

***"The Stinger is a student-run newspaper designed to give voice to the Marion Center Junior/Senior High School student body. The staff aims to demonstrate the value of free speech and a free press through creating an informative and responsible newspaper that focuses on issues and events important to the school community."***

Issue 1

#catchthebuzz

November 4, 2020

# Is Homecoming Drama-filled At MC?

*By: Elizabeth Smith*



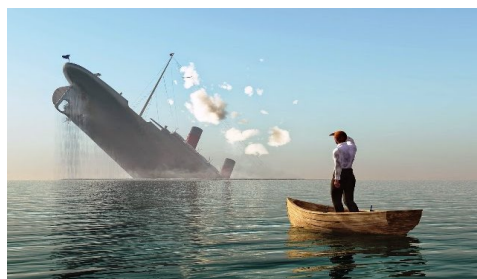
Senior Homecoming Court members, from left to right: Gaven Palko, Jerzey Coble; Gavin Effinger, Jasmine Hill; Tanner MacBlane; Ashlynn Coble; Marvin Beatty, Sarah Miller; Marcus Badzick, Mia Urbani; Zachary Short, Alyson Krecota.

Photo Credit: Ken Diem

## Float my Boat, or Sink my Ship?

*By: Lyndsay Mallory*

The "Float My Boat, Sink My Ship" column in this year's Stinger Newspapers is a chance for students to "argue" in a friendly manner about their own perspectives or preferences. In this addition of "Float my Boat, or Sink my Ship," students were asked whether or not the pronunciation of "crick" is preferable, or if it sinks their ship, and it



should be pronounced as written - "creek".

Whether someone says "crick" or "creek" depends on the area in which they grew up, what they grew up hearing, and how they view it. We here at The Stinger want to know if the term "crick" floats your boat or sinks your ship!

*Continued on page 2.*

When crowning teenagers king and queen there are more than just a few things that can go wrong. Pop culture and the movie industry have shown us the way high school popularity can be toxic. Whether it is in the horror of *Carrie* or the complexity of *Mean Girls*, it is clear how ceremonies like Homecoming Court can incite competition, bad will, and bullying among classmates. But for the class of 2021 and the court members they elected, this doesn't seem to be true at Marion Center Area High School.

For starters, Homecoming celebrations are about more than who wins court. "[Homecoming] is a traditional celebration that our school and a lot of other schools in the area do to have fun and be a community together," said current Marion Center senior, Evan Crooks. But this year, the court could be the only version of Homecoming these schools have. Because of COVID-19, the traditional homecoming -- the dance, football game, parade, and pep-rally -- has been cancelled, and all that remains is the voting and crowning of court on October 21st. So, hanging onto their last piece of Homecoming tradition, who did the Marion Center seniors choose to represent them for Homecoming Court? And why?

For boys, the list includes: Marvin Beatty, Marcus Badzick, Gavin Effinger, Tanner Macblane, Gaven Palko, and Zachary Short.

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## Float Your Boat "Crick"

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"I say 'crick'. That's just the way I've always said it. People in my family say it that way." -Nicholas Pacconi (10th grade)

"I say 'crick'. It's the right way to say it. I grew up with my family saying it that way. They always said 'crick' so that's what I said." -Ethan Ashbaugh (10th grade)

"I say 'crick'. My dad says 'crick'. I've just never said 'creek' like the Mahoning 'Creek'." -Audree Mallory (7th grade)

## Sink Your Ship "Creek"

"I say 'creek'. It's the right way to say it- my mom says it that way." -Reagan Ryen (10th grade)

"My default probably would be 'creek' just because it's correct phonetically speaking, but, when I think of creek as in 'crick', I think of a small stream that a creek runs into. I get a visual in my head like the Mahoning Creek is a 'creek' that runs into the Little Mahoning 'Crick'." -Mr. Jonovich (7th grade English teacher)

"Um 'creek'. It sounds better and most people in my family say it that way." -Mackenzie Thomas (9th grade)

"'Creek'. That's how I've always said it. It varies everywhere. Even in North Carolina, this is a big argument." - Hunter McMillen (9th grade)

