

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

FFA chapter recognizes year of success at banquet

by Kayla Hoeger and McKayla Weber, FFA reporters

This past Sunday, April 27, the Maquoketa Valley FFA hosted their annual banquet, full of much-awaited awards, several CDEs and LDEs were recognized for their achievements, and the new officer team was elected.

The evening began with a meal made by the Mineart family, donated by Nutrien Ag in Dyersville. After we made our way to the auditorium and acknowledged degrees, LDEs, and CDEs in the past year. Before it all began, Randy Nefzger auctioned off several pies and desserts, a quilt, plants, as well as other items. This year, eight Discovery Degrees were handed out to middle school ag students, 17 Greenhand Degrees, 14 Chapter Degrees, and the 13 Iowa Degrees were acknowledged. The Star Greenhand was awarded to Kayla Hoeger for her involvement and dedication to the chapter. The Rising Star award went to Natalie Ries, also for her involvement and dedication throughout the year.

Each summer, members attend the Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. This year, Maquoketa Valley will send McKayla Weber to get an amazing opportunity. MVEC awarded a scholarship to McKayla to help with the costs of her trip. Other scholarships were awarded to five seniors. These seniors have put in many hours dedicated to MV FFA. Kelsey Hoeger, Bianka Ronnebaum, Leah Reicher, Brendin Frasher, and Caden Ries were all awarded this scholarship to help with their costs in their future schooling.

Throughout the past year, many members spent countless hours serving the community. One member was recognized for her community service. Ella Reicher was honored for her dedication to the community. Maquoketa Valley FFA is run by many high school leaders. Leah Reicher has stood out as a leader over the past year. Not only do members do a lot for our chapter, but adults in the community do lots of behind-the-scenes work to support the Maquoketa Valley FFA. Mike Feldmann, Sarah Beitz, and Tim and Jen Krogmann were all recognized for their support of the young members. Bob and Sharon Goedken stood out as adult volunteers in our chapter this



Star Greenhand Kayla Hoeger



Rising Star Natalie Ries



Leadership Award Leah Reicher



Community Service Award Ella Reicher

past year. The Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter appreciates the support and dedication from each individual.

Every year, MV FFA does many fundraisers to support the cost of everything the chapter does. The chapter is proud to recognize the top 3 salesmen. The top salesman was McKayla Weber, closely followed by Kayla and Kelsey Hoeger, as well as Ty and Morgan Hoeger.

To conclude the night, we introduced the 2025-2026 Officer Team. The role of sentinel went to Morgan Hoeger. This year's reporters, McKayla Weber and Kayla Hoeger. Abby Nieman was elected as treasurer. Ella Reicher was elected as secretary. This year's two vice presidents are Kyle Engelken and Ty Hoeger, and the 2025-2026 Maquoketa Valley FFA Chapter President is Natalie Ries.



A quilt made by Deb Schulte was auctioned off.

First place finish at Monticello

by Lanni Beaman

Even though the boys' track and field team couldn't have their home meet on Monday due to potential storms, it has been postponed to a later date! However, they were able to get a meet in at Monticello from the week prior. The team won the meet with 118 points. Monticello was second with 117 points.

Here are the results from the Monticello track meet! (Top 8):

800 SMR: Rogan Heidt, Brady Wall, Macoy Stone, Colin Smith; 1:38.08; First
3200m Run: 11:10.81, Brady Eike, Fourth; 12:45.46, Jayden Schwandt, Seventh
4x800m: Kenyon Baker, Matthew Schaul, Carter LeClere, DaShawn Strickland; 8:46.53, Third
100m Dash: 11.78, Macoy Stone, Second; 11.96, Brady Wall, Fourth
200m Dash: 24.07, Rogan Heidt, Second; 25.91, Dustin Damico, Eighth
400m Dash: 53.62, DaShawn Strickland, Second; 56.75, Carter LeClere, Fourth
800m Run: 2:02.04, Matthew Schaul, First; 2:14.32, Kenyon Baker, Fifth
1600m Run: 5:12.46, Brady Eike, Seventh
1600 DMR: Colin Smith, Dustin Damico, Owen Smith, Dylan Knipper; 4:08.85, Fifth
110m Hurdles: 17.51, Shane Lambert, Third
400m Hurdles: 59.38, DaShawn Strickland, Second
4x100m Relay: Rogan Heidt, Brady Wall,



Dylan Knipper winds up in the discus. He threw his personal best in Monticello.

