

Smooth Harmony earns division I rating at State

by McKayla Weber

On Monday, February 10, 2025, members of Maquoketa Valley Jazz Choir, Smooth Harmony, and Jazz X-Press traveled to Mount Vernon High School for the IHMSA State Jazz Choir Festival.

Smooth Harmony performed three pieces, "Bye Bye Blackbird" - arranged by Beth Mueller featuring solos from Owen Boring, Olivia Hunter, and Ryleigh Moriarity; "Yesterday" arranged by Ben Parry, with a solo from Tristan Dietz; and their final piece, "Feeling Good" arranged by Jeremy Fox with solos from Sellah Ambundo, Olivia Hunter, Breece Hoisington, and Ryleigh Moriarity. Smooth Harmony received a Division I Rating.

Jazz X-Press also had three pieces including, "Centerpiece" arranged by Beth Mueller with soloists Shane Wright and Joellen Beitz; "The Luckiest" arranged by Kerry Marsh featuring a solo from Mileea Damico; and "No Moon At All: arranged by Beth Mueller. Jazz X-Press received a Division II Rating.

The vocal jazz season is just heating up. The students are performing today at Cedar Rapids Washington's MoShow Jazz Festival.



Above: Jazz X-Press performs for the judges at the state contest Monday night.



Jazz X-Press members include Shane Wright, Joellen Beitz, Taylor Saunders, Adaline Wilson, Gracin Harris, Em Howes, Mileea Damico and Tommie Cole.

More excitement for the FFA: degrees and contest prep

by Natalie Ries, FFA Reporter

If you have been in the ag room this past month, you have probably seen lots of records getting updated or contests getting worked on. Many members have been working on Iowa Degree applications, proficiency applications, Star Over Iowa application, and Rising Star application. FFA members have also been putting in many hours working on sub district, district and state level contests.

The FFA Iowa Degree applications have been recognized with the most attention in the past week. Thirteen junior and senior members here at MV have updated their records to apply for this degree. For those who don't know the FFA degree scale

here is a little more information. The highest degree handed out by the state of Iowa is the Iowa Degree. Members are required to have their Greenhand and Chapter Degrees before earning the Iowa Degree. The Greenhand Degree is awarded your freshman year or first year in high school FFA, while your Chapter Degree may be earned after earning your Greenhand Degree. This degree can be earned your sophomore year or 2nd year in high school FFA. Not all FFA chapters have the opportunity that Maquoketa Valley FFA has with members being able to join their eighth grade year. At this level members can earn their discovery degree, this degree is not required to earn any higher degree. The 13 FFA members

that have earned their Iowa degree this year are Nathan Beitz, Ford Domeyer, Brendin Frasher, Kelsey Hoeger, Karly Kerch, Ashton Klaren, Tyler Mineart, Leah Reicher, Lacy Reth, Alexa Ries, Caden Ries, Bianca Ronnebaum and McKayla Weber. All members will be awarded this degree at the 97th annual Iowa State FFA Convention April 13th-April 15th.

Next Week is also National FFA week! You can look forward to the results of Monday's Sub-district competition results coming in the next week. With busy schedules from FFA members, and the student body the FFA chapter will not be hosting any dress up days or Ag Olympics this year.

Lot of success at state speech, two group to All-State

by Taylor Saunders

This weekend our Large Group Contest Speech Team traveled to Decorach for this year's state contest. We left bright and early at 5:40am. We took a long bus right up there and had an amazing time! All of these events did extremely well. Performing from 8:00am all the way to 4:00pm, everyone did their very best and worked hard. We received 11 overall I ratings and 1 overall II rating.

