

Football 1st in MAC, longest win streak in USA



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

The Marion Local Flyers claim the title of MAC Champs after defeating Coldwater.

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN – With the regular season officially over, the Marion Local Flyers have secured their 19th Midwest Athletic Conference title. Not only that, the Flyers officially broke the record of 57 consecutive wins held by the Delphos St. Johns Blue Jays after their win against Coldwater during Week 10. The Flyers currently hold the longest active win streak in the nation at 60-0. Delphos held the record for 23 years, and they obtained their record during their 1996-2001 seasons.

The Flyers also attained another State record after their Week 11

matchup against Ft. Recovery, which ended 68-0. The second State record the Flyers achieved was the longest unbeaten streak. This was previously held by Ironton at 58 consecutive unbeaten games with a record of 57-0-1. Ironton achieved this record during their 1977-1983 seasons and maintained their record for nearly 41 years.

With the regular season wrapped up, the Flyers secured their 19th MAC title with their defeat of Coldwater 35-0 on Oct. 25. Along with these accolades, Flyers receiving MAC All-Conference First Team Offensive awards were Victor Hoelscher as a wide receiver, Carson Bills as a kicker, Colten Ahrens as a center, Adam Winner as a

guard, Kyle Ungruhn as a tackle, Parker Hess as a running back, and Justin Knouff as a utility player.

Flyers receiving MAC First Team Defense awards were Adam Winner as a defensive end, Isaac Muhlenkamp as an interior lineman, Griffin Bruns as a corner, Ryan Homan as a safety, and Drew Lause as an outside back. Lause was also honored by being awarded MAC Defensive Player of the Year. The Flyers receiving MAC Second Team Honors were Lause, offensively as a punter, and Ethan Heitkamp and Bryant Meier as linebackers on defense. Flyers given Honorable Mentions were Andrew Pohlman, Daniel Everman, Oliver Huelsman, and Cale Nagel.

Flyers Head Coach Tim Goodwin also received MAC Coach of the Year, making this his 13th MAC Coach of the Year award with the Flyers. Head Coach Goodwin has the most MAC Coach of the Year awards in the history of the Midwest Athletic Conference.

Heading into Week 13, the Flyers are 60-0 and will face a familiar foe, the Ansonia Tigers, who are 11-1 this year. The last time these teams met was during the 2023 playoffs, when the Tigers fell to the Flyers 48-0.

Stucke, Pohlmann smash school record, run at State



PHOTOS BY: EMMA WILKER

Ryan Stucke and Dalton Pohlmann during the MAC meet at Coldwater on Oct. 12.

By: Johanna Dirksen
Staff Writer

COLUMBUS GROVE – Junior Ryan Stucke stole the Marion Local cross country boys' 5K record on Oct. 19 at the District meet, running a 16:18. Stucke not only beat the school record by ten entire seconds, but the first-place time he knocked down to second was run by his older brother, Troy Stucke, in 2022.

At Regionals, junior Dalton Pohlmann pushed Troy Stucke's school record back another spot, running a 16:21. This maintains Ryan Stucke's spot at first place and Pohlmann at second.

Stucke and Pohlmann each qualified to go to State individually at Fortress Obetz on Nov. 2. Pohlmann placed 40th out of 192 boys running in Division III with a time of 16:21.10, and Stucke placed 50th with a time of 16:28.68.

Stucke says, "I never wanted to run all those practices in the rain and cold, but when my teammates are running next to me, I'd gladly do it again. The real truth is that running sucks, but pain is nothing when you're surrounded by family. No doubt that this is what will bring us back to State as a team next year."

Reflecting on his season, Pohlmann commented, "The miles of the season weren't just measured in distance, but the bonds forged in every stride. Ultimately, the ending of the season was bitter-sweet. I was evermore grateful to spend the time with my friends but even more excited for the future of the team."

Stucke finished third place overall at the District meet, leading the boys' team to fifth place overall. This secured a spot at the Regionals meet in Tiffin on Oct. 26. Unfortunately, the boys' team finished in eighth place overall at Regionals, one place short to move on to the State meet as a team.

The girls' team ended their season after the District meet in Columbus Grove, finishing in 14th place, not quite enough to allow them to move on to Regionals.

ML Band scores 'Superior' at State

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

PIQUA – Sunday, Nov. 3 was an exciting day for the Marion Local band, who competed at State for the first time since 2021.

