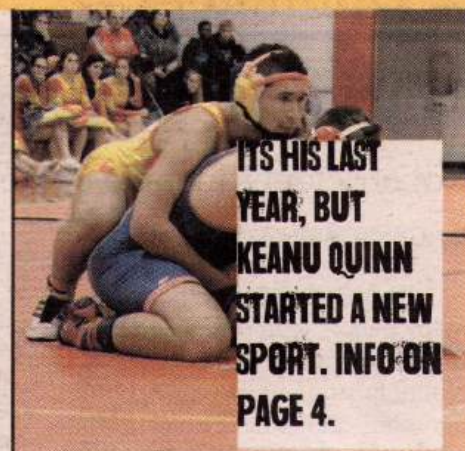


AFTER RETIREMENT, COACH MESSERLI STILL VOLUNTEERS. STORY ON PAGE 14.



IT'S HIS LAST YEAR, BUT KEANU QUINN STARTED A NEW SPORT. INFO ON PAGE 4.

The Indian mascot is a topic that is heavily discussed. Read more about it on page 2.

Christmas songs can be cheery, but some are just ho-ho-horrible. Find out which on page 7.



Baylor Fish, '17, dribbles the ball while trying to expertly escape from three Spartans during the game in Marion's Red Gym on December 1st.

Translating transgender

Aiden Zimmermann gives insight into the life of a trans student.

By: Solomon Groothuis @walnutsareasin

Hiding was a lifestyle. It was all he knew. Aiden Zimmermann was born Hannah, but after a certain point, Zimmermann confessed to identifying more as a man. Still in recluse, he only came out to a few friends. Eventually, the secret leaked out to his father, who was very supportive. But Zimmermann had yet to come out to his Mom. While on a trip, Zimmermann texted his mom, revealing his gender identity. "I also said we could talk when we got back. I was worried how she would take it," he said. "She kept affirming that she loved me 'despite' my gender identity."

There are many struggles for Zimmermann on his journey through manhood. He pointed out that when others think of trans people, they assume they are perfect, radiant creatures. "They talk about trans and they're actually talking about Caitlyn Jenner or Laverne Cox. Not every trans person is a woman, and they're not all perfect. Nobody can always look so flawless."

He also corrected the myth that not all trans people are stereotypically uber-masculine or uber-feminine. Zimmermann said his body made him feel insecure, especially at the pool or when trying to find clothes. Overall, being transgender has been almost overwhelming for Zimmermann.

"There are times when I wanted to give up being

trans and just fake being normal," said Zimmermann. "Depression is almost always a part of being trans. I have thought about suicide, but not seriously."

Aiden also revealed that this drew major concerns from his parents. "Depression and suicide are a big part of my life. I'm often anxious about what might happen. It's also hard to feel masculine. I look in the mirror and it's not who I see in my head. It can be very depressing."

"With high school I wasn't sure if I wanted to tell my teachers because I might not be accepted. I emailed my teachers and I started to get replies," Zimmermann said. The Marion faculty was very supportive of him with Mr. Semler reaching out to Zimmermann and his father to make sure he would be comfortable and safe.

Zimmermann also talked about experiencing many great joys from being trans. "It's amazing having friends who accept you, and it's also great not having people label you or put you down. At school, most of the time, I feel accepted as a man," he said.

Unfortunately, not everyone is as open-minded as Aiden's friends. "Some people call me Hannah and it's frustrating. They know who I am, but they still say it. Every time someone calls me Hannah it's like I'm a ticking time bomb. It makes me want to explode."

Along with people disregarding his name, Aiden feels hurt when people refer to him as a girl or use the incorrect pronouns. Aiden's a trans man and should be referred to as "him," "his," and "he." But many people don't care.

"A lot of people say my name or get my gender wrong. They're like, 'You've always been Hannah,' but if you really cared about me you'd have the decency to get my name and pronouns right," said Zimmermann.

In short, Aiden feels mistreated when others lack respect.

Although there is so much adversity and hardship that comes with being transgender, Zimmermann is proud to have this part of his identity, saying, "I obviously sometimes wish I was born as a man because I wouldn't have had all these problems. But on the other hand, I wouldn't be the person I am today if I wasn't trans."

Zimmermann even said he's thankful for the hardships. "When you go through more, it shapes you and makes you wiser."



Aiden Zimmermann, freshman, is thankful for his transitioning experience and all he has learned.

Doggin' with Dexter

-Commentary-

It seems like everyone desperately awaits the winter break every year. However, many people still complain about how bored they are. Holidays are about being grateful, and nobody acknowledges the blessing that is winter break.



By: Lexi Morgan
@Lexi_Morgan17

Of course, there are times when one just can't help being bored. But despite this inevitable feeling, there are many ways to solve this, especially when it's Christmas! The best way I cure my boredom over the break is with Dexter, my beloved beagle.

Whenever my friends and family aren't available, my dog is the perfect companion. And he can do everything a human can, technically.

My favorite thing to do with Dexter is binge watch Christmas movies. I can never get tired of the cheesiness about them and how warm and happy they make me feel. I imagine Dexter feels the same way because who doesn't? I curl up by the fire, sip on hot cocoa, pop up some corn. Of course, Dexter can't have any popcorn or hot cocoa because he is fat and chocolate is deadly. But basically we watch as many movies as we can cram into a day.

The next best thing when I am bored is to bundle up in some warm clothes and force my dog outside with me to participate in a snowball fight. It's not really the same because he can't throw back, but he enjoys himself. We run around the yard and I throw snowballs at him. And he has a huge grin on his face and he runs and runs until he is just too tired. Which isn't all that long because he's fat. We also built a snowman together once. But we're not doing that again. I ended up doing almost all the work.

Another fabulous way to spend time with my dog over the holiday break is building a nice gingerbread house. This activity is actually quite challenging, and I don't know if I would recommend this. Basically, I end up doing all the work because Dexter is obsessed with anything even remotely edible, and he will eat it before we can even start. So, I just build it and then we take pictures with it, then I eat it, and he begs for just a little crumb and I say no because he is so fat.

The moral of the story is, winter break isn't meant to be spent complaining and whining about boredom. Make the most of the excitement around the holidays. There are plenty of things to do, especially if one is blessed with a dog.

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One vote could make or break the decision

Not only teens, but the community as a whole needs to be aware of political issues.

By:Chloe Mallon @Chhhloe17

In this day and age, there are so many people who have no idea what is going on in the political world. Not only students at high school, but many adults have no clue when caucuses are, who the candidates in the next election are and what they represent, or even simpler things like when the next voting takes place. This is one of the biggest problems with society: people not caring enough about the world around them and what is going on in politics.

Although many may claim politics doesn't affect them, or if they don't vote in the next election it won't make a difference, these people couldn't be more wrong. Politics affects the entire country. Who gets voted in the office, not only as president, but as senators, representatives, etc. Is so important because of all the big decisions they make which affect our country.

Voting is such an important right of passage, and the fact that some people in high school are even getting the chance to vote so young is amazing. Although some people may think that this is such a young age to vote at, it really is amazing to be able to cast a vote and participate

in society by sharing an opinion. The Iowa caucus is also another huge opportunity to get out there and share an opinion with others who may even feel the same on issues. Everyone gets together and decides to support a certain candidate who they think would lead our nation better than the other candidates would. The Iowa caucus is not only a huge event for Iowans, but an enormous event for all of America. The presidential candidates depend on this caucus because Iowa is a swing state, so whoever does the best here will probably do the best in the real election.

Something that people don't understand a lot is that every vote counts. Although one vote out of millions may sound like a long shot from making a difference, if every person had that same mindset of their vote not counting, who would vote then? Even if one vote doesn't make a difference in an election, the process of going to vote and making someone feel part of something is a huge factor. When more people get involved with the community and pay attention to what's going on around them, things will be more true to what Americans think and believe.

Although many students, or even adults, claim they don't want to participate in politics because it has nothing to do with them and it is childish, participating in America and what goes on in the political life is extremely important because there are so many things that apply to the people of America. No matter if it's rights for certain groups and gaining social justice, or how we manage money, it's important.

Going out and participating in society is a great way to be involved and make a difference in a city. Whether it's just a city council vote, or a presidential vote, it's very important for people to get the word out there. Although not everyone may be interested in the dirty details of politics and what it really boils down to, there is no excuse for someone who is able to vote and simply chooses not to because they don't think their voice matters.



"I think it's important to vote because it is our duty as Americans and we can't be leaderless."
-Ryan Draeger, '17



"I think that if people are going to vote they should do their research and vote ideologically."
-Morgan Swanger, '17



"One vote doesn't matter in elections."
-Michael Butler, '19



"Voting is important because if you don't you won't have the right to complain about the president. Every vote counts!"
-Ellie Beghtol, '16

Indian mascot

Sophia Kabance
@SophLynnBance00

A mascot is a person, animal, or object that stands as a symbol to represent a school or group. Sounds simple enough, right? Well it can be.

Even though mascots are often looked at as prediction of how their school's football team plays or a first impression of what the students act like, it's usually totally non-related. It's only a short and sweet symbol to throw into chants or picture as a logo. Going into the basketball season, a typical high school student might be thinking the game against the Mighty Minnesota Midgets is going to be the easiest win of the season until a team of players no shorter than 6 foot tall steps onto the court. A school's mascot could be a saint, but those students might be involved in some suspect activity, you never can judge a book by its cover. Bottom line is, mascots stand no purpose besides symbolizing something to cheer for.

Conflict is created when a mascot becomes personal, carrying sentimental value, and more specifically acting as a culture or race. When a mascot is something as irrelevant as the Southpaw of the Chicago White Sox, it can't possibly arouse controversy because a character that is cross between a tennis ball and Barney doesn't have a deeper meaning for anyone.

Other mascots, such as the Washington Redskins and our very own Marion Indians are found offensive to people of that specific culture. Many who aren't of the culture being used aren't aware of the impression it leaves. Terms such as redskins and savages are racial slurs and mock them. It's in no way right to use these terms. Even though the mascots are irrelevant to some, it means something deeper for others.

Most schools have not recently chosen their mascot but have carried them on from when the school was first brought up. As times change, perspective changes. For what once might've been a name chosen to represent our nation's founders, is now looked at as mockery. It's not wrong for people to take offense of this, for it is racist.

When choosing a mascot you should pick one that represents the fighting spirit of your team, identified with a characteristic of your religion or represents a human character that expresses power. Mascots are overrated so changing it wouldn't hurt, but help everyone in the long run.

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Teen depression needs attention

Mental illness in adolescents is a topic that should be discussed more often amongst everyone to find a solution to this monumental problem.

By: Alex Coleman @Its_YoPalAI

"It's all in your head." "Just get over it." "You have nothing to be sad about." Popularly thought of as nothing more than a symptom of teen angst and raging hormones, these phrases are common responses to the issue of adolescent depression. In the last year, this topic has spread like wildfire. Amongst youth there are countless posts about self harm, eating disorders, and depression itself. We are in an age of romanticizing these issues. Social media gives the opportunity to share pictures and poems, and offers the opportunity to morph these issues into something we think of as beautiful. As if an image of a teenager with cut wrists, or a video suicide note could be thought of as alluring.

