



Alex Phillips, senior, and Ty Gunderson, junior, model their snowboards at school.

Adrenaline in the winter time

Alex Phillips and Ty Gunderson enjoy the energizing rush of snowboarding during the winter

By: Michaela Jacobs [Design Editor]

Looking down the hill, the wind and snow are blowing in his eyes, and through his hair. Excitement and adrenaline build up inside of him. He gets on the snowboard and begins his heart-racing journey down the hill.

"I first went snowboarding as a class trip my eighth grade year at St. Joe's," Alex Phillips, junior, fell in love with the sport of snowboarding after he went on that trip. Now he always goes snowboarding with his buds because he won't go alone. He can't go with his family because they have never tried it.

"It's my favorite thing to do," Alex says while describing snowboarding. Even though he says he's an amateur, he looks forward to it every year. From spring to fall, snowboarders tend to lose some skill because they can't practice but "it's like riding a bike," Alex explains, "after you hit the slopes a few times it all comes back to you."

"[One time] I got the wind knocked out of me," Alex says he's never really been injured while snowboarding. Although he has landed

right on his back while trying to do a trick that he wasn't ready for. Snowboarding can be a very dangerous sport. Make sure to practice balancing on the board, or take some lessons before hitting the slopes.

"It's like riding a bike, after you hit the slopes a few times it all comes back to you."

-Alex Phillips

Alex says that it's "difficult the first two times you go, but then you get the hang of it every time after, you learn and become more comfortable [on the board]." Alex helped Andrew Davis the first time he went snowboarding, and said, "He caught on real fast."

Another student who snowboards is Ty Gunderson, junior. Ty has only been snowboarding for three years, but he really enjoys it.

"My friend took me one time a couple years

ago, he taught me how to snowboard and I enjoyed it." Ty started snowboarding when his friends made him go with them. He was a little hesitant at first, but after his friends taught him, and he hit the slopes for the first time he couldn't resist them and their heart racing thrills.

"I'm not very good." Like Alex, Ty doesn't snowboard competitively; he does it more for fun and adrenaline. He can't do any tricks on the board other than the basics, but he wishes that he could. "I do it in my free time. I don't get too very often because I'm always busy." Maybe with more time and practice he will be able to improve and increase his skills enough to do some cool tricks. But for now, he is at the amateur level, and can't see himself making a career out of it.

As Alex practically flies down the hill a smile spreads across his face, for he knows that even though he won't make a career out of snowboarding, he wants to continue to do it as a recreational activity. He encourages everyone to give snowboarding a shot.

Help please?

Commentary

"Just deal with it" is a phrase I have heard more times than I can count... it's almost comparable to a sucker punch. Think about it. A friend texts in the middle of the night that they are having some issues. The person they text doesn't find the problem that their friend presents them with to be important, and they say deal with it, or ignore it. While people often overreact, sometimes they really need someone to talk to. Being a true friend means listening whenever someone else needs you, whether you think it's important or not.



By: Jordan Hansen
[Executive Editor]

While some problems are more serious than others, it may not seem like it to the person. For example, the pain of a broken relationship will pass, while the death of a family member will take the counseling of a friend. Even if it's just a small gesture, it can have a massive impact on the person's life.

People have problems, and those may not always seem important to you, but they might be to that person. Listening is a skill that few seem to have mastered, but everyone should learn. A real friend will listen to anything that someone has to say, and help any way they can. If a friend fails to do this, what's the point of even being friends if they do not help a person in their time of need?

A real friend will listen to anything, and will always be there. It's disappointing when a friend fails to help another friend in need, no matter how small, or large, the problem is. Hopefully, everyone will realize that listening is the best way to help, and that just a few words can change someone's outlook. It may be more important that you can possibly imagine.

Makenna Hill's uphill battle with the economy

By: Sam Williams [Opinion Editor]

She stares at herself in the mirror, absorbing the look of the jeans longingly. The intricate embroidery and stunning diamond-studs seem almost too beautiful, too serene, to have been crafted by man. Images of herself owning these divine jeans consumed her thoughts. Nothing could seem to waver her mind. She begged her mother; no matter how hard she pleaded or how sweetly she bartered, her mother, too, was unwavering. These jeans would not be purchased easily.

Makenna Hill, junior, has felt the sting of the economy. In a world where temptations are everywhere, she is left on her own to buy frivolous things. "My mom pays for necessities," Makenna explained. In order to satisfy her yearnings, she got a job at fifteen at Coldstone. "I wanted money and you get free ice cream," she said excitedly. Her cravings for cash and ice cream were dually satisfied.

Like many Americans, she found it difficult to find a job. "I was only fifteen," she shared. "Plus no one was hiring." Although it was a challenge, she successfully landed a job.

However, this job didn't last long. Eventually she quit, and she isn't left with much to show for it. "I have no money saved up," she laughed. It doesn't bother her, though; she's not too worried about her financial future at the moment.

The future of the economy looks bleak to Makenna. "Everyone is going to get poor," she foretold. Regardless, she does have plans for her children's college. "They can pay for half," she said, "To teach them responsibility." She thought it sounded like a solid plan.

Realizing her mother isn't going to budge, she reluctantly fishes for her wallet. After pondering the importance of the jeans, she decides they're a worthwhile buy. Although this time her temptations were satisfied, she knows that in this economy, she isn't going to be getting everything she wants.



Makenna Hill, junior, puts her hands up in frustration as the search for cash in her pockets ends in disappointment

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Bundle up for the cold

By: Taylor Lamm [Staff Writer]

As the cold weather starts to move in, the winter clothing starts to come out. A lot of fashion from the past is coming back into style this year. But there is also some styles that are staying the same. Girls start to wear common trends of boots, cute jeans, jackets, scarf's, and a whole lot more.

During the winter girls tend to choose the moccasins and boots over flip flops. Not only do they look cute, they also keep their feet warm. Girls also change the way the accessorize in the winter, by adding scarf's, cute coats, sweaters, or anything else that would be cute. Although looking nice is important, the point is to be warm.

For guys it is much different. Their clothing is as basic as jeans, sweatshirts, and jackets during the winter. The thing that is preferred not to be worn would be shorts. Shorts are nice during the summer. But that is because they help the person keep cool. During the winter though, usually a person wants to keep warm.

Some things that shouldn't be forgotten about the winter weather is that just because it's warm inside doesn't mean it's warm outside also. If people think that it is too much



Melaina O'Brien, freshman, wears shorts and t-shirt on a cold December day.

of a pain to wear a coat, rethink. No one has to wear a big and bulky coat just because it is cold out. There are other stylish coats out there such as pea coats or ski jackets.

Snow days: only for safety

By: Storm Bogs [Web-Editor]

Snow. We get so much of it every winter season here in Iowa. In the past couple of years, students at Marion have been experiencing a new pattern of having little to no snow days. Snow days every once in awhile are great and give everyone a chance to play in the snow with family or just sit around and be lazy. However, we should only have snow days when it is absolutely necessary due to safety.

Snow days are necessary for safety reasons. Many students in this school district do not live within walking distance from the school, and in the case of heavy snow or bad, icy conditions, many students would not be able to get to school at all, let alone safely. It could be very dangerous for some students to attempt to get to school some days, so there should just be a snow day when it is unsafe to travel.

There are some downsides to snow days as well. Since we are missing school with snow days, we are required to make up these days at a later date. There are some built-in days in the school year that stand as make-up days for snow days, but there are only two or

three. If Marion would exceed the amount of built-in snow days, we would be required to make them up during the summer.

Although students or staff would not like having to come to school in the summer, it might be the best idea in some cases, depending on the weather conditions during the winter. If conditions during the winter are so bad that the majority of students would not be able to arrive at school safely, a snow day should be required.

Snow days are very necessary when it comes down to the importance of safety. Other than that, they are not needed. After wasting a school day away by playing in the snow and watching movies all day, the day will have to be made up in the summer, when students could be enjoying summer.

There should only be snow days when they are absolutely necessary due to safety reasons. Other than that, students and staff would be happy going to school, and not having to suffer a shorter summer than it already is. If we had just a week to make up, that would shorten the month of June by a week, so that means the summer would be less than three months long.

A December without snow

By: Taylor Lamm [Staff Writer]

It's that time of year when everyone is expecting the big snow storms and a lot of ice. In the past years that is usually what Iowa is like during December, but not this year. This year there hasn't been snow so far that has stuck around for longer then a couple of hours.

This year, it's still as cold as the previous years, but we're missing one thing. Global warming is messing with the world's weather. Lately our winters have been getting less and less snow each year.

Some people might think that this is caused by just the weather changing and there is no exact reason why this is happening. But there has to be a reason for it, and the idea of global warming has a lot of signs showing that it could be the problem.

Global warming is our problem. We need to watch what we're doing with our environment. Hopefully Marion gets snow on Christmas.

What do you think about no snow in December?

- "I like it because it's not as cold as it could be." -Adam Walderbach, 'junior
- "It doesn't bother me at all." -Mrs. Johnson, math teacher
- "I hate it because it doesn't feel like Christmas." -Daly Quinn, 'sophomore
- "I don't think it really matters that much... but I want snow on Christmas." -Becca Hall, 'freshman

Are we too old for winter games?

Snowball fights and sledding are common after the snow falls. During winter break, when nobody has anything better to do than be outside and enjoy the snow, the common question raises: Is there an age limit on winter fun? Or can you just go outside, no matter what age and have fun?

There is no age limit! Anyone can enjoy classic pastimes like sledding, building forts and snowmen with younger generations, and snowball fights. Having fun in the snow is a tradition among friends and families.

Snowball fights are always fun, but more so when with friends rather than families. When with friends, who have a good sense of humor, snowball fights can get intense. It's are always fun, no matter what age you are.

Sledding is a characteristic of winter. Winter would not be winter without the

snow. Without the snow there would be no sledding. Every year, tons of kids go with families to go sledding during winter break. But at this age, there is a whole different take on sledding. When going sledding with friends, everything changes. The whole world speeds up to forty miles an hour when belting down a huge hill on a piece of plastic. No matter what age, sledding will never old.

Winter comes and goes. So go outside and enjoy the cool weather by bundling up in twenty layers of coats, sweatshirts, and socks and head out to a hill or park with some friends, go sledding, have a snowball fights, what ever you consider fun. Take pleasure while you can before it warms up and summer rolls around with scorching hot weather, winter only happens one time a year, so go have some fun!

