

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Wildcats prepare for a fun homecoming week



The year's MV homecoming court candidates are, front row, queen candidates Kelsey Hoeger, Lili Bauers, Jordan Hatfield and Clair Gray; back row: king candidates Matthew Schaul, Nathan Beitz, Mason Jolley and Taten Intorf.

by Taylor Saunders

Homecoming is one of the main events that get students and staff hyped up. This year's theme is "Destroy the Nes.t"

On Sunday the 22nd, Student Council and Cheer will decorate the halls. Along with the decoration, PowderPuff (at 5:00PM) and Ironman (at 6:00PM) will take place that night.

Showing your spirit for Maquoketa Valley is important, and one way you can do so is through the dress-up days! Monday's dress up day is Adam Sandler Day. Tuesday's day is dress up as your favorite holiday, and remember not to wear any face masks. Wednesday, dress up as one of your class sponsors! The class sponsors are as follows:

Seniors: Mrs. Ries, Mrs. Moenck, Mr. Dunlap, Mrs. Groth, Ms. Droeszler
Juniors: Mrs. Downs, Mr. Ford, Mr. Palmer, Mr. Huegel, Mr. Kirchoff
Sophomores: Mrs. Besler, Ms. McCrary, Mr. Andrews, Ms. Lau, Mrs. Lewin
Freshman: Mrs. DeVore, Mrs. Carroll, Mrs. Temple, Mr. DeVore, Mr. Cassutt
Staff: Dress as students. So, feel free to sit

back, throw on a pair of sweatpants and relax!

Thursday is your traditional color block day:

Seniors: Royal Blue
Juniors: Hot Pink
Sophomores: Lavender
Freshman: Coral
Staff: Red

As for Friday, go all out and show off your pride wearing Black and Gold.

Another way to show off your spirit is by supporting all of our student body next week in their activities. At 6:00 on Monday our Junior Varsity Football team will play Postville. On Tuesday, at 5:15 Fresh/Soph Girls Volleyball, at 6:15 Junior Varsity Girls Volleyball, and at 7:15 Varsity Girls Volleyball all play at Edgewood-Colesburg. On Thursday, at 5:15 Fresh/Soph Girls Volleyball, at 6:15 Junior Varsity Girls Volleyball vs Starmont, and at 7:15 Varsity Girls Volleyball will play Starmont at Home. And of course, our Homecoming football game versus Clayton Ridge begins at 7:00PM next Friday. Also throughout next week, FFA NE District Soil

Evaluation will take place from 9:00AM-2:00PM on Wednesday, our cross country team will run at Anamosa from 9:00AM-10:30AM on Saturday, and finally Marching Band will also perform at the football game and during the parade on Friday.

Friday is going to be the highlight of the week. We will be running a 1:05 dismissal schedule. From 12:50-1:50 we will have our Class Competitions with the parade will begin directly following that at 2:00. At 2:35 the Pep Rally will begin. This is when the Homecoming King will be crowned. The crowning of our Homecoming Queen will be during halftime at the football game.

Saturday the Homecoming Dance will take place from 7:30-10:30 PM in the high school commons. It's \$5 per student for entry, and tickets are available in the office. To bring a date from a different school, you are required to fill out a guest request form. Doors will lock at 8:00PM, once you leave you can no longer return. This is a semi-formal dance, so dress appropriately. And as always, Go Cats!

Dairy judging team qualifies for nationals

by Natalie Ries and Ella Reicher, FFA reporters

The Maquoketa Valley FFA chapter had an eventful end of the week last week. The milk quality and products team and dairy judging team both competed at the district competition on Thursday and the state competition on Friday.

Starting off with the milk quality and products team. This single team consisted of McKayla Weber, Leah Reicher, Morgan Hoeger and Kelsey Hoeger. At NE districts Thursday they placed 3rd as a team. They took their knowledge and applied that to Friday where they placed 10th in the state.

