

Wildcat Echo

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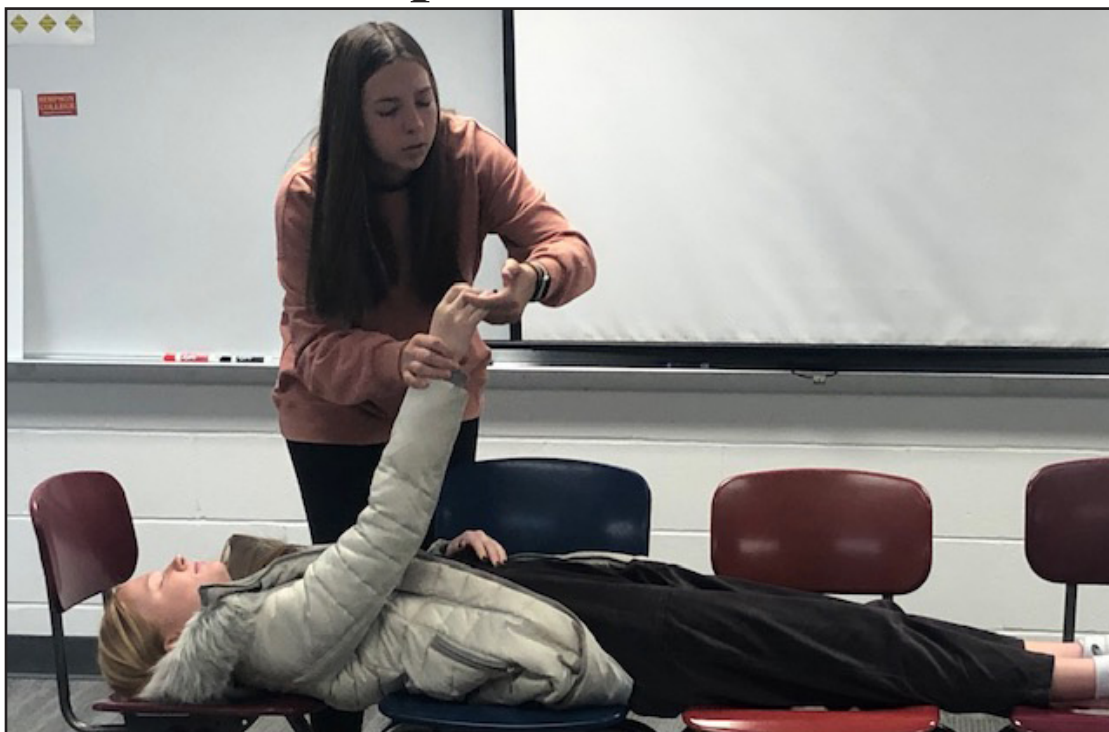
A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

MV instrumentalists join other talented TRC musicians



North Linn hosted the Tri-Rivers Conference honor band Monday. Students received the music in order to practice ahead of time and then rehearsed with other conference musicians in the afternoon. They then performed at the concert Monday night. Wildcats who participated include Kaela Clemen, Amanda Mohr, Kaitlyn Nolan, Adrienne Freiburger, Matthew Brehm, Joellen Beitz and Emma Richter.

Conference speech contest to be held Saturday



The large group speech season officially kicks off tomorrow with the conference competition hosted by Bellevue Marquette. Students have been rehearsing for several months.

Left: Carissa Sabers and Avery Holtz rehearse their group mime entitled "Dead Asleep." Kylie Chesnut and Caelyn Sands are also in the group.

Tough competition for Wildcats

by Toby Grimm

It was a week of tough conference matchups for the girls basketball team.

Last Tuesday night, the team took on the Alburnett Pirates in a riveting overtime victory, with a final score of 43-42.

Offensively, Bianka Ronnebaum led in points with 10, next to Erin Knipper and Kylie Chesnut with 8 each, followed by Haley Ronnebaum with 6, and lastly was Cariss Sabers with a solid 4 points. Kennedy Rausch and Caelyn Sands had a bucket each. Many different players contributed in assists. Bianka Ronnebaum, Rausch, Ella Mensen, and Erin Knipper all had a pair each, along Chesnut who had 1. Every score and pass was needed in order to pull off the win.

