

Flyers flatten Bulldogs for 14th State title

By: Kyle Otte
Sports Editor

CANTON - The Marion Local Flyers became Division VII State Champions on Dec. 2 at about 1:00 p.m. as they defeated the Dalton Bulldogs 38-0. This was Marion Local's fourteenth OHSAA football State Championship. With this victory, the Flyers secured the school's twenty-fourth State title.

Canton, Ohio, home of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, is also the home of the high school football



The Marion Local Flyers win their OHSAA history-making 14th State title as 2023 Division VII State Champions.

PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

State Championships. This is a place the town of Maria Stein is all so familiar with. This is the place the boys in blue and gold look forward to vis-

iting the first weekend of December. This place is what they all work so hard for and why they push themselves every day to achieve their goal.

The Flyers came into the game knowing what to do in order to bring home the gold to Maria Stein. They dominated Dalton in every aspect of the game: offense, defense, and special teams.

The Flyers' defense gave the Bulldogs no life. They were able to stop the Bulldogs on fourth down twice, one of them being the Bulldogs' first drive of the game, which ended in a touchdown for the Flyers. The back-breaker for the Bulldogs was when

junior safety Griffin Bruns stepped in front of a pass intended for the Bulldogs' Grayson Sider, and Bruns picked it off and took it to the house for 80 yards. This put the Flyers up 21-0, and they were not done shocking the Bulldogs.

After the Flyers forced a three and out, the Bulldogs were forced to punt, and they punted it right to junior Victor Hoelscher. He took the

punt return 64 yards for a Flyer touchdown. The Flyers being up 31-0 going into halftime was a punch to the gut to the Dalton players.

The second half was nothing new: the Flyers dominated and still gave no life to the Bulldogs. The Flyers came out of the half receiving the ball; they wasted no time, scoring again to make the score 38-0. The Bulldogs got the ball back on offense and were able to put together a nice drive before being stopped on fourth down once again.

The Flyers came home with their third straight State title, reaffirming their dominance as the winningest football program in OHSAA history.

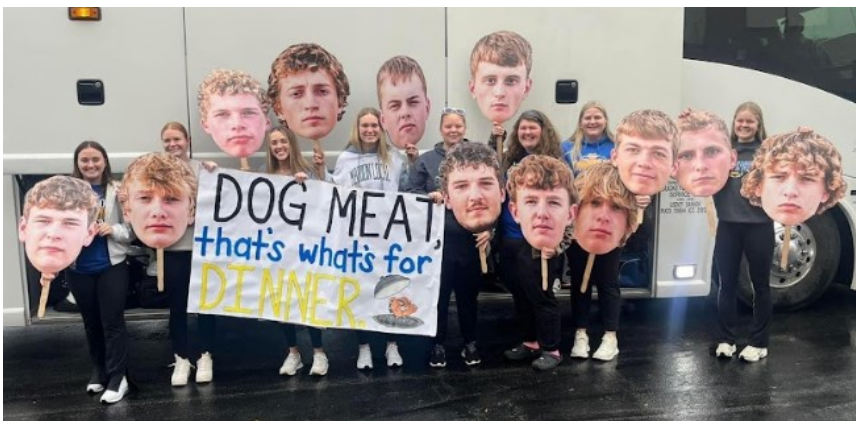


PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Senior girls send off their classmates to the State Championship on Dec. 1.

School building levy passes

By: Kailee Beyke
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN - On Nov. 7, local voters flocked to the polls. The levy for the new school addition won with a total of 1,406 votes for the income tax and bond. As a result of growing enrollment, the levy will allow for the middle school to have new additions, including nine new classrooms and special education rooms, an agricultural education suite with a greenhouse, K-8 cafeteria and commons, along with a two-court gymnasium with four locker rooms.



DESIGN BY: GARMANN MILLER

Original building proposal for the new construction on the middle school building.

The design phase will last until December 2024. After that, in March 2025, construction will begin and hopefully be done by August 2026, allowing for occupancy of the new building that September.

Superintendent Mike Pohlman stated, "Our planning revolves around potentially occupying the new facility at the start of the 2026-2027 school year. With that said, the administration is discussing plans for the present time until we are able to move into the new facility. That involves finding space for our growing enrollment. We were proactive in putting this levy on the ballot, so we will be able to manage the increase we are projecting."

Pohlman responded to the passage of the levy: "On behalf of the Marion Local Board of Education, I would like to thank the Marion Local community for their support with the passage of our levy for new facilities. This was truly a community effort, in which we had approximately 40 community members serve on a task force that worked extremely hard to make recommendations to our Board of Education. They represented our community, gathered feedback, provided great input from their knowledge and experiences, and asked great questions. We want to thank them for creating a facility and funding model that will meet the needs of our community.

"We are committed to working hard to maintain our current facilities, and construct a new facility that provides a positive environment to educate our students."

Swain signs to Edison State



PHOTO BY: MR. KOENIG

Senior Camryn Swain officially signs to play softball at Edison State Community College.

By: Camryn Swain
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN - On Nov. 29, senior Camryn Swain, daughter of Andy and Jamie Swain, signed to further her softball career at Edison State Community College. Swain is coached by Mindy Feasel, Taylor Feasel, and Russ Puthoff at Marion Local. Miranda Huddle will be her new softball coach at Edison State College.

Swain comments on her signing, "I'm so excited to have signed with Edison. This is such a great opportunity! Go Chargers!"