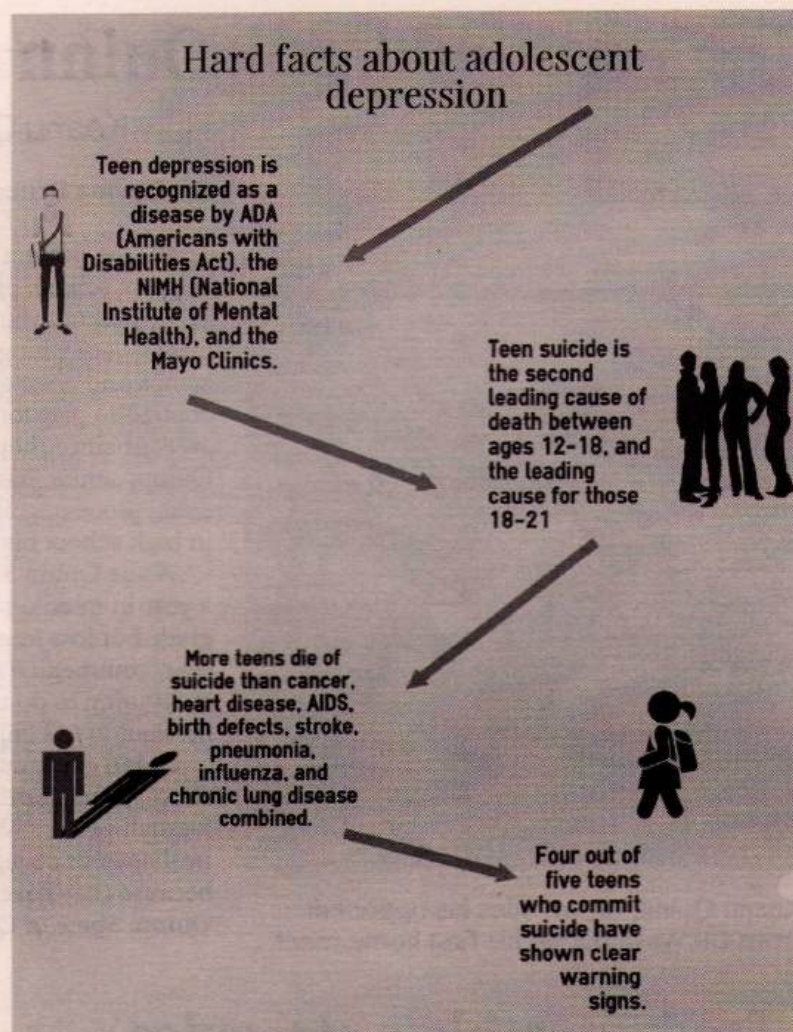
The idea of a tortured genius is what leads many to believe depression is nothing more than an artistic phase. While it has been proven that many artists, singers, and performers who experience bouts of depression release very emotionally raw products, this does not make depression something light. The Mayo Clinic describes teen depression as 'a serious medical problem that causes a persistent feeling of sadness or loss of interest'. The article goes on to explain how teen depression affects the mind, body, and functions of a minor in ways that can be harmful in their later years.

Many adults believe that depression is an emotion. That the emptiness felt by someone suffering with the illness is nothing more than something they concocted as an over-dramatic reaction to stress. Depression is not an emotion, it is not a side effect of too much homework or a poor home life, it is a serious mental illness. It is recognized as such by the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), the NIMH (National Institute of Mental Health), and the Mayo Clinic. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, teen suicide is the second leading cause of death between ages 12-18. More teens die of suicide

than cancer, heart disease, AIDS, birth defects, stroke, pneumonia, influenza, and chronic lung disease combined. Four out of five teens who commit suicide have shown clear warning signs. Still think teen depression is something we don't need to worry about?

Many people do not lack the capacity to grip this concept, but they do not understand how to latch onto such a big issue. What can we possibly do about statistics like this? There's a fine line between romanticizing the idea of depression and validating a teen's feelings, and as a society we need to learn the difference. If someone were to be scrolling through their feed on Twitter, and they happen upon a post that strikes them as worrisome, the first step is to tell someone, like an adult, parent, teacher, or counselor. It sounds a bit terrifying, but sometimes speaking out is the best thing to do. Also, encouraging the depressed person to speak up on their own is key. No one can help someone unless they themselves want the help, this is the first step.

Not only that, but we need to talk about the issue in general. Education about the topic would be immensely beneficial. Proper knowledge on the problem and how to handle it would leave bystanders with the information they need, rather than gathering ideas from cries-for-help online. Once we understand that teen depression is a major problem and start treating it as such, the suicide rates will fall and the amount of teens who are depressed will diminish. With today's technology and advances in medicine, there's limit-



Depression in teens and young adults is a serious issue that needs to be recognized by more professionals, and everyone in general. Here are a couple of facts from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention.

less ways to cure someone of this illness. But until society begins to recognize teen depression as something more than a side effect of insecurity and being a kid, people will continue to die. It's our turn to change the world for the better. It's time to step up to the plate. What are we going to do about it?

Have yourself a creepy Christmas

By: Sophia Kabance
@SophLynnBance00

It's that time of year again when the pumpkins are left rotting on doorsteps, the fridge is stacked with thanksgiving leftovers and children are creating their Christmas lists. Most would think that after October 31st people have packed away the haunting decor and saved the tricks for next year. What people might not pick up on is the creepiness that drags into the Christmas holiday.

We all have this picture ingrained in our mind of this big bearded, rosy cheeked, plump old man, and no, I am not talking about somebody's grandpa. I'm referring to character Santa Claus. We all grow up to learn that this man spends year round working to meet the expectations of each one of their wish lists, come Christmas time. What little kid wouldn't worship at the feet of any human being that gives them the newest action figure or Barbie doll they've been reluctantly passing by every time their parents drag them along to get groceries? But who's to say that this man's identity has been misinterpreted or lost through generations of being passed down? Who's to say he isn't the ripped, tattoo covered owner of that white van that drives by the elementary school excessively?

Teachers and family members lecture their kids never to talk to strangers, but they have no idea who they've involuntarily given permission to crawl down their chimney and win their child's affection over with candy and presents. Better sleep with one eye open because it'd be too easy to lure a child in when a man's got reindeer, enough candy to satisfy any sugar crazed toddler, and

the Toys-R-Us store in the back of his sleigh. But "he knows when you're sleeping and he knows when you're awake," so I guess one is never safe. Next Christmas eve, take advantage of the fireplace and invest in a security system.

If the annual visit from this anonymous man has some people paranoid, try having one of his scout elves, known as The Elf on the Shelf, camp out at your house the whole month of December. Once one is adopted by a family it receives Christmas magic which allows him to fly back to the North Pole each night to keep Santa's naughty and nice list up to date. The elf improves the behaviors of the children of the house because it's "constantly watching and keeping track of their actions". Each morning the elf returns to the family it belongs to in a different position.

This tradition could either provide entertainment as an incentive to get up in mornings, or haunt families by its invasion of privacy. At all other times of the year we are against government surveillance and civil rights violations but when Thanksgiving ends, out comes the elf whose sole purpose is to spy on you and report back to Santa. We are also teaching our children to tattle by approving and allowing the elf to keep a close watch, wait for you to mess up and tell on you. Nobody wants to raise "that kid" that reports every single wrong doing of others.

Either embrace these mysterious traditions by allowing the holiday of Halloween to extend out into the holiday season, or avoid them at all costs. Either way, find some way to celebrate this holiday.

Pregnant?

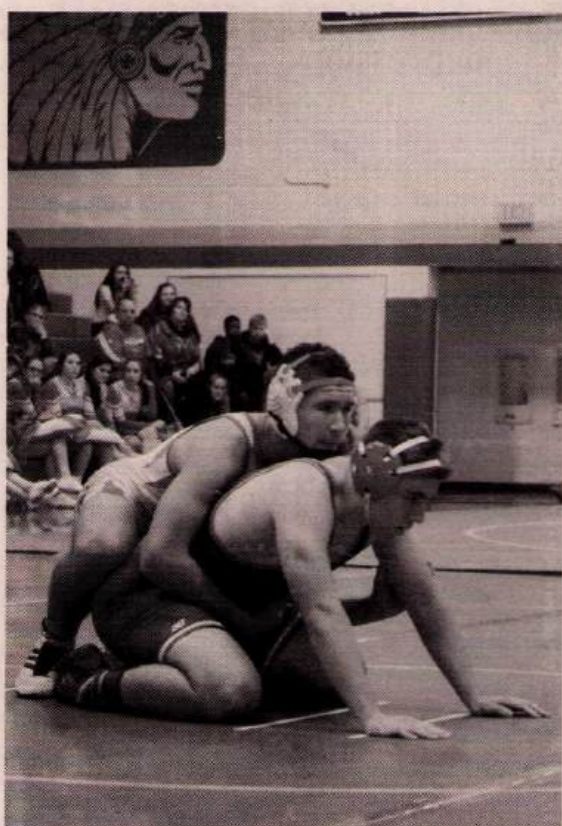
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Keanu Quinn, '16, wrestles his opponent from CR Wash during his first home meet.

Quinn steps on the mat to get some pins

How Keanu Quinn, '16 adjusts to new techniques, puts in extra work, and prepares.

By: Baylea Bruce @Baylea_Marie

A large percent of student athletes began their daily ritual of school, practice, home at a very young age. Many will tell you that their love for the game started at a very young age, most likely going to summer camps and open gyms. When these kids finally are old enough to play for their school they have a little bit of an edge since they have already been playing. Keanu Quinn, senior, has done a complete reversal on this usual process, going out for wrestling for the first time in high school his senior year.

While Quinn has wrestled before, it was only for a year in middle school. "I wrestled in the seventh grade but lost interest and didn't go out any other year," commented Quinn. While Quinn does think that continuing to do wrestling would of helped, he knows he wouldn't of enjoyed it.

Quinn came out of retirement for a couple different reasons, but the main one was to become a better football player. "Wrestling not only helps me stay in shape but college coaches like kids who wrestle because they have better tackling form," explained Quinn. Some of Quinn's other goals are to have fun

and slam some kids.

Quinn is at a little bit of a disadvantage with this being his first year but he puts in the extra work to make sure his skills are as high as they can be. "People help me out enough that I feel like I can hang with the other people. It just takes a little more work. If I don't get something the first time I'll call coach over. I also wrestle which college kids who help out at practice" elaborated Quinn. Quinn's teammate, Colin Conway, has been helping Quinn. "He's doing great. He's a hard worker," explained Conway. With this extra help Quinn is sure to take down a couple of competitors.

While many things has challenged Quinn in his quest to get to the top of the platform, technique is something he continues to work on. "Getting the technique down is very important because during a match a kid who has been wrestling for years the technique comes naturally to them. For me it's harder because I don't know how hard to pull on someone's arm or things like that. It's all about balance," explained Quinn.

Despite all the extra work Quinn has to put in, he is excited to start the season with his teammates. Hopefully, he will pin down a couple of wins as well.

Student- athlete struggles

-Commentary-

Ow. If I had to select one specific word to describe most of my days spent at school, that would definitely be it. Not only does my brain hurt on occasion, my muscles are in a constant state of pain from the thing I devote most of my time to: sports.



By: Mia Laube
@Mia_Laube21

Not a single school day goes by without at least something hurting from practice, or a game the night before. Muscles I didn't even know existed start aching as I'm sitting at my desk, and I can be found stretching in class many times throughout the day. With help from random bruises of unknown origin, there is never a dull moment for me. These factors bring me to one dreaded and painful subject, and that is the topic of ice baths.