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2011-2012 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 the final 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

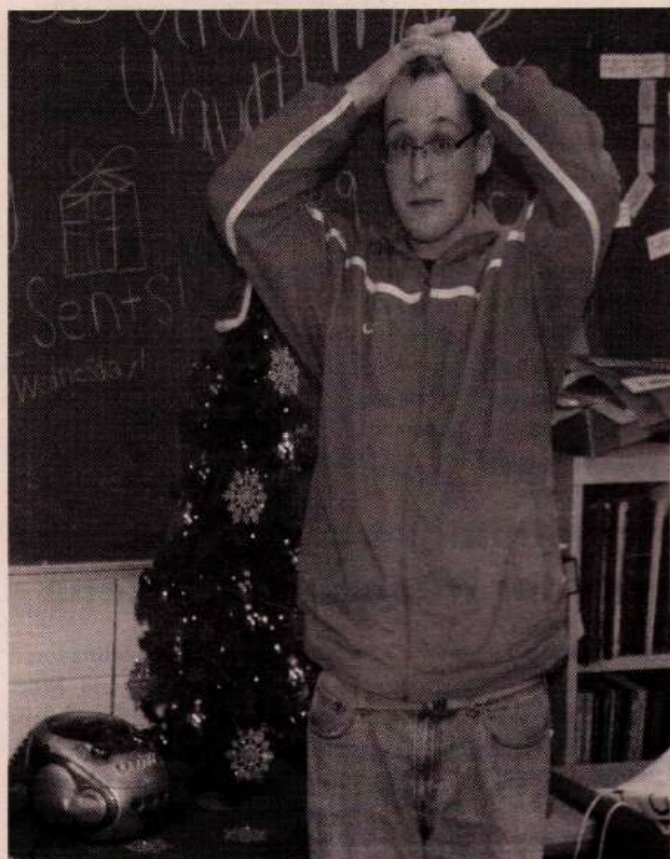
group.

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.

Holiday music starting a bit early

By: Jordan Hansen [Executive Editor]

Bah, Humbug! Christmas music starts too early. Even worse, it seems to be getting earlier and earlier each year. In fact, everything about Christmas seems to be moving up to



Jacob Huegel, sophomore, freaks out as more Christmas music plays over the radio.

be earlier as time passes.

First off, some radio stations insist on playing Christmas music before Thanksgiving, and others right after the holiday. While not every station plays this music, it seems that more do than those do not. Even going shopping can become painful for the ears, as every store seems to be blasting "A Holly Jolly Christmas" everyday. Just imagine someone who works there who is forced to listen to the festive music. It has to be painful.

Every store tries to one-up the nearest store with amazing displays and advertisements. Ridiculously enough, the displays seem to help, and people spend a large amount of money during the holiday season. It's just the annoying overplaying of the 50-some Christmas songs that are played again and again that becomes annoying. It really starts to grate on the ears after a time.

Even more apparent than the music is the fact that Christmas just seems to not be anything more than an advertisement. Stores do have to make their money, but does that mean Christmas should be allowed to become something it's really not supposed to be? All it is anymore is an over-exposed holiday that just seems to lose its flare every year. It's quite sad, and a bit disappointing.

Along with that, do people even pay attention to the small things about Christmas? Yes, listening to a bit of music (even if it is too early) can be alright, but is it about giving or getting?

Overall, it just seems that Christmas becomes less of a holiday, and more of a giant advertisement for stores. It has a direct correlation to Christmas music being over played and is seemingly becoming just another overpublicized part of the holiday, instead of its own little niche.

(Care)istmas

Commentary

It's that time of the year again. The time where people start emptying their pockets for change for those people who are less fortunate than them. It always seems that around the holidays that people are more giving. It's a time where people give more to others like money, themselves, and time.

There are so many charities you can give to, and so many local people like classmates, coworkers, and maybe even family members that need our help. The Holiday Giving Project that is done by our mentor groups is

a great way to help others. It is a very easy way to help out. I suggest that if you can, you help in anyway you can for this great cause. I know that I will definitely be helping out with this cause. Ways to help out would be, you could buy presents or food, or you could just give up your time to wrap or deliver to the families. Anything you can do will be greatly appreciated by those families.

There are also charities like Salvation Army that you can give money to. Many stand outside of places like Wal-Mart, which makes it very easy to drop a few coins or bills into their bucket. All the money donated goes to helping out others in the community. Every penny counts, so I hope that the next time you walk past you'll think about dropping in a penny or two to help others around you.

There are also many others ways to volunteer around the holidays like at soup kitchens and shelters in the area. Just doing a little research online will give you tons of places you can go and volunteer your time at. Anyway you can help will make someone's holiday just that much better, so get out and help around the community.

Holidays just put everyone in such a good mood that the air is just filled with joy. It's great to see everyone being in a giving mood and see people giving up their time and money to help others have a great time around the holidays. I know I feel, great and I bet some of you feel the same when you know that you are able to give someone joy during the holidays. The holidays are such a giving time and it seems to make people want to give and help out more.



By: Hannah Miller
[Yearbook Editor]

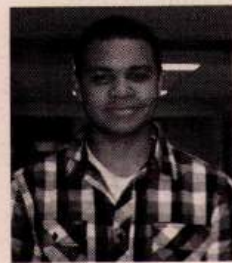
Students weigh in on whether holiday music starts too early



"I like Christmas music, but I think they should wait longer after Thanksgiving."
-Heather Lappe, junior



"No, because I like Christmas music!"
-Stephanie Hedtke, freshman



"No [it doesn't], it's a joyful time of the year, and [the music] should start in December."
-Jordan Keeton, sophomore



"Some years it does, but this year it did not."
-Alex Rinehart, senior

Hefty hibernating

By: Taylor Lamm [Staff Writer]

Gaining weight in the winter is very common for a lot of people. Some will get depressed or very upset about it. A lot of people face the challenges of having to deal with gaining weight also while dealing with everything else going on in their lives.

Gaining weight happens to everyone during the winter season. According to "Eating During Winter" on Weightloss-fast.co.uk, "It is possible for our genes to be programmed to consume more alimnts [sic] high on fats and more alcohol during periods with low temperatures, causing a gain in our weight." So no one should really blame themselves for gaining weight, when it really is from our ancestors.

Another reason weight gain could be happening is because in the winter

season a lot of people make baked goods that are high in calories. These have been said to be addicting to a lot of people. Most of the time when we eat one, we always take another, and so on.

Weight gain is normal, so no one should be ashamed. A lot of us have to deal with it every winter. Some ways people can try to drop their winter weight is to go to a gym and work out on a daily basis. If that sounds boring, go with friends. Another way for people to lose weight is by watching their food intake.

Also during the winter, the gyms start to get packed. Some ways to not get frustrated and still work out are by doing outdoor workouts. Some gloves, a hat, and some warm clothes can make all the difference.

Weight gain is normal. It is common for a lot of people to gain weight in the winter months. No one should get upset, it can make things much worse.

Tips to avoid winter weight-gain

During the winter we are forced to go inside, which causes us to gain weight.

- Stay active; try to go to the gym at least three times a week.
- Getting sun helps; bundle up and go for a jog or walk around the block or even have a snowball fight.
- Try skiing, snowboarding, or ice skating; these are winter sports that burn a lot of calories.
- Try eating well; watch your cravings, and don't go overboard on the snacks.
- A little weight gain in the winter is not bad, the extra fat helps people stay warm during the winter.

Facts obtained from http://www.askmen.com/sports/foodcourt_150/167_eating_well.html

4 ACTIVITIES

Drum line is a favorite activity for Feller. Read on in, "... Fab feet tap to the beat of the drum."

Combs, the queen of the basketball court

Micaela Combs, junior, tells about the varsity girls basketball team.



Varsity girls basketball team huddle up to do a team cheer.

By: Taylor Mills [Staff Writer]

She puts on her jersey and laces her shoes. She can see herself dribbling the ball down the court, and can hear the excitement as they score. She can't wait to get on the court with the rest of the team and for the rest of the season.

Micaela Combs, junior, is on the varsity girl's basketball team. Her position on the team is point guard. She loves basketball and has ever since she was little. This basketball star started playing when she was five and her dad was the coach. Micaela has grown up watching her parents and brother play basketball.

"I have pre-game dinner with Dani Peyton, which is usually Jimmy Johns."

Micaela has a routine before her games. After dinner with her teammate she gets into a mindset of being focused. She does this by listening to music and dancing. Micaela tries to get loose and relax so she can do what she does best out on the court.

"I think we will make it far if we work hard and keep striving for our goals." Micaela has a lot of confidence in her team. She knows they will do well and have a lot of fun this season. She can't wait! Micaela is certain that the team this year has a lot of potential.

Micaela believes, "It's not about how many points you have, it's not about being the stud of the team. It's about what type of person you are, the character you show and the leadership you have." She values having good character on and off the court. Throughout her years of playing

basketball, Micaela has found that this is the most important thing basketball has taught her.

"Just because we can't jump or dunk doesn't mean we aren't as fun to watch. But I would agree that there is a difference between watching girls and boys play," Micaela states. This basketball player thinks that just because they are girls doesn't mean that they should be looked down on. The stands should be filled as we cheer on the Marion girls basketball team this season.

She leaves the court knowing that they played their best and is proud of her team. They go back to the locker room cheering and smiling because they worked their hardest and showed the best sportsmanship they could. They know the rest of their season will be amazing.

Feller's fab feet tap to the beat of the drum

By: Claire Nash [Photo Editor]

The smell of buttery, salty popcorn fills the air outside the red gym during the five minutes before half time, he walks in and meets up with the rest of his crew. He grabs his drumsticks and the rest of his drumming equipment, he begins to think of the beat and begins to pum pum pum pum the beat on the drum, some should call him the little drummer boy of the high school.

Zach Feller, senior is on fall and winter drum line. Also he has been a part of Marion High School's drum line for the past two years including this one. Sadly this is his last year of being on the line. He began playing the drums for many reasons. Playing the drums is a passion of Zach's. "I love playing the drums, it is my life!" he exclaimed. Since he has a ton of passion for the art of drumming he's been playing since an early age. "I have been playing the drum set since I was the age of two and have been playing the quads since last year" he stated. Zach is pretty phenomenal at drumming but it does take a lot of practice.

Playing in front of a crowd during half time

show can be nerve-racking, but not for Zach. "I don't really get nervous its more exciting but my hands get sweaty a lot and I drop my sticks sometimes during the performance," he explained. Playing on the drum line will be a high school memory he will hold onto forever.



Zach Feller, senior, drums on his drum during the 2011 homecoming events in the fall.

Snowmobiling: a favorite winter activity for freshman, Martens

By: Grace Ehlinger [Ads Editor]

To a lot of people, winter is a time of year where there isn't much going on, and not much to do because of the weather. To others, it's an opportunity to enjoy some of their favorite snow-related activities.

Miles Martens, a freshman at Marion, is one of those people who like to take advantage of the snowy weather to do one of his favorite things: snowmobile. Miles has been snowmobiling since he was really young. His stepdad is who got him interested in snowmobiling and now his family owns six snowmobiles, and goes on trips to Wyoming, Backbone State Park and South Dakota a few times a year. Miles and his family and friends go snowmobiling a lot closer to home, too. "Whenever there's enough snow in Marion, we go snowmobiling about every day," Miles stated.

Snowmobiling isn't the easiest thing to do though. If the snow is deep enough it can be kind of difficult. "Yeah it can be (difficult). Some people like to stay on the trails where the snow's not deep, but I like to keep it in the deep snow," he explained. Difficulty is also what makes it more fun most of the time, so it's worth it.

