

Koenig steps down from legacy coaching career



PHOTO COURTESY OF MR. KOENIG

Mr. Koenig teaching fourth grade 24 years ago.

By: Kyle Otte
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN - What a run, what a run: Mr. Dan Koenig—or Coach Koenig—has officially stepped down from coaching football after 31 years. He has contributed to all of the Flyers' successes, all 14 state championships, and he played a huge part in all of them.

Koenig is the only coach who has worked with Coach Goodwin every season since Goodwin started at Marion Local. He was energetic on the practice field but even more on game nights, getting the team hyped up with his pregame speeches before taking the field. He was always a joy to have around during practice and game nights.

Koenig expressed why he coached for so long: "I never wanted to coach to only win. I wanted to help athletes experience everything that I did throughout my playing days in junior high, high school, and college. Sports were a huge part of our family, and I wanted anyone who wanted to participate to experience that as well." After a pause, he added, "Don't get me wrong: I really liked winning!"

"I have so many memories about coaching football over the 31 years that I was here. I remember starting in junior high with Mr. Ron Brunswick (now the voice of WCSM), and he would never let us wear long pants all year. Mr. Ken Meyer was the head coach then. Next, Mr. Brunswick moved up to the high school team, and I was the head coach of the junior high team for a couple of years.

"In 1999, Mr. Goodwin came. I joined the high school staff in 2000. I coached the defensive line for several years before moving to the inside linebackers the last 15-20 years. On offense, I started with the offensive line, then the quarterbacks for one to two years, and eventually the wide receivers coach for the last 15-20 years."

He also stated some of the memories that were his greatest: "Our first State Title game, beating Mogadore 54-0." He enjoyed "every day of coaching and getting right in the middle of the play to



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Coach Koenig and Coach Goodwin leading the Flyers to their 14th State Championship in the 2023 season.

help my linebackers see what they were seeing" as well as "the friendships made with the fellow coaches" and "seeing the players' joy after big plays, big moments in games, and during the season." Koenig summarized his decades of experience: "Coaching to me was just fun and enjoyable to be around everyone that was working towards the same goal."

Koenig will still be working as Marion Local's Athletic Director, and he does a fantastic job. Coach Koenig will now not have to stress as much watching the games on Friday nights, but he will probably still yell here or there at what is going on in the game.

Disney denies ML

By: Anna Hemmelgarn
News Editor

ORLANDO - On March 15-20, the Marion Local Band traveled to Florida. Unfortunately, the band was not allowed to perform in a Walt Disney World parade because they did not have the minimum number of musicians required. However, the band was able to perform and represent Marion Local at Universal Studios.

The group consisted of 25 students, including three seniors: Lauren Kuck, Clara Barlage, and Emily McClurg.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLARA BARLAGE

The Marion Local Band and chaperones soak up the Florida sunshine at Walt Disney World.

The band arrived in Orlando on Saturday morning and performed in the parade at Universal Studios. The group visited both Disney and Universal and were involved in many activities, including a music recording workshop at Disney.

Band Director Mr. Spettel said, "The trip was a fantastic experience! I really enjoyed seeing the band members throughout the day and hearing about their experiences. Some students rode the Space Mountain and others purchased wands and butterbeer from Harry Potter World. I'm definitely looking forward to my next trip with the Marion Local Band."

St. John's CYO soar to State



PHOTO BY: MR. GRABOWSKI

Saint John's CYO basketball team in Akron for State.

By: Kyle Otte
Sports Editor

AKRON - I don't think anyone can remember the last time a Marion Parish Catholic Youth Organization basketball team made it to State. This year, St. John's CYO basketball team, also known as Silent

Night, is excellent. They also had some former high school basketball players on it, so I guess that helped. They competed in the State contest in Akron on Friday, March 1, and Saturday, March 2.

Seniors Landon Arling, Carter Jones, Marcus Rethman, and Adam Schwieterman brought in some high school basketball experience, which tremendously helped them throughout their season and tournament run. Not to mention the other players who contributed positively with two other seniors, Toby Kremer and Devin Francis, and juniors Ethan Heitkamp, Tommy Mescher, and Adam Winner.

Silent Night was able to capture a win on Friday, the first day of the tournament. Going into Saturday, they were hyped up and confident, but they were not able to capture the W and move on. These boys had a heck of a season, one they will remember. They had fun doing it, and that's all that matters.

