

Ensembles receive positive feedback at state contest



by Taylor Saunders

Our band and choir have been vigorously preparing for this year's 2025 Large Group Contest. We left bright and early at 6:10AM and made our way to Tipton High School. This is where our band performed first at 8:00AM and received a Division I rating. Following, our Treble choir performed and earned a Division II rating. Also, our Bass Choir and Mixed Choir performed, both earning Division II ratings. In music, ratings range from I to V.

Our band members are as follows: Sellah Ambundo, Desaray Banks, Jo-

ellen Beitz, Robert Brown, Alissa Bush, Breanna Bush, McKenna Bush, Sebastian Charles, Logan Clemen, Kolin Cole, Tommie Cole, Rhaelynn Davis, Trish Dietiker, Tristan Dietz, Carly Dirks, Brady Eike, Cheyenne Eike, Willow Fuller, Ava Goldsmith, Rachael Hoefer, Emily Hogan, Breece Hoisington, Morgan Howes, Sam Howes, Kinze Kuhlman, Isabella Mensen, Ryleigh Moriarity, Abigail Nieman, Aaliyah Peterson, Taylor Saunders, Lacy Reth, Tracy Reth, Emily Rudd, MaryEllen Smith, Maya Smith, Owen Smith, McKayla Weber, Shane Wright and Ella Wulfekuhle. They

are directed by Travis Ford.

Our Mixed Choir includes: Sellah Ambundo (treble), Desaray Banks (treble), Joellen Beitz (treble), Owen Boring (bass), Alissa Bush (treble), Breanna Bush (treble), Sebastian Charles (bass), Tommie Cole (treble), Mileea D'amico (treble), Trish Dietiker (bass), Tristan Dietz (bass), Carly Dirks (treble), Brady Eike (bass), Cheyenne Eike (treble), Willow Fuller (treble), Emily Hogan (treble), Breece Hoisington (treble), Sam Howes (treble), Ollie Hunter (treble), Jocelyn Kelchen (treble), Kinze Kuhlman (treble), Shane Lambert (bass), Kien Lepert (bass), Ryleigh Moriarity (treble), Arianna Nolan (treble), Ian Ozburn (bass), Gracie Palmersheim (treble), Aaliyah Peterson (treble), Tracy Reth (treble), Gabriel Saunders (bass), Taylor Saunders (treble), Emily Rudd (treble), David Vandepol (bass), Adaline Wilson (treble), & Shane Wright (bass). They are directed by Megan McCrary and accompanied by Beth Mueller.



We greatly appreciated all of our support by our directors. These scores show our extremely hard work that we put forth. We will continue to grow as musicians throughout the rest of this year. As always, Go Cats!

Speech & drama programs celebrate a successful year

Friday night marked the official end of the speech and drama seasons as the students, parents, coaches and directors celebrated a year of success.

The coaches and directors recapped the seasons and presented certificates and medals to students. The drama directors presented some special awards:

Musical awards

I Got This! Award: Derrick Mohr

I Got This! Award: Gabriel Saunders

I Got This! Award: Emily Hogan

I Got This! Award: Lylah Billmeyer

THE MUSCLE Award: Joellen Beitz

Best Supporting Actor: Lylah Billmeyer as "Savannah"

Best Supporting Actor: Arianna Nolan as "Adam"

Best Supporting Actor: Taylor Saunders as "Torrey"

Best Actor: Ollie Hunter as "Katherine"

Play awards

Best Acting (voted by cast): Lylah Billmeyer, Olivia Hunter and Jeanie Teymer

Rising Star Award: Lylah Billmeyer

Locked-In Award: McKenna Bush

Most Improved: Willow Fuller

Master of Many Keys Award: Rylee Reed

Silent Key Award: Derrick Mohr

Standout Scene in The Alibis: "Hamster Murder" (McKenna Bush, Maya Smith, Carly Dirks and Rylee Reed)

Defining Performance Awards (award for supporters of the programs): Jenn Teymer and Karla Downs



