

Madison Central

UPROAR

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MADISON CENTRAL REMEMBERS ARMOND LITTLETON

**Anna Kimbrell
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Armond Littleton was known to be loyal, caring, compassionate, and friendly towards all. Armond had an effect on each and every person he met, and he has left an impact on Madison Central (MC) and Madison County that will be remain for years to come. On Monday, August 1, Armond Littleton (15) was in a vehicular crash three days before the start of his sophomore year here at MC. Armond was laid to rest that Saturday surrounded by family and friends. Madison County hit with the loss of this young man banded together to support the community by holding special moments to remember him by.

A vigil for Armond was held at Liberty Park the week of his passing. At the vigil his mother gave out candles and balloon to each person to release later on in the evening. Those who came to remember Armond formed a circle and talked about his life, and their favorite memories of him. Vic Sutton (12) who attended the vigil said, "We all circled up and prayed, then sang his favorite song "Young, Wild and Free. We then lit the candles and released the balloons; it was wholesome." The balloon release was a time to celebrate Armond's life, and share the great memories everyone had of him, and reflect on the impact he had on those around him.

Before his funeral the hearse took Armond on one last victory

lap around the MC Stadium a testament to his love of sports. Afterwards hundreds of people arrived at his funeral showing the profound effect he had on the community. A friend of Armond's, Jackson Adams (11) said, "Armond was truly special to everyone around him. He was a light in this world." "He's hilarious," said Adams, "...the funniest kid I knew." Everyone who had the chance to get to know him loved him, and this love has been shown through the support of the community.

This past Friday at the MC vs Northwest Rankin football game, Armond was honored. The Littleton family were escorted onto the football field to receive Armond's jersey, and a moment of silence was had in his memory. A picture of Armond in his football uniform was on the scoreboard, and for the only time that night there was complete silence, everyone reflecting on the memory of this amazing player.

Armond was a player on both the football and basketball team and was looking forward to playing his first games here at MC. Armond played forward on the MC basketball team wearing number 24. Ben Gardner the coach of the MC basketball team described Armond as a "young man with a bright future," "when he spoke others listened... because he constantly pushed others to be the best versions of themselves." Armond at just fifteen years old was the "soul of the team" because of his leadership on and off the court. He was the type of player where "championships were won because of his presence." There are

people on the team that hold their teammates up, and that was the type of player Armond was, and strove to be.

Gardner, when asked what his favorite memory of Armond, said it was the day that he asked him what he wanted to do when he grew up. Armond laughed at the question and said, "you know coach I am going to the league." Gardner laughed and said back, "really man, what do you want to do?" Armond became serious when asked that question and said he "would want to be a coach like [Gardner] and Coach Luckett." Gardner said that in that moment he remembered "thinking he would be an amazing coach and even better man." He told Armond that "[he] would have a job with [him] any day." Littleton did things on the floor that could not be coached he just knew, and he would have been a coach that reflected the values he held dear.

Armond's mother said that his favorite bible verse was Psalms 51:10, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." This verse reflected the goodness in his heart and the liveliness he brought to others.

Even though Armond Littleton is no longer with us, the MC community is reminded of him every day through memories of his kindness, leadership, and ability to uplift others. Madison County remembers Armond Littleton as a bright young man who made the most of his fifteen years, and his memory will never fade.



Above: Armond Littleton in MC basketball uniform.

Below: Armond Littleton in MC football uniform.



Picture Credits: Vowell Photography



Above: Littleton family receives Armond's football jersey number 9.

Sports

Check out page 7 for information about the Volleyball and Football team!



News

Take a look at page 2 for an article about Climate Change!



Check out our website!



INFLATION TAKES A TOLL ON THE WORLD

Caroline King
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As many might know, an inflation crisis has struck the world. This inflation has reached a 40-year high of around a nine percent cost increase of materials. During many inflation surges, it has been country-specific, but currently it has become a worldwide issue, which is practically unheard of in recent times. One major cause of this uptick in cost can be traced back to the Covid Pandemic. When businesses opened back up once the pandemic was over, after being shut down for so long, there became an increase in demand. This demand caused the backup of order fulfillment and has therefore led to cost increase. Another contributing factor of inflation is the War in Ukraine leading to the scarcity of natural resources. Depletion of natural resources and the increased de-

mand have both made the perfect storm for inflation.

Even though this might sound like an issue that wouldn't normally affect daily life, it has severely impacted the cost of everything for everyone. The cost of anything from food to rent is continually increasing. Gas prices have increased the most at an unbelievable 48 percent increase. Other costs have also increased: vehicle prices are up by 16.1 percent, electricity has increased by 12 percent, and groceries prices have increased by 11.9 percent. These price increases have stretched many Americans' budgets even further. The recent gas price increases have been on most people's minds especially since the national average per gallon is more than double what it was in the beginning of 2020. McKinley Johnson (12) said, "I remember that the gas prices when I first started driving were so low and now I really dread getting gas every few weeks because it is so expensive."