FFA Week brings fun to February

By: Anna Hemmelgarn
News Editor

MARIA STEIN - The annual FFA Week took place in the high school during the week of Feb. 20 through 23. The themes for the week consisted of FFA apparel on Wednesday, America on Thursday, and finally rodeo on Friday.

On Thursday evening, the Ag Olympics was hosted for FFA members. Some activities included tug-of-war, ring toss, livestock scramble, and apple bobbing. Piz-

za was awarded at the end of the activities. The winning group consisted of seniors Kyle Otte and Joey Kunk; sophomores Wyatt Fleck, Alan Wendel, Troy Moeller, and Matthew Poepelman; and freshmen Kendall Niekamp, Megan Homan, and Kiley Schoenlein.

When asked about the win, senior Joey Kunk said, "Well, when you and your teammates stick together, you can pull anything off. Heck, I've won every year, so I guess it works!"



PHOTO BY: MR. ELSASS

Mr. Grabowski and senior Owen Siefiring getting "slushied" for FFA.

Finally on Friday, the annual slushie activity raised \$200.



Boys, girls 'March' into tournaments



PHOTO BY: MR. KOENIG

The Lady Flyers as Regional Runners-Up, making Maria Stein proud.

By: Kyle Otte
Sports Editor

WAPAKONETA, VANDALIA - When the boys' and girls' regular basketball seasons came to a close, there was no looking back: it was win or go home now, and records didn't matter. Everybody plays their best basketball come March. What was very exciting about the first two days of March this year, was that the boys' and girls' basketball teams were both able to knock off Minster in the tournament to send them home two days in a row. The following weekend, the boys ended their tournament run as District Runners-Up, and the girls finished as Regional Runners-Up.

In the girls' first two games of the tournament, they outscored their

opponents 113-28. Their next match-up was their MAC rival St. Henry, which was a very competitive game with both teams laying it all on the line to stay alive. The Lady Flyers were able to hold off the Redskins after the Redskins almost overcame a 17-point deficit.

Their next game was on March 2, two days after knocking off St. Henry, when they traveled back to Wapakoneta to play another MAC rival, the Minster Wildcats. In a head-to-head match between the #2 seed Lady Flyers and the #1 seed Wildcats, both teams had their hopes of claiming the District Title. The Flyers won dramatically in overtime to claim the District Title for the second year in a row.

The Lady Flyers were down three points with about 12 seconds left in regulation, and doubt soared through the minds of the Flyer faithful. Senior Nora Eckstein had other plans in mind, however: a loose ball bounced out to Eckstein, and everyone knew what was happening, either standing up or looking away. Eckstein confidently put the shot, and the crowd erupted as she hit the dagger and gave the Lady Flyers all of the momentum heading into overtime. The Lady Flyers were able to hold off the Wildcats to capture their second District Championship in a row and move on to Regionals.



PHOTO BY: CHRISTY WILKER

Junior Andrew Pohlman looks to find his offense against LCC in the District Finals.

The Lady Flyers were set to face up against the Mississinawa Valley Blackhawks in the Regional Semi-Final at Butler High School in Vandalia on March 5. The Lady Flyers were able to take down the Blackhawks and move on to the Regional Finals, where they lost to the Fort Loramie Redskins, ending an exciting season.

On the boys' side of things, a new team emerged come tournament time, and there isn't a better time to play your best basketball, than in March. The Flyers flew past Waynesfield Goshen in the Sectional Semi-Finals, and they got their revenge on the Wildcats from Minster in the Sectional Finals.

The boys moved on to Wapakoneta for the District Semifinals, where they faced their MAC rival the St. Henry Redskins. The Redskins were able to hand the Flyers two losses in the regular season, but this was not the regular season; this was March. The Flyers came into the game with revenge and their hair on fire and got the job done, sending the Redskins home.

The Flyers' next matchup was a huge test against the #1 seed LCC Thunderbirds, a very talented team. In the Division IV boys' basketball District Championship game, despite holding the lead for most of the game, the Flyers fell with a final score of 41-35.

Winner rolls into Districts



PHOTO BY: LANGE PHOTOGRAPHICS

Junior Vincent Winner represented Marion Local bowling at Districts this season.

