

## First-year members learn more about FFA

Several MV newcomers to FFA learned more about the program recently. Students include, front row: McKayla Weber, Karly Kerch, Ford Domeyer and Lexi Ries; back row: Carter Heidt, Ty Hoeger, Brady Wall, Ian Krogmann, Dexter Dietiker and Jackson Schnittjer.



by Lainey Knipper

Maquoketa Valley FFA has another event under their belt. The chapter had 10 first-year FFA members participate in Greenhand Fire Up this past Monday, October 17 at Waverly-Shell Rock. The members learned what FFA is all about and also

met the Iowa State FFA Officer Team.

The 10 members who went are Carter Heidt, Ty Hoeger, Brady Wall, Ian Krogmann, Dexter Dietiker, Jackson Schnittjer, McKayla Weber, Karly Kerch, Ford Domeyer and Lexi Ries.

## Trying to join the musical elite

by Chantel Crowley

It's that time of the year again! All state vocal and instrumental auditions are on Saturday, Oct. 22, and MV has six auditionees.

McKenna Bush will be auditioning for the band. She says, "I have prepared for my audition by lots of practicing. All summer I practiced scales and learning different etudes until they were officially announced in the fall. When school started I began lessons twice a week and have worked on learning and getting better at all the pieces of the audition."

"Through the rehearsal process I have learned a lot about patience. A lot of the music was difficult and I couldn't learn it in one practice session. For example one of the etudes is very fast and I couldn't play it anywhere close to the right tempo at first."

For choir, there are two groups. Cece Trenkamp, tenor, and Julia Ambundo, soprano, are auditioning together. Cece says that she has been listening to and singing along with the tracks, and together, they have been practicing.

The other group consists of Jesus Rumbo, bass; Chantel Crowley, alto; and Kaitlyn Nolan, soprano. They have been preparing by rehearsing altogether after school.

Kaitlyn commented, "There are many different elements in music that play a role in making a song sound beautiful and unique. Each piece this year is completely different from another which I find amazing although they are extremely difficult."

The auditions will be held in Independence again this year. Good luck to everyone auditioning!

## Band, vocal concerts showcase first quarter efforts



In addition to performing at all of the half-time games, playing for High Five Friday and the homecoming pep rally and parade, rehearsing for the musical and preparing for All-State auditions, the high school band and choir students also shared their talents at their fall concerts earlier this week.

Above: The marching band showcased their halftime music.

Right: Senior Brooklynn Lamers waits for a song to begin.



**Halloween Costume Contest**  
Monday, Oct. 31  
Prizes for top three best costumes

# Sports Connection

## Volleyball season comes to an end

by Toby Grimm

Last Thursday Night the Wildcat Volleyball Team traveled to Edgewood Colesburg High School to compete in the Tri-Rivers Conference Tournament. The first opponent was the Ed-Co Vikings. The cats came out on the losing end, losing 0-2 (16-21, 14-21). Offensively, Kennedy Rausch led the team in assists (16). Lanni Beaman led in kills (5), followed by Alexis Halverson (4), and Haley Ronnebaum and Grace Richter (3 each). Defensively, Lili Bauers led in digs (7), followed by Kiera Leytem, Haley Ronnebaum, Binaka Ronnebaum, and Grace Richter (3 each). The cats served just over 90% from the line, but it was not enough to defeat the Vikings.

The team then played Central City in a battle of the Wildcats. The sets were very up and down but our Maquoketa Valley Wildcats proved to be the better cats, winning 2-1 (21-14, 11-21, 15-13). On the offensive end, Rausch led in assists (19). Haley Ronnebaum and Lanni Beaman led in kills (9 each), followed by Richter (3). Defensively, Bauers led in digs (13), followed by Beaman (10). Haley Ronnebaum was on top of the blocks (3). The team had two aces from the line, coming from Bea-

man and Rausch (1 each), to claw their way to a victory over Central City.

