

Vocal jazz competition begins with Div. I rating

by Chantel Crowley

On Monday, February 6th, Maquoketa Valley hosted the IHSMA (Iowa High School Music Association) Jazz Competition. There were five schools in attendance and a total of six jazz groups. MV's Smooth Harmony received a Division I rating.

Judges presiding were Duane Philgreen, Jannette Hanson, and Gary McKercher.

Ms. McCrary commented, "The night was a big success! All of the groups performed well and it was a treat to be able listen to them. Smooth Harmony did an incredible job and I think their performance did a great job of demonstrating the amount of work they've been putting in and the growth that they've made."

Below are the groups and division ratings given for the night.

Central City (class 1A) On That Note- Division II



Smooth Harmony members Jesús Rumbo, Jake Gellersen, TJ Cook, Cece Trenkamp, Jocelyn Kelchen, Chantel Crowley, Kaitlyn Nolan and Addie Rudd perform Monday night at the competition.

H-L-V (class 1A) H-L-V Jazz- Division II
Cascade (class 2A) Jazz Choir- Division II
Maquoketa Valley (class 2A) Smooth Harmony- Division I

Mount Vernon (class 3A) Uptown Jazz- Division I

Mount Vernon (class 3A) Lincoln Highway Jazz- Division I

MV speech only brings home Division I ratings, two group to All-State

by Kaitlyn Nolan

Last Saturday, the Large Group State Contest had the Maquoketa Valley Speech students and coaches traveling to Waterloo West. While there, each group performed wonderfully and all of them earned an overall Division I rating.

This meant that all groups were eligible for All State nominations. The two groups that made it to All State are Readers Theatre (...And Others) and Choral Reading (The Willow Rebounds). They will perform at Iowa State University Feb. 18.

Division I Ratings:

Readers Theatre: ... And Others (First Place) (Saige Hunt, Carter Klaren, Ella Mensen, Zach Mineart, Taylor Schmuecker, Emilee Supple, George Livingston, and Matthew Schaul)

Group Improv: Mission: Improv-able (Toby Grimm, Livia Hermanson, Leah

Reicher, and Zach Leytem)

Short Film: An Elfish Christmas (Morgan Krumviede, Emily Hogan, and Elizabeth Kraft)

Choral Reading: The Willow Rebounds (Kaela Clemen, Jena LeGassick, Zach Mineart, Chantel Crowley, Cadence Freiburger, McKenna Bush, Morgan Clemen, Rachael Hoefer, Arianna Nolan, and Maya Smith);

Solo Mime: What's the Scoop? (Kaela Clemen)

One-Act Play: #VIRAL (Dannie Burkle, Kayla Otting, Sami DeMoss, Lily Huber, Lauren Knock, Kaitlyn Nolan, Josie Teymer, Cece Trenkamp, Joellen Beitz, Alissa Bush, Leah Reicher, and Meleah Burr)

Ensemble Acting: A Long Trip (Carter

Klaren, Jena LeGassick, McKenna Thompson, and Jake Gellersen)

Radio Broadcasting: 5118 ROAK (Joellen Beitz, Emily Hogan, Meleah Burr, and Morgan Clemen)

Ensemble Acting: Lives in the Wind (Toby Grimm, Livia Hermanson, Lily Huber, George Livingston, Josie Teymer, and Matthew Schaul)

Ensemble Acting: Hamster Murder! (Taylor Schmuecker, Emilee Supple, Addie Hucker, and Kaitlyn Nolan)

TV News: CLUE (Morgan Krumviede, McKenna Bush, Ford Domeyer, Kallie Freiburger, Anderson Holtz, and Maya Smith)

Short Film: A Day in the Life (Keira Leytem, Izzy Heffernan, Tierra Morgan, and Jocelyn Kelchen)

Dance team ends season with special recognitions

Last Friday night the dance team gathered for season awards, appropriately called The Dancys on Friday to celebrate the end of the dance season.

The following awards were presented:

Heart of the Team: (3-way tie) McKenna Thompson, Livia Hermanson and Josie Teymer

Most Encouraging: Sami DeMoss

AAA (Awesome Attitude Award) Josie Teymer

Choreo Queen: McKenna Thompson

Technique on Fleek: Maddy Kemp

Little Miss Sunshine: Clairra Gray

The team has been rehearsing since the summer.

Cats win big moving into postseason

Girls basketball

by Toby Grimm

Last Friday night, the girls basketball team played the Easton Valley RiverHawks at home for the final game of the regular season. The team got off to a hot start leading 50-15 at halftime, and never looked back winning by a final score of 73-27.

Bianka Ronnebaum led in scoring with 20 points, shooting 8/9 from the field. Next was Kennedy Rausch with 15 points on 5 3-Pointers. Grace Richter had an efficient 10 points, followed by Haley Ronnebaum with 8. Leah Reicher and Alexis Halverson both had 7 points. The team distributed the ball well with a total of 15 assists.

