

# The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

## Academic achievement celebrated Wednesday night

MV hosted its annual Academic Excellence Banquet Wednesday night to recognize students' outstanding performance in the classroom.

Students earned this honor in a number of ways: ACT / PSAT / SAT scores - 95% composite or better, IA Assessments / PLAN - 97% composite or greater, 4.00 GPA previous 2 semesters (1st semester for freshmen), or rank in top 7% of class.

Guests enjoyed a delightful meal followed by entertainment provided by the fine arts department. (See photos on the next page). Senior parents and mentors were recognized. Students were also presented certificates.

The keynote speaker was Lindsay (Dunham) Wede, a 2002 MV alumna. She is currently an art teacher at Ames High School. She was named the 2024 Iowa Art Educator of the Year in recognition of her work. She spoke about the importance of being a critical, creative thinker and helping the community.



The seniors who were honored include Lanni Beaman, Taryn Burbridge, Lainey Deutmeyer, Rachael Hofer, Tyler Hoeger, Derrick Mohr, Arianna Nolan, Preston Salow, Taylor Saunders, Colin Smith, Maya Smith and Grace Richter.



Junior honorees were Addison Bonert, Haydin Flannagan, Alaina Mead, McKenna Min-eart, Shannahan Smith and Chyen-ne Eike.



Sophomores recognized were Aubrie Althoff, Olivia Begle, Kayla Hoeger, Morgan Hoeger, Taylor Salow, Alison Schulte and MaryEllen Smith.



The freshmen were Athlena Bradley, Cecilia Charles, Colt Haas, Gracin Harris, Kourtney Hatfield, Jena Hofer, Payton Lanning, Charlottee Ludovissy, Carly Miller, Abram Nolan and Maggie Recker.

# Fine arts department provides entertainment



Wednesday evening, several students shared their talents Wednesday night at the Academic Excellence banquet. A brass quartet (above) performed as did All-State speech students Abram Nolan and Sellah Ambundo (far right), and a vocal group. Maya Smith also performed a trombone solo.



## Band, choir recognize seniors at spring concert

The band and choir hosted their spring concert Tuesday night. Throughout the evening, seniors were recognized, and several awards were presented:

### *Band Awards:*

Louis Armstrong Outstanding Jazz Award - Rachael Hoefer

John Philip Sousa Outstanding Band Award - Maya Smith

### *Choir Awards:*

Long Haul Award: Owen Boring, Trish Dietiker, Ollie Hunter, Jocelyn Kelchen

Iowa Choral Directors Association Award: Ollie Hunter, Jocelyn Kelchen

### *Combined Awards:*

Semper Fidelis Award for Musical Excellence - Trish Dietiker

Leonard Bernstein Musicianship Award - Taylor Saunders

**Right: Members of the choir perform under the direction of Ms. McCrary.**



# FFA hosts Farm Safety Day, fills parking lot with tractors

by Anna Feldmann; chapter reporter

This past Friday, May 1st, the Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter was busy. It was Drive Your Tractor to school day, as well as Farm Safety Day. Red or Green, there was a total of 18 tractors. Kindergarteners and first graders were invited to participate in a fun educational afternoon. There were seven stations, and the students spent eight minutes at each station. The kids learned about chemicals and handwashing, wearing a seatbelt, fire safety, sun safety, flowing grain, tractor safety and 911. After going through all the stations, they reviewed the day with a fun video and a snack. Overall, the day was a huge success.

This past Saturday, May 2nd, the FFA chapter also put on a pedal pull at Midwest Pride in Your Ride. There were four age categories; each person got three pulls and the top three in each age group were rewarded with a ribbon. Each kid also got a free toy tractor provided by Midwest Pride in Ride. Overall, the pedal pull was a very enjoyable success.

