

Wildcat Echo

Issue 20
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A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

National FFA What's happening around MV?

Week Fun

National
**FFA
WEEK**
FEBRUARY 17-24, 2024

by Kaya Knipper, FFA reporter

The week of February 18th-24th is National FFA week. This week is to raise awareness about the National FFA Organization's role in developing future leaders and the importance of agricultural education. The Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter is having a little bit of fun next week to celebrate.

Tuesday they start out the week with Official Dress day for every FFA member, and non FFA members can wear Navy Blue and Gold. This day the School will also be hosting the Northeast Sub-District contest. Where 250 students, members and guests will be present.

Wednesday's dress up day is Dress like an FFA Advisor.

Thursday's dress up day is Country VS Country Club and the FFA will also be hosting a cheese and cracker welding contest during lunch. So get ready for some competitive fun!

And to end the week off the dress up day will be Flannel **Friday!** During lunch there will be line dancing lessons and at the end of the day the FFA will have their Ag Olympics.

The results for Sub-Districts will be in next week's issue.

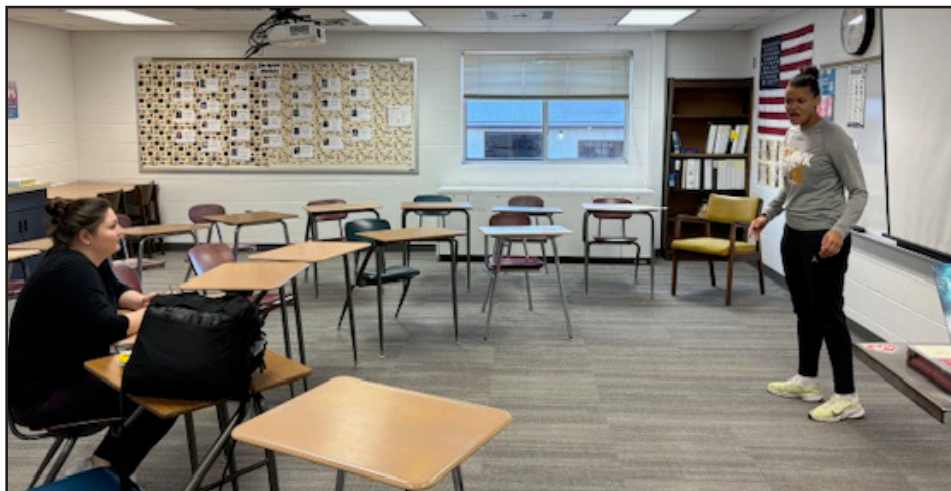


Above: Sarah Lown spoke with seniors recently about completing their Dollars for Scholars applications. They are due Mar. 18. Underclassmen: Consider starting a document in which you keep track of your activities and awards.



Left: Claire Krapfl, MV Class of 2021, spoke with the Spanish classes last week about her summer study abroad adventure through UNI in Spain. She took two classes there and even earned a flight scholarship to help cover some of her expenses.

Below: Sellah Ambundo rehearses her solo musical theater piece with Coach Crumpton. Individual speech rehearsals have begun. Students will compete at the conference meet Monday night.



'Big Three' qualify for state wrestling, Salow gets 100th win

by Kaitlyn Nolan

Last Saturday, the Maquoketa Valley wrestling team traveled to Wilton for Class 1A District 12 competition. The Wildcats ended the day with success as the "Big Three" punched their ticket to the State Tournament at the Well this week. Junior Nathan Beitz (190) and seniors Brady Davis (215) and Aidan Salow (285) are taking their second consecutive trip to Des Moines.

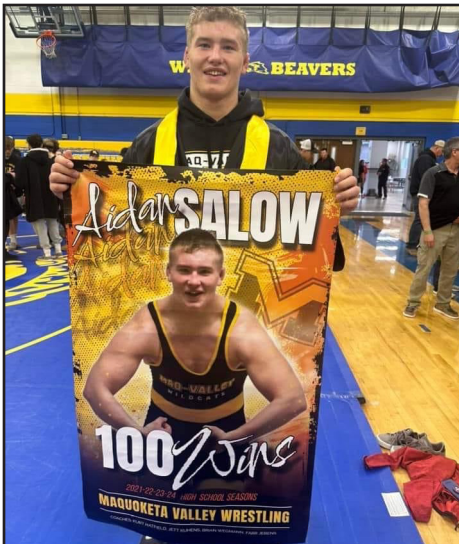
Freshman Clayton Davis (157) placed 3rd for the day while senior Tyrese Crippen (150) placed 4th. Salow and B. Davis earned 1st place in their respective weight classes. Beitz placed 2nd. Juniors Mason Jolley and Brayden Bjorkgren and freshman Kyle Engelken did not place.



Nathan Beitz (190): State update, as of Thursday night: Wednesday, Beitz earned a bye in round one and pinned Bryce Wiskus of Kuemper Catholic in 3:19. Thursday night he wrestled Taite Peach of Iowa Valley. He won 10-8 in a takedown in the closing seconds.



