

# The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

## Homecoming deemed a successful week of school spirit

by McKayla Weber

Last week our student council put together tons of fun activities and incentives throughout homecoming week. This week in the Echo read to hear president Leah Reicher's perspective of putting this all together. You also will get to hear from two dress-up day winners about what day they won and how it felt to get that win.

### What duties as student council president did you have during homecoming week?

Throughout the week the Student Council had a variety of responsibilities. We started the week off decorating halls, and helping with Ironman and Powderpuff. Each day during the school week certain council members judged the dress up days, and the winners were awarded. We also had meetings during lunch to make sure that we had everything we needed for Friday.

### How long did it take for the student council body to plan the activities we had last week?

Student Council starts planning homecoming when school starts. There are a lot of supplies that has to be picked out and order right when school starts so it gets here in time. Once the full student council was elected we started having twice weekly meeting to start preparing for Ironman, Powderpuff, dress-up days, spirit store, class games, and the parade.

### How did you guys as a group come up with the activities, dress-up days, etc?

During meetings I thought that everybody contributed different ideas that they had about the different activates. We found a spot for almost everyone's idea.

I thought that this group worked together really well throughout the week and everybody had ideas that we used.

### How did it feel to watch it all come together from your perspective as president?

It was really cool to watch the entire homecoming week come together. Now being president I had a different responsibility this when it came to class games and dress up days. My perspective was also a little different because this was my last homecoming week. It was amazing to watch and



I thought that we had a lot of people who dressed up. I enjoyed watching everyone dress up and have fun with the activities that we offered and show their school spirit.

### Who won all of the dress-up days?

#### Monday - Adam Sandler:

Student: Alaina Leytem

Staff: Mr. Ford

#### Tuesday - Holiday:

Students: Ever Botos (Cindy Lou Who)

Willow Fuller (Beetlejuice)

Staff: Señorita Ries (Birthday Queen)

#### Wednesday - Dress like your class Sponsor:

Student: Alexa Ries (Mr. Huegel)

Staff: Ms. McCrary

#### Thursday - Color Block:

Student: Desaraye Banks

Staff: Mrs. Montz

#### Friday - Black & Gold

Student: Brielle Kuhns

### A note from Mr. Palmer, student council adviser

I would like to recognize our student council for everything that they have done this year to make/planning our Homecoming a

success this year. In just a short amount of time these students take on the challenge and become great leaders not for themselves but to bring joy and excitement to their peers, from starting with the HOCO theme, dress up days, dress up day judges, class competitions, hallway decorations, Powderpuff/Ironman, the parade (cars, fire trucks, and floats), food trucks, gathering volunteers, the dance, DJ's, picking out sashes and crowns, flowers and the list could go on and on.

### Student Council Members,

*Your commitment to school spirit and community engagement has not gone unnoticed. Whether it's organizing events, promoting school activities, or serving as a voice for your peers, your efforts have made a significant impact. It's inspiring to see how you embody the values of teamwork and enthusiasm, motivating others to get involved and take pride in our school.*

*Thank you for your dedication and for being great role models. Your leadership truly makes a difference, and I'm excited to see how you continue to shape our school culture the rest of this school year.*

—Mr. Palmer





Homecoming takes over MV!





## Homecoming royalty



Matthew Schaul and Kelsey Hoeger were crowned 2024 homecoming king and queen.

## Choir concert to be held Monday

by Taylor Saunders

The 2024 Fall Choir Concert is next Monday, Oct. 7 at 7pm. All parents and students are welcome to attend and see all the hard work our talented young musicians have to offer!

If you attend, and we hope you will, you'll have the opportunity to hear and see the 6th Grade Choir, 7th & 8th Grade Choir, as well as the High School Choir.

This event will take place in the high school auditorium, and there is no entrance fee. We hope to see everyone there!



## School record of 29 years shattered

Matthew Schaul set a new school record for a 5K course Tuesday night at Jesup. His time of 15:52.5 was 11.5 seconds faster than the 1995 record held by Jeff Mensen.

## No slow time for FFA



MV first-year FFA members attended a Greenhand Fire Up this week.

by Ella Reicher and Natalie Ries, FFA reporters

In these past weeks lots of new members got to experience their first CDE and participate at Greenhand Fire up while other members enjoyed their time at world dairy expo.