## Off to the market



The CTE organizations hosted its annual MV Market Wednesday where they had lots of student-made goods for sale. FCCLA (FCS) had baked goodies, specialty drinks, MV apparel, and sewn items. FFA (Ag) sold plants from the greenhouse. FBLA (Business) sold items such as pots, claw clips, and stickers. Skills USA (Industrial Technology) sold wooden cutting boards, wooden bowls, games, top spinners, bird feeders, coat hangers, and more. Purchases support classroom activities and supplies.



FFA members pose with some of the tractors that filled the lower parking lot Friday.



Above: Tyler Beitz works with elementary students to explain how to use 911.



Left: FFA members helped with a pedal pull over the weekend.

# Sports Connection

## Track teams tear it up at Cascade, Ed-Co

### Boys track

by Lanni Beaman

Our MV Boys Track and Field team traveled to Cascade on Thursday and despite the weather being quite chilly, our boys still competed well. They placed 8th as a team with multiple PR's in both running events and throwing events. Here are the results from the Cascade meet:

Sprint Med: Colin Smith, Dylan Knipper, Carter LeClere, & DaShawn Strickland: 1:44.32 (5th Place)

4x800m Relay: Owen Smith, Owen Salow, Keegan Rahe, & Colt Haas: 10:10.17 (3rd Place)

Distance Med: Dylan Knipper, Kash Hunt, DaShawn Strickland, & Kenyon Baker: 3:49.07 (2nd Place)

400m Dash: Owen Smith: 54.34 (3rd Place)

4x200m Relay: Dylan Knipper, Carter LeClere, Jaxson LeGassick, & DaShawn Strickland: 1:37.02 (4th Place)

800m Run: Kenyon Baker: 2:12.05 (4th Place)

1600m Run: Owen Smith: 5:09.16 (6th Place)

4x100m Relay: Keegan Rahe, Colin Smith, Dylan Knipper, & Jaxson LeGassick: 47.98 (7th Place)

4x400m Relay: Carter LeClere, Kash Hunt, Kenyon Baker, & DaShawn Strickland: 3:39.38 (3rd Place)

Shot Put: Preston Salow: 49' 1.75" (1st Place)

Discus: Preston Salow: 131' 4" (4th Place)

Last night the boys competed in the conference meet. Results will be in next week's issue.

### Girls track

by Alaina Mead

Last Thursday the girls track team competed at the Cascade Invitational Meet and placed 2nd with 95 points.

Results:

100m Dash- Mallori Ambundo; 5th; 13.84 (PR)

200m Dash- Camryn Paris; 5th; 27.27, Rylee Reed; 7th; 28.27

400m Dash- Payton Lanning; 7th; 1:10.24

800 Run- Audra Burbridge; 2nd; 2:25.23, Lanni Burbridge; 3rd; 2:28.83

1500m Run- Breanna Bush; 6th; 6:08.54

Discus- Sellah Ambundo, Grace Richter; 4th; 97-2

Shot Put- Sellah Ambundo; 2nd; 38-1.5, Morgan Hoeger; 6th; 31-5.5

High Jump- Taylor Salow; 2nd, 5-0; Haydin Flannagan; 6th; 4-6

Long Jump- Magda Petermann; 7th; 13-2

Shuttle Hurdle- Flannagan, Ries, Salow, Mead; 5th; 1:15.62

Sprint Med- Kraft, Reed, Burbridge, Beaman; 2nd; 1:55.16

Distance Med- Paris, Reed, Burbridge, Feldman; 3rd; 4:40.59

4x100 Relay- Paris, Kraft, Burbridge, Beaman; 5th; 53.39

4x200 Relay- Reed, Kraft, Burbridge, Paris; 4th; 1:51.94

4x400 Relay- Burbridge, Feldmann, Burbridge, Beaman; 2nd; 4:21.30

4x800 Relay- Weber, Hoefler, Freiburger, Hatfield; 4th; 12:59.53

"I love how everyone from the seniors to the underclassmen are finding ways to contribute to the team," stated Coach Dunlap. "This group is excited for the postseason."

This Tuesday the girls also competed at their final regular season meet in Edgewood. The team placed 2nd against 12 other teams with 102 points.

