

# Wildcat Echo

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A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

## Vocal jazz students begin competition season



Members of Smooth Harmony include, from left: Addie Rudd, Noah DeVore, Carlie Lewin, Jesus Rumbo, Kaitlyn Nolan, Cece Trenkamp, Michael Van Meter, Keziah Ambundo, Brock Trenkamp and Chantel Crowley.

by Paige Winter

Last Thursday at the Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids a group of our most talented students performed at a vocal jazz competition. There were four other groups performing that day so our students got to watch other groups, perform, then receive a clinic with the judges to get more precise feedback about how the group can improve. Our Wildcats rep-

resented Maquoketa Valley in a great way! Senior Brock Trenkamp noted that even though their first full run through of all the songs together was that morning, the group pulled everything together for a fantastic first performance.

Director Ms. Huber commented that even though it was the group's first competition and there were some nerves throughout the group, the students all per-

formed really well. Even though this was an earlier competition date than in previous years and the team was crunched on time to prepare they still came out ready to go: "Their songs were in a really good place and they just work extremely well as a group and that showed in the performance. I was really proud of how prepared they were, and how hard they worked."

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Karla Chavez, Brianna Hines, Kayla Otting, Kansas Berthel, Sami DeMoss, Lauren Knock and Sheri Mast attended the "Women's Empowerment & Personal Enrichment Conference" at NICC in Calmar with Mrs. McDermott Wednesday. At the

conference, they listened to guest speakers, including Carrie Romo (pictured above) and shared information about activities their schools. In her heartwarming speech, Romo talked about her color and how she didn't get to fit in with the crowd in her



younger days.

The participants gained new perspectives about confidence in and out of the workplace, goal-setting, acceptance of self and others, and personal growth.

"I will use this in the future," stated Berthel. "It will give me more confidence about myself and learn to have faith in one another, and also everyone is the same person: Color doesn't matter!"



# Boys go 1-2 in conference play

Wildcats T.J. Cook, Toby Grimm, Lance McShane and Kody Hoeger prep for the rebound in the game against Starmont this week. Tonight the Wildcats take on Springfield. (photos by Lesa Parmely)



by Chantel Crowley

Our Wildcats have an overall record of 8-11 after adding a win recently.

Last Friday, the MV Boys Basketball team played a home game against Alburnett, where they lost 38 to 44.

Top scorers include Kody Hoeger with 14 points, Avery Holtz with 11, Lance McShane with five, and Toby Grimm and Brock Trenkamp with four each.

For assists, Grimm had four and Landen Deutmeyer, Holtz, and McShane had one each. As for rebounds, Trenkamp had six, McShane had five, Hoeger and Deutmeyer had three each, TJ Cook had two, and Grimm had one.

The boys' next game was on Monday where they traveled to Central City. They lost 45 to 51.

Top scorers were Deutmeyer with 11, Hoeger with nine, Grimm with eight, Cook and Holtz with six each, and Lucas Orcutt with five points.

For rebounds, Hoeger had ten, Orcutt had five, and Deutmeyer had four. McShane, Trenkamp, and Grimm had three rebounds each, Holtz had two, and Cook had one. For assists, Holtz had five, Deutmeyer had three, and Orcutt and Grimm had one each.

The next game this week was Tuesday. They played at Starmont, where the boys won 62 to 44.

Top scorers include Holtz with 17, Orcutt with 14, and Hoeger and McShane with eight points. Cook scored seven points, Trenkamp scored four, and Grimm and Deutmeyer scored two each.

As for rebounds, Deutmeyer and Orcutt had five, Hoeger and McShane had four each, Cook had three, Brock Daack had two, and Trenkamp and Holtz had one each. For assists, Holtz had four, Grimm and McShane had two each, and Deutmey-

er had one.

Coach Conner described some of the factors affecting the team's win-loss record, including not having a returning letter winner able to play. "With the loss of AJ to start the season, we knew that we were going to have to have some younger or inexperienced players step up and play roles that they hadn't had to do before," stated Coach Conner.

Another factor includes the incredibly tough conference play the Wildcats face. "Our strength of schedule is ridiculously tough, both in our conference and out of conference. In our conference alone, we play 6 top 25 teams in the BC Moore Rankings. We also faced Clayton Ridge, who is ranked #34 in the rankings, and Independence, who is ranked #54 in the rankings in 3A. So with this type of competition that we have faced to this point with an inexperienced team, we expect that we are going to struggle at times.

