



Find out how students at MHS celebrate their Holidays. Pgs 8-9

The Voice of the Marion Indians

THE VOX

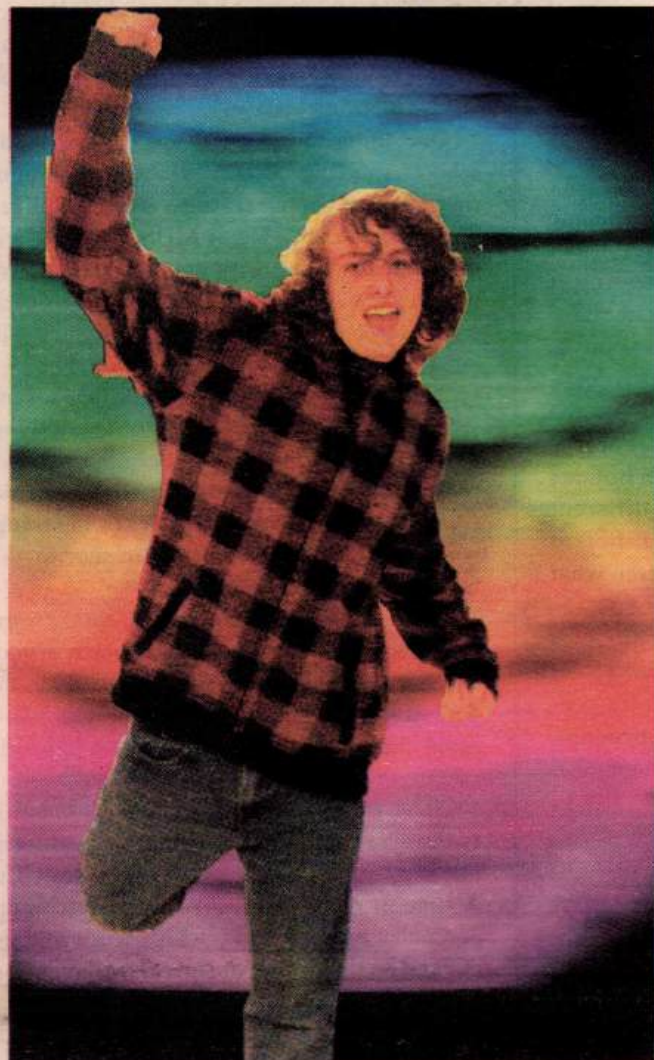
December 16, 2009

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Hannah Burgess talks about the upcoming speech season. Pg 4

LOCHNER CELEBRATES NEW YEAR WITH FRIENDS



Derek Lochner a sophomore at Marion celebrates by hanging out and having fun with all of his friends. He also makes resolutions for himself every year that he tries to go by all year.

Derek Lochner talks about his new years resolution and what he likes to do on new years eve.

By Storm Doggy [Staff Writer]

It's that time of year again. The ball is seconds from dropping, resolutions fill the head of a young Marion High school student. A boy and his friends are about to throw confetti all over the place while screaming "Happy New Year!" and start off the New Year together.

Derek Lochner, sophomore celebrates New Year's every year. Derek hasn't always gone to Marion High school, before he came to Marion, he was home schooled. Derek uses New Year as more than just an excuse to party, "New Year's is not only for partying, it's a celebration of the past year," he explained

Derek remembers always celebrating New Year's. "[I've celebrated New Year's] for as long as I can remember." Like a lot of us, he likes the thought of getting a fresh start every year. Although both he and his family celebrate the New Year, they don't usually celebrate together. Celebrating the new year is a time to hang out with family and friends. Derek usually spends the holiday with his friends.

Like many people, Derek makes resolutions every year. "They are very important to me," Derek exclaimed. "My last resolution was to stop being a jerk to those around me, but I haven't kept it," he admitted. It's easy to want to accomplish big things as your New Year resolution, but a lot of the time, we just set ourselves up for failure. Depending on what resolutions we set, they can be hard to accomplish. "For the most part, I prepare myself for failure, [but] as long as they're not difficult, like becoming a rockstar" he can accomplish them.

To Derek, New Year's isn't just an excuse to stay up late and party. "It's a chance to hang out with my best friends Lukas Mees, Corey Skold, and Nick Meeks." Derek is always with his friends. In between classes, at lunch, so its no surprise that he plans to hang out with

them on New Years. As a lot of people do, Derek and his friends stay up late on New Years Eve. On occasion he watches the ball drop. "It just depends on where I am and if I'm busy.

Derek and his friends now have to clean up all the confetti and try to stick to the difficult resolutions they have made to start off the new year. After all the excitement of bringing in the New Year, after Derek and his friends have partied their hearts out, and after everything is cleaned up, its time for Derek and his friends to settle down for the night, and get a little sleep. The following weeks to come will tell the truth if they can keep the resolutions they have put upon themselves for the next year, or at least a couple of weeks. This year, Derek plans to go to his friends' house, as always, and celebrate the holiday with his friends.

Good presents gone bad

Commentary

It's Christmas morning, it's her last gift, it's beautifully wrapped with the red paper and huge pink bow. She goes to unwrap it. She's really excited. Once she gets it open to her dismay it's a green, yellow, and pink tie-die scarf. Her face says it all.

Every Christmas there's usually that one gift that someone doesn't really like or that person already has it and there's no gift receipt with it. So what does that person do with it? Do they pretend they like it? There's always the option of regifting.

I personally have never regifted anything, but I'm also not against it either. Granted, I would never regift anything I thought wasn't my ideal gift, I'm not that mean, I would just take the item back and exchange it, or even get the money back. If there was something I got that I didn't really like or I already had it, and I knew someone that wanted it, I would regift it then.

Many people think regifting is tacky and rude, but how? If they're not ever going to use it, and they know someone who will, why can't they just regift it to them? Maybe if the present that was regifted was old and used, yeah that would be really rude, but no one does that unless they're trying to be funny.

If you want to regift items, regift items that would be useful to someone else, like books or CD's (unless they're really old and scratched up). Sometimes you can regift clothes as long as there's no holes and the tags are on.

Regifting has been around for a long time. Whether you think it's a good idea or not some people can find it a handy way to do last minute shopping for the holidays and still give a gift. You just need to remember that if that gift was something that probably was rewrapped for you it's going to probably end up with a different person than you originally gave it to.



By: Danielle Tiernan (Co-Editor-in-Chief)

Phantom vibration syndrome gets McCoy every time

By: Danielle Tiernan (Co-Editor-in-Chief)

As she's sitting in Spanish class listening to the teacher speak, that's when she feels it. When the teacher turns around she takes a quick look to check her text, to her dismay there's nothing there. She swears she felt the vibration but there's nothing on the phone to prove it. Is she going crazy? Is she the only one? No, many people feel the exact same thing. It's called Phantom Vibration Syndrome (PVS) or False Vibration Syndrome to some. According to a story Angela Haupt, "Good Vibrations? Bad? None at all?", "experts say the false alarm simply demonstrate how easily



Cassidy McCoy, Junior

habits are developed... When cellphone users regularly experience sensations, such as vibrating, their brains become wired to those sensations" because in this day in age many people are on their cell phones a lot of the time.

PVS is junior McCoy all too with. "It a lot be- phone's my pock- used to she explained. She said there's not a certain time when she feels the false vibrations, "[the vibrations] just happens whenever."

Cassidy said that she experiences Phantom Vibration Syndrome the most in her bedroom, "[Because] I talk the most to people, on my phone when I'm in my bedroom." Cassidy said she talks the most on the

"I feel stupid because it's like "duh!" but I don't really care,"- Cassidy McCoy, junior.

a syndrome Cassidy has become familiar happens cause my always in et, so I'm feeling it,"

phone in her room because that's where she goes when she's not hanging out with her friends, "I like to talk to people, so when I'm alone [in my room] sometimes I feel my phone vibrating, but it really isn't."

Cassidy said she thinks the false vibrations occur because, "your body gets used to certain things, so I just got used to feeling it." Sometimes, even when she's watching TV, and the TV makes a vibrating noise Cassidy thinks it's her phone, but her disappointment of not getting a text doesn't last long, "I get over things really easily."

"I feel stupid because it's like, "duh!" but I don't really care," Cassidy said about her first reaction to seeing no text or phone call, after a sudden bout with PVS. Cassidy wouldn't give any advice to other PVS victims, "What advice do you need? It's not life altering," she laughed.

As she slips her phone back into her pocket, she wonders if she really felt the vibration or not. It just goes to show how easily attached people are to their phones.

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Merry Christmas is definitely a must

Why shouldn't schools be able to use the word Christmas? Who's it hurting?

By: Hannah Shaffer [Staff Writer]

The leaves on the trees have disappeared, the temperature is quickly dropping and all around bells are ringing as people prepare themselves for the holiday season. Whatever holiday one may be celebrating, now is the time to be getting ready for it with meals, gifts, family gatherings, the stockings, and more. However, there is a small controversy about being able to freely express the religion one may celebrate. Don't even think about saying, "Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, or Happy Kwanza." Apparently, that is not politically correct. Should everyone really have to cover up what it is they really celebrate just because others may not feel the same way? How about not!

In school environments, there are countless things that could clash, such as: clothes, hairstyles, attitudes, activities some participate in, or even the crowds one may follow. All of these are differences among students, yes, but they are also completely allowed to be completely allowed in a school environment. However,

religious views are a touchier subject and less likely to be freely expressed. There are no such things as Christmas parties, Hanukkah gatherings, and Kwanza meetings in school. Everything is labeled with "holiday." "Holiday parties" or "Happy Holidays." The freedom to express what the students believe has gone out the door, and that's just wrong.

Not only is this seen in school settings, but also out in public settings. We have all seen the people who dedicate their volunteering time to ringing the bells outside of stores all over the country. Even they are told to say "Happy Holidays." If they are giving up time to ring bells and collect money for a good cause, they should be able to say what they believe in. If it's that big of a deal, the ones who assign people to go out and ring the bells, should find people from all walks of life. This way, there can be those that will wish everyone a Merry Christmas, or a Happy Hanukkah.

Yes, some say that it would be offensive to say, "Merry Christmas" even if it's what one may celebrate because not everyone else does. It shouldn't be

an offensive thing, it's not like anyone is saying, "be Christian!" There is no pressuring to believe something else or discrimination in what everyone else believes, it is simply expressing one's own belief. Those who take offense to it should just realize that and remind themselves that it doesn't matter if they celebrate something different, it's all about not having to hid what one may believe. What isn't right is to go around and tell people to believe something different than their own religion, but expressing it should be acceptable in society.

This season, while everyone is shopping for the perfect gift, decorating the trees, or preparing for the family gatherings, don't forget the importance behind whatever holiday it is one celebrates. The different holidays correspond with different religious beliefs and no matter what the religion is, it's important to remember that and be proud of it. It doesn't matter what others say, or whether or not it's "politically correct," it's about proudly expressing what it is one believes and sharing it with others.

Winter activities

By: Cassidy Forrester [Staff Writer]

Every summer we have plenty of things to do to keep us active and busy from spend your days at the beach to your nights at a bonfire you always seem to have something you can be doing. When winter time rolls around and the snow starts to fall everyone is left wonder what is there to do besides sit inside and watch TV and eat. Well there are plenty of thing you can do to stay active and warm for these cold winter months.

One thing any one can do is head to the school sporting events that are running through the winter seasons. Basket ball and wrestling are both big at MHS. Not only will you be with you be with good friends but you will be in a warm environment, and in these cold winter months what else are you really looking for?

Well if you are a thrill seeking extreme sports kind of person you might enjoy flying down the slopes on a fresh layer of soft white snow. Well then find any hill that has a descent slope to it. Any of these extreme things will lead to hours of fun and memories that will last.

If your want the comforts of a comfy warm place to chill with friends and watch a good movie you could try a movie theater. They are a great way to get out of the house and have some fun without worrying about how the temps outside are

The winter months can be looked out in two ways. One a cold and lazy time when no one wants to do anything or go any wear. Two A time in the year were you have lots of opportunity to spend time with friends and get out and do the things you love. Its all up to you how you choose to spend your winter seasons.

