. She drives a tan Alero. She has three brothers and one sister.

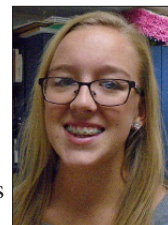


Last week's Cutie was Kelsey Gearhart.

Do's and Don'ts of Seniors

Leaving

by Shaylyn Trenkamp



Five more days. That's all we have left of school days with our seniors before they leave. And after they graduate, we won't be seeing them in the halls anymore. We will be facing the aftermath of change, and soon we will be changing as well. Change doesn't have to be bad though. Here's some advice on making this change out to be a good one.

Do congratulate the seniors. Tell them in person, come to the graduation parties, get pictures with them at graduation and make a post about how proud you are of them.

Don't forget the good memories you've already made with them. There will be more memories to come, but when you miss them and can't see them for awhile, keep all these good experiences in mind.

Do plan times to get together. (And make use of the time you have now!) Even if it's just coming back for homecoming, plan something out so you can catch up.

Don't be disrespectful at graduation. This is an important celebration and every single senior deserves your respect.

Seniors: Do decorate your cap and celebrate your achievements! You've come so far. Don't let anyone undermine your success.

Seniors: Don't abandon those ideas, actions, and people that have made you the wonderful people you are today. Yes, graduating and starting college will be a big change, but you are still you. Don't ever forget how wonderful it is to be yourself. Best of luck, class of 2015. Make the most of these last days.

Girls track team makes its mark

by Annie Fjelstul

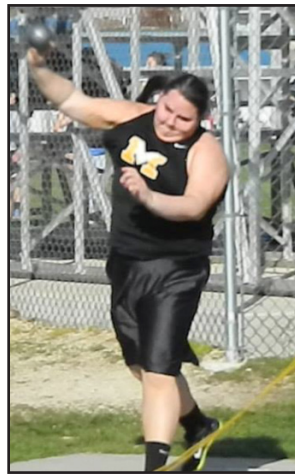
The girls track team has been extremely busy recently. On Monday the girls travelled to Center Point where they took on many larger schools. They placed ninth out of 12 with 13.5 points. Solon finished first with 177 points.

To start off the meet, Brianna Mensen tied for sixth place with a jump of 4' 4" to gain the team 1/2 of a point. Madison Imler placed seventh in the long jump with a jump of 14' 10.5." Payton Ries also jumped and placed 12th with a distance of 13' 7." Whitney Wilson threw 30' .75" in the shot put and landed herself an eighth place finish. Becky Thompson, also in the shot put, placed 16th with a throw of 25' 2.75." Then Ali Sheehy, in the discus, placed 12th with a throw of 81' 6." Amanda Engelken also threw. She managed 72' 11" and placed 15th.

The shuttle hurdle team placed 6th with a time of 1:14.41. The shuttle hurdle team picked up 2 points for the team with their fifth place finish in a time of 4:43.35. Aspen Britt also gained the team 2 points in her fifth place finish in the open 400 with a time of 1:05.47. Payton Ries also ran the 400 and placed 12th with a time of 1:10.21. Also finishing fifth place was the 4x200 meter relay team with a time of 1:55.41. Macy Hoeger finished 9th in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 18.13. Angela Wendt also ran them, but with a time of 19.22 and a 14th place finish. Reiji Smith ran the open 800 in a time of 2:44.29 landing herself in 8th place. Megan Mensen and Madison Imler both participated in the 200 meter dash. Megan placed 10th with a time of 28.57 and Madison finished 17th with a time of 30.43. Cassy Wilson gained 2 points for the team in her fifth place finish in the 400 meter hurdles with a time of 1:13.24. Kara Orcutt also ran them, but with a time of 1:17.80, placing ninth. The sprint medley team placed fifth with a time of 2:01.74. Casey Fry placed 10th with a time of 5:53.23 in the 1500 meter run. The 4x100 meter relay team ran with a place of 55.65 placing sixth. And to finish the meet, the 4x400 meter relay finished with a time of 4:29.84 placing sixth.

Then Tuesday night the girls travelled to Anamosa. They placed 10th out of 11 with 11 points. West Delaware won the meet with 115 points.

The first running event that the girls took place in was the shuttle hurdle re-



Whitney Wilson releases the shot at the Anamosa meet.

lay. They girls placed seventh with a time of 1:13.70. Ashley Holtz, next, ran the 100 meter dash, placing 10th with a time of 14.23. Madison Imler also ran the 100 meter dash, but with a time of 14.70 and placed 15th. Then the distance medley team ran with a time of 4:53.16 landing them in 8th place. Aspen Britt ran the 400 meter dash and placed seventh with a time of 1:05.81. The 4x200 team gained a couple points in their fifth place finish with a time of 1:54.85. Macy Hoeger and Angela Wendt both ran in the 100 meter hurdles. Hoeger placed 11th with a time of 18.11 and Wendt placed 16th with a time of 18.37. Reiji Smith did well in her ninth place finish in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:43.08. Gaining six points with her third place finish in the 200 meter dash, Megan Mensen ran with a time of 28.19. The other Mensen (Brianna) also ran the 200. She finished 11th with a time of 29.78. Cassy Wilson, running in a time of 1:14.44, placed eighth in the 400 meter hurdles. The sprint medley team gained a point with their sixth place finish in a time of 2:02.25. McKenzie Lansing ran the 1500 meter run in a time of 6:37.15 and placed 19th. In a finish of 54.92, the 4x100 meter team placed seventh. Also in seventh place was the 4x400 team with a place of 4:30.45.