The band traveled down to Piqua Alexander Football Stadium to perform their competition show, *Monarch*. The band once again this season received a Superior (1) rating. This is the first time since 2017 that the ML Band has scored Superior at State.

Comparing MLB's results to some other bands, Marion scored higher than 40 other bands that went to



PHOTO BY: MIKE OSTERHOLT

The Marion Local Band performs at Piqua Alexander Football Stadium at the State Marching Band Finals on Nov. 3.

band, the smallest band classification in Ohio, outscored a band that could quadruple the band's size. Marysville, a AA band containing nearly 200 members even got an Excellent (2). They are nearly five times the size of Marion's band, and Marion outscored them. This is a major accomplishment for our band program.

state finals over the course of four days. Considering the band only has 36 members, this is an impressive achievement. Bands ranked in the AA classification, the largest classification in Ohio, even got ratings of an Excellent (2).

This means that our Marion Local Band, a C

Ranly, Ronnebaum sign for track, volleyball

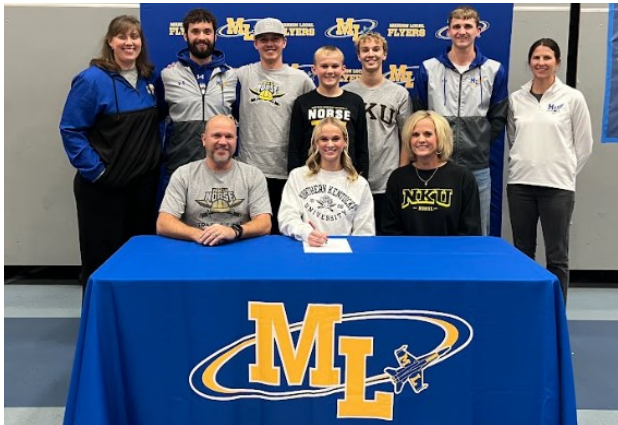


PHOTO BY: EMMA WILKER

Senior Ava Ranly has signed with Northern Kentucky University to continue her track career. She is supported by her parents, Jesse and Sandy Ranly, and her coaches, Katherine Dirksen, Kyle Grabowski, Nick Tangeman, and Danielle Otte.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: JENNY RONNEBAUM

Senior Chloe Ronnebaum has signed with Bluffton University to continue her volleyball career. She is supported by her parents, Mark and Jenny Ronnebaum, and her coaches, Katherine Dirksen, Katie Rosenbeck, and Reagan Kremer.

TikTok star Walsh goes wild for Flyers



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Kevin Walsh signing a Marion Local Elementary student's shoe during the Flyers' Week 9 matchup against Minster on Oct. 18.

By: Emma Wilker
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – During the Oct. 18 varsity football game against Minster, the Marion Local Flyers had an unexpected visitor. Kevin Walsh, an entrepreneur and content creator based in Columbus, Ohio, came out to Maria Stein to cover the game. Walsh attends high-stakes games across the state.

Walsh is a content creator whose platforms include Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and YouTube. At press time, Walsh has 896,800 followers on TikTok and 65,200 followers on Instagram. His video covering Marion Local has 133,100 likes on TikTok, and 50,100 likes on Instagram. It also has 1,200,000 views on TikTok and over 1,000 comments.

In his highlight video, just over a minute long, Walsh reports, "These division seven farm kids are just different . . ." He also puts senior quarterback Justin Knouff in the spotlight, saying, "Knouff even faked me out on this handout, and you already know what he does. He uses his

track speed to go 50 yards for another touchdown." He applauds the Marion Local defense for having "perfect technique."

On YouTube, Walsh posted an 11-minute full highlight video titled "The Longest Win Streak in America: Marion Local (Ohio Farm Town)." Walsh was impressed with our grass field and silos outside the stadium, saying, "This is small-town football." He ends the video with, "When I say this is one of the best programs in the state of Ohio, it really is. It is their 57th straight win, and they still lead the country with the longest winning streak."

I asked Walsh a few questions to learn his inside opinions on his experience at the game.

Q: How did you hear about Marion Local?

A: I heard about Marion Local from people DMing me on Instagram to go check them out. People kept telling me that the win streak was going to get beat this year, so I needed to make it out for a game! The MAC really lived up to the expectations.

Q: Which player stood out to you the most?