Defensively, the team out-rebounded the RiverHawks by 15 boards. The Ronnebaum Sisters grabbed a total of 11 rebounds, Ella Mensen (4), Rausch, Halverson, Reicher, and Richter (3). The Cats forced a total of 33 turnovers and dominated the game from the start, giving them momentum as they began their postseason.

The team will play Central City in the first round of postseason play tonight at home. The stats for that game will be in the next Echo.

Boys basketball

The boys team fell to Easton Valley 51-32 last Friday and then captured a 66-45 win over Central City Tuesday night.

They will host Clarksville Monday at 7pm for postseason play.



Dance senior McKenna Thompson (front center) presented some special awards to her teammates, including Kaitlyn Nolan, Sami DeMoss, Josie Teymer, Livia Hermanson, Clairra Gray, Titi Morgan, Maddy Kemp and Isabella Mensen.

Davis, Beitz earn all-conference titles



Brady Davis and Nathan Beitz hold their winning bracket posters and are accompanied by their teammates and coaches. (photo courtesy of Madi Kuhens)

by Kaitlyn Nolan

MV hosted West Liberty, Independence JV, East Buchanan, and Ed-Co last Thursday as preparation for the upcoming postseason. During this meet, they battled it out with West Liberty and Independence but fell short to the numbers game. Brady Davis (220), Nathan Beitz (195), and Arion Rave (138) all earned wins against West Liberty while Davis and Brendin Frasher (113) took wins from Independence.

On Monday, the wrestlers left for Midland to compete in the Tri-Rivers Conference Tournament that had to be rescheduled due to weather. MV placed sixth with a team total of 76 points while Lisbon took first with 198 points.

Brayden Bjorkgren (106) placed

fourth after winning in the fifth round over Cam McGraw from Alburnett. Also placing fourth is Frasher (113) who won by fall over Joe VonMuenster of North Cedar. In the first round of consolation, Rave (138) lost to Colton Torres of East Buchanan. In the third round of consolation, Tyrese Crippen (152) fell to Gage Holub from Lisbon. Beitz (195) won his weight class with a pin over Carter Wilgenbusch of East Buchanan. Davis (220) also placed first after pinning Indy Ferguson of Lisbon in the championship match. Aidan Salow (285) placed fourth. The junior fell to Jonah Reiling of Lisbon in the third place match.

Tomorrow the Wildcats travel to MFL MarMac to compete in Districts. Those results will be in next week

Student of the Week

Dannie Burkle

You've been taking photos at basketball games and sharing them with the Athletic Boosters, the Wildcat Echo, MV families, and MV basketball fans.



What prompted you to do this? Many of the volleyball girls were disappointed that we did not have a photographer this year. Since I had recently bought my own camera this summer I decided to just bring it along with me to the games and snap a couple shots of the girls on the court. After that it became a normal thing for me to bring the camera, so then I started taking pictures for football too, once those sports ended I continued with basketball and dance.

How did you develop your photography skills? I've always loved taking photos but have only used my phone in the past years. I had found a decent priced camera on the marketplace and decided to buy it for photos just for fun. It did take me a while to get a hang of taking photos for sports compared to still shots, but after a couple games it became much easier. Going to different gyms and fields does require some playing around with the light on the camera in order for a decent shot. I can definitely still develop my skills more than what they are at right now.

What role will photography play in your future? Photography will most likely become a hobby for me as I plan to work in the field of veterinary medicine. I do hope to continue to take photos in the future, but they will most likely not be sports related.

Learning empathy, culture

Spanish students recently participated in a cultural activity in which students drew a card as they entered the room to let them know if they were attending a class in the United States (technology available, food and drink provided, books and other school supplies were easily available) or in Guatemala (no shoes, no desks, limited educational resources).

On Wednesday, MV alumna Payton Ries spoke to the students about her trip she took with other healthcare students to Guatemala.

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Maya Smith

What event are you in for speech?

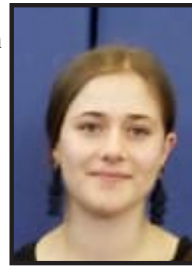
Choral Reading and T.V. News

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? I most enjoy performing the finished product at contests and seeing how far we have come.

What have you learned through this event? I have learned a lot about public speaking.

Who is your speech role model? McKenna Bush because she has pushed me and taught me a lot.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I would judge T.V. News because it can have a lot of different topics and you can really have fun with it.



Name: Anderson Holtz

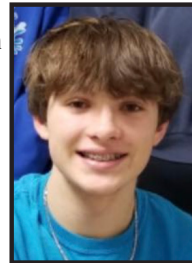
What event are you in for speech? TV news

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? Hanging out with zlsniper, Tgrimm140 & Ford

What have you learned through this event? Speech baddies.

Who is your speech role model? Toby Grimm

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? Group improv because if the group is good then it's funny and if they are bad, it's even funnier so I'll always be laughing.