The team then challenged the East Buchanan Buccaneers in their last game of the day, and came out victorious by a final score of 2-0 (21-12, 21-11). Rausch led in assists (16). Richter was on top of the kills (6). Bauers led in digs (9). Haley Ronnebaum had blocks (2). The squad ended the day going 2-1 and gained some confidence going into district play.

The first round of district games took place on Monday night, which took the Wildcats squad to Troy Mills to take on the Lynx of North Linn. The team battled a tough 4 sets, but ended up losing 1-3 (21-25, 13-25, 26-24, 14-25). Offensively, Rausch led in assists (31). Haley Ronnebaum led in kills (15), followed by Beaman (6), and Richter and Halverson (4 each). On the defensive end, Bauers led in digs (28), Knipper and Beaman (17 each), and Bianka Ronnebaum (13). The team served 94.6% as a team, with an ace coming from both Knipper and Huber, but it was not enough to defeat the Lynx, and bringing the volleyball season to an end.

Rausch was recognized for reaching the 500 assist milestone.

## Burbridge, Schaul make it to State

MV has left its mark on several courses, and the hills of Fillmore couldn't stop some Wildcats from their goal: State Cross Country.

Freshman Taryn Burbridge finished seventh in the girls race which punched her ticket to state. She ran 22:01.9, which is nearly identical to her time when she ran that course in September.

Sophomore Matthew Schaul will be making a return trip to State after his sixth place finish in 17:45.98. When Matthew ran that course at the Sept. 15 meet, he ran a 18:28.

The state meet is in Fort Dodge, with 1A and 2A running on Friday, Oct. 28. The 1A girls' race starts at 10:30 with the boys starting at 11:15.

Other girls' results:

Isabel Imler, 28th, 25:04

Allison Hogan, 43rd, 27:33.5

McKenna Bush, 53rd, 28:51.7

The boys then got their turn, and the team finished third with 115 points behind Cascade (61) and Clayton Ridge (90).

Other boys' results:

George Livingston, 12th, 18:13.96

Arion Rave, 15th, 18:36.31

Toby Grimm, 47th, 20:34.75

Kenyon Baker, 52nd, 20:46.97

Brady Eike, 56th, 20:56.76

## Friday Night Lights energy





# You have to fall before you can fly

by Erin Knipper

Dong... Dong... Dong! That is one of many sounds you would hear at a Maquoketa Valley football game this year. However, this hasn't been the case for MV football in the past couple of years. Last year, the team struggled to get on its feet. Anything that the coaches put together seemed to fall short of their goals. With a record of 1-7, the Wildcats didn't make it to the playoffs for the fourth year in a row.

This year the new team has changed. With one regular season game left, they are guaranteed a spot in the playoffs with an overall record of 5-2. This will end the program's four-year drought of missing the playoffs. What could have changed in nine short months?

The head coach of the Wildcats, Trevor Arnold, has mentioned three key ideas that have stuck out to him: commitment, leadership, and a good group of guys. Although these have improved drastically, the Cats all had one problem on their mind at the beginning of the season. The number of guys who were committed to playing for the 2022 season. Losing eight seniors along with multiple underclassmen put the coaches into a bind. A total of 20 players would wind up going out this year: two seniors, three juniors, four sophomores, and 11 freshmen, meaning only one-fourth of them would have varsity experience going into the season.

The freshmen would have no choice but to step up and play a significant role on the team. With five total freshmen starting on offense and defense, and all of them getting varsity snaps, they quickly began to realize what varsity football consists of. The freshman boys have jumped right into their role and have been committed since day one.

