

FFA Chapter celebrates FFA Week



This week the FFA chapter has been celebrating its successes and reflecting on what it has accomplished in the past year.

January

- The annual FFA soup supper served 205 guest on January 25th during basketball games versus Ed-Co.

- FFA member Emily Grant represented Delaware County in the Iowa Pork Queen contest.

February

- The Northeast District FFA held its review night in Wyoming at Midland Community Schools. During review night Junior and Senior members that have earned or invested \$1000 in their Supervised Agricultural Experience projects. Fifteen members from Maquoketa Valley submitted Iowa FFA Degree applications for review and as a result the following sixteen members will receive the highest degree that the state can bestow upon them at the state FFA Convention in April. Kaleb Kruse and Andrew Palmersheim's applications were also submitted as a Star over Iowa candidate. Which is the selection of the six best from across the state of Iowa. In addition was the district proficiency awards judging. Maquoketa Valley's Andrew Palmersheim submitted an application in the SAE area of Beef Production Entrepreneurship which he owns his own livestock. Andrew won

the Northeast District Contest and received a Gold medal. As did Dylan Salow in the area of Agricultural Design and Fabrication receiving Gold and advanced to state. Kristi Goedken participated in the area of Ag communications earning a silver and advancing to state. Matthew Lansing and Clay Willenbring also earned silvers. The final event that happened at the district FFA review night was the slating of the 2015-16 District FFA Officer team. After submitting applications, taking a test, submitting SAE record books, interviewing individual and in a group setting, Kristi Goedken and Kaleb Kruse were named to the ballot for the Northeast District FFA Northeast Sub-district Vice President. The next step in the process for them will be a 2 minute speech to the delegate body on March 15th at the District Convention.

- On February 25th subdistrict contest were held at Clayton Ridge in Guttenberg. Results were as follows:

Conduct of Meetings- Gold Advanced to District- Amanda Engelken, Reiji Smith, Cole Kruse, Josie Young, Amanda Fortman, Garrett Hogan and Andy O'Connell. Creed Speaker-Gold Advanced to Districts- Heath Gibbs

Job Interview- Gold Advanced to Districts- Kaleb Kruse

Ag Broadcasting-Gold Advanced to District- Trent Westhoff

Public Speaking-Gold Advanced to District- Emily O'Connell

Extemporaneous - Gold Advanced to District- Andrew Palmersheim

Ag Sales- Gold Advanced to District- Jay Wessels

Greenhand Test- Tanner Parmely, Alex Elgin and Cole Willenbring

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The FFA prepared lunch for the staff on Wednesday. Senior boys grilled brats for the occasion.

FFA, continued

March

•District FFA convention was held at Benton Community on March 15 in Van Horne. Maquoketa Valley was represented by district officer candidates Kristi Goedken and Kaleb Kruse whom ran against each other as balloted Kruse was named Northeast District Northeast Subdistrict Vice President. In the contest areas results were as follows:

Extemp. Speaking-Gold Advanced to State- Andrew Palmersheim

Chapter Test- 4th place Kristi Goedken, Silver Travis Knipper

Greenhand Test- Silver- Cole Willenbring and Kristi Mensen

Farm Business Management- Silver- Ryan Goedken, Matthew Lansing and Dylan Salow

Conduct of Meetings- Silver- Amanda Engelken, Rejji Smith, Amanda Fortman, Cole Kruse, Garrett Hogan, Josie Young and Andy O'Connell

Public Speaking- Silver- Emily O'Connell

Ag Sales-Silver- Jay Wessels

Job Interview- Silver- Kaleb Kruse

Creed Speaking-Bronze- Heath Gibbs

Ag Broadcasting- Bronze- Trent Westhoff

March 19th Katelyn Goldsmith participated in State FFA AgriScience Fair in Ames. She was champion in Animal Science, National Qualifier and received a \$500 CALS scholarship. She studied immunoglobulin response in colostrum.

•Forty Maquoketa Valley FFA members attended the annual Delaware County Ag Leaders Luncheon and agricultural career fair on March 21st in Manchester.

•A large crowd gathered of 330 people gathered at the Maquoketa Valley High School gym on Tuesday March 24th celebrate the accomplishments of the Maquoketa Valley FFA over the past year. The evening kicked off with a great meal and headed into the program. Officer introductions were presented by junior Chance Franck. Then Principals Tuetken and Meade spoke. Northeast District Vice President Micheal Tupper of the New Hampton FFA chapter then gave a few remarks. Senior Adam Funke presented the invocation for the evening. Emily O'Connell reflected on the year through her presidential speech. Senior Kody Orcutt assisted in presenting Academic Awards were presented to over 90% of the 87 current high school FFA members. Senior Curtis Nefgzer then presented 64 members received honors for



FFA students who competed at SubDistrict contest Tuesday were, front: Amanda Fortman, Shelby Westhoff and Kristi Goedken; back: Nick Bagge, Kaleb Kruse and Calvin Orcutt

