

FFA members earn Iowa Degree

by Kaya Knipper, FFA reporter

Maquoketa Valley FFA members have had a busy new year preparing applications to earn their Iowa Degree. All eight applying members have passed the district review and will receive this prestigious award.

This degree is the highest degree that the Iowa FFA Association can bestow to its members. Less than 5% of Iowa FFA members receive this award. All recipients have kept at least three years of accurate records of their time and income through their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects. Members had to record a minimum of 375 hours or productively earn or invest \$1,000 in their project. They also had to record 25 community service and participate in five above the chapter-level contests or conferences.

They will be formally recognized at the 96th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference this April in Ames. These members are listed below with their SAE project name.

Lucas Knipper- Paid Placement at Knipper Farms

Haley Ronnebaum- Unpaid Placement at Ronnebaum Dairy



MV FFA members who will receive their Iowa Degree this spring include, from left: Lucas Knipper, Haley Ronnebaum, Harold Mohr, Kaya Knipper, Kody Hoeger, Lainey Knipper and Ethen Brockhohn. Not pictured: Parker Ries

Harold Mohr- Unpaid Placement of Landscape Management at Harold's Handyman

Kaya Knipper- Entrepreneurship in Goat, Hay and Corn Production at Knipper Boer Goats

Kody Hoeger- Unpaid Placement at Hoeger Farms

Lainey Knipper- Entrepreneurship in Goat Production at Knipper Boer Goats

Ethen Brockhohn- Entrepreneurship Show Pigs and Work Placement

Parker Ries (not pictured)- Paid Placement at Bockenstedt and Nefzger Farms.

Vocal jazz starts off season with a solid performance

by Chantel Crowley

On Monday, Feb. 5, Smooth Harmony traveled to Mt. Vernon to compete in the IHSMA Jazz contest.

They performed in front of three judges, and after their set they were given comments and critiques. The group received a Division I rating overall, and they'll take the critiques and use them to amp up their performance for the Solon Jazz Festival on Friday, February 16.



State speech brings success, two groups to All-State

by Natalie Ries

The Wildcats traveled to Dubuque Senior with 13 group events. These events consisted of One-Act Play (Alaina Leytem, Alissa Bush, Allison Hogan, Chantel Crowley, Cheyenne Eike, Emily Hogan, Emma Brockhohn, Josie Teymer, Kaitlyn Nolan, Lilly Kraft, McKenna Bush, Olivia Hunter, Sellah Ambundo, Taylor Saunders, Zari Ambundo) (Overall 2), TV News-Sports Surge (Anderson Holtz, Derrick Mohr, Dylan Knipper, Eli Dougherty, Lance McShane, Nicholas Otting, Preston Salow, Toby Grimm, Trevor Grimm, Zach Leytem) (Overall 1), Radio Broadcasting-OLDE 99.9 (Allison Hogan, Jake Gellersen, Maya Smith, Shane Lambert, Shane Wright) (Overall 1), Readers Theater (Overall 1), TV News- Let's Get Physical (Adeline Rudd, Emily Hogan, Izzy Heffernan, Jordan Hatfield, Lily Huber, Morgan Krumviede, Tierra Morgan, Zari Ambundo) (Overall 1), Ensemble Acting- The Yellow Line (Cadence Freiburger, George Livingston) (Overall 1), Choral Reading (Arianna Nolan, Cadence Freiburger, Cece Trenkamp, Chantel Crowley, Jocelyn Kelchen, Joellen Beitz, Kayla Flanagan Keira Leytem, Lucy Hucker, Maya Smith, McKenna Bush, Morgan Clemen, Sam Howes) (Overall 1), Group Mime (Carly Dirks, Cheyenne Eike, Trish Dietiker) (Overall 2), Radio Broadcasting-UEAT 95.3 (Brianna Hines, Morgan Krumviede, Taylor Saunders) (Overall 1), Ensemble Acting - The Fount of Inspiration (Lily Huber, Morgan Clemen) (Overall 2), Group Improv-Bacon You Laugh (Leah Reicher, Natalie Ries, Noah Whalen, Toby Grimm) (Overall 1), Ensemble Acting-Mutually Assured Destruction (Overall 1), Group Improv-Hey, Team (Preston Salow, Ruby Recker, Zach Leytem) (Overall 1).

