

Band, bass choir earn elusive Division I ratings



The concert band earned a Division I rating at the IHSMA state large group contest in Cedar Falls Saturday. They played their contest music at last week's concert. In the vocal competition, the bass choir earned a I while the mixed choir and treble choirs earned a Division II.

Speech and drama students' success celebrated

The speech and drama programs held their annual awards night Tuesday night.

Speech students were recognized for their achievements at the various levels of competition.

George Livingston was recognized as one of the winners of the IHSSA scholarship.

Several drama awards were also presented:

Musical

Best Actor: Jesús Rumbo, Chantel Crowley
Best Supporting Actor: George Livingston, Arianna Nolan

Best Ancestor Characterization: Josie Teymer, Emily Rudd

The Muscle Award: Cadence Freiburger
Wednesday's Growing Up Award (CAST): Sam Howes, Lacey Barry

Wednesday's Growing Up Award (CREW): Derrick Mohr, Lucy Hucker

Spring play

RockStars (13 hrs or more of set work)
Jesús Rumbo, Kaitlyn Nolan, Taylor Saunders, Arianna Nolan, Cadence Freiburger, Josie Teymer, Olivia Hunter and Zari Ambundo

Standout Scene in Puffs: Jesús Rumbo and Olivia Hunter

Funniest Moment in Puffs: Maya Smith (as Bippy)

Best Improv in Puffs: George Livingston

Best Prop Work in Puffs: Sam Howes

Best Acting Award (as voted by cast, crew, and directors): Jesús Rumbo, Cadence Freiburger and Josie Teymer

Puffiest Puff Award (or the 110% Award): Josie Teymer and Cadence Freiburger

Rising Star Award: Taylor Saunders

The Badger Award (symbolically badgers represent being tenacious & clever): Emily Rudd



Marilyn Shaw, an IHSSA Hall of Fame member and MV alumna, presents George Livingston with an IHSSA scholarship.

Horse evaluation team earns top honors



Four FFA members traveled to Worthington to compete in the NE District Horse Evaluation CDE. Lacy Reth, Tracy Reth, Khloe Glew and Kayla Hoeger earned first place as a team. Lacy Reth was the top individual winner. Tracy Reth was 6th place individual and Kayla Hoeger was 10th place individual.

Boys team advances to districts

by Kaitlyn Nolan

On Wednesday, the Maquoketa Valley Boys' golf team traveled to Buffalo Creek Golf Course to compete in the 1A Sectional Meet. The team placed 3rd out of the seven teams with a score of 333 behind North Linn and East Buchanan. Normally the top two teams advance, but since East Buchanan was the host, the third place team, our Wildcats, will also move on. Senior Toby Grimm was the meet runner-up with an 18-hole score of 77.

Coach Conner said he was extremely proud of his team after yesterday's meet. "We knew going into our Sectional that it was going to be a tight race. I think Trevor, Lukas, and Zach were a little disappointed in their rounds, mainly because of how they played in the practice rounds and how nice of a day it was to score. This says a lot about these two because they care about contributing to the team. Toby had a rough front 9, just really struggling to give himself good birdie/par opportunities. But he bounced back and shot a very impres-



Coach Conner poses with his district qualifying team of Anderson Holtz, Trevor Grimm, Toby Grimm, Eli Dougherty, Lukas Chesnut and Zachary Leytem.

sive 37 on the back nine and finished the day as runner-up, shooting 77. Eli placed 10th overall, shooting an 83, and Anderson put together a nice round for himself and shot 86. This group of guys has been such a joy to be around all season. They work extremely hard at improving their game and they are just a good group of kids."

The team will compete in the District Meet

on Tuesday at Mason City. STATS:

- 2nd - Toby Grimm: 77
- 10th - Eli Dougherty: 83
- 16th - Anderson Holtz: 86
- 21st - Trevor Grimm: 87
- 29th - Lukas Chesnut: 92
- 36th - Zach Leytem: 98

Boys win conference title, girls earn runner-up status

Boys

by Maya Smith

On Monday, the boys traveled to Ed-co to compete at the Tri Rivers Conference Meet. Ending with a total of 110 points, Maquoketa Valley took home first out of 15 teams.