But, not just the freshmen are committed to doing their jobs, so is the other half of the team. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday all of these athletes are up at the crack of dawn, pushing themselves to be better in the weight room. The atmosphere in the room has been scarce for the last couple of years. Each of the guys pushes one another to "get one more," but ultimately the intensity has been brought to Maquoketa Valley from all the coaches, but one specifically, Coach Orr. His intensity is shown throughout the weight room and at practices. This motivates the guys to push

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***"We are a family this year. All of these guys care about each other and would do anything for one another."***

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***—Carter Klaren, senior***

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to the next level on and off the field. Similar to Orr comes Coach Hatfield. Hatfield is the guy who holds the boys to be accountable for their responsibilities. Another coach that has joined the team is Coach Wall. He has been with these freshmen since they were young. He also has football knowledge that the team takes advantage of during each game. One man who has been around for many years and is also very knowledgeable about the game is Coach Whitman. He doesn't say a whole lot, but when he does every single player is listening. Out of all the coaches, Coach Moenck holds the Cats to high expectations. Every single play he is making sure the players are giving 100 percent. Lastly, Coach Arnold is what holds the team together, as he cares and watches out for all of the guys who are on his team. These coaches take a portion in why the football team has had success this year. Leadership also takes a portion of this successful season.

Leadership is something that a team either has or doesn't have. This year the upperclassmen have taken the underclassman under their wing. These leaders have taken on the role of changing the culture in the football program. They have held themselves along with the younger guys to a higher standard, making sure that everyone is showing up to practice and lifting, along with making sure everyone is giving their best effort during games and practices.

After the first game, senior Lucas Orcutt thought of a way that would make this team



closer. He wanted this team to be more than a team; he wanted it to be a family. Now, every Saturday after weightlifting, all of the guys go to Sunset Family Restaurant in Manchester. These boys have successfully become a family. Carter Klaren, another senior on the team, stated something very similar. "We are a family this year. All of these guys care about each other and would do anything for one another."

"I love you guys." Those are the words that Coach Arnold heard from a player on the bus ride home after winning against Starmont. These boys care about one another but they also care about everyone at Maquoketa Valley. These players aren't only responsible on the field, but they also show it in the classroom. The guys make sure they have completed assignments, along with keeping their grades up so they are eligible to play. Outside of the classroom and the field, these players positively represent Maquoketa Valley.

As the Wildcats begin their post-season, they are here to prove a lot of people wrong. Lucas Orcutt and Carter Klaren, the seniors, will never get these days back. These two will do everything in their power to lead this team as far as they possibly can go. "We want that success. We want to play as long as possible. Make memories as long as we can because nothing is guaranteed," concluded Coach Arnold.

The team plays Columbus at Columbus Junction tonight in the first round of playoffs.

## Fine Artist of the Week

Name: TJ Cook

**What part do you sing in choir?** I sing tenor.

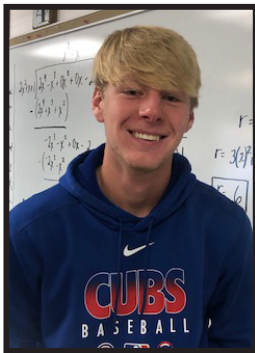
**What do you enjoy most about being in choir?**

I enjoy being around all of the great people every day. It's sort of a relaxing period each day where you have fun but also get work done. All in all it's just a great experience.

**How has your life benefited by being in choir?** I've met a lot of great people who I probably wouldn't have ever met without choir. It's also a point in each day that is fun and I think that's very important having a time each day to do something you really enjoy.

**If you could sing a duet with any singer, who would it be?** Oh wow, that's a tough question. I think singing with Lewis Capaldi would be really cool.

*"TJ is the tenor section leader, and he does great work as a leader in choir."*  
—Ms. McCrary



## Student of the Week

*Payton Brown*

**You've been nominated for your positive and friendly attitude towards staff and teachers. How did you learn to be so friendly?** How I learned to be friendly is by not letting the personal things in life get in the way of being nice to other people. I always try to stay positive towards other people. It leads to a better day. My family is the key thing to me being who I am, they say always stay true to yourself. Sometimes we'll have bad days, or have good days, always keep your head up.