The following events scored points:

200m Dash- Rylee Reed; 6th; 28.19

400m Dash- Audra Burbridge; 5th; 1:02.38

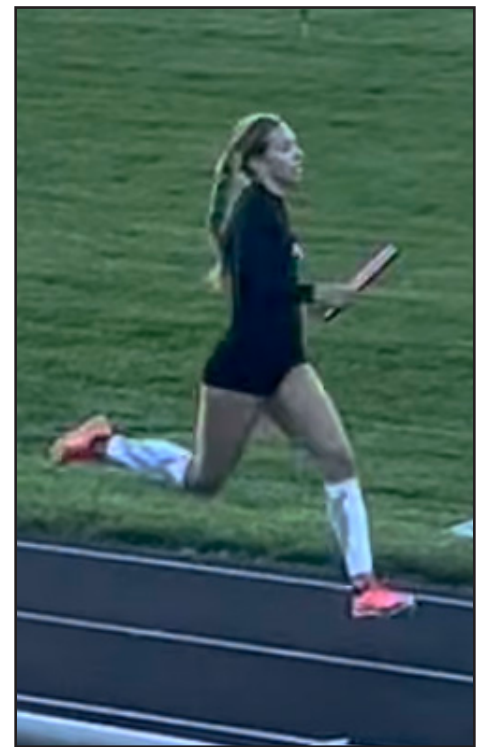
1500m Run- Breanna Bush; 8th; 6:13.33

100m Hurdles- Natalie Ries; 4th; 17.54

400m Hurdles- Taylor Salow; 2nd; 1:16.18, Magda Petermann; 4th; 1:22.37

Discus- Sellah Ambundo; 1st; 126-00

Shot Put- Sellah Ambundo; 3rd; 37-08.5, Morgan Hoeger; 7th; 30-08.5



Lanni Beaman strides to the finish line in first place in the 4x400 at the Ed-Co meet.

High Jump- Taylor Salow; 3rd; 4-10

Shuttle Hurdle- Flannagan, Ries, Salow, Mead; 4th; 1:16.32

Sprint Med- Paris, Reed, Burbridge, Beaman; 2nd; 1:52.50

Distance Med- Ambundo, Glew, Lanning, Feldman; 2nd; 4:44.64

4x100 Relay- Paris, Kraft, Burbridge, Beaman; 2nd; 53.44

4x200 Relay- Reed, Kraft, Burbridge, Paris; 1st; 1:49.76

4x400 Relay- Burbridge, Glew, Burbridge, Beaman; 1st; 4:57 (top 20 1A)

Yesterday the team traveled to Lisbon for their Conference meet before their final meet next Thursday to punch their tickets to state! Go Cats!

# Boys prove to be the best in the conference



Coach Conner poses with the TRC champs: Eli Dougherty, Trevor Grimm, Dalton Africa, Anderson Holtz, Zachary Leytem and Braden Gardner.

by Maya Smith

Last Friday, the girls played against MFL Marmac and Marquette Catholic at home. The girls took second with a 198, MFL shooting a 190, and Marquette a 245. Here are the meet scores:

- 3rd - Maya Smith: 47
- 5th - Olivia Begle: 50
- 6th - Ever Botos: 50
- 8th - Eva Mensen: 51
- 10th - Macee Nolan: 52
- 14th - Morgan Clemen: 60

Coach Zietlow comments: "During practice this week the team has been working on putting, short game and full shots on the range. I have had a few play 9 holes as I try and figure out the top 6 for Conference and the postseason. Regionals came out Wednesday and we are heading to East Buchanan. I feel like we are placed in a Regional that gives us the best chance to move on to Regional Finals."