Here are your scorers:

- Shot Put: Dylan Knipper; 42 ft 11.25 in; 5th
- Sprint Med: Tate Intorf, Kash Hunt, Brady Wall, Macoy Stone; 1:41.70; 8th
- 3200 M Run: Matthew Schaul; 10:13.98; 1st, Brady Eike; 12:06.56; 8th
- 4x800 Relay: George Livingston, Kenyon Baker, Schaul, DaShawn Strickland; 8:28.50; 3rd
- Shuttle Hurdle Relay: Arion Rave, Hunt, Eli Dougherty, Lance McShane; 1:06.44; 1st
- Distance Med Relay: Knipper, Intorf, Stone, Baker; 3:58.03; 4th
- 400 M Dash: Strickland; 54.16; 4th
- 4x200 Relay: Intorf, Wall, Stone, McShane; 1:34.47; 2nd
- 110 M Hurdles: Rave; 16.75; 3rd
- 800 M Run: Baker; 2:15.03; 6th
- 200 M Dash: Wall; 24.51; 8th
- 400 M Hurdles: McShane, 55.72; 1st; Rave; 58.91; 3rd
- 1600 M Run: Schaul, 4:41.90, 1st; George Livingston, 4:48.32, 3rd
- 4x100 M Relay: Intorf, Knipper, Hunt, Rave; 47.46; 6th
- 4x400 M Relay: Stone, McShane, Strickland, Wall; 3:34.27; 1st

Girls

by Ella Reicher

On Thursday May 2nd, the Girls Tri-Rivers Conference meet was rescheduled, due to the weather, to Monday the 6th where our girls came to compete! They overall place 2nd with 100 points. You could tell that this was one of the meets that the girls were waiting for to show what they are capable of. Everyone on the team had a desire to be there and do well.

The top finishers are as followed:

- High Jump: Haydin Flannagan, J4-6.00, Tied for 5th
- Long Jump: Emma Brockhohn, 14-10.00, Tied for 5th
- Shot Put: Jade Hillers, 31-00.50, 6th
- Sprint Medley: Lily Huber, Lili Bauers, Taryn Burbridge, Lanni Beaman, 1:53.67, 1st
- 3000M Run: Allison Hogan, 17:12.90, 5th

- 4x800M Relay: Isabel Imler, Ruby Recker, Sadie Boeckenstedt, Breanna McShane, 12:06.27, 4th
- 100M Dash: Lilly Kraft, 13.84, 3rd; Lily Huber, 14.01, 5th
- Shuttle Hurdle: Brockhohn, Flannagan, Ruby Recker, Natalie Ries, 1:17.99, 4th
- Distance Medley: Bauers, Ries, Izzy Hefferman, Burbridge, 4:34.04, 2nd
- 400M Dash: Beaman, 1:00.74, 1st; Camryn Paris, 1:04.49, 4th
- 4x200M Relay: Huber, Bauers, McKenna Mineart, Lilly Kraft, 1:54.26, 5th
- 100M Hurdles: Brockhohn, 18.06, 7th
- 200M Dash: Burbridge, 28.42, 4th; Paris, 28.98, 6th
- 1500M Run: Boeckenstedt, 6:28.25, 8th
- 4x100M Relay: Beaman, Bauers, Kraft, Paris, 52.37, 2nd
- 4x400M Relay: Huber, Hefferman, Burbridge, Beaman, 4:15.42, 1st



Wildcats take third at conference



Livia Hermanson earned conference medalist honors with her tenth place finish Monday.

by Kaya Knipper

On Monday the girls traveled to Backbone Golf Course to compete in the Tri-Rivers Conference tournament. Many of the girls competed in their first 18 hole round. It was a hot day competing against 7 other schools but the girls pulled through. Overall the team placed 3rd with a 433. Individually Livia Hermanson medaled for 10th place with 103, Kaya Knipper followed close at 11th place with 104, Ever Botos placed 18th with 112, Maya Smith 19th with 114, Ella Wulfekuhle 30th with 131 and then Morgan Clemen with 146.

