

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Large Group speech team competes at districts, advances 14 groups



by Taylor Saunders

This weekend our Large Group Contest Speech Team traveled to Dubuque Senior for this year's district contest. With a 90 minute delay we left the school around 7:45 am.

All of our events did extremely well. Performing from 10:20 am all the way to 4:00pm, everyone did their very best and worked hard. We received 14 district I ratings and 4 district II ratings.

One-Act Play (Arctic Library): Carly Dirks, Ollie Hunter, Arianna Nolan, Taylor Saunders, Sellah Ambundo, Cheyenne Eike, Alaina Leytem, Tommie Cole, Mallori Ambundo, Abram Nolan, and Serenity White. Rating: Division I

Readers Theatre (Hollow): Lanni Beaman, Preston Salow, Addie Bonert, Natalie Ries, Alaina Connolly, and Gracin Harris. Rating: Division II

Choral Reading (We Break, But We Return): Arianna Nolan, Taylor Saunders, Maya Smith, Ever Botos, Lena Lewin, Eva Mensen, Abby Nieman, Rylee Reed, Addie Wilson, Mallori Ambundo, and Jena Hoefer. Rating: Division I

TV News (MOM News): Natalie Ries, Aubrie Althoff, Morgan Hoeger, Ma-leah Freiburger, Allison Porter, and Maggie

Recker. Rating: Division I

TV News (WARP (We Are Always Reporting the Past)): Derrick Mohr, Colin Smith, Eli Dougherty, Cheyenne Eike, Alaina Leytem, and Jeanie Teymer. Rating: Division II

Radio Broadcasting (Ocean Currents: Adventures of the Sea!): Lucy Hucker, Olivia Begle, and Cecilia Charles. Rating: Division I

Radio Broadcasting (Southern Sweethearts): Morgan Clemen, McKayla Weber, and Ryleigh Moriarity. Rating: Division I

Radio Broadcasting (BLUE 92.2): Owen Smith, Athena Bradley, Jena Hoefer, and Owen Salow. Rating: Division I
Short Film (Worst Best Day Ever): Gabe Saunders, Owen Smith, Charlotte Ludovissy, Allison Porter, and Serenity White. Rating: Division I

Group Improvisation: Zach Leytem, Trevor Grimm, and Noah Whalen. Rating: Division I

Group Improvisation: Preston Salow, Ella Reicher, and Ruby Recker. Rating: Division I

Group Improvisation: Tristen Flanagan, Izzy Cordes, and Owen Salow. Rating: Division I

Ensemble Acting (Who Doth In-

habit the Primary Position): Jeanie Teymer and Lylah Billmeyer. Rating: Division I

Ensemble Acting (Forever Friends): Olivia Begle, Breanna Bush, Ryleigh Moriarity, and MaryEllen Smith. Rating: Division II

Ensemble Acting (Beauty Kweens): Maya Smith, Ever Botos, and Addie Wilson. Rating: Division I

Group Mime (Hidden Truth): Carly Dirks, Trish Dietiker, and Abby Nieman. Rating: Division II

Solo Mime (Watch Me Bake Cookies in 5 Minutes!): Trish Dietiker. Rating: Division I

Musical Theatre (All I Wanna Do Is Eat k): Ollie Hunter, Sellah Ambundo, Breece Hoisington, and Izzy Cordes. Rating: Division I

We greatly appreciate the hard work from our students as well as our beloved coaches.

Next week, the 14 events that received Division I ratings will continue to polish their pieces as we prepare for the state contest at Waterloo West on Saturday, Feb. 7th.

We would love for everyone to join us there and cheer us on. As always, Go Cats!

Sports Connection

Wrestlers add more wins to their record

by Alaina Mead

Last Thursday the Maquoketa Valley wrestling team traveled to Springville for a tri against North Cedar and Springville. The boys had a successful night winning against both teams; North Cedar 36-22, Springville 35-33.

While wrestling North Cedar Kyle Engleken won his match with a fall in the first period. Dalton Africa, Tyler Beitz, Kipton Thompson, Maverick Domeyer and Nolan Lahey all also won points by forfeit.

Against Springville, Gabe Halweg and Tyler Beitz both won their matches. Kyle Engleken, Dalton Africa, Maverick Domeyer and Nolan Lahey all also won by forfeit.