One-Act Play (FLUX): Addie Wilson, Alissa Bush, Carly Dirks, Emily Hogan, Nicholas Otting, Ollie Hunter, Same Howes, Sebastian Charles, Sellah Ambundo, Taylor Saunders, Tommie Cole, and Trish Dietiker. Rating: 1,2,1 Overall: 1

Readers Theatre (One-Lane Bridge): Arianna Nolan, Camryn Paris, Lanni Beaman, Natalie Ries, Sebastian Charles, Shane Lambert, and Tristen Flanagan. Rating: 1,1,1 Overall: 1

Choral Reading (The Gift of Life): Abby Nieman, Addie Wilson, Arianna Nolan, Ella Wulfekuhle, Eva Mensen, Ever Botos, Jocelyn Kelchen, Lucy Hucker, Maya Smith, McKenna Bush, Rylee Reed, Sam Howes, and Taylor Saunders. Rating: 1,2,1 Overall: 1

TV News (HERO): Alaina Leytem, Colin Smith, Derrick Mohr, Eli Dougherty, Izabella Heffernan, Jeanie Teymer, Jordan Hatfield, Kyle Englelken, Lena Lewin, and Tierra Morgan. Rating: 1,1,1 Overall: 1

TV News (NERDS): Aubrie Althoff, Ella Wulfekuhle, Gabe Saunders, Matthew Schaul, Maya Smith, McKayla Weber, McKenna Bush, Morgan Hoeger, Nicholas Otting, and Owen Smith. Rating: 1,1,1 Overall: 1

Radio Broadcasting (102.3 C.A.R.E.): Brielle Kuhns, Kylie Meeks, and Shane Lambert. Rating: 1

Group Improvisation: Camryn Paris, Ella Reicher, and Tristen Flanagan. Rating 1,1,2 Overall: 1

Group Improvisation: Preston Sallow, Ruby Recker, and Zach Leytem. Rating 1,1,2 Overall: 1

Ensemble Acting (TGIF): Cheyenne Eike, Jeanie Teymer, and Joellen Beitz. Rating: 1,2,1 Overall: 1

Ensemble Acting (Kitchen Conversations): Alaina Leytem, Lilly Kraft, Natalie Ries. Rating 2,1,1 Overall: 1

Group Mime (Don't Judge A Rose By Its Thorns): Carly Dirks, Trish Dietiker. Rating 2,1,2 Overall: 2

Musical Theatre (I Know It's Today): Breece Hoisington, Ollie Hunter, Sellah Ambundo. Rating 1,2,1 Overall: 1

On Monday evening, All-State nominations were released. We all waited anxiously for the document. The following groups were nominated and will be traveling to Iowa State on February 22nd to get their recognition.

One-Act Play (FLUX): Addie Wilson, Alissa Bush, Carly Dirks, Emily Hogan, Nicholas Otting, Ollie Hunter, Same Howes, Sebastian Charles, Sellah Ambundo, Taylor Saunders, Tommie Cole, and Trish Dietiker. They were nominated as a Non-performing group.

Group Improvisation: Camryn Paris, Ella Reicher, and Tristen Flanagan. They were nominated as a Non-performing group.

Congratulations to those who were nominated. Everyone who participated in Large Group Speech this year should be very proud of themselves. We all worked very hard and represented Maquoketa Valley well. As we continue into Individual Speech Season, continue to push through and do your best. Thank you to all of our coaches and staff who continue to support us. As always, Go Cats!



At last I see the light...

You are invited to attend Maquoketa Valley's Prom Night

Saturday, April 26th
Delhi, Iowa

Grand March: 3pm in the High School Gym

Prom: 8-10:30pm at the Delhi Legion
Tickets \$20 each

Sports Connection

Engelken, Davis, Beitz finish first at Iowa Star

by Alaina Mead

Last Thursday, Feb. 6th, the boys wrestling team hosted a home quad against Clayton Ridge, Clear Lake, Dike-New Hartford, and East Buchanan. Wrestling all besides EB, Maquoketa Valley lost against the other teams due to our forfeited lighter weights. Despite the team scores, many Wildcats had successful individual wins! Against Clayton Ridge, Kyle Engelken managed to pin his opponent, while Dalton Africa and Nathan Beitz earned points for the team by forfeit. Kyle and Nathan also won their matches with a pin against Clear Lake, and Kipton Thompson won his with a forfeit. While wrestling Dike-New Hartford, Kyle, Dalton and Nathan were able to score points by pinning their opponents.

This past weekend, Saturday Feb. 8th, the Maquoketa Valley wrestling team traveled to Rockford to compete in the Iowa Star Conference Tournament. Out of 12 teams the Wildcats climbed to the top, placing 2nd, roughly 25 points behind first!

