

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

FFA members further knowledge, receive awards at convention

by Kayla Hoeger, FFA reporter

Between Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, FFA members have spent time serving for Iowa FFA, competing in contests, getting recognized for accomplishments, attending workshops, listening to motivational speakers, and making connections with other FFA members from all across the state at the state convention in Ames.

This year, eight members received their Iowa FFA Degree, the highest degree a member can receive in High School. Recipients include Lukas Chesnut, Ty Hoeger, Bryce Vaske, McKenna Mineart, Tracy Reth, Ella Reicher, Natalie Ries, and Olivia Ronnebaum.

Seven members also got recognized on stage for their proficiency, which shows just how dedicated they are to their SAE's (Supervised Agricultural Experience).

State Champion: Grain Production: Ty Hoeger

State Runner-up: Agricultural Communication: McKayla Weber

State Runner-up: Agricultural Mechanics Repair & Maintenance Entrepreneurship: Shannah Smith

State Runner-up: Dairy Production Entrepreneurship: Ford Domeyer

State Runner-up: Equine Science Entrepreneurship: Tracy Reth

State Runner-up: Diversified Livestock Production: Kayla Hoeger

State Runner-up: Swine Production Entrepreneurship: Alison Schulte

Contest results are as follows:

Marketing Plan (Khloe Glew, Kayla Hoeger & Morgan Hoeger) 4th Place

Team Ag Sales (Braden Gardner, Braden Ronnebaum, Jace Leytem & Jeff LeGassick)

GOLD - 1st place team presentation Chapter Display (Natalie Ries) GOLD

Farm Business Management (Tyler Beitz, Ethan Crowley, Karl Zumbach & Billy Krapfl) SILVER

FFA, continued on next page



Above: MV FFA members who earned their Iowa Degree include Ella Reicher, Natalie Ries, Olivia Ronnebaum, McKenna Mineart, Tracy Reth, Lukas Chesnut, Ty Hoeger and Bryce Vaske. Left: Natalie Ries poses with her chapter display which earned a Gold rating.

FFA, continued

Ag Impact (Annie Langel, Brody Ries, Layne Trenkamp, Jaron Hoefler & Cooper Schulte) SILVER

Ag Communications (Natalie Ries, Ava Holtz, Kyle Engelken & Alison Schulte) SILVER - 1st place team presentation

Greenhand Test (Anna Feldmann - SILVER, Linken Stansberry - BRONZE)

Discovery Test (Kinley Hoefler - GOLD, Maggie Hoefler - GOLD)

Iowa FFA Band Flute Soloist - Abby Nieman

Stay tuned for next week to hear about our Banquet and meet the new officer team!



Above: Khloe Glew, Kayla Hoefler and Morgan Hoefler earned fourth place in the state with their marketing plan. Left: Ty Hoefler was one of the four Star Over Iowa finalists in the Ag Placement category.



Prom royalty



Derrick Mohr and Madison Thompson were crowned prom royalty last Saturday.

Girls learn about career options



Last week, over 20 MV junior girls were invited to participate in the Women in the Trades event in Dyersville. The students listened to a panel of women discuss their professions, including the unique challenges and rewards of working in the trades. The event also featured hands-on activities and a friendly competition. "Mrs. McDermott and I received several compliments on how polite and respectful our students were, and we made sure to pass that praise along to the girls," stated Mr. Palmer.

6th Annual MV Market

Maquoketa Valley CTE Department

Wednesday, May 6th

Delhi City Park

2:30-6 PM

Booths will not be open for shoppers until 2:30

All proceeds help to support our school Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Student Organizations (CTSOs) FBLA, FCCLA, FFA and Skills USA members by providing more opportunities for the members of these organizations.



School board minutes: April

Regular Board Meeting – April 22, 2026 – 5:00 p.m. – HS Library, Delhi, Iowa

Board Members Present –Feldmann, Kunde, Overman, Smeins, Zietlow
Staff Present – Supt. Troy Osterhaus, Tiersa Frasher, Jackie Moorman and Erika Vanderloop
Visitors Present – Mike Putz

At 5:01 p.m., President Donna Kunde declared this to be the time and place to hold the hearing on the proposed budget for the 2026-2027 school year in a motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann. The proposed tax rate is \$9.66 which is a reduction of \$0.03 from FY26. The documents were reviewed and there being no comments, the Board President declared the hearing closed at 5:02 p.m. in a motion by Overman, seconded by Smeins. Motion by Overman, seconded by Feldmann to approve the budget estimate as presented. A roll call vote was answered as follows: Feldmann, Kunde, Overman, Smeins, Zietlow; all ayes. Carried.

In a motion by Zietlow, seconded by Overman the consent items were approved. All ayes. Carried.

Six open enrollment requests in and three open enrollment requests out were approved in a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Smeins. All ayes. Carried.

The following personnel recommendations were approved in a motion by Overman, seconded by Zietlow:

Margie Simons – resignation as Middle School Volleyball Coach

Cy Huber – resignation as High School Boys Track Coach

Shane Kirchoff – resignation as Middle School Boys Track Coach

Shane Kirchoff – employed as High School Boys Track Coach

Dan Cassutt – employed as Middle School Boys Track Coach

Kaylyn LeGrand – employed as High School Assistant Softball Coach

All ayes. Carried.

The Board was presented information regarding the 2026-2027 collective bargaining settlement between the MVEA and the District. In a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Zietlow the Board approved the 2026-2027 collective bargaining settlement which equated to a 4.29% increase. All ayes.

Carried.

Motion was made by Overman, seconded by Smeins to approve the following salary adjustments for the 2026-2027 school year:
Administrative Staff – 4.26% TP increase
Classified Staff – 3.0% increase plus step movement

Activity Route Pay for Bus Drivers – increase from \$19 to \$20 per hour

Additionally, Paraprofessionals who complete the Paraprofessional Certification and can present a certificate to the School Business Official, will receive an additional \$1.00 per hour. All ayes. Carried.