Believing in Santa; false hope for young ones or just for excitement?

By: Elizabeth Smiley [Co-Editor-in-Chief]

It's Christmas Eve. The entire street glows with Christmas decorations on nearly every house on the block. Christmas trees sparkle and light up the living rooms of many houses. Milk and cookies sit on the coffee table. Mounds of presents are stuffed under the tree. Stockings are hung. Children are filled with excitement and anticipation. Sleeping is almost impossible. They fight to stay up all night in hopes to see a jolly, old man with a big bag of toys come down the chimney. They know Santa is coming to town.

Almost everyone knows of Santa. As a child it seems to be a known fact that he lives in the North Pole with all of his little elves. They work year round to make toys for all the good little children across the world and late Christmas Eve night he sets off in his sled with his big bag of toys and all nine reindeer, including Rudolph of course. He goes to each house before Christmas morning

dropping off toys and munching on cookies.

As one grows older they learn that this jolly man is only a fictional character made up many years ago. Some children just grow out of believing in Santa. Some parents tell their children when they feel they are old enough, or when the child grows suspicious. To many kids Santa, or Saint Nicholas, is a magical and amazing man. He is something to believe in. Children wait years to hope to catch one glimpse of Santa. To them he isn't a figment of the imagination. They grow up into a society that makes him one hundred percent real. There are endless amounts of songs, books, and pictures of this man. In their minds he has got to be real.

However, some people feel it isn't right to tell children about this fictional character. Unfortunately, Santa is not real. In their opinion, telling kids about Santa is completely and utterly wrong. Some believe it gives children false hope. Some believe by making up a big

lie about an incredible man that has a list of every child on Earth, good and bad, and who delivers toys on Christmas to the good and coal to each of the bad turns out to be a disappointment when they find out the truth.

Although it is disappointing, most children find out when their parent feel they are old enough and mature enough to handle the truth. After a certain age or maturity children often become suspicious anyway. If he comes every Christmas why do they only see him at the mall? Some children begin to put the pieces together and eventually they figure it out or just grow out of believing in him.

There is nothing wrong with telling children about Santa. It's almost impossible to avoid. If one doesn't tell their children they will ask when they see him at stores, or in books, or they will probably find out from friends at school. There is no harm in telling kids about Santa, he is simply there to make the holidays that much more exciting.

2009-2010 Editorial Policy

The Vox is a public forum student-run newspaper dedicated to informing and entertaining the students of Marion High School since 1934. It is published six times a year by Tri-Co Printing Company and is distributed during fourth block of the school day by the journalism staff.

The staff will report as accurately, fairly, and objectively as possible. All activities will be covered by the staff to the best of their abilities, without showing favoritism to any group.

Letters to the editor will be printed from anyone in the community. However, The Vox retains the right to edit articles without changing the writer's intent. There is a limit of two hundred words per article and all letters must be signed in order for them to be published. The decision to include them rests solely on the staff and advisor. Turn letters into room 22 or to any staff member.

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CAN HOLIDAY LIGHTS BE TOO STRESSFUL?
FIND OUT IN, "Decorations bring stress to everyone."

Decorations bring stress to everyone

Holiday decorations bring competition to the Marion community; wonderful stress a result.

By: Paul Nash [Photo Editor]

It's Christmas time again and all the crazy neighbors are out putting up the Christmas decorations the day after Halloween. All the husbands and boy-friends telling their wives they would love to put up the lights when really they hate it. Then there is the one house on

the block that is all decked out and makes your house with lights on the bushes look pathetic.

One thing that always seems to be the same every year though is the two competitive neighbors that go all out on their houses, so they can have bragging rights next year. Then they walk across the street and say, "yeah your house is looking great this year I wish mine looked that good." When really they think it's terrible and don't think that it's even close to the level of their house. The neighbor, who every year gets out the blow ups and puts the candy canes up around the sidewalk and then has lights so bright it looks like heaven came down to earth.

Some people could care less and don't even put up

the Christmas wreath or their tree in the house till the day before. Then there are people who just hate Christmas and act like Mr. Scrooge and are just grumpy and stressed. One bad thing about having the neighbors that go all out though is when the lights are so bright you can't get to sleep because your blinds can't block it out.

Now in this town we call Marion, there are neighbors competing with their decorations all over the place. But when your family goes out driving around looking at the lights I highly suggest taking a cruise down Daleview. Two houses right next to each other are having a little friendly competition right now. It must get heated because their driveways literally touch. Now I am not sure which one is better so you will have to drive by yourself and take a look with Mom and Dad.

The wonderful stress that comes when trying to deck out your house is amazing. But in the end when it's all said and done, it looks great and the compliments that you get are even greater. There are plenty of decked out houses in our area, so go drive around and enjoy the holidays.



Houses all around Marion are sharing their decorations and holiday spirit with their neighbors and anyone who drives by.

Great gifts don't come in a bow, ask the Grinch, he would know

By: Emily Palmer [Features Editor]

The time for family, love and joy is upon us once again. When thinking of the holidays from years past memories flood back into the minds of many, like those cozy nights watching a great movie with the family. The holiday season is the time when many reruns of the good old movies are played, movies about the greatest gift anyone will ever receive.

The big furry green fellow isn't an unknown site to many; Dr. Seuss's The Grinch is the best old holiday movie ever. The morals are so important, the best gifts don't come wrapped in a bow or fancy shining papers, the best gift is the gift of family, the gift of love. Throughout the entire movie the Whos are preparing for their holiday celebration. They decorate the city, prepare for the huge feast, wrap gifts, many of the same things people do for their holiday. The difference is this city has a Grinch, The Grinch. Yes, the one with the crooked smile, the mean one, the one no one likes. Well The Grinch doesn't like any of the Whos either. The exception to this story is a little girl named Cindy, the smallest of the Whos.

Cindy has a fascination with the Grinch that most of the other Whos don't approve of. She wants to prove that he is good. After being shunned by the other Whos during his childhood, The Grinch despises the Whos, so much that he is willing to do anything to ruin their holiday. He sneaks in during the night and steals everything from the décor to the Roast Beast.

In the end, Cindy makes him realize that he can change and make a difference. He gives everything back and is loved by all the Whos. He realized that taking away the food and the gifts didn't deter the Whos celebration, it only brought them closer together. Sure there are other holiday movies but none by far that show the importance of what the holidays are really about. Nothing can add up too all of the many lessons taught in the movie.

So this holiday, curl up on the couch next to a nice golden fire and watch this movie with someone you love more than any material possession in the world. They are your gift, enjoy them this holiday season, and show them the meaning of the holiday just as Cindy showed the Grinch.

Holiday Mishaps

By: Elizabeth Smiley [Co-Editor-in-Chief]

It's Christmas morning. The tree shines bright in the living room. Everyone is handing out presents.



Elizabeth Smiley
Co-Editor-in-Chief

The little ones tear open their gifts. The older kids anticipate getting to open their presents. They open each present with big smiles on their faces. Suddenly, she rips open a box with red and green wrapping and a white bow and pulls out the ugliest, most hideous sweater in the universe. It's black, with Rudolph the red nose reindeer on it. The worst part is, when you push his nose it lights up AND plays music. The sad part of the story is the gift-giver thought she would actually wear it. As she tries to hide her "oh my gosh," look on her face, she forces out a smile and says thank you. Between holidays, this seems to happen to me at least once every year.

The worst part of holidays is receiving gifts one hates. It seems that no one ever knows what to get each other. It seems nearly impossible to avoid. However, there is a solution. Re-gifting. Many people re-gift presents they don't like. They could also donate the gifts they don't like to Goodwill, or the Salvation Army.

A lot of people receive gifts they don't like, but chances are that at one point they've given a gift someone else doesn't like. Not everyone has the same taste, so this is likely to happen. Personally, I would say the best way to avoid giving a gift or present someone wouldn't like, would be getting them a gift card to their favorite store. If one doesn't know their favorite store they could get them a Visa gift card to the mall that they can use at any store in the mall or just give them money. If someone doesn't like that idea they could always just get their friends holiday cards. They could also make them something, whether it's a card, ornament, or anything else, most people enjoy getting homemade gifts. Besides, it's the thought that counts.

There are many different ways people can rid themselves of horrid holiday gifts. So this year, before one runs home and shoves all their shockingly scary gifts in a trunk in the attic, consider the many places to donate or the many other options one has.

It's oversized, fits all, and costs too much, but it's sure to keep warm. It's the Snuggie!

By: Logan Tichy [Staff Writer]

"It's cold outside but you don't want to raise your heating bills... So for a limited time you can buy a Snuggie for \$19.95 plus shipping and handling. And if you are one of the next 2500 callers you will get a second Snuggie for the price of one! Just pay shipping and handling."

We have all heard those annoying commercials about how the Snuggie is the new revolutionary blanket that is going to keep you warm during any circumstance. The Snugglies are one of the most ridiculous things ever introduced to man kind!

If you honestly think about it, would you really buy a backwards robe with huge annoying oversized leaves? The only reason why people are buying Snuggies are because they can be "versatile." Who cares if you can use your hands and do things like work on the computer and text a friend. You can be versatile you're your wearing your sweatshirt!

When Consumer Reports tested the Snuggie they found many things to be wrong with the Snuggie. Every time you would wash and dry you Snuggie you will get a whole dryer lint

vent full of lint from the Snuggie. They also found out that after 10 washes that you can see straight threw the fabric onto your skin, which would the draft come in, if its already not coming in those huge sleeves!

Even though they say that all you have to do is pay \$19.95 and shipping and handling and you receive another one free just pay shipping and handling for that one as well. What they say is not what they mean. One lady stated a case were she ordered 2 sets of Snuggies and had to pay for 4 of them. Another woman stated that she didn't get to talk to a real person. Everything was animated she didn't know when it was supposed to arrive at her house. She was hoping that she would get it before Christmas but right before she hung up the animated recording said thank you your Snuggie will arrive in 4-6 weeks.

When you compare a fleece sweatshirt the Snuggie just looks flimsy and not as durable as a regular old warm sweatshirt. There is no back to the Snuggie so a sweatshirt or pullover would be much warmer.

If the Snuggie were as good as they say it is, wouldn't you think they would sell it for more than just \$19.95?



Alexa Brady, sophomore, keeps warm outside by using her Snuggie in this freezing weather we have been having in Iowa. She prefers the leopard-skin print.

Red hot wrestler, Austin Weisinger, hits the mats

By: Carey Burns [Staff Writer]

His name was called. He goes to the mat and puts the strap around his ankle. The two opponents shake hands, and the whistle blows. It's game time.

Austin Weisinger, senior, has wrestled for a long time. "I think since kindergarten as far as I can remember," he said. With being in something that long, Austin has grown to love it. "I do [love it]. Winning is fun," Austin commented. Even though it's a lot of fun, there is a lot that goes into it.

