

Facilities update: A note from Mr. Hoeger about proposed changes

Football Field Bleachers, Press Box, & Concession Stand Patio

The largest project is the replacement of the bleachers on the football field. When we have projects that exceed \$196,000, we must legally have an architect create the detailed plans for us to seek competitive bids. We are using the services of OPN to help us with this project.

We had discussions with the architect to see if there was any way to save and reuse any of our main bleachers or press box. Once we start renovating any of these areas, all aspects of the project must be ADA compliant. The bleachers and press box met ADA regulations when they were installed, but do not meet current regulations. It is too expensive to try to keep any of our current bleacher structures and bring them up to code.

The estimate for a new set of bleachers, press box, and expansion of the current concession stand patio area is \$463,000 plus a \$92,600 contingency. The goal is to have bidding documents approved by the end February. We would love to complete this project this summer but I am not sure if we will have vendors that will be able to provide all the supplies necessary in this time frame. If we cannot complete this work this summer, hopefully it can be done in the fall. We will know more when we start getting bids back from vendors.

Earlville Preschool Playground

Another project we are planning is the preschool playground in Earlville. The goal is to move the current piece of equipment to the north playground and get a new piece of equipment that is age appropriate and can hold the larger number of preschool students using that space. A new playground surface will need to be installed and a larger area for the playground equipment will be created. We will be finalizing designs and getting bids on that project this spring.

Earlville Furnace Boilers

The furnace boiler at Earlville is



One of the facilities projects proposed is to add new bleachers and pressbox to the football field and expand the concession stand patio area.

in need of replacement. We purchased and have delivered the two new boilers for that building. Hopefully, the old boilers will last through the winter and then we can have the new boilers installed this summer.

Security System

We are very interested in updating and expanding our security cameras at all three buildings.

We also want to create electronic key locks on all exterior doors in each building. A plan has been created to accomplish this work. The estimated cost to upgrade our security cameras and door locks is \$225,000. The state of Iowa has created a safety grant and Maquoketa Valley is able to get \$250,000 to be used for this project. Any funds spent before the grant is approved are not eligible for the grant, so we must wait for approval before any of these purchases can be made. I hope we can get the information we need to complete the grant soon and are able to complete this project this summer.

Baseball, Softball, & Little League Diamond Areas

The Maquoketa Valley Athletic Boosters and Delhi Little League have partnered with Maquoketa Valley Schools to investigate ways to make our baseball, softball, and little league diamonds safer. Currently, many foul balls make

their way from the baseball and softball diamonds into the other fields creating an unsafe situation. We have decided to install 30' tall fences around the backstop of the baseball, softball, and little league diamonds in an effort to keep many more foul balls, especially the line drives in the field of play. The MV Athletic Boosters has committed \$30,000 and Delhi Little League \$20,000 toward this project. The school district will commit the remaining \$40,000 balance.

High School Parking Lot

The final project we would like to complete this summer is to blacktop the parking lot across the street to the north of the high school. There are currently railroad ties that have deteriorated in the gravel lot. It is difficult, especially in the winter to effectively park in this lot. We want to blacktop this lot and paint stripes to create a safer and more organized parking lot. The estimate for this project is \$40,000.

As you can see, we have numerous projects in the planning stage. We will continue with the regular maintenance projects such as carpeting and painting the elementary classrooms and tuckpointing the building at Hopkinton and Delhi.

Thanks,

Dave Hoeger

Maquoketa Valley Superintendent

Wood Production offers items for sale



If you're looking for an anniversary present for your parents, a Valentine's gift for a loved one or a display for graduation, your peers may have just what you need.

The Woods Production class made coat hangers (30.5 x 7), key hooks (15 x 7), and MV signs. The class is a semester long and shows the business side of woodwork-

ing. Students worked together to come up with a project. They sent out a form to see what people were interested in, once they had the results they started mass producing their projects. The students worked long and hard on these projects and would like to offer them to the community.

See a student in the class or Mr. Palmer for more details.

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Taylor Schmuecker

What event are you in for speech?

Readers theater and ensemble acting

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? Pushing myself out of my comfort zone and trying new things.

What have you learned through this event?

Getting out of your comfort zone is important and trying new things can lead to something even more amazing.

Who is your speech role model?

Mr. DeVore because he is always pushing others to try new things so they can perform to their best abilities.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I would want to judge ensemble acting because it always seems like they are having fun and I love seeing the pieces come together.