Brady Davis (215): State update, as of Thursday night: Wednesday night, Davis had a bye in the first round and then won by major decision (8-0) against Indy Ferguson of Lisbon. Last night he wrestled Kyler Sallis of Don Bosco. Davis won by fall in 2:53.



Aidan Salow (Hwt): State update, as of Thursday night: He also started the tournament with a first round bye. Wednesday night he pinned his Denver opponent, Cody Koepke, in 2:38. Last night he faced Trenton Warner of Nodaway Valley. Salow lost in Overtime 1 3-1.

Boys basketball gets wins over East Buchanan, Hillcrest Academy

by Chantel Crowley

On Monday, Feb. 12, the boys started off their post-season play with a home game against East Buchanan, winning 55 to 39.

"I was really happy with how our players composed themselves throughout the game," noted Coach Conner. "East Buchanan has become one of our rival schools and they seem to bring their best each time they play us. EB shot the ball really well in the first quarter, but our guys responded to each of their shots and were able to keep the score even heading into the 2nd quarter. We made some adjustments to what we were doing on defense after the first quarter and we executed very well in the last three quarters. In the postseason, it is about finding ways to win, and I thought our guys showed a lot of character and toughness to get it done, especially in the 4th quarter. Lance had another huge game for us

and then Kody hit a couple of 3's in the 4th quarter to put the game on ice. I was really proud of the guys for completing step one of four."

Scorers included Lance McShane with 26, Kody Hoeger with 11, Toby Grimm with eight, Brady Wall with seven, and Tate Intorf with three points.

For assists, Grimm had eight, Wall and Anderson Holtz had four each, Kody Hoeger had two, and McShane had one, for a total of 19 assists. For rebounds, McShane had ten, Grimm had eight, Kody Hoeger had six, and Wall, Holtz, Intorf, Dylan Knipper, and Lukas Chesnut had one each, for a total of 29.

The Wildcats hosted Hillcrest Academy last night and got the 59-46 win. Details will be in next week's Echo.

MV will play Dunkerton Tuesday at Oelwein High School at 7pm.



Dylan Knipper catches some air on a shot against EB. (photo by Dannielle Burkle)

Girls proceed in post-season play

by Maya Smith

This Tuesday, MV's girls basketball team started regional play at home against Bellevue. The Wildcats had a nice victory, 65-47.

"The toughest game in the tournament is always the first one," stated Coach Moenck. "It was so nice to get the W at home in front of an awesome crowd! We're very fortunate with the support our community gives our student athletes. I was very pleased with how we played this game. The girls came out with a lot of energy and it paid off. We executed on both ends of the floor. We didn't turn the ball over very much and executed our sets on offense. I really thought we managed the game well. I would say this was our most complete game of the year against a very tough Bellevue team."

Here are the game stats: Bianka Ronnebaum was on fire, leading the team in points with 25. Leah Reicher had 9 points and Jada Knipper had 8. Leah Reicher led the team in rebounds with 6, Haley Ronnebaum had 5, while Grace Richter, Bianka Ronnebaum, and Kada Knipper each had 4 rebounds. Assist leader for the game was Haley Ronnebaum with 5. Bianka Ronnebaum had 4 assists and Grace Richter had 2.

The girls will travel to Iowa City Regina tonight to take on the Regals.



Fine Artist of the Week

Name: Taylor Saunders

What events are you in for speech? I am in Radio News Broadcasting and Storytelling.

What do you enjoy most about individual speech? I've seen a growth in my confidence and overall skill when it comes to speech in general.

What have you learned through this event? Both of these events have taught me to escape out of my comfort zone and explore things that I would've never had the confidence to try.

What other event would you like to try and why? I would be interested in trying Acting. I enjoy acting and would like to experience what it is like to individually act. I also feel it would improve that skill for me immensely.

How will speech help you in the future? Speak is teaching me to have confidence in myself as well as to allow for mistakes and growth.



Deep Dive by Arianna Nolan



Welcome back Divers to a new edition of Deep Dive! In this spirit of Valentine's Day, I wanted to explore the world of Mantis Shrimp because of their romantic relationships with other shrimp. Starting with their one of their most noticeable features is their eyes, which are thought to be one of the most complex pairs of eyes within the entire animal kingdom. Their eyes can take in "depth perception, as well as polarisation sensitivity" according to the Great Barrier Reef Foundation. These creatures can grow up to 30 cm long but are usually only 10 cm.

The daily life of these creatures is one of the most interesting in the sea. The diet of the Mantis Shrimp all depends on the hunting style that they adopt. Some use their sharp limbs as a spear, which means they eat softer animals such as worms and squids, but if they use their limbs like a club, then they eat harder creatures such as snails and clams. One of the most fascinating parts about the Mantis Shrimp is their relationships with other shrimps. They are very intelligent creatures and can socialize with other shrimps like people. Once some Mantis Shrimp find a partner, then they stick with them for the rest of their lives.

