

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

MV champs at Tri Rivers Large Group Speech Conference 2025

by Taylor Saunders

Large group speech has been in motion for a couple of months now, our team just traveled to Cal-Wheat last Saturday bright and early for this year's Tri-Rivers Large Group Speech Conference. We loaded the buses at 6:30am, filled with nerves, but we came home champions. All of these events did extremely well. Performing from 9:00am all the way to 1:30pm, everyone did their very best and worked hard. We received 17 district I ratings and 1 district II rating.

One-Act Play (FLUX): Addie Wilson, Alissa Bush, Carly Dirks, Emily Hogan, Nicholas Otting, Ollie Hunter, Same Howes, Sebastian Charles, Sellah Ambundo, Taylor Saunders, Tommie Cole, and Trish Dietiker. Rating: I

Readers Theatre (One-Lane Bridge): Arianna Nolan, Camryn Paris, Lanni Beaman, Natalie Ries, Sebastian Charles, Shane Lambert, and Tristen Flanagan. Rating I

Choral Reading (The Gift of Life): Abby Nieman, Addie Wilson, Arianna Nolan, Ella Wulfekuhle, Eva Mensen, Ever Botos, Jocelyn Kelchen, Lucy Hucker, Maya Smith, McKenna Bush, Rylee Reed, Sam Howes, and Taylor Saunders. Rating I

TV News (HERO): Alaina Leytem, Colin Smith, Derrick Mohr, Eli Dougherty, Izabella Heffernan, Jeanie Teymer, Jordan Hatfield, Kyle Englelken, Lena Lewin, and Tierra Morgan. Rating I

TV News (NERDS): Aubrie Althoff, Ella Wulfekuhle, Gabe Saunders, Matthew Schaul, Maya Smith, McKayla Weber, McKenna Bush, Morgan Hoeger, Nicholas Otting, and Owen Smith. Rating I

Radio Broadcasting (102.3 C.A.R.E.): Brielle Kuhns, Kylie Meeks, and Shane Lambert. Rating I

Radio Broadcasting (92.3 B.A.K.E.): Abby Nieman, MaryEllen Smith, and Olivia Begle. Rating I

Short Film (Wander Wisely - Episode 6: A Family Adventure): Emily Hogan, Joellen Beitz, and Ryleigh Moriarity. Rating I



Ruby Recker, Lanni Beaman and Matthew Schaul rehearse their ensemble acting piece with Mrs. DeVore.

Short Film (Friends in the End): Lylah Billmeyer, Ryleigh Moriarity, and Tommie Cole. Rating II

Short Film (Choose Kindness Every Time): Breece Hoisington, Cheyenne Eike, Ever Botos, and Lilly Kraft. Rating I

Group Improvisation: Camryn Paris, Ella Riecher, and Tristen Flanagan. Rating I

Group Improvisation: Leah Reichler, Noah Whalen, and Trevor Grimm. Rating I

Group Improvisation: Preston Salow, Ruby Recker, and Zach Leytem. Rating I

Ensemble Acting (The Job Interview): Lanni Beaman, Matthew Schaul, and Ruby Recker. Rating I

Ensemble Acting (TGIF): Cheyenne Eike, Jeanie Teymer, and Joellen Beitz. Rating I

Ensemble Acting (Kitchen Conversations): Alaina Leytem, Lilly Kraft, Natalie Ries. Rating I

Group Mime (Don't Judge A Rose By Its Thorns): Carly Dirks, Trish Dietiker. Rating I

Musical Theatre (I Know It's Today): Breece Hoisington, Ollie Hunter, Sellah Ambundo. Rating I

Not only did we all receive strong ratings, the majority of our events placed

high in our centers. We received 6 Best of Center awards, four events received 2nd Best in Center, and an additional two events received 3rd place.

One-Act Play: 1st Place

Group Mime: 1st Place

Readers Theatre: 1st Place

Kitchen Conversations Ensemble: 1st Place

Salow/Leytem/Recker Group Improv: 1st Place

Musical Theatre: 1st Place

Choral Reading: 2nd Place

TGIF Ensemble: 2nd Place

NERDS TV News: 2nd Place

Reicher/Grimm/Whalen Group Improv: 2nd Place

HERO TV News: 3rd Place

Wander Wisely Radio: 3rd Place

To further show our talent and dedication to speech, we were able to bring home the eagle as the 2025 Tri-Rivers Conference Large Group Speech Champions, a reign we've held since 2006. We greatly appreciate the hard work from our students as well as our beloved coaches. Wish us all the best as we go into this weekend for Districts at Cascade on Saturday 1/25. We would love for everyone to join us there and cheer us on as we compete to travel to State! As always, Go Cats!