It's reasonable

to expect that snowmobiling could be scary occasionally, and Miles admitted that he does get nervous sometimes. One of the scariest things to ever happen to him was on a mountain in Wyoming. While Miles was climbing the mountain, his snowmobile started to die, and he thought it was going to tip over. "I had to put my leg out to stop it," he explained. Another time, he was with his stepdad, his brother, and some friends in Wyoming, when they got stranded in a blizzard, and his snowmobile ran out of gas. "We had to get to this lodge that was about a half hour away," Miles said. They would have to wait there until the next morning when the blizzard was over. Most people wouldn't get the point of doing something that could be so dangerous, but Miles loves it mostly because of the adrenaline rush he gets.

This winter, while a lot of people will be in their houses, hating Iowa weather, people like Miles will be outside, enjoying the perfect conditions for one of their favorite activities.



Miles Martens, freshman

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Snowmobiling Facts

- The average age of a snowmobile owner is 42
- The average snowmobiler rides their sled 860 miles per year.
- The average snowmobile spends US\$4,000 each year on snowmobile-related recreation, tourism and products
- Approximately 80% of snowmobilers use their sled for recreational riding, while 20% use their sleds for work or general transportation
- 160,318 snowmobiles sold worldwide in 2007, including 79,815 in the United States and 45,477 in Canada
- There are more than 225,000 miles of groomed and marked trails in North America

Information obtained on www.snowmobiling.com.

Skating; Bohland's winter passion

Courtney Bohland, junior, shares her love of ice skating and what it means to her.

By: Melanie Loesel (Staff Writer)

She could hardly contain her excitement. It had only been a couple of weeks, but it felt like it had been years. She had been longing for that feeling she always felt. She laced up her skates, and headed to get on the ice. She couldn't control herself; she was so exhilarated that she was shaking.

Courtney Bohland, junior, has had a love for ice-skating for thirteen years. "Since I was three [I've been skating]. So basically I've been skating since I knew how to walk," she laughed.

Ever since day one she knew skating would become an important part of her life.

Skating for Courtney is more than just

a sport; it's a passion she shares with her family. "My uncle kind of got me into it. I really enjoyed it so my grandparents got me lessons," she explained. Her sister's ice skate as well, it's something they enjoy doing together.

She skates at the Cedar Rapids ice arena. She used to go once a week, but lately she's lucky to go once a month. "I don't go enough since they upped their prices," she complained. Courtney feels that the prices have become ridiculous.

When someone intends on landing a skating move, the first step of that process would be to buy their own ice skates. "I

do own my own skates. Actually they are very warped from so many crossovers (an ice skating move)," she laughed. Courtney doesn't do many jumps or spins but trying to accomplish any move in rental skates is horrific.

Unlike many sports Ice-skating is not a very common activity. "[I keep doing it] because I love it. It's fun. It's also different: I don't know tons and tons of people who do it, so it's special," she grinned. Skating is a solo sport, which means if the skaters heart is not into it, they won't go anywhere with it.

At first it wasn't as much fun due to the fact she didn't know how so she fell down a lot. "My least favorite part is the nasty falls. It's pretty embarrassing falling on your butt," she admitted. Of course that feeling of freedom and triumph will overcome any fall she experiences.

She steps out onto the ice, cold air gushing at her. She starts to glide across the ice. Even though it's been awhile she knows what to do. She picks up speed and feels as if she's invincible.



Courtney Bohland poses with some ice skates.

Herren hunts for humanity

By: Kaitlyn Natheon (Executive Editor)

Quietly sitting, leaning his head from left to right trying to get a good view from the leaves in front of his face. Taking after his dad, he gently places the arrow and lifts the bow to his shoulder. Squinting his left eye, he strongly pulls back on the tight string. WOOSH! He releases his fingers from the grip and watches as the once moving object slows his steps and trembles to the ground.

Ethan Herren, junior, along with many other students at MHS enjoy hunting in their spare time. Ethan hunts during bow season and late during muzzle loader season. "[My favorite part of hunting is] being outdoors and in the peace and quiet. Also not dealing with women!" He chuckled. Hunting is just a time that he can just relax and have a clear head about everything around him. He usually hunts deer and turkey.

Some hunters prefer to hunt extremely early in the mornings, usually anywhere from two to four in the morning. Ethan shakes his head to that and laughs. "I would never wake up that early just to hunt." He would rather stay in his bed, until later that day. He usually goes hunting around 3:30 in the afternoon or a little later. Most of the time he hunts by himself.

He's been hunting since he could pick up his first gun at the young age of eight years old. Even back then, he hated one

certain part of hunting. "[I hate] sitting in the cold! That sucks!" He stated. Most hunters would say the same exact thing. The weather is the most unattractive part of hunting for a majority. Although the weather might not always be wonderful, Ethan still believes more people should hunt. "I think everybody should hunt because it helps the population control of animals." He knows that in Iowa we sometimes have an issue with the overgrowing population of deer and other animals, so he thinks that having more people hunt can help solve that problem.

Ethan does other recreational outdoor activities in his spare time. "I fish, and ride four wheelers," he smiled. He finds outdoor activities to be very enjoyable. His most enjoyable moment ever would be when he was just twelve years old. "[My best hunting experience was] when I shot my first deer when I was twelve." It was an enthusiastic experience for him, and something he will never forget.

As he's getting down he takes cautious steps to make sure he doesn't fall down his tree stand. The late fall leaves crunch underneath is heavy boots step by step. He's following the blood track and soon enough he is welcomed by his wonderful reward. He can't wait to take it home and show his family what he got that afternoon.



Ethan Herren, junior, stands happily up in a tree wishing that he was further away hunting.

Just a hop skip and a puck

By: Breiana Brown (Social Media Editor)

It's a school night, and after a long ride to the arena, she pads up for what's to come. She takes to the rink, and as the blades on her feet hit the ice, she feels at peace. She quickly grabs her stick and takes her position by the net. A group of kids charge her, she takes her stance, and blocks the attempt. As the memories flood back to her, she thinks to herself how much better hockey is than figure skating; but nowadays it's just a distant memory.

Ashley Ohl, a freshman at Marion, used to play hockey. While Ashley hasn't played hockey in a couple of years she still remembers how much she loved it. "It's a fun competitive sport that I really enjoyed," Ashley said with a grin. Although hockey was fun, took a lot of time and commitment. Although practice for her was two or three times a week, it was definitely worth it. She played the sport four nearly four years.

Ashley decided to play hockey and be a goalie at a young age. This decision was made through the influence of her older brother, Tyler. "I was in figure skating, and it wasn't really my thing. Tyler played hockey and liked it so I thought I'd try it out." So, Ashley took to the ice, like usual, but instead of a leotard she put on her hockey gear.

Most people think that hockey is an extremely dangerous and high contact sport, but that isn't what comes to mind for this freshman. "I guess that when you get to higher levels in competition and skill or intensity there is more contact. Like college isn't as violent as professional games," she informed. The contact was little to none for

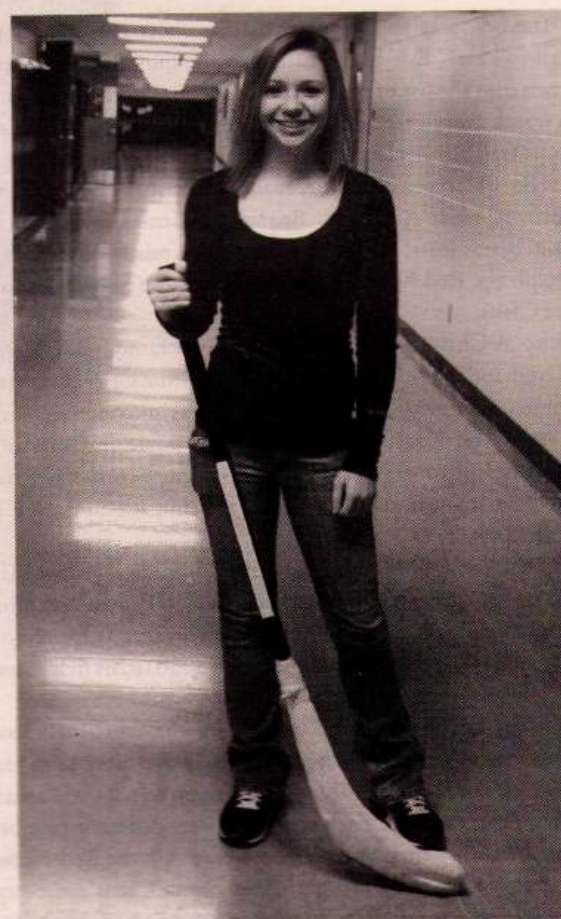
her age group. The extent of it was usually if a kid pushed her down, she would go and push them down. It was all innocent playing and limited injuries.

As the years went by Ashley decided to hang up her stinky pads and her heavy duty skates and move on. "As I got older I got more into school sports, and it was a long drive to the arena." The other kids at the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena would truly miss her, but the time had unavoidably come.

Hockey helped Ashley build character. Hockey helped make her to become who she

is today. Everyone should know this sport is one of a kind, just like Ashley Ohl, and that hockey is a sport she won't soon forget. So get up, get out there, be active and try something new.

"I was in figure skating, and it wasn't really my thing. Tyler played hockey and liked it so I thought I'd try it out."
-Ashley Ohl



Ashley Ohl, freshman, used to play hockey at the Cedar Rapids Ice Arena for nearly four years.

Garry Marshall's sappy cinematic streetwalker

By: Sam Williams [Opinion Editor]

New Year's Eve, directed by Garry Marshall, the director of *Valentine's Day*, is a comedy set in New York on New Year's Eve. The movie is organized as several seemingly disconnected adventures of various characters as they struggle to deal with love, until the very end of the movie when all of the segments are connected in a moment of contrived bliss. In other words, the ending isn't spectacular. While the complexity of following several different characters without revealing their connections keeps the viewer interested, it faces the ever present danger of creating a muddled mess, and it is this mistake that ruins *New Year's Eve*'s chances of being a success.

An unprepared viewer may see the all-star cast of *New Year's Eve* and expect to walk into the sort of cinematic brain buster every critical thinking moviegoer loves: saturated in symbolism and every scene doused in torrents of thought-provoking dialogue. However, as the less-than-unoriginal title hints, *New Year's Eve* delivers itself with the eloquence of bathroom stall scribbles. The amazing cast, featuring Zac Efron, Ashton Kutcher, Hilary Swank, Jon Bon Jovi and many others, shines with the combined luster of a dingy, mold-infested carpet. But all hope is not lost for this film; its balance, although at times disrupted, of ridiculousness and self-awareness justifies its abuse of banal dialogue and forced drama to attract unsuspecting viewers. *New Year's*

Eve's saving grace is that it avoids the infamously self-destructive crime of taking itself too seriously. Although a slim escape, the finished product places itself on the flimsy ledge of mediocrity.