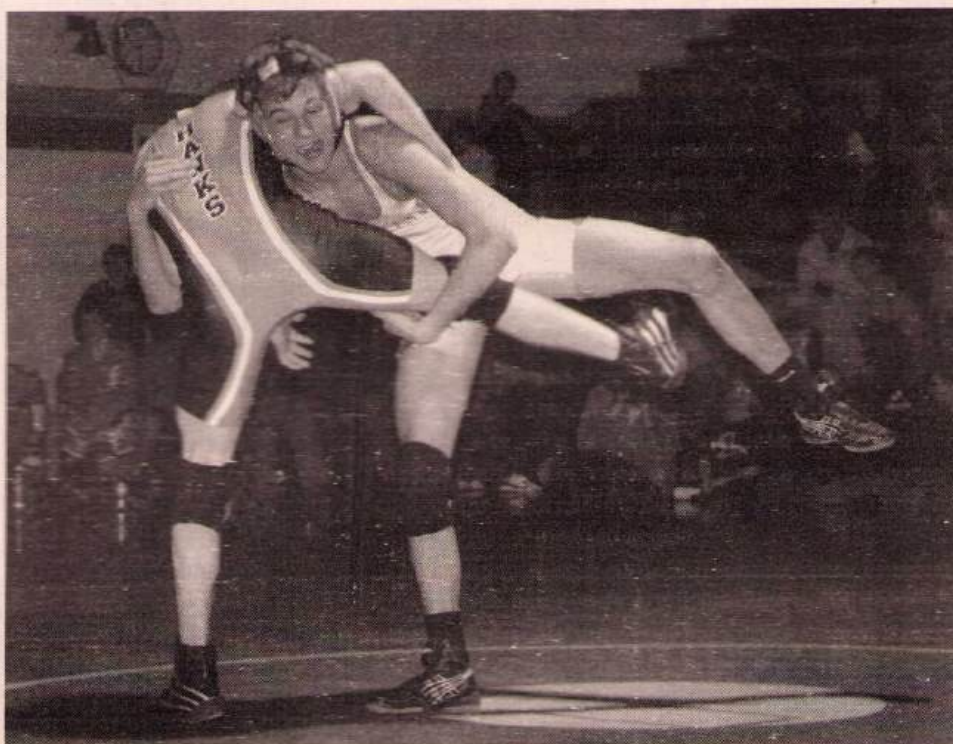
Every day of the school week, besides meets, Austin has wrestling practice. "It's intense, and a lot of hard work. You have to be dedicated to this sport," he proclaimed. There are some things that need dedication, and wrestling is one of them.

Austin doesn't just go to the meets unprepared. He has to get all of his things for the game ready. "I get all the stuff organized, kind of get lunch a box with food and drinks so I don't forget anything," Austin announced. Once he has that all together, Austin is good to go.

When he's at the meet, Austin isn't always excited at first. "A lot of times I get nervous, than I get relaxed, and I think about what I want to do and what I have to do to win the match," he expressed. Being nervous is a normal thing and Austin puts that all aside when he steps on the mat.

Even though Austin as nerves, his family and friends are always by his side, supporting him. "I get a lot [of

support] from family and friends wishing me good luck and for a successful season," Austin pronounced. Having support from people, especially from loved ones is important.



Austin Weisinger, senior, takes down his opponent in one of the wrestling meets last year. Weisinger went to State last year as a junior.

People have a big influence in a person's life. "My dad [has influenced me the most]. I have always wanted to go to the meets since I was younger and I have learned from him," he exclaimed. Being influenced can have a big impact on someone.

Not only having people to influence someone, the team is really important to help you out. There is a lot of support from the each person on the team and Austin has been encouraged to keep going and continue from his teammates. They also cheer him on when he is on the mat. "Yeah, [they do cheer me on]. I don't think it's just me. It's for the whole team," Austin explained. It's really important to have people on the team that are going to cheer the player on.

It's easier to accomplish something when there are people that are supportive. Austin has accomplished some things. "My biggest accomplishment is qualifying for state for the past three years," he mentioned.

With all of the accomplishments and hard work that Austin has put in to wrestling, Austin has made it far. "[I am] 6th in class 3A at 125 pounds," Austin said with confidence.

It's good to have goals, not only in life, but also with anything that someone does, even wrestling. Austin has set a couple goals for the season and plans to stick with them. "My goals for this year are for a 100th career win and to get a state place finish," he remarked.

He hooks in his legs and slides them back, bringing the other wrestler down to his back. The whistle blows again and the mat gets slapped. The opponent is pinned and Austin is declared the winner.

Cheerleaders forced to start over

By: Sarah Rosenberger [Staff Writer]

As the wrestlers are running, jumping and lifting, there is a small group of girls who are doing the same. Running the halls, jumping up and down, and lifting each other in preparation. They are the wrestling cheerleaders. The girls work hard to perfect their craft, cheering. It's all about supporting on the boys, the school, representing our lovely town of Marion.

One of these girls is Shayla O'Brien, sophomore. Shayla isn't new to the wild world of cheering, she has been cheering for three years now. So what got her started cheering? "I've always wanted to be a cheerleader. Ever since I was little. So when I got the chance to try out I took it," Shayla explains with a smile.



Shayla O'Brien, sophomore

While Shayla isn't new to cheerleading, a lot of people have come to notice all of the new faces on this years cheer squad. This is because they included girls from a try out this year, instead of just the girls from the one try out last year.

"I'm glad we had tryouts again. I think we look better than just a squad of five girls" And so they do, instead of a small group of girls

"I'm glad we had tryouts again. I think we look better than just a squad of five girls,"
-Shayla O'Brien, sophomore

there seems to be one thing that no matter what squad they all agree upon "the worst part is probably the uncomfortable uniform. The spankies hurt really bad and make your skin very red and irritated where you probably don't want it to be," Shayla exclaims.

With another cheer squad full of veterans, there could be some animosity between girls, but Shayla doesn't think so, "I haven't heard anything about it." It comes down to the fact that cheerleaders all do the same thing, and that's cheer!

Lots of people don't respect cheerleading, they don't think it should be a sport, but these new girls are out to prove that it isn't just standing around looking pretty and once in a while clapping their hands and yelling some support. Shayla wants every student to know "I would just like to say that cheer-leading isn't what everyone thinks it is. Yes all we do is sit on a mat but there's much more to it. A lot of hard work goes into cheering to make Marion High School look good to other schools."

There is one thing that students can't deny, the Marion High School cheer squads put in the time and the effort to help spice up a sporting event.

So as the wrestlers gear up and put in their hard work, put in the hours of sweat and blood, they work their tails off so that they can put up a fight. The girls are getting ready too, they are getting ready to cheer their loudest and slap the mat the hardest. So next time your at a wrestling match or tournament take the time to notice what all of their hard work can bring to an event.

First year for brave Burgess, never nervous

By: Emily Palmer [Feature Editor]

She was standing in front of the judges, mentally preparing her self. This is her first competition, her team gave her all the advice they had, and it's now up to her. Most people in her situation would be nervous to say the least; a speech ensemble would be enough to give anyone the jitters. But not this girl, Speech is what she lives for.

Hannah Burgess, junior, is thrilled about her first year on the Speech team. This being her first year doesn't actually make her nervous at all, "I feel totally fine and completely comfortable with what I've been given to do," Hannah adds quite enthused. Hannah is part of an ensemble group; they're performing a skit about AML, a form of Leukemia.

"I know my team has got my back," Hannah giggles. Hannah has never actually been in a competition before but her teammates tell her that she will be judged on her presentation, body language, and her professionalism but this doesn't concern her one bit. She feels at home performing even if it happens to be judges she is performing for.

For Hannah, speech is all about challenging herself with new things. She really enjoys getting to be someone else through her character. To her, Speech is a way to share through storytelling, and acting out various events, she even goes as far as saying, "And even miming." There are many things that go through Hannah's

head when she thinks about performing but being nervous or unsure of her self is not one of those things.

So if there are any people out there who want to be involved with Speech Hannah says, "It's high school, go out there and try new things, or you might regret it later." The nervous feelings one may get before performing disappear completely when your doing something you love. "We are going to Rock the Socks off the competition," Hannah Exclaimed! This is sure to be a great season for the Marion Speech Team, what with Hannah on their team anything is possible.

She takes the stage with her head held high, unafraid.

This is what she has practiced for this is something she loves.

She goes out there and gives all she for her school but possibly more important for herself, for her dreams.



Hannah Burgess, junior, gets a hand from her Speech buddy Alyssa Larson, senior. She is showing off her amazing socks claiming that the Marion Speech Team will "rock the socks off the competition" this year!

FIND OUT HOW JUNIOR AUSTIN HARDMEN THINKS THE BOYS BASKETBALL SEASON WILL GO IN, "HARDMAN SHOOTS FOR A GOOD BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM AND SEASON."

ACTIVITIES 5

Hardman shoots for a good boys basketball team and season

Austin Hardman talks about this year's boys basketball team and how they are coming along in practices for the season.

By: Tylar Jansen [Activities Editor]

He dribbles the ball down the court. A few parents and a couple of students are in the crowd watching the boys trying to bring in a win for Marion. He runs down the court feeling the eyes watch him shoot. He makes a two pointer shot.

Austin Hardman is a junior at Marion and he's been playing basketball since 6th grade, but he's been playing for Marion since freshman year. He plays many sports for Marion but he says one of his top favorite sports is basketball. "I like basketball a lot because we have a good team and everyone is cool and help everyone out," he said. Austin feels Marion has a great boys varsity basketball team because they all work good together to bring in victories.

This is Austin's first year on varsity but he doesn't feel scared going on a team with all the boys who have been on the team for a while. "No one is mean about us being newbies, but they just help us work on our weaknesses which help us in the long run," he smiles. Austin says that being on varsity does bring a bigger crowd and stress follows along right with them.

Austin says that varsity has a lot bigger of a crowd

then sophomore did but that's not what gets to him. "The audience doesn't get to me when I do get to play," he laughed. "It's the fact that I'm on a team that has gone to state and wants to again." He says the team wants and expects to have a good season this year.

Austin would love to go to state with his team but he prefers to take one game at a time and he feels that the team will go to state as long as they still keep up the teamwork and skills.

He said that the practices can get hard sometimes with all the running and all the fundamentals that they work on. "There's never a moment that I regret playing basketball," he said with a smile. "It does get hard though at practices running a ton and when you don't get to play a lot, but I know that I just need to keep at it and try to prove my role for the other teammates." Austin said that he is very confident in the players that do play a lot and said he knows that they will make Marion proud in the new season.

Austin is really pumped for the season to come. He feels that the team is having great practices and showing great improvements every day. "I know that our team will do awesome this year," he said. "All the boys are working very hard and all hoping to have a even better season than last year."



Austin shows his defense as he posts up against Clear Creek Amana last year. He's hoping that the team comes together to have another great season this coming up basketball season.

He's on the court again a year later. A bigger crowd surrounds the court in the bleachers hoping that the boys bring in a win, the pressure is sure a lot higher, but Austin still pushes himself along with his team to hopefully bring in many wins for Marion boys varsity basketball this year and make the whole school proud.



Austin Hardman, Junior



The boy's bowling team meets in a huddle giving team advice before a big meet.

Shelby Brooks going for all 10 pins

By: Alice Dixon [Staff Writer]

The music from Rock Band blared through the speakers of the television in the basement. People slammed on the drums, rocked out on the guitars, and sang happily into the microphone were scattered around the room. Tons of food was being passed around and everyone was having a good time.

Shelby Brooks is lucky enough to have gone to these after meet bowling parties for her third year. "My favorite part about bowling is probably the bus rides because we bond and annoy Raymond. And the parties afterwards are always really fun."

Being on the Junior Varsity team and occasionally the Varsity team, Shelby has had plenty of experience with bowling. Shelby thinks that bowling is a fun winter sport to play, for those of you looking for something

to do. "At first my friends made me join, but after my first year I liked it and I went out for it again."

They bowl three games per practice and sometimes do fun exercises like spare games and corners. "Corners is like golf. You try to get the least amount of points by hitting the outside pins, because Raymond really wants us to get them. He wants us to get a perfect 20."

Shelby also participates in band, marching band, and NHS. She is a senior at Marion High School this year. She does not participate in any other sports, but she has been in bowling for three years.

The parties take place at Rachel Reid's house after every meet, home or away. The play Guitar Hero or Rock Band and have a good time. "My favorite memory is when Jason Scott made Pizza Rolls and came down the stairs with them. He tripped and they fell onto Rachel's brand new white carpet. We always make fun of him for that."

Shelby feels that bowling is a fun way to connect with your friends, bond, and hang out with them after school. "All my friends are in it, which makes it fun for me."

Although bowling sounds like a party, there's still drama on the girl's bowling team. "I hate all the drama! Some people can get really competitive, too."

Last year the girl's bowling team got 5th place. Shelby was on the Junior Varsity team, but she didn't get to bowl. This year she hopes they will go far. "I hope we do decently, because last year we lost a lot of people," Shelby said hopefully.