Name: Kaitlyn Nolan

What events are you in for speech? I'm

in Ensemble Acting and One Act Play this year.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? I

enjoy seeing everyone's pieces/parts come together to tell the story that we are trying to portray.

When it's individual speech, you see only yourself improve. In a group, everyone is constantly working to get better as the season progresses.

What have you learned through this event? For One Act specifically, I had to learn to memorize long monologues.

I've been in many musicals, plays, and speeches, but acting a monologue as a character you aren't is different than just giving an informative speech in a class.

Who is your speech role model? Noah DeVore definitely. He was one of the most passionate people when it came to speech, and you could tell that he put his heart and soul into everything that he did.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I'm going to say One Act purely because I get to enjoy the story for longer :)



MV instrumentalists join conference musicians



Midland High School hosted the Tri-Rivers Conference honor band Monday with practice in the afternoon and a concert in the evening. MV participants were, front row from left: Rachel Hofer, Ava Goldsmith, Joellen Beitz and Kaitlyn Nolan; back row: Jesús Rumbo, Jake Gellersen, Logan Clemen, Kaela Clemen, Morgan Clemen, McKenna Bush, Maya Smith and Brady Eike.

Sports Connection

Cats 3-0 in recent play

by Toby Grimm

Last Tuesday night, the girls basketball team took on the Central City Wildcats at home, starting off fast, and never looking back, winning by a score of 65-28. Bianka Ronnebaum led in scoring (22), followed by Haley Ronnebaum (11), Kennedy Rausch (9), Ella Mensen and Grace Richter (8), and Alexis Halverson (4). Bianka Ronnebaum and Alexis Halverson were on top of the rebound column (5), Richter (4), and Haley Ronnebaum (3). Haley Ronnebaum led in assists (5), Kennedy Rausch and Bianka Ronnebaum (4), and Mensen (2) to complete the win.

On Friday the team played another home game against Lisbon coming out victorious by a final score of 39-29. Offensively Haley Ronnebaum led in scoring (15), followed by Kennedy Rausch, Bianka Ronnebaum, Grace Richter (6), and Jada Knipper (4). The Cats outboarded the Lions by 13 led by Haley Ronnebaum (10), Richter (8), Knipper (7), and Ella Mensen and Bianka Ronnebaum (5).

On Tuesday night the team traveled to Clarence, Iowa to play the North Cedar Knights. Tonight the team plays East Buchanan at home. The stats for those games will be in the next issue.



'Cats take down Lions and Knights

by Chantel Crowley

Last week on Friday, Jan. 6, the MV boys basketball team played a home game against Lisbon, winning a close game of 57 to 55.

Scorers included Avery Holtz with 16, Toby Grimm with 10, and Brady Wall with nine. Kody Hoeger and Treyton Cook scored 8 points each, and Lance McShane scored six.

For rebounds, there were a total of 33. Grimm, seven; Cook, six; McShane, five; Horror, five; and Holtz, four. As for assists, there were a total of eight. Grimm led the way with three, then Holtz with two, and McShane and Cook with one each.

Their next game was played on Tuesday, Jan. 10. The boys traveled to Clarence to play against North Cedar. They won the game 60 to 44.

Point contributors were Avery Holtz with 17, Kody Hoeger with 15, McShane with 10, Brady Wall with five, and Anderson Holtz and Grimm with one point each.

For assists, there were a total of 18. Grimm had eight, Avery Holtz with five, Wall with three, and McShane and Anderson Holtz with one each. As for rebounds, Kody Hoeger had nine, McShane



TJ Cook finds himself under pressure by some Lisbon defenders. (photos by Dannie Burkle)

and Grimm had three each, Wall and Avery Holtz had two each, and Cook had one, adding up to a total of 12 rebounds.

The boys' next game is tonight at home against East Buchanan.

Just for kicks



The MVDT performed a kick routine at last Friday's games.

Upper weights continue to lead team

Aidan Salow dominates his opponent during last Saturday's tournament. (photos courtesy of Madi Kuhens)



by Kaitlyn Nolan

The week was eventful for the Maquoketa Valley Wrestling Team as they traveled to Alburnett to face the Midland Eagles, the Ed-Co Vikings, and the Alburnett Pirates before hosting the Farr Jebens Invitational last Saturday.

At the Alburnett meet, the Wildcats took down Ed-Co 54-12 in a dual of forfeits where one match was awarded to the Vikings. Even though Alburnett, 65-18, and Midland, 34-21, won, both Brady Davis (220) and Nathan Beitz (195) tallied up two victories against the two teams.

