

## Get to know Jazz X-Press



**Jazz X-Press vocalists rehearse before school in the auditorium.**

**by Jordyn Kemp**

Vocal Jazz is at its peak in the season. With the first performance done, the group is on its way to many more! While many students know about the success of Smooth Harmony, some readers may not know much about Jazz X-Press.

Here are the members of Jazz X-Press 2016-2017:

Cloie Wilson- Soprano  
Ci'Ann Richardson- Soprano  
Destiny Claybourne- Soprano  
Hannah Clemen- Soprano  
Kiesha Stelken- Soprano  
Lucas Johnson- Bass  
Jake Jones- Tenor  
Tate Trenkamp- Tenor  
Madalynne Naab- Alto  
Jordyn Kemp- Alto  
Gracie Gellerson- Alto  
Jenna Nefzger- Alto  
Rose Havens- Alto

These students said they have benefited from vocal jazz in various ways. Madalynne Nabb said that it's helped her learn to get out of her comfort zone and improve her tone. Rose Havens said, "I've learned how to practice well, and I've gained confidence." I learned how to listen to other people. Ci'Ann Richardson said she appreciates the friendly atmosphere.

Jazz X-Press is a music group which performs jazz pieces at competitions. We have four pieces this season, entitled "Doctor Blues," "I Wish You Love," "My Heart Stood Still" and "Bye Bye Blackbird."

The song "Bye Bye Blackbird"

means something different to different students. Jenna Nefzger thinks it's about leaving negative thoughts behind, and Ci'Ann Richardson thinks the piece is about following your dreams. A lot of the members concluded that they believe it's about leaving your past behind. Lucas Johnson believes that it's about somebody that they love leaving them.

Some might ask, "How is vocal jazz different from regular choir concert music?" It's a different and much looser style, it's more student-led, and that vocalists need to be more independent in vocal jazz in order to sing the pieces well.

Vocal Jazz practices for Jazz X-Press is Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 6:50 to 7:50, with occasional choir time. On Feb. 10 the group competed at Washington High School in Cedar Rapids at its vocal jazz clinic. On Feb. 17, Jazz X-Press goes to the Solon Vocal Jazz Clinic.

## FFA week planned for next week

**by Heath Gibbs, reporter**

Next Monday kicks on FFA week at MV. Be sure to show support by participating in the dress up days!

Monday- Camo

Tuesday- Official Dress

Wednesday- FFA Shirts. State FFA officers will also be visiting MV.

Thursday- Transformation (Wear an outfit that represents agriculture of any point in history.) FFA members will serve the staff lunch.

Friday- Boots and Belts

## Holtz a winner in essay contest by Nichole Winter

Recently, junior Abby Holtz entered the Voice of Democracy essay contest sponsored by The Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Voice of Democracy program gives students the opportunity to express their opinions of the government and beliefs about their own roles. Abby says they want to understand kids' views of the government and how they plan to participate. Students' voices and parts in society make a difference.

The topic Abby wrote for this year was "My Responsibility to America." Abby wrote about how she will actively participate in the government by taking advantage of her liberties. She wants to use her freedom of speech and expression for good in hopes of encouraging others to do the same. Abby also writes about the issue of citizens using their liberties to burn the American flag. She hopes others will make educated decisions and use their liberties and freedoms in positive ways.

For her essay, Abby received third place in Delaware county and was awarded with a certificate. The ceremony for Abby's achievement is on Monday night, but Abby will be unable to attend due to other school activities. Abby wanted to participate in this competition because she likes writing essays like this with an important topic. Abby believes it is very important for our generation to know about recent current events and their roles in society.

## Funds raised for cancer patients

The National Honor Society raised over \$50 to support the Iowa Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society to help families (in Iowa) with blood cancers. NHS members held a half court shot and a parking spot raffle. Winners were allowed to park in the staff parking lot for a day. Winners were Brody Severt, Brock Hillers, Lane Coyle and Eric Deutmeyer.

