

UPROAR

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Madison Central Crowns its Newest Homecoming Queen

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

The six senior maids nervously clutched their flowers for the time had finally come for the crowning of Madison Central's newest Homecoming Queen. The roaring crowd silenced as the entire stadium held their breath in anticipation. After a nerve racking pause, the announcer finally revealed the results: Rowan Gentry had been named Madison Central's newest Homecoming queen.

This was one of the school's longest traditions: gathering on the Friday of the Homecoming game to watch the 36 Homecoming maids and beaus walk down the field at halftime. This group of students participates in a variety of activities leading up to the game including performing at the Homecoming pep rally and walking the field during half-time of the Homecoming game in front of thousands of people. This year's court featured a diverse student body, encompassing students involved in football, cheer, dance, show choir, and several different clubs.

Most maids had prior experience on court, but for Gentry, this was her first. When asked her reaction to becoming a senior maid, she said, "I was nominated last year, but I did not get on. Therefore, I was not expecting my name to get called this year. I was so excited." This event marked the beginning of a long journey filled with homecoming preparation and festivities for Gentry, as she is heavily involved in both the school and the community. Throughout her high school career, she has been involved in show choir,

dance team, newspaper staff, and mentoring. Outside of school, she readily partakes in community service as she leads the Madison Civettes as both the secretary and treasurer of the club.

On Homecoming, Gentry's day started off on an early note. She woke up around 5:00 A.M. in order to represent the dance team at the elementary schools in the community. As this was also the day of the pep rally at Madison Central, she had to rush back to perform not only with the dance team, but also with the rest of Homecoming court. Each grade on court is required to create a skit to perform in front of the student body. Although Gentry had multiple choreographies on her mind due to her being a dancer on dance team and show choir, she was the lead choreographer of the Senior skit. She said, "It was so much fun to do the court dance, because some of those people have never danced in their life. They did so good though, and I am so proud of us. It was so cool to see their ideas come to life." Each grade was enjoyable to watch and received a standing ovation from the student body.

By the time the football game rolled around, Gentry felt the moment becoming increasingly more surreal. She remembered watching Homecoming court walk down the field when she was younger; she had sat front row during the game and used to look up in awe at the senior maids. Gentry said, "I remember thinking these people are so much older than me. I definitely did not think that would be me one day." As court is presented at halftime of the game, all of the maids and beaus sat on the sidelines, waiting patiently for their turn to walk down the field. "The time went by so fast. I looked up at the clock and there was only two minutes left until we

were supposed to line up. It didn't feel real," said Gentry. All of the senior maids are escorted by both a senior beau and the maid's father. Gentry loved having her dad by her side not only to walk down the field, but also throughout the entire event and all it encompassed. When asked how she felt, she replied, "It felt so sweet. He loved dressing up and getting to talk to everyone throughout the night. It was one of my favorite parts." Gentry's father was not the only one present on her special day. Many of her relatives drove and even flew in to watch her get crowned the school's next queen.

When Gentry was announced queen, the stadium erupted into cheers with students and family members alike showing their support. Gentry was crowned by last year's Homecoming queen,

Anna Kay Bumgarner. When asked about her response to Gentry's win, Bumgarner said, "She possesses every quality that a queen should have. She leads with humility, grace, and love. It was truly an honor to be able to crown her Friday night and pass over the crown." Immediately following the crowning, students on the sidelines ran to Gentry, showing her their love and excitement. Kate Fairburn (11), a member of the school dance team, said, "Rowan embodies everything good in this world. I have known how truly amazing she is for a while, so her being able to represent Madison Central in this way is so fitting. I hope to be half the person she is one day." It was clear that the entire school thought Gentry was both deserving of the crown and fitting to be their new repre-

sentative in the community.

The Homecoming game is just one of the many things that Gentry is going to miss at Madison Central next year. Gentry plans on attending the University of Mississippi, interested in a medicine-based career. Her main focus is to simply help others. When asked about what advice she would give to future high schoolers, she replied, "Just show kindness every day. Be the person that is there for others. You never know what people are going through, so it is especially important to go that extra mile and be the person who uplift others." While several different faces have taken upon the position of queen, the elements of those wearing the crown have remained constant: kindness and inclusivity- both of which our newest queen, Rowan Gentry, clearly possess.



Above: Rowan Gentry poses for a picture with former Homecoming queen Anna Kay Bumgarner, principal Sean Brewer, and superintendent Charlotte Seals.

sports

Check out page 7 for information about the swim team!



news

Take a look at page 2 for an graphic about breast cancer awareness.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE



Improving International Relations

Caroline King
STAFF WRITER

Recently, President Joe Biden released a new deal that is being made with the UK to help Australia get nuclear submarines. This trilateral partnership is mutually beneficial, by providing Australia with access to nuclear weapons and allowing the United States to have aid from Australia if needed. This new partnership is called AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States). They are to hold meetings over the next few months to come up with solutions to modern security problems, cyber issues, and technology and defense inconsistencies.

Despite all the benefits emerging from this partnership, many conflicts have arisen. One of the main conflicts that has arisen due to this new deal between Australia, the UK, and the United

States is that France is now feeling left out. The French were a part of a partnership with Australia prior to the United States' partnership with Australia. When Australia accepted the trilateral partnership, they opted out of their deal with France, and this has caused many issues. Emily Adcock (12) said, "I hope the tensions remaining with the French will eventually dissipate. Also, in the future, hopefully the US will not snub allies when trying to solve international affairs." Even though our country works on partnerships with other countries to benefit us, it sometimes hurts other countries.

