

# Wildcat Echo

Issue 30  
May 22, 2023

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School



## 2023 Wildcat Star Service Award Recipients

Seven students in the class of 2023 documented the required 150 hours in the last two years to earn the Wildcat Star Service Award.

Front row: Erin Knipper, McKenna Thompson, and Dannie Burkle  
Back row: Jenavieve LeGassick, Taylor Schmuecker, Zachary Mineart, and Landin Frasher

Members of the class of 2024 need 225 hours by May 1, 2024 to earn this distinction. Future classes will need 300 hours by May of their senior year.

Students who have been recording hours this year need to submit their hours for June 2022-May 2023 to Mrs. Temple by Friday, May 26.

## List of MV alumni grows by 40 after Wednesday's commencement

The gym was filled with all of the fanfare graduation brings with it. The traditional ceremony included the processional of the graduates, music by the band and choir, recognition of scholastic and volunteer achievement, and the presentation of diplomas.

Additionally, Jenavieve LeGassick earned valedictorian honors and spoke. The other student speaker was Erin Knipper, senior class president.

Pam Overman was presented the Five-Star Award for her years of commitment to the Maquoketa Valley district and communities.

Diplomas were awarded to 40 students this year.



Erin Knipper



Jenavieve LeGassick





# Sports Connection

## Softball, baseball teams gear up for good season

Before we could close the books on spring sports, baseball and softball seasons started.

### Baseball

John Grimm returns to the baseball coaching staff, this time as head coach. He'll have the opportunity to coach both of his sons Toby and Trevor. He is assisted by MV class of 2022 graduate, Michael Schaul, who will get to coach his brother Matthew. Coach Schaul is on the Mt. Mercy baseball team. Matt Wall will also serve as an assistant coach and get the opportunity to coach his son Brady.

The team returns all-conference players Toby Grimm and Matthew Schaul. Senior Carter Klaren and freshman Brady Wall are returning starters.

Other players with varsity experience include Dexter Dietiker, Daniel Glass and Dylan Knipper.

Coach Grimm noted that some promising newcomers are eighth-graders Trevor Grimm and Bryce Vaske.

Coach Grimm described the team



**Dexter Dietiker winds up for a pitch in last week's contest against Springville. (photos by Dannie Burkle)**

as a young group with very little varsity pitching experience.

The baseball team opened its season last Monday with two wins at Springville. An interesting note to make is that Toby Grimm golfed in the district meet that day and was flown from Mason City to Marion by Coach Wall so Toby could play that night.

### Softball

The softball team is under the direction of Emily Ludovissy again.

The team returns starters senior Macy Thompson, juniors Lily Huber and Cadence Freiburger, and sophomores Jada Knipper, Jordan Hatfield and Addie Vorwald. Other returning letterwinners are freshmen Taryn Burbridge and Kallie Freiburger.

Coach Ludovissy also noted that she expects to see good softball from freshmen Macee Nolan and Lanni Beaman.

Coach Ludovissy noted that some strengths of the team are speed and the strength of the left side of the field. "They are not going to disappoint," she stated. "The pitching staff has improved and is ready to compete this year."

"We are a young team who is still building experience," Coach Ludovissy added. "We are working on finding the correct mixture and line up to have the best impact during every game. This team is going to be fun to watch this year. We have grown a lot this year and are excited to get this season started."

**Dylan Knipper rounds a base in last week's match-up with Springville.**



# McShane, Knipper, girls 4x400 score points at state

## Boys

by Maya Smith

At the state qualifying meet May 11, the boys competed at Ed-Co. As a team, they finished fourth out of 15 teams with 67 points.