On Saturday the team also traveled to Midland for a great day racking up 130 points landing them in 4th place out of 14 for the day! Kyle Engleken and Sawyer Kemp both placed 2nd ending the day 3-1. Kipton Thompson and Tyler Beitz both placed third with a 5-1 record. Dalton Africa and Gabe Halweg also both placed with a record of 3-2 ending in 5th. Maverick Domeyer and Nolan Lahey were the final two with 6th place going 3-3.

This Tuesday the boys had another triangular meet against Monticello and North Fayette Valley. Maquoketa wrestled hard falling just one point short to Monticello ending with 36-35, and struggling to North Fayette 66-18.

Against Monticello Engelken, Thompson and Kemp all won their matches with pins while Africa, Halweg, Beitz and Lahey won by forfeit!

While wrestling NFV Engleken won his match with a pin in the second period as well as Beitz and Kemp.

This Saturday the team will travel to North Cedar for their conference tournament. Results to come in next week's Echo!

Basketball team face tough conference competition



Preston Salow looks around Ed-Co defenders at last Friday night's game. (photo by Breanna Bush)

Girls basketball

by MaryEllen Smith

The MV girls hosted Ed-Co last Thursday with the annual Pink Out Game, winning 56 to 46.

Throughout the game the scores were neck and neck, but the girls managed to pull through with the victory.

Leading in points: A. Burbridge 19, Thompson 11, Beaman 10, and Richter 9.

Rebounds were led by Richter 8, A Burbridge 6, Thompson and Beaman 4.

Assists: A. Burbridge 5 and Richter 4.

Tuesday night the Wildcats faced the Orioles again, Orioles defeating them 57 to 54. Winning by only three points they were matched equally throughout, but the Orioles beat them in overtime.

Boys basketball

by Maya Smith

The Cats played two hard games since our last issue, falling twice. Last Thursday, the boys competed against the Ed-Co Vikings at home. They tied in the first quarter, but soon the Vikings pulled away, and

the boys lost 28-45. This Tuesday, the boys played a close game against Springville, losing only by 2, 40-42.

Coach Conner says, "We have hit a little bit of an offensive dip in the last two weeks that we have to find our way out of. I thought our effort on the defensive end against Springville was very good. Offensively, we did a lot of really good things; we just didn't finish the job. I am confident that we will get back into rhythm with a little bit more of a regular schedule and grow from this stretch of adversity."

Here are some game stats from Ed-Co:

Points: Brady Wall, 14; Dylan Knipper, 4
Rebounds: Brady Wall, 5; Anderson Holtz, 4; Dylan Knipper, 4

Assists: Dylan Knipper, 3; Anderson Holtz, 3

Last night, the Wildcats hosted Dunkerton.

Lance McShane, 2021 MV graduate, was also inducted into MV's athletic Hall of Fame. McShane won numerous honors as a football and basketball player and had success at the state track meet.

Vocalists participate in honor choir

This past Sunday and Monday, Owen Boring, Shane Lambert, Arianna Nolan, Jocelyn Kelchen and Olivia Hunter joined hundreds of other high school vocalists in the 2026 Meistersinger Honor Choir at Wartburg College, which culminated in an evening performance.



Athletes of the Week

Name: Kyle Engelken

What do you enjoy most about wrestling this year? I enjoy watching the younger guys in the room get more involved with wrestling.



How have you evolved as a wrestler? I've focused more on trying to get to my shot with a setup, but still taking what my opponent gives me.

What's your goal this season? Qualify for the Casey's Center Arena and finish in the top 8.

What advice do you have for younger wrestlers? Focus on the little things to be your best.

Name: Lilly Kraft

What do you enjoy most about dance team? The environment and all of the girls on the team



What's the hardest part of it? The hardest part would be teaching and learning a new dance every week

What's your favorite routine you've ever been a part of? What did you like about it? My favorite dance would have to do the Rio themed Pom dance we did. The whole vibe was just so fun and upbeat

What's something about dance most people don't realize? Most people I think don't realize that we learn our dances in about four days before we actually perform them

If you could choreograph a routine, what kind would it be and what song would you use? If I were to choreograph a dance I would some kind of fun hip hop dance with remix songs that people would know.