Along with this progression of an international partnership, Biden had a conference with other world leaders about the Covid-19 pandemic. At this virtual summit meeting, Biden set very ambitious goals like having 70 percent of the world vaccinated by next year. "I think that it is great to see nations coming together to

fight against this pandemic. It is a desperate issue that needs to be tackled, and with the UN now finally meeting again, we can start to fix this issue," said Adam Maatallah (11). With the plan to get as many people vaccinated as possible, the US government has distributed millions of dollars worth in vaccines to poorer countries. "I feel like the United Nations should particularly focus on "vaccine inequality" as many nations are struggling to get their citizens one shot of a vaccine while the United States is moving to a third shot with some U.S. citizens being eligible for a booster," said Elizabeth Barger, the A.P. U.S. History and U.S. Government teacher at Madison Central. These countries would not have access to the vaccine without the help of others due to financial and resource deficiencies.

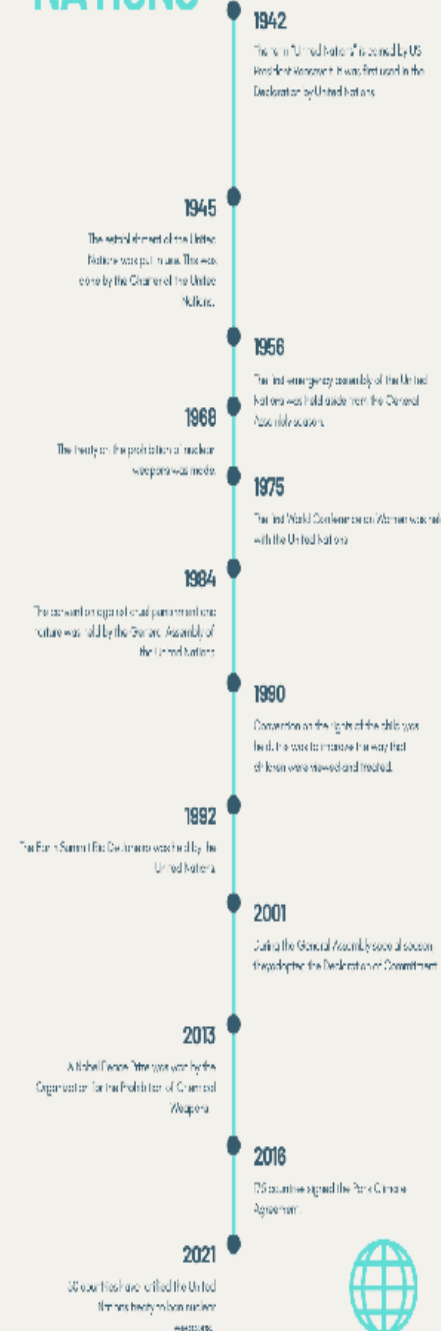
Even with this partnership and conference, the United States is not done with improving international relations. The United States is a part of a Quad board of World Leaders, including

President Joe Biden, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This group has concluded that they are better working together as a team working towards economic and technological success rather than against each other. One of their main upcoming objectives is to create economic competition with China. They will have to work together to not be vulnerable to the economic pressures from China. These goals have been pursued by other partnerships including the AUKUS deal mentioned earlier, but a joint effort is needed.

Over the course of the next few months, the president plans to work on many partnerships and action plans to help this country. This could include internal affairs or foreign affairs depending on the issues. This new trilateral partnership, the president's summit for the world's pandemic, and the Quad group are all steps in the right direction.

BRIEF HISTORY OF UNITED NATIONS

THE UNITED NATIONS IS AN ESTABLISHMENT THAT COOPERATES NATIONS GOVERNMENTS TO MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL PEACE.



Creating an End to the Labor Shortage

Meredith Morrow
STAFF WRITER

Labor shortages occur when unemployment rates increase over a short period of time. Since around the end of April, unemployment rates have skyrocketed. Due to these labor shortages, there has been a lack of goods being transported, which has caused many businesses to close. Supply chain disruptions and delays in shipments for the United States have continued, but the labor shortage seems to be a bigger problem.

Many different businesses have struggled to hire people, get the supplies they need, or even stay open without financial difficulties. According to Forbes, a manufacturing company owner from Arkansas stated that her company has had trouble hiring unskilled factory workers. The labor shortage has also affected an equipment wholesaler covering the Pacific Northwest market, as he has drivers and warehouse workers all across his locations, but still struggles with back-

orders. A banker from Iowa also reported the most job openings he has ever had at his company. A Washington State credit union president listed hiring as his business' biggest challenge. These people are just a few examples of how the labor shortage has caused difficulty for many businesses all around. Just after the first quarter of 2021, the amount of people quitting or not willing to accept work expanded, especially in the retail and food service. The amount of workers being fired decreased.

Meanwhile, talk about the government paying people who are taking part in unemployment has enraged many. People who oppose the idea of getting paid for not working argue that money should be earned through work and that people who do not work should not be getting more money than them when they earn their pay. They also argue that by doing this, the government is not doing what is good for the economy. Many are mostly angered, because it does not make sense as to how some of these people were willingly employed 15 months ago, but now find it unacceptable to earn money through work.