**You have also learned to manage to keep your grades up while working a lot. What's your key to time management?**

My key to management is keeping track of my dates that I have to work, what time I have to work, and most important keeping up with my homework. As soon as I get my homework or project I work on it right away and if I have any homework left if not finish I finish the rest at home.

**What's been your favorite memory from the first quarter?** One of my favorite memories during the first quarter was being able to be part of percussion during marching band for the very first time.

## An insider look

Mr. Cassutt took his government classes on a field trip to the Delaware County Courthouse this past week. Students learned about the various departments on the county level.

**Left: Emilee Supple, Jena LeGassick, Kennedy Rausch and Brooklynn Lamm** pose in the clock tower. (photo by Erin Knipper)



## Athletes of the Week

Name: Ava Goldsmith

**What do you enjoy most about being part of the cheer team?**

I think the thing I enjoy the most about cheer are the friendships I've gained. I also love the atmosphere.

**Why is having cheer important at MV?**

Having cheer is important at MV because it brings spirit to the student section. Gives the football team more support, and the student section gets to be more involved.

**What's your favorite cheer?**

My favorite cheer is "Be Aggressive"

**What's something about cheer that others may not know?** Cheer is a lot more work than people would think. Including LOTS of stretching, early morning practices, and there's a lot you have to remember, which can be a lot at times. It's a very mental sport. Jumps and kicks too are much harder than they seem.



Name: Aidan Salow

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

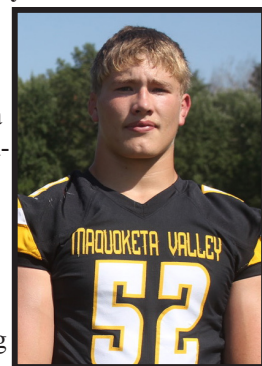
Playing against tough competition because then you get better as a team and individually

**You're a leader in the district in tackling. What's the key to success?** Just hustling to the ball

**You're also playing a leadership role on the team. What makes for a good leader on the field?** Just to get everyone in the right mindset so we can have a great week of practice leading into Friday Night

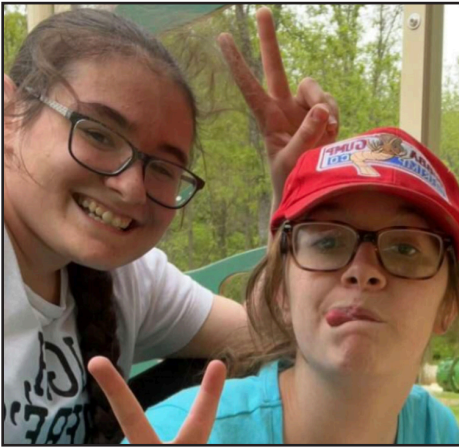
**Who is your football role model?**

Myles Garret  
Aidan finished the regular season as the third leading tackler in the district, second in the district with 18 tackles for loss, and second in sacks with 4.5. Aidan has a motor that doesn't stop and opponents get worn out by his consistent effort and toughness. He is a team leader for us and other guys look to him because he plays hard all the time, no matter the situation.  
—Coach Arnold





# Best Buds



**Carly Dirks & Willow Fuller**  
by Grace Richter

## How did the two of you meet?

Carly and Willow- On the first day of school in 4th grade.

## What is your favorite memory you have with each other?

Carly-A favorite memory that I have with her is the time when we kept jinxing each other. It went on for maybe 2 or 3 weeks and it was really funny.

Willow- My favorite memory of Carly and me was when she and I would sit on the bus together. Usually during this time we would play a game based on a show we really liked. Before we could start playing we would scream the show's theme song.

## What song best describes your best friend?

Carly- "Firework" by Katy Perry.

Willow- "Fight Song" by Rachel Platten.

## What celebrity do you think your best friend looks like?

Carly- If she looked more masculine and had more curly and darker hair she'd probably look a lot like Cameron Boyce  
Willow- Emma Watson. It's hard to explain why, but it just feels right.