Nerds never not braining



PHOTO BY: MRS. HEMMELGARN

Varsity Scholastic Bowl members Vincent Winner, Morgan Spieth, John Mescher, Ally Mescher, and John Kramer at the MAC tournament.

By: Morgan Spieth
Opinion Editor

MARIA STEIN - This season, the Marion Local JV and Varsity Scholastic Bowl teams dominated. The Varsity team took second place in the MAC League and was nearly undefeated. Varsity only lost one match to Coldwater and went 7-1 on the season. The Varsity Bowl was held on Nov. 20, and the Varsity team placed fifth, coming home with a \$50 check for the program courtesy of league sponsors Mercer Savings Bank.

MVP junior Vincent Winner scored 152 individual points, and sophomore John Mescher scored 104 individual points this season, becoming two of the top five people in Marion Local Scholastic Bowl history to ever score over 100 points in a single season. When

Winner, now ranked third all-time in individual points scored, was asked his thoughts on this season, he said, "It was a fun season. I'll have to beat my record next year, though."

JV placed third in the MAC with a record of 5-3 on the season. The JV bowl was held on Nov. 13, and the team tied for third of the nine teams present, scoring 73 points overall. Taking first was Versailles, scoring 77 points, making our JV only four points away from taking the JV Bowl title.

This year's Scholastic Bowl president Morgan Spieth loved being the leader of the team. She says, "These four years have been so much fun! I will definitely miss everyone, but I know we are left in good hands. With that being said, see you in the White House."

High school takes it up a notch

By: Anna Hemmelgarn
News Editor

MARIA STEIN - During the months of October and November, the high school building added some new upgrades to the exterior. Moeller Door & Window provided the high school with a couple of new doors and Shockman Lumber provided materials for the installation of a brand-new roof. The roof was installed very fast, in only two days, on Oct. 23 and 24.

Superintendent Mike Pohlman stated, "The high school needed a new roof because water was penetrating through the roof and causing damage. The underlayment was rotting away and in need of replacement, along with the asphalt shingles." Shockman Lumber provided the subcontractors to install the roof, in addition to the materials.

The high school was no doubt in

dire need of some new doors around the building, including the "ramp" doors, locker room doors, and the shop doors.

Mr. Pohlman mentioned, "We received money through a safety grant to purchase these because it became difficult to secure our building with those doors not shutting and latching properly. The sun beats on those doors and causes them to warp, and we replaced the steel doors with a composite-type material that handles heat and cold much better."

The high school plans on further adding some upgrades to the building by improving the "controls for the HVAC system to better regulate the heating and cooling of the building," Pohlman stated.

Lastly, Pohlman expressed, "It is very important to maintain and take care of the buildings our students occupy."



PHOTO BY: MRS. HEMMELGARN

Roofing contractors hard at work on Oct. 23 on the southeast roof of the high school building.

Seniors create colorful art in classrooms



PHOTO BY: ANNA HEMMELGARN

Senior Morgan Spieth and her mural painting of the three branches of Government in Mrs. Schulze's room.

By: Anna Hemmelgarn
News Editor

MARIA STEIN - Over the last few weeks, three senior students have shown their creativity and imagination around the school. Senior girls Camryn Swain, Hailey Wolters, and Morgan Spieth have recently been working on mural paintings for their art portfolio class. Swain and Wolters are a duo, painting on the north wall in

Mrs. Howell's room. Spieth chose to paint her artwork on the west wall in Mrs. Schulze's room.

Swain and Wolters have made great progress so far, considering they are almost finished with their painting in Mrs. Howell's room! Howell requested that the girls add something bright and modern to her room. Taking this into consideration, Swain and Wolters incorporated many ideas revolving around English.

Mrs. Howell is overall very pleased with their work and only has positive comments to say about the artwork. Mrs. Howell commented, "I love the colors they chose because they are bright and vibrant, which makes them stick out!" Swain agreed with the decision to add colors by saying, "Her room was so dull and boring; it needed some pop of color, for sure!"

Wolters added, "We are really liking the mural so far, but it definitely takes a lot of patience and work. It's a fun experience for senior year, and we're excited to see the final product!"

The other mural that is currently being painted is located in the government room of Mrs. Schulze. Spieth is the craftiest person I've met and has the most creative mind, which is clearly shown in

her inspiration for her mural.

She says, "I love to do art, but working at this big of a scale can be difficult to get everything perfect. I'm a perfectionist, and it is difficult when things don't go my way. It is taking a lot longer than expected, but overall I'm happy with the results so far."

Mrs. Schulze said, "I am excited to have Morgan's mural of the three branches of government in my classroom. She is doing a great job, and it's going to add a nice artistic touch to the room."

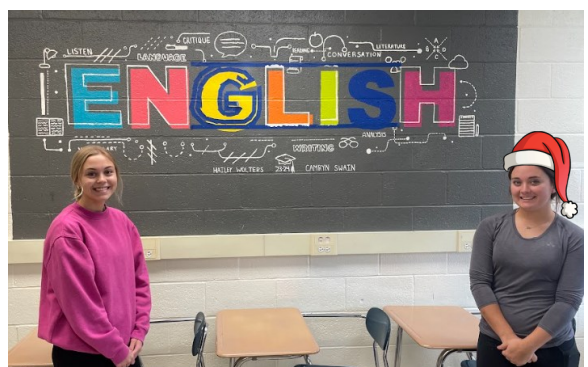


PHOTO BY: ANNA HEMMELGARN

Seniors Hailey Wolters and Camryn Swain with their mural painting in Mrs. Howell's room.



