

FFA students advance to districts Speech students earn conference title

by Kaya Knipper, FFA reporter

On Tuesday night the Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter hosted the North East Sub-district LDE contest. An LDE in the FFA is a Leadership Development Event, which consists of speaking events from meetings, sales, interview, broadcasting, extemporaneous, and preparation. 26 students participated in an assortment of contests and 15 of them have solidified a spot in the District contest. Results Include: Extemporaneous Speaking- Leah Reicher, 1st Adv to Districts
Prepared Public Speaking- Kaya Knipper, 1st Adv to Districts
Ag Broadcasting- McKayla Weber, 2nd Adv to Districts
Creed Speaking- Natalie Ries, 3rd District Alt
Ag Sales- Ashton Klaren, 3rd Alt to Districts
Job Interview- Allison Hogan, Silver
Parliamentary Procedure- Ty Hoeger, Dexter Dietiker, Ford Domeyer, Brendin Frasher, Caden Ries, 1st Adv to Districts
Conduct of Meetings- Kyle Engelken, Ella Reicher, Chase Krogmann, McKenna Mineart, Olivia Ronnebaum, Seth Dugan, Ruby Recker, 2nd Adv to Districts
Greenhand Test: 2nd- Braden Ronnebaum, 4th- Tracy Reth, 8th- Ava Knipper, 9th- Emma Brockhohn, 10th- Bryce Vaske, Brenyn Robinson, Ivan Otto, Griffin Honkomp
Chapter Test: Lacy Reth, 2nd Place

Districts will be held in Waukon on March 9th.

Vocal jazz continues to grow with feedback

by Chantel Crowley

Smooth Harmony traveled to Solon for the Solon Jazz Festival last Friday. "Smooth Harmony was able to put on a cool performance for clinicians Michele Weir and Dr. Fred Kiser," Ms. McCrary commented. "During the clinic, we received some helpful feedback that we will be putting into practice as we prepare for our upcoming performances and our Jazz Championships

The Eagle has landed at MV yet again as the Wildcats earned first place at the Tri-Rivers Conference Individual Speech contest held Monday night at Cedar Valley Christian.

Earning Best of Center honors were Sellah Ambundo in Solo Musical Theater, Maya Smith in Public Address, Sebastian Charles in Original Oratory, Alissa Bush in Literary Program, Josie Teymer in both Expository Address and Acting, Kaitlyn Nolan in both Solo Musical Theater and Expository Address, George Livingston in Spontaneous Speaking, and Chantel Crowley in Radio News.

Students earning Division I ratings include:

Taylor Saunders, Storytelling
McKayla Weber, Poetry
Chantel Crowley, Radio News
Sellah Ambundo, Solo Musical Theatre
Kaitlyn Nolan, Expository Address
George Livingston, Spontaneous Speaking
Lily Huber, Radio News
Arianna Nolan, Acting
Morgan Clemen, Acting
Matthew Schaul, Spontaneous Speaking
Nicholas Otting, Poetry
Josie Teymer, Expository Address
Alissa Bush, Literary Program
Chantel Crowley, Solo Musical Theatre
George Livingston, Acting
Adeline Rudd, Improvisation
Maya Smith, Public Address
Sellah Ambundo, Poetry
Jocelyn Kelchen, Storytelling
Alissa Bush, Reviewing
Cadence Freiburger, Public Address

audition. With three jazz competitions down and two to go before our home performance and Jazz Championships around the corner, there are still a lot of great things in store for Smooth Harmony this season!"

Smooth Harmony also performed at Coe College Wednesday where they were got feedback from Coe's choir directors.

Their next competition will be at Kirkwood today!



Senior Addison Hucker rehearses her After Dinner speech before school.

