

Madison Central

# UPROAR

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## Breast Cancer Awareness Month

**Dylan Thomas**  
STAFF WRITER

The month of October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. During October, people wear pink to show solidarity and support, and survivors are encouraged to share their stories and experiences. The purpose of this month is to spread awareness and information about breast cancer, as well as to show support for those affected by it. About 240,000 women and 2,100 men are diagnosed with breast cancer every year. Part of the reason why Breast Cancer Awareness Month is so important is because of the multiple misconceptions that surround the disease. For example, it used to be a common belief that men could not get breast cancer, but that just simply is not the truth. Men can get breast cancer, and the myth that they can not is partly the reason why breast cancer has a higher mortality rate in men than in

women, even though women are more likely to have breast cancer than men. Another commonly believed myth is that sugar can cause breast cancer. While eating an excess of anything is not necessarily good for someone, it is not a direct cause of breast cancer.

Another reason why Breast Cancer Awareness Month is necessary is because of how it encourages people to get screenings for breast cancer. Catching breast cancer early on is one of the best ways to guarantee a patient's survival and recovery from the disease. Of course, cancer is not so cut and dry, and everyone's experience with cancer will vary, but that does not take away from the general benefits of catching something like breast cancer early. Parker Jackson teaches AP Biology and Biomedical Research at Madison Central, and cancer is a subject taught and researched about in those courses. Treatment for breast cancer has come a long way. Jackson gives credit to the breast cancer awareness movement for that improvement because of the amount of awareness the movement spreads and the money raised every October. She said, "The research alone and technology increased for that type of cancer, is tenfold compared to

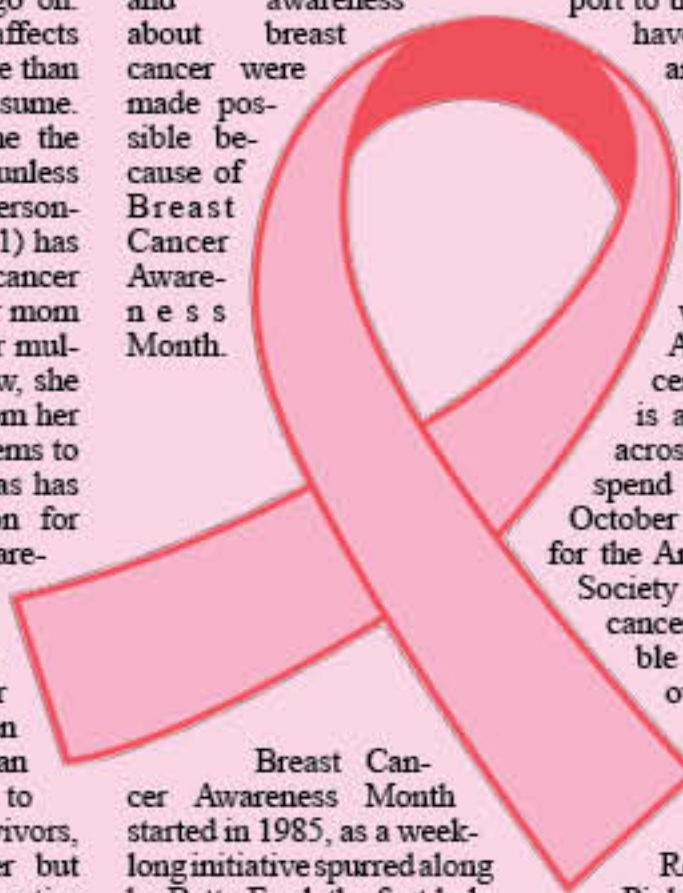
other cancers that are not as common." The development of research and technology has increased the survival rate for breast cancer substantially, and it will only continue to increase as the years go on.