There are many things that teenagers dread to do and now getting gas has been added to the list. As of now gas prices are still ridiculously high, but they do seem to be trickling down slowly. "I cannot wait for gas prices to drop. The price to fill up my car has nearly doubled, but hopefully the inflation will go down soon, and I can go back to filling my tank up for half the price that I do now," Izzy Goddard (11) said. Her hopes align with everyone's hopes right now, but with the current national trends we will not get back to pre-Covid prices overnight.

In addition to gas and food, school supplies have had a sharp increase in price, which is hitting some families hard during this school season. More than a third of families with school-aged children said that they couldn't afford back to school shopping and nearly half said that they were taking on debt by shopping for their kid's supplies. Omari Daniels (12) said, "With prices on the rise, cheap school

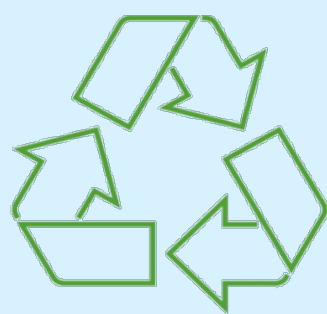
supplies like notebooks and pencils are hard to come by. Luckily I did not have to buy as much for senior year, but I cannot imagine how much families with younger kids are having to spend this year." This hurts both sides of the equation, with students unable to get all of the things they need and companies not making enough profit because the high prices are steering customers away. There is only so much that families can do to provide school supplies for their kids when prices are so high.

President Biden's main initiative right now economically is to significantly lower inflation and relieve the financial stress on American families. Biden has nominated highly qualified leaders to run the Federal Reserve, the department that can do the most for inflation damage control. These leaders, once confirmed, can help to reduce

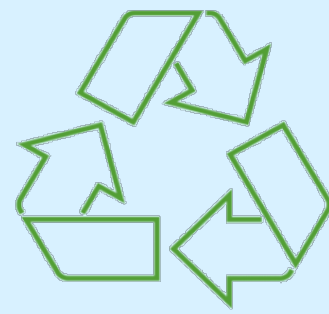
the effects of inflation while keeping the economy stable. Another plan that Biden has in motion is working to lower the Federal Deficit by asking all upper-middle class citizens and large corporations to pay their fair share in taxes. This will in turn lower the cost that low income families face.

Inflation has affected people across the entire world, damaging their financial security and adding on to their already hectic lives. As a country and as a world, we hope to see inflation reverse soon in order to make life easier for everyone and to put the economy back

in a stable position for the future.



LET'S CHANGE THE CLIMATE



Jenny Nguyen
STAFF WRITER

As of today, climate change is heading towards a new path of improvement. The reason we need a breakthrough in climate was, "Earth pollution, Earth development, greenhouse gases, and fossil fuels of course," stated Rithika Arunachalam (10). For improvement, President Joe Biden signed a 369 billion dollar bill regarding an Inflation Reduction Act for climate change on August 16, 2022.

The Inflation Reduction Act has goals of lowering pollution and carbon emissions in half by 2030. The new Act will reduce energy bills, the use of coal and fossil fuels, costs for families, health care, and will provide clean energy for transportation and jobs. This investment is the largest amount in U.S. history going towards climate preservation as well as being the first to negotiate expensive

prescribed drug prices. The money is to be used for tax credits (160 billion), clean energy manufacturing (60 billion), and lower income communities (60 billion). It is said that the act will build 950 million solar panels, 120,000 wind turbines, and 2,300 grid-scale battery plants by 2030 and protect about two million acres of national forests. "Where did all this money come from with our national debt?" asked Jordan Fowler (10). To pay for this bill, the government collects taxes from wealthy individuals and corporate businesses. Ironically, some of the money is given to the Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S) so that they can also collect taxes from people

committing fraudery. Even with this debt, the Act will help to decrease our spendings and eventually the national debt.

As a community, we

can help by, "Recycling more, driving less, reducing plastic usage, and wasting less water," said Chad Hayward (12). Recycling aids well in limiting greenhouse gasses, saving energy, and conserving natural resources. Although 25 percent of adults constantly work hard and protect the environment, there are more than 60 percent that try to help. Whether people believe in climate change or not, there are issues that need to be addressed about the effects humans are having on our planet. The

environment we live in is always

experiencing natural disasters. The forest fires, water levels, droughts, floods, agriculture, and the weather have all been affected by climate change and have been destroying our economy, and so fixing climate change can fix many other issues. Agriculturally, there are "pros" and cons to what climate change does to our crops and carbon emissions. The cons are of crop productivity lowering with worse food quality and excessive carbon emissions in the atmosphere building up to global warming. The pros are pretty much the opposites of the cons. They predict that crop productivity will increase due to the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere, longer growing seasons, and better-quality food. Health-wise, climate change also contributes to pollution leading to illnesses such as air-borne diseases, water to water-borne diseases and food poisoning, and chemical runoff/waste to the soil. The chemical waste can affect the way a crop is produced and used. Like stated before, it is recommended to recycle, be mindful of fossil