Wrestlers bring on the heat in the cold weather



by Alaina Mead

Last week, January 16th, the boys wrestling team hosted a home meet against Midland and Starmont. Overall the boys had a great night just falling short to both teams because of our forfeited lighter weights. Against Midland, with the overall score being 39-30, our wrestlers had more wins. Kyle Engelken, Nathan Beitz and Seth Dugan all three won with pins. Dalton Africa and Kipton Thompson both also won with forfeits. While wrestling Starmont, we also had more wins despite the final score, 48-30. Dalton Africa, Clayton Davis and Kyle Engelken won their matches by pin. Nathan Beitz and Sawyer Kemp also won their matches by forfeits.

This past weekend on Saturday the boys wrestling team also had a tournament at MFL MarMac. Amongst the 12 other teams, Maquoketa Valley placed 4th overall. Nathan Beitz won his weight class as well as Kyle Engelken, pinning their opponents in the championship match! Clayton had a successful day too, winning 2nd, losing by pin in his final. Sawyer Kemp had a great tournament also, winning 3th by pin in his last match. Other MV boys placed on Saturday also including: Kipton Thompson 5th and Dalton Africa 5th as well!

Last night the wrestlers competed at Alburnett. Results will be in next week's issue.

Dalton Africa outworks an opponent at the home meet.

Boys split with TRC teams

by Maya Smith

Last week, the Cats took on Alburnett for this year's annual Pink-out game, honoring Marcia Intorf. It was an intense game, and the Cats kept a short gap between them and the Pirates, 30-27 at half. Unfortunately, the Cats had a tough 3rd quarter, only scoring 8 points while Alburnett put away 19. After an intense 4th, the Cats were handed a loss, 56-65.

Points: Brady Wall, 25; Anderson Holtz, 18; Lukas Chestnut, 6

Rebounds: Dylan Knipper, 9; Brady Wall, 6; Tate Intorf, 4

Assists: Dylan Knipper, 4; Anderson Holtz, 3; Lukas Chestnut, 3

After Friday, the boys' next game was at Starmont. It was a slow first half, the Cats scoring a total of 20 points. After half-time, however, the Cats kicked it into gear and left the gym with a 54-42 win.

Points: Brady Wall, 25; Ty Hoeger, 6; Anderson Holtz, 6

Rebounds: Dylan Knipper, 9; Brady Wall, 4; Anderson Holtz, 3

Assists: Anderson Holtz, 4; Tate Intorf, 4; Brady Wall, 2

When asked about the team's work

Girls take down two more conference opponents

by Ryleigh Moriarity

On Tuesday, January 21, we didn't have school, but that didn't stop the girls from facing off against Starmont. We ended Starmont's impressive 14-0 winning streak, defeating them by a remarkable 56 points and boosting our own winning streak to 15-0.

Here's a recap of last week: On Tuesday, January 14, the girls played against Marquette Catholic, and then on Friday, January 17, they faced Alburnett. We won against Marquette with a score of 52 to 31, with Bianca Ronnebaum leading the team with 17 points and Grace Richter closely following with 15 points.

In our game against Alburnett, we won 62 to 34, maintaining a strong lead throughout the match while Alburnett struggled to catch up. Grace Richter had an outstanding performance, scoring a total of 18 points in that game.

Tonight we face Springville at home. Good luck, girls!

Student of the Week

Morgan Hoeger



You recently helped Mrs. Downs with some cleaning in her room. What made you decide to volunteer your help?

I decided to help Mrs. Downs with some cleaning because I knew she was trying to get the room reset for the next class and last semester left it pretty messy. She also recently helped me with a project in Fashion Design, so I decided it was only fair to help her back.

What do you like to do in your free time?

My favorite thing to do in my free time is to bake, but I also enjoy hanging out with family and friends, eating, or shopping.

What's the nicest thing someone has done for you?

I don't have a top moment but anytime someone is willing to help me I appreciate it so much.

"Morgan came in several times to help me clean and organize the sewing room as I changed semesters. She offered all on her own and she definitely saved me a lot of time." —Mrs. Downs

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

Well, that was one frigid week, Wildcats! Here are some jokes to match the low temps!

What did the mitten say to the hand? I've got you covered!

What do you call a cold thief? A Burr-glar.

What's the weatherman's favorite food in winter? Brrr-itos!

What can you catch in the winter, even with your eyes closed? A cold.

What does a barbershop serve in winter? Cold cuts!

Fine Artist of the Week

Name: Taylor Saunders

What instrument do you play in band? I play saxophone.

What do you enjoy most about playing in band? I think I've enjoyed the community, they've definitely welcomed me as a brand new player.