Breast cancer affects so many people, more than what some would assume. It is hard to imagine the scope of something unless it affects someone personally. Hope Cuevas (11) has a history of breast cancer in her family, and her mom has had breast cancer multiple times. As of now, she is in full recovery from her last treatment and seems to be doing well. Cuevas has a lot of appreciation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and she and her family participate in fundraising activities for breast cancer. When asked how people can show their support to breast cancer survivors, not only in October but also throughout the entire year Cuevas said, "If you are wanting to cut your hair, donate it. There are companies that will take people's hair and turn them into wigs. My mom bought a wig that was made from someone's hair, and she wears it all the time." While it is important to show tons of support to breast cancer survivors during the month of October, it is equally important to do so throughout the year. Cutting and donating hair is a great way to show solidarity to the cause at any time of year. Walker Scott (12) is another student whose family has been affected by breast cancer. His mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015. Although his mom had a full recovery the diagnosis heavily affected him and the rest of his family. Scott said, "It impacted my view on how temporary life can be and how much stuff matters. It really strengthened my relationship with

my mom because of that." Scott has a very close relationship to his mom and is very thankful for the treatments that are available for breast cancer. He feels that a lot of the treatments and awareness about breast cancer were made possible because of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

There are many ways that people can support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Donating, fundraising, and spreading awareness are all ways that people can show support to those who either have recovered or are currently in treatment for breast cancer. Real Men Wear Pink is one very popular group that works under the American Cancer Society and is a group of men across America that spend the month of October raising money for the American Cancer Society and for breast cancer treatment. Table 100 is a locally owned restaurant in the Flowood area that actively participates in Real Men Wear Pink and hosts fundraising events for the American Cancer Society.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a great opportunity to spread awareness about breast cancer and show love to those in recovery of breast cancer. It is also a good time for people to educate themselves on what breast cancer is and how it affects American society. People's stories about their personal experiences are all equally important, whether they had cancer or knew someone who did, and it is important to remember that those conversations are important to have even if it makes others uncomfortable. Cancer is a very emotional subject because of how it affects people, and Breast Cancer Awareness Month creates a great opportunity for those stories to be heard.



Breast Cancer Awareness Month started in 1985, as a week-long initiative spurred along by Betty Ford, the first lady at the time, who also happened to be a breast cancer survivor. The pink ribbon commonly associated with breast cancer was introduced into the month until 1992, and is primarily attributed to both the Self magazine, Evelyn Lauder, and Charlotte Haley. Haley was the first to use the ribbon idea to spread awareness about breast cancer, except her ribbons were peach. Evelyn Lauder was the Vice President of the Estée Lauder beauty company. Lauder and Self magazine worked closely together during Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and when they found out what Haley was doing, they wanted to use it in their commercial campaign. Haley, however, refused to work with the two companies. The companies still distributed the ribbons, but they changed the color from a peach to a pink and distributed the ribbons throughout the U.S.



### Sports

Check out page 7 for information about the Cross Country team and Marching Band!



### News

Take a look at page 2 for an article about the Governor Election!



### Feature

Check out page 4 for information about the National Merit Winners!



# Running For Governor

Violet Daniels  
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday November 7 Mississippi voters will go to the polls and vote for their next governor. On the ballot there is Candidate Tate Reeves, Candidate Brandon Presley, and Candidate Gwendolyn Gray. The current governor is Tate Reeves. He is the 65 governor of Mississippi. Reeves was first elected in 2019 and was sworn in on January 14, 2020. Before Reeves became governor, he was Mississippi's 53rd State Treasurer from 2004 to 2012, and from 2012 to 2020 he also was the Lieutenant governor of Mississippi. During Reeves' time in office, he has done many things for his constituents. He has worked on various issues including education, public safety, criminal justice, healthcare, work development, and economic growth. One of Reeves'

biggest achievements was the public-school teacher pay raise. This raise was the largest raise in the state for teachers seen in years. This was beneficial because Mississippi public school teachers are among the lowest paid in the nation. Brandon Presley has been working in Mississippi politics since he was 16 when he successfully managed his uncle's campaign for the position of Lee County Sheriff. Presley previously served as the mayor of Nettleton from 2001-2007. Presley has also been serving as the Public Service Commissioner for the Northern District since 2008. In 2017, he became chairman of the Public Service Commission. On January 12, 2023, Presley announced his Democratic candidacy for governor of Mississippi. On August 8, as the only Democratic candidate for governor on the ballot, Presley won the Democratic primary. The Independent candidate