A: The player who stood out the most was Justin Knouff. I was so impressed with his ability to move the chains with his legs. His athleticism as a passer and a runner is such an amazing skill set that seems to be a strength for the team.

Q: Which play/plays were the best of the night?

A: The play that stood out the most to me was the tackle by #8 (I believe Daniel Everman) to force the fumble in the 2nd half. It was a textbook tackle forcing the ball loose that I was really impressed with. It's a testament to the coaching!

Q: Any advice for the team going forward into the playoffs?

A: My advice for the team going forward is to



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Kevin Walsh signing senior Tommy Mescher's head during the Flyers' Week 9 matchup against Minster.

keep doing what you've been doing. Coach Goodwin has a proven track record, so trusting him and his leadership is the way to keep it rolling!

Walsh's videographer is Nick Miller, who is also based out of Columbus. When asked about the game against Minster, Miller says, "This football team is underrated and should have been covered earlier. We loved the opportunity to come out and witness history in the making."

The kids at the game certainly made their experience something to remember, as Walsh and Miller were asked to autograph Crocs, tennis shoes, shirts, and even heads, as displayed by senior Tommy Mescher. Miller states, "The kids were crazy, but the energy was immaculate. It was an amazing atmosphere to witness where Friday Night Lights is a huge deal for the community."

Also, Miller's cousin, Erin Brand, graduated from Marion Local in 2004. He says, "It meant a lot to my family to relive some of those memories growing up."

Seniors induct new NHS members



PHOTO BY: MRS. MUELLER

2023 and 2024 Marion Local Chapter National Honor Society members.

By: Emma Wilker
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – The 2024 NHS Induction Ceremony took place on Oct. 28 in the high school gymnasium. This year, 19 students were inducted: four seniors and 15 juniors.

The 22 senior members led the ceremony and banquet, which took place at 7 p.m. in the Commons. NHS President Ryan Homan started the banquet with a joke he prepared on the fly. Trying to humor the crowd, he asked, "Why did the duck get arrested? Because he was selling quack!" All jokes aside, Homan explained that you will not be a member of the National Honor Society if you are arrested, because it is a very prestigious honor.

To be inducted, students must demonstrate the four pillars of the NHS: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. New inductees must maintain a 3.5 or higher GPA. During the ceremony, newly inducted students raise their right hand and recite the pledge, promising to uphold the core values of the NHS in the classroom and the community.

Mrs. Mueller, the NHS advisor, was also justly proud of the hard work the students put in for this year's induction. She says, "The induction and banquet went really well. The seniors are a great group of students to work with who are always willing to step in and help with whatever I need. I am sure the incoming members will be the same way!"

Flyers commemorate Veterans Day



PHOTO BY: MRS. HEMMELGARN

Veterans of the Marion Local community perform a 21-gun salute.



PHOTO BY: MRS. HEMMELGARN

Juniors Trey Brookhart and Alea Pohlman of the Chickasaw Fire Department assist with the American Flag retirement ceremony.

Morning Mugs captivates Marion Local



PHOTO BY: MRS. PRENGER
Junior Avery Guggenbiller's coffee shop on Nov. 6 with Mrs. Dippold and Mrs. Mueller.

By: Emma Wilker
News Editor

MARIA STEIN – This year, junior Avery Guggenbiller has given the Marion Local students a little morning pick-me-up. Her Morning Mugs Cafe coffee shop has been a massive hit among the students and staff. Morning Mugs Cafe most recently opened on Nov. 6. It plans to run about one morning every two weeks.

Morning Mugs Cafe takes place in the Commons and serves hot chocolate and hot and iced coffee. Each cup costs \$2, and you get a free cookie with your purchase. Our local Winans Coffee & Chocolate in Maria Stein provides the drinks. Guggenbiller proclaims, "Students said we need more hot chocolate!"

Guidance Counselor Mrs. Dippold came up with the idea and is grateful for its success: "Students and staff love the opportunity to buy coffee or hot chocolate in the morning at school!" She was in-

spired by a few coffee days that the Hope Squad hosted last year and noticed that many people enjoyed it. She also wanted to give a student the opportunity to offer a coffee shop at school and teach them about entrepreneurship, and Guggenbiller was able to fit that into her daily schedule. Business teacher Mrs. Mueller also helps.

Many people wonder what the money is being used for. Mrs. Dippold remarks, "We were not expecting to make a profit like we have." The profit Morning Mugs Cafe has brought in is being used to make the free cookies provided with the drinks. Also, they plan to offer the guest speakers a free hot chocolate or coffee during Career Day on Nov. 27.