participation in Career Development Event throughout the past year. Jenna Bonert Beckman senior presented the 2014 Beef Extravaganza scholarship awards to Trent Westhoff and Andrew Palmersheim. 2014 Sweetheart Queen Madi Gibbs and King Tanner Hargrafen then handed down their crowns. Seniors named to Sweetheart court were Jenna Bonert, Mindy Burkle, Audrey Sheehy, Matthew Lansing, Kody Orcutt, Trent Westhoff, Jay Wessels and Clay Willenbring. Bonert and Wessels were named King and Queen respectfully. Proficiency awards were presented by Senior Mindy Burkle to Kristi Goedken, Dylan Salow, Matthew Lansing, Clay Willenbring and Andrew Palmersheim. Billie Zumbach of Maquoketa Valley Electric presented junior Emily Krapfl with the 2015 Washington Leadership Scholarship. Matthew Lansing then presented the 2015 Outstanding Agribusiness Award to Maquoketa Valley Electric. The Outstanding Supporter award was presented by Trent Westhoff and Jay Wessels to Beckman Science teacher Mrs. Cheryl Kluesner. Then all seniors honored their SAE sponsors on stage. 13 students were recognized for their Iowa FFA Degrees by Dylan Salow. Students included Kody Orcutt, Curtis Nefgzer, Kristin Brehm, Alex Richter, Calvin Orcutt, Laisee Shakespeare, Cassie Burkle, Andy Huber, Kaleb Kruse, Kaleb Handel, Andrew Palmersheim, Travis Knipper. Mrs. Mausser presented the Star Greenhand awards to freshman Amanda Engelken, Heath Gibbs and Cole Kruse. The Sophomore Rising Star to Amanda Fortman. American FFA Degree to Tyler Sellner. Star in AgriBusiness to Emily O'Connell, Star in Ag Placement to Clay Willenbring, Star Farmer to Matthew Lansing, Star in AgriScience to Jay Wessels, Star Networking to Trent Westhoff, Dekalb Award to Dylan Salow. Clay Willenbring honored Pat & Marilyn

O'Connell as the 2015 Golden Parents. All parents in attendance received a yellow carnation from their FFA student for the support they give. 19 seniors presented their favorite FFA memory received a FFApadfolio. Retiring officer awards were presented and the 2015-16 officer team was named. President Kaleb Kruse, Vice President Andrew Palmersheim, Secretary Calvin Orcutt, Treasurer Kristi Goedken, Reporter Ryan Goedken, Beckman Representative Amber Bonert and Sentinel Amanda Fortman. The leadership auction lead by Auctioneer Kaleb Kruse and emcee Calvin Orcutt raising over \$1200.

April

•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.

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Getting into the dress up days for FFA week are Kaleb Kruse and Logan Fronatt.

FFA, continued

•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 Hanson 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.

•On Tuesday the freshman were excited to start their contest by participating in the Greenhand Test. Amanda Engelken and



Adam Goedken and Briana March show off their flannel for Flannel and Five Buckle Friday.

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 received 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.

•Then on April 28th members traveled to Northeast Iowa Community College in Calmar for District Ag Mechanics contest with 28 teams competing. The contest had members competing in tractor parts identification, general knowledge test, group activity, wrenches, electricity, welding and construction ruler reading. Calvin Orcutt was 6th individual, Andrew Palmersheim was 7th individual and Travis Knipper was also on that team that placed 4th. Others

competing Garrett Hogan, Kyle Richter, Andy O'Connell, Alex Elgin, Robbie Kramer, Rob Bockenstedt, Ryan Goedken and Kaleb Kruse.

May

•The Maquoketa Valley FFA hosted Farm Safety Day on Thursday May 1st for kids in preschool, kindergarten, and first grade. There were 7 stations total. The station consisted of: falling objects, tractor safety, fire safety, pinch points, lawnmowers, seat belts, and 911. The kids favorite part of the day was when the FFA members hosted the famous puppet show and animals crackers served with milk handed out by dairy princess Cassie Burkle. The whole day consisted of having 225 kids from Earlville, Hopkinton, and Delhi. It was a great day to showcase the ag department and teach many kids the safety's and dangers of agriculture.

•On May 5th students in the Crop Production classes toured Big River Energy ethanol plant in Dyersville where they learned first hand about the processes and byproducts of ethanol production.

•On Tuesday May 5th the Agronomy teams traveled to Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo.. After weed id, general knowledge, group activity, seed identification and product quality classes the score were totaled. The MV FFA finished in 10th place with a team compose of Kaleb Handel, Kevin Steffen and Cole Kruse. On Tuesday May 13 it was the ladies turn to showcase their skills at District Floriculture at Hawkeye Community College versus 11 other teams. They made corsages, arrangements, took general knowledge tests and pesticide stations. The wildcat teams finished 6th, 7th and 8th. Members of the 6h place team were Emily O'Connell, Emily Krapfl and Mindy Burkle. In 7th was Amber Bonert, Amanda Fortman and Kristi Goedken. 8th place team was Angie Wilson, Rejji Smith and Josie Young. On Wednesday evening 16 district teams competed in Horse Evaluation. After judging halter and performance classes and presenting oral reasons Tia Recker, Sabrina Heiderscheit, Josie Young and Kristi Mensen finish 7th as a team." We made major progress in the skills contest this year. We are proving that we have a wide variety of students competing in contest that are learning by doing and proving Wildcats are on the rise.

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June

•The Wildcat FFA members were on the prowl in the summer of 2015. On June 5th, 12 members traveled

to Ames to compete in Ag Mechanics, Food Science and Agronomy. The Ag Mechanics team earned a 6th place gold finish in the state. Team members were Andrew Palmersheim, Calvin Orcutt, Travis Knipper and Alex Richter. In the area of Food Science Emily Krapfl, Kristi Goedken, Angie Wilson and Amanda Fortman teamed up for a Silver rating. Agronomy team of Ryan Goedken, Mikie Mast and Kaleb Kruse also earned a silver.

•On June 10th at Kirkwood was the District and Kirkwood Open Livestock judging contest where the Wildcats placed won both events and were high team in oral reasons, beef, sheep and swine. Team members were Kaleb Kruse (1st individual), Andrew Palmersheim (3rd individual), Ryan Goedken (6th individual) and Calvin Orcutt (7th individual). The 5th place team in the contest also hailed from MV. Team members were Alex Elgin, Travis Knipper, Laisee Shakespeare and Kaleb Handel.

