

## MV wins conference speech title, 22 students earn Best of Center

by **Rebekah Hill**

This past Monday, Maquoketa Valley's Individual Speech Team ventured to Alburnett to start off their season. The team got off to a great start. The 10-12 team had 40 events and 31 received I ratings and 9 received II ratings. The 9th grade team took 17 events and brought home 14 I ratings and 3 II ratings!

Members receiving I ratings were: Kelly Winter (Literary Program), Amanda Fortman (Reviewing), Brittany Sabers (Poetry), Jaiden Porter (Poetry), Rebekah Hill (Original Oratory), Abby Holtz (Reviewing), Grace Wegmann (Original Oratory), Lydia Helle (Poetry), Kristen Lucas (Original Oratory), Danielle Schuman (Storytelling), Lydia Helle (Original Oratory), Cloie Wilson (Prose), Shelby March (Storytelling), Hannah Lahr (Original Oratory), Kendra Ries (Storytelling), Emma Hill (Literary Program), Nicholas Chen (Storytelling), Lexi Deutmeyer (Literary Program), Kelsey Ries (Public Address), Sam Wall (Storytelling), Maddy Naab (Literary Program), Summer Schmuecker (Literary Program), Lawson Roof (Literary Program), Brianna Mensen (Public Address), Patrick Hansen (Solo Musical Theater), Brooke Wilson (Expository Address), Cassidy Wilson (After Dinner Speaking), Grace Wegmann (Prose), Blake Becker (Prose), Kiesha Stelken (Poetry),

Faith Hunt (Expository Address), Kaitlyn Deutmeyer (After Dinner Speaking), Angel Rumbo (Acting), Emma McDowell (Expository Address), Megan McNamara (After Dinner Speaking), Adrienne Supple (Prose), Shelby March (Expository Address), Izabel Niehaus (Improv.), Mac Callan (Prose), Nichole Winter (Acting), McKenzie Lansing (Poetry), Chloe Roling (Reviewing), Erika Supple (Prose), Faith Hunt (Acting) and Mason Lubben (Acting).

Those members receiving II ratings were: Alex McCusker (Improv.), Megan Beaman (Solo Musical Theater), Alex Digman (Improv.), Allie Knipper (Storytelling), Maddy Anderegg (Public Address), Maddie Lahr (Radio News), Sean Hucker (Spontaneous Speaking), Cloie Wilson (Poetry), Brenden Hogan (Spontaneous Speaking), Colin Wendt (Radio News), Derek Mensen (Spontaneous Speaking), Brianna Mensen (Spontaneous Speaking).

Twenty-two contestants brought home best-of-centers. These contestants included: Shelby March (ST), Kiesha Stelken (PO), Emma Hill (LP), Brianna Mensen (PA), Kelsey Ries (PA), Megan McNamara (ADS), Cassidy Wilson (ADS), Abby Holtz (RV), Amanda Fortman (RV), Blake Becker (PR), Adrienne Supple (PR), Lydia



**Danielle Schuman rehearses for storytelling. She earned a I at conference competition.**

Helle (OO), Hannah Lahr (OO), Brooke Wilson (EXP), Faith Hunt (EXP), Chloe Roling (RV), Brenden Hogan (SS), Brianna Mensen (SS), Lydia (PO), Lexi Deutmeyer (LP), Maddy Naab (LP), Faith Hunt (AC).

What a great way to start the season!

Best wishes to the team as they head to MFL MarMac for districts!

## FFA Week celebrated, students compete

Students have been celebrating FFA Week this week, and if that hasn't kept FFA members busy enough as they participated in dress up days, hosted the state FFA officers, and served the staff a lunch, they have also been participating in several contests.