Regardless, Coach Conner shared that this team has something to be happy about: "I am very proud of the way that our team has competed in some of those games against the ranked teams that we have played. This is a goal that we have been really focusing on, and that is just being able to compete for four quarters in all of our games. We have two regular-season games left to be able to continue to work towards that goal and then we get ready to start our post-season. I am excited to see our hard work pay off for us and to see how far it can take us in the post-season."

**Sophomore Haley Ronnebaum puts up a three against Starmont Tuesday.**

## Wildcats have busy week by Toby Grimm

Last Friday, the Maquoketa Valley Girls Basketball team challenged the Alburnett Pirates on Senior night, and came out victorious by a final score of 38-27.

Kennedy Rausch and Haley Ronnebaum led the chase with 9 points each, just ahead of Bianka Ronnebaum who had 8, followed by Carissa Sabers and Kylie Chesnut with an efficient 6 points each.

The team's defense was locked down, forcing 36 total turnovers, grabbing 23 steals, and only allowing 10 points in the second half. Haley Ronnebaum led in steals with 9, Chesnut had 5, Caelyn Sands with 3, and Bianka Ronnebaum and Sabers with a pair each to secure the win over the Pirates of Alburnett.

On Saturday, the girls played at home against the Turkey Valley Trojans in a close non-conference battle that ended with the Wildcats on top by a final score of 44-41.

On the scoring end, Ella Mensen led with 12 points, shooting a flawless 5/5 from the field along with Bianka Ronnebaum who also had 12. Haley Ronnebaum had 5, just ahead of Sabers with 4, and Sands and Rausch with 3 each.

The team rebounded very well, out boarding the Trojans by 8 and pulling down 24 rebounds total. Leading the team was Chesnut with 9 rebounds, Erin Knipper had 4, Ella Mensen had 3, and Sabers and both Ronnebaum sisters had a pair each. Every stop and score was needed in order to pull off the win and advance to 11-7 on the season.

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## Vocal jazz, continued

Ms. Huber is right, the improvement has absolutely shown from all the hard work these students have put in. Sophomore Cece Trenkamp mentioned that they are most proud of the group for how much better they have gotten since October when they first received their music.

They performed three songs, "New York State of Mind," "A Cloudy Day in April," and "Straighten Up and Fly Right."

You can look forward to another performance this Monday, February 7th right here at MV. The Wildcats will be hosting Vocal Jazz State Contest for eight other schools where groups will be judged and receive a division rating. The Wildcats perform at 7:10pm, but there are groups performing starting at 3:30pm. You can expect to hear the same three songs, but also be excited for the addition of two new songs by the end of the vocal jazz season including "Just in Time."

Looking past this week the vocal jazz season for this team is just beginning. Though they will attend more competitions and clinics, these are not necessarily leading up to anything, they are just to help the group to keep improving. However the group is working towards a goal, they will be submitting recordings later in February to be considered for the Iowa Vocal Jazz State Championships which take place in March. The group is ecstatic to keep working on their music. Brock also commented, "I think I can speak for everyone when I say we have a really good group this year. I think our group really works together well and has fun while doing it, so I'm excited to go through the season with them."

Stay tuned to follow the future success of these awesome Wildcats!

## Girls basketball, continued

This Monday, the Wildcats faced up against a tough and physical Central City team on the road, and couldn't quite come back to win it late, losing 58-54.

The team played their fourth game in five days on Tuesday night against the Starmont Stars and secured the hard fought win with a final score of 49-23.

Tonight the girls squad takes on the 18-1 Springville Orioles. The statistics for these games will be in the next Echo.

## Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Carter Klaren

**What event are you in for speech?** I am in One Act and Readers Theater

**What do you enjoy most about large group speech?** Working together with a group of classmates to create a play/scene that the audience can enjoy.

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

That it really isn't too difficult to speak in front of large crowds, you just have to go for it.

**Who is your speech role model?** Definitely Mr. DeVore. He can do just about any character you can imagine to help his students in speech.

**If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be?** Probably One Act. It takes the most time and preparation out of any of the large group speech competitions. It would also be fun to see the different costumes and props used by other schools to set a scene.



Name: Emilee Supple

**You recently filled in for students who were ill so that the events could perform. What did you have to do to prepare for these last-minute changes?**

To prepare for these last minute changes I had to talk to Mr. DeVore and the other students who were in the event to figure out where I should always be standing during the performance.

**What do you enjoy most about large group speech?** I love the family atmosphere we have.

**What have you learned through this event?** I learned that even in last minute circumstances everything will come together and work out if you have a great team to help you.

**Who is your speech role model?** My speech role model would be Mrs. DeVore because she is always there to help the students.