Gwendolyn Gray dropped out of the race October 9 and endorsed Brandon Presley. This election also comes at an important time for Reeves. He is currently being held under accusation for involvement in a welfare scandal. With this information the election has gotten the attention of a few students, Audrey Houston (12) stated "With Tate Reeves under fire for accusations of money laundering this governor election is bound to be more exciting with a strong Democrat candidate versus a long-term Republican candidate. The scandals being brought to the public's attention could easily mean a new party in power for Mississippi's governor, but the incumbency privileges and Reeves' consistency in the office stands a fighting chance against the Democratic party." Noah Clapper (10) stated "We are currently seeing a pivotal election for the state of Mississippi. We have the household name T a t e Reeves, who

has been involved with the state's government since 2004, but with how the politics of Tate Reeves are currently looking we could see a potential uptake with the new Democrat Candidate who is trying to reach out to both sides of the aisle." This election could be hard for the candidates. As of the most recent polling for the governor election Reeves is up by 11 points, but this race is still neck in neck. Sara Sinha (11) states "I think Tate Reeves is probably going to win his reelection based on the partisan lean Mississippi has, but based on what I have heard people say there could be a chance of competitiveness between him and Presley." Reeves has consistently polled under 50 percent of his projections this year. Along with that 21 percent of Republican voters support Pre-

sley over Reeves. On the other hand, Presley was found to be 23 percent favorable to 27 percent unfavorable with 47 percent of pollsters stating they did not know enough about the candidate to form an opinion. Based on all of this it sure is going to be a hard race for the candidates.



## Healthcare Education in Mississippi

Amelia Morris  
STAFF WRITER

Nurses are the heart of healthcare. Nurses play a significant role in everyone's daily life. A nurse is a person trained to care for the sick. Nurses do not just graduate college and go off to have a career in nursing, there are programs and pathways at certain colleges put in place for people who want to pursue a career in nursing. There are colleges in Mississippi that have nursing programs such as Ole Miss and a newly innovative nursing program at Mississippi State. Valerie Morris (Ole Miss graduate) got a Bachelors of Nursing Science from the University of Mississippi medical center, Ole Miss' nursing program on the Jackson Campus. Morris said, "I enjoyed my classes and instructors. My favorite part was the clinical experiences in the hospitals when we shadowed nurses on the floors and ICUs." In this program, Morris took the classes, pathophysiology, pharmacology, health assessment, and classes on adults, pediatrics, acute and chronic nursing care. "I got my masters of nursing and my family nurse practitioner degree from the Ole Miss' Medical Center and currently work as a primary care provider in the school based health clinics in Jackson public schools," Morris said. She continues, "The program was challenging. It pushed us to critically think and use our nursing skills to compassionately care for patients with evidence based practices." Though enjoying her overall experience she said, "I did not enjoy the long nights of studying but they were worth

it." Morris is putting her education from Ole Miss to use by helping the communities around Madison. Kelly Elfert (Ole Miss graduate) went to the University of Mississippi Nursing school program at UMMC in Jackson, Ms as well. She said, "I had a great experience overall. I thought the program was run well, it was challenging but also had knowledge and helpful professors. I enjoyed the professors-they were always kind and helpful to explain and educate us. They truly wanted to see us succeed. Also I enjoyed the experience of the UMMC hospital. We got a wide variety of knowledge and got to see and experience all sorts of patients through the hospital. Everyone was willing to teach and help us." Kelly Elfert took classes in nursing school such as pathophysiology, health assessment, professional nursing and evidence based practice, skills courses, nursing research, generic, adult, child, and newborn courses, and management and leadership courses to name a few. Elfert said, "My love in nursing is labor and delivery. I served in this role for 10 years. Currently I am working in pre-admissions which is where we assess, order pre-op testing, and prepare and educate patients prior to surgery." She graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing. Olivia Stokes (Ole Miss Graduate) participated in the UMMC Accelerated Bachelors of Science in nursing program in Oxford. This program was 12 months long and required a prior bachelor's degree in order to be accepted into the program. Stokes said her experience

