

# The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

## Vocal jazz season is officially underway



MV's vocal jazz groups competed at the IHSMA state vocal jazz competition held Saturday in Mt. Vernon. Smooth Harmony received a Division II rating (ratings range from I-V) but only a few points from a Division I. Members of the group are pictured above, front row from left to right: Arianna Nolan, Shane Lambert, Owen Boring, Gracin Harris and David Vandepol; second row: Jocelyn Kelchen, Ryleigh Moriarity and Trish Dietiker; back row: Olivia Hunter, Breece Hoisington, Sellah Ambundo and Tracy Reth. Members of Jazz X-Press earned a Division III rating. Those vocalists are pictured below, from left to right: Owen Smith, Mileea Damico, Addie Wilson, Taylor Saunders, Emily Rudd, Peyton Wilson, Austen Greenwood and Olivia Begle.



# Sports Connection

## Boys add three more wins to their record

by Maya Smith

Last week the boys competed against Dunkerton at home. It was a close game, with the Cats winning 60-52. Last Friday, the boys took an easy win against Central City, 75-42. Moving into this week, the North Cedar Knights proved no challenge for the boys, racking up another win, 71-42. On Tuesday, the boys added another win to their record, beating Midland 75-25. Tonight, the boys will play against North Linn.

When asked about the past two games, Coach Conner says: "We got off to a decent start to the game, especially in transition. I was really happy to see our guys adjust to 3-point shots not falling and tell each other that we needed to continue to push the tempo on offense and try to get some easy looks to get us going. After we saw the ball go in a few times, we settled in and looked much better offensively. I thought we could have been better at a few things defensively and we were able to point out some things that we know need to be better for the future, especially in post season games. Brady was really good for us offensively, adjusting to shots not falling early and then attacking the basket to get himself going. I thought we had some nice, even scoring from the other guys. We are in the grind stretch of the season, so it is about finding ways to win games and trying to carry as much positive momentum into the postseason as possible.

"I thought our defensive focus was much better against Midland. We did a really nice job of letting our defense be our best offense. I thought we were really good again in transition, which has been a big focus of ours these last two weeks. Dylan Knipper had a really nice night for us, securing his second double-double of the season with 18 points and 12 rebounds. He is such a fun player to coach because he plays so hard, and when he gets rewarded like that, it is really good to see."

Conner also comments: "We will look to carry this momentum into Friday night to cap off our conference season at North Linn. We know that we are going to have to have two good practices in order to compete on Friday night. The good thing about playing a team twice during the season is you get to see your growth from the first time you play. We will see how much we have grown after the game on Friday.

"I want to give a big shoutout to our seniors. We all know that we went through a rough offensive stretch two weeks ago and had some tough learning experiences during that time. Our seniors led us through that tough time, and I think we have shown some tremendous growth that will help us as we approach the postseason. They have been positive leaders when they need to be and been stern with their teammates when they need to do better. We talk a lot about player-led teams being more successful than coach-led teams, and I think they have shown what our potential can be when our players lead."

Dunkerton

Points: Brady Wall, 19; Anderson Holtz, 12  
Rebounds: Preston Salow, 9; Dylan Knipper, 5; Ty Hoeger, 5  
Assists: Anderson Holtz, 6; Dylan Knipper, 4

Central City

Points: Anderson Holtz, 29; Brady Wall, 17; Trevor Grimm, 8  
Rebounds: Dylan Knipper, 9; Brady Wall, 7; Tyler Hoeger, 4  
Assists: Anderson Holtz, 8

North Cedar

Points: Brady Wall, 27; Trevor Grimm, 8; Anderson Holtz, 7  
Rebounds: Brady Wall, 8; Dylan Knipper, 6; Preston Salow, 6  
Assists: Brady Wall, 5; Eli Dougherty, 3

Midland

Points: Dylan Knipper, 18; Brady Wall, 16; Eli Dougherty, 11  
Rebounds: Dylan Knipper, 12; Trevor Grimm, 6  
Assists: Brady Wall, 6; Dylan Knipper, 6



Tessa Intorf, Lilly Kraft and Cheyenne Eike showoff their high kick skills. (photo by Ella Reicher)

# Girls get two more TRC wins, lose to ranked Dunkerton

by MaryEllen Smith

The Maquoketa Valley girls hosted Dunkerton last Thursday, Dunkerton winning 57 to 43.

Dunkerton held the lead the entire game, but during the 4th quarter the MV girls managed to score 17 points in an effort to win.

Leading in points: A. Burbridge 20 and Richter 15.

Rebounds: Thompson 5, both A. Burbridge and Richter with 4, and Beaman 2.

Assists were led by: A. Burbridge 3 and Richter 1.

Steals: A. Burbridge and Thompson 3.