By: Morgan Spieth
Opinion Editor

ROSSFORD - Junior Vincent Winner is the most recent bowler to make it to the District competition, where Marion Local had not been represented since 2021. Winner also achieved the highest score for the high school team this season.

On Feb. 23, the deciding bowling match was held at Interstate Lanes in Rossford, Ohio. To qualify for Districts in bowling, Winner bowled 136, 256, and 161. Of those scores, 256 was his personal best. Not only that, but it was also the team's best score for the season.

At the District competition, Winner bowled 154, 158, and 169 with a collective score of 481.

Winner hopes to make it even further next year, when he will lead the team as a senior. He stated, "It was a good season with lots of improvement. There's still room for more, and we'll be trying hard again next year."

Coach Sue Bruns shares Winner's pride in the team: "It was a season of growth for the boys' team. As a team, the varsity boys improved their average by nearly 22 pins. The line up of Vincent Winner, Deacon Kemper, Owen Kemper, Alex Schulze, and Isaac Bruns bowled a Marion Local record high game at the MAC tournament with a total score of 1,018."

Boys swim back to Districts



PHOTO BY: MRS. HEMMELGARN

L-R: Simon Partington, Wyatt Greenwood, John Kramer, and Hayden Poepelman

BOWLING GREEN - On Feb. 16, Marion Local was represented at the District swim championships by four boys: seniors Wyatt Greenwood, John Kramer, and Simon Partington, and junior Hayden Poepelman. All four swam in the 200 freestyle relay, and Partington also competed individually in the 100 breaststroke.

Greenwood commented, "The guys worked really hard to get to Districts. I'm really proud of all of them. I also want to thank Coach Hartke for coaching a great team."

This year marks the fourth consecutive season that the Marion Local boys were represented at the District level, after a 9-year drought for boys and girls was broken by then-freshman Kylie Niekamp in 2020.

Track 'springs' into new season



PHOTO BY: LANGE PHOTOGRAPHICS

Marion Local boys' track team boasts 47 athletes led by 13 seniors this season.

By: Kyle Otte
Sports Editor

MARIA STEIN - Feb. 26 was the official start of the 2024 track season, and many people around Marion Local have high hopes for this year's season.

Last year, winning the State Championship was a huge deal and a great achievement for this track program. Also, the team was able to capture the MAC Championship for the second year in a row, so now they look to secure another MAC Championship, making it a three-peat heading into the postseason.

Senior Kyle Otte is embarking on his fourth year in track "excited for

the season! We have high hopes for the future. We [seniors] look to lead by example and end off our last sport as seniors with the gold [at State]!"

Their season will start at Coldwater tonight (March 26) at a meet with Coldwater, Fort Recovery, and New Knoxville. The following Saturday, the team will head over to Versailles for the Versailles Invitational. Heading into April, the Flyers will host their first meet of the year on April 2, when they will be hosting Versailles, St. Henry, and Anna. That same week, the team will head over to Celina for the Celina relays on Friday, April 5.

That following week on April 9, the Flyers will head over to New Bremen for a conference meet. On April 13, the team will head over to Minster to participate in probably one of the most competitive meets all year, the Minster Memorial. The boys' team was able to capture a team victory there last season, whereas the girls, with their limited numbers, stood their ground and placed very well.

Coming after the Minster Memorial is a home meet with Delphos St. Johns, Parkway, and Botkins on Tuesday, April 16. Following this meet, on Thursday, April 18, the Flyers will host the annual Flyer Spectacular, which will be the third year of this exciting meet.

After the Flyer Spectacular, the team will have a little break until their next meet because of Prom on April 20. The Flyers will then participate on April 26 in the New Bremen Invitational. April 30 and May 2 will be the Knights of Columbus Mercer County meet at Coldwater.

On May 7 and May 10, there will be the MAC meet at Versailles, where all the MAC schools will be competing for their chance to be MAC Champs.

After the MAC meet is the postseason, which is Districts, Regionals, and State. This is when athletes are at the peaks of their performance and where they are all locked in, and Coach Grabowski will make sure that his athletes will be ready.



PHOTO BY: LANGE PHOTOGRAPHICS

25 athletes comprise the 2024 girls' track team, led by lone senior Alyssa Zizelman.