Seniors: Front: Izabella Heffernan, Brady Eike, Sebastian Charles, McKenna Bush, Alissa Bush, Joellen Beitz; Back: Ella Wulfekuhle, Matthew Schaul, Nicholas Otting; Not pictured: Jordan Hatfield, Emily Hogan, Tierra Morgan, Leah Reicher



Juniors: Front: Olivia Hunter, Carly Dirks, Trish Dietiker, Morgan Clemen, Owen Boring, Lanni Beaman; Back: McKayla Weber, Maya Smith, Taylor Saunders, Preston Salow, Arianna Nolan, Derrick Mohr
Not pictured: Willow Fuller, Rachael Hoefer, Jocelyn Kelchen, Zach Leytem, Emily Rudd, Colin Smith



Sophomores: Front: Jeanie Teymer, Natalie Ries, Lena Lewin, Shane Lambert, Lilly Kraft, Tristen Flanagan, Sellah Ambundo; Not pictured: Ever Botos, Eli Dougherty, Cheyenne Eike, Kyle Engelken, Trevor Grimm, Breece Hoisington, Morgan Howes, Sam Howes, Lucy Hucker, Brielle Kuhns, Alaina Leytem, Kylie Meeks, Gracie Palmersheim, Camryn Paris, Ruby Recker, Ella Reicher, Noah Whalen, Shane Wright



Freshmen: Front: Ryleigh Moriarity, Mileea Damico, Tommie Cole, Lylah Billmeyer, Desi Banks, Aubrie Althoff; Back: Addie Wilson, Owen Wilson, Gabe Saunders, Rylee Reed, Abby Nieman, Kinze Kuhlman, Morgan Hoeger; Not pictured: Olivia Begle, Eva Mensen, MaryEllen Smith

Nine seniors earn service award



MV students are challenged to document at least 300 hours of volunteer work during their high school career. The Class of 2025 had nine students complete that challenge: front row, from left: Jada Knipper, Jordan Hatfield, Clairra Gray and Joellen Beitz; back row: Brendin Frasher, Leah Reicher, Kelsey Hoeger, McKenna Bush and Levi Steil. (photo courtesy of by Mrs. Reicher)

Horse Eval brings home hardware once again, host farm safety day

by Kayla Hoeger, FFA reporter

On Wednesday, five FFA members traveled to Blush Acres in Worthington to compete in the NE District Horse Evaluation contest. Team one consisted of Khloe Glew, Kayla Hoeger, Lacy Reth, Tracy Reth. Team 2 consisted of Anna Fledmann. Both teams executed well standing in the scorching sun! Team 1 was your reigning NE district 1st place team. Individually, Khloe Glew placed 3rd.

Last Friday, ag students hosted Farm Safety Day and Drive Your Tractor to School Day.



Above: The tractors started rolling into the parking lot around 7:25 Friday morning.

Left: Team 1 posing for a picture with the NE district officers.

Boys finish third in conference meet

by Lanni Beaman

Along with the girls, the boys' track and field team ran an exceptional Tri-Rivers Conference meet at Alburnett last week. The boys' team ended up in third place as a team with a total of 97 points! Great job, boys!

Here are the results of the meet (top 8):

Shot Put: Preston Salow, 44-02', third; Dylan Knipper, 43-08', fourth

Discus: Preston Salow, 118-07', sixth

200m Dash: Macoy Stone, 23.37, fourth

400m Dash: Macoy Stone, 52.16, third;

DaShawn Strickland, 52.72, seventh

800m Run: Kenyon Baker, 2:11.51, fifth

110m Hurdles: Shane Lambert, 17.60, fifth

400m Hurdles: DaShawn Strickland, 59.10, second

1600m Run: Matthew Schaul, 4:31.04, first; Brady Eike, 4:59.63, eighth

3200m Run: Matthew Schaul, 9:59.67, first

800 SMR: Colin Smith, Kash Hunt, Brady Wall, Macoy Stone; 1:39.43, first

1600 DMR: Dustin Damico, Dylan Knipper, Carter LeClere, Kenyon Baker; 3:59.26, fifth

4x800m Relay: Kenyon Baker, Brady Eike, Matthew Schaul, DaShawn Strickland;



Matthew Schaul sprints to the finish in the 1600, just steps in front of future Mt. Mercy teammate Jack Stamp of Springville.

