

Bills, Niekamp sign for sports



PHOTO BY: MR. KOENIG
Senior Carson Bills signs to the University of Findlay to continue his football career as a kicker.

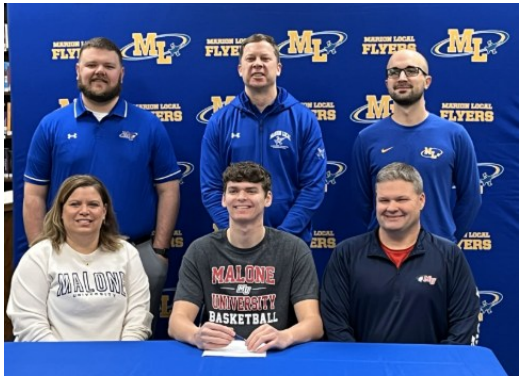


PHOTO BY: MR. KOENIG
Senior Austin Niekamp is supported by his parents and coaches as he signs to Malone University to continue his basketball career.

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN – Seniors Carson Bills and Austin Niekamp both recently signed to become college athletes.

Bills will attend the University of Findlay for football as a kicker and is majoring in Business Management and Sport Business Strategy. Niekamp has signed to Malone University for basketball, majoring in Business.

The University of Findlay is a Division II private university. Malone University is also a private university, located in Canton, OH, only five miles east of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Good luck to both athletes on their future collegiate careers.

Cheer wins State . . . twice?

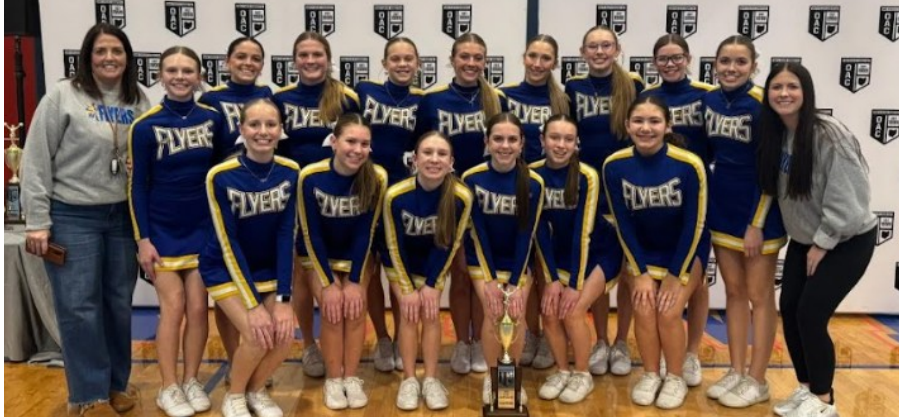


PHOTO BY: MOLLY HATCHER
Coaches Madison Sherrick and Jayme Goettemoeller celebrate with the 2025 OAC State Champion cheerleading competition squad.

By: Alea Pohlman
News Editor

MARYSVILLE – On Jan. 12, the Marion Local cheerleading competition squad took first place at the OAC (Ohio Athletic Conference) Championship.

Next, the squad will compete at the OASSA (Ohio Association of Secondary School Ad-

ministrators) State Championship on Feb. 21. Marion Local cheer could bring home two State Championships in 2025.

Before the OAC Championship, the girls spent hours perfecting their routine, which paid off at this competition. After competing against teams from around the state, Marion Local came

out on top. When sophomore Georgia Clune was asked about their win, she said, "All of us were very proud!"

In the OASAA tournament, after great success at Regionals, the team also qualified for the State finals. The State competition will be held at Dublin Jerome High School on Friday, Feb. 21. Good luck, ladies!

Hope Squad sweetens Morning Mugs Cafe

By: Alea Pohlman
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – "Donut" underestimate the power of hope because on Jan. 15, the Marion Local Hope Squad joined junior Avery Guggenbiller's Morning Mugs Cafe. "Donut" be "jelly" if you missed it! There is a "hole" lot of other activities that the Hope Squad is planning on doing in the future, especially during Hope Week!

Recently, the Hope Squad wanted to get more involved in helping out their classmates even more than they already strive to do. They saw an opportunity to join in with Morning Mugs. The Hope Squad had noticed Morning Mugs's popularity and sought to use it to their advantage.

Morning Mugs has had an extremely positive impact on the high school, so the Hope Squad decided to buy donuts to give out with the drinks. The Hostess donuts had pos-



PHOTO BY: ALEA POHLMAN
Juniors Chloe Bergman and Hannah Rindler distribute donuts for Hope Squad.

itive donut puns attached to the packaging because the Hope Squad really wanted to sweeten everyone's mornings. Hope Squad members senior Lydia Hess and juniors Chloe Bergman, Alea Pohlman, and Hannah Rindler helped with Morning Mugs to hand out the donuts to the customers.

This idea was very successful with the students. Senior Henry Mescher

and senior Isaac Muhlenkamp were pleased to receive their donuts with their coffee. I am sure not only will they be back in the future to buy another drink from Morning Mugs but so will many more people, especially if the Hope Squad is planning on bringing back the donuts and their outstanding donut puns.

Guggenbiller started up Morning Mugs Cafe earlier this school

year. This has been very successful for her, especially with the chronic Winans coffee getters and how much hot chocolate she sells! Guggenbiller has even put on a raffle through Morning Mugs to give out prizes to her loyal customers.

