

Madison Central

UPROAR

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GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

Taylor Martin  
 CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Corey Ray was a beloved member of not only the Jaguar Family, but also the city of Madison and surrounding communities as well. He was a light to everyone he encountered, and he always put others' needs above his own. He genuinely loved his job, and everyone around him knew it. He exemplified – in every way – what it truly means to be a Jaguar. He was caring, self-less, and extremely passionate about his job. His actions inspired others to lead better lives and to do more in the world around them.

Corey Ray was born on May 8, 1980. He was a graduate of Madison Central High School, and then he went on to serve in the Madison County Sheriff's Department in 1998. He worked there for 12 years, and then in 2010, Corey Ray joined the Madison Police Department. He

soon became the School Resource Officer for Madison Central High School, where he worked closely with the faculty and students. His primary duties were to provide for the safety and well-being of everyone at the school, and he did just that. When asked about the impact that Corey Ray had on his life, Sam Rice (12) said, "Corey had a huge impact on a lot of people, including me. The way he looked at tough situations that came in front of him impacted me heavily. It continues to push me to keep going when I reach a tough spot, whether it be in school, football, or any other aspect of life...He was just one of those people that loved to help and made everyone's day better." He realized how challenging it can be growing up, so he provided guidance to any student who needed a few words of wisdom. He helped many students make the right choices in their lives, and he also tried to guide young individuals down the right path. He also spent a great deal of time in and around Madison Central Athletics. He escorted just

about every sports team – from football to softball – to and from their various sporting events. During his time at Madison Central, he made a bigger impact on the student body than he might have realized. He was someone that all students knew they could turn to in times of need.

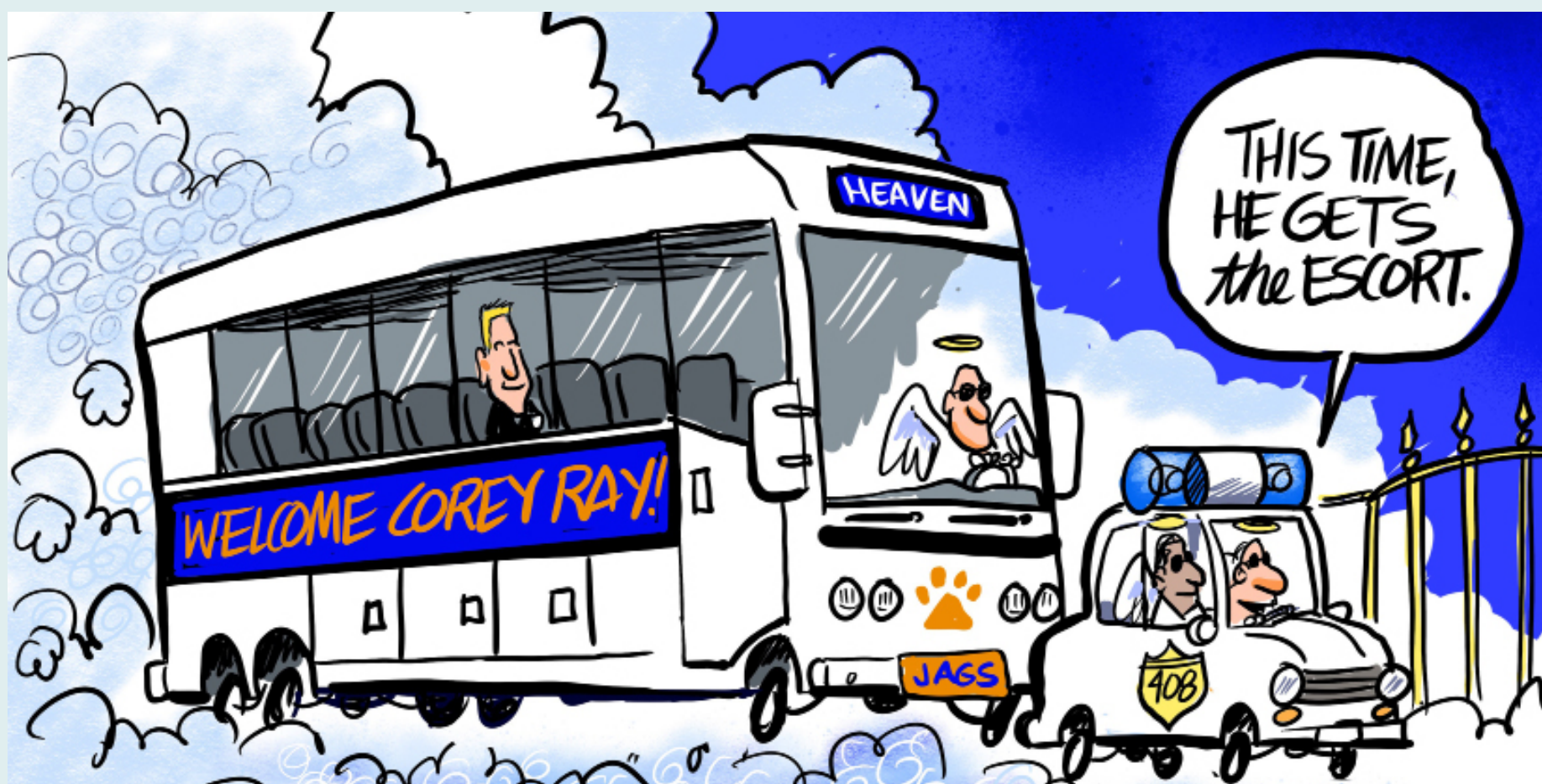
Not only did he leave a major legacy in students' lives, but he also greatly impacted the faculty and staff's lives as well. According to Vicky Williams, "Corey Ray was a huge part of Madison Central. He loved his job. If he wasn't escorting a sports team to an away game, he was helping with events on campus. We lost a major part of our Jaguar community. He was so special in many ways. We lost a Jaguar but gained an angel."