Madison Central student, Aneta Kukuckova (10),

thinks that nothing can get done due to a mixture of components. "There is a lack of employees and the economy is in really bad shape right now," said Kukuckova. Another student, Holly Weltens (12), said, "It is a big inconvenience and I understand that people were worried about their well-being during the pandemic. However, with vaccines being offered, I do not see the reason for people being out of work." Weltens works at McAlister's and says that it is really hard to get days off, and the food supply is short due to less food truck drivers. Lastly, student Alan Lin (10) says, "I wish more people would get jobs, so there will be less problems."

As labor shortages continue to increase, many business owners seem to see it as a sensitive subject. From having less drivers to transport goods to companies closing because goods are not shipped on time due to lack of staff, widespread unemployment has caused many to panic. There are many different theories on how this can be potentially fixed, but none have seemed to break this problem.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

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LET'S BE AWARE!



MC makes history with the most National Merit Scholars in the state

Caroline King
STAFF WRITER

Many sophomores and juniors take classes and get hours of tutoring for one important test taken in October of junior year: the PSAT. If a student makes a high enough score that scores above the National Merit Semifinalist cutoff, then they receive the honor of being a National Merit Semifinalist. Students can also earn the accomplishment of being a Commended Scholar if they score within a few points lower than the Semifinalist cutoff score. If they achieve any of these titles, they can then earn money in the form of scholarships.

One of the teachers at Madison Central (MC) that teaches the PSAT preparation class is Laura Miller. There are four sections of this test: reading, writing, math with a calculator, and math without a calculator. Miller specialized in preparing students for the writing section in their sophomore and junior year. After preparing students to take the PSAT, it is always exciting for

the teachers to see how many students receive Semifinalist or Commended Scholar. This year, there were 31 students honored as Semifinalists and Commended Scholars in MC's senior class. This is exceptional due to the struggles with covid that they faced during their junior year. "We are so proud of these students who have been named Semifinalist and Commended Scholars. These designations are always high honors, but they feel especially sweet this year, because they were earned during a period that included a pandemic and distance learning," said Miller. The teachers are very proud of all of their students that were recognized as Semifinalists or Commended Scholars.

Taylor Martin (12) is a current senior at MC and was recently honored as a Commended Scholar due to her score on the PSAT. She is involved in the Beta Club and the National Honor Society at MC, and she is the co-editor of the Uproar. She also has also been a member of the MC Softball team for six years. Martin said, "I would definitely say that taking the PSAT class throughout sophomore and junior year prepared me the best. The teachers did a great job of making sure we had all the right information, and

that we were as prepared as possible." This accomplishment has opened up many doors for Martin because of all the hard work she put in. Commended Scholar Deanna Wilbourn (12) is a student at MC who is dedicated to doing well in school. She is involved in Beta Club, National Honor Society, Women Empowerment Club, Government Club, and Advocates for Change. She has made many accomplishments throughout her time in high school including winning third place in the c-span student cam competition, many highest average awards, and being president of the Government club. "I took practice PSAT and SAT tests weekly

and did daily questions on Khan Academy," Wilbourn said. These were some of the things that Wilbourn did to prepare to make an exceptional score on the PSAT. These students worked so hard to prepare to take this test, and for many it paid off. In other schools, covid-induced factors contributed to lower numbers of National Merit scholars. However, at MC, our amount of Semifinalists and Commended Scholars actually went up drastically. The junior class will take the PSAT on October 13, and they will have to wait until the fall of their senior year to find out who made National Merit Semifinalists and who is a Commended Scholar.



Above: The 31 National Merit Scholars come together to pose for a picture.

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Dates to Remember:

11/11:
Veterans Day Program

11/19:
Distance Learning Day

11/20-28:
Thanksgiving Break

12/13-16:
Exams

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New Teachers Adjust to Madison Central

Allie Hurt
STAFF
WRITER

This year we have many new teachers here at Madison Central. Each teacher has a unique experience adjusting to teaching during Covid. They have more obstacles this year than usual such as distance learning, quarantine, and social distancing. Despite these struggles our new teachers have found their own way to get through this crazy year. They are ready to see what this year has in store.

The first new teacher at MC is Abby Johnston. She is new to teaching and could not be more excited. She teaches English II and the PSAT class. Johnston graduated high school here at MC and got her degree from the University of Mississippi. When asked why she wanted to be a teacher, Johnston said, "I have always wanted to be a teacher, even as a little girl. My mom was my elementary school principal, so I basically grew up in the school. Coming to work

every day is so surreal because I am living out my childhood dream." Teaching during Covid has not been too difficult for her because she was a student in college during the beginning of Covid, and understands what it is like for her students. Johnston's favorite part about teaching so far is getting to learn about all of her students and making connections with them. She loves to read literature and wanted to teach an older age group that could understand higher-level thinking and reading. Johnston is so thrilled about what this year holds and can not wait to see how it unfolds.

Another new addition to our faculty is Henry Cotton. He teaches College and Career Readiness, a class that is meant to prepare students for the incoming challenges of the real world. He graduated from Hinds Community College in 2019 and Jackson State University in the Spring of 2021. Adjusting to Covid mandates and protocols was exhausting for him last year as a college student. When asked why he decided to teach

high school, Cotton said "I felt that with my combination of my personality and patience, teaching high school was the best fit. I felt like my sense of humor and personality would be able to make the largest impact in a high school setting." He wanted to be a teacher because he had a lot of teachers that have become lifelong mentors to him, and he wants to be the same for his students. Cotton's favorite part about teaching is the unpredictability. He loves seeing all the different personalities in his classroom. Seeing his lessons impact the lives of his students is another one of his favorite aspects about teaching.