Guggenbiller takes pride in being able to please her classmates. She loves to sweeten up people's day with a fresh cup of coffee or hot chocolate! She was happy to allow the Hope Squad to hand out donuts with the drinks that were sold.



PHOTO BY: ALEA POHLMAN
Seniors Henry Mescher and Isaac Muhlenkamp enjoy their coffee and donuts.

Construction project prepares for spring

By: Chloe Bergman
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN – The new Marion Local Junior High building site is currently being prepared for foundations this spring. While not a lot of hands-on progress can be made during this winter season, Bruns Construction Enterprises has made a good start on getting the building pad ready.

Superintendent Mike Pohlman comments, "Currently, the early site package work by Bruns is very dependent on the weather. Thankfully, we had a good start and have most of the storm lines and catch basins installed underground."



PHOTO BY: CHLOE BERGMAN
Construction of the new Marion Local Junior High building continues throughout the winter months.

Other preparatory actions include meetings with subcontractors, which include plumbers, electricians, block layers, etc. who are interested in performing work for the project.

Mr. Pohlman explains, "Touchstone, our Construction Manager, is accepting bids on January 21st from subcontractors." During the meetings, subcontractors are able to come and ask any questions they have about the project before they submit their bids.

As the details of the project are falling into place, the construction site is prepared for the progress to come this spring.

Flyers receive FFA degrees, take tours



Freshman Justin Bergman receives his Greenhand Degree from Marion Local FFA Chapter Vice President Aaron Albers and President Kelsey Bergman.

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN – The Marion Local FFA Chapter has been busy at the start of the new year. They had a ceremony for new Greenhand and Chapter Degree recipients and agriculture-related tours of Unique Roots Inc. and Fennig Equipment in Celina. The officer team is in the process of planning FFA Week for Feb. 18-21 with fun activities for the members and high school students.

The Greenhand and Chapter Degree ceremony was held on Jan. 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school gym. First-year FFA members, or the Greenhands, received bronze pins to put onto their FFA jackets. The second-year members, or Chapter Degree recipients, received silver pins to put onto their jackets. Ag Booster President Dan Albers came up to the podium and spoke about their program. Ohio FFA State Secretary Lacie Bachman spoke as well, giving a very inspiring speech to be remembered by all members. After the ceremony, a picture was taken and everyone received refreshments to reward their success.

Several members of the FFA took an agricultural-related tour on Jan. 20, Martin Luther King Day. The members went to Fennig Equipment, which is just outside of Celina, and afterwards visited Unique Roots Inc., which was one of the companies that came to Marion Local during Career Day. Unique Roots greatly enjoyed hosting the FFA members, as in a Facebook post they stated, “They’re a great group of kids, and we appreciate you coming for a visit!! Best of luck on your future endeavors!!” The members learned great valuable skills from each career path which could help them in the future.



PHOTOS BY: MR. ELSASS

FFA members after their agricultural tour at Fennig Equipment just outside of Celina on Jan. 20.

The officer team is currently in the works of making the most fun-filled FFA Week yet. Many great activities are planned for the members each day of the week as well as for the students, including the annual slushie shower. Members get to enjoy the Ag Olympics as well, where they do some good ole ag activities.

Coming up in March will be the annual FFA Banquet on March 18.

Feliz Flyers vuelan a la España

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

SPAIN – Since COVID-19 has fully passed, foreign borders have officially opened to the public. As a result, multiple Marion Local alumni have been granted the opportunity to travel abroad. Two Marion Local alumni currently working in Spain are Samuel Huelsman and Aubrey Thobe, both from the Class of 2019.

Thobe has been working in Madrid, Spain, since Oct. 1, 2024, and she expects that she will return to America in late June 2025. Madrid is the capital city of Spain, and while it is a large city with a population of 3.27 million, there are different types of people from all over the world who come there. This helps with being abroad as many of the people there are bilingual and quite a few have some experience speaking English.

Thobe is working as a language assistant (“auxiliare de conversación” is her official title) at a bilingual primary school. A primary school in Europe consists of children from ages five to 13 years old and is the equivalent of the combination of an American elementary and middle school. As a language assistant, Thobe teaches students to broaden their English language and cultural knowledge.

Thobe expressed that she could have taught English in many different countries because English-speaking teachers willing to teach internationally are hard to come by. She chose to teach in Spain because she wanted to increase her cultural knowledge of Spain as well as polish her Spanish-speaking skills.

Moving away from the work side of her experience, Thobe spoke about how intense the culture shock was, as well as how everyday activities are somewhat of a struggle when going to a different country for the first time. Since everything is in a completely different language, it can be quite difficult to navigate and complete day-to-day tasks. Learning cultural differences and the differences between what is socially acceptable and what is not can be a challenge. An example of this is in some countries tipping after meals is considered rude, but in America, it is the socially acceptable thing to do. It is difficult to get used to cultural norms in foreign countries while also not fully knowing the native language.

Thobe says she is currently rooming with three other American women and has met and made multiple other American friends in Madrid. Thobe mentions that living with Americans helps with the homesickness, but also embracing Spanish culture brings its own sense of belonging, making Madrid begin to feel like a second home for her.