Lucy Hucker, Storytelling
Kaitlyn Nolan, Solo Musical Theatre
Sebastian Charles, Literary Program
Josie Teymer, Acting
Morgan Clemen, Storytelling
Toby Grimm, Improvisation
Allison Hogan, Prose
Jocelyn Kelchen, Expository Address
McKenna Bush, Reviewing
Sebastian Charles, Original Oratory
Addie Hucker, After Dinner
Arianna Nolan, Original Oratory
Joellen Beitz, Prose
Cheyenne Eike, Prose
Emily Hogan, Prose
Cadence Freiburger, Original Oratory
McKenna Bush, After Dinner
Maya Smith, Reviewing
Shane Lambert, Prose

Students earning Division II ratings are:

Lucy Hucker, After Dinner
Addie Hucker, Public Address
Carly Dirks, Improvisation
Taylor Saunders, Radio News
Brianna Hines, Poetry
Morgan Krumviede, Literary Program
Sam Howes, Acting

Tomorrow MV will host district contest. Students who earn a Division I rating will advance to the state contest Mar. 9.

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Sellah Ambundo

What event are you in for speech? I am in Solo Musical theater and Poetry.

What do you enjoy most about individual speech? I enjoy the people and bus rides

What have you learned through this event? I've

learned that in Solo musical theater, it is a lot easier to be yourself and act out more, and also, I am a decent singer and actress. In poetry, I've learned to control my voice and expressions to make words and phrases have depth and meaning. I also learned that poetry doesn't have to rhyme, and it sounds cooler when it doesn't rhyme.

If you could judge an event at IE contest, what would it be? If I could judge any IE event at a contest, it would be After Dinner Speaking because it's funny and enjoyable.

If you could invent a new category, what would it be? If I could invent a new category, I don't know what it would be but it would be funny and enjoyable.



Name: Nicholas Otting

What event are you in for speech? Poetry

What do you enjoy most about individual speech? Definitely being at other people's performances during contest.

What have you learned through this event? I have learned how to slow myself down at times and how to regulate my breathing.

If you could judge an event at IE contest, what would it be? It would be poetry.

If you could invent a new category, what would it be? The category would be similar to One-Act but smaller and shorter to fit one person. You would have appropriate costumes and props for the situation.



Jazz band makes the competition circuit



MV's jazz band competed in UNI's Tallcorn Jazz Festival last week.

by Maya Smith

Last Thursday the MV Jazz Band competed at UNI Tallcorn Festival. The band performed at 9:30 and had a clinic after. Mr. Ford says, "I thought we played really well. We received good feedback from the judges. Overall, we just have the fine details to work on. It was good to hear from the judges about how we can improve, especially on those finer details."

Seniors Jake Gellersen and Jesus Rumbo both agree that the band showed a lot of improvement. After lunch, the band was able to watch other competing jazz bands and UNI Jazz Band 1 with guest guitarists Mike and Leni Stern.

Later in the day, outstanding soloists were recognized. Maya Smith, trombone, earned one of those nods.

Yesterday, the MV Jazz Band traveled to Coe College to compete at the Coe College Jazz Summit. They performed their three tunes at 12.

Mr. Ford noted he felt optimistic about the performance: "I thought it went really well. We played better than last week and received good feedback from our clinician and judges. Using the feedback we



Trombonist Maya Smith was named one of the outstanding soloists at the UNI Tallcorn Jazz Festival.

got from UNI, we were able to make some small changes before Coe that elevated our performance today."

Josie Teymer, who plays the baritone sax, said, "I think it went very well. All of the soloists were very good, especially since they had to overcome some differences from what we usually do. The clinicians were very helpful for us and gave some good insight. There's always room for improvement, though."

You can catch the jazz band at home next Friday at MV's Got Talent.

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

As farmers, we hear a lot of jokes about sheep. We'd tell them to the dog, but he'd herd them all!

What kind of things does a farmer talk about when they are milking cows? Udder nonsense!

Why do cows have hooves instead of feet? Because they lactose!

What do you call a cow with no legs? Ground beef.

Farmer Giles is so interested in conserving energy, he built a pig-powered car. He has to get rid of it, though. Every time he turns a corner, the tires squeal

Mark your calendars!

MV's Got Talent

Friday, Mar. 1

7pm

Great music * Talented musicians * Sweet treats

FFA Week: Meet the Officers

President: Lainey Knipper

Grade: Senior
SAE Project: My SAE project consists of my registered boer goat where I breed, raise, market and sell my show quality boer goats to local producers for meat production or for the show industry.

