

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

MV singers join the best of the Tri-Rivers



On Nov. 17, 13 MV vocalists joined choir members from schools throughout the Tri-Rivers conference at Easton Valley for the conference honor choir. MV participants were, front row from left: Cadence Miller, Nolan Lahey, Trish Dietiker and Taylor Saunders; second row: Gracin Harris, Arianna Nolan, Olivia Hunter and Willow Fuller; back row: Karl Zumbach, Shane Lambert, Owen Boring, Sellah Ambundo and David Vandepol.

Get your winter dose of MV music Monday by Taylor Saunders

The High School Winter Concert is taking place on Monday, December 8th in the High School Auditorium at 7:00 PM. This concert will first preview our choir followed with performances from the Jazz Instrumental Ensemble, Smooth Harmony, and Jazz Express, and finally our band.

Admission is free but donations are appreciated. We hope to see you there!



Game night provides some pre-Thanksgiving joy



When Mr. and Mrs. DeVore get an idea in their heads, they know how to make it happen. Mr. DeVore explained that the two of them had been wanting to organize a game night for the students, so they made it happen the Monday before Thanksgiving in the high school cafeteria. With some help of the Delhi Thrift Store and games provided by staff members, students and staff were able to enjoy some fun games and delicious food. Mr. DeVore said he'd like to organize another game night this winter. Stay tuned for details!

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

Hey, Cats, welcome back from Thanksgiving break! Hopefully, this first week back wasn't too harsh. If so, here are a few jokes that might make your day a bit better.

What did the Thanksgiving turkey say to the Christmas ham? Nice to meat you.

What do you need to make Thanksgiving s'mores? Pil-grahams.

Why did the cranberry blush? It saw the turkey dressing

What do you call a running turkey? Fast food

Why did the pie go to the dentist? It needed a filling

Volleyball team holds year end celebration

The volleyball team recognized its achievements Nov. 20 at an awards night.

The team received the Distinguished Academic Achievement Award.

Team awards include:

Jaxyn Weber: MVP of Fresh/ Soph

Ryleigh Moriarity: Most improved Fresh/ Soph Player

Morgan Hoeger Most improved JV player

Alaina Leytem MVP JV

Grace Richter: MVP Varsity

Olivia Ronnebaum: Most Improved Varsity player

Lanni Beaman, Grace Richter, Camry Paris

1st team Tri-Rivers Conference

Macee Nolan and McKenna Mineart 2nd

Team Tri-Rivers Conference

Kallie Freiburger honorable mention

Tri-Rivers Conference

A few weeks ago, seniors Macee Nolan, Lanni Beaman and Grace Richter (all in the back row) joined other senior volleyball players from the conference in a special conference all-star game.



Spirit-filled celebration for cheer awards



Members of the cheer team pose at their awards night.

The cheer team also celebrated the end of its season with an awards night.