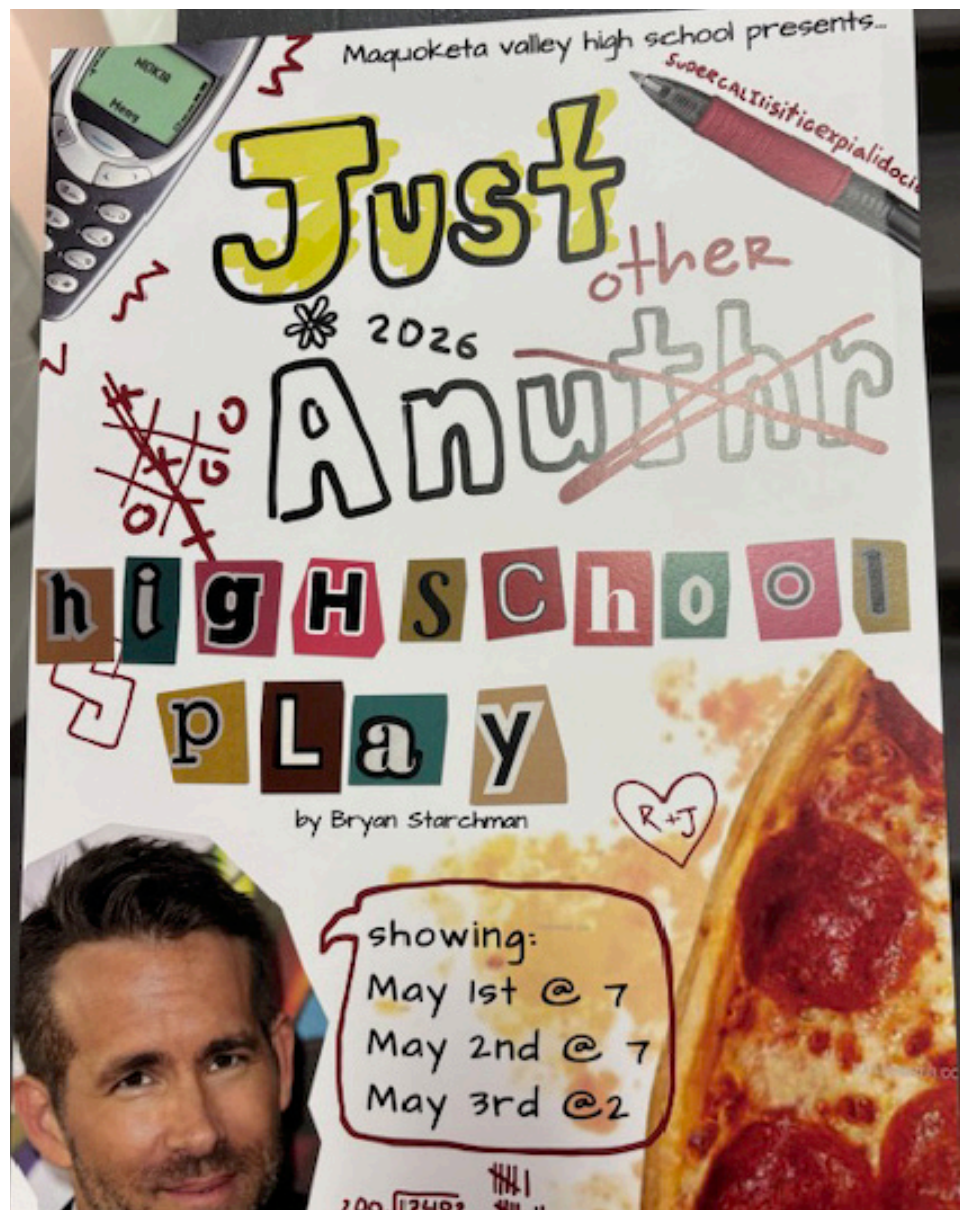
The Board discussed nominees for the 2026 Five Star award. The selected recipient will

be presented with an award during the graduation ceremony.

Pam Overman and Mike Feldmann will serve on the April audit committee.

The Academic Excellence Banquet will be held on May 6th at 6:30 p.m. Baccalaureate will be held on May 13th at 5:30 and Senior Awards and Dollars for Scholars will be held on May 13th at 6:30 p.m. Graduation will be held on May 20th at 7:30 p.m. Kindergarten graduation is scheduled for May 20th at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 p.m. in a motion by Feldmann, seconded by Overman. All ayes. Carried.



Sports Connection

Track teams enjoy good weather, better performances

Boys track

by Lanni Beaman

Another great meet in the books for our Maquoketa Valley Boys Track & Field team! Our boys traveled to West Delaware to compete against elevated competition; however, our boys didn't give up. Another positive to this outdoor meet was that it wasn't cold, rainy, or windy! It was a great meet, here are the results:

100m Dash: Macoy Stone, 11.24: 5th
200m Dash: Kash Hunt, 23.40: 3rd
800m Dash: Kenyon Baker, 2:10.08: 4th
3200m Run: Owen Salow, 12:12.56: 7th;
Colt Haas, 13:50.60: 8th
400m Hurdles: DaShawn Strickland, 1:03.59: 7th
4x100m Relay (Throwers): Preston Salow, Tyler Beitz, Noah Whalen, & Gabe Halweg, 53.97: 5th
4x100m Relay: Dylan Knipper, Kash Hunt, Colin Smith, and Macoy Stone, 45.74: 5th
4x200m Relay: Dylan Knipper, DaShawn Strickland, Kash Hunt, & Macoy Stone, 1:33.20: 3rd



DaShawn Strickland powers through in the 4x800.

