THE UDX

Kali Gamerdinger, senior.



Forster fights to finish his track season strong with his team.

How to deal with those annoying Facebook notifications for parties.

Find out the story behind freshman Solomon Groothuis' persona, one that includes love, loss, and adoption.





Brittany Miller, junior, attempts to steal the ball from another player before passing to a teammate down the field in the JV girls' soccer game. The girls won the game against their opponents, the Jefferson JHawks, on the evening of Monday April 27th.

1D helping fix all the 'Little Things'

Brett Wheeler tells how One Direction has changed his life forever.

By: Alex Coleman @Its_GalPalAl

Imagine never being able to see anything but pitch black. No more looking at the green buds on the tips of the freshly reviving trees for them. No faces of a best friend. Imagine relying on another's eyesight to deal with any day to day tasks. This is the life of Brett Wheeler, a sophomore at Marion High School. According to his mother, Jennifer Wheeler, the most comforting thing about Brett's condition is he was born with it. "He's never seen, so he doesn't know what he's missing. The whole world is beautiful to Brett," explained Mrs. Wheeler.

Born at 23 weeks, the doctors did not expect Wheeler to live past five minutes. Once he did, there were some obvious health problems to go along with the miracle. "Brett was on a feeding tube for eleven and a half years," said Mrs. Wheeler. For the entirety of those years, young Wheeler spent two days a week at eating therapy, trying to figure out a solution to the problem: his lack of ability to eat with his mouth. They'd tried everything they could possibly think of, but nothing seemed to work. Finally, his therapist had an idea, remembering in 2012, Brett started developing an obsession with something that was taking the world by storm-One Direction. He listened to their music relentlessly, finding a comfort in throwing



Brett Wheeler, sophomore, holds his 1D guitar pillow in his room surrounded by all of his 1D posters.

himself into the catchy melodies. "My favorite song is Little Things," Wheeler stated, "it's just so beautiful. I love the sound of the guitar; sometimes I don't understand how people can play and make it sound so pretty."

One day, Wheeler's therapist went to find her laptop, and on nothing but a whim began to type in something that would change his life forever. "She just google searched One Direction's favorite foods. She went down the list of all of them, but all I can remember is her first saying that Harry's favorite was sweet corn. I don't even know if that's true or not, all that mattered is that Brett wanted to try it. His therapist was kind of like 'oh, well we've got some corn here if you want some', and right then that day, Brett ate for the first time," Mrs. Wheeler commented. After an understandable amount of tears, and an overwhelming sense of joy, they began to undergo the task of continuing down this new and exciting path. Within a few months, Wheeler had tried every food on the list, and then some. He even developed favorite foods of his own and a hatred towards chocolate. Before they knew it, they were able to take the device out. "He requested that Little Things be playing in the background as they were removing the tube, and after a whole lot of us both crying and praying, the tube was out. After that, I guess the best way to explain it is that he prayed to One Direction, and out loud he said 'Thank you for inspiring me in everything and changing my life'," Mrs. Wheeler went on to say.

The phenomenon did not stop there. After the therapeutic treatment worked in one area of Wheeler's life, other people began to have a few ideas of their own. "Brett struggled with learning braille for a really long time. One of his Special Ed teachers at the school heard about how One Direction had worked for the feeding tube, and decided if it could work there, why couldn't it work for learning braille? She told him that for every sentence he could decode in braille, he would get one random fact about One Direction. I think you can guess who's a whiz at braille now," Mrs. Wheeler joked.

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Sending Sahm to Springs

By: Chloe Mallon @Chhhloe17

Summertime: that wonderful time of year where students everywhere get to relax for three months and not worry about having to do their math homework, study for spanish tests, or cram for an AP final.

As Summer approaches faster and faster, seniors are making all of their final plans as to where they're attending school next year and how they're going to pay for it. The majority of students in high school attend college in state, mostly because of price.

A handful of students get amazing scholarship opportunities, in which if they go to college out of state they don't have to pay very much.

Amanda Sahm, senior, was offered a once in a lifetime chance to go halfway across the country and do what she loves.

Sahm has played volleyball for Marion since she was in sixth grade. When first joining the sport, she didn't realize how much it would mean to her. "It looked like a really fun sport," Sahm commented. "I wanted to join, and loved it when I started."

Ever since she was 12 years old, her love for the sport of volleyball has only grown.

Incorporating Sahm's love for volleyball, and her desire to attend a great college, Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs, North Carolina, offered her a full ride scholarship to play volleyball for them. "Great school and some great volleyball," Sahm said with a grin.

She will be playing as a defensive specialist at her new college. "I'm so excited for where this new adventure will take me, and how different it will be," Sahm said. "I'm not that nervous right now about moving away from everything, but I'm sure it will hit me soon."

Moving away from everything you've ever known is obviously going to be a hard transition, but Sahm is taking it like a champ. "Of course, I'll miss my family and friends. I'll really miss my mom, and just always having her there. I'm excited and nervous for the new independence I'm going to have." Sahm said.

Whether seniors are going to a small college nearby or opening up to bigger opportunities in a different state, college is a life changing experience that one will never forget.



Amanda Sahm, senior, jump sets to Olivia Frazier, junior, during a varsity volleyball tournament at Mt. Vernon.

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Offensive or not: 9/11 jokes and remarks

Has it been long enough for 9/11 jokes, or are they still extremely offensive?

By: Wyatt Ehr @wyatteher

There are many types of comedy. Some is just playful fun that does no harm to anyone, but this is not always the case. Especially in today's society, the lines between funny and offensive can be very blurred. Lately this has been extremely relevant with the growing trend of 9/11 jokes. While most people have no intention to offend or anger anyone with these jokes, it still comes in bad taste.

There are many different 9/11 jokes floating around today. For example while in between classes, walking to their next class, one might hear somebody yell "BUSH DID 9/11!", or other various World Trade Center related statements. These jokes are also very frequent on social media as of recently. While scrolling through their incoming feed of posts, users can expect to occasionally see videos, including clips of an airplane crashing into the World Trade Center in a joking matter. While these jokes are meant to be funny, they are wrong.

There are multiple reasons why these jokes can come off as offensive. Many people were too young to really understand the effects of the 9/11 attack, and the devastation it brought to the country, and the families of the victims. People seem to forget that almost 3000 people died, and that families still grieve to this day. These are usually the same people making these insensitive jokes. So while it may not bother the one saying the joke, it is important to be considerate of those you might be harming.

When asking someone why they make these jokes, the usual response is "it's okay, its been long enough," or "nobody cares anymore it happened so long ago." The truth is, as long as families are still hurting, it hasn't been long enough. While it may



"It hasn't been long enough. The jokes disgust me. #toosoon" - Emily Meeks, senior



"9/11 shouldn't be joked about because a lot of people died, and it saddens me deeply." - Alec Arcand, sophomore



"Sometimes they can be funny, but families could have traumatic events with it."

- John Harms, junior

not mean anything to the ones making the jokes, its still a very sensitive topic.

While it's okay to make jokes about most things, one must remember that it shouldn't be at the expense of others. So next time you consider making a joke, think thoroughly about who you could be hurting, and how much a couple laughs are worth.

Grad parties on FB

By: Kaela Halvorson @Kaelswhales

Everyone who has a Facebook checks it every so often, even if they don't want to admit it. When the home page shows up there is 20 notifications, eighteen of those are graduation invites. Aren't people supposed to hand out invites instead of inviting random people on Facebook? Yes, technology these days are making things like this a lot easier to get the word out, but make it even more awkward.

Firsts thing, it is so annoying to get those Facebook notifications all the time and then to make it more annoying they are "strangers" inviting people. Like Luke and Sally had one class together freshman year and they never talked, but Luke invites Sally anyway. This here is an odd occurrence, is that person suppose to go because he remembered to invite her? Did he invite all of the people in the class and he had to invite Sally too?

This is when it gets to the point of almost too much pressure that people break, clicking going, or no. This is so weird because if people click going they feel like they are going to have to go, but at the same time people who click maybe look rude. Then if they click no they have guilt of saying they weren't going, and can't go back and click going. Facebook makes this so much more intense than someone giving out fliers to people because they don't know if they are going, maybe going, or not going right as they are asked.

The worst thing that can happen after clicking yes is when the day comes around. Sitting at home and Facebook pops up on the lock screen and states party starts at this time and this place. This is the worst kind of peer pressure anyone could be faced with, those people know that those people clicked yes. If that person doesn't go, they feel guilty because that one person could go back and look and see that they didn't come.

The last thing to do is, don't feel awkward about going, clicking no, or maybe. If the amount of people that said yes on Facebook means that much to one person they need to get over it, not everyone will make it to the party. People need to get over this fear of being scared to go to a party they were invited to, maybe not personally, but were invited. Go have fun at a party with everyone who was in that awkward freshman science class!



Getting the real invite is a lot more personal than a Facebook invite, so hand some out!

Which way do people pronounce these words?



Vox Staff

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's 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 in to room 22 or to any staff member.

Rolling in the green: ways to save money

How to save money this summer so you're not broke during the school year.

By: Lexi Morgan @Lexi_Morgan17

In high school, responsibilities pile up around us and hit us in the face. We feel insane amounts of pressure to do good in school, play sports and of course, have a job. With a job, teens needs to learn how to spend and save money.

While cash is rarely used in the new world of plastic, one way to save money is to put all of your coins you get back with change into a jar. It seems minuscule at first, but after a good amount of time, people could have a lot of money.

Another thing a person should do when they're trying to save money, is to cut down on luxurious spending. First, the worst thing one can do is impulse buy. People shouldn't buy things immediately after seeing them. If they plan out and work it into

their budget they won't have to cut from money needed to go into savings or for necessities. If someone wants to buy a \$60 sweatshirt, they should wait until their next paycheck so they can plan around it. If one absolutely has to buy the sweatshirt that second, they could save an extra \$60 next month. Second, sure, spending \$3 on food doesn't seem like it will rob anyone of all their money. However, when you do this everyday, it certainly adds up. Every paycheck, one should determine how much they want to spend on food and stick to it. Another option to stop spending money on food, is to eat everything in the house. Parents are never going to stop buying groceries. So if hungry or if one knows that they are going

to be hungry at a certain time in

the house.

the day, just steal all of the food in

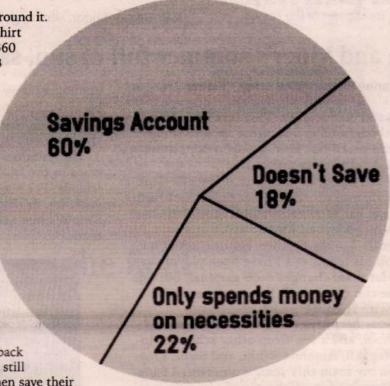
Next, there is the old middle school hack to money. We've all received money from our parents and heard the infamous phrase "bring me back my change." Never do this. First of all, still don't spend all the money they give, then save their

change. They're going to forget and if they ask, one should just tell their parents they spent all of the money. They might be a little mad, but its still

Another tip to saving money, is to take a percentage from each check and put it into a savings account. This will help to make sure one has money for gas or chance situations like as car breaking down or other unexpected expenses. This could also help to save for college. What one saves will be a small dent in their tuition, but could help with things like books or buying food when one realizes living alone in college is harder than they think.