Corey Ray's life began to go downhill in late October of 2020. He was admitted to the ICU with severe complications from Crohn's Disease, which he had battled for quite some time. This, along with several other factors, led to the amputation of his legs and several of his fingers. This was just the start of a long

battle that Corey had to face. On one level, he had to fight his battle on his own, but on another level, he had an army of supporters on his side. His mother Karen Golden started a Facebook page where she – along with several other of Corey's closest acquaintances – posted daily updates about his well being. This way, anyone who wanted to follow Corey's journey could do so. The Facebook page ended up reaching around 5,200 followers, demonstrating how many people were rallying behind Corey in his time of need. On Christmas, hundreds of people wished him a Merry Christmas. On his birthday, hundreds of people told him Happy Birthday. And, of course, there were lots of prayers for Corey as well. People also showed their support for Corey by raising money through various fundraisers. Car decals with his badge number were sold across the community, and a student at Madison Central started a GoFundMe that raised just over \$12,000. All of this was in support of the community's beloved Corey Ray.

After eight long months spent fighting in the hospital, it was announced in early July of this year that he was going to be able to come home. It was wonderful news after such a long period of hardship. So many people came to be around him and to celebrate his return home. However, the good times didn't last very long, because just one day after he returned home, Corey Ray passed away peacefully with the ones he loved the most at his side. He died on July 14, 2021, and his funeral was held on July 17 at Broadmoor Baptist Church.

After his death, there was an outpour of support and prayers for the family of Corey Ray. So many people shared their favorite stories about him, and people also told about the ways in which he directly impacted their life. He was a hero to many. His dedication to his community, and the legacy he left behind will never be forgotten.



Above: Marshall Ramsey's cartoon honoring the life of Corey Ray

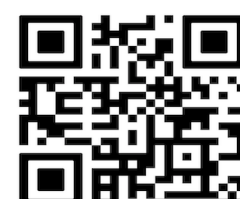
sports



news



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Take a look at page 2 for an article about the events happening in Afghanistan



# The end of America's 20-year war

**Adya Praveen**  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The war between the U.S. and Afghanistan has been referred to as the “nation’s longest war”. After nearly 20 years of bloodshed with 2,500 American troops killed within the war effort, the U.S. has officially declared its withdrawal of military troops, marking the end of a long-fought debate of U.S. intervention. The Biden administration has declared that complete military evacuation will take place in time for the country’s 20th anniversary of 9/11, in remembrance of the 2,977 lives lost in the tragic event.

The attack of 9/11 sparked the initial invasion of Afghanistan after the ruling government, the Taliban, provided a safe haven for terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda, who was responsible for the four coordinated terrorist attacks that took place on September 11, 2001.

After refusing to cede the terrorists responsible, Afghanistan was invaded by the U.S. military with one goal in mind: overthrowing the Taliban regime by hunting down Al Qaeda leadership. Throughout the years, this focus has broadened into an effort of “nation-building”- a term used to describe the establishment of a Western-style government in the form of rebuilding. However, although the Taliban was removed from rule, the threat of the extremist Islamist group never truly went away. Elizabeth Stephenson, an A.P. Government and A.P. European History teacher at Madison Central High School (MCHS), said, “I’ve heard a former Obama White House official explain it this way: you can’t force democracy on a nation at gun point. Many have concluded that the war was essentially lost years ago, and there doesn’t appear to be a viable strategy to change that outcome.” While negotiations for withdrawal with the Afghanistan government and the Taliban began in Feb-

ruary 2020, President Biden declared the official draw-down of U.S. forces, signaling an end of the U.S.’ long-term affairs in the country.

However, this ending of U.S. intervention prompted the rise of the Taliban through expansion of territorial control through attacks on both the Afghan government and the people inhabiting the country. Sarah Leroux (12) said, “The rates of rape and murder have skyrocketed in the region and educated women and women in power seem to be especially vulnerable”. Many Afghans live in fear as the Taliban have “reportedly banned gay marriage, lowered LGBTQ flags, prohibited vaccine distribution, and eliminated multiple other rights from minority groups” (Leroux). With the heavy contrast between the organization’s promises and the actions of the Taliban fighters, many Afghans search for an escape, fearful of a future with Taliban rule.

With the people of Afghanistan left in a extremely vulnerable state, more than 18 million people are in need of humanitarian

aid (rescue.org). For those wanting to help Afghan refugees and those imprisoned in the country, there are several ways to contribute to the relief effort through both organizations and individual actions. Rafe Randall, an A.P. macroeconomics and Economics teacher at MCHS, said, “I think that being vocal is a starting point. Appealing to other nations in the region to pressure the leaders economically would be another means of attracting attention”. Lobbying local and state representatives to enact change is an effective way for student opinions to be heard and utilized in government actions. In terms of donations and materialistic aid, there are several organizations dedicated to help both the relief effort as a whole, as well as specific groups of individuals in need, such as women and journalists stationed in the country. Individuals can either donate money to established organizations such as The International Refugee Assistance Project or websites that will allocate money based on situational

need such as *savethechildren.org*. All forms of humanitarian efforts are significant and greatly appreciated, as it is abundantly clear that “Afghanistan needs our help more than ever” (Leroux).

Unfortunately, the future does not seem promising for Afghanistan. Many government officials fear a repeat of history, fearful of the country’s extremist ruling leading to terrorism towards the international community. Others fear for the future of the country and question the possibility of the removal of the Taliban with the present state of the country. Leroux said, “Without foreign military assistance, it will be very difficult for Afghan troops to be able to overthrow the Taliban, due in part to lack of training and difficult terrain”. Although military assistance has been withdrawn from Afghanistan, humanitarian efforts have been demonstrated as an influx of Afghan refugees escape to bordering countries and the United States by air. However, millions still remain tormented by Taliban rule as the future of the country and its people remain in the air.