4x400m Relay: Carter LeClere, Kenyon Baker, Owen Smith, & DaShawn Strickland: 3:49.40: 6th

4x800m Relay: Kenyon Baker, DaShawn Strickland, Carter LeClere, & Owen Smith: 9:00.20: 2nd

Sprint Med: Keegan Rahe, Dylan Knipper, Kash Hunt, & Macoy Stone, 1:37.01: 2nd

Distance Med: (names not given) 6th Place

Shot Put: Preston Salow, 51' 4.50": 1st

Discus: Dylan Knipper, 115' 3": 8th

The team traveled to Alburnett on Tuesday, April 21st, and had a great meet! Great weather showed great results. Let's look at some results:

100m Dash: Kash Hunt, 11.66: 5th place

200m Dash: Kash Hunt, 23.66: 3rd place

1600m Run: Owen Smith, 5:07.13: 5th place

4x100m Relay: Keegan Rahe, Colin Smith, Dylan Knipper, & Kash Hunt, 46.83: 4th place

4x200m Relay: DaShawn Strickland, Carter LeClere, Owen Smith, & Colin Smith, 1:37.68: 4th

4x400m Relay: Carter LeClere, Dylan Knipper, Kenyon Baker, & DaShawn Strickland, 3:37.41: 4th place

4x800m Relay: Owen Smith, Owen Salow, Carter LeClere, & Colt Haas, 10:16.26: 7th place

D. Med: Dylan Knipper, Kash Hunt, DaShawn Strickland, & Kenyon Baker, 3:45.23: 2nd place

Shot Put: Preston Salow, 49' 9": 1st place;

Gabe Halweg, 37' 9": 5th place

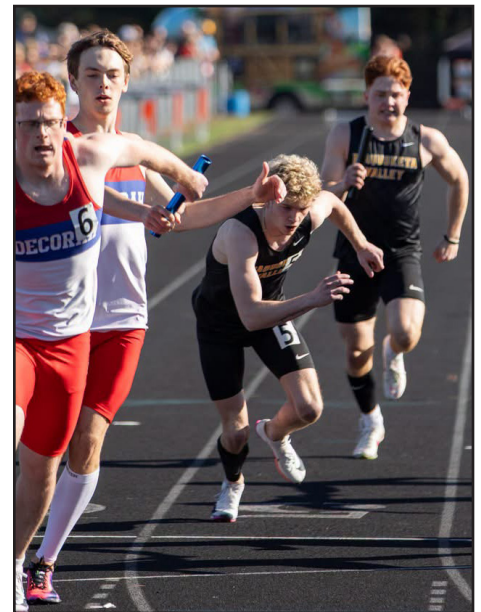
Discus: Preston Salow, 120' 8": 4th place;

Dylan Knipper, 120' 1": 5th place

Girls track

by Alaina Mead

The big excitement this week for the girls track team is the 4x100 qualifying for the Drake Relays. They'll run Saturday morning. Members of the relay include Lanni Beaman, Taryn Burbridge, Rylee Reed and Lilly Kraft. Since I have been coaching we have not had a relay qualify for



Kash Hunt makes the handoff to Macoy Stone in the sprint medley.

Drake so I am really proud of them," stated Coach Dunlap.

Last week Thursday the girls track team ran at MFL with the following events scoring points:

100m Dash- Lilly Kraft; 4th; 14.08
200m Dash- Camryn Paris; 4th; 27.15
800 Run- Jaxson Weber; 4th; 2:52.57
1500m Run- Breanna Bush; 4th; 6:10.54
100m Hurdles- Natalie Ries; 2nd; 18.65
Discus- Sellah Ambundo; 2nd; 111-08
Shot Put- Sellah Ambundo; 2nd; 38-00
High Jump- Taylor Salow; 3rd; 4-10
Long Jump- Magda Petermann; 6th; 14-3.5
Shuttle Hurdle- Flannagan, Recker, Salow, Wilson; 2nd; 1:19.91
Sprint Med- Kraft, Ries, Burbridge, Beaman; 1st; 1:55.82
Distance Med- Beaman, Reed, Burbridge, Feldman; 1st; 4:41.51
4x100 Relay- Reed, Kraft, Burbridge, Beaman; 2nd; 51.83
4x200 Relay- Glew, Reed, Salow, Ambundo; 4th; 1:57.22

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Golf teams continue to improve, bring home hardware

by Maya Smith

Girls golf wrap-up

Last Thursday, the girls golf team traveled to Wapsi Oaks Country Club to compete against the Calamus-Wheatland Warriors and the Easton Valley River Hawks. The River Hawks shot a 179, our Wildcats a 213, and the Warriors a 280. Here are the meet scores:

3rd - Maya Smith: 46
7th - Olivia Begle: 54
8th - Eva Mensen: 54
10th - Ever Botos: 59
11th - Ava Holtz: 61
14th - Lena Lewin: 80

On Monday, the girls competed at home against Central City, winning 191 to 235. All scorers rounded out the top four. Eva Mensen medaled with a personal record of 44. Here are the meet scores:

1st - Eva Mensen: 44
2nd - Ever Botos: 47
3rd - Maya Smith 49
4th - Olivia Begle: 51
5th - Morgan Clemen: 56
10th - McKenna Mineart: 61

On Tuesday, the girls competed against Lisbon. They shot a 203, losing to Lisbon. Here are their scores:

3rd - Maya Smith: 44
6th - Eva Mensen: 47
7th - Olivia Begle: 55
8th - Ever Botos: 57
9th - Macee Nolan: 58
10th - Morgan Clemen: 59

After storms wiped out practice on Tuesday and Wednesday, we finally caught a perfect night at Wapsi Oaks for our triangular with Calamus-Wheatland and Easton Valley," stated Coach Zietlow. "Maya Smith led us in scoring, with strong play from Eva Mensen as well. As a team, we made a noticeable improvement on the greens by cutting down our total putts, a big step in the right direction. Proud of the progress this group continues to make."