Madison Imler collected a point for the team in her sixth place finish in the long jump, jumping a total of 14' 3.5." Ali Sheehy and Becky Thompson both threw in the discus. Sheehy placed 14th with a throw 76' 03" and Thompson threw 60' 11" placing 18th. And lastly, Whitney Wilson placed sixth in the shot put with a total throw of 30' 9.5." Amanda Engelken threw 27' 10.5" and placed 13th.

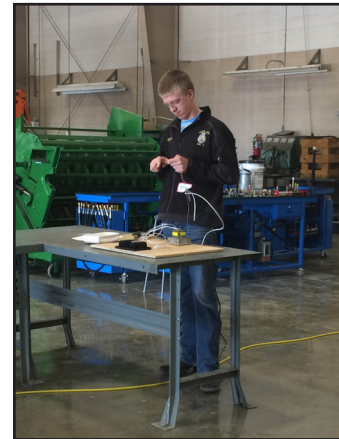
Last night's results from the Cascade meet will be in next week's issue. 11

Students get mechanical

Eleven members of the Maquoketa Valley FFA traveled to Calmar on Tuesday for the district Ag mechanics contest at NICC. When the scores were totaled Calvin Orcutt was 6th place individual and 7th was Andrew Palmersheim. The duo added Travis Knipper to the team for a 4th place team finish.

Also competing for the Wildcats were Rob Bockenstedt, Ryan Goedken, Kaleb Kruse, Kyle Richter, Garrett Hogan, Alex Elgin and Andy O'Connell. The students took written tests and did stations in the areas of farm conservation, soils, sprayers, welding, electrical and plumbing.

The top four individual Wildcats will make up the team for the state contest on June 4th in Ames, and they will be Orcutt, Palmersheim, O'Connell and Bockenstedt.



Calvin Orcutt competes in the ag mechanics competition Tuesday.

Best Buds

Savannah Salow & Olivia Hill

by Annie Fjelstul

How long have you been friends?

Since 3rd grade

What do you like to do for fun?

Eat, sleep, and golf.

What's your most embarrassing moment together?

"Pointy issues" and

so many more

What's your favorite memory together?

Doing the McDonald's rap and getting free fries



The Cat Box Hall Smarts

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



A meow to all the dancers at prom... so cool.



A meow to human Foosball at post prom.



A meow to Clint Krapfl and Austin Stogdill for their amazing skills while under hypnosis.



A meow to the spring play actors who have their lines memorized. A furball to those who don't... or even worse those who don't show up for practice. That's just general disrespect.



A meow to ACT scores coming back. Rock on, Cats.



A meow to the success of our Ag Mechanics team.



A meow to the Comp II students finishing their position papers.



A grateful meow from the juniors to Pam and Randy Overman for all they did the evening of prom.

Greenhouse to open



The horticulture students have been busy for months preparing for the opening of the greenhouse which opens tomorrow. It will be open Thursdays after school and Saturday mornings.

by Emily LaGrant



Spelling is definitely not my favorite subject. But how good are the other students around school? Let's see which of these students could win a spelling bee. The contestants are Megan Wulfkuhle, Gabriella Guetzko, Mr. Drew and Emily and Clay.

1) How do you spell amateur?

Megan: Amuter

Gabriella: Amature

Mr. Drew: Amatur

Emily & Clay: Amateur

A: Amateur

2) How do you spell calendar?

Megan: Calendar

Gabriella: Calendar

Mr. Drew: Calendar

Emily & Clay: Calendar

A: Calendar

3) How do you spell guarantee?

Megan: Garuntee

Gabriella: Guarnte

Mr. Drew: Guarantee

Emily & Clay: Guarantee

A: Guarantee

4) How do you spell necessary?

Megan: Necessary

Gabriella: Necessary

Mr. Drew: Necessary

Emily & Clay: Necessary

A: Necessary

5) How do you spell rhythm?

Megan: Rythm

Gabriella: Rythm

Mr. Drew: Rythum

Emily & Clay: Rythm

A: Rhythm

The winners this week were Emily and Clay with 4 points. Mr. Drew came in second with 3. Gabriella and Megan tied for last with 2 points. Even though some of these words were tricky, I don't think our Wildcats are ready for any spelling bee. Better luck next time, everyone!

