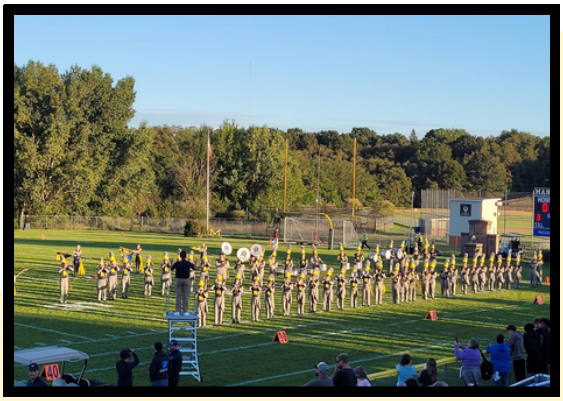
MARINER CHRONICLE

MANISTEE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Edition #2, 2026

Homecoming Overview

The homecoming game on Friday the 25 was against Fremont. The Mariners had an unfortunate loss of 28 to 18. Even though The Mariners lost, the team still played well and had some good plays on both defense and on offense. On offense **Davion Neal Berry (12)** had two touchdowns, **Morgan Banicki (11)** had two touchdowns, and **Wyatt Protasiewicz (12)** ran for one touchdown. On defense, **Ean Guenthardt (12)** had a total of 20 tackles throughout the game. And **Jacob Bielski (10)** had 13 tackles throughout the game. Throughout the game, the Manistee Cheerleaders hyped up the crowd with their cheers and stunts. At half time the Mariner Marching band took to the field and performed their halftime show; A Trip to the Tropics. The Mariner Marching Band performed 3 songs: “Hawaii Five-o” by The Ventures, “Havana” by Camilla Cambello, and “Livin La Vida Loca” by Ricky Martin. The Mariner Marching Band was led by Drum Major **Caleb Eilers (12)** and Junior Drum Major **Lara Woodruff (11)**. For the spirit week, beating the senior class by only 25 points, the juniors won homecoming with 2,625 points in total. Overall it was a great game, and the community came together to celebrate Mariner Spirit.





Written by Kat Vasquez

HOCO Hits the Dance Floor

Written by Teagan Willard







The MHS homecoming dance was held in the commons on Saturday, September 26th, the dance started at 8pm and ended a 11pm. The night was filled with students and faculty dressed to the nines with dancing, excitement, booming music featuring songs popular among students, like; “Cupid Shuffle,” “Low,” “Wobble” “Mr. Brightside,” and more. There was also a photobooth located in the commons where students could take photos with their group anno with each grade's superheroes appearing on screen and in the photo.The homecoming dance is something many students look forward to, it’s a chance to get ready with your friends, take pictures, go out to dinner with your group or with your date before heading to the dance. Homecoming is a time where everyone comes together to express themselves and have fun whether it's shouting over music with your friends, dancing like no one's watching, or just having fun and socializing. Next year, don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone at the dances, just go out there and have fun and enjoy yourself and make the most out of it A few students could be seen at the dance with cameras taking pictures for yearbook. Shown below are some moments captured during the dance.











court and royalty!

Written by Teagan Willard

It's that time again, Mariners! Homecoming here at MMHS is all the rave, but you can't have homecoming without homecoming class representatives! This year our 2026 homecoming court was packed with exceptionally brilliant and bright students who demonstrate with courtesy what it means to be a Mariner. Our freshman class representatives were **Avery Smith (9)** and **Cyler Cole (9)**, Sophomore class representatives were **Jaelynn Schafer (10)** and **Cade Kieszkowski (10),** and junior class representatives, **Teagan Willard (11)** and **Xavier Goodspeed (11).** Finally, every year the senior classes are instructed to vote 5 boy and girl candidates to represent their class in hopes of receiving the title of homecoming king and queen. Students selected are paired together, but anyone out of the pairs can be named king and queen. This year, our homecoming representatives for the senior class included; **Leia Gilliland (12)** with **Wyatt Protasiewicz (12)**, **Kynlee O'Connor (12)** with **James Murray (12)**, **Campbell Kieffer (12)** with **Andy O'Donnell (12)**, and finally, **Taylor Schafer (12)** alongside **Riley Sturgeon (12).** The week of homecoming, the student body was instructed to vote out of all the candidates, who they wanted to be appointed as homecoming king and queen. Each candidate representing their class stands in front of the audience accompanied by their guardians at the football game while the announcer shares information about each candidate, they state what all they have participated in at their time at MHS, whether it be a sport, club, or organization, their plans after graduation, along with their dreams and aspirations. Each representative has the spotlight on them, and after each representative has been announced, it's time for the last year's homecoming king and queen Alayna Edmonson and Landin Sowa to crown this year's king and queen after all of the votes are in. The Manistee Highschool 2026 Homecoming king and queen are **Leia Gilliland (12)** and **Wyatt Protasiewicz (12)**! Congratulations to all of the representatives and our Mariner homecoming royalty, until next year!