"was tough but very doable. The biggest thing with the accelerated program is the time management. They cram two years worth of material into one and then I had to find time to squeeze in my clinicals as well. Apart from classes, I loved all of my classmates and professors. It was an extremely rewarding experience and I will always be grateful." Along with her enjoyable experience she said she enjoyed most her professors. Stokes graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Nursing and now works dayshift in the neuroscience intensive care unit at UMMC as a registered nurse. While the Ole Miss nursing program has been around for a while Mississippi State is getting a brand new nursing program. Msstate.edu stated, "Mississippi State students choosing to pursue a degree in nursing now have a new route through a partnership with the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing that allows completion of an MSU degree in interdisciplinary studies alongside a UMMC nursing degree." This program offers a direct route to nursing for people that already have a bachelor's degree. Contradictory to the Ole Miss program, Mississippi State is only offering a Masters in Science of Nursing while Ole Miss has both Bachelors and Masters in Science of Nursing pathways. Another benefit of this program, clinical



Above: Madison Central's nurse Christy Stevens  
Photo Courtesy of Vowell Photography

cal professor and director of MSU's Dr. A. Randle, M.C Reese said, "I have talked with many students who are interested in going into the nursing field but are sad because they will leave MSU without becoming an alumnus. This is an opportunity for them to achieve both goals." Over all many are excited for this new program at Mississippi State

and how it will turn out. Nurses are important and it is good to have prestigious programs that can help people who want to pursue that career. Ole Miss and the new MSU program will hopefully be part of helping people like that get to where they want to go.



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# A Fairytale in The Jungle

Emily Hodges  
STAFF WRITER

The weather is getting cooler which means it is getting closer and closer to the musical season here at Madison Central. This year, Madison Central is putting on a tale as old as time, Beauty and the Beast. With just a few weeks until the fairytale classic is open to the public, students and staff here at Madison Central are getting more and more excited to see the hard work and dedication that has gone into the show come to life. One of the leads of the show this year is Natalie Nix (12), who is starring as Belle in the musical. Nix has been in many musicals here at Madison Central, but

with this being her last year, she is filled with gratitude as well as excitement for what this show is going to be. Nix said, "I am thankful that I was given the opportunity to be Belle for my last high school musical, and I am so thrilled to put on this amazing production with my castmates. I cannot put into words how much I love the cast, crew, and all the moving parts who help make our show a success." Just like Nix said, it is going to be exciting to see all the different aspects of the musical come together and help make a jaw-dropping show. Although the play isn't going to be performed until October 31, stage crew, the cast, the administration, and many more have been working for months to make this their best performance yet. Chloe Crawford (11) has been on stage crew since her freshman year. When asked what all the stage crew has been doing to prepare for the musical, she said, "Since school started, the crew has been planning,

building, and painting the sets. Also, light crew has been programming the lights for the musical and for the other show choir productions that go on in between the start of school and the musical." There are many hours poured into this production for everything to run smoothly, which is why there is so much preparation months prior to the musical being out. For many in the jungle, it is a highlight to watch the sneak-peak every year of the musical. Being able to watch the auditorium transform into an extravagant, fairytale-like setting for everyone around to enjoy is quite an experience. Copeland Brown (11) said, "I really am excited to watch this musical for the first time. I know that it will be cool to see everyone dressed up and in character." Brown, like many other students, knows that this year's musical will be a tough one to beat. Last year Madison Central put on The Little Mermaid, and it did not disappoint. Using things like bubbles to light up the auditorium during the show last year, this year it will be exciting

to see what is in store for this upcoming musical. Beauty and the Beast will be played on October 31 as well as November 3-5. Many students, faculty, parents, and more here at Madison Central have several hours preparing for a perfect performance. Go buy tickets and sup-

port your classmates this year while watching the classic fairytale of Beauty and the Beast in the Madison Central Auditorium.



