

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Trio of new employees aim to help Wildcats at the high school, in district

This year Maquoketa Valley will be welcoming three new Wildcats to our building! Let's get to know Dr. Huckstadt, Mr. Christensen and Nurse Elise better.

by Grace Richter *Mr. Christensen*

What is your position, and what are some of your responsibilities at MV?

"Head Football, Strength and Conditioning, and the H.S. Paraprofessional."

Where are you from?

"I originally grew up on a farm north of Toledo, Iowa. For the last 6 years, my wife and I have lived in Nashua, IA. Before that, I lived in Charles City as well."

What high school and college have you attended? "I went to South Tama High School graduating in 2005, then I attended UNI graduating in 2009."

Why did you get into your profession?

"When I was in high school I always enjoyed coaching youth sports and tutoring younger students. I also have many family members who work as teachers."

Any previous experiences? "I have coached football at North Tama for 3 years, Charles City for 8 years, and the last 4 years as the head football coach at Nashua Plainfield. I have taught for the last 12 years at Charles City in both the high school and middle school."

What are your goals here at MV, what are you most excited about? "My goal is to grow the football program with increased participation, giving all student-athletes a positive experience. My main goal is to be a positive influence on any student I work with."

And a fun fact or two about yourself!

"My family is my wife Ashley, and my 3-year-old son Reece. I'm a big sports fan, especially the UNI Panthers and Kansas City Chiefs. I am also a big geography and history nerd!"

Dr. Huckstadt

What is your position, and what are some of your responsibilities at MV? "For the 2024-25 school year, I will be serving as the Interim Superintendent shared



between the Maquoketa Valley and Edge-wood-Colesburg School Districts. I answer directly to the Board of Directors of the School District and serve as the Chief Executive on their behalf."

Where are you from? "I have lived in Maquoketa, IA for over 35 years. I have also lived in Fayette, IA; Luana, IA; Hopkinton, IA; Bennett, IA; Lake Charles, Louisiana; and Cedar Falls, IA."

What high school and college have you attended? "I graduated from Bennett High School in 1973... Home of the 'Bennett Bombers.' I attended the following colleges and universities:

Beloit College / Beloit, WI - Teaching - Biology / Chemistry

Western Illinois University - MS Educational Leadership - Principalship

Drake University - EDS - Educational Leadership - Superintendent

Western Illinois University - Doctorate Educational Leadership."

Why did you get into your profession?

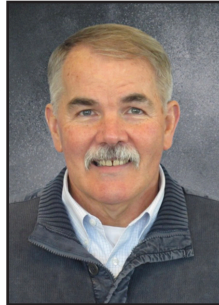
"My dad was a very successful teacher and a Hall of Fame Coach... I always tagged along with him and never really gave any other career path serious consideration. I followed in his footsteps and have never regretted that decision."

Any previous experiences? "At my age there are quite a few previous experiences!

Most of my PK-12 experience was in the Maquoketa Community School District where I worked for 34 years in various capacities.

What are your goals here at MV, what are you most excited about?

"Serving as an interim superintendent is a little unique. My primary focus is to build on the many good things that are already happening at M.V. I also hope that my experiences and skills may contribute in developing a vision for the future. In education, we must always be looking over the horizon to make sure we are offering educational opportunities that will help our students succeed in whatever pathway they may choose."



And a fun fact or two about yourself!

"Way back in the 1960's, I actually attended grades K-5 in Hopkinton. At that time, the elementary school was on the Lenox College campus. I have many great memories of those years. In the past 10 years when I would travel from Maquoketa to the UNI campus Cedar Falls, I would stop and walk the campus. I often tell people that it was like walking through a Thomas Kincaid painting. I remember where the big tall slide and swings were located and where we played Fox and Geese!"

by McKayla Weber *Nurse Elise*

What are your duties here?

Managing student medical needs, assisting in front office communications, DOT alcohol/drug testing.

How long have you been in the nursing field?

I've been a RN since February of 2012.

Where did you go to college/school?

Northeast Iowa Community College (Peosta campus) and University of Northern Iowa

What encouraged you to be a school nurse?