Mrs. Dippold also says, "It teaches the students the importance of supporting each other, as they know Avery is learning about owning and operating a business. In addition, we have created a positive partnership with Winans."

Mrs. Mueller feels that Morning Mugs Cafe has made a positive impact on the school, saying, "We live in such a great community where everyone cares about everyone. We even had people not in the school system ask if they can come in and support the business!"

The business plans to continue operating in the future and hopes to add new items to its menu. Guggenbiller is very proud of her business, declaring, "Morning Mugs is the best reason for going to school! Come for coffee and leave with a smile and maybe a cookie."

Band 'Superior' at State



By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

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At State, the band performed at 5:15 p.m. and patiently waited for the announcement of awards at 6 p.m. They received a plaque for their Superior rating. Fort Recovery, as well as another area band, Versailles, received an Excellent (2) rating.

When they returned home, the band was led through Osgood, Maria Stein, Chickasaw, and back to the high school by two fire trucks. Back at the school, a sign outside the stadium stated, "Congratulations MLB on your Superior rating!"

Band Director Mr. Spettel states, "'Proud' is very much an understatement when it comes to how I feel about the band's performance this season. Week after week, the band surpassed my expectations, and never quit trying to elevate our competition show. It's so cool to know that qualifying for OMEA State Marching Band Finals wasn't enough for the Marion Local Band.

"They took it a step further by giving their best performance of the season, and earning a State-level Superior Rating! Several Band Directors from schools like Miamisburg, Beavercreek, Logan Elm, and many others have reached out to congratulate me and my students. Our hard work is paying off in the form of competitive accomplishments, and also the attention of the Ohio band community!"

The band is prepared for one last competition today, Nov. 14, at Bands of America in Indianapolis. There are 62 bands from all over the United States participating, so the Flyers will see some larger bands than usual.

JV Scholastic Bowl wins MAC



PHOTO BY: MRS. HEMMELGARN
2024 Scholastic Bowl club members L-R John Mescher, Hayden Steinbrunner, Vincent Winner, Austin Mescher, Alex Schulze, Christian Kremer, Korbin Grady, Dalton Pohlmann, and Brody Otte (not pictured: Trey Goettemoeller).

CELINA – Scholastic Bowl has had an extremely successful season. The Junior Varsity were MAC Champions with a record of 7-2, bringing home the season championship for the third time since 2020. For the third straight year, the Varsity team was MAC Runners-Up, this year with an impressive record of 8-1. Additionally, on Nov. 11, the JV placed fourth at tournament.

The Varsity tournament will be held on Nov. 18, when the Flyers will aim to take down perennial rival Coldwater. President Alex Schulze is optimistic leading into the final week: "It was a tough [regular season] loss to Coldwater. Hopefully, we can win the tournament."

Only five students in Marion Local history have ever scored 100+ individual points in one season, and two were on Varsity this year. Junior John Mescher ended the regular season with 155 points, closely followed by senior Vincent Winner with 139.

Winner wrapped up his high school career with a little nostalgia: "It was a fun time and great to compete for Marion Local." Mescher commented, "It was a fun season with some fun matches. We are going to beat Coldwater next year, I guarantee."

For JV, junior Hayden Steinbrunner scored 91 individual points, making him the fifth-highest-scoring individual on JV in school history.

Homan, Wendel earn FFA Degrees at National Convention

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

INDIANAPOLIS – The Marion Local FFA Chapter made its way to the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana. The trip occurred from Oct. 23-25 at the Indianapolis Colts stadium, also known as Lucas Oil Stadium, in downtown Indianapolis and also at the Indiana Convention Center, where the expo was held.

The Marion Local chapter enjoyed their trip along with the New Bremen FFA Chapter.

Alumni Amanda Homan and Amber Wendel were awarded FFA American Degrees on Saturday morning. The American Degree is the highest achievable degree in the FFA with less than 1 percent of members receiving it. This is a huge achievement for these two FFA alumni.

The chapter had many fun tours during the day and also enjoyed late-night activities after spending the whole day in their official dress.

One of the chapter advisors, Mr. Elsass, states, "The chapter had a successful trip to the convention, touring Becks Hybrids, RSG, and



PHOTO BY: MR. ELSASS
Marion Local FFA and New Bremen FFA at the FFA National Convention in Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis.