Here are the scorers:

Sprint Med: Carter Klaren, Kash Hunt, Arion Rave, Matthew Schaul; 1:45.50; 7th  
Shuttle Hurdle Relay: Carter Klaren, Arion Rave, Kash Hunt, Lance McShane; 1:03.02; 2nd  
Distance Med: Tate Intorf, Matthew Schaul, Brady Wall, DaShawn Strickland; 4:03.79; 6th  
400 M Dash: Lance McShane; 50.91; 1st  
4x200 M Relay: Carter Klaren, Colin Smith, Brady Wall, Dylan Knipper; 1:42.17; 7th  
110 M Hurdles: Arion Rave; 17.38; 7th  
400 M Hurdles: Lance McShane; 55.40; 2nd  
1600 M Run: Matthew Schaul; 4:41.37; 2nd  
4x100 M Relay: Carter Klaren, Colin Smith, Kash Hunt, Tate Intorf; 48.83; 8th  
4x400 M Relay: DaShawn Strickland, Brady Wall, Tate Intorf, Arion Rave; 3:52.70; 4th



**Lance McShane finished fifth in the 400 hurdles and then eighth in the open 400. McShane's state performance in the 400 hurdles set a new school record.**



**Izzy Heffernan gets ready to receive the baton from Lily Huber in the 4x200 relay. (photos courtesy of Pete Temple)**

High Jump: DaShawn Strickland; 5'4", 7th  
Long Jump: Lance McShane; 18'8"; 5th, Brady Wall, 16'5"; 8th  
Shot Put: Dylan Knipper; 41'0.5", 4th, Nathan Beitz; 38'10"; 6th  
Of these events, four of them went onto state.  
Shuttle Hurdle Relay: Carter Klaren, Arion Rave, Kash Hunt, Lance McShane; 1:04.18, 13th  
400 Meter Dash: Lance McShane, 50.91, 8th  
400 Meter Hurdles: Lance McShane; 54.71, 5th  
1600 Meter Run: Matthew Schaul; 4:36.40, 14th

Two school records were broken on the blue oval. McShane's 400 hurdle time bested Nick Glew's record set in 1996. Schaul's 1600 time took down Wes Anderson's 2000 record.

## Girls

by Chantel Crowley

On May 11, the MV Girls Track Team traveled to Edgewood-Colesburg for the State Qualifying Track meet. Overall, the girls placed third out of the 15 schools with 64 points.

Here are the scorers:

800 Sprint Medley: Lily Huber, McKenna Thompson, Taryn Burbridge, Lanni Bea-

man; 1st; 1:53.13  
3000M Run: Isabel Imler, 3rd, 13:24.92  
4x200M Relay: Lily Huber, Izzy Heffernan, Lanni Beaman, McKenna Thompson; 3rd; 1:50.41  
800M Run: Taryn Burbridge; 1st; 2:27.53  
1500M Run: Isabel Imler; 6th; 5:50.54  
4x100M Relay: Lily Huber, Lili Bauers, Lanni Beaman, McKenna Thompson; 3rd; 52.14  
4x400M Relay: Lily Huber, McKenna Thompson, Lanni Beaman, Taryn Burbridge; 2nd; 4:10.10  
Discus Throw: Maddy Kemp; 6th; 96-10  
Shot Put: Erin Knipper; 1st; 39.09.00

The girls advanced the six events to the May 18-20 state meet with following results:

Shot put: Erin Knipper; 5th, 38-5.  
4x200: Lily Huber, Isabella Heffernan, Lanni Beaman, McKenna Thompson; 13th, 1:49.01.  
4x100: Lily Huber, Lili Bauers, Lanni Beaman, McKenna Thompson; 16th, 52.18.  
4x400: Lily Huber, McKenna Thompson, Lanni Beaman, Taryn Burbridge; 4th, 4:06.52.  
800: Taryn Burbridge, 21st, 2:30.86.  
Sprint medley: Lily Huber, McKenna Thompson, Taryn Burbridge, Lanni Beaman, 14th, 1:54.57



## Golf season concludes, Grimm competes at districts

by Kaitlyn Nolan

The girls' golf team traveled to Central City to compete in the regional meet last Friday. With tough competition, none of the MV girls earned their ticket to district play.