Next up is the dairy judging team that Bianka Ronnebaum, Caden Kremer, Tyler Hoeger, and Ford Domeyer (team 1) competed on. At districts these four members placed 3rd as an overall team. Braden Ronnebaum and Karly Kerch (team 2) also competed. Braden Ronnebaum got 1st place for reasons. Team 1 then competed on Friday where they had a very successful day leading them to a trip to compete at the national level. Individually all four members competed very well. Tyler Hoeger was champion overall individual, 1st place oral



Ford Domeyer, Caden Kremer, Tyler Hoeger and Bianka Ronnebaum have qualified for the nationals in dairy judging.

reasons, and 1st place production management test. Ford Domeyer was 4th place individual. Bianka Ronnebaum was 5th place individual, and Caden Kremer was 12th place individual. As a team these four took home top team placing classes, top team

oral reasons, top team herd data, and reserve team production management test. Soon FFA members will be traveling to Greenhand fire up, soil evaluation, and national convention.

Fantasy Fiction: A hoco proposal trap? A new addition to the Echo: A short story that hopefully doesn't hit too close to home. Tune in again next week.

by Abby Nieman

"You ready for the musical rehearsal tonight, Eliza?" asked Charlie.

"No, not at all," Danny and I replied in sync.

"I already have a headache from class. I do not want to sing anymore," Danny explained, grabbing his binders for study hall.

"So what do we have for homework?" I questioned.

"Eliza, you need to calm down. You just have English and Spanish," Danny responded. "We need to get going to class. See you later."

"Okay, see you after school," I replied while putting my notebooks in my bag. I heard the bell ring and realized I was late.

Suddenly there was a hard push from behind and I tripped into my locker. The door shut and locked, with me inside. I tried to unlock the door from the inside. I couldn't see what I was

doing, but I tried.

It did not work.

There was a little laugh from the other side of the door. That's Parker, isn't it? Why is he here?

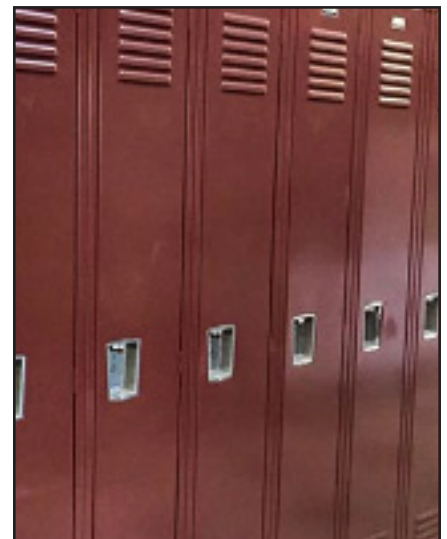
Parker was on the other side of the door when he offered a choice: "Oh~ Elizabeth, I will only let you out if you accept my invitation to homecoming. You know that your friends will not stand up to me. So~ what will it be? Stay in there or go with me?"

"What do you mean my friends won't stand up to you? Of course, they will!" I blurted out.

"Oh, I thought they were in class right now. Is that not true? So have fun in there and good luck getting out," Parker taunted.

I stood there, trapped, for a moment not knowing what to do.

How am I going to get out of here? What will happen if no one finds me? My mind was running in a circle. I



tried to unlock the locker again but had no luck. I tried again and again and still no luck. What am I going to do? I need to be in class right now.

I grabbed my phone to see if I had a signal. What the heck – the one time I need my phone, it's dead.

Sports Connection

Football team gets big win in first home game

by Maya Smith

Last week, the football team had another exciting game against East Buchanan. At the end of the first quarter, the Wildcats were up 13-0. They held onto this lead, ending the game 40-0 against the rival Buccaneers.

Coach Christensen remarked, "I thought the entire week of the East Buc game we did an excellent job of preparing to be the best version of us that we could be. Our scout team did a great job of running both the East Buc offense and defense. I thought offensively we did a great job of executing the play and also playing through the whistle. Defensively we did an excellent job of everyone doing their job not trying to do too much. Against a team and offense like East Buc if you try to do too much or be a hero they will burn you and that didn't happen."

Tonight, the Wildcats take on Postville. "The key to the Postville game this week will be maintaining our focus, and continuing to improve," stated Coach Christensen. "I think the team is beginning to be the team that they are capable of being."