Saving money is an essential skill everyone should learn at an early age. It helps teens prepare for life in college and after, avoid debt and make sure people have money for things they need.

Ways students save money



Sports-saturated summers

By: Noah Walter @Tyrannoahsaurus

Lifting Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Workouts Tuesday and Thursday. Then most weekends are filled with scrimmages. For some athletes this is their summer. For most other students this is a time of relaxation, vacation, and lots of fun. For others it is filled hours upon hours filled with sweaty days and nights on the field, in the gym, or in the weight room. Sports take over summer. There are no days off for some sports in high school.

These workouts are said to be "optional" but are in fear if we were not to go to some of the workouts that they would be looked down on and possibly ruin chances of getting playing time in season. So instead of the athletes relaxing and getting some extra sleep, they are forced to wake up at an ungodly hour in the summer. Not only does this ruin that morning, but is also ruins the night before because one cannot just stay out all night and then wake up and get ready to grind in the weight room. So instead of making those

MARION SCHOOL STAR THE SCHOOL

"It's hard getting up early in the morning, but you know when the season comes its going to pay off" - Morgan Swanger, sophomore

runs

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"It's not my favorite thing to do, but I am getting better at a sport that I enjoy and it helps a lot."
-Clayton Mohwin-

kle, sophomore

friends, or even just watching movies all night, they have to go home to catch some z's. Those late night hangs are what bring people together. It makes friendships stronger, and night's like those are the ones all teenagers will remember.

Some teenagers nowadays have to pay for things like gas, car insurance, food and other things. These workouts make it hard for one to find a job that will work around these hours. Some of these athletes can't even get a job because they are so involved in the sports they are in. So if one wanted to take a trip to the water park on hot and humid Iowa day. They could not go for two reasons, one because they had to go to workouts, and two because they cannot afford the trip to go to the wonderful world of water slides and tanning. This makes it harder for the athlete to

go on adventures like this with their friends without the money they couldn't get because of their workouts in the summer.

Every athlete loves the sport they are involved in. Working out and doing drills will help both the team and the individual get to where they would like to be in that particular sport, but that early in the morning and that often can make one dread every second spent in it. If the workouts were maybe only a few times a week and pushed back a few hours it would benefit the athletes and enhance the whole summer experience.

go hand in hand when talking about "first times." We all know the saying: "there's a first time for everything," and, crazy enough, this statement is true. Anyway, these first times, or these beginnings, are usually very exciting, but they can be equally as mortifying. For example, your first day of

are, have these things called

emotions are fear and excite-

ment. These feelings usually

emotions, and two of these

The first time fear

Have you ever been extremely scared to do

something for the first time? Or, have you ever not

done something you really wanted to do in fear of

what might happen? Well, my friends, both of these

being the beautiful creatures called humans that we

things are very common when we try new things. We,

-Commentary-

By: Kayla Comried @KComried

high school, if it was anything like mine, might just have been the most terrifying day in your life up until this point. But now, you walk through these halls like it's your day job, mostly because it is, but that isn't the point. The point is, if you never would've came here, you: A) would've been forced to come here by this thing called the government and B) you wouldn't have made any progress, and you would still be terrified of this far from scary place. Overall, if you don't try new things, and if you don't remove yourself from your comfort circle you will never make any progress from where you are right now, and your life will not have much meaning.

Not long ago, I was faced with one of these "first times." I was extremely scared, to the point where the upcoming event was the only thing on my mind. All I could think about were the what ifs.. Like, what if I step in gum and then my shoe sticks to the cement and then I can't get my shoe off the cement and then I have to leave it there and then I break my toe on a sidewalk crack and then I have to go to the hospital? Obviously, my fears were a little more realistic than that extraordinary examples, but they were still a little ridiculous and not worth my time to think about. I was also excited for the upcoming festivity, but my fear outweighed the excitement by a long shot. When it came time to finally go to the event, I took the risk, because at this point it was too late not to, and no crazy story here: The event was fun, and I lived. If you haven't caught my drift, I'm telling you to jump into the waters of fear and bask in the glory of mortification. Basically, if you want to try something, no matter how scared you are, just do it, unless of course it hurts you, the people surrounding you, or the planet because that isn't cool. That would be an example of crossing the line. But, anything your little heart desires, that isn't crossing the line is fair game.

High school is a time when opportunities are constantly thrown towards you. Never ever hold back from doing something you truly want to do in fear of failing. You will regret it until the day that you die, and for what reason? You will look back and realize that the fear was nothing compared to the big picture. Never have these regrets. Take the chances while you can, embrace the fear.



Friendships makes the season better

Kali Gamerdinger, senior, has enjoyed her time in tennis the past four years with all of her teammates, who are also her friends.

By: Kaela Halvorson @kaelswhales

She wipes the sweat from her forehead and fixes her sunglasses. She leans back lets out a little grunt and swings at the tennis ball. This has been her spring sport for the last four years.

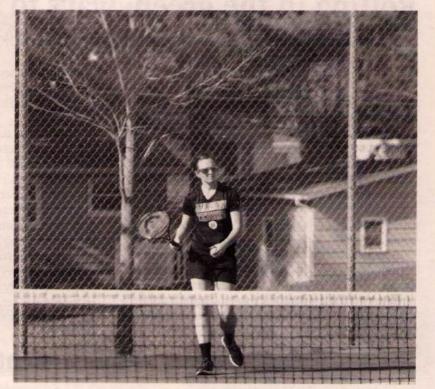
Kali Gamerdinger, senior, plays tennis and is number five on varsity. She has been on varsity since last year. "I started my freshman year because my friends told me to," said Gamerdinger. Tennis wasn't in her background, but she has been working hard to get better. "I play in the summer with friends," she stated.

She has high hopes for this season, "I just want to play good, and have a good final year," Gamerdinger said with a smile. Since it's her last year she wants to spend it with

the team she loves. "Even though we started the season out rough and kinda behind because we didn't have courts, we are all improving now," said Gamerdinger.

Her one goal is being achieved: to have fun her senior year. Gamerdinger won't be playing tennis in college unless it's a pull together game, but still thinks that going out for tennis was a great move. "I will miss [tennis] because it's fun to have fun with your friends," said Gamerdinger. Emilie Reider who has been Gamerdinger's doubles partner before and is also a senior states her emotions about her last season, "I will miss it because I really love to play and I'm going to miss playing with my friends," said Reider.

The season is coming to an end, and with it being her final season she is still going to swing strong for the rest of the season.



Kali Gamerdinger, senior, gets ready to serve the ball.

Misadventures of Misky

-Commentary-

When I was in second grade, my parents took me to Disney World and it was there where I learned one of life's most valuable lessons. On the day I ventured into MGM studios,

I learned that parents lie sometimes.



Gage Miskimen @GageMisky

For those who don't know, there is a ride at Disney World called the Rock N Roller coaster. This thing blasts off from 0 to 60 in about 3 seconds. It's ridiculous and I was extremely terrified of the idea of being shot off into the deep, dark, unknown like a human slingshot.

I was afraid of this ride before we even left Iowa for the trip. I heard about it and saw it on TV, so for weeks leading up to the Disney trip, it's all I thought about. The Rock N Roller coaster popped up in all of my thoughts and dreams. It owned my mind for those few long weeks.

All of these fears are floating around my head as I stand in the line. My eyes are locked onto the front car and I'm staring into the headlights, trying to prove that this roller coaster will not out-intimidate me. My dad started to catch on to my nervousness. He then got this great idea to ease my mind a little bit, "You know it's not real right?" he asked me. "It doesn't actually move. The walls just move past the car to make it feel like it moves. This is Disney Gage. It's all magic." Part of me knew this didn't add up but I was desperate for comfort so I talked myself into believing him.

We get into the car and my mom and I are in the front and my dad is behind us. The seatbelt thing comes down over my shoulders and I think to myself, "These are only necessary if it was going to go upside down." Right when I realize that I had been tricked, the timer hit zero and the coaster blasted off down the tracks. So many emotions were flowing through me. First of all, I was scared out of my mind. I honestly could've peed. I didn't though, but I could've. Second, in the back of my mind, like in the very back past all of the fear and excitement sat a little feeling of betrayal. My dad tricked me and lead me into this death-defying stunt. I felt like Caesar. I didn't even stand a chance. I was so trusting of my father who I had known all of my life and on top of that, my mom didn't even stop the cruel ploy. My own parents, who I have known my whole life, stabbed me right in the back to essentially bring me happiness and excitement. So for that messed up lesson/ experience, thank you Mom and Dad. It's kind of appreciated.

Sade and Viner's summer full of sun, sand and best friends

By: DeLaney Fisher @DeLaney_Fisher

Sun, sand, and friends. This terrific combo is usually thought of as a vacation, or a summer day on the beach but for one sophomore it means something completely different.

These are the three things that Isabella Sade, sophomore, looks forward to each week of summer during her sand volleyball league. Sade has played sand volleyball for two years and said, "A couple years ago my brother, Hunter, asked me to play on his team, and I have been playing ever since." Her team changes each summer, but one thing she can count on is having a great time playing with friends.

This year her team consists of a few friends from school, and a few from other schools. "Johanna Steggall, Amanda Sahm, and Sadie Viner are all on my team this year," commented Sade. She and her friends will be playing in a six week session this summer at Volleys, but she has also signed up for a second slot. "My brother and I are playing in a doubles tournament too," Sade explained.

There are many differences between school volleyball and sand volleyball. "The atmosphere is different because the teams are much more laid back. Plus, we mostly play against adults, so it's less competitive than school ball," Sade elaborated.