When I was a young and inexperienced basketball player who focused more on jumping over the lines than actually playing in the game, I never experienced soreness. I slowly became more aware of this as I got older (and a little more focused) because I could not run forever without feeling some of the aches and pains your typical senior citizen feels. This is how I was introduced to the wonders of the ice bath.

I understand the concept: cold water helps flush out toxins and reduces muscle swelling and all that jazz. Honestly though, the second my feet and legs hit that forty-degree water, I'm not thinking about that. That is not even a mildly accurate description of my thought process, which includes a lot more yelling, momentarily hating my life, and questioning why I would voluntarily participate in this activity.

If not for how sore I get after practice, there is no way anybody could drag me into that metal tank of misery. My hands shake, goosebumps prick up my arms and legs and I lose general feeling from the waist down. I try to pass the time by talking to other people, snapchatting people with exaggeratedly pained expressions, and doing trivia written on the board, but twelve minutes can seem like hours. It does not feel like a healthy thing to do at all, but somehow it is.

I tend to become an over-dramatic version of myself throughout the whole process. It does get easier over time, but I am not sure I will ever get used to stepping into water eight degrees away from being solid ice. I'm just glad it pays off.

No matter what sport somebody participates in, it's almost guaranteed they can relate to limping awkwardly through the hallway because they're extremely sore. Whether they just stretch or go into an ice bath, it's not an easy or fun thing to deal with. And although I know this is just a fact of life, I doubt it will hold me back from complaining about future ailments. No pain, no gain.

Steepleton switches to bowling

By: Amery Bruce @AmeryBruce

Leaving behind the memory of a bouncing ball and baskets, she rolls a different kind of ball down the alley. She waits for the ball to strike the pins, the goal being for all of the pins to fall together, getting a strike.

Alicia Steepleton, junior, recently decided to switch from basketball, a sport she has played for years, to try her luck at bowling. Steepleton has never competitively bowled before, but she has done it many times for fun, and enjoyed it so much that she decided to ditch the court and head for the bowling alley.

She also had influence from family to try out bowling. Her older brother bowled before her, which helped her make the definite decision that she wanted to switch.

Among other reasons, Steepleton just wasn't as passionate about basketball as she used to be, and knew it was time to try something different.

Though she is excited about trying something new, she does think she'll miss her old sport. "I do think I'll miss basketball, but I just felt it wasn't for me anymore," Steepleton said.

Not only are her surroundings changing, but she has a new set of teammates to support her. "I really like the team,

they're really fun," she stated. It can be hard to switch from something so familiar to something new, so having open and helpful teammates helped ease Steepleton into bowling.

She has been practicing since even before the season started, gearing up for her first year on the team.

Steepleton has been able to set personal goals that she would like to reach during the season. "I hope to bowl around the 150's," she explained. She's excited for her score and skills to improve throughout the season.

She also wants things for the team as a whole, including their goal to get first in the Baker tournament, one of the bigger and differently styled bowling tournaments. Every team member counts, so she can't wait to help the team in achieving first place.

Though the bowling season hasn't been going on for long, she is confident that she made the right decision when she switched. Though she liked basketball, she knows bowling will be fun.

Steepleton hopes to help push the team as much as possible, and earn the high goals that they have for themselves. She's glad that she decided to make the switch, and is planning to do bowling for the rest of high school.



Alicia Steepleton, '17, bowls at the CR Bowling Center during one of her first meets on the girls' team. This is Steepleton's first year bowling for MHS.

Wright makes the right choice

Randi Wright transitions from Lisbon to Marion her freshman year.

By: Skylar Miller-Baker @SkylarMBaker15

The buzzer goes off, signaling the start of the game, and she's nervous. This is the first time that she is playing with her new team. She takes a deep breath and looks at her new team. The familiar faces of old teammates instantly calm her down. Knowing that she is playing with teammates that she's played with before, she is able to walk out onto the court.

Randi Wright, freshman, is a new student, as well as a new addition to the girls' basketball team. Wright moved here from Lisbon for many reasons, and the basketball team was a huge incentive. "I heard the team was good. I played for Corby's wife's team so I knew a couple of people," Wright said. Wright didn't move here just because of the basketball program, she also moved here to have more opportunities in her academics.

Wright has been playing basketball since the third grade, and she plans to compete at the collegiate level once her high school career is

over. At first, Wright didn't want to even play basketball, but thanks to her dad she found a new passion. "My dad made me go out for an elementary team, and I fell in love," Wright said. Even though Wright loves the sport, she does have a few favorite parts as well as a few non favorite parts. "[My favorite] is the teamwork you have to put into it, but [My least favorite] is the ten in 60's," Wright said.

Being a new player for any team can be a difficult transition, but with the help of some old teammates, Wright isn't too worried. "I feel comfortable because I know their strengths as well as their weaknesses," Wright stated. Even though Wright only knows a select few on the team, she is having no problem getting along with the rest of her new teammates. "They're really nice, I feel comfortable because I know they will always have my back," Wright said. Camryn Cannoy, junior, has been playing for the basketball program at Marion for a while, and she's glad Wright joined the team. "I'm

excited that Randi joined the team. She is a good basketball player and will bring good things to our team. She is also very nice," Cannoy stated.

Not only is Wright new to the team, she also has the added pressure of being a freshman on varsity. Also, this year's basketball team is very young with only a couple seniors on the team. "It's scary. We have to go against seniors on other teams and they're bigger," Wright stated.

As the season starts to gear up, Wright steps onto the court and plays her heart out for her new team.



Randi Wright, '19, gets ready to pass the ball to her teammate during the home girls' basketball game against Maquoketa.

A different way to express creativity

By: Rhys Regan @King_Rhys_



Richelle Brunner, senior

What do students at Marion think of when they think of creativity? Richelle Brunner, senior, thinks of writing. This winter season, Brunner has decided to make time to join Creative Ink.

While also being involved in two extra curricular activities, volunteering, and a job at Coldstone, finding time

for another club was difficult. "I usually give my writing to Mr. Trilk to check over and give me feedback on. He's the one that wanted me to join," Brunner explained.

Brunner is new to Creative Ink this year, but definitely isn't new to writing. "I've been writing since I could pick up a pencil," she said.

Brunner usually writes songs, poetry, quotes, and spoken word poems. "Spoken word poems are poetry that's meant to be performed. It's someone giving a speech that's words are just as beautiful as its message," Brunner explained.

Creative Ink has around fifteen kids involved in it. It is a welcoming environment, and Brunner enjoys it a lot. "It's a really good environment. Nobody judges you for your writing," she said, "writing is the deepest part of your soul and your most raw emotion. To be able to not get judged for that is a great thing."

Brunner writes whenever she can and

sometimes whenever she has to. "Sometimes I'll be laying in bed, not able to sleep, and I'll get a really good idea," Brunner adds, "when things like that happen you have to write it down."

Writing is a difficult thing to do. It takes time and lots of practice to become good at it. The main reason Brunner joined Creative Ink is to improve as a writer. "It's really hard to just sit down and say 'I'm gonna write' and that's something I need to work on," she added.

With the help of Trilk, Brunner writes every single day now and doesn't plan on stopping anytime soon. She loves writing and everything that comes with it. It's not too late to join Creative Ink. If interested, see Mr. Trilk in room 20.



The wall of Creative Ink shows cover designs throughout the years, located in Mr. Trilk's room.

Halm cheers for varsity

By: Caitlyn Smith @CSmit05

She trusts and has confidence in her teammates as they hoist her into the air. One wrong move, and she could fall to the floor. While in the air, she proudly cheers on her team. She then gracefully does a toe touch, and lands right in the arms of her teammates. They all take a small sigh of relief, smile, and then finish the cheer.

This girl who is always flying in the air is Rachel Halm. Halm, sophomore, who is involved in football cheer, competition cheer, tennis, and softball is currently participating in basketball cheerleading. This season has something unusual about it though. Halm isn't cheering during the JV games like most would expect, considering she is a sophomore. Her and two other sophomores, Macey Lovell and Emma Collins, have been selected to cheer during the varsity games instead of the JV basketball games.

Sophomores cheering on the varsity squad has never happened before. Because of this, these three sophomores had no idea that they would be selected to be on the varsity basketball cheer squad this season. "It was a total surprise because it hasn't happened before. Emma, Macey, and I were all really shocked and excited when we found out," Halm stated. They got pulled up because there was a small varsity squad this season.

Because underclassman have never been on the varsity squad, there is always the possibility of drama, or the teammates not getting along. Halm doesn't believe this has been a problem so far. She stated, "I get along with all of my teammates." She

also believes that each teammate has the same role on the squad. Halm also said, "We all have equal roles. Being positive, hopeful, and good teammates to each other."

Halm has been cheering for four years. After being thrown into the air that many years, she eventually had to become used to it and not be scared. "I'm pretty used to it so I feel confident if I fall my team will catch me," Halm stated. Her favorite parts about cheer is the stunting and the girls she gets to cheer with.

When starting a new season, there are always new thoughts and emotions. Emma Collins, one of the other sophomores on the varsity squad has her thoughts about the new season. "I'm looking forward to cheering at more intense games and getting to cheer with a new squad. I'm excited to be on the next level," Collins stated.

There are always changes made at the beginning of seasons. It will be an exciting basketball cheer season, and the squad can't wait for the first game to come. The last thing that Halm wanted to add was, "Go Indians!"



Rachel Halm, '18, smiles at the crowd while she is hoisted into the air by her teammates.

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Mockingjay: the finale of the epic trilogy

The latest movie in the Hunger Games franchise, Mockingjay, goes out strong.

By: Lexi Morgan @Lexi_Morgan17

Mockingjay part two picks up right where the first left off. Part one ends with brainwashed Peeta trying to choke his oldest ally to death, and part two picks up with shell shocked Katniss recovering from her injuries. The final film takes a different turn. No more games, this is all about war. The whole movie has a very grim vibe for a young adult franchise. There is no bright side to this movie and with every light ahead, there is something to put it out.

It begins with Peeta, still full of memories from the Capitol and a manipulated hunger to kill Katniss. Katniss now with an almost willingness to die, is determined to get the core of it all, with an agenda to kill President Snow. The new President Coin of the recently discovered District 13, refuses and decides Katniss will stay to do propaganda for the rebellion. She is no longer the front ringer of the war, she is a symbol to help the rebels fight the fight. Katniss, Gale, and other important figures eventually become apart of the "Star Squad," which will stay behind and be used to shoot propaganda, who is also joined by the uncontrollable Peeta later on. With every turn, they are confronted with pods that bring death, and the squad whittles away one by one.

