

A new face for Marion

A new way to represent Marion pride.

By: Jacob Shaffer @JacobShaffer_18

This school year

has been crazy, with footsteps being heard overhead on the roof during class, hybrid/online school and a distinct lack of PDA in the hallways. One of the most significant and least depressing of the changes to come to Marion this year is the mascot change. An overdue change made during a time of extreme progressivism, but not without stirring up some complaints and protests here and there. Finally, our town will bid farewell to the Marion Indians and instead welcome a new non-racist and morally acceptable Marion mascot.

The mascot switch has been a hotly discussed and anticipated change all year, and we initially chose the Marion Mavericks but are now undecided. Early 2021 is when the board would hold a meeting to sit down and discuss the mascot. Micah Steen, senior, is one of the students on the student council that was able to go to the meeting. “The board had a vote for a general idea, and they narrowed it down to three: the Mavericks, RedStorm, and Red Wolves. A vote will be made to choose from those,” Steen said. The three mascots it was narrowed down to

aren’t drastic changes; the school is still keeping its red and gold colors, and the imagery is still heavily associated with Iowa.

Mike Manderscheid has also been closely associated with the mascot change, and said officially the change from the Indians to the new mascot will be set into motion on July 21, 2021. The mascot change has been exacerbated by all the rumors and myths surrounding it, but in reality the change is much less drastic than some people might’ve been led to believe. “I think what’s gonna happen is it’s gonna be a gradual change, probably not gonna have much personal impact on anybody,” Steen said. But the change is still definitely happening, even though some might think it’s been long overdue. “The original premise was that we always had a letter of support for the mascot from a Native American tribe. A search was made for the letter but we couldn’t find it. We then reached out to a few Native American tribes to get a letter of support, but every tribe said that they’d send a letter but it wouldn’t be in support of our mascot, they all advocated for it to be changed,” Mandercheid said. Besides, the times have changed, and Marion is undoubtedly taking all the right steps to be a more inclusive school district.

The action taken by the school is remarkable in fact; a search for a letter that was to have been in our possession turned up empty, meaning the

letter was lost or it never existed in the first place. Either way, the school quickly fixed the mistake and started the change, which is a huge win for inclusiveness and progressivism. This marks not only the end of the Indians, but also the start of something much better; a new generation of Marion students that belongs to an open minded, inclusive and caring community.



By the start of the next school year, all Indian paraphernalia will be replaced with the new mascot.

New and improved

By: Emalee Feuchtwanger @emaleeaurquidez

Over a century ago, Adeliza Daniels and the Marion Federation of Woman’s Club asked Andrew Carnegie for funds to create a library in our town. He donated \$11,500, and in 1904, the Marion Public Library came to life. Now it’s 2021, and our town was granted \$18 million dollars to create new opportunities and experiences for everyone in a new library to open in 2022.

Our city council came up with a potential plan for a new library in 2019. But due to the damage from the historic derecho, it sped up the process a lot faster. Parts of the roof were blown off causing it basically rain inside the building. Lots of materials and furniture were ruined.

Another big change is COVID-19. People aren’t allowed in the building unless they are checking an on-hold item. But when the new building is opened, they will have limited people, maintain everything at six feet apart, and require masks. The library staff also quarantine any item that is brought back into the library for three days. Staff



Construction continues on the “next chapter” of The Marion Public Library.

also have to check their temperature every four hours. “Our goal is to use this new space as much as possible, but in order to do that they need to be safe,” said Kelly Dybvig, Deputy Director of the Marion Public Library. Since the new building has doubled the size of the old library, social distancing will be better to maintain.

Due to all the new space, more experiences and opportunities are coming to our city. Some of the

old classes and programs will return, and more are being added. Some new tech classes will be included. They are also adding a new baby section, for little ones to interact with each other. Along with that, the building will have green screen rooms. Students and people of our community will be able to check out the room to create content and videos. “My favorite part of the new library is on the second floor of the building, there will be a walkout terrace with a fireplace, that will overlook the square park,” said Dybvig. The many students who use the library everyday will appreciate these new and unique spaces.

Another plus that will help is the student program where students and teachers can use their school IDs to check out items. In the past, people had to pay \$5 for a library account. But the library staff discussed that not all individuals of our community have access to getting a card, so the student program was put into place.

It’s been almost a year since the library crew saw each other all together, and the goal is for it all to happen again soon. But the light in the dark, the staff is excited for our city to see and explore the new library. For more information and to even see a livestream of the building process, go to <https://marionpubliclibrary.org>.