Issue 22
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The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Learning to teach

Learning isn't just for students in Mrs. DeVore's room.

If you're in one of her classes, you know Mrs. DeVore is working with a student teacher from UNI to help prepare her for a classroom of her own.

Ms. Rees, an English major at UNI, student taught with Mrs. Grimm in the middle for the first eight weeks and is now in the high school for her last eight weeks. She will graduate in May and hopes to find position in this area.

Ms. Rees is from Manchester and graduated from West Delaware.

Ms. Rees noted that student teaching has truly been a learning experience. "It's been eye opening and the most in-depth experience I've had with teaching. It's been extremely hands-on."

She added that Maquoketa Valley has provided her with a positive experience. "I appreciate that Maquoketa Valley has basically let me do what I've been comfortable with and been supportive." While Ms. Rees has completed other classroom practicums in the Cedar Valley area, teaching at MV is the first experience she has had in a truly rural setting, which is the type of school she would like to get a job at.

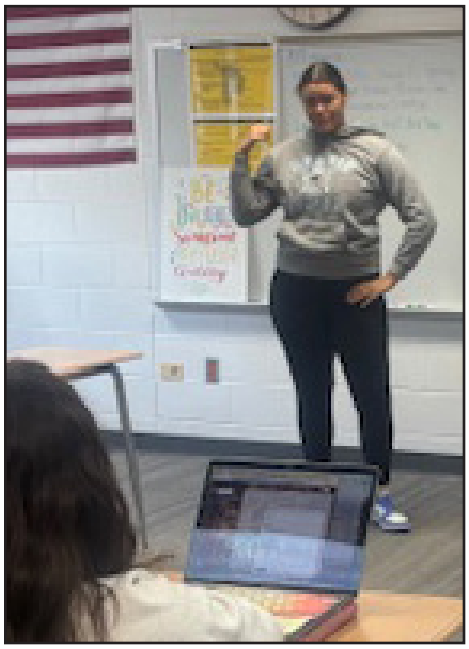
"It's been welcoming and the students have been fantastic," Ms. Rees said. Please offer her a warm Wildcat welcome.

Speech students shine at district contest

by Taylor Saunders

Good morning, Wildcats! Our contest speech team just traveled to Postville on Saturday for this year's IHSSA District Individual contest. We loaded the buses at 5:30pm and performed all the way until 4:00pm. The participating students are listed below, along with ratings. All of these events did extremely well. We received 49 division I ratings and 3 division II ratings.

Abby Nieman: Poetry: Division I
Abby Nieman: Public Address: Division I
Abram Nolan: Prose: Division I
Addie Wilson: After Dinner Speaking: Division I
Addie Wilson: Storytelling: Division I
Alaina Connolly: Storytelling: Division I
Allison Porter: Poetry: Division II
Arianna Nolan: Expository Address: Division I
Arianna Nolan: Original Oratory: Division I
Athena Bradley: Original Oratory: Division I
Athena Bradley: Public Address: Division I
Aubrie Althoff: Public Address: Division I
Ava Holtz: Public Address: Division I
Carly Dirks:Prose: Division I
Carly Dirks: Improvisation: Division I
Cecilia Charles: Reviewing: Division I
Cecilia Charles: Storytelling: Division I
Ella Reicher: Spontaneous Speaking: Division I
Emily Rudd: Improvisation: Division I
Eva Mensen: Poetry: Division I
Eva Mensen: Radio News Announcing: Division I
Ever Botos: Prose: Division I
Gracin Harris: Radio News Announcing: Division I
Jeanie Teymer: Expository Address: Division I
Lucy Hucker: Reviewing: Division I
Lucy Hucker: Videocasting: Division I
Lylah Billmeyer: After Dinner Speaking: Division I
Lylah Billmeyer: Storytelling: Division I
MaryEllen Smith: Spontaneous Speaking: Division II
MaryEllen Smith: Videocasting: Division I



Sellah Ambundo rehearses her solo musical theater entry to prepare for State.