Coach Zietlow said he was pleased with the results from Monday's meet as the team fired a 191 in the dual vs. Central City which was their lowest score of the year. "A huge congratulations to Eva Mensen, who led the way and earned the first medal of her high school golf career. Big moment, big confidence boost, and well-deserved. Proud of this group and the momentum we're building. Lena Lewin was our JV medalist."

The Lisbon meet gave the Wildcats a lot to be proud of. "Lisbon lived up to the hype tonight, putting up a 169. Proud of how our group battled, with Maya Smith leading the way and Eva Mensen close be-



At the Central City meet Monday, Lena Lewin was the JV winner and Ever Botos and Eva Mensen finished second and first, respectively, in the varsity competition.

hind. Excited to have practice this week. A few small fixes and a little more consistency, especially on the greens, will put us exactly where we want to be for the postseason push."

Boys golf wrap-up

Last Thursday, the boys traveled to a tri to compete against Cal-Wheat and Easton Valley. The boys took away the win scoring a 153, Easton Valley a 169, and Cal-What a 173. Meet medalist for the night was Eli Dougherty with a 34. Here are the meet scores:

1st - Eli Dougherty: 34
2nd - Trevor Grimm: 38
4th - Zachary Leytem: 39
7th - Anderson Holtz: 42
8th - Dalton Africa: 43
10th - Braden Gardner: 44

On Monday, the boys competed against Central City, winning with a 160, Central City losing with a 187. Meet medalist for the night was Eli Dougherty with an even par 35. Here are the meet scores:

1st - Eli Dougherty: 35
3rd - Dalton Africa: 41
4th - Zachary Leytem: 42
5th - Trevor Grimm: 42
7th - Wes Scherrman: 47
8th - Anderson Holtz: 49

Tuesday, the boys took on Lisbon. The Lions proved to be no challenge and our boys won, 151 to 167. Medalist for the night was Trevor Grimm with a one under par 34. Here are the meet scores:

1st - Trevor Grimm: 34
2nd - Eli Dougherty: 36
3rd - Zachary Leytem: 36
8th - Anderson Holtz: 45
10th - Dalton Africa: 48
12th - Wes Scherrman: 51

Coach Conner said last Thursday's meet was a good one. "We put together the best team score since I have been the head boys coach, and as far as I know, the low-

est in school history. Eli capped off a great round of -1 with a birdie-birdie finish. Trevor also finished his round strong with a birdie and ended up +3. Zach also had a great round, shooting a +4 39. Braden, Dalton, and Anderson all played well at times also. My hope is that this round gives us some great confidence and we continue to improve as we head into postseason golf.

Despite the good play the previous week, Coach Conner saw a decline to Monday's meet. "We didn't play our best golf as a team, but we found a way to finish our rounds and come away with a team win. Eli had an even-par round of 35, which was a great round. I think if you talked to the rest of the guys, they would tell you that they let some holes get away and could have scored better, but that is golf in a nutshell. It is about grinding out your tough rounds and trying to score as low as you can. Our guys will continue to work hard and improve their games.

"We rebounded very well with our team score after the CC meet the night before, shooting a blazing 151 as a team. Trevor was our meet medalist, shooting a -1 34. Trevor capped off his round with a birdie to shoot his first under-par round in a meet in his career.

"I am proud of him for continue to grind through some troubles the last couple of meets and finding a way to put together a really good round of golf. Eli battled and shot a +1 36, which is a very solid round as well. Zach finished birdie-birdie to cap off his +1 round of 36 also. Our last score was Anderson's 45. He hit the ball really well throughout his round, he just threw some shots away around the greens. This is something that I think can be cleaned up with a little work. Again, I am really happy with this group. They continue to work hard in practice and don't get discouraged when things aren't going their way. One more week before it is postseason time!"

Track, continued

4x400 Relay- Glew, Feldmann, Burbridge, Beaman; 1st; 4:24.76

4x800 Relay- Weber, Moriarity, Freiburger, Hatfield; 2nd; 12:42.92

“We had a pretty good meet as a team at MFL,” stated Coach Dunlap. “We placed second just behind a really tough Edgewood-Colesburg team. It has been a wet and cold spring so finally having some great weather helped get us going.

“Sellah Ambundo has been very consistent in the shot put again throwing 38 feet placing second. She also threw 111 feet in the discus, not quite her PR of 113 feet which she threw at Iowa Valley on Monday. She placed second in the discus as well.

“Our sprint medley team placed first just missing our PR of 1:55.02 running Lilly Kraft, Natalie Ries, Taryn Burbridge and Lanni Beaman.

“The 4x800 relay which has been primarily underclassman this season had a nice PR of five seconds running 12:42 on the night. It’s a hard race and I am proud of their efforts.

“Our shuttle hurdle relay has been making steady improvements. Haydin Flannagan, Ruby Recker, Taylor Salow and Addie Wilson ran a PR of 1:19.91 good enough to place them second.

“The distance medley ran a one second PR placing first with a time of 4:41.50. In particular freshman Anna Feldmann has been great for us.

“Lilly Kraft had a very strong night running well in her opens and relays. Lilly placed second in both the 100m and 200m dash. She also was a part of the sprint medley and the 4x100m which had a huge PR.”

