

## TEL raises funds for local food bank

The Maquoketa Valley Teens Eliminating Lies, TEL, group held a Hat Day during Red Ribbon Week to raise funds for the Delaware County Food Bank. When meeting with the students and planning for Red Ribbon Week, they wanted to do something to give back to the community. Students had to pay \$1 to wear a hat. TEL was able to raise \$155 for this worthwhile cause. Shown presenting the check to the Food Bank director are Senior Class Representative, Kaela Clemen, and Sophomore Class Representative Joellen Beitz. Thank you to everyone who made this donation possible.



## FFA convention = learning trip by Brooke Hogan

The National FFA Convention was held in Oct. 25-28 for some MV FFA students in Indianapolis, Indiana.

The first stop was made at the Caterpillar Visitation center in Peoria, Illinois where they learned more about Caterpillar and what they do around the world.

On Oct. 26 the students then went to Louisville, Kentucky and visited Churchill Downs and got a tour and learned about all the races that happen there. Also the students visited the Louisville Slugger Factory and learned where they get the wood and how they make their bats. They even got to touch and hold some bats being made for MLB players. That night the members attended the World's Toughest Rodeo in Indianapolis.

Oct. 27, the students attended the 95th National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. At the convention's First General session the students got to hear from keynote speaker Tamika Chachings about being B.O.L.D. The members then had the opportunity to network with many people with the industry, meet with colleges, shop, attend workshops, and watch contests in the finals hall.

## MV hosts conference honor choir



MV welcomed talented vocalists from 12 schools in the Tri-Rivers conference last Tuesday for an afternoon of rehearsal in preparation for the evening concert. The guest director was Dr. Fred Kiser, director of vocal music and music program coordinator at Kirkwood Community College.

MV students participating were, from left to right: Alissa Bush, Lauren Knock, Chantel Crowley, Mason Jolley, Cece Trenkamp, Jake Gellersen, Julia Ambundo, Jesús Rumbo, Kaitlyn Nolan, Noah Ingles, Zari Ambundo and Cadence Freiburger.



At Louisville Slugger (left to right) Harold Mohr, Kody Hoeger, Ethen Brockhohn, Haley Ronnebaum, Brooke Hogan, Kaya Knipper, Alia Domeyer, Dannielle Burkle, Lainey Knipper and Bianka Ronnebaum

# Sports Connection

## Volleyball awards announced

The volleyball team held their awards night in mid-November. Several awards were presented:

### Team awards (voted on by the team)

Best Teammate

Varsity: Kennedy Rausch and Lili Bauers (tie)

JV: Jordan Hatfield

FS: Jordan Hatfield

Offensive Player

Varsity: Haley Ronnebaum

JV: Alexis Halverson

FS: Kallie Freiburger

Defensive Player

Varsity: Lili Bauers

JV: Jada Knipper

FS: Jordan Hatfield

Team Spirit

Varsity: Lily Huber

JV: Jada Knipper

FS: Jordan Hatfield

Hustle

Varsity: Lily Huber

JV: Jada Knipper

FS: Jordan Hatfield

IGHSAU award: Distinguished Academic Awards (team average GPA of 3.25 or higher)

Additional successes:

Kennedy Rausch is in the volleyball record 500 club with 553 career assists.

Lili Bauers is in volleyball record book top 5 all time single season digs.

Haley Ronnebaum is in volleyball record book for top 5 all time single season blocks.

Leah Reicher is in volleyball record book for top 5 all time single season blocks.

Kennedy Rausch received the "You Can Award" from the IGCA.

Team captains were Kennedy Rausch and Haley Ronnebaum.

## Football accomplishments celebrated



### 1st Team

#### All-District

Lucas Orcutt, Offensive Line  
Lance McShane, Running Back  
Aidan Salow, Offensive Line  
Nathan Beitz, Defensive Line & Punter



### 2nd Team

#### All-District

Dylan Knipper, Linebacker  
Brady Wall, Defensive Back  
Carter Klaren, Linebacker



### Honorable Mention All-District

Tate Intorf, Defensive Back/Wide Receiver

TJ Cook, Quarterback



### Academic All-State

Carter Klaren

### MV Football Team Awards

Aidan Salow: Defensive Player of the Year

Lance McShane: Offensive Player of the Year

Nathan Beitz and Lucas Orcutt: Co-Special Teams Players of the Year

Carter Klaren: Wildcat Player of the Year

Ian Krogmann, Colin Smith, Zach Leytem, Preston Salow and DaShawn Strickland: Co-Scout Team Players of the Year



## Valuable experience will help Wildcats

Although the boys basketball team has only one senior on it, Coach Conner is confident about his team's ability to be competitive this year.

