

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Academic achievements recognized

Several MV students were recognized Tuesday at the annual Academic Awards ceremony, celebrating the Wildcats' academic success.

The following students received an academic award:

Sophomores (3.6 GPA)

Aubrie Althoff
Desaraye Banks
Olivia Begle
Audra Burbridge
Breanna Bush
Kael Engelken
Kayla Hoeger
Morgan Hoeger
Jefferson LeGassick
Eva Mensen
Ryleigh Moriarity
Abigail Nieman
Nathan Otting
Ian Ozburn
Rylan Rausch
Rylee Reed
Chloe Reth
Taylor Salow
Alison Schulte
MaryEllen Smith
Lucas Weets
Adaline Wilson

Juniors (3.4 GPA)

1st Year Letter

Rogan Heidt
Jade Hillers
Breece Hoisington
Lilly Kraft
Brielle Kuhns
Natalie Ries

Olivia Ronnebaum
Weston Scherrman
Jayden Schwandt
Jeanie Teymer
Shane Wright

2nd Year Bar

Sellah Ambundo
Sadie Bockenstedt
Addison Bonert
Ever Botos
Kolin Cole
Cheyenne Eike
Kyle Engelken
Tristen Flanagan
Haydin Flannagan
Griffin Honkomp
Lucy Hucker
Ava Knipper
Alaina Leytem
Breanna McShane
Alaina Mead
McKenna Mineart
Izabella Moenck
Camryn Paris
Ruby Recker
Ella Reicher
Tracy Reth
Shannahan Smith
Bryce Vaske

Seniors (3.4 GPA)

1st Year Letter

Ford Domeyer
Braden Gardner
Alexa Ries

2nd Year Bar

Carly Dirks
Kash Hunt
Olivia Hunter
Taylor Saunders



Mrs. McDermott congratulates Jayden Schwandt on his academic letter.

Brady Wall

Making the music

3rd Year Pin
Lanni Beaman
Taryn Burbridge
Lukas Chesnut
Morgan Clemen
Dexter Dietiker
Kalynn Freiburger
Willow Fuller
Rachael Hoefer
Tyler Hoeger
Anderson Holtz
Jocelyn Kelchen
Dylan Knipper
Elizabeth Kraft
Derrick Mohr
Teagan Monk
Arianna Nolan
Grace Richter
Preston Salow
Colin Smith
Maya Smith



Abby Nieman, Maya Smith, Ryleigh Moriarity and Olivia Begle joined other outstanding musicians Saturday at the NEIBA honor band in Oelwein.

Sports Connection

Dance team brings home some important hardware

by Natalie Ries

Last Thursday, the dance team took two team routines and one soloist to Des Moines to perform in the state dance competition.

Taylor Salow qualified for solos in late October and made the top ten soloists. Salow started the morning off for the dance team, where she performed her solo for everyone. Salow had a successful day and received 8th place.

The Wildcat dance team took one pom routine that was a country theme. All the girls performed the dance very well and brought home a 5th-place finish and D1 rating. Dancers in this routine included Natalie Ries, Taylor Salow, Alaina Leytem, Maggie Recker, Cheyenne Eike, Alaina Connolly, Emma Brockhohn, Tessa Intorf and Alaina Mead.

The Wildcats also took another routine that was a 1998 hip hop theme. The Wildcats earned a 6th-place finish and D1 rating. This routine consisted of junior dancers Cheyenne Eike, Tessa Intorf, Alaina Leytem, and Natalie Ries, sopho-



The team and coaches pose with their Character Counts banner and trophy.

more dancer Taylor Salow and freshman dancer Alaina Connolly.

The Wildcat dancers took home more hardware that was not awarded for their work on the floor, but instead their

work in the classroom and their community. The Wildcats earned an academic award for their team average GPA of 3.5-4.0. The Wildcats also brought home a community service award for their work in the community for the 9th year in a row.