8:28.36, first

4x200m Relay: Rogan Heidt, Colin Smith, Brady Wall, Kash Hunt; 1:35.46, second

4x100m Relay: Colin Smith, Kash Hunt,

Brady Wall, Macoy Stone; 44.73, second

4x400m Relay: Rogan Heidt, Carter LeClere, Kenyon Baker, DaShawn Strickland; 3:44.90, seventh

Girls finish third at TRC, boys advance to next round

by Maya Smith

On Monday, the girls traveled to Central City for conference golf. The girls placed 6th, with a score of 435. East Buchanan won with a 378.

Coach Zietlow comments: "In golf, there are days when things just don't go your way. Well that happened at conference. The team struggled on the front 9 and wasn't able to recover. Isabella Mensen and Ella Wulfekuhle led the team in scoring. The team is looking forward to Regionals on Friday."

Here are your meet scores:

15th - Isabella Mensen: 105

16th - Ella Wulfekuhle: 106

22nd - Maya Smith: 111

23rd - Ever Botos: 113

26th - Macee Nolan: 115

36th - Alissa Bush: 134

Today the girls travel to Calamus Wheatland for regionals.

On Wednesday, the boys competed at Denver in sectionals. They took third as a team, shooting a 329.

Eli Dougherty won individually,

shooting a 75.

Coach Conner commented: "We had another great day of golf against some really good competition at our Sectional Meet at Willow Run Country Club in Denver. As a team, we shot 329, which is our best 18 hole meet score of the season. This score was good enough for third place as a team and advanced us on to the District Meet on Monday. Eli Dougherty was the meet medalist, shooting 75, Trevor Grimm placed 8th, shooting a 79. Our other two scorers were Dalton Africa with an 85 and Zach Leytem with an 88. Dalton's round was huge for the team, and honestly was the difference between us advancing as a team and our season being over. I was really happy for him that he was able to come in with that score. Anderson and Tate both had some very bright moments on the course, and I think they both would tell you that they felt like they could have scored better.

"At this point in the year, it is about finding a way to survive and advance and our guys did that yesterday. I am really proud of them for getting through the

tough holes and bad breaks and continuing to play their round. We found out the hard way last week that every stroke matters as a team, and I think we grew from that and it helped us. Hopefully we can get to the course that we are supposed to play on Monday and put together another respectable team score and see where it gets us!"

Here are your meet scores:

1st - Eli Dougherty: 75

8th - Trevor Grimm: 79

15th - Dalton Africa: 85

19 - Zach Leytem: 88

21 - Tate Intorf: 92

22 - Anderson Holtz: 95

The team will compete Monday at Fox Ridge Golf Course in Dike. Other teams there will be Columbus Catholic, Grundy Center, Oelwein, East Marshall, Waukon, Denver, MFL Mar-Mac and Roland-Story.

Girls win conference title!



by Alaina Mead

What's better than great weather for a track meet? A win for the girls track team at TRC Meet Alburnett! The last time the girls team won the TRC Meet was 2017.

Coach Dunlap said, "These girls did a fantastic job of being in the moment and taking each event as they came. When they weren't competing they were out supporting each other. They scored 146 points as a team which is a lot of points. I thought we had a shot at winning this meet but I was a little surprised at how these girls gave such great efforts for each other. I am very proud of them!"

Coach Dunlap added, "The MV girls track team performed as well as I can remember at a TRC Conference Meet. Something that has been a positive from last season is the amount of field event athletes that are scoring at our meets this year."

