

# Wildcat Echo

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A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

## Construction simulator stimulates interest

Several MV students learned more about careers in construction thanks to the Construction Equipment Operator Mobile Simulator in partnership with JB Holland, Roger Solberg-EOT Consultant/Trainer and NICC. Brent Thier with Taylor Construction was also on-site to share information on construction trades. Students were also able to learn about the trade through virtual reality. Right: Chance Kemp gets directions on how to use the simulator. (photos courtesy of NICC Manchester Center)



## Ah, sweet music fills the air



Mr. Ford has been pulling double-duty this fall as both band and choir director. Sunday, he directed the band and jazz bands, and then Monday night the choir performed. COVID-19 safety precautions were in place with limited admission. The concerts were livestreamed.



# 20 for 20: Big news in a wild year

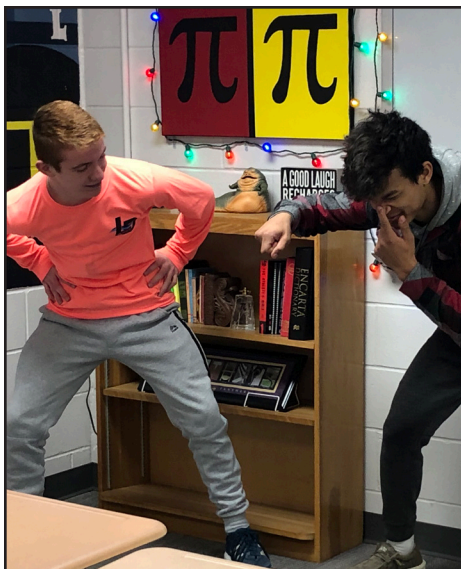
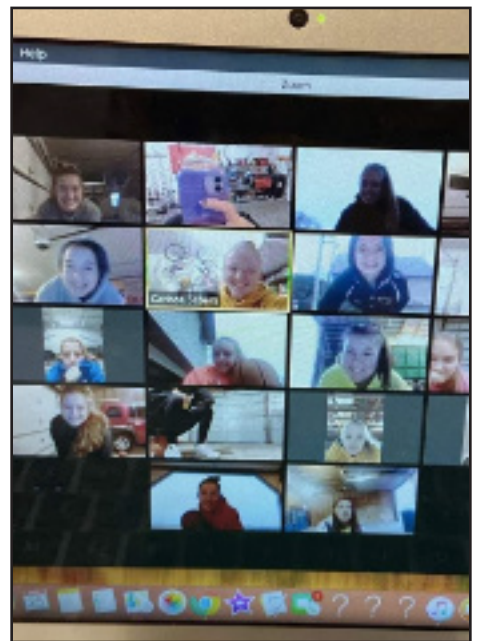
by Paige Winter

1. In the beginning of last January the boys basketball team won against Starmont with a buzzer beater 3-point shot by A.J. Ambundo. The score was 48-45.
2. In January the band students got to perform in the Tri-Rivers Conference Honor Band in Lisbon.
3. Late in the 2019-20 season, girls basketball reached a 14-1 record after another buzzer beater against Springville at home. The score ended up being 59-58.
4. At the annual Pink Out games during January, the basketball teams collected \$1200 to donate to the Chris Hucker family.
5. Fifteen large group speech groups advanced to state competition after receiving division one ratings at districts: 12 groups earned 1 ratings at state and 4 proceeded to all-state. For individual speech, MV hosted its own state contest shortly before the quarantine began. Ten individuals earned all-state honors, but no festival was held.
6. At the Music Association State Jazz Festival that MV hosted, both vocal jazz groups -- Smooth Harmony and Jazz Xpress -- received division 1 ratings.
7. Spanish IV students hosted a carnival parade through the hallways for the rest of the students.
8. FFA members gave out donuts before school and hosted the Ag Olympics in the afternoon for students to compete in class competitions during National FFA Week in February.
9. Smooth Harmony won the class 1A/2A jazz competition in Solon before moving on to Iowa vocal jazz championships (the



championships were unfortunately cancelled due to Covid-19).