FFA Activities: Ag Biotechnology, Chapter Website, Greenhand Test, Chapter Test, Delaware County Farmer for A Day, Fed in the Fields, Farm Safety Day, Fruit Sales, Pedal Pulls, Floriculture and Plant Sales
Most memorable FFA activity: 2022 National FFA Convention

Future plans: In the Fall of 2024 I plan on attending Iowa State University with a major in Elementary Education and a minor in Agribusiness. I plan on continuing my SAE project.



tional FFA Convention

Future plans: Enter the workforce and continue my SAE

Secretary: Leah Reicher

Grade: Junior
SAE Project: Bee-keeping and Honey Production Entrepreneurship
FFA Activities: Conduct of Meetings, Extemporaneous Speaking, Floriculture, Food Science, Soil Judging, Farm Safety Day, Fed in the Field, Pedal Pulls, and the greenhouse/plant sale among many other activities.

Most memorable FFA activity: 2023 State Convention playing games and hanging out



Biotechnology, Agronomy, Soil Judging, Livestock Judging, Ag Mechanics, Public Speaking, Greenhand test, Diversified Agriculture Proficiency, Pedal Pulls, Fed in the Field, Farm Safety Day, Plant Sales, and helping with fundraisers.

Most memorable FFA activity: 2022 National FFA Convention

Future plans: Attend Iowa State University to major in Ag life Sciences- Education and minor in Animal Science.

Reporter: Haley Ronnebaum

Grade: Senior
SAE Project: Dairy Production Placement at Ronnebaum Dairy

FFA Activities: Team Ag Sales, Dairy Judging, Milk Quality and Products, Floriculture, Livestock Judging,

Pedal Pulls, Fed in the Field, Farm Safety Day, Plant Sales, and helping with fundraisers.

Most memorable FFA activity: My most memorable FFA accomplishment is placing 3rd at the National FFA convention in the Dairy Evaluation contest, and being able to travel to Europe with my team.

Future plans: Attend Iowa State University to major in Dairy Science on the Pre-Vet route.



Vice President: Kody Hoeger

Grade: Senior
SAE Project: Diversified Livestock Placement at Hoeger Farms
FFA Activities: Farm Business management, soil judging, Ag Mechanics, Agronomy, Fed in the Field, pedal pulls, and farm safety day.

Most memorable FFA activity: Attending state and national conventions.

Future plans: To enter the workforce and farm with my family.



Treasurer: Alia Domeyer

Grade: Senior
SAE Project: Dairy Production Entrepreneurship
FFA Activities: I have been involved in so many activities through FFA but some major ones have been Creed Speaking, Public Speaking, and Dairy Evaluation.

Most memorable FFA activity: Competing at the 2021 National Convention in Dairy Evaluation Where my team placed 3rd and secured a spot on a judging trip to Europe.
Future plans: Attend the University of Northern Iowa to double major in Finance and Marketing.



Sentinel: Nathan Beitz

Grade: Junior
SAE Project: Beef Production Entrepreneurship
FFA Activities: Conduct of meetings, Parli pro, Marketing plan

Most memorable FFA event: Attending State Convention



Vice President: Ethen Brockhohn

Grade: Senior
SAE Project: Show Pig Entrepreneurship
FFA Activities: county fair, team ag sales, FFA test plot plus many others
Most memorable FFA activity: Na-



Reporter: Kaya Knipper
Grade: Senior
SAE Project: Diversified Agriculture Entrepreneurship in goat, hay and corn crop production
FFA Activities: Ag Broadcasting, Ag



'Big Three' all earn podium spots

by Kaitlyn Nolan

It all led up to this: a trip to the State Wrestling Tournament at the Well. Maquoketa Valley sent three wrestlers up to Des Moines this year, the Big Three, hoping for strong runs in their respective classes. Brady Davis, Aidan Salow, and Nathan Beitz battled hard but fell short of their ultimate goal, but that doesn't mean they didn't win in the eyes of many Wildcat fans. Competing with just three wrestlers, Maquoketa Valley and Lisbon tied for 8th with 59 points. Of the Top 10 teams in Class 1A, 7 were from Eastern Iowa. Three teams were from the Tri-Rivers: Lisbon, Maquoketa Valley, and Alburnett, who placed 2nd.