Two Madison Central Students Become Coolidge Senators

Allie Hurt
SOCIAL MEDIA
MANAGER

Autobiography of Calvin Coolidge and many of his speeches. This is one of the longest scholarship applications out there, so this was a huge part. If you receive the distinction of Coolidge Senator, then you are invited to attend the Senators Summit in Washington D.C. with all expenses paid for. Along with a trip to D.C., they were given a one-time \$1000 scholarship. Mei and Neira both attended and "had an immersive learning experience about the government and Calvin Coolidge himself," said Neira. While in D.C. they met many people from all over the country who were all talented and friendly. Mei said, "The most notable and -at least in my opinion- most valuable experience was the opportunity to talk with the other Coolidge Senators. Every single one was extraordinary in some way or another." They stayed at the renowned Willard Hotel, which is called the "Residence of Presidents" after the fact that every U.S. president since Franklin Pierce has stayed in this hotel. Mei and Neira toured many places including the Supreme Court Building, the Library of Congress, the Capitol, the National Mall, Mount Vernon, and more. Getting to experience all these places firsthand and touring so many iconic buildings made for a great experience.

Being the first two students from Mississippi to be Coolidge Senators is a huge honor for both Mei and Neira. "It was great being able to represent my home state and show that the level of academics in Mississippi can match those from all over the country," said Neira. They were both surprised to learn that they were the first two Coolidge Senators from Mississippi. "I hope that in the future, more students from MC will become aware of the scholarship and choose to apply, earning a few more spots for Mississippi," said Mei. Seeing more students from Mississippi become Coolidge Senators would be beneficial to the state as a whole.

For students possibly applying for this scholarship in the future it is important to portray your true self throughout the application. Neira said, "The selection committee of any scholarship

does not want you to exaggerate and brag, they just want to see who you are as a person and what makes you special." Neira is thankful for all his teachers that have helped him get to where he is today, especially Kristin Cooley for writing him a great recommendation letter. "I am extremely proud of Fabricio and Leo for being selected as Coolidge Senators," said Kristin Cooley who has taught both Mei and Neira. Another important part is to begin preparing early. It is a very long application process and takes time, so it is important to have enough time to complete it thoroughly.

MC is so proud of these two outstanding students. Mei and Neira truly demonstrate what MC strives to be. Earning this scholarship shows all their hard work put in over the last four years and they are a big inspiration to all Mississippi high school students.



Above: Fabricio Neira and Leo Mei pose for a picture.

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Homecoming

Where Students Went Over Summer Break

James Phillips
STAFF WRITER

This past summer, many students had a fun, adventurous break this year. They went on vacation with their friends and family to enjoy their time off from school and work life. Whether they're excited to lie around the house or go on a trip,

Students look forward to summer break every year. One student Noor Hegazy (11) said that over the summer she went to Egypt. "It was one of the best trips I've ever been on," she said. When asked what were some of the highlights of her trip, she said, "I visited the pyramids and saw mummy tombs, went to the library of Alexandria, and went to the El Khalili Bazaar too." Egypt is a very beautiful place with many activities that anyone can enjoy. While there, tourists are to visit the pyramids and even ride down the Nile River for an

experience they'll never forget.

Another student, Kayleigh McDougle (12), visited more than one place for her summer break. She was able to visit Nashville, TN, Louisiana, and Texas with her family. McDougle said, "It was basically a fun road trip for me and my family. It was fun traveling from one place to another and going to new restaurants, shopping districts, and other fun and scenic places." Being on the road during the summer is one of the most popular activities people do during the summer, especially after being cooped up in the house working, or not being able to go out, the ability to just get in the car and drive to new experiences is comforting and rewarding for many.

The most "happiest places on earth", Disney world, has an average attendance rate of over 60 million people and is the most visited resort in the world, so it's

no surprise we had a couple of students who went there over their summer vacation. Sofia Monico (10) had the opportunity to visit Disney World with her family. She said, "I went to Disney World with my family, and I went to Nashville for regionals with my soccer team." When asked what was her favorite memory she said, "I loved getting to ride all the news rides at Disney and getting to play against the best soccer teams in the region." Disney has been known to go above and beyond with their theming and scenery within the resort and theme parks, so it's no surprise Sofia and many others had such a positive and magical time within the park. She also spoke about what she enjoyed from her summer vacation outside of traveling, "Something I enjoyed the most about this summer was getting to spend time with my

friends and family." Even though she enjoyed traveling, memories made with her friends and family at home were just as great.

With school starting, it is common to miss the break and countdown the days until next Summer, but it is also a time to remember all the good memories that came from those two months and the new memories

you'll make this school year.



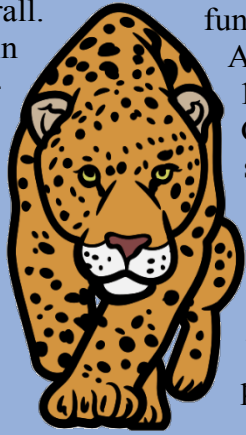
New Principals are Welcomed into the Jungle

Caroline King
CO-
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Madison Central has always been known to have exceptional principals, so it is no surprise that as a spot opened, Dr. Teague Burchfield, a very qualified and energetic administrator, stepped up to the plate. Along his side, Dr. Allison Ruhl has settled into her position as Assistant Principal. These highly accomplished educators are finding their ways at Madison Central (MC) and striving to help our school have the best year.