Succinctly summarizing the plot of *New Year's Eve* is an impossible task; with eight story lines being woven together at the discretion of a Kindergartner, the result is just barely refrigerator-worthy. The following is only a few of the many plots: a pathetic, shy woman attempts to finish an expansive list of New Year's resolutions with the aid of a hard-core, scooter-driving delivery man; a rich, but unhappy man tires to get to the lavish party being thrown by his family to deliver a speech; an annoyingly disrespectful teenage girl defies her lonely mother in order to kiss a boy at midnight; a couple tries to have a kid at twelve to win a cash prize from the hospital. The clichéd quilt called *New Year's Eve* is constituted entirely by cookie-cutter romantic comedy story lines.

Thankfully, the film is a little more fun to watch than to attempt to summarize. The one thing that *New Year's Eve* has going for it is that everyone who goes to see it knows exactly what they're going to get out of it. This movie, like a streetwalker, is a direct transaction between the producers and the viewers; they get our money, and we get a cheap, but surprisingly satisfying feeling of content. I recommend that if you want to see a movie, and there's nothing better playing, go ahead and watch *New Year's Eve*; if you're optimistic, its unoriginal story line and sordid attempts at seriousness will



Ashton Kutcher is a main character in *New Year's Eve*.
Picture obtained from newyarsevemovie.warnerbros.com

What did our teachers do when they were seventeen?

By: Haley Shaffer [Staff Writer]



Mrs. Paige when she was 17

-What clique were you in while in high school?:
-"I wasn't in one, I got along with everyone."
-What did you want to be when you grew up?:
-"A teacher and a coach."
-What was the craziest thing that you did?: -"Nothing comes

to mind."

-Any words of wisdom?: -"Laugh often."



Mrs. Wennkamp when she was 17

-What clique were you in while in high school?:
-"I wasn't in one, I was friends with everyone."
-What did you want to be when you grew up?: -"I wanted to go into math, like statistics."
-What was the craziest thing that you did?: -"I guess I just drank way too many Mt. Dew's and did silly things with my friends."

-Any words of wisdom?: -"You really have no idea where life will take you, so be prepared for anywhere it could take you."



Ms. Schultz when she was 17.

-What clique were you in while in high school?: -"I was a jock, I guess."
-What did you want to be when you grew up?: -"I knew I liked English but I never thought that I would be a teacher. I think I wanted to be a comedian."
-What was the craziest thing you did?: -"I stole my friends four-wheeler without her parents' permission and we crashed it."

-Any words of wisdom?: -"No matter what the profession or whatever task is at hand, with hard work and determination, you will go far."

Holiday movie tradition

By: Kiersten Kiene [Staff Writer]

"The best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!" Buddy the Elf, from the movie *Elf*, has been thrown into the list of traditional Christmas movies that families watch every year around Christmas. Alongside of Buddy, famous Christmas characters continue to make themselves at home on TV screens. Ralphie, from *A Christmas Story*, Charlie Brown, from *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and last but definitely not least, all of the Christmas icons from long ago: Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, and Santa Claus.

Also, *A Christmas Story* is another very famous movie that is played for twenty-four hours on TBS on Christmas day. Ralphie captures the hearts of Christmas movie-lovers, and millions of viewers tune in to watch the movie on Christmas day. According to www.achristmasstoryhouse.com, TNT had started the marathon tradition in 1997, but it had moved to TBS in 2004.

We all know him as the bald, round-headed, yellow-shirt wearing, football-kicking cartoon. Charlie Brown has more than just a Christmas tradition, he has traditions for almost every holiday. He was first introduced in 1950 in his first comic strip, and has dominated the cartoonists' world ever since.

But the oldest of all the movies are the Christmas icon claymation movies. The Christmas icons have more than just characters, but songs to go along with them to tell their amazing Christmas stories. Each one has a very different plot but all relate to Christmas and the snow. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman, and Santa Claus are everywhere during the holidays. They're on candy, wrapping paper, and even under-garments. They are more than just Christmas movies, they have become symbols of the holiday.

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
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Awkward movie with the 'rents

By: Addie Dewitt [Activities Editors]

Sitting in the living room, the play button has just been pressed on the DVD player to start the movie. It's a movie night with your family, and everyone is ready to watch. The movie starts getting good, until you get two people alone then it gets awkward.

There are a lot of movies out there that teens just find awkward to watch with their parents. Some movies these days have graphic scenes in them such as sexual intercourse, drug usage, foul language, and other types of embarrassing gestures. One may feel awkward watching these gestures with a family member such as a parent, grandparent, or any adult for that matter. What does one do in this position? Some fast forward the inappropriate parts, some stop the movie all together, and some continue watching.

Many stories have been told of people watching movies with their parents and it turning awkward, then there have been some told where they feel completely comfortable continuing the movie. Teens that have a more

open close relationship with their parents, and know what their parents find appropriate and inappropriate find it fine to watch movies with such content. Each person is different when put into this position. Some movie that have awkward scenes in them are *The Hangover 2*, *Hallpass*, *40 Year Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*, *Pineapple Express*, *8 Mile*. Some even think love movies such as *The Notebook* and *The Titanic* are movies that wouldn't be watched with their parents. Awkward movies could be characterized only depending on the person watching the movie. A lot of these types of movies are hilarious and exciting to watch, but it's the sexual scenes in the movie that may ruin for the ones watching whom are not aloud to witness gestures such as these.

The movie has started and the viewers are watching; the awkward part of the movie begins to play: the choice needs to be made. One can either continue watching or turn it off. It all depends on the values the adult holds and what they find appropriate or inappropriate.



"I watched the *Hangover 2* with my parents. It was awkward because it showed a bunch of [male parts]." -Aaron Smith, '14



"I watched *40 Year Old Virgin* with my grandma. It was akward when he was watching inappropriate movies." -Cody Hoffpauir, '12



"...I was watching a movie and my parents walked in when two people were touching and making out." -Allison Edwards, 15

Lunatic Lohan

Commentary

Lindsay Lohan, Britney Spears, Paris Hilton and other actresses that started their careers off as children, had the world handed to them at a young age. I don't think that was the best thing for them, especially looking at Lindsay Lohan. Being just a young kid in the showbiz world of cameras, parties, and other exciting and thrilling things can just have a negative effect on a child's life.



By: Kaitlyn Nathem
[Executive Editor]

When you're ten or twelve, you always look up to someone older. If you're looking up to other celebrities, the only time you'll see them is when you're at huge parties with alcohol and even drug sometimes. Quite a few teen stars who started their job off as innocent little children have turned into drug addicts, party animals, and wreckless adults.

Lindsay Lohan is probably the best example of this. She started off in a huge movie, *The Parent Trap*. She was just this sweet little red-headed girl that nobody ever expected to turn into an addicted drug user. Is it the pressure of feeling perfect that drives these celebrities to do such stupid stuff? Or are they just craving for even more media attention? Considering that Lindsay hasn't done a whole lot with her career lately because most hiring businesses don't trust her to be responsible... It could be a mixture of both. It's sad to see young teenage actors and actresses that could use their publicized bodies as something good and exciting turn into drug addicts or thieves.

Lindsay Lohan has recently been in jail for related drug charges and even her father has admitted to the public that his daughter has a drug problem. Rumors have been flying that she is using crack and also rumors of meth usage have been floating among the media.

On November 2nd, Lindsay was sentenced to thirty days in jail and the judge is ensuring that she spends her time in the jail instead of buying her way out of the punishment. The judge also insisted that if she couldn't be put on house arrest. She has to complete probation, and if she ignores to do that, the judge is going to put a warrant out for her arrest and then sentence her an extra two hundred and seventy days in jail. Lindsay's life outcome so far is not what anyone had expected for her in the beginning of her career.

How the teen turns out depends on how great of a mental mind that celebrity has and how much they let other peoples' thoughts get into their head. Just regular people could be the blame for such tragic incidents that occur in celebrities' lives, just like Lindsay Lohan, Britney Spears and others.

Walking in a wow winter wonder body

By: Claire Nash [Photo Editor]

Staying healthy and toned in the winter is hard to do but it is possible. Working out for just twenty-five minutes a day on the treadmill or any other type of cardio will keep a person toned. Let's face it: the holiday season has so many delicious treats and meals that you just can't stay away. So a person should eat whatever they want (within reason) but working out is the way to go instead of diets, although dieting can work, too, if a person does stick to it.

If you are just beginning to workout and you have no idea how or when to do it, then read this plan. First things first: where? Do you belong to a local gym or do you have cardio equipment at home? Either way, put some comfy clothes on, throw that hair into a messy bun or ponytail and tell yourself I can do this! It will take hard work and dedication but within just two weeks the results should begin to show. So somebody can either do elliptical or treadmill for a cardio workout the choice is theirs.

Go hard at least six mph for twenty-five minutes. Then do a cooldown for five minutes at three mph. After this, get some water. It's important to stay hydrated. If you're working out in a local gym, make sure to clean the machines, as they carry lots of germs. But to stay looking hot and sexy, a person will have to lift weights, yes that goes for you, too, girls! And no, it will not make you extremely muscular so don't worry about it.

Working out in the winter is most definitely tough to perfect, but it does happen to work for most of the people who put their mind to it. So if a person truly wants to keep the horrible holiday pounds off, they can do it with hard working out and eating the right foods!



Elliptical machines are a good type of exercise equipment to use during the winter since you can't run outside because its cold.



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Top ten presents for the 2011 year

By: Taylor Millis [Staff Writer]

- 1) *Call of Duty- Modern Warfare 3*: For those who didn't stand in the freezing cold on the midnight release of this game may still need a copy.
- 2) *Nook color*: If reading in black and white isn't good enough, then get this electronic reader that has color!
- 3) *Beats headphones*: Listen to the music like the stars with Beats headphones by Dre.
- 4) *iPhone 4S*: This phone is like a personal assistant. It has built in responses so don't think about trying to outsmart it.
- 5) *Samsung Tablet*: It's basically a big Android phone. It's the new iPad.
- 6) *iPod Touch*: Just as good as the last generation of iPods only a different look and now in white!

- 7) *Ugg Boots*: An expensive version of the suede boots sold cheaper by other suppliers.
- 8) *Coach Apparel*: Again, cute items sold at crazy prices. It's possible to buy similar things for less, but it won't be the name brand that everyone's after.
- 9) *Fuzzy Northface*: Feel like a cute woodland creature in this fuzzy jacket.
- 10) *A car*: Who doesn't want a car?



Shayla Obrien, senior, holds a perfectly wrapped present

Christmas

Mrs. Gaffney-Paige's Story

Last year, on Christmas Eve, Mrs. Gaffney-Paige, and English teacher here at MHS, got in a dangerous car accident. "We were going up to my dad's and it was icy and sleety," Mrs. Paige describes. Those are some very dangerous conditions for anyone, even an adult, to drive in.

"We came across a bridge near Quasqueton, Iowa, and we hit a patch of ice," Paige utters, "Our Expedition did a 360 and hit a light pole. All of our presents and things flew out the back window as it broke."