# All four district wrestlers advance to State

Four Maquoketa Valley wrestlers will represent their team at the State Class 1A Wrestling Tournament after qualifying out of the district tournament Saturday, Feb. 11 at Starmont in Arlington.

Two of them, Alex McDowell and Eric Heims, will be making their second trip to the Feb. 16-18 state tourney at Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.

McDowell won the 182-pound

championship, scoring a 10-1 major decision over Bodie Garnier of Sumner-Fredricksburg in the finals.

Chance Downs (145) and Norman Wilson (170) had to win wrestleback matches to earn the trip to state, and both won in overtime.

Eric Heims also won a wrestleback match at 220, winning 2-1 in an ultimate tie-breaker, to earn his return trip to

Des Moines.

"We had an unbelievable day at the district wrestling meet," Maquoketa Valley coach Tim Andrews said. "To come in with four qualifiers and get them all to qualify for State is great for our school, program and community."

"These guys have been working very hard for this, and to see their hard work pay off is awesome."



## Boys defeat Rivermont Collegiate, advance to next round

by McKenzie Lansing

The first round of districts for the boys basketball team was a success. The boys defeated Rivermont Collegiate at home with a final score of 74-8, advancing the boys to round two.

"I thought the guys came out ready to play," commented Coach Dunlap. "We played to our level instead of our opponents. I like that most of our team had scoring opportunities and for the first time this season, we scored in the 70s."

The top scorers of this game were Clint Krapfl, Jacob Bonert, Tyson Tucker, Cole Willenbring and Blake Becker. Clint scored 12 points. Jacob and Tyson each scored 10 points. Cole and Blake each scored 8 points.

The boys had a total of 24 rebounds. The top rebounders were Tucker,

Bonert, Kyle Wilson, and Krapfl. Tyson had a total of 4 rebounds. Jacob, Kyle and Clint each had 3 rebounds.

The boys had a good free throw percentage of 62.5%. They also made over 50% of all of their shots. They had a total of 13 assists and 9 steals. Tucker contributed to 4 of these assets.

"Cole Willenbring did a really nice job coming off the bench and hitting some big buckets," said Coach Dunlap. "I also thought Clint and Tyson did a nice job scoring."

They will play their second round of playoffs at North Linn tonight! Come out to support the Wildcats in your neon!

**Clint Krapfl puts up two of his 12 points. (photos courtesy of MV Athletic Boosters)**





## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

*Megan McNamara*



**You recently went out of your way to help a teacher using your artistic skills. Why is it important to help others?** It's important to help others because sometimes we can't do things alone. We get by with a little help from our friends. :)

**You also help the wrestling team. What do you enjoy most about that?** Honestly, the guys are like a second family. We all make fun of each other and have many inside jokes. Overall it's just a great atmosphere. The greatest thing though was Momma Kruse's PB&Js (:

**What are you doing to make your senior year a year worth remembering?** Taking lots and lots of pictures! But mostly doing stuff 24/7. If someone asks to hang out I usually say yes unless I'm working. I want to hang out with my friends all the time and make so many memories. Plus I've taken some cool road trips my senior year and I'll never forget those. (:

—Megan was nominated by Mrs. Temple

## Individual speech begins



**Maddy Naab rehearses her individual piece before school. The individual event contest speech season begins Monday night at the conference contest at Alburnett. Districts are next Saturday.**

## Athletes of the Week

Name: Nichole Winter

Sport: Basketball

**What do you enjoy most about basketball?**

I love my teammates! They are all my best friends, and I love being with them and helping each other improve.

**What's your favorite drill in practice?**

One more pass drill

**How do you mentally prepare for the game?**

We listen to music. Then we talk about the scouting report and our goals for the game.

**What's the best motivational song out right now?**

Don't ask me. I'm not the best with the songs.

**What's been your favorite basketball memory from this season?**

Brooke Elgin made a half court shot backwards and blindfolded.



Name: Rejji Smith

Sport: Basketball

**What do you enjoy most about basketball?** I

love how close our team is, it really is my second family.