Many placements among the team were earned last weekend and three individuals managed to take the top. Engelken (144) won his championship match by pin in the first quarter. Davis (190) and Beitz (215) also won all their matches in round robin, Davis with all pins and a technical fall and Beitz with all pins.

Dalton Africa (165) along with Braden Ronnebaum (175) also had a very successful day placing 2nd. Africa lost by pin in the third quarter of the championship match and Ronnebaum lost by pin in his final round robin match.

Other placements from this tournament include: Chase Krogmann (HWT) 3rd, Kipton Thompson (150) 3rd, Sawyer Kemp (157) 5th, and Brayden Schuster (144) 7th.

This coming weekend the Wildcats will compete at MFL Marmac for the district meet, hopefully punching their tickets to the State tournament!



It's impressive when a wrestler gets 100 wins but more so when a wrestlers earns 100 career pins which senior Nathan Beitz did last Thursday on senior night.

Girls end regular season with a to-the-wire game



Audra Burbridge anticipates a rebound in the matchup with Monticello Monday night. MV lost 50-49. Last Friday night the Wildcats defeated Midland 67-21. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple)

Boys tally up two more wins

Athletes of the Week

Name: Grace Richter

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball?

Everything! My favorite part is the intensity of games and practice.

How have you evolved as a player this year?

The biggest thing for me has been that I can remember all of our plays, offenses, and defenses (for the most part) this year!

What's been a favorite basketball memory? When Audra and I hit a celly on the bench.

What's your favorite warm-up song? "Rockstar" by Nickelback always plays when we run out. That's a banger.



Trevor Grimm brings the ball upcourt in the Midland game last week.



by Maya Smith

Last Friday, the boys took on the Midland Eagles at home. It wasn't a difficult game for the Cats, the ending score 79-16. Between games, they celebrated the seniors. The boys varsity team has one senior, Tate Intorf, #10.

Here are some game stats:

Points: Brady Wall, 29; Ty Hoeger, 18; Eli, 13

Rebounds: Dylan Knipper, 10; Preston Sallow, 6; Ty Hoeger, 5

Assists: Anderson, 6; Brady Wall, 5; Tate Intorf, 4

The boys' last regular season game was on Tuesday. They traveled to East Buchanan. While the competition was a little more stiff, the Cats still had no problem, taking a 63-33 win. Here are some game stats:

Points: Brady Wall, 29; Dylan Knipper, 13; Lukas Chesnut, 5

Rebounds: Dylan Knipper, 10; Tate Intorf, 6; Brady Wall, 5

Assists: Anderson Holtz, 6; Dylan Knipper, 4; Brady Wall, 4

When asked about the team's performance, Coach Conner says, "I thought in both our last two games we have done a phenomenal job of setting the tone early and creating scoring opportunities with our defense to do so. Our guys have really done a great job of this in the last few weeks and created chaos for the opposing teams when they were on offense. Offensively, I think we have done a great job of getting

shots on our terms. We relate a lot of our shot selection back to a drill that we do in practice and since we have focused on that a lot since break, we have done a much better job of choosing the 'right' shots. I am really happy with how our guys have adapted to this.

"There are a number of people who have stood out recently. Brady Wall has put on an offensive show in our last 4 games, scoring 32 points twice and 29 points twice. I thought that Ty Hoeger had one of his better games against Midland last Friday night, and Eli Dougherty also shot the ball really well against Midland. I thought Tate Intorf has done a great job all season of being our senior leader. He did a great job of impacting the game on defense against EB and got a lot of tipped passes and steals to create turnovers for them.

"As we head into the postseason, there is a lot that needs to be covered in practice to prepare ourselves. All of these things are centered on controlling things that we can control and are really just reminders of the things that we have touched on earlier in the year. Crazy things can happen in the postseason so we have to prepare for a lot of different situations. I am excited to start the tournament trail with these guys and get as much basketball out of the season as we can get. I am also really looking forward to having a crazy loud environment on Monday night when we host Ed-Co for our first-round game."

