

The Wildcat Echo

A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

Joining the best



Students representing MV were, front row: Tristan Dietz and Owen Boring; back row: Arianna Nolan, Jocelyn Kelchen, Tracy Reth and Olivia Hunter.

This past Sunday and Monday, six of our students represented Maquoketa Valley at Wartburg's Meistersinger Honor Choir in Waverly, which culminated in a concert Monday night featuring 450 students from 102 schools. To be selected for the Meistersinger Honor Choir is an enormous honor. "I am so proud of what they were able to accomplish and learn over the short amount of time they had together!" noted Ms. McCrary.

This experience benefited students in many ways. "It was an incredible experience," noted Jocelyn Kelchen. "Everyone there was amazing and so talented. I have never experienced singing in such an amazing place with so many people, we started in the chapel and everything just sounds so amazing. Aside from actually singing, my favorite part was getting to know my host and spending a night in the dorms."

Olivia Hunter concurred: "I enjoyed walking into the auditorium and being surrounded by sheer talent. I'm so grateful for the experience and to the amazing directors at Wartburg."

"I enjoyed being a part of a large choir and hearing our voices fill such a big auditorium," Tracy Reth added.

The opportunity also provided students to experience a college campus. "I enjoyed learning new ways to improve my singing and seeing what life was like on campus," stated Arianna Nolan.

Twelve events advance to state

by Taylor Saunders

This weekend our Large Group Contest Speech Team traveled to Cascade for this year's district contest. We left bright and early at 6:30am. We were all tired and a little bit under the weather but we pushed through.

All of these events did extremely well. Performing from 8:00am all the way to 2:15pm, everyone did their very best and worked hard. We received 12 district I ratings and 6 district II ratings.

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

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

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

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



Coach Crumpton works with Emily Hogan and Joellen Beitz on their short film. Not pictured is Ryleigh Moriarity.

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

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

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

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 II

Group Improvisation: Leah Reicher, Noah Whalen, and Trevor Grimm. Rating II

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

We greatly appreciate the hard work from our students as well as our beloved coaches. For the next two weeks, the 12 events that received Division I ratings will continue to polish their pieces as we prepare for the state contest in Decorah on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Wrestlers near end of regular season meets

by Alaina Mead

Last week on Thursday the Maquoketa Valley wrestling team headed to Alburnett for a Tri against North Cedar and Alburnett. The team went 1-1, winning against North Cedar 36-18 and falling to Alburnett 72-12. Nathan Beitz, Kyle Engelken, Dalton Africa, Brayden Schuster and Clayton Davis all won their matches with pins. Braden Ronnebaum also scored points for the team with a forfeit. Despite the team loss against Alburnett, Beitz and Davis both won against their opponents with pins.

The boys wrestling team also traveled to Midland this past weekend on Saturday for a tournament. A total of 15 teams competed and MV worked their way to 6th! Amongst the team many placements were earned. Beitz came home with 1st place winning by pin in the championship round! Davis and Africa also had a successful day placing 3rd. Engelken placed 4th with a tough last round losing by just one point.

Tuesday this week the MV wrestlers also had a meet in Monticello against Central Elkader, North Cedar, Monticello and North Fayette Valley. Facing larger schools, MV finished 1-3 with the win



Sawyer Kemp faces off with an opponent Tuesday night at Monticello. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple, The Monticello Express)

against North Cedar, 36-18. Many forfeits occurred against Central Elkader for both teams. Chase Krogmann gained us points with a pin along with Africa's and Davis' forfeits. While wrestling Monticello, Ronnebaum won by points and Davis won with a pin. Ronnebaum was also are only win against North Fayette Valley by forfeit.

Successfully against North Cedar, Africa, Davis and Ronnebaum won with pins. Kipton Thompson, Sawyer Kemp and Brayden Schuster also scored points for the team by forfeit.

Tomorrow the wrestlers will participate in the conference meet at North Linn.