Dr. Burchfield is no stranger to Madison Central, as he was a teacher and coach here in the early 2000's, and now he is back as the head Principal. This upcoming school year will be his fifth year as a head principal and his twenty-first year in education overall.

Burchfield has been in many roles as an educator including a Social Studies Teacher, Assistant Basketball Coach, Head Basketball Coach, Assistant Principal, and now Lead Principal. His favorite memory



as an educator was leading MC to their basketball state title in 2006. Their road to victory was the most rewarding for everyone involved even though their victory alone was a huge accomplishment.

Dr. Burchfield is looking forward to continuing the work that past administrators have started, "while being efficient through organization and communication." Madison Central is such an exceptional school that he does not believe that an "agent of change" is needed, just that we will need some help along the way and that is what he is here for. Students are excited for our new principal as well, "Dr. Burchfield has been the most interactive and spirited principal this school has been blessed with in a very long time. When your new principal is giving you high-fives in the hall on the first day of school, you know it is going to be a fun year," said Alexa

Ainsworth (12), the 12th grade Student Government Association (SGA) President. You can see his expertise and energetic nature towards being the new principal in many

ways. Dr. Burchfield said, "As a student at a very young age to a doctoral student in my mid 30s, I have really enjoyed the process of learning. My hope is that through administration, I can assist in making the educational experience for others the best that it can be." You could expect that the first few days being the new Lead Principal would be hard, but he has enjoyed getting to know students and teachers these past few weeks in anticipation of a great year ahead.

As the new Assistant Principal, Dr. Allison Ruhl is thrilled for this upcoming year. She has been an educator for 18 years and has been in many different teaching positions. She has

worked as a preschool, elementary, and middle school teacher, while also serving as a Literacy Specialist, Assistant Curriculum Coordinator, and Intervention Specialist. Dr. Ruhl said, "There is an energy at Madison Central that is indescribable. Our students are bright, driven, and so diverse. Working at Madison Central is a dream come true." There are many things that brought Dr. Ruhl to this position at MC, but the outstanding student body and positive environment was a big factor. She has loved seeing past students from Madison Station Elementary and Madison Middle School all grown up in the high school

environment. She loves to know that she played a small role in who they have become. After being an educator for many years, she has many fond memories. One time she was at a pep rally for her daughter at Rosa Scott and had several students come up to her to tell her that they missed her. She was flattered that after all those years, they remembered her and wanted to say hi.

Both Dr. Burchfield and Dr. Ruhl are pumped to start this school year. They want to create the best environment that they can for both students and staff while creating opportunities for students to grow academically, socially, and athletically.



Above: Dr. Burchfield and Dr. Ruhl pose for a picture with the other MC administrators.

MADISON CENTRAL PRESENTS

The Little Mermaid



Dancing with the Teachers

Dylan Thomas
STAFF WRITER

This year, the Madison Central Theatre Department is putting on The Little Mermaid the Musical during October 20 through 23. The musical will be about two hours long featuring Nataleigh Nix (11) and Elizabeth Wasson (12) as Ariel, Mason James (11) as Prince Eric, and many other talented performers. Leigha Nix, Dr. Jessica Payne, Tammy Carney, and Courtney Melton, the teachers putting on this production, have been working tirelessly with the actors since August to give the audience a show worth watching. "It is a place where you can leave everything on the stage and make some great friends during different productions," said Wasson in reference to theatre as a whole. She is a senior this year, and the show means a lot to her, as well as the rest of the cast. Along with

Wasson, Nix is also playing Ariel since they are doing a double cast. Nix said, "I grew up watching the Little Mermaid and I love Ariel's spunky personality. She is such a fun character to play." Nix is a junior, and she's been hard at work in rehearsals for this role.

Shrek the Musical is what the theater department performed last year. James Parmley (10) played Little Shrek in Shrek the musical. James reminisced about Shrek and all the things that happened, good or bad. He also has high hopes for The Little Mermaid. He will be playing three different ensemble roles in the production. Music wise, the theater department has added numbers giving Ursula multiple songs outside of the powerful and jaw dropping song that is known as, "Poor Unfortunate Souls." It also includes a beautiful quartet between Ariel, Eric, Sebastian, and King Triton. Lastly, while Shrek only had

a few ensemble numbers about Dancing with the Teachers, "Dancing with the Teachers is a great tradition at Madison Central. I believe that activities like Dancing with the Teachers brings students and teachers together in such a fun way." Stage crew does backstage work along with creating the trophy given to the winner of Dancing with the Teachers. Coach Cecil Hinds is the Head soccer coach, and he won Dancing with the Teachers last year. "The thrill of performing in front of the audience with the kids under the lights is a definite adrenaline rush. Winning last year was just icing on the cake," said Coach Hinds when detailing his experience. These last couple months have been, and will continue to be, a lot of hard work as well as full of passion and dedication from the students and teachers. Do not forget to mark these dates on the calendar.