The whole movie keeps you on the edge of the seat, chewing nails to the cuticle with all the action. There are multiple scenes where nobody is sure who will make it out alive. And in almost every action scene, someone doesn't. The only problem with this is credited to the director, Francis Lawrence, who often loses the characters in the action. There is

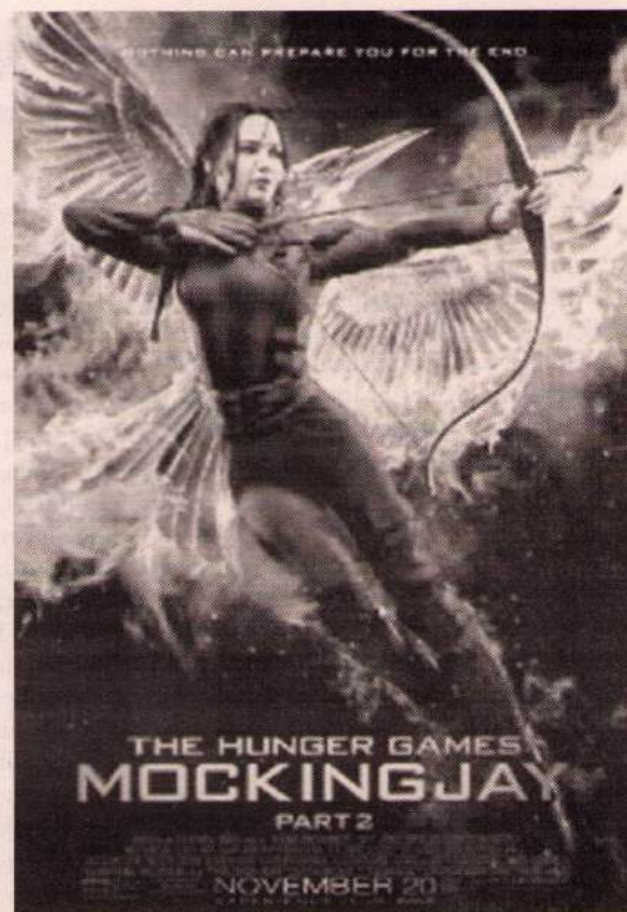
one scene underground where the squad is attacked by the Capitol created mutts, and there are several main characters that are lost in it. It's not until the end of the scene that viewers are even aware if they made it past the mutts or not.

The emotional parts of the movie are confusing, too. Another downside: there isn't enough time to feel for certain events, while others there is too much. The moments when viewers need time to grieve, something else is already happening.

The worst part of the entire movie is the ending, which does end the exact same as the book, with the epilogue. They even take the inner thoughts of Katniss and form them into dialogue, which doesn't work. It doesn't work, at all. There is no happy ending necessarily. Viewers don't know if they will ever reach the light at the end of the tunnel. And it is made clear the PTSD will forever captivate their life. They have a perfect place to end it, and decide to just keep on rolling.

The movie's action sequence and it's grim overall being, are what make the movie worth watching. All the combat and violent, stunning CGI create an exciting tone that will keep viewers intrigued for the full two hours and seventeen minutes.

However, perhaps the best thing of the undeserving Hunger Games franchise is the cast. Jennifer Lawrence graces the Hunger Games with her presence, being possibly one of the greatest actresses of our current time. Her emotional scenes, and her lack of emotion in other scenes, both give the movie something it would strongly lack without her. There is also an amazing supporting performance by Josh Hutcherson, who plays the role perfectly. It is also



This Mockingjay film poster depicts Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) in battle gear.

a little shocking to see the recently deceased Philip Seymour Hoffman as Plutarch. Overall, the cast is everything better than you'd expect.

The last part of the Hunger Games, Mockingjay part 2, is a wonderful ending to an the franchise's era that viewers will not soon forget.

The force is coming to theaters

By: Solomon Groothuis
@walnutsareasin

"Every thing's changed, but nothing's changed," said Mark Hamill, actor portraying Luke Skywalker, on the making of Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens. Ever since 2005 when the most recent Star Wars movie was released, fans have thirsted for more. For a while it seemed that the fascinating series was over but on October 30, 2012, George Lucas sold all of Lucasfilm (including the Star Wars franchise) to Disney. And now, finally, the eager geeks, nerds, and let's be honest, everyone has a new hope.

Star Wars VII comes out on December 18th, and already has had record-breaking sales. They've sold around 50-million dollars in



The newest Star Wars poster, showing off familiar faces along with some of the new ones.

presale tickets according to Forbes magazine. The upcoming blockbuster is featuring much of its former legendary cast including Harrison Ford (Han Solo), Mark Hamill (Luke Skywalker), and Carrie Fisher (Princess Leia). But perhaps even more exciting are the legends-in-the-making who are introduced in the trailer.

The trailer has shown many tantalizing snippets of the upcoming hit igniting the flame of the public's curiosity. In just the beginning of the trailer, we're introduced to our two protagonists Rey (Daisy Ridley) and Finn (John Boyega). The entire trailer unfolds similar to Star Wars IV: A New Hope with the classic characters meet under extraordinary characteristics then run off to space. In fact the planet Rey lives on is almost identical as the one in the opening.

But the similarities are part of what makes The Force Awakens so unique. The original Star Wars (IV, V, and VI) used entirely props and puppetry for the astounding effects whereas in the prequel nearly all the effects were animated. From what the trailer shows, many of the aliens, spaceships, and robots are handmade whereas some of the creations are animated. Overall, the look is a perfect blend of Star Wars past.

Star Wars VII: The Force Awakens promises to be riveting at least. With old and new styles, an unreal cast, and exciting new plot this movie will no doubt go down in history as one of the greats. Anybody who loves Star Wars or good movies should get a ticket (as soon as they can) to see perhaps the greatest movie of this generation. Until then, may the force be with you.

How to decide between a fake or a real Christmas tree

By: Kasi Rupert
@KasiBelleRupert

During the Christmas season, a popular symbol is the traditional tree. People love decorating their houses with them every year. However, there's also a difficult decision to be made about which tree to decorate with. First, there were the traditional real trees. After that, the artificial tree took over as an alternative. There are many good and bad things about each type of tree, but some Real trees may not be reusable, but they are biodegradable, which is great for the earth and

plants. They also have a fantastic pine smell. In addition, buying these trees can support farmer's income over the barren winter.

The best thing about artificial trees is that they are cheap, so they save money. There are many things about these trees that make them convenient. They are easy to store, transport, and require little clean up and no watering. These trees also don't rot and are pine allergy safe.

The decision of a fake or a real tree can be a very important one for a family, albeit a difficult one. Here are some facts to help people decide.

Fake TREES		Real TREES	
			
			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reusable - Easy to store - Easy to transport - Require little to no clean up - Don't need watered or taken care of - Don't rot over time - Are safe for pine allergies 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Made out of spare plastic and metals that could contain lead - Not recyclable - Looks fake - More dangerous to have in the event of a house fire 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biodegradable - Have the classic pine smell - Supports local farmer income - Release fresh oxygen - Looks more traditional 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expensive to purchase - Not available for reuse - Can rot over time - May contain pests - Pine needles make a mess - Difficult to transport and set up 	

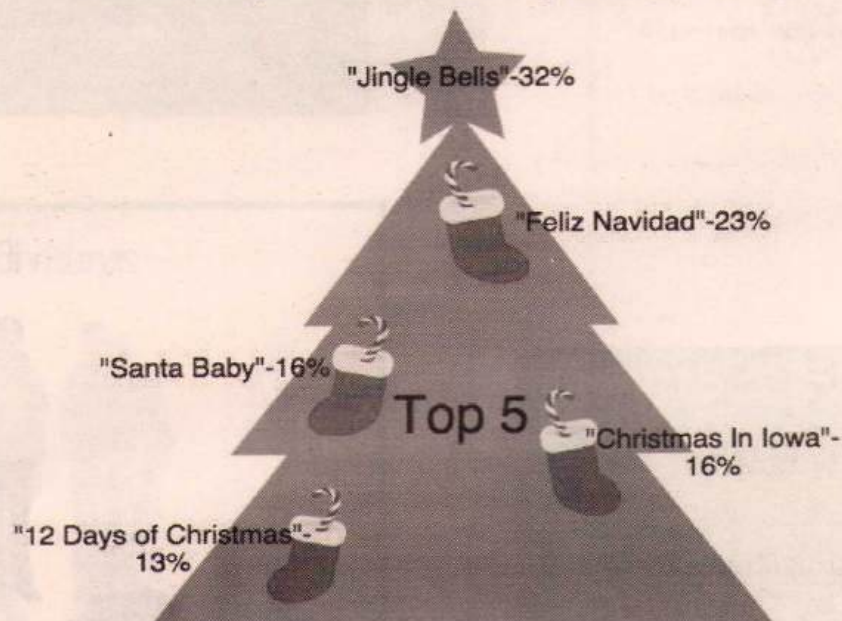
The most irritating holiday tunes

Christmas songs are everywhere, but some aren't bringing holiday cheer.

By: Amery Bruce @AmeryBruce

Most irritating holiday songs

Holiday songs can get someone in the mood for the season, but some are too overplayed, or just downright annoying. Fifty people voted, and here are the top 5 most irritating holiday songs.



Krampus is here to spread Christmas fear

By: Chloe Rice @CMRice44

Very few things in life evoke such positive emotions as Santa Claus does. No matter who someone is or what they're like, Santa Claus is usually the cure to feeling gloomy during the holiday season.

Most everyone knows about the jolly old chubby man that smoothly slides down everyone's chimney to bring loads of gifts, good old Saint Nicholas. But most have never heard of his evil shadow, Krampus. Instead of giving, he takes. Instead of spreading the joy, he spreads fear and evil. The most wonderful time of the year goes in the opposite direction in a jiffy.

In the recently released Christmas movie, *Krampus*, for the dysfunctional Engel family, it is hard to keep everyone's spirits up, except for Max, the school-aged boy. Max is the only one that pays attention to his old grandma when she is telling him how special Santa is and how important it is for people to be good to each other, especially around Christmas. He writes a letter to Santa that mostly contains wishes for his family to get along and for things to go back to normal. Eventually, Max can't take it anymore. When he finally loses hope after the uncontrollable mayhem of his family, he brings back ancient folklore that everyone thought were just some wacky stories. They couldn't have been more wrong in this

case. They are forced to come together to protect each other from the evil that they are trying to overcome. Next time they should pay more attention to Grandma's "stories."

Between the evil toys, the weird cousins, and the snowmen that just randomly appear in the front yard, math class could be scarier than this movie. Sure, the masks and background music were a little creepy, but the creatures popping out were very predictable and the fighting scenes were just plain funny. Uncle Howard got his butt kicked by a gang of evil gingerbread cookies. It does not seem very realistic, but hey, anything seems to be possible for the Engel family. Absolutely everything that could possibly go wrong for them, does.

As soon as the power goes out and the storm begins, Beth, the daughter, asks to walk four blocks to her boyfriend's house. Recall that there is a full on blizzard going on outside and she wants to trudge through waist high snow and ferocious wind for four blocks. The parents seem to have no problem, where's the common sense? Maybe Santa takes that with them when he leaves.

When the family

finally realizes that they are in real trouble after Grandma explains her experiences with Krampus, they board up all of the windows and doors. Somehow they have random boards lying around in their house just waiting to be put to good use.

I don't get the feeling that the characters in the movie are actually scared. They tend to make sarcastic jokes more often than not. The topic of the ancient folklore seems like it should be a little more intense than the movie made it out to be.

No matter how many movies are made and stories are told, *Krampus* will not come close to the popularity that Santa has (as long as one is on the nice list).



Krampus

Viewer rating: 5/10

Rotten Tomatoes rating: 5.8/10

Cast: Adam Scott, Toni Collette, David Koechner, Allison Tolman, etc.

Twenty One Pilots soars

-Commentary-



By: Alex Coleman
@Its_YoPalAI

Pop culture is arguably one of the most distinct movements of the 21st century. An entire industry based on those who are of the people, for the people, and by the people. It's a worldwide phenomenon, an oak tree for the branches of our culture. It dictates our movies, the way we receive news, our technology, and the way we perceive beauty. Easily one of the largest branches of pop culture is the music industry. Artists gain the ability to

share with the world emotions and situations that we as people can relate to. Many bands and singers these days are focusing on the idea of our topsy turvy world, with broken people walking around bumping into one another because they're too focused on themselves and what society asks of them. Growing in fame for this exact reason is the Pop/Rock/Rap duo Twenty One Pilots.