To continue to All-State you had to have an overall 1 and receive a nomination from at least two judges. The Wildcats advanced two groups on to All-State which will take place February 17 at Iowa State

MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Lily Huber

Roughly 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes every year — making alcohol the third leading preventable cause of death in the U.S. after tobacco and poor nutrition/lack of physical activity.



All-State large group speech students for Readers Theater include, front row from left: Kayla Flannagan, Lanni Beaman and Kaitlyn Nolan; back row: Tristan Flannagan, Matthew Schaul, George Livingston and Natalie Ries.

Josie Teymer and Matthew Schaul were selected for All-State in ensemble acting.

University in Ames. These groups consist of Ensemble Acting and Readers Theater. Ensemble Acting was "Mutually Assured Destruction" performed by Josie Teymer and Matthew Schaul. Readers theater "About Her" is performed by Kaitlyn Nolan, George Livingston, Matthew Schaul, Kayla Flannagan, Lanni Beaman, Tristan Flannagan, and Natalie Ries. Both events will be honored as performing groups. Readers Theater will perform at 11:10 and Ensemble Acting will perform at 2:57.



Cutie

by Lily Huber

This Cutie is a senior and has five sisters and lives in Hopkinton. She is involved in softball, large group speech, individual speech, TEL, and student council. A fun fact about her is that she likes to read! Last week's Cutie was Morgan Krumviede.



Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

Here's something new: This week's Comedy Corner is some crazy but real "Florida Man" headlines!

"Florida man breaks into a house, cleans it and leaves behind origami"

"Florida man arrested for calling 911 after his cat was denied entry into a club"

"Florida man arrested for crashing car into a mall; says he was trying to time travel"

"Florida man driving a car with two missing tires blames it on paranormal activity"

"Florida man tries to evade arrest by cart-wheeling away from cops"

Wrestlers earn top honors at added meet

by Kaitlyn Nolan

Last Saturday the wrestling team traveled quite the distance to Baxter, Iowa to compete in the Iowa Star Conference Invitational. The Wildcats took home a well-deserved 1st-place victory, taking the top spot with 147 points. West Marshall placed 2nd with 141 points, and Baxter earned 3rd.

All members of the team earned a top-3 placement! A few wrestlers took home the top spot in their weight classes. Clayton Davis (157), Nathan Beitz (190), and Brady Davis (215) all pinned their Round 3 opponents in under a minute to place 1st. A couple of our wrestlers placed 2nd for the day, including Aidan Salow (285) and Kyle Engelken (138). The final four placed 3rd: Brayden Bjorkgren (120), Tyreese Crippen (150), Mason Jolley (165), and Rogan Heidt (175).

Tomorrow, the boys will travel to Wilton to compete in Districts for a chance at the State Tournament. Good luck!



The varsity wrestlers finished in first as a team at the meet in Baxter this past weekend.

Girls basketball ends regular season play

by Maya Smith

Last Friday, the girls basketball team traveled to Easton Valley. The girls secured an exciting lead of 18-1 in the first quarter and kept the trend going, ending the game with a victory, 55-18. Here are the game's stats: Point leaders include Madison Thompson, 12; Grace Richter, 11; Bianka Ronnebaum, 9; and Leah Reicher, 9. Rebound leaders include Leah Reicher, 11; Lexi Halverson, 6; and Grace Richter, 5. Assist leaders include Jada Knipper, 6; Bianka Ronnebaum, 4; and Haley Ronnebaum, 2.

