

# The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

## Once a Wildcat, Always a Wildcat: Alumni come home



### College panel held

Several 2024 MV alumni provided some insight to the juniors and seniors Dec. 20. Mr. Vance from NICC and Mrs. McDermott facilitated the question-answer event.

Alumni participating included: Lily Huber, Josie Teymer, Chantel Crowley, Harold Mohr and Lainey Knipper.



Left: Matthew Brehm spoke to several classes about his job as a linguist-in-training in the Marines. He first attended Kirkwood but then enrolled in the Marines and completed basic training. He's currently stationed in San Diego, Cal. where he is studying Arabic. Above: Jon Seibert with Paladin spoke to the freshmen about his role in the manufacturing industry. He graduated with a degree in Industrial Manufacturing from Iowa State University. (photo by MaryEllen Smith)

## Wrestlers face tough

### competition at tourney

The wrestlers met some tough competition last Saturday at the Osage Wrestling Tournament. The team finished 16th out of 17 teams, many of them 2A and 3A schools.

Points were earned by four wrestlers. Kyle Engelken at 144 finished seventh. Clayton Davis at 175 placed seventh. Braden Ronnebaum went 1-2 for the day and earned three points for the team. Nathan Beitz at 215 finished second.

Other wrestlers who competed were Kipton Thompson and Dalton Africa.

## Athletes of the Week

Name: Anderson Holtz

**What do you enjoy most about playing basketball?** I love the games, especially home games. The atmosphere is incomparable.

**How have you evolved as a player?** I have

stepped into a bigger scoring and leading role that I have yet to really have in the past 3 years. So that is pushing me to evolve as a player.

**What's been a favorite basketball memory?** TJ breaking the hotel TV with a wii remote freshman year.

**Who's your basketball role model?** I'd say a basketball role model of mine are my brothers since competition between each other has always been our lives.



Name: Alaina Leytem

**What do you enjoy most about dance team?** I love the environment and having the opportunity and ability to learn new things.

**What's the hardest part of it?** The hardest part in my opinion is learning harder skills or stage fright.

**What's your favorite routine you've ever been a part of? What did you like about it?** My favorite routine that I have been a part of is Liv and Josie's Creepy Dance from last season. I like the overall vibe of it and seeing people's reactions to the dance.

**What's something about dance most people don't realize?** It takes a lot of muscles that most people don't use for many other things.

**If you could choreograph a routine, what kind would it be and what song would you use?** I would do a hip hop routine to either a Britany Spears mashup and to an early 2000's mashup.



# Basketball teams keep it rollin'

## Girls

by Ryleigh Moriarity

Beating North Linn 51-47 right before break ended 2024 for the girls basketball team on the right note, and they've decided to keep on playing that tune in 2025. Recently, our girls' basketball team played two home games and maintained their perfect record.

Our Tuesday night game against East Buchanan was quite challenging. We managed to maintain a narrow lead throughout the first half, often only by a point or two, which kept everyone on edge with every play and pass. Despite some tough calls that didn't seem fair, our team persevered and ended up winning the game with a score of 51-40. A special shout-out goes to Audra Burbridge, who led the team with 22 points, and Grace Richter, who not only had the most rebounds with 10 but also contributed 18 points to the scoreboard.

Last Friday, our girls played immediately after returning from break. They worked tirelessly over the Christmas holiday to secure a victory against Vinton-Shellsburg, winning the game 69-31. Bianka Ronnebaum was the standout player, leading the team by scoring 25 of the total 69 points and adding seven rebounds, four assists and six steals. Grace Richter contributed 9 points, followed by Leah Reicher, who added 8 points to the scoreboard. The girls performed exceptionally well, and we have high expectations for their upcoming games.

Coach Moenck noted, "We really got off to a great start in this game. I was very pleased with our defensive intensity the whole game. I was also very pleased with the way we shared the basketball. We're doing such a great job of making the extra pass to get a better shot. This team continues to want to improve each time they take the court."

Last night the Wildcats hosted Central of Elkader. Results will be in the next issue.

## Boys

The boys finished 2024 with a battle against perennial powerhouse North Linn and lost 65-34, but when the new year started, the Wildcats remained a force in the Tri-Rivers with wins over Central City and East Buchanan.

MV traveled to Central City last

Friday night and won a nailbiter, 70-68.

Brady Wall led in scoring with 30 points followed by Anderson Holtz with 25. Ty Hoeger added five, and Lukas Chesnut and Preston Salow each had four. Dylan Knipper and Trevor Grimm added one.

Freethrows were a factor for MV as they shot 79%, making 23 of 29.

Wall led in rebounds with seven. Hoeger had six. Holtz had three assists and a steal. Knipper, Hoeger and Chesnut each had a block.