**What's your favorite drill in practice?** 15 and a half.

**How do you mentally prepare for the game?** Jam out to some certain, slightly inappropriate, music with my teammates.

**What's the best motivational song out right now?** "All the Way Up"

**What's been your favorite basketball memory from this season?** Definitely going down to the US Cellular Center.

We made a lot of new cheers for the bench and it was a great experience for the team, on the big court, against some tough competition.



## Did you know?

by Emma McDowell

Listen up for ten wacky facts about the world we live in.

- There's a fear of trees, it's called Dendrophobia.
- Volcanoes are named after the Roman God of fire, Vulcan.
- Egyptians thought the lotus flower was sacred and would use it in burial rituals.
- Anywhere around 50-80% of Earth's life is found under the ocean.
- Cacti have microscopic leaves.
- Earth's rotation is slowly down by 17 milliseconds every year.
- Some types of bamboo can grow up to 3 feet a day.
- Grass has 6000 different species.
- Earth is the only planet in our solar system that's not named after a mythical God or Goddess.
- 2 million tourists visit the Great Barrier Reef every year.

## Brain Teaser

by Mason Lubben

I stare at you, you stare at me. I have three eyes, yet I cannot see. Every time I blink, I give commands. You do as your told with your feet and your hands. What am I?

*Answer: Traffic Light*

## JV team wraps up season

by Mason Lubben

The varsity boys basketball season continues, but the JV squad has wrapped up its season. This year's JV basketball went 3-18. The Cats went 3-4 in conference games. Although the Cats did not have the winning success that they wished, great improvements were made. Coach Eric Conner is the new coach. The Cats had many close games that were within reach, but just couldn't stick it out.

Leading scorers of the team included Blake Becker, Brian Heims and Pablo Ostos. Leading with assists were Mason Lubben, Blake Becker, and Brian Heim.

Coach Connor said all season: "You have the talent; now you have to have the heart."