Last Saturday FFA students competed at state proficiency judging in Ankeny. Results were as follows:

1st place Ag Communications -Josie Young (advanced to nationals)

1st place Dairy Placement- Amanda Engelken (advanced to nationals)

1st place Fiber and Oil Crop Production - Cassi Westhoff (advanced to nationals)

2nd place Small Animal Production- Thomas Lehmann

2nd place Dairy Entrepreneurship- Cole Kruse

3rd place Environmental and Natural Resources- Jacob Bonert

Then this Tuesday students competed at Subdistrict FFA contest. Results were as follows:

\*Creed Speaking- Gold Lauren Goldsmith advanced to district

\*Extemporaneous Speaking- Gold- Cole

Kruse- advanced to district

\*Job Interview- Gold - Justin Wessel- advanced to districts

\*Ag Broadcasting- Gold- Josie Young- Alternate to Districts

\*Ag Sales- Gold- Amanda Engelken- Alternate to Districts

\*Public Speaking- Silver- Amanda Fortman- Alternate to Districts

Students advancing will compete in Monticello on Mar. 11.

# McDowell ends high school career atop the podium

MV senior Alec McDowell returned to the site of last year's third place finish at the State Wrestling Tournament and achieved the ultimate goal: he is this year's Class 1A state champion at 182 pounds.

Three more MV wrestlers competed at State. Freshman Chance Downs earned a seventh place medal in his first trip to state, while Norman Wilson and Eric Heims both went 1-2.

"It was a great weekend for the entire Maquoketa Valley community," MV coach Tim Andrews said. "To come away with a freshman (Downs) who placed seventh, and for Alec to claim his ultimate goal in becoming a state champ, are remarkable feats, and they couldn't have prouder coaches."

McDowell was dominant, pinning his first two opponents: Riley Algreen of West Central Valley (in 2:48) and Joey Schwenn of Belle Plaine (5:52). He then scored a 3-0 decision over Bryce Oveson of Wilton in the semifinals.

In Saturday night's finals, McDowell was in control again, beating Logan Schumacher of Martensdale-St. Mary's 6-1.

Downs had a difficult path to his medal. He lost his opening match, 7-2 to Austin Ei-

lers of Lawton-Bronson, but then won two straight, beating Hunter Cobb of Wayne 10-3 and pinning Joel Becerra of AHSTW in 5:35. A loss by fall to Kaleb Bolelyn of Waterloo Columbus, in 5:05, put Downs in the seventh place match. There, on Saturday, he closed with a 6-1 decision over Logan Scheuermann of AC-GC to take seventh.

"On top of that, sophomore Norman Wilson qualifying at 170 pounds and winning a match there, as well as senior Eric Heims winning a match in his final campaign, make the entire community and coaching staff very proud and looking forward to the future."

Heims, at 220 pounds, won his opening match, beating Logan O'Connor of Lisbon 6-2. He then lost to Noah Boender of Sigourney-Keota 3-0, and then was defeated in a consolation match by Colton Francis of West Hancock, 6-3.

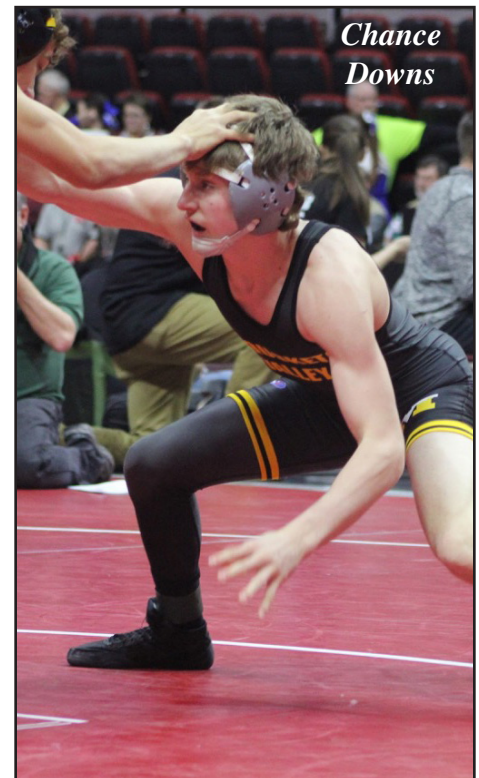
Wilson competed at 170 pounds, and went 1-2 in the tournament. He lost to Trent Kruger of Sibley-Ocheyedan by fall at 2:30, bounced back to win by sudden victory over Adam Grote of OA-BCIG, 3-1; and was pinned by Gunnar Grunsted of Panorama in a second round consolation match. Wilson finished 26-9.



