

McShane, Salow commit to college football programs



Lance McShane signed his national letter of intent to play football with Iowa State University. McShane was one of the top performing high school running backs in Iowa this year. He is also a state qualifier and school recorder holder in track. He is pictured with his parents Tara and Wade McShane.



Lineman Aidan Salow will stay in the feline family as he signed his national letter of intent become a Panther at the University of Northern Iowa on the football team. As a Wildcat, he earned All-State honors in football and has been a state wrestling qualifier. He is pictured with his parents Tom and Tiffany Salow.

MV welcomes new MV students

by Grace Richter

This past week you might have noticed two new faces in the halls, Marcelo Martinez-Salara (freshman) and Gerardo Ventura-Ramirez (freshman) who recently moved here from Mexico.

Marcelo is 15 years old but will turn 16 in January. He is from Veracruz, Mexico, and has one sister. Next year, he would like to play baseball in the summer and wrestle in the winter. Marcelo enjoys art class and lunch, and outside of school likes to play Call of Duty. Something he finds interesting about school here is the driving system and the food.

Gerardo is 14 but has a birthday coming up very soon on Dec. 27. He is from Oaxaca, Mexico and has one brother and two sisters. Next year he would also like to participate in wrestling, and in the fall he would like to play football. Gerardo's favorite classes are art and P.E., and he likes to play Call of Duty as well. When asked what he found weird or different about school



Gerardo Ventura-Ramirez and Marcelo Martinez-Salara have recently moved to Hopkinton and have joined our MV family.

here he said a lot of things and he also said the driving system.

The cousins live in Hopkinton. Each of their fathers is employed in Dyers-

ville.

We are very excited to welcome Marcelo and Gerardo to Maquoketa Valley!

Teachers adjust to having English language learners in class

by Kaitlyn Nolan and Cadence Freiburger

In rural Iowa, it's very easy to take the ability to communicate for granted. This past week goes to show how difficult—but determined—people can be in the face of a language barrier. Our Maquoketa Valley teachers have been put in a unique position with two new students who speak a foreign language. Teachers have had to adapt to this situation in different ways to better support all Maquoketa Valley students.

Mrs. Besler's still trying to figure out how to support Marcelo and Gerardo in a way that best suits them, so she's calling it a work in progress. So far, she's been translating her Earth Science Google Docs to give them daily updates and their work in the best Spanish she can. She noted that her class has been great at helping support them, and Señorita, a certified ELL instructor, especially has been sending great tips on how to help them be successful.

Mr. Dunlap has Marcelo and Gerardo in Drawing and Photography, and he was quick to recognize Google Translate as a helpful tool. His greatest advantage is that his classes offer a lot of freedom, so the challenge of teaching and learning through words isn't as stressed. His favorite thing about this challenge is the willingness of Marcelo, Gerardo, and other Maquoketa Valley students to go outside their comfort zones and try to find things in common.

Mr. Palmer's adjustment was simply using more showing than telling. In electricity, he shows them how to do each skill, but to help explain why what they do works, he uses Google Translate. For him, the biggest challenge is not being able to learn more about them. He wishes he could sit down with them and just talk because he believes that he probably has more questions for them than they have for him. He's glad they've been super understanding, and he loves the challenge.

Mr. DeVore says, "Gerardo and Marcelo joined us in the middle of a unit, which has been, understandably, a tough transition for them. I provided some notes on previous material in Spanish to give them an idea of what we had already covered. Obviously, Google Translate has been a friend. They also have an app where they can take a picture of the textbook page and see the translation. These two young men have done a great job with this transition and have been very patient. I would also



Alaina Leytem uses Google Translate on her phone as she works with Gerardo and Marcelo on a Photography project.

like to credit my students in the class for working with them to assist with understanding. We are all learning lots!"

Señorita Ries has a very clear advantage in this situation given that she is a Spanish teacher, but she says that she hasn't gotten to really work with them on learning English. So far, she's only really worked with them on basic concepts like "hello," "goodbye," "thank you," etc. Mostly her role is administering an English exam for them to determine what classes will be best for them, but her goal is to also help give teachers tips and tricks to help support

Marcelo and Gerardo. She's really proud of them for facing this challenge with determination. For students, her biggest word of advice is to communicate well through body language and gestures. Good energy combined with using English in activities can help support them while they tackle the challenge of learning English. She also suggests inviting them into situations that can help them feel more comfortable here.