Playing in the sand has its pros and cons. "We don't get to practice together before playing. You just show up once a week and play with your team," said Sade. "It is also really hard to jump in the sand which stinks because the nets are higher than school or club volleyball nets are," she added.

Sade's least favorite part about sand volleyball is the lack of team bonding.

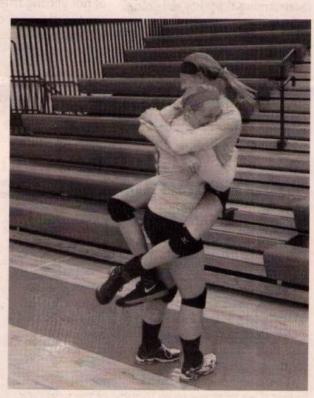
"In school volleyball we see each other every-day and practice together every day so there is a family feel, but you don't get that in sand volleyball," she declared. Playing in the sand isn't all bad though.

It doesn't hurt as bad when you fall because you just land in a bunch of sand," Sade stated with a smile. She uses playing in the sand as exercise too. "Playing sand volleyball in the summer keeps me in shape during the off season," Sade remarked.

There are also senti-

mental reasons that this season specifically will be great. "I'm really looking forward to having fun playing with the seniors for the last time," she told.

This summer Sade will continue making memories in the sand on sunny evenings with her friends. For some this may seem like the perfect vacation, or day on the beach, but for Isabella Sade it's just another volleyball game with her team.



Sadie Viner, senior, and Isabella Sade, sophomore, embrace after winning a school volleyball game.



Mershon takes a swing at golf

Mershon joins the golf team in hopes to make memories

By: Amery Bruce, @AmeryBruce

Everything is quiet, everyone focusing on the game. There is no talking, no clapping. It seems like the birds have even stopped chirping. People have stopped moving to watch. The player swings at the ball, and everyone watches it sail to the green, waiting to see how close to the hole it lands. Everyone moves closer to the hole for another go, the silence never breaking. For Emily Mershon, freshman, these are some parts of the sport that she chooses to spend her time on during spring.

She had never played golf before High School, but she was influenced by family and friends to take a shot at the sport. "I had watched my mom play a lot, and that sort of pushed me to play," Mershon explained. Even though Mershon just started playing girls golf this year, she has already played varsity a few times. In order to get on varsity, the coach looks at who has been doing the best, and that means the people who have the lowest scores out of the whole team.

Mershon thinks that golf can be a lot harder of a sport than most people think. "The most important thing is to not get frustrated," Mershon commented, "You will have good and bad days." Another thing that a lot of people think is that golf could be an extremely awkward sport, but Mershon has her own opinion about the topic. "Sometimes its hard when you are only with one other person, especially when you don't know them at all." Mershon

explained. Most of the time, however, the players get past this barrier, and just play

Mershon enjoys playing, but her favorite part is being able to go through the experience with her friends. She probably would of never tried golf if it wasn't for the influence around her, and she would've missed out of all of the fun she's had. Her hopes are high that the team will do well this season, and is excited for more to happen. She also emphasizes the importance of not getting frustrated while playing to anyone planning on joining in future years. Mershon does plan to keep going out, and hopes that others want to try it out as well.

Even if someone has never played golf before, it's a great sport to try. It's never too late to join a sport, so if someone is debating trying something new, go for it.



Emily Mershon, freshman, tees off at golf practice.

Forster fighting to finish the season

By: Skylar Miller-Baker @Skylarmbaker15



Colton Forster, senior

Every athlete works hard every season for one particular reason. For track that one particular reason is the district meet. The district meet is where track runners try and qualify for state. To qualify one must either get first or second during the district meet and if they don't they must get the next best eight times out of every other district.

Colton Forster, senior has been running all season to prepare for this track meet. Forster runs the 3200 and the 1600 and is hoping to qualify for state in both events. "I think I'll do pretty good, the times will probably be slow though because of the

weather." Forster voiced. "The team has a good chance of placing high at districts we have some really good people on our team." Forster added.

There are eight teams that run at districts that are co-ed and each one of these teams are going to be putting their best foot forward at districts. "We have the hardest district in 3a but, we have a really good team so it's not that big of a deal." Forster commented. 'I'm pretty confident that I will run well at districts in my events as well." Forster went on to figure.

Forster and the team have been preparing for this night for a long time, and they are ready to take on the competition. "Every day you run you have been preparing for a big meet in the future." Said Forster. Different people prepare in different ways and Forster has his own way of preparing. "I eat correctly leading up to the meet especially since I am a distance runner, don't want to throw up." Forster expressed.

Since the district meet is close at hand that means, for Forster, that his season may be coming to an end. If Forster doesn't qualify for state in his events, this will be his last track of his senior season. "I feel pretty good about my senior season coming to an end. I'm glad that I have been able to make the imprint that I have and I'm excited to run at Mt. Mercy next year." said Forster. Since Forster has been in the track program at Marion for four years he has some good memories. "My favorite memory was freshman year at JV WAMAC when I was 200 meters behind and then caught up and won the race. My least favorite memory then would be last year at the Kingston meet when I ran horrible. Forster stated.

Forster meet his goal of going to state in the 3200 and the 1600. He finished both races in second place, which is an atomatic advancement to

Graham starts playing big time

By: Baylea Bruce, @Baylea_marie

Baseball is one of America's favorite past times. Both boys and girls have memories of playing in the hot summer sun, dreaming of hitting a grand slam and clearing the bases. For some this dream continued with them into high school. Graham Guyer, a current 8th grader at Vernon Middle School, plans on making the commitment to playing high school baseball.

While Guyer is only an eighth grader, he has had a very successful career. Since they don't have school

teams in middle school, he played for a parks and

recreation team and was very successful. "I haven't



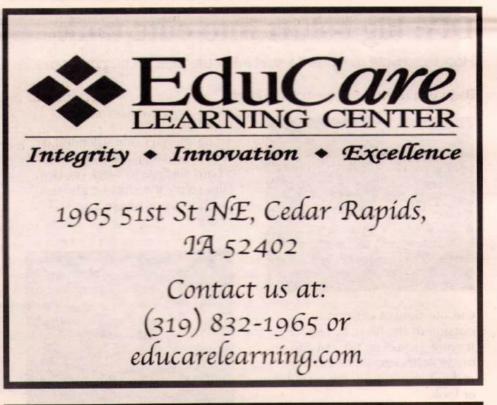
Graham Guyer, 8th grader

lost a game in four years. We won the championship three times back to back" boasted Guyer. Guyer and his team hope to have a similar record in high school.

While Guyer is proud of his record, he knows that it's going to take hard work to keep it up on the high school level. He is ready for the hard work that he's going to have to put in. "It definitely gets more intense. It's a step up from what I've been playing. I'm nervous but ready for it" admitted Guyer. Guyer's main goals for this season is to keep having fun with his friends and have a successful first year of High School baseball.

Eighth graders playing summer sports get introduced to High School much quicker than their other classmates. Many of them may have some nerves being around High Schoolers while they themselves are still at the middle school. "I'm most nervous about getting along with the upperclassman. I know we're going to get along it's just getting so know them" expressed Guyer. Baylor Fish, sophomore, can relate to Guyer's fears since he dressed for varsity his freshman year. "It was a lot of fun. The upperclassman made fun of me but nothing out of the ordinary" explained Fish. Many people can relate to the nerves felt when transitioning from your awkward middle school days to your still some what awkward first days of freshman year.

While Guyer has the heart and dedication to the game, he is just hoping for a successful season with plenty of fun with old and new friends.





Kickin' it with the World Cup

By: Noah Walter @Tyrannoahsaurus

The World Cup is one of the most watched sporting events in todays world. For those people who do not know what this tournament is, it is a soccer competition held every four years between various countries that qualify to participate in a tournament over the summer. Once the teams qualify they are randomly put into groups of four. They all play each other and gain points from each game, a win gets the team three points and a tie gets one point, but a loss gets the team nothing. The two teams with the most points advance on to the elimination rounds.

This summer the Women's World Cup is being held in Canada, where 24 countries will be competing for the title. The women of the U.S. is one of these teams competing this summer for the cup.

The last time this wonderful tournament was held was in the year 2011 where the United States made it all of the way to the championship but came short and lost to Japan. The ladies on the team are in hopes for more this year.

The national team consists of a lot of the same players that were on the 2011 team. Abby Wambach is one of them, she is the star forward for the team and is in her 14th year

on the team and has made almost 250 appearances for the team, and has scored close to 200 goals for the team in that time. Wambach has been so close in all of her world cups to being crowned champions but just can't seem to get there. Abby and the rest of the team earned a third place finish in both the 2003 and 2007 World Cup and then a second place in the previous World Cup.

According to some experts the U.S. have the best odds to win the whole thing with a 5/2 odds. One of the biggest threats to ruin their dreams, are the women of Germany. Last year the men of Germany brought back the trophy so lets see how their women hold up in the group stages and against the U.S. and other power house teams.



The US National soccer team celebrating their last cup win in Women's world cup.

The Avengers assemble once again

By: Baylea Bruce @Baylea_marie

Dramatic fight scenes, hilarious sarcasm, and attractive people fighting crime. This is exactly what you get in the second addition to the Avengers series. Avengers: Age of Ultron came out May 1st and features the justice-seeking group of heroes as they fight a robot that they unknowingly helped create.

This whole catastrophe starts with the Avengers trying to get Loki's scepter back from an evil scientist who uses the scepter's power to experiment on humans and form artificial intelligence. Once Stark gets his hands on it he and Dr. Banner can't resist trying to create an army of robots named Ultron that would protect the world and eliminate the need for the Avengers all together. However, the program takes on a mind of its own and decided to eliminate the Avengers all together and life on Earth as we know it. This takes the team on a wild ride of trying to stop Ultron and testing the strength of their relationship.

Along with all the original butt-kicking superheroes many new characters are introduced, so it's not just the same old same old with Ironman blowing stuff up and the Hulk smashing things. Twins with freaky superpowers and new allies coming to light. This combination of old and new gives the team a newer look but keeps the love for favorite characters alive.

All throughout the movie there are little parts or hints from each of the individual movies for superheros that make any Marvel fanatic happy. Seeing all the other movies definitely helps explain why things are the way they are but are not essential to understanding the movie. The movie has it's own plot and doesn't demand any prior knowledge, but it does help. Both die-hards and newbies can enjoy the movie just as much.