•In the area of Nursery Landscape MV finished 10th in the state. Team members were Reiji Smith, Kristi Mensen, Mindy Burkle and Angie Wilson. In addition that day the State Floriculture contest was held the team received Silver ratings. The Floriculture team was Josie Young, Amanda Fortman, Emily O'Connell and Kristi Goedken..

Emily Krapfl and Cassie Burkle spent a week in the nation's capital as part in the Washington Leadership Conference.

July

•The Maquoketa Valley FFA hosted a pedal pull at the Earlville 4th of July with 65 kids participating winners included: Annabel Cairney, McKenna Minneart, Jada Knipper, Erin Knipper, Landon Helmricks, Chase Krogman, Ian Krogman and Lance McShane.

•As July moved in the onset of the American tradition of the Delaware County Fair settled in. On Monday the nonlivestock exhibits were judged. In the photography division Kristi Goedken received many purple and blue ribbons. In the Ag mechanics division purple ribbons were awarded to Andrew Palmersheim, Calvin Orcutt, Travis Knipper and Kaleb Kruse.

•Thirty-three Members participated in the Agronomy show, Horse show, beef show, swine show, rabbit show, goat show and dairy show.

•After the finish of the fair the weekly



Herdsmanship winners were named, and Maquoketa Valley was selected as a winner for the efforts that the members put into the livestock exhibits and tack areas.

August

•District Meats Evaluation was held at Dan's Earlville Locker in Earlville on August 4th. The Maquoketa Valley team of Kaleb Kruse, Colton Nefgzer, Logan Fronatt and Heath Gibbs were named District Champions. Kruse was 2nd individual and Nefgzer was 7th. District Milk Quality contest was also held in Earlville with MV placing 4th. Team members were Amanda Fortman (8th individual), Josie Young (9th individual), Kristi Goedken and Adam Goedken.

•As the summer came to an end members found the Iowa State Fair to place to be:

Results were as follows:

State Dairy Princess Contestant-Emily O'Connell talent winner

Photography Division- 27 photos from 18 exhibitors yielded 9th place chapter in Iowa award Maquoketa Valley

Reserve Champion Overall photo & 1st place color- Jay Wessels beating out over 1100 other photos

State Executive Secretary Choice Award- Amber Bonert

5th place Landscape outside Iowa- Kristi Goedken

Breeding Beef category showcased Andrew Palmersheim's livestock. He earned Reserve Champion Angus Cow Calf pair and also received two blues with breeding heifers in the Foundation Simmental and crossbred divisions. In addition Andrew earned a blue award in herdsmanhip.

Ag Mechanics category Maquoketa Valley was represented by Matthew Lansing

whom restored a 1946 BF Avery tractor in memory of his Late father Jerry Lansing. Matthew received a blue ribbon.

Dairy Cattle category MV was represented by Madi Gibbs, Kaleb Kruse, Cole Kruse and Heath Gibbs. Maquoketa Valley FFA was named top chapter in the dairy FFA division. Madi Gibbs exhibited 5 animals receiving 3 purples and 2 blues. Madi showed the Reserve junior champion Milking Shorthorn and was selected for Iowa FFA parade of Champions on IPTV. Madi was also 9th place overall in FFA Dairy showmanship. Kaleb Kruse received 6 purples in class and was named reserve champion FFA dairy showman. Cole Kruse exhibited 5 animals receiving 3 purples and 2 blues as well as the Reserve Senior and Grand Champion Ayrshire. Cole was in the FFA Parade of Champions on IPTV as well and was 6th place dairy showman. Heath Gibbs showed four head and received 2 purples, 1 blue and 1 red. In addition Heath was Reserve Intermediate Showman in the Youth Dairy Show and Champion Intermediate Holstein Showman.

It was a great week in Des Moines. The FFA division is extremely tough so it was exciting to see the success of the students. It is especially rewarding to have all four of our dairy exhibitors recognized in showmanship which is a reflection on the students knowledge and hard work. The hard work of all of the exhibitors is a directly reflection on the supportive parents, administration and communities that we have had rally around Agricultural Education at Maquoketa Valley and Beckman.

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FFA, continued

•August 23rd MV FFA livestock judging team placed 6th place finish and was top in beef at state in Ames. Kaleb Kruse, Cole Kruse, Ryan Goedken and Trent Westhoff competed against over fifty teams from across the state. The Milk Quality Team finished 7th in the state. Team members were Amanda Fortman (9th individual), Amanda Engelken, Kristi Goedken and Josie Young. The meats judging team was 11th in the state with Logan Fronatt, Colton Nefgzer, Travis Knipper and Heath Gibbs on the team.

September

•On Saturday September 13th members of the Maquoketa Valley FFA traveled to the 2015 State FFA dairy cattle evaluation career development event in West Union. After competing in several different phases of competition the team from Maquoketa Valley was named state champions overall and will represent Iowa at the National FFA convention in Louisville, Kentucky in October. The team won the speciality award awards of Oral Reasons, Pedigree Evaluation, Dairy Cattle judging and as also top in the production management phase of contest. Individually Cole Kruse was 4th individual, Jackie Ehrlich was 5th individual, Amanda Engelken 6th individual and Katelyn Goldsmith was 12th individual in the contest.



Rejji Smith wears her official FFA dress on Tuesday. FFA students competed in subdistrict contest Tuesday night.



Alex Richter, Ryan Goedken, Travis Knipper and Andrew Palmersheim don their chore clothes for Work Clothes Wednesday.