Proximity to home and familiarity with the community. I've worked in Long Term Care throughout the duration of my career, and it was time for a change. Total opposite end of the spectrum!

What's your family like?

I've been married to my husband Greg for 9 years in October. We have 3 daughters: Vivian (6), Lynden (3), and Evelyn (11 months). We also have a 2-year-old goldendoodle named Millie who is far too hyper. Greg works at John Deere in Waterloo and farms in Delhi with his dad and brothers. Mrs. Bonert (5th grade) is my sister-in-law.

What are some of your hobbies?

Anything outside with the girls, shopping, swimming laps, traveling, and reading

What is a fun fact about yourself? I'm an iced coffee enthusiast, lover of fantasy reads (cue Harry Potter and The Fourth Wing series), and I love earrings!



Summer does not allow a break for FFA members

by Ella Reicher and Natalie Ries, FFA reporters

The Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter had an exciting summer with many events that members participated in.

The events started off with state agronomy, state floriculture, state horse evaluation, NE district livestock evaluation, Washington Leadership Conference (WLC), Delaware County Fair, and the Iowa State Fair.

On June 6th Addie Bonert, Braden Ronnebaum, Kyle Engelken and Tyler Hoeger all traveled to Ames to compete in state agronomy. This team of four had a good day and received a silver rating.

The FFA chapter didn't get much of a break before sending three different events to Kirkwood on June 11th. On this day Karly Kerch, Ella Reicher and McKayla Weber participated in state floriculture. These four ladies did an awesome job and also received a silver rating. Emma Brockhohn and Olivia Ronnebaum also traveled with the floriculture team to compete in the NE district livestock evaluation career development event (CDE). The day got really exciting when the horse evaluation team of Lacy Reth, Tracy Reth and Kayla Hoeger all competed very well. This team got 2nd place making them the Iowa state FFA horse evaluation state runner-up. Lacy Reth also finished as 2nd place individual. Tracy Reth was not far behind placing 7th as an individual.

Leah Reicher and Ashton Klaren both got accepted to attend the Washington Leadership Conference. Leah and Ashton loaded the bus on June 17th and traveled to Washington. While in Washington they spent a lot of time sightseeing and making new relationships with new people. These two attended lots of sessions, saw a variety of monuments and memorials, visited the nation's capital, talked to Joni Ernst and Chuck Grassley, saw the Arlington National Cemetery, witnessed the changing of the guard, and so much more.

July 8th started the beginning of the Delaware County Fair. Between all of the members in the Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter the members showed a variety of animals and crops. Members exhibited horses, beef, dairy, goats, sheep, swine, poultry, and agronomy. There were a total of 54 members who showed at this year's fair. Three members showed horses, twelve members showed beef, seven mem-



Natalie Ries, Bryce Vaske, Alison Schulte and Olivia Ronnebaum earned first place in the goat judging competition at ISU last weekend.

bers showed dairy, six members showed goats, four members showed sheep, eighteen members showed swine, two members showed poultry, and two members showed in the agronomy contest. The Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter also had four members participate in the supreme senior showmanship. Current member Ford Domeyer received third place supreme senior showman and Nathan Beitz received 5th place supreme senior showman. The Delaware County fair ended on July 14th.

The Iowa State Fair was August 8th through August 18th. Many members showed a variety of animals and competed in many events at the state fair. Members competed in dairy judging and livestock judging. Members also exhibited many animals. Some members competed in showing swine, dairy, horses, goats, sheep, and beef. Many members also had static exhibits at the state level.

The state fair rounded out the summer events for the FFA chapter, but the fall events have already started. This past Saturday the state livestock evaluation CDE was hosted at Iowa State University. Alison Schulte, Bryce Vaske, Natalie Ries and Olivia Ronnebaum all traveled to Ames. This team competed very well and received a silver rating. This team judged beef, swine, sheep, and goats. The team competed the best in the goat division placing first in the state.

The Maquoketa Valley chapter also had a very exciting announcement this summer. The Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter would like to welcome Ms. Kristi Goedken as our new assistant FFA advisor.

If you are a current 8th-12th grader and would like to join FFA this upcoming year, do not hesitate to reach out to any FFA member or advisor Ms. Lau.