The Farr Jebens Invitational,



Tyreese Crippen looks to make a move in a match at the Farr Jebens Tournament at MV Saturday.

packed with people and loud with excitement, had the Wildcats placing sixth out of the twelve teams with a total of 104 team points. MFL MarMac took home the first place win with 173 points.

Brayden Bjorkgren, wrestling at 106 pounds, placed fourth and earned sixteen team points. In the third place match, he fell to Ethan Edens from Camanche at 0:54. Wrestling at 113, Brendin Frasher scored three points after losing by fall in the fifth place match to Carson Wild of Anamosa. In the round two of the consolation bracket, Arion Rave, wrestling at 138, lost by 8-13 decision to Logan Bicknese of Midland. Scoring five points and placing eighth in the 145 weight class, Lukas Chesnut lost by fall at 2:57 to Aiden Novoa of CPU. Tyreese Crippen placed sixth at 152, scoring six team points, but fell to Wyatt Christiansen of Midland in the fifth place match. Placing first in the 195 class and racking up 24 points, Nathan Beitz ended the day with a win by decision 10-8 over Caden Ballou of Midland. Brady Davis also earned the top spot in the 220 weight class, simultaneously bagging 28 points. In the first place match, he won by fall at 5:50 over Skyler Blad of Jesup. In the heavy-weight class, Aidan Salow placed second and scored 16 points. He fell to Cody Fox of East Buchanan by major decision 5-16.

The Wildcats hosted their home meet last night with East Buchanan, Springville, and North Cedar attending. Those results, along with the results from tomorrow's tournament at MFL MarMac, will be in next week's article.

Athletes of the Week

Name: Grace Richter

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I really enjoy how competitive and intense the game can get. And I love how close our team is so we have a lot of fun on and off the court.



How have you evolved as a player? I think I've just grown a lot more confidence and learned more moves under the basket to get more shots off against bigger players.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? Going to Wartburg and sharing a room with the team is super fun!

Who's your basketball role model? Emerson Whittenbaugh

Name: Avery Holtz

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I enjoy hanging out with the guys on the team and being able to have fun with the sport instead of treating it like a job.



How does basketball play a role in your future? It's always been a dream of mine to play college basketball, so if I get an opportunity to do that then I would love to do that.

How have you evolved as a player? I think one way I have evolved is by gaining confidence.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? Nothing can beat when TJ threw the Wii remote through the hotel TV.

Who's your basketball role model? My brother. I have always looked up to him and watching film I see me doing a lot of things that he used to do.

Cutie



by Lily Huber

Vroom vroom, Cutie! This Cutie is a sophomore and is involved in cross country, speech, track and field, and baseball. A fun fact about him is that his favorite NFL team is the Bengals. *Last week's Cutie was Kaya Knipper.*

what's up?

What TV character do you most identify with?

by Lily Huber

Mr. Dunlap: Jack Reacher, obviously! Former captain in the Army, kicked bad guys' booties, and totally jacked. That's me.

Kash Hunt: Georgie from Young Sheldon

Ms. Droszler: Meridith Grey from Grey's Anatomy

Kaitlyn Nolan: Dean Winchester from Supernatural

Kennedy Rausch: Bubbles from the The Powerpuff Girls

Saige Hunt: Blossom from The Powerpuff Girls

Zari Ambundo: Probably Rigby from Regular Show

Brianna Hines: Benson from the Regular Show

Cadence Freiburger: Pam from The Office

Maya Smith: Spongebob SquarePants

Jordan Hatfield: Sandy Cheeks *hysterically laughs*

Students of the Week

Joellen Beitz & Kaela Clemen



You've been nominated by Nurse Mary for your contributions to TEL. Why does that activity matter to you?

Joellen: TEL matters to me because it is spreading awareness throughout our community to better others physical and mental health.

What's do you enjoy about being in TEL?

Joellen: I enjoy being able to get out and meet new people along with helping other throughout. Along with this I also feel like I am making a positive impact on the people around me and teaching those younger than me. I also get to participate in fun activities and bond with people I would have never talked to before.

Kaela: I like how we work together as a group or in small groups on projects that we are passionate about. It feels like we are actually making a difference when we can help people or raise awareness.

How does your involvement in TEL affect your future?

Joellen: I put a lot of work into TEL and this helps with my employability skills. This includes responsibility, respect, open mindedness, and many others. I also recently applied to be on the ISTEP leadership council. This helps with leadership skills and looks good on a resume.

Kaela: TEL teaches me a lot of leadership skills along with just the accountability and following through on things I say I'm going to do because if I don't then it won't get done unless someone else picks up the slack.