•Tristate Dairy Expo was held on Thursday September 17th in Calmar with the District Dairy Judging and Soils Contest. 1st place District team was Jackie Ehrlich, Amanda Engelken and Cole Kruse and second place team in the district was Nick Bagge, Ryan Goedken and Heath Gibbs. In the non reasons contest Tommy Lehmann, Brittany Putz and Shelby Westhoff placed 8th as a team.

•Bright and early at 3:35 am on Tuesday September 30th, 40 Maquoketa Valley FFA members left for Madison, Wisconsin and the World Dairy Expo. Members that attended watched the Ayrshire and Junior Holstein shows, visited with vendors, participated in a scavenger hunt and attending educational seminars.

October

•State Horse Judging was held at Ellsworth Community College on October 3rd. Team members Sabrina Heiderscheidt, Tia Recker and Josie Young placed 19th in the state and earned a silver medal.

•October 27-31 was spent at National FFA convention under the direction of advisor Dawn Mausser and student teacher Rachael Strong and Iowa State student Adam Sacquinte. Major highlights from the trip included the national Career Development results: Dairy Cattle Evaluation team 9th in the nation GOLD medals for Jackie Ehrlich, Cole Kruse, Heath Gibbs and Amanda Engelken. Dairy Handler Kaleb Kruse earned a silver as did Katelyn Goldsmith in the national Agriscience Fair. 12 Members also served on the National Courtesy Corps they included Kristi Goedken, Amanda Fortman, Kristi Mensen, Brittany Putz, Nick Bagge, Ryan Goedken, Josie Young,

Rejji Smith, Katelyn Goldsmith, Amber Bonert, Shelby Westhoff and Travis Knipper.

November

•Maquoketa Valley FFA members represented the Iowa FFA Foundation by working at the Annual Farm Toy Show in Dyersville for three days. More than 20 members participated.

December

•The first day of December students unloaded \$80,000 of fruit, meat and cheeses to distribute to local customers.

•On December 4th the Iowa Cattlemen's Beef Extravaganza took place on the Iowa State University campus, and 22 teams competed. The scholarship event, which is for students interested in cattle and beef production, involved 70 high school students from around Iowa. They competed for cash scholarship awards for the top four teams that totaled \$7,650. Students were challenged at 10 different stations to demonstrate their skills and knowledge. Maquoketa Valley students Andrew Palmersheim & Calvin Orcutt represented the chapter.

•On December 10, 2015 MV FFA member Laisee Shakespeare delivered 30 mixed boxes of fruit to Kay Harris for use at the Food Pantry as a way to give back to their community.

What a year 2015 was thanks to all who helped the MV FFA excel.

Individual speech students earn top conference honors

by Emily LaGrant

The Maquoketa Valley Speech Team spent a successful day at Central City on Monday. The team participated in the Conference Contest, the first contest of the individual speech season. They walked away 47 Division 1 ratings and 16 Division 2 ratings.

They finished the night with a score of 197 which earned them the Conference Champion title as well as the prized Eagle. Meanwhile, the 9th grade team finished 4th with 96 points.

Of the 64 events 19 of them received a best of center rating: Hannah Lahr (1st in Acting), Abby Holtz (1st in Radio News), Angie Wilson (1st in After Dinner Speaking), Riley Sternhagen (3rd in After Dinner Speaking), Brittany Sabers (1st in Review), Emily LaGrant (1st in Expository Address), Kendra Ries (2nd in Expository Address), Brooke Wilson (3rd in Expository Address), Amanda Fortman (1st in Original Oratory), Macy Anderegg (1st in Review), Shaylyn Trenkamp (2nd in Review), Patrick Hansen (1st in Acting), Izabel Niehaus (2nd in Acting), Alex McCusker (1st in Improv), Faith Hunt (1st in Public Address), Brooke Wilson (2nd in Public Address), Laisee Shakespeare (3rd in Public Address), Stefanie Hansen (3rd in Poetry), and Chloe Roling (3rd in Storytelling).



BrieAnna Nielson rehearses her poetry piece Monday night.

The following students received Division 1 ratings : Bekah Hill (Lit. Program), Shawnae Hoeger (Acting), Riley Sternhagen (After Dinner), Kelly Winter (Prose), Hannah Lahr (Lit. Program), Brooke Willson (Public Address), Lawson Roof (Musical Theatre), Laisee Shakespeare (Public Address), Faith Hunt (Public Address), Sienna Becker (Public Address), Abby Holtz (Radio News), Maddy Naab (Poetry), Amanda Fortman (Original Oratory), Danielle Schuman (Literary Program), Cassidy Wilson (Public Address), Stefanie Hansen (Poetry), Shaylyn Trenkamp (Review), Brittany Sabers (Review), Macy Anderegg (Review), Patrick Hansen (Acting), Izabel Niehaus (Acting), Blake Becker (Prose), Kelsey Ries (Poetry), Brooke Wilson (Expository Address), Hannah Lahr (Acting), Taylor Guthrie (Musical Theatre), Megan McNamara (Improv), Briana March (Storytelling), Angie Wilson (After Dinner), Megan Mensen (Prose), Kiesha Stelken (Poetry), Emily LaGrant (Expository Address), Chloe Roling (Storytelling), Josie Young (Storytelling), Tamala Askeland (Improv), Adrienne Supple (Prose), BrieAnna Nielson (Poetry), Ali Sheehy (Storytelling), Kendra Ries (Expository Address), Katilyn Deutmeyer (After Dinner), Alex McCusker (Improv), Sam Wall (Prose), Natalie Neuzil (Poetry), Sean Hucker (Expository Address), Colin Wendt (After Dinner), Nichole Winter (Prose) Kristin Lucas (Lit Program).

