

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Vocal jazz season begins



Sellah Ambundo solos on one of the charts for Smooth Harmony.

by McKayla Weber

On Friday, January 31, 2025, Maquoketa Valley's Smooth Harmony members traveled to Valley High School in West Des Moines to perform at Valley Jazz Fest.

During their time there they performed three pieces. One was "Bye Bye Blackbird" arranged by Beth Mueller featuring soloists Owen Boring, Olivia Hunter, and Ryleigh Moriarity. Their second piece, "Yesterday" arranged by Ben Parry featured soloist Tristan Dietz. Their final piece was "Feeling Good" arranged by Jere-

my Fox with soloists Sellah Ambundo, Olivia Hunter, Breece Hoisington and Ryleigh Moriarity.

After their performances, they received a clinic from Ian Brekke who Ms. McCrary called "an incredible beatboxer." He touched base on using EQ on the microphones to further improve MV vocalist Shane Lambert's beatboxing skills. According to Ms. McCrary, Brekke "also discussed the importance of different sections in the 'band' that we are creating and which ones we should be hearing more than others."



Career exploration

Earlier this week, some of MV's Industrial Arts students had the opportunity to participate in High Demand Skills day in Edgewood. These students got hands on experience in multiple different career paths including welding, electrical, construction, meat processing, heavy equipment operations, surveying, CAD, woodworking, mechanics, masonry, and many more. This career exploration event was organized by the Delaware County Economic Development and NICC.



Kash Hunt experiments with a CAT simulator at a career fair this week.

Smooth Harmony members include, front row: Brady Eike, Tristan Dietz, Sebastian Charles, Shane Lambert and Owen Boring; back row: Sellah Ambundo, Olivia Hunter, Breece Hoisington, Ryleigh Moriarity, Jocelyn Kelchen, Tracy Reth and Arianna Nolan.

Sports Connection

Wildcats go 2-1, Ronnebaum hits milestone

by Ryleigh Moriarity

Hey Wildcats! Ryleigh Moriarity is back this week with Girls' basketball news from both last week and this week.

Starting with last week, on Tuesday, January 28th, they played Ed-Co, winning in a final score of 61-48. Audra Burbridge scored the most points at 19, Grace Richter came in with 10 total rebounds, and Audra, again, helped with 7 assists. We struggled at first to pull ahead, but we racked up 19 points in the end that had us winning by 13 points.

Also last week, we had our first loss while going against North Linn. Our girls played hard but just fell short. With that said, our girls still played amazingly. Grace Richter put up 13 points for our team and got the most rebounds at 7 while Bianka Rhonnebaum helped with 3 assists. While we lost this game, we still lead the conference at 17-1 and are going strong.