"Whenever I send an email out that there is a need to help on a project, Kaela and Joellen are the first students I hear from. They not only respond that they will help, but they also have great follow-through. They stick with a project until completion These ladies provide wonderful suggestions and listen to others' ideas. These ladies lead by example at all meetings and at public events. It is a joy to work with both of them". —Nurse Mary

The Pet Corner



by Ava Cole

This week's pet corner is covering Beano, a one-year old Beagle mix owned by Joellen Beitz. He enjoys car rides and attention. However, he hates cats, his kennel, and the occasional horse and buggie that passes by his home. His favorite toys are any that squeak. Without any siblings, Beano is easily able to be the center of attention, which he enjoys.

Cuddle-bility - 6/10 - While he looks quite cute and soft, Beano is a hyperactive pup. This might make it difficult for you to cuddle him.

Cuteness - 10/10 - Beano is a very polite looking boy. His floppy ears and cute brown and white pattern makes him quite cute.

Friendliness - 8/10 - He enjoys people and love, making him an fun friend for anyone who wants to be with him.

Loyalty - 7/10 - Beano looks to be a very loyal companion. However, if someone were to have treats he might reconsider.

Train-ability - 10/10 - In his photo, he is sitting very calmly despite his excitable personality. It would not surprise me to learn that he knows other tricks as well.

Can I Take Them in a Fight? - 5/10 - While he's much smaller than me and probably only a quarter of my weight, I would feel bad about fighting him. He looks like a very nice dog and I have nothing against him. I would only fight Beano if it was absolutely necessary, and even then I'd hesitate.

Best Buds

Jordan Hatfield & Lili Bauers

by Grace Richter

How did the two of you meet?

Jordan-Lili switched schools in 6th grade and that's when I met her, we didn't start becoming super close though until freshman year.

Lili- We met in 6th grade at school.

What is your favorite memory you have with each other?

Jordan- My favorite memory with Lili so far is the night we sat on her kitchen floor, ate cereal, and just had deep talks about life.

Lili-It's hard to choose just one but one of my favorite memories has been when we got a bunch of snacks and drove around on gravel roads jamming out to music. We just flipped a coin and went whichever way it told us while we listened to music, ate our snacks, and talked. We drove around forever until we realized we were in the middle of nowhere and we needed to go home.

What song best describes your best friend?

Jordan-A song that I think best describes Lili is definitely is "Starships" by Nicky Minaj

Lili-Most definitely "Fancy" by Iggy Azalea.



What celebrity do you think your best friend looks like?

Jordan-Lili is a celebrity!

Lili- I don't know. Jordan is her own celebrity in her mind.

What does a typical hang out look like for you?

Jordan- Laughing hysterically at stupid things, always going to Walmart and DQ to buy stupid things and waste our money. Lili-We usually go to DQ and then Walmart but it really just depends on the night.

Where do you see your best friend in the future?

Jordan-Still living on the lake not too far from her house. Always being with her family but most of all hanging out with friends having a great time with no worries. Simply living her very best life. Lili-I see Jordan living in a big house decorated with a bunch of pink. She will have a dog for sure but definitely no kids.

Time for contest



Large group speech contest season kicks off tomorrow at the Tri-Rivers large group contest at Central City. Groups have been rehearsing since October. Districts will be Jan. 21.



Big Games on the Big Stage

The Cyclones are climbing that AP Poll for wrestling, and by climbing I mean that they defeated #3 Arizona State and took their spot. This puts Iowa State and the #2 Iowa Hawkeyes right beside each other. I'm nervously awaiting the Penn State-Iowa game myself because last year was very disappointing to say the least.



by Kaitlyn Nolan

The Cyclones fare well in the men's basketball AP Poll as well, rising to #14 after a close but sure win over Texas Christian University (who also lost so badly in the College Football Championship game that it's embarrassing that Michigan

lost). They face a tough bout this Saturday against #2 Kansas, but if they win, then they'll be cemented as a strong contender in the NCAA this year.

Even though the Hawkeyes aren't ranked, they have been showing great strength on the court with their last two victories being over Indiana— a team that was considered strong but has recently downspiralized after this loss— and Rutgers (at Piscataway which is apparently a really big deal). Iowa hosted Michigan last night, but seeing that I don't know the outcome quite yet, I'll just have to wait and see if Michigan once again upsets the fanbase. The win for Iowa would be huge and could possibly push Iowa to the limelight. The difficulty with this game is our lack of a bench to resort to with Patrick McCaffery taking an indefinite leave for anxiety and Josh Ogundule out with a knee injury.