Coach-Voted Awards

Rookie of the Year - Alaina Connolly

Coaches pick, What would we do without you? - Tristen Flanagan

3 year Varsity Cheer- Keely Recker

Shout it, Let's hear it - Ever Botos

Who are We? MV! - Tessa Intorf

HYPE- Varsity/Lylah Billmeyer

HYPE- JV/Jordyn Helmricks-Koch

Most hours of Community Service - Jeanie Teymer

Team-Voted Awards

Heart of the Team - Tristen Flanagan,

Jeanie Teymer, Lena Lewin

Leads by example- Natalie Ries

Willie's Favorite Cheerleader- Maleah

Freiburger

Most Improved- Athena Bradley, Jordyn Helmricks-Koch, Maleah Freiburger and

Maggie Recker

Cheerleader 4 Life- Tristen Flanagan, Maggie, Jeanie Teymer and Ever Botos

Jackpot Junior- Ever Botos

Spirited Sophomore- Lylah Billmeyer & Ella Mensen

Fabulous Freshman- Ava Holtz & Athena Bradley

Talented Tumbler- Tess Intorf & Keely Recker

Talented Technique- Alaina Connolly & Taylor Salow

Poppin Personality- Tristen Flanagan

Fearless Flyer- Natalie Ries

Reliable backspot- Ever Botos

All about that Base- Lena Lewin

All about that Base - Jeanie Teymer

Just keeps Smiling- Taylor Salow

Cheer Clown- Maleah Freiburger

Best Jumper- Natalie Ries, Alaina Connolly & Cheyenne Eike

New Varsity Letter Winners - Athena

Bradley, Alaina Connolly, Ava Holtz,

Maggie Recker, Ella Mensen and Jordyn Helmricks-Koch

Chevron recipients - Keely Recker, Jeanie

Teymer, Natalie Ries, Lena Lewin, Ever

Botos, Tristen Flanagan, Tessa Intorf,

Cheyenne Eike, Taylor Salow, Lylah Billmeyer and Maleah Freiburger

Knipper, Wall named to All-State team, other awards celebrated

The Iowa Football Coaches' Association All State Teams were selected Nov. 23 Maquoketa Valley had two honorees chosen.

Dylan Knipper 1st Team All State Line-backer Coaches at the meeting talked about how Dylan was one of the most physical players in the state and how he flew all around the field making impactful plays, clearly being the team leader on a very strong defense. One coach described him as playing like his hair was on fire.

Brady Wall 2nd Team All State Defensive Back Coaches at the meeting talked about how great an athlete Brady is and despite an injury causing him to miss a few games he was very deserving. It was also talked about how he was been an impactful player for all four years of high school and how many things he does well on the field.

"Both of these seniors are very deserving of this honor and the Maquoketa Valley Community should be proud of these two fine young men," stated Coach Christensen.

All-District Football

First Team

Dylan Knipper 1st Team Linebacker
Brady Wall 1st Team Offensive Utility
Anderson Holtz 1st Team Defensive Utility
Ford Domeyer 1st Team Offensive Line
Eli Dougherty 1st Team Wide Receiver
Dalton Africa 1st Team Defensive Line
Seth Dugan 1st Team Offensive Line

Second Team

Kyle Engelken 2nd Team Linebacker
Colin Smith 2nd Team Defensive Line
Gabe Hallweg 2nd Team Defensive Line
Griffin Honkomp 2nd Team Offensive Line
Preston Salow 2nd Team Offensive Line
Macoy Stone 2nd Team Returner
Kash Hunt 2nd Team Defensive Back

Honorable Mention

Trevor Grimm
Kipton Thompson
Jaxson LeGassick

Golden Award

(This is an award given by district coaches to someone who would have earned 1st team all district if it wasn't for an injury)
Lukas Chesnut



Players named to the All-State Academic team were Colin Smith, Preston Salow, Dylan Knipper, Lukas Chesnut and Anderson Holtz.

In November, the football team, families and coaches gathered to celebrate the season and recognize players for their outstanding efforts on the field and in the classroom.

1st Team Academic All-District Football Award: Easton Tucker, Griffin Honkomp, Kyle Engelken, Dylan Knipper, Ford Domeyer, Brayden Schuster, Colin Smith, Jefferson LeGassick, Kash Hunt, Anderson Holtz, Brady Wall, Tyler Beitz, Preston Salow, Lukas Chesnut, Owen Salow and Kipton Thompson

2nd Team Academic All-District Football Award: Dalton Africa, Macoy Stone, and Eli Dougherty

Academic All-State Football Award: Colin Smith, Dylan Knipper, Anderson Holtz, Preston Salow and Lukas Chesnut

The team also presented some team awards:
Football Most Improved: Brayden Schuster and Colin Smith

Football Senior Leadership Award: Lukas Chesnut

Football Team MVP: Dylan Knipper

"Golden Award" - Excellence in academics, school involvement, character, sportsmanship, and citizenship: Lukas Chesnut



Lanni Beaman commits

Senior Lanni Beaman recently signed her letter of intent to run track at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo next fall. Looking on is track coach Creig Dunlap.

Wildcats start off season with some wins

by Maya Smith

The boys basketball team has been off to a great start this week with two wins out the gate. The boys won against Central Elkader this Monday 55-42. On Tuesday, the Stars showed no match for our boys, our Wildcats winning 67-37.

Coach Conner comments: "Central Elkader: We got out to a bit of a slow start, which I am going to chalk up to first game jitters. We played a little bit too rushed in the first half but still found a way to go into halftime with a lead. Our only adjustment that we really made in the 2nd half was to get the ball into our post players. This turned out to be a huge thing for us and we put together a very good third quarter both on offense and defense. I was really impressed with how we maintained our composure when shots weren't falling and when things weren't going our way in the first half. That is a testament to our mental toughness and Senior leadership.