However, the musical is not the only big event happening in the arts. The school's show choirs, Reveille, Renown, and Radiance, will be performing with Madison Central teachers in competition with each other. Dancing with the Teachers will be held September 16 at 6:30. Tammy Carney, one of the show choir directors, just came to MC this year, bringing with her new and fresh ideas. Here is what she has to say

about Dancing with the Teachers, "Dancing with the Teachers is a great tradition at Madison Central. I believe that activities like Dancing with the Teachers brings students and teachers together in such a fun way." Stage crew does backstage work along with creating the trophy given to the winner of Dancing with the Teachers. Coach Cecil Hinds is the Head soccer coach, and he won Dancing with the Teachers last year. "The thrill of performing in front of the audience with the kids under the lights is a definite adrenaline rush. Winning last year was just icing on the cake," said Coach Hinds when detailing his experience. These last couple months have been, and will continue to be, a lot of hard work as well as full of passion and dedication from the students and teachers. Do not forget to mark these dates on the calendar.

Business Begins Branching Out in Madison

Meredith Morrow
STAFF WRITER

School spirit is not the only thing that has been spreading around Madison. In fact, new businesses are forming and people are taking action. While some may think that the new grocery store, Sullivan's, has been the newest addition that has been brought to Gluckstadt, there is more heading that way. For example, talk is bustling about new restaurants and shopping centers like putting a Marshalls in the area as well as a Keifer's. What better way is there to bring new residents to the area than making it a community?

With Gluckstadt being the newest city in the Madison County area, it has been exciting to see what they choose to do with it. For example, conversation about a GolfSuites arena has seemed to spring up as well as a new Keifer's and Marshall's in the area. It was announced on the 14 of July 2022 that the golfing attraction, GolfSuites, had bought land and plans to open sometime in mid-2023. According to the GolfSuites web page, the attraction offers a 250-yard driving range, simulated green sites, and professional-quality golf balls. It also will have live music and restaurants. Bella Lee (12) said, "I think that evolving

Gluckstadt is a good idea, as the city continues to expand, more businesses are popping up, as the population increases, and numerous new business ideas arise. New proposals around the city are needed and overall it seems like a great start for the city." According to the Clarion Ledger, Lee is not the only one excited to see what a beautiful community Gluckstadt will turn out to be.

People were excited with Sullivan's moving into the area, as the residents did not have a shopping center near them. According to WLBT news, Sullivan's plan was to open a location where the residents could now easily shop around the corner for a last-minute item. Many people view the new grocery store as a root of new businesses.

Another exciting addition to the Gluckstadt area of Madison County is another Keifer's location, as stated before. According to WLBT news, it is said that although there are a few fast-food restaurants like Wendy's and Sonic, there have been complaints about not having nice, sit-down restaurants. Luckily, that is all coming to an end. A student who is excited for these new restaurants is Lila Ledford (10), who lives near the Gluckstadt region said, "I think everything that

is happening is going to bring more people to Gluckstadt and it could be great getting all these new things closer to home. I think it is really an overall good addition because I could get to know more people." Believe it or not, Ledford is not the only one who wants to see what Gluckstadt has in store.

The Madison Central (MC) community has many students who connect with the Gluckstadt region today, whether it is work, family, or friends who are located there. For example, a student who works in Gluckstadt, Angel Kaur (11) said, "The new businesses in Gluckstadt are showing our generation's modern urbanization. It is great to see a city coming together and develop in front of our eyes. I work in the Gluckstadt region and all the new businesses are creating lots of buzz and bringing more people to the city. New development in general is good, especially with such a big school system in the area." Like Kaur, others feel what it is like to work in the area and only have options like Sonic or Wendy's after work, so adding things like Keifer's is a great business idea.

Overall, the businesses will come together to make a great community for those who go to school in that area. It is exciting that so many things are finally happening so Gluckstadt can have its own community.

THIS OR THAT

MADISON CENTRAL
EDITION!

FOOTBALL GAMES	BASKETBALL GAMES
PARADING	PEP RALLY
BLUE	ORANGE
LUNCH	BREAK
STDFINES	HALFTIME
BASEBALL GAMES	SOCCER GAMES
FRIST LUNCH	LAST LUNCH
ENGLISH	MATH
SCIENCE	HISTORY

MADISON CENTRAL PREPARES FOR THE CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Brittan McFadden
BUSINESS
MANAGER

Towards the beginning of every school year, Madison Central (MC) has a week-long canned food drive. This year our goal is 100,000 cans. Since the cans are raised for charity, the more cans brought the better. Every morning, students will bring their cans and monetary donations to the cafeteria and check in with a Student Government Member (SGA) or Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) member.

This year's canned food drive is from September 12 through the 16. The cans given to the school are for a local charity called Madison Countians Allied Against Poverty (MadCAAP). MadCAAP partners with businesses, churches, and groups to meet the

needs of those who are less fortunate. For those of you who are not familiar with the canned food drive, the whole school comes together to donate canned or monetary goods to an organization, which helps feed to those in need. The canned food drive is one of our biggest fundraisers throughout the year. Senior class representative Casey Pierce (12) adds, "SGA has been planning how the canned food drive will operate this year. Each day throughout the week, the grade levels rotate which mornings we will work." Hoping that it takes all day on Friday to load the trucks, SGA expects the total number of cans to rival those of pre-Covid numbers.