Spring sprouts softball, baseball

By: Kailee Beyke
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN - Baseball kicked off the start of their season on March 15 with a scrimmage at home against Tri-Village, which they won 7-0. The softball team began their season on March 19 with a scrimmage at Lima Senior. The girls won 16-4. However, they struggled two days later on March 21 at Franklin Monroe, losing 22-3.

Both the softball team and baseball team had their first games at home versus Allen East on March 25. The baseball team won with a score of 9-0. The softball team also won with a score of 10-0, only playing five innings. This now establishes the softball team's season record at 1 - 0.

Baseball has 31 people on the team this year, adding 11 freshmen and having seven returning sophomores. The varsity team lost one senior, Jake Topp, last season and is now being led by the junior class, as there are no seniors on this year's team.

There are a lot of great expectations for this year's team as most of them are returning this season. One expectation this year is to make it

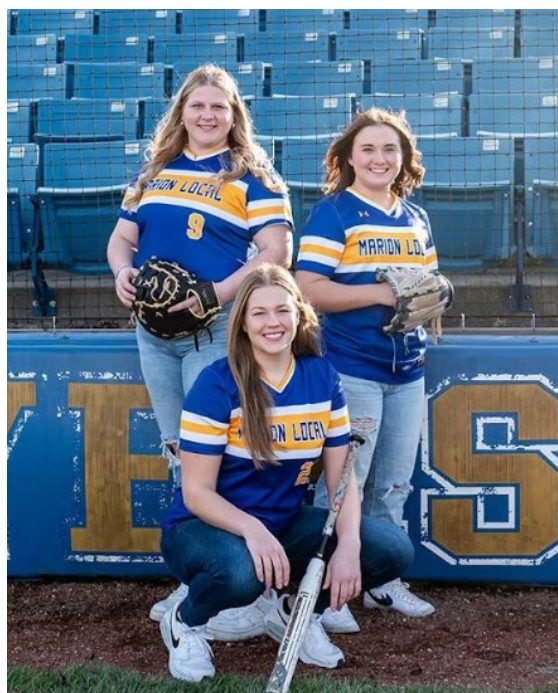


PHOTO BY: BRENDA NAGEL

Senior softball players [L-R] Kailee Beyke, Allison Dirksen, and Camryn Swain.

past the District finals.

Junior Colten Ahrens says, "I'd assume that

we're going to try and incorporate as many underclassmen as possible to help our program in the future."

The softball team consists of 19 girls, 10 of whom are freshmen. The team is looking to improve on their 8 - 17 record from last year. This year, they are led by three seniors: Allison Dirksen, Camryn Swain, and Kailee Beyke. Swain says, "I'm excited for this season. Hopefully, it goes well, and our team stays healthy!"

Varsity Head Coach Mindy Feasel expresses, "This year we are starting off with a lot of experience on the varsity field. With nine returning girls, we are looking forward to settling into defensive positions early in the season. I think adding a few freshmen into the mix, we will be very competitive defensively. We are coming into the season as a .200 hitting ball club, so looking to improve offensively. We want to stay aggressive at the plate and on the bases. I think scoring early and often will be a big point of emphasis this year."

Good luck to both softball and baseball for this upcoming season!

Will Easter Bunny deliver?



PHOTO BY: ANNA HEMMELGARN

Seniors Hailey Wolters and Brynn Arling holding what they want to find in their Easter baskets.

By: Anna Hemmelgarn
News Editor

MARIA STEIN - Candy, money, and chocolate were the most popular items that students want to see in their Easter baskets. Candy and chocolate took half the votes altogether. Found below are some interesting (and demanding) answers a few students submitted.

“My college tuition,” senior Morgan Spieth stated.

“Money would be just fine, so I can feel a little bit rich!” senior Brooke Wilker exclaimed.

Senior Kailee Beyke said, “Car keys. Money. Clothes. More money. Then, a little piece of paper that says I will be going on a two-month vacation.”

“A magical bunny that attacks me every time I procrastinate on something, so I can tackle this senioritis,” senior Carter Unrast says.

A weird request came from senior Landon Arling: “If I could wake up on Easter morning to a well-sautéed steak, some potatoes, and corn all plated in my Easter egg basket, then I’d cry.”

Another interesting request came from sophomore Michaela Osterholt as she responded with, “A gallon jar of pickles.”

Senior Emma Pleiman wrote, “A hot and rich man that drives a Bronco.”