Last Thursday, the boys competed at the West Delaware Invitational Tournament. The boys took second place, with a 318, falling short of West Delaware, who shot a 309. Meet medalist was Eli Dougherty with a 71. Here are the meet scores:

- 1st - Eli Dougherty: 71
- 5th - Trevor Grimm: 78
- 9th - Zachary Leytem: 81
- 21st - Braden Gardner: 88
- 26th - Anderson Holtz: 92
- 27th - Dalton Africa: 92

Last Friday, the boys competed against MFL Marmac and Marquette Cath-

olic. The boys took home first with a score of 160. MFL shot a 162, and Marquette shot a 173. Meet medalist for the night was Eli Dougherty with an even par 35. Here are the meet scores:

- 1st - Eli Dougherty: 35
- 5th - Trevor Grimm: 41
- 7th - Anderson Holtz: 41
- 11th - Dalton Africa: 43
- 14th - Braden Gardner: 46
- 16th - Zachary Leytem: 47

On Monday, the boys won the Conference title at Woods Edge for the first time in Wildcat history, shooting a 321. Conference champion was Eli Dougherty with a 78. Here are the meet scores:

- 1st - Eli Dougherty: 78
- 2nd - Trevor Grimm: 79
- 4th - Zachary Leytem: 82
- 6th - Dalton Africa: 82
- 21st - Braden Gardner: 92
- 28th - Anderson Holtz: 96

Coach Conner comments: "We had a great day at our conference meet. The wind was very tricky and I thought our guys played some smart golf to shoot 321 as a team, which was good enough for first place. Eli had another really nice round, shooting 78 and earning medalist honors. Trevor also had a nice round of 79 and was runner up. Zach and Dalton each played really good golf throughout the day and shot 82 a piece. This is the type of team score that it is going to take to advance through our Sectional next week, so it was nice to see us play well as a team. I am really proud

# Athletes of the Week

Name: Owen Smith

**What do you enjoy most about track?**

What I enjoy most about track is setting a new PR in a race

**What do you think your best event will be?** The 400 meter dash  
**What life lessons have you learned through track?**

Giving your all even when you don't want to

**What's the hardest part of practice?**

The workouts

**Who is your track role model?** Matthew Schaul



Name: Kenyon Baker

**What do you enjoy most about track?**

Being with my friends and competing

**What do you think your best event will be?** 800 by far

**What life lessons have you learned through track?**

You have to push yourself even when it's uncomfortable.

**What's the hardest part of practice?** The warmup

**Who is your track role model?** Cole Hocker or Quentin Nauman



of how the guys battled through the tough wind and finished their rounds on a high note.

"We got our Sectional and District assignments last week. There is some really good competition so we are going to have to play our best golf to be able to advance. The good news is we get to play Willow Run Country Club in Denver again and our guys are very familiar with the course from last year. We shot 329 there last year and we know that is going to take that score or even better to be able to advance. We will get to Denver a couple of times before Wednesday next week to try to put ourselves in the best position possible to be able to score there and advance."



## Student of the Week

*Arianna Nolan*



**You've been nominated because of your willingness to help the APUSH students prepare for their test. What made you decide to help?** I wanted to help the APUSH students because I know what it's like to be in their shoes. The APUSH exam can be nerve wracking and just having someone there to tell you that you are doing great and reviewing content can be the push that you need to get that 4 or 5 on the exam.

**You've excelled in your classes at MV. What advice do you have for underclassmen about their studies?** Advice that I have for the underclassmen is to stay organized and to never get behind on your assignments. Keep pushing yourself to strive for greatness and don't settle for just okay.

**What excites you most about your college classes next year?** What excites me most about college classes next year is the opportunity to continue learning! I love learning and I am always very excited to be able to meet new classmates.

## 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

"The spirit is named Warin, but is he my Warin?" Walking into the forest, there is a coolness that hits my skin, waking me from my own thoughts. The animals in the forest seem restless but in a good way. The birds fly overhead, and their songs echo through the forest. Deer and other creatures all come in a radius that I can see them but not touch them. It is as if this were the long-awaited moment, for what I have no clue.

As I follow behind the rest of the group, the spirit Warin comes back to me. "The forest seems more alive than

before."