Wildcats earn post-season accolades

Baseball

First team (and 1st District team)

Toby Grimm

Second team

Dylan Knipper

Brady Wall

Bryce Vaske

Honorable mention

Matthew Schaul

The team finished with a 15-11 record, ending with a loss in the substate semi-final game.

Softball

Academic All-State Team:

Cadence Freiburger

Lily Huber

Kaitlyn Nolan

All-Conference Team:

Jada Knipper, Kallie Freiburger and Cadence Freiburger

Junior Varsity Awards:

Offense: Gabriella Gotto

Defense: Jeanie Teymer

Ms Utility: Madison Thompson

MVP: Taryn Burbridge

Varsity Awards:

Offense: Cadence Freiburger

Defense: Ava Knipper

Utility: Audra Burbridge

MVP: Jada Knipper

Team Awards:

Most Improved: Lanni Beaman

Queen of the Circle: Kallie Freiburger

Heart of the Wildcat: Jordan Hatfield

Hardest Worker: Aubrie Althoff

Stealing Queen: Lily Huber

The varsity team finished 16-14 for the season.

Scrimmage helps teams prepare for season

by Maya Smith

As everyone gears up for tonight's game against Cascade, the football team is feeling confident.

Last Friday, the football team held a home scrimmage against Sumner-Fredericksburg. The varsity ran around 30 plays of offense and defense, and the JV ran around 45.

Coach Christensen remarked that the scrimmage went well: "The JV did very well, moving the ball and scoring on offense and shutting out Sumner-Fredericksburg on defense. The Varsity faced a very solid SF team and held their own. Both teams were able to move the ball."

No score or stats were kept for the scrimmage.

With some more experience under their belts, the boys have been focusing on their game tonight. Coach Christensen feels optimistic about the game, and believes that the focus they have spent on fundamentals and the football's more mental aspects has helped prepare them for their first game of the season.



The cheer team also got to show the public what they've been working on this summer at the scrimmage last Friday night.

Make sure to break out your sunscreen and your shades because the theme tonight is beach!

A new year for volleyball: Wildcats compete at quad

by Natalie Ries

The Maquoketa Valley volleyball team is most definitely smaller this year, but the energy is just as big. Between the varsity, JV, and fresh/soph teams there is a combined total of 24 players. Of these 24 players 18 of them are returning from last year's teams. This year the Wildcats are led by seniors Lili Bauers and Kelsey Hoeger. The Varsity team started their season off in Wapsie Valley playing in a quad against North Tama, Gladbrook-Reinbeck and Wapsie Valley this past Tuesday Night.

The Wildcats started the night playing against North Tama. The Wildcats worked hard and that is shown in the stats. Lili Bauers led the team in most successful serves. Bauers racked up 12 serves. Moving to the offensive part of these two sets Kelsey Hoeger led in most assists. Hoeger had a total of 13 assists against North Tama. Lanni Beaman had six kills in these sets leading the team for most kills. On the defensive side of the net Lili Bauers also led in most digs. Bauers had 15 digs that helped out the team. Breanna McShane started her first

varsity game off well with two blocks and led the team for most blocks. North Tama won 2-0.

The varsity team was not done for the night. The volleyball team put up a good fight against Gladbrook-Reinbeck but fell just short. Offensively the Wildcats had more to work with and they sure did. Kelsey Hoeger once again led with most assists. Hoeger put 21 assists on the board for MV. Lanni Beaman also continued to get kills and added 13 more to her total for the night. Defensively the Wildcats had a hard hill to climb, but they climbed it well. Lili Bauers and Grace Richter had a combined total of 32 digs both splitting evenly for 16. Camryn Paris was also on fire and had three blocks with two of those being solo blocks. Grace Richter also led this game with most successful serves. Richter had eleven serves. G-R won 2-1.