## FREE BRITNEY

**James Phillips**  
STAFF WRITER

The “Free Britney” movement is a movement that started online in which people have been using the hashtag ‘Free Britney’ to support Britney Spears, a world-renowned popstar known for her revival of pop music in the late 90’s and early 2000s. This movement has gained increasing popularity and has been trending on various social media platforms for over two years. A documentary was released depicting Spears and her life under her conservatorship. Spears has been under her contract with her father Jamie Lee Spears since February of 2008. Fans have speculated that Spears may be struggling

due to the effects that this contract have had on her life.

In 2007, Spears lost custody of her two children, as result of the divorce between her ex husband Kevin Federline. After this divorce, people started becoming concerned about the singer’s mental health, as changes in her behavior were noted. One moment that caught everyone’s eye was when she shaved her head on February 17 and soon had a meltdown afterwards. Another moment is of her attacking the paparazzi with an umbrella. The last straw was seemingly when Spears reportedly locked herself and her two kids in her bathroom, refusing to come out. As a result of these behaviors, Spears was admitted to a hospital in 2008, where she underwent mental health evaluations. Her father requested a temporary conservatorship over his daughter at the time, but

as the years progressed, the temporary contract seemed to become extended. On TikTok under Spears’ account, people have been commenting things such as “wear yellow in your next TikTok if you need help” with Spears’ responding by wearing yellow. People also check her Instagram page, suspecting that she is sending secret calls for help through her daily posts and stories.

Recently on June 23, 2021, Spears requested a hearing for her conservatorship with her father to address everything in court. In this court case, Spears reportedly stated, “This conservatorship is doing me way more harm than good,” and “I deserve to have a life.” However, the conservatorship did not lift. On July 14, 2021, she

appeared in court a second time to discuss the contract, but the judge made it clear that she needed to get her own lawyer to discuss this issue. When asked about her opinion on the topic, Isabella Monico (11) said, “She doesn’t have any authority over her life,

and

she is basically trapped by her father until the conservatorship ends.” After months of keeping quiet, Spears finally spoke up about the issue and had many of her supporters cheering her along on her

journey. One supporter Khloe Littleton (12) said, “She is a grown woman. She needs freedom and space. Her dad does not need to control her anymore.” Britney is still fighting this restraining contract with her father, but she has an army of supporters on her side.



SEPTEMBER  
10

## World Suicide Prevention Day

- National Suicide Prevention Week is an annual campaign observed in the United States. This year, it will be held from September fifth to September 11. Suicide is currently the tenth leading cause of death in the United States and is usually driven by depression. Suicide is complex and is not necessarily a response to one problem that a person may be experiencing. According to Suicide Awareness Voices of Education (SAVE), 90 percent of people that seek the help or treatment needed for depression are treated successfully through therapy or medication.
- Behind every suicide committed or attempted is a long-term struggle for these individuals, as well as experiences of trauma. More years of life are lost due to suicide than any other leading cause excluding heart disease and cancer. Each suicide intimately has an impact on at least six other individuals. Western Michigan's Suicide Prevention Program states that in 2013, it was estimated that one in every 63 Americans became a suicide-loss survivor. However, there are ways to get help, such as hotlines, text lines, mental health professionals, or even a simple conversation with a trusted adult or family member.

SUICIDE  
PREVENTION  
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MOLLY GEE  
and Company



# Madison Central joins the movement for free feminine products

**Adya Praveen**  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Madison Central High School has recently made a historic stride for the purpose of gender equality by providing feminine products in school bathrooms for students to use free of charge. The dispensers filled with pads and tampons greatly benefit more than half of the school's population by alleviating both the stress and secrecy encompassing menstrual cycles. Although menstruation is a typically mundane event as it affects women every month, the discussion of menstrual talk is often considered "taboo" in society today. These cultural expectations are too often inflicted on women and children at a young age, forcing these individuals to maintain the silence about periods in order to conform to societal norms. Emily Adcock (12) said, "Whether that was slipping a pad into a jacket or asking very adamantly to use the restroom but never specifying why, young people

are taught that periods are something taboo". However, providing feminine products in public settings to faculty and students instill comfort and protection for their needs. It helps ease restrictions on communication and create a safe space for all students.

The placement of these products in the restrooms not only increases comfort and support for students, but also provide significant aid for those with financial restraints. In present-day society, half the population is financially burdened merely due to their gender. Many young girls do not have easy accessibility to stores that house feminine products due to transportation and familial issues. Not only is accessibility a major issue, but also the inherent prices of these products. Feminine products are a necessity, not a luxury. However, the high prices of these basic products can create a barrier for many young girls. "Having access to free tampons and pads in the bathrooms eliminates financial restrictions and gives girls the privacy and accessibility they deserve in this school." Sneha Cherukuri (12) said. By placing feminine prod-

ucts in an environment that is visited by these girls daily, "period poverty", a term coined to describe the lack of access to sanitary products, is reduced severely.

In order to maintain the continuance of free feminine products, several students in the Women Empowerment Club (WEC) have been lobbying for sign-ups to keep the bathrooms stocked. Sneha Cherukuri, the president and founder of WEC, said, "This takes the pressure off the staff and gives us the ability to make sure the products are always available". Members of the WEC would sign up either weekly or bi-weekly to maintain the financial and emotional comfort for their fellow students. As of right now there are only two product dispensers in the school restrooms, but students are actively thinking of ways to incorporate this idea for the remaining three.

As the movement spreads

across the country, many colleges and high schools join the fight for freely accessible tampons and pads in restrooms outside of the home. "Currently only five states have laws requiring public schools to provide free menstrual products", said Teeda Phan (11). However, as increasingly more schools join the movement, state lawmakers are pushed to consider legislation that would provide all students this privilege. Madison Central providing free feminine products for its population is not only a huge victory for women at the school, but also a victory for women nationwide.