*Alec McDowell*



*Norman Wilson*



*Chance Downs*



*Eric Heims*

(text and photos courtesy of Pete Temple, The Monticello Express)



## STUDENT OF THE WEEK

*Megan Beaman*



**You recently proposed, planned, organized and worked the Valentine's Day fundraiser for the music department last week. What inspired the idea?** Mrs. Mueller told me that they used to do this for Valentine's Day, and I thought it would be a cool idea to bring it back. I believed most high schoolers would enjoy getting something for/from a friend on Valentine's Day.

**What role has the music department played in our high school career?** A very important one! It's a big motivation to keep my grades up, they have to be good in order to perform. I became closer with those involved. It helps with time management, because we travel a lot for jazz, and other choir/band events. It also helps with the learning aspect of things. Playing or singing in choir or band is more than being able to read notes off a page. I'm more confident on stage, and with other things too because of music. I just got back into band after six years, and I wish I would've joined earlier. It's funny to think I almost didn't go out for choir at all. I don't think I would be the student I am without music. It's been such a big part of high school for me.

**How do you see music playing a role in your future?** I don't plan on going into a music career, but I do plan to keep up with singing. I plan on joining a singing group of some sort in college because I enjoy it so much! It's also so much fun to just sing with others, and I feel music helps others, and myself. I plan to bring that aspect of music into my future career.

—Megan was nominated by Mrs. Mueller

## Fine Artist of the Week

Name: Brittany Sabers

Activity: Speech

**What event are you in for speech?**

Poetry

**What do you enjoy most about individual speech?**

I like that all the work you do is your own, your success

depends only on you and how hard you are willing to work. I enjoy working one on one with Mr. DeVore and perfecting my speech. It is so cool to see the progress you've made from when you first read through the piece to competition day. Mr. DeVore is an awesome coach and it is so much fun to work with.

**What have you learned through this event?** I've learned that once you step out of your comfort zone you are able to do more things than you'll ever imagine. It is a different atmosphere than being on the volleyball court or the softball field and I think it is something that everyone should try and experience.

**What other event would you like to try and why?** Storytelling, it is similar to poetry but your story is memorized and there are more actions involved. I have watched many storytellings and they are so fun to watch and I think it would be fun to perform also.

**How will speech help you in the future?** Speech is such a great opportunity, it will help me out in the future by being able to speak in front of an audience confidently. This can get you very far in life for when you may have to give presentations in college or in the work force when you are making a career. It also helps in everyday life to be able to create professional conversations with others.

*"Brittany comes to individual speech practice every time wanting to become a better public speaker! She works with her coach to determine the best way to present the material. She listens, she suggests, she brainstorms, and most importantly, she takes the criticism from her coach and practices at home."* —Mr. DeVore



## Athletes of the Week

Name: McKenna Wenthe

Sport: Basketball

**What do you enjoy most about basketball?**

Everyone on the team is close and gets along

**What's your favorite drill in practice?** Wildcat transition and one more pass

**How do you mentally prepare for the game?** We listen to music and go over the scouting report with the team. We also talk about our goals we want to accomplish at the one particular game.

**What's the best motivational song out right now?** Any of them we play in the locker room before games

**What's been your favorite basketball memory from this season?** Some of our pregame talks where we can get completely off topic

Name: Gracie Gellersen

Sport: Basketball

**What do you enjoy most about basketball?** I like playing with my teammates, and making memories. It's so much fun when someone makes a great play and everyone celebrates.