On the defensive end, Chesnut led in rebounds pulling down 7, followed by Bianka Ronnebaum with 4, next to Haley Ronnebaum, Knipper, and Sabers with 3 each. Rausch also pulled down a pair of boards. The team secured another close victory to get their seventh win of the year.

A week ago today, the girls team challenged the Starmont Stars at home, defeating them by a final score of 39-22 in a defensive battle.

The Wildcats played well defensively forcing 35 turnovers, led by Knipper with 5, just ahead of Rausch with 4, followed by Bianka Ronnebaum with 3, and ending with Sabers, Mensen, and Haley Ronnebaum with a pair each. The team also outrebounded the Stars, led by Knipper, who had 6, followed by Sabers, Chesnut, and Bianka Ronnebaum who each had 5, and finishing with Haley Ronnebaum who pulled down 4.

On the scoring end of things, Knipper led once again with 12 total points, shortly ahead of Haley Ronnebaum and Chesnut who each had 10, and ending with Sabers and Rausch with a bucket each to secure their 20th straight win against Starmont and their eighth win on the season.

This Tuesday the team faced the highly ranked Orioles of Springville and suffered a tough 56-36 loss against a very experienced Springville squad.

The Wildcats hung with the Orioles for the first half only down 9 points at half, but Springville came out of the second half strong. Chesnut led in scoring with 16 points on 7 for 13 from the field. Haley Ronnebaum had 11, and finishing with Bianka Ronnebaum and Caelyn Sands finish-



Kennedy Rausch works her way around a Springville defender Tuesday.

ing with 3 each.

Defensively, Haley Ronnebaum led in boards with 11, completing her first career double-double, followed by Chesnut with 10 rebounds which secured another double-double for her. Bianka Ronnebaum grabbed 5, and Sabers had 3.

The team had plans to face the Ed-Co Vikings at home, in hopes of getting a bounce-back win to get back on track for next week; however, due to limited numbers for MV due to illness, the game will be rescheduled.



The boys team has also faced some tough conference and non-conference competition. Last Friday the team played Starmont and won 81-18. Monday night the Wildcats traveled to Independence to take on the Mustangs where they lost 56-47. Tuesday, MV hosted ranked Springville and lost 66-33. The home game against Ed-Co that was scheduled for tonight will be rescheduled.

MV hosts two meets



Aidan Salow works his opponent at the Farr Jebens Invitational Tournament last Saturday. (photos by Lesa Parmely)

by Kaitlyn Nolan

It was a busy week last week for MV's wrestling squad as they had a home meet on January 6th against Ed-Co and Alburnett. Overall, the team beat the Vikings 36-30 but fell to the Pirates 18-60.

All points against Ed-Co were earned through forfeits.

In the Alburnett match, Brady Davis (wrestling up at Hwt) won by fall at 1:22, Aidan Salow (182) won by fall at 5:37, and Nathan Beitz won by fall at 1:04.

That Saturday, the Wildcats hosted the Farr Jebens Invitational and placed sixth overall with 114 points while Beckman Catholic won the tournament with 187 points.

Below are the individual placements:

6th at 106: Brendin Frasher
8th at 126: Arion Rave
8th at 138: Tyreese Crippen
145: Mason Jolley
3rd at 152: Michael Schaul
6th at 160: Kobe Peters
5th at 182: Aidan Salow
3rd at 195: Nathan Beitz
2nd at 220: Brady Davis
3rd in HWT: Devin Smith

The team had their Pink Out and Senior Night home meet last night against Midland and Central City. Results will be in next week's article.

Lucas Orcutt keeps his eye on the ball as he defends an Oriole Tuesday.

Big Games on the Big Stage

It's been awhile, hasn't it? Even though we had a break, collegiate sports did not. Basketball, wrestling, football, and gymnastics have been going strong this past month. The biggest games were probably the bowl games (and wow, I have beef with the Iowa-Kentucky game).

Iowa and Iowa State football came to a close this season after they both lost their bowl games, and both games were nail biters. Brock Purdy had a game full of fumbles and mistakes, but there was no worse game to watch than the Iowa game that took a bad turn for the Hawkeyes in the final minutes.

But hey, at least it's still basketball season.

The Iowa Hawkeyes men's basketball team had two strong wins against non-conference opponents SE LA and Western Illinois, beat a Maryland team by a small margin of five points, and were defeated by a strong conference opponent in the Wisconsin Badgers (which are now ranked #13 in the nation). Keegan Murray has been dominating the scoreboard though and is the nation's top scorer. Their last game was last night against Indiana at home, but the results will be in next week.