Here are some East Buchanan game stats:
Passing: Brady Wall; 209 yds; 2 touchdowns
Rushing: Rogan Hedit; 141 yds; 2 touchdowns, Dylan Knipper; 31 yards; 2 touchdowns

Receiving: Tate Intorf; 93 yds; 1 touchdown, Dylan Knipper; 69 yds; 1 touchdown
Tackles: Nathan Beitz; 9, Kyle Engelken; 7.5

MV's defensive line prepares to handle East Buchanan. (photo by MaryEllen Smith)



Dylan Knipper fights off the East Buchanan defenders and eventually finds his way to the endzone.



Cross country fares well among IA schools

Last Saturday the Wildcats competed in the Monticello cross country meet, and the team continues to see improving times.

Coach Kirchoff said he was pleased with how both the boys and girls teams completed. "This meet was filled with some really good 2A and 3A schools, and I thought that we did a good job of not backing down from this challenge," he noted. "On the boys side we placed 10th overall and 2nd amongst 1A teams. The boys team has some new faces on the varsity team this year and we are working hard to improve each day. On the girls side we placed 8th overall and 1st amongst 1A teams. We beat some really good teams at this meet and I think we are just scratching the surface on how good we can be."

The team is now in week four of meets, and Coach Kirchoff has noticed a difference in the athletes. "The biggest change I've seen in the team is the amount of confidence we are running with. At the start of the season we had a lot of new members joining the varsity teams. With this came some uncertainty of how good we are. On both the girls and boys side we have proven to ourselves that we can compete with the best of the best in 1A."

Last night, the team competed at Cascade. Results will be in next week's issue.

Monticello results

Varsity girls:

Audra Burbridge, 9, 20:26

Alexis Halverson, 53, 23:41

McKenna Bush, 55, 23:49

Breanna Bush, 57, 23:49

Bianka Ronnebaum, 59, 23:57



Alexis Halverson smiles along the Monticello course.

Jada Knipper, 82, 26:01

JV girls:

Rylee Reed, 41, 29:02

Haydin Flannagan, 42, 29:27

Jordan Hatfield, 43, 29:30

Leah Reicher, 65, 34:42

Varsity boys:

Matthew Schaul, 3, 16:17

Kenyon Baker, 23, 17:53

Brady Eike, 45, 18:32

Owen Smith, 91, 21:16

Jayden Schwandt, 93, 21:24

The teams will compete next Saturday morning at Anamosa.



Brady Eike fights his way through a sea of competitors at the Monticello meet.

Athletes of the Week

Name: McKenna Mineart

What do you enjoy most about volleyball?

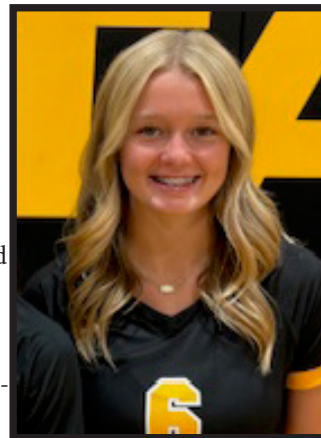
I enjoy how positive and fun the atmosphere always is and how intense matches can get against good competition.

What's your favorite drill in practice? Touch 10 or Hitting Lines

What's your least favorite drill in practice? Plank Serving

What's your goal for the team this season? That we continue to improve and go on to win the conference tournament.

What has made this year unique for you? Since the whole dynamic changed within the program this year, it gave me an opportunity to chase after that varsity spot. The whole team has gotten really close this year, and it's a great group of people to be surrounded with. So I am super thankful to be where I'm at today.



Name: Taylor Salow

What do you enjoy most about being part of the cheer team?

I love that it is a very positive place.

Why is having cheer important at MV? It is important because our

school needs spirit!

What's your favorite cheer?

My favorite cheer is "Offense Get That TD."

What's something about cheer that others may not know? It uses a lot of flexibility.



Best Buds



Grace Richter, Jeanie Teymer, Macee Nolan & Kallie Freiburger

by Lucy Hucker

What are your nicknames for each other?

Jeanie: Macee is Mace, Kallie is Kal, Grace is G-dog

Grace: We just call each other our normal names.

Kallie: Grace, Macee, Jeanie

Macee: Grace - G, Kallie- Kal, Jeanie -jt

What is the most embarrassing moment with each other?

Jeanie: Anytime we go out to eat with each other or when Macee said bless you to someone who sneezed in the movie theater.

