

Wildcat Echo

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A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

MV hires full-time sub

by Kaitlyn Nolan

Finding substitute teachers and paraprofessionals has posed a great problem for school districts. One of MV's solutions was to hire a full-time sub. This winter, the district employed MV alumnus Norm Wilson for that position. Let's get to know him.



Where did you study and what for? I

went to UNI and majored in history and all social science for education.

What are your plans after this semester?

I'll be moving to North Carolina to teach in Greenville.

What are your hobbies? I like enjoying the outdoors, spending time with friends and family, and traveling.

Any fun facts about you? I'm a 2019 MV graduate and am excited to get to know everyone.

Meet another new student

by Ella Reicher

Once again another new student has joined us at MV. Angel Ramirez-Hernandez has been here since the start of the semester and is so far loving it in America. Angel is from Oaxaca, Mexico and now joins his cousins, Gerardo and Marcelo.



His favorite part of MV so far is the people and all of his new friends. However, something he misses from Mexico is his mom. Sadly by coming to the U.S., he had to leave his mom behind. Here he does get to continue some of his hobbies that make it feel more like home. Here Angel is still able to farm with his dad. Another thing that Angel really likes about America is the food. One of his favorites is a hamburger, and he still likes to have a taco at home.

Lastly, a fun fact about Angel is that he loves to draw. This is one of his favorite hobbies.

Jazz band starts explosive season



Senior Jake Gellersen plays his feature in the jazz band's set at Lisbon.

by Maya Smith

Last Thursday, despite a bus breakdown from a blown tire, the MV Jazz Band traveled to the Lisbon Jazz Festival to perform. A couple things made this competition unique. This was Lisbon's 1st ever jazz festival and middle school jazz bands were able to also come along to play for the judges. The day went well and the high school took home 2nd Place in class 2A.

Mr. Ford said, "Once we were able to safely get to the festival, we had a

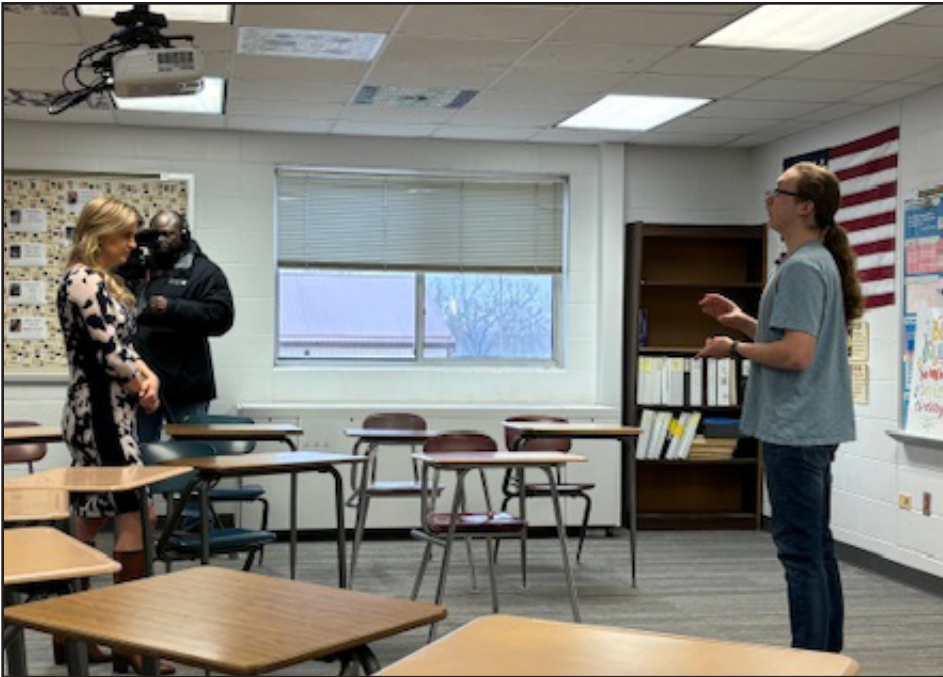
great time. Both the middle school and high school bands played great, had great feedback from our clinician and judges, and had a chance to listen to a bunch of different bands play throughout the day. The high school band ended up placing second in class 2A, which was awesome to see happen after such a crazy day. Jazz Band has been going really well so far this year. The band is a good mix of both young and experienced players, and all sections of the band are strong. It's been a lot of fun to work with