Junior Kaya Knipper had the highest score for the Wildcats with an eighteen-hole total of 103. Other scores included: Kaela Clemen (115), Isabella Mensen (113), Ella Wulfekuhle (126), Emily Hogan (157), and Cece Trenkamp (151). The team score for the day was 457, giving them seventh place out of the eight teams that competed. East Buchanan took top spot.

"It was a tough day at Meadowview as the competition was everything we could ask for," commented Coach Andrews. "I was very proud of the way our girls represented Maquoketa Valley and gave it everything they had until the very end. Our golf program cannot thank our senior Kaela Clemen enough for everything she has done the past four years. She has earned numerous medals throughout the past season or two and was one of the best competitors a coach could ask for. With our numbers coming back we are hopeful we can build off this season's momentum and do special things in the season(s) to come."

On Monday, junior Toby Grimm competed at the district meet in Mason City to try and earn a spot at the state competition. Unfortunately, he came up short and placed 34th with a score of 92. The top spot was earned by Zaden Eggers of BCLUW with a 75, and runner-up was awarded to Ben Hesner from East Buchanan with a 76.

Both coaches had some good words to say about Grimm. "Toby had an unbelievable year considering this is his first year golfing. His work ethic, talent, and heart will take him far no matter the sport or activity. Toby has all the intangibles to be great at this sport and we are already looking forward to next season."



## what's up?

### What are you most excited for this summer?

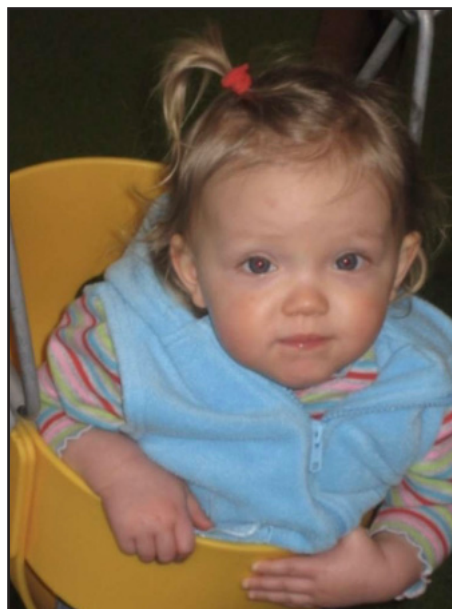
by Lily Huber

Addison Hucker: Getting tan  
Lanni Beaman: Being tan/no school  
Lili Bauers: No school and ski  
Izzy Heffernan: Swimming  
Isabel Imler: No homework  
Taryn Burbridge: Not cold weather  
McKenna Thompson: Seeing Taylor Swift  
Saige Hunt: Not having to go back to high school when summer's over  
Matthew Schaul: Fishing with Lance

## Cutie

by Lily Huber

Swingin' in to say "Hi Cutie!" This Cutie is a sophomore and is involved in volleyball and track and field. What you may or may not know is that she's an only child.



## MV TEL-ALL

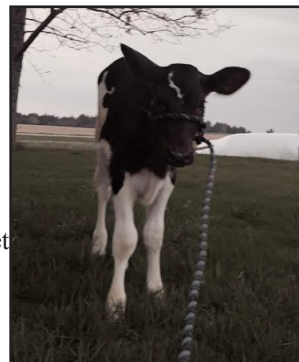
compiled by Lily Huber

Smoking one cigarette can  
take 11 minutes off your  
life— that's 14 days gone from  
smoking only 5 cigarettes a  
day over 1 year.

## Pet Corner

by Ava Cole

As the year is coming to a close we have a new, special Pet Corner entry. Today's pet is a Holstein calf named Ophelia who lives with the Weber family near Delhi, Iowa. She's only two months old and a bit bratty, but overall is a very sweet girl who does great with certain people. She enjoys going on walks, listening to music, and getting pretty to be shown. Some might recognize her, as she participated in MV's Farm Safety Day just this year.



Cudde-bility - 2/10 - Having met Ophelia myself, I assume it may be difficult to cuddle with her. Calves are relatively large and difficult to work with. I doubt she'd want to cuddle with me at all.