Madison Central High School  
PRODUCTION OF

**Disney BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**  
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

MUSIC BY Alan Menken  
BOOK BY Howard Ashman & Tim Rice  
LYRICS BY Linda Woolverton

ORIGINAL STORY BY Robert Jess Roth  
ORIGINAL PRODUCTION BY Disney Theatrical Productions

FRIDAY NOV 3 6:30 PM	SATURDAY NOV 4 6:30 PM	SUNDAY NOV 5 2:00 PM
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MCHS Auditorium  
Tickets: \$10  
For more information call: 601-856-7121

Product through special arrangement with their trade association (PFA) to facilitate performance in schools and other groups by the (PFA) member.

## Student's Fall Break Festivities

Lauren Heffington  
STAFF WRITER

After a successful first nine weeks, everyone deserved a break. Thanks to the new school calendar changes that will be implemented next year and the soft launch, Madison Central was warranted a few more days. Opposed to last year's three-day weekend, the jag zone had over a week off this year. Since MC had a week off, some of the students and faculty planned fun trips. Others stayed home and planned Friday night lights and district tournaments. After getting back to school, taking tests, doing labs or projects, and even the craziness of homecoming some of the students planned trips for their fall break. To places like Jamaica and the beach to visit other states like Kentucky, Georgia, and South Carolina. When asked where she would be spending Avery Taylor (10) said "I went to Jamaica and

spent time snorkeling, ziplining, shopping, and taking a visit to the spa." Taylor also said she was most excited for the food in Jamaica. As Taylor and many others spent time out of the country, some spent their time traveling over a few states. Anna Edgar (12) "When we went to Kentucky, we toured some horse stables. I was most excited for Claiborne because that is where Secretariat lived, and sightseeing while we toured the University of Kentucky. Then we headed over to Georgia where I planned on being aptitude tested, visiting Savannah for a few days, and touring SCAD (Savannah College of Art and Design). Savannah, Georgia is very historic, and I was excited to see all the pretty old buildings and houses." The students were in for a fun time this fall break. Since MC was granted a few more days for the break this year, students were able to travel. Hayden Jones (11) said, "I like the week this year over the three-day weekend, and

I went to Figure Eight Island for the week in North Carolina". Jones was not the only one happy to see a few more days of the break. While a good number of students and faculty were out and about during the break, others were practicing for sports. As football had two games during break one against Tupelo on October 6 and then against Murrah on October 13, they spent the week practicing. The golf teams were practicing in their spare time to get ready for district and state tournaments the week following the break. Other students spent the break relaxing and Rhyn Singleton (12) did just that. When asked what she did "This fall break I spent as much time as I could with loved ones. I also worked and was hoping to go to at least one college football game!" Singleton and others relaxed and kicked back this fall break. Most of the Jag Zone had fun on the break traveling and catching up with others. As we think back to the break, we can be hopeful for the next nine weeks.



Above: Senior Anna Edgar and her family in Kentucky. Photo Courtesy of Anna Edgar

Flora  
Proper





# Reaching Big For National Merit

## Madie Moseley STAFF WRITER

National Merit is an award that top students get from scoring nearly perfect on their PSAT. From Madison Central this year, 15 students were named as a semifinalist and Sneha Vuyyuru (12) got commended scholar. For the National Merit, the score you make in the eleventh grade determines if you get national merit or not. The semifinalists are Stephanie Ko, Samantha Wong, Chloe Spiz, Val Medina, Annalise Kirk, Katie Farthing, Sophie Gao, Abraham Young, Colin Brannon, Adel Abdo, Soren Heydari, Andy Lu, Thomas Adcock, Camden Hood, and Jordan Campbell. Madison Central has the highest