Starmont: I give a lot of credit to Starmont for how they started the game. They handled our full court pressure and did a nice job of playing hard and making it tough on us to get stops on the defensive end. I didn't think we played poorly at all in the first half, we just allowed Starmont to do things on their terms and not ours. We take pride in holding teams to under 40 points, so Starmont scoring 27 first half points was for sure too many. For the second night in a row, we came out of the locker room with a purpose and played an almost perfect third quarter of basketball. This allowed us to build a lead and take the game over. I was really impressed with a lot of guys in the 2nd half, and it was just a great team win. This first week is a tough week for us, coming right out of Thanksgiving Break and having 3 games in 4 days. We have done a great job of going on the road and taking



Senior Lukas Chesnut looks for some help during the Wildcats' game at Starmont. (photo by Ella Reicher)
care of business in the first two!"

Here are some game stats:

Central Elkader

Points: Brady Wall, 29; Ty Hoeger, 11; Anderson Holtz, 11

Rebounds: Dylan Knipper, 9; Brady Wall, 7; Ty Hoeger, 5

Assists: Anderson Holtz, 7; Dylan Knipper, 3

Starmont

Points: Brady Wall, 26; Eli Dougherty, 9; Ty Hoeger, 8

Rebounds: Brady Wall, 8; Dylan Knipper, 7; Trevor Grimm, 5

Assists: Anderson Holtz, 3

The girls have also started their official season after warming up with an scrimmage against West Delaware before Thanksgiving. After barely leading Central Elkader 19-18 at half-time Monday night, they came out shooting and outscored 25-6 in the second half for a 44-24 victory.

Meet the Freshmen



Mallori Ambundo, Colt Haas & Tuckyr Kemp

Name: Mallori Ambundo

Siblings: Keziah, AJ, Zari, Julia, and Sellah
Activities you plan to be in: Musical, Play, Softball, and Track

Favorite subject: Math

Career aspirations: I want to go to college for mathematics and be a mathematician.

Hobbies: I like to play softball and clean.

Something cool about you: I'm good at sports.

Name: Colt Haas

Siblings: Case and Summer

Activities you plan to be in: Cross Country, Track, Basketball, Band, Jazz Band, and TEL

Favorite subject: Science

Career aspirations: Pilot

Hobbies: Scrapping

Something cool about you: I have a rabbit.

Name: Tuckyr Kemp

Siblings: Kendryk, Gannyn, and Rhys

Activities you plan to be in: Baseball and Basketball

Favorite subject: Math

Career aspirations: Electrician

Hobbies: Fishing and Hunting

Something cool about you: I have two different colored eyes.

—typist: MaryEllen Smith

Fantasy Fiction: The battle of many but few

A series
by Abby Nieman

The damp weight of the air is hard for Warin to adjust to. The dim light makes him tired; the people down here with him inform him of how it's run down here. "They feed us twice a day, and there is no special treatment," the person across the hall tells him.

"Why would they keep me in the dungeon?" Warin asks.

"Are you trying to tell me you did nothing wrong?" his cellmate responds.

"Yes, I am being targeted by the opposing forces' general."

"Well, better get used to this, young one."

A drop of water hits Warin on the hand. He looks at it and goes to his cot. Warin shifts his eyes and tries to sleep. Warin shifts in his cot and can't settle in. The scurrying of rats and the thoughts of what must be going on outside make Warin want to get out of there. But when he opens his eyes, nothing changes, nothing at all. Still, the

mossy green walls and the rats under his feet. Warin sits up and stares at the wall in front of him. His mind wanders, and he starts to pray to the goddess of freedom, Eleuthera. As he prays, there is literally nothing that happens. He puts his head in his hands. Eventually, he falls asleep.



November School Board Minutes

Regular Board Meeting – November 17, 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 November 17, 2025. All motions carried unanimously unless otherwise noted. Board Members Present: Dabroski, Feldmann, Kunde, Overman, Zietlow
Board Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Supt. Troy Osterhaus, Brenda Becker, Brian Mangold, Craig Wilson and Erika Vanderloop
Visitors Present: Mike Putz, Colin Smith, Derrick Mohr, Zander Smock and McKayla Weber
Motion was made by Zietlow, seconded by Dabroski to approve the meeting agenda as presented. All ayes. Carried.
In a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann the consent items were approved. All ayes. Carried.