"We were all safe," Paige says relieved. "But our Expedition was totaled and we missed church."



Emilio's Story

Back in 2010, Emilio Tamayo, freshman, experienced his own Christmas tragedy. "I was waiting for my cousin who was on her way home from the Navy," explained Emilio, "she got in a car accident on the way home. Emilio was extremely upset by this even but, luckily, his sister was not harmed in the event."

He was let down by the rest of his holiday season. "It was kind of boring," said Emilio disappointed, "I really wanted her to come home, she's like my role model."



SPREAD

Stories

Mitchell's Story

Mitchell Livingston, freshman, had a sledding accident at the age of five years old. "We were sledding with me and my sister," he remembered. Mitchell and his twin sister were sledding down a hill at high speeds, having fun in the snow like any other five year old would. "My other sister, Alicia, was standing and was trying to jump on," Mitchell recalled the seconds before his five year old self was changed before his sledding disaster.

"My jaw slammed into her leg, and I bit through my tongue," he remarked. He remembers every second of the event. "For about two weeks I had ice cream and cold food," Mitchell remarked happily. "My Christmas was not any different," Mitchell says.



Ashlee's Story

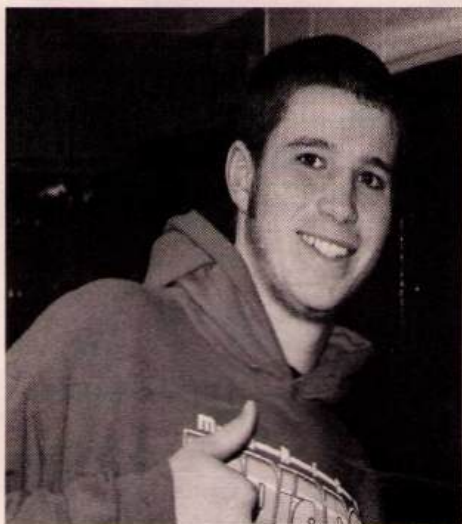
One year around Christmas time, Ashlee Reece's grandmother got in a fatal car accident. "She was coming to our house," explains Ashlee, "There was a big snow storm and she lost control over some black ice."

Ashlee didn't know about her grandmother's accident until after Christmas. "We didn't know until about three days after Christmas, so it didn't effect it," she explained sadly. "It was horrible."

Everyone has moments around their holiday season that can make it upsetting.



10 SENIOR INTERVIEWS



Addison Johnson:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "The people, the easy classes, and Fowler."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Don't cheat on Fowler's tests."

Plans for the future?: "Play some college baseball, fiesta, and become a cop!"



Kathleen Kimball:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "I think I am going to miss my friends most and the fact that I have a routine, everyday."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Be who you are, no matter what others think."

Plans for the future?: "Going to Kirkwood or Des Moines for Culinary Arts and moving to Los Angeles after college."



Adam Jones:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "All of the seniors."

Quote or piece of advice?: "You're talking about shenanigans, right?"

Plans for the future?: "Go to Kirkwood for two years then transfer somewhere for criminal justice."



Cole Koeppen:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "The cross country team and the coaches."

Quote or piece of advice?: "An amateur tries until he gets it right, a professional tries until he can't get it wrong."

Plans for the future?: "Army Airborne Rangers."



Alyssa Jones:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "I am going to miss all my friends and the sporting events."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Work hard and never give up"

Plans for the future?: "Go to a four-year college and play basketball."

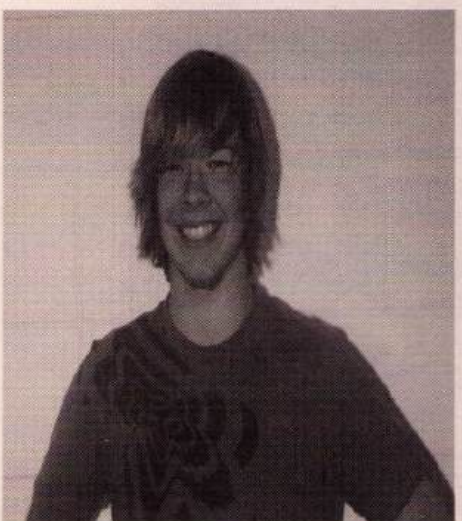


Ashlin Korf:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "B-lorin, Hancat, Smelsey, my basketball homegirls, Gaff's class, and Emi's nemo ear."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Always be yourself and follow your dreams."

Plans for the future?: "Probably go to Central College and become an elementary teacher."



Mick Jones:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Hanging out with all my friends, teachers, and the classes I really enjoy."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Never look down always keep your head up even if you mess up once you can fix it next time, it's life."

Plans for the future?: "Plan on going to the Navy, college, play football, and also Automotive Engineering."



Jessie Kramer:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "My best friend Allan Scott, team dinners, and sporting events."

Quote or piece of advice?: "Never let the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game." & "Fall down seven times, stand up eight."

Plans for the future?: "Attend UNI or Iowa State to major in either Psychology or Athletic Training."



Sarah Keeton:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Seeing so many wonderful faces in the hallway(: and visiting senorita(: and AP English."

Quote or piece of advice?: "If you aren't laughing then you aren't living(:, When life gives you 1000 reasons to cry, show life 1000 reasons to smile(:"

Plans for the future?: "Possibly attend Cornell and major in Spanish and/or Pre Law."

Trying to make a difficult decision?

Trying to work through some depression or anxiety?

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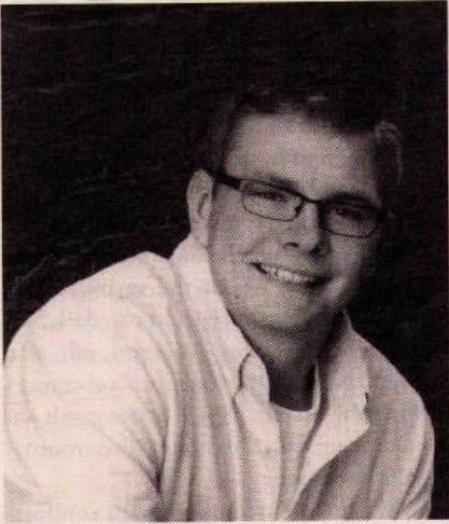
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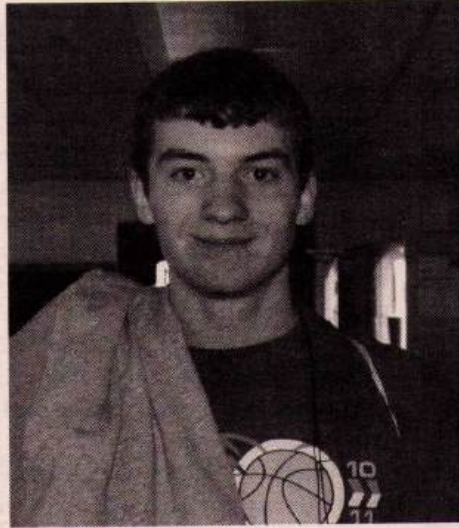
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SENIOR INTERVIEWS 11



Matthew Leners:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "My friends."
Quote or piece of advice?: "I can't think of a quote..."
Plans for the future?: "Diesel Mechanics."



Logan Ludwig:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Ninja with the track team, awesome school lunches, all my friends, all the teachers, and Mr. Kettmann's laugh."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Whether you think you can, or that you can't, you're probably right."
Plans for the future?: "To attend UNI and become the next Heather."



Brownyn Lewis:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Sarah, Cassie, and the band family."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Sarah Keeton is the best."
Plans for the future?: "Go to UNI for Enviromental Science."



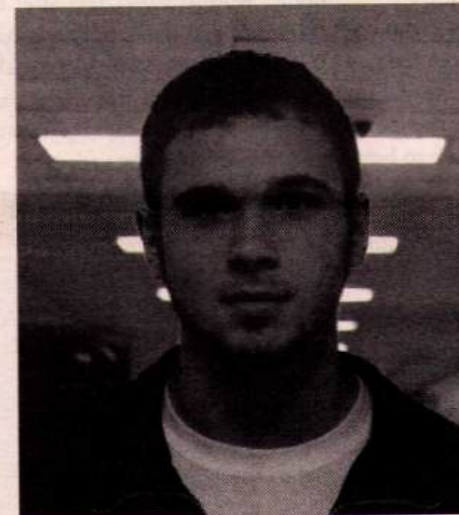
Kelsey Martens:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Uhh... Mrs. Koeppen and how she is an awesome math teacher and hearing Mr. Kettmann's laugh all the way down the hall."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Be the change you wish to see in the world." and "Don't spend your time trying to impress people. Be yourself."
Plans for the future?: "Go to UNI, major in finance. Eventually get my masters in finance and make bank! Travel the world doin' community service and helping kids in need."



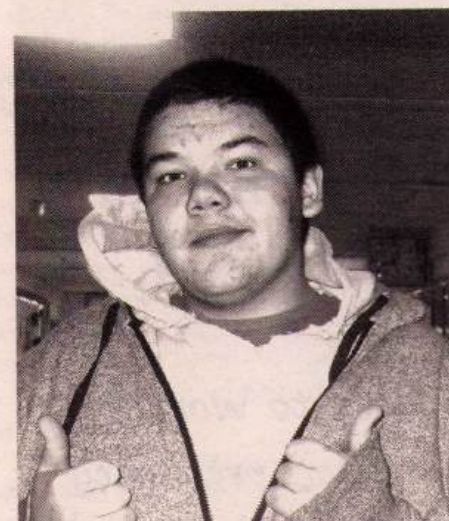
Ashlee Logsdon:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Skipping class with Shea Smalley! Football games with friends, making fun of Shea when she runs in gym class, and Alex."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Do what makes you happy. :)"
Plans for the future?: "Kirkwood in Iowa City."



Jake McDonald:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Friends, football games, team dinners, Pete Mess, Gaff, Mr. Semler, and being the best Madden player to ever come through Marion!"
Quote or piece of advice?: "Don't look back. Something might be gaining on you."
Plans for the future?: "I am taking my talents to South Beach, but no for real I am going to college to play football and major in business."



Elijah Loney:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "I will remember all the memories I shared with all of my friends and nothing else."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Don't worry, be happy."
Plans for the future?: "I plan on attending Kirkwood and then transferring to UNI."



Heather McGuire:

What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "I'm going to miss all my friends and Mrs. Fowler! And all of the memories made here."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending."
Plans for the future?: "I plan on going to Clarke University to get my masters in Social Work."