## What does a typical hang out look like for you?

Carly- A typical hangout would probably be us creating odd situations and stories together, just made with our imagination!  
Willow- We will either have an on-call hang out where we sit in silence and do art, or a much more chaotic route. When we are hanging out in person we often are hyper, and that causes one of us to get hurt. Often hanging out will either end up in one of us hurting ourselves. It doesn't help that all we do is eat food and run around when we do hang out either.

## Where do you see your best friend in the future?

Carly- Personally, I see her being pretty happy in the future, probably being a history teacher because I think she could definitely pass the exams and stuff just to be a teacher.

Willow- I see her as a smart lady, probably single though. She will be living somewhere near water because she will be a very successful marine biologist. She will also have a very nice house, most likely decorated to look like a palace inside. I imagine that she will adopt a kid if she doesn't find herself a partner, and she will be an amazing mother. Either way, I picture her with a very successful life and I hope that will someday be true.

# what's up?

## What is an article of clothing that would make you walk out on a date with someone? by Lily Huber

Jake Gellersen: Slides and sweatpants... it's a date, y'know? But if we're going to Culver's, you can wear anything. I'll be more distracted by the chicken.

Lanni Beaman: Skinny jeans

Taryn Burbridge: Fish flops

Chewy Schaul: Jeans that are like all ripped

Addie Vorwald: Skinny jeans with the patches

Lukas Chesnut: Nah see fish flops go hard, but a West Delaware shirt probably

Leah Reicher: Parachute pants

Mrs. Lewin: A big belt buckle

Ford Domeyer: A cloak... I mean a robe

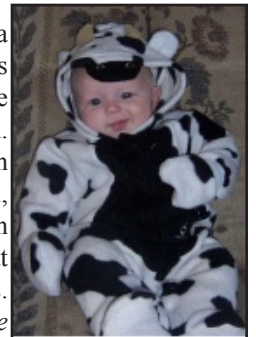
Ian Krogmann: Overalls, because who's wears overalls to a date?

# Cutie

## by Lily Huber

Holy cow, what a Cutie! This Cutie is a freshman and she lives in Hopkinton. She's involved in volleyball, softball, and speech and a fun fact about her is that she has five sisters.

Last week's Cutie was Addie Hucker.



# JO-JO'S CLOSET

## by Josie Teymer

Halloween is in 10 days, and I don't know about you guys but I'm excited! Today I want to talk about costumes.

Costumes are a very important part of the Halloween celebration. This fun tradition was first celebrated in Scotland during the 1500s. This year you can expect to see costumes inspired by *Stranger Things*, Scooby Doo, and Barbie. I would also imagine that there will be a lot of Elvis and Batman ensembles.

Halloween is supposed to be fun so get creative! You don't have to do what everyone else is doing. When I am pick-

ing out a costume, I like to choose one that no one else would think of. I'm sure we all remember freshman year when I dressed up as Jojo Siwa and last year when I went as Elton John. I'm not going to tell you what I'm going as this year but I can tell you that it's going to be pretty awesome.



## Comedy Corner

### —compiled by Erin Knipper

Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.

Why shouldn't you tell secrets in a cornfield?  
Answer: There are ears everywhere.

Why did Superman flush the toilet?  
Answer: Because it was his doody.

What kind of vegetable is angry?  
Answer: A steamed carrot.

Why are strawberries, natural musicians?  
Answer: They love to jam.

## Meet the Freshmen



**Audrey, Zachary, Dylan, Morgan & Kenyon**

Name: Morgan Clemen  
Siblings: Logan and Kaela Clemen.  
Activities you plan to be in: Golf, plays, band, speech.  
Favorite subject: English  
Career aspirations: Nursing  
Hobbies: Hangout with my friends and shopping.  
Something cool about you: I ran a stop sign in drivers ed.