10. FFA members placed in various events at sub-district Ag competition. Evan Elgin advanced to districts for getting first place. He placed fifth at districts.
11. After the school year ended, staff members Cheryl Gates, Sue Goldsmith, Greg Drew, Beth Mueller, Ann Norton, Pat Sabers, and Doug Tuetken retired from MV but are still a part of our Wildcat family!
12. MV girls and boys basketball stayed in touch by meeting over Zoom to do morning workouts during quarantine. The track and cross country teams also continued training by doing workouts and running over the extended break from school. Baseball and softball got a late start, but they did get a season in. The baseball team went 1-11, and the softball team was 7-10.
13. The MV drama program performed the spring play, *Stranded: Views from Quarantine* virtually by using Zoom.
14. Anna Nefzger and Teige Hunt were honored as the 2020 Homecoming King and Queen.



15. The volleyball team placed second in the conference at the end of a successful season and seniors Emerson Whittenbaugh and Ella Imler both reached 1000 digs. Whittenbaugh also reached the 1000 kills goal.
16. Fashion Design students made 150 masks to help with the pandemic during the first semester of the 2020-21 school year
17. Boys cross country won their conference meet for the first time in 20 years. They placed second at districts before advancing to state to win sixth place and end an exceptional season.
18. MV speech and drama presented *The Velveteen Rabbit* as the fall play.
19. Band and Choir performed virtual con-

certs. Covid did not stop them from sharing their talents. Pep band and marching band performances also prevailed this school year despite the pandemic.

20. The MV dance team posted a Tiktok of their "silly sack" dance that went viral and reached over 1 million views.



# Sports Connection

## Girls basketball team gets wins from more Tri-Rivers teams

by Tara Goedken

Last Friday night the Wildcats played against Cedar Valley Christian. The Wildcats came on top with a score of 79-4. In the first half, the Wildcats were able to score 57 points and 22 points in the second half.

On offense, Carissa Sabers led in points with 18 points, followed by Taya Tucker with 15 points, and Ella Imler with 12 points.

On defense, Kylie Chesnut led with 5 steals followed by Tucker with 4 steals and Haley Ronnebaum with 3 steals. Tucker led in rebounds with 10 followed by Emerson Whittenbaugh with 8 steals and Liz McDowell with 3 steals. Imler led in assists with 7 followed by Whittenbaugh with 6 assists.

On Tuesday night, the Wildcats traveled to East Buchanan to take on the

Buccaneers. The Wildcats came on top with a score of 36-26. In the first half, the Wildcats were about to score 19 points and 17 points in the second half.

Imler led in points with 14 points followed by Whittenbaugh with 12 points and Tucker with 7 points.

Whittenbaugh led in rebounds with 9 rebounds followed by Imler and Tucker with 4 rebounds each and Kennedy Rausch with 3 rebounds. Imler led in steals with 4 steals followed by Kylie Chesnut with 3 steals and Tucker with 2 steals. Imler led in assists with 3 assists.

On Thursday night, the Wildcats hosted Lisbon. The Cats won 64-21.

Tonight's game against North Linn has been postponed until after Christmas due to COVID issues at North Linn.

**Right: Freshman Haley Ronnebaum puts pressure on a CVC opponent.**



## Grapplers don't back down, battle with the biggest

by Kaitlyn Nolan

The Maquoketa Valley Wrestling Team faced a tough meet on Tuesday at home where they wrestled against Monticello, North Fayette Valley, and New Hampton/Turkey Valley.

Against Monticello, MV lost 52-24. Michael Shaul, wrestling at 145, won a match by decision, 7-2. At 182, Carter Kruse earned a pin. At the next weight class, Tim Harmon wrestled at 195 and earned a pin as well. Devon Smith won by forfeit at 220, and at 285, Brady Davis won by decision, 2-1.

North Fayette Valley beat MV 45-17. Michael Shaul won at 145, earning a technical fall. Wrestling at 195, Tim Harmon won by forfeit.

MV lost to New Hampton/Turkey Valley 78-6. Brady Davis, wrestling at 285, earned a pin.

"Last night's duals went very well. We went up against some tough kids," Coach Hatfield said about the tournament on Tuesday. "The good thing is we didn't



**Carter Kruse works over his opponent at the home meet Tuesday night. (photos by Lesa Parmely)**

back down. We stayed there and fought. Carter Kruse had a good night. Brady Davis was a small HWT but proved he could battle with the biggest of them."

This weekend the team travels to

Dewitt Central where they have another tournament with some talented wrestlers.

"It will be a good test for us," Coach Hatfield said.

# Dance team 'silly sack' video goes viral

by Paige Winter

If you were one of the few people in the gym or one of the many people watching the livestream of the varsity basketball games last Friday, you were in for a surprise. You might have known that the dance team was performing but you probably didn't realize that they would be dancing in colored costumes called silly sacks that the MV Athletic Boosters ordered for them.