Sophomore Alea Pohlman and freshman Alayna Birt are both on the same page, as they responded they would love the actual Easter Bunny in their baskets this year.

“I would like to see all the wonders of Easter in my basket, all sorts of chocolates and candies. Some gift cards from my favorite restaurants or some of my favorite types of clothes. I would love to see a watch, a Rolex maybe; who am I kidding? Where is the Easter Bunny going to get a Rolex? Wait, he’s the Easter Bunny: he can get anything. Wait, is the Easter Bunny a boy or girl? Oh my goodness, now I am confused!” senior Kyle Otte said.

Sophomore Danielle Meier wants “a pink jeep.”

Freshmen Claire Winner and Rylee Anthony both responded that they want a “boyfriend” or “man” in their Easter baskets.

Senior Karma Brunswick says, “Just money, because in this economy it would be greatly appreciated.”

Flyers fool fellow Flyers

By: Morgan Spieth
Opinion Editor

MARIA STEIN - The day that everyone looks forward to the most all year, more than Christmas. The day that everyone loves. The day when you can get away with anything. THE BEST DAY OF THE YEAR! April 1st! This year, the Flyer students have answered a poll with their favorite April Fools’ jokes. Students and staff were more than willing to share their favorite pranks to help you pull the perfect prank this April Fools’ Day.

Miss Brunswick - “When I moved into my college dorm, my mom said that we were not allowed to have candles. Later that year for April Fools, I called her at 10 p.m. and pretended to be crying, telling her I was in the campus ‘jail’ for having candles in my dorm room and needed her to drive two hours to bail me out. She was upset but agreed. When I called her back a few minutes later, I was laughing so hard that I could barely explain that it was an April Fools’ joke!”

Senior Brandt Homan - “Take a wireless mouse and plug it into a teacher’s desktop. Watch them be confused when they don’t understand why the mouse isn’t doing what they want it to.”

Senior Landon Arling - “On YouTube, there is a funny video of a kid faking that he went blind from watching an eclipse without those safety glasses. This quickly led to the family and kid’s fans praying for him and wishing him the best. They then admitted it was fake and tried to play it off as a joke, but fans were not happy. This led to the fans abandoning the family for the joke, and their YouTube channel got taken down. I think it’s hilarious how bad things happen to bad people, and this one really cracked me up.”



PHOTO BY: MORGAN SPIETH

Ms. Sutton is confused when her wireless mouse will not work due to senior Brandt Homan’s hilarious prank.

Sophomore Wyatt Fleck - “Changing all the clocks so everyone panics.”

Senior Kailee Beyke - “I’ll tell people they dropped their pockets all day long. Then I’ll give people Oreos filled with toothpaste instead.”

Freshman Vanessa Overman - “People think I’m a joke! No need for a prank!”

Junior Lilly Moles - “I enjoy messing with customers at work. I work at McDonald’s, and say I’m handing people their food at the drive-through. I’ll act like they are at a completely different fast-food place: ‘Here’s your crunch wrap and Baja Blast! Have a great day!’”

Senior Karma Brunswick - “The smoking toilet prank is pretty funny.”

Freshman Jayden Bruns - “Mr. Bell when he threw his phone on the ground causing it to shatter after a ‘rejection from a job’ during class: it was so awkward after, and we stayed silent for five minutes ‘til he said it was a joke.”

Hope these pranks and tricks were helpful for you to pull the best April Fools’ joke of all time. HAPPY APRIL FOOLSING!

Half a million tourists expected for eclipse

By: Kailee Beyke
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN - At exactly 3:08 p.m. on April 8, 2024, Maria Stein will fall within the 124-mile span across Ohio in which we will experience the total solar eclipse. The total solar eclipse is when the moon’s shadow will be cast over the sun because it will pass between the earth and the sun perfectly. There will be complete darkness in the middle of the afternoon for about three minutes. The outer layer of the sun will be visible.

The last time a total solar eclipse was seen from Ohio was the year 1806, so this is truly a once-in-a-lifetime event. Hundreds of thousands of people plan to visit Ohio, especially our area, as it falls within the “centerline” of the eclipse. Due to this, there will be no school on April 8, leaving the entire day open. This gives students the opportunity to see the eclipse from the comfort of their own homes. Most students’ plans consist of sleeping and maybe looking outside.