them in the mornings and continue to get better every week. Weather has been a bit of a pain (as it always is this time of year) but that hasn't seemed to affect our group's motivation or confidence."

Left: While the bus was being repaired, some jazz students decided to make the most of it.



Pair of Wildcats make the news



George Livingston was named KCRG TV9's Student of the Month for January. Last Friday, a news crew interviewed George along with Mr. DeVore and Mrs. Temple. The full interview can be found on the KCRG website.



Each Friday morning, Brain & Courtlin of 98.1 KHAK pay tribute to an Eastern Iowa first responder. Last week they recognized MV custodian Randy Darrow. Randy has served on the Greeley Fire Department for 29 years. He is also an EMS First Responder for Greeley. The picture is of his daughter when she was little (left) and his grandson about 25 years apart."

Big Games on the Big Stage

Statement of (my) opinion: Caitlin Clark is the best to ever do it in women's basketball.

Statement of FACT: Caitlin Clark is now the all-time Big Ten leader scorer in women's basketball with 3,424 career points... but is only 104 points away from taking the all-time leading scorer in the history of NCAA women's basketball.



by Kaitlyn Nolan

For Caitlin, that's a probable three to four games away. The Des Moines native averages 32 points a game, so it's been suspected that Kelsey Plum's record will be shattered on the 15th of February when the Hawkeyes play Michigan.

Now, time to focus on the team itself rather than the individual. After falling in the polls because of a loss against Ohio State, the #3 Hawkeyes have taken down Nebraska and Northwestern in dominant performances. It's been argued that the team has an easier stretch of games coming up, but in the Big Ten, you never know what will happen next (take the Purdue men's loss against Nebraska for example).

The men, on the other hand, still haven't seemed to find their groove quite yet. They were able to come back from their loss against Maryland with a win over Michigan, but they fell to Indiana later in the week. Coach McCaffery's team will host the Ohio State Buckeyes tomorrow, so if they match the pattern, they should be able to pull out a win.

The Cyclone women, led by Head Coach Bill Fennelly, fell to #23 West Virginia last Saturday but pulled off a win against Oklahoma State, 78-67. Freshman Audi Crooks, another Iowa native, scored 29 points as the top scorer for ISU. On Saturday they travel to UCF for road action.

The ISU men, coached by T.J. Otzelberger, are ranked #12 in the nation. The Cyclones, ranked 3rd in the Big 12, took down a tough #8 Kansas team last Saturday, 79-75, in a close battle at home. They travel to #18 Baylor on Saturday with a start time of 8:00 p.m.

Sports Connection

Beitz and Salow reign as conference champs

by Kaitlyn Nolan

The Wildcats are prepping for postseason action! The boys hosted the Tri-Rivers Conference Wrestling tournament last Saturday, coming in 4th place out of the 10 teams that competed with 127 team points. A tough Alburnett squad took the top spot with 299.5 points with Lisbon and East Buchanan placing second and third respectively.