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



## Athletes of the Week

Name: Jada Knipper

**What position do you play?**

Guard

**What do you enjoy most about playing basketball?** Spending time with my team and the people

**What's something about the sport that others may not know about?**

There's more strategy than people think

**What's been a favorite basketball memory?**

In Spirit Lake when my room got a noise complaint even though we weren't even being that loud and the whole Spirit Lake experience.

**Who's your basketball role model?**

Ella Imler and Sam Wall



Name: Nathan Beitz

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

Hangout with the team and wrestling everyone in practice.

**What's something about wrestling that others might not know?**

It teaches you many life lessons.

**How do you mentally prepare for a match?**

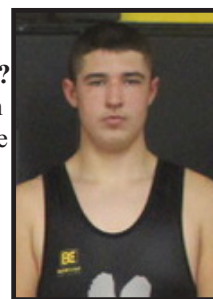
Run sprints

**What's your goal this season?**

Make it to state

**Who's your wrestling role model?**

Ryan Parmely



# what's up?

**Which do you prefer: fountain, canned, or bottled pop?**

by Paige Winter

Molly Anderegg: fountain

Kennedy Rausch: I don't like pop

Brooke Hogan: fountain

Kylie Chesnut: fountain

Preston Roling: bottled

Anna Deutmeyer: canned

Kendra Hillers: fountain

Keziah Ambundo: bottled

Michael Van Meter: glass bottle

Kobe Peters: canned



# Wrestlers finish fifth at conference tourney, Davis places second

The wrestlers went through some tough battles at the Tri-Rivers conference meet in Lisbon Saturday and came home with a fifth place finish with 98 points. Lisbon won with 216.5 points.

MV finishes include (season records in parentheses):

106 Brendin Frasher (12-19) placed 5th  
126 Arion Rave (9-21) placed 6th  
138 Tyreese Crippin (14-23) placed 5th  
145 Mason Jolley (7-16) placed 4th  
152 Michael Schaul (26-6) placed 3rd  
160 Kobe Peter (14-19) placed 6th  
182 Aiden Salow (21-11) placed 3rd  
195 Nathan Beitz (21-9) placed 3rd  
220 Brady Davis (21-11) placed 2nd  
285 Devin Smith (31-3) placed 3rd

Tomorrow the Wildcats compete at Sectionals at MFL-MarMac.



Freshman Nathan Beitz has his opponent right where he wants him. Beitz finished third at the conference meet Saturday. (photo by Lesa Parmely)

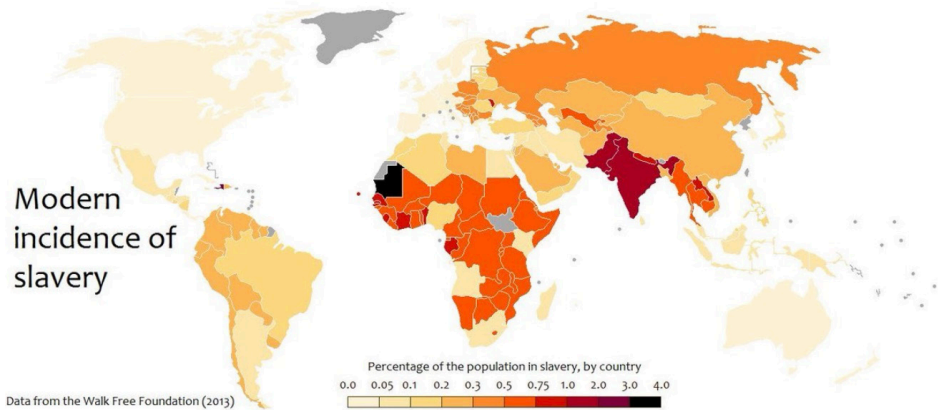
## Diversity Club Insight: Modern-Day Slavery

by Matthew Brehm

One of the primary functions of this monthly article is raising awareness about issues that often go unnoticed/unrepresented. Unfortunately, this includes the issue of slavery and human trafficking, which is one we too often forget about in our first-world society. I'll be the first to admit that I'm by no means an expert on the subject, but I was able to find a number of facts and statistics regarding this horrific mistreatment of people that may shed some light on it.

As of 2020, the global number of human trafficking victims who were identified totaled nearly 110,000. However, this number is only a mere fraction of the reality of the situation, as it is estimated that there are over 40 million victims of slavery in the world today. What's more, a quarter of these victims also happen to be children. Much of this degrading industry resides in underdeveloped or developing nations, where much of the population is desperate for money. However, we are still very much affected by it in the U.S. Roughly 403,000 people in this country are living under conditions of slavery at any given moment.