Apache Sprayers. Members rocked out with Megan Moroney and showed off their 'amazing' golf swings. Temple Grandin also spoke at one of the sessions, which was a packed house at Lucas Oil Stadium with about 35,000 FFA members from around the country!"

The trip was well enjoyed by all FFA members, and they can't wait to do it again next year.

Undefeated Flyers fly into playoffs



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Senior Griffin Bruns lining up at wide receiver versus Coldwater on Oct. 25.

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN – With the post-season now in full swing, Marion Local heads into Week Three of the playoffs against the #4 seed Ansonia Tigers at Spartan Stadium in Lima this Friday, Nov. 15. The Tigers are 11-1 on the season and have yet to have a game in which they scored less than 24 points. This will be a rematch game, as the Flyers and Tigers faced off in the playoffs last year during the 2023 playoffs when the Flyers routed Ansonia 48-0.

Heading into this week's game, the Flyers are 60-0, boasting America's longest active win streak. The Flyers have continued to dominate, with an overwhelming offense and a formidable defense, outscoring opponents 587-36.

Heading into Week 13, the Flyers' offense continues to dominate with senior quarterback Justin Knouff at the helm. Knouff currently has 1,909 passing yards with a competition percentage of 71.6 and 25 touchdowns. Knouff has also

used his legs quite frequently on both designed quarterback run plays and scrambling out of the pocket. That said, Knouff has 574 yards rushing with three touchdowns on 60 attempts, which has him averaging 9.6 yards per run.

As the primary target for Knouff during the 2024 football season, senior Victor Hoelscher continues to show off his athleticism during both offensive drives and also as a punt and kickoff returner. Hoelscher has accumulated 1,136 yards with 61 catches for himself, averaging 18.6 yards per catch, with 17 touchdowns to his name.

As a punt and kickoff returner alongside Griffin Bruns, Hoelscher has 10 returns for 113 yards as a punt returner, with five returns for 102 yards as a kickoff returner. He averages 11.3 yards per return as a punt returner and 20.4 yards as a kickoff returner.

A senior who plays majority offense, but has made waves on special teams as both a kickoff returner and a punt returner, is Griffin Bruns. Bruns also plays wide receiver in the Flyers' offense and has 21 receptions for 332 yards, having him average 15.8 yards per catch with one touchdown.

While Bruns does play a role on offense, he's made the biggest impact in his special teams roles. As a kickoff returner, Bruns has four returns for 74 yards, averaging 18.5 yards per return. As a punt returner alongside Hoelscher, Bruns has 14 returns for 250 yards, averaging 17.9 yards per return. Bruns has been able to return two punts for touchdowns so far this season as well.

Onto the defensive side of the ball, senior safeties Ryan Homan and Daniel Everman account for a third of the Flyers' interceptions this season, with five interceptions between the two. Homan has made a name for himself this season



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Quarterback Justin Knouff receiving the offensive play call from Head Coach Goodwin vs Coldwater on Oct. 25.

with his 23 assisted tackles, 23 unassisted tackles, and three interceptions. Homan has yet to miss a game, even though he has been battling a minor hand injury throughout the season.

When asked about his motto for this season, Homan answered, "Be the hammer, not the nail, because if you're the nail, you're getting hammered."

Marion Local's other senior safety Daniel Everman plays three ways as an occasional receiver on offense, a placeholder for kicker Carson Bills during PATs, and his primary position as a safety on defense. Everman has 12 assisted tackles, 10 unassisted tackles, and two interceptions so far on the season. Tragically, Everman suffered a knee injury during the Flyers' Week 10 matchup against Coldwater, but he will return in Week 14.

Heading into Week 13 against the Ansonia Tigers, the Flyers continue to chase perfection as they set their sights ahead to State football at Canton, set for Friday, Dec. 6, at 10:30 a.m.

Basketball bounces into season



PHOTO COURTESY OF: MR. KOENIG

The Lady Flyers look forward to starting their season on Nov. 16.

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN – Winter sports are starting to come into full swing as both boys' and girls' basketball are now underway. The girls' team has had two scrimmages thus far, and the boys have had one. While the girls' team does have a complete roster, the boys are missing a sizeable portion of their lineup as football season is still underway, currently in Week 13 of the playoffs.