Dressed to Impress

Written by Abby Kolk

Homecoming brought many exciting and memorable experiences. One representation of this spirit are the 2026 Homecoming dress-up days. The week began Tuesday, Sept. 22nd with Dress Like Your Favorite Teacher day where students represented their favorite teacher. Wednesday was dress like a superhero day where students could embody their high school class superhero. Meme Day Thursday brought many laughs, and finally Blue and Gold Friday to support the Mariner Football team. Juniors took the crown for most overall participants, then the seniors in second, sophomores in third, and freshmen in last. This tradition creates an exciting competition and bonding experience for all students.







SPORTS CORNER

Written by Alexis McClellon



Ready For Regionals

These past few weeks our girls golf team have worked hard on the course, preparing for regionals that take place next week. The first complete match this season was their personal best, placing 2nd place with a combined score of 219. **Cheyenne Martin (12)** placed 5th, **Bella Sorenson (12)** placed 10, **Alexis McClellan (12)** placed 11th and **Shae Godzina (10)** placed 12th, with **Leah McClellan (12)** setting a new personal best. They had a match on Monday last week, where they placed 5th in the conference with a combined score of 250. While it wasn't the ending they hoped for, they had 2 players in the top 10: **Cheyenne Martin (12**) in 6th place and Bella Sorenson (12) in 9th place, a player in honorable mentions: **Shae Godzina (10)** and **Alexis McClellan (12)** placed top 20 in conference. Both **Leah McClellan (12)** and **Dominique Glover (10)** PR'd on Monday and are ready for regionals on Tuesday! Co-captian Cheyenne Martin said "We've improved a lot throughout the season, and I'm proud of how everyone kept working and supporting each other." Coach Murray also said "For having only 3 experienced golfers and 3 brand new golfers, as a coach I am very impressed with our team and how each and every one of them played!" Be sure to wish them good luck at regionals on Monday!



A Heist and a Haunted House

Written by Kayleigh Moore

In early September our High School Theatre Department held auditions for their two Fall Plays: "The Haunted House Disaster" and "The Red Carpet Heist". Both are short, 45 minute comedies that the actors have had four weeks to put together with the help of their director Ms. Feyen.

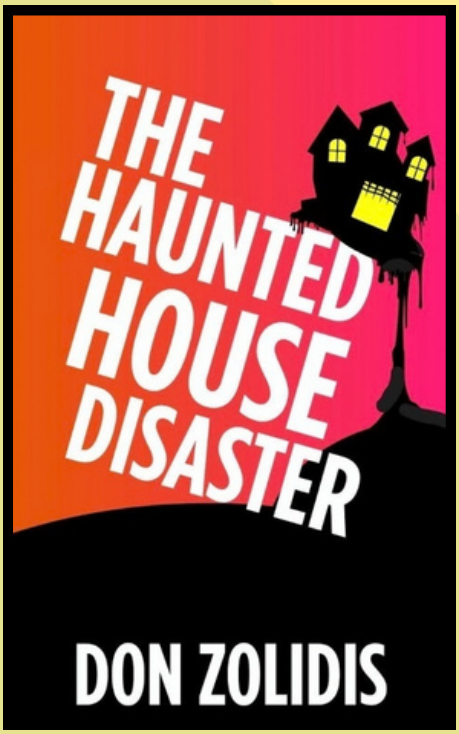
The Haunted House Disaster was about a modern day High School theatre department putting together a Haunted House to raise money for their next production, and it all goes horribly wrong. Some of the actors in their Haunted House are more into it than others, and some show up with their own take on what should be in a haunted house. Of course, it doesn't help that all the guests coming through their Haunted House are worse than the last.