Flyers trample teams through playoffs

By: Kyle Otte
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN – Nov. 24, the state semifinals, was one week away from the Flyers’ goal of making it to Canton to play in the State Championship game. The team standing in their way was the Patrick Henry Patriots, who looked to spoil the Flyers’ hopes.

Both teams came out with a lot of energy because they knew what was at stake. The Patriots gave the Flyers the ball to start off the game, and after a three-and-out for the Flyers, the thoughts in the mind of a Flyer fan started to linger a little. The loudness and hype went straight down after the three and out. The Flyers’ defense needed to get a big stop to get the ball back for the Flyers so they could get on top of the Patriots. The Patriots have an offense that can score really fast, and they can make a big play happen really easily.

On cue, the Flyers’ defense came up big and caused a three-and-out to give the Flyers’ offense another go around. Wasting no time, junior Ethan Heitkamp, hurdling over defenders, found his way into the end zone to put the Flyers up 7-0. The Flyers were able to dominate all four quarters: the defense was as strong as ever, not allowing a single point for the second week in a row and not letting the Patriots’ playmakers make plays.

Advancing to the Regional final on Nov. 17, the Flyers faced the Ansonia Tigers. The Flyers were anticipating being tested by the Tigers’ run game and their defensive line, but they instead pitched a 48-0 shutout. While neither defense permitted points in the first quarter, Marion proved their dominance with the emphatic final score.

The Flyers’ offense saw the field for only three plays in the first quarter. Their drive ended in an interception by the Tigers, which also ended the first quarter of play. After the Tigers controlled the whole first quarter, the Flyers’ defense was able to get a stop, so their offense could get another chance to try and have a positive drive. The Tigers’ defense was able to stop the Flyers once again by forcing them to punt. The Flyers’ defense was able to stop the Tigers by stopping them on fourth down.



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

The Flyers football team celebrates their Regional Championship victory over Ansonia on Nov. 17.

After a few short drives for each team, the Flyers were finally able to get things started after a nice run by junior Justin Knouff, and a nice pass from Knouff to junior Victor Hoelscher to get inside the Tigers’ own 25-yard-line. Heitkamp was able to cap off the Flyers’ drive with a hard run up the middle for seven yards for the score. For the rest of the second quarter, both teams had no success in being able to put points on the board, so they had to go into the locker rooms and figure out what they had to do to be able to advance to the next week. After the half, the Flyers came out strong and just rolled over the Tigers, giving them no life. The Flyers were able to find their groove and move on to the State semi-finals.

On Nov. 10, the Flyers faced off against the Minster Wildcats in the Regional semifinals. Playing the Wildcats in week three of this year was a test for us, even though the score didn’t show it: it was a closer game than the score showed. In the Regional semifinals, the Flyers defeated Minster by a score of 28-7. Throughout the game, the Flyers struggled to pass the ball, so they depended on their run game.

The Flyers won the toss and chose to kick off to the Wildcats. The Wildcats got the ball at their own 22, and within three plays, the Flyers’ defense had forced them to punt. The Flyers’ offense was eager to get out there, and their excitement led them to the first touchdown of the game by

Heitkamp. On the following drive, the Wildcats drove down the field towards the end of the first quarter, and they were able to capitalize off a few Flyer mistakes by scoring to tie the game up at sevens to start the second quarter.

The Flyers weren’t able to do anything on the following drive, so they punted it back to Minster, but the Wildcats followed the Flyers and punted it back to them. The Flyers set up shop at Minster’s 23-yard line after a short punt by the Wildcats. The Flyers were able to capitalize four plays later with Heitkamp’s second touchdown of the game to make the score 14-7 Flyers.

The Wildcats didn’t stand with the second-half Flyers. After a long, scoreless third quarter, the Flyers decided just to run down through the Minster defense, which resulted in a touchdown to put the Flyers up 21-7. The Wildcats were left stunned after the Flyers’ 16-play drive in which the Flyers ran the ball all 16 times.

As time was running out, the Wildcats had the ball and hoped to score and try for an onside kick. But with the Flyers on their heels, junior Daniel Everman undercut a wheel route, picked it off, and took it 86 yards to the house, ending the Wildcats’ hopes.

In the first two weeks of the playoff you never know what you are going to get out of the teams you play: they will either give you their best shot, or they will come into the game not wanting to play hard. In week one, we played Tri-County North, a team we had never played before. We prepared well, knowing what they were capable of on offense. The Flyers’ defense showed up along with their offense: the defense pitched a shutout, and the offense put up 63 points rolling to the next round.

In week two of the playoffs, the Flyers came out hot once again and rolled right over Cedarville. Cedarville was not a new team to the Flyers as they had played them back in 2020. That game had the same result: not the same score, but the same outcome. A shutout is what happened, and that is nothing new for this Flyers team. The Flyers were able to advance to the Regional semifinals by defeating Cedarville 69-0.

Cross country returns to State

By: Kailee Beyke
Entertainment Editor

OBETZ, OH - On Saturday, Nov. 4, the boys’ cross country team and coaches headed to Columbus to run at the state meet. The boys ended their long season in 19th place with a total of 404 points. Sophomore Ryan Stucke finished first of the Marion Local team.