**So what do you think? Crick or Creek? To cast your vote, watch for our poll on our Instagram stories!**  
**the\_stinger\_newspaper**



2020 Homecoming King and Queen, Marvin Beatty and Sarah Miller.

Photo Credit: Elizabeth Smith

### Local Business of the Month:

## The 'Home' Made Restaurant

*By: Becca Spence*

On highway US-119 sits a little brown building with a sign out in the front that states "The 'Home' Made Restaurant". The restaurant, although small, has a large menu full of delicious entrees for every meal of the day and every special occasion. Owner Wendy Weeks runs a tight ship, working alongside her employees to offer our town delicious meals and a comfortable place to sit and enjoy them.

Wendy, a Marion Center graduate, began waitressing at the restaurant as a high school student when she was 17. She continued to work at the restaurant through the end of high school and into her college career at IUP. At the time the restaurant was owned by Damian and Cindy Kordell, but in 2013 Wendy bought

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## Is Homecoming Drama-Filled at MC?

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For girls: Ashlynn Coble, Jerzey Coble, Jasmine Hill, Alyson Krecota, Sarah Miller, and Mia Urbani. When members of the senior class were asked what they were looking for in a court, kindness, athletic ability, a good sense of humor, popularity, and academic achievement were at the top of the list. Some, like Jadyn Schoch and Anthony Scott, said they valued leadership capabilities and the eagerness to work with others. "No one really wants a jerk to represent the entire class," remarked Julia Spence. Commenting on previous courts, Jack Shearer said, "A lot of them played sports." This year's court reflects that same athletic ability -- every member plays at least one sport and represents community based clubs.

Academic achievement is also shown, as most of the members are on Primary or Secondary Honor Roll and involved in academic competitions such as FBLA. "The court this year does represent a talented group of students. We have representation from various sports' teams, the band, theatre..." commented Miss Oplinger, the spanish teacher, and, as Student Council advisor, the one ultimately responsible for homecoming activities.

So how do the homecoming court members feel? "It's so exciting!" exclaimed court member Sarah Miller; "I wasn't expecting to be on it." Mia Urbani was happy to share, "I'm excited to be on court and I'm grateful for this opportunity, but I am also disappointed that COVID took

away some of the other things that go along with court." As far as strife among members goes, "There seem to be no issues between members of court this year," Miss Oplinger said, "They all get along [...] and were all very encouraging at pictures today."

Marvin Beatty and Sarah Miller won king and queen at the Homecoming Celebration October 21st. Marvin is involved in football, track-and-field, wrestling, and marching band. Sarah is involved in Athena, Student Council, and Cheerleading. After Sarah was crowned at the ceremony, fellow court members wasted no time in sharing her excitement by sincerely congratulating her. At Marion Center, this just goes to show that the age-old, tragic, drama-filled tale of crowing highschool queen is only that - age-old.



the restaurant, and the couple “handed the torch over” to her as the new owner. When Wendy is not in the restaurant, she is very active in the community, being heavily involved with the American Legion, being both unit and district president, and living just outside of MC in Indiana. She also takes every possibility she gets to help out. Whenever a local approaches Wendy for a community project, she is more than willing to contribute. “I think it’s really important to support the community, and the kids.” Wendy explains, “I mean the community is what keeps me going, so you give back as much as you can.”

The Home Made Restaurant is open from 8 am to 7 pm six days of the week, offering delicious dishes for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert. The menu, which Wendy tries to change up every two years, includes many different options from sweet pies, like my personal favorite - the peanut butter pie, to their most popular dish - meat loaf. Over the years, the little restaurant has gained many regulars, both families and individuals who come in on a regular basis to enjoy the wonderful

cooking. The restaurant staff treats their customers like they truly are sitting at home, and give them the caring service of a family. “We live off of our regulars,” Wendy explained. “And we notice when they’re not here. If there’s somebody who comes in every Sunday and they don’t come in on a Sunday, and we don’t know that they’re not gonna be here, we get concerned.”