A lot of students had said they plan on sleeping most of the day away. Senior Morgan Spieth says, “I plan to sleep in till 3:00 p.m. That way, when I wake up, I will think it’s still nighttime and won’t even know that it is 3:00, so then I can just go back to sleep.”

Most people plan to simply watch the eclipse. Senior Landon Arling informs that “me and the gentleman shall sit on thine lawn with lawn chairs, potentially in the circular shape. After the marvel of a light switch being turned from on to off to on again, we shall continue to sit in our lawn chairs into the wee bits of the night, when we can see the light turned off once more.”

Senior Ally Mescher plans to “stare directly at it. If I don’t go blind, I have failed!” (This isn’t a good idea.)

And last but not least, freshman Jayden Bruns is “hope[ing] it isn’t the apocalypse and watch it with my family.”



GRAPHIC BY: OHIO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

This once-in-a-lifetime day will be filled with sleep, no school, and the possibility of watching the eclipse (depending on whether students are sleeping or not).



Flyers plunder pot o' gold at rainbow's end

By: Anna Hemmelgarn
News Editor

MARIA STEIN - High school students were asked to respond to a poll about what they would do with the pot of gold found at the end of the rainbow. Students had very interesting answers on what their investments would be with their lucky find.

If freshman Rylee Anthony finds the gold at the end of the rainbow, Mr. Salazar will become a billionaire.

Miss Brunswick is feeling extra kind, as she stated she would "buy Crumbl Cookies for everyone at school!"

Freshman Cale Ahrens has many plans: "So, first, I would go spend some time with my family but not tell them yet. If I tell them, they will try to take the money and steal it. My friends would do the same. After I visit all of them, I would move to Africa, spend time with David Goggins on the beach, and talk about how rich we are. Then I would go run 25 miles with David and still flex our money. I would build 17 houses



PHOTO BY: ANNA HEMMELGARN

Sophomore "leprechaun" Hannah Rindler stands next to her giant pot of gold.

for the homeless and spend time with the homeless. Then I would still have plenty of money to go spend. I would then buy a Bugatti and drive around so everyone knows that I was the guy that built those houses. I will then bring five lucky people back to America. Get them jobs, and get

them millionaires. I will then bring them to David Goggins so they know the ins and outs of life."

Senior Kyle Otte would "probably stare at it like every other person with gold fever would. But I would eventually look away, walk away,

and leave it there for someone else to have. I would leave it there because I do not want to become all wrapped up in the money and become greedy and selfish."

"Go on a massive shopping spree, then move to Hawaii and change my identity and live a lavish life with very few people knowing, while using my goldware, aka, gold silverware!" exclaims senior Kailee Beyke.

Senior Carter Unrast is playing it smart: "I would split the gold with a Leprechaun and make a deal that we split our findings with each other every time one of us finds a pot of gold. By doing this, I will slowly build the Leprechaun's trust. After a few years, he will trust me enough to show where he keeps all of his gold. Once he does, I will tie him up, take all of his gold, and go on the run, never to be seen again."

"I've already found it, and trust me you don't wanna know. Let's just say the leprechauns work with silver and brass for the fear of a repeat of what happened last time," senior Landon Arling stated cryptically . . .

Arling assaults Lucky the Leprechaun



PHOTO BY: MORGAN SPIETH

Senior Landon Arling threatens Lucky the Leprechaun over a table saw.

By: Morgan Spieth
Opinion Editor

MARIA STEIN - On March 16, 2024, a leprechaun was caught roaming the school grounds. The first person who sighted this crea-

ture was an anonymous senior who said the leprechaun was skipping through the halls and secretly pinching people.

After senior Landon Arling spotted the leprechaun's shenanigans, Arling

became enraged. Arling made a statement to the press, saying, "It wasn't even St. Patrick's Day yet, and he was already pinching people! That is completely unacceptable! Besides, that's my job!"

Arling later stated, "It was the hardest task I have ever done in my entire life. At first, I was going to lure him into a trap I planned. I simply put some psychedelic mushrooms in a big pot of soup in the kitchen. In the hope that he would eat them, I would hide in the Commons with a net, in hopes that he would be hungry after the long distance he traveled from Ireland. This would have worked. However, I believe he was immune to the psychedelics in the mushrooms because after eating every single bit of the mushroom soup, he was perfectly fine!