The Wildcats walked away from state dance with one last award. That award was the Character Counts Team of the Year award. While being introduced, the presenter shared this information about the team: "This year's recipient leads with character in all they do. They've built a team culture grounded in family, inclusion, and service, with dancers who give back widely throughout their school and community. Under strong coaching, they grow not only as performers but as leaders and 'athlete-citizens.' They consistently demonstrate fairness, respect, integrity, and responsibility -- making a positive impact far beyond the gym." This award is handed out to one team only and represents how that selected team showed the six pillars of character in their school and community, as well as on their team.

Sophomore
Taylor Salow
poses with her
eighth-place trophy
for her solo
dance.



Bucs don't stand a chance against Wildcats

by Maya Smith

Last Thursday, the boys competed against the East Buchanan Buccaneers. The boys had no problem defeating the Bucs, ending the game with a 25 point lead, 73-48.

Here are some game stats:

Points: Anderson Holtz, 20; Eli Dougherty, 18; Brady Wall, 16

Rebounds: Dylan Knipper, 10; Brady Wall 9; Preston Salow, 8

Assists: Lukas Chesnut, 5; Brady Wall, 4

Coach Conner comments: " I thought this was our most complete offensive game since I have been the head coach at MV. We had 4 players in double figures and saw a lot of good things from a number of other guys. Brady has gotten off to another great start offensively, scoring in double figures in each of the three games. In the game against EB, Anderson shot the ball very well, particularly in the 2nd half, and this allowed us to build a 3rd quarter lead. Eli has been really big for us off the bench this year and he had a really nice game shooting the ball for us. I think that Ty has played really well and given us an inside presence in these first three games as well. We know teams are going to continue to key in on Brady to make it tough for him to score, but we are such a tough team to guard when we have this many guys who can find a way to score. One thing that I thought could have been better for us was our team defense. Playing 3 games in 4 days is no easy task and I thought we were just a little sluggish on the defensive end against EB. We have created some good positive



Brady Wall works his way around an East Buchanan defender. (photos by Ella Reicher)

momentum so far, now we just need to keep it rolling and try to secure another winning week."

The girls also got the victory that night with a score of 68-29. Audra Burbridge led the team in scoring with 30 points. Grace Richter added 20 along with six rebounds. Madison Thompson had five rebounds along with five steals. Audra Burbridge had seven assists and nine steals.

As part of Rivalry Saturday held at Anamosa High School, MV defeated Gladbrook-Reinbeck 51-38. Audra Burbridge had 18 points, Richter 16 and Lanni Beaman 11. Beaman hit three of four three-point attempts.

Tomorrow, the Cats take on Beckman at home.



Athletes of the Week

Name: Aubrie Althoff

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? The thing I enjoy most about playing basketball is the atmosphere, we all love the sport and everything is just always so fun.



How have you evolved as a player? I have learned to play all of the positions and score when I have the opportunity.

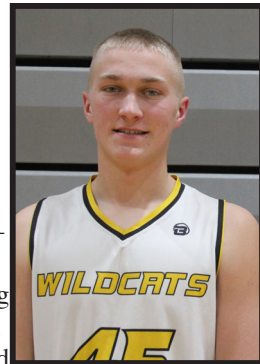
What's been a favorite basketball memory? My favorite basketball memory was Wartburg and all of the fun times we had in the hotel.

Who's your basketball role model?

My basketball role model is Kate Martin because she plays so hard and is fun to watch.

Name: Tyler Hoeger

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? The bonds formed as a team during the long season.



How have you evolved as a player?

My confidence has greatly improved allowing me to better finish around the rim and convert on free throws.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? Spending time as a team in the hotel during our team camp in the summer.

Who's your basketball role model? My dad

Grace Richter targets the hoop while under some EB pressure.

Wrestlers kick off season

by Alaina Mead

Last Thursday the Maquoketa Valley wrestling team traveled to Denver for a tough first meet of the season.

This year the wrestling team is 12 men strong, yet struggling to fill weights. Against Denver, we took a hard loss with a final team score of 76 to 6.

Sawyer Kemp got the team points with a pin in the second period!