Overall, Thobe’s main takeaway from her experience abroad so far is that it is important to approach it with an open mind, patience, and a willingness to adapt. “Overcoming culture shock and social barriers takes time,” she says, “but it can lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of a new culture.”

The other Marion Local alumnus who is working in Spain is Samuel Huelsman, who is also a Class of 2019 graduate. Huelsman is a mechanical engineer who has been working for Nidec in Minster since

his graduation from Bowling Green State University in May 2023. Later that year, in Oct. 2023, Huelsman was allowed to work abroad with Nidec Arisa Corporation in Lagrono, Spain. He has been working in Lagrono since late Oct. 2023 and will continue working there until April 2025, when he will return to the United States.

During the first couple of months abroad, Huelsman, unlike Thobe, did not have much trouble adjusting to the culture and atmosphere of Spain. Also unlike Thobe, Huelsman moved to Spain with his now wife, Emily. This helped counteract the homesick feeling, as they will be together throughout the majority of Huelsman’s placement.

Logrono is a purely Spanish-speaking city that Huelsman compares to Columbus, Ohio in size. Huelsman also found many differences surprising to him as a foreigner. He says that people are social butterflies in Spain, and people are always out and about in groups talking and just hanging around town. Another lifestyle difference Huelsman saw was how commonly people would have a glass of wine in their hand, as early as 10 a.m. It is just as common for people to eat supper as late as 10 p.m. Huelsman also described how there are dogs and babies everywhere, even saying it is not uncommon to see them in bars. As for behavior differences, it is not considered rude to stare in public, and it is quite common for the Spanish to do so. The Spanish also do not consider punctuality as important as Americans do, as Huelsman mentioned there have been multiple instances when he has had co-



PHOTO COURTESY OF: AUBREY THOBE
Aubrey Thobe enjoys beautiful Madrid.

workers show up late to work and/or meetings.

Considering the linguistic barrier, Huelsman mentions that he has learned a moderate amount of Spanish, but he is nowhere near fluent yet. He said that he knows enough to get by at his job with Spanish-speaking co-workers and with day-to-day tasks. He goes on to say that practicing every day to improve his Spanish is much easier than trying to learn it while he was in America, as he is surrounded by other Spaniards, and picking up on the language is easier due to it being heavily incorporated into his daily life.

Even with many challenges and barriers to overcome, Huelsman still enjoys his time abroad and experiencing a new culture and environment. As he says, “It was very interesting to see how people in other parts of the world live.”

20-2 Flyers predict positive postseason



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Junior Grant Kremer making a midrange shot against Botkins on Jan. 7.

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN – The boys’ basketball team finished the regular season 20-2 after defeating the Minster Wildcats 55-51 but losing to the Russia Raiders by 55-29. However, with their win against the Wildcats, the Flyers have secured their second place position in the MAC, following only Delphos St. John’s.

This postseason, boys’ basketball is in Division VI and has been placed in the Northwest 5 District with the #2 seed. Their first tournament game will be played on Feb. 21 against Allen East (#6) at home, starting at 7 p.m. The Northwest 5 District also has four other MAC schools in it: the Coldwater Cavaliers (#3), St. Henry Redskins (#4), New Bremen Cardinals (#5), and Parkway Panthers (#7).

As for player performance, the starting five has seen a few changes throughout the season depending on the opponent. For the majority of the

season, consistent starters have been seniors Austin Niekamp and Ryan Homan, as well as juniors Grant Homan and Brayden Mescher. Other key components that switch around frequently as fifth and sixth men are juniors Oliver Huelsman and Dylan Dirksen, with sophomore Kale Ahrens also seeing a hearty amount of playing time.

An athlete who has proven to have the ability to score from the paint as well as knocking down a significant number of threes is senior Austin Niekamp. Niekamp is 6’ 8”, the tallest on the team, and is currently the team’s leading rebounder both offensively and defensively, with 42 offensive rebounds and 122 defensive rebounds. From three, Niekamp is shooting 37.2 percent, making 44 of his 118 attempts and putting him second on the team for made threes behind Kremer. As for two-pointers, Niekamp is shooting 59.9 percent, making 100 of his 166 attempts and leading the team in scoring, but also leading the team in attempts, as well as having put up 284 shots and making 144 of them.

As the only active pure shooter this season, junior Grant Kremer leads the team in three-pointers made as well as three-point percentage. He has made 58 threes on 136 attempts, granting him a 41.9 shooting percentage from three so far this season. Overall, Kremer is shooting 46.9 percent, making 92 shots on his 196 total attempts.

Another junior showing out both offensively and defensively is Brayden Mescher. Defensively, Mescher is second on the team in rebounding with 116 total rebounds, with 38 coming offensively and 80 coming defensively. Mescher offensively leads the Flyers in assists with 106 assists this season. Mescher is primarily a two-point shooter, having made 72 of his 130 two-point attempts so far this season. All in all, Mescher is 76 for 140 with a total percentage of 53.2.

Ryan Homan, the second and final senior starting on varsity this year, is a balanced player who consistently puts up numbers on offense and defense. While Homan is a more balanced, all-around player, he excels mentally through game knowledge and practiced skills. These skills have been evident on the court, as Homan shoots 48.2



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Senior Austin Niekamp making a contested lay-up against Van Wert on Jan. 11.

percent, having made 40 of 86 shots.