There's a quote that sums this situation up best: "There are hundreds of languages around the world, but a smile speaks them all."

Choir students spread some holiday cheer



Ms. McCrary along with some students provided some holiday music at the Delhi Library over the weekend. Carolers included, front row: Trish Dietiker, Cece Trenkamp, George Livingston and Ollie Hunter; back row: Ms. McCrary, Jesús Rumbo, Joellen Beitz and Taylor Saunders. Santa and Mrs. Claus determined that the carolers were definitely on the Nice List.

Sports teams head into winter break

Wrestling

by Kaitlyn Nolan

The Wildcats hosted their second wrestling meet of the season last Thursday known as their "Pack the Gym" night. Alumni and Wildcat fans of all ages filled the high school gym to cheer on the boys as they wrestled against the Starmont Stars, North Lynn Lynx, and Monticello Panthers.

MV fell to the Stars yet again, 24-45, in the Cats' first duel of the night. Wrestling at 144, freshman Kyle Engelken lost by a close decision, 9-10, to Anthony King. Senior Tyreese Crippen, wrestling at 150, fell to Keaton Moeller (2:39). At 157, freshman Dalton Africa fell to Jase Tommasin (1:37). Wrestling at 175, Kelly Barajas of Starmont pinned junior Mason Jolley (0:47). Junior Nathan Beitz, at 190, pinned Vincent Recker (1:06). At 215, senior Brady Davis won by quick pin over Gabe Cummer (0:22). Both freshman Clayton Davis (165) and senior Aidan Salow (285) won by forfeit.

In the second duel of the night, the Wildcats topped the Lynx, 42-28. Engelken pinned Westyn Price (4:32), Crippen pinned Luke Barth (0:35), Africa pinned Rhyley Morris (3:19), and C. Davis pinned Drake Milner (1:12). Beitz, B. Davis, and Salow all won by forfeit. Jolley lost by major decision, 0-10, to Reilly Peyton.

The night came to a close with a high-energy duel against the Monticello Panthers where the Wildcats earned the victory, 48-24. Crippen, Africa, C. Davis, Beitz, and B. Davis all pin their opponents. Jolley won over Ty King. Salow and Engelken won by forfeit. Three JV wrestlers competed. At 165, freshman Noah Whalen beat Ryker Hein by decision, 11-10. Freshman Griffin Honkomp, at 190, won by decision over Tony Lagunes, 10-3. Wrestling at 215, freshman Ivan Otto fell to Kaden Liles (0:51).

That Saturday, the team traveled to Troy Mills to participate in the North Linn Varsity and JV Invitational. Out of the 14 teams in attendance, the Wildcats placed 4th with a team score of 141.0 team points. Cedar Rapids Xavier placed 1st with a team score of 226.0.

Wrestling at 113, junior Brayden Bjorkgren placed 6th and scored 7.0 team points. In the 5th Place Match, he fell to Logan Pate of Woodbury Central (5:04). At 144, Engelken placed 5th and scored 8.0 team points. He earned his place after defeating Steven Roling of Beckman Catholic by decision, 4-2. Crippen, at 150, placed 8th in his class and scored 6.0 team points. In the 7th Place Match, he lost by decision, 4-11, to Shawn Brunsman. At 157, Africa placed 4th and scored 13.0 team points af-



Freshman Kyle Engleken tops his Starmont opponent at the home meet last Thursday. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple, The Monticello Express)

ter falling to Andrew Argo of Belle Plaine in the 3rd Place Match (0:24). C. Davis, at 165, placed 2nd and earned 21.0 points. In the 1st Place Match, he fell to Jackson Verschoor of Woodbury Central (2:43). Jolley placed 8th and earned 6.0 team points in the 175 weight class. He lost by decision, 3-9, to Leo Stoffel from Cedar Rapids Washington in the 7th Place Match. Scoring 30.0 team points and placing 1st in the 190 weight class, Beitz ended the day with a pin over Wyatt Young of Cedar Rapids Washington (3:08). B. Davis, at 215, placed 1st and scored 22.0 team points. He won by decision over Jean Ngoma of Xavier, 5-4. Wrestling at 285, Salow placed 1st and scored 28.0 team points. He pinned Layne Kleppe of North Fayette Valley in the 1st Place Match (1:03). Freshman Seth Dugan also wrestled at 285 and placed 6th after being pinned by Colin Miller of Xavier in the 5th Place Match (5:31).