The team also competed against Wapsie Valley and had an unfortunate loss 53-6. 6 points were given to the Wildcats for a forfeit at 106 with Nolan Lahey.

The team also competed at the Bob Murphy Tournament at West Delaware on Saturday. After individual scores were added up the team sat at 10th place with 42.5 points. Brayden Schuster received 7th place after 3 wins and 2 losses. Kyle Engelken placed 5th with 3 wins and 2 losses. 6th place went to Kipton Thompson, Sawyer Kemp, and Tyler Beitz with 3 losses and 2 wins.

The wrestling team will compete at North Cedar this Saturday with results to come in next week's Echo. Good Luck Cats!

FUN DAY ANNOUNCEMENT

Monday, December 22

Join us for a fun and relaxing day before winter break!

We'll follow a 1:05 schedule and then head to Manchester to visit the exciting new facility

Morning Schedule

Period 1: 8:03-8:32

- All students report to their regular class
- Student Council → Mr. Palmer's room

Period 2: 8:35-9:00

- All students report to their regular class
- Student Council → stay with Mrs. McDermott & Mr. Palmer (transported by van)

Trip to The Alley

9:00-9:10 — Load buses & check in **All students must ride the bus. No personal transportation is permitted.**

9:10 — Depart for Manchester (students and staff)

11:30 — Load buses

11:40 — Head back to Delhi

Lunch & Afternoon

12:00-12:30 — Lunch

12:30-1:05 — Open gym (HS)

Activities at The Alley

- Cosmic bowling
- Cornhole
- Arcade games
- Board & card games
- Billiards / pool tables

Open Campus Reminder

If you have open campus during Periods 1 or 2, you **must arrive by 9:00 AM** to ride the bus.

Comedy Corner

—compiled by MaryEllen Smith

Here are some basketball and wrestling jokes to start off the season.

How do basketball players stay cool during the game? They stand by the fans!

Why did the basketball player bring his suitcase to the game? Because he traveled a lot!

What's a basketball player's favorite kind of cheese? Swiss cheese!

What's a wrestler's favorite game? Pinball!

What's a chef's favorite wrestling move? Artichoke!

New Chances by Carly Dirks

"For those people who just need a push in the right direction and don't know how to start. When life gets tough and you need some light." 00 - Doubt

Imagine you're in some sort of sports (which most of you are). You see someone else score a point or do something really cool, and later on, you try to do it, only to stop before trying with the thought I can't do this. Welcome to the wall of doubt.

Doubt is a feeling of uncertainty or lack of conviction. Usually, doubt stops us from achieving greatness and being able to move forward with our skills. If you aren't making that shot or not going for that solo because you "can't do it." You won't get anywhere.

The main reasoning behind the reaction that you can't is that you're scared of trying, failing, and making a fool of yourself. I've been there, trust me. There was a time in my life when I wouldn't try out for anything because I was scared to fail and was convinced that I couldn't do it. Now, I see that was foolish.

I've missed many opportunities, all because of this fear. Sports I could have played, solos I could have had, roles I could have acted. I've had my dreams crushed not just by my own doubt but by the doubt of others. Words drill in my mind every day about how I'm not enough, and I never will be. Doubt is everywhere and every day. If you're reading this and you're thinking, "I'm never doubtful." Then you're a liar. Even the most confident of people have doubts.

When you hit the wall of doubt, it feels hopeless. You may think you're stuck in a cycle. A never-ending cycle of never shining, never growing, and never learning. To grow is to fail. Don't listen to your doubts if they hold you back from growing. Don't be afraid to fail.

I quit listening to my doubts, and since that time, I'm happy to enjoy the activities I do now. I'm thankful and proud of everything I do. I've grown, and I've come out of the shell I was in. You just need to be willing to try.



what's up?

by Grace Richter

What's your favorite thing to do on a snow Day?