Coach Dunlap also noted, "The thing that impressed me most was how well our relays did in this meet. The Sprint Med (senior Lili Bauers, sophomore Lilly Kraft, freshman Audra Burbridge and junior Lanni Beaman) ran an amazing race, dropping half a second with a time of 1:50.31. They broke their own school record from earlier this season and this team is currently number one in 1A. Finally, the Distance Med (senior Lili Bauers, sophomore Camryn Paris, senior Izzy Heffernan and junior Taryn Burbridge) placed first with a big PR running 4:31.03 three seconds faster than their last run."

The following events scored points for the team:

Shuttle hurdle: Haydin Flannagan, Ruby Recker, Addie Wilson, Alaina Mead;

1:18.23; fifth

100M Dash: Lilly Kraft, 13.40, second; Rylee Reed, 13.94, sixth

200M Dash: Camryn Paris, 27.62, fourth; Khloe Glew, 29.85, sixth

400M Dash: Lanni Beaman, 58.63, first; Audra Burbridge, 59.94, second

800M Run: Audra Burbridge, 2:22.07, first

1500M Run: Breanna Bush, 5:57.56, fourth

3000M Run: McKenna Bush, 13:38.41, seventh

Sprint Medley Relay: Lili Bauers, Lilly Kraft, Audra Burbridge, Lanni Beaman; 1:50.31; first

Distance Medley Relay: Lili Bauers, Camryn Paris, Izzy Heffernan, Taryn Burbridge; 4:34.66; first

4x400: Taryn Burbridge, Izzy Heffernan, Audra Burbridge, Lanni Beaman; 4:10.06; first

4x800: Jordan Hatfield, Breanna McShane, Ryleigh Moriarity, Breanna Bush; 12:06.26; sixth

4x200: Lilly Kraft, Lili Bauers, Taryn Burbridge, Camryn Paris; 1:52.02; second

4x100: Lili Bauers, Lilly Kraft, Camryn Paris, Lanni Beaman; 51.87; third

Shot Put: Sellah Ambundo, 36-4, first; Macee Nolan, 32-09, eighth

Discus: Sellah Ambundo, 109-08, second; Jeanie Teymer, 102-05, sixth

Long Jump: Khloe Glew, 15-11, fourth; Rylee Reed, 14-9, sixth

High Jump: Taylor Salow, 4-11, third; Haydin Flannagan, 4-09, eighth

Yesterday the girls track team had their districts meet at Edgewood, hoping to win their way to state next week! Results to follow next issue.

Athletes of the Week

Name: Camryn Paris

What do you enjoy most about track? I

enjoy the atmosphere the team brings. Everyone can have fun with one another and makes the sport more enjoyable.

What do you think your best event will be?

Any 200 events.

Whether that be the open 200, or a 200 in any relay like the sprint med, distance med, or the 4x2.

What life lessons have you learned through track? Hard work and determination pays off.

What's the hardest part of practice? Running.

Who is your track role model? Usain Bolt because he is fast.



Name: Matthew Schaul

What have you enjoyed most about track throughout your career? I have

enjoyed spending time with coaches and friends while working toward goals that we have for each season.

It's been fun being able to see others' hard work pay off, and it inspires me

to figure out ways to become better myself.

When you look back at all you have accomplished on the track, what are you most proud of? Although the obvious

answer may seem like I am proud of all my hard work paying off by achieving the school records in the 5K, 3200m, and 1600m so far. To me, I am most proud of the relationships I've developed with coaches, teammates, and athletes from other schools that will last a lifetime.

What does your future with running look like? I will be running cross country and track at Mount Mercy University, and then I will see where it takes me from there. After college, one thing I would love to do is run a marathon.

What's your advice to young runners?

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. This isn't about physics.



You Are Not Alone: Fiction

by Abby Nieman

You never know what day will be your last

This week has been weird, and with the end of the school year around the corner, we are all ready to get out of here. But I want you to take something special from this story for me.