## The Uproar

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## Dates to Remember:

9/17:  
Dancing with the Teachers

10/1:  
Homecoming

10/11:  
Fall Holiday

10/15:  
National Merit Recognition

# A look into students' summers

**Avery Holland**  
STAFF WRITER

After a long school year, especially like the one we have had over the last few years, students look forward to their summer, whether it is traveling to another country or to spend time at home with their families.

There are tons of places all around the world where students could have gone throughout the summer. Many students remained in the U.S., while some went across the world. Some students went to see family and others went to merely to relax on vacation.

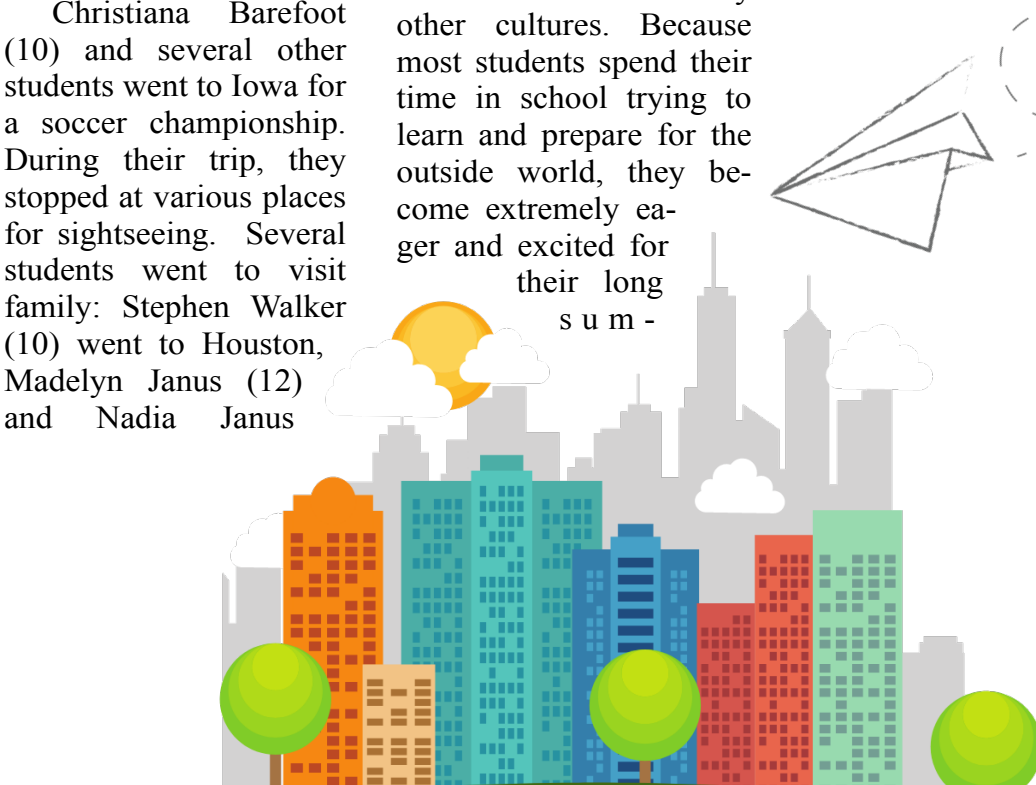
Christiana Barefoot (10) and several other students went to Iowa for a soccer championship. During their trip, they stopped at various places for sightseeing. Several students went to visit family: Stephen Walker (10) went to Houston, Madelyn Janus (12) and Nadia Janus

(10) went to Boston, and Mariam Abdo (10) traveled all the way to Egypt.

Several others went to camp. Sophia Heffelfinger (10), Natalie Nix (10), Julia Styres (10), Cassie Sellers (10), Mary Addison Loving (12), William Dean (10), Sydney Wilson (10), Anna Mattox (10), Alex Mcnamee (10), Caleb Saxton (10), Joshua Saxton (10) and many other students went to Laguna Beach Christian Retreat in Florida. Abby Jo Flowers (10) went to Camp Wesley Pines where she enjoyed several activities such as white water rafting.

School isn't the only learning experience students got this year, as students traveled the world and learned about many other cultures. Because most students spend their time in school trying to learn and prepare for the outside world, they become extremely eager and excited for their long summer.

mer. These past couple of years has been much different, harder, and more stressful due to the pandemic. Teachers and students spend a majority of their time working hard in class, so they look forward to a long enjoyable summer. Students and teachers alike had an amazing summer, as they traveled to many different locations.



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# Where students worked this summer

**Allie Hurt**  
STAFF WRITER

Over the summer, Caroline King (11) worked at Twin Lakes Summer Camp. She has been looking forward to being a counselor ever since she was a camper there. After working with her cabin, she would move to work at the ropes course for the different groups of kids to come through. She enjoyed working there, because that was always her favorite activity as a kid. She would manage the rock wall, help with the zip lines, and secure harnesses. King (11) said, "My favorite part about working at Twin Lakes is forming lifelong bonds with my campers and fellow co-workers." She worked all summer and came home on the weekends to spend time with family and friends. King (11) has been going to Twin Lakes for eight years and looks forward to it every summer.



Above: Caroline King helps a camper with her harness.

James Covington (12) was a counselor at Summer Arts Camp this summer. He had a group of 26 kids, and it was a ton of fun. He worked from 7:30 in the morning to 5:30 in the evening. Covington's (12) favorite part was getting to work with the kids and building a relationship with them over the two weeks. He loved getting to teach them about his passion for performing arts. Covington (12) said, "When we had some time off, I would show them some tricks and skills I had learned through my time in the theatre." He had a daily schedule that included a couple of classes throughout the day. They went to a music class, drama class, art class, dance class, theatre education class, and finally a set design class. Throughout the day, they were always singing, or dancing, or playing a theatre game that prepared them for the show. Covington (12) enjoyed getting to spend time with all the kids and doing what he loves most.