"I was very happy for the girls placing 3rd in the conference with most of them playing their first official 18 holes," stated Coach Zietlow.

The girls will compete at regionals on Friday and the results will be in the next issue.



Athletes of the Week

Name: Eli Dougherty

What is your favorite part of playing golf?

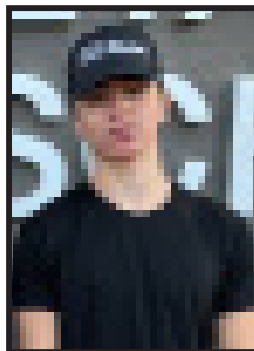
My favorite part is playing golf is when I go play with my friends and family.

What's the most frustrating part of the sport?

When you hit a ball OB off of the tee box

How long have you played? I have been playing since I was 3 years old.

Who's your golf role model? My golf role model is my dad.



Name: Kaya Knipper

What is your favorite part of playing golf?

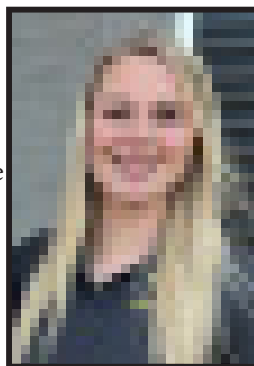
My favorite part of playing golf is the personal challenge when playing. It is definitely a team sport but you also have to focus on yourself individually to succeed.

What's the most frustrating part of the sport? Having a bad chip onto the green. It can really make or break the score.

Also losing to Jake in best shot.

How long have you played? This is my 3rd year playing, I wish I had more!

Who's your golf role model? My Aunt Caren



From Coach Zietlow: Senior leader. In 9 meets this year she has (1) 1st place, (5) 2nd place finishes and 11th at conference missing out on a medal by 1 stroke. She has helped lead the team to a record of 7-6-1 and a 3rd place finish in conference. Her 9 hole average for 2024 is 52.14 with a low of 46 compared to 55.17 with a low of 49 in 2023. In 2022 her average was 64.66 and a low of 54.

MV Market

Kyle Engleken and Leah Reicher work at the FFA plant stand as part of Wednesday's MV Market at the Delhi City Park. The other CTE departments also had student work for sale.

One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

As I write this, there is one more day left with the seniors being here, and as this is shown to the public, it would be the final day. So, I want to give some advice to them all before they venture to the next chapter of their story, and hopefully, it can apply to everyone reading this.

You have created such a huge impact on Maquoketa Valley, and in some way, you have affected so many people's lives, so don't ever think that you are going to be forgotten. Change can be one of the hardest things people have to go through, and many people understand you. Some of you may not want to go, while others are excited. Whatever it may be, it is important to know that there are people who you can lean back on. People love and care about you, including your family, friends, and all of the teachers here at Maquoketa Valley. You are the reason some people get out of bed each morning, the reason people smile, the reason people don't mind going to school. The memories you have made here at Maquoketa Valley will be some of the most important memories you ever make.

As you move onto the next chapter of your life, you must be willing to accept the new that enters your life. See the doors of opportunities and be willing to take the path that no one travels. No matter where your path may lead you, remember the people who helped you most on your journey. Never forget where you came from. Some of the most important people in my life are some of the seniors graduating this year. To make things short, remember you are loved, and although the path ahead may be scary, know people are holding your hand and guiding you with a light through the darkness. This may be the last time you read my article, so as always, **I love you all**, and I wish you the best of luck on your journey.



Deep Dive

by Arianna Nolan



Welcome back, Divers! Today we will swim through the Australian coast and look at the Weedy Sea Dragon, scientifically known as the *Phyllopteryx taeniolatus*. While these creatures may not be cute, they are certainly interesting to learn about. These creatures all have a long snout, similar to a seahorse, strong neck, and are about 18 inches long. An interesting fact about these creatures is that the amount of appendages they have depends on the location, and the colors also differ depending on what part of the water they are in. Weedy sea dragons that reside in shallow waters will have more of a base of reddish-orange with purplish-blue bars. But, if they reside in deeper waters they will be brighter colored. Some evidence shows that the color of these creatures depends on the habitat or available food supply, which is natural selection at its finest.