"This year's team will return a lot of valuable experience from last season," stated Coach Conner. "We saw a lot of growth from our returning players to this year's team throughout the season last year as well as in the off-season, so we are very excited to see those returning players lead our team this year."

Senior Avery Holtz, a four-year started and a second-team all conference player last year, will play a valuable role on the team. He is joined by returning starters Toby Grimm, Kody Hoeger and Lance McShane, all juniors. Other returning letter winners are Harold Mohr, TJ Cook and Tate Intorf.

"Our junior and sophomore classes have worked really hard to get where they are at skill-wise, and now have a year of varsity basketball under their belt, so we are very excited about them as well," stated Coach Conner.

The freshman class has contributed 11 players to the team. "We have a talented freshman class who will come in looking to contribute at both JV and Varsity levels, as well as preparing our guys in practice to be able to compete with all of our opponents."

"Top to bottom, we see a lot of player being able to contribute to the team on any given night, and I think that is a strength of ours," stated Coach Conner.

Coach Conner noted that North Linn and Alburnett return a lot of experience on their teams, so they will provide a challenge for the Wildcats. "We are capable of competing with anyone on our schedule, and our goal needs to be to take care of our controllables each night and compete."

Last year's team was 9-14 overall and 5-9 in the conference.

This is Coach Conner's seventh year as a basketball coach at MV. He is assisted by Mr. Cassutt.



**Senior Avery Holtz**

## Moenck is back at the helm

After a year hiatus, Coach Moenck is back and ready to see what this group of Wildcats can do. While at MV, Moenck has accrued a 274-43 record in his previous 16 seasons.

The Wildcats are coming off of a 13-10 (7-7 in the conference) season.

Coach Moenck noted that there are some gaps to fill from last year: "My main concern going into this season is how do we make up for the things we lost to graduation. We are going to be very young. We have some pretty big shoes to fill with what we lost to graduation. We talked with our kids that we have to do it collectively, that each person will have to do something extra to make up for what we lost. We have a lot of girls who can do many different things on the floor. We lack a lot of playing experience. However, this is a very good group of kids; we will get better as the year goes on. We will need some kids to really step up and be very solid on the defensive end. We have the kids to do it. This is such a great group to be around. As always, the kids here put high expectations on themselves and have some very high goals. I am excited to see what the season has in store for them."

The team brings back some experience with seniors Ella Mensen and Kennedy Rausch. Other returning letterwinners include Haley Ronnebaum, who averaged six points per game last year, and Bianka Ronnebaum, who averaged seven points per game, and Alexa Halverson, Jada Knippner, Leah Reicher, Kelsey Hoeger



**Seniors Ella Mensen and Kennedy Rausch and Addie Vorwald.**

The team will face some tough conference competition, particularly North Linn and East Buchanan, according to Coach Moenck. "Our league is always tough. North Linn and Springville both made it to State last year. You have to be ready to go every night. Some of the teams that have struggled in years past have really improved and can beat anyone on any given night. We have the potential to very, very good as well but we will have to be ready to go every night."

Coach Moenck is assisted by veteran coaches Brad Huber, Mrs. Scherrman, Ms. Hoeger and Jesse Wooten.

## Wrestlers led by upper weights

The wrestling room is heated up both in temperature and talent as this year's squad gets ready for another big year.

Key returners this year, according to third-year coach Kurt Hatfield, include athletes in the upper weights. Juniors Brady Davis (at 220) and Aidan Salow (at heavy-weight) and sophomore Nathan Beitz (at 195) provide some experience for the team. Davis was a state qualifier last year.

The team has 13 wrestlers this year.

Coach Hatfield is assisted by Jett Kuhns, Jarod Coyle, Brian Wegmann, Zach Muller and Farr Jebens.

The team works with a core philosophy: "At Maquoketa Valley, wrestling

promotes the physical, mental, and emotional development of our kids through hard work, commitment, competition, and the camaraderie found in our wrestling room."

Coach Hatfield stated that the team is working on life-skills that will help athletes on and off the mat. "The concepts of self-discipline and individual responsibility are inherent for success in wrestling as well as life; to this end, we hope to reach our goals."

He noted that tough conference opponents will be Lisbon and Alburnett.