Jeanie Teymer: Sleep in

Lanni Beaman: Be comfy and watch movies

Jocelyn Kelchen: Hang out with friends

Audra Burbridge: Sleep in

Maleah Freiburger: Sleep

Taylor Salow: Sleep in

Lylah Billmeyer: Bake

Eva Meson: Watch movies

Morgan Hoeger: Watch Christmas movies

Meet the Freshmen



Cailey Reth, Allison Porter & Nolan Lahey

Name: Cailey Reth
Siblings: Chloe
Activities you plan to be in: none
Favorite subject: Math
Career aspirations: Pediatrics
Hobbies: Reading
Something cool about you: I have five cats.

Name: Allison Porter
Siblings: One
Activities you plan to be in: Softball and Volleyball
Favorite subject: Spanish
Career aspirations: Author, Coach, or Teacher
Hobbies: Volleyball, Softball, and Reading
Something cool about you: I enjoy writing.

Name: Nolan Lahey
Siblings: One
Activities you plan to be in: Golf, Baseball, and Wrestling
Favorite subject: PE
Career aspirations: Chiro
Hobbies: Golf
Something cool about you: I live on the lake.

—typist: MaryEllen Smith

One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

“It is literally impossible to be a woman.” Gloria quotes from the hit Barbie movie released in 2023. This quote sums up the life of a woman in 2025. Misogyny, unequal pay and treatment in the workforce, and so much more, set women back 20 years from men. This movie attempted to highlight the patriarchy that still exists in our society between men and women, and the results made women feel empowered. However, some women worldwide hated this movie because they believed the movie portrayed them in the wrong light. Ironical, isn’t it? The idea of women hating women, also known as internalized misogyny, has been around since the beginning of time. When women were fighting for marriage rights in the 1800s, some women were against the idea. When women fought for women’s suffrage in the early 1900s, some women opposed the idea because they didn’t want that lifestyle. They wanted to live under the male gaze for the rest of their lives. Even today, women still struggle with the concept of letting women live their own lives, which is shown in the pro-life vs. pro-choice debate. Almost 90% of men and women have a bias against women (“Almost 90% of Men”). Insanity, right?

I started to notice the prevalence of internalized misogyny in everyday life when I overheard a female student judge a teacher for being “the one who doesn’t shave her armpits.” When those words fell out of her mouth, pure disgust took over my entire body. How could a woman say that about another woman? But that moment made me realize how much women judge each other. A week before, I noticed a similar situation. In my online college di-



versity class, we were watching a documentary about how women are mistreated, underrepresented, and misrepresented in the film industry. After this documentary, we had questions in a discussion forum about this film, and one female student stated that she believed the women were being overdramatic and making the situation a bigger deal than it was. I could only sit and laugh in my room when I read her response because of how ironic the whole ordeal was. The whole film was supposed to be about why women’s underrepresentation in the film industry was such a dangerous issue and why we should care about it. Still, this student, a literal female student, took it as an opportunity to criticize women for being overdramatic.

Why does this happen? Why do women hate each other instead of supporting each other? I have concluded that this effect is the result of generational differences and mistreatment. Women of the older generation or younger women who hold traditional values hold the belief that the grievances of women are not important because that’s how men treat the matter. These women try to fit the standards that men have for them to appease them and not be seen as overdramatic or one of those “eccentric feminists.” This fact is ridiculous... and depressing. Women have been mistreated for so long that when other women try to stick up for themselves, they push them back in fear of men’s revenge.

After all of these scenarios and questions, I have concluded that society hates women; that’s why being a woman is “literally impossible.” And, until men and brainwashed women come to this realization, nothing will change. This patriarchy that the Barbie movie highlights will thrive, and women trying to destroy this threat to society will be silenced.

Fantasy Fiction: The battle of many but few

A series
by Abby Nieman

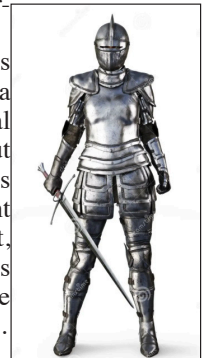
The warriors around Lyra fell back out of the forest and headed back to the city. Lyra looks around and heads to find the rest of her people. She finds the path that leads out of the forest and finds that all of her allies have been pushed back to the kingdom gates. With their backs against the wall and the enemy approaching quickly, they look for help from Lyra. The fact that when she left, they were on the other side of the forest

and now they are at the town gate makes Lyra scared.