Coach Teymer even posted a video of the dance on tik tok that has now blown up to over 1.3 million views. It also has 340k likes, and 7k comments (most of which were very positive). Most people thought that the video reminded them of the Alice in Wonderland cards, Gummy Bears, and Laffy Taffy.

Kendra Hillers, co choreographer, commented that the idea for this dance came around when her and coach saw some girls doing it at state last year and they thought that it might be fun to do. Then the sacks arrived in May and the rest was history.

It took about two weeks to choreograph the dance then learn it and critique it as much as possible before the performance. Coach Teymer said that though some girls were skeptical at first, by the time of the performance the excitement was at 100%, though some of the girls were still happy that no one can tell who was who while they were dancing.

Coach Teymer and Kendra both mentioned that the point of this dance was



simply to spread joy. With the rough year we've had the team wanted to spread a little silliness and make everyone smile and personally as I watched from the student section I can say they certainly succeeded.

But this dance did mean a little something extra to Kendra. She said that it taught her that she can achieve anything even if it seemed impossible at first. And to the team, the video blowing up meant that even a small group of girls from Iowa can make a difference and that they can have fun dancing in a way that isn't normally what they do.

As for the reactions of the team when they found out that the video was blowing up, Hillers said, "This is actually a

pretty funny story. We were waiting to perform for the boys game and one of the girls on the team had her phone and we were just watching the likes and the views go up. As the likes kept going up, we all started to freak out. When we got done dancing, we looked at our phones and the video had blown up."

And when asked about if there will be more Tiktoks in the future of the MVDT Kendra commented, "We have already posted another follow up video to the one that went viral, but for posting other videos of us we aren't sure yet. We have some ideas in mind but you will have to wait and see!"

## Boys get two more conference wins

The Wildcats are relying on both an inside and outside shooting game, and the results are paying off as they earn two more conference wins.

Last Friday night the Wildcats defeated Cedar Valley Christian 52-24.

Leading scorers were Andrew Holtz with 17, A.J. Ambundo and Avery Holtz with nine each, Mitch Heims with five and Miguel Bojorquez with four.

This past Tuesday the boys earned a road win over East Buchanan 54-37.

Leading scorers were Andrew Holtz with 16, Heims with 12 (he went 4 for 6 from the arch), Ambundo with 10 and Owen Mensen with nine.

Some leaders for the season so far:

Rebounds: Ambundo with 18  
Steals: Andrew Holtz with 6  
Assists: Avery Holtz with 21  
Blocks: Lucas Orcutt with 2

Last night the Cats hosted Lisbon. Lisbon pulled off a last second three-point-er to win 40-37.

**Right: Andrew Holtz heads to the basket with a CVC defender right behind him. (photos by Lesa Parmely)**





# what's up?

## Imagine you're on any professional sports team, what song are you walking out to?

by Paige Winter

Michael Schaul: Any Taylor Swift song, honestly

Brock Daack: "Firework" by Katy Perry

Carissa Sabers: "Scooby Doo Pa Pa" by DJ Kass

Mr. Dunlap: "Detroit Rock City" by Kiss

Jackson Hunter: "Loud and Heavy" by Cody James

Kendra Hillers: "Big Poppa" by The Notorious B.I.G.

Leah Ries: "Yeah!" by Usher

Mitch Hiems: "Astronaut in the Ocean" by Masked Wolf

Miguel Bojorquez: "Baby" by Justin Bieber

Devin Smith: "Welcome to the Jungle"

Emma Doyl: "7 Nation Army"

Mr. O: "Let's Get Ready to Rumble"

## MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Paige Panosh

In 2018, of the 83,517 liver disease deaths among individuals ages 12 and

older, 42.8 percent involved alcohol.

—NIH

## Comedy Corner

—compiled by Paige Panosh

Where do Santa's reindeer stop for coffee? Star-bucks!

How do the elves clean Santa's sleigh on the day after Christmas? They use Santa-tizer.

Why does Santa always enter through the chimney? Because it soots him.

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing, it was on the house!

What is a Christmas tree's favorite candy? Orna-mints!

What did one Christmas tree say to another? Lighten up!

Why did Santa Claus get a parking ticket on Christmas Eve? He left his sleigh in a snow parking zone.