The runners included seniors Lucas Broering, Preston Kemper, and Wesley Schoen; and sophomores Dalton Pohlmann, Ryan Stucke, Trey Goettemoeller, and Wade Kremer. Alternates were Brody Otte, Christian Kremer, and Isaac Bruns. The coaches were Jackie Kemper and Danielle Sutter.

The whole school kicked off the success of the cross country team with a pep rally on the morning of Friday, Nov. 3. The runners were introduced with colorful and gold confetti poppers. Students and cross country team members participated in games such as Pictionary, tic-tac-toe, and guess that cookie. The students were also given delicious cookies made by the cross country team parents.

Senior Broering commented, “Overall, the season was really good. We went into Regionals not knowing whether or not we would be making it to State again, and, somehow, we did, making it the highlight of my senior year. This is a season I won’t forget!”



PHOTO BY: BETH BROERING

The boys’ cross country team and coaches at Fortress Obetz at the State meet on Nov. 4. L to R: Coach Kemper, Trey Goettemoeller, Wesley Schoen, Lucas Broering, Ryan Stucke, Wade Kremer, Dalton Pohlmann, Preston Kemper, Coach Sutter.



Basketball bounces back into season



PHOTOS BY: LANGE PHOTOGRAPHICS

The boys' and girls' basketball teams prepare for the upcoming 2023-2024 basketball season, with each team led by three seniors this year.

By: Kyle Otte
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN - As the winter season rolls around, so do winter sports, and the boys' and girls' basketball teams are underway. The Lady Flyers have a record of 3-1, with a conference record of 1-1, while the boys' first game will be on Dec. 16 at home versus Celina.

The Lady Flyers' first game was on Nov. 28 at Lima Shawnee, and the Flyers took the win 62-27. On Dec. 5, Van Wert came to the Hangar to be beaten 49-26. On Dec. 7, the Flyers hosted Delphos St. Johns and won 48-15. On Dec. 9, they

traveled to Versailles to take on the Lady Tigers and suffered their first defeat of the season 55-44. Tonight, the Lady Flyers will face Minster for an intense MAC showdown.

Last season, both teams were fortunate to make a strong tournament run. The boys' season ended last year in the Regional finals with a heartbreaking loss to Crestview.

The girls' season ended in the Regional semifinals with a hard-fought game against Tri-Village. Both teams look to bounce back from last year and have a strong regular season with an even stronger tournament run.

This season, the boys have a pretty new roster after losing four seniors who started last year. This year's starting roster experience level is down, with only three players returning who played last year. With this team, they look to have a strong season with some good competition that they will have to face, especially St. Henry, since they didn't lose anyone from last year. St. Henry's senior class this season is very talented.

Both the girls' and boys' teams are going to need some extra support this year as there are some very big games on both of their schedules. They wish to see the student section jam-packed on those nights.

Swim builds on last year's success



By: Camryn Swain
Features Editor

VAN WERT - On Dec. 12, the Marion Local girls' and boys' swim teams travelled to South Adams High School in Berne, Indiana, where the boys' team won the meet.

Both teams dove into the season on Dec. 7 in Van Wert, in a tri-meet against Van Wert and St. Henry. On Dec. 9, they swam in a large meet at Trotwood against 20 other schools.

The girls' swim team had immense success last year when Kylie Niekamp, who has now graduated, became the first Flyer in school history to represent Marion Local at State. As a result of this, Head Coach Danielle Hartke has some ambitious goals for both teams this year.

Coach Hartke states, "This year, we

have an ambitious goal to return the boys' relay team back to Districts and potentially have a shot at breaking some team records. Returning from the boys' relay, we have John Kramer, Simon Partington, Wyatt Greenwood, and Luke Kunkler. From the girls' relay, we have Grace Brunswick. We have a decent size team with a lot of heart, talent, and drive. I am excited to see what personal goals they accomplish this season."

The boys' team consists of seniors Greenwood, Kramer, and Partington. The juniors are Kunkler and Hayden Poepelman. Lastly, Keegan Hess represents the sophomore class.

The girls' team consists of lone senior Emma Pleiman, sophomores Brunswick and Katrina Will, and freshmen Payton Ellis, Laney Greenwood, Natalie Homan, Ava Muhlenkamp, and Ally Pavelka.



PHOTOS BY: LANGE PHOTOGRAPHICS

Bowling rolls into season



By: Camryn Swain
Features Editor

NEW BREMEN - The 2023 boys' bowling team rolled into season on Nov. 10. The single tournament was led by junior Deacon Kemper who bowled a 193 and a 207. This qualified him for the second round, when he bowled a 233.

After losing to St. Mary's, the second boys' match was against St. Henry. The Flyers were able to stay close with them during the first game of the match, but they pulled ahead during the second. St. Henry were able to maintain their lead during the round of Bakers.

The girls' bowling team has an increase in numbers compared to last year. The girls are continuing to show growth and won their match on Dec. 9 against New Bremen.

This year, there are seven girls: freshmen Kate DeMange, Maggie

PHOTO BY: LANGE PHOTOGRAPHICS
Frey, Lila Kremer, Megan Homan, Allie Moeller, and Mykenna Wilkins, and lone senior Clara Barlage.

The boys' team has an increase in participants as well. They have 15 total: sophomores Karson Collins, Korbin Grady, Christian Kremer, John Mescher, Matthew Poepelman, Dalton Pohlmann, Oliver Sieftring, Hayden Steinbrunner, Alan Wendel, and Owen Kemper; juniors Travis Hilgford, Deacon Kemper, Alex Schulze, and Vincent Winner; and Joey Kunk is the only senior.