Boys rack up two more conference wins, posts step up

by Maya Smith

The boys basketball team stayed at home last Friday, welcoming Springville. In the first half, the Orioles weren't an issue for our Wildcats, as they cruised to a 31-18 lead at halftime. During the second half, the boys allowed the Orioles a fighting chance, ending the game 45-43, Wildcat win.

Here are some game leaders:

Points: Brady Wall; 22, Ty Hoeger; 10, Dylan Knipper; 6

Rebounds: Dylan Knipper; 14, Anderson Holtz; 5, Lukas Chesnut; 4

Assists: Anderson Holtz; 5, Dylan Knipper; 2, Lukas Chesnut; 1

On Tuesday, the boys traveled to Ed-Co. The Vikings were not much of a challenge for them either. The Cats won, 46-28, with a 9 point lead at the half.

When asked about the games, Coach Conner remarked: "I think as a whole, we are playing really good basketball right now. We have figured some things out defensively and have really started to play good team defense. I think this has really shown in our last 3 games vs. Starmont, Springville and Ed-Co. There has been a lot

of time dedicated to getting better as a team on the defensive end in practice and our hard work is paying off. I thought our effort in the first half against Ed-Co was one of the better defensive halves that we have had this season. We did a really nice job of not taking chances at steals and making Ed-Co take tough shots, and then being in a good rebounding position and rebounding after that.

"We are continuing to work on the offensive end as well. I am much happier with the quality of shots that we are taking as a team and we have been much more aggressive attacking the rim and getting ourselves higher percentage shots around

the rim. Again, this has been very evident with how we have been playing recently. We have put together a nice 3 game stretch here and have battled through some illness adversity and have seen some people step up and gain confidence because of it.

"I want to give a shout out to our post players; Ty Hoeger, Preston Salow, Dylan Knipper, and Lukas Chesnut. These guys have improved tremendously this season and have done a better job as of late of being patient in the post and taking what the defense gives them. We are going to need their presence as we look to make a deep run in the postseason."

MV hosts North Linn tonight.

MVDT earns special nomination

We Wildcats know our dance team is a special group, and so did the Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University and the ISDTA. The center nominated MVDT for a CHARACTER COUNTS! Team of the Year Award. They were nominated because of evidence of showing trustworthiness, respect, responsi-



bility, fairness, caring and good citizenship.

While the MV team did not win, their efforts should still be recognized. Coach Teymer noted that the team's efforts with community service earned them the nomination.

Student of the Week

Breece Hoisington



You have become a superstar national anthem singer for MV. What made you decide to do it? I have a strong passion for singing and using my voice to its full potential. Singing the National Anthem has helped me grow as an independent singer and allows me to put myself in uncomfortable situations to continue to reach my full potential.

Which celebrity version of the national anthem is your favorite? I really enjoyed when Carrie Underwood sang the National Anthem. She has a strong, powerful voice and is very talented.

What's your favorite song to sing along to? My favorite song to sing along to as of now is "Endless Praise" by Charity Gayle. However, it's hard to choose just one.
—Breece was nominated by Mr. Moenck

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Grace Richter

Let's end this week with some jokes that are sure to make you giggle!

What do you call a cold puppy? A chili dog.

I put my old car in reverse and thought, "Wow, this really takes me back."

Why are frogs good at baseball? They know how to catch fly balls.

What's the best way to get to the hospital after breaking your foot? Tow truck.

What did the beach say when the tide came in? Long time no sea.

Jazz band kicks off competition season



by Maya Smith

The MV Jazz Band debuted their 2025 set recently. Here's this year's set list, including the January soloists:

"Summertime" by George Gershwin, arr. by Dave Rivello; Soloist: Brady Eike, Trumpet
"Just Friends" by John Klenner, arr. by Scott Ragsdale; Soloists: McKenna Bush, Alto Sax; Maya Smith, Trombone
"Stay in Your Lane" by Gordon Goodwin
Soloists: Brady Eike, Trumpet; Sebastian Charles, Bass; McKenna Bush, Soprano Sax; and Maya Smith, Trombone

The band traveled to Lisbon last Thursday, where they worked with Jack Frank from Mount Mercy and received third place in the 2A competition. On Monday evening, the band went to State

Jazz Band contest at North Fayette Valley, where they received a Division III rating. The group had a great time working with their clinician, David Law, a former Independence director.