After the Dunkerton game, Coach Moenck commented on the girls' playing, and their recent struggles for a win, "We didn't get off to the start that we typically do and against a good team that can cost you. And unfortunately, it did against Dunkerton. To our kids' credit they really battled back. They could have very easily quit from being down so much. But they fought hard to get us back in the game. We have to keep looking for ways to improve defensively. Come tournament time, we will have to get stops."

The girls traveled to North Cedar Monday and won 59 to 24.

The Maquoketa Valley girls basketball team traveled to Midland on Tuesday, winning 71 to 29.

## Wrestlers finish fourth at conference

by Alaina Mead

Last Saturday the Maquoketa Valley boys wrestled their conference meet at North Cedar rallying up 103 points ending with 4th place.

Tyler Beitz came home as conference champ winning all 5 of his matches! Gabe Halweg also had a successful day ending up with 2nd place. Kyle Engelken and Dalton Africa placed 3rd winning 3 out of 5. Sawyer Kemp and Nolan Lahey won 4th place going 2-3.

Yesterday the boys hosted a home meet and this Saturday will wrestle at BCLUW for their final tournament before districts!

Good luck, Wildcats!

## Athletes of the Week

Name: Jeanie Teymer

**What do you enjoy most about playing basketball?** I enjoy playing with my friends and talking to coach Ella Imler.



**How have you evolved as a player?** I stay after a shoot and I have worked in the off season with Grace.

**What's been a favorite basketball memory?** When Grace fell at state last year

**Who's your basketball role model?** my uncle Nic and my dad

Name: Cheyenne Eike

**What have you enjoyed most about dance this year?**

The atmosphere is always fun and welcoming, but this year specifically feels like we clicked back into place.



**What's physically the toughest part of dance?**

Keeping your endurance throughout the dance and practice, especially if the dance is high-energy.

**What's your favorite routine you've ever been a part of? What did you like about it?** The Christmas dances. I love the fun we have at practice and dancing with new people.

**What's your favorite style of dance?**

**Why?** Pom because it helps me with my posture and makes me feel strong.

Last Thursday night, MV alumnus Lance McShane (class of 2024) was inducted into MV's Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in football, basketball and track.

His football honors include 2023 1st Team Class A All-State Running Back, 2023 1st Team All-District. In basketball, he was named 2024 1st Team All-State, 2024 Conference Player of the Year, 2024 1st Team All-Conference, 2024 1st Team All-Substate. (photo by Ella Reicher)

Name: Wes Scherrman

**What do you enjoy most about playing basketball?** The thing I enjoy most about basketball is how competitive our practices are. We are able to hold each other accountable and not take anything personally during practices.



**How have you evolved as a player?** I think that my confidence as a player and as a leader has grown a lot since my freshman year.

**What's been a favorite basketball memory?** My favorite memory from basketball was in my freshman year before film, Toby broke the projector screen, and we all had to pretend like nothing happened.

**Who's your basketball role model?** My basketball role model is Toby Grimm. I really enjoyed watching him play, and I model my game after him.

## Hall of Fame induction



# Deep Dive

by Arianna  
Nolan



Welcome back, Divers, to another edition of Deep Dive! This week, we will be taking a look at one of the largest creatures of the sea- the Humpback Whale. This creature lies on the open waters all over the world. It can get up to 62 feet in size and weigh 53 tons, which is around 116, 845 pounds. A very hefty creature, to say the least, but that doesn't stop them from being the acrobat of the sea, lifting their heavy bodies all the way out of the ocean when diving.

This creature eats a variety of small creatures such as krill, invertebrates, herring, and anchovies. A fun fact about this creature is that it can make long trips of up to 10,000 miles. Also, they have the most unique ocean songs, and they resonate all throughout the ocean.

Years ago, this creature was hunted to the brink of extinction, and even today, there are still very few of these creatures. Threats such as illegal hunting, plastic consumption, entanglement of fishing gear, and ship strikes. With this in mind, it's important to be advocates for the conservation of our oceans and the creatures that reside in them. If you would like to learn more about this creature, please visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium website, which is where all the info for this article was provided. I hope you all have a fintastic weekend and I will sea you all next week!

**Congrats to the jazz band for earning a Division II (ratings go from I-V) at the IHSMA state jazz band contest Jan. 26 at North Fayette Valley.**

# FFA students earn Iowa Degree

## 2026 Iowa Degrees

- Lukas Chesnut
- Tyler Hoeger
- McKenna Mineart
- Natalie Ries
- Ella Reicher
- Tracy Reth
- Olivia Ronnebaum
- Bryce Vaske



MV FFA has eight members who earned their Iowa FFA Degree, one of the highest honors the Iowa FFA Association can bestow.

To earn the Iowa FFA Degree, members must:

1. Have received the Chapter FFA Degree
2. Have satisfactorily completed the equivalent of at least two years (360 hours) of systematic school instruction in agricultural education above the ninth-grade level.
3. Have a Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program that earned and invested a combination of dollars and hours that are the equivalent value of \$1,500 and/or 375 hours in excess of scheduled class time.