Lexie Lovisa:

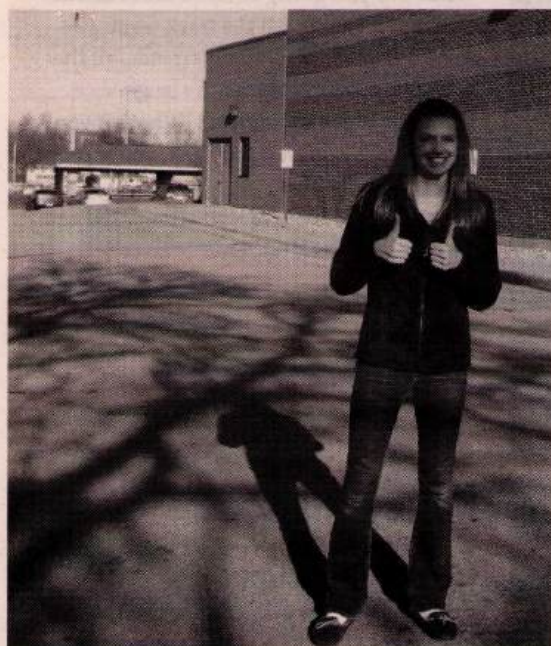
What are you going to miss most about Marion?: "Fergie, and some of the other teachers. Not the people."
Quote or piece of advice?: "Don't worry, be happy."
Plans for the future?: "I don't know really. I'm gonna move out of my house eventually and I want to be a bartender... I think."

Seniors in next issue:

Keenan McSweeney
 Nicholas Meeks
 Lucas Mees
 Brandon Mienke
 Hannah Miller
 Jennifer Miller
 Jessica Miller
 Tyler Miller
 Sophoni Ndahiyimbaze
 Caley Nelson
 Elyse Nelson
 Shayla OBrien

Tyler Ohl
 Brandon Peiffer
 Colin Peters
 Daielle Peyton
 Samantha Pickering
 Melissa Point
 Jordan Rael
 Bradey Ranney
 Avery Ransier
 Brittany Ransier
 Alexander Rinehart
 Emily Roberts

Marion street division keeps the roads safe



Kylie McAllister, freshman, treads the ice-free Marion Way with glee.

By: Sam Williams [Opinion Editor]

While the change from autumn to winter brings jolly tunes and a merry spirit, it has a dark side. A treacherous new factor is added to the landscape: deceiving and slippery ice. Although citizens are left on their own to keep their doorsteps clean of this potential disaster causer, the City of Marion has a team and a strategy to keep the roads as safe as possible.

The City of Marion uses two deicing methods: anti-icing and plowing. These two methods form a great chemistry that keeps operation costs low while keeping the roads as best as possible, an aim that residents can greatly appreciate.

The procedure of anti-icing revolves around the application of chemicals on the road before a snow storm hits. These chemicals lower the freezing point of water, which makes it difficult for slick

ice to form, instead creating easily plowable slush. While anti-icing requires foresight and planning, the benefits are extremely rewarding. The near non-existence of ice formation saves lives and property. While anti-icing seems sufficient in itself, the slush still needs to be removed; this is where the second method comes in.

Marion's street division is very dedicated, running 24/7 as needed. They have seventeen operators and twenty-eight pieces of equipment with plows: an impressive fleet that is able to expertly clear the nine nineteen-to-twenty mile routes that Marion is divided into. A combination of resources and hard work is typically able to clear the streets within twenty-four hours after a snowstorm.

Although after a heavy storm operators have plenty of work to do, they do take several factors into consideration

to avoid recklessly plowing streets. The City of Marion is very cautious of what they do in order to prevent mistakes.

The street division also tries to make sure that their preventive measures of laying salt and chemicals don't harm the environment. In the spring, street sweepers can be seen almost daily, attempting to remove any sand, salt, and other potentially harmful substances from the streets. Since leaving salt on roads can cause damage, this routine helps save money.

With winter coming up it's comforting to know that the City of Marion has the resources and the knowledge to keep our roads safe. Even though keeping the balance between cost and efficiency results in tedious work, Marion's street division is ready to work hard to protect their citizens. This dedication is greatly appreciated.

Adorable animals as Christmas presents for families

By: Michaela Jacobs [Design Editor]

Stella, a rottweiler mix, is scared and timid. Her ears aren't perking up, her tail isn't wagging. She doesn't let anyone pet her, and she doesn't play. She lies quietly in the depths of her cage.

"People buy [pets] as presents," Bob Citrullo says. Mr. Citrullo, executive director, has been working at the Cedar Valley Humane Society (C.V.H.S.) for three months and enjoys his job. He believes that people generally tend to buy more pets during the holiday seasons. This is because parents like to buy animals as companions for their children during the children's time off.

"[When an animal is adopted] it gives you satisfaction," Bob Citrullo has a soft spot for animals, and when one is adopted, it makes him feel great. "It's like hitting the power ball." To adopt an animal at C.V.H.S., one must go through the adoption process, which consists of meeting the greeters at the front desk, and inform them of what type of pet they are looking for. Then when a desired companion is found, they must spend time with them and see if the personalities of the hopeful owner and the

animal match. If they still want the animal, they then must fill out a four-page application about their history.

If the owner currently has a pet, they then must have a meet and greet for the old and new pet to see if they get along. When all of this is complete, the new pet may be brought home. Within seven days after the adoption, a survey is sent by e-mail, and the new owner may say whether or not they are having problems with the animal.

"There is a 72% live release rate. They are released through adoption, breed rescue, or transport," Mr. Citrullo explains how many animals get adopted.

The live release rate is the percent of animals that are sent out of the shelter alive. Most animals are released, but sometimes when the Humane Society is over full, they must use euthanasia. The workers at C.V.H.S. Try their best to not put any animals to sleep, but if it has to be done, they choose

the animals that are least likely to be adopted.

After Stella goes through continuous sessions with trainers, and spends time with the workers, she becomes friendly. She no longer sits in the back of the cage, but instead is up front, jumping around trying to catch the eye of the adoring adopters. Soon after, she is adopted by a lovely lady and now has a great home.



Bob Citrullo sits in his office at the C.V.H.S..

Tichy gets a head start on Christmas

By: Storm Bogs [Web Editor]

As he is finishing his big dinner, he is thinking about all of the sales that he is about to go get. He is making a list in his head of all the stores that he is going to go to and how much money and time he can spend at each store before moving on to the next one. He heads upstairs to prepare for the very long night that is ahead of him.

Logan Tichy, senior, went Black Friday shopping for the first time this year. Black Friday is the biggest shopping day of the year and when most people get their Christmas shopping done. "I didn't get all of my Christmas shopping done, but I saved a lot of money!" he exclaimed with excitement. He went out before 9:00 on Thanksgiving night and wasn't finished shopping until 6:45 the next morning.

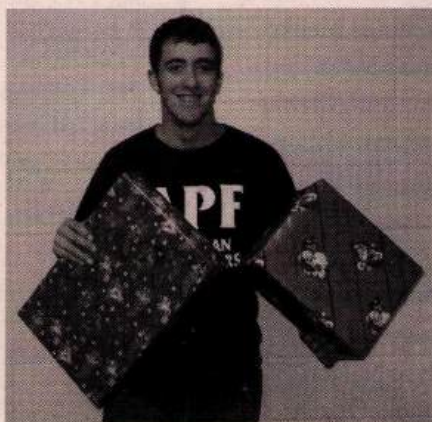
A lot of people wait until the last minute to get all of their Christmas shopping done for multiple reasons. Either they don't have the money, the time, or the holiday season creeps up on them too quickly. "Sometimes you don't really have a choice, but if I am able to avoid [shopping the day before] I will," he explained. Because Logan didn't get all of his shopping done on Black Friday, he plans to return to the stores about three weeks before Christmas. Usually, he gets his shopping done two or three weeks ahead of time.

Although sometimes it is inevitable, Logan prefers to not wait until the day before Christmas. "My mom goes out the day

before, and she always comes home angry," he laughed. Sometimes, waiting until the last minute to do Christmas shopping can cause anger and frustration. This frustration could be caused by other angry shoppers waiting until the last minute as well, or not being able to find a particular item that they wanted.

To avoid anger or not being able to find the right gift, go shopping for Christmas presents a few weeks before! Unless it is completely unavoidable, everyone should just get Christmas shopping out of the way early.

He gets home in the morning and goes straight to his room. As he is drifting off to sleep, he can't help but think of all the deals he scored and all the gifts he got for his family.



Logan Tichy, senior, is ahead of most shoppers this year and has finished all of his shopping for the holiday season.

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'Tis the season to be crashing

By: Kaitlyn Nathem (Executive Editor)

Her heart starts racing, her palms begin to sweat, and every little thought is running through her head. "What is my dad going to do?!" "How bad is it?!" Just from a minor delay of reactions, the large, silver object that she thought she was in total control of, just glided across the icy ground with a mind of its own.

Lauren Rausch, junior, knows exactly how it feels to be caught unexpectedly during the winter in a minor car accident. During the icy and cold winter that Marion had last year, Lauren got into a small but still scary car accident. "My bumper fell off," she stated. It may not sound like such an incident but it definitely rattled this sixteen year old.

Now that it's all over with, she knows exactly what she did wrong and how the accident occurred. "I was going too fast, trying to make curfew, and couldn't stop. I went straight into a snow bank and got stuck," she said with a slight grin on her

face. Thinking back on it now, it seems like a silly mistake that she made by speeding too fast on dangerous and slippery roads. She knows that there are ways that she could have prevented it to happen. "[I shouldn't have] sped and braked sooner," she admitted. She knows what she did wrong, and what to do to make sure it doesn't happen again this year.

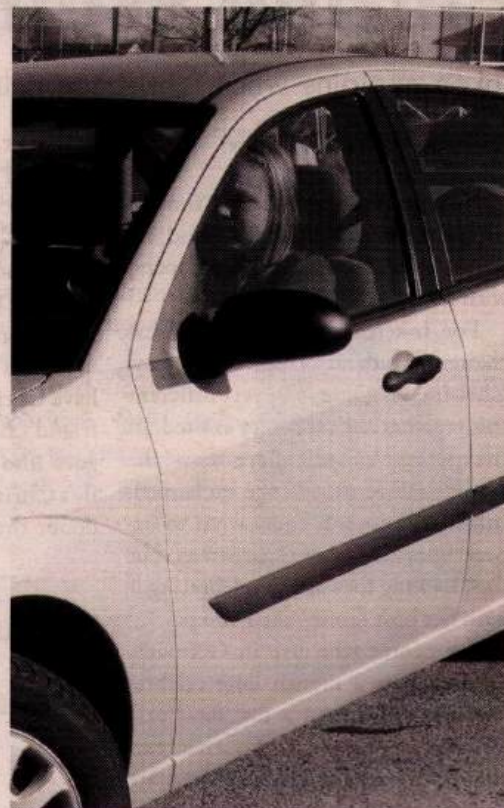
As soon as she first ran into the snow bank, she became extremely scared and wasn't sure what to do. "I panicked a lot. A nice guy stopped and shoveled me out and I put my bumper in my trunk," Lauren stated. Although she wasn't quite sure what to do, with the help of a kind stranger she was well on her way back home.

Driving in the winter is so much more different than driving in other season. The snow and ice and sometimes even rain and sleet can effect the roads that everyone drives on. According to Lauren, the most difficult part of driving in the winter is, "Controlling your car when you're sliding on ice and snow." Most people would

definitely agree with that statement considering most aren't quite sure what to do when they are in a situation of surprisingly sliding along a patch of black ice.