Above: James Covington poses with his group of kids

This summer, Anna Kaden Thomas' (11) parents opened Trace Nutrition. When asked why they decided to open it, Thomas (11) said, "One Friday afternoon the owners of Madison Nutrition called my parents and asked if they wanted to open up a nutrition club. By the next Monday, we bought a spot at Trace Station and that's how it started." Trace Nutrition makes nutritional drinks such as loaded teas and meal replacement shakes. Thomas' (11) favorite part about working there is seeing people she know walk in and making their teas and shakes for them. Some of her daily tasks included restocking products, putting stickers on cups, and refilling the water jugs. During the summer weeks, Anna Kaden usually worked from 1:00 to 5:00, and on Saturdays, 8:30 to 3:00. She loves working for her family business.



Above: Anna Kaden smiles with her loaded tea.

## THIS OR THAT STUDENT SECTION THEMES

- CONSTRUCTION OR HAWAIIAN
- REDNECK OR USA
- JERSEY OR WHITE OUT
- PINK OUT OR IVY LEAGUE
- HALLOWEEN OR BLACK OUT

Instagram - @\_jagnation

## HOMECOMING DRESS UP DAYS

### MONDAY

Zooming through  
Monday  
business on top,  
casual on  
bottom

### TUESDAY

Take it back  
Tuesday  
10th - 70's  
11th - 80's  
12th - 2000's

### WEDNESDAY

Where we going  
Wednesday?  
10th - Disney  
11th - Texas  
12th - Hawaii

### THURSDAY

Through the Looking  
Glass  
10th - Kindergarteners  
11th - Nerds  
12th - Senior Citizens

### FRIDAY

Color Our World  
10th - Orange  
11th - Blue  
12th - White

## DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE



# 2020 OLYMPICS INSPIRES MADISON CENTRAL ATHLETES

**Anna Kimbrell  
STAFF WRITER**

The 2020 Summer Olympics took place in Tokyo, Japan from July 23 to August 8. During this time athletes from all across the world came together to show off their incredible talent and take home a gold medal for their country. The total number of athletes at this year's Summer Olympics was 11,656 athletes.

These athletes spend years developing the scrupulous skills needed for their sport. This opportunity only arises every four years and being selected to be on an Olympic team can change the course of a person's life forever. The U.S.A. team is known world-wide and consists of multiple gold winning medalists, such as Caeleb Dressel (swim), Katie Ledecky (swim), and Allyson Felix (track and field). These talented men and women influence younger generations to become future Olympians. Madison Central (MC) is a very competitive school with athletes who train to achieve success

for our school. Some of our sports that the Olympics cover are tennis, swim, and track & field. These sports bring in fervor and support for our country.

In tennis, 17-year-old Coco Gauff was supposed to play for the U.S. women's singles, but unfortunately, she tested positive for Covid-19 and was not able to compete. Gauff would have been the youngest athlete to play tennis at an Olympic level since 2000 (NBC News). This is very inspiring to many young athletes with her skill. Allie Kelly (12), a player on the MC tennis team, said, "I really wished Coco Gauff had gotten to play," because "it is impressive to be competing at that level at such a young age." Track and field brought in a total of 26 medals, seven being gold. Allyson Felix won her 11th Olympic medal in this year's Olympics. This was her fifth Olympic game and her seventh Olympic gold medal. Colin Brannon (10), who is on the track and cross country teams, was "glad that [Al-

lyson Felix] was able to have such a successful performance at the Olympics." The men's team brought home gold in the 4x400 relay, and Athing Mu took home the gold for the women's 800-meter. Mu, who is only 19 years old, is the first U.S. woman in 53 years to win the 800-meter (Time Magazine). The USA Olympic swim team gave the U.S. 11 of the 39 Olympic gold medals the country received. Caeleb Dressel won a total of five gold medals. Aiden Allen (11) mentioned that "Dressel is the fastest swimmer in the world." Dressel won the 100-meter at an Olympic record time of 47.02 seconds. Katie Ledecky won gold in both the 800-meter freestyle and the 1,500-meter freestyle. The latter was a first in women's swim, putting Ledecky in the history books (The New York Times). Allen also commented on "some standout performances" by "Lydia Jacoby, who won the 100-meter breaststroke at 17 and Bobby Finke, who came out of nowhere to win the 800-meter freestyle." Bobby Finke was

in fifth place for most of the race, but in the last 50 meters pushed ahead to win gold (The New York Times).

The Olympics is an every four year event which brings together the best athletes around the world to compete against each other. People all across the world watch to see their home coun-

try bring home a medal that signifies the hard work their athletes put into their training. The next generation of Olympians are training right now and many schools across the country are churning out amazing athletes, including Madison Central.



## SeaWorld: hearing both sides of the story

**Caroline King  
STAFF WRITER**

Sea World is a theme park chain that has three locations in the United States in San Diego, California; Orlando, Florida; and San Antonio, Texas. These parks are centered around marine life with many things to do including roller coasters, live animal shows, and a water park. In the last decade, many accusations have been made against SeaWorld for the mistreatment of animals.

Ever since a movie called Blackfish came out in 2013 uncovering SeaWorld's habit of animal abuse, SeaWorld has been under high scrutiny. The film was made about mainly one killer whale named Tilikum, and the three separate incidents when he killed three people, as well as the reasons leading up to why he was provoked. The film also touches on the court case that SeaWorld was involved in

with the Occupational Safety and Health Admissions (OSHA). This film brought to light the mistreatment of animals under SeaWorld's care and the employees who were exposed to drowning and striking hazards while in the tanks with killer whales. "I watched this movie, and it really changed my opinion on SeaWorld. I do not think that any company should be able to get away with mistreating animals," said Allie Hurt (11).