Over the past few years, class participation has gone down because of Covid. As this year is MC's first "back to nor-

mal" school year since before the outbreak, SGA is pushing for more students to get involved with the food drive. Brooke Bumgarner (11) said, "In our meetings, we have been discussing ways to increase participation with the canned food drive. The Student Government wants everyone to participate so we can give as much food as possible to MadCAAP." Working with teachers and administration to plan incentives, MC has also partnered with the feeder schools in the Jag Zone to collect donations. Involvement within the school not only comes with benefits for the canned food drive, but also helps students give back to their communities.

This year's sponsor for SGA is English II and Creative Writing teacher, Abby Johnston. Johnston was on SGA all four years of her high school career here at MC. Johnston said, "Being a

part of SGA is a great way to gain leadership skills like teamwork and community service. I have gotten the opportunity to be this year's sponsor which has been an amazing experience with planning the Jag Bowl Points system, the first day of school and now the canned food drive." With that being said, whichever class brings the most cans tallied at the end of the week, will receive 200 Jag Bowl points. With the help of our schools PTO, MC hopes to reach the goal for MADCAAP.

The canned food drive is coming up and is a

great way to get involved within the school. Remember, bring your donations and help your grade level bring the most cans.



New Animated Stories Hit the Screen

Hannah Schossler
COPY EDITOR

The Sea Beast is a film where sea monsters terrorize the oceans, and monster hunters protect the merchant ships and coastal towns. One monster hunter, Jacob Holland (Karl Urban) is so fantastic that he is practically a legend. The ship he serves on, *The Inevitable*, gives up pursuit of the most fearsome of monsters, The Red Bluster, to protect a fellow monster hunter ship. After returning to port for repairs, Maisie Brumble (Zaris-Angel Hator), an orphan, sneaks aboard *The Inevitable* as a stowaway. After an encounter with The Red Bluster, Jacob and Maisie are left behind

without the ship, crew, and captain. Eventually, they learn that these sea monsters are not as monstrous as they seem.

The film is critically acclaimed, with a 94% on Rotten Tomatoes and a 7.1 on IMDb. The animation of the water is excellent, water is known to be a movie-breaker, and with *The Sea Beast* taking place on the ocean, it is critical that it looks appealing to the audience. It is clear that the team who worked on this movie did their research into older sailing vessels and their crews; there is a person for every position, from the piper to the lookout. Despite how engaging this film can be, the design of The Red Bluster and a few

of the characters leave much to be desired from the film. Florence Wingrove (11) said, "I think some of the designs of some of the characters were a little plain though. They could have spruced

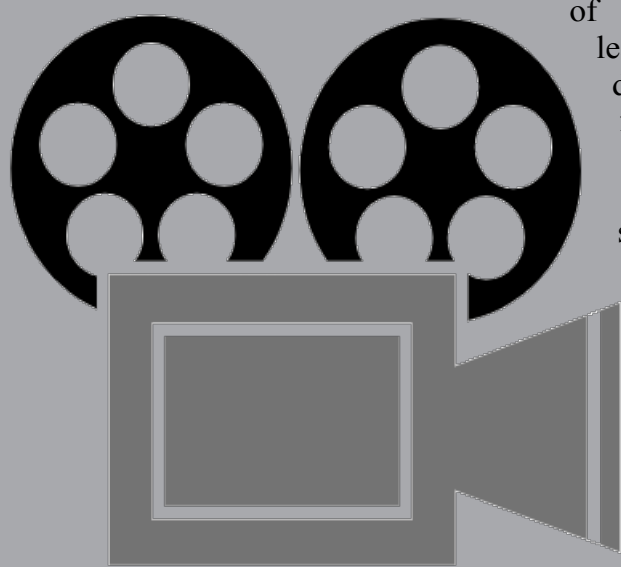
up some of the designs of the monsters." The Red Bluster is smooth and square, with the only points being a rounded out framing of the face and the horn. While this design was intentional, it gave the character of the Red Bluster a rubber toy look. The monster is not a cute seal, nor is it a hardened whale. It leaves The Red Bluster in an awkward position not dissimilar to the uncanny valley. Despite this issue, the film *The Sea Beast* is a wonderful addition to this year's roster. It is a film on Netflix that is perfect for the whole family.

Another film, *She-Hulk: Attorney at Law* (1st Episode), was produced by Disney for their streaming service, Disney+. Another series within the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), Jennifer Walters (Tatiana Maslany) is an attorney who, like her cousin Bruce Banner (Mark Ruffalo), can turn into a "hulk". This ability is due to an accident with Bruce where they both receive wounds. Bruce's blood gets into a wound of Jennifer's which proceeds to transform her into the "hulk". Even though her

interests are focused on being an attorney and not a superhero, she must learn to protect people because of the villains who are drawn to her.