Along with the previous new teachers mentioned, Katie Cook is teaching in-person at MC for the first year. She has been teaching for 11 years and taught virtual here last year. Cook teaches English II and Accelerated English II. She graduated from Ole Miss with a Bachelor's and Master's degree. She was in

the mentoring program in high school and that's when she realized she wanted to be a teacher. For Cook, teaching during Covid has been frustrating and disheartening at times. "It is also difficult to teach in a mask. Not being able to smile at students or see them smile is sad," said Cook. Because she is a relationship-oriented person, not having students in her classroom while teaching virtually last year was hard for her. Cook's favorite part about teaching at MC is getting to know new students and witnessing how involved the student body is.

Overall, our new teachers are thrilled to be at MC. They are slowly adapting to the new normal. They are working hard to follow the rules put in place because of Covid. Even though this year has been unprecedented, the teachers have done a good job so far helping students learn to the best of their ability.



The Open-Up Club Opens Up

Anna Kimbrell
STAFF
WRITER

The Open Up Club is new to Madison Central this year, and this club focuses on students' mental health. Nina Gault (11) said, "I joined the Open Up Club because I know how much mental health matters among teenagers, and I think a club is a great way to spread awareness and bring people together to help make a change in talking about mental health." Mental health difficulties can interfere with a student's work ethic. Students across the world struggle with anxiety, sleep difficulties, stress, and depression stemming from home life, workload, and school environment. Depression can lead to school dropouts, as well as lower a student's GPA; mental health affects people's day-to-day life and how well he or she succeeds.

Adam Maatallah (11) joined the Open Up Club because of the lack of mental health

talk in the community. "I joined this club to remove barriers that prevent or discourage people from talking about their problems. I want to create a community at our school that is willing to become invested in talking about the mental issues that we struggle with on a daily basis." There are stigmas and stereotypes on mental health, as many consider it a taboo topic. However, not talking about it is worse. The CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Data said that "more than one in three high school students had experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness in 2014, a 40 percent increase since 2009." (sprc.org) As students across the country deal with depression, an outlet to talk about their source of sadness and stress

help alleviate the mental detriments.

Yasmine Ware (12) the president of Madison Central's Open Up Club decided to establish this club because of her "passion for mental health." "Open Up Madison Central is the first-ever chapter of the larger non-profit, Open Up Mississippi, founded in the hopes of getting youth involved in mental health advocacy within their school and throughout the state," said Ware. Ware is the liaison for the Teen Community Outreach for Open Up Mississippi and in "[her] brainstorming of how to improve member involvement, [she] found that a chapter of Open Up at different schools may be the answer." Ware got her idea approved by the CEO of the Mississippi National Alliance on Men-

tal Illness, (NAMI) Mississippi, a nonprofit state organization; their goal is "to improve the quality of life of persons living with serious mental illness along with their friends and families." (namims.org) A typical meeting would consist of a new topic "within the context of mental health" and a speaker coming to share their story, or "open up" said Ware. The club will also have health advocacy training conducted by the NAMI.

Students such as Ware, who encourage the talk of mental health, want everyone who is struggling to be able to talk about their problems freely. When Ware was in middle school one of her classmates

took their life, "and it was then that I realized every individual has an inner world of pain that may seem invisible to the outside" said Ware. This moment prompted her to make a club that partners with organizations such as Open up Mississippi and NAMI. These organizations allow everyone including high school students to talk about the importance of mental health in a safe environment. "Madison Central, we are not alone. We are so much stronger when we "open up" together," said Ware. The new addition of the Open Up Club at Madison Central will allow students, who want to talk about mental health problems, to be able to do so freely without judgement.



Let's Go Make a TikTok

Avery Holland STAFF WRITER

TikTok has become a huge social media platform throughout the years. It started out as Musical.ly in July 2014, in which it became an extremely popular platform where participants were able to upload lip-sync videos and showcase their talents. After six years of Musical.ly, on August 2, 2018, Musical.ly changed its name to what we now know as TikTok. The app became increasingly popular during quarantine, as many were stuck at home without things to do. On October 1, the platform announced it had reached one billion users with continued growth. TikTok has become a huge influence on Gen Z and Millennials throughout the last few years and has become one of the most popular social media platforms. It has made a huge impact on tons of people in the world today.

It is extremely easy for videos to popularize over-night. As a result, several trends have taken up the users by storm. Some trends can be very

obstructive and negative such as the “Devious Lick Challenge.” ‘Devious Licks’ are students stealing, damaging, and vandalizing school property; this is happening at schools across the world. Schools like the Waco Independent School District in Texas have started taking action against students saying, “Students make no mistake, if you participate in this challenge and destroy any Waco ISD property, you will be held accountable. We must not fall into the stereotype of how we are seen. We must rise above this and set the example of how we take pride in our school district.” Principal Brewer says, “We spend 8 hours a day here at MC and consider it another home and do not appreciate it being destroyed. If damages are severe, then there may be expenses paid and law enforcement may get involved.” Another TikTok trend that caused lots of backlash was the “Tide Pod Challenge” back in 2017-2018 when teens were eating tide pods, causing them to get sick and end up in the hospital.