In addition to the film, there are many past employees of SeaWorld that have spoken up about SeaWorld. One past employee named John Hargrove talked about how cruel Sea World and other marine parks are to animals. The parks capture the baby whales and dolphins from their parents in the wild and then keep them in a concrete enclosure for the rest of their lives. "We should continue wanting to know more about these animals. However, we should not force them to put on a show for us and live in captivity in the name of learning," said Hollin Brew-

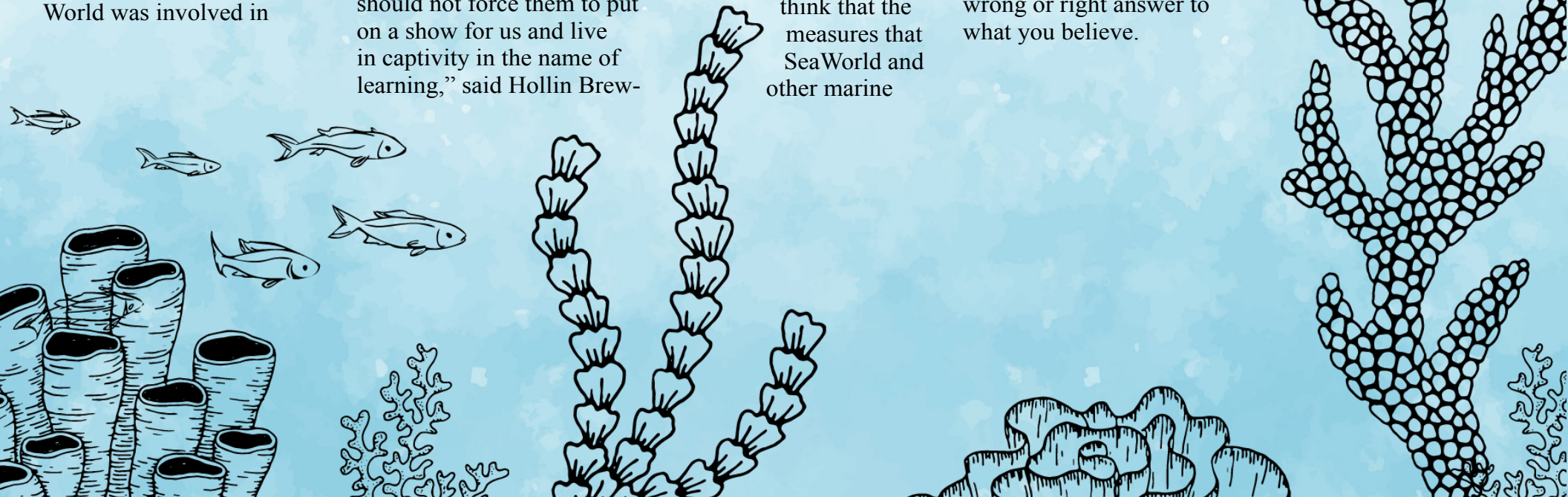
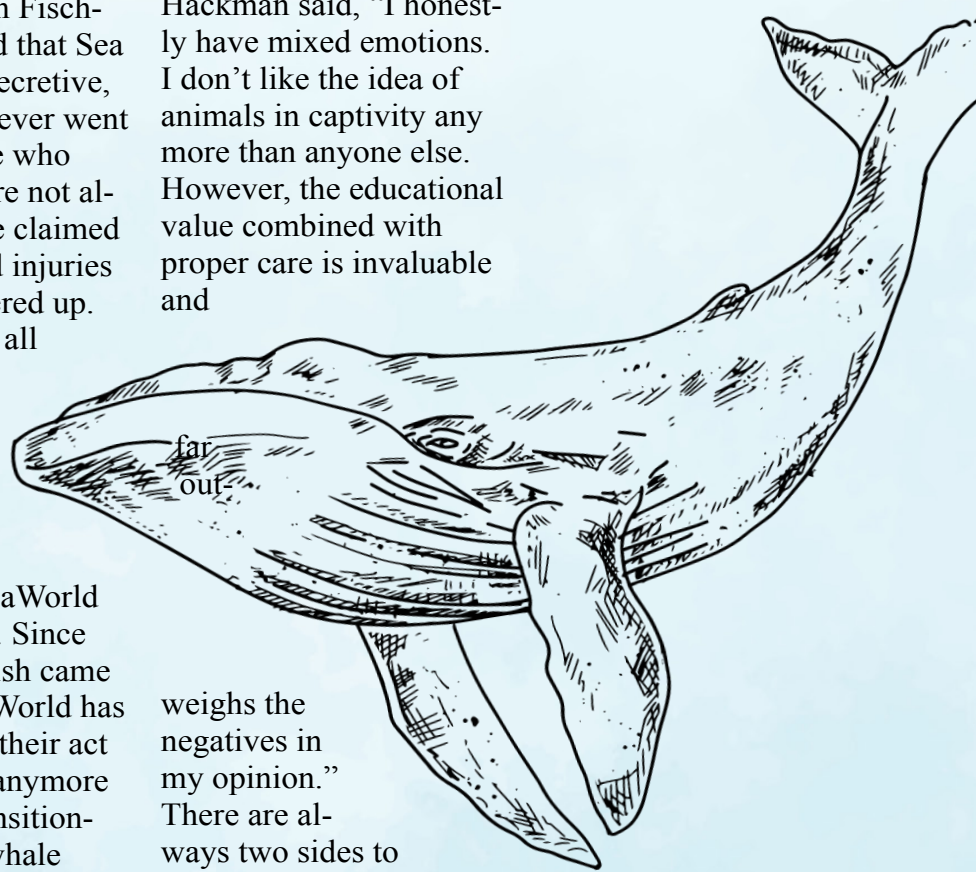
er (10). Another employee who spoke out against SeaWorld is Sarah Fischbeck. She claimed that SeaWorld was very secretive, and if something ever went wrong, the people who knew about it were not allowed to talk. She claimed that accidents and injuries were always covered up.