Junior Brayden Bjorkgren placed 5th in the 120 weight class after pinning freshman Tayton Elledge from East Buchanan (1:33). Wrestling at 138, freshman Kyle Engelken took 4th place after falling to sophomore Brandon Buford of Midland in the 3rd place match (5:22). Senior Tyreese Crippen, at 150, placed 3rd for the day after winning his match against senior Dane Ballou of Midland with a pin (3:22). Clayton Davis, a freshman in the 157 weight class, placed 5th after pinning freshman Rhyley Morris from North Linn (0:59). Junior Mason Jolley placed 5th as well in the 165 weight class with a 7-3 decision over junior Ian Otdoefer from Starmont. Wrestling at 190, junior Nathan Beitz, who has only lost one match this season, took down senior Tanner Thurn of East Buchanan by a 12-2 major decision to earn 1st place. Senior Brady Davis took home the 2nd spot



in the 215 weight class with a loss against Alburnett senior Emmitt Fleshman (2:55). At 285, senior Aidan Salow placed 1st after a close 4-3 decision over senior Cody Fox from East Buchanan.

The team will be traveling to Baxter tomorrow for the Iowa Star Conference Invitational, a new addition to their schedule as of recently. After that, it's time for Districts!

Senior Aidan Salow pins one of his opponents at the Tri-Rivers Conference meet last weekend at home. Salow went on to become the heavyweight champion by defeating East Buchanan senior Cody Fox, a University of Iowa football recruit.

Girls basketball falls to Vikings and Lynx

by Maya Smith

Last Friday, the girls faced off against Ed-Co at home. It was a very close and intense game, but Ed-Co was able to secure some last minute points to pull ahead, the Wildcats ending the game 45-47. Point leaders for the game were Bianka Ronnebaum, 17; Leah Reicher, 15; and Grace Richter, 9. Rebound leaders for the game were Alexis Halverson, 8; Bianka Ronnebaum, 5; Leah Reicher, 5. Assist leaders were Bianka Ronnebaum, 7; Jada Knipper, 2; and Haley Ronnebaum, 2.

"We had another tough game to close out the week," stated Coach Moenck. "Again, we got off to a slow start and got down 11 at halftime. We got some things figured out at half-time and really got after like we can and gave ourselves a chance to win at the end. Unfortunately again we just couldn't get enough stops. We have some kids really stepping up on the team. Games like these will pay off for us come tournament time. We will continue to grow and get better."

This Tuesday, the girls traveled

to North Linn. They suffered a tough loss, ending the game 64-37. Here the game stats - Point leaders were Leah Reicher, 15; Bianka Ronnebaum, 9; Lexi Halverson, 5. Rebound leaders were Haley Ronnebaum, 8; Leah Reicher, 6. The assist leader for the game was Haley Ronnebaum with 5 assists. This Friday the girls will travel to Easton Valley.

Post-season brackets have been released. MV will host Bellevue Feb. 13.

Repeat outcomes in Ed-Co, North Linn matchups

by Chantel Crowley

We're on the back half of the basketball season which means we're playing division teams for the second time. In recent play, the Wildcats experienced repeats of previous outcomes.

Last Friday, January 26th, the boys played a home game against Edgewood-Colesburg, ending the week with a win, 63 to 49.

Top scorers included Lance McShane, 30 points; Kody Hoeger, 20 points; Toby Grimm, seven points; Brady Wall, five points; Anderson Holtz, three points; and Ty Hoeger, two points.

The boys had a total of 17 assists; Grimm had six, Wall and Holtz had four each, and McShane, Kody Hoeger, and Dylan Knipper had one each. As for rebounds, Kody Hoeger had nine, Grimm had seven, McShane had six, Knipper had four, Holtz had three, Ty Hoeger had two, and Wall and Tate Intorf had one each for a total of 33 rebounds.

"I didn't feel like we played a great first quarter against Ed-Co, but credit to them, they came out ready to play and hit some early shots to get ahead of us," Coach Conner comments. "We settled in and had a much better 2nd quarter and were able to regain the lead. The halftime adjustments that we made were key to us coming out in the 2nd half and building an early lead. I thought we did a much better job in the 2nd half of moving the basketball and taking advantage of the mismatch that we felt like we had in the post with both Kody and Lance. They both had huge nights for us and were key to us pulling away in the 2nd half. Toby Grimm had a very good night as well, filling multiple stat columns and really doing a great job of providing the senior leadership that we need."