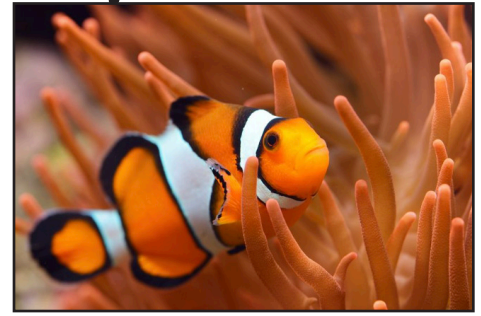
What life lessons have you learned by being in band? I've learned a lot in band, but specifically I've learned perseverance and determination. I had to learn how to play a brand new instrument and it was difficult at times.

If you could join a famous band, which one would it be? I think I would join The Rolling Stones.



Deep Dive

by Arianna Nolan

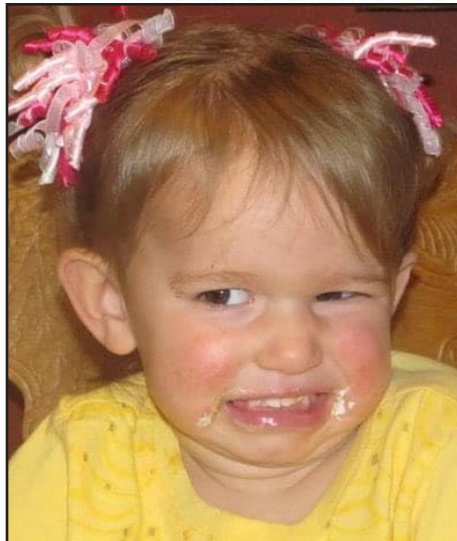


Welcome back, Divers! This week we are going to be taking a look at a sea creature that everyone loves and adores from the famous Disney movie, the clownfish! The size of these creatures varies from 7 cm - 17 cm, and they are known for their bright orange color with white and black stripes. They live in the waters of the Red Sea and the Pacific Oceans. A fun fact about these creatures is that they communicate with each other using clicking and popping noises!

The average diet of a clownfish is very small algae and invertebrates and occasionally graze on the leftovers from the anemones. On the topic of anemones, these creatures have a relationship with these creatures unlike most. While some relationships between some creatures only benefit one of them, the relationship between the clownfish and the sea anemone benefits both of them. The clownfish will lure food to the sea anemone for it to eat, and the clownfish eats the leftovers left behind. These creatures reproduce through eggs, and a fun fact is that all clownfish are born male. But once they are turned female they cannot turn back. The male clownfish is the main parent taking care of the young ones, while the female does it only occasionally, as we can see in the movie "Finding Nemo."

Over the past few years, the population of clownfish has decreased, as many other populations of sea creatures have due to overfishing. To keep this population alive, it is important to advocate for limits on how much fishermen can harvest. If you would like to learn more about this creature, please visit the Great Barrier Reef Foundation website, where all of the information for this edition was provided! I hope you all have a fin-tastic weekend and I will see you all next time

Cutie



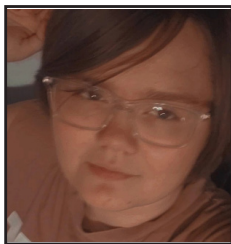
by Alaina Mead

What a messy cutie!! This cutie is a sophomore and lives just outside of Delhi! She is also the oldest of kids in her family and has two younger sisters. This cutie is involved in track, softball and FFA. A fun fact about her is that she spends lots of time helping her dad on the farm! Last week's cutie was Braden Gardner.

One at a Time

by Arianna Nolan

Blood donation, one of the most important things someone could do for someone, is pushed to the side for a variety of reasons. People's fear of needles or losing their blood, not knowing how blood donation works, or not seeing how much blood donation could help someone's life. For the month of National Blood Donors, I want to explain the importance of blood donation, why you should do it, and what you can do today to make a difference.



Blood donation has been happening since the 1940s, when during that time it was used to help military patients. But, over time it has achieved new meaning such as treating patients with rare blood diseases such as HIV and more. According to the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI) every 2 seconds someone in the United States needs a blood transplant. Without these blood donations, people die because they aren't able to get what they need. Especially now is a better time than ever to donate because according to the National Health Organization, the number of cases of blood diseases is expected to grow over time.

But why should you donate blood? Why does it benefit you? Put it this way- it doesn't have to benefit you directly for you to do it. While some blood do-

nations can earn you some money, that's not the reason you should be doing it. You should be doing this because of how many lives you could save, as one blood donation could be saving three lives. You'll be helping people immensely because according to the NHLBI, only 3% of people who are eligible to donate blood follow through, causing a high shortage in the different blood types as variety is one of the biggest issues right now. A large number of people with common blood types donate, but people who have rare blood types don't, causing patients with that blood type to either suffer or worst case scenario, die. But, but donating your blood, you can stop the suffering of hundreds of people, and save a few lives.