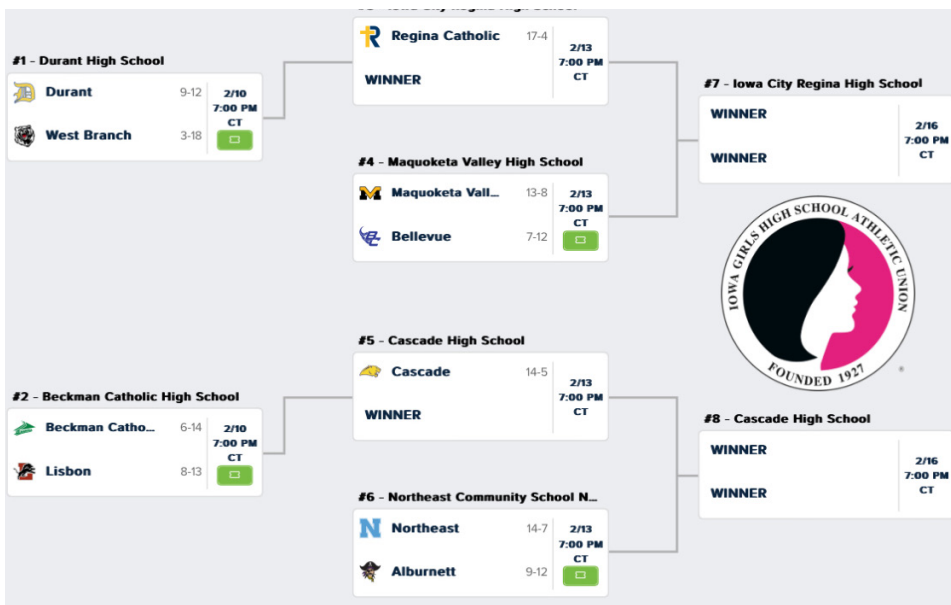
Coach Moenck says, "I was very proud of our kids with how well they played in this game. We got off to a very good start defensively which was great to see. Madison Thompson was a huge spark off the bench hitting four three pointers in this game and led us in scoring with 12 points. We really moved the ball well offensively which led to some wide open looks."

This Monday, the girls traveled to East Buc. It was an intense game, but the Wildcats came up short, 55-57. When asked about the East Buc game, he says, "I was very proud of the kids with how hard they battled in this game. It's tough to win

on the road in this league and having to do it on back to back nights was a tough challenge. We had to dig ourselves out of holes on multiple occasions in this game. We gave ourselves a chance to win at the end, unfortunately, we came up just short. We have to continue to cut down on our turnovers and get possessions of offense. The regular season is behind us now. Everyone has the same record. We need to continue to work

to get better in practice." Point leaders were Bianka Ronnebaum, 20; Grace Richter, 16; and Leah Reicher, 8. Rebound leaders were Leah Reicher, 13; Alexis Halverson, 4; and Haley Ronnebaum, 4. Assist leaders were Bianka Ronnebaum, 4; Jada Knipper, 4; and Haley Ronnebaum, 3.

The team will host Bellevue Tuesday night for the start of post-season play.



Boys basketball finish regular season play 3-0

by Chantel Crowley

Last week, on Friday, Feb. 2, the boys traveled to Preston to play against Easton Valley. The boys won 74 to 41.

"After the long bus ride of Friday, I was interested to see how our guys would come out and play," stated Coach Conner. "Lance had a huge first half for us and really got us going. He scored 22 in the first half and did a lot of really good things for us. We dictated the pace of the game really well and capitalized on some of their turnovers. Brady Wall hit 6 of his 8 3-pointers on the night in the second half and his shooting really allowed us to pull away. I was pretty happy with how we played on defense the whole night, playing multiple different styles. Our goal is to go 3-0 in our last 3 games heading into the postseason, so we accomplished step 1. Now we turn our attention to East Buchanan and look to complete step 2 on Monday night."

Scorers included Brady Wall and Lance McShane with 28 points each, Kody Hoeger with nine points, Zachary Leytem with three points, and Toby Grimm, Tate Intorf, and Dylan Knipper with two points each. There were a total of 22 assists. Grimm had ten, McShane had six, Holtz had three, Knipper had two, and Wall had one. For rebounds, McShane had ten, Knipper had six, Grimm and Wall had five each, Kody Hoeger had four, Intorf had three, and Holtz had one for a total of 34.