Along with new characters, new relationships are popping up all through out the movie. We finally get to see inside the life of Hawkeye and his relationship with Black Widow. Black Widow begins to open up to another one of her superhero team members and we see a little more on what her life was like as an assassin. In this movie we begin to see a little bit more of the characters who maybe aren't as popular as the others. It's nice to take a step back from the big names such as Ironman and Captain America and get to see just how important the other heroes are.

While this movie is amazing, it is your typical superhero movie. It is a little predictable at times, but still good. If you like fighting, things blowing up, and superhumans with crazy abilities, this is definitely the perfect movie for you.

DIY: big t-shirt into cute tank

How to recycle oversized t-shirt into cute tank for summer time.

By Emma Hartman @Steal_Your_Hart



Cut the sleeves off on the outside of the hem, to reduce fraying. However, the cut can be made on the inside of the hem and cut lower down for a sportier look.



Tie the flaps into knots. The higher the cut, the shorter the shirt will be, so take this into account when cutting the strings. The shirt can by worn with a pair of high waisted shorts for a cute summer outfit. The Total cost of this DIY tank top was only \$3.00.

Supplies:

To do this DIY one will need an oversized t-shirt, scissors, and a hard surface to work on. Be sure to try the shirt on and use chalk to mark where cuts will be needed.



After cutting sleeves and the neck off of the t-shirt, find center of the bottom of the t-shirt to make a cut. Cut up from the bottom of the shirt so you have strings all the way around the shirt. Make sure all the strings are equal length; this will be important for the next step.





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Snoop Dogg's new LP

Snoop Dogg and Pharrell team up for "Bush"

By: Wyatt Ehr @wyattehr

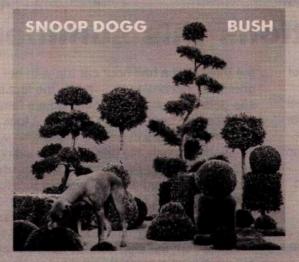
With Snoop Dogg's thirteenth studio album, "Bush", he attempts to reinvent his sound. Snoop recruits frequent collaborator, Pharrell Williams, to produce the entire project, which makes for a very laid back, funk-influenced album.

"Bush" is extremely different than Snoop Dogg's previous efforts. On this album he decides to abstain from rapping almost entirely, and instead sing throughout a majority of the album. While Snoop manages to pull this off at times, like on the standout track "So Many Pros", it ends up being the biggest weakness of this project. Snoop's singing is mediocre at best, and at some points completely unbearable. His vague lyrics about love and women come off as boring, and flat out lazy. Him being 43 years old also makes some of the things he says feel awfully inappropriate and borderline uncomfortable. Snoop Dogg really shines on this album when he is doing what he does

best, which is actually rapping. Unfortunately he only does this is on the song "Peaches N' Cream".

Bringing Pharrell to produce the entire album is both good and bad. While Pharrell manages to bring mostly good to average production, it is still subpar to the usual Snoop Dogg and Pharrell collaboration.

And compared to many hits that Pharrell has made recently, his efforts on "Bush" are very lackluster. One of the biggest problems with "Bush" is how alike every song sounds. While cohesiveness is usually a positive trait for an album, that is not the case for "Bush". Having Pharrell produce the entire album made for a very consistent soundscape throughout the entire project. At some points the listener will feel like they are playing to the same song repeatedly, just because of how similar the instrumentation is. "Bush"



The cover of Snoop Dogg's new album titled "Bush"

had many different aspirations but failed in almost every one. What Snoop Dogg wanted to be a fun, groovy summer album turned out to be a boring, lazy mess that Snoop Dogg fans will be trying to forget about in the months to come. "Bush" failed to live up to previous successful collaborations between the two such as "Beautiful", and "Drop it Like it's Hot", and instead provided us with forgettable tracks, that are far from beautiful and should be dropped in the nearest trash can. The overall rating is 3/10.

Seventeen and stupid

-Commentary-



By: Savannah Guyer @SavannahMGuyer

Everyone has had that moment of clarity between them and a friend that has brought them closer in some way. Mine began in the suffocating confines of Alex Coleman's three thousand blankets settled on top of her bed at four in the morning, with her hand slapped over my mouth.

Allow me to back

up a bit before we get to that crucial part of the story. I had never truly seen a scary movie before my junior year of high school, but there I was, the first night staying at the Coleman's, deciding to best myself and partake in a risky activity such as watching a horror film. We picked our selection for the evening: "The Conjuring". Anyone who's ever seen this movie wholeheartedly knows that it is definitely not a first draft pick for the introduction into the horror genre. I feel as though no amount of scary movies or TV shows could have ever prepared me for the monstrosity that was this film.

Oblivious to the life changing events that were going to follow this seemingly unimportant choice, Alex and I finally settled into her room at the wee hours of the morning to watch this hour and fifty two minute event. A half an hour into the movie and I was already experiencing the anxiety attack of my life, and essentially, the worse had yet to come. I'd given up on actually trying to watch the plot that was unraveling on the TV and instead covered my view with hands and shuffled down the bed so I could only see a corner of the screen. Alex, the diligent and kind friend she is, explained to me step by step what was happening while she watched from between her fingers.

Our strategy of watching this movie was going strong, we had all the lights on, we took breaks when we needed them, discussed possible outcomes of what was to come next. but nothing could prepare myself for the dumb decision I was about to make. On a sudden impulse, I retreated from my bundle of safety to actually observe what was happening. Turns out I picked the worst time to have tuned in because my retinas were burned with the image of a frightening, witch looking woman crawling on top of a dresser with a feral smile that was definitely the epitome of evil.

Unable to cope with the turmoil I had just subjected myself to, I involuntary released a heart stopping screech that ended up scaring me even more than I already was. Before I knew what was happening, the film was paused and I had a hand clapped over my mouth and a frowning Alex looming over me. It was then in an astonished silence that a bond began to grow between us, one that proved to shine in the darkest of moments.

Summer time fashion trends

By: Ashley Lappe @frappelappe

As the school year comes to a close, as well as the spring season, the sun begins to shine and the weather becomes hotter. People start to bring out their shorts and swimsuits in the anticipation of summertime fun. This season comes with many changing trends including clothing, makeup and hairstyles as well as many the do's and don'ts that

go along with them.

The first trend that's making it's way to Iowa is the 1970's hippie style. Bringing back the long flowing dresses and loud prints, this trend is perfect for those of us that love that summer boho style. One way to accessorize this look is by adding a floral headband or a nice pair of leather gladiator sandals, these will complete the boho chic look. One thing to avoid is mistaking a 1970's flowing dress with a moomoo, they are not one in the same

The next trend that is sweeping across the country is cut-out swimsuits. This includes one pieces and one pieces only. The biggest don't in this situation is wearing a bikini with cut-outs. Bikinis already have very little cover up and adding more cut-outs can mean showing a bit too much skin. So keep it classy by sticking to one-pieces.

Possibly the biggest trend this upcoming summer, and in past seasons, is the midriff. Crop tops have been around for a while and they remain popular now, but there are restraints that need to be put in place. Wearing a bra top isn't the same as wearing a crop top. The point of a "midriff" is to slightly show off your stomach, not the entire thing. Again, keep it classy, an inch or two is all

that's necessary.

Some hair and makeup trends to look for this season include the half up half down hairdo, pink lips, colored eyeliner, and braids, which never seem to go out of style. Whether they are halo braids, fishtails, or just the average braid, they are an easy way to mix up your everyday look. One way to make your braid morestylish and fun is by adding small flowers. This was a very common trend at this year's Coachella music

So whether you plan to sit on the couch and watch Netflix all day, or actually go outside and hang out with friends, these trends will help you look your best this summer.



Flower crowns are a huge trend this 2015 summer vacation.

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Trips and traditions this summer

Quickly approaching, and closer for some of us than others, is the highly anticipated summer vacation. No school, warm weather, longer nights: all of these are factors into why summer is one of the most beloved seasons. Whether students plan on spending their time diving into cool, blue, chlorine infested pools, spreading their toes in a mass of sand, or just chilling on their couch for a good book or bout of Netflix, most people have a vast array of things they want to do this summer. For Cappra Svboda, a freshman here at Marion, summer brings the excitement of a family tradition.

Every year, or almost every year, Svboda and her family travel a few hours away to visit their cousins in Geneva, Illinois. "We didn't get to go last summer because of dance camp and some other conflicts, but we get to go again this year, "commented Svboda. Her family has been making this road trip for around four years now. Even though they go a few more times during the year, there's just something of a fondness towards their visit during the summer months. "I like staying during the summer because we stay for longer. There's no rush to come home," explained Svboda.

The cousins that they go to visit are her Dad's sister's family. There are two kids in the family, both girls ages nine and twelve. "It's like my home away from home. It's fun to see the different scenery and the different lifestyles," Svboda stated, "It's just nice to get away from your normal routine and hang out with family in the process." One thing particularly fantastic about the entire endeavor is that Svboda gets to make

the three and a half hour car trip with her grandma. According to Svboda, the fact that she gets a break from her immediate family is one of the best parts. "One time it took us over five hours to get there because we stopped so much. Neither of us like sitting in the car for long periods of time because we both get bored and just want to move. There's really no rush at all going either direction, so we'll usually stop on the Mississippi and get lunch," Svboda went on to say.