The CDE of soils at the district level was held on September 25th. Maquoketa Valley FFA had a total of 11 members making up three teams participating in this event. Team 1 received a bronze. This team was made up of Ryan Beaman, Nolan Honkomp and Tyler Mineart. Team 2 was recognized with a silver rating. Addie Bonert, Kyle Engelken, Abby Nieman and Teagan Langel all participated on team 2. The third and final team was Mason Domeyer, Aidin

Frasher, Kael Engelken and Trent Timmer. This team of four also received a bronze rating.

Fifteen new members got the opportunity to travel to Waverly Shell-Rock earlier this week and learn about decision making, communication skills, being authentic, and FFA. These FFA members are ready to begin and continue their FFA journeys.

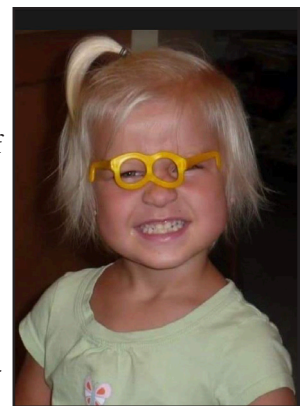
The World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis. also took place this past week with many members going and participating or enjoying their time. Some students attended as a part of a competition (results not available at press time) while others attended to observe.



## Cutie

by Alaina Mead

What a smart cutie! This cutie is a freshman and lives outside of Delhi. She has 3 siblings and is one of the middle childs. This cutie's involved in volleyball, basketball, track, softball, FFA and speech. A fun fact about her is that she wants to own a coffee shop someday but doesn't even like coffee! Last week's Cutie was Natalie Ries.





# Sports Connection

## Volleyball takes on more conference play

by Natalie Ries

The Wildcats took on the Star-mont Stars last Thursday night and came out with a victory.(28-26, 25-9, and 25-12 with MV winning all three sets) The Wild-cats then traveled to North Linn on Tues-day to have a clean sweep for all three lev-els. (25-13 MV, 23-25 NL, 25-23 MV, 25-19 MV). The Wildcats did not stay at home this week and played East Buchanan at East Buchanan last night. (These stats and scores will be in next week's Wildcat Echo.)

Against the Stars Lanni Beaman had 22 successful serves to help the Wild-cats in a victory.

Kelsey Hoeger was not afraid to help the hitters out and had 21 assists against Star-mont. Grace Richter was the leading hitter on the night and had an im-pactful 12 kills.

Defensively Lili Bauers once again led with most digs. Bauers had a whopping 16 digs. Ava Knipper stepped up to the plate when it was needed and had three blocks to help the team.

You can look forward to seeing the Wildcats play at home again next week.

No stats could be yet found at time of press for the North Linn games, but will be posted on Bound for further reading shortly.



Grace Richter attacks at the net against Star-mont last week. (photo by Tessa Intorf)

## High Five Friday

The cheerleaders dance to the fight song played by the band before classes Friday morning.



## Athletes of the Week

Name: Brady Eike

**What do you enjoy most about cross country?** I really enjoy the whole at-mosphere surrounding Cross. We're all there to improve our times. Not just for ourselves, but for the whole team.

**How has cross country changed you?** I can run faster and farther.

**What has been your favorite memory of cross country?** My all-time favorite memory has to be when Kenyon and Toby made a bet (and shook on it) over the outcome of a ping pong game at a team meal. Their battle was legendary.

**Where would you love to have a meet?** I would love to have a home meet, but we don't have enough grass to set up a 5K course.

**If a song could be playing as you crossed the finish line, what song would you like it to be?** "Yellow Submarine"



Name: Tristen Flanagan

**What do you enjoy most about being part of the cheer team?** I really enjoy the uplifting at-mosphere of being around all of the cheer girls!

**Why is having cheer important at MV?**

Cheer is important so we can show school spirit of course.

**What's your favorite cheer?** Get Rowdy, Get Rough!

**What's something about cheer that others may not know?** People may not know how much practice actually goes into cheer. It takes time to learn the cheers and chants.