Wrestling in the 190 weight class, Beitz earned a Bye in the 1st round. During the 2nd round, he pinned Bryce Wiskus of Kuemper Catholic in 3:19. With a 10-8 decision, he beat Taite Peach of Iowa Valley Morengo in the Quarterfinal round. Unfortunately, Beitz fell to Loudon Huisenga of WACO in a 5-3 OT decision. He wrestled back to compete in the 3rd place match where he took down Landon Fernandez of Don Bosco with a 6-4 Decision. With a 3rd place title, he earned 18 team points. He ended the season with a 46-3 record.

Davis also received a Bye in the 1st round. In the 2nd round, he scored a major decision 8-0 over Indy Ferguson of Lisbon. In the Quarterfinal round, he pinned Kyler Sallis of Don Bosco (2:53) which propelled him to the Semifinal round where he beat David Smith of West Hancock by a 5-1 de-



cision. In the championship round, he lost a heartbreaker in OT to Ashton Honnold of Nodaway Valley (6-4). With a 2nd place finish, he earned 23 team points. Davis ended the season with a 41-4 record.

Wrestling at 285, Salow received a Bye in the 1st round and went on to pin Cody Koepke of Denver in the 2nd (2:38). In the Quarterfinal round, he lost a 3-1 decision in OT to Trenton Warner of Nodaway Valley. He wrestled back before ending up in the 5th place match where he pinned Payton Jacobo of AC/GC in 4:25. With his 5th place finish, he earned 19 team points. Salow ended the season with a 42-5 record.

The team was welcomed back to Delhi by a caravan of fire trucks and EMS vehicles and supporters at the high school about 1:00.

Coach Hatfield thanked the crowd and said how proud he was of the team and their work effort. To finish a 2nd, 3rd, and 5th is a proof of the character of this team. Most teams in the top 12 places were fielding teams of 6 to 10 wrestlers. To finish tied for 8th with Lisbon with just three wrestlers showed the quality and stamina of our wrestlers. Congratulations to the entire team.



Brady Davis



Nathan Beitz



Aidan Salow

Girls lose heart-breaker in OT



Haley Ronnebaum puts up two against Regina. (photo by Dannie Burkle)
by Maya Smith

Last Friday, the girls basketball team traveled to Regina Catholic for district play. It was an intense game. The first quarter, the girls had a 10 point lead, 16-6. Unfortunately, Regina was able to catch up and continued to close the gap through the next 2 quarters. In the beginning of the 4th quarter, MV was up 38-35. During the last minute, Regina was able to close the point gap and tied at 50-50. In overtime, the Wildcats couldn't keep up with Regina, and the game ended with a loss of 53-61.

Coach Moenck comments, "This one will hurt for a while. We played great and executed for 31 minutes. The last minute the game just got away from us and their best player hit a couple big shots on her home-court. I am extremely proud of our kids, they played very hard and were very tough. To go on the road in a tough environment and have a chance to beat a top 2A school says a lot about our kids. We have a lot to be proud of. Out of our 9 losses 7 of them were under 10 points most of which we led at one point during the game. We just need to button up a few things. We have a lot of talent returning, the future is very bright for these girls."

Here are your stats! Point leaders: Haley Ronnebaum, 19; Leah Reicher, 14; Grave Richter, 10. Rebound leaders: Alexis Halverson, 13; Leah Reicher, 9; Grace Richter, 6. Assist Leaders: Haley Ronnebaum, 5; Bianca Ronnebaum, 3; and Jada Knipper, 3.

Boys play hard to the bitter end

by Chantel Crowley

On Tuesday, February 20th, the MV boys basketball team traveled to Olweim to compete against Dunkerton in the district finals. The loss of 39 to 50 marked the end of the season for the boys.

Scorers included Lance McShane with 13, Kody Hoeger with eleven, Brady Wall with nine, and Toby Grimm with six points.

For assists, Grimm had three, and Wall and Anderson Holtz had one each for a total of five. For rebounds, there were a total of 23; McShane had eight, Hoeger and Dylan Knipper had six each, and Grimm had three.