## Dying Words

by Cadence Freiburger

On December

16 of 1770, the infamous Beethoven was born. Even his early life revolved around music, his first teacher being his abusive father. Beethoven was often beaten for practicing his playing incorrectly. His mother disagreed with his father's violent nature, but her defense often led to her being abused. This motivated Beethoven to dedicate his life to becoming a master pianist to protect his mother.



Count Ferdinand sponsored Beethoven, allowing him to travel to Vienna. It was in the plan for Beethoven to study under Mozart, but it is unlikely the two ever truly met. Instead, Beethoven studied with Joseph Haydn, another famous composer. Despite his teachers all playing classical music, Beethoven developed a freer musical approach. Beethoven refused support from the church, so he often struggled financially.

In his early twenties, Beethoven began losing his hearing. While this caused many frustrations for him, Beethoven continued to compose. It's even said that Beethoven's greatest pieces were created in his last years of struggle. The only place he truly fell behind was in orchestra-backed playing because he lost time and fell out of sync too often.

During his final days, Beethoven spent most of his time resting in his bed. After his death, pieces of his hair were taken as souvenirs. These later revealed that he passed due to lead poisoning. Beethoven's dying words were:

**"Applaud, my friends, the comedy is over. I will hear in heaven!"**

## HAT DAY MONDAY

The MV FFA will be doing hat and jeans day on Monday, Nov. 21 for a fundraising event. The cost will be a dollar to participate.

## Dance team gears up for state, at home performances



**This year's dance team consists of Isabella Mensen, Sami DeMoss, Josie Teymer, Livia Hermanson, McKenna Thompson, Maddyx Kemp, Kaitlyn Nolan, Clairra Gray and Tierra Morgan.**

**by Kaitlyn Nolan**

It's count-by-count. Step-by-step. Each movement is carefully choreographed to create a masterpiece on stage to enjoy. This year, the MVDT is excited to perform both a hip hop and pom routine at the Iowa State Dance Competition!

"We had a rough few weeks that I was not sure it was going to come together," Coach Jennifer Teymer commented when asked how she felt about the team heading to the big stage. "Illnesses, busy schedules and out of town absences. But things have really improved and I'm excited for the team to strut their stuff. They have all worked so hard at practicing on their own, and together. This is a small team of 9 with extremely busy schedules. Most people don't realize the talent and dedication it takes to be a strong dance team. I don't think this group gets half the credit they deserve!"

The team has been practicing since October after school to perfect both dances. Captain McKenna Thompson has shown strength as a leader. Teymer states, "We would not be where we are today without her."

It's not just two group dances going to state to represent MVDT. Junior Maddyx Kemp will be competing at state with a solo for the second year in a row.

"As a soloist, I'm excited to go to state and perform," Kemp says. "As expected, I am nervous for this year only really because I've had little practice time and the deadline is approaching very quickly."

The team leaves on the 29th of November, dances the 30th, and will be back on the 1st of December. The schedule for the 30th is as follows:

Maddyx Kemp State Solo: 11:45 AM

Hip Hop Class II (Jock Jams): 3:07 PM

Pom Class III (Grease 2): 6:30 PM

You'll be able to catch the MVDT throughout the winter at some home sporting events.

## Comedy Corner

—compiled by Erin Knipper

Why did the farmer have to separate the chicken and the turkey?  
He sensed fowl play.

What key has legs and can't open a door?  
A turkey.

Why did they let the turkey join the band?  
Because he had his own drumsticks.

What happened to the turkey that got in a fight?  
He got the stuffing knocked out of him!



## Meet the Freshmen



**Keely, Haylee, Anderson, Ian & Emily**

Name: Anderson Holtz  
Siblings: Ava, Avery, Andrew, Abby, Ashley, Ali  
Activities you plan to be in: Basketball, football, track  
Favorite subject: History  
Career aspirations: Business entrepreneur  
Hobbies: Going to the lake, sports, competitions, being with my family and friends  
Something cool about you: Very competitive, baby hands.

Name: Ian Krogmann  
Siblings: Kain and Chase  
Activities you plan to be in: Football and FFA  
Favorite subject: P.E.  
Career aspirations: Butcher  
Hobbies: Fishing and weightlifting  
Something cool about you: I am single.

Name: Haylee Jones  
Siblings: Taylor and Dani  
Favorite subject: Photography  
Career aspirations: For this year I want good grades.  
Hobbies: The ski team  
Something cool about you: I can water ski.

Name: Emily Rudd  
Siblings: Addie Rudd and Lucy Rudd  
Activities you plan to be in: The musical, play, and track  
Favorite subject: Spanish, math, or art  
Career aspirations: Just something I like, but for sure go to college.  
Hobbies: Violin and horseback riding  
Something cool about you: I like art and drawing.