These students received Division 2 ratings: Kaela Chesnut (Storytelling), Shana Timm (Lit Program), Emma McDowell (After Dinner), Maddy Naab (Storytelling), Hannah Clemen (Musical Theatre), Lane Coyle (Acting), Faith Hunt (Original Oratory), Mac Callan (Lit. Program), Jazz Niehaus (Original Oratory), Emily Krapfl (Spontaneous Speaking), Nichole Lucas (Radio News), Emma McDowell (Spontaneous Speaking), Megan Hogan (Original Oratory), Brianna Mensen (Spontaneous Speaking), Megan Beaman (Acting), and McKenzie Lansing (Radio News).

Congratulations to all performers! The next contest will be Districts hosted here at MV tomorrow, the 27th. Stop by to support the student body and see some wonderful performances!



Mac Callan practices her speech piece while Bekah Hill listens in support.

Angie's Angle

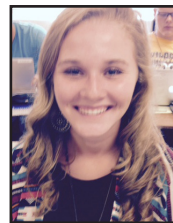
by Angie Wilson

Running With no Steps

Have you ever felt like your mind is running faster than your body? It's like a sports car racing an old man on a bicycle. You see the sports car will beat the old man time and time again. All you have to do is push the gas and never let up. But what isn't fair is the old man's whole body working rather than the tilt of his ankle. He becomes tiresome and weary of the race he will know he will never win.

For me, this is what stress feels like. I have a million things constantly going through my head at 100 mph. I think the unfilled scholarships with creeping dead lines, I see my assignment notebook filling up in each subject. I know what needs to be done, but I can only get one thing done at a time. My mind is the sports car while I am imprisoned in the old man riding the bicycle. I stress my brain and my body from sleep deprivation, knowing I will never catch the sports car.

If you are like me, I am truly sorry. It's a curse. It's a stress worrying disease that can take a toll on our outlook towards things. But don't worry sometimes it's good to know that you are running in a million directions, because it means you care! Just don't forget to land those feet on the ground and take at least one step forward. One last tip! Treat yourself to something sweet when you can't take the stress because, in fact, stressed spelled backwards is desserts!



McDowell, Heims hit the mat at the Well

Two juniors earned a berth to the state wrestling tournament last week, and each won at least one match there.

Alec McDowell finished third after winning four of his five matches.

McDowell started his rise to the podium with an 8-3 decision and a 3-0 decision to make the state semifinals where he lost. His 9-3 win put him in the third place match which he won 3-2. He finished his season with a 51-3 record.

“For Alec to come away with a third place finish as a junior at the Iowa High School State Wrestling Championships goes to show the amount of work this kid has put in,” stated Coach Andrews. “He listens to everything the coaches tell him. I know he will work even harder this off season so that he puts himself in a situation next year to have a chance to come home with the gold. He is truly every coaches dream to work with from an athletic standpoint but even a better person and we are already looking forward to next year.”

Eric Heims lost in his opening round by technical fall and then came back and pinned his opponent in his first round in the consolation bracket. He then lost by technical fall in his third match. Heims ended his junior year with a 41-13 record.

“This was Eric’s 4th year of being involved with wrestling as he did not come out until 8th grade,” added Coach Andrews. “For him to be able to qualify for the state meet as a junior and win a match at the state meet is one heck of an accomplishment. Eric is another prime example of listening to everything the coaches tell him and being nothing short of a coaches dream. Now that Eric has a taste of the state tournament and getting a win under his belt down there, he now has his sights set on the podium for next year. He will work extra hard this off season to put himself in a position next year to reach his ultimate goal of getting on the podium.”

Coach Andrews had more praise for these two athletes. “The common denominator with these two is they both work their tails off and listen to their coaches in and outside of the wrestling room. They both got up throughout the season and went in and lifted when they could have just stayed in bed.”



(photos courtesy of Pete Temple)

All-Conference Basketball

First Team

Brianna Mensen (second year in a row)

Second Team

Brock Hillers
Sam Wall

Honorable Mention

Jacob Bonert
Payton Ries



Lynx take out Cats, season comes to an end

by Kristi Goedken

To close out conference play, the Wildcats hosted North Linn to close out the regular season before districts. After a hard fought battle in the fourth quarter, the Wildcats fell short with a loss of 34-31 in favor of the Lynx.

Statistical leaders were junior guard Brianna Mensen with 12 points. Erin Digmann was able to contribute 7 points followed by Sam Wall and Angie Wilson with 4 points. The Wildcats shot 8 of 11 from the free throw line for 73%. Wall was 100% from the free throw line. B. Mensen was able to grab 7 rebounds while Digmann had 6, M. Mensen had 4, and Payton Ries had 4 also. Sam Wall was able to dish out 4 assists. The Wildcats had 11 steals on the night with 5 blocks.

As the regular season came to an end, the Wildcats finished 3rd in the Tri-Rivers Conference behind Springville and North Linn respectively. The girls started regional play this past Tuesday as they hosted Bellvue on their home court. After playing



a hard fought battle again, the Wildcats fell short as Bellevue took the win with a score

of 57-52. The Maquoketa Valley Girls end their season with a 16-6 record.

Dance team hosts Glam the Jam

The dance strutted its stuff Feb. 20 as it performed numerous dances and featured soloists and youth dance performances. Below: Missy Schwandt performs her solo. (photos by Emma McDowell)



FFA students compete at SubDistrict contest

On Feb. 23, the SubDistrict FFA contest was held at West Delaware High School in Manchester. Maquoketa Valley FFA students had a successful night.