Dance team shows support at Pink Out



Pink Pep

The pep band also donned their pink and Pink Out shirts last Friday night at the basketball games against Ed-Co. (photo by Breanna Bush)



One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

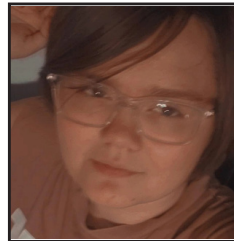
Have you had that low, drowsy feeling lately? You wouldn't be the only one. Mental health and wellbeing is heavily impacted by the weather, and as we all know, the weather is not the nicest, to say the least. The wintertime is a breeding ground for the worst mental health episodes and generally being down. However, I want to discuss some ways to combat these winter blues so that we can all stay well during these cold months.

Go outside and stay fit. This includes being active, which you can do creatively, such as bundling up and enjoying the winter scenery or watching videos online and exercising from the comfort of your own warm home.

Maintain a good support system. During these times when it's very easy to get down in the dumps, having someone you can talk to can make these days go by much faster and easier to get through. Support systems include a variety of people, such as family, friends, or other trusted adults.

Stay healthy. Not only can you achieve this through exercise, but maintaining a good sleep schedule and having a healthy diet. Mental health is not only affected by the weather, but also by how the rest of your body is doing.

If you would like to find out more about how to fill your bucket during these hard times, please visit the Brown University Health website, which is where all the information for this article was provided. With this in mind, I hope you all stay healthy! I love you all and I will see you all next week!



Jaelyn's Journeys

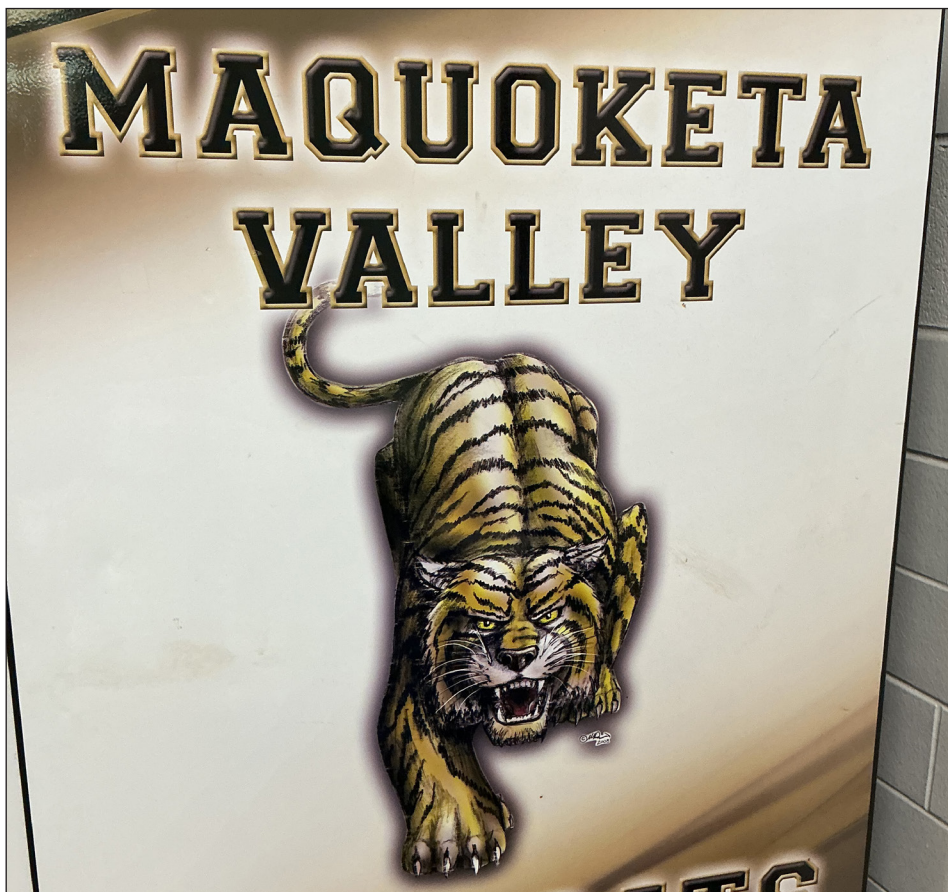


photo by Jaelyn Butikofer

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

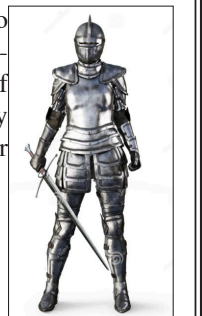
A series
by Abby Nieman

The walk to the town seemed longer to Lyra than it had before. The gates were left wide open as if inviting the enemy into the town. Lyra closed the gate. She walked into town, thought there was no one on the way to the town park.