Name: Keely Recker  
Siblings: Lane, Ella, Braxten, Brylynn, Brendall.  
Activities you plan to be in: Cross Country, track  
Favorite subject: Spanish  
Career aspirations: Radiology technician.  
Hobbies: Shows pigs, gymnastics.  
Something cool about you: I've been to Tennessee.

—typist: Grace Richter

## what's up?

**Who is one famous person you'd love to be best friends with?**

by Lily Huber

Lance McShane: MidgetMafiaOG or James Droz, look them up on TikTok  
Mr. Dunlap: Jesus Christ, our lord and savior  
Sami DeMoss: Justin Bieber  
Devin Meeks: Joe Rogan  
Isabel Imler: Nick Bare  
Kennedy Rausch: Adele because she's British (she said this in a British accent)  
Taylor Jones: Kevin Hart, I would never get short jokes from that man  
Tierra Morgan: Aidan Salow's dad  
Brady Davis: Mark Drury  
Zari Ambundo: Be best friends with Tom Holland so I can steal Zendaya

## Cutie



by Lily Huber

¡Hola Cutie! This Cutie from Hopkinton stays pretty busy with volleyball, basketball, softball, speech, and FFA. She is a sophomore and out of all of the holidays, her favorite is Christmas. *The last Echo's Cutie was Devin Meeks.*

## MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Lily Huber

50% of all suicides, and over  
50% of all violent crimes,  
are caused by alcohol and/or drugs.

## One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

I have always regretted not doing something. I regret not doing my homework the night before and having to rush it in study hall, not getting enough sleep the night before so I am practically half asleep in my classes or not saying hi to someone. In the future, people will regret bigger events in life like not applying for a job you really wanted or giving up a great opportunity for something important to you.

The message that I am trying to bring this week is that you can be what you want to be. Even if you did give up an opportunity, you can always recreate it. You can make an even greater opportunity, or you can think about how rejecting that opportunity was actually better for you in the long run. Always thinking negative isn't going to make things better; it will just make things worse for you. If you are always preparing for failure, then you are guaranteed to fail in life. That is just how it is. If you are always planning on just sitting on the bench in your game and not being able to play, then you are never going to play. If you never expect to get better, then you aren't. You have to try. I know that putting in the effort can be hard sometimes, but if you are really passionate about it and need this thing to come true, then you will do it.

Another message that I want to bring this week is to be yourself. Don't let others get you down because you have something "different" about you. Being different is what makes you special. If you aren't your own person, then you're going to regret things that you do in life. By being yourself, you are setting yourself up for success and a happy life. Nobody wants to live their life wishing that they would have done something. So don't. Be yourself and take opportunities that will make you happy. Try new things. Do stuff for yourself. Not everything is about making someone else happy because in order to make others happy, you need to be happy yourself first.

My challenge for everyone for next week is to do something for yourself whether it be letting yourself sleep in a bit over the weekend, taking a mental health day or just doing one simple thing that makes you happy. Being happy starts with taking care of yourself. I love you all, and I will see you all next week!





# Big Games on the Big Stage

It's been a hot second. Surprisingly, Iowa has been doing well throughout the last how many weeks. A team that had a losing record is now 6-4 with the past two wins being over rival teams: Wisconsin and Purdue, who they hadn't beaten in a long time (also the team that handed the Hawkeyes their first loss of the season last year after they came off a big win against Penn State). With the Illini's loss to Purdue last weekend, the Hawkeyes are now second in the Big Ten West. It's honestly sad that a team that hasn't been performing well overall is second in the conference. The Big Ten East is dominating the conference with Michigan, Ohio State, and even Penn State on their side.



by Kaitlyn Nolan

The Iowa State Cyclones, on the other hand, have fallen. Fallen hard. This team that seemed to have started off well is ranked last in the Big 12 conference. Their offense hasn't been igniting. The Big 12 conference on a whole seems to be flipped upside down as TCU reigns supreme. It just feels like a weird year in the world of NCAA football. I mean, Alabama fell from grace, and it was pretty dang awesome to witness.

It's not just football season anymore, though... it's basketball time! The Hawkeyes are 3-0 with their last game being played at Seton Hall. To make basketball season even more exciting, #2 Gonzaga fell to #11 Texas! Let's goooo.

## Best wishes, MVDT, at State!



Missing: Clair Gray and Titi Morgan

## More photos from National FFA Convention



Caterpillar Visitor Center



Indiana Farmers Colliseum for the rodeo



Churchill Downs