The group, formed in 2009, originally consisted of three college school friends: Tyler Joseph, Nick Thomas, and Chris Salih. In 2011, Thomas and Salih left due to their conflicting schedules. Tyler Joseph was later joined by Josh Dunn, a former drummer of another band. They are what people recognize today as the band Twenty One Pilots.

In 2009, their self titled album was released and did not receive much publicity. There were a few fans that followed them religiously, but mostly the band remained underwhelmingly mysterious. Much later, in 2013, the album "Vessels" was released. This got the band onto Spotify, and on Tumblrs, YouTube channels, and Twitters across the world. To this day, the song "Car Radio" from this album remains one of the band's most iconic and popular hits. After some more touring, the band released their latest album, "Blurryface," in May of this year. This album brought the music scene hits like the radio single "Tear In My Heart," "Heavydirtysoul," and the band's most popular song "Stressed Out."







Initially turning down their debut VMA performance, it's pretty obvious how this band feels about the media. The majority of the lyrics within their songs are a big screw you to any artist or big name that tries to make life seem like this beautiful thing. Shrouded in a propaganda sound like Green Day, the familiar rap tones of singers today, all tied together with unique drum beats and occasional guitar riffs or grunge melodies, Twenty One Pilots is hot news on the pop culture scene.

The young age of the members helps connect them to the youth of today, and with the way they've been spreading their messages, it's clear that this band has strong roots within the Millennium generation. Whether or not they will capture the attention of an older crowd, only time will tell. For now Twenty One Pilots will continue their tours, periodically blast social media with their ideas and agendas, and at the rate they're traveling, maybe inspire the start of a revolutionary movement.






















12 Ideas to Spread

-  Give a homeless person change when you see them on the street.
-  Make a gift basket with food or random items and give it to a person on the street.
-  Send out Christmas cards to people to let them know they are appreciated.
-  Write a letter to a soldier.
-  Donate to the Make a Wish Foundation or other charity.
-  Bring items to the Salvation Army.

12 Christmas albums for high schoolers

 "A Very Gaga Holiday" by Lady Gaga	 "Under The Mistletoe" by Justin Bieber
 "Christmas" by Michael Buble	 "Glee, The Music, The Christmas Album" by The Cast of Glee
 "8 Days of Christmas" by Destiny's Child	 "Cheers It's Christmas" by Blake Shelton
 "Do They Know It's Christmas" by Band Aid	 "Christmas in the Sand" by Cobie Smulders
 "The Taylor Swift Holiday Collection"	 "Christmas with Scotty McCreery" by Scotty McCreery
 "Merry Christmas" by Mariah Carey	 "A Very Merry Perry Christmas" by Christina Perry

If you could have a Christmas album...

-  "Gibson Les Paul" - Bobby Lockhart
-  "Rhys Regan" - Keanu Quinn, '16
-  "World Peace" - Owen Eichhorn, '19
-  "A trip to the Caribbean" - Emily Mershon, '18
-  "Justin Bieber" - Sophie Willette

Oreo Ball Recipe

- Ingredients:
- 1 package Oreos
 - 1 package (8 oz) Cream Cheese
 - 12 oz white melting chocolate
 - 6 oz semi sweet melting chocolate for topping



1 Place the oreos (filling & all) in a food processor and process until fine crumbs are formed and large chunks are gone. Mix in the softened cream cheese until very well combined and the dough becomes sticky.

2 Roll about 1 tablespoon of dough into a ball and set aside on a plate or in a container that you can fit in the freezer. Freeze the balls for at least 30 minutes. Place white chocolate in microwave for 30 seconds at a time.







3 Remove one to two oreo balls from the freezer at a time. Drop them into the chocolate and roll them around carefully in chocolate with a fork. Melt 6 oz. of the semi-sweet chocolate in a bowl and place the balls on a large plate.

4 Dip the tip of the fork into the chocolate and drizzle it onto the oreo balls. You can also sprinkle oreo crumbs right after they've been dipped to make them even more delicious. Then you're done!

Christmas Movies

-  "Elf"
-  "Polar Express"
-  "It's Wonderful Life"

Spread Holiday Cheer to Those in Need

-  Donate gifts and food to a less fortunate family
-  Visit a nursing home.
-  Deliver hot meals to the homeless.
-  Volunteer ANYWHERE
-  Visit a children's hospital
-  Commit random acts of kindness

Anything for Christmas, would it be?



"Rose Bowl tickets."
-Brandon Tuttle, '17



"My own movie theater"
-Rane Regan, '16



"Bugatti"
-Nick Hooper, '18



"A hippopotamus"
-Peter Ward, '17



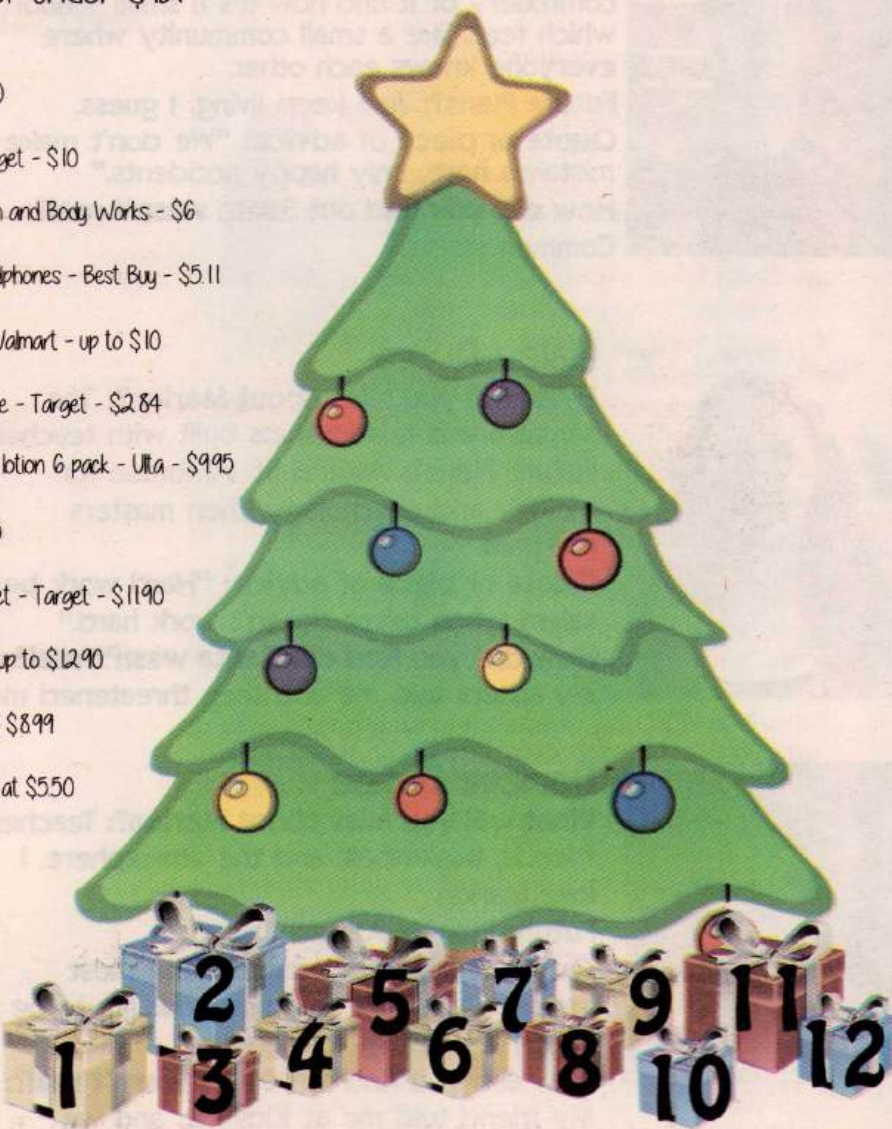
"College tuition"
-Fatie Miell, '16















"A new choir hall and auditorium"
-Liz Fontenot, '16

12 gifts for under \$12










1. Beanies - Forever 21 - \$8.90
2. Signature Soy Candles - Target - \$10
3. Travel Size Body Mist - Bath and Body Works - \$6
4. 10 Sound Digital Stereo Headphones - Best Buy - \$5.11
5. Tumbler cups with straw - Walmart - up to \$10
6. EOS Organic Lip Balm sphere - Target - \$2.84
7. OPI Ovjucose skin quenchers lotion 6 pack - Ulta - \$9.95
8. Fuzzy Socks - Old Navy - \$5
9. Ellum's mens credit card wallet - Target - \$11.90
10. Knit Scarves - Wet Seal - up to \$12.90
11. Sports team lanyard - Lids - \$8.99
12. Earrings - Claire's - Starting at \$5.50



12 Christmas activities to keep you busy over the holiday

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Bake Cookies |  Make a snow angel |
|  Decorate the tree |  Go sledding |
|  Go ice skating |  Go caroling |
|  Make a ginger bread house |  Dress up the dog like a reindeer |
|  Build a snowman |  DIY Christmas ornament |
|  Binge watching Christmas movies |  Decorate stocking |

12 must see Christmas movies

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
|  "The Santa Clause" |  "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" |  "Fred Claus" |
|  "Home Alone" |  "Miracle on 34th Street" |  "Christmas with the Kranks" |
|  "A Charlie Brown Christmas" |  "Jingle All the Way" |  "The Nightmare Before Christmas" |

10 Senior Interviews



Max Drury

What will you miss about Marion?: The comradery of it and how it's a small school which feels like a small community where everyone knows each other.

Future Plans?: Just keep living, I guess.

Quote or piece of advice: "We don't make mistakes here, only happy accidents."

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: Common sense.



Haley Dullea

What will you miss about Marion?: The sarcasm and relationships built with teachers.

Future Plans?: Attend St. Ambrose for biology and psychology, then masters program.

Quote or piece of advice: "Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard."

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: My sisters told me and then threatened me.



Danielle Dunne

What will you miss about Marion?: Teachers, friends, basketball, and the atmosphere. I love Marion.

Future Plans?: Attend UNI.

Quote or piece of advice: "The most important thing is to enjoy your life-to be happy-it's all that matters."

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: My friend told me at Kids Inc. and we



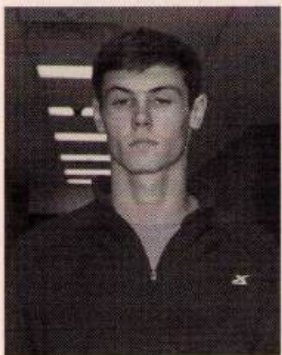
Troy Eden

What will you miss about Marion?: Nothing.

Future Plans?: SRT

Quote or piece of advice: Get good grades

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: N/A



Tyler Ellertson

What will you miss about Marion?: Friends.

Future Plans?: Go to Kirkwood.

Quote or piece of advice: Get some Gucci flip flops.

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: From my friends.



Hannah Fairlie

What will you miss about Marion?: The teachers.

Future Plans?: Kirkwood for 2 years.

Quote or piece of advice: Don't be afraid to ask for help and do your homework.

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: I didn't get a gift that I wanted.



Carlie Fisher

What will you miss about Marion?: All the fun and different people.

Future Plans?: Attend Merrell University in Jefferson City, MO for esthetic and cosmetology.

Quote or piece of advice: "Be happy."

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: My parents told me when I was 7.