Another senior who is present on the team but has seen less time on the court due to an injury is Daniel Everman. Despite being one of the shortest players on the roster, Everman is able to make up for this due to his quickness as well as his ball-handling skills. While Everman is not a pure shooter, he uses a quick burst of speed to blow past defenders and get to the basket. Heading into the end of the regular season and on to the postseason, Everman will continue to knock off the rust as he begins to see more playing time.

The Flyers’ opponent this Friday, Allen East, finished their regular season 10-12. The Mustangs had a notable loss to Spencerville, 55-46, whom the Flyers beat earlier this season 67-54.

We wish good luck to the Flyers this Friday in their first postseason matchup against the Allen East Mustangs!

Kunkler, Poeppelman PR at Sectionals

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN – The 2024-2025 swim season has officially ended. The Flyers swam their final races at Sectionals in Lima on Feb. 8.

While the team did not advance to Districts this year, there were some notable personal records during the Sectional meet. Both senior swimmers, Hayden Poeppelman and Luke Kunkler, dropped one second off of their 50-freestyle times. Kunkler also dropped 2.5 seconds off of his 100 Breaststroke, and Poeppelman dropped 8 seconds off of his 100 Backstroke.

Marion Local did not win any swim meets this year, but they made multiple top-five appearances, most notably at the unofficial MAC Championship meet, where they placed fifth against strong opposition from area swim teams.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: COACH SCHMITZ

The Marion Local swim team at the Wapakoneta Tri-meet on Dec. 12.

The Flyers boasted a huge team average of 6.5 seconds dropped across all primary strokes for the Flyers between the beginning and end of the season.

When asked about his season as a first-year coach, Coach Schmitz said, “I cannot express how proud I am of this team for their hard work and effort they have all put in through-

out the season. We had a very young team, but they took quickly to the instruction from the coaches, and very soon were shaving seconds off their race times at each meet. It was awesome to watch them be so excited when they would get new PRs in their events, and I am very proud of each and every one of them.

“Hayden and Luke have been a shining example to the rest of the team of how hard work and dedication to the sport can bring you great success. Both of them showed up each and every day to practice ready to put in the work necessary to improve themselves, and would never complain.

“Hayden and Luke are true examples of what it means to be a leader on a team, and for that I am extremely grateful. I could not be more proud of these two boys and their efforts throughout the season.”

Unrast back-to-back MAC Player of the Year



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Senior point guard Avae Unrast driving to the basket against the St. Mary's Roughriders on Jan. 14.

By: Kalyn Thobe
Staff Writer

MARIA STEIN – The 21-2 Lady Flyers basketball team have been working hard on and off the court, growing closer together as a team and a family. Senior Avae Unrast has been named MAC Player of the Year for the second consecutive year. The team is looking forward to their second round matchup this postseason against Spencerville, after they defeated the New Bremen Cardinals 50-22.

The Lady Flyers were given the #1 seed in their district (Division VI, Northwest 5). Also in the Flyers' district this post-season are five other MAC schools: the St. Henry Redskins (#2), Minster Wildcats (#3), Parkway Panthers (#4), Coldwater Cavaliers (#6), and New Bremen Cardinals (#7).

The Flyers receiving All-MAC Honors this season are seniors Avae Unrast and Chloe Ronnebaum, and sophomore Mya Eckstein, who all received First-Team Honors. Unrast also received her second consecutive MAC Player of the Year award, as she officially went back-to-back. This puts Unrast among the few MAC athletes to ever win back-to-back Player of the Year awards.

Also, earlier this month on Feb. 1, senior point guard Unrast scored her 1,000th point against the Minster Wildcats. This places her as the 10th Lady Flyer to score 1,000 points in Marion Local history, capping off a stellar career for the three-time first-team All-MAC and two-time Player of the Year point guard.

After the regular season, the girls are averaging 46.77 points per game, second in the MAC behind St. Henry, as well as being second in scoring defense, averaging 32.62, only following behind Minster.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: KALYN THOBE

Senior Chloe Ronnebaum shooting a contested mid-range shot against the St. Mary's Roughriders on Jan. 14.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: KALYN THOBE

Sophomore Mya Eckstein making a lay-up against the St. Mary's Roughriders on Jan. 14.

With our team, we have senior Unrast in fourth for scoring in the MAC, averaging 11.88 points per game, with sophomore Eckstein (11.38), and senior Ronnebaum (11.00) following behind. Overall, the girls are powering through, being first on Max Preps for RPI (Rating Percentage Index) in their division, with St. Henry following in second.

Unrast shared her thoughts on the team's success: "We had a great season, and I hope we can continue it into the postseason!" The Flyers will be facing no competition in the tournament that they have not previously defeated during the regular season.

We wish the girls good luck heading into their second tournament game against Spencerville this Thursday, Feb. 20 in Wapakoneta.

Red Sea Partiers will C You On the court!

By: Ava Ranly
Staff Writer

MARIA STEIN – Watch out, watch out, watch out! The basketball court has been parted by the Red Sea Partiers!

This fierce CYO team consists of lovely ladies from the St. John's, St. Rose, and Casella parishes. With their dominant defense and quick offense, the Red Sea Partiers have had themselves a fantastic season! They have made their coach, Mindy Moeller, proud with an impressive two wins in the regular season.