For JV, freshman Rogan Heidt placed 1st and pinned all of his opponents. Both Whalen and freshman Braden Ronnebaum placed 4th in their classes. Otto placed 2nd, and Honkomp placed 3rd.

The next time the Wildcats take the mat will be in 2024 on the road against Midland. The results will be in the next article.

Boys Basketball

by Chantel Crowley

The MV Boys' Basketball team traveled to Ed-Co last Friday, and came out on top, winning 48 to 36.

Scorers of the night included Lance McShane and Brady Wall with 14 points each, Kody Hoeger with 12, Ander-

son Holtz with nine, Toby Grimm with seven, and Preston Salow with two.

For rebounds, there were a total of 24. Hoeger had eight, McShane had six, Holtz and Dylan Knipper had three each, Grimm had two, and Tate Intorf and Salow had one each.

For assists, Hoeger, McShane, and Wall had three each, Holtz had two, and Grimm and Knipper had one each for a total of 13.

Coach Conner commented, "At Ed-Co, it was nice to walk away with another road win. As I have said before, road wins are tough to come by and we are always happy to get them. Ed-Co did a good job of making the game scrappy and we struggled at times throughout the game. Our guys stuck with it though and were able to put together a much better 4th quarter. It was really nice to see Brady Wall get his confidence back and have a great game for us. Kody and Lance also had nice nights offensively and controlled the boards as well."

Their next game was Tuesday at home. "Against North Linn, I was so proud of the effort that our guys put in for four quarters. We hung right there with one of the top teams in the state and proved that we belong in that conversation. I thought there were some things that we could have done better or differently that would have made the game even closer in the 4th quarter, but this was a great learning experience for all of us. We will be able to draw back on this game to help us win other games later in the season.

continued on next page

Athletes of the Week

Name: Aidan Salow

What do you enjoy most about wrestling? Winning

How did you prepare for this season in the off-season? Lifting weights

How do you establish a winning mindset? Listen to music



What is the hardest part of training for you? The nutrition

Name: Nathan Beitz

What do you enjoy most about wrestling? Winning and being with the team.

How did you prepare for this season in the off-season? Wrestled during the summer and lifted weights.

How do you establish a winning mindset? Remember what it felt like to lose.



What is the hardest part of training for you? Not being able to eat anything.

Name: Brady Davis

What do you enjoy most about wrestling? Winning

How did you prepare for this season in the off-season? club practice

How do you establish a winning mindset? Always having my mind right



What is the hardest part of training for you? Keeping your head in practice

Name: Lanni Beaman

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I enjoy the atmosphere and the energy of close and competitive games!

How have you evolved as a player? I have become more confident in myself and I have become a better shooter than last year.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? Anytime we are in the locker room dancing!

Who's your basketball role model? My basketball role model is Sam Wall since she is an amazing athlete in multiple sports!

Name: Grace Richter

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? Everything! It is really fun and competitive, and I love the community we have here.

How have you evolved as a player? Over the summer I began to work on my mid-range and three-point shots, and this has helped me be able to score from more places on the floor in the game. Also not getting so upset with myself when I make mistakes.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? The bus ride back from Turkey Valley last year. We played music super loud and danced on the bus.

Who's your basketball role model? Emerson Whittenbaugh, Caitlin Clark, and Luka Garza.



Sports round-up, continued

"As we prepare for the 2nd half of the season, I firmly believe that we are going to continue to get better with each game. We will continue to work on many things, but defense will be a big focus for us as that is what is going to allow us to excel in the postseason. We are looking forward to seeing our guys step up and gain confidence as the season continues," Coach Conner commented.

Girls Basketball

by Maya Smith

Last week, the MV girls traveled to Ed-Co. It was a tough game against some serious competition. By the third quarter, MV was down 29-34. They attempted to come back in the 4th, but Ed-Co held strong. The game ended with a score of 44-47. Point leaders include: Grace Richter, 12; Haley Ronnebaum, 10; and Lanni Beaman, 9. Rebound Alexis Halverson led the team with rebounds once again, grabbing 9. Following behind her were Haley Ronnebaum with 7 and Jada Knipper with 5. Bianka Ronnebaum led with 2 assists.

This Tuesday, the girls faced off against North Linn at home. Competing against an experienced team, MV fell short against the Lynx, ending the game 52-79. With 21 points, Grace Richter led the pack. Haley Ronnebaum had 14 points, and Bianka Ronnebaum had 8. Halverson totaled 11 rebounds, Haley Ronnebaum had 8, and Bianka Ronnebaum had 5. Assists were minimal in this game, as Bianka Ronnebaum and Halverson led the team with 3, and Jada Knipper had 2.