The Red Carpet Heist was about movie star, Willow Faraday, who gets caught up in a scandal right before her next movie, Casino Heist, is supposed to come out. Because of the scandal, her movie seems doomed, although she will probably still be able to book small commercials. Meanwhile, her assistant Kit and stylist Jamie fear for their own careers, and decide to get out of the Hollywood movie scene for good. Putting their heads together, they put together a crew and plan a heist to steal a diamond bracelet in plain sight on the red carpet. What could possibly go wrong?

The high school students in these fall plays have only had four weeks this year to put together these two fall plays and get their lines memorized. This is a much shorter time than they have ever had before to get ready for a show, but they are excited to perform for their friends and family and show off all their hard work and talents.

Opening night was October 9th at 7pm. They also had shows on October 10 at 7pm and October 11 at 1pm. Hopefully you had a chance to come down to the Manistee High School Auditorium and support the Theatre Department.





College Before Graduation

Written by Abby Kolk

AP Dual enrollment is a great opportunity offered at MMHS for those looking for more personally tailored and beneficial classes. It is also a chance to earn college credits before graduation even begins. Here is **Andrew O'donell (12)** experience taking AP classes with Michigan Virtual;

What class(es) are you taking?
"I am taking AP US history, AP comparative Government, AP language and Composition, and Spanish 3"

How would you describe your experience doing dual enrollment?
"Doing work virtually is definitely a challenge. You have more personal responsibility to respect, enforced due dates, and will be penalized/will not be helped if late."

How has it compared to other high school classes?
"They have more interesting material and availability for classes I'd like to take. As for difficulty, it's about the same if not a little more."

What surprised you the most about your experience?
"I was most surprised about the fact you're expected to call over zoom or the phone to meet with teachers and discuss lessons."

Why would you recommend the opportunity to others?
"Because the school has removed some AP classes, online is a great opportunity for students to challenge themselves and take classes that interest them and are related to careers they want to pursue."



Meet Mr. McComb!

Written by Kayleigh Moore

We are sure you have seen many new faces in the hall this school year. This is because Manistee Middle/High School has welcomed multiple new staff members this year, including both new teachers and new parapros. One of the many new staff members who we are very excited to have joining us at MMHS this year is Mr. McComb!
Mr. McComb is a high school social studies teacher, who was also a Manistee local before working at MMHS. Many of you have probably already met if you are taking one of four classes he is teaching this year. So we can get to know him better, we asked him some questions which he has answered below:

1. When did you know that you wanted to be a teacher?
I have a lot of teacher relatives that urged me to follow in their footsteps, so by my freshman year of high school, I knew I wanted to be a teacher.



2. What is your favorite thing about working at MMHS?
My favorite thing about working at MMHS is the community here. They've all been super helpful throughout my first couple of weeks here.

3. What subjects and grades do you teach?
I teach 10th-12th grade social studies, specifically World Studies, Current World Affairs, U.S. Government, and Economics.

4. Where did you go to High School and what was your favorite subject?
I went to Manistee Catholic Central, and my favorite subject was History/Social Studies.

5. What is your favorite movie and why?
My favorite movie is Miracle. It's the greatest sports movie of all time!

We are very happy to welcome Mr. McComb into our Manistee Middle/High School community. If you have not met him yet, be sure to stop by and say hi! Thank you Mr. McComb for taking the time to answer our questions! We hope you like it here at MMHS!

The Autumn Edit: Fun Fall Activities!

Written by Robyn Winters

As the cooler temperatures set in, it's time to settle into our fall season! Below are many Autumn Events in and around Manistee as we begin this spooky time of year!

If you are looking for a good scare, we have many opportunities, near and far. Manistees Annual Ghost Ship, set on the S.S. The City of Milwaukee, is a very popular option for locals. It's located on 99 Arthur St., and beginning the night of October 2nd, tickets can be purchased upon entrance.