Maya Smith: Original Oratory: Division I
Maya Smith: Radio News Announcing: Division I
Morgan Clemen: Acting: Division I
Morgan Clemen: Reviewing: Division I
Olivia Begle: Reviewing: Division I
Ollie Hunter: Solo Musical Theatre: Division I
Owen Salow: Improvisation: Division I
Owen Salow: Storytelling: Division I
Owen Smith: Expository Address: Division I
Preston Salow: Improvisation: Division I
Preston Salow: Spontaneous Speaking: Division I
Rylee Reed: Acting: Division I
Rylee Reed: Literary Program: Division I
Ryleigh Moriarity: Literary Program: Division I
Sellah Ambundo: Poetry: Division I
Sellah Ambundo: Solo Musical Theatre: Division I
Taylor Saunders: Acting: Division I
Taylor Saunders: Original Oratory: Division I
Tommie Cole: Literary Program: Division I

Continued on next page

Proficiency, Star Over Iowa results are in!

by Kayla Hoeger, FFA reporter

MV FFA has had some big news this past week with Proficiency results and Star Over Iowa results.

Proficiency awards recognize the hard work, dedication, and entrepreneurial spirit of our FFA members who put in countless hours developing their Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs. Growing not only skills, but also future career potential.

State Proficiency Winners:

-- Tyler Hoeger- Grain Production -- GOLD Rating

State Proficiency Runner-Ups:

-- Shannahan Smith- Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance Entrepreneurship-- SILVER Rating

-- McKayla Weber-- Ag Communication -- GOLD Rating

-- Ford Domeyer-- Dairy Production Entrepreneurship -- GOLD Rating

-- Tracy Reth-- Equine Science Entrepreneurship-- GOLD Rating

-- Kayla Hoeger-- Diversified Livestock -- GOLD Rating

-- Alison Schulte -- Swine Production Entrepreneurship -- GOLD Rating

Honorable Mentions:

-- Lukas Chesnut-- Ag Services -- SILVER Rating

-- Kyle Engelken -- Dairy Production Placement -- SILVER Rating

-- Khloe Glew -- Equine Science Placement -- BRONZE Rating

-- Karly Kerch -- Veterinary Science -- BRONZE Rating

Congrats to all of our recipients! The Champions and runner-ups will be recognized on stage at the 98th Iowa FFA State Leadership Convention in April!

The Stars Over Iowa award program recognizes FFA members who have outstanding involvement in all components of the three-circle model: Classroom/Laboratory instruction, Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE), and FFA leadership activities. Students who apply and qualify for their Iowa FFA Degree in the same year are eligible to compete in this award program. Finalists are selected and interviewed, and an overall winner in each area is recognized on stage at the annual State Leadership Conference.

We are proud to announce that Tyler Hoeger has been named a 2026 Star Over Iowa Finalist in Agricultural Placement through the Iowa FFA Association!

Tyler's Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) placement is with Hoeger Dairy and Hoeger Crops, where he has dedicated countless hours developing real-world agricultural skills while contributing to both livestock and crop operations. Through his work, Tyler has demonstrated exceptional responsibility, work ethic, and a strong passion for the agriculture industry. His hands-on experience in daily dairy management and crop production has helped him build valuable skills while making a meaningful impact on the operation.

This is one of the highest honors an Iowa FFA member can achieve, and we are incredibly proud of Tyler and the dedication he has shown through his SAE and agricultural education journey. Congrats, Ty!

Speech, cont.

Trish Dietiker: Prose: Division I

Trish Dietiker: Videocasting: Division II

These 49 various events will have the opportunity to participate at this year's State Contest at Maquoketa Valley! However, in order for these kids to do great things, we need you!

Once again, we greatly appreciate the hard work from our students as well as our beloved coaches. Wish us all the best as we go into this weekend for State at Maquoketa Valley on Saturday the 14th. We would love for everyone to join us there and help everything run smoothly. As always, Go Cats!

Lylah Billmeyer rehearses her After Dinner speech before school. She has advanced to State.