While there are many negative trends on Tik Tok, there are also

several positive ones. The “Self-Love Movement” has young adults and teens learning to love themselves by boosting their confidence. Spencer Barbosa has become a major influencer on body positivity, self-love, and self-care with over four million young men and women looking to her to help boost their own confidence and self-esteem. She posts TikToks about the many different body shapes and how they are normal and should be embraced.

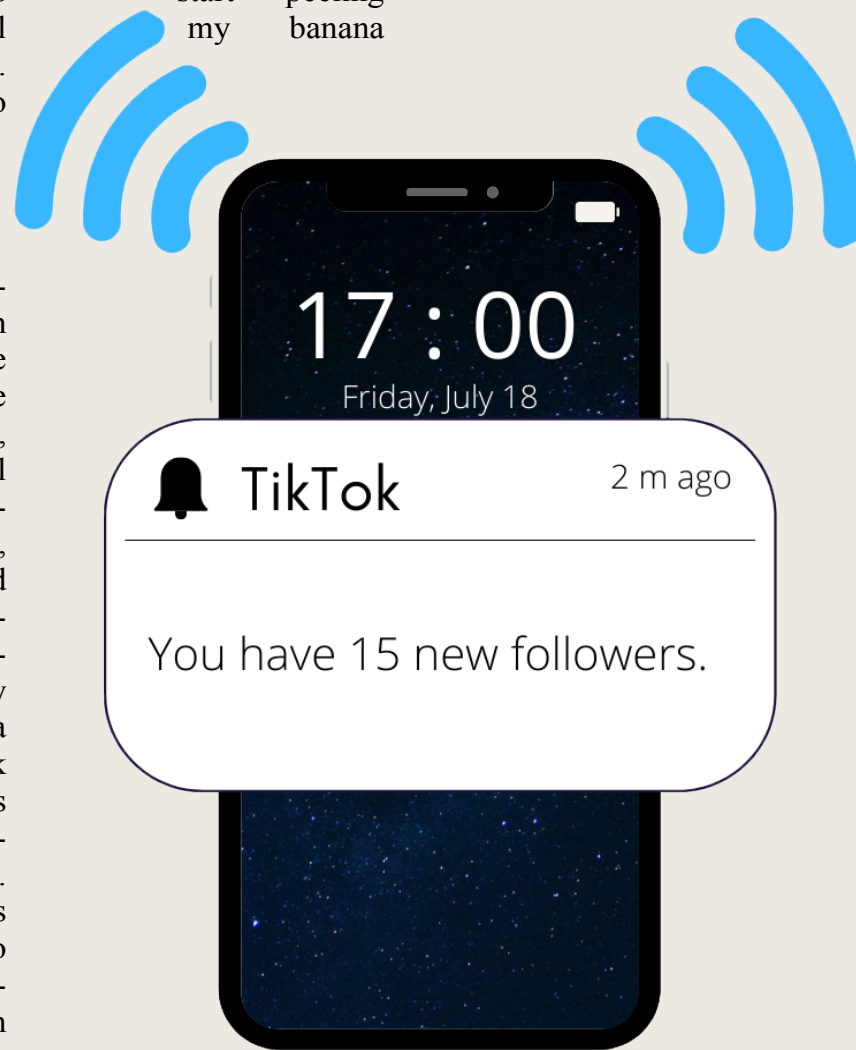
Tik Tok has also made many people try new things. Many people have picked up on new hobbies. Several people use their accounts to teach and inspire people to try and learn new things. Some of the most popular hobbies are drawing, cooking, dancing, and filming. Dakota Deel (10) took up a cooking hobby this summer. She says, “My favorite thing I cooked off of TikTok would be Tanghulu, because it was delicious- until I accidentally burned it.” Tanghulu is a popular candied fruit snack throughout China. It was a very popular food people made over quarantine.

The platform has taught many life hacks to people as well. “OnlyJay-us” is a user on TikTok with

almost sixteen million followers. She teaches people interesting life hacks that they can use in everyday life. A couple of interesting facts she has mentioned include using chapstick or raw honey to relieve pain from papercuts and using ice to remove stuck gum effortlessly from hair. Claire Boykin (11) says “I learned to start peeling my banana

from the other end of the banana. TikTok taught me this, and it made peeling bananas so much easier”.

Although TikTok has had its fair share of backlash in the past and will have some in the future, the platform has also inspired many people to love themselves and pick up new hobbies.



IDENTIFYING THE CRYPTIDS OF THE WORLD: AN ORIGINAL HALLOWEEN STORY

Hannah Schossler STAFF WRITER

October 23

I'm writing this, because Debra wants me to. She even bought me this journal and everything, even though she shouldn't have. Anyway, welcome to the first entry of the “My Brother is Missing, and I Need to Keep Myself Busy or I Might Implode” diary. This is a waste of time. There was a missing person's report on our local TV news station for Mason. I should have done literally anything to stop him from going out last night, but I didn't. It's my fault he's gone, and now my little brother is out there somewhere, in 55 degrees weather at worst and 75 degrees weather at best. He's going to die out there if someone doesn't find him soon, and I'll be cursed if it isn't me.