"After that failure, I knew this little bugger was smarter than me; I have no idea how because I am one of the smartest people on the planet. Anyway, after much pondering and debating in this old skull of mine, I had a few ideas, but only one that I liked. I decided to just use the most powerful things on the planet: my own two fists. After many grueling hours of chasing and planting 'fake' traps, I was nearly exhausted.

"That was until I locked him in the courtyard with no escape [Arling evil laughs]! I was able to outlast this fat little short thing and tackle it in the courtyard. I pinned it to the ground and lifted it up by the back of its shirt to bring it into the metal shop for interrogation.

"I hung him from his shirt on one of the hooks in the shop to get some answers. I was so tired, and I just needed a break. So, I took one.

"I slept in the metal shop [Arling starts to get choked up, on the verge of crying], and when I woke up, he was gone!"

On St. Patrick's Day, however, all of Arling's efforts went to waste when Lucky the Leprechaun escaped his grasp.

The leprechaun left a note behind that said, "You put up a good fight, Landon, BUT not good enough! See you next year, you little sausage! Hahahaha! - Lucky Leprechaun

"P.S. The soup needed seasonings and more flavor."



Vehicle of the month

By: Kailee Beyke
Entertainment Editor

MARIA STEIN - This month, senior Jack Knapke takes the title of Best Vehicle of the Month. Knapke got his 2001 red Chevy Silverado 1500 when he first got his license. He got this truck because his brother got a new one. Knapke's favorite thing to do with his truck is take late-night drives with senior Luke Wuebker. You can't miss this vehicle with its eight-foot antenna from the top, so make sure you take a look at the best vehicle of the month!

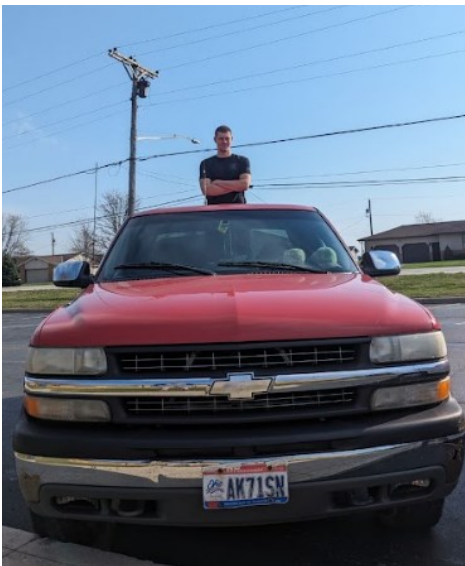


PHOTO BY: LUKE WUEBKER
Senior Jack Knapke stands with his truck.



PHOTO BY: KAILEE BEYKE
Senior Marcus Rethman and his Honda Accord.

On the other hand, senior Marcus Rethman inherited the title of Worst Vehicle of the Month. His car is a 2018 Honda Accord, gross! Rethman got his car in the year of 2020, but only started driving it this past year in 2023. He got this car because his truck started to rust in half, which honestly might have even been better than his "new" car. Rethman says he doesn't have anything he likes to do with his car, besides "driving my friends around on the weekend when their shoes are muddy"; the mud would blend right in with the piece of crap this car is. Rethman's car seems outdated and old: who would want to be caught driving that around? Definitely not me!

Freshman finally turns 4



PHOTO BY: KAILEE BEYKE

"Four"-year-old freshman Caden Tuate celebrated on Feb. 29.

By: Kailee Beyke
Entertainment Editor



MARIA STEIN - Typically, high school students are ages 14 through 18, unless you're Kyle Otte and the oldest high school student, who is 19. Anyhow, what if I told you there is actually a four-year-old running around the hallways with the rest of us? That's right: Caden Tuate, all eyes on you. Luckily for him, his birthday falls on Leap Year Day, making him only four years old. This year, Tuate was lucky enough to actually celebrate his birthday on his *actual* birthday, Feb. 29, as this year is a leap year.

Tuate commented, "It is interesting because when I tell people that my birthday is on leap year, they don't believe me and think it's crazy." On years when he doesn't actually have a day to celebrate, he normally celebrates his birthday on Feb. 28. Tuate likes to joke with people about his birthday falling on leap day, as he says, "Technically, I will always be a young person and not an old person."

Dear Freddy . . .