Macoy Stone, Kash Hunt; 44.70, First
4x400m Relay: Kenyon Baker, Matthew Schaul, Carter LeClere, DaShawn Strickland; 3:46.21, Fourth
Shot put: Preston Salow, 42-05, second; Dylan Knipper, 39-09, third
Discus: Dylan Knipper, 129-02, third; Preston Salow, 117-07, fourth

Last night, the Wildcats competed at Cascade. Results will be in next week's issue.



Brady Wall and Macoy Stone both earned points for the Wildcats in the 100M dash. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple)

Smith, Grimm, Dougherty earn medalists honors

by Maya Smith

Last Friday, the girls competed against Ed-Co at home. It was a close game, the girls winning 201-212. Meet medalist for the night was Maya Smith. Here are the meet scores:

1st - Maya Smith: 46
3rd (T) - Isabella Mensen: 48
5th - Ever Botos: 51
6th (T)- Morgan Clemen: 56
9th - Ella Wulfekuhle: 57
10th - Alissa Bush: 58

This Tuesday, the girls welcomed Marquette Catholic. The girls came out victorious, 191-224. Coach Zietlow comments: "I was extremely proud of this team to shoot 191. From what I have noticed that our tee shots are finding more fairways and we aren't wasting as many shots to penalties. This team is trending in the right direction at a good time as we approach conference and post season play. Maya Smith has come a long way in 12 months. It's been fun to see her improvement through. She shot a career low 42 last night highlighted with a near hole in one on 7 for an easy birdie."

Here are the meet scores:

1st - Maya Smith: 42
2nd - Ella Wulfekuhle: 48
4th - Ever Botos: 50
5th - Isabella Mensen: 51
6th - Alissa Bush: 52
10th - Morgan Clemen: 64

The boys competed against Ed-Co on Friday, coming out with an easy win, 163 - 196. Meet Medalist for the night was Trevor Grimm.

Here are your meet scores:

1st (T) - Trevor Grimm: 38
1st (T) - Eli Dougherty: 38
3rd - Tate Intorf: 43
4th (T) - Dalton Africa: 44
4th (T) - Zach Leytem: 44
6th - Anderson Holtz: 45

This Tuesday, the boys played against Marquette Catholic at home. The boys won, 167 - 175. Meet Medalist for the night was Eli Dougherty. Here are the meet scores:

1st - Eli Dougherty: 40
2nd - Zach Leytem: 41
4th (T) - Trevor Grimm: 43
4th (T) - Anderson Holtz: 43
8th - Tate Intorf: 45
10th - Dalton Africa: 47

Strong team finishes at recent meets

by Alaina Mead

The MV girls track team has been on fire these past two weeks competing at West Delaware last Thursday, and Anamosa this week Tuesday. At West Delaware, the team placed second just short of first by five points as well as third at Anamosa against some pretty big schools!

The team scored points in the following events at West Delaware:

Shuttle hurdle: Haydin Flannagan, Ruby Recker, Addie Wilson, Alaina Mead; 1:19.31; sixth

100M Dash: Lanni Beaman, 13.72, sixth

200M Dash: Camryn Paris, 28.31, fifth; Lilly Kraft, 28.64, seventh

400M Dash: Lanni Beaman, 59.24, first; Audra Burbridge, 1:00.93, second

Sprint Medley Relay: Lili Bauers, Lilly Kraft, Taryn Burbridge, Audra Burbridge; 1:54.12; first

Distance Medley Relay: Lili Bauers, Khloe Glew, Izzi Heffernan, Taryn Burbridge; 4:34.66; second