Head Coach Sue Bruns has goals for improvement. She states, "Last year was a growing year for the boys. We were a very young team. I am excited to see how much more the boys improve this year."

Bruns continued, "The girls' team is very young this season. We have one senior and six freshmen. They are continuing to show growth."

Santa falls for Flyers' festive tricks

By: Morgan Spieth
Opinion Editor

MARIA STEIN - There are many creative ways to catch the cookie-loving, milk-drinking, gift-giving, reindeer-riding, chubby old man called Santa, but would he fall for them? This genius of a man has all the smarts, and I'm sure has had almost every trick pulled on him, but our sly students came up with many ideas as to how they would catch him.

Senior Landon Arling - To begin, I would recreate an entire house with two beds and one bath. This small house would house me and a Puerto Rican child named Brutus, whom I adopted for my elaborate plan. This child would clearly be on the nice list because I have trained him since the day I adopted him, which was four years ago today when Brutus was just three years old. This allowed Santa to visit my house several times, gaining the trust of the old fool. However, the doors of my house have always been too small for him to fit through, so he was forced to go down the chimney that is roughly 60 feet tall, allowing me plenty of time while he came down. Each year I have taken videos and charted the times he came down each night, which averaged to about 2:28 a.m. In the chimney this year, however, is a sensor that triggers when someone or something passes by; this, in turn, triggers the bricks 10 feet below and above to be mechanically pushed out, creating a 20-foot-tall cage with no escape. This trap also ignites the flames back on the fire that was just previously put out by Claus himself. Lastly, at 2:00 a.m., I had already sent Brutus to the roof to hide in a hidden compartment. Once the big man jumps down, Brutus springs up and jumps on the sleigh. I sit and watch as my young



PHOTO BY: MORGAN SPIETH

FBI agent Camryn Swain arrests Santa (aka junior Colten Ahrens) in front of the FBI headquarters.

Brutus takes the helm of the nine beasts in front of him, and he rides off. And I know that Brutus will someday conquer and lead the entire North Pole for his own, and Santa will not be coming to Christmas next year.

Senior Kyle Otte - I will not put out cookies and milk, so that makes him get sad and cry, making him sit on the couch. At this point, he is distracted, and I will have my chance to catch him with my net gun. I will involve my siblings: they will make sounds around the house so that Santa will be all discombobulated and will be very confused. This will make him distracted, then I will shoot my net gun, and he will fall down. As he is squirming and trying to get out of the net, I will jump on top of him and tie his feet and legs. I will

then take my magic spray and spray it all over him, to reverse his magic so he isn't able to use it to get out. I will then throw him in our closet, take his clothes and his sleigh, deliver presents to children all around the world, and try to avoid traps like mine.

Senior Marcus Rethman - I would send him a letter saying that I have one of his elves held captive and if he wants to ever see the elf again to pull up to my house. Then I simply ask him why I was on the naughty list. Before he can answer, I throw a bag on his head and turn him over to the FBI.

Senior Kailee Beyke - I would find him and trip him, then I would pour milk in his eyes and then hide him in our basement and make him eat cookies for the rest of his life. THEN I would take over the North Pole and make the elves become spies for me. THEN I would make Christmas every other month, because who doesn't love presents? THEN because the elves are spies, they can get all the money in the world, and eventually, I would become the richest person ever to exist on earth.

Sophomore Korbin Grady - I would lace his cookies with Uranium-238 and then strap him to the roof of a Honda Accord.

Sophomore Wyatt Fleck - I would set up an elaborate trap to catch the old man. I would first position the four fastest guys I know: Drew Lause, Kyle Otte, Cale Nagel, and Troy Moeller. I would position them in the four corners of the room to pounce on him when he goes to the Christmas tree in the middle of the room.

So what are your thoughts? Do you think that any of these traps would work? Only 11 days till Christmas to find out.

75% of students say exams put the 'no' in Noel

By: Kyle Otte
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN - A serious controversial topic throughout the high school starts to fester towards the end of semesters. Students are required to complete an end-of-the-semester exam. Students are not very fond of the idea of having to take these tests. They have yet to learn what it will do to their overall grade. Also, the incoming freshmen have yet to learn what an exam is and how to take it.

Many students think that taking exams is pointless and a stressful waste of time, but some say that they don't mind. The students were asked if they think that we should have to take exams, and they were also asked if they think that taking exams gets us ready for college.

We took a poll of everyone who said yes, and everyone who said no, and the numbers were surprising. After 108 students responded, the results came out that 75 percent of

the students said no, and a surprising 25 percent said yes. I myself could not believe that 27 students said yes, just because the last three years of taking exams were not particularly the most enjoyable of times.

The students were asked a follow-up question adding to their opinions about exams. The question that they were asked was, "Do you find exams beneficial for getting you ready for college?" The results of this question didn't really surprise me as much, just because the premise of the question was to see if exams are good for you because you take a lot of exams in college. The result of this question was, that seventy people said no, they are not beneficial, and thirty-eight people thought they are beneficial.