By: Morgan Spieth
Opinion Editor



Dear Freddy,

Sorry I haven't talked to you in a while; I asked Cupid for some advice. However, his advice was worse than yours, and it turns out we have had a MAJOR setback.

Allow me to explain. Cupid gave me one of his arrows to use on the senior girl I like. He warned me before using the arrow that he had never let a "stupid weak human like me" use one of his arrows before, but I didn't care. I need this senior! I may have shot the arrow at someone who should not have been in range . . .

I was in the hallway when I saw her walking towards carpet land (down by the shop). I set up my shot perfectly until YOUR BOSS WALKED OUT OF THE OFFICE! YES, YOU HEARD ME RIGHT! MR. GOODWIN! THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL got hit by the arrow THAT I SHOT! That means that Mr. Goodwin would be in love with me! I immediately turned around and ran away from him. Goodwin yelled my name a few times, but I didn't care: I was not going to have the principal in love with me.

I was paranoid for the rest of the day. When I had a class on the north side of the school, I didn't even go through to any of my classes on that side of the building until I saw that Mr. Goodwin had gone back to his office so he couldn't see me. That whole day, I was late for all my classes.

The next morning, right after I sat down in my desk chair after saying the Pledge of Allegiance, "Unimportant Freshman, please report to the principal's office," came over the intercom. Knowing that the principal was about to confess his romantic feelings to me, I planned to fake sick and go home. Anyway, when I walked into his office, he told me to sit down.

Bracing myself, he said, "Mr. Freshman, you were late to nearly every single class yesterday! What do you have to say for yourself?"

I was completely overcome with relief. The arrow hadn't worked, and I was completely speechless.

"Nothing! Not even going to defend yourself? Fine, then. Detention for a week! That's all, sir. You may leave my sight now!"

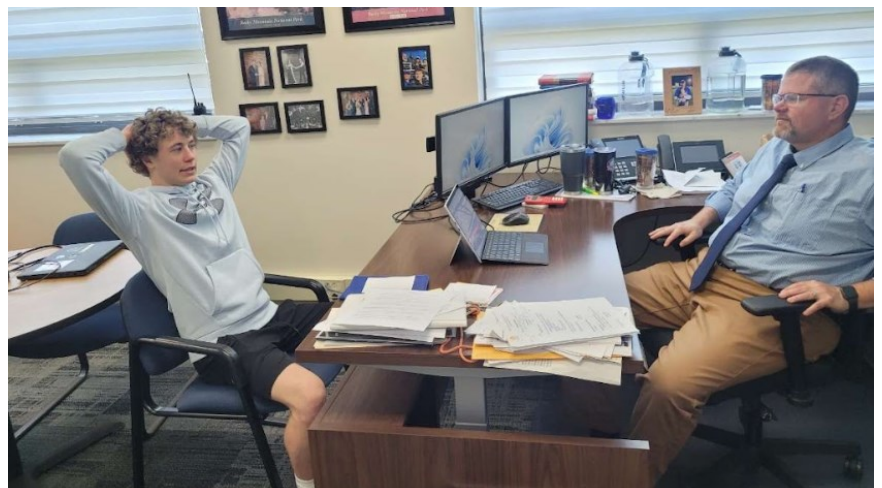


PHOTO BY: MORGAN SPIETH

Unimportant Freshman is caught in Mr. Goodwin's office after all of his tardies following the arrow incident.

After all of that commotion, I contacted Cupid. He said that this had never happened before, and he was extremely surprised that the arrow didn't work. He also made a weird reference I didn't really understand about if a person is already in love with someone else maybe that's the reason it didn't work.

I don't know, and I don't care because I dodged a huge bullet on this one, Freddy, and I don't know how to deal with this situation anymore. I have lost all hope. I think I just might give up.

Thanks for all of your help this year,

Sad, Unimportant Freshman

Dear Unimportant Freshman,

Even though I am very upset with you for not coming to me for advice, you do seem to be in a bit of a pickle. However, now that you have learned your lesson—that asking any other person for advice is a huge mistake—I guess I will help you one last time.

Now this is my last hope. I have no idea if this will work, but be a gentleman. Pull out the chair for her, and buy her chocolates and flowers and all that gross stuff. Be confident in yourself, and ask her out: see how that works for you. I'm telling you now I don't think that this will work because Frieda always hated that sappy stuff.

Best of luck . . . AGAIN, Freddy