This week the girls also hosted their home meet on Monday earning 2nd place with 82 points as a team! Results are the following:

100m Dash- Lilly Kraft; 6th; 13.62

200m Dash- Lilly Kraft; 4th; 28.78

800 Run- Audra Burbridge; 1st; 2:28.15

3000m Run- Breanna Bush; 4th; 13:49.12

Discus- Sellah Ambundo; 3rd; 100-07

Shot Put- Sellah Ambundo; 2nd; 37-10.5

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

Long Jump- Magda Petermann; 4th; 13-10.5

Shuttle Hurdle- Flannagan, Recker, Salow, Wilson; 4th; 1:18.85

Sprint Med- 1st; 1:52.74

Distance Med- 6th; 5:05.41

4x100 Relay- Reed, Kraft, Burbridge, Bea-

man; 1st; 52.44

4x200 Relay- 1st; 1:50.74

The girls had a meet on Tuesday this week as well at Alburnet. Scoring events below:

100m Dash- Camryn Paris; 3rd; 13.57, Rylee Reed; 6th; 13.88

400m Dash- Lannie Beaman; 2nd; 1:01.14, Audra Burbridge; 1:01.77

Discus- Jeanie Teymer; 2nd; 93-11, Grace Richter; 5th; 84-05

Shot Put- Sellah Ambundo; 1st; 36-03, Jade Hillers; 6th; 28-04

High Jump- Taylor Salow; 2nd; 5-10

Long Jump- Magda Petermann; 5th; 13-07.75

Shuttle Hurdle- Flannagan, Recker, Salow, Wilson; 6th; 1:20.96

Sprint Med- Kraft, Paris, Burbridge, Beaman; 1st; 1:53.26

4x100 Relay- Reed, Kraft, Burbridge, Beaman; 4th; 53.84

4x200 Relay- Reed, Kraft, Burbridge, Paris; 3rd; 1:51.84

4x400 Relay- Burbridge, Burbridge, Lanning, Beaman; 2nd; 4:18.26

This week the girls track team also had a third meet at West Delaware with results to come in next week’s Echo!

State qualifying track meets assigned

MV will travel to Lisbon May 14 for the state qualifying track meet. In IA, the top performers automatically advance to the state meet, and then the next top eight performers throughout the state also qualify for state.

8: LISBON

Bellevue

Calamus-Wheatland

Central City

Don Bosco

East Buchanan

Easton Valley

Lisbon

Maquoketa Valley

Marquette Catholic, Bellevue

Midland

North Cedar

North Linn

Prince of Peace

Springville

Unity Christian, Clinton

Athletes of the Week

Name: Maya Smith

What is your favorite part of playing

golf? I love that you can bounce back and keep going. Even if you have a bad hole, you can forget about it and shoot better on the next ones. I also love that it’s slow paced. It’s not like other sports where it’s so fast paced and you’re racing against a clock.

What’s your favorite course to play in high school competition? My favorite course to play is our home course, Hartridge.

If you could golf anywhere, where would you golf? If I could golf anywhere, I’d love to go to Augusta.

What’s been a favorite golf memory? My favorite golf memory is the van rides to tournaments, especially listening to Morgan and Coach Zietlow bicker.



Name: Dylan Knipper

What do you enjoy most about track?

I enjoy getting to walk around and talking to people.

What do you think your best event will be?

Discus or short-distance (100m)

What life lessons have you learned through track?

A lesson I have learned from track is to always believe in yourself. If you can think positively about your race or field event, you have a much higher chance of that event being successful,

What’s the hardest part of practice?

The hardest part of practice is anything that has to do with running (warm-up, sprint drill, the actual workout itself)

Who is your track role model? Lightning McQueen



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 strangest-looking creatures of the sea: the Monkeyface prickleback (even its name is quite strange). This creature resides along the rocky shores of Southern Oregon to Baja California and can grow up to 2.5 feet. A fun fact about the monkeyface prickleback is that once two of these fish mate, they can lay up to around 46,000 eggs on the rocky shores. It is not known whether the male or the female protects the eggs. Another fun fact is that they got their prickly name from the lumps on the adult fish.

The diet of this creature is very interesting. As juveniles, they will eat crustaceans and algae. But once they grow out of their juvenile stage, which depends on their size, they mostly become herbivores.

The conversation status for this fish is solid since there is no demand for this fish in the commercial fishery, and most people let it go if they catch it. However, this is not the case for all fish. Due to this, it's important to be consistent with conservation techniques so we can keep protecting the ocean and the life that lives within it. I hope you all have a fantastic weekend and I will see you all next time!

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

Knut looks at me and then at the fox by my feet. In an instant, Knut gets up and starts to charge at me. He unsheaths his dagger from his waist. "How did you get here?" Knut raises his dagger, and I pull out my dagger from my belt. The others in Knut's crew stay focused on their target and don't even glance back at us. Knut tries to stab me, but the little fox that led me here gets in the way. The fox jumps up and bites Knut's arm, sending blood trickling down his bare fore arm. I finally get my dagger out of my belt and strike back. Knut grabs my arm with much more strength than I can muster. Knut goes for a swing at my face, and my arm

instinctively shoots up to grab his arm. We stand here, I holding Knut's arm and Knut holding my other arm, neither of us letting go.

The fox jumps up on my head, then jumps at Knut's face. The fox digs its claws into Knut's face and bites at Knut's upper arm. This sends blood over Knut's face and down the opposite arm. Knut lets go of my arm, and I take the dagger and finish the job that the fox started.

Knut lies on the ground, coughing up blood. Slowly, the color drains from his face and eyes, and blood pours out of his body. I stand there watching as this happens, a sickening feeling settling in my stomach. 'I just killed him.'

The fox turns from a small red fox that was glowing to this spirit that is humanoid with fox ears and a tail that glows a soft orange-red color. The spirit looks at me and then points in the direction away from the town. "Go," the spirit says in a soft voice.

I run in that direction for as long as I can. When I come to a stop, I see that I have made it about a mile down the path, ahead of the border between the kingdom, Muhaajir, and the country of Asticus. The fox appears next to me on the path in his fox form. The fox keeps going down the path, and I follow.



Students of the Week

*Prom MVPs: Alaina Leytem,
Jeanie Teymer & Tessa Intorf*



You were nominated by Mrs. Teymer because of your dedication to making prom special. What part of preparing for prom did you enjoy the most?

Alaina: I enjoyed having the opportunity to think outside the box and problem solve. I also enjoyed working with everyone!

Tessa: I enjoyed painting with all of my friends and listening to music.