Lauren has some advice that she herself plans to listen to this winter. "Leave with plenty of time to get to where you're going. Be cautious, slow down, and definitely start breaking before you think you need to," she smiled. Lauren learned from her accident and what not to do during the winter, and she wants other people to make sure they don't make the same mistakes as she did last year in the future.

She drives down the street and a car is beginning to break ahead of her. Instead of waiting until the last second Lauren brakes further back and slowly glides across the slippery surface beneath of her heavy car. She may have gotten into an accident last year but she definitely does not plan on repeating history this year. She's taking all the precautions she needs to and especially is making sure she obeys the speed limits.



Lauren Rausch, junior, is scared while she is sliding across the icy ground.

Holmquist keeps busy over holidays

By: Jordan Hansen (Executive Editor)

Bored in his house, he wonders what he should do with himself today. He doesn't have anything specific to do and is rather bored. Thinking about all the ways he could entertain himself on such a boring winter day, he calls up a friend, and decides to head out to the MAC to play some racquetball and possibly go swimming.

Spencer Holmquist, junior, doesn't often find himself bored in the winter months. But when he does get bored, he has quite a few things to do. "[I like to] play video games, hang out with friends, mall walk, and workout at the MAC," he commented. Living in a fairly large town, there are numerous things to do: you just have to know where to look.

Winter is his favorite time of the year, and for numerous reasons. "I love the cold, and I hate sweating; it's uncomfortable," he exclaimed.

Staying in shape is a constant battle during the summer, but Spencer has a good plan. "I try to keep my weight good, and manage my weight," he said. His secret is that he swims and plays racquetball. "You're always moving, and it takes hand-eye coordination. It's also a great way to spend time with friends," he added. In the winter, it can be difficult to find an activity to do, but

definitely not impossible.

Spencer also has some ideas of things to do during these cold months. "Go out and see movies," he suggests, "I think it's also a good time to get a job, especially if you're not in a sport." Finding a job can also be fairly difficult to do, but the money and the relief from boredom can be completely worth it.

Heading outside, he catches a ride with his friend down to the MAC to play some racquetball. As they begin the game, he realizes that he won't be bored in the winter, at least for the time being.



Spencer Holmquist, junior, works out in the weight room after school.

Keep safe in the winter time with these safety tips:

By: Melanie Loesel (Staff Writer)

1. Have a phone, blanket, water, food, jumper cables, and also a candle & coffee can (helps melt the snow) if happened to get stuck.
2. Add salt to ice
3. Shovel driveways and sidewalks
4. Clean windshields
5. Check road conditions and drive as necessary
6. Dress for the weather
7. If sliding while driving turn into the slide
8. Be careful on ice

Have a safe and wonderful holiday everyone! :)



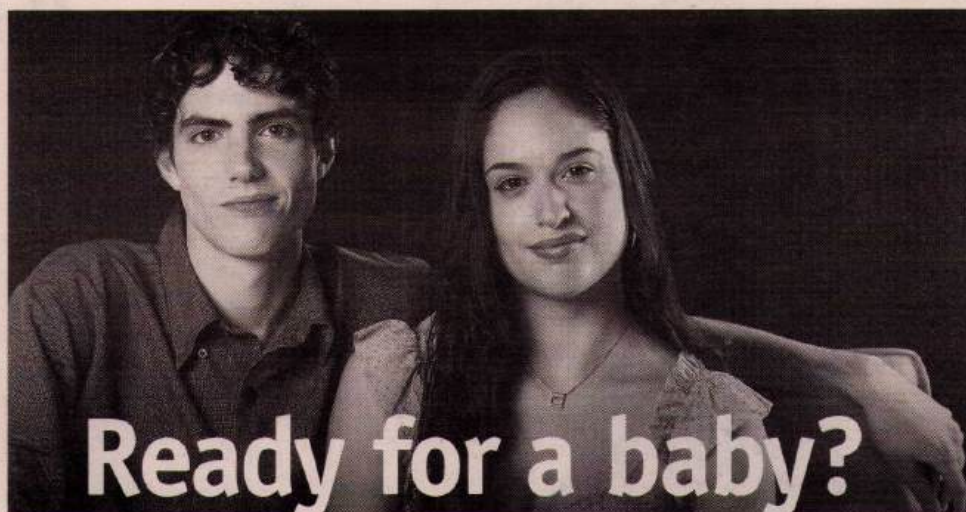
Kenneth Kiene, freshman, gets a blanket from his locker



Toni Yirkovsky, sophomore, bundles up for weather.



Jordan Comried, sophomore, scrapes ice off his car.



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"Frohe Weihnachten!" or "Merry Christmas!"

Inken explains what Christmas is like in Germany, and shares what her expectations are for her first Christmas in America.

By: Grace Ehlinger [Ads Editor]

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year. There's snow and food everywhere, and it's a time people spend with their families.

For Inken Wirths, a foreign exchange student from Germany, Christmas is going to be very different this year, but she's still very excited. In Inken's opinion, the more snow, the better, "I love snow!" she exclaimed. Inken still doesn't know what to expect from this year's Christmas, but she's looking forward to celebrating it with her host family, the Peiffers.

For people who live in Germany, Christmas is a month long celebration that goes even a few days past Christmas. Inken's family (her parents and younger brother) decorate the tree right before Advent, then throughout the month of December, they have what they call "Christmas Hour" every Sunday where they play games, drink tea, and bake cookies. On Christmas Eve, they go to their church service, and unwrap presents that afterwards. On Christmas day, they have a huge food buffet. The

day after Christmas, Inken's entire extended family visits their house, and they exchange presents with one another. That night, everyone spends the night at her house, and in the morning they have a big breakfast together. Inken also celebrates Christmas with her friends, "Sometimes we have Christmas sleep overs at my best friend's house," she smiles. As Inken goes into detail describing her family's Christmas celebration, there is no doubt that the whole holiday is very

"Everything is about Christmas in those four weeks,"

-Inken Wirths, senior

important to her entire family.

Inken has noticed subtle differences in the way Germans and Americans celebrate Christmas. For instance, she said "We don't have Christmas lights on our houses, we decorate the inside a lot more, and we have Christmas markets where you can buy stuff." She also feels like Christmas is a bigger

deal in Germany than it is in the U.S. "Everything is about Christmas in those four weeks," she stated. In most other ways, Germany and the U.S. have identical Christmases. There are gifts and presents and time spent with families, and as excited as she is to spend this Christmas in America, she still wishes she could have both Christmases.

Inken thinks her Christmas highlight for this year will be when the whole family gets together to celebrate, but there is one thing she isn't looking forward to. "The present pressure shopping. I love presents, but it's much pressure before Christmas because everyone shops for them," she said. Aside from shopping for presents, the rest of the Christmas holiday looks promising. "It's a big surprise!" she laughs about what to expect.

In the next few weeks, there will be more Christmas preparations that will provide a lot of new experiences for Inken. Hopefully when she goes back to her home in Germany, her Christmas here will be one thing she'll be able to tell her family all about.



Inken Wirths, senior, poses next to a Christmas tree.



Jared Samuelson, '12 walks out of the school doors beginning his long three mile journey home in the cold month of December.

The journey home is so far away

As soon as he steps out of the doors, he begins the three mile cold journey.

By: Addie DeWitt [Activities Editor]

The brisk, frigid wind from the winter's air smacks him in the face as he walks outside. He begins to slowly trudge his way out of the warmth of his home and make his journey to school. The feeling of wet chilled snow melts as it falls to the bottom of his boot, making his foot feel like it's in a pool of water. His toes wrinkle just like a prune, or as if he just got done soaking in a hot bath for a long period of time.

Jared Samuelson, senior at Marion High School, walks to and from school every single day of the week. When he walks, he takes the same route each day, and stops nowhere. "I love walking and getting exercise", Jared

explained. The second Jared walks outside until the minute he steps in the school doors, he has walked about three long miles. "While I

"The only thing I hate about walking home is the ice and when people don't shovel their sidewalks and driveways. What I hate the very most is slush."-Jared Samuelson, '12

walk I just look at the views. I see trees, a creek, and the trail," described Jared.

Jared has all older siblings, but he is the first to walk. He hardly ever takes rides from anyone and does not have a car of his own. "I don't like inconveniencing people," he said. As he walks home he takes in the world around

him, but he also comes in contact with a few obstacles he has to face. "The only thing I hate about walking home is the ice and when people don't shovel their sidewalks and driveways. What I hate the very most is slush," exclaimed Jared.

After the school bell rings, he opens the side doors to exit the building, beginning his long journey home. Knowing he has three miles to trudge he zips his coat up and walks. Boots blackening the snow beneath his feet, he continues to make his three mile walk. Dodging the invisible ice on his path and leaping over the nasty slush all around, he finally makes it home only to do the same routine in the morning to come.

Meeks fed up with advertisements

By: Jordan Hansen [Executive Editor]

Logging on to YouTube, he sees another one of those political ads. Disgusted, he turns off the computer and turns on the TV. A few minutes into the program, it switches to another political commercial.

Matthew Meeks, sophomore, is fed up with all the political ads. "They're just promises that we won't be seeing," he stated. Most of the time it seems exactly right. Technically, candidates can't openly lie in the ads, but that doesn't mean they won't take things other people said out of context.

In addition to his negative

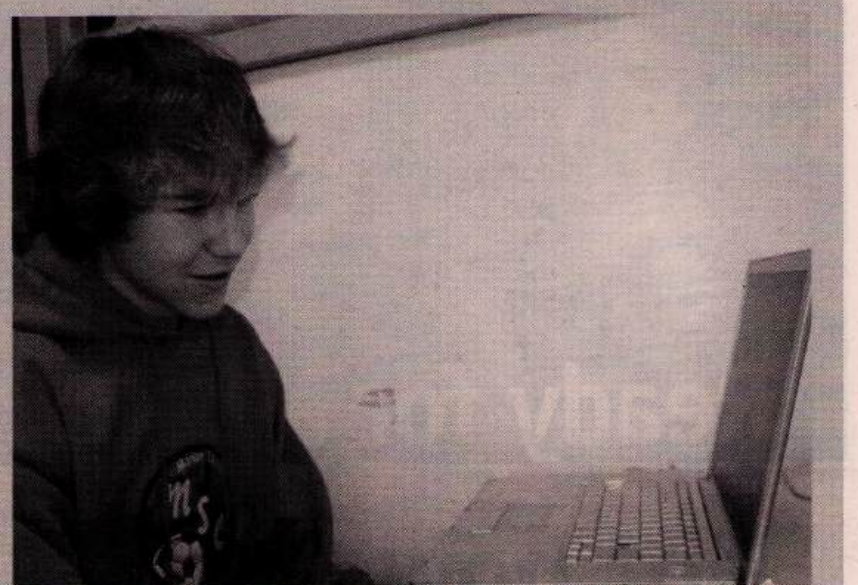
opinion towards the ads, he also finds them to be completely pointless. "I don't think political ads are necessary for a candidate to win. All ads do is say incorrect things about the other candidates to increase their chances of winning," he explained. The basis of many ads seems to be to dig up dirt on other candidates, or make the candidates themselves look better.