Although the food is delicious, it’s only part of the welcoming experience. The amazingly efficient staff makes every visit enjoyable. Wendy has a strong staff built of cooks, waiters and waitresses, and dishwashers. Many of her employees are current Marion Center students or MC graduates. When hiring, Wendy explains that she looks for a person who is sociable, naturally friendly with customers, and can hold a conversation. These traits help the staff develop relationships with customers, but also other employees. Although the work can be stressful, Wendy explained that the staff grows to love one another. “This is a family. We fight like a family, we make up like a family. We get annoyed like a family; it’s

## The 'Home' Made



*The "Home" Made Restaurant in Home, PA.  
Photo Courtesy of The "Home" Made Restaurant.*

like a bunch of brothers and sisters running around. I definitely feel like a mom chasing her kids around sometimes. But I love them, and I would do anything for them.”

Like the rest of the world, The Home Made restaurant has been heavily impacted by the recent outbreaks of Covid-19. While Wendy is focused on maintaining the bottom line, her main priority in the restaurant is keeping their customers and staff safe. Over the summer, Wendy missed out on many business opportunities, like catering weddings and graduation parties, due to the Covid restrictions. In the restaurant itself, the salt and pepper shakers no longer stay on the tables between customers, and ketchup is now offered to customers in packets rather than bottles. When it comes to cleaning, “Everything is just constantly wiped,” Wendy tells me. Tables, chairs, booths,

everything is cleaned to assure the protection of their customers.

Through all the stress and changes of the world, Wendy and her staff at The Home Made Restaurant continue to serve the community and offer the best service they can. When asked what she wanted the community to know, Wendy emphasizes how truly grateful she is. “I think I would just like to thank everyone for being helpful and being okay, that’s it,” she explains. Covid has caused delays with shipments and service, but while everyone is figuring out what is going on, Wendy is grateful that the public continues to support and be patient with the restaurant. With every change, dilemma, and trouble the world throws out, the little restaurant stands their ground and offers a second safe home with friendly staff and delicious food.





## MC Athletes of the Month Fall Edition

By: Grace Rougeaux

This year the Marion Center Newspaper decided to honor a student from each sport every month/season as the athlete of the month. The chosen athletes were specifically picked by their coaches and teammates.

For stinger volleyball this year, head coach Greg Pack chose student athlete Shawna Cook. Cook is one of the team's captains and plays as an outside hitter. Pack stated that, "Although Shawna is a quiet leader, her athleticism and hard work speak for her. She has been one of our most consistent players all season." Cook also leads the team in kills and is in the top three for serve points, digs, and serve receives.

For the Marion Center football team, head coach Adam Rising and other members of the coaching staff choose TJ Lynn. In just the first five games, Lynn had 17

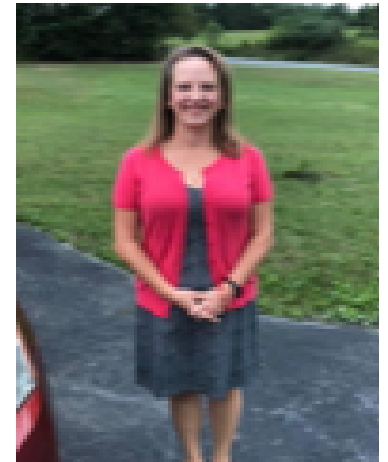
receptions, 314 receiving yards, four touchdowns, and three interceptions. Rising stated that the coaching staff chose Lynn for multiple reasons, including the fact that he, "has demonstrated an outstanding offseason commitment that indicates why he is having a lot of success during his junior year." Rising also wrote that Lynn, "displays consistent effort and dedication throughout the offseason by going above and beyond." Lynn attended many football camps throughout the Summer, such as wide receiving camps and showcases. Lynn says that he loves football and is, "very proud of how far we have come as a team, but we still have a lot to prove." He and his fellow teammates are more than ready to make an impact in the postseason.