The Wildcats had to face one more team for the night. That team was the home team Wapsie Valley. Wapsie Valley did not let the Wildcats have an easy time, but the Wildcats worked together. Once

again libero Lili Bauers led the team with most digs in the game. Bauers had a total of 16 digs totaling out to be 47 digs on the night. Camryn Paris did not let down on the blocks and led the team in most blocks for the second game in a row. Paris had two blocks against Wapsie Valley. Offensively Kelsey Hoeger led the team in most assists for the third game. Hoeger added 14 more assists to her total. Hoeger led the team all night with assists totalling out to be 48 assists. The most kills for this game for MV was put together by three hard workers. Ava Knipper, Grace Richter and Camryn Paris all had four kills against Wapsie Valley to lead the team. The final stat of the night in most successful serves. McKenna Mineart and Kelsey Hoeger both had eight serves that were successful and led the team for their final game. Wapsie Valley won 2-0.

The varsity team stayed at home last night for their home triangular against Jesup and Clayton Ridge. These stats and scores will be in next week's Echo. Next Thursday the team travels to Bellevue to take on Marquette Catholic.

Best Buds



Taylor Salow & Lylah Billmeyer
by Lucy Hucker

How did the two of you meet?

Lylah: We met 10 years ago at preschool

Taylor: A long time ago!

What is your favorite memory you have with each other?

Lylah: When I got slime stuck in the carpet and put bleach on it to clean it and I didn't know that is was bleach and she had to tell me.

Taylor: When Lylah did jump splits at cheer.

What song best describes your friendship?

Lylah: "Ribs" by Lorde

Taylor: "Woman's World" by Katy Perry

What does a typical hangout look like?

Lylah: Having a bonfire

Taylor: Having a bonfire at Lylah's.

What do you admire most about your friend?

Lylah: She's always very supportive and very kind

Taylor: She is very nice to everyone.

Where do you see each other in the future?

Lylah: Living right next to each other on a beach and having our kids get married

Taylor: Us both marrying rich and becoming stay at home moms!

A bit-o-change

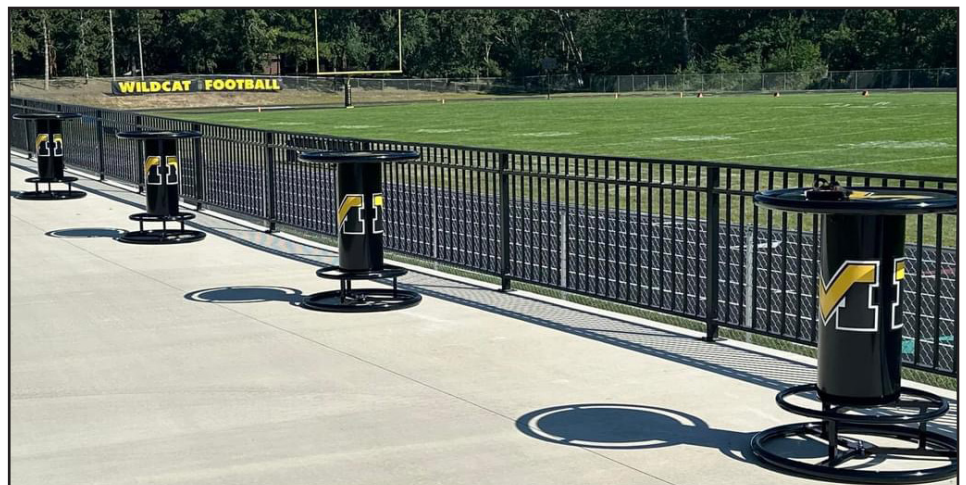
The patio outside of the concession stand by the football field got an update this summer as several high-top tables were added.



Cutie

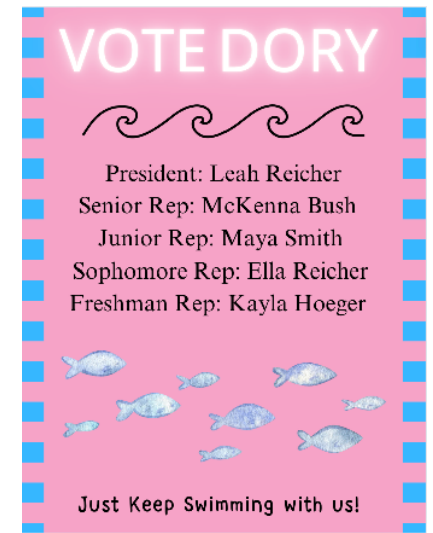
by Alaina Mead

What a cute kitty! This cutie is a freshman and lives in Delhi. She is the youngest of the family and is involved in cheer, dance team and track! A fun fact about her is that she has a terrible shopping addiction!