Knut is leading his crew closer and closer, not in sword-fighting range but just in bow range. Lyra reaches for the arrow sheath on her back and pulls out an arrow. She puts the arrow on the string of the bow and pulls back with her right hand. Lyra chases the eye of Knut and lets the arrow fly. Knut ducks, and the warrior behind him gets hit in the neck and falls to

the ground. Blood pools on the ground around where the arrow hits.

Knut stands up and noticed Lyra. Her armor is normal and not glowing, but Knut holds her eyes for too long. Knut runs into the forest, and three of Lyra’s people follow. The fight at the gate starts.



Deep Dive by Arianna Nolan



Welcome back, Divers, to another session of Deep Diving! To get into the Christmas spirit, I decided to look at the Christmas tree worm, which lives on many coral reefs around the world.

These creatures are about 3.8 centimeters tall (1.5 inches), and they come in a variety of colors. Because of these bright and beautiful colors, they are very easy to spot for divers and are actually one of the most well-known sea worms out there! The appendages (which are worm-like) are used to breathe but also to eat.

The diet of this creature consists of phytoplankton or microscopic plants. These creatures typically like to find a spot and reside there, meaning they are sedentary creatures. When someone tries to disturb their habitat, they quickly hide from possible predators.

To learn more about this holiday creature, please visit the National Ocean Service website, where all the information for this edition was provided. As always, be wary of your ocean conservation techniques so we can have a thriving ocean for years to come. I will see you all next week, and I hope you have a fantastic weekend!

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

I know it's been cold outside this week, but hopefully you all enjoy these jokes as much as you enjoyed your day off!

What did the icy road say to the car? Wanna go for a spin?

What is the best breakfast cereal to eat in the winter? Frosted Flakes!

What do you call it when a snowman throws a temper tantrum? A meltdown.

What do snowmen call their kids? Chill-dren.

Where do snowmen put their money? Snowbanks.

Culture meets business



December at MV means piñata season for the students in Spanish class. This year, the Spanish classes and the marketing class joined forces and will be selling the piñatas to raise money for Delaware County Pay It Forward. The marketing class also surveyed elementary students to gauge interest in what type of piñatas they would purchase.

Fine Artist of the Week

Name: Maya Smith

You've been busy with music this fall: serving as drum major, playing in the pit band for the musical, auditioning for All-State, and participating in NEIBA honor band. Which one have you found most rewarding and why?

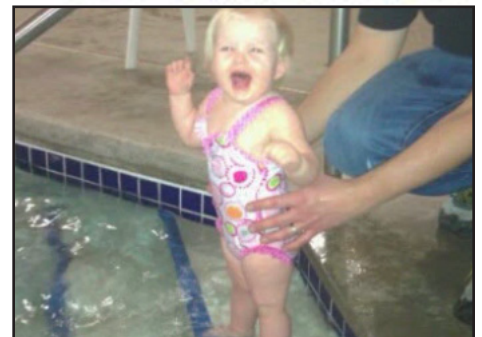


I've found serving as drum major the most rewarding because not only have I improved myself, but I've also been able to see others grow and learn, especially the freshman.

What advice do you have for young band students? One piece of advice I have for young students is that having fun is the most important requirement for an extracurricular activity, nothing else.

What do you enjoy most about playing trombone? I enjoy that the trombone is a very versatile instrument. I can easily switch across genres and I love soloing on the instrument.

Cutie



by Kayla Hoeger

This excited little cutie is a Sophomore from Delhi. She is involved in Golf and Speech. A fun fact about her is that she likes to jetski. The first to correctly answer the Cutie to Mrs. Temple will receive a prize from her prize box! The last cutie was Khloe Glew.