With two scrimmages under their belt, the Lady Flyers have a 1-1 record in their preseason as they head into their third scrimmage against

Jackson Center. That game will conclude their preseason, as after that their first official game will be against Columbus Grove on Nov. 16.

For the girls' team, Chloe Ronnebaum, Ava Unrast, and Natalie Evers are the returning seniors. When asked about what to expect from the Lady Flyers this winter, Unrast responded, "I am really excited for my senior year of basketball. We are low in numbers, but we work well as a team and have many great individual players. So I am excited for where that will take us, and, hopefully, we will see Regional Finals again or even further!"

Even with low numbers, Unrast still shows optimism as she is confident in her team to perform well. The Lady Flyers fell to Ft. Loramie, who went on to win State, in the Regional Finals last year, but with that thought in the back of their minds, Unrast believes they'll be able to push past and go even further this 2024 season.

For the boys' basketball team, seniors returning for the winter 2024-25 season are Austin Niekamp, Damon Cramer, Ryan Homan, and Daniel Everman.

When asked about the outlook on

the 2024-25 boys' basketball season, Coach Kurt Goettemoeller replied, "We are excited about the upcoming season. We have a good mix of veterans returning and some promising newcomers to help the squad. The schedule we play will be tough, but we hope to peak in February around tournament time."

It goes without saying that Coach Goettemoeller is going into this season with a vision and a plan of action to ensure results this season.

Both the boys' and girls' basketball teams are ready to make waves this 2024-2025 winter season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF: MR. KOENIG

The 2024-2025 boys' basketball players, coaches, and managers.

Stachler, Sawmiller for President

By: Carson Bills and Ethan Heitkamp
Staff Writers

MARIA STEIN – This election season, the Gold Standard held an unofficial presidential election at Marion Local High School, which resulted in an unprecedented tie between sophomore Eli Stachler and freshman EJay Sawmiller. Despite the candidate pool for this write-in election being literally every student, teacher, staff member, and coach at the high school, Stachler and Sawmiller romped home with exactly the same number of votes.

To break the tie, the Gold Standard staff considered Sawmiller's unauthorized second vote, since he wrote in, "Kara Dahlinghaus for President and EJay Kyle Sawmiller for Vice President." Consequently, the unofficially elected officials for MLHS for the next four years are President Eli Stachler and Vice President EJay Sawmiller.

This November, voter efficacy was very poor. Only 24 percent of seniors, 48 percent of juniors, 62 percent of sophomores, and 71 percent of freshmen voted. Although voter turnout was low, some voters were passionate about their choice of elected officials.

When asking those who voted for Sawmiller why they did so, they responded, "EJay is him!" and, "EJay's Minecraft experience sets him up to be a great leader." Stachler's supporters recognized his more real-world experience: "He is a hard-working kid. He puts the work in every day after school on the farm." Consequently, "he knows how to run a country since he has farm-hand experience."

With so many candidates, the Gold Standard decided to appoint a Cabinet. Freshman Justin Bergman is the new Secretary of State, because "he knows more about the history of the U.S. and dumb facts than the actual President."

Senior Travis Hilgeford has been elected the Secretary of Defense. He picked up several votes, with one voter describing Hilgeford as "the only guy I would trust with the nuclear launch codes," while another voter simply stated, "He is the GOAT of all things."



MLHS's unofficial new President Eli Stachler and Vice President EJay Sawmiller prepare to take office.

Junior Alaina Buschur is the new Attorney General because "she's really good at all things government, and she is really good at arguing," plus "she would make great changes to the United States."

The Secretary of Commerce, after a fierce fight at the ballot box, is sophomore Ben Meier. One of his numerous supporters clearly explained his qualifications for this role: "Because when you look at this from an economical standpoint, Ben is a farmer who supports our economy with his tax money that he has to use. He also has the most common sense out of school which is a great attribute to have. He is a curious guy, always asking questions about how people do things and what to do. He's a hardworking guy who gets along with the ladies too. And he's great with animals. And he's single (wink wink)."

Senior Lydia Hess ran a solid race based on being smart: "I think that Lydia Hess would be the best president because she is very intelligent, responsible, and reaches her goals." As such, she is the perfect new Secretary of Education.

Senior Drew Lause, our new Chief of Staff, received strong backing as one voter said, "He is the most immaculate man alive. This man holds my hand through everything. He is such a leader throughout everyone's lives. He has passion, attitude, generosity. He has so many great unique advantages that not everyone has in their lives. He just truly is an amazing man."