The #12 Iowa Hawkeyes, continuously lead by Caitlin Clark and Monika Czinano, have been staying put in the AP Poll as they continue to play their game. On Wednesday night, the Hawks took down Northwestern in a big win, 93-64, with a big game from freshman Hannah Stuelke from CR Washington. This came just after beating a strong Michigan team in Ann Arbor. Even though Penn State and Michigan State are the next two games, fans are eager for the big Iowa-Ohio State showdown in Columbus. This game will be huge as the #12 Hawks look to upset the #3 Buckeyes.

Standing at second in the Big 12 and #15 in the AP Poll, the Iowa State Cyclones are looking good. Even though they lost a close game to Oklahoma in an upset, they came back and beat the Kansas State Wildcats. This Sunday they head to Austin to take on the Texas Longhorns.

Hall Smarts



by **Maya Smith**

Today is Friday the 13th. This week, four students were asked questions about this unlucky date.

What is the phobia of Friday the 13th called?

Carter Klaren: fridaythethirteenthphobia
Chantel Crawley: oddsnnumbersfridayphobia
Logan Beaman: saint micheal da third day
Teagan Monk: Jasonvoorheesphobia
Answer: friggatriskaidekaphobia

What percent of U.S. citizens experience this phobia?

Carter: 2%
Chantel: 13%
Logan: about 52%
Teagan: 12%
Answer: 8%

How many total Friday the 13ths can happen in a calendar year?

Carter: 2
Chantel: 2
Logan: 1
Teagan: 3
Answer: 3

In what country is Friday the 13th National Accident Day?

Carter: Norway
Chantel: Switzerland
Logan: yup happy accident
Teagan: Ireland
Answer: Finland

MV TEL-ALL

compiled by **Lily Huber**

2,000 teens abuse a prescription drug for the first time every day, which leads to addiction. Only awareness and education to this problem can prevent teen prescription drug abuse from starting.

One at a Time

by **Arianna Nolan**

Over break it can be hard to get back into the groove into things once we come back. So I want to bring some advice on how to overcome changes in your life whether it be big or small. Some people may have had something happen over break, so like always, be sure to be kind to others and always be patient to everyone around you. My first tip for you is to remember that it is okay to feel sadness, anger, and or confusion over things that have happened. Feeling emotions is human and you should not beat yourself up over it. If they are negative emotions and they are causing your routine to change, such as getting up or eating, then you should do something about it. You should try doing some self care, like taking a shower, or something else that makes you feel good about yourself. It doesn't really matter what it is, as long as you feel good about it, it doesn't matter.



Another tip that I have for you is that you need to accept what has happened can not be changed. Unfortunately, we can't magically go back in time and change the past, otherwise a lot of people would be happier, but all we can do is have acceptance. If there is something you can do in the present that will make you feel better about what has happened,

then definitely do that as long as it doesn't need to affect other people negatively. You shouldn't only do things for yourself just because they make you feel good, but you need to make sure that they won't affect the people important to you negatively.

My last tip for you is to make sure that the thing that has happened doesn't hold you back. This kind of goes hand in hand with acceptance. Once you have accepted what has happened, then you can go ahead and move on. But, that doesn't mean totally forget what has happened, but it means that it shouldn't control your life. You can move on in life without it. Holding onto the past is a bad habit to get into, and it can control your emotions and cause you to not be able to do things that you would not normally be able to do. To move on from these kinds of things you can distract yourself by hanging out with friends or family, or doing things that would make you happy. And, if these things don't work, don't be afraid to reach out for help like seeing a doctor or therapist, they will always be able to help you no matter what you think or do.

My goal for everyone next week is to come up with things that make you happy. People need to be grateful for the people and the things around them, and by doing that you can make yourself happy by seeing how lucky you are to be surrounded by such great things. I hope everyone has an amazing Friday, and I love you all. See you all next week!

JO-JO'S CLOSET

by **Josie Teymer**

In today's issue I would like to talk about the newest trends in athletic wear.

I wouldn't be surprised if tennis skirts are still a trend we see in 2023. Tennis skirts have been a popular fashion statement for what feels like forever. Not only are they cute, they are comfortable and practical.

Another gym fashion that you should expect to see are workout one-pieces in bold



colors. I think that these would be really cute if people gave them a chance.

The last upcoming trend I want to mention is flared sweatpants. Over the last couple of years we have seen flared leggings, but how do you feel about this rage in sweatpants form?