Their next game was away against

North Linn on Tuesday, January 30th. Coach Conner comments, "I was very happy with the amount of confidence that our guys went into this game with. Our goal was to go 5-0 after the Alburnett loss a couple of weeks ago and carry some good momentum into this game. We did some really good things in the first quarter and had the lead at the end of the first quarter. The 2nd quarter of the game was the difference in my opinion. North Linn turned up the pressure and forced us to play at a speed that we are uncomfortable with and we turned the ball over too many times and allowed them to get a number of clean looks. To our guys' credit, they battled the entire game with a top 5 team in 1A and never quit fighting. We battled back from 10 points down and had it at a 3 point game with about 4 minutes left, but just couldn't get shots to fall to keep it there. I was really proud of how our guys battled all night in a playoff-type game and atmosphere and I know that all of us will grow from this experience." The final score was 44 to 57.

McShane scored 17 points, Kody Hoeger scored eleven points, Wall scored eight points, Grimm scored six points, and Holtz scored two points.

For a total of 25 rebounds, McShane had ten, Kody Hoeger had six, Grimm had four, Holtz and Knipper had two each, and Wall had one. For assists, Knipper, Kody Hoeger, and Grimm had two each, and Wall had one, for a total of seven.

The boys' next game will be tonight at Easton Valley, and will be covered in the next issue.

Cutie

by Lily Huber

Heyo, Cutie! This Cutie is a senior and is involved in both large group and individual speech, choir, musical and play. A fun fact about her is that her childhood nickname was Roo. Last week's Cutie was Mrs. Montz.



Athletes of the Week

Name: Leah Reicher

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? Being able to play in the environments that we do. We always have a lot of intensity. Our team also has such a great connection that it makes it even more fun to play together.



How have you evolved as a player? This year I'm more aggressive offensively compared to last year. Defensively I've started to play on the perimeter more and have worked on rotating better and being more fundamentally sound.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? My favorite basketball memory is the team talks in the locker room before practices.

Who's your basketball role model? Megan Gustafson

Name: Tyreese Crippen

What do you enjoy most about wrestling? I enjoy that it teaches you a great life lesson which is to never give up no matter how hard it gets.

What's something about wrestling that others might not know? Wrestling is one of the hardest sports you can go out for.

How do you mentally prepare for a match? I run three to four sprints down a hall to get my heart rate up and then I shadow wrestle to get in my head with what I want to do when I go out on the mat and before the tournament and my matches start I listen to my wrestling playlist I have made.

How have you evolved as a wrestler over the years? I believe that I have evolved as a wrestler to where I understand the biggest meaning which is to push through and finish strong. I have evolved to become more experienced with moves and technique.

Who's your wrestling role model? My wrestling role model would be Dan Gable.



Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

My ex used to hit me with stringed instruments. She had a history of violins. I don't play soccer because I enjoy the sport. I'm just doing it for kicks. I was hoping to steal some leftovers from the party but my plans were foiled. Simba was walking so slowly I told him to Mufasa. Most people are shocked when they find out how bad an electrician I am.

Best Buds



Sami DeMoss & Addie Hucker
by Chantel Crowley

How did the two of you meet?

Sami: In middle school we hated each other.

Addie: We met in 7th grade but I didn't like her until the middle/end of sophomore year.

What is your favorite memory you have with each other?

Sami: Anytime we hangout with each other on the weekends. However my favorite memory is New Years.

Addie: Any time we worked at the pool together, it was always a good time.

What do you admire most about your friend?

Sami: Her confidence. the way she can just go in public and not care whatsoever about what people think.

Addie: She is probably one of the funniest people I know and I love how she is so straight up with anyone.

What song makes you think of your friend?

Sami: "Confident" by Justin Bieber

Addie: "Confident" by Justin Bieber

What does a typical hangout look like?