Secretary of Homeland Security was, in a runaway win, Maintenance Supervisor Kevin "Pooch" Hartings, because "he is very skilled at fixing everything that needs fixed and is determined" and "he practically runs the school and does a great job."

Following the same logic from the voters, Principal Tim Goodwin received several votes, for reasons such as, "he seems to already know how to run our school very well" and "he could lead a national American football team." Sadly, the Cabinet does not include a Secretary of Football, so the Gold Standard decided Mr. Goodwin's services are not currently required in our unofficial school government.

Another strong contender, sophomore Kendall Wells picked up a lot of votes for her pickleball skills, but unfortunately, those also don't translate well to political office.

To round out our 2024 Cabinet, Co-Secretaries for the Interior are seniors Parker Hess (who voted for Homan) and Ryan Homan (who voted for Hess). This political dream-team duo are so in tune with each other that they had to be appointed to share the same office. Homan states, "Parker Hess has been a model citizen throughout his four years in this high school. He is a great guy, and I look up to him. His best skills are his looks, ability to delegate efficiently, and work ethic. Parker Hess will be President someday." With equal enthusiasm, Hess states, "Ryan knows how to delegate efficiently and doesn't procrastinate when it comes to his school work. He cares for his fellow students like they are his closest family members, but isn't scared to tell them off when needed. His Patrick Mahomes hairstyle shows his potential in the athletic department and leadership skills, which is why he would make a great president in the future."

Ungruhn, Ahrens terrify freshmen

By: Hayden Poeppelman
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN – With Halloween having only just recently come and gone, the scary vibe still remains for many freshmen as some scary seniors will continue to lurk in the halls throughout the rest of the school year.

When the freshman class was surveyed on who the scariest seniors are at Marion Local, the winner of this title was senior Kyle Ungruhn. When asked why Ungruhn is so scary, freshman Camden Griesdorn replied, "He looks like Shrek!" With his tall and bulky frame, the resemblance is there and apparently has been noticed by the freshman class.

Another freshman, Brody Unrast, sees Ungruhn resemble the fictional character Frankenstein due to his size. Ungruhn was the runaway winner of this contest with 10 votes



PHOTO BY: HAYDEN POEPELMAN

Recently voted scariest seniors in the high school Colten Ahrens and Kyle Ungruhn stomp through the hallways intimidating tiny freshman girls.

in his favor: nearly 20 percent of the freshman class.

The runner-up for the scariest senior was Colten Ahrens with sev-

en votes. When asked what makes Ahrens so scary, newly elected MLHS Vice President EJay Sawmiller answered, "He's just built differ-

ent." While Ahrens is indeed built differently from the average senior, the more popular reason as to why he is scary is simply because he is freshman Karlie Ahrens' older brother, as freshmen Allison Grieshop, Halle Schwieterman, and Haylie Grieshop all shared this opinion.

On a completely different note, some freshmen may have been confused in their voting, as senior Andrew Pohlman was tied for third place with seniors Natalie Evers, Victor Hoelscher, and Emily Schlater at six votes each, but not for the reason one would think. Out of Pohlman's six votes in his favor, four shared the same reasoning as to why. That reason is that Pohlman is so hot that he is scary. This opinion was shared by four anonymous freshman girls who may or may not have misunderstood the assignment.

Kindergarteners want recess, potions in high school

By: Michaela Osterholt
Features Editor

MARIA STEIN - Many of the Marion Local kindergarten students in Ms. Gross' class have different opinions on subjects like what goes on in the high school and who the coolest seniors are. Ms. Gross is a Marion Local alumna who also wrote for the Gold Standard back in 2020 during the COVID-19 lockdown. She was the Editor-in-Chief who kept the newspaper printing, even while everyone was at home. The students in Ms. Gross' class have funny but somewhat reasonable responses that are truly worth sharing. Here are some of these little kindergarteners' opinions.

Some of the kindergarten students have a sibling or even an uncle in high school! Josie Ashman has a sister in the sophomore class, Kate Ashman. The most shocking response was from Evelyn Moeller, when she said she had an uncle here in high school. Moeller's uncle is sophomore Lucas Schlarman.