Hello Wildcats!

Early next week you will be able to vote on Student Body President. As you get the opportunity to vote next week please consider voting for us! Between the 5 of us, we have a great amount of leadership experience serving on the student council and if elected can't wait to bring new ideas and activities to the high school. - Leah, McKenna, Maya, Ella, & Kayla



Wildcat Star Service Award

Remember to keep track of your service hours throughout the year. Mrs. Temple has emailed you a copy of the log. Watch your email and announcements for service opportunities! Your goal is to get 300 hours before May of the year you graduate.

JT's Closet

Following in the "footsteps" of my sister, I'm excited for you to take a look inside JT's Closet.

I'd like to start by wishing everyone HAPPY FEET DAY!! Today we are going to be taking a look at the hottest shoe trends. Popular this season in women's wear are On Clouds, Nike Dunks, New Balance and Birkenstocks. The most popular men's shoe are Crocs, Dudes, On Clouds and Nikes.

Some girls who wear On Clouds dress them down with casual jeans or shorts (jean or sporty), and a sporty shirt or really anything that matches. Birkenstocks you can dress up or down pairing it with a dress, shorts or jeans. Normally you don't wear socks, but if you don't like your toes showing you can.

In men's fashion On Clouds are typically worn with athletic wear. Nike's, although considered athletic wear, can be worn to dress up anything.

So now that you know about the hottest shoe trends, I hope you have an amazing Friday!



by Jeanie Teymer

Hall Smarts

by Lylah Billmeyer



Since school started back up and it also been football season, I figured I would ask my classmates some questions about football!

When was football invented?

Izzy Heffernan: 1900

Jade Hillers: 1890

Taylor Salow: 1874

Brayden Bjorkgren: 1832

Answer: 1869

What team won the first ever super bowl?

Izzy: Chiefs

Jade: Green Bay Packers

Taylor: Dallas Cowboys

Brayden: Green Bay Packers

Answer: Green Bay Packers

How many NFL teams are there?

Izzy: 20

Jade: 32

Taylor: 47

Brayden: 26

Answer: 32

Has "American" football ever been played in the Olympics?

Izzy: no

Jade: no

Taylor: no

Brayden: yes

Answer: no

One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

Welcome back, Wildcats! I hope you all had a fantastic summer break, even though the days felt like they went by too fast. Now that we



are slowly starting to get back into the groove, I want to provide you with some info to start the school year strong through a numbered list. Let's get started!

Organization is Key: A good way to prepare yourself for the school year is to stay organized. According to the website Intermountain Health, having a messy area, such as a locker, bag, or folders, can increase your stress. If you are having a hard time staying organized, don't worry, it takes time to "master" organization, so take it one step at a time, and remember the benefits of staying organized.

Get Involved: While getting involved in new things may seem overwhelming, it is a great way to make your school life more enjoyable. It is also a great way to establish positive relationships, such as making new friends or coaches/directors. According to the Michigan State University website, students who are involved in activities have a higher chance of graduating! So what better time than now is to go out for that musical or sport?

Routine = Success: One of the most important ways to set yourself up for success during the school year, and even life, is to set a routine. This routine should provide good structure that allows you to have a good work and self-care balance. While doing school work is very important, it is also important that you take time for yourself. Make sure you are eating well, sleeping, and maintaining good hygiene!

In conclusion, organizing, getting involved, and having a balanced routine are all essential ways to get a head start on a successful school year. Of course, there are many other ways to achieve this, so if you would like to learn more, make sure you do your own research!

I love you all, and I hope you have a wonderful weekend! Go Cats!

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

First week back in class Wildcats, here are some jokes to start off the new school year!

Algebra teachers always have too many problems.

Why did the student bring a ladder to class? So he could make it to High School!

What did the calculator say to the worried student? Don't worry, you can always count on me!

Why did the teacher wear sunglasses to school every day? Because her students were too bright!

How does a math teacher mow their lawn? With a pro-tractor!