The life cycle and daily life of these creatures are very similar to that of a seahorse. Sea dragons do not have stomachs or teeth, which causes them to eat constantly. Their diet consists of small ocean crustaceans. Like seahorses, when reproducing the weedy sea dragon will brood the eggs. But instead of using a brood pouch, it's a brood patch. The sea dragon is very weak against predators as it doesn't have good mobility.

Unfortunately, these dragons are in danger of extinction because of the destruction of their habitat. But, issues have been put in place so that you cannot hunt or export these creatures. It is also illegal to touch them because it can cause them extreme amounts of stress and can hurt them. But, either way, it is important to do your part to protect the oceans and to not litter. If you would like to learn more about these creatures then please visit aquariumofpacific.org, which is where all of the information for this edition has been provided. I hope you all have a fin-tastic weekend and I will see you all next week!

JO-JO'S CLOSET

by Josie Teymer

Hey Wildcats! I just wanted to say thank you to anyone who read my article over the years. Through this platform I was able to write about something I love and found another way to express myself.

I hope that if anyone learned anything it was to dress for yourself, dress to impress, and never wear black ankle socks. Stay fab, Wildcats! Jo-Jo out.



Dying Words

by Cadence Freiburger

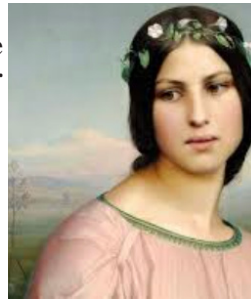
Christina

Rosetti was born on December 5th of 1830 in London as the youngest child and grandchild to Gaetano Polidori. Her grandfather owned a print shop which allowed Rosetti to publish her Verses at 17. This publishing showcased Rosetti's poetic talent, allowing her to publish more of her works in *The Germ* under a pseudonym.

Her family then began facing financial difficulties, and—after a failed schooling effort—Rosetti's family returned to London, and she became a devout Catholic. She was so devoted to her religion as a High Church Anglican that she ended several relationships for them being Roman Catholic.

Rosetti's professional success led to the publishing of two poetry books (*Goblin Market and Other Poems*, *The Prince's Progress and Other Poems*) and two prose books (*Commonplace and Other Short Stories* and *Sing-Song: a Nursery Rhyme Book*). Throughout her diagnosis of Grave's Disease, Rosetti continued to publish works until she died from cancer. Christina Rosetti's final words are perhaps the most influential part of her career:

"I love everybody. If I ever had an enemy, I should hope to meet and welcome that enemy to heaven."



A note from the Echo advisor

This issue marks the last one for the seniors on The Wildcat Echo staff. I'm grateful for their willingness to share their talents to be MV historians. Chantel Crowley, Cadence Freiburger, Lily Huber, Kaya Knipper, Josie Teymer, Toby Grimm and Kaitlyn Nolan have all added their special flair in their columns, features, sports reporting or new reporting. I've appreciated the creativity, commitment and time they've devoted to this publication. I've enjoyed working with all of them, and having Chantel on staff was especially special because she's a second-generation Echo writer; her mom was on staff when I became the advisor in 1994.

Best wishes and thank you, seniors!

what's up?

What was your favorite childhood TV show?

by Grace Richter

Madison Thompson- Umi Zoomies
Brady Wall- Wild Krats
Braden Bjorkgren- Sofia the First
Derrick Mohr- Paw Patrol
Emily Hogan- ICarly
Jocelyn Kelchen- Dora the Explorer
Mrs.Besler- Full House or Dennis the Menace
Arianna Nolan- Yo Gabba Gabba
Ford Domeyer- Odd Squad or Wild Krats
Lanni Beaman- Spongebob

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

In honor of this being the seniors last week, here are some graduation jokes and puns!

Why did the graduate bring a ladder to the ceremony? Because they wanted to get high honors!

Why did the literature graduate bring a flashlight to the ceremony? They wanted to find the hidden symbolism!

What do you call a graduate who's always prepared? A "cap"-able student!

It's a cap-tivating day for you!

What did the high school seniors use to pay off debt? Extra credit.