**One-Act Play**



*Congratulations,  
MV Large Group  
All-State Speech  
Participants!*

**Short Film**



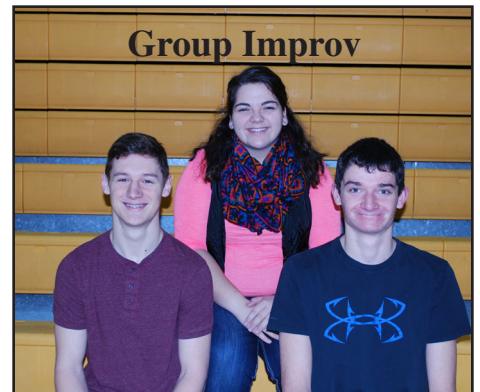
**Solo  
Mime**



**Readers Theatre**



**Group Improv**



**Radio  
Broadcasting**



**Group Improv**





## Best Buds



**McKenzie Lansing & Ryan Dunn**

**by Kristin Lucas**

**How did you meet?**

4th grade in Hoptown

**What's your favorite thing to do together?**

Ryan - rant

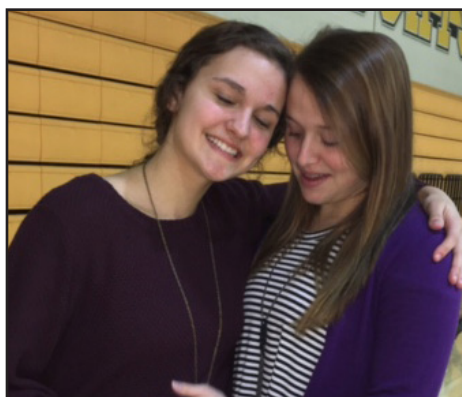
McKenzie - rant and go to DQ

**What's your favorite memory together?**

Ryan - field party

McKenzie - cactus couch

## Best Buds



**Maddy Anderegg & Madison Imler**

**by Hannah Lahr**

**How long have you been friends?**

Since last year during track

**Do you have any nicknames?**

Too inappropriate to name

**What's your favorite thing to do together?**

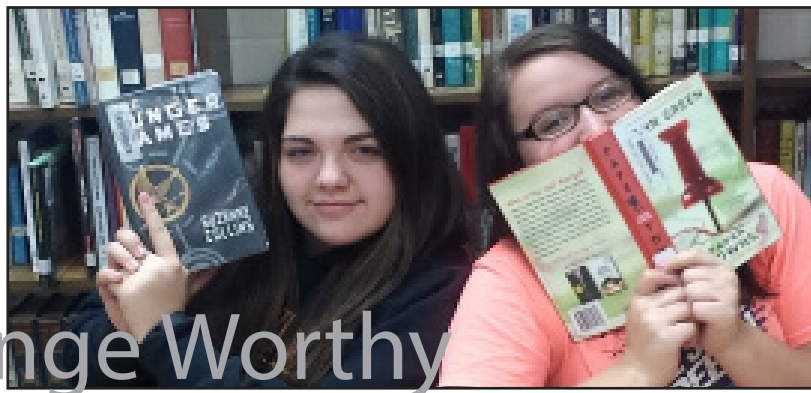
Maddy- make her Mad Madison-I like embarrassing. We like to help with each others problems

**What's one word to describe your friendship?** Funny and loving

**Where do you see the other person in 10 years from now?**

Maddy- Madison will have like 27 kids

Madison- Maddy will be lonely with dogs



## Binge Worthy

**Rebekah & Amanda:**

**Chong Garden in Manchester:** So we obviously love food. Chinese is definitely one of our main hit-ups. We highly recommend Chong Garden in Manchester. The food is great and the price is very reasonable. Our favorites are sesame chicken and crab rangoons. Go check it out for yourself today!

**Rebekah:**

**Beauty & The Beast:** I love love love this movie. This is by far one of my favorite Disney films. Belle loves her father very much, and she will do anything for him. So, when the time comes she sacrifices herself to a beast, and in exchange her father go. Belle, Gaston, the Beast, everything makes this movie perfect. Everyone must watch this movie at least one, but I advise that you watch it multiple times!

**Hometown Girl sung by Josh Turner:**

This song is one that I could listen to on repeat for hours. A song with a good beat, great vocals, and a good looking singer. This song is about a man loving a girl, and everything that she is. A great song, that everyone should take the time to listen to.

**Friends:** Ross, Monica, Chandler, Joey, Phoebe, Rachel. The six best friends, that everyone wishes their friend group could be like. Taking place in New York City, we follow the lives of the six friends as they attempt to navigate through: break-ups, proposals (numerous), jobs, dating, marriage, kids. A show that always has me laughing and wanting more. This show has easily become one of my friends, and as soon as you watch it there is no way that you won't love it too!

**Amanda:**

**How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days:** This romantic comedies has been one of my favorite movies ever since it came out. The story follows Andie, a magazine journalist, as she takes on the daunting task of written a piece about what women do drive away men. It also follows Benjamin as he tries to win a bet by having a women fall in love with him in ten days. This movie is hilarious and cute. Also, Matthew McConaughey is in it so, you're welcome.

**Shape of You sung by Ed Sheeran:**

Bekah of course introduced me to this song, and I haven't been able to stop listening to it. It's upbeat and makes you want to get up and dance. This song is different from everything else I listen to but I still enjoy it every time. Do yourself a favor and check out Shape of You.

**Glee:** This has become one of my all-time favorite show. It has quirky characters, great music and performances, and everything you could ever want. In a high school in Ohio Mr. Schue decides to take over the school's glee club. Through the seasons we see the glee club transform and grow. Every episode puts you on the edge of your seat and begging for more!

# The Cat Box Hall Smarts

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



A meow to the girls basketball team for their win over Wilton Tuesday night. They now take on Iowa City Regina Friday night in Iowa City. Go Wildcats!



A meow to the students who helped NHS raise funds for the Iowa Chapter of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.