Even with all these accusations against SeaWorld, many people have contradicting opinions about whether or not SeaWorld is a bad company. Since the movie Blackfish came out in 2013, Sea World has been cleaning up their act by not capturing anymore Orcas, slowly transitioning out of killer whale live-shows, and donating millions to the research and observation of marine animals. Also, SeaWorld has helped rescue and rehabilitate over 33,000 animals.

Some people think that the measures that SeaWorld and other marine

parks go to are worth the positive outcomes. Ken Hackman said, "I honestly have mixed emotions. I don't like the idea of animals in captivity any more than anyone else. However, the educational value combined with proper care is invaluable and

weighs the negatives in my opinion." There are always two sides to a story, and with all the evidence provided for both sides, it is up to each individual to decide what they want to believe. With many people advocating for both sides, there is no wrong or right answer to what you believe.





# Shining a light on Friday night lights

**Brittan McFadden**  
STAFF WRITER

In the fall, Friday nights are what most Madison Central (MC) students look forward to attending. The stands are filled with parents, faculty, students from all of the Madison county schools, and our award-winning band. The crowd cheers while our football team plays the game that they love most. There are several different factors that play a role in Friday night football.

At Madison Central, Friday night football is a big deal. All of the school's teams come together to support our Jaguars and cheer them on. From summer workouts to in-school practices, our team works year-round to get ready for the upcoming season. From a football player's perspective, Samuel Mize (10) said, "It is cool being on the sidelines, because it is like front row access to the game rather than being in the stands watching it." Our football players love playing such a crucial role in Friday night lights at MC.

Madison Central's cheer team is also a big part of Friday nights. They cheer on our football team and get the crowd fired up. There are many different things the cheerleaders do. They can stunt, tumble, and do cheers to

get the student section amped up. They stand right in front of the student section and run out with the football team before the game starts. After our first home game of the season, Izzy Goddard (10) said, "My first Friday night lights experience was so much more exciting and fun than I even thought was possible. I could not have had a better night especially with the Jags winning." The cheer team enjoys getting the crowd and fans engaged in the game.

The Mystix dance team's halftime performance is an all-time crowd favorite. They have won numerous awards for their dance routines that get the crowd excited during the halftime performance. Many fans enjoy watching the team, because their dances are always so entertaining. Kate Fairburn (11) said, "My favorite part of FNL has to be when we are on the field performing and the student section starts hyping us up. It makes all the hard work put in worth it knowing that people enjoy watching you." Through the dances, they get the crowd engaged for the second half of the game.

Football game days would be so different without the band. The band

plays songs for the cheerleaders and dancers to dance to and perform halftime routines on the field. Our band has won several awards, and they put a lot of time and effort within their practices and football games. Frances Richards (11) said, "My favorite part about playing in

the band on Friday nights is the energy of the band. The band is always really hyped up, and we all get really into the tunes of the songs. Every section has their own dances that go along with the songs that we perform and we all sing the chants that go with the songs. It is really fun." Our band has a fun

time together while they lead the crowd with their music.

Everyone plays an important role in making Friday nights the way that they are. Many different teams and members come together to cheer on our Jaguars



**Above:** Senior Cheerleaders (Mary Addison Loving, Sarah Liza Stockett, and Macy Thornton) posing for a picture before the football game. Picture courtesy of Mary Addison Loving.

## REVIEWING NEW FILMS

**Hannah Schossler**  
STAFF WRITER

### Vivo

On August 6, 2021, the movie *Vivo* was released on Netflix, and a week later, I watched it. The main character, a Cuban kinkajou named Vivo (Lin-Manuel Miranda), has made it his personal mission to bring a song to the famous singer Marta Sandoval (Gloria Estefan) who is performing her last concert in Miami. He makes the 330-mile trip with the help of a young girl, Gabi Hernández (Ynairaly Simo). A large part of the characters is Cuban, so we get to experience a culture that is not often portrayed. "I expected the movie to be culturally inclusive," Elisha Williams (12) said. The soundtrack, written by Lin-Manuel Miranda, writer for the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, and composed by Alex Lacamoire, the music director for *The Greatest Showman*, takes the cake for my praise. The songs are catchy, fast, and explosive. They are the kind of songs that deserve to be in an album and not a children's movie. The storyline is a cliché, and you know what happens next, but it is never boring. The songs and colorful transitions keep the audience invested in *Vivo's* adventure. I would like to pay special attention to the use of color in the storyline. Before the beginning tragedy, *Vivo* is excited but apprehensive, and everything is shadowed and vibrant. After the tragedy, *Vivo* is scared and distant, and the bright morning light is cold and pale. While *Vivo* is clearly a children's film, it is not entirely bad. It is entertaining, catchy, and the characters are enjoyable. I would definitely recommend this movie to all ages.

### Jungle Cruise

Everyone knows about the Disney attraction *Jungle Cruise*. As one of the original Disneyland rides, it has made a global name for itself. It is rare to find a person who does not know what it is. It is of no surprise that the ride has obtained its own movie: *Jungle Cruise*, directed by Jaume Collet-Serra. The movie centers around Frank Wolff (Dwayne Johnson), Lily Houghton (Emily Blunt), and McGregor Houghton (Jack Whitehall) as they traverse the Amazon River in search of the mythical Tree of Life – a tree whose petals can heal any illness. It is a cliché storyline, but the movie pulls it off well. It keeps the audience on the edge of their seats in the climax, even if it is obvious what will happen. Frank subverts expectations again and again, but you never anticipate it, despite the behavior being constant. However, in hindsight you can tell when Frank will escape the cliché. The way Native Americans are portrayed is a pleasant surprise. In the beginning of the film, they give you an expectation of them, but overthrow that expectation and portray them like any other person. The film *Jungle Cruise* actively subverts what you anticipate and includes peoples from the Native American race. This movie is an awesome family film, and everyone should watch it.