## Fine Artists of the Week

Name: George Livingston

**What event(s) are you in for speech?**

For group speech I am in Reader's Theatre, and for individual speech, I will be doing prose and spontaneous speaking.

**What do you enjoy most about large group speech?**

The thing that I enjoy the most about large group speech is that you are allowed a rare look inside the people you perform with, to see their true feelings and outlook on life. Then you can observe how they use their personality to help act as somebody new for someone's entertainment.

**What have you learned through this event?**

Through speech, I have learned that people can have many different faces. The face you see during regular school hours is almost nothing like the person you actually get to act with and know.

**Who is your speech role model?** My speech role model will have to be the entire DeVore family. They all helped in some way to introduce me to speech.

In 8th grade, Mr. DeVore told me about what you could do in high school involving speech, Mrs. DeVore helped me understand the interworkings of literature and acting, but it was Noah DeVore who convinced me to join the speech program and I am glad I did.

**If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be?** Improv because you will never know what will happen, and I love to see how people use their wit when pressured.



Name: Kendra Hillers

**What event(s) are you in for speech?**

One Act

**What do you enjoy most about large group speech?**

Being able to be a completely different person.

We are all assigned a character and being able to really bring the character to life is something I enjoy a lot. Also working with other students and getting to know them and how they also interact on the stage.



**What have you learned through this event?**

Through this event I have learned that just playing the part isn't enough. You have to actually bring your character to life, and basically become the character you were assigned. I have also learned that not only do you have to make sure you are really bringing out your character but you have to bring out other people's characters too. The more you are outgoing and dramatic with your character, the more others will follow your lead.

**Who is your speech role model?** Lydia Helle. I got to be in Readers Theatre with her last year and the way she displayed her character and basically became the character in real life was always so impressive to me. She never had big parts, but her parts were always the ones you remembered.

**If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be?**

Definitely Readers Theatre, I love watching readers theatre and being a part of it. It is one of my favorite large group events.

Name: Brock Trenkamp

**What event(s) are you in for speech?**

my large group events are Group improv and One Act

**What do you enjoy most about large group speech?**

It's just a good opportunity to get to know other students better, whether its lower classmen or upper classmen

**What have you learned through this event?**

With improv you kind of just learn to get your way through any situation, you kind of learn how to make something out of nothing. With one act I learn a lot of acting kind of stuff, but you really just get to know other students in One Act.

**Who is your speech role model?** I really don't ever think of a role model for speech because I'm going to have different events and different abilities than other people. I guess if I would pick I would just say my older sister Shaylyn because she did a lot in speech and she was very good at it too.

**If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be?** Definitely improv because you never know what you're going to get, and there are some bad improv groups. Sometimes it just makes the ones that are good and funny even better.



# Best Buds: Josie Teymer & Zari Ambundo

by Amaya Hunt

**When/how did you two meet each other?**

Zari: We first met at soccer practice a while ago.

Josie: We met each other when I moved here in 5th grade. When my mom signed me up for soccer, I made friends with Zari. She and I sat on the side lines and ate watermelon the entire time.

**What about the other made you decide that you wanted to be good friends?**

Zari: I don't know what made me want to be friends with her... the first time I saw her come on the soccer field, I thought she was actually someone else! When I realized it wasn't, I went up to Josie and said "Hi" and we became friends.

Josie: I knew that I wanted to be friends with Zari as soon as I met her. She is nice, fun, supportive, and entertaining.

**Are you involved in the same activities together in school? What's your favorite thing to do together outside of school?**

Zari: We are cross country buds, and we are in track and choir together as well.

Josie: Zari and I are both in cross country together. We have so much fun at practice; one time, Zari pushed me into a ditch. Outside of school, I like to have her over and we watch scary movies and play Just Dance on my Nintendo. Or, we go to her house and do the same thing :)

**What's your favorite quality about the other?**

Zari: I absolutely love her personality and her style :)

Josie: Zari never fails to make me laugh. She is one of the funniest people that I know.



**Now on the other hand, what's your biggest pet peeve about the other?**

Zari: In 7th grade, she used to talk in a "cool girl voice" for the sole purpose of annoying me. She knew it bothered me, but she doesn't do it anymore now.

Josie: Sometimes Zari shares way too much personal info ;) Or when she gets food, that's all that she wants to talk about.