Many times, human trafficking takes hold of people before they even realize it's happening to them. Rebecca Bender—a woman from Oregon forced into prostitution by a man she thought loved her—recounts her survival story with vivid detail. "I felt trapped. I felt like, How am I gonna get out of this? You didn't know if you were going to live or die." In parts



of Africa and Asia, it is not uncommon for mass numbers of people to be captured while fleeing war or persecution, being branded with numbers and transported as cargo to European Mediterranean ports. While we may think the world today is far-removed from the disgusting slave-purchasing practices prevalent in the southern United States hundreds of years ago, the conditions are almost no different for those victims.

Victims often consist of people in unstable living conditions who are in times of distress. It is easy to fall prey to a trafficker, especially if they seem very friendly and helpful. As far as identifying victims goes, if someone appears to be paranoid and submissive with signs of physical abuse, they may well be a victim of trafficking.

Be weary of your surroundings and don't be afraid to report suspicious ac-

tivity. Slavery is an issue that dehumanizes millions of people each day, and until we turn our attention to it, the problem will not get any better.

Sources:

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# Cutie



by Matthew Brehm

This cutie lives in Earlville and has blonde hair. She is involved in volleyball, track, softball, TEL, 4-H, and band. This week's cutie works at Fareway, and an interesting fact about her is that she is adopted. Last week's Cutie was Jesus Rumbo.

## MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Paige Winter

**4 percent** of Americans met the criteria for drug use disorder in the past year and about 10 percent have had drug use disorder at some time in their lives.

### Comedy Corner

—compiled by Paige Winter

Why were they called the Dark Ages? Because there were lots of knights.

How does NASA organize a party? They planet.

What did the big flower say to the little flower? Hi bud!

What's sticky and brown? A stick!

Why is no one friends with Dracula? Because he's a pain in the neck.

What did one toilet say to the other? You look flushed.

## FFA Student of the Month

Allison Hogan



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

I enjoy all of the opportunities that are in FFA.

**What events have you been involved in throughout your time in FFA?** I have been involved in Ag biotech, conduct of a meeting

**What is your biggest accomplishment in FFA?** My biggest accomplishment is getting second place in non-reasoning dairy judging.

**What is your biggest takeaway from being involved in FFA?** My biggest takeaway from being in FFA is that you can't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone.

**What skills have you gained from FFA?** The skill I have gained is leadership

**Explain your SAE (Supervised Agricultural Experience).** My SAE is my sheep and it's a project that I am passionate about. I take records of what I do with my sheep every other Friday in ag class.

**What advice would you give to underclassmen involved in FFA?** My advice would be to get out of your comfort zone

**Why would you recommend someone to join FFA?** I would join FFA because you can learn a lot that is not taught in the school like leadership.

## Abstractions

by Matthew Brehm

On January 26th, when we were blessed with the gift of a no-school day, I knew it was just the right opportunity to make a trip to Dubuque, as I had some documents I needed to drop off there.



On my way back, I decided to stop at Walmart for a bit. I'd been in need of a USB-C to USB adapter to accompany my school laptop, as I knew a time would come when I needed to plug a flash drive into it. With a slim selection between two USB-C ports and an aux-in, the adapter will surely broaden my opportunities. Though I haven't used it much with this laptop yet, I'm certain it will find more use in the future.

After all, the USB-C port is becoming more mainstream. Apple has already implemented the ports in its MacBooks and iPads, a move that coincides with the relatively recent shift in Android devices from micro-USB to USB-C.

All of this is spread out beneath the looming presence of the EU, which threatens to ban the sale of devices which do not make the jump to USB-C, including iPhones. This initiative is predicted to remove thousands of tons of discarded cables from our carbon footprint and unify the industry.

With all of that in mind, I'm confronted with a realization that I haven't been old enough to think about before the last couple of years: the world around us is changing quickly, and even I'm beginning to struggle in keeping up with it.

My dad is currently looking for a "new" Windows 98 PC tower with a floppy disk drive. This part is absolutely essential, as the cabinet design program he uses for the family business operates on floppy disks. While I'm sure some readers are laughing and others are raising an eyebrow in confusion, it's something I've come to understand. The world as we know it has been changing rapidly, and this is a phenomenon generation after generation has experienced.

I ponder at what age an individual loses interest in modernity and instead opts for consistency. Is chasing the "new" and "exciting" a meaningless pursuit, or is it a necessary mantle that must be passed from generation to generation? Can we ever really "catch up" to change? I do wonder...