Cutie



by Alaina Mead

This cutie's ready to ride!! He is a sophomore and lives in Greeley. He is also the oldest kid in the family and has two younger brothers! He is involved in football, wrestling, speech and FFA. *Last week's cutie was Griffon Honkomp.*

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Derrick Mohr

What event are you in for speech?

I am in TV News

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

I enjoy spending time with my friends and meeting new people from other schools at competitions.

What have you learned through this event?

I have learned teamwork and gotten better at my social skills

Who is your speech role model?

My speech role model is definitely Mrs. DeVore. She steps up when she isn't expected to and puts in a lot of work to make sure we have a good final product, even though she is very busy.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be?

I would judge Improv because it is more lighthearted and enjoyable to watch and have a good time.



Name: Kyle Engelken

What event are you in for speech?

TV News

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

Getting to spend time with new people that I don't get to see that often.

What have you learned through this event?

How to be a good reader.

Who is your speech role model? Mrs. DeVore

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? TV News



Name: Rylee Reed

What event are you in for speech?

Choral Reading

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

The atmosphere and how much fun we have at practice.

What have you learned through this event?

I have learned time management and adaptability from working in practice.

Who is your speech role model? Mrs. DeVore because she always has good ideas and gives good feedback.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I would judge group improv because it is fun to watch.



Name: Addie Wilson

What event are you in for speech? I am in Choral Reading and One Act.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech?

I enjoy the memories that I've made with everyone and all of the funny moments.

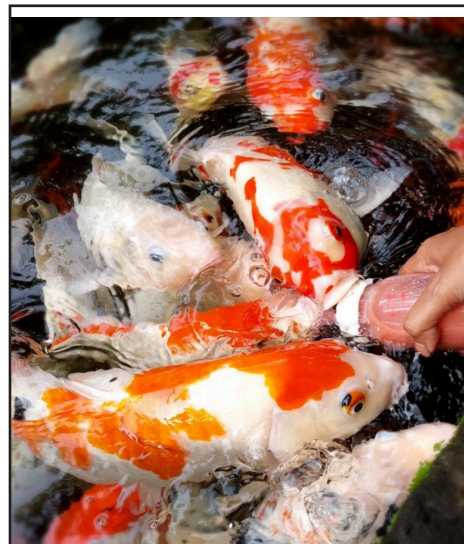
What have you learned through this event? I have learned through speech that you are always improving and it's okay to make mistakes to be able to improve.

Who is your speech role model? My speech role model would be Mrs. DeVore because she always has so much passion and drive into helping us as a group, and me as an individual, be our best. And she's always making me laugh!

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I would love to judge Choral reading because, from what I've seen so far, there is always a great message behind it.



Deep Dive by Arianna Nolan



Welcome back, Divers! This week we will take a look at a fish often associated with ponds: the koi fish! If you get one of these fish, it will grow with you as it has an average lifespan of 40 years old, and the oldest koi fish to date has been 230 years old. A fun fact about these fish is that you can tell the age of the fish with the number of scales that the fish has. These fish can grow up to 3 feet long, which is 90 centimeters in length! The location of the koi fish varies depending on whether they are bred to live in ponds or not. Koi fish were domesticated in the 19th century, but wild koi tend to live in the Black, Caspian, and Aral seas.

The average diet of the koi fish is aquatic insects, algae, and plants. But since most koi fish are bred to live in ponds, they will usually eat koi pellets. These creatures breed through laying eggs when they are around 3-6 years old (3-5 for males, 4-6 for females) during the spring/summer time (May-June). Once they are able to reproduce, they do it every year and females will lay their eggs on water plants or anything under the water where they will stick until they are hatched.

While you may not believe it, koi are actually vulnerable on the conservation status, so it's important to stay informed on what you can do to protect our oceans and seas. If you would like to learn more about this wonderful carp, please check out the website Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute which is where all the information was provided for this edition. I hope you all have a fin-tastic weekend and I will see you all later!

TEL shares its message

The MV TEL Group just recently gave a presentation to MV 8th graders on what TEL is and why it is important. The following TEL members who were there to discuss why TEL is important were Preston Salow, Ever Botos, Maya Smith and Joellen Beitz.