"We needed to execute a specific game plan against Central City to stop one of their players and that takes a ton of focus to be able to do that," noted Coach Conner. "When we commit and have all five guys doing their jobs, we are able to execute against anyone, but we are really trying to get the consistency pieces put together as we move forward in the season."

Tuesday night the Wildcats defeated East Buchanan 64-53.

Three players were in double digits for scoring: Wall with 22, Knipper with 11 and Tate Intorf with 10. Hoeger added five, and Salow, Holtz and Eli Dougherty each added four. Chesnut and Grimm had two points apiece.

Knipper's 10 rebounds gave him a double-double for the night. He also had six steals and three assists. Wall had five rebounds, an assists and two steals.

"Both of our last two games have been really good learning experiences for us," stated Coach Conner. "When we really focus on the details of offense and defense and play under control, we have been able to do some really, really good things. There have been some times in each game that are a little bit head scratching, but that is all part of the learning process. These examples have given us a really good opportunity to point things out on film and continue to try to make the necessary adjustments."

Coach Conner claims his team has shown consistency as they move into the second half of the season: "We have potential to be able to make a deep postseason run and be able to show our improvement against the teams in our conference that we play two times. We will continue to work in practice to put ourselves in the situations that we need to improve upon and see where it takes us."

Last night the team hosted Central of Elkader. Details will be in the next issue.

# what's up?

by McKayla Weber

## What's your favorite winter activity?

Caden Kremer: Snowmobiling  
Trish Dietiker: Snowball fight  
Ty Hoeger: Play Basketball  
Kelsey Hoeger: Ice Skating  
Olivia Begle: Watching basketball  
Lanni Beaman: Watching Movies  
Haylee Jones: Ice Skating

## Jaelyn's Journeys

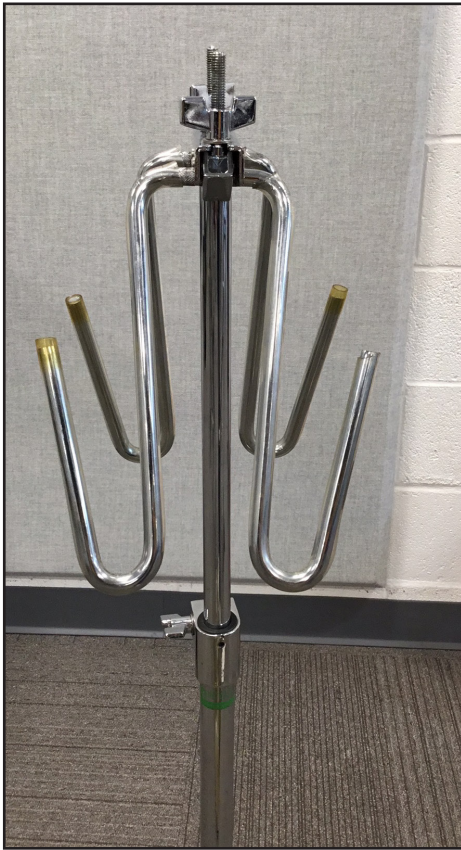


photo by Jaelyn Butikofer

Where in the school can you find this object? Be the first one to correctly name the place to Mrs. Temple face-to-face to win something from the prize box!

## Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Matthew Schaul

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

Ensemble Acting and T.V. News.

**What do you enjoy most about large group speech?**

I enjoy being able to have fun, spending time with friends and coaches, and creating pieces that I will always remember.

**What have you learned through this event?** I have learned that each of these events I am involved in takes some time and effort to become better at and helps me get out of my comfort zone.

**Who is your speech role model?** George Livingston. If it weren't for him, I wouldn't be out for it.

**If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be?** Group Improvisation



Name: Shane Wright

**What instrument do you play in band?**

I am a percussionist.

**What do you enjoy most about playing in band?**

My favorite part of band is pep band because I get to play the drums and have fun.

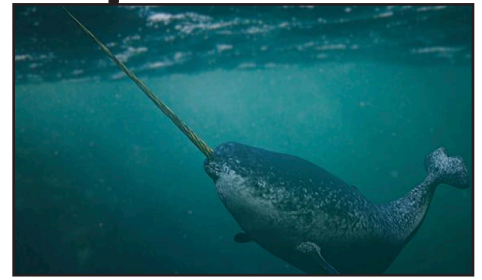
**What life lessons have you learned by being in band?** That practice makes perfect and to always live to the beat of your own drums

**If you could join a famous band, which one would it be?** Green Day



## Deep Dive

by Arianna Nolan



Welcome back Divers! This week we are going to be looking at what some might call the "Unicorn of the Sea!" This creature is actually called a Narwhal and gets its nickname from its long tusk on its head. But, this long tusk is actually a tooth that has up to 10 million nerves inside of it! While it is common belief that all narwhals have these tusks, that is not true, as some narwhals don't have any at all, and can even have two of them! These creatures live in cold, arctic waters of a few countries such as Russia and Germany. An interesting fact about the narwhal is that they actually change color as they age. When they are young, they start off as a blue-grey color, and then when they are old, they end up with a main color of grey mixed with dark grey and black specks.