Coach Moenck noted, "In both the Ed-Co game and the N. Linn game we looked really great at times and at other times we didn't look so good. We're getting great looks around the bucket, we just need to be more consistent finishing those shots at the bucket and limiting our turnovers. We will get better. This group will continue to grow. Christmas break will allow us to focus on some things that we need to get better at like finishing around the bucket, limiting our turnovers and changing some things that need to be changed."

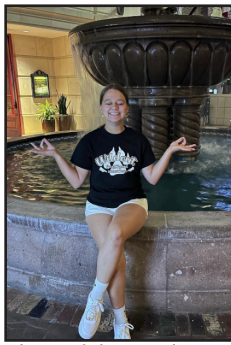
MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Lily Huber

More than 30% of drug overdoses involving opioids also involve prescription sedatives called benzodiazepines. Both drugs sedate and slow the breathing of users, increasing the risk for overdose and death. - NIDA

Big Games on the Big Stage

The 13th-ranked team in the Big Ten, also known as the Iowa men's basketball team, took down the UMBC Retrievers Wednesday night, 103-81, in a pretty much predictable game. The team will host the NIU Huskies on December 29th.



by Kaitlyn Nolan

After dominating against the Cleveland State Vikings down in Des Moines, the Iowa women hosted the Loyola Ramblers on Thursday night. This marks their last "easy" game of the season as they prepare to battle against the Big Ten.

The ISU Cyclones men's basketball team took down both Prairie View and Florida A&M on their home court in strong performances. The team will continue to host teams over the winter break before competing in a strong Big 12 conference.

The ISU women took down an in-state rival, the UNI Panthers, on Tuesday night, marking their last non-conference matchup of the season. On the 30th of December, the team will travel south to Oklahoma State.

Spanish students learn about the art and history of piñatas

by Ella Reicher

¡Felices vacaciones! The past 2 weeks the Spanish students have been working very hard on designing and making their piñatas come to life for the holiday season.

In Hispanic cultures, piñatas are used as a fun game for children and adults to enjoy during Spanish Christmas that lasts much longer than just the 24th and 25th of December but goes from the 12th of December to January 6th. In Spanish culture, they have many other traditions that are very interesting to learn about.

One of these fun facts being that the original piñata was a 7-pointed star for the 7 sacraments.

Señorita Ries said her favorite part about this season is seeing the students work hard and learn how hard people in the Spanish culture work and party! If you want to learn anything else about Spanish culture during the holidays, see Señorita Ries and she will be more than happy to tell you about this interesting holiday.

Name: Taylor Saunders

What at event are you in for speech? I'm in One Act and Radio Broadcasting for large group events.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? I enjoy getting to know the other students in the events and work with them in the different events.

What have you learned through this event? I've learned more about myself as a person and as a performer, it's definitely given me a chance to explore creative freedom in both events.

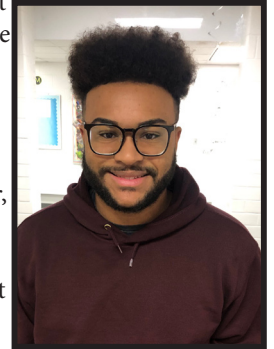
Who is your speech role model? My speech role model is Mrs. DeVore, she was the one that encouraged me to join speech this year and I definitely made the right decision.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I think if I had the choice to judge a large group speech event, I would choose One Act, I feel it would be so enjoyable to watch and experience the characters that we bring to the stage.



Name: Payton Brown

What at event are you in for speech? "Last week at the High School Band Concert, I got to play a last minute percussion part that I didn't get to practice before the concert. Since our parts went together, Payton walked me through how to play the instrument and helped cue me on when to play and when to rest during the performance. I was very impressed by his ability to step up and be a leader!" —Ms. McCrary



Name: Jordan Hatfield

What event are you in for speech?

T.V. News

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? I like coming into practice, seeing friends, and coming up with fun ideas making each other laugh.

What have you learned through this event? The whole concept of speech since it's my first year.

Who is your speech role model? Mrs. DeVore, she is the one who convinced me to go out and helped work around my schedule to make sure I could do speech. She is also just all around a great coach/teacher and always shows that she cares.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? Improv because it's always different.