Head coach Chris Peters chose Nevada Armstrong as

the girls MCXC student athlete. Peters chose Armstrong because not once, but twice, she individually won the Heritage Conference Championship. The past year, she also placed third. Peters stated that Armstrong is strong, which, "makes her an extremely tough hill runner." Coach Peters also chose runner Tim Barrett as the boys MCXC athlete. Barrett won the Heritage Conference individual championship for the boys. Peters wrote that, "he has worked hard to improve the efficiency of his stride; it is very powerful and quick." Barrett has also improved his time this year in the Heritage Conference by 48 seconds since last year. The Stinger Newspaper would like to congratulate each chosen athlete, and wish good luck to each team as they continue their seasons. Continue to make MC proud!!

## The Buzz on Our Stingers

### Get to know the Members of our Hive



*Even teachers snap those first day of school photos!*  
Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Alyson Berezansky.

## MC Teacher of the Month

By: Camryn Sacco

As students here at the Marion Center Area High School, we would like to acknowledge one of the many teachers devoted to the successful education of students. This month we are recognizing Mrs. Berezansky. Mrs. Berezansky is one of the many English teachers at Marion Center Area High School. She currently teaches tenth-grade English students in both academic and honors courses. When not teaching, Mrs. Berezansky enjoys riding motorcycles, shooting pool, and reading.

Out of Mrs. Berezansky's nineteen years of teaching, she has spent the past fourteen at the Marion Center Area High School. This has given her the perfect opportunity to become involved during the school year. Currently, Mrs. Berezansky is in charge of the Quiz Bowl team, even though their competitions have been delayed until the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the pandemic has given her Quiz Bowl team some minor



*Left: Wide Receiver TJ Lynn tosses the ball back to the ref after a passing gain. Photo Courtesy of Coach Rising*

*Right: Player of the Month and volleyball captain Shawna Cook. Photo Credit: Ken Diem*





## Teacher of the Month

*Con't from page 4*

setbacks, she has chosen to embrace the challenges brought her way to better her classes. These struggles have forced her to become more organized, have more one-on-one time with students, and allow for a more casual setting.

If you ever get the chance to, make sure to take a moment to thank Mrs. Berezansky, or any other teacher, for all that they do to support the students and other staff at Marion Center School District, especially through all the uncertainty that has come with this year.



*Nevada Armstrong's aggressive kick at District VI Championship on October 31, 2020, as well as her impressive season, has earned her the title of MCXC female athlete of the month.*

*Photo Credit: Kelli Sacco*



*Sophomore Timmy Barrett raced his way to State's at the District VI Championship, becoming one of MC's four runners headed to Hershey this weekend.*

*Photo Credit: Kelli Sacco*

## The Buzz

**Dear Buzz,**

How can I stay productive on my off days of school?

Dear Stinger,

Being productive on the off days is very hard to do with all of the distractions at home! Personally, I think it is useful to create a schedule to do your classes while you are at home. For example, you could do math first, then science next, and so on. This will keep you focused and help you be productive. Also, completing your school work earlier in the day is a good strategy to use so that you are done with your homework and can relax the rest of the day!

Stay Productive! -The Buzz

**Dear Buzz,**

I try to be nice to everybody. There is a certain person who is hard to read. One day she is nice and the next she acts as if I don't exist. Sometimes she will talk at lunch and sometimes she'll completely ignore me. What should I do? I hate when it's awkward but I would rather not talk because she

might bite my head off. Help!!

Thanks- Friendly

Dear Friendly,

That is a hard situation to be in! I would say that you should continue being nice to her and maybe eventually she will act the same towards you! Even if she does not change, it is the right thing to do. While you are doing that, you do not have to be best friends with this person. You can show her kindness and keep your distance at the same time!

Hope this gets better- The Buzz

**Dear Buzz,**

This one student, AKA sadly my ex best friend:

We stopped being friends almost a year ago and sometimes it's hard to think about how you could lose a best friend so quick. Him and I were best friends since kindergarten almost and then as we got older he moved away then came back to MC and then a lot of drama started happening between us. Our parents always used to say that we were inseparable. We always wanted to be

doing stuff together like riding four wheelers or going hunting. See I would love to be his friend again it's just I don't want anymore drama with this person. We have talked a couple times since we stopped being friends but our conversations aren't like they used to be...But the sad part is the only thing to remember us being friends is a couple pictures with a ton of memory. So if you could plz give me and this person some advice so we can work things out and be friends again thank you!