4. Have a record of outstanding leadership abilities and community involvement as well as a proficient scholastic record while in high school.

5. Have participated in at least 25 hours of community service, within at least two different community service activities.

This degree represents hard work, dedication, leadership, and a strong commitment to agricultural education. We couldn't be prouder of these members for reaching this milestone and representing our chapter so well within the Iowa FFA Association.

These members will be formally recognized at the 98th Iowa FFA State Leadership Conference.

## 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!

## what's up

by Grace Richter

### What's your shoe size?

Maddie Thompson: 10

Taryn Burbridge: 9.5 Lanni Beaman: 7.5

Morgan Hoeger: 11

Aubrie Althoff: 8

Alison Schulte: 9

McKenna Mineart: 8

**Wildcat Star Service Award**  
**How are you doing with recording your service hours???**

# Cutie



by Kayla Hoeger

This little cutie is a sophomore from Hopkinton. She is involved in track, IE and LG speech. A fun fact about her is that she used to have bangs. The first to correctly answer the Cutie to Mrs. Temple will receive a prize from her prize box! *The last Cutie was Audra Burbridge.*

by Arianna Nolan

From even before slavery was abolished, civil rights for African Americans have been an important issue within our country for years. America has gone through eras of fighting for these civil rights with the bus boycotts in the '60s and the BLM movement in 2020. This month is a time to commemorate the people who have fought for these movements and also to celebrate the people who are still currently fighting for equal rights.



The 1960s, during which the era of the Civil Rights movement was happening in America, is when Black History Month was founded. It had evolved from just a week to a month, and people question how this transformation came about and why this month even matters. This month celebrates the destruction of slavery in our country and celebrates the newfound rights for African Americans. Just as we celebrate the freedom of our country from Great Britain, African Americans have the right to celebrate their freedom from the pain society has caused them.

Even if you are not African American, there are still ways you can respect this holiday--and that is through education and exposure. Educating yourself on the

*This month is a time to commemorate the people who have fought for these movements and also to celebrate the people who are still currently fighting for equal rights.*

true stories of Black history and listening to local African Americans' stories can help to expose you to what this month is truly about- understanding. Also, learning about important African American leaders in the present and in the past is putting you on the path to success. You can also contribute by exposing yourself to media created by Black people, such as T.V shows, books. Also, supporting Black-owned businesses can show that we care as a society. You can even go the extra mile by donating to organizations that support Black people, or organizing educational events to spread the word about this important, but unfortunately forgotten, month.

Black History month takes place throughout all February, so we all have the time to try and contribute to the sacrifices and hardships African Americans in our country have gone through. So get out there and spread the word. My goal for all of you this month is to learn something new about Black history or culture, and to try to expose yourself to more Black media. I love you all, and I wish you all the best! Go Cats!

## Fantasy Fiction: The battle of many but few

A series  
by Abby Nieman

“You know the entail of what is happening, Elysia. There is no way that Knut will ever let you go.”

“Why are you so sure about that? Couldn’t you and I escape before the rest of them get back?”

“No, Knut knows that would be an idea for you... and me, he would have every man hunt us down until either we come back or are killed. We both know too much,”

“What do you mean he would hunt both of us? Wouldn’t it just be me?” I lean back in my chair to match the poster of the soldier in front of me.

“I was like you at one point. I was the strongest of the nation, and Knut took me under his wing. It was nice at first. Till

we got to the first war, he treated me like an object and not a person, ordered me around, and if I didn’t do what he said, I was without food for days in the prison camp. He changed in that war. He never went back to the person I had first met. Something happened, and he became dark and cold.”

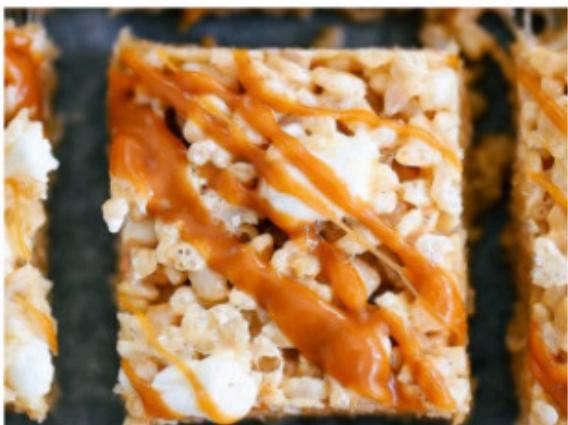
“Why have you never told me your name? We seem to have a lot in common.”

“You never asked, Orion, that is my name, and I think you know me better than you think.”



# On Special At Taste Oasis This Week:

Caramel Rice Crispy Treats



**Fresh Baked  
Chocolate Chip Cookies**



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

Strawberry & Yogurt Boba



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



# Post-season basketball bracket: MV assigned to Region 5