Cuteness - 10/10 - She's an adorable little girl. Ophelia seems to really smile when she's out for a walk or getting pretty. Being happy makes her even cuter.

Friendliness - 5/10 - It really depends with this calf. She may really enjoy your company, but she also may hate you. But if you're on her good side, she's very nice.

Loyalty - 6/10 - Ophelia would probably run for the hills if she was let off her holster. But she enjoys the Weber's company enough that I doubt she'd make it very far before coming back.

Train-ability - 4/10 - I doubt you can train a cow, especially at her age. She tends to be difficult sometimes, so training her might be a nightmare.

Can I Take Them in a Fight? - 2/10 - It is possible for me to get in a fight with Ophelia. However, I have been bitten by a calf before and while not painful, it is pretty annoying. Realistically, she probably weighs more than I do. In a world where she could pin me down, there's no way I'd be able to get back up.

# Dying Words

by Cadence Freiburger

Elvis

Presley was born in Tupelo, Mississippi, on January 8, 1935. He then moved to Memphis, Tennessee, and he graduated in 1953.



Elvis's

music was greatly inspired by pop, country, gospel, and black R&B. His career started with Sun Records in 1954. Then, he began recording with RCA Victor, and he became famous across the world. At the time, his music challenged social and racial barriers, and it began a new era of American music and pop culture.

Presley's career even extended to acting as he starred in 33 movies and held many successful concerts in Vegas. His music gained so much success that he sold over one billion records, earning him gold, platinum, and multi-platinum records. Elvis won 4 out of 13 of his Grammy nominations, the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and he was named one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Nation for 1970. Even without his celebrity career, Elvis served in the United States Army.

Elvis Presley passed away on August 16, 1977, at the age of 42. His final words were:

*"I hope I haven't bored you."*

## Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

What do you call a happy cowboy?  
A jolly rancher.

What did the horse say when he tripped?  
Help! I've fallen and I can't giddy-up.

What is a tree's favorite drink?  
Root beer.

Where do hamsters go on vacation?  
Hamsterdam.

What do you call a sleeping bull?  
A bulldozer.

# Hall Smarts

by Maya Smith



With summer break a week away, I decided to ask four students about some summer-themes fun facts.

How much did the largest ice cream scoop weigh?

Jake Gellersen: 3 pounds  
Tate Monk: 180 lbs  
Tate Intorf: 72.7 lbs  
Colin Smith: 100 lbs  
Answer: 3,000 pounds

How many pounds of watermelon does a single person eat each year?

Jake: 5  
Tate M: 300  
Tate I: 15  
Colin: 500  
Answer: 15 pounds

How many days was the longest BBQ?

Jake: 7  
Tate M: 5  
Tate I: A week  
Colin: 100  
Answer: 3

What is the most popular popsicle flavor?

Jake: Red  
Tate M: Blue  
Tate I: Blue  
Colin: Blue  
Answer: Cherry

# One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

I turn the last page of my book, hearing the page crisply slide under my thumb, and it slowly hits the other side of the book. I stare at the four words at the page with immense eyes. I read the words again and again, and the message still doesn't click with me for a few seconds. I clear my throat, and softly murmur the words to myself. *"Your story isn't over."*



This will be the last column of the school year, and I am going to miss writing to an audience so much. While writing this, I have learned many positive lessons, and how to write more effectively. But, just because there will be no more Echo in the summer, it doesn't mean that this is over. I am going to come back next year, with even more to share, perhaps a few changes will happen. Whatever happens, I know that I will adapt to it, and I will grow and change. But, instead of being afraid of this change, I am going to accept it with open arms and a warm embrace. Change can seem scary at first, but I know that it is for the better. My lesson for you all this week is to know that your story isn't over. Next school year will bring many new opportunities, and you might do some things that you have thought of doing before, like trying a new sport, or going out for a speech. Your high school years are meant to be memorable, so make them count. And, even after high school is over, know that there is still more for you. You still have so many memories to make, and people to meet. And, for the 8th graders who read my column, know that just because you are leaving middle school, and coming to high school, it doesn't mean that your story is over either. You are going to make so many new memories and friends, and change so much throughout these four years, and you will learn to accept it. I know I have.