Jeanie: I enjoyed painting the wooden boards and making them look pretty with Tessa.

What made you decide to play such a big part in prepping the grand march and prom?

Alaina: I think I really wanted Prom to be an enjoyable experience for everyone, myself included so putting in the work to make it happen was just a natural reaction.

Tessa: I wanted to have a great time at prom, and I wanted others to have fun too.

Jeanie: My mom runs it and I have always helped out in the past.

What was the highlight of prom for you?

Alaina: Being able to hang out with all of my friends and make memories together!

Tessa: I thought everything about prom was so much fun, it all came together so well!

Jeanie: Getting to dress up and look good.

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Willow Fuller

What is your role in the spring play?

I play the roles of Grad Student, Small-Print Reader, Actor 1, and numerous other smaller roles.

What do you enjoy most about being a

part of this show? I think the part I enjoy most about being a part of this show is the moments where somebody is laughing or having fun. There is nothing better than seeing that twinkle of joy in somebody's eyes. We have moments like those a lot, even if it doesn't seem like it when we're all a little crabby.

What will audience members enjoy most about the play? I think audience members will really enjoy how random this play can feel at times. It's got a joke in there for just about anybody!

What will you miss most about being involved in the drama productions?

I think the thing I will miss the most is getting to spend time with the people that are in the cast. A lot of these people are people I love and respect deeply, even if I have a bit of trouble conveying that correctly at times. It's just nice to be surrounded with people who can uplift you, make jokes with you, and still put on an amazing show afterwards. I'll miss that feeling a lot when this is all over.



Name: Carly Dirks

What is your role in the spring play?

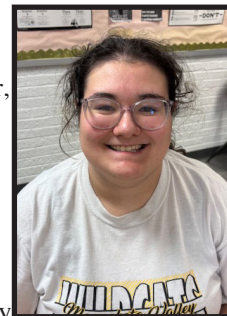
I play the announcer, Marlowe, actor 2, and spokesperson

What do you enjoy most about being a part of this show?

Being a part of an awesome community and being able to spray a water gun.

What will audience members enjoy most about the play? Hard to say. There could be a lot that they laugh at.

What will you miss most about being involved in the drama productions? the community of people and being able to do what I love.



One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

April is National Poetry Month, so here's a good dose for your soul.



Changes

From walking the solitude streets of
Hopkinton,
to walking the packed paths of
Cedar Falls.

From cuddling my furry children on the
clouds of my bed,

To cuddling my stuffed animals, missing
the idea of "home."

But Hopkinton was never a place to call
home.

It was a place of
suffering, yearning, and animosity.

The wet whispers of vile names,

The severe stares of fiery eyes,

The lingering loneliness

even when people are by.

Yet, I will come to miss this place,

And all of its hatred.

For the good shines through the cracks,

My friends,

My teachers,

The experiences I had

in theatre, choir, and speech.

I may be going through changes,

But I can say

I have been changed "for good."

Wildcat Star Service Award Reminder

Seniors: Submit your completed service logs to Mrs. Temple by May 1.

Freshmen-Juniors: Your completed service logs are due by the last day of school. Forms will not be accepted over the summer. Hours completed this school year must be turned in during this school year.

Kash Hunt



Activities involved in during high school:

Basketball - Freshmen year
Football - Junior and Senior year

Track - All Four

Which activity affected you the most? How? Football for sure, because where I was in my life, I really needed something to push me to become a better person and stronger physically and mentally, and that's exactly what it did. I don't think I'd be the person I am today if I had never joined.

What advice do you have for freshmen? Don't let school take over your life; get out more and live; hang out with your friends every chance you get. There's more to life than grades and sports.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? The teachers and the community. No matter where I am, there's nothing like the community here, and I've always noticed that. It doesn't matter where I end up moving after high school, I don't want my kids going to any other school, I will be back.

If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why? The North Linn football game my junior year. A lot of us can agree that we felt like we were playing for more than just the team; it was the community and the Knipper family. I'll never forget that game.

What class have you enjoyed most in high school? My friends. I think it's safe to say that I don't have any real enemies here, and if I do there's very few. I can strongly say that I have friends all over the school and I couldn't be more thankful.

Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why? Mr. Palmer, for sure, has taught me more about life and things I will carry with me than any other teacher. Not just because of what he says, but the things he has taught me, he is always willing to help and go out of his way to make sure you understand what you're doing.

What does your future (college and career) look like? My plan for after high school is an electrical apprenticeship for four years to gain my journeyman's license close to home and then move west to Wyoming for a while.

What song will always remind you of high school? "Springsteen" - Eric Church

When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing? I am most likely on the water with my friends and family, enjoying life and making the most of it. If it's winter, you can find me lifting every chance I get and snowmobiling in Wyoming with my dad. There's no other place I'd rather be.

Teagan Monk



Activities involved in during high school: Volleyball and golf freshman year. Spanish club all four years.

Which activity affected you the most? How? The activity that affected me the most was Spanish. This affected me the most because Senorita has been a huge influence on me throughout my 4 years here and made me realize how important Spanish is in everyday life.

What advice do you have for freshmen? Be involved and appreciate everything because it

goes by fast.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? I appreciate all of the teachers and how willing they are to help you and be there for you whenever you need it.

If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why? I would relive all of the football games because they were always a lot of fun and a way to bring everyone together.

What class have you enjoyed most in high school? The class I enjoyed the most was Spanish because it has taught me a lot and has showed me what speaking another language can do for you.

Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why? My most inspirational high school teacher is Senorita because throughout my 4 years we have gotten very close and she is always willing to help and listen whenever I need it.

Who is your most inspirational elementary or middle school teacher? Why? Mrs. Dever was my favorite elementary teacher because she was very welcoming when I first moved here and always wanted to help.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? Coming to the high school for homecoming assemblies.

What does your future (college and career) look like? I plan on going to UNI to major in nursing and a minor in Spanish.