4x100: Lili Bauers, Lilly Kraft, Camryn Paris, Lanni Beaman; 51.92; second

4x200: Lilly Kraft, Lili Bauers, Khloe Glew, Camryn Paris; 1:51.49; third

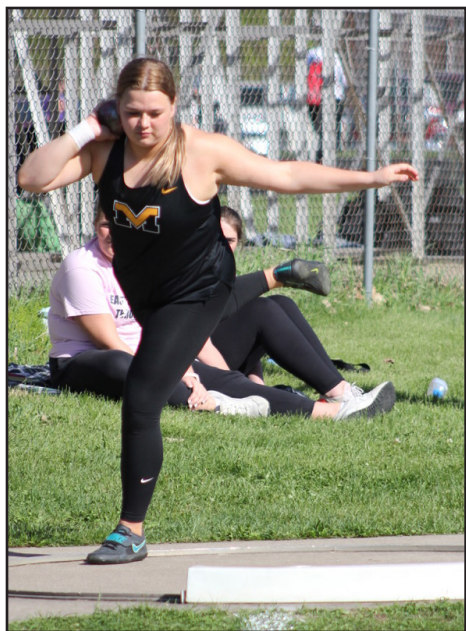
4x400: Taryn Burbridge, Izzy Heffernan, Audra Burbridge, Lanni Beaman; 4:15.34; first

Shot Put: Sellah Ambundo, 35-7, fourth; Macee Nolan, 32-5, eighth

Discus: Jeanie Teymer, 97-3, sixth

Long Jump: Khloe Glew, 14-9, fourth; Rylee Reed, 14-2, eighth

High Jump: Taylor Salow, 4-6, fourth; Haydin Flannagan, 4-6, fourth



Ryleigh Moriarity runs her leg of the 4x800 in Anamosa. (photos courtesy of Pete Temple)

Anamosa Meet team point results:

Shuttle hurdle: Haydin Flannagan, Ruby Recker, Addie Wilson, Alaina Mead; 1:18.09; sixth

100M Dash: Audra Burbridge, 13.74, sixth; Lilly Kraft, 13.77, seventh

200M Dash: Camryn Paris, 28.23, sixth

400M Dash: Lanni Beaman, 59.58, first
800M Run: Audra Burbridge, 2:23.36, second

Sprint Medley Relay: Lili Bauers, Lilly Kraft, Camryn Paris, Lanni Beaman; 1:50.88; second

Distance Medley Relay: Lili Bauers, Khloe Glew, Izzy Heffernan, Breanna McShane; 4:54.39; sixth

4x400: Taryn Burbridge, Izzy Heffernan, Audra Burbridge, Lanni Beaman; 4:12.24; first

4x800: Jordan Hatfield, Sadie Boeckenstedt, Ryleigh Moriarity, Breanna Bush; 12:55.21; fifth

4x200: Lilly Kraft, Lili Bauers, Taryn Burbridge, Camryn Paris; 1:51.97; second

4x100: Lili Bauers, Lilly Kraft, Camryn Paris, Lanni Beaman; 53.30; fourth

Shot Put: Sellah Ambundo, 36-4, third

Discus: Sellah Ambundo, 103-7, fifth

Long Jump: Khloe Glew, 14-9.75, fourth

High Jump: Taylor Salow, 4-10, third

Last night, the team competed in Cascade. Results will be in next week's issue.

Left: Macee Nolan competes in the shot put Tuesday night.

Athletes of the Week

Name: Isabella Mensen

What is your favorite part of playing golf?

Being able to be outside almost every day and get fresh air, after being in school for hours before

What's the most frustrating part of the sport? When

you have a bad day and score higher than you would like, and knowing you can score better

How long have you played? I started playing golf my freshman year

Who's your golf role model? I would have to say that I look up to Livia Hermanson who graduated last year and Maya. Both have great attitudes when it comes to golfing which is what really makes a difference in scoring and enjoying what you're doing.



Name: Audra Burbridge

What do you enjoy most about track? I enjoy the team atmosphere and how everyone

cheers me on when I am running.

What do you think your best event will be? My best event will be 400s or an 800.

What life lessons have you learned through track? Track has taught me to push through hard times and sometimes do stuff that makes me uncomfortable.

What's the hardest part of practice? The hardest part of practice is when we have to do hurdle mobility.

Who is your track role model? My track role model is Sydney McLaughlin or my older sister Taryn because she helps me to not be so nervous before my races by laughing and joking with me.



Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Alaina Leytem

What is your role in the spring play? Patricia, the daughter of Devina Arlington who is under investigation for murder

What do you enjoy most about being a part of this show?