**As always... where do you see the other in five/ten years?**

Zari: I can see Josie graduating from college and living in a huge house. I think she'll become a famous fashion stylist who goes out with friends on the weekends to eat waffles. I also think that she would have her own pet cow, too. ;)

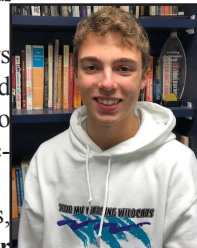
Josie: I think that in five years Zari and I will still be really good friends. I see us owning an apartment in New York and working together at a fashion firm.

## Quoted

by Matthew Brehm

Judging others is a tricky matter, and sometimes you need to step back and take a second look.

This week's quote is, **"Those who look for the bad in people will surely find it."** - Abraham Lincoln.



When I read this quote, the first thing that comes to mind is the scene in *Avengers: Age of Ultron* where Ultron scans the internet for information about humans. He uncovers footage of terrorism, warfare, and evil. He uses this to decide that humans are the cause of their own destruction. However, as Vision notes toward the end of the movie, Ultron overlooked the good in humanity. "There is grace in their failings."

It is easy to look negatively upon others, and even ourselves, when looking only at the bad. The beautiful thing about humanity is that no one is perfect, and the sooner we are able to embrace that and come to appreciate it, the better.

Think about someone you really dislike. Are they truly that bad of a person, or have you just been looking in the wrong spots? Maybe you don't see the full picture. Try to think about things you do appreciate about them. Heck, I encourage you to tell that person the things you appreciate about them. I'm sure we could all use some uplifting words at a time like this.

Learning to balance criticism with praise for others will make you more aware of them, their talents, and their weaknesses. Just like how we adjust our behavior and vocabulary to whomever is in the room, it may be necessary to do the same with our criteria for judgment. Everyone lives a different life, has different experiences, and has a different level of self-awareness and appreciation.

Next time you form an opinion of someone for their actions, flip the reaction. In what ways can their personality be beneficial? Can you learn anything from them? 99% of the time, you can find some source of good in people.

## Pep band lights up the gym

The pep band was hard to miss last Friday night, both because of its great music but also because of their bright colors.





# Cutie



by Matthew Brehm

This week's cutie is a senior. She has four siblings and one dog. She is also blonde. She works at Dollar Fresh. Second semester, she will have more college-credit classes than high school classes.

*Our last Cutie was Noah DeVore.*

## Meet the Freshmen



**Isabel, Trinity and Tate**

Name: Tate Monk  
Siblings: Two  
Activities you plan to be in: Football, baseball, and track  
Favorite subject: Earth Science  
Career aspirations: Pilot  
Hobbies: Jet skiing  
Something cool about you: My car

Name: Trinity Chadwick  
Siblings: Older sister named Corrinna  
Activities you plan to be in: None  
Favorite subject: Not sure  
Career aspirations: Police force  
Hobbies: Video games and horse back riding  
Something cool about you: I had cancer twice and survived

Name: Isabel Imler  
Siblings: Madison and Ella  
Activities you plan to be in: Volleyball, basketball, and track  
Favorite subject: Math  
Career aspirations: Nurse  
Hobbies: Watching YouTube  
Something cool about you: I'm the youngest in our grade



**Brady, Deion and**

Name: Lacey Barry  
Siblings: Anthony Mulinaro and Ceondia Kowalkse  
Activities you plan to be in: Wrestling and volleyball  
Favorite subject: Earth Science or Ag  
Career aspirations: Mechanic  
Hobbies: Volleyball, wrestling, and skateboarding  
Something cool about you: I have 2 birds and a weiner dog

Name: Deion Wilson  
Siblings: 1 brother  
Activities you plan to be in: Basketball  
Favorite subject: Science  
Career aspirations: Sports Announcer  
Hobbies: Basketball and football  
Something cool about you: Basketball

Name: Brady Davis  
Siblings: 2  
Activities you plan to be in: Football and wrestling  
Favorite subject: Ag  
Career aspirations: Electrician  
Hobbies: Hunting and fishing  
Something cool about you: Everything

Name: Rowan James  
Siblings: Ian James  
Activities you plan to be in: Football and track  
Favorite subject: Science  
Career aspirations: Agronomist  
Hobbies: Sports  
Something cool about you: I live in Earlville

### ***Warm your body and your soul***

NHS members Emilee Supple and Madeline Gellersen sell hot chocolate before school Monday. Students can support NHS's service project Friday morning and next Monday morning before school. Proceeds from the sale will be used to benefit some MV families in need. (photo by Paige Winter)