# The Cats secure a Homecoming victory!

by Maya Smith

Last week, our football team was under a watchful eye as they competed against Clayton Ridge. The stands were extra crowded for the homecoming game. At the end of the first quarter, the Cats were up 13 to 0. They continued this lead, ending the game at 54-0.

Coach Christensen remarked, "I thought we played very well defensively. They were able to move the ball a bit on us, but overall I thought we did a good job getting multiple people to the ball to tackle the ball carrier, we put some pressure on the QB without letting him scramble, and they didn't have any big plays in the passing game.

"Offensively I would say the same thing, overall we executed very well. We ran for close to 200 yards and threw for 250 yards so that is great balance."

Despite the Wildcats' success, Coach Christensen said the team can still grow: "One area I would like to see continued improvement in is taking the easy play when the opponent gives it to us. We have done a great job at doing the little things better. The first game when we lost to Cascade we did a poor job of doing the little things well, we were more concerned with the big play and the highlights. Now, we do a good job of just doing our job, which usu-



**How many Clayton Ridge players does it take to take down Dylan Knipper? Apparently three.**

ally leads to success."

Here are some game stats:

Passing: Brady Wall, 252 yards, 3 touchdowns

Rushing: Rogan Heidt, 184 yards, 3 touchdowns; Trevor Grimm, 1 yard, 1 touchdown; Brady Wall, 10 yards, 1 touchdown.

Receiving: Eli Dougherty, 129 yards, 2 touchdowns; Lukas Chestnut, 13 yards, 1

touchdown

Defense: Kyle Engelken, 9 tackles; Dylan

Knipper, 8 tackles; Nathan Beitz, 6 tackles

Kicking: Dalton Africa, 9 kickoffs; Eli Dougherty, 6/7 in PATs

Tonight the Wildcats host Bellevue.

## Times fall as does boys' school 5K record

The temperature is dropping as are times for the Wildcat harriers.

Last Saturday, the team competed in Anamosa. The girls' team finished sixth out of 11 teams, and the boys finished seventh out of 11.

Times and places for those scoring points include:

Audra Burbridge, 20:40.2, 10

Taryn Burbridge, 21:57.8, 19

Breanna Bush, 23:58.6, 41

Alexis Halverson, 24:04.8

Bianka Ronnebaum, 24:40.9, 48

Matthew Schaul, 16:37.2, 2

Kenyon Baker, 18:10.3, 13

Brady Eike, 19:09.3, 33

Owen Smith, 21:21.1, 78

Jayden Schwandt, 21:21.2, 79

This Tuesday, the Wildcats competed at Jesup, and several runners came away with a personal best time. The girl finished seventh out of 17 teams, and the

boys earned a seventh place finish out of 23 teams.

Times and places for the varsity runners:

Audra Burbridge, 19:42.8 (PR), 5

Taryn Burbridge, 21:13.7

Alexis Halverson, 22:25 (PR), 46

Breanna Bush, 22:32.9 (PR), 49

Bianka Ronnebaum, 23:01.9 (PR), 58

McKenna Bush, 23:53.3, 80

Jada Knipper, 25:25.6 (PR), 98

Matthew Schaul, 15:52.5 (PR and school record), 3

Kenyon Baker, 17:18 (PR), 20

Brady Eike, 17:59.6 (PR), 39

Jayden Schwandt, 20:02.8 (PR), 97

Owen Smith, 20:32.8 (PR), 111

Shane Wright, 21:19.3 (PR), 121

Gabriel Saunders, 26:26.8 (PR), 141

The Wildcats next compete Tuesday in Manchester.



**Jordan Hatfield and Haydin Flannagan make their way along the Anamosa course last Saturday. (photo by Pete Temple)**



## Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

With October starting and the weather begging to cool down finally, the theme for the jokes this week is fall-themed to get you excited for the up-and-coming spooky season!

Why did the man bungee jump on the first day of autumn?

Because he loved the fall.

Who won the skeleton costume contest?

Nobody.

What do you call a small pepper in the fall?

A little chili.

How do you repair a broken jack-o'-lantern?

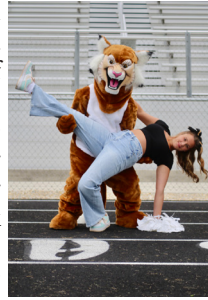
Use a pumpkin patch.