October 24

I've decided to continue writing here, because I was able to sleep for two hours last night. Debra, Jason, and I are going to search the nearby woods over the next few days. I've decided to catalog our findings.

October 26

Nothing has been found yet. If Mason did go into these woods, then it's the end of the line. The people who go missing here have never been found. Jason stumbled upon a clearing of purple flowers. It's huge, at least half an acre. Jason says not to touch them, that they're poisonous wolfsbane. I found a trail of them growing south of the main group, but it didn't lead anywhere.

October 27

Jason called. Wolfsbane sprouted up overnight around Jason's house. They had never been there before, and within a night they had grown and were already flowering. There's a small trail that leads into the woods, and so we're going to follow it.

It led back to the wolfsbane patch. We decided to follow the dead-end trail that I found the other day, and it's grown. It led to a cave underneath a giant elm tree. The branches sprawl across the sky, blocking light. We haven't explored it yet, just to give ourselves time to investigate around it. No one found anything besides a few stray wolfsbane. I am currently writing this paragraph with one of the flashlights we brought. We're in the cave, and we've found human bones. I need to distract myself. What if Mason,

my precious younger brother, is down here? The wolfsbane is covering the walls and it just doesn't make sense. Nothing makes sense anymore.

October 28

Two things happened last night that I neglected to write about. One, we found a weird mass of roots, growing like a spider, up and outwards. Two, we found Mason. He was unconscious under the seed-like ball, covered in wolfsbane and roots growing on him. He was, and still is unconscious, malnourished and dehydrated as though the plants were sucking the life out of him. It made me sick. But we got him to the hospital, and he's stable. As we were leaving the cave I saw a shadow dart behind the giant elm tree; it was large and definitely had a muzzle. I've got to give this journal to the cops later tonight. If I'm being honest, this book was just a way to get my thoughts out of my head, and it's done its job. I think I can safely put it down.

ORIGINS OF CRYPTIDS

Bigfoot Mothman

The concept of a large, hairy ape-man living in the woods is not new. Cultures all over the world have a version of Bigfoot, from the Appalachian's Abominable Snowman to the diverse and wide-spread Native American “wild man”.

It all came to a head in autumn of 1967 when Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin captured their world-famous less-than-a-minute film of Bigfoot in Northern California. The cryptid has been disputed since its inception. Some say it is folklore that has been popularized by a picture of a man in a gorilla suit, while others say it is just a rare species of giant ape. When asked about the latter, Hannah Moore (11) said, “It could be a possibility, because you do not see him very often.” Willy Cardona (11) had a unique response to the question. “I think it would be a very scary animal that was seen with abnormal genetics,” he said. However, it does not matter if Bigfoot is an ape-man, a man in a suit, or an ape species; Bigfoot will forever be ingrained into modern society's culture.

The Mothman craze started in 1966. Bethany Abraham (11), who had no previous knowledge of Mothman, said “He would have big red eyes,” and that is exactly what two couples saw on their drive down a rural road next to a forest that harbors a disused WW2 production bunker in Point Pleasant, West Virginia. The creature that would soon be known as Mothman was in front of their car, standing at 6-7 feet tall with a 10-foot wingspan. He chased the car, scaring the two couples, before disappearing into the woods known as TNT Area.

Skeptics believe that Mothman could have been a Sandhill Crane – a bird that is two to four feet tall with a wingspan of around 6.5 feet. The most notable feature of this bird is the bright red cap around its eyes, which is the leading reason most think the crane could be Mothman. The crane is not native to West Virginia, but there is a smaller population of them in Florida whose migration path is nearby.

The Mothman has not been seen since 1967, but memory of him still rages in Point Pleasant.



Spending a Day at the Fair

Allie Hurt
STAFF WRITER

The Mississippi State Fair is an event lots of people look forward to every October. This year marks the 162nd fair. I have gone to the fair every year since I can remember and have made so many memories. Izzy Goddard (10) said, "My favorite memories from the fair would definitely be riding the Rockstar for the first time, eating so much food, and getting my face painted." There are so many things to see and do. I was always so excited when we pulled into the parking lot, as I could not wait to walk around and see all the entertainment.

This year I went with a few of my friends. The first thing we did when we got there was buy tickets. The line can be long, but it was not too bad this time. After we got our tickets, it was time to decide our first ride. We decided to ride Alien Abduction, because it is my friend's favorite.

Despite the rides being the main attraction of the fair, the food is just as appealing. My favorite food at the fair is

funnel cake. The fair has the best funnel cakes, and I always look forward to getting one. When asked his favorite thing about the fair Sam Buck (11) said, "Definitely the food. I like their corn-on-the-cob and the free honey biscuits. The rides are cool too." There are so many food vendors it is hard to choose what to get. My friends and I just got a little bit of everything. After eating, we went to the petting zoo to see all the animals. They had goats, pigs, sheep, and so much more. We bought carrots to feed the goats, because it is much more fun when you get to feed them. When we finished at the petting zoo, we decided to go watch the pig races. The pigs were so cute, and it was funny to watch them run as fast as they could. One last entertainment show we watched was the Zerbini Family Circus. It was fascinating to watch all their difficult tricks.

When we were done watching all the events, we headed back to ride some more rides. As we were walking, one of the guys at a booth tried to put a snake around my friend's shoulders. She got scared and freaked out. After she calmed down, we

rode the Remix, Freak Out, and the Pharaoh. Adya Praveen (12) said, "One of my favorite rides is the Ring of Fire. I love that it goes super fast and upside down. It is so much fun." Those are some of the most popular rides.