The team's favorite moment was their win against Fort Recovery on Dec. 29. Their teamwork was unmatched that game, resulting in a 36-29 tough battle win.

The team finished their season on Jan. 19 with a forfeit "win" against Botkins. We interviewed senior Emma Wilker who is familiar with the team's game: "I've heard through the grapevine that the Red Sea Par-



PHOTO COURTESY OF: AVA RANLY

Red Sea Partiers' senior players Emerson Bruns, Ava Ranly, and Lydia Hess, as well as junior players Alaina Buschur and Danielle Meier, after their win against Anna.

tiers are the real deal. I would definitely be scared to face them."

The team has had to make some adjustments, recruiting non-CYO members, after losing sharp shooter junior Danielle Meier and defensive star junior Alaina Buschur due to injuries (ask them for details).

Meier states: "It is very devastating to not be able to be playing with my team. I know they are struggling without me; they lost their best shooter." ("Best" is a bit far-fetched as junior Emily Moeller leads the team in points, averaging 20 points a game.)

Looking over at their defensive side, senior Ava Ranly has a HUGE impact. She prides herself in her screen setting skills and blocking down shots.

Ranly reflects on her favorite CYO moment when she fouled out in the third quarter against McCartyville because their players "simply couldn't handle how strong my defensive game was."

It is without a doubt that the Red Sea Partiers are the toughest team in the league. They have some sneaky plays, their favorite being keeping senior Emerson Bruns down by the basket and chucking the ball to her from the opposite side of the court.

Bruns speaks about CYO: "When the other teams start to push, that's when I mean business."

Feisty Bruns comes to play when the teams start to play dirty. Bruns will not hold back on pushing girls back.

Flyer football ‘punished’ for greatness



PHOTO BY: MICHAELA OSTERHOLT

Freshmen Karlie Ahrens, Faith Ronnebaum, Haylie Grieshop, and Addisyn Stucke are upset about making up school on Valentine’s Day following Marion Local’s historic 15th OHSAA Football State Championship win.

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN – The trek to Canton had one expected, unfortunate outcome after our 74-0 win at State. On Friday, Dec. 6, the students and staff got out of school to go support the football team for their 15th State Championship. Little did all of the students and teachers know that they would have to make up this day on Feb. 14, Valentine’s Day.

Many students have very strong feelings about this since they believe the football team and the rest of the school should be rewarded for their

hard work rather than punished.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, there was a very high voter turnout on this poll due to the strong feelings on the make-up day. Out of 100 voters, 94 students voted that it is unfair that we had to go to school on a previously scheduled “No School” day.

Strong words, such as “stupid” and “dumb,” were used when students were asked how they felt about having to come to school on Feb. 14. Many football players disagreed with making up this day, as well as multiple other students.

Junior offensive lineman Derek Grieshop has very strong feelings towards making up this day, as he states, “We earned and worked our way to the State game, and we can’t help that OHSAA put the game on a Friday. We still have snow days to burn, so why can’t we use them? There have been plenty of years when we don’t even use them all.” Grieshop throws out a very good point, as the date of the State Championship was not up to us; rather, it was selected by the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). Since we can not control the State game being on a school day, it is unfair for the students to have to make it up.

Students not in football also have very strong feelings about this, after making the long haul to Canton to watch a successful football game. Freshman Jordan Langenkamp feels “like the football team’s success shouldn’t have to result in a bad thing for everybody else. I think it should just be taken as a day that we shouldn’t have to make up at all.” Correct, the football team being very successful is causing a negative outcome . . . coming to school on Valentine’s Day.

Going to State for football is one huge accomplishment in itself, but winning four State titles in a row and 15 total is huge for our program. Having the longest current consecutive win streak in the nation is the cherry on top. The question is: Why are we coming to school rather than celebrating it? Senior Emma Smith agrees, as she stated, “It should be an accomplishment! The boys put the work in and got that far yet again; making up the day would make no sense.”

The success of the football team made us come to school on Feb. 14. Let us all hope in the future we can go back to playing the State game on a Saturday rather than a Friday so we will not be forced to miss a school day. But, what can we do? It is OHSAA’s choice, after all, not ours.

‘Do you want to build a snow day?’

By: Chloe Bergman
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN – If Marion Local only allowed ONE snow day for the entire school year, the Flyers must spend it the right way.

When asked about how they would spend their singular snow day, Marion Local students responded with a variety of plans—some more exciting than others. Nevertheless, these snow day plans are extremely important, as not a single second can be wasted.

A few students chose to clearly lay out their day with an elaborate agenda. Sophomore Levi Stachler wrote, “First, I’d help my elderly neighbors clear their snow by pouring hot water on their driveways and sidewalks. Then, I’d sit in my front yard and try to hit as many passing cars with snowballs as possible.

“After getting screamed at and chased by someone for hitting their super diesel lifted Dodge RAM 1500, I would venture into the backyard, where I would build myself a snow-

man, and try to make it snow again by sticking fireworks in it.

“As the end of the day wore near, I’d conclude my snow day by making a snow angel and slurping some hot cocoa to end the day off right.” What a day! Stachler definitely won’t get bored, but he might get into some trouble!