**What's your favorite drill in practice?** Wildcat transition and the one more drill

**How do you mentally prepare for the game?** I get focused on the game by thinking about the scouting report and getting pumped up with the team in the locker room.

**What's the best motivational song out right now?** Anything on the gameday playlist.

**What's been your favorite basketball memory from this season?** When we beat Springville the second time we played them, and everyone had the mindset of we can compete and beat any team, and the ugly sweater Christmas party.



## TEL students promote healthy choices



Last week was Through with Chew week. Our TEL students passed out gum, with attached notes that say “Chew this instead,” to the high school and middle school students as they left school to encourage them

to not use smokeless tobacco. Eight members also educated our fifth grade students on the dangers of chew and snus and played a game to reinforce what they had taught them.

## Stogdill signs with Hawkeye CC

Senior Ashley Stogdill officially committed on Monday to run track at Hawkeye Community College this fall.

At her signing were, front row: Max Andrews, Ashley Stogdill and Terri Andrews; back row: Hawkeye Coach Tyler Mulder, Fern Andrews, Alyssa Stogdill, Coach Dunlap



## Smooth Harmony recognized for talent, character



Smooth Harmony is on a roll as they first earned first place in 2A at the Solon Vocal Jazz Festival last Friday. To make it even better, MV was also awarded the “Spirit of Jazz Award” for their conduct and support of all things jazz at the event.

Smooth Harmony also learned this week that the group has been selected to participate in the Iowa Vocal Jazz Championships which will be held on Tuesday,

March 28, at West Des Moines Valley. They will represent Maquoketa Valley in the 2A division. The other qualifying 2A schools are Sheldon, Sibley-Ocheyedan, Alta-Aurelia, Okoboji, Emmetsburg, North Fayette Valley and Treynor.

Today, both Smooth Harmony and Jazz X-Press are participating the vocal jazz clinic at Kirkwood Community College.

## Boys end season with loss to top-ranked North Linn



by McKenzie Lansing

The boys ended their season with a second round playoff game against North Linn. The game was at North Linn with a final score of 86- 51, a win for the Lynxes.

Coach Dunlap was sad to see the season come to an end. “It is a tough match- up to play the number one team in the state,” he commented. “North Linn is an excellent team and our guys have nothing to hang their heads about. I believe North Linn will win the state championship this year.”

The top scorers of this game were Jacob Bonert, Garrett Hogan and Tyson Tucker. Jacob scored 12 points. Garrett scored 11 and Tucker scored 9 points.

The top rebounders of this game were Brock Hillers, Bonert, Garrett Hogan and Krapfl. Brock had a total of 5 rebounds. Jacob, Garrett and Clint each picked up 3 rebounds.

The boys had a total of 11 assists. Tucker contributed to 4 of those. Bonert made 4 of his 6 two- point shots, which is 66.7%. Garrett Hogan made 5 of his 7 two-point shots, which is 71.4%. The team as a whole made 7 of their 9 free throws, which is a 77.8%.

“I had a blast coaching these guys this season,” Coach Dunlap stated. “I am excited about the group of guys that are coming back for next years’ basketball season. I am really going to miss the three seniors that are graduating this year. They are excellent people and it was an honor to coach them. Go Wildcats!”

The boys ended their season with a 10-13 record.