This series' computer-generated imagery (CGI) leaves a lot to be desired, most notably with Jennifer's hulk form. She ends up looking almost the same as her normal self, but with green skin and long hair. While she does gain more muscle, she does not become the "brick wall" that Bruce becomes. Thomas Waller (12) said, "Had [Disney] released it later fans would have at least gotten something better, but the CGI was not good." It feels very inconsistent, almost as if the series was rushed. *She-Hulk: Attorney at Law* has potential to be a good series, but the CGI of Jennifer and Bruce along with badly-covered plot holes leaves the viewer unsatisfied.

As a shiny new addition to the MCU, the TV-series *She-Hulk: Attorney at Law* was expected to be great. While it is acceptable, the series is not what it could have been.



HOW LABOR DAY GOT ITS START

Avery Holland
STAFF WRITER

Labor Day has been an American holiday for over hundreds of years. The holiday's traditions have grown and changed throughout the decades. Today we celebrate with parades, barbecues, and parties. When Labor Day started, in the 1800s citizens of the United States were rallying to get better work hours, as well as better work conditions. Throughout the decades Labor Day has become quite a popular holiday in the US, known for the day that workers and students take the day off.

Nowadays you can find people celebrating Labor Day with fireworks, picnics, festivals, etc. While some spend it as a normal day, Clint Walkinshaw (12) said, "For Labor Day this year, I plan to get up, go watch a movie, wash my car, and catch up on my classes." Labor Day is a celebration of workers and their achievements throughout the years. It's celebrated on the first Monday of ev-

ery September, when employees along with students take the day off, as well as many stores closing for the day. Students also view Labor Day as the official end of summer, and a proper start to the new school year.

The first Labor Day was celebrated on September 5, 1882, in New York City. Although it became a national holiday when President Grover Cleveland signed a bill into law that declared Labor Day to be a federal holiday. On September 5, 1882, over 10,000 workers took unpaid time off to march from City Hall to Union Square in New York City, making this the first ever Labor Day parade in the United States. Zoey Deel (10) said, "I believe it is a good idea to celebrate Labor Day because it is about celebrating people who spend their time working and contributing to society". Deel also believed we should celebrate Labor Day due to its history because it is important to respect and honor the holiday.

Labor Day was originally created when workers had jobs up to 60 to 70 hours a week. Workers then rallied together and went on strike to protest their hours

and their poor work conditions. Many workers ended up getting sick or injured at their jobs due to the cramped workspaces, poor ventilation, toxic exposures from the machinery, metals, and dust. Ainsley Becker (11) said, "I think it is a good representation of how people did not care much about their employees back then, and also helps emphasize why the need for labor laws was essential in American history because if nothing had changed it could have easily turned more inhumane". Workers successfully gathered together and changed their harsh work conditions, helping them achieve better hours and higher wages.

For the last hundred years, the celebration of Labor Day has evolved tremendously. Americans created Labor Day to help better their work conditions as well as lower their hours, and better payments. When former President Grover Cleveland signed the bill to turn Labor Day into a federal holiday, people celebrated across the entire world, creating the holiday we know as Labor Day.



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FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS ARE BACK



Lohen Romero STAFF WRITER

Starting off the school year, Friday nights are the most exciting times for Madison Central (MC) students. The stadium, what we call our “jungle” gets filled with Madison Central Band, students, staff, family, and friends. Madison County as a whole comes together to cheer on our jaguars. After winning their first football state championship since 1999 last season, the team is hoping for another big success like that one. The players work hard all year to get ready for the upcoming season. Isaiah Spencer (12) said, “The most important thing I’m looking forward to

this season is keeping the home winning streak alive and winning another state championship.” Our football players love to keep a good mindset while doing what they love on the field. While in the stands watching the game, fans may hear some very loud chanting, which is coming from MC’s student section. Fans may also find MC’s mascot, “Joey the Jag,” somewhere in the student section. Seniors start chants, and the students yell for the jaguars while wearing the student section’s theme for the night. Maggie Johnson (11) said, “My favorite part about being in the student section is dressing up and cheering on our football team.” MC’s student section is always