As we were finishing up, we decided to play the booth games. First, we did the water gun shoot and I won. Next, we played the game ring toss but had no luck winning. The last game we played was the fishbowl game. The goal of the game is to throw the ping pong balls into the fishbowls; however many you throw in is how many fish you win. My friend and I both won two fish. We were so excited and could not wait to take them home.

After playing the games we decided to leave, because we did everything that we wanted. My friends and I had a great time as always; it truly is a great experience for people of all ages. I hope hearing about my experience at the fair will make everyone want to attend.

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST



Take the
ACT/SAT.



Write your college
application essay.



Send transcript,
ACT scores, and
SAT scores.



Research financial
aid & scholarships.



Evaluate your
options and make
a decision.

Highlights on Paris Fashion Week

Brittan McFadden
STAFF WRITER

Paris Fashion Week is a world renowned event. The best of the best are invited to walk the runway in different designers' latest collections. The event is organized by the French Fashion Confederation with hundreds of editors, photographers, stylists, models, and designers all playing a role in producing the big show. This year, the week extends from Monday, September 27 to Tuesday, October 5, 2021. Due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, they have added an extra day to the show this year.

The event has come a long way since its start. In the first Paris Fashion Week, there were only five American and five French designers involved. Anne Klein, Bill Blass, Halston, Oscar de la Renta, and Stephen Burrows were the five American designers; Marc Bohan, Emanuel Ungaro, Hubert de Givenchy, Pierre Cardin, and Yves Saint Laurent were the five French designers. The first few rows in the audience included important designers, buyers, and editors. Now, there are hundreds of different designers who come together and show off their fall and spring

collections. The rest of the audience includes celebrities, fashion influencers and other members of the fashion industry. Miller Johnson (12) said, "If I was invited to Paris Fashion Week, it would be as a fashion designer. I'd like to say my style is different from others, and my outfits all have some form of self-expression in them. So, assuming a designer's role would fit best with me, I like to curate outfits based on my mood and how I'd like society to perceive me." Different designers all have different ways of expressing themselves.

One of the more famous designers in Paris Fashion Week is Clare Waight Keller. Keller works for the Givenchy fashion house. One of her most renowned projects was Meghan Markle's wedding dress. In the past, she has designed tuxes, and all sorts of regular wear such as flowy, floral, mesh and patterned dresses. Hollin Brewer (10) said, "If I was a designer, I would create looks that draw attention with the coloration on the clothing. I would also add in some geometric patterns so some of the different clothing items are unique." Designers from Elle, Dior, and Louis Vuitton are examples of industries who display a variety of patterns in their pieces of clothing.

The main purpose

behind Paris Fashion Week is to let the fashion world see the new trends that are rising. There are many different looks created by just one designer. From leopard print to sequins, Paris Fashion Week includes it all. People from all over the world look up to designers and the new fashion trends that come out every

year. Anna Kimbrell (11) said, "I believe that fashion shows have big impacts on trends. They set the fashion standard that a lot of people across the United States and even within our school abide by." This event sets a precedent for fashions that will be adopted and worn in the upcoming seasons.

In conclusion, Paris Fashion Week sets the stage for new fashion, and the clothing proposed during this event sets the clothing standard. Designers create looks during this show that not only influence fashion in France, but fashion all around the world.



THREE FACTORS TO SWIM'S SUCCESS

Taylor Martin
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Madison Central swim team – also known as the Aqua Jags – is comprised of seventeen boys and eighteen girls, with members ranging from seventh to twelfth grade. The Aqua Jags have seen much success over the years, with the girls' team winning seven straight state championships, and the boys' team winning one last season. They are each trying to bring yet another state championship back to the jungle, and they are working hard in practice in order to make that dream a reality. According to Cassie Howell (11), "[We] practice during fourth and eighth block, but we have many club swimmers on our team who practice up to ten times a week." Howell just recently committed to the University of Kentucky to further her education, and her swim career. She is one of the many dedicated swimmers who works hard in order

to ensure that the Aqua Jags end the season victorious.

Not only do the Aqua Jags practice hard in order to achieve success, they have also created an environment where students are set up to flourish. When asked about what he liked most about the team, Carter Dickey (12) said, "My favorite thing about the team by far is the atmosphere. Ever since my seventh-grade year this team has carried an atmosphere in practices and at meets like nobody else in the state. It is what makes us Madison Central Jaguars. It has been amazing to come from seventh-grade up and help to grow the MC Swim Team tradition and really watch it prosper." The combination of talented swimmers with hard work ethics, as well as a positive environment, is likely the reason for much of their success.

The Aqua Jags test their skills at their meets, which are generally held on Saturdays and Mondays. Meets are generally three hours long, but "championships are an all-day event," said Dickey. Swimmers compete in individual races, as well as relays. In each race, swimmers are competing for

themselves and for their team. At meets, swimmers will perform in heats. There are typically eight swimmers in each heat, and they are generally organized from slowest to fastest. So, the slower members will swim their races first, followed by the faster, more competitive swimmers. In larger races, these heats can also be split up into strictly male and female races.