There I was, the last day of school, off to college next. Nothing will go wrong. I am ready to go into the real world. I already threw the cap on graduation and am ready to go home to a new place on my own. I get in the car and drive away from my high school. On the highway, the wind is blowing through my hair. The speed of the car feels nice, something I never noticed before. I turn off my exit, then to the gravel road that I live on. The trees look like a pretty painting out the window. I see a butterfly flying around the car, so I slow down and look around. It's beautiful here. A cardinal flies by. There is a sense of peace, but like the peace before the storm. I continue driving towards my parents' house. The little calves are all around in the fields. I see something out of the corner of my eye. I look and take the sterling wheel with me. The car drives into the ditch on the other side of the road. I feel the car slide down the step ditch and then it rolls into the creek. Water starts to fill the car. Wet. All I can tell is that there is water. I unstrap and try to get out, but I can't. I am pinned in the chair. The water is not deep, but I know I am bleeding. I try to find my phone. It's not in my pocket and not in the cup holders. I don't have my phone.

Black.

There is nothing suddenly. No pain, no feeling. "Am I dead?" The thing. What is it? I can see the accident and my body there, pale and blue. The thing is not there, not anywhere by or on the road. So, what is the reason I swerved?

There was a happy-ish ending to her story she was a organ donor and gave bones and other body parts to others, but what I want you to take from this is just because you think everything is going to be okay and you have a plan for your life does not mean that is what will happen. Let the things that change your plan happen and accept them because you never know what day is your last.

Deep Dive by Arianna Nolan



Welcome back to the Maquoketa Valley Aquarium, where today we will be taking a look at the world's heaviest bony fish, the ocean sunfish! This fish weighs in at 5,000 pounds. This fish is located in almost all of the oceans in the world. It can be around 10 feet long and can be up to 14 feet tall. A fun fact about the ocean sunfish is that they are related to the sunfish, but are not poisonous, as pufferfish are, which makes them very popular to eat, especially in Asian countries.

The average diet of this fish consists of gelatinous creatures due to their mouth and teeth being so small, which includes jellyfish. But, they can eat larger

jellyfish creature and break them down by sucking them in and out until they are in manageable chunks. To find some of their food during the day, they might swim deeper into the ocean to have a variety of jellies in their diet. With such a large body, it has a hard time moving, which led some scientists to believe that they drift instead of swim. But, this was proven incorrect as it was found out that they swim around 16 miles per day, and swim at a speed of 3.2 kilometers per hour, which is around 2 miles per hour. While they swim, they have a whole school of parasites resting on them (around 40 of them).

Due to the ocean sunfish swimming near the top of the ocean, they are in danger of being caught by the nets that boats use. This can immensely hurt the fish and affect the way it lives. They are also in danger from the massive amounts of trash in the ocean. Plastic bags, for example, if swallowed, can clog the creature's stomach, causing it to be unable to eat anything else. Due to this, the ocean sunfish slowly starves to death. To help protect this fish and other creatures of the ocean, remember not to litter and remember to recycle whatever you can!

If you want to learn more about this creature, visit the website Monterey Bay Aquarium, which is where all of the information was provided for this edition! I hope you all have a *fin-tastic* weekend and I will *sea* you all next time!

Jaelyn's Journeys



photo by Jaelyn Butikofer

Where in the school can you find this object? Be the first one to correctly name the place to Mrs. Temple face-to-face to win something from the prize box!

Last week's winner was Cheyenne Eike!

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

We're saying *bon voyage* to the seniors this week. Here are some silly graduate jokes to send them off!

Graduation: the moment you realize your 'senioritis' is now just 'adulthood'.

High school taught me two things: how to find the square root of a number...and how to ask Google how to do something.

Some of us graduated with honors. Some of us are just honored to be graduating.

They said these four years would fly by. I thought they meant on a magic carpet, not a rollercoaster with no seatbelt.

Why did the student bring a ladder to graduation? To take their career to new heights!