As they walk down the stairs, they remember the time when Jason stained the new white carpet. They plug in all the guitars, drums, and microphones. They grab some food and the party begins.

Mannatech™

INDEPENDENT ASSOCIATE

Winter fashion drops from the sky like snow falling

Clothes for the winter have become a big thing this time of year. There are a lot of different things that people buy to stay warm.

By: Carey Durns [Staff Writer]

Winter has fast approached, so has the clothing to keep us warm. Stores stock up just so they can sell out; sales start and people spend more money. That's when new winter styles begin.

Jeans and sweatshirts are what most people wear, and there are many different styles to choose from. For jeans, there's boot-cut, slim, torn-up, loose fit, and wide bottoms. You can also get them in a small variety of colors, including black, dark blue, blue, light blue; and of course those skinny jeans come in almost every color imaginable.

Sweatshirts have different styles to them and a lot of them look a little bit different. Zip-ups and pull over hoodies are the most common. Depending on what is preferred, there are loose and tighter fitting sweatshirts. Textures, types of fabric used, front and back designs, pockets, and strings are all options when it comes to picking out a sweatshirt.

Sweatpants have many varieties, companies make them for guys and girls. People may find the bottoms tight or loose, but either way, they will keep you cozy in the cold temperatures. Sweatpants are very comfortable and easy to put on when someone doesn't feel like putting jeans on.

It's nearly impossible to pick just one or two t-shirts when shopping, because of the many styles and designs that designers come up with.

Another thing that is a need for the extreme

weather is a coat. Those come in quite handy when the car needs a little bit of scraping. They keep the body warm, and, depending on what kind is bought, it could look extremely good.

Fashion is a big thing, and there are some people that care a lot about fashion, while others could care less. Fashion is not only for girls; it is also for the gentlemen. When a magazine or an ad is looked at, there is a huge variety of fashion. Not only the high fashion is seen, but also the everyday clothes that people wear.

Sports clothes are popular, as well as a lot of other types of clothing. Even general clothes that people can get at Wal-Mart or Target, are completely fashionable. Some people just wear it to wear it, and others have a purpose of wearing it.

Things that are just bought at regular stores can be turned into something that looks fashionable. Just know how to put things together and know what goes and what don't.



Allie Boteler, junior, London Morehouse, senior, and Debbie Classon, junior, warm up for the cold weather that has come. They all start to put on more layers as it gets colder.

Many people have different varieties of style and how they like to keep warm. Jeans, sweatpants, sweatshirts, coats, hats and gloves are things that are cozy and nice to have.

"The Blindside" takes down the nation

By: Hunter Dancs [Web Editor]

One amazing man's story came to life on the big screen. The real story of Michael Oher became the movie of the year this November. The Blind Side came to theaters November 20. This movie has touched many people across the nation.

It brings a cast of Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw, and Quinton Aaron. It is rated PG-13. The run time is 2 hours and 6 minutes making it a fairly long movie. The Blind Side is about a rich, white woman, Leigh Ann Touhy (Bullock), and her husband, Sean, who take in a poor, homeless, black teenager, Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron), and helps him to become an amazing football player as well as a wonderful young man.

In the opening weekend this movie has made an estimated \$34,119,372. It is projected to make over 200 million dollars. A main reason is said to be because it's a football movie, which attracts the guys and it has Sandra Bullock in it, which attracts the girls.

Tim McGraw is an amazing singer, but has been

stuck with smaller parts, seeing as his acting has never really impressed much. In The Blind Side Tim plays Sean Touhy. He is very convincing as a loving dad. He plays the rich, white man born and raised in the south very well without taking it over the top. Sandra Bullock, as you may have heard, showed a great performance! She fit the role perfectly, along with her southern drawl and bleach blonde hair. Bullock played the dominate role of Leigh Ann Touhy. Leigh Ann ruled with an iron fist, but still showed tenderness and love.

Knowing the real story, some of the movie was a little off. Michael Oher himself said that in the movie they portrayed him as knowing nothing of the game of football, but Oher says he has been playing since 8th grade. The movie didn't show one of the key factors of the real story. Faith. Leigh Ann Touhy says that faith lead the whole journey. Faith brought Michael to them and took care of the rest. The movie doesn't show that.

Overall The Blind Side was a feel good movie. There was a great mixture of drama and comedy. It will make people cry tears of sadness and tears

of joy. The fact that it was based on a true story made it that much more heartfelt. There were no slow moving parts, it was interesting the whole way through, but was a little too sad at times. All in all, The Blind Side was a remarkable movie. Anyone who likes to laugh or enjoys happy endings should see this movie. It is movie of the year for a reason.

Rockin' to that winter radio

By: Sarah Rosenberger [Staff Writer]

As the air gets colder, the lights are put up, and the stockings are hung, there are many things about the holiday time that makes it so special, and different from every other occasion. But one thing that makes December one of the best months is the crazy music that fills the airwaves and floods out of store speakers.

As the years go by there are things that don't change, it's the music played. Although there are new singers doing their own tune, or remixing an oldie, the classics are the best and there is no doubt that. The classics bring everyone together, young and old to sing the beloved harmonies.

Most artists get in on the holiday spirit and some even make albums mixed with some of their own creations and some of the tunes we would hear at church. From "O Holy Night" to "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"

there is definitely something for EVERYONE when it comes to the music during the holiday time.

Whether you love the jolly tunes or would rather not have holiday spirit everywhere shoved in your face, there is always that one song that you can't resist to sing along to. One melody that always makes a smile creep on your face. Or maybe it's a saxophone solo by Yanni that truly gets the happy holiday spirit running through your veins.

So while you're shopping for that perfect present, just jammin' to the radio, or setting up your tree, don't forget to enjoy the best of the season's music. Blare it and get your groove on, because there is only one time of year when you can take festive and merry to another level and this is it so take out that decorative Christmas vest, get some eggnog and have a dance party to your favorites!

Top Ten Holiday Songs

1. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas
2. Baby, It's Cold Outside
3. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
4. All I Want for Christmas Is You
5. I'll Be Home for Christmas
6. Silent Night
7. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus
8. Carol of the Bells
9. You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch
10. Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree



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Hawks to the big BCS Orange Bowl

Hawks, TCU, get bids to bowl games; Miami getting ready to be infiltrated.

By: Colin Durzeck [Staff Writer]

The Hawkeye's have had a great season this year starting off with a 9 game winning streak, for the first time ever in Iowa football history. However, what comes up must come down. The Hawkeye's starting quarterback Ricky Stanzi suffered a 3week injury in the game against Northwestern. Since Stanzi's injury, Iowa has lost two in a row, to Northwestern and Ohio State. Ending the regular season at 10-2. Iowa will be going to the FedEx Orange Bowl against #9 Georgia Tech this year for the first time since 2003

when they played The University of Southern California.

Teams that have really stood out this year are The Texas Christian University Horned Frogs and Cincinnati

Bearcats. Cincinnati is ranked 3rd in the nation and TCU is ranked 4th. Cincinnati is 13-0 and won the Big East Championship, TCU is 12-0 and won the Mountain West Championship. They are also both going to a BCS bowl game. Cincinnati will be playing #5 Florida in The Sugar Bowl. TCU will be playing #6 Boise State in The Fiesta Bowl. These are two teams that shouldn't be underestimated.

A team that hasn't been as impressive this year is The University Of Southern California. They started the season off ranked 4th in the nation after beating Penn State 38-24 in last years Rose Bowl. They finished the season 8-4 losing to Washington, Oregon, Arizona and Stanford. All four games lost were conference games. USC usually dominates their conference and finishes in the top 10 in

Bowl games to watch:

FedEx Orange Bowl #10 Iowa vs. #9 Georgia Tech Jan 6th 8:00 p.m.
BCS National Championship #1 Alabama vs. #2 Texas Jan 7th 8:00 p.m.
Tostitos Fiesta #6 Boise State vs. #4 TCU Jan 4th 8:00 p.m.
Rose Bowl #7 Oregon vs. #8 Ohio State Jan 1st 4:30 p.m.
Sugar Bowl #5 Florida vs. #3 Cincinnati Jan 1st 8:30 p.m.
Holiday Bowl #20 Arizona vs. #22 Nebraska December 30th 8:30 p.m.
Capital One Bowl #13 Penn State vs. #12 LSU Jan 1st 1:00 p.m.
Insight Bowl Iowa State vs. Minnesota December 31st 6:00 p.m.
Champs Sports Bowl #15 Miami vs. #25 Wisconsin December 29th 8:00 p.m.
Las Vegas Bowl #18 Oregon State vs. #14 BYU December 22nd 8:00 p.m.
Brut Sun Bowl Oklahoma vs. #21 Stanford December 31st 2:00 p.m.
Gator Bowl #16 West Virginia vs. Florida State Jan 1st 1:00 p.m.

the nation. But this year was a completely different story as they won't be in a BCS bowl game and are ranked 24th in the nation.

Alabama's running back Mark Ingram takes home Heisman trophy. He holds the Alabama single season record with 1,542 yards and fifteen touchdowns. Other candidates for the Heisman trophy were Texas quarterback, Colt McCoy, Florida quarterback, Tim Tebow, Stanford running back, Toby Gerhart, and Clemson running back, C.J. Spiller. Ingram had a phenomenal game, defeating #1 Florida, 32-12 in the SEC Championship game with 113

yards and three touchdowns. The Alabama Crimson Tide are ranked #1 in the nation and will be contending for the National Championship against #2 Texas on January 7th at 8p.m.

A player that should have been recognized this season would be

Oregon's red shirt, freshman running back, LaMichael James. He ran for a total of 1,476 yards and fourteen touchdowns this season. In the Civil War game against in state rival, Oregon State he ran for 166 yards and three touchdowns winning, 37-33. Keep in mind that Oregon State's rush defense is ranked second in the Pac 10. Now LaMicheal and the #7 ranked ducks will be taking on #8 Ohio State in the Rose Bowl on January 1st. It should be interesting seeing the Buckeyes 5th ranked run defense in the nation, take on Oregon's dangerous running game.

This season of college football has been very entertaining and full of many surprises. Many interesting games will be coming up soon. Don't forget to check out and tune into all the great bowl games soon to come!

Captivating winter concerts coming to Iowa

By: Colin Durzeck [Staff Writer]

Going out side in negative degree weather is no fun at all. But luckily there are plenty of bands coming to Iowa this January and February! Country fans are sure to enjoy one of the many bands to come to Iowa in the near future. Here are a few of them.

Brad Paisley, Miranda Lambert and Justin Moore are coming to The Tyson Events Center in Sioux City January 14th at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices starting at \$37.75! Check out these songs by Brad Paisley Then, The World, and She's everything. Miranda Lambert also has some hits of her own including White liar, Gunpowder and Lead, More like her, and Dead Flowers. Justin Moore has a one hit wonder of his own Small Town USA.

Martina McBride and Trace Adkins are coming to Council Bluffs on Sunday January 24th 7:00 p.m. Some great songs to check out by Martina McBride are My daughter's eyes, Independence Day, How Far, A broken

wing, and Concrete Angel. Trace Adkins also has some good tunes to give a listen to such as You're gonna miss this, Ladies love country boys, Dangerous man, and Swing. Tickets starting at \$26.75 on Ticketmaster!

Shinedown, Puddle of mudd, and Skillet are coming to The Val Air Ballroom in Des Moines on Friday February 12th. Good songs you should check out by Puddle of Mudd Blurry, She hates me, and Famous. A few good songs to listen to by Shinedown include 45, Save Me, and Fly From The Inside. Popular songs by Skillet include Rebirthing, Whispers of the dark, and Open wound. Tickets are \$30 and are on sale now! Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

If you like Shinedown, Puddle Of Mudd, Skillet, Martina McBride, Brad Paisley, Miranda Lambert, Justin Moore, or Trace Adkins. And have an extra \$40 lying around, Go to one of these concerts and have a good time!



Martina McBride will be coming to Council Bluffs, IA on Sunday, January 24th.