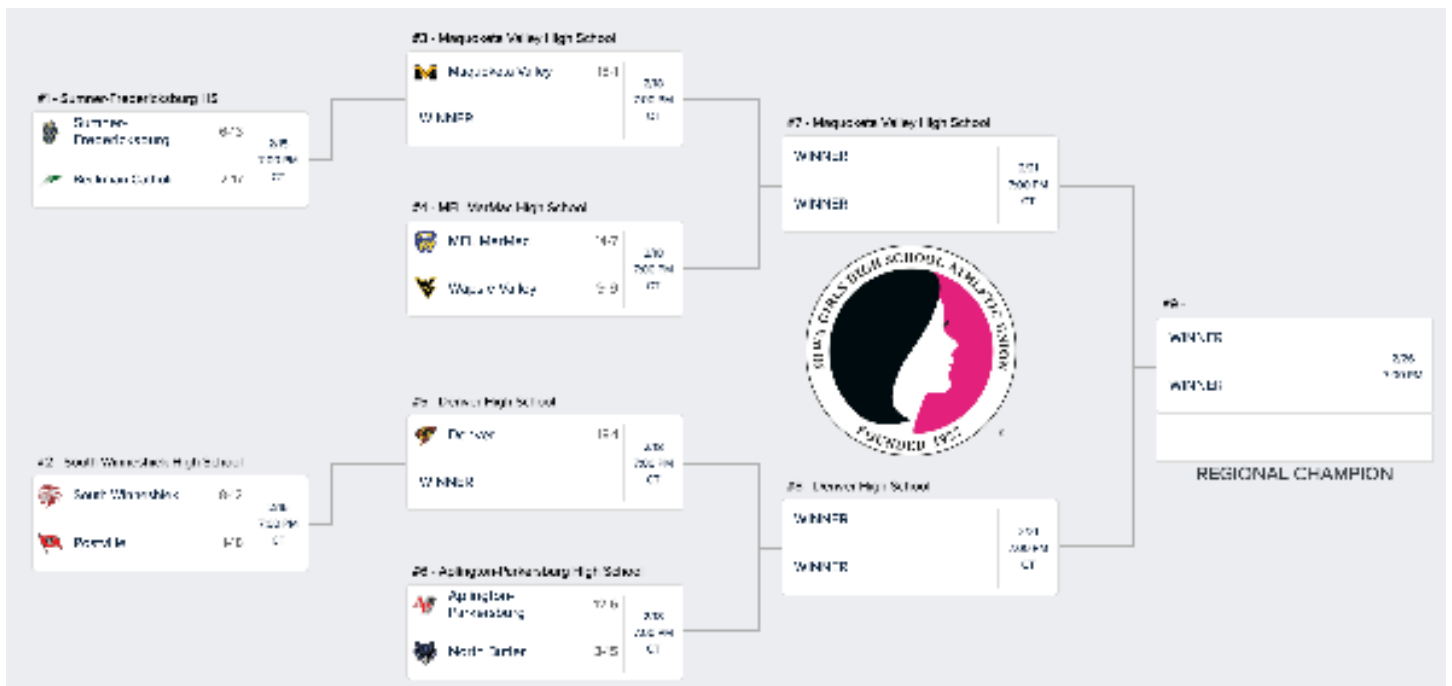
Next up, we had an easy time defeating our next competitor: North Cedar. With a final score of 61-14, we got a big lead right away and just kept getting



In Monday night's matchup with North Cedar, Bianka Ronnebaum became the sixth player in 5-on-5 basketball at MV to score 1000 career points. She joins Sam Wall, Brianna Mensen, Kelli Dabroski, Amy Helle Ostwinkle and Brie Noonan Sabers on this elite list.

more points. In the fourth quarter we got to watch the JV play against their Varsity team, and they got some good playing time, even scoring 11 points themselves!

Tonight is the second-to-last game for the girls and boys against Midland. It's also senior night. Good luck to all our basketball players out there!



Win some, lose one; Wall scores 32 (twice)

by Maya Smith

Last Friday, the boys took on North Linn at home. Unfortunately, the Cats couldn't keep up with the Lynx. At the end of the half, the Cats were down 11-37. At the end of the game, the Cats took a tough loss, 43-68. Coach Conner commented on the game: "I didn't feel like we played our best basketball again against NL. I would still like to see how we fare against them when we are at full strength, but they were better than us both times that we played them this year. We know that we are going to have to beat this caliber of team to accomplish our goals this season as we head to the postseason, so I think we can still take away a lot of things from this game."

Here are some game stats:

Points: Ty Hoeger, 9; Anderson Holtz, 8; Brady Wall, 8

Rebounds: Dylan Knipper, 4; Brady Wall, 4; Preston Salow, 3

Assists: Anderson Holtz, 4; Tate Intorf, 2; Dylan Knipper, 2

On Monday, the boys took on North Cedar. The Knights weren't much of challenge for our boys. At the end of the game the boys had won, 70-29. Here are some game leaders:

Points: Wall, 32; Chesnut, 15; Intorf, 7

Rebounds: Knipper, 7; Trevor Grimm, 6; Ty Hoeger, 4

Assists: Holtz, 3; Intorf, 3; Knipper, 3

The following day, the boys took on the other Wildcats, Central City. The boys had no problem with Central City despite losing to them earlier in the season, ending the game 52-40. Here's the game's stats:

Points: Wall, 32; Hoeger, 7; Chesnut, 5

Rebounds: Hoeger, 12; Knipper, 11; Wall, 4

Assists: Intorf, 3; Knipper, 3; Chesnut, 2

"I was really happy with how our guys responded to the NL loss and came out with a dominant mindset from the start of the game. We did some really good things on defense in the full court and caused NC to turn the ball over and got ourselves easy looks in transition. That is something that we have to be better at as we head into the postseason. Brady had a monster game for us with 32 points and I thought other guys did a great job of getting him the ball and rebounding to gain extra possessions to allow this to happen. We knew that we would have to play a more complete game than

Beitz, Davis bring home conference titles



MV's wrestling team earned a fifth place finish at the conference meet.

by Alaina Mead

Last Saturday, February 1st, the wrestling team traveled to North Linn for the Tri-Rivers Conference! A total of nine teams came to compete and Maquoketa Valley had many successful wins!