So, what can you do today to make a difference? Right now, there is a blood donation opportunity that needs planning, and it can only happen if people come together to make it happen. For more details, please review the email that Mrs. Temple sent us! Otherwise, you can look for other blood donation events in our area to donate your blood, and you can encourage others to do the same! There are never enough people to donate blood, so you can make it a group get-together and enjoy each other's time knowing that you made the right choice. If you would like to learn more about blood donation, I would recommend checking out the American Red Cross website, as it provides the details you need to get started and more statistics about what blood donation can do for our society. I love you all, and I will see you all next time!

Athletes of the Week

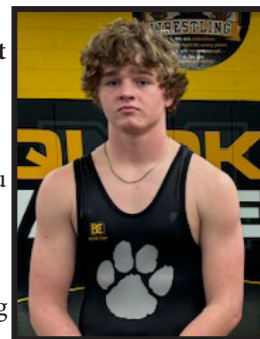
Name: Clayton Davis

What do you enjoy most about wrestling? The atmosphere and how you have to push for what you want.

How is this year different for you than last? Getting pushed harder in the room and putting more time and effort into the sport.

What's your goal this season? To be a state qualifier and to be on the podium.

What life lesson have you learned from wrestling? That you have to work hard to succeed your goals.



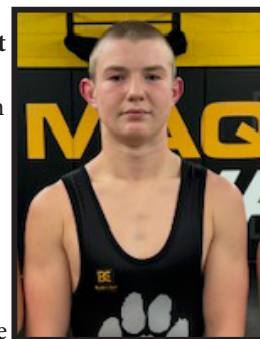
Name: Kyle Engelken

What do you enjoy most about wrestling? The eruption of a gym after a big match is won.

How is this year different for you than last? This year I have a better atmosphere around me and more coaches to push me.

What's your goal this season? Win matches at the state tournament.

What life lesson have you learned from wrestling? I have learned to be mentally tough and win or lose there is something to build on.



Fantasy Fiction: Trouble in Therapy

Once I was in the room it was quiet there; nobody was talking, just doing work. I walked over to, wait, what the? There was something that flew by my face I think. I don't know if the teacher saw it but if he did he was not showing it very well. He only stared at me in a way that told me to sit down in a chair. I went over to my chair and pulled out my notebook for biology and looked at the blank pages. Soon after Chris walked into my class and sat right next to me. Then the bell rang.

"Okay, class there are some rules you need to follow. Only one really

be quiet leave me alone and work on your work," declared Mr. Watson. After that he sat back down and went back to his work.

"Do you need my notes?" Chris whispered, sliding the notebook across the table to me. I mouthed thank you to Chris.

I looked at the notes and realized that I had been out for a long time. I missed everything in the 45-minute class. I started to copy the notes when there was another thing that flew in front of my face again. I kept trying to copy the notes but it was too distracting to work.

"Chris, do you see things flying in front of your face all the time?"

We left off in our last installment, Elizabeth experienced some sort of trance where she loses track of time. Now they're in study hall.

by Abby Nieman and Tommie Cole

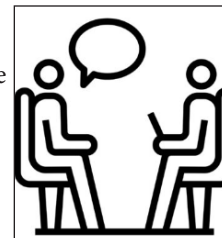
"No, you do?"

"I have since I have tried to work on copying notes other,"

"If it is still like that when we go to therapy next then we should tell someone, Okay,"

"Okay," I nodded. The little flying thingy was still there till the end of the day and the next.

I need to tell one of the therapists.



Dancing with love



Last Friday night the MVDT performed a pom routine as part of the Pink-out event. Funds raised were donated to Marcia Intorf, grandmother to dancer Tessa (and basketball player Tate) who is currently battling cancer.

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! *Last week's photo was in the art room. There was no winner. :(*

MV FFA Dairy Evaluation & Management Team



Cheese curds
Fundraiser runs:
Friday January 10th -
Friday January 24th

Support Maquoketa Valley FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management Team!

Did you love the cheese curds you sampled at our Fundraiser Supper on December 17th? Now's your chance to order your favorites and support the Maquoketa Valley FFA Dairy Cattle Evaluation and Management Team and their trip to the Royal Highland Show in Scotland & Ireland! We've got a variety of delicious cheese curds available for purchase! Whether you're stocking up for the holidays or treating yourself, every order helps our FFA members continue their work and passion for agriculture.

Order online now through our Square store OR from one of the team members!
<https://maquoketa-valley-cte.square.site>

* Be sure to indicate which member you would like to deliver your items*

- Ford Domeyer
- Tyler Hoeger
- Caden Kremer
- Bianka Ronnebaum
- Pick up at MVHS (107 South St. Delhi)

Thank you for your support!