Maquoketa Valley results were as follows:

Public Speaking: Amanda Fortman, Gold Advanced

Extemporaneous Speaking: Kaleb Kruse, Silver Advanced

Creed Speaking: Shelby Westhoff, Silver Advanced

Ag Sales: Nick Bagge, Silver Alternate to Districts

Job Interview: Calvin Orcutt, Silver

Ag Broadcasting: Kristi Goedken, Silver

The top two in each area advance to Districts on March 12 at Midland High School in Wyoming.

The Cat Box

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



A meow to Garrett Hogan for the jump start of a student's car in the parking lot Thursday afternoon.



A meow to the FFA students who competed in SubDistricts Tuesday and a congrats to those who are advancing to Districts.



A thankful meow to the FFA students who provided lunch and goodie bags for the staff. Yum!



A meow to the individual contest speech team for winning the conference title Monday night. Good luck tomorrow!



A furball to the lack of a snow day this week. Who needs one???



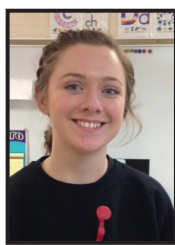
A meow to the start of track season and the good weather that allows the athletes to run outside (even though we want a snow day).



A meow to Alec and Eric who represented MV so well at state wrestling.

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Chloe Roling
Activity: Large group speech



What event are you in for speech? I am in choral reading- Talk Nerdy To Me.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? I enjoy working with a big group and getting to know people.

What have you learned through this event? I have learned not to be so self conscious in front of a large group of people and just let loose and have fun.

Who is your speech role model? Probably Emily LaGrant because it seems like no matter what she is in, she gives it her all, and she kills it.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I would judge improv because you would never know what to expect.

Name: Angie Wilson
Activity: Speech



What event are you in for speech? After Dinner Speaking

What do you enjoy most about individual speech?

I love the challenge. It's not always easy to stand up in front a room of people and deliver a speech that only you know.

What have you learned through this event? You know you are doing well in After Dinner when you make people laugh. I have learned that you can't force jokes, and the way you say them matters how the audience will react.

What other event would you like to try and why? Acting would be a fun category to try. There is a variety of material you could talk about and you get to have fun acting out your piece while you recite it.

How will speech help you in the future? I can't begin to describe how thankful I am to have gone through such an amazing speech program. I plan on entering a career where I talk to people on a daily basis. Speech has eliminated that fear of public speaking. I know that I will not be afraid to try new things after my experiences.

Athletes of the Week

Name: Madison Imler
Sport: Basketball



What position do you play? Guard

What do you enjoy most about basketball? Getting to spend time with my teammates, always helping each other.

What is your favorite memory from basketball from this year? Spirit Lake basketball camp was really fun this year. The drive up was really fun and the things we went and did as a team was fun too. Our hotel was right on the lake so it was really pretty. The sophomore hotel room got crazy at night. We would always make fun of Macy. Team meals are always fun too.

What's something about this year's team that others might not know about? We always all stuck together. I felt like we were all super close this season. We all cared about each other, and always tried to make each other better.

How will you train for next year during the off-season? Come in the gym when I can. Summer basketball. 7-up club.

Name: Taylor Guthrie
Sport: Dance team



What do you enjoy most about dance team? The girls. They have taught me so much, and I completely adore every single one of them.

What's the hardest part of it? Knowing that I'm going to be leaving them, and I won't get to see them grow throughout high school.

What's your favorite routine you've ever been a part of? What did you like about it? Over my four years I've learned about 48 routines more or less. I don't have a favorite; I just love how each one is unique in its own way.

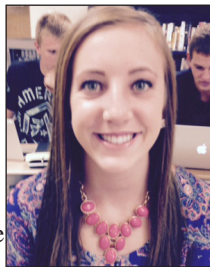
What's something about dance most people don't realize? It IS a sport, and the practices aren't easy. Dance is much harder than you think.

If you could choreograph a routine, what kind would it be and what song would you use? I love lyrical routines, and my dance this year was to the song "Come Home" by One Republic.

Hall Smarts

by Shawnae Hoeger

Let's see if this week's contestants know a lot about the country they live in. This week's nominees are David Boyles, Katie Snyder, Cassi Westhoff and Kyle Richter.



1. What day did the United States declare independence?

David: 1965

Katie: July 4th, 1776

Cassi: Idk

Kyle: July 4th, 17 something (1/2 point)

Answer: July 4th, 1776

2. What continent is the United States in?

David: Atlantic Ocean

Katie: North America

Cassi: North America:

Kyle: North America

Answer: North America

3. What is the capital of the United States?

David: Baby Jesusville

Katie: Washington D.C.

Cassi: Washington D.C.

Kyle: Washington D.C.

Answer: Washington D.C.

4. What is the United State's national emblem?

David: Eagle

Katie: Eagle

Cassi: flag

Kyle: Eagle

Answer: The Bald Eagle

5. How many stripes are on the American Flag and what do they represent?

David: 14, freedom

Katie: 13, red-blood, white-peace (1/2 point)

Cassi: 13, colonies

13, 13 original continents (1/2 point)

Answer: 13, original 13 colonies

This week's winner was Katie with 4.5 points. Following Katie was Kyle with 4 points total. Behind Kyle was Cassi with 3 points. Trailing in last was Boyles with 1 point. Good try, man!

Angie's Angle

by Angie Wilson
One By One

I walk into a room full of people I love, and prepare for something that I have grown to love. I pull over the jersey that reads, Wildcats. I pull tight those horrifically stained white shoelaces to stand ready for a night of blood, sweat and tears. Pinkies to pinkies, one by one, my family lines up to showcase our late nights and early mornings. Locked eyes on the destination allows me to only hear murmurs of the roaring crowd.