Freshman EJay Sawmiller also had a pretty good plan on how to make every second of his snow day count. His itinerary included the following: “First thing in the morning, take my vitamins. Then, grind video games. Next, eat breakfast. After that, I’d put my snow stuff on. Then, I’d go sledding (might get put on concussion protocol). Next, I’d play football. Then, I’d go inside, warm up. I’d then watch TV. Next, I would maybe drive the Blue Taco Mobile (my golf cart). I don’t know what I’d do then.” Sawmiller’s plan is nothing short of exciting. It sounds like he’ll check all the boxes and do all of his favorite things.

On the other hand, many students chose to fill their entire day with just one activity. Freshmen Tanner



PHOTO BY: MICHAELA OSTERHOLT

Juniors Mason Jones and Brayden Mescher sleep all day on the couch while it snows.

Hartings and Charlie Mueller, juniors Christian Kremer and Dylan Dahms, and seniors Adam Nietfeld and Austin Niekamp all voted for a day full of video games. I guess in their opinion, no seconds—or brain cells—can be wasted by spending an entire day on the gaming system.

The most popular opinion on how to fill the singular snow day was shared among 22 students. It was quite simple: sleep. Sophomore Alayna Birt gave her reasoning:

“because I don’t get to sleep during the week due to my homework overload.” Several other students agreed with Birt. However, some students didn’t care to reason, they just simply wanted to sleep the day away.

Whether it’s a simple day or an elaborate one, the Flyers are sure to fill their singular snow day with plans that are far better than any day at school.



Flyers fall out of love with Valentine's Day



PHOTO BY: MICHAELA OSTERHOLT

Junior Oliver Huelsman is heartbroken after Kendall Wells falls for someone else.

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

LOVEVILLE? – The students at Marion Local this year are not feeling very lovey-dovey. A majority of the students were feeling down in the dumps on Valentine's Day, disappointingly voting that "no one in the school" would be good to have a date with. Cupid needs to come to save the Flyers this February; otherwise, couples will separate, and love will not exist.

Very strong feelings this year come from sophomore Megan Homan, as she voted "absolutely no one from Marion Local, even if they

were the last people on Earth." Homan is not feeling very in love this year, so Cupid must come to save the day for her and many others feeling the exact same way.

Another Debby downer this Valentine's Day is sophomore Jozlyn Schlarman, as she also said she would not go on a date with anybody in the high school. She states it is "because everyone at Marion is nasty; I've known them for too long." These sophomore girls were really just down in the dumps on Valentine's Day. Hopefully, they got cheered up on the 14th by some super secret admirers.

There is a couple in high school that is in a pickle after this dream date poll. Sophomore Kendall Wells and junior Oliver Huelsman are that couple, after Wells named sophomore Eli Stachler as her dream date rather than her own boyfriend, Huelsman. Huelsman, being loyal, put Wells as his dream date because "she's my girlfriend." Uh oh, hopefully, this does not cause too much trouble between the two since they are awfully cute together.

On the other side of things, there are some students here in the high school that wanted a date on Valentine's Day. Senior Drew Lause wanted to go on a date with his best friend's sister, junior Hannah Rindler. Lause said he wanted to go on a date with Rindler because, "If Hannah is dating someone, maybe Ian will get a girlfriend." In the end, Lause's efforts to go on a date with Hannah are all out of pure kindness for his friend Ian.

Sophomore Kalyn Thobe said that she wanted to go on a date with senior Ava Ranly since she is such a "good girl" during track. This was first stated by Ranly's boyfriend, Zach Osborn from Anna. Thobe quoted Osborn, stating, "Because she's a 'good girl.'" With Ranly's unstoppable high jump skills she will be bringing to Northern Kentucky University, Thobe had a clear reason to want to go on a date with Ranly.

Freshman Halle Schwieterman must be the matchmaker for her



PHOTO BY: MICHAELA OSTERHOLT

Senior Drew Lause asks junior Hannah Rindler on a date for the sake of her brother, senior Ian Rindler.

class, as she put her friend Addisyn Stucke down only to bring Cayden Kremer along and leave Stucke with him. She states, "I could bring Cayden Kremer and then leave so they had to go on a date together." This is clearly a great idea because it would get the two on a date together, so great job with matchmaking, Schwieterman!

It looks like there was some love in the air at the high school on Valentine's Day, but not enough, as shown by the negative sophomore girls or the couples in disputes. Maybe the positive singles and couples will outweigh the others in denial, or maybe not. Cupid, we really do need you here . . . and in a hurry.

President Stachler plans early dismissals, La-Z-Boys

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN – President Eli Stachler and Vice President EJay Sawmiller have unofficially started their first 100 days in the Oval Office of our high school. Many new rules and regulations will be coming into effect very shortly. Stachler agrees with many of the rules that are currently in effect, so he is not planning to change very much. However, the rules he will be changing are huge steps in the right direction. Stachler is more than ready to change them with VP Sawmiller by his side.

So much for Superintendent Pohlman calling school delays and cancellations anymore because it is now all up to President Stachler. Stachler aims for there to be no more delays: instead, we just won't come to school at all. This is a huge change for the high school, and we might all just be useless in the future due to no education. Stachler was also asked what time we should end the school day. He said we should change the ending time to 2:00 p.m., which is a little confusing, considering he said we wouldn't have school at all.