# Best Buds



**Norm Wilson & Mrs. Richter**  
by Nichole Winter

**How long have you been friends?**

The past 2 years

**What is your favorite thing to do together?**

Norm: Study

Mrs. Richter: Hangout in study hall

**How did you meet?**

Norm: Through the grapevine

Mrs. Richter: At school

**Nicknames?**

Norm: Mom

Mrs. Richter: Mr. Wilson

**Why are you guys still friends?**

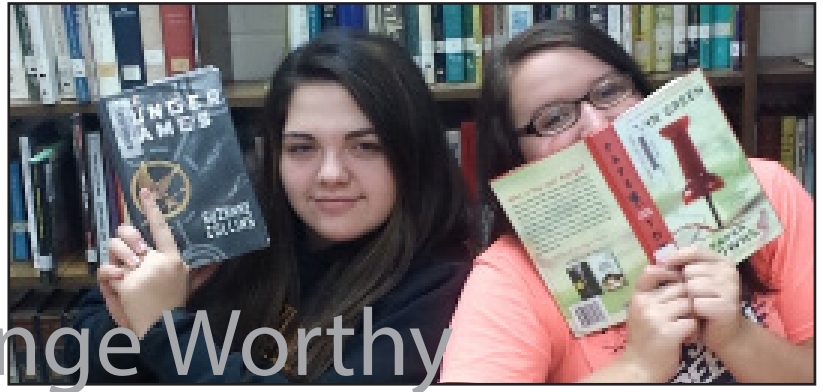
We have the same taste in music

## Did you know?

by Emma McDowell

Keeps reading for ten enlightening fun facts.

- Photophobia is not the phobia of photographs, it's actually the fear of light.
- In Ireland, cats outnumber dogs two to one as pets.
- There are over 600,000 students in FFA throughout the country.
- Almost 75% of adults need some kind of vision correctors.
- Tuna fish can swim up to 40 miles per hour.
- Hair can grow up to six inches a year.
- The state vegetable of Oklahoma is watermelon.
- The Chinese invented paper around 105 A.D.
- We take as many photos every two minutes than all of humanity in 1800.
- The first mobile phone sold for \$4,000 in 1983.



# Binge Worthy

Rebekah & Amanda:

**I'm Still Standing sung by Elton John:** Listening to this song while writing this, really helps show just how much I love it. A song that has a great beat, and you never want to stop listening to it. Also, on the movie Sing, a gorilla sings it, and it make is 900x better! A song that everyone should listen to!

Rebekah:

**Girl Meets World:** Middle-school was rough. Nobody can deny that, we all had our issues that we wish to forget. If only we had the middle-school life of Riley and Maya. These two best friends go through middle school together, and help each other with everything. Boys, drama, sadness these two went through everything. The spin off of Boy Meets World brings a modern twist to a classic. An amazing show that had me laughing, crying, and everything in between.

**The King of Queens:** Husband, wife, and father-in-law. All in one house, all together, all the time. In this hilarious show we follow the lives of Doug, Carrie, and Carrie's father Arthur. Doug is always messing up, Carrie is always getting angry, and Arthur is always causing problems. A funny show that always has me laughing.

**The Brady Bunch:** I mean if you haven't seen The Brady Bunch, are you even American. This show is a classic. Two singles parents find each other and fall in love. When they get married they become a mixed family. She has three girls and he has three boys. When they come together their family is full of love, fights, tears, and good memories. A show that is so cute, and needs to be watched by everyone.

Amanda:

**The 100:** 100 juvenile criminals are giving a second chance at life when they are sent down to earth after years to see if the ground is suitable to live on. These teen have to navigate a world no one has lived on in centuries. Only they aren't alone. These teens not only have to survive the elements but also have to survive the grounders or people living on Earth. The show is intense and amazing and leaves you guessing until the last few minutes.

**Obsidian by Jennifer L. Armentrout:** This book is one for any fan of a mushy, kind of predictable love story with a supernatural twist. It was the perfect book to get me out of a reading slump. After Katy moves to West Virginia she expects her life to become nothing but boring. But after she meets her neighbors that seem to be out of this world, everything for Katy gets turned upside down.

**One Day at a Time:** After Senora showed us the trailer I knew I had to check out this show. The characters are funny, sassy, and oh so relatable. Every episode has a good lesson and shows you what it truly means to be a family. This show is also very comical. Definitely check out this show on Netflix.

# Brain Teaser

by Mason Lubben

There is a word and six letters it contains.  
Take one away and twelve is what remains.