I was a Maquoketa Valley basketball player.

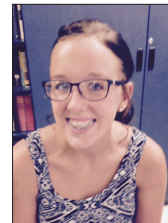
The words of past tense still cuts deep inside. It cuts through the veins of passion, and the heart of determination. It hurts to know that I won't jump up to touch the metal sign that recites my motto I have lived by for the last four years. The pain of knowing that the chance to walk out in Wells Fargo Arena has vanished. Like sand, these memories slipped through my fingers one by one. A multitude of individuals continued to tell me that this very thing would happen. They kept warning me about how fast the time goes and before you know it it's taken away. But what they couldn't begin to describe was the pain I would feel once that final buzzer went off.

With every cut of pain, there comes a scar of healing. With every scar, there is a story. And I am honored to share my story of Wildcat basketball for the rest of my life.



Do's and Don'ts of Volunteering

by Shaylyn Trenkamp



Volunteer work can sound like a time-consuming chore at times, but it shouldn't be. Take these tips into consideration and make volunteering an activity you look forward to.

Do find something you're really passionate about. Love animals? Volunteer at a humane society or animal shelter. Love sewing? Make some pillows and donate them to ConKerr Cancer or other organizations.

Don't complain. The easiest way to enjoy doing something is to have a positive attitude.

Do look for a variety of opportunities. Volunteering doesn't need to always mean raking leaves or serving at a local breakfast. It comes in many shapes and sizes; search until you find the one that fits you.

Don't look at it as time-consuming. The difference you are making and satisfaction you'll get out of it are more than worth a fraction of your time.

Do prioritize volunteering. Do your homework, partake in activities, and volunteer. Again, it doesn't always have to be time, but find some way to give back to your community.

Don't be uneducated about the cause you are helping. Volunteering can mean a lot more if you know what difference you're aiming to make.

Do get your friends and family involved. Volunteering can be 300x more fun when you do it with people you love!

Best Buds



Hannah Clemen & Madalynne Naab
by Kristin Lucas

What is your favorite thing to do together?

Hannah - play Mario Kart
Madalynne- make fun of her

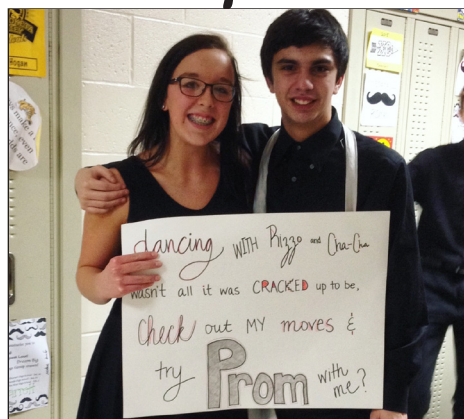
What is your funniest memory together?

Hannah - playing pool with her
Madalynne - when she's clumsy

What's one word to describe your friendship?

Hannah - crazy
Madalynne - awesome

Promposal!



Shaylyn Trenkamp & Angel Rumbo
by Kristi Goedken

What made you want to ask Angel to Prom? I've really gotten to know Angel through musical and choir this year, and he's hilarious and super fun to be around!

How did you get that idea?

Grease is one of the main memories we have together, so I just kind of came up with rhymes in reference to the musical until one sounded good.

What color will you be wearing?

Red

Are you going with a group or by yourselves? We'll be going with the seniors.



Binge Worthy

Rebekah & Amanda:

Rent: Singing, dancing, a twisting plot, and head over heels love keep you engaged in this musical. We fell in love with this musical the first time that we watched it. Following the life of a group of friends you see their struggles, strengths, and fatal flaws. You glimpse into their past as you ride into the future with them. This musical is about some of the issues that we see today in the world, that are not commonly made into movies and musical. A must watch, as soon as you can.

Rebekah:

The Mindy Project: After watching an entire season in a little under a week, I have come to love this show and it's cast. You walk through Mindy's life with her, and feel every emotion that she feels. It is a quirky, fun show that makes you laugh the whole time you are watching it.

Shelter Me by Juliette Fay: Janie's husband has been dead for awhile, and then something happens. A gift. Her husband arranged for a porch to be built before he died, and when someone shows up to build it, Janie. Janie is a widow with two kids, an obsessive family, and emotional problems. This book shows that struggles of her life and how she learns to cope.

Heaven is for Real: I'm lucky that nobody was around when I watched this movie because I cried like a baby. Based on a true story, you experience this family's love of Christ and the hardships that they go through. When Colton Burpo says that he went to heaven, nobody believes him. If you plan on watching this movie, have a box of tissues ready.

Amanda:

Alias: As I'm sitting here writing this I am watching this amazing show. This show has it all; action, cool costumes, and of course an awesome leading lady. Sydney Bristow lives a double life as she tries to balance college life and the life of an international spy. This show is definitely worth the time.

An Ember in the Ashes by Sabaa Tahir:

This story is truly one of the best fantasy stories I have ever read. Laia's family is slaughtered before her eyes and her brother is taken as a prisoner of the Empire. She must do everything she can to save her brother and survive. Elias is the top of his class and is destined for greatness. But first he too must survive. As their fates intertwine only together they can bring down the Empire.

The Vampire Diaries: The seventh season

has only just begun and every episode leaves me shocked. Mystic Falls isn't like every other town. It has vampires, witches, werewolves, and more. Elaina and Salvatore brothers must do everything they can to protect this town they call home.

Cutie

by Nichole Lucas

This week's cutie is a senior girl from Delhi.