Club 109 hosts bake sale



You can get your sugar fix or find something sweet for someone sweet in your life today during WIN, thanks to Club 109. Tierra Morgan, above, can assure that the treats were made with love.

Jaelyn's Journeys

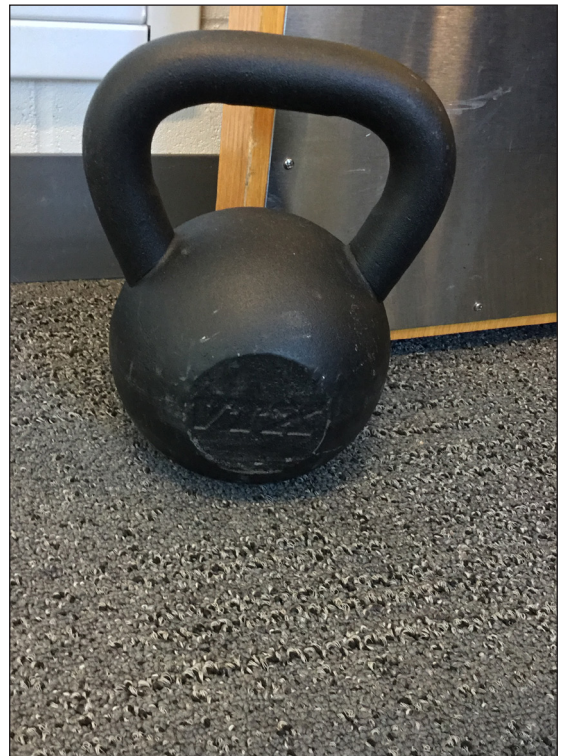


photo by Jaelyn Butikofer

Where in the school can you find this object? Be the first one to correctly name the place to Mrs. Temple (this week via email) to win something from the prize box! Last week's photo was in the auditorium. The winner was Sellah Ambundo.

Fantasy Fiction: Trouble in Therapy

We left off in our last installment, Elizabeth asked her father for more therapy, and he wants to meet her "friend"!

by Abby Nieman and Tommie Cole

My father, Andrew, and I walked into Green Leaf and were greeted by Mrs. Brown.

"You must be Mr. Wilson, am I right?"

"Yes, I am," my dad responded. "You can call me Andrew, and I apologize for my clothes; I just got off work."

"You're fine; come right this way." Mrs. Brown led us to the green glass door adorned with vines.

As we entered, I noticed a desk with a chair on the far side and two on the near side, similar to the ones in the main room. We sat down, and Mrs. Brown sat on the other side of the desk. "Okay, so your insurance does cover a private therapist, and since Mr. Andrew is here, we can start filling out the paperwork. As long as you agree with this," she said.

"Yes, I agree this will help her,"

Dad replied. We talked for a while and completed a lot of paperwork. We stayed in that room until group therapy was about to start.

"You can wait in the waiting room for your daughter if you'd like, Mr. Andrew," Mrs. Brown offered.

"I think I will. Can you show me where that is?" Dad asked. Mrs. Brown then guided him to the waiting room.

I went over to Chris and sat down. He looked up from his phone when I joined him, and a smile beamed on his face as if he hadn't seen me all day, even though we had just spent most of the day together.

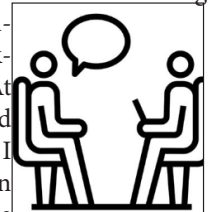
"Are you going through with it?"

In a half-snarky tone, I replied, "Yeah, I am, and I bet you wouldn't."

"Oh yeah? You want to bet?"

"Okay, everyone, listen up," Mrs. Brown began. "We are going to share why we are here today if we are comfortable."

"This is a once-a-year thing, so I'm not surprised we're doing it," Chris whispered. Everyone took turns sharing their stories until it was Chris's turn. He did a great job explaining what he had been through. Then it was my turn, and I froze. I hadn't had to do this in a long time. "I started coming here because Parker was stalking me. At one point, he locked me in my locker, and I was stuck there for an entire class period. He then followed me to my dad's work and later broke into my house."



That wasn't too bad—actually, it felt kind of okay.

Later, before I left, Mrs. Brown called me aside and asked when I would like to meet with her one-on-one. I said tomorrow.