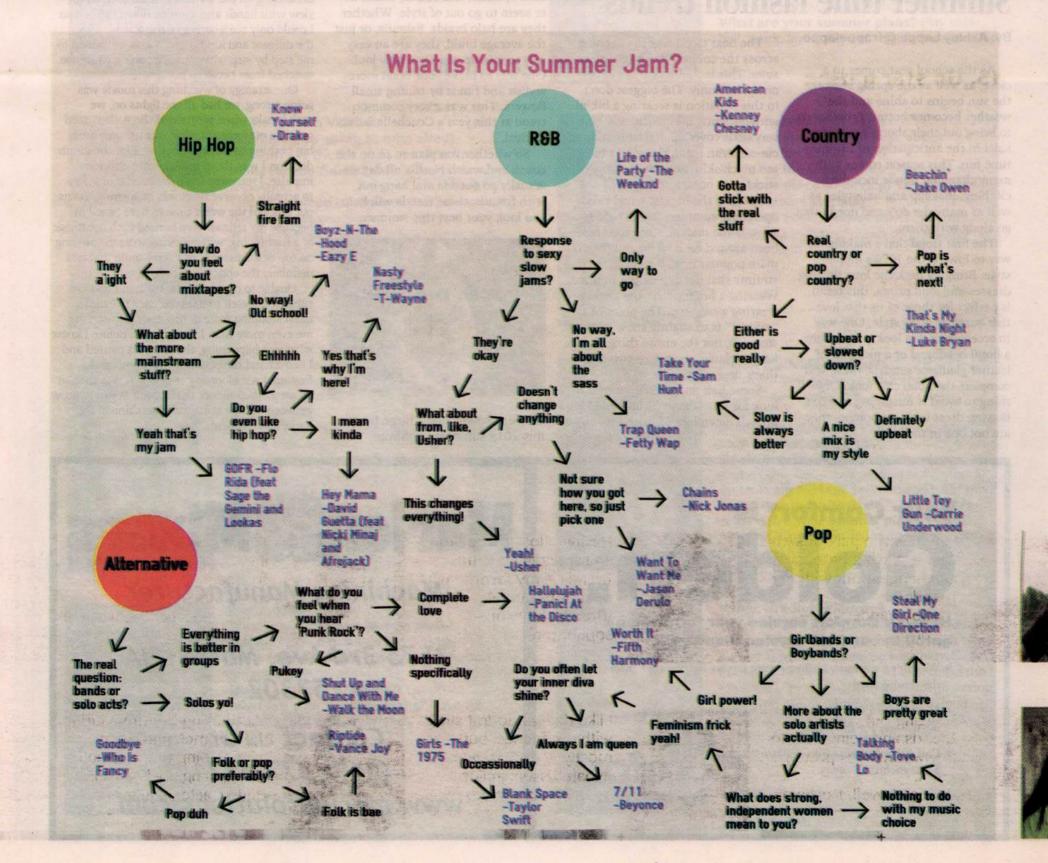
Apart from the step outside her normal schedule and a much needed break from everyday stress, Svboda enjoys her time down there and the activities they partake in. Not only do they chill around with family and take a dip in the pool every once and again, their are other events that take place during the trip. "Sometimes when we're there the Swedish Festival is going on. We'll go to that, and it's literally three days straight. Sometimes we'll even take a train to Chicago and go shopping, but other than that I just like being able to relax," Svboda explained.

Whether a family is planning a huge trip this summer, or maybe their plans are more low key, the break cannot come soon enough. For graduating seniors the date is fast approaching, and for the rest of us, summer isn't too far behind. So even if the holidays consist of binge watching a new TV show, doing artsy things, or getting ice cream every single day, make sure not a single second is wasted. Before we know it we won't be able to



Cappra Svboda, freshman (on the left), posing with her family one summer on the trip to Geneva, Illinois

enjoy such a convenient break, so suck up the sun, get sticky fingers from slushies, and have the perfect summer with friends and family. We only have so many left.



SUMMER BUCKETLIST

- 1. Play messy twister
- 2. Outdoor concert
- 3. Go camping
- 4. Get tan
- 5. Go to a drive-in movie
- 6. Make homemade ice cream
- 7. Go four wheeling
- 8. Play ultimate frisbee
- 9. Water balloon fight
- 10. Go to a carnival
- 11. Host a bonfire
- 12. Go on an epic date
- 13. Visit a farmers market
- 14. Go to a picnic
- 15. Go star gazing
- 16. Go mini golfing
- 17. Watch fireworks
- 18. Make s'mores
- 19. Build a blanket fort
- 20. Have a paint fight
- 21. Go boating
- 22. Baseball game
- 23. Go fishing
- 24. Rope swing into a lake
- 25. Play beach volleyball

- 26. Night swimming
- 27. Run a 5k
- 28. Tie dye
- 29. Watch the sunset
- 30. Play laser tag
- 31. Go to the zoo
- 32. Play with sparklers
- 33. Sleep outside
- 34. Spend an entire week with your best
- friends
- 35. Spend day at the beach
- 36. Go thrift shopping
- 37. Get a henna tattoo
- 38. Visit the Mall of America
- 39. Go paintballing
- 40. Pull an all nighter
- 41. Have a dance party
- 42. Dye your hair with koolaid
- 43. Get a piercing/tattoo
- 44. Go to an amusement park
- 45. Bike ride
- 46. Take cute pictures with your best friend
- 47. Bake a lot of cookies
- 48. Kayaking
- 49. Dance in the rain
- 50. Cook someone dinner



"My favorite part of summer is playing baseball and hanging out with my friends." -Bobby Vanderlinden,



Having a lot of free time and spending it with friends is my favorite part of summer break. -Brenna Johnson, sophomore



Going fishing, frisbee golfing, and playing ultimate frisbee is the best part of my summer.

-Cody Alberts, senior



Hanging out with my friends and being able to go swimming is pretty

-Macey Lovell, freshman

spieda



I like doing hoodrat stuff with my friends, but mostly with Terrence. -Noah Nissen, junior

gwith the out and



I like having bonfires during the summer, and swimming. Going to the beach and tanning are fun too. -Jade Carter, junior

The or t



Name: Russel Swearingen-Mallada
What are you going to miss about
Marion? My Friends
Plans for the future? Going to the ARC
Quote or piece of advice? N/A
What are your summer plans? Play basketball and go to the ARC



Name: Taylor Wade
What are you going to miss about
Marion? The golf team and volleyball memories

Plans for the future? Go to Kirkwood then
UNI to become a high school English teach-

Quote or piece of advice? "Be who you are, say what you feel, those who mind don't matter, those who matter don't mind." -Dr. Seuss

What are your summer plans? Go to summer fest, move out, golf and go camping



Name: Dean Tjarks
What are you going to miss about
Marion? I'll miss the atmosphere, the
teachers, the drama and the nonworking
hand dryers in the science wing restrooms
Plans for the future? Going to Kirkwood
for golf course and the turf grass management and landscape construction design
Quote or piece of advice? You gotta risk
it for th biscuit
What are your summer plans? I plan on



Name: Nicholas Wheeler What are you going to miss about Marion? Bowling squad, Mr. Thorton and Lucas Long

Plans for the future? Kirkwood Quote or piece of advice? "Those who dance are cons! Deemed insane by those who can not hear the music" -George Carlin

What are your summer plans? Italy and concerts



Name: Madison Tucker
What are you going to miss about
Marion? Friends
Plans for the future? College
Quote or piece of advice? N/A
What are your summer plans? Working

finding a new job, riding dirt bikes and

hanging out with friends

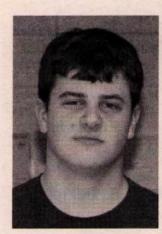


Name: Marissa Whitney
What are you going to miss about
Marion? Most of my softball girls and
team bonding

Plans for the future? Attend University of Northern Iowa and major in education

Quote or piece of advice? Enjoy the little things in life... For one day you'll look back and realize they were the big things

What are your summer plans? Play softball, work, and hang out with friends

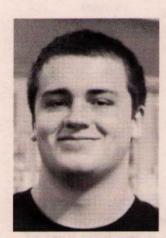


Name: Colton Valvoda
What are you going to miss about
Marion? My friends and some teachers
Plans for the future? Culinary arts through
Kirkwood
Quote or piece of advice? Burrito mobile-it will get you places
What are your summer plans? Work and
hang with friends



Name: Terrence Williams
What are you going to miss about
Marion? The unique smell
Plans for the future? Attend Kirkwood
Quote or piece of advice? Disregard females acquire currency
What are your summer plans? Spend as

much time with my friends as possible #Moneyteam



Name: Kyle VanMeter
What are you going to miss about Marion? Mr. Raymond's dazzling eyes and stunning smile

Plans for the future? University of Kirkwood, Then Iowa

Quote or piece of advice? Deal with your problems with your head down and straight up the middle

What are your summer plans? Hang out with HIT squad 319 AKA my boys Lonestar, YungBoi, Chauncy and Blake Vanourney



Name: Zachariah Williams What are you going to miss about Marion? Not having bills and my Otaku friends

Plans for the future? Video game developer and dub step artist

Quote or piece of advice? "People aren't perfect the world isn't perfect but its there for us doing the best it can be and thats what makes it so damn beautiful." -Roy Mustang What is are your summer plans? Moms wedding, Comiket in Japan and anime gaming



Name: Sadie Viner
What are you going to miss about
Marion? My friends and the teachers
Plans for the future? Going to Kirkwood
for nursing program
Quote or piece of advice? Graduate
What are your summer plans? Have fun
and hang out with my friends



Name: Bradley Willimack
What are you going to miss about Marion? Having to drive to school through two feet of snow in -40 degree weather
Plans for the future? Go to Kirkwood the lowa State to study mechanical engineering
Quote or piece of advice? Peace, love and positivity
What is are your summer plans?

What is are your summer plans? Celebrate my graduation



Name: Jacob Wulfekuhle

What are you going to miss about

Marion? Open blocks and Building Trades. Plans for the future? To become a licensed electrician.

Quote or piece of advice? "Respect your parents... They passed school without Google." - Anonymous

What are your summer plans? Have fun ad live life to the fullest.



Name: Dontavious Young What are you going to miss about Marion? Not the lunch.

Plans for the future? Own a business in Kansas City, Missouri. Radio station or

Quote or piece of advice? Don't rely on people for anything you can do on your

What are your summer plans? Never turn down.



Name: Brittney Yeisley

What are you going to miss about Marion? Friends and teachers.

Plans for the future? Go to Kirkwood for two years for childcare.

Quote or piece of advice? "Life goes on... whether you chose to move on and take a chance in the unknown. Or stay behind, locked in the past, thinking of what could of been." -Unknown

What are your summer plans? Have fun, hangout with friends, go boating and tubing, and enjoy life.



Name: Austin Yirkovsky

What are you going to miss about

Marion? I think Marion is going to miss me more than I will miss Marion.

Plans for the future? Break four minutes in the mile.

Quote or piece of advice?

Whether you think you can or you can't

What are your summer plans? Mentoring the future of running at Marion, just as Lukas Mecs did for me and the other members of the Tribe Running club.



Name: Lauren Zimmerman

What are you going to miss about Marion? Seeing my friends everyday and

show choir.

Plans for the future? Go to Kirkwood and then transfer to UNI.

Quote or piece of advice? You'll have a lot more fun in high school if you don't care what others think.

