



Vox Online



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# Full circle

Two life changing events, within two days baby as much as Shoemaker clearly does.

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Within  
two days  
of each

other, two major life milestones hit the class of 2021. Although, the news of these two events almost everyone knows about in our school, the junior class it hits a little closer to home. Especially those friends of Katy Shoemaker, Junior, and those whom were fortunate enough to meet Alexander Prochaska, Junior.

Last school year anyone who may have gotten the chance to talk to or follow on Instagram, may have learned that Shoemaker was pregnant. In a previous issue of The Vox, there was a student life story with Shoemaker in it explaining what her life is like as a pregnant 15-year-old. Now almost 10 months after revealing she was expecting, surprise surprise, she had a precious baby girl. Around 4:00 pm on July 20th, Shoemaker went into labor, and 45 minutes later she gave birth to Madelyn Grace Heartman. "Seeing her for the first time was amazing, I was thought I was going to be terrified. She made a couple snorting noises when right when she was born and that scared me a little bit, but the doctor was amazing," she said. Being in high school is hard enough with the, procrastination of homework, possibly having a job and social life. Throwing a baby into that mix may just stir the pot a tad bit and change someone's routine. Now, Shoemaker is staying up late nights with her baby, in turn, making her tired the next day at school. "High school is hard enough, don't get pregnant," she said. Being a new mother is hard work, especially if you love your

Just two days after the excitement of a new life being introduced to the student body, everything came to a screeching halt. From local news outlets to just word of mouth, the news of a teen being pinned down by a riding lawn mower while mowing his grandparent's lawn spread like wildfire around the greater Cedar Rapids area. A day later it was reported by the Gazette that it was Marion's own Alex Prochaska. This hit Marion with a heavy heart, with a line being so long that the visitation's ending time had to be pushed back nearly one and a half hours. Students who knew Alex or his sister Carla Prochaska, Junior, knew that they were close. From the rides to school every morning and after school, to waiting for her after book club, if you got the chance to talk to Carla Prochaska she may have brought up her brother, always speaking of him in a good light. "At the moment it's tough but it's okay. My family is taking it pretty hard, mainly my parents, but we're getting through it. With the trust of God and relying on a lot of people it has really been a blessing to have them," she said. The Prochaska family reached out to Alex Prochaska's friends and invited them over for dinner on multiple occasions. Seeing that his friends were going through a rough time, they reached out to them helping them mourn making their bond stronger. "It's really devastating but life must go on, you have to otherwise you'll just wallow in self-pity," she said. From driving his younger sister around, teaching her how to drive or just getting food with her after church, Alex was a good person at heart through and through. Not only to his sister but to



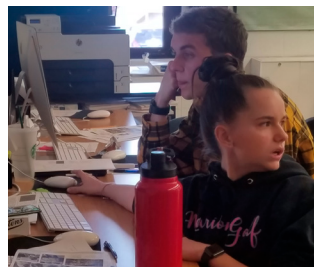
Left: Alex and Carla Prochaska, '21, pose together  
Right: Katy Shoemaker, '21, carries her newborn



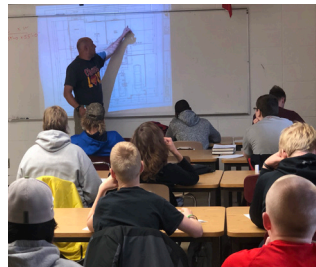
his classmates, always trying to make them laugh, with either cracking some jokes or wearing a goofy shirt.

Life and death surrounds us all in our personal lives, but when someone has a baby your age or passes away, one may look at his or her life in comparison. Some students who are in high school are not lucky enough to have Shoemaker's family support, or Carla Prochaska's enduring strength and faith. It is good to see that both parties are doing well and are growing each day. Life and death is inevitable, all a person can do is live their life to the fullest extent. To help remember Alex, take a small moment out of your day to make someone laugh, make someone's day, or just tell a loved one that you love and appreciate them. Because life has no boundaries and cuts corners, you never know what could happen at the drop of a pin.

## What's going on around the school?



Lucas Wendt & Ally Sara, both '21, work on the yearbook and newspaper.



Mr. Fleege's third block class take note of lessons at the start of Q2.



Members of All-State choir and band happily pose for a picture.

## Index

Opinion.....	2, 3, 4
Activities.....	5, 6, 7
Center Spread.....	8, 9
Senior Interview.....	10, 11
Entertainment.....	12
Student Life.....	13, 14, 15
Community.....	16
Back Page.....	17