Top websites for a good laugh-fest

By: Alice Dixon [Staff Writer]

If it's one of those yell at the top of your lungs days, luckily anybody can hop on the computer and go to any of the following websites that could make anybody's day turn upside down.

On an average day "fml" receives 1.7 million hits from viewers looking for something exotic to read. The sometimes-inappropriate posts include unfortunate day-to-day activity. Every post is true and starts with "Today" and ends with a signature "FML".

The French creators Guillaume Passaglia and Didier Guedj created the website. Ever since January 2008 people of all age have been raving about the interesting and erotic posts that explode from the website.

There are a lot of different website to see, but "fml" has proven itself to be one of the best.

If reading posts from a website isn't something that sounds exciting, going to www.youtube.com is another way to get a laugh out of people doing random acts in their life. There are more than 65,000 videos being uploaded per day and tons of interesting or funny videos waiting to be watched. Anybody who's bored can make a video with your friends or family and quickly post it on You Tube for anybody to see.

The College Humor Show, which starred on MTV, launched it's website, www.collegehumor.com, in 1999. It's full of pictures, articles, sketches, videos, and more. Not only do they have a website and a television show, but two people from the show star in another MTV hit, Pranked. This website hoped to appeal college-aged students, but it is still viewed by many people not of this age.

When anybody can interact with a website, it makes it more interesting. A website like that would be www.texts-fromlastnight.com. Anybody can send a text with his or her area code and it may appear on the page. Most of the posts are hilarious and personal. You can view different categories of texts including: best nights, worst nights, and just random. The site was created in February 2009 by two friends who tend to press send more as night turns to morning.

These websites all seem to have something in common. Being awkwardly hilarious. Apparently these two factors make up the World Wide Web and make websites more interesting. If the creator of the website wants more people to view the page everyday, I'm sure they would want these qualities.

Although having those qualities is important Facebook is the probably the biggest website out there. Social networks are where a lot of teens and high school aged kids go in their free time. You can talk with your friends, upload videos and pictures, and update your status.

Other interesting websites to check out are: www.stupidvideos.com, www.comedycentral.com, www.funnyjunk.com, www.cracked.com, www.jibjab.com, and www.imaninja.com. There are plenty of other flamboyant websites for anyone to check out.

When looking for something fun to do on a boring rainy day or just wanting to get a laugh out of something visit any of these websites and they will fit your needs.

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IND-36	4/12 - 5/19	Mon & Wed	6:00-8:30pm
IND-37	4/13 - 5/20	Tue & Thurs	6:00-8:30pm

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Denmark

In Denmark, Ida Herreborg celebrates a holiday that is like Christmas called Jul. She celebrates it on the 24th of December. Her family all has a big dinner together with foods like roasted pork, duck, potatoes with a brown gravy, and red cabbage. After their dinner, they all dance around the tree and sing while holding hands. They end their night by opening presents. This Denmark Christmas is very similar to the American Christmas many people celebrate around the world. "I love Christmas (Jul). It's nice because you spend a lot of time with your family," Ida remarks.



Holidays the w



Mexico

When the winter holidays come around, Naomi Spence gets ready to celebrate two different holidays. She celebrates the traditional Christmas, but also celebrates the Mexican holiday called Dia de los Reyes. It is celebrated on January 6th, 12 days after Christmas. It is also known as Three Kings Day. For this holiday, Naomi's family puts their shoes under the tree to wait for the Three Kings to bring them presents. One thing that Naomi looks forward to on Dia de los Reyes is when they play a game where Jesus is baked into the bread. What they do is each person takes a slice of bread until one person finds Jesus. The person who finds him then is in charge of having a party for him on the 6th. This holiday is celebrated by many people in the United States as around the world. Naomi thinks because of this, "Everyone does different things, so people should respect that around the holidays and learn about other people's cultures."



United States of America

Logan Ludwig loves Christmas. "Christmas is my favorite because of all the snow and lights," exclaims Logan. His Christmas decorating starts on Thanksgiving where his family decorates the tree together and start getting the house decorated. When Christmas arrives his family gets all together. They have a big Christmas dinner and open presents. These are traditions that Logan's family follows every year.

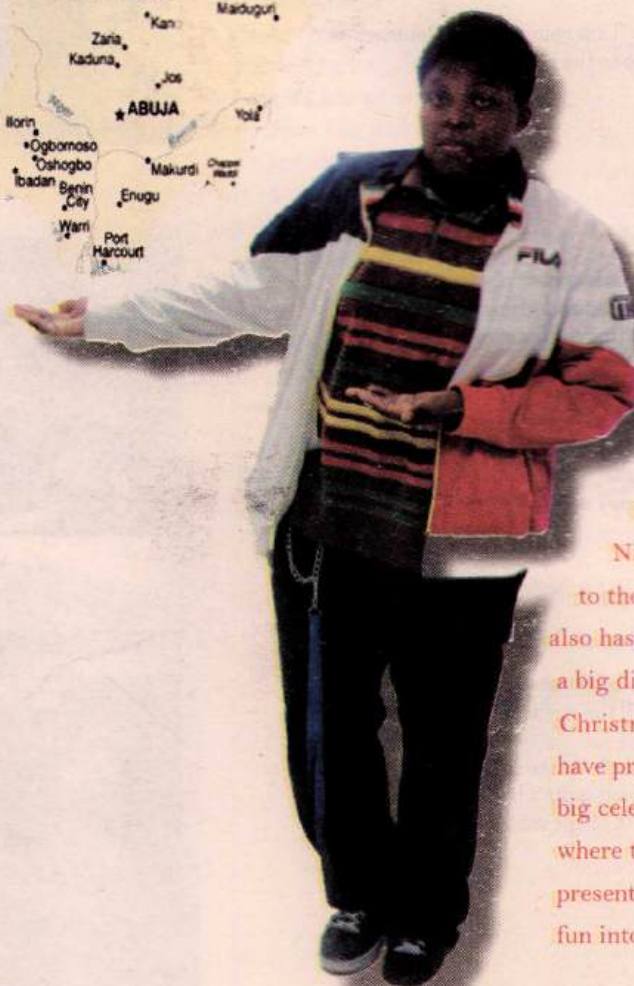


around world



Russia

Mariia Navarro lives in Kyrgyzstan, but she is Russian and celebrates a Russian Christmas like many other Russians there. This holiday is very similar to Christmas in America. They celebrate it on December 25th. They have a person named Ded Moroz, Santa to them, and his helper Snequirochka that they celebrate. There is also the Russian Orthodox Church's Christmas that many people in Kyrgyzstan celebrate, but Mariia's family does not. Christmas there is not as big as it is in America. The holiday that is heavily celebrated there is the New Year. They go all out with family or friends all night and have a wonderful time. One thing Mariia's family does on New Year is they all write letters about the next year and what they hope to accomplish, the problems they might have, and their dreams. Then once the year rounds around to New Year again, they open their letters to see if they overcame their problems or if their dreams came true. To Mariia, Christmas means something magical, "I think that in Christmas holidays that something magical happens around them. I wish you a lot of beautiful magical moments during the Christmas holidays and all year round."



Nigeria

The holidays are coming around the corner and to Chima Okoye they are about family. "Holidays are for the family, so don't expect to get much, just give, replied Chima." He celebrates Hamaton, the Nigerian Christmas. It is similar to the American Christmas, but also has some differences. Instead of a big dinner and opening presents on Christmas, they eat light and only have presents for the little ones. The big celebrating comes on New Year where they eat a big meal and open presents. This is how they bring the fun into the New Year.

10 SENIOR INTERVIEWS



Jordan Heiar:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Wrestling meets & tournaments and constantly trying to make weight. Football games."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Live everyday to the fullest."

Plans for the future?: "Go to Iowa & then Dentistry school."



Chelsea Houser:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Absolutely nothing! :)"

Quote or piece of advice?: "When you wish upon a star, makes no difference who you are. Anything your heart desires will come to you." -My brotha Walt Disney."

Plans for the future?: "Go to Iowa & become a physicians assistant."



Allyson Held:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Definitely seeing friends everyday, & the wonderful teachers at Marion."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Don't take life so seriously, live a little."

Plans for the future?: "Going to Kirkwood for Culinary Arts & Restaurant management."

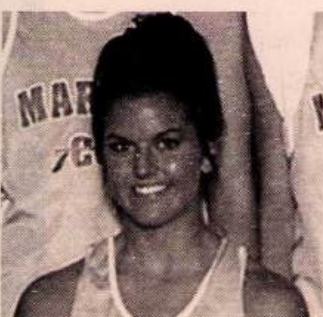


Ryan Hubbell:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Football, lunch ladies."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Have fun, but stay on the good side of any/all authority."

Plans for the future?: "Go play football, marry a rich woman, and be a stay at home dad."



Lesley Hennessey:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Seein' all my friends everyday, going to all the sports events and dances...and that's about it. haha."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Do what you think is best, not what others think because someone is always going to have something negative to say. Let nothing bring you down, you are who you are."

Plans for the future?: "Go to a two year school in Des Moines or go to Kwood for dental hygiene, then start a family and live happily ever after. :)"



Nate Hummel:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Mr. Thorton's classes."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Sky's the limit."

Plans for the future?: "Go to Kirkwood."

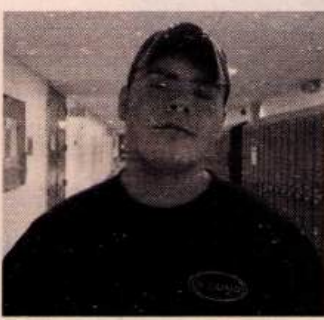


Kelsey Hernandez:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"All of my friends, bonfires after football games, and Mr. Z's bad jokes in class."

Quote or piece of advice?: "To enjoy high school and yourself."

Plans for the future?: "Go to Wartburg or UNI for biology."



Nate Irish:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Seein' everyone I've known since like first grade."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Get-R-Done"

Plans for the future?: "Go to college."



Ida Herreborg:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"My friends and lunch time. :)"

Quote or piece of advice?: "Don't walk on the path. Instead walk where no one walked before and leave a trace."

Plans for the future?: "I am going back to Denmark to go to college and then go to the police academy."



Mandy Jewell:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"My friends, the good teachers, & open blocks."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Reach for the stars! Live everyday as if it's your last."

Plans for the future?: "Graduate after second quarter. Take a year off of school & hopefully decide what I want to go to college for."



Emily Holecek:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Friday night football games and Alyssa's after, Gaff's class and Saturday wrestling tournaments with the boys and Melissa!"

Quote or piece of advice?: "Smile, nobody will know what you're thinking."

Plans for the future?: "Go to K'wood & get my M.A. and maybe my radiology tech degree, & get married, have a family, and be happy and rich!"



Lauren Jilek:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Cheerleading, football games, the dances, seeing my friends everyday, FAB FIVE & TENACIOUS TEN, musical."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Never settle if you are unhappy, only YOU have the ability to create better memories in your life. :)"

Plans for the future?: "Attend a 4 year college and major in pre-medicine."

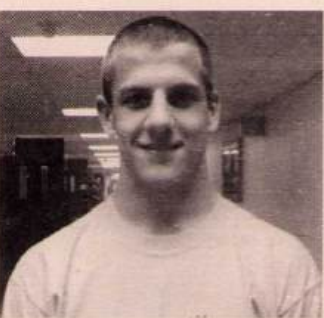


Ben Holub:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Friday night football, all the friendships we've made running the school."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Make sure you and Sem are tight, he can help ya out quite a bit!"

Plans for the future?: "College somewhere to play football."



Nate Johnson:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?:
"Football...wrestling...baseball...lifting with Rob & Parker, man sledding...black Friday...trying to beat Painkiller on Rock Band..."

Quote or piece of advice?: "One rule...don't let go."

Plans for the future?: "Go to Kirkwood, then transfer somewhere else."



Chelsea Jones:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "I will miss playing sports, marching band, band trips, friends, teachers, school dances with Brian...& my little sister."
Quote or piece of advice?: "You can be a hero if you stand up for what's right."
Plans for the future?: "...to go to college & play volleyball, get married, have a family, and travel the world...eventually I want to go into missions."