What's your favorite school lunch? Chicken Poppers and fries.

What song will always remind you of high school? "Ain't It Fun" by Paramore

When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing? Working or hanging out with friends.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? The lot parties after football games.

McKenna Conrad



Activities involved in during high school:

FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America)

Which activity affected you the most? How?

FCCLA is my first group that I've joined at MV. It has allowed me to learn new strategies in the FCS

department. I am able to come up with new ideas/projects that are very engaging and participate in competitions with my friends who are also in the group. I'm glad I joined a school group that learns about growth and leadership that goes to learning basic skills; it applies to careers for the future.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? I appreciate all of the staff at MV who are wanting to actually see kids participate and succeed.

What class have you enjoyed most in high school? I enjoyed many of Mrs. Downs' classes. She always makes it engaging and fun for her students and teaches them life lessons that are important for our future.

Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why? I have two teachers who inspired me, Mrs. Downs and Mrs. Lewin. Mrs. Downs is an inspiration because she is always there for you when you need it, even if it's not school-related. She gives good advice and makes sure you are always included when working with other students. She is a very relaxed person, so when it comes to teaching she is very understanding when it comes to her students. Mrs. Lewin is also someone I inspire because for me, my weakness is math. I've always struggled in math throughout my path in school. So her being able to actually see my potential and wanting to see me succeed really helped. I love the way she teaches her students because she pushes you through math challenges you may face.

What does your future (college and career) look like? My future career is hopefully Cosmetology/Esthetician, but if that fails then interior design.

What's your favorite school lunch? Chicken Tetrizzini

When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing? If I'm not at school, I'm either working or hanging out with my friends.

Haylee Jones



What advice do you have for freshmen? Don't stress too much over school work. Have fun the next four years, and don't take life too seriously.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? I appreciate the community we have and how much the teachers care about their students success.

If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why? A fun high school moment was during homecoming tping

Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why? Mrs. Montz is my inspirational high school teacher because she lets students have fun but she also helps students with their homework and makes sure they have a good learning atmosphere.

Who is your most inspirational elementary or middle school teacher? Why? Mrs. Bonert was the most inspirational elementary teacher because she was always so positive and made her classroom a fun place.

What does your future (college and career) look like? I am attending Hawkeye Community College for a Biology Transfer Major and then transferring to Allen for Radiology.

When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing? With friends or family

Mylee Hoffmann



Activities involved in during high school:

FFA

What advice do you have for freshmen?

Never give up and keep your mind to it.

What do

you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? There is not a lot of bullying.

If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why? My prom from last year

What class have you enjoyed most in high school? The class I enjoy most is ceramics.

Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why? Ms. Lee from West Delaware, because she helped me get where I am today.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? Going to the state capital or Adventureland.

What does your future (college and career) look like? I am going to get a job and then go to college for dog grooming.

What's your favorite school lunch? Walking taco

What song will always remind you of high school? "Senior Year" by Drew Baldridge

When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing? hanging out with my dogs, Ace and Ollie

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

Colin Smith



Activities involved in during high school: Football, track, and large group speech
Which activity affected you the most? How? Football definitely affected me the most because it taught me so many life lessons. It taught me how valuable time is and made me push myself through uncomfortable and painful situations. It also gave me a group of guys who were always great to hang around with.

What advice do you have for freshmen? Putting yourself in

uncomfortable situations is probably one of the greatest ways to learn life lessons and academic lessons. Also, not everything is life and death, so don't over-stress yourself about a couple of slip-ups.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? I appreciate the community that supports the school's faculty and students. I appreciate how much teachers are willing to help you. **If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why?** I would enjoy reliving state track any year and football in my last two years. I chose those because I would say they were both some of the most fun times I had with peers. Also, because running at state track just has an amazing feeling to it, and so does playing football on a Friday night.

What class have you enjoyed most in high school? I think the class I enjoyed the most was AP Physics with Mrs. Besler.

Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why? I think Besler is the most inspirational teacher because of her ability to connect with everyone. She also does a great job at making everything enjoyable in some way.

Who is your most inspirational elementary or middle school teacher? Why? I would say Mr. Cassut in middle school because of the way he treated people like young adults, but also was able to get a good laugh out of almost any situation.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? Probably my eighth-grade year with Mrs. D's first year at the school, and teaching my class.

What does your future (college and career) look like? I plan on attending Kirkwood for two years and transferring to Iowa or Iowa State for business and engineering.

What's your favorite school lunch? Orange chicken and rice.

What song will always remind you of high school? I wouldn't say an exact song, but maybe a song from the 2010s or 2000s.

When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing? Outside, playing a sport or card game with friends and family.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? Homecoming week in general.

Taryn Burbridge



Activities involved in during high school: Throughout high school, I have been involved in cross country, basketball, track and field, and softball.

Which activity affected you the most? How? Cross country has affected me the most because it has shown me the importance of supporting people. Cross country has helped me improve my mental toughness.

What advice do you have for freshmen? My advice for freshmen would be to take as many college classes as you

can, because it will benefit you in the long run. Another piece of advice is to have fun and enjoy high school.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? I appreciate the community and the support everyone has shown. I am grateful for how all of the teachers, coaches, and students all care for one another and want to see everyone succeed.

If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why? After high school, I think that I will miss participating in sports with my friends. Next year, I will want to relive those moments. Some of these moments that I enjoyed the most are team meals and qualifying for State competitions. Other moments I may want to relive are being in the Student Section during football games.

What class have you enjoyed most in high school? I have enjoyed many classes in high school, but some of my favorites have been Interior Design, Spanish, Children's Literature, and Child Development.

Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why?

For me, the most inspirational is Señorita Ries because she shows passion for her students and what she teaches. She always makes her classroom a fun environment and is willing to go above and beyond to help students succeed.