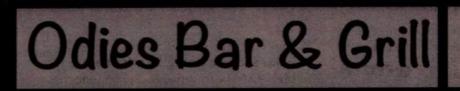
What are your summer plans? To work, hangout with friends and go on vacations.

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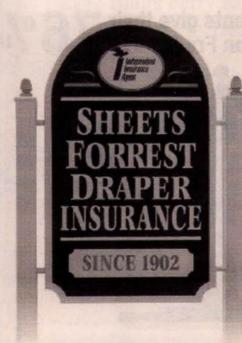
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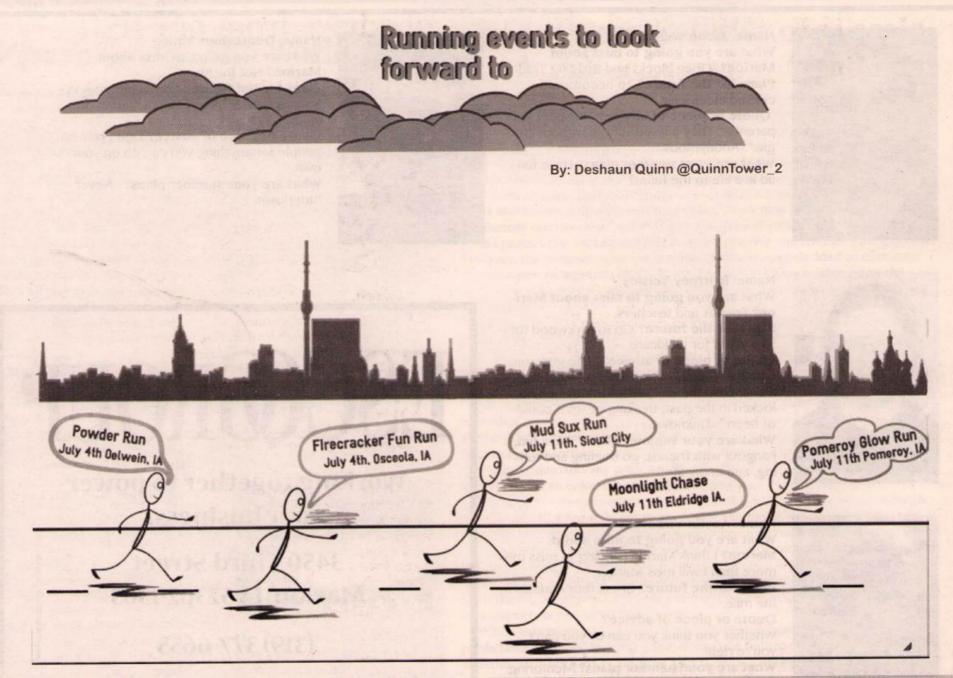




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Fantastic Freddy's: new burger & shake restaurant worth a taste

By: Deshaun Quinn @QuinnTower_2

From burger flipping to ice cream scooping, Cedars Rapids is receiving a new fast food location that is very unique and different from all the others. Compared to none other this fast food location will be an addition to Cedar Rapids that will help them rise among all other cities and prove why C.R is the best city there is.

Freddy's is a fast food chain that originates from Wichita, Kansas which is also the home of the owner and WWII veteran Freddy Simon. Freddy Simon is a very passionate veteran who spends some of his time talking to high school history classes about his experiences.

The restaurant's menu is focused around the famous Freddy steakburgers. The steakburgers have been apart of the restaurant ever since the opening but that's not all that is on the historic menu. The menu also includes mouthwatering hot dogs with a toasted bun and oozing chili to top them off. But lets not forget the patty melts and amazing crispy chicken. But the main focus is in their delicious frozen custard and shakes. From the signature turtle concrete to the very beautiful peanut butter cup & banana concrete the options are endless. For those who like the classics though, freddy's offers the very original vanilla ice cream in a cup, cone or a waffle cone but it doesn't end their. They also prepare very delicious frozen custard cakes that are topped with the most popular candy's. They also sell oreo ice cream sandwiches as well to satisfy the needs of the public.

So whether people like it hot or cold freddy's offers it all. So next time people here freddy's lets hope they think less of the nightmare killer and more of the delicious cuisine's of their dreams.

Happy 64th b'day "facelift" for 7th Ave. DQ

By: Emma Hartman @Steal_Your_Hart

Same location, same delicious ice cream, even better building.

The Dairy Queen on 7th Ave. in Marion has been under construction since October of 2014, and while there have been some delays, it is projected to be finished this summer.

Lori Bouska, daughter of Marion Mayor Allen "Snooks" Bouska, has owned the building for the past five years, but her family has owned it for 20. Bouska is the cashier, janitor, and everything in between.

Bouska thought it was time for a "facelift" to remodel DQ. "It is kind of a 'happy birthday' to us, since we're celebrating 64 years. We also wanted it [the building] to appeal to everyone - like grandparents that

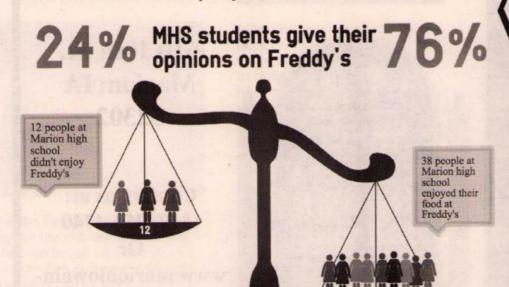
have been coming since they were kids, and yet still stay relevant to the times", said Bouska. Some additions include an indoor eating area, drive-thru and some surprise new items on the menu!.

This reconstruction helps make the building more pedestrian friendly, as a part of the Marion Corridor street project, initiated by city council.

Bouska will be looking for additional employees, 16 years old and up, to work at the new DQ.

"We want to make this new store the next chapter of those experiences and memories for the next generation, and generations to come."

So grab a spoon and get ready, because Dairy Queen will be up and running before you know it.



Drivers Education Classes

Classes held at Marion Christian Church

School year sessions completed in 2 1/2 weeks Summer sessions completed in 2 weeks

See website for complete listing of sessions



Journalism senior send-off: words of advice from our staff

A few things I've learned at Marion

By: Gage Miskimen @GageMisky



Gage Miskimen, senior

Dear freshmen,

By now you have almost finished your first year of high school and soon you'll be sophomores and in a blink of an eye you will be just days away from graduation like I am right now. When I was a freshman, people always said that high school flies by and I didn't initially believe them but it's actually true and there's a lot to learn about yourself and the world in the short four years spent in classrooms and with friends. As a freshmen, some of you guys may have already experienced making and losing friends, heartbreak, breaking hearts, and trying to fit in. Realistically, everyone is trying to fit in but everyone should be trying to stand out. Don't be afraid to be a little different and it's okay if some people

don't like you. Not everyone will, but that's life and you have to learn what really matters and what doesn't because really all that matters at the end of the day is how you look at yourself in the mirror.

High school has its ups and downs and it really is a roller coaster even though that is the biggest cliche ever written. It's like a roller coaster that you didn't even really want to ride, but your mom just threw you on, strapped you in with some worn out seat belts that are held together by thin strands of material, and said, "good luck!". At first you're freaking out, eyes wide and you have no clue what to do. Then you start to realize that you're okay and it's actually kind of fun and you relax and just let the ride take you where it's supposed to, because the number one lesson I've learned is everything is okay in the end and if it's not okay, then it's not

Without certain people, I don't even know where I would be at today. A support system including friends and family is really essential. Shout out to everyone I've ever met or talked to because every single person I've met has shaped me into the person I am today; my best friends, my exes, random girls I talked to, teachers, coaches, everyone. Marion High School gave me more than just math, science, and English. It gave me more lessons in becoming who I am today and put me one step closer to figuring out who I want to be.

Leaving it all out on the field

By: Deshaun Quinn @QuinnTower_2



Deshaun Quinn, senior

When I look back on my high school experiences there has been a lot of up's and downs. From the 3 school fights, to the senior school pranks, there was a lot of good times. Nothing will ever beat all the good times I had playing football.

Even though my senior years weren't too hot, going 1-8 that doesn't mean i didn't make memories that would last me a lifetime. I mean we had do something no other teams had ever thought of when we turned our football camp into an overnight sensation known as Tent City. I remember all the activities they had around the camp from the bean bag toss, to cards, the area made you feel like you were in college. I remember it

Saying goodbye to Marion High

By: Savannah Guyer @Savannah MGuyer



Savannah Guyer, senior

The thing about high school is that it sucks until it's over. As cliche as it sounds, these few years before becoming an adult are essential to a person discovering exactly who they are and what they want the rest of their life to be like.

For me, high school brought on a world of realization. I became so much more aware of what a school like Marion had to offer for me and what possibilities lurked within it's conveniently sized classrooms, and how I could test my capabilities within those spaces. I learned that the job I was so natural at doing wasn't the occupation I wanted to see myself occupying everyday for the rest of my life, but instead found a home

in something that, although I have to work at it, made my heart happy. Most importantly, I found that most of all this is temporary.

Literally, almost nothing at this point in life matters in any significant manner, besides grades. Which is what we're here for in the first place, an education. No one else's opinion about yourself matters but yours. Do not let people dictate what you can or can't do or who you are, because life is way too short to be living it in the shadow of someone else's opinions and regulations. This is what this entire time frame is for is figuring out what matters to you, and what you want to do, and no one else's opinion should interfere.

High school is a trying time for most people, and it was for me, but it was also completely necessary in helping me establish who I was as a person. So thank you Marion, for some of the most difficult moments of my life and some of my best. I greatly appreciate all you have done for me, and I will always find a piece of myself in you.

It isn't goodbye, it's see you later

By: Kayla Comried @KComried



Kayla Comried, senior

Dear Marion High School,

Well, my four years here have come to an abrupt end, and honestly I still don't know how I feel about that. I came into high school, thinking it was going to be the longest four years of my life, and now, I wonder just where the time has gone. I guess when I think about it though, I know exactly where it went. It flew by, faster than I thought possible, as I made countless memories with friends, and it drudged on as I sat in those long boring classes, but regardless of what I spent the time doing, the point is, it's over now. Whether you are having fun, and the time is flying by, or you are bored to tears, don't waste one single

minute because regardless of what you're doing, the clock is not going to stop, and in the blink of an eye you will be in this exact spot, far from ready to graduate.