Nathan Beitz (215) along with Clayton Davis (190) both came home Conference champs, each of them winning the championship round by just one point!

Dalton Africa (165) and Chase Krogmann (HWT) also made the podium, placing 4th, both losing a tough final match by pin. Kipton Thompson (150) placed 5th. Braden Ronnebaum (175) and Brayden Schuster (144) also placed, both losing by pin in a solid final match, ending them in 6th!

Tomorrow the wrestling team will head to Rockford for a tournament!



Brayden Schuster competes in the conference meet. The freshman wrestler finished sixth this year.

we did the first time we played CC. They have a couple of players that gave us fits the first time we played them and we did a much better job of defending them this time around. Offensively, we did some really good things at times and other times, but we know we need to do a better job of finishing around the rim. Our goal after

the NL game was to go 4-0 and carry some positive momentum into the postseason, and we have completed the first two steps of that goal. I am very happy with how we are playing as a team right now and I look forward to keeping this thing rolling!"

Tonight the Wildcats host Midland.

Best Buds



Lena Lewin and Ever Botos
by Ella Reicher

When did you first become friends?

Lena : Freshman year cheer

Ever : Freshman year cheer

What made you guys want to become friends?

Lena : Ever is open to everything and very welcoming.

Ever : Our stupidity together

What is your best memory together?

Lena : Going to Cedar Rapids for my hair appointment and driving in the traffic.

Ever : Golf cart at cabin then going out to eat and walking home in the pouring rain.

What is your favorite thing about each other?

Lena : Ever always hears me out and never really judges me (maybe sometimes).

Ever: Lena is always down for an adventure. She knows that I can be sassy sometimes but rolls with it or plays off of me.

If Lena/Ever was a Roast and Toast drink what would they be?

Lena: Tropical Glow because it's always there to pick me up and is always glowing.
Ever: Tropical Glow because we always get that drink every Friday or any other day of the week.

Athletes of the Week

Name: Leah Reicher

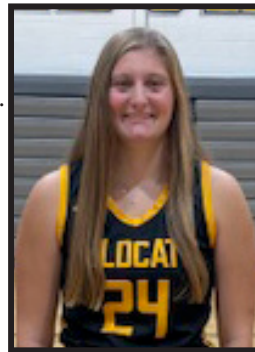
What do you enjoy most about playing basketball?

The talks that we have at team meals and in the locker room.

How have you evolved as a player? I have always enjoyed playing defense over offense, and as the season continues I have started to improve offensively.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? When we were running through plays Jada kept whistling. We couldn't figure out where it came from until she started laughing.

What's your favorite warm-up song?
"The Riff Off"



Name: Clair Gray

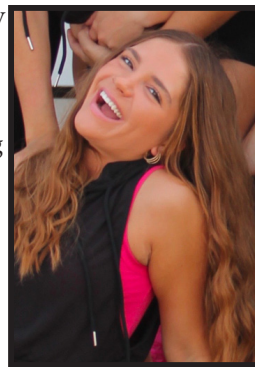
What do you enjoy most about dance team?

I most enjoy performing in the well at State Dance. It's always very nerve-racking but something so cool to be a part of. I also enjoy just the team aspect of every practice and performance the girls on the team have gotten to be like my little sisters.

How is this year different than your previous three years? This year is very different from the others, knowing it's my last year and trying to make the best out of it, which has been bittersweet because dance is something I have been a part of for so long.

What's your favorite routine you've ever been a part of? My favorite routine I've ever been a part of was definitely this year's State Pom Routine. I loved how upbeat, full of energy, and sharp this routine was, it was unlike any pom routine we've ever done. I also really enjoyed the song choices in this routine which made it so fun to dance to.

What advice do you have for young and future dance team members? My advice would be to never underestimate yourself, and always push yourself out of your comfort zone. Cherish all the memories along the way because it goes by way too fast!



Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Alaina Leytem

What event are you in for speech?

This year I am involved in TV news and Ensemble Acting.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? I enjoy going to contests and getting the opportunity to watch performances by others.

What have you learned through this event? I have learned better ways to express emotion and thoughts through my words, facial expressions and actions.