We asked the kindergarteners whether they think high school students get recess. A majority of the class raised their hands. Chloe Wuebker said, "Yes, after every class!" Unfortunately, this is incorrect. We don't get any recess time at all. A response a little more towards the correct side was from Ryker Kremer when he said, "No, they



PHOTO BY: EMMA WILKER

Kindergarten students in Ms. Gross' class after coloring their own newspapers.

have to do math." Ryker is correct: we don't get recess. We do math, but not all day.

The kindergarteners aren't quite sure what classes are offered in the high school. Josie Ashman said that we high schoolers "go to the library." Currently, we have no library since it has turned out to be the central office. Chase Alexander left a somewhat correct response when he said, "They have science class where they learn science things like potions." Yes, we have science class, but unfortunately, we do not make potions.

Another question they were asked was what the most exciting high school sport is. Again, more very interesting responses! Chase Alexander said that football is the most exciting sport because "they are

boys." Grace Fleck said that cheerleading is the most exciting sport because "my babysitter Eva used to be a cheerleader, and they have Flyer pom poms." Her babysitter Eva Homan is now a freshman, who used to be a junior high cheerleader. Fleck loved Homan's "Flyer pom poms."

Even though this kindergarten class has no connection to the high school teachers or coaches, they were asked anyway who the coolest is. We only received one response from Hudson Jutte. When Ms. Gross asked if anyone knew any of the football coaches' names, Jutte responded, "Freddy the Flyer!" Not quite, but close enough!

Some of the kindergarten students even claimed there is a coolest senior. Levi Liette says his cousin Hay-

den Poeppelman is the coolest senior because "one time he was up to bat, and the bases were loaded, and he hit a grand slam!" Yes, that's pretty cool. Grace Fleck thinks her cousin Justin Knouff is the coolest senior since he "plays good football."

Kindergarten students have many rules they must follow. Some are aware of some of the rules the high school students have to follow, but some aren't so sure. Some correct responses were "no phones" and "no tackling." But a funny and correct answer came from Grace Fleck when she said, "No pushing teachers down to the down." Not sure what "down to the down" means, but let's not do it to the teachers.

Many of these students have different opinions about what the best part of high school is. Beau Schmiesing said, "Football, so I can get trophies." Yes, our football team does seem to get quite a few trophies. Megan Guggenbiller left an interesting opinion when she said, "Riding on the bus after school." Guggenbiller must not realize that most students start to drive in high school and that riding the bus is mainly only for sophomores and freshmen.

Fortunately, these kindergarten students will get older, come into high school, and eventually see what it's truly like.

Vehicle of the Month



PHOTO BY: MICHAELA OSTERHOLT

Junior Mason Jones on top of his dented 2013 Ford Fusion.

By: Damon Cramer
Staff Writer

MARIA STEIN - This month, junior Mason Jones' vehicle earned the title of Vehicle of the Month. Jones started driving his 2013 Ford Fusion with 235,000 miles on it when he got his license back in September 2023.

Jones' Ford Fusion is considered to be a magnificent vehicle, and he is considered to be a great driver. Although Jones had a nice car, many consider it even nicer now as it now has several dents and many scratches along the left side of the car, which give it tremendous amounts of character. Jones' car had these scratches after he was on his way home from his girlfriend's house in Bellbrook when he found his way to a guard rail.

Jones has recently stated of his ride: "It's in the best condition it's ever been in."

Dear Freddy...



Marion Local's own Freddy the Flyer is ready and willing to give students advice as they make their way through high school. Write to him via Mrs. Hemmelgarn's mailbox in the office!

By: Austin Niekamp
Staff Writer

Dear Freddy,

Well, none of the advice you gave me worked. I liked all of her posts, and she blocked me. I triple-snapped her, and she left me on read. I sent her a letter, and she sent me a video of her burning it. I even brought a stuffed animal to her dorm, and she threw it back at me. I even tried sneaking in through her window to surprise her. Nothing worked.

I am thinking about giving up on her. Since you are the master of love, what should I do?

Sincerely, Unimportant Sophomore

Dear Unimportant Sophomore,

Wow, I am really surprised none of that worked. Usually, my advice works 100 percent of the time.

I think it might be time to call it quits on this relationship. That relationship is far too gone to bring it back. In my honest opinion, you should take a break from love and focus on yourself for some time.

However, if you really want a new girl-



PHOTO BY: JUNE MOELLER

Unimportant Sophomore cries after a stuffed animal he bought for his crush was thrown back at him.

friend, I think I have some seniors in mind that would be into someone like you.

Let me know what you think in your next letter.

Sincerely, Freddy