Sami: Usually we are in my boyfriend's shop. Addie and I will talk to each other or play our watermelon game while our boyfriends cook us food.

Addie: We usually hang out on the weekends in Sami's boyfriend's shop and just talk while the boys make food.

Where do you see each other in the future?

Sami: I see Addie with 3 kids and one poodle dog. We will be going on trips all the time leaving our kids with the husbands. Everyone will see us as the cool moms and every kid wishes they had us as a mom. However Addie will be pretty busy due to her working for the FBI.

Addie: I see Sami being happy with her 1 kid, French bulldog, and Hank the donkey. I also see us as the hot moms and being the super fun aunts to each other's kids.

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: McKenna Bush

What event(s) are you in for large group speech? Choral reading and one-act play.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? I enjoy getting to perform at contests.

It's so much fun when all of the hard work pays off!

What have you learned through this event? I have learned how to be confident in front of a crowd. My events are live performances, so I very quickly learned how to have fun when I am in front of an audience.

Who is your speech role model? All of the seniors this year. They have inspired me and taught me how to be the best I can be in speech.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? Choral reading. There are so many different aspects to this event, and every group is very different.



Name: Lily Huber

What event(s) are you in for large group speech? TV News and Ensemble Acting

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? I love getting to collaborate with others and having the ability

to be able to get out of my comfort zone and watching everyone's events the most and appreciating the wide range of topics chosen by each group.

What have you learned through this event? Through TV News, I've learned that the energy and details are everything and truly make a difference to an audience. This event can be boring to some since it isn't live, so it's important to really capture their attention. In an ensemble, it's important to get out of your comfort zone and put on everything you've got when performing! Miming objects adds to a piece as well, and if not done right, it can break the reality of your piece.

Who is your speech role model? Mrs. DeVore. In practice, she has such great and creative ideas that I'd never think of. In ensemble, her ideas for certain facial expressions, articulation of words, and movements are on point! The passion she has for speech and drama truly shows through her endless hours and effort.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? Acting or improv, I think that some of them are so creative and I'd never get bored!



what's up?

If you could be any animal, which one?
by Jade Hillers

Alaina Leytem - A baby sea turtle because they're cute.

Breanna Mcshane - A bird because they can fly.

Chase Krogmann - A dog because they get petted a lot.

Mr. Cassutt - A lion because they're bad.

Gabe Halweg - Giraffe because they have a really long neck and long necks are useful.

Teagan Monk - A leopard because they're in the jungle.

Macoy Stone - A monkey because I like hanging on stuff.

Mrs. Downs - Eagle because they're strong and the symbolism of them.

Marcelo Martinez - Horse.

Sadie Boeckenstedt - A rich person's dog so I can be spoiled.

Deep Dive

by Arianna Nolan



Welcome back divers to Deep Dive! In this edition, we will be taking a look at a creature from the deep sea. This jelly-like creature is called the flapjack octopus. These octopuses look so different from the ones we are usually used to seeing because they have webbing between their legs, which allows them to flow through the water gracefully, and because of their fins on their head that look like little ears. Unlike most octopi, these creatures are not able to camouflage, which means that they will always stay the same color and texture.

These creatures live all around the world and can be found near the ocean floor. They aren't very strong swimmers and move like jellyfish when swimming. When not swimming, they float around the ocean floor. It is called a flapjack because when it is resting on the sea floor, it looks like uncooked pancake batter. They mostly eat worms and other invertebrates, which they dig up from the dirt by swishing around the sea floor with their webbed tentacles.

I would recommend checking out Monterey Bay Aquarium to learn more, which is where all information for this article was provided!

Meet the Freshmen



Gracie, Lucy, Dustin & Trevor

Name: Trevor Grimm
Siblings: Toby
Activities you plan to be in: Football, basketball, golf, and baseball
Favorite subject: Spanish
Career aspirations: Undecided
Hobbies: Golfing
Something cool about you: Baseball is my favorite sport.