DeLaney Fisher

What will you miss about Marion?: The awesome teachers and my friends.

Future Plans?: Attend U of I for biology and minor in Spanish.

Quote or piece of advice: "Treat yo'self"
-Tom Haverford

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: I caught on through media and friends, I just kind of figured it out.



SaCora Fisher

What will you miss about Marion?: I'm going to miss the friends and teachers I see and talk to everyday.

Future Plans?: Coe College for medicine.

Quote or piece of advice: "The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: I've never believed in Santa.



Elizabeth Fontenot

What will you miss about Marion?: The music department, show choir, seeing my friends everyday, and Bobby Lockhart.

Future Plans?: Attend UNI for vocal music education.

Quote or piece of advice: Join choir.

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: What?? Santa isn't real?!?!?

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Katelyn Fontenot

What will you miss about Marion?: Friends and teachers.

Future Plans?: Haven't decided.

Quote or piece of advice: Spend time figuring out who you are and be that person, not who others want you to be.

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: My sister was snooping and found evidence and told me about it.



Ciara Ford

What will you miss about Marion?: My friends.

Future Plans?: Take a year off, go to Kirkwood, then transfer to a 4-year school.

Quote or piece of advice: Get rich or die tryin'.

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: My dad told me when I was three because he felt bad about lying.



Olivia Frazier

What will you miss about Marion?: All of the supportive teachers and friends.

Future Plans?: Attend a Christian college to play volleyball and become a math teacher.

Quote or piece of advice: "The humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less."

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: I never really believed in Santa.



Bayley Fuller

What will you miss about Marion?: Sem and the softball team.

Future Plans?: Hopefully play softball at Rochester college in Minnesota.

Quote or piece of advice: "Only you can control your future."

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: I found a present three weeks before Christmas and it said from Santa.



Mark Gaffey

What will you miss about Marion?: Band mostly.

Future Plans?: Plan A is to go to Iowa and major in music.

Quote or piece of advice: "Some of those that work forces, are the same that burn crosses." -Rage Against the Machine

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: My mom told me, but I already knew.



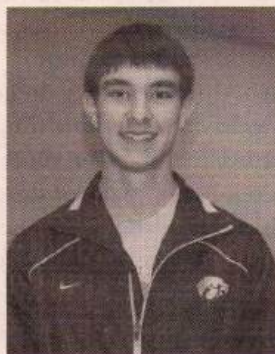
Alexander Gaffney

What will you miss about Marion?: Spanish fiestas, free golf, and roll tribe.

Future Plans?: Attend the U of I for physical therapy.

Quote or piece of advice: "We like to show respect for dress code, so don't wear a hat that says I'm an idiot." -Dave Messerli

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: If Santa isn't real, who's filling my stocking?



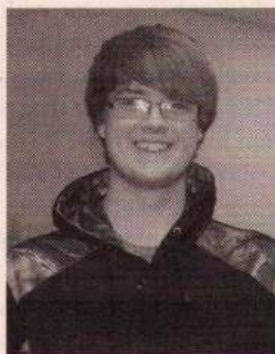
Trevor Gamerdinger

What will you miss about Marion?: Seeing my friends everyday.

Future Plans?: Go to Kirkwood to become an electrician.

Quote or piece of advice: If you can imagine it, you can achieve it.

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: I was sleeping on the couch to try and see Santa and woke up to see my parents.



Trenton Garbers

What will you miss about Marion?: Having the time to do things with my friends.

Future Plans?: Probably going to Iowa State and become a chemical engineer.

Quote or piece of advice: Question everything.

How did you find out Santa wasn't real?: My parents told me.

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Stop the hate on our great state

Many are negative about living in Iowa, but there are many positives.

By: Mia Laube @Mia_Laube21

"The only thing we have here is corn," is the typical whiny response of many Iowans when being asked their opinion on their home state. This is true- there is quite a lot of corn all around us, rows and rows of it in fact. There's also snow and bad weather, not as many entertainment options as other places, and a lot of flat land. However, instead of being so negative about the place we live, everyone could first look at all the great things about Iowa.

To begin with, Iowans are very fortunate they have a really safe living environment compared to other places. Low crime rates, minimal traffic, politeness of people and good family life are benefits sometimes skipped over. It may be that there is not always the excitement of a big city or coastal town, but that is less important than safety.

Also, it is not like there is nowhere to go if one enjoys the rush of city life. Iowa is directly in the middle of a multitude of cities. There is Chicago, the Twin Cities, the Quad Cities, and St. Louis which are all no more than six hours away for a fun weekend trip. One could go there for a game, shopping, or sightseeing.

That is not saying there is nothing to do right here, though. There is hunting and fishing and everything in between for those who enjoy the outdoors. There are farmer's markets to explore. The U.S. Cellular Center

in Cedar Rapids hosts events and concerts. Iowa city and Des Moines are close to where we live and have lots of cool places to check out. There are college sports teams- including Iowa, Iowa State, and UNI- that play good games and generate large fan bases. Also, smaller sports teams, such as the Roughriders, Titans, Rampage, and Kernels have games that can be just as fun as a larger organization on a more local level, and one can attend with friends or family.

Some might think that they do not want to travel far away to do something fun, or they would rather live in a warmer, more eventful place. Just a reminder, many of those cities that are within close driving distance have big pro sports teams, concerts and events. Also, some of those destinations that make it on Twitter pages like "Chill Places" come with their own risks, such as the natural disasters that come with a beach or high crime rates and cramped spaces that come with a city. The grass is always greener on the other side.

Really, though, in Iowa we have pretty green grass. It's easy to forget that there are positives about living in Iowa. It is really easy to complain about a really cold and "typical" day in Iowa. It's easy to gripe about driving through seemingly endless cornfields and the lack of buildings above two stories. Next time one ponders bashing the Hawkeye state, they could consider the good things because if one thinks about it in a positive light, Iowa is a pretty sweet place to be.



A recent Twitter survey of 44 people revealed that many have a positive attitude when it comes to living in Iowa.

The wonders of working at Walmart

By: Caitlyn Smith @Csmi05

When first walking into Walmart, people associate it with internet videos and interesting customers throughout the store. In this store, it may seem as though the customers are just like one another. As the shopper begins to stroll down the aisles, they begin to see the diverse groups of customers. In one aisle, there may be a lady with a tutu and tiara on. In the next aisle, it may be a mother and her children. But when walking into this store, the customer is greeted by the same person when entering and leaving.

This person greeting the varied group of customers is Mikey Schirmer. Schirmer, junior, is currently a greeter at Walmart. He is seventeen years old, and has been working at Walmart for a little over two months. He currently works four days a week.

Schirmer had not worked anywhere else before Walmart. Some may not see Walmart as their first choice of employment due to negative stereotypes. Some may wonder why he decided to apply at Walmart. Schirmer stated, "I decided to work at Walmart because I thought it was an awesome environment and the co-workers seemed nice."

Just like any other job, Schirmer has his favorite and least favorite things. "My favorite part is having strange and cool conversations with random people. I also enjoy seeing a smile on someone's face after greeting them," Schirmer said. His least favorite part about his job is working until ten p.m. Working until this time causes the last hour to be slow. Even with his least favorite part, he

would still want to work at Walmart, but maybe as something besides a greeter, such as a cashier or stocker.

Nathan Palzkill, junior, is also currently working at Walmart. Palzkill works as a cashier and works four times a week. Just like Schirmer, Palzkill has his favorite thing about his job. "[I like] the people that work there and it is a nice environment," Palzkill stated.

When thinking of Walmart, most people think of the typical "People of Walmart" videos. These videos show the unique characteristics of customers that may walk throughout Walmart. Schirmer would agree that there is a diverse range of customers that do come into the store. "Somebody once walked in with a sombrero on, and it wasn't even during or around Halloween," Schirmer stated.

When working with a varied group of customers, it's hard not to form a first impression of them. Schirmer stated, "If they are strange, I mentally judge them hard core, but physically you couldn't tell."

The idea of customers being rude comes with almost any job. The variety and range of disrespect depends on the job. When at Walmart, most customers seem fairly friendly. "Customers are rude when they are in a horrible mood or on the telephone. I will greet them and they will just look at me and turn me down," stated Schirmer.

The Hawks soar to success

By: Kenzie Redmond @kenzie_redmond2

The number four ranked, undefeated Iowa Hawkeye football players suit up and get ready for the opening kick off in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is the night they will all remember.

The Iowa Hawkeyes and the Michigan State Spartans fought for the Big Ten Championship Title, but the Hawkeyes came up short, losing 16-13.

This game may make the Hawkeyes record 12-1, but it doesn't affect their overall season. Starting quarterback C.J. Beathard, junior, of the University of Iowa Hawkeyes contributed to this 2015 football season. Beathard has converted 2,354 passing yards and 285 rushing yards this season. "He kept positive energy and brought a new style to Iowa. Glad to have him for another year," Owen Carstensen, a junior at Marion, stated.

Beathard has had a positive impact on this year's football season so far. "He's just always so calm, no matter what the situation. He seems to always make the big plays when they're needed and he's mobile. All are keys to a great quarterback," Gage Kray, senior, stated.

One of the biggest contributors to the team this season was Jordan Canzeri, senior, of the Iowa Hawkeyes. Canzeri converted 976 rushing yards in a single season and had 88.7 rushing yards per game. Canzeri was injured in the first half of the championship game and has had multiple injuries this season.

Another positive role that was filled was by Tevaun Smith, senior, of the University of Iowa Hawkeyes. Smith is a wide receiver and converted 546 receiving yards so far this season. He was 2nd on the team in receiving yards and in receiving touchdowns which helped the Hawks win games. "He brought a lot of energy and positivity to the team. I'm looking forward to the Hawks getting the dub and being able to watch the Rose Bowl with my friends," Chris Mohwinkle, sophomore, stated.

Another wide receiver who contributed to this season so far is Matt VandeBerg, junior, of the Hawkeyes. VandeBerg converted 639 receiving yards and had three touchdowns. "I think he's impacted the Hawks as a great third down receiver and someone you can rely on in tough situations. Also I'm really looking forward to seeing Christian McCaffrey and to see if the Iowa defense is up for the challenge," Mason Rahe, freshman, stated.

VandeBerg has helped Beathard out in many ways this season. "He's been a great go-to receiver for Beathard and he is able to make plays. I think the Rose Bowl will be a good opportunity for Iowa to prove they are a top five team," Jevin Manderscheid, sophomore, stated.

The Hawkeyes are getting ready to play the Stanford Cardinals in the Rose Bowl on January 1st, 2016. The Hawkeyes may have lost in the Big Ten Championship game, but there's no way they're going to settle. They are going to work as hard as ever to finish what they started.



Mikey Schirmer, '17, smiles while he greets the customers walking into Walmart, while wearing his santa hat to spread the holiday spirit. Schirmer politely says hello to the diverse group of customers throughout the store.

Royal flushed? Rumors debunked

Short, Schmidt, and Corona talk break ups, performances, and the next step.

By: Rhys Regan, @King_Rhys_

Royal Flush, and no, I'm not talking about the poker hand. Royal Flush is a local punk rock band looking to make its mark in Marion's musical history. The band has been together for a little over a year and doesn't plan on disbanding anytime soon.

Royal Flush came to a start when Dawson Schmidt, junior, and Trevor Short, senior, realized they had similar musical interests and both knew how to play instruments from that genre. Schmidt and Short were pretty excited about starting a band but needed a drummer. "We sort of acted like we had a lost dog," said Schmidt, "We put up posters looking for a drummer and it kind of worked out."