What happens when the horses refuse to pull the wagon in the pumpkin patch?

It turns into a neigh ride.

## JT's closet

I love when the fall weather hits and the natural beauty of life's colors. Fall means it's time to get those cozy outfits out of your closet and onto your bodies. When I think of fall, I think of neutral earthy colors like browns, beige, greens, grays, blacks and whites or the vibrant colors of the changing leaves. Think reds and yellows. Sweaters are a great way to dress up or down an outfit. You can wear sweaters with dress pants, skirts, leggings, joggers or jeans. If paired with jeans, light wash denim looks best with a darker sweater, but if your jeans are dark denim it's best to wear a lighter color. Shoes you can never go wrong with a tennis shoe. Nike dunks, Blazers or the trending New Balance 327's.



by Jeanie Teymer

For some inspiration here are some iconic sweaters in history...Drew Barrymore's sweater in *Scream*, Harry and Ron's homemade Christmas sweaters from *Mrs. Weasley*, Velma's sweater on *Scooby Doo*, Freddy Krueger's striped sweater from *Nightmare on Elm Street* and Mr. Rogers red cardigan and my personal favorite Chris Evan's perfect Cable Knit sweater from the movie *Knives Out*.

## Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Brady Eike

**What part do you sing in choir?**

I sing in the Tenor section.

**What do you enjoy most about being in choir?**

There's a lot to enjoy about choir, and I think

my favorite parts are the concerts where we get to sing what we've been practicing in front of an audience.

**How has your life benefited by being in choir?** Choir has made me a better musician and has helped see music under a different light.

**If you could sing a duet with any singer, who would it be?** I don't know, maybe Dolly Parton or something.

*Brady has been working very hard in choir and has been a great leader. Last week, he put himself out there and had a great audition for a solo! —Ms. McCrary*



## Fantasy Fiction: A hoco proposal trap? Last week we were left with Eliza, after being rescued from the locker, encountering Parker in the parking lot.

by Abby Nieman

"Hey there, how did you get out of the locker? Did one of your silly little friends help you? How sad you could not get out on our own," Parker started as I walked. He kept on babbling and following me.

I went to the mechanic shop in town where my dad works. Derek, the owner, knows me and let me in to talk to my Dad. I knew he wouldn't let Parker and his little gang in.

"Dad I need to talk to you about you know who," I started.

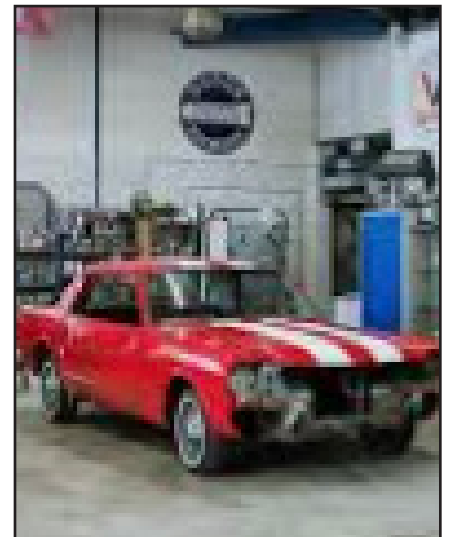
"What did he do this time? You know I have taught you how to defend yourself right?" Dad continued turning to face me and shutting the fridge door. My dad is tall and muscular. He has blue eyes and loves me to death.

"So this time he locked me in my locker to get me to go to HoCo

with him. I was stuck in there for a whole period until Danny came and got me out. But he also followed me here. And I want you to straighten things out with him. Can you do that?" I asked.

"Of course, I can. Now you wait here and I will sort things out but if this ever happens again, then I will get his parents and the school involved. This should not be happening to anyone," Andrew, my father, told me as he walked out the door to Parker. My dad is a big tall man with obvious strength. Anybody would be afraid if they made him mad. Dad went out to Parker. There was a lot of yelling on Parker's part and Dad talked sternly to him. Dad eventually came back into the back room and told me, "You have nothing to worry about, they are scared of me and will hopefully not mess with you anymore."