Kylie Meeks and Brielle Kuhns work on their Hello Kitty (chicken version) piñata.

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

Some Christmas jokes before we get out for break!

How do sheep say Merry Christmas to each other? Fleece Navidad.

Why did Rudolph have to attend summer school? Because he went down in history.

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? Claus-trophobia!

What's every elf's favorite type of music? Wrap!

Meet the Freshmen



Alaina, Addison, Wes & Natalie

Name: Alaina Leytem

Siblings: Jace Leytem

Activities you plan to be in: Volleyball, dance, and speech

Favorite subject: Beginning Foods

Career aspirations: Nursing

Hobbies: Babysitting, reading, and playing volleyball.

Something cool about you: I'm on a show water ski team.

Name: Addison Bonert

Siblings: 2 younger sisters

Activities you plan to be in: Softball and track

Favorite subject: Ag

Career aspirations: Lawyer

Hobbies: Reading Colleen Hoover books

Something cool about you: I'm a fake blonde.

Name: Wes Scherrman

Siblings: Hollis Scherrman

Activities you plan to be in: Soccer and basketball.

Favorite subject: Earth Science

Career aspirations: Sports/data analytics or an architect.

Hobbies: Sports

Something cool about you: I'm a lefty.

Name: Natalie Ries

Siblings: 1 brother, 1 sister

Activities you plan to be in: Wildcat Echo, volleyball, cheer, dance, track, FFA.

Favorite subject: Intro to Ag

Career aspirations: Paramedic

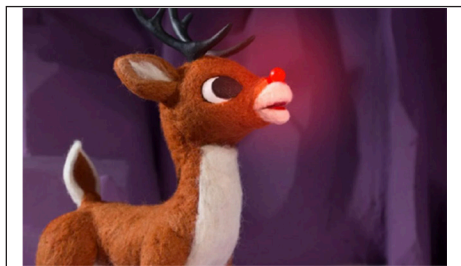
Hobbies: Sports

Something cool about you: I have a really good toe touch.

—typist: Grace Richter

Hall Smarts

by Maya Smith



This week students were asked to finish lyrics of some famous Christmas songs.

All I want for Christmas...

Cece Trenkamp: is my two front teeth

Brayden Bjorkgren: Is my two front teeth

Brady Wall: is you

Brenyn Robinson: is my two front teeth

Answer: Is you/is my two front teeth

He led them down the streets of town...

Cece: Idk

Brayden: I don't know

Brady: Right to the traffic cop

Brenyn: Right to the village

Answer: Right to the traffic cop

I want a....

Cece: Hippopotamus for Christmas

Brayden: Hippopotamus for Christmas

Brenyn: hippopotamus for Christmas

Brady: hippopotamus for Christmas

Answer: hippopotamus for Christmas

You know Dasher and....

Cece: Dancer and Prancer and Vixen

Brayden: Dancer and Donner and Vixen

Brady: Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,

Comet and Cupid and Donner, Blitzen

Brenyn: Dancer and Prancer and Vixen,

Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen

But do you recall, the most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer!

Answer: Dancer and Prancer and Vixen, Comet and Cupid and Donner and Blitzen

But do you recall, the most famous reindeer of all?

Rudolph, the red-nosed reindeer...

Deep Dive by Arianna Nolan



Welcome back to Deep Dive, and I hope you all are as excited as I am! But, before we can celebrate I have a new creature to share with you all this week. This week I am introducing the Blue Dragon, scientifically known as the Blue Glaucus.

This wonderful creature is a sea slug that lives near the surface of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans. They are very small and only grow up to be around 1 inch long. The beautiful colors that cover this slug are a type of camouflage that they use for protection. The dazzling blue that covers its back defends itself from predators that can see it from above, while the white-grey tummy of the creature defends itself from creatures that can see it from the bottom.

But, it is important to not touch the Blue Dragon as it can have very hazardous stings. This is due to their diet including many very venomous creatures, such as the Portuguese Man o- War, so when it digests them, the Blue Dragon becomes toxic. If you get stung by it, the following symptoms could occur; extreme pain, inflamed skin, swelling, peeling skin, bumps on the skin, nausea, and vomiting. So if you see these creatures wandering around on the beach, please stay away!

If you would like more information on the Blue Dragon, then please visit Oceana.org and One Earth.org, which is where all the information for this column was provided! A special thanks to Mrs. Besler for choosing this creature for me to do! I hope you all have a *jawesome* break and I wish you all a Merry Christmas!