My goal for you all this summer is to have fun, and to always try to find the positives. For the seniors that have left, I wish you all good luck, and to have the best years of your life. You will be missed for all the things that you have done for this school. I have had fun writing for you all, and I will see you all next year!

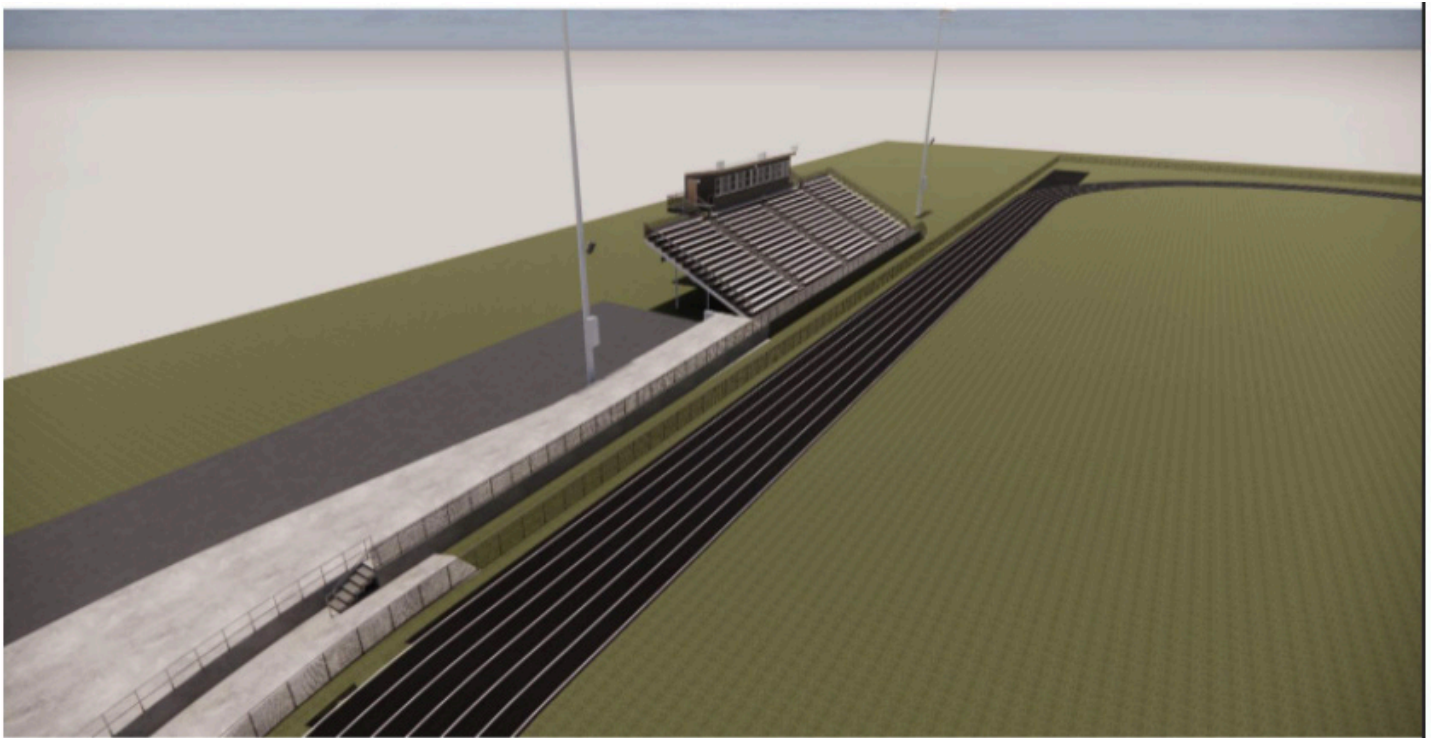


## From Mr. Hoeger: Bleacher renovation project update

Maquoketa Valley School Community,

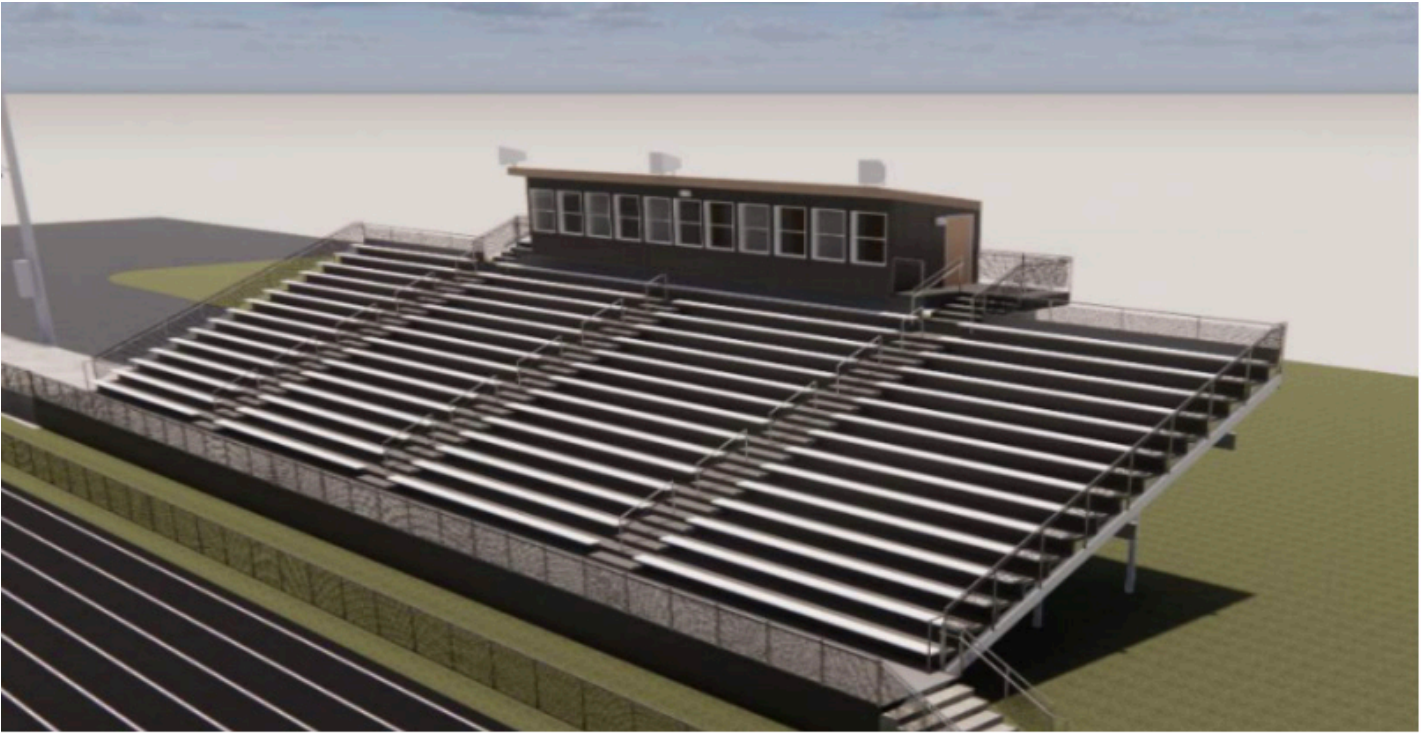
We have many projects we are working on at Maquoketa Valley. The major project is the replacement of the football bleachers. We are anticipating the project to be completed in late August. There was a storage facility under our old bleachers and we are planning on our students building a new storage garage in the fall under the direction of our Industrial Technology teacher, Mr. Palmer.

Below are some computer renderings of the new bleachers. The first photo shows the entry to the new bleachers looking from west to east. You will see that the patio will extend from our current patio directly onto the bleachers. This will make the bleachers very handicap accessible. There is a set of steps to get from the patio to the sidewalk in the bottom of the photo. This is where our patio ends currently. Both the home and visitor bleachers are set back from the track in case there is an interest in the future to expand the track from six to eight lanes.