That drummer is Marion junior, Luis Corona. Corona has been playing the drums since around the age of eight and is very ambitious when it comes to drumming. With all this drumming experience it helps a lot.

Everyone in the band does different things but is of equal importance. Schmidt sings and plays bass guitar, Short sings and plays guitar, and Corona drums. "We're all pretty equal to the band, we are a team and we work like one," said Short.

Earlier this year, there were rumors about Royal Flush being flushed. These rumors were not the case when asked about the break up. "We've always been a

band," said Short, "I don't know where those rumors came from but they aren't true."

Royal Flush isn't just a band. They are also a group of friends. "We usually hang out before or after practices," said Corona. For the band there are only three rules. Practice on Wednesday nights, no girlfriends at band practice, and of course, keep it royal.

The band has spent a lot of time and money on keeping up, running, and improving. "I'd say we've spent around \$6,000 if you include my drum set," said Corona, "The hardest thing isn't spending the money. It's putting in work to get better."

The band does get gigs when they attempt to. "We've had four gigs," said Short, "We've played at a graduation party, a birthday party, at Follies, and at a wedding." Follies is a volunteering event so the band didn't get paid, but on all other occasions they did.

When asked why they continue to spend money and put in work on the band there were a few different answers. "It's cool to have ideas and see them flourish and blossom into songs," said Schmidt. "People know us," added Corona. After those two responded, Short had his turn, saying, "We used to practice in Luis's garage and every Wednesday the same old man walked



Trevor Short, '16, Luis Corona, and Dawson Schmidt, both '17, practice their songs during a band practice at Corona's house.

by and would stop for a minute or two but never said anything. One day we were taking a break and sitting in lawn chairs when the old man was walking by. He stopped and looked at us. He proceeded to ask 'Are you the guys that sing and play instruments?' We of course said yes when the man said 'You guys rock' and walked away.

Royal Flush has a lot of reasons to keep playing and those are just a few of them.

"The next plan of action is to get more gigs and start recording our music," said Short. And there's no reason they shouldn't do just that.

Concert experience for cash

By: Alex Coleman, @It's_YoPalAI

There's a buzz in the air all around. Men and women of all different ages chatter as they wait for the act to come out on stage. The lights dim, and everyone's on their feet. The thrum of bass fills the venue, and two friends cheer for the performers. Such is the life of Erin Thomason and Isabelle Webber, seniors.

Erin and Isabelle frequent concerts, sometimes with each other, sometimes with other friends or family. "With friends I feel like I can loosen up more than when I'm with my family," said Thomason. Separately, each girl has seen too many shows to name. Together, the girls have seen two concerts, Summerfest in Milwaukee and Newbo Fest in Cedar Rapids, and plan on attending two more for sure next year. "I definitely think it's worth the money. I love the atmosphere and getting to hear the music live," stated Webber.

Besides the loud atmosphere and flashing lights, there are many enjoyable things about a concert. "My favorite part is getting the chance to listen to music with a group of people that love it as much as I do [...] I can just lose myself in the music and no one will care," said Thomason. When a live performance happens, many

people tend to feel very intimate with the people around them. Webber agrees with this, stating "I think the best part is the connection that I feel to the musician and the crowd when we're all enjoying the same music."

Although nine times out of ten the concert experience is an enjoyable one, there are some strange things that can happen. "When we saw Robert DeLong at Summerfest, there were two couples side by side in front of us awkwardly grinding the entire time," Thomason said. Aside from wacky concert goers or overzealous performers, the experience tends to be a good one. "It's a whole new great experience that I think everyone should enjoy," stated Webber.

In the end, the lights will dim, the crowd will disperse, and post concert depression will emerge. But these two friends will be waiting for their next opportunity to see a show. "I would recommend keeping an eye out for shows that interest you, or even just go to local shows," said Thomason. Whether or not people choose to spend their money on a concert experience, there will be others like Thomason and Webber who enjoy immersing themselves in the feeling of live music.

Quarters going later

Lexi Morgan, @Lexi_Morgan17



"I don't like the quarters going longer. They are long enough already."
-Kelsey Morris, '16



"I don't like it because we have to come back and take tests and it won't be a fresh start."
-Bayley Fuller, '16



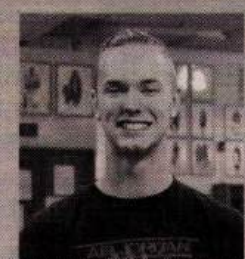
"I don't like it because I can't even remember one night of math."
-Kaleb Lochner, '17



"I don't like it because I will forget all the stuff for Finals."
-Bobby Vanderlind, '16



"It doesn't bother me, as long as we get the curriculum done, I would prefer it to end before Christmas break though."
-Sherryl Paige



"It's decent, classes are a little bit harder, but I'm living life."
-Seth Tuetken, '17



"It sucks because we have a whole week of forgetting about school."
-Hannah Faley



"You can't come to school with your fresh kicks, fresh outfits and not have fresh classes."
-Mason Daubs



"It sucks because you have to remember stuff after Christmas break."
-Myles Bach, '18

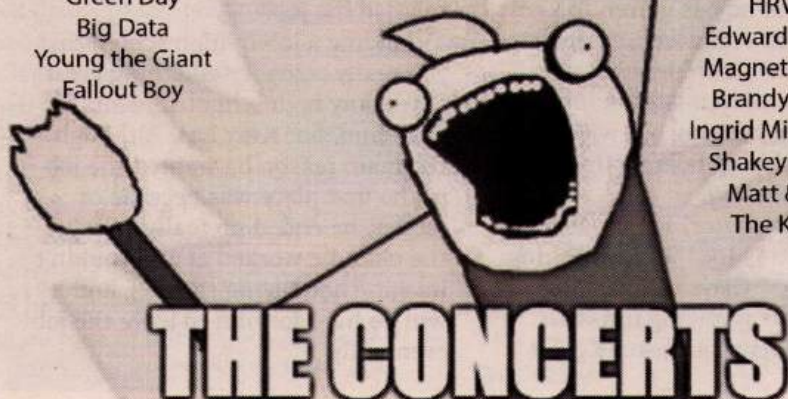
ATTEND ALL

Who they've seen:
Robert DeLong
Cage the Elephant
Guster
AWOLNATION
Black Keys
Imagine Dragons
Green Day
Big Data
Young the Giant
Fallout Boy

Been to:
Summerfest
Newbo Fest

Going to:
Mumford and Sons
Twenty One Pilots

Who they've seen (cont.):
FUN
Kings of Leon
Andy Frasco
U.N.
CHON
HRVRD
Edward Sharpe
Magnetic Zeros
Brandy Carlile
Ingrid Michaelson
Shakey Graves
Matt & Kim
The Kooks



A new approach for the same coach

Coach Messerli starts volunteering after 44 years of coaching.

By: Kenzie Redmond @kenzie_redmond2

He walks into the high school to coach for his 44th year. But this year is a little different than the rest. Dave Messerli, retired teacher, is volunteering for the girls basketball team. This is Messerli's first year volunteering and he's very excited.

Messerli has coached sports of all ages. He was the head football coach for 18 years and is now the current boys golf coach. He has coached basketball for 24 years now. Messerli has had a love for these sports because he played them all in high school.

Messerli loves coaching because of the people surrounded by him. "The relationships I develop with the kids not only on the field but off the field, and the relationships with the other coaches are the things I remember as much as the wins and losses," Messerli stated. He enjoys coaching because he gets to coach with people he once coached.

Messerli volunteered this year to be involved. "This is the one way I can help pay back Marion for all the positive things it has given me." Messerli plans to volunteer for as long as he can. "I'll volunteer until my body doesn't allow me to anymore." Volunteering will be the same as getting paid in his eyes.

Messerli has many goals for this girls basketball season. He wants to help out the younger girls and be a part of the varsity successes. "I don't want to go sit in my recliner at home for the rest of my life. I enjoy getting up at the school. It keeps me working with young people and makes me feel young," he stated. Messerli doesn't mind not getting paid be-

cause of the environment the student athletes and coaches surround him with.

The coaches of the girls basketball team appreciate everything Messerli contributes. "He brings a lot of experience, enthusiasm, and a great love for the students and school of Marion," Coach Corby Laube, athletic director, stated. He also continues to impact the players.

Tessa Jordan, senior, is thankful for Messerli. "He's really dedicated to the sport and always wanting to help new or young players." This is Jordan's fourth year on varsity with Messerli assisting.

"This is the one way I can help pay back Marion for all the positive things it has given me," -Dave Messerli

Pete Messerli, business teacher, is the son of Messerli. Pete enjoys coaching with his dad because of the interaction. "I like getting to see him everyday, interacting with him, and it's fun to be able to coach with him knowing he's had such an extensive and successful coaching career throughout the years."

Pete honors the values his dad Dave, has contributed to the student athletes. "[His greatest qualities are] the good and positive relationships performed with the student athletes and he treats them with a high level of respect." The student athletes and coaches of the girls basketball team appreciate all Dave does.

Messerli wanted to become a coach because he loves team sports. Being on a team has many differ-



Girls' basketball volunteer coach Dave Messerli participates in a basketball drill during practice.

ences compared to individual sports. Messerli loves team sports because the players want to be there. The players rely on their teammates and grow in relationships.

Messerli loves the atmosphere of the gym. "The atmosphere of the gym is fun because you get all the people in and can hear the crowd," he stated. His favorite season to coach depends on what season he's currently coaching. This versatility makes coaching more valuable for him.

Messerli feels very passionate about coaching. "Marion is a great place to coach, great place to volunteer, I take a lot of pride in Marion, and now that I'm retired I want to see if I can help the kids in any way." This may be Messerli's first year volunteering but it's not going to affect the way he cares for the student-athletes.

The future for seniors and the U.S.A.

By: Mia Laube @Mia_Laube21

The television screen flashes from the show to commercials, and familiar, raised voices deliver their promising messages to the viewer. The channel is flipped, and a different face giving the opposite message comes on. The ads are unavoidable. They're inescapable. It's the presidential election.

Sometimes it may seem like all of these images and speeches are only directed at older adults, but this year's senior class will have their say in the outcome around this time next year. Students like Maddie Schobert, senior, are now approaching the age where their vote will be considered. "It's scary to have to have an opinion on big world [issues]," said Schobert.

Seniors will not only have to consider college, friends, school work, and the future, they will also have to think about politics. "We probably only think about politics during American Government," said Schobert. The government is a complicated thing sometimes, and it is more than just what the media shows.

When thinking about who to vote for, everyone must assess their values and what could make the country a better place to live in. "Their goals and morals have to match up with [mine]. I think they have to care about the wealthy and the poor, want to change some good things, and make sure everything works for

everybody," she said. There are a lot of factors that a candidate must possess, and a lot of it comes down to personal opinion.

Overall, most students seem to agree that the most important thing for a candidate is that they support the citizens everywhere to the fullest. "I want them to support the people," said Phillip Lockhart, senior. This includes all age groups, which is why some think it's important for seniors to start engaging in the process now. They can watch the news, engage in classroom discussions, or do research to gain more information.

Not everyone is much into politics at such an early time in their life. "My parents aren't really political, so I'm not really either," said Schobert. Sometimes, teenagers just don't have much experience with it beyond the images they're fed through the television, radio, papers, and social media. "I only know the people in the news," she said.