Furthermore, the students were also asked to explain why they think the way they do about exams. Here is how some of them felt:

Junior Jana Pohlman stated, "I feel like exams are honestly not very use-



PHOTO BY: KYLE OTTE

Senior Luke Wuebker and juniors Drew Lause, Austin Niekamp, Damon Cramer, and Ryan Homan are sad due to the upcoming exams.

ful because they only test your knowledge on how well you've mastered the topics that you learned in the first semester. Other than that, they have no value for college or anything else in life other than for high school, obviously. I mean, yes, it's helpful to the teachers to know what kids struggle with and what they excel at, but you can figure that out by doing other assignments in class and not by a semester exam."

Sophomore Dalton Pohlmann stated his opinion on why he thinks exams are useful, even though he doesn't like them: "As much as they suck, they are needed to show the actual growth of learning. Although essential, I believe people should have two chances with exams, due to some people just taking one bad exam that clearly know what's going on in said classes."

Eat turkey or trim the tree?



PHOTO BY: ANNA HEMMELGARN
Seniors Morgan Spieth and Camryn Swain show their spirit for their favorite holidays.

By: Anna Hemmelgarn
News Editor

MARIA STEIN - When is the most appropriate time to start celebrating and decorating for Christmas? One hundred students had a lot to say about this controversial topic!

The response "over Thanksgiving break" took the lead by over half the votes with 56 percent! Next up in line, 23 percent of people responded that December was the best time to decorate for the holiday. Coming in third place, 13 percent of students responded with "before Thanksgiving." There is no right or wrong answer.

A few students responded to these questions with many

different opinions on the matter.

Senior Brooke Wilker proves a fantastic point as she explains her reasoning for choosing before Thanksgiving: "Because Christmas is all about Jesus, and he deserves to be celebrated for more than just one month."

Sophomore Addison Bruns's reasoning for choosing "over Thanksgiving break" is "Christmas for sure!" Not sure what she means by this, but her passion for Christmas is quite clear!

Junior Natalie Evers comments, "You are already happy about Thanksgiving, so then you get even more happy about Christmas, so you're double happy."

On the other hand, some students are completely against the idea of forgetting about Thanksgiving. Senior Brandt Homan states, "There must be Thanksgiving before you can have Christmas."

Senior Luke Budde also quoted Marshawn Lynch by saying, "I gotta get to Thanksgiving first."

Senior Audrey Winner was proud to put out her opinion by saying, "That's just how it works."

Senior Morgan Spieth believes people should never take their tree down "because DUH, Christmas should be all year long, baby!"

The students were also asked when is the best time to take down their Christmas decorations. By a tremendous 75 percent, most people voted that after New Year's was the best time to tear down Christmas decorations.

However, there are surprisingly two Scrooges in this school who take down their decorations the day after Christmas. Of course, they're freshmen. One is Kendall Niekamp, and the other is Eli Stachler. What did Christmas ever do to them?

A few students just seem to go by the flow and don't necessarily have a strict time that they tear decorations down. Sophomore Audrey Hess says that the best time to tear down Christmas decorations is "whenever my dad says to." Whatever Dad says, goes.

Senior Kyle Otte states, "When we feel like it."

Obviously, since Spieth claims Christmas should be all year long, she doesn't tear decorations down: "You still got 'em up, man!"

'There's no place like home for the holidays'



PHOTO BY: CAMRYN SWAIN

The Swain family cuddling up at home by the tree.

By: Kyle Otte
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN - Winter break is almost upon us, and people have ideas about what they are doing for Christmas, whether they are traveling to visit relatives, staying home and enjoying the snowy weather, or going on a nice warm vacation.

A poll was taken throughout the school for all students to participate in. 138 students participated, and 83% of them have the Christmas spirit and want to stay home. They were all asked the question, "What would you rather do for Christmas?" The options were, "Stay home for a cold Christmas," or "Go on vacation to somewhere warm."

In the iconic Christmas song, Perry Como sings, "There's no place like home for the holidays." He is indeed right: there is no place like spending Christmas at home while it's snowing, drinking hot chocolate in front of the fire, and watching a Christmas movie.

Flyers crave clothing for Christmas

By: Camryn Swain
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN - Remember when you used to send your Christmas list to Santa in the North Pole? We all asked for Barbie dolls, tractors, and toys out the wazoo, always wanting the newest release of the greatest toys. That now seems to no longer be true.

Marion Local Flyers were asked to send in their Christmas lists this year to see what high school students want today. The top item that was listed was clothes. How boring.

27.3 percent of Flyers have clothes on the top of their lists this year. The top clothes brands were Nike and Lululemon. Sophomore Grace Brunswick says, "I don't know what I would do without my Lulu and Nike clothes. They are so comfortable!"

Coming in second place was shoes. 18.7 percent of students asked for shoes. Again, how boring . . . Many people had Jordans, Nike, or Uggs listed as their top shoe brand they want this year. Senior Morgan Spieth, however, says she is asking for "Twinkle Toes because I never got them as a child and still long for them!"

Coming in third place is electronics. Shocker, I know. 16 percent of students asked for some type of electronic this year, with many stating they want the newest iPhone. Many others threw a Macbook or iPad on their lists as well. So expensive! Sophomore Selena Arling says, "I love getting new electronics for Christmas! It is so much fun to open them on Christmas morning!"

One of the most random items that people have on their lists this

year is a compound bow. What is that even used for? Hunting? For fun? Like be honest, who in their right mind wants that for Christmas?

Another strange item that someone asked for was "Morty Smith." Somebody asked for "Morty Smith" for Christmas. For those of you who don't know who that is, it's Senior Jacob Smith.