Name: Aubrey Knock  
Siblings: Lauren Knock, Taylor Dean, Camryn Beeding, Graycie Mae  
Favorite subject: English or Earth Science  
Career aspirations: Cosmetology  
Hobbies: Watching TikTok, and driving around with friends  
Something cool about you: I'm 5'1, that's pretty easy to throw.

Name: Dylan Knipper  
Siblings: Erin and Allie Knipper.  
Activities you plan to be in: Football, basketball, track and field, and baseball.  
Favorite subject: Spanish  
Career aspirations: Pass high school and go to college.  
Hobbies: Watching sports.  
Something cool about you: I throw shot put because of my sister.

Name: Kenyon Baker  
Siblings: Tyler, Tanner, Nick, Josh, and Amber  
Activities you plan to be in: Cross Country, basketball, track, baseball  
Favorite subject: P.E. and photography  
Career aspirations: Major League Baseball  
Hobbies: Hanging out with friends, lifting, running, and playing video games  
Something cool about you: I play baseball for a living.

Name: Zachary Leytem  
Siblings: Jacob, Keira, and Mia.  
Activities you plan to be in: Football and basketball.  
Favorite subject: Spanish  
Career aspirations: Go to college for business.  
Hobbies: Basketball, and playing Madden.  
Something cool about you: I am 5'0 and 14 years old.

—typist: Grace Richter

## Hall Smarts

by Maya Smith



With Halloween approaching, many people are buying pumpkins to carve and decorate their porches. This week, four students' were asked questions about the orange squash that belong with the fall season.

Question: Are pumpkins a vegetable or a fruit?

Aubrey Knock: Vegetable  
Izzy Heffernan: Fruit  
Lily Huber: Fruit  
Zach Mineart: Fruit  
Answer: Fruit

Question: How many seeds do pumpkins contain?

Aubrey: 400  
Izzy: probably like 500  
Lily: About 200  
Zach: 300  
Answer: 500

Question: What percent of pumpkins grown commercially each year are used as decoration and jack-o-lanterns?

Aubrey: Over 80%  
Izzy: like maybe 98%  
Lily: 70%  
Zach: 80%  
Answer: 98%

Question: If you could carve anything into a pumpkin, what would it be?

Aubrey: Scary faces  
Izzy: I like to paint them  
Lily: Either a jack-o-lantern face or something found on Pinterest  
Zach: Jack-o-lantern

## MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Lily Huber

Radioactive lead, polonium, and hydrogen cyanide can all be found in cigarette smoke. History buffs will recognize hydrogen cyanide as a compound used in World War II as a genocidal agent.

## One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan



Everyone needs to make the most of what they have while they are still here. That's what I have been slowly realizing as I read the book, *The First To Die At The End* by Adam Silvera. In that universe they get a call the day they are going to die, and they are given 24 hours to do the things they never got to do in life. Of course, that doesn't exist here, and we never know when we are going to die, and that worries a lot of people. The main reason that they are worried is because they believe that they haven't done much in life and that they still have so much to do.

That's because everyone is doing nothing. Not saying that waking up, going to school, doing homework, and then going to practice or other things isn't much. It takes a lot of work for people to just do those things. But, what is life if you keep living the same day over and over again. Isn't it boring? That's why this week I want to bring everyone the message to bring life to the fullest. Make every day worth living.

There are many things that you can do to make your life better, to make the days different from the others. Even simple things like dressing up nicely because you feel like it can make a difference in your day. Try something new, whether it be hanging out with someone you don't know, or trying a new snack. It is different, and it changes up your schedule. Other things that you can do is to make a bucket list of all the things that you want to do. Slowly, you can start to do things on that bucket list and once you are finished, you can add more! Even simple things like appreciating others around you everyday, and thinking positive about your life can make such a difference.

And when opportunities come you can take them, or if you believe that is not the choice for you, then find something else to do. Live your life the way you want to. I don't have a challenge for you this week besides being yourself and doing the things you want to. You don't even have to listen to me. Just do what you want. I love you all!