The diet of the narwhal includes a variety of fish and sea crustaceans such as shrimp. You think with such a little variety in their diet, they wouldn't weigh much, but they can actually weigh up to 4,200 pounds and get up to 17 feet in length. They mostly get their food from the higher levels of water, but have the ability to dive down a mile deep in the ocean. They can't stay down there too long as they have to come back to the surface for some air.

Despite people loving this beautiful creature for their uniqueness, narwhals are facing threats to their life due to what's in the water. The oil and gas in the water makes it impossible for narwhals to thrive, and the ice melting also poses a threat to their life span. It is important to keep in mind what you are doing in your life to pose less threats to climate change to save not only these creatures, but life as we know it. If you would like to find out more about these sea creatures, please check out World Wild Life, which is where all of the information for this edition was found. I hope you all have a fin-tastic weekend and I will see you all next time!

# Hall Smarts

by Taylor Saunders



Happy New Year! To welcome 2025, I've come up with some New Year trivia for you.

Approximately how many pounds of confetti is left over in Times Square after New Year's celebrations?

Arianna Taylor: 100,000

Gabe Saunders: In the Millions

McKayla Weber: 2,827 Pounds

Tracy Reth: 1000lbs

Answer: 3,000 Pounds

What do people throw at doors for good luck in Denmark?

Arianna Taylor: Candy

Gabe Saunders: Glass Bottles

Mckayla Weber: Plates

Tracy Reth: Eggs

Answer: Plates

What percentage of New Year's resolutions are forgotten by February?

Arianna Taylor: 35%

Gabe Saunders: 87%

Mckayla Weber: 63%

Tracy Reth: 75%

Answer: 80%

What does Miami, Florida use instead of a ball to drop for New Year?

Arianna Taylor: Star

Gabe Saunders: A fruit

Mckayla Weber: Alligator

Tracy Reth: An Orange

Answer: A metal orange

How large is the Times Square New Year's Eve Ball in diameter?

Arianna Taylor: 12 Feet

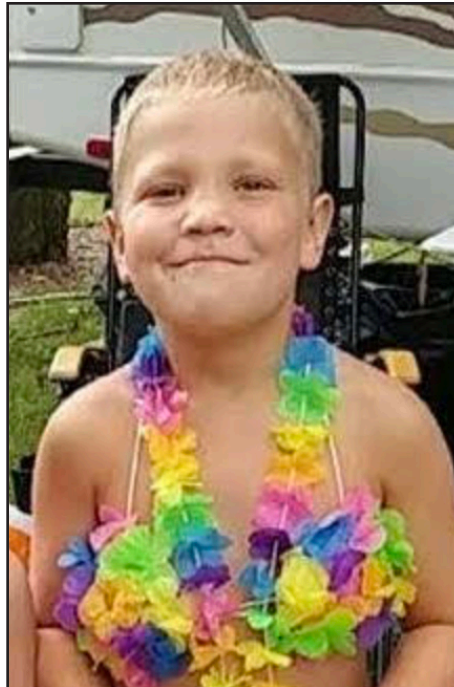
Gabe Saunders: 32 Feet

Mckayla Weber: 11 Feet

Tracy Reth: 20 Feet

Answer: 12 Feet

# Cutie



by Alaina Mead

This cutie sure is ready for summer! He is a junior and lives outside of Worthington. He is the oldest and has a younger brother. This cutie is also involved in FFA and spends a lot of his time working. A fun fact about him is that he gets to go to Europe this Summer with his dairy judging team! *The last cutie was Grace Richter.*

## Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

Welcome back Wildcats! here are some jokes to kick off 2025!

What's a spider's New Year's resolution?  
Spend less time on the web!

Why is partying in Times Square overrated?  
Because they drop the ball every year.

What do farmers give their wives on New Years?  
Hogs and kisses!

Did you hear about the guy who started fixing breakfast at midnight?  
He wanted to make a New Year's toast!

Where do you go to do you math homework on New Years Eve?  
Times Square.

Wildcat Star Service forms can be turned in at any time to Mrs. Temple in room 207. You can turn in one for first semester and in May turn in one for second semester.



## Countdown is on

The large group speech students are on the final stretch as they prepare for contests. They will compete at the conference contest Jan. 18 at Cal-Wheat. Above: A radio news group works on its script and recording with Coach Crumpton.