I enjoy the overall experience of working with others and getting to know people

What will audience members enjoy most about the play? I think people will like the comedy aspects of each act

If you could star in any movie, what would it be? *Dumb and Dumber*



Name: Lylah Billmeyer

What is your role in the spring play?

Edmund Ridinghorn III

What do you enjoy most about being a part of this show?

I enjoy the atmosphere and how I can express myself and not feel judged or overlooked. Everyone supports each other, and it's like a family.

What will audience members enjoy most about the play? The audience will enjoy how everything is just so funny and unserious!

If you could star in any TV show, what would it be? I would want to star in *Gossip Girl*.



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!

Spring awards concert is Tuesday



by Taylor Saunders

This year's Spring Awards Concert is right around the corner. This special night is set to take place on Tuesday, May 6 at 7pm in the High School Auditorium. Please note, this has been a change of venue from previous years.

This concert will include performances from our treble choir, base choir, and mixed choir. Following that will be a short intermission, and then our band will perform a couple of pieces.

This concert isn't just like any other though; we will have a recognition for our wonderful band and choir seniors.

Admission is free but free-will donations are greatly appreciated!

Prom royalty



Lili Bauers and Brendin Frasher were crowned prom royalty last weekend.

Check out the MV greenhouse for a Mother's Day gift!

Maquoketa Valley High School proudly presents

The Alibis

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc. (www.playscripts.com)

written by Jonathan Dorf, Patrick Greene, Tyler Dwiggin, Ian McWethy, Kathryn Funkhouser, and Carrie McCrossen

Maquoketa Valley High School Auditorium
Friday, May 2 at 7 p.m.
and
Saturday, May 3 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 each and go on sale beginning April 24. Purchase at the door or in advance by stopping at the high school office or calling (563) 922-2091 to reserve tickets.

School board minutes from April meeting

Regular Board Meeting – April 23, 2025
– 5:30 p.m. – High School Library, Delhi,
Iowa

The regular meeting of the Maquoketa Valley Board of Education was called to order by President Donna Kunde at 5:30 p.m. on April 23, 2025 in the High School Library in Delhi, Iowa. All motions carried unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Board Members Present –Feldmann, Kunde, Overman, Zietlow (via phone)
Board Members Absent – Dabroski
Staff Present – Supt. Kim Huckstadt, Brenda Becker, Tiersa Frasher, Jackie Moorman, Erika Vanderloop and Jill Hoeger
Visitors Present – Mike Putz

In a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann the meeting agenda was approved as presented. All ayes. Carried.

At 5:31 p.m., President Donna Kunde declared this to be the time and place to hold the hearing on the proposed budget for the 2025-2026 school year in a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman. The proposed tax rate is \$9.75 which is a reduction of \$0.04 from FY25. It was noted that the District published at 3.0% SSA because the State had not yet set the FY26 SSA rate at the time of publication. The Department of Management will make the required adjustments to reflect the 2.0% SSA set by the State. The documents were reviewed and there being no comments, the Board President declared the hearing closed at 5:33 p.m. in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann. Motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman to approve the budget estimate as presented. A roll call vote was answered as follows: Feldmann, Kunde, Overman, Zietlow; all ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Zietlow, seconded by Feldmann the consent items were approved. All ayes. Carried.

Jackie Moorman shared a presentation with the Board regarding the District Career and Academic Plan which helps prepare students for post-secondary plans.

One open enrollment request in was approved in a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman. One open enrollment request

in was denied in the same motion. All ayes. Carried.

The following personnel recommendations were approved in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann:

Kelsey Thomas – employed as District Secretary
Mikayla Callan – resignation as Assistant HS Volleyball Coach
Mikayla Callan – employed as Head HS Volleyball Coach
Toby Grimm – employed as MS Baseball Coach
Jon Orr – resignation as Assistant HS Football Coach
Cadence Freiburger – employed as Assistant HS Softball Coach
All ayes. Carried.

The Board was presented information regarding the 2025-2026 collective bargaining settlement. In a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman the Board approved the 2025-2026 collective bargaining settlement which equated to a 5.0% increase. All ayes. Carried.