After a swimmer has completed their race, they will receive a certain amount of points depending

on how they placed. Then, at the end of the meet, all of the points will be added up for each team, and the team with the highest number of points wins. Individual awards can also be given out for the fastest times swam in each particular event. Therefore, swim is a very individual sport, but it takes more than one person for a team to see success.

Bridget Carmody and Eddie Ware are the coaches of the MC Swim Team, and they are dedicated to making sure that their swimmers receive the proper training.

Abby Jo Flowers (10) said, "The coaches do a great job of making sure that everyone is well prepared. They maximize practice time by keeping everything organized and running smoothly." Making sure everyone practices properly ensures that everyone is ready to perform their best on meet days. Overall, the combination of talented swimmers, a positive environment, and good coaches contributes much to the Aqua Jags success.



Above: The swim team ends their meet in high spirits as they smile for a picture.

The Rise of Fantasy Football

James Phillips
STAFF WRITER

Fantasy Football started in 1962 when Bill Winkenbach and his friends were at a bar. Winkenbach created a small game that would one day end up as what we now know to be Fantasy Football. They created the GOPPL (Greater Oakland Professional Pigskin Prognosticators League). In 1999, Yahoo was a major and popular site that would host leagues for free to the public, so they could participate in the game. The National Football League (NFL) later saw the popularity with fantasy football, and they began to host their own league on their website for fans to play on. Although the premise of fantasy football may

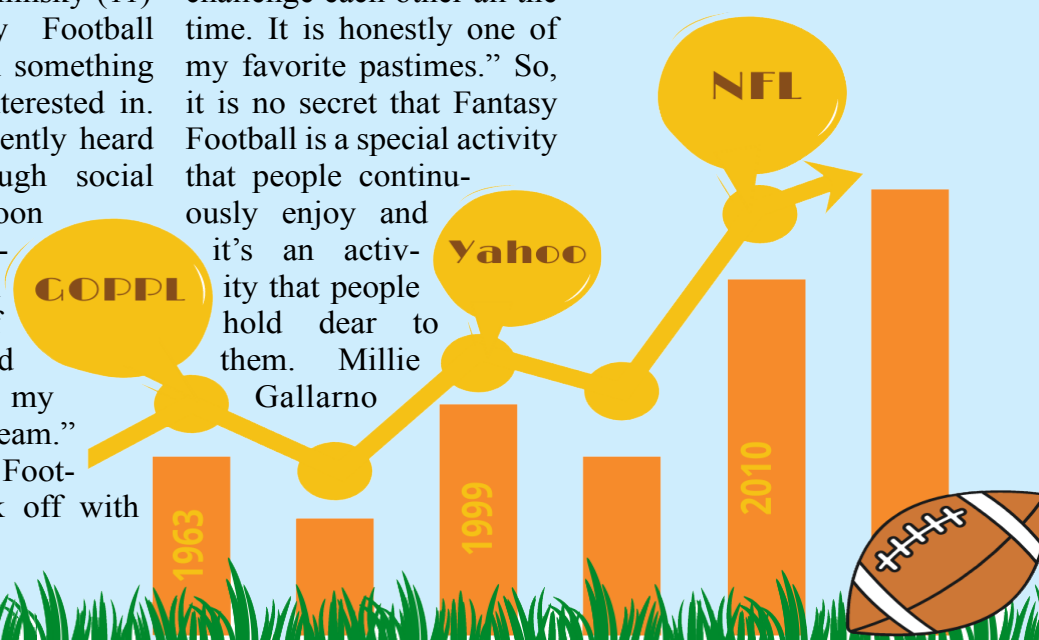
sound daunting at first, the game is fairly simple: the player is simply the manager and owner of a virtual football team. Before the start of a season, the player will be able to select players from real NFL teams. You must be in a draft to get players, or you can select the auto-draft option which would select your team for you with no manual work. More people prefer to do it the manual way or the more traditional style of things. When the draft ends players can remove football players they do not want on their team or pick football players who did not get drafted on to a team. Finally, when all players are final the individual can assign players to his/her desired positions, such as quarterback, running back, wide receiver, tight end, kicker, or team defense. When you get your team created, the player will be able to participate in

matchups with other players. Winning these matchups results in winning real money. However, it is extremely hard to win, as you will need to have knowledge of football players and research to have the best team possible, however, but there are tips and tricks out there from pro fantasy football players to help you compete and teach you how to properly manage your league. When asked about the game itself Mariah Oshinsky (11) said, "Fantasy Football has never been something I have been interested in. However, I recently heard about it through social media and soon I became interested with the concept of managing and controlling my own virtual team."

Fantasy Football soon took off with

many NFL fans participating. Over 30 million people played last year, which was the most out of every fantasy sports league out there. Fans have devoted their time to playing Fantasy Football. Students at Madison Central have readily participated in fantasy football. A participant who is open about their love for fantasy football, Thomas Mason (10) said, "Many of my friends compete in fantasy football and we challenge each other all the time. It is honestly one of my favorite pastimes." So, it is no secret that Fantasy Football is a special activity that people continuously enjoy and it's an activity that people hold dear to them. Millie Gallarno

(12) explained that, "Fantasy Football is something that brings me and my stepdad close together. I was always into sports but never much into Fantasy Football so having something that we can both participate in makes our relationship close. At this point, it is a tradition for us to chat about it so I enjoy Fantasy Football a lot" Fantasy football is a wide known activity and it is one of the things that people can bond over and enjoy.



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