Monday, the boys traveled to East Buchanan to play, where they won 60 to 48.

"I was happy with how our guys came out in the first half and played as a team," Coach Conner noted. "I thought we did some really good things and really only allowed one of their players to score most of the first half. We went into halftime up 16 points. From there, I thought we coasted a bit in the 2nd half. We did some things that were out of character for us and allowed EB to gain some confidence and hang around. I never felt as if our lead was in jeopardy, but I was hoping our guys would play a much more disciplined second half, and we talked about that after the game. I thought our seniors really did a great job of leading us in this game. Lance got us off to a hot start. EB did a good job of shutting Lance down in the 2nd half, which allowed Kody to get a little less attention and he took advantage of it. Toby was 2 points shy of a triple double, which is very impressive. Even though we didn't play as well as I would have liked in the 2nd half, we found a way to get it done on the road and we took a lot of stuff away from the game that we can do better.

Scorers of the night were Kody Hoeger with 24 points, McShane with 12

SUBSTATE 4: DISTRICT 8

1. Dunkerton

8. Wapsie Valley

4. Lisbon

5. Central City

2. Maquoketa Valley

7. East Buchanan

3. Hillcrest Academy

6. Lone Tree

Big Games on the Big Stage

The Iowa women's basketball team jumped in the AP Poll from #3 to #2 over the weekend. The team, led by Coach Lisa Bluder and star player Caitlin Clark, is set to play Nebraska this Sunday. Last night the team hosted the Penn State Nittany Lions, but because I'm writing this on a Wednesday night, I'm not exactly sure how that played out (let's just hope this was a win).



by Kaitlyn Nolan

The Iowa men, in a heart-racing game filled with constant shouting at my television, just barely took down the Ohio State Buckeyes, 79-77. The win was much needed (and fit the pattern of win-loss-win-loss that I predicted last week). I'm just hoping they broke this pattern when they played Penn State on the road yesterday (again, I'm writing this on a Wednesday).

T.J. Otzelberger's ISU men's squad is currently ranked #14. After falling to a strong and high-ranked #13 Baylor last Saturday, 68-70, the men traveled down to the heartland on Tuesday to take on the Texas Longhorns. They pulled off the win and are looking for another when they host TCU on Saturday.

As I mentioned last week, the Iowa State women's basketball team took down Oklahoma State on their home court. Unfortunately for the Cyclones, they lost to UCF on the road last Saturday, 66-71. The team will host #24 Oklahoma this Saturday.

points, Grimm with eight points, Holtz with seven points, Knipper with five points, and Wall with four points. There were a total of 16 assists. Grimm had ten, Wall had four, and Holtz and McShane had one each. For rebounds, Hoeger had 13, Grimm had 12, McShane had nine, Knipper with three, and Holtz had one, for a total of 38.

Tuesday, MV matched up against Central City and won 52-39. McShane finished the night with 18 points, Wall with 15 and Hoeger with 11. McShane had 12 rebounds, two blocks and two steals. Kody Hoeger had seven rebounds and Toby Grimm had five rebounds and a steal. Holtz led in assists with four. Knipper and McShane each had three assists.

Coach Conner commented, "I was interested to see how our guys would respond after the EB game. I was much happier with our effort for four quarters in this game. Central City is a team that has a bit of a deceiving record. They have had some key players injured throughout the season and have all of their guys back at the right time. I thought we got some good quality looks in the first quarter that just didn't fall. We did a good job of not panicking and trusting the looks that we got, and they fell for us in the 2nd quarter to go into halftime with a lead. Central City did just enough to hang around and not allow us to pull away. I was most proud of our guys for how they handled themselves when things got chippy last in the game when CC knew we had it sealed. We ended the season accomplishing our goal of going 3-0 after the NL loss and have carried some positive momentum into the postseason.

The boys begin post-season play Monday as they host East Buchanan.