Motion was made by Overman, seconded by Feldmann to approve the following salary adjustments for the 2025-2026 school year:
Superintendent - \$137,500 Superintendent, \$20,000 Sharing Incentive
Administrative Staff – 5.07% TP increase
6-12 Curriculum Director Extra Duty Contract - \$2000 increase
Classified Staff – 3.5% increase plus step movement

Additionally, Paraprofessionals who complete the Paraprofessional Certification and can present a certificate to the School Business Official, will receive an additional \$1.00 per hour. All ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman the Board approved the Online Fundraising Campaign - Crowdfunding Procedures as presented. All ayes. Carried.

At 6:45 p.m., President Donna Kunde declared this the time and place to hold a public hearing on the proposed 2025-2026 school calendar in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann. The documents were reviewed and there being no com-

ments, the Board President declared the hearing closed at 6:46 p.m. in a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman. Motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann to approve the 2025-2026 school calendar as presented. All ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman the 2025-2026 Morningside Student Teacher Agreement was approved. All ayes, Carried.

The Board approved the 2025-2026 Iowa Local Government Risk Pool Commission Natural Gas Program Participation Agreement in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann. This allows the district to contract natural gas prices for the school year. All ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman the Board approved the FFA out of country travel request from Ms. Lau to travel to Belgium & the Netherlands. All ayes. Carried.

The Board discussed nominees for the 2025 Five Star award. The selected recipients will be presented with an award during the graduation ceremony.

Pam Overman and Mike Feldmann will serve on the April audit committee.

The Academic Excellence Banquet will be held on May 7th at 6:30 p.m. Baccalaureate will be held on May 14th at 5:30 and Senior Awards and Dollars for Scholars will be held on May 14th at 6:30 p.m. Graduation will be held on May 21st at 7:30 p.m. Kindergarten graduation is scheduled for May 23rd at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann. All ayes. Carried.

You Are Not Alone

by Abby Nieman

The racing, repetitive thoughts that are never good. My heart was pounding out of my chest. No one on the outside sees it or feels it as I do. All they see is a zoned-out person or the one crying, stemming, and even laughing. I have seen it in myself like that in many more ways. The fact that not only I but many others can hide their insecurities and anxiety from others. I can tell when I know a person well that they are having a bad flare-up, and sometimes even in others that I don't know, I can tell. I look around the room. People are all over at their assigned tables but still all over. The music that I would normally enjoy was too much and too loud. I was at a wedding of a family member of mine, but not a close family member. So thankfully I was not in the bridal party. The party was loud and in a small indoor space. So the sound echoed off the walls. It was overwhelming. My dad was next to me and saw that I was playing one of the games I play when I get overwhelmed and anxious. He got mad at me, which made me upset and made my anxiety worse than it was before.

As the night kept going, we had food, but I was still high-strung; everything that I tried to do did not help. At one point, I put my head on the table and cried. My aunt noticed that most of the night I had not been acting myself.

"Do you want to come with me for a walk outside?"

"Yes."

We got to the elevator, and there was less music, but it was still too loud. Not the bottom floor. It was dead quiet other than a few people talking on their phones but it was too warm for me. Our walk led us to the parking lot right outside the building. It was nice and cool, not cold or hot. There was no music but wind and birds and bugs, natural sounds that did not engulf me. It was nighttime; the stars were out, but I could still see. We had made it to the pickup and hopped up on the tailgate. For a little bit, we sat in silence, calm silence, letting our brains reset.

Then my aunt talked: "I am just like you and I know that it is hard to cope, but if need be come to me. At big parties, have someone you trust to take you outside for a walk to help calm your nerves." We talked about a lot of random things, but there was a point where we needed to go back to the party, but I was feeling better and the party was almost over at this point too. Still, I was not feeling the best, but it was much better than before.

Notes from the author: I had a very similar experience to the one that the main character has. The main character has a condition called social anxiety, which is a type of anxiety that tends to act up in big crowds and when there is a lot of noise going on, or just the thought of having social events planned. Just like in my life, the main character does not like the too loud music and seems to think that they are the only one who is having an anxiety attack. Her aunt was very much like her and had learned how to help others with their anxiety. I am like the aunt in the story; I want people to know that they are not alone and someone is there to support them on the bad and good days.



WEDNESDAY
MAY
7TH

DELHI CITY PARK
2:30-6PM
HWY 38- DELHI, IA

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