The ISU men's basketball team, now ranked #15 in the nation, had some nice wins against strong teams, suffered a loss against #1 ranked Baylor, and lost to an unranked Oklahoma over the break. The 13-3 Cyclones battle #21 Texas this Saturday in Hilton Coliseum.

The Iowa women's basketball team has been rocky this season, and the team is no longer ranked in the AP Poll like it had been at the beginning of the season. They lost to IUPUI (Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; good thing they abbreviated that, right?) after beating UCF by nine points, but they continued on to destroy Evansville. It must be a pattern because after losing to Northwestern, they defeated a Nebraska team that was coming off a win against #11 Michigan. If that's true, then they are scheduled to lose this Thursday at Indiana. Want a sense of déjà vu? Caitlin Clark is the nation's leading scorer, too, making it so both leading scorers are from Iowa.

The #9 Iowa State women's team is strong this year with their only loss being to LSU by nine points early in the season. They've beaten many ranked opponents,

and now they're set to face an unranked Oklahoma State team this Saturday in the Sooner State.

It's unfortunate for all Hawkeye wrestling fans as three-time national champion Spencer Lee is done for the rest of the season to properly take care of some old injuries of his. That doesn't stop the Hawkeyes from staying on top. They defeated #5 NC State and #14 Minnesota with Lee on the roster, and took down #15 Purdue last Sunday with true freshman Drake Alaya stepping in for the veteran. Their next dual is at Northwestern this Friday.

#11 Iowa State defeated #15 Purdue (must be an Iowa thing) and went on to dominate against Northwest Kansas Technical and CSU Bakersfield. Their next match is also Friday but is against Wyoming.

The newest addition to this column? Collegiate gymnastics! The Hawkeyes took down Eastern Michigan last Saturday and jumped the AP Poll from #18 to #9 after JerQuavia Henderson had a perfect night that made her the Big Ten Specialist of the Week. Their next match is against Texas Woman's University this Friday. Meanwhile, the Cyclones fell to Nebraska in their season opener, so they are hoping to pull off a win against Temple this Saturday.



by Kaitlyn Nolan

Athletes of the Week

Name: Tate Intorf

What position do you play? Shooting Guard

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? The environment

What's something about the sport that others may not know about? Height doesn't matter

What's been a favorite basketball memory? The bus rides home after a win.

Who's your basketball role model? Alex Caruso



Name: Paige Winter

What position do you play? I am a post

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I really enjoy spending time with the team, we have a lot of fun together in the locker room and just shooting free throws after practice with the other seniors. I also really like close and intense games, they are just more exciting and it's even better when you win a close one.

What's something about the sport that others may not know about? It's really a team effort, all 15 girls have to believe in the team for the team to win. Even if you're not playing you make an impact on the game everyone has to show up dialed in.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? My favorite memory is this past summer in the hotel room at Wartburg when we ordered our food from pizza hut, we seniors ordered four large pizzas, three orders of wings, and a bunch of breadsticks. The coaches and other girls said that there was no way we could eat it all. Sometimes we wanted to give up but we five seniors did it. We definitely regretted it the next day when we had to play a bunch of games.

Who's your basketball role model? I really admire Brooke Wilson. She was a senior when I was a freshman and I really looked up to her as a player and a leader. I also admire Megan Gustafson, I got to watch her a couple times at Carver when she was playing for Iowa and we got to talk to her when she joined our 7up club zoom during Covid and it was really cool to meet her.



State Dairy Judging Team Fundraiser

Farm Fresh
STRAWBERRIES
A Sweet Way to Fundraise

PACKED IN ONE POUND PLASTIC CONTAINERS. ONE FLAT = EIGHT POUNDS.

1/4 FLAT (2 LBS.)	\$ 10
1/2 FLAT (4 LBS.)	\$ 18
FULL FLAT (8 LBS.)	\$ 33

*Properly stored, strawberries will maintain best quality in the freezer up to 12 months.

*In addition to healthy snacking, this sweet fruit is a refreshing staple item for smoothies, desserts, baked goods, canning and more!