Erika Vanderloop reported the official results of the election that was held on November 4, 2025. Election results reported were as follows: In Director District #1, Lance Smeins received 439 votes and was duly elected for the office of Maquoketa Valley School Board Director District #1 for a term of four years. In Director District #3, Mike Feldmann received 450 votes and was duly elected for the office of Maquoketa Valley School Board Director District #3 for the term of four years. Pam Overman received 425 votes and was duly elected for the Office of Maquoketa Valley Board At-Large for a term of four years. In a motion by Overman, seconded by Zietlow the canvas of results was approved. All ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Dabroski the books from FY25 were examined and settled. All ayes. Carried.

The Board expressed their appreciation to Doug Dabroski for serving on the board. In a motion by Dabroski, seconded by Zietlow the regular meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m. All ayes. Carried.

Organizational Board Meeting – November 17, 2025 – 5:30 p.m. – High School Library, Delhi, Iowa
The organizational meeting of the Maquoketa Valley Board of Education was called to order by Superintendent Troy Osterhaus at 5:40 p.m. on November 17, 2025. All motions carried unanimously unless otherwise noted.

Supt. Osterhaus called for nominations for the President of Board of Directors. A motion was made by Zietlow, seconded by Feldmann nominating Donna Kunde for President for the 2025-2026 year. Motion was made by Zietlow, seconded by Feldmann that nominations cease. Carried.

ried. Vote was recorded as Feldmann, aye; Overman, aye; Smeins, aye; Zietlow, aye as Kunde for President. Carried.

President Donna Kunde presided for the balance of the meeting and proceeded by asking for nominations for Vice-President for the 2025-2026 year. A motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann nominated John Zietlow as Vice-President. Motion was made by Overman, seconded by Feldmann that nominations cease. Carried. Vote was recorded Feldmann, aye; Kunde, aye; Overman, aye; Smeins, aye as John Zietlow for Vice-President. Carried.

A motion by Overman, seconded by Zietlow set the monthly meeting date and time for the 2025-2026 board meetings for the third Monday of each month and begin at 5:30 p.m. All ayes. Carried.

Two open enrollment requests in and one open enrollment request out were approved in a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman. All ayes. Carried.

The following personnel recommendations were approved in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann: Steve Huegel – resignation as Middle School Football Coach
Cadence Freiburger – resignation as Assistant High School Softball Coach
Madison Imler – resignation as Assistant High School Volleyball Coach
All ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Zietlow, seconded by Feldmann the Board approved the vote of Mary Susan Ross to the Keystone AEA Director District 3. All ayes. Carried.

Possible early separation packages were discussed which included consideration for the remaining sick leave the retiree had available as a part of the package. The formal early separation package will be on the agenda as an action item for the board to vote on at the December board meeting.

The district recently completed the FY25 audit with minimal auditor comments.

Supt. Osterhaus and the Board finalized their plans to attend the IASB Convention in Des Moines on November 19-20th.

Supt. Osterhaus reminded the Board of the new requirements for Open Meetings Law Training. The district will register the board for this training.

The Business Department is partnering with Spanish to sell pinatas. The money raised will be donated to the Delaware County Pay It Forward. Sales will run from December 8th-19th. Additionally, Post Prom will be doing a raffle as a part of their fundraising activities.

Overman and Kunde will serve on the November audit committee.

The December board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17th beginning at 5:30 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann. All ayes. Carried.



by Grace Richter

What's your favorite Thanksgiving food?

Preston Salow- Turkey
Derrick Mohr- Mashed Potatoes
Meleah Burr- Cheesy Potatoes
Lanni Beaman- Bread Rolls
Carly Dirks- Mashed Potatoes
Tayrn Burbridge- Pickle Roll Ups
Lexi Ries- Deviled eggs
Maya Smith- Pumpkin Pie
Arriana Nolan- Mac and Cheese
Teagan Monk- Mac and Cheese
Kallie Freiburger- Mac and Cheese
Morgan Clemen- Mac and Cheese
Trish Dietiker- Ham
Senorita- Mac and Cheese
Alaina Leytem- Corn-a-roni

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!