But that's one thing I learned. Whether or not you're ready, sometimes you have to be. Whether it be graduation, a big test, a super important game, or anything else, when the time comes to perform, you have got to be ready. As much as I would've liked to countless times just press pause on life, I couldn't do that. The world kept on spinning, but that there is the point. Whether or not you're ready and whether or not you fail, the world will keep going, the sun will still rise, and the moon will still shine. As important as some things feel in the moment, you will be surprised at how one day they no longer mean a thing to you, which leads me to my next point: choose your battles wisely. Things that are a huge deal now, won't matter eventually.

The last thing I want to say is thank you. Each day here has been an experience in itself, and each day here has brought me closer to becoming who I am meant to be. High school is something I know I will always remember, and honestly I can't imagine having spent it anywhere else but here. So thank you Marion, I will always have a home in you.

like it was yesterday... everyone smiling looking around having the times of their lives.

My fondest memory is the feeling you have during the games. The feeling of the adrenaline rushing through your body. It makes you feel like you can do anything. As you sit there waiting for the ball to be kick off it's almost like time freezes. You look in at the crowd and all you can see is their the emotion in their face. Some of them have the face paint on red nations face and you see the coaches and players with their eyes are on you. The huge overhead light shine on the field and you notice 11 other guys with the same hate that you have. Then you focus back to the field. The ref blows his whistle and bang the balls kicked off and it land in the hands of your teammate and now the fun happens. You scout out the field looking for you target. Once you see that one person you run full speed, lower your shoulder and bam. You collide with him making sure he knows what type of game he is in for.

These memories will always stay in my head because I loved the game. But the memories of how I spent my time on the football team will never go away. Because once and Indian always an Indian.

The final farewell after four fun years

By: Kylie McAllister @smileeyyykylie



Kylie McAllister, senior

Walking through the door of Marion High School the first day of freshman year was honestly one of the most nerve racking moments in my life. I was the new kid, no one knew who I was, or where I came from, and I could choose to be anyone I wanted to be. There were so many new faces and opportunities right in front of me, but looking back my only goal seemed to be to fit in. This leads to one lesson that I've learned in the past four years: You can be anybody you want to be, but just make sure that when you look in the mirror at the end of the day, you are proud of yourself. You may be in the process of figuring out who you are, but you can challenge yourself to be the best person you can be, even if that means standing out from

the crowd.

If there were one thing that I wish I would have known from the very beginning, it would be to love yourself and never to forget your self worth. High school definitely broke me out of my comfort zones at times and it was hard to always remember that no matter what was happening it is important to truly love and embrace the person that you are. There are many moments when it is hard to remember your great value in life but each and every person is here with a purpose and has special characteristics that make them unique. Loving yourself does require effort and is a constant battle, but no one should forget that they are truly matter.

My journey through high school has taught me that I have the power to make my life just the adventure that I want it to be. That I should laugh a lot, cry a little, live by my own rules, not take anything for granted, and love myself. I wouldn't trade anything for all of the good and bad that I have gone through these past four years, and I just want to say thank you to everyone that has contributed into making me the person I am and of course to Marion High School, because you will always have a special place in my heart.

Family, love, and loss

Solomon Groothuis, freshman, shares his story about his life and his struggles.

By: Savannah Guyer @Savannah MGuyer



Solomon Groothuis, freshman

For most MHS students, their families consist of nurturing parents, a couple of siblings, and perhaps a pet or two. Solomon Groothuis, freshman, and his clan of family members have a few exceptions to those commonalities. With eight sisters and six brothers, the life of Groothuis has been anything but ordinary, although nothing short of affectionate and

supportive.

When Groothuis was just five, his mother became passionate with thoughts of aiding in finding orphans in other countries clean, loving, and encouraging homes. "My parents already had three kids when my mom went to a conference that made her realize what a heart she had for orphans in Africa. It took a little of convincing from my dad who said if it was going to happen, it would happen, and it did," Groothuis clarified. A short period of time after that, the Groothuis's had adopted four girls from Africa, all between the ages of one and six years old. Many kids would have resented the extra company residing in their home, but Groothuis took it all in stride. "For me, my attitude was the more the merrier. I didn't have any sisters, and it was nice to add some more life to the family," Groothuis commented. Groothuis's mom had a little girl of her own before the family was adding more to their bunch. They adopted three more children, two girls and one boy, from a family in Liberia that became unable to sustain their medical needs. The Groothuis's settled for a while before they were having another boy of their own and deciding they wanted to adopt again. This adoption was the last and the hardest adoption that took place for the family, but in the end, it was more than worth it. "Esther at the time my parents were trying to adopt her she was being considered for two other families. My mom fought really hard to get her after two or three years after putting up with the Ugandan court. It was quite the journey and it proved that adopting wasn't an easy hobby for my mom, it was a complete sacrifice," Groothuis explained. With the Groothuis tribe officially complete, a house full of fourteen siblings might have been a little more than overwhelming at times for the fourth oldest

Groothuis. "People often ask if I'd rather have a smaller family with less siblings, and yes, I'd rather have more of myself sometimes, more of my own time, space, things, but I'd rather have my own siblings because they give me crazy amounts of happiness," Groothuis stated. That happiness, though never fully diminish-

ing, hit an all time low this past summer when Groothuis's mom passed away unexpectedly. After entertaining such an irreplaceable part in Groothuis' life, his mom left him with a lasting impression of herself and his parent's relationship. "My mom was my main role model, she was so full of life. She was so loyal to my dad through everything, even though he was never quite on board with her idea of raising a billion kids. They complimented each other in the best ways. I don't believe in the concept of soulmates until I look at their marriage," Groothuis admit-

ted. Although they were limited to only fourteen years of being together, Groothuis's mom enveloped many life lessons into her daily teachings, some of which have stuck with him. "The most important thing she left with me is something she always used to say, "hate is like swallowing poison and waiting for someone else to get sick". It taught me to be empathetic and forgiving towards people I don't like or who have done me wrong. I haven't had the heart to hate since then," Groothuis went onto say. With that piece of his family gone, Groothuis is still trying to find a way to keep himself and his loved ones balanced. "My family is like a wheel. My mom was the axle and us kids were the spokes, my dad was the outer wheel that held us together. Once you lose one of those parts, everything is weakened. Once you lose the center, it can fall apart," Groothuis elaborated. Although struggling to keep everything as it was is difficult at times, the Groothuis's journey has been made easier by the community around them. "This would not be possible without our church, family, and friends. Ten months later and people are still bringing us meals. Crazy, but it's a privilege I am extremely thankful for," Groothuis commented.

Although Groothuis is moving forward from the loss of his mom, he can't help but be reminded of her every time he looks at himself. "I believe I had a lot of my mom's physical and emotional genetics. On the emotional side, we were both artistic, more emotional feeling, introverted in the same ways. Another similarity my mom and I shared is that we both suffered from bipolar disorder," Solomon remarked. "Most people drive an emotional car, there's often bumps, often dips. People with bipolar disorder are riding an emotional roller coaster. They get a sickening amount of highs, and a crushing amount of lows," Groothuis explained. Although faced with these difficulties, Groothuis can't help but look towards the optimistic side of things. "I'm really thankful because for me, this will not last forever. This is a battle, and I am winning. My greatest support is my family, and I don't know where I would be without them," Groothuis

Through all the recent turmoil and the uniqueness of his life, Groothuis has been able to keep a steady mindset of positivity that reminds him that everyone's family and life is connected in a special way. "My life may seem very different to you, adoption, big family, mental disorder, heartbreaking loss, but there is a common motif among my life and yours, and that is love. Love is a choice you make everyday. It's what strings our stories together. I know that sounds like a cheesy Hallmark card, but it's true. Love can be a sacrifice, like adopting, or a great pain, like loss, but it can also be utter joy, like family."



The Groothuis kids pose for a family picture together.

Scheduling summers

By: Kasi Rupert @kasibellerupert

Being a teenager can be expensive. There's meals, gas prices, occasional entertainment, shopping, and even that Propel or Starbucks beverage that some can't live without every morning. Many students are much too busy with school activities or schoolwork to have time for a job during the majority of the year. However, some ambitious students take a job during the summer so they can have recurring income. People have

their reasons for getting a job or not getting a job during the summer, but two specific students have very different summer experiences.

Dawson Schmidt, sophomore, is sixteen, but he has had a constant job over



Dawson Schmidt, sophomore

the summer for the past two years. "I want to buy things that I like and it gives me something to do," explained Schmidt. There are some disadvantages to working so often. "I have less free time, and I just have a lot more to do," Schmidt mentioned. Although it is sometimes a ton of work, Schmidt does enjoy his job. "I get free pizza," he added. He also can end up making about lots of money total after he works an entire summer.

On the other hand, Abby Phillips, senior, has never had a job. Though this may seem different, her choice isn't due to laziness. "I mostly do volleyball, like just practicing, tournaments, and nationals," Phillips replied. There is somewhat of a downside to her passion too. Phillips expressed, "Volleyball can be stressful." She doesn't really regret not having a job, though, because her hard work paid off. "I'm going D1 for volleyball and that was my dream," voiced Phillips. She even uses her talent in volleyball to make some money. "I give volleyball lessons," Phillips commented.

It is an important decision in a high school student's life to get a job. Whatever the reasoning, it's a personal choice to give up free time while it's available. Maybe if it's hard to get money at any moment, focus on applying for awhile. An athlete also can dedicate their free time to the summer sports they love. It's the student's summer, they should live it how they

want.

Moving from local to national

By: Amery Bruce @AmeryBruce

It's nearly the end of the school year, and while some seniors are preparing themselves for the college life, others have decided to take a different

Breanna Mundorf, senior

route. Breanna Mundorf, senior, has her mind set upon joining the National Guard when she graduates.

"National Guard is more of a community military, it's

more local," explained Mundorf. She didn't decide to join all that long ago, but she is extremely excited and not at all nervous about her choice. She has had a long line of family that went into the military, and even some friends who decided to join National Guard as well. Another reason why she had decided to join so suddenly, Mundorf just thought, "Why not?"

Of course, the benefits help too. What a lot of people don't know is that you do get paid while in National Guard. Someones job, and rank help determine what their pay is, and the longer someone stays in National

Guard, and the higher their rank goes, determines the pay one receives. There are also opportunities to earn benefits to help pay for education, as a lot of the soldiers are still in school.