Who is your most inspirational elementary or middle school teacher? Why? The most inspirational elementary teachers I had were Mrs. Bries and Mrs. Dever. I look up to both of them, as they always incorporated fun, positive energy into students' learning and their teaching.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? My favorite elementary memories are playing Little League softball and having sleepovers at my friends' houses.

What does your future (college and career) look like? I plan on attending the University of Northern Iowa for elementary education.

What's your favorite school lunch? My favorite school lunch is orange chicken or mac and cheese.

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

Outside of school, I am usually hanging out with my friends, going for a walk, shopping, or working.

Zachary Leytem



Activities involved in during high school: Football, Basketball, Golf, and Speech

Which activity affected you the most? How? Basketball, because I have been in it for so long and made a lot of friends from basketball.

What advice do you have for freshmen? Take as many college credit classes as you can.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? The part of MV that I appreciate the most would be either the teachers or the students who are in MV.

If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why? If I could relive any moment in high school it would be sophomore year golf with Toby and the rest of my friends.

What class have you enjoyed most in high school? The class that I have enjoyed the most in high school would be computer science with Mrs. Carroll.

Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why? My most inspirational teacher would be Mr. Huegel. I picked Mr. Huegel because he gave really good advice in his classes.

Who is your most inspirational elementary or middle school teacher? Why? The most inspirational teacher in elementary school or middle school would be Mr. Besler because everybody loved him and he was always in a good mood.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? My favorite memory would be playing with friends during recess.

My favorite memory during school would be the lights turned off during a pep rally and all the students used their phones.

What does your future (college and career) look like? I plan to go to ISU for Finance and then get an investment banking job.

What's your favorite school lunch? My favorite school lunch is mandarin chicken.

What song will always remind you of high school? A song that reminds me of high school is "Teenage Dirtbag"

When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing? Either golfing or hanging with friends.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? An event that I would want people to still talk about at the five year reunion would be the tping adventures that we went on during homecoming.

Kenyon Baker



Activities involved in during high school: Cross Country (4 years), Basketball (2 years), Track and Field (4 years), and Baseball (4 years)

Which activity affected you the most? How? Baseball has affected my life the most because it has taught me challenges within life and the sport. It has taught me how to become tough; you have to be, and how you have to battle through mental and physical health. The coaches have helped me reach to-

wards my goals of playing at the collegiate level, and I am very grateful for that.

What advice do you have for freshmen? Be yourself.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley?

The staff is always willing to help out. They care about you in school and even outside. They want to see you succeed and try your best.

If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be? State Track Junior Year

What class have you enjoyed most in high school? Athletic Performance because I enjoy lifting and making myself better

Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why? Mr. Kirchoff because he pushed me to expectations I didn't know I would be able to get to and he made me see sports differently

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? Mini Cat track meet racing Brady Wall and Kash Hunt

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

What's your favorite school lunch? Orange Chicken

What song will always remind you of high school? "Drops of Jupiter" by Train or "Good Ole Days" by Macklemore

When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing? Swinging a baseball bat or playing video games

Dylan Knipper



Activities involved in during high school: The activities I was involved in were Football, Basketball, Track & Field, Baseball, and Speech.

Which activity affected you the most? How? Football because of what the sport has taught me. I've learned how to be dependable and disciplined as an underclassman. Then, as an upperclassman, I learned to step out of my comfort zone and become a leader, leading by example for players/people younger than me. Lastly, the

number of connections and memories that I made through football will live with me forever.

What advice do you have for freshmen? Never wish away your time because at some point you will wish for that time back.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? What I appreciate about Maquoketa Valley is the real connections that you can make with anyone in the school. Being a part of a smaller school environment really helps you get to know everyone you go to school with. Not only does a small school help you know your classmates, but finding help for teachers, I feel, is a lot easier as well.

If you could relive any moment in high school, what would it be and why? I would relive the moments after winning football games. The tunnels yelling, "We are proud of you," to blaring music in the locker room so loud that you couldn't think, to dancing in the parking lot to "Cotton Eye Joe." These moments made life feel less stressful and helped me to live in the moment.

What class have you enjoyed most in high school? Study Hall... but for real: Electricity I or any Industry Tech classes.

Who is your most inspirational high school teacher? Why? Mrs. Montz, because she is always kind, cares, and wants people to succeed. She is very good at seeing the positive side of things when I am not. (Glass Half Full). She is someone I can go to for advice about anything, and she gives me confidence in my abilities when I need it.

What does your future (college and career) look like? My future is working on my family farm and starting an electrical apprenticeship.

When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing? I would probably be found farming, at a sports practice, or golfing.

Grace Richter



Activities involved in during high school: Volleyball, basketball, track, TEL, The Wildcat Echo, Student Council

Which activity affected you the most? How? Basketball taught me a lot about working hard and mental toughness.

What advice do you have for freshmen? Take advantage of every opportunity. You won't regret trying something new!

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? The community and how close it is.

If you could relive any moment

in high school, what would it be and why? I would relive playing sports again with my best friends because those were the best times and growing up with those girls and continuing to play with them is something I will never have again.

What class have you enjoyed most in high school? I'm not too sure. I would probably say Spanish, even though I am really bad at it (lol), but the class is super fun and I love all my Spanish 4 friends in that class!

Who is your most inspirational elementary or middle school teacher? Why? Mrs. Hess because she was nice and I always thought she was so pretty and cool when I was little.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? Maybe when we went on a field trip in elementary school and the whole way there we sang the "Go Cubs Go" song.

What does your future (college and career) look like? I will attend Wartburg studying marketing and sports management. I'm not quite sure what my career looks like, hopefully working for a collegiate or professional sports team. I'm not sure if I want to do some coaching or more behind the scenes stuff.

What's your favorite school lunch? Orange chicken

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

When you're not in school, what are you most likely doing? Hanging out to my family or friends. Either watching Youtube, a movie, or going shopping.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? I hope people still talk about our senior fun days that we have.