Dear Stinger,

I am sorry to hear you are no longer friends with this person! My advice would be to be nice to this person and continue to talk to them at school when you can. Eventually, you two could start hanging out again. If you start to develop a friendship again that would be awesome and if not at least you know that you tried to be friends again!

I hope everything works out!- The Buzz



Use the key words from this issue's articles to complete the adjacent wordsearch.

Need the answers? Check out our full, online version of *The Stinger* at [marioncenterstinger.com](http://marioncenterstinger.com)

When your wordsearch is complete, go to room 108 - the first 5 receive a prize!

Wordsearch courtesy of:  
Callie Bland and Jadyn Schoch.

### Junior High Athletes of the Month

By: Julian Sandoval

In Marion Center, our athletes work extremely hard to get the best results for our sports. They all give their best efforts, and we are extremely proud of them. Yet some coaches believe that there are athletes who go above and beyond their expectations. Some athletes that deserve special recognition. They have shown tremendous effort, leadership, and teamwork, which has not gone unnoticed. Our Volleyball, Cross Country, and Football coaches would like to recognize the following athletes: Kayden Park and Brynnley Haggerty, Junior High MCXC captains. These two hold a lot of wins in their hands. They are two of the top runners for Junior High MCXC, and the captains of the team. Brynnley Haggerty has been a part of MCXC for two years, and was voted to be the captain during her second season. During her last meet, which was at Blairsville, she was sadly disqualified for a false start. She did express how proud she was of her teammates. Kayden Park has also been a part of the team for two years, and was voted to be captain during his second season. During the Blairsville meet, he also said that he was proud of the team's performance, and proud of his own personal performance as

well. The Junior High Cross Country has been undefeated for the 3 years it has been in place; the Junior High program for MCXC is fairly new, only being 3 years old. Next year, both of these athletes will start their Varsity year.

Molly Beer, Junior High Volleyball player. She has been in volleyball for 2 years. Her best record was 13 aces in one game. She feels confident in keeping her teammates spirits up, but she does get down herself sometimes. Her team had a large win streak, but it was lost in a recent game against Northern Cambria that they lost their streak. She believes that Covid-19 has not changed her team that much, but social distancing has been a bit of a problem. Molly will start her Varsity year next year, and we cannot wait to see.

Last, but certainly not least, Drew Runk, a Junior High Football player, has been in football for 2 years, and does not yet hold any personal

records. He stated that he feels Covid-19 has not really affected the team that much. The last game that Junior High MC football participated in was a 22-0 win against United. Next year, Drew will be in Varsity football. We cannot wait to see his varsity performance in the coming years.

Jr. High XC Captains  
Brynnley Haggerty  
(Below) and Kayden Park  
(R) were nominated as  
athletes of the month.  
Photos Courtesy of:  
MCXC





## Elective of the Month: Art

By: Liam Dicken

This year, Covid has changed the way many classes go about business, but there are a few that still have a sense of normalcy. The Art program that is taught by Mrs. Cirelli is one of those few. This year the Art classes have started the year with still drawings. These drawings help students with shading skills and perspective. According to one student, those skills apply to everything you do in art. The pottery class has begun to experiment with different types of engravings, while the Advanced Art Class has started to practice with different forms of drawing using pastels and charcoal. The Art Program has also planned some events for the year. Multiple pottery sales have been planned. The profits

will benefit the Art Program and help to buy supplies. Mrs. Cirelli has also discussed starting a program to create art for the residents of local nursing homes. Residents would mail a list of interests to Mrs. Cirelli and then the students would take those interests and create art for those people so that they can feel connected to the outside world.

Art has the amazing power to inspire and teach people. It can be an outlet for stress and creativity alike. For these reasons it is great that the Art program is still going strong despite the craziness that our world is experiencing. Mrs. Cirelli has a lot planned for the students this year. Even if you didn't sign up for the elective this year, the room is always open during STAR Period. If you love to create and need an outlet for your feelings in these crazy times, the Art program is perfect for you.