A meow to our state qualifying wrestlers. Another meow to the fans who cheer them on.



A "break a leg" meow to the students who are competing at conference speech Monday night.



A meow to the administration for allowing our celebration of winter achievements yesterday.



A meow to the vocal jazz groups as they sing their hearts out at various festivals and clinics.



An enthusiastic meow to the clever theme nights for the student section.



## Birthday Shoutouts!

by **Chance Downs**

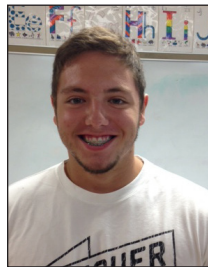
*It's never too early or too late to tell a fellow classmate Happy Birthday!*

This week's birthdays are:

2/18 - Zach Tanner  
2/19 - Abby Holtz  
2/20 - Daniel Hunter, Abraham Miles  
2/22 - Mitch Smith

by **Brody Severt**

Well, Wildcats, we have a short week this week, which I know we all appreciate. This week I had some trouble coming up with the theme for this week's issue of the Wildcat Echo. So I thought what better to do than to ask a lucky few of you some riddles? Tyson Tucker, Josie Young, Allie Knipper and Cody Hunter will be trying to guess these riddles.



What is the only room with no windows or doors?

Tyson: room service  
Josie: a basement  
Allie: the attic  
Cody: bedroom  
Answer: Mushroom

The more it dries the wetter it gets.

Tyson: a towel  
Josie: water  
Allie: towel  
Cody: sponge  
Answer: a towel

What belongs to you, but others use it more?

Tyson: your name  
Josie: my name  
Allie: your name  
Cody: identity  
Answer: your name

The man who built it doesn't want it, the man who bought it doesn't need it, the man who needs it doesn't know it.

Tyson: eh a boat  
Josie: coffin  
Allie: a coffin  
Cody: casket  
Answer: a coffin

A seven letter word containing thousands of letters.

Tyson: mailbox  
Josie: letters  
Allie: mailbox  
Cody: picture  
Answer: Mailbox

Good job to all our riddle solvers this week. These ones were pretty challenging, but you all gave it your best. That's all for this week folks. Also a good luck to all of the Wildcats at their district games, state wrestling, and all-state speech competitions.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MV the week of February 20, 2017

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2017 - FFA Camo Day

1. Deadline for Newsletter Articles for March - Please Give to Sue Kramer at Johnston Elementary
2. HS TRC Individual Speech Contest at Alburnett - 4:00 PM (Bluebird Bus Leaves at 2:30 PM)
3. MV Board of Directors Regular Monthly Meeting - MS Conference Room - 6:00 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017 - FFA Official Dress Day

1. MV FFA Subdistrict Contest at Ed/Co in Edgewood - 4:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2017 - FFA Shirts Day - State Officers Here

1. 7th & 8th Homework Assistance - MS Room 307 with Mrs. Scherrman - After School until 4:00 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017

- Transformation of Ag Day - Ag From the Past

1. Kindergarten Round-Up at Earlville Elementary 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM - NO KINDERGARTEN CLASSES
2. 8th Girls Engineering Day at Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids - 9:00 AM (Van Leaves at 7:45 AM)
3. 8th Girls Engineering Day at Rockwell Collins in Manchester - 9:00 AM (Bus Leaves at 8:30 AM)
4. MV FFA Staff Luncheon - HS Ag Room # 307 - 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM
5. Youth Wrestling Practice - HS Wrestling Room - PreK through 2nd: 6-7 PM / 3rd through 8th: 7-8:15 PM
6. MV Dollars for Scholars Student & Parent Meeting - Auditorium - 7:00 PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017 - FFA Boots & Bells Day

1. HS Vocal Jazz Clinic at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids (4 Vans Leaves at 9:30 AM)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017

HS District Individual Speech at MFL/MarMac in Monona -8:00 AM (Bluebird Bus Leaves at 6:00 AM)