It's easy to read and look at pictures of these creatures, but it is much different from seeing them in person. This is why I recommend trying to spot these shrimps in an aquarium if you are ever able to. To find out more in-depth about these animals, please visit barrierreef.org which is where all of the information for this edition has been provided. I hope you all had a shrimply amazing Valentine's Day, and I will see you all next week!

Students and staff: If you have a sea creature you'd like to learn more about, please email Arianna with your suggestion.



Above: The student section continues to bring some positive energy for the basketball teams as seen in Tuesday's boys' game.

Left: Leah Reicher fights for position against Bellevue Tuesday night. (photos by Dannielle Burklee)

Meet the Freshmen



Jadyn, Camran, Lena & Jade

Name: Lena Lewin

Siblings: Sydney Lewin

Activities you plan to be in: Cheer

Favorite subject: Spanish

Career aspirations: Cosmetology

Hobbies: Listening to music with my friends.

Something cool about you: My favorite color is red.

Name: Camran McAreavy

Siblings: Lane, Gunner, and Garrett

Activities you plan to be in: Wrestling, golf, and baseball.

Favorite subject: Shop

Career aspirations: Electrician

Hobbies: Fishing and hunting

Something cool about you: I have ADHD.

Name: Jade Hillers

Siblings: Colin, Connor, Payton, and Brock.

Activities you plan to be in: Volleyball and track.

Favorite subject: Science

Career aspirations: Nursing

Hobbies: Volleyball and lifting.

Something cool about you: I have 2 dogs.

Name: Jadyn Schmitt

Siblings: none

Activities you plan to be in: none

Favorite subject: Small gas engines

Career aspirations: Mechanic

Hobbies: Working on vehicles

Something cool about you: I own six dogs.

Name: Izzi Moenck

Siblings: Myranda, Mady, Jemma

Activities you plan to be in: none

Favorite subject: Spanish

Career aspirations: Pediatric nurse practitioner

Hobbies: Reading

Something cool about you: I have two screws in my ankle.

—typist: Grace Richter



One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

Walking through the aisles of your favorite grocery store, you keep noticing the products set out for Valentine's Day. A small frown appears on your face, and your hands shoved in your pockets as you scurry by. Valentine's Day can make you feel so alone that you aren't doing something good enough. You notice so many other people getting many gifts for their partners, but you barely have enough money to get through the week. A heavy sigh slips through your lips and you try and focus on something else, like the dirt that has collected on the shop's floors. Even they were together. Why is a day about love so heart-breaking to you?

Unfortunately, this exact scenario doesn't just happen to a few people, but it happens to many as February rolls around. Bright red roses and hearts start to appear everywhere they go, and it only seems to get more dreadful as the day gets closer. A poll by the AARP Foundation said that 82% of people would prefer to spend Valentine's Day with someone, but many people don't get that opportunity. So, I would like to encourage some ways to cope with these feelings and what to do about it.

Firstly, it is important to know that Valentine's Day doesn't always have to be with a romantic partner. It can always be with a family member or a close friend. Feelings of love don't just mean romantic, but they can also mean the bond that you share with your friends and family. Even if you don't have the money to get many gifts, it doesn't matter. Home-made gifts are just as, or more, appreciated by people because it means you took time to think about what you are going to make them, and then put in the actual effort to do it. Even though Valentine's Day has passed, if you know someone close to you who went through Valentine's Day alone, it might be nice to give them a little something just to let them know that they are still loved. Companionship with your pets can also improve the feelings of loneliness.

Another way to appreciate love in a not romantic way is to focus on self-love. You can be someone's highlight of their day and not even know it, and the only way you're able to live right now is because your



body is allowing it too. We need to appreciate what makes us who we are, and Valentine's Day is a perfect day to celebrate it. Get yourself a box of chocolates, get yourself flowers, or even take yourself out to eat. Just because people around you are in relationships doesn't mean you have to be. Taking time for yourself is extremely important and needs to be appreciated more.

Valentine's Day can be a day when people are in grief due to loneliness, but with the companionship of friends and family, and self-love, you can make the lonely feeling on this holiday, or any day, a great one.

In conclusion, Valentine's Day can be a day when people are in grief due to loneliness, but with the companionship of friends and family, and self-love, you can make the lonely feeling on this holiday, or any day, a great one. My goal for everyone is to take a day to yourself or spend time with your friends to let them know that they are appreciated during these romance-filled months. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend, and I love you all!

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

What did the painter tell his girlfriend? I love you with all my art.

What did the paper clip say to the magnet? I find you very attractive.

What's Cupid's favorite band? Kiss!

What did one watermelon say to the other on Valentine's Day? You're one in a melon!

Do you have a date for Valentine's Day? Yes, it's February 14.