Stachler is a very simple man. He was asked if the school should have a new lunch menu, and he responded, "No, probably not." He said these same three words on the topics of having recess, a Secret Service to protect him and Sawmiller, fast food restaurants in the high school, and limousines for him and Sawmiller instead of school



Marion Local's President Stachler and Vice President Sawmiller sign executive orders, making great progress in their first 100 days in the Oval Office.

buses. He simply wants to keep school the way it is, for the most part.

President Stachler does want a new high school building, though, as he said "probably" when asked if that was a good idea. Fortunately, there will be a new middle school and agricultural department, but not until 2026. Stachler graduates in 2027, so he will possibly get to experience it for his senior year.

He also was more vocal about whether he wanted a La-Z-Boy recliner while in class, as he said, "Yeah, those are nice." So, it looks like our President and Vice President will be enjoying

some nice blue and gold recliners pretty soon.

Vice President Sawmiller has very strong feelings about being elected Vice President instead of President. When Sawmiller was asked how he felt about Stachler being the President, he said it was just "fine," and he feels this way because, "What am I supposed to do about it?" Sawmiller clearly wishes he was President instead, but he is right, there is nothing he can do about it now the election is over.

When asked whether he would be excited or upset if something were to happen to Stachler and he would have to assume the presidency, Sawmiller responded, "I would be excited because I would be Mr. President." Sawmiller clearly has high hopes and dreams to become Marion Local's President.

Sawmiller was asked what he would say to his supporters who voted for him. He said, "Thank you, and I would like to know who you are." So, if you voted for Sawmiller as President in November, please let him know, as he is very curious.

Vice President Sawmiller was also asked what he had to say to high schoolers for voting for Stachler and not him. He felt strongly about this, when he questioned in all caps, "WHY?" Sawmiller is somewhat happy to be Stachler's vice president but definitely wishes it was him instead. But on a positive note, at least he received an elected office as a freshman, in which his voice will still be heard.



Upperclassmen dominate 2025 Freddy Awards



By: Chloe Bergman
Entertainment Editor

FREDDYWOOD – Rated far above the Oscars and the Grammys, the highly prestigious 2025 Freddy Awards are here.

After much consideration, the most deserving recipients were recognized on Feb. 2 in Freddywood, the place where all the magic happens. From the top Actor in a Leading Role to the most elite Makeup and Hairstyling, the Freddy Awards were awarded for only the most prestigious Marion Local accomplishments in film, music, or anything else considered honorable.

Before the awards were presented, the Freddy Academy would like to give out a few words of thanks. We must thank our President of the Academy—Mr. Goodwin. Mr. Goodwin is such a great example of what real accomplishment looks like. I mean, come on, have you seen his blue and gold Nike dunks? His specialty in the art of fashion is truly an inspiration to all.

Now, let's get to what we've all been waiting for.

And the 2025 Freddys go to . . .

Actor in Leading Role: Senior Adam Winner starring in the romance film, *Finding a Girl*

Actor in Supporting Role: Senior Tommy Mescher for his minor role alongside Winner in *Finding A Girl*

Actress in Leading Role: Junior Danielle Meier starring in *Breaking Bad*

Actress in Supporting Role: Junior Alaina Buschur, an incredible co-star who jived so well with the theme of broken bones

Honorable Mentions: Ms. Yates, Ms. Dirksen, senior Dalton Anthony

Costume Design: Juniors Wade Kremer, Ethan Osterholt, and Owen Kemper for their exceptional *Three Blind Mice* costume creations

Makeup and Hairstyling: Juniors Katelyn McClurg and Kayla McClurg for their expertise in makeup and hair, especially when a cheer bow is involved

Writing: Senior Kelsey Bergman for her short, but incredible career in *WRIT 1110*

Cinematography: Senior Ava Werling for her constant dedication to her phone

International Feature Film: Junior Oliver Huelsman for his multiple appearances in various countries

Sound: Junior Katrina Will for her LOUD greetings to Mrs. Broering every single day

Visual Effects: Senior Kaydence Wilkins for her exceptional drawings for various films

It's been a wonderful year full of astonishing talent throughout the film industry. All of the Freddys this year were awarded to upperclassmen, so the underclassmen have some very large shoes to fill. If they pay attention to their elders and follow their fantastic examples, the underclassmen may have a chance at the Freddy Award nominations for 2026.



Vehicle of the Month

By: Alea Pohlman
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – Junior Keegen Hess's vehicle has won the Vehicle of the Month title this month.

Hess recently purchased his white 2018 Dodge Charger GT with his own money that he has earned through his job at a dairy farm. Watch out boys, the ladies are just drooling over Hess and his new "Chick Magnet"!

Hess has been wanting a Dodge Charger GT for a while. An opportunity

opened up for Hess to get one, and he jumped at the chance. After some reflection over his pricey purchase, Hess explained how his fancy new car was "probably the best investment I've ever made." It's good to hear Hess isn't having any regrets— this kind of investment is nothing short of significant.

Since Hess has had his new car, he has spent most of his time driving to and from his various after-school activities. Currently, Hess is using his new whip to bring him and his teammates to and from swim practice.



PHOTO BY: ALEA POHLMAN

Junior Keegen Hess with his new hot ride, a fancy white 2018 Dodge Charger GT.