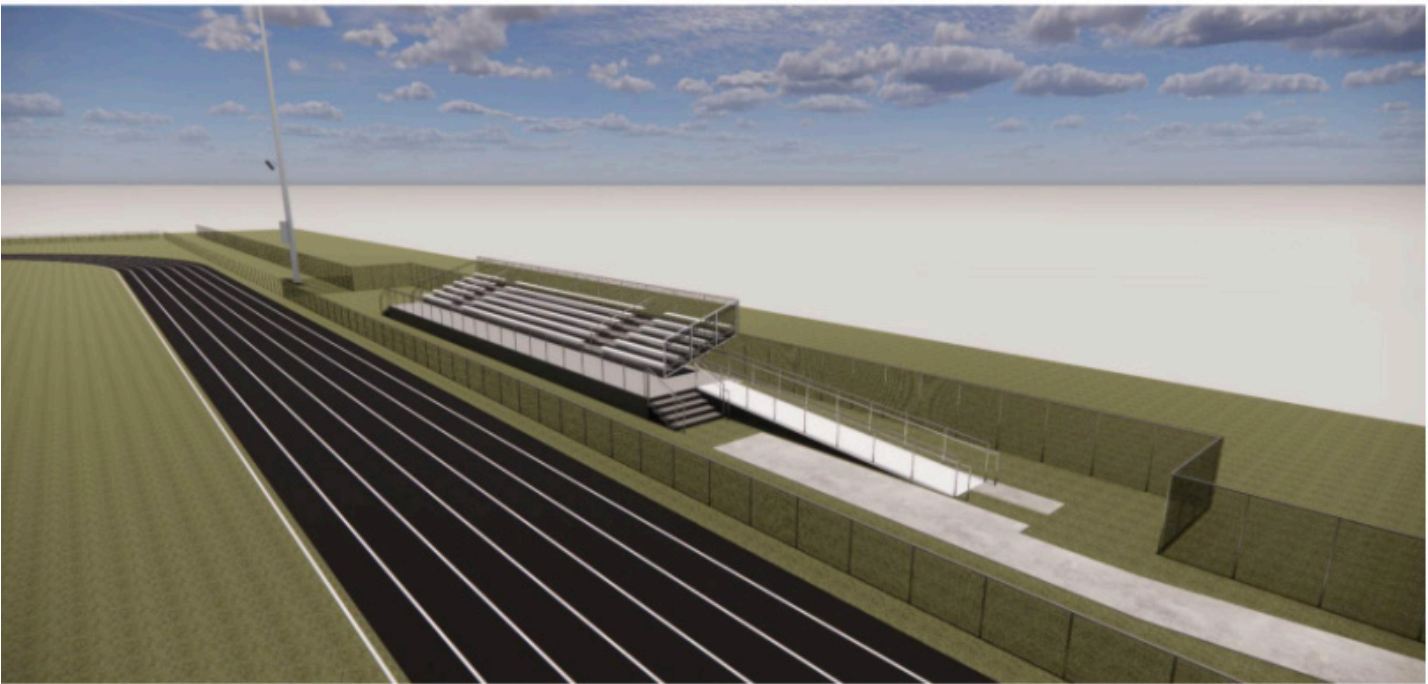


The next photo gives you an idea of what the press box will look like. There are five rooms in the press box. There is also a platform on each side of the press-box for people to stand outside and videotape. The capacity of the home section of bleachers is 952 plus 8 handicap seats.

The handicap seats are not shown in this rendering but there will be several sections cut from the first row of seats allowing wheelchairs to back up to the second row.



The last rendering shows the visitor bleachers looking from the seat to the east. This set of bleachers has 232 seats plus 5 handicapped seats. As shown in this picture, there is a handicapped accessible ramp on the west side and a set of steps on the east side. We believe this project will be a great addition to Maquoketa Valley that will last for generations.



VISITORS BLEACHER