Coach Conner noted that his feelings at the end of the game were mixed: "Of course I am bummed for our guys that they fell short of our goal, but seeing how much this team grew throughout the season makes it a much easier pill to swallow. This group of guys was so much fun to be around each day and I am going to miss going to practice with them.

"I want to give a special shoutout to our three seniors; Toby, Kody, and Lance. These three have been all you can ask for in a player. They do everything with class and have really led by example throughout their time in a MV Wildcat uniform. I can't thank them enough for their dedication to our program and they are great role models for future MV Basketball players.

"A much deserved thank you needs to be said to my assistant coach, Dan Cassutt. He is one of the best assistant coaches in the state and I have been lucky to have him be my assistant for the last 6 seasons.

"Another special shoutout to Delhi Landing and A1 Storage for the food they provided for our players throughout the season. We appreciate everything you do for our athletes!

"Lastly, I would like to take a second and recognize the support that we received from the Wildcat Community this season. Our fans were amazing this year at our home and road games. I can think back to the first two home games of the season and not having a voice because of having to yell over the loud crowd that we had at home. The atmosphere that you created for our players to play in at home was very cool to see and I can't thank you enough for the support all year long."



Above: Players celebrate a three-point shot. Left: Anderson Holtz makes space to get to the hoop. (photos by Dannie Burkle)

All-Conference Basketball

First team

Lance McShane*
Kody Hoeger*
Bianka Ronnebaum
*unanimous

Second Team

Toby Grimm
Brady Wall
Grace Richter

Honorable Mention

Anderson Holtz
Haley Ronnebaum

Player of the Year

Lance McShane

Co-Coach of the Year

Coach Conner

Best Buds

Morgan Krumviede, Paige Aulwes

How did the two of you meet?

Morgan: We've always known one another since preschool and were friends back then, but it wasn't until around middle school that we started getting closer.

Paige: Preschool

What is your favorite memory you have with each other?

Morgan: We've known each other for so long that it's hard to choose just one. But I would have to say the time for my 9th birthday and I wanted a slumber party, and there was a really bad snowstorm that had the snow piled so high that Paige couldn't even walk through it, so my mom had to carry her to the front door. I just remember Paige coming in all cold and full of snow that it was hard not to laugh at because she just looked like a snowball.

Paige: There are too many to choose from. I would say anytime we are together it creates memories for us.

What do you admire most about your friend?

Morgan: No matter what, I know that Paige will always be there for me and anyone that she cares for.

Paige: She is there no matter what it is.

What song makes you think of your friend?

Morgan: "Dawns" by Zach Bryan and Maggie Rogers. It's always been our song but there is specifically a part about going to your best friend's house that is just fitting for us.

Paige: "Dawns" by Zach Bryan.



What does a typical hangout look like?

Morgan: A typical hang-out for us is just hanging around the house watching a movie or something. If we're really bored we might venture outside for a drive somewhere.

Paige: Going out to eat and just hanging out watching movies.

Where do you see each other in the future?

Morgan: I see us still being really close and hanging out as much as we can, considering hopefully we will both have families of our own and the job that we want. I know that life will get harder but I know that we will always be there for each other.

Paige: Being really good friends, possibly finding a place together after high school.

MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Lily Huber

50% of all suicides, and over 50% of all violent crimes, are caused by alcohol and drugs. - Alpine Recovery Lodge

Hall Smarts

by Maya Smith

When was the Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter founded?

Sam Howes: I have no idea

Racheal Hoefer: 1920

Cadence Freiburger:

1964

A: 1934



How many FFA members are in the United States?

Sam: At least 3

Racheal: 900,000

Cadence: 976,000

A: 945,988

How many students in the highschool are enrolled in FFA?

Sam: At least 7

Racheal: 35

Cadence: 63

A: 64

Q: In an FFA meeting who is stationed by the ear of corn?

Sam: The Treasurer

Racheal: The President

Cadence: The President

A: The Secretary



Cutie

by Lily Huber

What's hanging, Cutie? This Cutie lives in Earlville and is a freshman. She is involved in volleyball, basketball, track and field, softball, and FFA. A fun fact about her is that she's had a nose job! Last Echo's Cutie was Cadence Freiburger.