Either way, the right to vote is an important right that American citizens have. Most all seniors at this time are seventeen or eighteen, and will be part of that group who is voting next November.

Schobert knows that being educated about the situation is important before stepping into the voting booth. "I'll probably vote. I'll try to figure out who's who, then vote," she said. This appears to be the mindset of a lot of students. Lockhart also will be participating in voting.

A portion of the class of 2016 will be voting next year, and even if they don't, they face some big decisions. Decisions like college, jobs, and whether or not to flip the channel when yet another election advertisement comes on.



Maddie Schobert, '16

Gage Kray's crazy employment

By: Chloe Mallon @Chhhloe17

Maintaining school and a job can be incredibly difficult for high school students these days. Students are having to deal with the constant battle between going out with friends, being a responsible student and getting their homework done, or going to make some money at an after school job. Especially if students are in sports, it is hard to be able to make it to practices after school and to make it to jobs on time. Gage Kray, senior, is in football and has a job, which sometimes is a struggle for him to deal with.

Kray started working at Kids Inc. not too long ago, and he has really enjoyed it. "At first I just got the job to have some extra money, but I have really fell in love with the job and have built some great relationships with the kids," Kray shared.

Kray had two other jobs before this one, but he is really glad he has choose to focus on this job and take it seriously. "The hours are good, I work every morning before school. I'm pretty used to it by now," Kray said, "This job really works out well with my busy schedule in football and baseball."

"I've built some really great relationships with the kids," Kray commented. In Kray's time working at Kids Inc., he has gotten to know the children really well. "I don't think I'll do anything work wise involving children later in life, but I really like hanging out with the kids and playing board games with them," Kray said.

Charles Claytor, senior, also works at Kids Inc. "I love working at Kids Inc." Claytor said. "My favorite part is having fun with the kids, I have built some great

relationships with them." Claytor started working at Kids Inc. because he knew how much fun he would have working with the kids. "Now whenever I'm sick from work or not there, the kids get worried and ask where I am," Claytor said. Although Claytor rarely works with Kray because Claytor works mostly after school, and Kray works mostly before school, they both have built some similar relationships and have made some funny memories with the kids that they can share.

"The funniest memory with a kid at Kids Inc. was when this kid brought in five cans of sardines for breakfast. It was hilarious," Kray said with a laugh. Making memories and having fun time are the best part about high school jobs. Although a lot of jobs in high school student just apply because they need money, they end up really loving the job and with the friendships and fun times they've had, they end up finding themselves sad to leave the job.

Finding a job in high school that you really enjoy is something great that many high school students can't find, but Kray has. Although the main reason he wanted the job in the first place was because of money, he ended up really loving the place he worked at and couldn't imagine not having this job, and it will be hard for him to leave the job eventually.



Gage Kray, '16

Christmas traditions 'round the world

Mrs. Henkel and Ms. Knepper share what Christmas is like overseas.

By: Chloe Rice @Cmrice44

As the snow begins to fall, the air continues to chill, and Christmas day draws closer and closer, people always tend to think about Santa Claus and presents. Those things are fun and all, but sometimes we need to focus on the bigger picture of the holiday.

Mrs. Henkel and Ms. Knepper, both foreign language teachers, shared how Christmas in Spanish and French-speaking countries is different, although there may be some similarities in the ways that they celebrate.



Mrs. Henkel,
Spanish Teacher



Ms. Knepper,
French Teacher

Mrs. Henkel has been teaching Spanish for 13 total years, 10 of them being at MHS. Henkel took French class in high school, and then took Spanish as a sophomore in college. "I just wanted to teach any language," Henkel said.

She has spent three weeks in Mexico for a program where she lived with a family, and spent two summers in Spain where she also lived with a family. Henkel has also attended multiple student trips to Spanish-speaking countries.

Ms. Knepper has been teaching French class at MHS for 16 years, and has taught for 23 years overall. Her interest in the language began before high school. "I became interested in junior high," Knepper said.

During her college years, Knepper spent one year in France. After graduating, she moved back and lived there for five years. While she lived in France, she taught English to adults.

Between these two women, there is lots of experience when it comes to foreign countries. Their time spent learning about foreign countries has taught them about the traditions and customs.

The Christmas holiday is usually more commercialized in the United States than it is in places such as Spain or France. Christmas is celebrated even more in Spain than it is here. "They go crazy at Christmas time," Henkel said. Even though it is celebrated, it may be in

a different way. "[Christmas] is celebrated, but it is a bit different. They have different practices and traditions than us," said Knepper.

Spanish and French-speaking countries share some of the same traditions that the United States has, such as gift giving and Santa. In Spanish countries, it is common for children to get almost double the presents. They follow the more traditional Bible story of the three wise men who come on January 6th, and they also have a Santa. "They didn't used to have Santa, they sort of pulled that tradition from the U.S. culture," said Henkel.

French countries have a Santa figure known as "Father Christmas" who is not as chubby and is accompanied by the "evil Santa." The good kids received presents and the bad kids would most likely be whipped. Overall, both places are not all about the shopping and money spending, it is less commercialized than the United States.

Most people in Spanish and French-speaking countries are Catholic. "A lot of activities revolve around religious stories," Henkel said. For the French, Christmas is more family based. "Fewer people probably go to church than they do here. It's a time for families to get together. It's not all about the shopping," said Knepper.

Each place has their own unique traditions. For Spain, it's the three wise men. Instead of writing letters to Santa, they put out shoes on January 5th to be filled with presents on the next day. There is usually a three king's cake, or "el rescón de reyes" that has a baby Jesus and a piece of coal hidden inside of it. The person who gets the piece with the baby Jesus is worshipped as king for the day while the person who got the coal is the "punished" one. In France, they have elegant meals with their families. "They buy fancy food that they wouldn't normally have the rest of the year," said Knepper. Seafood and a yule log are very popular. They usually put out small home decorations. "It is common for cities to decorate the streets," said Knepper.

The weather in Spanish or French-speaking countries is pretty different than it is here in Iowa. Spain may get somewhat chilly, but not as cold as Iowa. "It's not as much of a winter wonderland," said Henkel. France is very mild. "The weather is not as extreme," said Knepper.

No matter how it is celebrated or what traditions there are, Christmas is enjoyable for most everybody worldwide. Sometimes it's good to change things up, one may be surprised by what they learn.

One way to be helpful during the Christmas season

By: Kasumi Rupert
@KasiBelleRupert

Christmas is a time of giving and joy. Many people take advantage of this spirit. However, not many go beyond the extent of their loved ones. Charities are a nice way to show generosity to others during the Christmas season. Two students love to donate to charities every year.

Shelby Brewer, senior, has had a lot of experience with charities. Since there are many charities at Mercy hospital, Brewer has had

access to them through her mother. Brewer stated, "[I've done] a lot of hospital type charities through my mom's work at Mercy." The trend started with her family in the beginning. "[Donating] is kinda just something [my family has] always done of the holidays," Brewer revealed. However, Brewer thinks that giving to charities shouldn't be forced on people. "I think [donating] is a good thing to do, but people might have other things they value more, and no one should be pressured into donating," said Brewer. Another student feels simi-

larly about giving to charities.

Calista Dittmer, sophomore, participates in a few different charities over the holiday season. Her favorite charity is Operation Christmas Child. "You package different presents and pick an age and gender and they get shipped across [the world to kids]," described Dittmer. She believes that charities are very important in society. "Not everyone can afford to get great gifts, but if you give to charities, you can help them have a great Christmas," she said. In contrast to Brewer's opinion, Dittmer thinks that everyone should donate to charities during the holidays. She explained, "Not only does it help other people, it helps you feel good and appreciate what you have." Students can participate in any charity they'd like.

Charities are a great way to help the community in general. Helping people during Christmas is something that most people don't do, but it would be nice to start this kind tradition. There are many charitable opportunities anywhere. If students wish, they can donate soon before the Christmas season.



Shelby Brewer, senior, sings while participating in a Christmas charity event.

Gamers galore for Gorgen

By: Rhys Regan @King_rhys

A lot of people that are considered gamers are also the type of people to be considered things like nerds, geeks, and dweebs. The type of person that doesn't play video games recreationally, but religiously. The type of person that could go to their basement and come up with a twenty-four-pack of Mountain Dew and three bags of Doritos on command. This is not the case for sophomore, Colin Gorgen.



Colin Gorgen, '18

While also being involved in sports, Take Charge, and a job at Hy-Vee, Gorgen has found a time to play video games. Gorgen has a love for video games that started in his middle school years with games like Halo, Call of Duty, and Grand Theft Auto. His love continues for video games today and he plays mostly the same titles. Gorgen usually plays video games in his bedroom or at his friends homes. "Whenever I stay the night at a friend's house we usually hang out and do stuff outside," Gorgen explained.

Gorgen enjoys video games but is not controlled by them. "I like playing video games but I don't value them over important things like friends, family, or school," said Gorgen.

While some of his friends skip school to game or wait in line for games to be released, Gorgen has never done so. "My GPA and schooling is much more important than being the first to play Black Ops 3," Gorgen commented.

Gorgen is happy video games are around because it gives him something to do. "They [video games] give me a hobby," said Gorgen. "It's a fun creative outlet that keeps people out of trouble and in the comfort of their own home."

Gorgen considers video games an important part of his life but wouldn't suffer much if they didn't exist. "I'd be bored a lot more. I guess I'd just watch Netflix or something," he added.

He usually doesn't even leave to buy the game he just downloads it onto his Xbox One. "I buy everything that has to do with video games on my own," added Gorgen. "I try to save most of my paycheck for important things like emergencies and college so I don't really buy many games." Gorgen did however buy Fallout 4 recently and enjoys it a lot.

The most time Gorgen has ever played a video game is for six hours and he finds people that play for days at a time silly. "I like playing video games but its not like I'm going to choose video games over going to hang out with someone," Gorgen said.

Overall Gorgen is happy that video games are a part of his life and will continue to play recreationally until he no longer sees a point in doing so.



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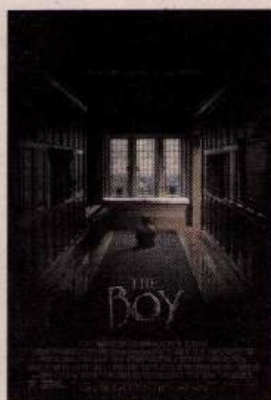
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December Entertainment



The new Star Wars installment will be out December 18th. "The 5th Wave" comes out January 15th, and a thriller, "The Boy," comes out January 22nd.

Seek & Find



Melanie Noble, '17



Dawson Kirk, '18



On the 31st of December Lil Wayne finally releases the awaited "Tha Carter V," and on January 29th, Sia's album "This Is Acting" and Charlie Puth's album "Nine Track Mind" will be available to the public.

Christmas Facts!

In the past, Santa Claus wore blue, white, and green. The red suit came from a 1930s Coca-Cola advertisement.

Rudolph was created by a department store as a gimmick to get children to buy coloring books. He was almost called Rollo or Reginald.

"White Christmas" is the best selling Christmas song of all time.

From 1659-1681, it was illegal to celebrate Christmas in Boston- those caught celebrating were fined.

Bringing Christmas trees into homes began in Germany.

Jingle Bells was originally supposed to be a Thanksgiving song.

There is no mention of December 25th in the Bible. Historians think Jesus may have been born in the spring.

Fun facts obtained from www.etonline.com

What Star Wars Character Are You?

Take the quiz to find out!
(From the first six movies only. May the force be with you.)