"Thanks, Dad" I commented as I went out the door to go home.



*I have musical practice so I need to go but Parker is right outside the door. I could go out the back but his friends are there. I feel surrounded.*

## Meet the Freshmen



### Mileea Damico, Addie Wilson, Gabriel Saunders, and Mason Domeyer

Name: Mason Domeyer  
Siblings: Maverick and Madden  
Activities you plan to be in: Football and FFA  
Favorite subject: Ag classes  
Career aspirations: Auto Body  
Hobbies: Hunting  
Something cool about you: I have a dog

Name: Gabriel Saunders  
Siblings: Taylor and Leo  
Activities you plan to be in: Backstage crew and cross country  
Favorite subject: Athletic Performance  
Career aspirations: Truck driver  
Hobbies: Gaming, running, and soccer  
Something cool about you: I used to play guitar

Name: Addie Wilson  
Siblings: Karlie Wilson  
Activities you plan to be in: Musical, play, speech, track and softball  
Favorite subject: Choir  
Career aspirations: Photographer  
Hobbies: Sports and painting  
Something cool about you: I am good at the sports I do

Name: Mileea Damico  
Siblings: Dustin Damico and Lauren Knock  
Activities you plan to be in: Choir  
Favorite subject: Math  
Career aspirations: Therapist  
Hobbies: None  
Something cool about you: I dye my hair a lot (mostly red)

—typist: MaryEllen Smith

## Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

With it being National Hispanic Heritage Month, what better way to celebrate than by cooking some Hispanic recipes to share with your family and friends.

### Recipe #1: Churros

Churros are one of the most popular Spanish dishes around the world. This fried dough dessert is often sprinkled with sugar and then served with chocolate sauce. For the batter, you will need: 50g melted butter; ½ tsp vanilla extract; 250g flour; 1 tsp baking powder; about 1 litre sunflower oil; and a few chunks of bread. For the chocolate sauce, you will need: 200g of dark chocolate 100ml of double cream, 100ml of whole milk, 3 tbsps of golden syrup, and ½ a tsp of vanilla extract. For the cinnamon sugar, you will need 100 G of caster sugar and two teaspoons of cinnamon.

To start, you must boil 300 mL of water in a pan. Next, put your dry batter ingredients into a bowl, make a well in the center, and add the liquid. Mix well, and then let rest while you make the chocolate sauce. For the sauce, put all your ingredients into a pan and let them melt together on low heat. Next, fill a piping bag with dough and pipe it into a pan filled with ½ of oil. Fry until golden brown and crisp, then remove from the pan with a slotted spoon and allow to drain while coating in the cinnamon sugar mixture. Allow to cool and then enjoy! If you are interested in the full detailed recipe, you can find this churro recipe on BBC Good Food.



### Recipe #2: Beef & Chorizo Empanadas

Empanadas are another famous Hispanic dish around the world. These empanadas can be baked or fried and they are often served with guacamole or sour cream. For the pastry, you will need: 375g flour; 220g chilled butter; and 2 eggs. For the filling, you will need: 100g chorizo sausage; 300g beef; 1 onion; ½ small pack of coriander, finely chopped; ½ small pack parsley, finely chopped; 2 tsp smoked paprika; 2 tsp ground cumin; 1 tsp chili flakes; and 2 tbsps tomato purée.

For the pastry, you start by putting the flour and 1 tsp of salt into a bowl. Then add the butter to the flour and rub it until it becomes crumbly. Next, add the eggs and water and knead until it is smooth and soft. To finish up the pastry, cover up the dough and put it in the fridge to chill for 20 minutes. For the filling, combine your chorizo with mince, onion, coriander, parsley, paprika, cumin, and chili flakes and cook in a frying pan over medium heat for 2 minutes. Add your tomato puree and cook for an additional 7-10 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool. Lastly, heat the oven to bake the empanadas. Divide the dough into four portions and roll out each one into a thin sheet. Use a 10cm biscuit cutter to cut out discs. Place 1 tsp of filling in the center of each disc, wet the edges, pinch both sides up, and fold in half to seal. Arrange on a lined baking tray, brush with beaten egg, and bake for 20 mins. Allow to cool and then enjoy! For more details, visit BBC Good Food.