Even though he doesn't find the ads to have a great point, he still pays attention to the process. "Who the people elect on them, if the President isn't any good, that's the citizens problem," he elaborated. Most students, with the exception of a few seniors, cannot

vote, many students still pay attention (or are bombarded) with the ads.

Besides just him, his parents also pay attention to the election, and the ads. "My parents pay attention, but sometimes I think it's hard for them [to take it seriously] with all the promises that the candidates make." With all the things people say, it can get very difficult to separate truth from reality, and even harder to decide on a candidate to support.

He sighs, and continues to watch TV realizing that there won't be escape from the ads, and the campaign for about a year.

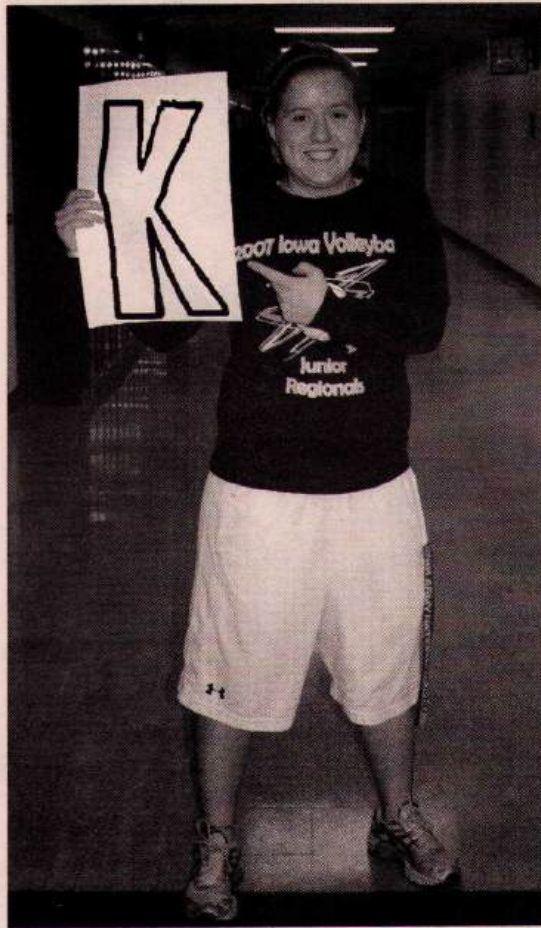


Matt Meeks, sophomore, watches a political ad before a YouTube video on the computer. It seems there's an ad on nearly every video on the internet.

There's no place like work for the holidays

Sam wonders how her Christmas Eve will be without her family. Fearing she will miss out, Sam will work on the holidays.

By: Breiana Brown [Social Media Editor]



Sam Runde, sophomore, shows off the "Big K" for her work place. Sam has to work on Christmas Eve.

Standing at her post, she turns on the light above her head. Now, the work begins. Although she's making money, she would rather be at home with her family. Tonight Sam found out she has to work on Christmas Eve, and she can't believe that she is going to be missing home that holiday night. The night of family tradition and presents.

Sam Runde, sophomore, works at K-Mart or, as she likes to call it, "The Big K." Sam also works at Marion Parks and Recreation. Anyone who walks into K-Mart can find her here four days a week, humming along with the songs on her iPod.

It's easy work. "I usually just sit at the computer and scan things," she explained. Sam has gotten better at her job as time has passed. Her two months of experience at K-Mart has been more exciting than she thought. It's certainly not as fast pace and up

beat as her other job at Marion Parks and Recreation. Although, very different, both jobs seem to suit her well.

While Sam hasn't worked at K-Mart long, it wasn't hard for her to make friends. "There are cool people who work there with me... Cassandra and Bria are my favorite," she said smiling. The fact that she is forced to work on Christmas Eve should be a little bit easier with them by her side. Sam is just glad that she doesn't have to work on

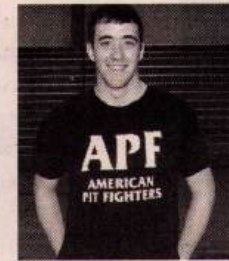
Christmas day. Managers at her job aren't always as agreeable as they should be, but Sam tries her best to push past it, because in the end it's all about the money. Her time at K-Mart is

only seasonal, but she still has goals. "I want to work at the customer service counter before I leave," she said proudly. Ambition and hard work are the motivating points for this sophomore.

Whether it is Hanukkah, Kwanza, Christmas, or other important holidays, this time of the year is very precious to most people, including Sam.

"There are cool people who work there with me... Cassandra and Bria are my favorite,"
-Sam Runde, sophomore

How students would feel if they had to work on Christmas day



"I would probably quit my job."
-Logan Tichy, '12



"I would be upset, because I like to spend time with my family on Christmas."
-Kayla Brown, '14



"I would either skip or try to get it rescheduled."
-Courtney Zeets, '13

Skold hittin' the hills

By: Alex Estes [Feature Editor]

Every winter, people of all ages climb up the highest snow-packed hill toting sleds and tubes behind them. Casual flurries float down aimlessly through the cold and gray-toned atmosphere. Red noses peak out from below hats and small, gloved hands clutch onto older siblings' coats. Sledding is a pastime for nearly every area that gets snow in the winter months.

Cory Skold, Senior, hasn't been sledding for a few years, though he still recalls it to be a fun experience. "There was nothing else to do. It was cold outside; cold, but fun," Skold remarks. He remembers sledding fondly and looks back on his past experiences as a fun reminder of his childhood.

Skold doesn't have any younger or older siblings that he goes sledding with, but he has a lot of friends. "When I went [last] it was with a foreign exchange student," Cory stated.

All ages are welcome to go sledding, and Skold Definitely does not object. "You're never too old to go sledding," he said cheerfully, "it's an activity for everyone," sledding is a fun pastime for anyone who doesn't mind the cold wind nipping at their face and getting a little snow in places that don't need to be mentioned.

With the fun of sledding, there are some possible harm that go a long with it, and hopefully none too serious. "I gave myself a black eye once or twice," Skold chuckled. There are definitely injuries worse than a black eye though.

Sledding is a tradition everyone can have fun with. There is no age limit or obscure requirement that can stop someone from having fun in the now during the winter months.



"No, because I think you should have fun with friends and family."
-Zoey McDonald, freshman



"No, Why would there be a age limit on sledding."
-Brandon Klein, sophomore



"No, that would take away from your childhood experience."
-Austin Ashley, junior



"No, it's a fun experience for everyone."
-Jordan Rael, senior

Just a year until Doomsday?

By: Austin Brown [Staff Writer]

As we may or may not realize, December, 21, 2012 is about a year away. For some, the 21st means absolutely nothing, but for a couple of kids at Marion High School, it will be the last day of their lives.

It could be a crazy prediction, or a legitimate hypothesis. No matter what, 2012 doomsday theory has its followers. Pearl Skidmore, an enthusiastic sophomore, has reason in the 2012 doomsday. "The dinosaurs were hit by a meteor and died, so why can't we." Pearl knew this horrible day was coming the second she heard. Along with meteors destroying man-kind, Pearl also has the same idea of the Mayans. (The Mayan) calendar...it just stops. The happy go lucky teen won't be worrying though. "I'll live life like I always do." She doesn't care if she has followers. "I like being original," she said. "I might be the only one in our school that thinks we're going to die."

Spencer Heeren, shares the same belief as Pearl. "I believe that the world has to end at some point," he stated. Spencer believes the theories of Michel de Nostradamus, a physicist that predicted natural disasters and 9/11 almost 200 years ago. "(Nostradamus) was really wise in my eyes," he explains. For Spencer, the T.V. show "Nostradamus" spread the word and really inspired him to believe. For Spencer, his last day won't be a waste. "I'll live to the fullest." Unlike Pearl, Spencer's family supports and partakes in

The same theory. "My dad started watching "Nostradamus" and then I got hooked." Spencer's family support including his dad and grandparents. But matching Pearl, Spencer won't be in fright come next December.

It's only a year until one of the most anticipated days in our decade is here. There has been movies, stories and expert analysis on what to believe. There is website after website that tries to spread the word about doomsday. Or websites bash 2012 believers. Will it be the end to man-kind, or just another hoax that comes and goes? Depends on who you're asking. Spencer and Pearl will stick to their beliefs until the end, or at least until December 21st, 2012!



Spencer Heeren, freshman



Pearl Skidmore, sophomore

2012 Doomsday Theory facts:

- The Mayan Calendar starts in 3113 B.C. and ends in December 21, 2012.
- The Mayans have accurately described various astronomical events.
- "The Bible Code", a popular book published in 1998 that finds hidden messages in the bible, predicts the end of the world in 2012.
- Some interpretations of the prophecies of Nostradamus support 2012 doomsday

Who can solve the
Sudoku puzzle first?
How about the Winter
Wonder-Word Search?

WHERE'S
STUDENT?



Find: **Avery Ransier**

In the 'Where's Student?' game, the objective is to search for a fellow Marion High School student in the crowd picture to the right. See if you can find the student before your friends can!



Winter Word Search

Search for the reputations words in the word find below. Once you find a word circle it and start looking to find the others. The words can go any direction.

Snowboarding
Sledding
Skiing
Hockey

Snow
Ice
Accidents
Snowman

L T S E N P O W R W D T W Y Y D E F F A T L
N U N O I C P C S T E U Y X G D R N C P M E
J I E E D M C R K S M T U G H J D R T D U D
K C C U D Y G T X E O R Y I X F S Y F D Y U
L D X C E E C S V Q Y W O D L T K E O M A J
M Y K A L D C E D L F X F O E F T U L X J Z
Y N P K S M C C W Y K L B E O V P W V H S I
C R C Q Z E V S A Z T I Y F S Y A S Q Q U R
E P I A R Y C P L N C W C F B W R N W G B X
A M L U L E N E O J Y F O O E G Q O E C S V
X X I D V A F M L U X C C S U T L W R D E C
P W S G M V L M S G R G G Q B X B Y C F C G
D O G W T D C X E D I W L M K W N P P H U
M U O E A K O O P I V U J F Z F M V R W Q H
N N S K I N G Q P U C H U H X F E S Q B E
S O C U Q D E Y B W A E R D W W B V T O F X

Sudoku

2		3		5	1		6	
	5			9		3	7	
4		9	2		3	8	5	1
	1			8				3
	9		7	2			8	
	2		3			6		9
7		5	1		8	2		6
	8			6	2			7
	4		9	3		5	1	8

3 40% of McDonald's profits come from the sales of Happy Meals.
L ACTS Walt Disney was afraid of mice.
B Butterflies taste with their feet.
A giraffe has a 20-inch tongue
E lephants are the only animals that can't jump.
Turtles can breathe through their butts.
More people are killed annually by donkeys than die in air crashes.
These facts were obtained from www.funfactz.com