Love blossoms for class couples



Freshman couple Addisyn Stucke and Levi DeSantis preparing for their Valentine's Day date.

By: Alea Pohlman
News Editor



MARIA STEIN – Watch out, Marion Local students, love is in the air! The month of February is filled with love. The same love is bursting into Marion, which is why I will now introduce to you the Flyer couples that aren't, but should be. I antici-



Cupid's newest sophomore couple Carter Kuess and Claire Winner.

pate that the results from the polls will stir up some true, lasting love for these new should-be couples.

Starting off strong for the freshmen, we have the most voted-for couple: Addisyn Stucke and Levi DeSantis. This was a popular vote among the freshmen. When their classmates were asked why they would make a great couple, many said they were "just meant to be." While classmates Deanna Dirksen and Tanner Hartings said they did not know why when voting for Stucke and DeSantis, they must have had a feeling that this dynamite couple is destined to be together but just did not know how to express that feeling in words.

Next, the winners for the sophomore class are Carter Kuess and Claire Winner. Their classmates voted for them because they have a lot of chemistry together. Kara Dahlinghaus even said, "Claire has a HUGE crush on Carter!" In second place were Grady Goettemoeller and Baylie Evers. Seth Heitkamp has strong opinions on this couple, writing that they have "had a thing for each other for a while now and . . . the school should fund one of their dates to promote them to [date]." This is definitely an all-around great idea.

Winning for the juniors are Trey Brookhart and Selena Arling with the majority of the votes cast from their class. Most of their classmates voted for them because they hang out all the time, especially by the heater in flex. Eddie Poeppelman even wrote that Brookhart and Arling "hang out 25/8." The math does not math for this one, but this definitely proves that they hang out more than all of the time. Good job, Marion Local math!



The tied senior couples Damon Cramer and Emerson Bruns, as well as Jana Pohlman and Tommy Mescher, who are soon to be together.

PHOTOS BY: ALEA POHLMAN

Finally, for the seniors, we have a tie! There were not many seniors who participated in this survey, but out of everyone who did, we had two couples win. The winners are the dream couples of Jana Pohlman with Tommy Mescher and Damon Cramer with Emerson Bruns. Seniors Ava Ranly and Ashlyn Moeller both said that Pohlman and Mescher should be together because they both like to go out with friends, ride four-wheelers, and watch sunsets. Ryan Homan, Hayden Poeppelman, and Parker Hess all said that Cramer and Bruns should be together because they "fight like a married couple." These seniors seem to really know their facts. This is the second year in a row that Cramer has been matched with someone; what a REAL ladies' man!

Last but not least, we would like to mention the great matchmaking skills that we here at the Gold Standard possess. Last year, Brandon Grieshop and Kara Dahlinghaus were voted for as the freshman cou-

ple that wasn't, but should be. Although they were not dating at the time, they are dating now. Given our matchmaking skills, we are confident that all of this year's matched-up couples will end up dating blissfully before the school year is over.



Junior Selena "D" Arling and junior Trey Brook "heart" prepare for their upcoming engagement pictures.

Dear Cupid

By: Brayden Mescher
Staff Writer



Dear Cupid,

Leading up to Valentine's Day is getting stressful, knowing no girls want me. I took your advice and started talking to more girls. However, I am not good at it. I thought I would be great at it, knowing I am HIM at talking to the boys in my Fortnite party, but talking to girls is very different. And much more difficult.

The other week, I asked all my fellow Chicago Bears fans in the school to come over and watch them play—no girls showed up. Gina, Baylie, and Brooke all said they were busy. They don't love the Bears like I do.

Since my invitation to watch the game didn't work, I asked the rizzler—Maverick Meier—for more advice. Maverick shared his rizz skills with me. He told me I had to buy my woman gifts such as flowers, chocolates, and jewelry. I feel like I must listen to Maverick because he is always getting girls. Yet, I cannot buy all the girls gifts because I have no money. I also don't know if giving gifts to the girls I like will end in an awkward situation. As I said before, I am not good at talking to the opposite gender.

I am asking for your suggestion on whether I should listen to Maverick and his rizz techniques or not. This love thing is getting me all confused.

Sincerely, Unimportant Sophomore



PHOTO BY: SHAYNA WERLING

Unimportant Sophomore is upset after his friend Maverick Meier "rizzes" up sophomore girls Kalyn Thobe and Kendall Wells.

Dear Unimportant Sophomore,

Ooooooh, this is the best time of the year! Don't get down on yourself because of your inability to attract girls. You are doing great at trying! I'm glad to hear that you have some experience talking to people in your Fortnite party.

I am surprised by the fact that none of the female Bears fans came to watch their team with you. It was a genius idea for you to think of that.

Asking Maverick for help is also genius. Whatever relationship tips Maverick gives to you, you should use.

In order for you to buy girls some gifts, you should get a job. I've overheard that O.R. (Ohio Recycling) is hiring. If that doesn't work, maybe get a job being, like, an underwater pizza delivery man, or something. Anything to earn some money.

I hope my suggestions can help you. Love truly isn't that confusing. You just have to keep on trying. Continue your good looks and never give up. The girls will fall into your love trap at some point. Just ask Maverick: he used to worry about his love life, and now he is the man to turn to for love suggestions.



Sincerely, Cupid