To be eligible to join National Guard with no prior service, one has to be between 17 to 35 years old, and must be at least a junior in high school or have a high school diploma or GED certificate. Since Mundorf has had no prior service, she had to meet all of these requirements, and then some. Someone also has to be mentally prepared

Once signed up for National Guard, there are two days of drills each week and two and a half months of basic training, preparing everyone for their eight years of service. During this time there aren't always a lot of visits from

family, but this doesn't worry Mundorf, "I obviously can't have my family with me during basic training, but I can always call and write to them." Also, she will be able to see her family a lot when she's in National Guard, so she doesn't have to worry too much about missing them.

She plans to go to Sam Houston, in Texas, to get into the medical field. While it was an easy choice for Mundorf to join, many people are on the fence about taking the risk to join any form of military. "My advice is to not let others determine what you do. If you want to do something, go for it." She is extremely excited about her time serving, and hopes that others see the opportunity as such a great one as well. No matter the background, National Guard is always a choice.

Skylar Cook: YouTube star in the making

Cook express his love and his eagerness to make and post YouTube videos.

By: Skylar Miller Baker @Skylarmbaker15

YouTube is a way for people to express their love for things, no matter what the love is for. It doesn't matter whether they have one subscriber or a million. They express this love through the videos they post for others to view. It takes a special kind of person to be able to make and upload a video, and for one special student this love for YouTube has grown more and more over the years.

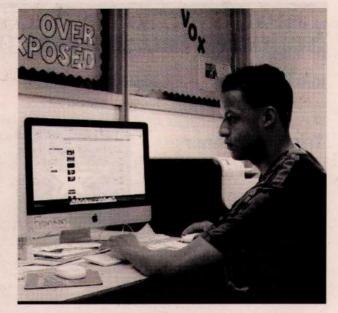
Skylar Cook, junior, is that one special student who loves to YouTube. YouTubing is a fun hobby for Cook but just like every other hobby though, he had to get started somehow. "I started out of boredom, I was on YouTube all the time then I thought I can do this." Cook commented. Cooks videos mainly deal with gaming and gaming related topics, although he does wish to get into sketch comedy sometime soon. Cook has uploaded a total of fifty videos and will hopefully upload some more in the time to come.

It's every YouTubers goal to gain subscribers. A subscriber is someone who becomes a fan of the YouTubers channel, follows them on their channel, then is notified whenever one posts a video. "With some crazy luck I will get lots of subscribers, some YouTube stars make bank," Cook declared. Then

Cook went on to say, "Right now I have about 30 subscribers, I don't really know how to get lots of subscribers and I just haven't found my niche yet." With some sheer stroke of luck Cook hopes to gain more followers and even gain more views on each of his individual videos. "Make sure to subscribe!" said Cook. His username on YouTube is Skylar Cole-

Cook is an individual YouTuber, considering that the only collaboration video was a presidential campaign video done in his government class. He writes and makes his own videos. "My gaming videos are done on the spot, you play the game then your reaction is improved." Cook explained. With creating and uploading each individual video himself, it can be pretty time consuming. "Lately I haven't had time to YouTube because of sports. It can take up to couple of hours though." Cook stated.

Right now YouTubing for Cook is just a hobby but, maybe in the near future this hobby can become a full time profession. "With really dumb luck and if just enough people watch I could make money off of YouTube and make it into a living." Cook voiced. To make a living off of YouTube one would have to make a popular enough video so that just the right amount of viewers, or subscribers to your



Skylar Cook, junior, prepares and sets up for a new video to upload on YouTube

channel, would be the outcome of that video. "I have made about two dollars from YouTube, it has taken a lot of time and patience with." Cook commented very enthusiastically.

With pure confidence, Cook started his YouTubing trend. Cook has been YouTubing for a long time now and he will keep YouTubing in the near future and hopefully will continue on after that.

Chill beats for the warm summer

By: Kasi Rupert @kasibellerupert



Blake Vanourney, sophomore

Loud music and crowds are two things that most teenagers cannot resist, especially when they combine to form a concert. Concerts are something that give every teen a great urge to try at least once. When concerts come along with warm nights in the summer, it's like the cherry on top of a perfect evening. Many teens specifically set aside time and money during the summer to go to concerts for this reason. One student from Marion High is going with his two friends to a hot music festival this summer.

Blake Vanourney, sophomore, is excited to attend the Grassroots Music Festival on July 31st, in Council Bluffs, Iowa. "I like all three musicians," commented Vanourney. Wyatt Ehr, sophomore, and Erik Kasner, a long distance friend, are also attending. The lineup for this concert includes the artists Kid Cudi, Mac Miller, Logic, Raury, and The Lonely Biscuits. This concert could be a big deal for fans of current rap music.

Tickets for this concert are still available and are running at about \$60 each. Vanourney thinks that it will probably be a great place to "...chill, talk, or hang out." It will include a few big names in the rap music industry, along with some upcoming artists that aren't as well known. If you are a fan of sick beats and fun summer nights, this is surely the event for you. Be sure to get tickets soon-before they're all sold out!

Wheeler/The miracles continued

From Page 1

Although removing the feeding tube and becoming better at braille were definitely more major points in Wheeler's life, One Direction hasn't failed to aid in other smaller aspects. "Brett has a pretty bad stutter, but his speech therapist has this app that she uses during their sessions that allow him to talk out the songs, and when he does this he doesn't stutter. It's beyond amazing, everything this band has done for Brett is unheard of," Mrs. Wheeler said. Not only helping with the stutter, but just by being such huge icons, One Direction has given Wheeler something he feels he can relate to other people with. "Before One Direction he basically lived in his room, he didn't want to socialize with anyone. Now he's always talking to people, asking who their favorite member is as if everyone's favorite band is One Direction. The band has given him some sort of new confidence," Mrs. Wheeler commented.

As many other One Direction fans often do, Wheeler has dreamed about meeting them. Not so surprisingly, his reasoning is a little bit deeper than just wanting to be in the same room as his idols. "I would tell them all one by one, first Louis because he's my favorite, then Niall, Harry, and Liam that I'm proud of them as a band for getting to be this big. I would also tell them how much they've changed my life in so many different ways, for example the tube," Wheeler explained. Mrs.

Wheeler went on to say that he would probably cry just because they mean so much to him, and he'd probably end up trying to tell them everything all at once. "I'd also scream and maybe faint if I ever met them," Wheeler laughed out.

While dealing with everyday annoyances like people not saying excuse me when they trip over his cane, or the one's that make comments under their breath about his condition, Wheeler has to deal with a lot. Through it all though, he never fails to have a smile on his face. "These kids teach us more about sincerity and love than any others. They're almost the lucky ones actually. By not seeing all of the violence and hate that goes on in today's world, everything is just beautiful to them. In the end, blindness almost isn't a disability, just something we have to deal with," Mrs. Wheeler stated. While other's continue to believe that his lack of eyesight might slow him down, Wheeler enjoys spending his free time bowling, playing on his phone, but most importantly to him, listening to One Direction. Whether it's their newest music, the stuff they released four years ago, or even an interview on TV, Wheeler will never stop loving this band. So for now, Wheeler sticks to listening to Little Things on full blast in his room, hoping that maybe someday, he'll be allowed the honor of meeting his





Sending the seniors off: seniors' future college or work plans

Kaela Halvorson @kaelswhales

Apprenticeship: Triston Lochner

ARMY: Nick Berry

Capri College: Jozee Peyton

Carlson School of Massage Therapy: Jordan Bliss

Central: Austin Lanteri

Coe College:
Sydney Pitstick
Erica Kelly
Marlie Neff
William Pollock

Cornell College: Craig Engle

DMACC: Justine Remling

Ing GARDNER WERE

Gardner-Webb University: Amanda Sahm

Iowa State University:

Abby Phillips
Bonnie Morrison
Melody Rosche
Monica Richmann
Madison McKim-Richards
Derek Smith
Will Byers
Kara Egan
David Kuhn
Michalyn Mohr
Preston Murphy
Nick Culver

Iowa Western: Devin Quinn Deshaun Quinn

Allison Edwards

Kirkwood:

Trent Bradenburg
John Carstensen
Danielle Bittner
Bonnie Burnell
Brandan Bradley
Kaitlin Mienke
Breanna Mundorf
Isiah Michaca
Ema Nelson
Brianna Dunkel
Terrence Williams
Sara Farnham
Jenna Floyd

Taylor Wade Steph Hedtke Madison Tucker Sadie Viner **Devon Evenson Brad Willimack** Lauren Zimmerman Brittney Yeisley Mitchell Livingston Skylar Cook Cody Alberts Samantha Livingston Zoey McDonald Austin Loney Colton Valvoda Dean Tjarks Jack Serbousek Ashley Ohl Caleb Scott **Dontavious Young** Neil Hansen Jacob Keener Ian Kelly Jerrad Kibsguard Mason Lakose Kenneth Kiene Jacob Wolfekuhle Austin Howe Keagan Paul Eli Frazier Jordan Anderson Kali Gamerdinger

Loras College: Ariel Carter

Luther: Nate Baldwin

Riley Peters

Mount Mercy: Kyle VanMeter Kate Quint Colton Forster Tyler Lerch

National Guard: Robin Glover Nick Wheeler

North Iowa Area Community College: Melaina O'Brien

Southwest Minnesota State University: Emilie Reider

University of Dubuque:

Jamie Draeger Dalton Gardner Hunter Reifschneider Austin Yirkovsky Johanna Steggall

University of Iowa: Gage Miskimen Hayden Meister Jensen Beard Kirkwood

Kayla Comried
Austin Brown
Justin Arebaugh
Julia Feller
MeKaylah Stevens
Lawryn Fraley
Savannah Guyer
Emily Meeks
Kylie McAllister
Carter Stigge
Gabrielle Fiala
Cherokee Heindselman
Kelsey McKern
Abby O'Neill

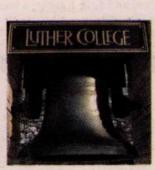
University of Northern Iowa: Brenda Munier Alyssa Swanson

Alyssa Swanson
Emily Pearson
Danica Chalstrom
Miles Martens
Marissa Whitney
Becca Hall
Abby Kolarik
Kallie Kriegel
Ellissa Johnson

LORAS COLLEGE

Work Force:

Chase Bruns
Ben Clark
Zach Ross
Nick Kramer
Andie Scott
Zach Williams
Brodi Garringer
Kirsten Mahoney



Undecided:

Andrew Griffith
Payge Phillips
Alyssa Scott
Allie LeGrand
Jenny Clayvon
Skye Herring
T'Ajana Harris
Russell Mallada-Swearingen