Round 'em up!

Band members grade 5-12 shared their musical talents Tuesday night at the annual Band Roundup concert in the middle school multi-purpose room. For the final song, the different bands joined forces.

New Chances

by Carly Dirks

EUGH

I genuinely didn't know what to call this chapter. Now, it's been a bit. How are you? I hope you're good. Now things have been hard for me again. Maybe it's been hard for some of you out there.

We're gonna talk about some ways to help with this. Personally, I use art as my escape. I take my raw emotions and sketch on paper. Maybe some of y'all aren't artists. That's okay. Anyone could do it.

Now, if you don't want to go the art route then maybe try to write. Write down everything. Journal, story, poem, ect. Just keep writing.

What if I suck at both of those? Well, I'm sure you don't suck–maybe you just need practice. Then if you can't do that, find some way to express yourself. Find someway to get rid of all of it. Go to the gym, take a walk, bake, cook, etc. Maybe you like fishing. A good fishing trip could clear anyone's mind.

Listening to music can also be a great way to calm your mind and focus on good things. Music, as little as it is, is so powerful. It can reach to the heart, speak to you, make you feel. Music is so healing and so powerful. The right type of music can get you in the best or worst mood. It can cause you to be determined.

A book can help too. If you read the right book your mood could greatly improve.

This was short, but it's here.