She is involved in multiple sports.

This cutie is also a member of the Wildcat Echo staff.

You might see her mom around school.

Her favorite restaurant is Texas Roadhouse.



Do's and Don'ts of March Madness

by Shaylyn Trenkamp

Okay, I'm not talking about basketball, but I am referring to the craziness of everything else that March brings on! Next month brings on a time of the year that can get overwhelming, but here's the play of the season: the secrets to keeping your sanity through it all.

Do keep up with your planner/schedule/calendar. For me, the most helpful way of staying organized is using iCal on my phone. Find your own way, and you'll be 10x more on top of the madness already!

Don't procrastinate. You may hear it a million times a day, but really get it in your head. It's a bad habit, but as soon as you kick it, much stress will subside.

Do take things day by day. There's no point in stressing about what's due a week or month from now if you don't have today's homework done. Focus on the present and prioritize what should be done first.

Don't turn stress into anger and lash out on your family or friends. Instead, use the energy you're channeling into stress and channel it into motivation instead.

Do remember what/who matters most. Accomplish great things with your busy schedule, then treat yourself to a movie night with your siblings or a DQ date with friends.

Don't stretch yourself too thin. Don't be afraid to tell someone you're busy and can't do them a favor. Don't take on more than you can handle.

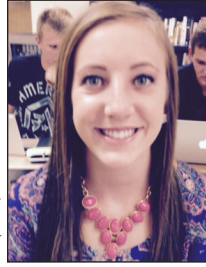
Do support, support, support. Your schedule's packed? So are your friends', classmates', and family's. Find ways to give them support, and you'll get your own in return. (For example, come to the district individual speech contest at MV tomorrow and watch some crazy-good performances from your peers!)



Hall Smarts

by Shawnae Hoeger

I am going to assume many of you watched Super Bowl 50 a few weekends ago. Let's see if Erin Digmann, Brenden Hogan, Dalton Becker and Chloe Roling watched the super bowl and can answer the following questions correctly.



1. Who played in Super Bowl 50?

Erin: Broncos and Panthers
Brenden: Broncos and Panthers
Dalton: Broncos and idk
Chloe: idk
Answer: Broncos and Panthers

2. How many times have the Broncos lost the Super Bowl?

Erin: 2
Brenden: 3
Dalton: 6
Chloe: all of them
Answer: 5 (the most a team has ever lost)

3. Name one of the four teams that have never made it to the Super Bowl.

Erin: Browns
Brenden: Rams
Dalton: Dolphins
Chloe: Dolphins
Answer: Browns, Lions, Jaguars, and Texans

4. Who won the very first Super Bowl in 1967?

Erin: Bears
Brenden: Packers
Dalton: Packers
Chloe: that one team
Answer: Green Bay Packers

5. How many millions of pounds of guacamole was consumed on Super Bowl Sunday?

Erin: 7
Brenden: 18
Dalton: 12
Chloe: 8
Answer: 9 million pounds

Erin and Brenden tied for first with two points each. Dalton came behind them with one point. Chloe trailed for last with 0 points. Better luck next time :-)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MV the week of February 28, 2016

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

1. HS Electricity II Class Trip to MV REC in Anamosa (Bus Leaves at 10:15 AM)
2. JH TRC Vocal Festival in Central City - 2:00 PM (Bluebird Leaves at 1:00 PM) - Concert at 7:00 PM
3. Youth Wrestling Practice - HS WR Room - PreK through 4th 6:00 - 7:00 PM / 5th-8th 5:00 - 6:15 PM
4. Post Prom Party Committee Meeting - HS Cafeteria - 6:30 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2016

1. Delhi Elementary Kindergarten Round Up
2. MV Parade of Bands Rehearsal for Grades 5th - 12th— MS Gym - 11:30 AM until Noon
3. 7th & 8th Homework Assistance - After School until 4:00 PM
4. MV Parade of Bands Concert - HOME (Middle School Multipurpose Room) - 7:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016

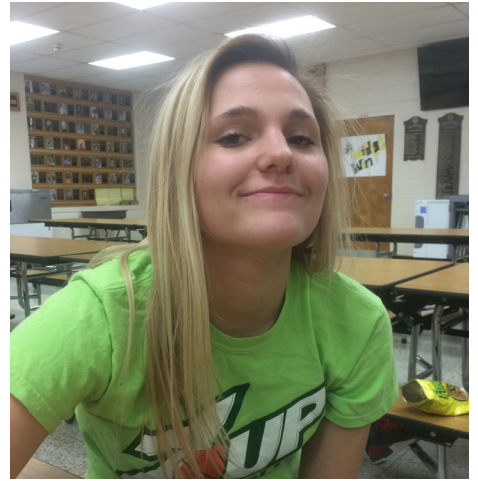
1. EARLY DISMISSAL - 1:05 PM in Delhi / 1:15 PM in Earl. & Hopk. - Teacher Professional Day
2. 7th & 8th Grade Career Fair - Periods 1, 2, 3 - Writing "Thank You" Notes 4th hour.
3. NO 7th & 8th Homework Assistance After School
4. MV Athletic Boosters Meeting - HS Cafeteria - 6:30 PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2016

1. Youth Wrestling Practice - HS WR Room - PreK through 4th 6:00 - 7:00 PM / 5th-8th 5:00 - 6:15 PM
2. HS Vocal Jazz Festival Kirkwood College in Cedar Rapids (4 vans Leaves at 7:30 AM)

FRIDAY, MARCH 4, 2016

1. HS TATU Lunch Party - MS Conference Room - 11:30 AM to Noon



THIS is MV

*photos by
Flavia Xavier*