### Black Widow

*Black Widow* has been a long-awaited for film, with the original release date being May of 2020. It was finally released on July 9th, 2021 – over a year later. Starring Scarlett Johansson as Natasha Romanoff (*Black Widow*) and Florence Pugh as Yelena Belova, *Black Widow* is an action-packed Marvel movie with high expectations; while the film was good, it was not amazing and certainly didn't meet its expectations. The movie excelled in character interactions though. Natasha and Yelena's sisterly relationship is simultaneously funny and heartwarming, but also tragic. Elizabeth Delaney (11) said, "It did really well in establishing Yelena's character, and her and Natasha's dynamic was really cute." The parent-daughter relationship between Alexei Shostakov (David Harbour) and Melina Vostokoff (Rachel Weisz) and Natasha and Yelena is heartbreaking. "I really liked the family dynamic. It was entertaining." Owen Woodward (10) said. The action is not extremely engaging, and the fighting is centered at the beginning of the movie instead of at the climax. All in all, it is a good movie and is entertaining for the family.



# THE BIG SWITCH

**Taylor Martin**  
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In late July, it was announced that Oklahoma and Texas had reached out about leaving the Big 12 in order to join the Southeastern Conference (SEC). After many long meetings and discussions, plans were finally approved for the two teams to join the SEC in July of 2025. The decision to make this switch was extremely controversial for several reasons. Firstly, it is unprecedented for multiple teams to abandon a Power 5 league in order to join a different one. Also, as Morgan Chisolm (10) said, “The

Big 12 will lose most of their fan base, since the best teams are leaving.” However, the influence and success of the SEC over the last decade has been unmatched, so it makes sense for influential programs such as Oklahoma and Texas to want to be included.

When asked about their opinions on the change, Catherine Lowry (12) said, “I don’t really like how they added Oklahoma and Texas to the SEC because now there is only about one other competitive conference left besides the SEC.” However, Isaiah Spencer (11) had a different opinion. He said, “[I think] adding Oklahoma and Texas to the SEC was a good idea because it will bring more competition for all the sports to compete

in every week.” Both of these ideas are valid arguments that many people either agree or disagree with.

It is believed that the primary factor in making the switch is due to the triumph in football, with the SEC winning six National Championships in the last ten years. Money is also an extremely important factor that made the decision fairly easy. First of all, the SEC generated \$721 million dollars last year, and they also recently signed a \$300 million-dollar deal with ESPN. And with the addition of Oklahoma and Texas, it is expected that the SEC will generate the same amount of revenue as the NCAA itself (USA Today). In addition, the

new NCAA rule that allows athletes to profit off of their name will bring even more money into the conference.

The addition of these two organizations will bring the total of teams in the Southeastern Conference to sixteen, and the way in which the conference is set up will have to be revised. Teams that were previously a part of the SEC West, such as Alabama and Auburn, would have to move to the SEC East in order to accommodate the new teams. This would ensure that there are eight teams on each side of the conference.

This impending switch has shown that the future of college sports is unknown. The way in which the conferences are set up could look completely different in

ten years. Will there still be the same Power 5 Conferences in ten years, or will some begin to disappear? Will other programs switch conferences? Will the SEC continue to dominate? Will the NCAA even have any power if the SEC generates all of the money, and if they have all of the winning teams? Will four and five-star recruits even want to play anywhere other than the SEC? No one truly knows. We will just have to wait and see.



## MC VOLLEYBALL SWINGS INTO A NEW SEASON

**Avery Holland**  
STAFF WRITER

Volleyball has become a very popular sport at Madison Central (MC). The volleyball team consists of around 28 players. MC’s volleyball girls are extremely talented and work very hard to achieve success. Their hard work pays off, as they are incredible players. The players practice every day after school to prepare for their upcoming games. They also get to participate in the Little Six Tournament every year.

The girls have come to love their teammates, considering each other as family. Getting to meet new people every

year has given them the opportunity to meet people they wouldn’t have met if it weren’t for their shared love of volleyball. Anna Mattox (10) said, “Volleyball gives you a sense of freedom, because you are doing something you know you love to do.”

While there are many positives of being a volleyball player, there are also some negatives. According to Mattox (10) and Ainsley Ruhl (12), the girls do not get to go to a lot of Madison Central football games due to their practices, games, and tournaments. Practicing takes up a majority of the girls’ time, but Mattox (10) said, “Getting to play the sport with the other girls makes it all worth it.” Playing volleyball requires the players to be dedicated and invest a lot

of their time in the sport.

Volleyball teaches the players how to win and lose with grace. It teaches the girls how to get along and play respectfully with other teams. The girls must learn how to communicate in order to achieve their shared goal of winning. Players must learn how to juggle between their education and their athletics, as they must keep up their grades to remain on the team.

The volleyball girls look forward to events for their upcoming season. Mattox (10) said, “We look forward to the state championship at the end of the season, but we also are looking forward to growing together as a team and pushing ourselves and our other teammates to be better each and every day.”

The volleyball girls go up against Jackson Prep on September 20, Germantown on September 23, Murrah on September 30, Clinton on October 2, Brandon on October 5, and Northwest Rankin on October 7. The playoffs be-

gin on October 12. They have a long and exciting season ahead of them. As they face the upcoming season, the volleyball players hope to grow as a team and achieve great success.



**Above:** MC Volleyball team huddles during a time-out. Photo Courtesy of Mary Addison Loving

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