Athlete of the Week

Name: Ella Mensen

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I love the team atmosphere and we all have so much fun together on and off the court.

How have you evolved as a player? In my first two years of high school I didn't

play any varsity at all, and last year I only played a little. So this year, getting to be a starter on the varsity team has been really fun for me, and I think I have improved a lot because of it.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? Anything that has to do with summer basketball is a blast. I had so much fun winning the Wartburg basketball tournament this summer.

What's your favorite warm-up song? "Temperature" - Sean Paul

Who's your basketball role model? Heidi Hoeger



Cutie



by Lily Huber

A dog is a Cutie's best friend! This Cutie is a sophomore and is involved in football, basketball, and track. When he gets older, he'd like to be a pilot. *Last week's Cutie was Kansas Berthel.*

Hall Smarts

by Maya Smith

With the sleet that came yesterday, I decided to ask some students about some fun umbrella facts.

Question: What is another name for an umbrella?

Kaya Knipper: Rain blocker

Isabella Mensen: Some German word

Dexter Dietiker: A raincover

Answer: bumbershoot

Question: How many umbrellas are sold in the U.S. each year?

Kaya: 1 million

Isabella: 100,000

Dexter: At least 2

Answer: 33 million

Question: How many deaths were caused by flying beach umbrellas in the last five years?

Kaya: 50,000

Isabella: 50

Dexter: At least 43

Answer: 2

Question: How much area does the world's largest umbrella cover? (In meters)

Kaya: 20 meters

Isabella: 1000 meters

Dexter: Around 69 meters

Answer: 418 meters

JO-JO'S CLOSET

by Josie Teymer

Lots of you have your prom fits already but just in case let's talk trends. Feathers are in and so are floral prints. I'm not surprised by the feathers, but the floral print?



Personally, I really like this look but I have heard a lot of people make fun of this trend and now I see it everywhere.

If you prefer a suit I have hardly seen any black ones. That's right: Color is in. Green seems to be a big one. I am also seeing a lot of velvet suits on my Instagram feed.

One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

I learned an important lesson on Monday, around 4:20 P.M during an individual speech practice.



This lesson is not to underestimate myself. I personally thought that my large group speech event wasn't going to make it to All State; of course, we worked really hard and put in our best effort at the performance, but I didn't know what any of the other choral reading groups were about, so I couldn't be sure we were going to make it to all state. And then, it happened. On the document, "MAQUOKETA VALLEY: The Willow Rebounds" appeared on screen. We did it. We actually made it to All State. My heart leaped with joy, and I celebrated with my speech coach who was helping me with After Dinner Speech, and then it went silent for a bit. I don't understand why I underestimated myself or my group. We deserved this.

This is, of course, just one example of things like this happening to people. But, this can go for anything, like job interviews, or making it to finals in your favorite sport. People tend to underestimate themselves because they feel as if they are not worthy of something so great. But, everyone is. Even if you feel as if you are not putting in enough effort and work into something, you probably are, and you all deserve great things. Of course, don't take this as a sign to just slack off, but we could use some self love in our life. Working hard on your hobbies and talents is a really exhausting thing to do, but the outcomes that come from

MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Lily Huber

Are you or a loved one facing a problem with alcohol? You are not alone. Problem drinking affects persons from all different backgrounds. Almost 20% of Iowans

have admitted to binge drinking in the last month. Getting help is one of the best things for your relationships, work or school and all other aspects of your life.

it are enough for people to keep pushing towards it. It's such a great thing really, seeing people come together over things, and being proud of things that they have done. This is what people should strive for, as it builds communities, and makes us better people.

If something great doesn't happen at first, this doesn't mean that you should give up. That is just a sign to work harder, and to get it next time. Even if you think it's a one time thing, there will always be different opportunities waiting for you. So keep pushing at what you love to do, and soon enough, you could be holding a big award in your hand, or have an audience clapping at you, showing that they love you. I will not say that the steps to get there are easy, but it's such a great feeling when something so good happens. So my message for you all is to think positively, and don't think so lowly of yourself. People all around you love you, and want to see you do great things. And the people that don't, don't expect much from you. So go above and beyond, showing everyone that you can do amazing things, and prove to everyone, and yourself, that you are worth it. You are deserving of love, and most importantly, that you are amazing.

My goal for everyone next week is to think about your accomplishments and failures in the past. How did these things make you feel? How can you improve from these experiences? I will be thinking about not only the good things that came from going to All State, but also the person who gave us a 2 in ratings, and thinking about how I can improve on that. I love you all, and thank you for being here!

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Erin Knipper

What do dentists call their x-rays? Tooth pics!

Did you hear about the first restaurant to open on the moon? It had great food, but no atmosphere.

Do you want to hear a construction joke? Sorry, I'm still working on it.

Did you hear about the fire at the circus? It was in tents!

Why should you never trust stairs? They're always up to something.