"I could tell. Would you happen to know why, Warin?" I respond.

"I have no clue. There is a reason I would assume, whether good or bad, I have no clue."

"Warin, what all do you know about your alive life?"

"Not much at all. There is very little that I can remember, other than what Merdid told me, that there was a strong connection to a friend of mine when I was alive. Madrid did not tell me who it was," the spirit says.

The clearing comes sooner than I expected. In the clearing, all of the spirits and Merdid are waiting for us. "You know Warin and Lyra have completed their mission," Merdid says as he walks around the group.

"What does that mean?" Madrea asks as she looks at Merdid.

"It means that they are acclimated to each other and are a team."



# Jackson Schnittjer



**What advice do you have for freshmen?** Take classes that will help you in the future.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?** The teachers because they are very helpful

**What class have you enjoyed most in high school?**

Shop classes and any of Mr. Cassutt's classes

**What does your future (college and career) look like?**

My future career is to join the military.

**When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing?** Working

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** The senior prank

# Ryan Beaman



**Activities involved in during high school:** FFA

**What advice do you have for freshmen?** Do your best.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?**

The teachers

**If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why?**

Freshman year with the upperclassmen

**What does your future (college and career) look like?**

To work at offset construction in Farley doing excavating work.

**What song will always remind you of high school?**

"Five More Minutes" by Scotty McCreery

**When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing?** Working

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** My 7th grade year in English

# Morgan Clemen



**Activities involved in during high school:**

Golf: 4 years

Large Group Speech: 4 years

Individual Speech: 4 years

**Which activity affected you the most? How?** Speech affected me the most because it got me out of my comfort zone and shell which helped me.

**What advice do you have for freshmen?** Enjoy your time in high school. It goes very fast and don't take things too seriously.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?** I appreciate the people and the teachers because everyone is so helpful.

**If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why?** I would relive senior year football season because being with everyone in the student section was so fun when we still had so much time left.

**What class have you enjoyed most in high school?** Mrs. Downs' classes have been my favorite. I learned so much and we always had a fun time.

**Who is your most inspirational high school teacher?**

**Why?** Mrs. Downs is my most inspirational teacher. She taught me so much that I will never forget and use it in my future. She always listened and helped me when I needed it, and going to the State FCCLA convention was so fun with her.

**Who is your most inspirational elementary or middle school teacher? Why?** My most inspirational middle school teacher would be Mr. Cassutt. His classes were always fun and even when we got off topic, we still learned so much.

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?**

My favorite elementary school memory was when Macee's bag got stuck on the door on the first day of 5th grade, and she fell backwards.

**What does your future (college and career) look like?** I am going to go to Loras to get my undergrad in social work and then transfer to Clarke for a year to get my masters in social work. I will then go into counseling.

**What's your favorite school lunch?** My favorite school lunch is Chicken Poppers.

**What song will always remind you of high school?**

"Rivers and Roads" will remind me of high school because my friends and I always listened to it during the summer leading up to senior year and during football season.

**When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing?** I am probably golfing or hanging out with my friends

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** I hope that we still talk about the last month of senior year with all of the events coming up.

# Kalynn Freiburger



**Activities involved in during high school:** Softball, Volleyball, Speech (1 year)  
**Which activity affected you the most? How?** I think that softball has affected me the most because I have learned and created so many new friendships over the years.  
**What advice do you have for freshmen?** Some advice that I have for freshmen is balance your schoolwork and time with your friends

because the four years really do go by fast.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?**

What I appreciate about Maquoketa Valley is the teachers and how much they care for everyone.

**If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why?** If I could relive any moment in high school, I would want to relive my freshman and sophomore year because I took that time for granted.

**What class have you enjoyed most in high school?** The class that I have enjoyed the most in high school is Foods class because it has taught me so much I can use in the future.