Another person asked for Ms. Yates to give them the highest grade possible, which we all know will never happen! Ms. Yates is a fair grader.

The most random thing somebody put on their Christmas list this year was . . . beef jerky. Who else asked for beef jerky for Christmas? Beef Jerky is great but come on, you can just go to the dollar store and buy it for one dollar if you want it that badly.



PHOTO BY: CAMRYN SWAIN

Sophomore girls Selena Arling, Kelsey Bruggeman, and Grace Brunswick holding all their sweet new 'fits from jolly old St. Nick.



By: Kailee Beyke
Entertainment Editor



Guess that Christmas Baby!



Baby 1

- This bundle of joy has three younger sisters.
- This little snowball baby was born on Aug. 9.
- This baby is always shopping in her free time.
- This little angel is in a spring sport.

Baby 2

- This gingerbread cutie has two other siblings and is the oldest.
- This little precious gift's birthday is Sept. 27.
- Santa's lil helper enjoys baking in her free time.
- This bright baby participates in a fall sport.



Baby 3

- This jingle baby is the oldest of her siblings.
- She has been to Europe this past summer.
- This merry mystery baby's favorite color is purple.
- This little ham plays two varsity sports, in the fall and the winter.

Baby 4

- This peppermint patty was born on Sept. 3rd 2005.
- This happy and bright baby is the youngest of five.
- This sweet little elf's middle name is Daniel.
- This little snow angel has two pet dogs.



Baby 1: Kailee Beyke Baby 2: Anna Hemmelgarn Baby 3: Nora Eckstein Baby 4: Luke Wuebker
Baby 5: Brooke Williker Baby 6: Joey Kunk Baby 7: Kyle Otte Baby 8: Camryn Swain

Baby 5

- One side of her immediate family lives less than three football fields away from her.
- This holly jolly baby HATES dressing up what-so-ever.
- This festive baby is the oldest child in her family.
- This sugarplum loves to milk cows!

Baby 6

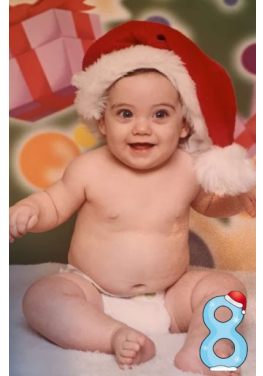
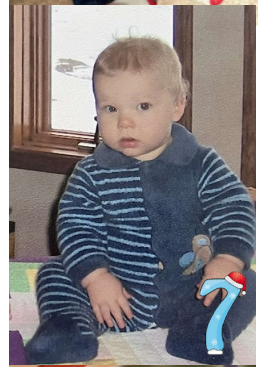
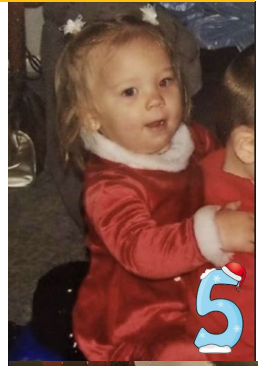
- Santa's sweetie loves rabbits!
- This lil Christmas cookie baby has the same birthday as Alan Rickman.
- This bright star is in FFA.
- He has the nickname of Cheese Stick.

Baby 7

- This Christmas baby prefers winter over summer.
- His favorite month is March, and his favorite color is green.
- This fa la la baby is the second-oldest.
- This merry and bright baby loves to play sports.

Baby 8

- This little greeting has three pets.
- This joyous baby has two siblings.
- This cheerful baby plays only one sport.
- This gracious little baby drives a black car.



Maria Stein shows substantial 60-year expansion

By: Camryn Swain
Features Editor



MARIA STEIN - The grandparents of Maria Stein and the surrounding areas were asked to give some insight about how it used to be 60 years ago. Flying into the year of 2024, we have decided to take a look back on some aerial photos of how Maria Stein, Chickasaw, and Chapel Hill used to be. The funny thing is, Chapel Hill didn't even exist 60 years ago.

Looking into how the high school looked in 1963, we can see that it used to be MUCH smaller. There isn't even an elementary and middle school! Everything used to be held in the same building. Could you imagine being in the same building as kindergarteners?

We can also see the major difference between the baseball diamonds. There wasn't even a fence or bleachers! No press box either. The softball diamond hasn't changed a bit . . . Another major difference is, no football field! What would Marion Local be without football?

Looking at the church and the house over there, we can see that the graveyard has gotten much bigger. On the bright side, we can see where the old Flyer football games used to be held . . .



PHOTOS BY: DON GAGEL

Before and after pictures from 1963 and 2015 from the view of 705 and 119 showing the school and church.

. . . right across from the church! You can see the very small set of bleachers they had for the fans. Goes to show how much Marion football has improved!

Patsy Unrast, senior Morgan Spieth's grandma,

told us, "Maria Stein had a shoe store and hardware store. Housing has grown tremendously since then, too. The Vietnam War was going on, and all boys were up for draft. Several around here had to go to Vietnam. That is why we had farewell parties for everyone who left for service."

Vehicle of the Month



PHOTO BY: AUDREY WINNER

Senior Audrey Winner's formerly sweet ride.

By: Kailee Beyke
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN - The best vehicle in December goes to senior Audrey Winner! Until recently, Winner drove her beloved vehicle around everywhere. Winner's vehicle is a 2012 white Buick Verano with a luxurious tan leather interior. Unfortunately, her sick ride was short-lived and retired after the airbags went off.