The park was filled with peo-

ple, and they were surrounding something. Lyra pushed through the crowd to the front of the citizens. "Hey, what is going on?" Lyra asks the first knight she sees. The knight lets her by; the sight that she sees rattles her to her core. The body lies in front of her, with a shield and a spear next

to it. Lyra can't come to face the reality of the situation that is in front of her. Lyra turns the body over and falls to her knees.



Meet the Freshmen



Karl Zumbach, Owen Salow, Athena Bradley, & Charlotte Ludovissy

Name: Owen Salow

Siblings: Preston, Brandon, Ashton, Sydney, and Bailey

Activities you plan to be in: Basketball, Track, Baseball, and Football

Favorite subject: Spanish or Earth Science

Career aspirations: Basketball or work with stocks

Hobbies: Lifting and listening to music

Something cool about you: I was in Hawaii for vacation when a tsunami came through.

Name: Charlotte Ludovissy

Siblings: Jocelyn and Claire

Activities you plan to be in: Volleyball, Basketball, Track, and Softball

Favorite subject: ELA

Career aspirations: Health Science-Nursing

Hobbies: Softball

Something cool about you: I have 2 dogs.

Name: Athena Bradley

Siblings: 3 siblings

Activities you plan to be in: FFCLA and Speech

Favorite subject: Spanish

Career aspirations: Nursing

Hobbies: Cheer, Volleyball, and Dancing

Something cool about you: I can do the splits.

Name: Karl Zumbach

Siblings: Will, Anna, and Neal

Activities you plan to be in: Musical and FFA

Favorite subject: Math

Career aspirations: 2 or 4-year college then farm

Hobbies: Farm

Something cool about you: I live on a farm.

—typist MaryEllen Smith:

Deep Dive by Arianna Nolan



Welcome back, Divers, to another edition of Deep Dive! This week, we will be diving into all of the oceans of the world with the beloved snailfish! This pinkish creature with a long body can get up to 20 inches and usually resides on the sea floor with the tidepools. However, sometimes they may hover above the currents to search for food. There are more than 450 different types of snailfish all around the world. Their belly's have evolved to be able to stick onto different surfaces, such as the shell of a crab or a rock for shelter.

The diet of the snailfish consists of invertebrates. Since the creature is quite small, the invertebrates that they snack on are also tiny. They can sift through the mud on the sea floor to search for food, and use their fins to store any tiny snacks for later! While the conservation status of this species is fine, many other creatures of the sea do not have that same fate. Climate change, mining, and oil all affect the tiny creatures that help us to live life on Earth, so please be cautious of what you are doing and how it can affect the big picture. If you would like to learn more about this creature, please visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium website, which is where all the information for this article was found. I hope you all have a fantastic weekend and I will see you all next week!



Cutie



by Kayla Hoeger

This rowdy little cutie is a sophomore from Delhi. She is involved in cross country, basketball, track, softball. A fun fact about her is that she has an extreme laughing problem and likes to laugh in serious situations. The first to correctly answer the Cutie to Mrs. Temple will receive a prize from her prize box! *The last cutie was Alison Schulte.*

Pink Out to help one of our own

Over the past two weeks, MV and supporting schools helped raise funds for Trevor Thuman, an MV graduate who has children in the MV district, as he battles Hodgkin Lymphoma. Money was raised through bake sales and cash donations collected by the athletes, like the girls basketball team, shown below. (Pink Out photos by Breanna Bush)

Taste Oasis is Back!

Re-Opening February 5th 7-8 AM

On Special Thursday:

Caramel Rice Crispy Treats



**Fresh Baked
Chocolate Chip Cookies**



Frosted Vanilla Latte

**Important Notice:
No Cash Accepted, Card
or tap pay only.**



**Pre-Order by 7AM
Pickup Only**