*Junior High athletes of the month as chosen by their coaches and teammates: Molly Beer (left) and Drew Runk (above).*

*Photos courtesy of coaches*

## Newspapers in Indiana

By: Hayden Johnston

As a part of the first publication for the Stinger Newspaper this year, what better article to include than one discussing the history of Indiana County Newspapers. If you are anything like me, this would sound like the most boring article of all time, but our area actually has a rich history involving newspaper publications. Since Indiana County's founding in 1803 there have been many newspapers published here, with the first official one being established in 1814.

So, if newspapers are an important part of our history, do people here still read them? According to Ty Clowser, a senior at Marion Center, "I don't think there is anyone in my generation who reads the newspaper!" Is this a problem? Well it certainly can be when newspapers, very reliable sources of information, are replaced by "social media apps," which is where Ty says he gets all of his news.

The best example of the importance of accurate news is from our own county! In the 1830's and 1840's the abolitionist movement, the movement to end slavery, was very strong in Indiana County. This was no clearer shown than in the Clarion of Freedom, an anti-slavery newspaper established by James Moorhead that was published from 1840-1854. This newspaper provided a clear stream of important information during a time where this was very valuable and required bravery. While the

contrast between a school newspaper and an abolitionist newspaper is clear, it explains why we as a society need to continue reading them. Many people do, one teacher, *elle ne voulais pas s'appeler*, said she still continues to read hers.

So why have newspapers fallen out of favor with our generation? Grace Birk, a Junior at Marion Center, said newspapers are important because, "that's how old people get their information." Our goal is to make this school newspaper, and hopefully make our readers view all newspapers, as fun for all. So rather than just looking at our history we can look towards the future!

Where do we start? Most students asked said they didn't even know we had any form of school newspaper until being asked these questions, so if you like our first issue - spread the word! Since we obviously won't be writing anything as important as abolitionist articles, feel free to DM us on our Stinger Newspaper Instagram page ([the\\_stinger\\_newspaper](https://www.instagram.com/the_stinger_newspaper)), or talk to one of the writers to tell us what you would be interested in reading!



*Brave MC students Dillon Green (L) and Andrew Adams test out collecting news via a paper newspaper - an unknown concept to many students in 2020!*

*Photo by: Hayden Johnston*



# Support Staff of the Month

## Mrs. Armstrong

By: Zachary Short

On behalf of Marion Center Area High school, this month we recognize our support staff Shawnee Armstrong for all of her hard work, as well as her dedication to our community. Mrs. Armstrong is one of our office secretaries in the High school, and works day after day to make sure our school is running properly. Throughout school, you may see her working with parents and filing paperwork in the main office. Mrs. Armstrong works to assist our school principal Mr. Joio, and puts in lots of effort and hours to assure his job runs smoothly. Though you may know Mrs. Armstrong for her work in the high school, she enjoys many outside hobbies as well. Mrs. Armstrong enjoys watching her children in their extracurricular endeavors, and is always cheering them on from the sidelines. She also enjoys using her time cooking. Mrs. Armstrong uses up much of her time listening to music as well. She is thoroughly involved in our community, and donates her time in school events, as well as through her work. Mrs. Armstrong provides major contributions to our school community, and without her, many tasks behind the scenes would not be completed. If you see Mrs. Armstrong, be sure to thank her for all of the hard work, and hours she puts toward our community. Though you may not see it, she helps each of us tremendously, so be sure to thank her.



MCHS Office Secretary Shawnee Armstrong is a jack-of-all-trades at MC! Here, she stands next to the countertop that she personally stained, after school hours. Mrs. Armstrong is regularly completing tasks that benefit our district - even if they don't fall within the classic description of her job! Be sure to check out her handiwork, and tell her thank you for all she does to keep MC running smoothly!  
Photo by: Zachary Short

# November Wordsearch



- |            |           |              |             |            |
|------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| secondary  | honorroll | abolitionist | Harrypotter | volleyball |
| homecoming |           | restaurant   | Berezansky  | secretary  |
| juniorhigh |           | football     | TheBuzz     | armstrong  |
| cirelli    |           | Advice       | weeks       | creek      |
| mcxc       |           | indiana      | acrylic     | creek      |