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MV the week of May 3, 2015

SUNDAY, May 3, 2015

1. Athletic Boosters Mini Wildcat Track Meet - Registration & Check-In at 11:00 AM

2. Maquoketa Valley High School Academic Awards Banquet - High School Cafeteria - 6:00 PM

MONDAY, May 4, 2015

1. HS V Boys TR Conf. Golf - HOME (Pin Oak in Manchester) - 9:00 AM (Van Leaves at 7:50 AM)

2. Earl. & John. to Delhi for Old Creamery Theater - 1:30 PM (Buses Leave Earl. & John. 1:00 PM)

3. HS Boys Track to Indian Invitational in Marion - 4:45 PM (Bus Leaves at 2:45 PM)

4. HS Girls Track at Independence - 5:00 PM (Bus Leaves at 3:15 PM)

5. JH Boys Track - HOME (Wildcat Relays) - 4:15 PM

6. MV HS FFA - Senior Farewell Meeting - Room # 307 - 7:00

TUESDAY, May 5, 2015

1. A P Calc Exam - HS Library - 8:00 AM until Noon

2. Kn dg.&1st FFA Farm Safety Day in Delhi - 8:45 AM (Buses Leave Earlville & Johnston 8:25 AM)

3. MV HS FFA to District Agronomy Contest in Waterloo (Suburban Leaves at 2:30 PM)

4. JH Girls & Boys Co-Ed Track Meet at Central City - 4:15 PM (Bluebird Bus Leaves at 3:00 PM)

5. HS Band & Vocal Senior Awards Concert - MS Multi-Purpose Room - 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, May 6, 2015 - National Nurse's Day

1. Early Dismissal - 1:05 PM in Delhi / 1:15 in Earlville & Hopkinton

2. SIAC / slowa Core Advisory Team Meeting - HS Library - 12:30 PM

3. MV Athletic Boosters' Club Meeting - HS Cafeteria - 6:30 PM

THURSDAY, May 7, 2015

1. Animal Safety Presentation by Jo Schreck at Earlville Elementary

2. MV FFA Greenhouse Open - 3:p00 PM until 7:00 PM

3. HS Tri-Rivers Conference Girls & Boys Track Meet - HOME -

FRIDAY, May 8, 2015

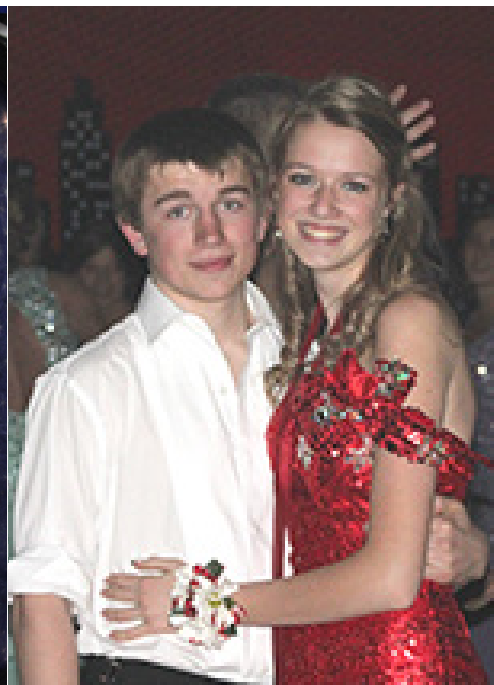
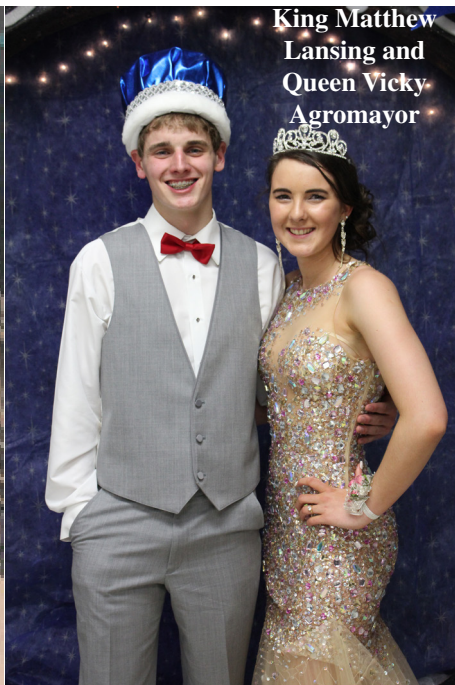
1. MV 5th & 6th Grade Track Meet - HS Track - 12:30 PM

2. Earlville Elementary "Go the Distance" Day - 2:00 PM

3. Dollars for Scholars Set-Up in Middle School Multi-purpose Room - GYM CLOSED

4. HS Spring Play - "A Night Of One Acts"- Auditorium - 7:00 PM

SATURDAY, May 9 2015



Prom 2015: Rhapsody in Blue