**Who is your most inspirational high school teacher?**

**Why?** My most inspirational teacher is definitely Mrs Downs because she has pushed me to be the best version of myself. She has also pushed me to get out of my comfort zone and do things like FCCLA. I also know that she is always there if I ever need someone to talk to.

**Who is your most inspirational elementary or middle school teacher? Why?** My most inspirational elementary teacher was Mrs. Hess. She was my kindergarten teacher, and I always loved going to her class.

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** My favorite middle school memory was in 5th grade when Macee's bag got stuck and she fell walking down the hallway on the first day of 5th grade.

**What does your future (college and career) look like?**

In my future I plan on going to Loras College to major in Social work and I plan on playing softball in college.

**What's your favorite school lunch?** My favorite school lunch is a salad bar.

**What song will always remind you of high school?** The song that will always remind me of high school would be "Good Ole Days" by Macklemore.

**When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing?** When I am not in school I most likely am with my friends.

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?**

I hope that we can talk about all the memories we made from prom, post prom and the prom bus.

# Ford Domeyer



**Activities involved in during high school:** Football, FFA  
**Which activity affected you the most? How?** Football taught us how to work with a team and how to work hard for what you want.  
**What advice do you have for freshmen?** Work hard and appreciate it. It goes fast.  
**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?** The atmosphere  
**If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why?** Senior year football season was so much fun.  
**What class have you enjoyed most in**

**high school?** Street Law

**Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why?**

Mr. Cassutt works with us and will take time to connect.

**Who is your most inspirational elementary or middle school teacher?** Mrs. Bonert

**What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?** Going to the parks

**What does your future look like?** Going to the work force

**What's your favorite school lunch?** Mac and cheese

**What song will always remind you of high school?** "Springsteen"

**When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing?** Shingling houses

**What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion?** Senior skip day

# DaShawn Strickland



**Activities involved in during high school:** Football basketball track baseball

**Which activity affected you the most? How?** Football because it shaped who I am

**What advice do you have for freshmen?** Enjoy the time you have now and make as many memories as you can.

**If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why?** Sophomore year of football because it's when high school was most fun and football was just way more fun back then

## Aubrey Knock



**What advice do you have for freshmen?** Focus on you and your future. It's the fastest four years in your life. Take every opportunity.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?**

The teachers and staff who care and want you to succeed

**What class have you enjoyed most in high school?** Biology

**Who is your most inspirational high school teacher?**

**Why?** Mrs. Downs. She goes above and beyond for her students and she's helped a lot of people even get to graduation.

**Who is your most inspirational elementary or middle school teacher? Why?** Mrs. Bush. She always helped and actually understood how to explain things.

**What does your future (college and career) look like?**

Work full time, then travel.

**What's your favorite school lunch?** Bosco sticks

**What song will always remind you of high school?** "The Spins"

**When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing?** Working or traveling

## Quinten Voelker



**Activities involved in during high school:** Working

**Which activity affected you the most? How?** Working. I made money.

**What advice do you have for freshmen?** Stay in school and work after.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?**

They helped a lot.

**What class have you enjoyed most in high school?** shop class

**What does your future (college and career) look like?** Delivering materials to job sites

**What's your favorite school lunch?** pizza

**When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing?** working

## Macoy Stone



**Activities involved in during high school:** Football and Track

**Which activity affected you the most? How?** Football, gave a commitment and a lot of lessons learned

**What advice do you have for freshmen?** Show up to school as much as you can.

**What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?** How the teachers care about you

**If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why?** State track over and over. It's the best feeling in the world.

**What class have you enjoyed most in high school?** Athletic performance or PE. It's always nice to talk to Mr. Kirchoff.

**Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why?** Coach Kirchoff because he pushed me to work hard and the importance of hard work

**What does your future (college and career) look like?** Possibly running track in college or going into the workforce

**What's your favorite school lunch?** Tacos

**What song will always remind you of high school?** Kids out doing fun stuff

**When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing?** Riding dirtbikes or participating in outside activities

## Owen Boring



## Carmen Morales



## Caden Kramer