Jaelyn's Journeys

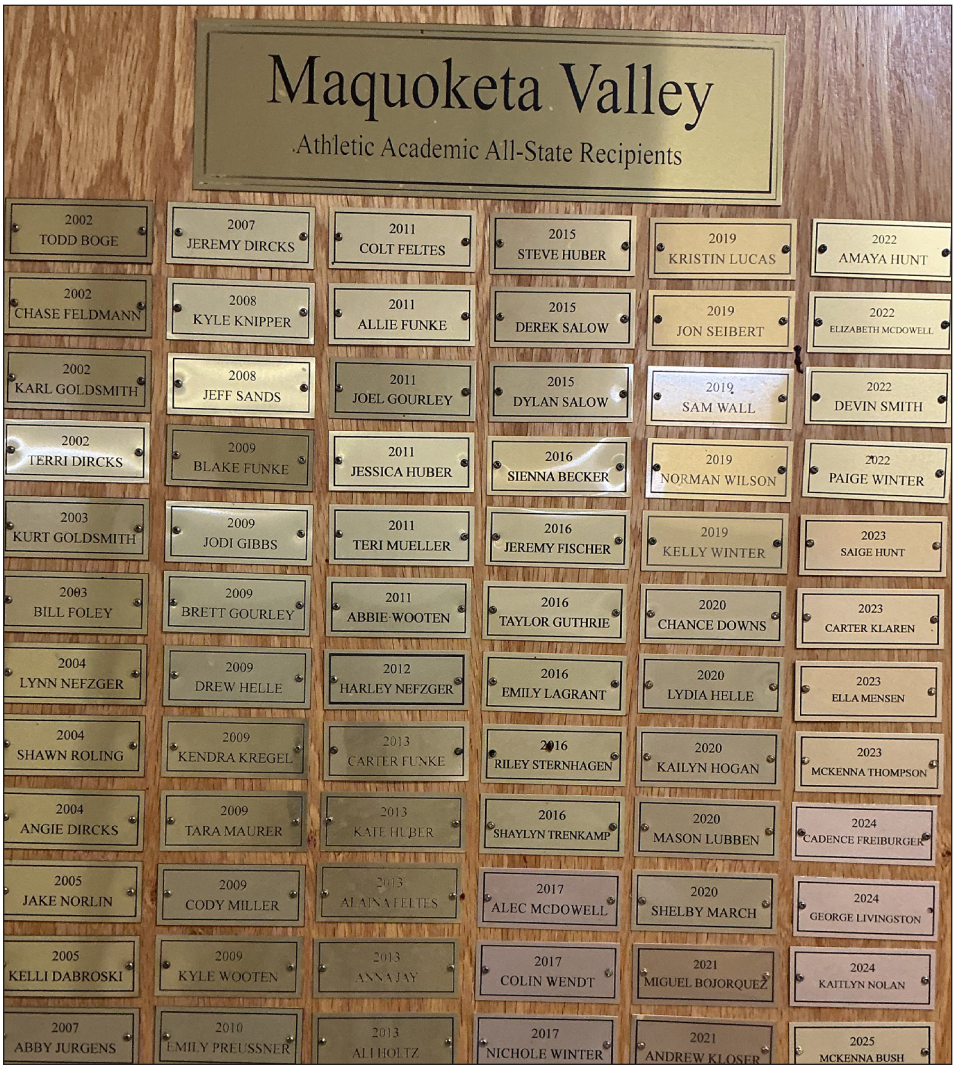


photo by Jaelyn Butikofer

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

Fantasy Fiction: The battle of many but few

A series by Abby Nieman

"Lyra, you are now in control of your own story," Elysia said, somehow in my head, even though I do not know where it is coming from. There is a strange pull to the forest that is calling me. I go knowing that my instinct would not lead me astray.

I walk in, and the forest lights up with flowers all over the ground as if a ceremony is happening right before me. Merdid, the leader of the spirits, comes up to m:, "Come sit, as we are all excited that you are here and I hope you meet a new friend of ours."

"Elysia? Is she our new friend?" I ask as Merdid shows me to a chair.

"Why yes, my dear, she is. We hope that we can work together to get her to safety." There is a loud trumpet that is being blown off to my right, and then Merdid disappears, the whole forest goes quiet, no wind, no birds. A spirit that looks like a fiery fox steps up and looks at only me here.

"Where are the others?" The fox asks.

"How am I supposed to know? I just got here," I respond.

"Fair point. Have you seen Merdid?"

"Yes, he told me to sit, and then when the trumpet blew, he vanished."

The fox disappears without another word, and I still don't know what I am doing here.

A good amount of time passes before anything happens. A new spirit that I have never seen before, but looks familiar, though I don't know why, appears. "Welcome…our one and only guest today, we will be initiating a new spirit that we have deemed to pass all of the tests with flying colors," the fiery fix from before says. The new spirit that is behind him comes up and looks at me.

Deep Dive by Arianna Nolan

Welcome back, Divers, to another edition of Deep Dive! Last week, we looked at a creature belonging to the fish family, but this week I want to take a look at a mammal that soars near the sandy shores: the bat ray. This creature lives in the Eastern Pacific Ocean and the Galapagos Islands, and tends to stick near coral reefs and kelp forests. The size of this creature varies depending on the gender of the ray. If the ray is female, it can grow up to almost 6 ft and weigh 200 pounds, but if the ray is male, then it is usually smaller. A fun fact is that when they soar across the top of the water, they might be seen swimming upside down!

The diet of the bat ray is average. They tend to graze on crustaceans, molluscs, and small fish. To catch their prey by digging their snout in the sand. These pits for scouting can be up to 13 feet long! Bat rays also have very strong teeth, so they can crush some of the strongest clam shells. If one of their teeth breaks, the tooth regenerates!

These creatures are endangered due to the overfishing of clam-shell catcher predators. They believed that the bat rays were overconsuming their clamshells, when in reality, the bat rays mostly consume crab. By doing this, they were only harming the habitat of the clam shells further. On top of this, we all must do our part in protecting our oceans by practicing conservation techniques. If you would like to learn more about the bat ray, please visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium website, which is where all the information for this article was provided.

I hope you all have a fintastic weekend and I will sea you all next week!

One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

Women have been an important part of the way we exist since the beginning of time. They are mothers, fighters, and some of the bravest, strongest people in the world. But women have also experienced oppression since the beginning of time, all because of the chromosomes they happened to have. March is Women's History month, and it's important to take a look back in our history and see what women have done for us and how there is still action to be done to improve the life for women all over the world.