Meet the Freshmen



Jayden, Griffin, McKenna & Haydin

Name: Jayden Schwandt
 Siblings: Kagan Schwandt, Emily Conrad, and Joseph Conrad
 Activities you plan to be in: Cross country, karate track, and soccer
 Favorite subject: Computer science
 Career aspirations: Unsure
 Hobbies: Bike riding and karate
 Something cool about you: My eyes change color in light.

Name: McKenna Mineart
 Siblings: Tyler, Zach, and Kaitlynn
 Activities you plan to be in: Volleyball, basketball, track, softball, and FFA
 Favorite subject: Ag Leadership
 Career aspirations: Undecided
 Hobbies: Sports, camping, boating
 Something cool about you: I'm friends with Sadie.

Name: Haydin Flannagan
 Siblings: Harper and Finn.
 Activities you plan to be in: Cross country, track, and softball
 Favorite subject: Spanish
 Career aspirations: Not sure
 Hobbies: Baking and sports
 Something cool about you: I have a cat named Donny.

Name: Griffin Honkomp
 Siblings: Bolan, Linkin, and Aspen.
 Activities you plan to be in: Football, basketball, track, baseball, and FFA
 Favorite subject: Small Gas Engines
 Career aspirations: Ag or construction
 Hobbies: Riding four wheelers, jet skis, and snowmobiles, as well as lifting.
 Something cool about you: I'm the youngest in the freshman class.

—typist: Grace Richter

Best Buds

Arianna Nolan & Sam Howes

by Chantel Crowley

How did the two of you meet?

Arianna: We met during middle school. One of my old friends introduced me to them, and then he followed me around like a dog. Since then we have grown closer and now we are best friends.

Sam: In middle school I ended up following Ari around like a lost puppy until they became my friend. We've been inseparable ever since.

What do you admire most about your friend?

Arianna: What I admire most about Sam is his ability to adapt and grow. Since I've met him he has become such a strong human, emotionally, since we first met around three years ago. I am proud of him for being able to overcome the challenges life has thrown at him and I know he is going to make it so far in the future.

Sam: Something I admire about Ari is their ability to cheer me up no matter what. Their playful nature and humor is always able to make me feel better, even on the worst days.

What song makes you think of your friend?

Arianna: "Fine" by Lemon Demon

Sam: "Coconut Mall" from Mario Kart

What does a typical hangout look like?

Arianna: We play a lot of Nintendo games together, usually Mario Kart, and we get mad at each other for being "too good"



at the game. Or Sam asks me to bake something with him which is usually me just watching him make something and me being emotional support. It's always fun nonetheless.

Sam: A typical hangout usually looks like my evil twin, Ari, and I playing Mario Kart at my house while we all insult each other and the COM characters. (One of Sam's favorite memories is when Ari accidentally yelled "Mama Mia!" when they burnt themselves doing dishes.)

Where do you see each other in the future?

Arianna: Sam doesn't even know what he exactly wants to do in the future, so it's hard to tell, but I could possibly see him as a tattoo artist or an actor of some sort. Whatever he does, I hope it makes him happy, and I hope we are just as close as we are now!

Sam: I can see Ari as a graphic designer or business owner in the future. They work incredibly hard in school and have a great work ethic, and I can already tell they're going to be very successful in the future.

Hall Smarts

by Maya Smith

Do you have a valentine? If so, I hope you've got the staples lined up! Chocolate, roses, maybe some Sweethearts for your sweetheart? This week, I asked students some questions about Valentine's Day.

How many cocoa beans does it take to make a pound of chocolate?

Nicholas Otting: 30

DeShawn Strickland: 50

Tristen Flannagen: 180

Answer: 400

How many roses are produced for Valentine's Day?

Nicholas: 2 billion

DeShawn: 2.5 Million

Tristen: 20 million

Answer: 250 million

What does XOXO stand for?

Nicholas: Hugs and Kisses

DeShawn: Hugs and Kisses

Tristen: Hugs and kisses

Answer: Hugs and Kisses

How many heart candies come in a single box of Sweethearts?

Nicholas: 15

DeShawn: 32

Tristen: 23

Answer: 36