Jacob Joyce:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "...My friends, & some of the teachers who have really helped me over the years. I will miss the carefree life of being a kid."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Live in the moment and don't worry about the past because it can never tell you what the future has in store."
Plans for the future?: "I plan to go to Kirkwood for a year then to Loras College for 4 years & then to Miami University."



Laura Jurgens:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "I am going to miss all my friends & having a good time in class."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Have fun while it lasts."
Plans for the future?: "I will be going to Kirkwood."



Joel Kane:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Semler's wise counsel on life, holiday dinners, and Nate Mulholland."
Quote or piece of advice?: "We need to be really quiet like secret agents! I'll be dim, you'll be Ron, and Zack. You're the tweetster!"
Plans for the future?: "Be happy :)"



Karina Kiene:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "...friends & the weird little memories that we have made together...I hope my friends don't fade away & last forever...everything about Marion will be missed."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Do everything you can with NO REGRETS...!"
Plans for the future?: "Start at Kirkwood then hopefully transfer to Loras to major in Athletic training. I will be somebody's future Heather. :)"



Macy King:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "I'll miss my friends. Trips to get car estimates with Cassidy. My car smoking as I attempt to drop Haley off at home. Ms. Schultz & her crazy weirdness..."
Quote or piece of advice?: "...I would like to quote one of the greatest shows ever created. 'You have no idea how high I can fly' -The Office."
Plans for the future?: "I plan to get an education! I'm deciding between music business & management or teaching...at some point I'm going to move to Cali with Haley Cloven...Thank you & goodnight."



Hannah Kinney:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "All the band activities!"
Quote or piece of advice?: "Be yourself. There is something you can do better than any other. Listen to the inward voice & bravely obey that."
Plans for the future?: "Attend Simpson College in the fall & double major in Biology and Spanish."



Jaelynn Koob:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Seeing my friends & the teachers."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Never judge a book by its cover. Make sure you give everything your best."
Plans for the future?: "I hope to attend college then work with a company for a few years then hopefully own my own business."



Corey Kramer:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Being with all my friends, Friday nights, bball games, pretty much just running the show. Brittany Fish. :)"
Quote or piece of advice?: "Everything happens for a reason."
Plans for the future?: "Attend a 4 year college with playing a sport."



Radmila Kukic:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "The teachers & the good people."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Don't give up & keep going."
Plans for the future?: "Go to college and live my life."



Allison L'Homme:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "All my great friends & the memories I've made with them, plus seeing Mr. Kettmann everyday!"
Quote or piece of advice?: "Things change, people leave, & life doesn't stop for anybody."
Plans for the future?: "Probably Kirkwood for 2 years & transferring to UNI majoring in cosmetology, minoring in business."



Heather Lacher:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Not really anything. Why would someone miss high school? Now you can do bigger & better things."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Be careful who you talk too, because your 'friends' may not be real ones. Worry about yourself!"
Plans for the future?: "I am going to start Kirkwood in the fall of 2010, for my associates Degree in Nursing, (RN), then maybe continue at Mt. Mercy for my Bachelors Degree in Nursing. (BSN) :)"

Senior Interviews Not Returned:
 Daniel Knockel, Jordan Howard

REMINDER FOR ALL SENIORS:
 It's time for your senior pictures to start being turned in to rm. 22 for the yearbook!

-Due Date: January 15th

-NO objects in picture

-Picture should be in color

-Picture should be head to shoulder (close-up)

El Nino, it's mother nature's wild child

Hopefully everyone has heard of El Nino because this isn't just a storm with some rain drops

By Sarah Rosenberger [Staff Writer]

Hopefully everyone has heard of El Niño, some are probably familiar with the late and great Chris Farley's SNL skit when he dresses up as El Niño, but the rest is a mystery. Well according to PBS's Nova site devoted to El Niño, it is a huge puddle of heated water the moves across the Pacific Ocean. It is a massive pool of warm seawater that is half the size of the United States, and the pool builds in the Pacific over months at a time. This "wedge" as some call it contains over 20 times the water in all of the Great Lakes combined! Because of the sharp temperature and density difference in El Niño and the other water it can stick out of the water 150 cm or more! The amount of energy that it takes to heat the ocean that much is almost impossible to imagine, it takes the same amount of energy produced as half a million 20 megaton hydrogen bombs.

So to most people that is just in one ear and out the other, but what has El Niño actually done? Well, in 1835 a hurricane hit Los Angeles, the only hurricane to ever take on L.A., the settlement there was completely destroyed. The cause of this freak storm, well tree rings and lake sediments suggests El Niño was present in the year of 1835. Another freak storm happened in 1962 when Freida, a western Pacific typhoon, crossed the Pacific Ocean, against winds that would have stopped any other storm, and attacked Oregon. No other storm has ever been recorded of doing that before.

Storms are just storms right, wrong. In 1982 El Niño was the cause of 15 billion dollars of damage and cost 2000 people their lives. During that El Niño year, it created wave after wave or devastating storms that hit the west coast, creating floods, mudslides, and washed away beaches. El Niño also can slow down otherwise rapid growth in a country. Take the countries of Bolivia and Nicaragua, both had to declare states of emergency after the fishing industry was almost destroyed and the heavy rains and landslides that come with El Niño decimated crops in both countries. El

Niño isn't a new phenomenon, scientist can trace El Niño all the way back to 2200 B.C.

If you consider the sure power of the weather that El Niño produces and how long El Niño has been around, it could explain some of the crazy weather that we have been having over the past couple of years, or it could also be global warming. Either way it seems as if mother nature is letting us know

that we aren't doing the best in taking care of our lovely planet that we call our home, but that is all that is going to be said about that matter.

So the conclusion about El Niño, it's a freak of nature. El Niño has a mind of



Haley Cloven, Laci Grapes, Darbie Danford, seniors, all show their anger toward the weather as they come to and from school on cold day.

its own, and it can make the impossible, possible. Things that shouldn't happen in weather because of science and the laws of nature, El Niño makes happen. Without fail each time an El Niño year rolls around, destruction and demolition happen. Everyone in the Pacific or any country that borders the Pacific Ocean needs to brace itself for the craziness that is sure to come with every El Niño year.

Facebook trouble

by Hunter Damer [Web editor]

What do teachers do in their free time? Well they are just like everyone else. Teachers go to movies, out to dinners, have fun with friends, and they even use Facebook. Facebooking teachers are a taboo among students. Facebook was originally created for college and high school students, but today anyone is allowed. Now that many teachers have Facebooks should teachers and students be allowed to be friends? Some teachers think so and it has lead to a lot of trouble.

Marni Gable, 43, resigned from her teaching position as an art teacher at Alburnette High School earlier this year. The reason for her sudden resignation was "personal reasons." The real reason was because of several comments made on Facebook. There are records of Gable having conversations with students that include profane language and sexual comments. There were also negative words said about many members of the school district.

The comments on her Facebook were brought to board member's attention and brought up in the hearing for Gable to get unemployment benefits. Gable was denied unemployment benefits due to the circumstances. The record shows that Gable resigned after school officials confronted her with an 18-page printout of her conversations with students on her Facebook.

There were pictures of Gable "wasted," she posted sexual comments on male students' Facebooks, and referred to a group of cheerleaders in a derogative way. When these things were discovered Alburnette's Superintendent, Michael Harrold, approached Gable and told her that she could either resign with good faith and the school district would help her find a job or she could go to the union and attempt to fight it.

If she chose to resign the school board would write her a cover letter saying she was a good teacher and such. However if she fought it there would be a big uproar. Gable chose to resign. If schools monitored their staff's Facebooks more closely incidents like this could be avoided.

A culture way before its time; found

By Hannah Miller [Design Editor]

According to John Wilford in an article in the New York Times, there was a lost culture discovered. Before the Greeks, Romans, and even the Mesopotamians, were a group of people that probably led the path to civilizations that were later discovered after their time. Archaeologists have been putting pieces of the puzzle together about this ancient culture for centuries, but have only recently discovered great insight into the lives of these people. They lived in Lower Danube Valley and Balkan Foothills for about 1,500 years around the time of 5000- 3500 B.C. E. These people didn't have a civilization, but a culture because of their lack of a writing system. With no writing system, we have no idea what they called themselves, but to many scholars they and their land are known as Old Europe.

Even though they didn't have a writing system, these people of Old Europe were very ahead of their time in technology, art, and trade. During 4,500 B.C.E, the peak of their time, David W. Anthony states in John Noble Wilford's article that, "Old Europe was among the most sophisticated and technologically advanced places in the world," and it also was developing, "many of the political, technological and ideological signs of civilization."

One example is their trading, one of their main exports was their mastering in copper smelting, a new technology in that age. They made knife blades, coiled bracelets, and axes from the copper, which were big exports for them. They also traded a precious shell called a Spondylus shell found in the Aegean Sea. In their graves many impressive headdresses,

necklaces, and gold pieces were also found. One cemetery they, Varna, had is known as the oldest cemetery where humans are buried with golden objects. They discovered from these graves that there were many rich and high political ranking people from all the gold in their graves. Even though they were high in rank, archaeologist have discovered that they didn't indulge in their private lives. They lived in ordinary houses like many of the lower class people. It is a great mystery to archaeologist way this is.

The people of Old Europe moved and expanded as the years passed. Archaeologist now know that about in 6200 B.C.E the Old Europe culture people were farmers that brought wheat, barley seeds, and domesticated animals with them from Greece and Macedonia. They settled along the Black Sea and in river plains and hills, but keep in contact by trade of copper, gold, and ceramics. They also settled in the area that is now Bulgaria and Romania in villages with multi-room houses, some as many as two stories. The Cucuteni people, a culture involved from the Old Europe, was known to having the largest human settlement in that time.

More than 250 artifacts that have been shown in museums in Bulgaria, Moldova, and Romania, are now being shown in the United States. There is a exhibit at the New York University that will run until April 25th that is called "The Lost World of Old Europe: the Danube Valley, 5000-3500 B.C." It will show many galleries that showcase the life styles of the people from Old Europe.

No more busing for Regina!

By Logan Tichey [Staff Writer]

According to "Iowa City school board votes to stop busing Regina students," by Gregg Hennigan author for the Gazette, the Iowa City School district decided to stop bussing students from Iowa City Regina beginning next school year.

The superintendent said that they are having very bad money problems and if they stop bussing the Regina students they would save about \$260,000 every year.

By the state of Iowa all public school must provide transportation for all non-public students within their boundaries. Lucky for us, within the Marion school district we don't have any private schools within our boundaries.

If we had a private school with in our district we would have to bus their students around. And if we decide to take all of the busses away, we would have to reimburse the parents for gas money or extra costs to travel their kids to school. Or pay the extra state transportation dollars to the private school. Though the Iowa city School District says that they don't want to send the money to the extra money to the parents for transportation costs.

It has been stated that the way the school district was on an anti-Catholic bias. This means that they don't want to bus Catholic students around. This means no more bussing for the Regina School District. It looks like parents are going to have to start carpooling.



This lonely bus won't be taking anymore students from Iowa City Regina on it.

Cimaglia gives more than just time to the community

Kylie Cimaglia helps the community and the school every year by participating in many different giving projects with family.

By: Morgan Kolarik [Staff Writer]



Kylie Cimaglia,
Junior

White snow covered the ground, and the wind blew like crazy as the holiday season rolled in. The church where she goes to filled empty shoeboxes with gifts for the less fortunate and sent

them too other countries. She spent her own money on canned goods, and her band adopted a family to give gifts to. Giving to the less fortunate made her year, and now it has become somewhat of a tradition.

Kylie Cimaglia a junior has been giving for quite a while now. She started giving back to the community and the less fortunate families in middle school,

and she has kept it up every year. "It makes you feel good", announced Kylie at lunch.