Women's History Month actually started as Women's History Week. According to the Women's History website, the celebration began in the year of 1978 in Santa Rosa, California. During this week, they selected the day March 8 to be International Women's Day, which still takes place currently. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter nationally recognized the week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. Then, in 1987, Congress passed a law that would recognize March as National Women's History Month.

For the entirety of March, I want to share a little piece of women's history and share some important women's figures in our history to commemorate what they have done for us. To end this column, I would like to share a quote from President Jimmy Carter in 1980: "From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often, the women were unsung, and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and love of the women who built America were as vital as those of the men whose names we know so well. As Dr. Gerda Lerner has noted, "Women's History is Women's Right." – It is an essential and indispensable heritage from which we can draw pride, comfort, courage, and long-range vision.""

On this note, I hope you all have a fantastic weekend, and I look forward to sharing more next week! Go Cats!

Athlete of the Week

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I enjoy how close all of us teammates are and how we can joke around with one another.

How have you evolved as a player from last year? I have evolved as a player from last year by having more confidence in myself on the court and overall becoming a better shooter.

What's been a favorite basketball memory from this season? My favorite basketball memory would be staying in hotels at Wartburg summer camps and state last year with my teammates.

What's your favorite warm-up song? FourFiveSeconds" by Rihanna.

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

Track Jokes

What does a sprinter eat before a race? Nothing, they fast!

What do you get when you cross a sprinter with a comedian? A running joke!

Why did the high jumper quit his job? He just couldn't get over it!

Why did the sprinter sleep with his trophies? He was always chasing gold!

What do you call a relay race in space? A star trek!

Spring Jokes

Why was the bee mad? You'd be mad too if someone stole your honey and nectar.

How excited was the gardener about spring? So excited he wet his plants.

What does winter fat turn into? Spring rolls.

How do you make a waterbed bouncier? Fill it with spring water.

What is the shortest month of the year? M-A-Y.

How do you know flowers are friendly? They always have new buds!

St. Patrick's Day Jokes

Where do leprechauns hang out? On the paddy-o.

Why do leprechauns hate amusement parks? They're too short for the rides.

What did the Irishman say to his lass after she broke up with him? I'm already clover it.

Hosting State speech takes a village. Join that village!

On Saturday March 14th, the MV speech team is in need of volunteers. This contest is HUGE and needs tons of help. If you are interested in helping there are various ways you can do so!

Room Chairpersons: You would introduce performers in different events. You would need to speak in front of the audience. (Need numerous volunteers. We will make sure you have everything you need to rock this job!)

Timers: You run a timer and time cards during performances. (Need numerous volunteers. We will make sure you have all of the know-how to knock this out of the park!)

Door Monitors: You are OUTSIDE the door of the performance center. You are responsible for helping keep the hallways quiet and keeping track of when performers enter the room.

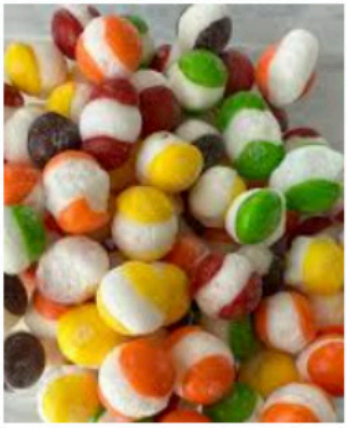
Radio News Edit Room Supervisor: (if position isn't already filled – only need one individual for the whole day!) This person sits in the radio news edit room and hands out radio packets to the performers when they come in. You would also keep track of when they begin editing to guarantee they get the correct amount of time to edit.

Runners: These individuals "run errands" around the contest. They might deliver items to different centers, hang ratings in the gyms, or could possibly fill in for someone in another position.

Our contest speech students and coaches, as well as any member of the fine arts would greatly appreciate your help! If you're interested in helping please don't

On Special At Taste Oasis This Week:

Alani Nu Mixed Drinks



Freeze Dried Candies

Scotcharoos