If you're looking for a great scare and multiple options to choose from, Camp Sauble State Prison is a great place to go. Yearly they host the "Cages of Carnage," offering two separated spooky paths to take. Starting the 10th of October, at 4058 E. Free Soil St, tickets can be bought at the door. Although it's a bit of a longer drive, "Screams In the Dark" is the largest haunted attraction in Northern Michigan, and rated well! It's located on 5548 M-66, in Kalkaska.

If you aren't interested in scary experiences, there are multiple scenic color tours and shops with fun fall drinks and treats to try! The Manistee Blacker Airport hosts scenic flights, and with a quick google search, you can find many beautiful drives to take around our town. Crystal Mountain also offers a beautiful view of the colored trees from their chairlift, purchase tickets online! It's located at Thompsonville,12500 Crystal Mountain Drive. There is much fun to be had at Lewis Farms as well. With a bit of a drive, you can find petting zoos, seasonal foods and fall activities! Tickets can be purchased at the booths or online, and can be found in New Era, 4180 M-20. Make your fall worthwhile! Watch fall sports and embrace these activities while you can!



Senior Spotlight: Devin Swihart

Written by Robyn Winters

What are your plans after high school?
“I plan to go to either GVSU or Ferris State. I'm interested in working in a field with either animals or technology.”

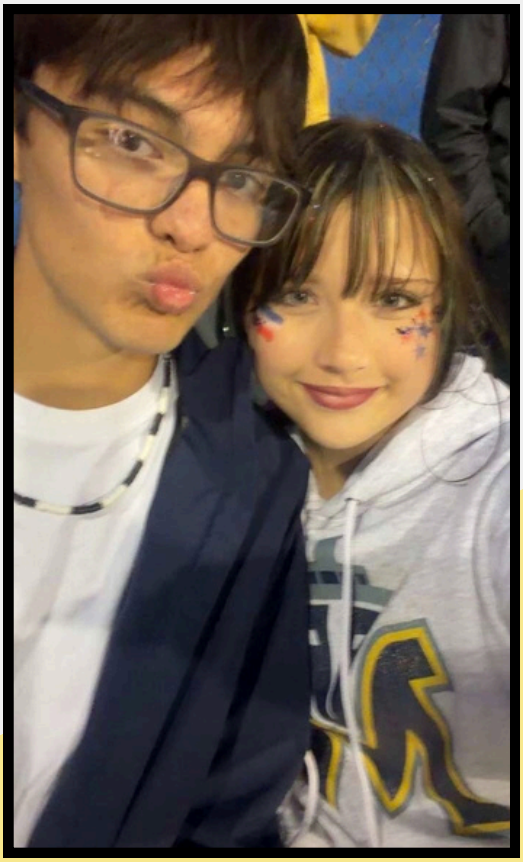
What staff member has inspired you the most?
“Mr. Bennet, he uses real world examples to teach us and has been very inspiring to me.”

What was your favorite high school activity/event? Why?
“When Dalton and I were in an assembly and we played musical chairs. I got to have a fun experience with my good friends.”

What sport and/or activity do you wish you would have joined?
“Most likely football, I’m a fast runner and have always been good at it.”

What advice would you give to underclassmen?
“Don’t procrastinate too much, and make the most of high school by joining activities.”

What has high school taught you about yourself?
“That being secluded to myself is not always the best option.”





STAFF



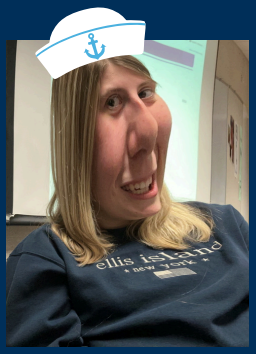
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"You've got to be kind"



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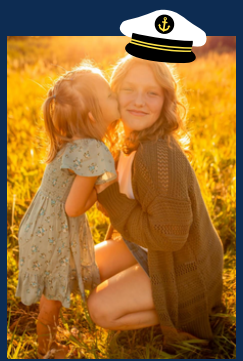
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