Grace: When Macee said "Audge" instead of a fudge when asking for an Oreo fudge blizzard. I was dying.

Kallie: When Jeanie was on top of the car going through a drive thru.

Macee: None I want to tell the school!

What does a typical hangout look like?

Jeanie: Going out to eat, then going to Walmart, then driving around and talking.

Grace: Driving to Dubuque or Manchester.

Kallie: Going to Manchester or Dubuque.

Macee: My house in basement or driving to go do something

How did you guys all become friends?

Jeanie: I started asking them for rides and then we all started hanging out and now we're friends.

Grace: I've known Kallie and Macee since we were little, and Jeanie is like family to me.

Kallie: I have been friends with Grace and Macee since we were little and I became closer with Jeanie during softball.

Macee: Sports and in kindergarten

What song describes each of your friends?

Jeanie: "MILLION DOLLAR BABY" by Tommy Richman for Macee, "Milkshake" by lockedinkee for Kallie, "Party in the USA" by Miley Cyrus for Grace

Grace: "Wrong Way" by Sublime for Macee, "American Idiot" by Green Day for Jeanie, and "Cmonn (Hit It One Time)" by 5Star and Lay Banks for Kallie.

Kallie: "Please Please Please" by Sabrina Carpenter for Grace, "Die with a Smile" by Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga for Macee, and "The Freshman" by The Verve Pipe for Jeanie.

Macee: "Bad Bitty" by J.P for Kallie, "Birds of a Feather" by Billie Eilish for Grace, and "Pony" by Ginuwine for Jeanie.

Where do you see each other in the future?

Jeanie: Grace is going to be a millionaire but does not need a man in her life. Macee is going to have many kids and a stable job. Kallie is going to be a hot mom and have a very attractive husband.

Grace: I see Macee as an unemployed lady with a few dogs and a lot of people on her roster. I see Kallie doing some sort of daycare thing, and having 6 kids, like her mom. I see Jeanie wandering the streets wondering where she is at.

Kallie: I can see Grace becoming a manager for any basketball team or coaching. I can see Macee owning her own hair salon. I can see Jeanie being in her own little world not knowing what to do with her life.

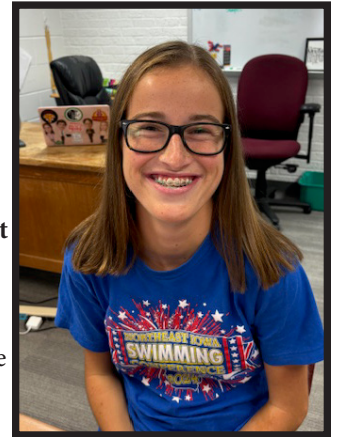
Macee: I see Kallie and Grace in college.

Jeanie? I see eating food

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: McKenna Bush

You have been busy in the world of music! What do you love most about music? I love that there is such a wide variety of music. Music can fit any mood or style and it's always so much fun!



What do you enjoy most about being a drum major? I enjoy getting to lead the band and seeing everyone improve!

How does being in a pit band help you as a musician? Pit band helps you to learn to enjoy difficult music. Pit music is really difficult but we have a lot of fun learning and struggling together.

You're also auditioning for All-State. What is motivating you to do that? All state auditions are extremely challenging and intense, but I know that I will become a way better musician through the process. That is what is motivating me!

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

Volleyball fans! Here are some jokes to crack you up!

Did you hear about the volleyball player who couldn't serve? They had a real hitting problem!

What do you call a volleyball player's favorite candy? Spike-les!

Why did the volleyball player bring a broom to the game? To sweep the competition!

Why don't volleyball players ever go hungry? Because they always get served!

What do you call a volleyball player who can't stop sneezing? Spike-a-choo!

Meet the Freshmen



Aubrie Althoff, Rylee Reed, and Chloe Reth

Name: Chloe Reth

Siblings: 1 sister

Activities you plan to be in: There aren't any

Favorite subject: Math

Career aspirations: I want to be an artist or a florist

Hobbies: Reading and drawing

Name: Aubrie Althoff

Siblings: Emalynn (7th grader)

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

Favorite subject: Math

Career aspirations: Elementary teacher

Hobbies: Hunting and hanging out with friends

Something cool about you: I love to bake and cook.