Mr. Ford remarked, "I thought both events were great opportunities for us and I was proud of how we played at both festivals. Like the rest of the school, we've been dealing with illnesses that have kept us from being our best, but we've powered through and learned a lot. The feedback we've received from judges has been invaluable. The students have been receptive to that feedback, and we're already starting to reap the benefits from it. I'm very excited for what this band will do in February and March!"

Athletes of the Week

Name: Ty Hoeger

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? The games and team atmosphere in the locker room

How have you evolved as a player?

I have been a part of the Varsity team for a long time starting with filling water bottles and tracking stats in middle school to now being one of the starting 5.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? When TJ threw a Wii remote and broke the TV at Mount Mercy

Who's your basketball role model? My dad

Name: Lanni Beaman

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I enjoy the pre-game music in

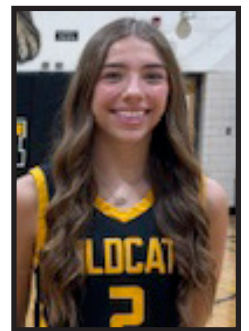
the locker room and playing as a team to win games.

How have you evolved as a player? I'm going to be completely honest:

I was awful during my freshmen and sophomore years, but now that I have some experience, I have evolved to a better mindset about the game. I have improved both defensively and offensively.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? My favorite basketball memory, so far, has been in practice when Grace was struggling with talking on defense and she said it was because she had a speech impediment.

What's your favorite warm-up song? My favorite song in the warm-up this year is "I Don't Want to Be" by Gavin DeGraw.



Jaelyn's Journeys

Cutie



by Alaina Mead

What a surprised Cutie! This cutie is a freshman and lives in Earlville. She has one brother, three sisters and is a middle child. She is also involved in volleyball and FFA. Her favorite song is "Friends Like That" by John Morgan! *Last week's Cutie was Addie Bonert.*



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 near Ms. Droeszler's room. There was no winner. :(*

Fantasy Fiction: Trouble in Therapy

I walked into the room and went to the therapist. "I need to talk to someone privately,"

"Okay, do you know what room to go in?" Mrs. Brown asked me and I nodded my head in response.

I walked into the room and I felt instantly calm. The other therapist walked in. "What is going on today?"

"I have been seeing this thing that keeps flying by my face and no one else sees it," I responded.

"Okay, have you been stressed recently?"

"I don't think so."

"What has been going on recently?" I told her what has happened this past week from me not knowing what happened in Bio to the little thing flying in my face all of the time. "Whoa, that is a lot. Do you think it could be related to being back in school and the stuff that happened with Parker?"

"I don't know. It is a possibility,

but I also don't know because it was not this way at the end of the school year last year. You would think that tit would have acted up then and not just now."

"You would think but the mind is a weird thing. I think you should see a personal therapist we have one here if you want."

"How much would that cost? The group therapy my insurance covers. I don't know about a personal therapist."

"Well we can look into that for you and I assume that you would need to ask your parents first and we would need to see at least one of them to get a signature saying that we can see you privately."

"You're right. I should but can you look into that for me please?"

"Yep, and is that all you needed for the time being? You feel okay going back out to the group section?"

"Yeah I should be good." I headed out of the little room and back to the group. There are only a few here at the moment but

We left off in our last installment, Elizabeth continued experiencing issues with losing time and seeing things flying in front of her face.

by Abby Nieman and Tommie Cole

I am early today. Hey Chris is here!

"How was it?" Chris asked.

"Okay. I was told I should see a personal therapist that is not in a group setting."

"Hey it will help. It helped me a lot when I got one. Don't worry about it." Chris's hand found mine and held it softly but also firmly. There was something there that I liked. It was either the touch or the fact that it was the first time someone had held my hand like that ever.

I could feel my face getting hot and warm as his hand was still holding mine. He looked me in the eyes and said, "We will get through this together no matter what happens I can always help you. Don't be afraid to reach out to me or your father." My face got even redder at that.