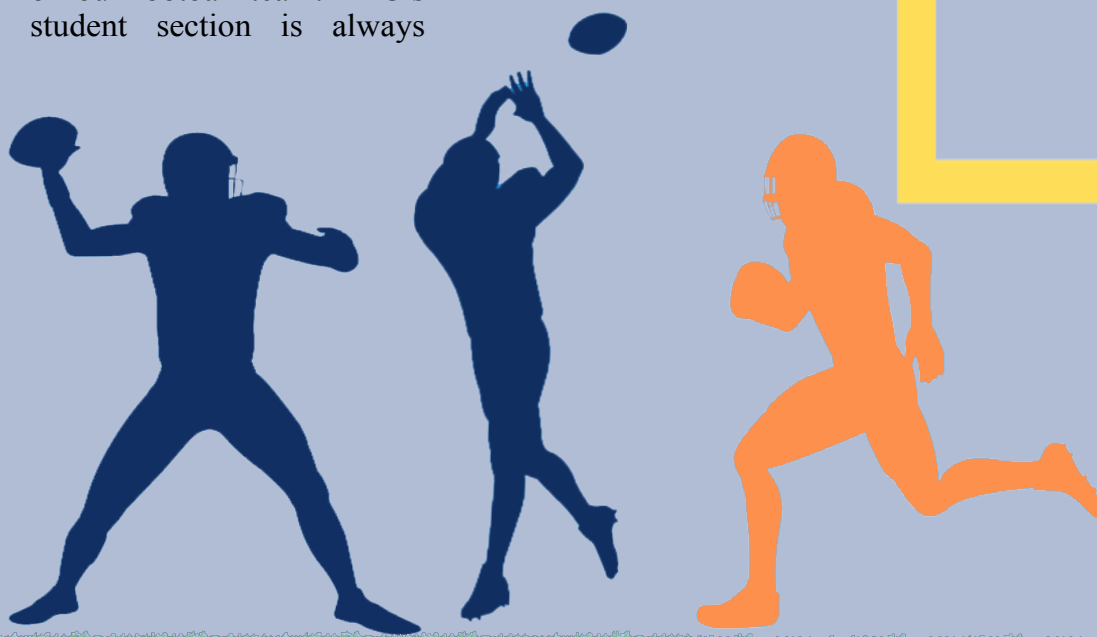
there to support the jags.

Friday nights are such a good time for all grades to come together and have fun. Sara Reeves Thomas (10) said her first experience in the student section “Was fun. I loved it, and the games make me excited.” Not only does the student section have a big part of cheering on the Jags, Madison Central’s cheer and dance team do as well. The cheerleaders run out on the football field and cheer on the sidelines to get everyone hyped during the game. Ella Peyton (11) said “I love being on the sidelines cheering. It is very fun and there is always so much going on, and so much to see,

which keeps the excitement very high all throughout the night.” During halftime our amazing Mystix dance team gives us a wonderful halftime performance for everyone in the stands to see. While being on the Mystix dance team Emma Raush said “My favorite part about dancing on the sidelines is seeing all the younger girls watching me. When I was younger I always looked up to the older dancers and now being one of them is so much fun.” Both cheer and dance have such

important roles during football games. While all the teams are doing what they love, everyone in the stand’s loves watching them even more.

After the game the football team’s fun doesn’t end, Joe Koury (11) said, “After the game I love going to Canes or Applebee’s with the team.” Win or lose the team always has a good time on or off the field. Friday Nights are always such a fun, family friendly event that everyone is welcome to.



SERVING INTO A NEW SEASON

Meredith Morrow STAFF WRITER

The main focus for Madison Central (MC)’s sports teams and extracurricular activities is to have a team that works well together, always striving to be the best, and that is exactly what MC’s volleyball team does. As one of the first sports that students at MC hear about when they come back to the school in the fall, lots of pressure tends to fall on the Lady Jags, but they always push through and come out on top in the end.

According to an article in North Carolina Volleyball Association (NCVA), the name of the sport was not always “volleyball.” In fact when it was first created in 1895 by William G. Morgan, he wanted to call it “mintonette,” because of its similarity to badminton. But that is not the only change that has been made since the sport originated, as it was originally set to be played indoors, only. That was until the idea of beach volleyball started up in California during the 1920s.

According to MaxPreps, the MC volleyball team has a 75% success rate. When asked, team leader, Allie

Hazelwood (12) said, “I am very excited for our season. Our team has been working hard towards our obvious goal of winning state but I would say our number one goal as a team is to unite and become a family. I have played volleyball since I was ten years old and it has been my favorite sport since. What makes MC Volleyball worth it is the team, the coaches, and the support we get from our school as a whole.” Being team leader is a big role and comes with a lot of responsibilities like keeping the team in line, but seeing how well our Jags play on the court, Hazelwood seems to be leading them in the right direction.

Although the team is so close-knit, they are very welcoming to new jags on the team. For example, it is London Coleman’s (11) first year at MC and she said, “MC is a great team. I loved the environment and the girls as they have been welcoming from the start. The game is so competitive and I really enjoy playing with the Jags, as I already feel at home. I am so excited for this season and am looking forward to accomplishing our goals as a team and cannot wait to see us grow throughout the season.” Coleman is not the only addition to the team, as they have a new assistant coach, Leah Gerald, as

well. When asked, Gerald said, “Prior to coaching at MC, I coached travel volleyball for three years in Arkansas, but MC is a lot different from the environment there because the overall atmosphere is definitely at a higher intensity level here at MC. I also felt more than welcome when I joined the MC family, as everyone was so helpful and supportive of me joining the Jag family, especially Coach Thames. Overall, volleyball is more than a game to me as it is about learning to play selflessly rather than selfishly. It is so fast paced which means you need to be able to trust the teammates around you.” The players seem to be loving Gerald and seeing that it is mutual, she seems like a great addition to the team.

Overall, volleyball is so important here at MC because it is a great way to practice being a team player. From the players’ bond and love for the sport to the coaches dedication to accomplish the team’s overall goals, MC lady Jags volleyball has become a great environment for M C students.



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