Not only does Kylie have time to give. She is also involved in extracurricular activities around the school. Those activities consist of marching band, drumline, indoor and outdoor soccer. Kylie is on the varsity team for outdoor soccer, which takes place during the spring. She has been in band since fifth grade and plays percussion instruments. Kylie decided to go out for Drumline freshman year and she loves it. Two of her favorite songs are "Stick and Swing" and "Box", a regular at the Friday night games. "Drumline is a blast," Kylie said with a smile on her face. She really enjoys performing for the crowd.

This holiday season Kylie is going to continue with her giving tradition. She plans on participating in "Operation Christmas Child", which is a giving project her church takes on every year.

They fill empty shoeboxes with toys and other things children might enjoy during the holidays and send them to other countries. Kylie is also going to help with the adopted family band takes part in, and give canned goods to the less fortunate.

Most people enjoy the feeling of opening presents on the holidays. "Even though it may be hard to give, you will feel good about yourself in the end, and it feels good to give gifts to people", said Kylie. Kylie's holidays are spent with family enjoying each other's company and exchanging gifts.

Kylie will be spending another holiday season giving to families in the community and also families that are less fortunate in other countries. As she helps fill the boxes at her church she floods with happiness. Knowing that she gave back will make her year again.



Kylie Cimaglia, junior at Marion, helps out our community by giving gifts and her free time to help out the community.

Keeping healthy and in shape over the holidays is a priority for Wilson

By: Elizabeth Smiley [Co-Editor-in-Chief]

He wakes up. Goes to school. The bell rings. He is off to work, then the gym. That's a typical day for him. Working out being a top priority of his. This is along the lines of a usual day in the life of Sean Wilson.

Sean Wilson is a junior at Marion High School. However, he hasn't always gone to Marion. Up until this year he attended school in the Linn-Mar district. Wilson is extremely involved in athletics. He is in track, he also lifts, and participates in martial arts and boxing outside of the school. Other than the activities he

participates in, he also lifts and trains at the Mac, where he works.

According to Wilson, motivating himself to do his workouts isn't a challenge because he enjoys working out and staying in shape. He also has the support from his family. He elaborated, "They help a lot. My whole family is in athletics and I want to do good in athletics which motivates me to eat healthy and exercise."

Over the holidays Wilson's favorite part is all the food. However, for him it's not very hard to avoid certain foods during the holidays because he typically doesn't eat junk food so it's not much of a challenge. For the holidays, he goes to visit family out of town, which makes things somewhat difficult. Wilson explained, "[The hardest part about keeping healthy and in shape over the holidays is] trying to find time to make it to the gym."

Typically Wilson follows a routine or schedule. His routine usual routine includes a lot of arms and legs. For Wilson, the most beneficial workout consists of squatting and rows. Wilson proclaimed, "In the beginning of the week I do strength training and go heavier and towards the end of the week I do lighter weight, but more reps."

Whether he it's arms, legs, or abs, he is always up for working out. Wilson loves keeping on shape whether it's for boxing, track, martial arts, or just because, he loves it. Staying healthy and in shape is a priority of his.



Sean Wilson,
Junior

Marion healthy over holidays



"I usually don't gain weight, but my dad takes me to the 'Y', and he makes me run."
-Hannah Wendling,
Freshman



"I do nothing- Just sit on the couch."
-Blake Nielsen,
Freshman



"I stay healthy [over the holiday break] by not eating a ton of junk food and candy and I try to exercise during break."
-Mikayla Goemaat,
Sophomore



"I try to stay healthy by not eating all my Christmas candy at once and make it last for a while. On Christmas day that definitely doesn't happen though."
-Brandon Peiffer,
Sophomore



"During break, I try to eat healthy as the saying goes 'An apple a day keeps the doctor away.'"
-Trevor Chalmstrom,
Junior



"I watch what I eat and I eat in small portions plus I try my best to work out."
-Leisha Brown,
Senior

Turn Your Jingle Into A Crinkle!



No matter how much (or how little) money you have, living by a budget is a very wise idea. However, in order to do so, you need to track where your money is going so you can identify the "leakages" that may be whittling you down to the spare change in your pocket!

Metco Credit Union has a free budget spreadsheet you can download at www.MetcoCU.org - simply enter your expenditures to see where your money is going, and then use the spreadsheet to create a budget for 2009.

Keep with it and maybe at this time next year you'll hear the crinkle of paper in your pockets rather than the jingle of coins!

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Holiday decorations give inspiration and cheer by lighting up streets and houses

Jessica Arebaugh, sophomore, believes that her family's outdoor lights help give them happy spirits and an even greater holiday each year. Her favorite is driving around to see all the lights in her community.

By: Tylar Janzen [Activities Editor]

Ladders are out. Lights are up. She's pulling out boxes and boxes of holiday lights out of her basement. Her dad and her family are getting ready to set up their lights for another winter and another year to inspire people and get them ready for the holiday.

Jessica Arebaugh is a sophomore at Marion this year. Jessica and her family are really big into holiday decorations. "My family and I get a kick out of putting all the decorations up,"

she said. "My dad definitely gets the most into decorating!" she said that her whole family loves decorations and they all think they make the holidays even more special to them and everyone who sees



Jessica Arebaugh,
sophomore

their lights.

Jessica believes that looking at her families and other families holiday

decorations give her the ultimate holiday spirit. "I love just getting in our car and going around looking at lights with my dad," she smiled. "Not trying

"I love just getting in our car and going around looking at lights with my dad," she smiled. "Not trying to be creepy at all,"

-Jessica Arebaugh,
sophomore

to be creepy at all." Jessica feels that looking at the holiday lights can make anyone happy just by the colors and the fun designs.

She feels that the lights are fun to put up for other people's enjoyment but she feels it's for her own families' joy. "The lights are a way for us

to celebrate and it's fun to decorate the house!" she said excitedly. Jessica said her whole family feels this way.

If one were to look at Jessica's house they would find inflatable holiday decorations, a ton of lights and little yard stand up decorations. "This year I was sad when I found out that our blow ups got popped but we're for sure putting the lights up," Jessica said with a sad but hopeful smile for the next year and new blow ups to come.

Another year of decorating is done. All the lights are hung. Jessica can now be happy to just get in the car with her dad and look at lights and feel just that much more holiday spirited.



My families in Marion decorate their house to celebrate the holidays by lights, yard decorations and cute items like the house in the above picture

What do you think about decorating for the holidays?



"I love them! My dad used to decorate, it was the best on the block!"
-Miss Thompson



"I like them, but not over done."
-Mr. McCoid



"I like them as long as they are not obnoxious."
-Jacque Kroemer, junior



"I like them if they have musical patterns, those are cool!"
-Joel Kane, senior



"I love Christmas lights, they make everything look so magical."
-Jessica Thomas, freshman

Canada is at it's finest

By: Morgan Kolarik [Staff Writer]

It was the start of the New Year, a time for resolutions, and a time to start off on a clean slate. A trip to Russia would be a nice way to begin the year. Walking the crowded streets of St. Petersburg looking at all of the sites there are to see and discovering a heritage, filled her with excitement. Taking in her hometown must have been a feeling indescribable by words. One New Years down and plenty more to go.

For Anna Soenksen a junior here at Marion High School, over the top exciting things are not foreign. She has spent many of her New Years' in different countries such as Russia, doing interesting things not many can say they have done. When Anna isn't spending New Years doing something exciting she works or spends time with family, "[I sometimes just] spend time with my family or work," said Anna. This year is different;

"I think it will just be exciting to see what she looks like..."
-Anna Soenksen,
Junior

Anna is setting out a New Years trip. New Years plans to go with her mother for the first time, "I'm going to meet her because I have never met her before," said Anna. Anna is also going to meet her two half siblings while she is in Canada. Many adopted people set out to meet their biological parents when they come to an age where they feel it necessary and they come back with positive experiences. "I think it will just be exciting to see what she looks like because I have no idea where I get my looks or height from, and to see my two half siblings." Anna said as her face lit up.

New Years has a meaning different to all people. It might be a chance to have a fresh start, it might be a time to work harder towards one goal, or it might be just another year. "[New Years] is a wrap up of the year and a time to get ready to start something new," proclaimed Anna.

Anna waits for her chance at meeting her mother to come, and her excitement builds as the days go by. She can't wait to see where her genes come from. Another exciting New Years down and many left to go.

Marion High School Food drive helps the less fortunate

By: Hannah Shaffer [Opinions Editor]

All year round, people are helping others by donations, charities, races for good causes, and so much more. Too often, there are also those that wonder how they can help, but give up when they don't know how to. The truth is, many opportunities lie right in front of people. The same is true for high school students. There are those who would do more to help, but they cannot figure out how to. What most don't realize is that the chance to help is right in front of them, especially with the holiday season right around the corner.

A senior at Marion High School, Alyssa Larson, knows this too well. Alyssa is involved in choir, NHS, thespians, choir counsel, vocal varieties, the musical, and the spring play. She makes sure to stay involved, but has also been a positive helper in this community. Being a part of NHS, Nation Honors Society, Alyssa and the others in the group have been presented the perfect opportunity to help. NHS, primarily ran by math teacher, Mrs. Johnson, runs the food drive at MHS, just like in past years. Basically, the food drive is bringing canned items to any teacher of choice to help the families in need.

Alyssa proudly explains how she has contributed by saying, "I bring in food and help Mrs. Jones to encourage everyone in choir to help. I also do the announcements for the food drive." Although there is not a specific goal, the members of NHS need enough to provide for over one hundred families within the community. These families rely on school meals for nutrition. However, the progress this year has been lacking. "We are really low right now. Right now, we are a little over a third of where we normally are at

this point, but it's still great to see people contributing," Alyssa positively exclaims!

Here at the high school, there are things done all year 'round requiring staff and students and step up and help out as much as possible. These things include the clothing drive, food drive, penny wars, and more. Although Marion does step up to help out, there is more the community could do to contribute. Alyssa says, "I definitely think Marion could do more. It is a rough time economically right now, but there are still a lot of people that decided not to give, forgot to give, or didn't give as much as they could have. On the other hand, there were a lot of people who gave A LOT which was really neat to see." The students at Marion High School shine in many ways, but could also still step up to do more, especially when the count for the food drive is low this year. Its important that the community comes together and helps those in need, and don't for granted what people have.

Advice Alyssa would give is, "go out and ask people for food. Do everything you can. Don't be afraid to ask people, because more people would be willing to help if they knew how." Alyssa and the members of NHS are thankful to all those who have helped so far. With the holiday season almost here, it's even more important to help. Everyday opens the door to helping out, so seize the opportunity and give a little to help a lot.



Alyssa Larson, Senior

Trevor Jason, soph., his beats are part of who he is

Trevor Jason rocks out through the halls and during classes blaring his music everyday on his ipod to music like scremo and teacho.

By Storm Dogz [Staff Writer]

When the bell rings to signal the end of class, he cranks on his Ipod, turns it up all the way, and with the music blaring into his ears he heads to his next class.

Trevor Jason is a sophomore at Marion High School. However, he hasn't always gone to Marion. Before switching schools Trevor attended Valley High School. Trevor's greatest passion is music. He, like most people, has his genres that he prefers, but is very open to many kinds of music. Some of us have the genres that we like, and then we shut down to all other kinds of music.



Trevor Jason,
Sophomore

"I listen to screamo and techno most often," elaborated Trevor. Some of his favorite bands include Bullet For My Valentine, Dot Dot Curve, Medic Droid. He doesn't really like Country or Rap, but he'll listen to it if he has to. "I like the music that I listen to because I can relate to it, and some of it gets me in a better mood. And it's just really good music." Some of it also gets him

pumped up for swim meets. Music is something that brings his friends together mainly because they listen to relatively the same kind of music.

Because music generally brings people together, you would think that a group of friends listen to the same music, but that doesn't always happen. "Most of [my friends like the same music] and the ones who don't just have to deal with it," Trevor laughed as he referred

to his friends. Music is pretty important to a lifestyle, it sort of defines who you are. A lot of different things brought Trevor to listen to the music he does such as anger, pain, revenge, and sorrow.

"I've had a pretty messed up life," admitted Trevor.