Who is your speech role model? I think I would have to say Josie Teymer is one of my biggest speech role models. I loved watching her and learning from her last year and I enjoyed watching how she would portray the characters she was assigned to.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I should have to say Improv because it is my favorite event to watch and it is so entertaining!



Name: Jordan Hatfield

What event are you in for speech? T.V. News
What do you enjoy most about large group speech? The people who are all involved

What have you learned through this event? How to be patient and persevere to get the outcome you want.

Who is your speech role model? Mrs. DeVore, her time and commitment to each group she coaches show what a great person she is. She has inspired me in many different ways but what it comes down to is how much she cares for each person and how she's always willing to help and listen.
If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be?

Improv. Not one would ever be alike, and they would be funny.



Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

Let's end this week off with some jokes that are sure to make you giggle! Did you hear about the girl who got fired from the calendar factory? She took a day off.

I couldn't figure out why the baseball kept getting larger and larger. Then it hit me.

Did you hear about the octopus that held up a convenience store? It was an armed robbery.

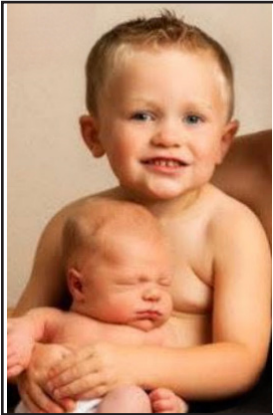
Why do ducks have tails? To hide their butt-quacks.

I wasn't a facial hair fan, but it eventually grew on me.

Cutie

by Alaina Mead

What a nice big brother! This cutie is a sophomore and lives outside of Earlville. He has 3 siblings and is a middle child. He is also involved in football and FFA. A fun fact about him is that he likes driving tractors! Last week's cutie was Kayla Hoeger.



Giddy up

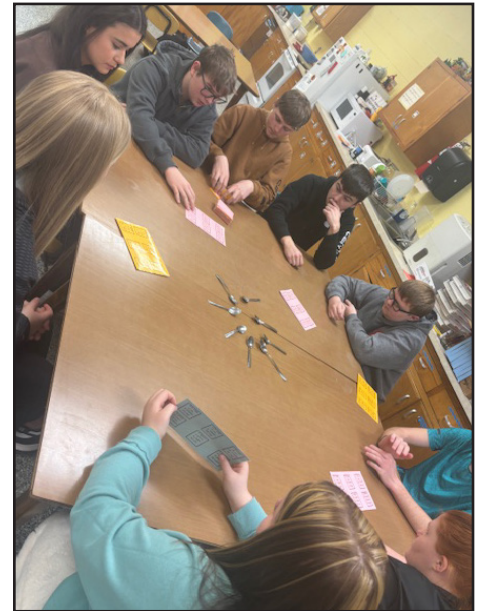
The dance team performed last Friday night at the North Linn games. This dance was choreographed by Isabella Mensen, Alaina Leytem and Tessa Intorf.

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 photo was in Ms. McCrary's room. There was no winner. :(



Some FCS students practice measurement conversions with a modified version of Spoons.

Fantasy Fiction: Trouble in Therapy

We left off in our last installment, Elizabeth found comfort from Chris. Is their friendship turning into something more?

by Abby Nieman and Tommie Cole

"Hey, Dad I need to talk to you," I started as we were eating supper.

"What's up, kiddo? What do you need?" Dad responded

"I think I need to see a private therapist not just the group therapist."

"Why? You're fine. Nothing seems off to me."

"Well you only see me part of the time and you don't see me in class."

"True but is there that much of a difference between now and when you are at school?"

"Yes, Dad, there is. In school I try to focus but end up zoning out the whole class period, and the only that I

know anything is from one of my friends who is concerned about me."

"Is this friend a boy? If so, I need to meet him."

"Dad, this is not what we are talking about. Will you come with me to therapy next week to talk with one of them?"

"Why do I have to be there? I am not the one being treated!"

"Because they need parental consent because I am not yet 18."

"I guess I can but why do you need this?"

"I need to do this because of the reason before and I am starting to see

things that no one else sees."

"You should have started with that. Yes, I will come."

"Do you know if insurance will cover it?"

"No idea but what day is it on?"

"Thursdays."

"I will get off work after your school hours and come with you. I can drive if you want."

"If we walk, you can meet my friend."