Name: Lucy Hucker
Siblings: Sean, Addie, and Donavon
Activities you plan to be in: Softball
Favorite subject: Beginning Foods
Career aspirations: Radiology
Hobbies: Traveling
Something cool about you: I've been to Utah.

Name: Dustin Domico
Siblings: Lauren, Mileea, and Aubry
Activities you plan to be in: Track
Favorite subject: Algebra
Career aspirations: Astronaut/genius
Hobbies: Fishing
Something cool about you: Cats

Name: Gracie Palmersheim
Siblings: Nick, Kenny, Luke, Megan, Emily, Isabelle, and Hannah
Activities you plan to be in: Cheerleading, musical, and dance
Favorite subject: Choir
Career aspirations: Photographer or farmer
Hobbies: Fishing, hunting, farming, dancing, and singing
Something cool about you: I am a sweet person and aunt to 16 kids.

—typist: Grace Richter

One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

In a world full of negativity, it can be easy to fall into the trap of negativity yourself. Whenever Monday begins, you wish it would be Friday; whenever Friday ends, you wish you never had to finish your Mondays. We continuously wish half of our lives away because we think so negatively about everything. If there is a lunch that you don't like, you decide to let that get you down for the entire day instead of enjoying some of the side dishes that come with it. You get homework and start thinking about how you could finish it as fast as possible instead of putting actual effort into it. There are other ways to see life instead of this constant loop of wanting days to end because of one bad thing that happened. It's a change of mindset that can do wonders for how you perceive and take on life.

First, when something you don't like takes place, instead of thinking about it in such a bad light, take it as an opportunity to think positively about it. That doesn't mean you have to start liking it, but you can start thinking about how it's going to improve you as a person. If you don't like going to work, think about how doing your job is going to help you get better jobs in the future, or how you can use the money you get from that job to buy something you like. When you get assigned homework in a class, think about how if you put effort into the assignment, it could improve your grades. When we think so negatively about everything all of the time, then we start to wish the days away, but if we start to put effort into how we see bad things, then we will eventually start to enjoy even the negatives in life.

Changing our mindset can improve us as a person drastically. People will want to be around you more because they will feel great about themselves when talking to you, teachers and bosses will appreciate having you around because of the positive environment you bring, and you will feel better about yourself because of all the good you are bringing to the world. As we know, George Livingston was named Student of the Month, and it was quoted that his positive attitude is what makes him shine above the rest. Whenever he



is brought up, smiles are brought to faces because of all of the good he has done for our school and community. It's not just him that can do this though; every single one of us can be like this with a little bit of effort.

So, the next time that you start to think negatively about something, try and replace the thought with a good one. Or, if you hear someone talking negatively about themselves or their day, sympathize with them and bring kindness to their day. By spreading this positivity, we will be able to improve the environment at our school and our communities. I wish you all the best of luck with this mission, and I love you all!

Hall Smarts

by Maya Smith

This week, I quizzed students on some common slogans.

Just Do It

Cadence Freiburger: Nike

Chelsea Bussan: Nike

Morgan Clemen: Nike

Shannahan Smith: Nike

Answer: Nike



Finger-lickin' Good

Cadence: KFC

Chelsea: KFC

Morgan: KFC

Shannahan: Kentucky Fried Chicken

Answer: KFC



Snap! Crackle! Pop!

Cadence: Rice Krispies

Chelsea: Rice Krispies

Morgan: Pop-rocks

Shannahan: Rice Krispies

Answer: Rice Krispies



The Happiest Place on Earth

Cadence: Disneyland

Chelsea: Disneyland

Morgan: DisneyWorld

Shannahan: Disney

Answer: Disneyland



MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Lily Huber

Recent reports list 2,807 cases that involved hospital visits from using vaping and e-cigarettes. This led to a total of 68 people dying from vaping in 2020.

- Cross River Therapy