What word is it?

Answers: Dozens

## Athlete of the Week

Name: Cassi Westhoff

Sport: Basketball

**What do you enjoy most about basketball?** Being able to get to know each other more on and off the court.

**What's your favorite drill in practice?**

Wildcat Transition

**How do you mentally prepare for the game?** Have locker room jams with the team to get pumped up.

**What's the best motivational song out right now?** "I Spy"

**What's been your favorite basketball memory from this season?**

Christmas Party at Coach Moenck's house.



## Cutie



by Kristin Lucas

This junior girl is involved in volleyball. She's from Hopkinton, and her favorite food is crab.

She has dark brown hair and hazel eyes.

She is in band, and her favorite color is green.

## what's up?

**If you could switch lives with someone for a day, who would you switch with?**

by Kelly Winter

Kristin Lucas: Megan Beaman

Shelby March: a goat

Chloe Roling: Kendall Jenner

Norman Wilson: a homeless person

Megan Beaman: Beyonce

Kelsey Ries: Faith Hunt

Emma McDowell: one of the Kardashians

Austin Snyder: Donald Trump

Josie Harmon: a billionaire

Daniel Hunter: Kobe Bryant

Mac Callan: Jessica Bryant, Kris Bryant's wife

Nichole Winter: Maddie Ziegler

Kendra Ries: Carrie Underwood

Mrs. Spellerburg: Oprah

## Birthday Shoutouts!

by Chance Downs

*It's never too early or too late to tell a fellow classmate Happy Birthday!*

This week's birthdays are:

2/24 - Lucas Johnson, Adrienne

Supple

2/25 - Lydia Helle

3/2 - Katie Sternhagen, Pedro Chavez

## The Cat Box

*opinions, ideas and random thoughts from the staff of The Wildcat Echo*



A Wildcat roar for Alec McDowell for achieving his goal of getting first place at state wrestling. An equal roar goes out to Eric Heims, Chance Downs and Norman Wilson for representing MV with class at state.



A best wishes meow to Miss Manternach who will leave Mrs. Lewin's math classroom next week and begin the next phase of her student teaching at the middle school in Maquoketa.



Actually, the Cat Box could be filled with accolades for the fine arts programs and the FFA program. Talk about taking their learning to a new level!

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MV the week of February 27, 2017

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2017

1. Tri Rivers Conference Junior High Vocal Festival - HOME - 2:00 PM - Concert at 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2017

1. 7th & 8th Homework Assistance - MS Room 305 with Mrs. Moorman - After School until 4:00 PM

2. Youth Wrestling Practice - HS Wrestling Room - PreK through 2nd: 6-7 PM / 3rd through 8th: 7-8:15 PM

3. 8th Grade Student / Parent Registration Meeting - Auditorium - 6:30 PM

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017

1. 7th & 8th Homework Assistance - MS Room 303 with Mrs. Grimm - After School until 4:00 PM

2. Youth Wrestling Practice - HS Wrestling Room - PreK through 2nd: 6-7 PM / 3rd through 8th: 7-8:15 PM

3. MV Athletic Boosters Monthly Meeting - HS Cafeteria - 6:30 PM

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017

1. Back Pack Delivery - Johnston, Earlville, Delhi Elementary & Middle School

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017

1. Deficiencies / Proficiencies Due to the Office - Noon

2. HS TAG to ISU Theater Performance "The Importance of Being Earnest" (Van Leaves at 7:00 AM)

3. 3rd Grade "I-Smile" Presentation - MS Commons - Noon

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017

1. HS Vocal Jazz "Vertical Voices" Festival in Rochelle, IL (4 Vans Leave at 8:10 AM)

2. MV Athletic Boosters Volleyball Tourney - both MS & HS Gyms - 8:00 AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 2017

1. MV Athletic Boosters Volleyball Tourney - both MS & HS Gyms - 8:00 AM