Name: Ian James

Siblings: Older brother and baby brother

Activities you plan to be in: None

Favorite subject: Science

Career aspirations: Unknown

Hobbies: Fixing computers and skateboarding

Something cool about you: I live on a farm.



Name: Rylee Reed

Siblings: Kena

Activities you plan to be in: Cross country, track, softball, and speech

Favorite subject: Spanish

Career aspirations: Nurse

Hobbies: Playing sports

Something cool about you: I am good at braiding hair.

—typist: MaryEllen Smith

One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

One day at a time. That's what you have been telling yourself for the past week... or was it a month now? All of the days started to blur together, and every night you went to bed trying to tell yourself that it was going to be better. But it never was. Every day, your motivation to keep going got smaller almost as if it was shrinking. The things that used to be enjoyable were just things you HAD to go to now. Waking up didn't seem worth it anymore, and every day you silently wished you wouldn't wake up the next morning. It's not like you wanted to die...you just didn't want to be alive. Being alive meant going through the painful emotions... you just wanted eternal peace. Maybe dying wouldn't be so bad... You sit at your desk, pen in hand and start writing down on the paper. Dear Mom, Dad, Friends, Teachers...today is my final day. I love you all.

According to the World Health Organization, 720,000 people die to suicide each year, and for every suicide there are even more people who have attempted at it. Suicide is also the third leading cause of death within teenagers. So, for Suicide Awareness Month, I want to make a difference and advocate for everyone who even considers ending their life. You are not alone, and there are people who can help you.

Why do I have the right to be talking about this? How do you know I am not just like every other person who advocates for this stuff, but hasn't personally experienced it themselves? I have struggled with my mental health since I was young and was diagnosed with Major Depres-

sive Disorder in 2020. Mental health has always been a struggle, and I have been lucky to be surrounded by some great people in recent years that have been able to help me. But that doesn't mean it has always been sunshine and rainbows. I have had a suicide attempt, and I know what it's like to be at your lowest point. I am now seeking help through therapy and a psychologist, and you can too.

The first step to recovery is asking for help. It can be scary at first, but there are people who want to help you. Nobody is going to be mad at you for having those feelings, and if they are, there are always people who won't. If there is a teacher who is close to you, your parents or family member, or the guidance counselor, that you feel safe enough to talk to, then do it. These trusted adults will be able to help you get the things you need, whether it be a therapist who you can talk to about everything, or a psychiatrist who can diagnose you and stabilize your life with meds.

Suicide is never an option. It may seem like the easy way out of suffering, but it is never the correct option. There will be lots of people who will miss you when you are gone, including everyone at this school who will wonder where it all went wrong. You are the only you in this world, so embrace it while you can, and try to seek the good in the world. I love you all, and I will see you all next week!



Raise your hand if you love MV!



The cheer team fired up the players and home crowd last Friday night.

Speedy rookie



Freshman Audra Burbridge was the top MV finisher in the girls race. She placed ninth overall.

Student of the Week

Mason Jolley



You entertained the crowd Friday night as Willie the Wildcat. What did you enjoy most about it? I enjoyed interacting with the crowd and all the fans
What was most difficult about it? Trying not to trip and fall on my face
What kind of training did you have for it? The first time I put the suit on was during the game.

Hall Smarts

by Lylah Billmeyer



What's the most popular food in the US?

- Grace Richter: Cheeseburger
- Seth Dugan: Cheeseburger
- Breanna McShane: Pizza
- Grat Thomas: Cheeseburger
- Answer: cheeseburgers

What fast food chain has the most locations in the USA?

- Grace: McDonald's
- Seth: McDonald's
- Breanna: McDonald's
- Grant: Subway
- Answer: Subway

How many pizzas are sold in the USA every year?

- Grace: 2.5billion
- Seth: 2.5billion
- Breanna: 5 million
- Grant: 3 billion
- Answer: 3 billion

How many McDonald's locations are there in the USA?

- Grace: 10,000
- Seth: 1,000
- Breanna: 2 million
- Grant: 1,000
- Answer: 13,000

HAPPY NATIONAL TEACH AG DAY



We would like to give a shout out our advisor Ms. Lau & our Assistant advisor Kristi Goedken