Contact
Lane,
Alia,
Courtney
or Haley
to order

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Kaela Clemen

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

Choral Reading and Radio Broadcast

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

There is less pressure than there is in Individual Speech.

What have you learned through this event/these events?

Teamwork is very important. Everyone does things differently, and not everything comes as easy to some people as others.

Who is your speech role model? Amaya, she always brings a laugh to every group she is in and she is really good at creating emotion in her speech events. Also all the coaches. They are amazing.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? Choral reading or improv.



Name: George Livingston

What event(s) are you in for speech? For group speech, I am in Reader's Theater and One-Act.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

The thing I enjoy the most

about large group speech is being able to perform and interact with others, especially upperclassmen. Honing your speaking skills with friends is such a fun experience!

What have you learned through this event/these events?

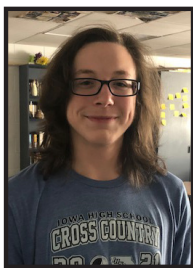
Through these events I have learned one very important thing, the larger the project, the more preparation is necessary. Having a large group of very active high schoolers with diverse interests really makes you need to double and triple-check schedules.

Who is your speech role model?

My speech role model would have to be Logan Johnson from the class of 2021. He really is the one who helped me find my confidence in public speaking through Spontaneous Speaking. I would not be the speaker I am today without him.

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

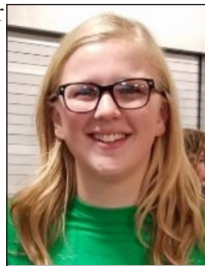
If I had to judge anything it would probably be One-Act because of how much effort goes into a one-act play. Being able to watch for mistakes and also for what goes really well would be very enjoyable.



Hall Smarts

by Cadence Freiburger

As we recover from last week's chilling temperatures, I asked some MV high schoolers some trivia questions on winter.



1. What is the state of sleep that some animals go into during the winter?

Brock Trenkamp: REM

Ella Mensen: Hibernation

Cece Trenkamp: Hibernation

Emily Hogan: Hibernation

Answer: Hibernation

2. What kind of snow is best for making a snowman?

Brock: Yellow

Ella: Snow that's started to melt

Cece: Fresh Snow

Emily: Packing Snow

Answer: Wet Snow

3. What country held the first Winter Olympics Games?

Brock: Wakanda

Ella: France

Cece: Spain

Emily: France

Answer: France

4. How many sides are there on a typical snowflake?

Brock: Infinite it's a fractal

Ella: 6

Cece: 8 sides

Emily: 6

Answer: 6 sides



by Matthew Brehm

This cutie lives outside of Manchester on Lake Delhi. Throughout her high school career, she has participated in band, speech, TEL, musical, and play. This cutie is a senior, and though she loves to travel, she has never been on a plane. She has blonde hair.

Last week's Cutie was Kansas Berthel.



Abstractions

by Matthew Brehm

Lately, I've been thinking about flags. This occurrence was sparked by the passing of HF 847—the bill that now requires public schools to display the U.S. flag and administer the pledge of allegiance to all students. Rising to show my devotion to my country on a daily basis has forced me to consider the social context of such behavior.

Though flags are defined as pieces of cloth representative of a nation or institution, there is clearly much more behind the tangible aspect. One image that immediately comes to mind is the painting, "Liberty Leading the People," which depicts a woman proudly raising her flag in the French Revolution. For an American example, there is, "Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima."

These depictions display the positive element of flags: they unite a large group of people under a common goal. Teamwork is formed from shared struggles and a sense of community. Flags create a common ground for people to connect.

However, there is also a negative element that cannot be ignored. Just as easily as they can foster connection, flags can also foster hatred. Nationalism that pushes others away forms in-groups and out-groups. When people unite under separate flags, there becomes a very distinct "us" and "them."

One of the worst cases of flag usage is arguably encapsulated by the Nazi flag, a symbol of hatred, ignorance, and racism. Millions gathered to state their undying devotion to forming a "pure" German state.

Of course, I'm not implying that the American flag is anything near the awful extremes that the swastika came to represent. It seems worthy of noting, however, the implications that can be injected into a simple piece of cloth. Undying devotion can be a good thing, yes; but when it goes too far, it can become exclusive and threatening.

Let us be wary of how much value we place on unifying symbols; when taken too far, they have the potential to impose on us exclusive tendencies that foster more harm than good.