"Most of [my friends like the same music] and the ones who don't just have to deal with it,"

-Trevor Jason, sophomore

Like most people, Trevor can't go a single day without listening to any form of music. Music has such a big affect on him that it also inspires the way he dresses. He always wears black, which is his favorite color. He's a fan of chains, but doesn't wear them a lot. He always wears a necklace with a Celtic Cross on it. He wears the Celtic Cross necklace all the time because it gives him a feeling of protection. He says its also sort of like a lucky charm. Plus, it just looks cool. He usually wears a hat, if anything to keep warm.

Since Trevor listens to his music as such a loud volume, you can most likely always find Trevor at school, even if he's on the opposite end of the building, because you'd be able to hear his music. He can most likely always be found because of his music. Some people listen to music loudly when they want to get away from the world, or are having a party, but he always listens to his music very loudly but doesn't really know why.

"...I just like listening to it really loud," Trevor laughed. If you do happen to see Trevor in the hallway, don't bother trying to talk to him (without getting

his attention first, of course.) because he won't be able to hear you, which is his point. Even though students take advantage of the passing time in between classes to talk to their friends about anything from classes to the latest drama. But instead of talking to his friends, Trevor uses passing time to think.

"That's why I have it loud a lot," said Trevor. He listens to it loud so he "doesn't have to listen to people talk" because it's annoying to listen to in the hallways. Trevor has time to think in between classes with his music so loud, whether he's thinking about a test in the next class, or homework that he can't remember if he did, or some drama, because nobody is trying to talk to him.

"I don't really care what people think about my music, it's my music that I want to listen to," explained Trevor. There are stereotypes that go along with music that you listen to. That's how a lot of people would like to feel, but are to worried about what people would say about their choice of music. His family doesn't really like the music that he listens to, but that doesn't bother him either.

To Trevor, music is a way of expressing yourself and a form of art. The screamo that he listens to expresses his anger. Softer music, like acoustic would express your happiness. And techno is just dance music to get you in a good music.

"I would recommend techno to people because it's happy, dance music. People would always be able to find a beat that they like and they can dance to.

The bell rings, signaling the end of passing time and the beginning of class. He pauses his music, takes his ear buds out of his ears, and takes his seat in his next class.

What in the world is a thespian?

By Cassidy Forrester [Staff Writer]

The lights go on and the stage is set, lines are memorized, and every one is geared up and ready to go, or are they. One member of the cast just got his lines. Opening night and all he had was one day to manage his lines. With great success he managed to have them down by closing night of the performance and managed through the rest.

"Well actually Thespians come from



Ryan Brunner,
Senior

Thespians a legendary ancient Greek actor. They use to all sing in choirs, but he stood out and began to speak on his own and that's how theater began." This coming from a true performer and President of thespians Ryan Brunner.

He has been in thespians since his sophomore year and has made it up to the top spot.

"All kinds of people actors, singers, dancers." Music and theater are a great outlet for all types of people. It's a time when you can be who you want and no one will judge you.

"Really our only requirement is that you are actively involved in theater and speech at Marion high school." At Marion there are plenty of opportunities to be involved in these less looked at activities. Being in activities that involve acting are a good way to make new friends that will last.

"I would have to say the best part of being in thespians would be interacting with good friends." Most of the people that are in thespians also participate in a number of other activities with Ryan, so most of them

share similar interests.

"I am in speech, spring play, fall musical, student production, and I am the president of thespians." A lot of students are involved in the same things as Ryan but might not know about thespians. They might not know that they have the power to be part of such an important group.

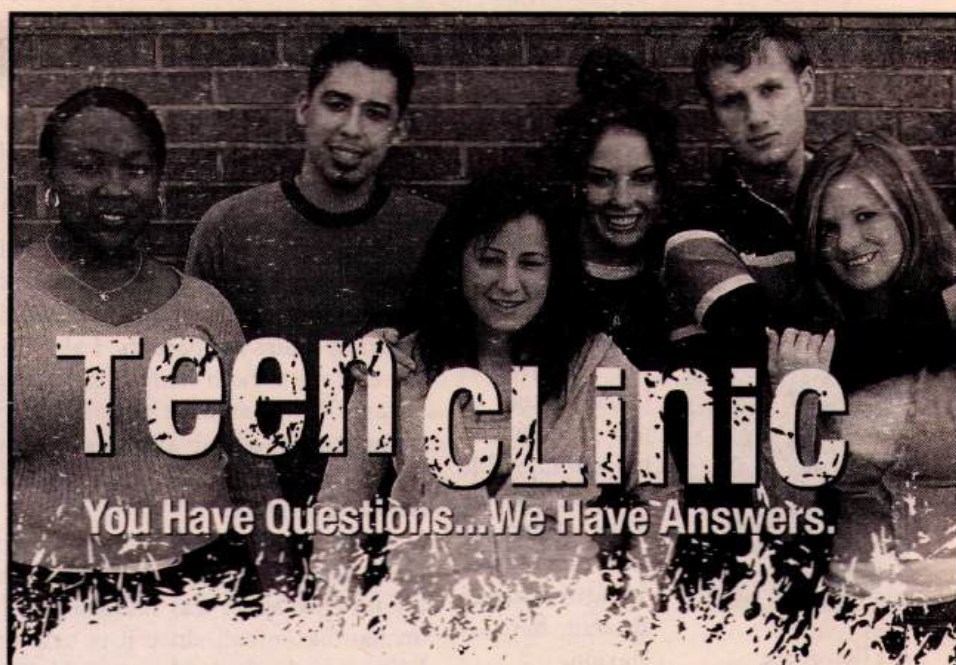
"Yeah I do enjoy being in charge. Not necessarily the power, but that I can make a decision if I have to." Power drives a lot of people, but its good that Ryan doesn't let it take him over and make him loose it. Being in charge of a group is a big responsibility yet he finds it in himself to take over at their weekly meetings and tell them what has to be done.

"It used to be a lot bigger. A few years ago it started to drop off, but this year we are trying to get it back up and going again." It's not fair that a group that stands for promoting the arts and what they mean drop off.

"I guess if anything our main goal would be to promote theater and the fine arts to the students at Marion High School." This is a good goal to have because everyone could use an expansion on there creativity. To prove just how creative this group can really be when asked for a closing statement about this group all he had to say was one statement.

"To air is human to forgive is Macman." That quote should sum up just about how much fun this group truly is.

Every Thursday morning at 7:45 anyone at school hears the announcement for all thespians to go to Mr. Macmans room for their weekly meeting. You may walk by his room and hear voices of students deciding on important things. If you really want to see what this group is about, you will meet one guy and he can explain it all to you, Ryan Brunner.



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BACK PAGE

HEATHER LACHER WEIGHS IN ON THE NEWEST OBSESSION ON FACEBOOK. IN, "FACEBOOK'S NEW APPLICATION, FARMVILLE BECOMES AN OBSESSION."

Facebook's new application, Farmville becomes an obsession

By: Ashlee Logsdon [Staff Editor]

Facebook is one very popular site where you can keep up on your friends, but Facebook offers many fun applications. One of the most talked about applications is called Farmville.

If you're keeping up your farm on Farmville you most likely log in to Facebook at least once a day with as many things as you need to do to keep your farm up to date. Heather Lacher is one of many who play Farmville, "I use to play everyday, but I got bored, so now I play like, maybe once a week." Heather explains.



Heather Lacher, Senior

How does one start playing Farmville? Heather tells how she got started farming, "My boyfriends brothers girlfriend messaged me on Facebook and told me to play it, she wanted me to be her neighbor." Since then Heather has been tending to her farm regularly.

Farmville has many things like coins to buy things, experience points to level up, and ribbons to give an extra boost to ones coins and experience points. These things are general goals that Heather would like to achieve. "I mostly just play because I'm bored, but probably to raise levels and to gift an olive tree to my boyfriend," Heather says are her latest goals.

Since one of Heathers goals is to level up, she tells her secret on how she increases her levels, "I probably buy things for more experience points, so I can level up faster." Her strategy must work since she has recently hit level 32.

There's much to like about Farmville, but Heather narrows it down to just a few things, "I just like the decorations, and I love the poinsettias! You get 3 experience points for them!" she says excitedly. Heather finds many things fun with Farmville, but Heather has an opinion on what exactly is the funnest part, "Getting the money, and leveling up because then you can send new gifts to people," Heather expresses. "Right now, the big ornaments [are my favorite part], I have a lot of them!" Heathers said is her favorite thing about Farmville right now.

Heather is also really excited about some of the new features Farmville is offering this Holiday season, such as the snow you can spread over the farm. "I put the snow on my farm, but I don't know if I like it, it looks kind of weird," she explained.

She's also excited about the new bull that is up for adoption on Farmville. "You can put the bulls in the dairy farm and you get baby calves!" she said enthusiastically.

"I used to play everyday, but I got bored, so now I play like, maybe once a week,"

-Heather Lacher, senior

Around this time of year, Christmas is on everybody's mind, including Farmville's. With the Christmas season Farmville created a blanket of snow, and all kinds of Christmas time cheer. "I like [the decorations] a lot, I love Christmas!" Heather exclaims. She tells just exactly what decoration she likes, "I like the ornament trees, because they're pretty and not something that usually grows on trees," Heather explains.

Heather loves playing Farmville and has been playing for a couple months now.

Many other people are joining the Farmville world. It's becoming one of the most popular applications on Facebook. So, check it out!



"Farmville is really addicting, but it's still really fun for me."
-Kim Arundale, sophomore



"It was very time consuming game, but it is something to do when I'm bored."
-Aaron Reisner, senior



"It's fun because I get to build a farm, the animals are kinda wierd though."
-James Craig, freshman



"I don't like it but I always get the rewards for it, and I keep ignoring it, it's annoying."
-Luba Dukina, junior

Herreborg is loving Marion, Iowa

By: Paul Nash [Photo Editor]

Being away from home for awhile can either be really fun or just plain out make you homesick. When ever people travel things always start out great, but eventually there is controversy. Ida



Ida Herreborg, Senior

is not just staying at a friends house though, or just traveling in her country. Ida came all the way from Denmark and is a senior foreign exchange student here at Marion.

Ida is enjoying Iowa but one thing she doesn't like is the cold. One cold thing she does like though is ice cream both here and back home. Ida has moved in with the Burns family which is a little different than hers since she only has one older brother, and now the family here is a little bigger. One hard thing for Ida when she first got here was the time change, she says, "It took me like a week to get used to it, but when I go home it will be hard to get back to normal."

Something that has been relatively easy for Ida while she has been here is making friends. Ida says, "Yeah It was kind of easy because people are really open here unlike in Denmark." Now one thing Ida thinks is extremely different here than at home is our fashion. Ida says, "It's kind of the same, like it's the same brands, but most the time here people dress casually and at home we always dress nicely. Like I have never seen some people in jeans here!"

She couldn't believe how many people just wear sweats everyday here, but she also said she doesn't mind dressing in sweats while she is here.

Now even though Ida does like living here she says, "When things go wrong I miss my friends and since it's the holidays I miss my parents. I also miss the culture back at home." Ida did celebrate Christmas back at home and is a Christian prodigen and was baptized when she was fifteen. This religion is the state religion.

One thing that is already new to Ida is basketball. She says, "Back home my favorite sport was handball. But I do like basketball since it is new and I like how it challenges me." Ida also likes school and says, "Yeah I do like school here because my classes are different and it's fun. Plus back at home I only had fifty kids in my grade and we would stay with the same class every year with all the same people and we had the same teacher all nine years of school in the same classroom."

Ida has really enjoyed Marion and has seen a lot of new things here in the United States. One thing she is focused on doing while she is here is improving her english. She wants to improve it well enough so that her accent can't be heard. Hopefully she can meet her goal while she is here.

Ida will graduate from Marion this year and then head back to Denmark early this summer. If you haven't met her yet then just go talk to her she won't bite. One thing Ida would like to leave on is, "I like to be here with all the nice people and I like Marion. I look forward to rest of the year and making more friends."

She hasn't been the same since the ABORTION.

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