Her sparkly white Buick was given to her in February 2022 after both she and her sister needed a car to travel around in. Winner says it was "pretty basic." Okay, whatever you say, Audrey.

Winner's favorite thing about her car was that it got her everywhere she needed to go. She was specifically grateful for her car during the summer scavenger hunts and every time it got her to school.

When asked about getting the title of Best Vehicle of the Month, Winner mentioned, "I am truly grateful. I really love my car and all the places it was able to take me."

Winner will always miss her sparkly white ride: "RIP. She will be dearly missed; not sure how I could ever move on."



PHOTO BY: LAUREN KUCK

Junior Avae Unrast and her very cliché car.

Unfortunately, that means junior Avae Unrast takes the title for the Worst Car during the month of December. Unrast drives around a sluggish-looking 2016 white Chevy Malibu. A white car? 2016? C'mon, this is 2023... Also, who in the world wants a basic white car?

Her awful and embarrassing car was given to her on July 8, 2023 because it was a "good deal." Shocker.

When Unrast was asked about her favorite memory, she said, "Sorry, the memory is boring, but I have no good memories yet." That's most likely because her car is a nightmare, not something I would want to have memories of either!

Festive freshman fails at love

By: Morgan Spieth
Opinion Editor

Dear Freddy, I took your advice on the whole senior girl situation thing, and let's just say it did not go as you said it would.

I looked in her locker, discovering that you were right, and everything I left her was untouched. So I grabbed the jerky and notes and headed to her house. With all of my stealth and amazingness, I slipped into her closet with ease. I put on one of my favorite red sweaters that she always wears to school. However, while I was waiting for her to awaken from her "slumber," I fell asleep myself.

I woke up to my crush's scream. Being one of the most beautiful screams I have ever heard, I decided to sing—at least what I thought was—her favorite song, "Every Breath You Take" by The Police. But that didn't work, and she started to hit me with her orange



Stanley. I tripped over her dog and fell down the stairs backward. I'm okay, though, because when I was on the bottom of the stairs, my heart caught my fall. As I looked up at her and she looked down at me, our eyes locked, and she looked like an angel. But as I was standing up to run out of the house, I tried my hardest to think about what I did wrong and couldn't think of anything wrong with your plan.

Please help me again, Freddy!
I'm desperate!

Sincerely, Unimportant Freshman

Dear Unimportant Freshman,

I have no idea why that didn't work! My wife Frieda was drooling over me when I did the same thing for her.

Anyways, considering it is Christmas, you obviously have to use mistletoe. Attach the mistletoe to the top of the front door, and hide in the bushes.

When she arrives home, shout out to her, "I'm here, my little sugar plum!"

As you jump out of the bushes, take her in your arms, and give her a passionate embrace before pointing up at the mistletoe and kissing her. To prepare for all situations, you have to stay in the bushes all day and skip school to wait for her to get home.

I asked Frieda, and she said that this plan is foolproof and perfect. May all your Christmas wishes come true! Freddy

French Flyer fights fugitives

By: Morgan Spieth
Opinion Editor

FRANCE - Throughout the years, many students have come and gone from Marion Local. Valentin Arnoult was a foreign exchange student in the 2021-2022 school year as a sophomore.

When asked what he is currently doing in France, he said that he is in his last year of high school while planning to attend business school next year. He is still rocking the basketball courts with his local club, similar to him being on the JV team here at Marion. He has also been on some fun adventures including Guadeloupe and "a few nice concerts like 50 Cent or 21 Savage."

Sneaking and being the sly Val he is, when asked



how life has been back in France, what he told us was all LIES. We all know the real truth here. Arnoult was a hero. Being a Frenchman, he wasn't exactly like Batman, but pretty close when coming to save the day. Instead of saying "I'm Batman," he would say, "I'm Baguetteman!" Saving kit-

tens from trees and being just like Hercules, he's our used-to-be local hero. Seeing him in action is something completely out of this world. One anonymous senior says, "Seeing Val in action was better than getting to kiss Morgan Wallen!" Attacking the bad guys is what Arnoult is known for best, by bringing back jewelry from thieves and catching the Scranton Strangler. Arnoult is a hero and friend to many. He will always be welcome back! We all miss you, Val!

Dear Santa

By: Anna Hemmelgarn
News Editor

Dear Santa,

I promise I have been a good boy, even if my parents tell you otherwise. It's really hard to be good when you're seven years old. They don't know anything about what I do when they're not watching. I better be on the nice list this year. Anyway, let's get down to business. This year I need the following items, or else... I want an iPhone 15, a girlfriend, and a Bugatti, specifically a "La Voiture Noire."



P.S. I always get everything I want, so you have some pretty high expectations. By the way, I won't be leaving you any cookies: you need to go on a diet. That's why I will have celery and carrots sitting out for you. Don't mistake it for reindeer food, please. I hope you take this very seriously. I am not playing. K Bye.

Dear Jeremy,

These are some very expensive items, and Santa can unfortunately only do so much. And for your information, I do actually enjoy celery and carrots, so thank you! (If you could put out some peanut butter and chocolate chips as well, that would be well appreciated.)



PHOTO BY: ANNA HEMMELGARN
Freshman Abraham Siefring displays a Christmas list for 2023.

On the other hand, you are not being very respectful to Santa, and if this continues, I will have no other choice than to put you on the naughty list. Don't try me, Jeremy.