number of National Merit Semifinalists in the state of Mississippi. A total of around 50,000 participants receive recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. 16,000 out of the 50,000 will be notified that they were qualified for semifinalist. Semifinalists are the highest-scoring entrants in each state. This process is a difficult one, so many students take the PSAT prep class to help them prepare for scoring high. This class will push you; it is vigorous but helpful. According to Samantha Wong (12), "The PSAT Prep class helped me a lot. It's basically an entire year and also a week during the summer, of rigorous studying. The sophomore semester taught us the basics and the junior semester was just

practice test after practice test with very little break. Because it was nearly a year straight of intense studying, I felt really prepared." Unlike normal testing, this year the PSAT is on the computers. With the first PSAT being administered in 1959, this is the first year that this has occurred. The PSAT test is layered out into two sections, math and reading/writing. Lasting around two hours. Many students find that the hardest part of this test is the time limit causing pressure, making questions difficult. Even though the PSAT cannot be used to get into college, if done well scholarships and academic achievements will open up to the student. National Merit is a huge achievement that very few people get. Students who received the award should be extremely proud of



Above: Madison Central's National Merit Winners  
Photo Courtesy of Vowell Photography

themselves and their accomplishments. Getting this score was such a huge deal to Annalise Kirk(12) she said, "When I got my scores back, it felt like every door I could have ever asked for had been opened. There is nothing like working and studying for something for a year and it is finally pay-

ing off! I am now able to go to university out of state completely for free because of national merit, and I've even been granted private tours and interviews because of the award, so it's definitely been a rewarding experience." Andy Lu (12) had some great advice for individuals who want to get this award, "The PSAT class is

a very beneficial class and also practicing a lot is helpful." Hard work definitely paid off for these semifinalists.



## CANNED FOOD DRIVE

SEPTEMBER 25-29

# 74,276 CANS



## Celebrating Veterans Day



## Hannah Evans STAFF WRITER

This year Veterans Day falls on Saturday November 11. We use this day to honor all those who served in the military. This celebration honors America's veterans for their patriotism, their love for America, and for being willing to serve and sacrifice for our country. Because of these veterans, the US is a strong, safe, and united country. Veterans and soldiers help America maintain the title of "The Land of the Free Home of the Brave" Tyra Tucker (10) spoke about how her and her family celebrate this special day. "Every year we do a family cookout and celebrate. We celebrate my grandfather, stepdad, and stepbrother, who are all

veterans. We tell them Happy Veterans Day and show them with the cookout, along with other festivities how much we appreciate them. They risked their lives for us so we can have freedom and live the life we want to live. I love them dearly and I am

so proud of what they did for our country." Tucker stated how much she loves her family for being so brave and appreciates the sacrifice from other veterans in America for serving. Faith Cuevas

(11) had a sweet story to share about her grandfather and his time serving in the army. "My grandfather was in the army. He did not fight in the war; he specialized with military vehicles. He worked on cars and engines a lot. During a life-threatening event, a man in the army saved my grandfather's life. He named his first-born son after the man, Trent. I'm forever grateful for the man Trent, and my grandfather."

The last student who had a story to share was Micah Cooper (12). Cooper shared words about his grandfather. "My grandfather was a veteran. He had been in the navy since he was 18. He was in the navy for 32 years. He is now 50 and he retired ear-



Above: Madison Central's JROTC  
Photo Courtesy of Michaela Edmonston

lier this year. I am so grateful to have such a strong, brave man that I get to call my grandfather." Cooper went on to express how close he and his grandfather are. "I remember being so happy to have him home while he came back for a little while. We would go hang out at the park and stuff. It was always so much fun." Cooper is very grateful

for his grandfather. These amazing stories show the courage it takes to be a US soldier. From going overseas, across waters, or borders, it is undeniable that these women and men are nothing short of brave. Sadly, they do not always get the recognition they deserve. 50% of veterans are more likely to be homeless compared to any other

group of people in America. Everyday soldiers are sacrificing their life for people they do not even know. Veterans sacrificed so much for America, so one way many people try to give back to veterans is through donations. They helped America become the great nation it is today.





# THE SPIRIT OF HALLOWEEN

**Logan Kennedy**  
STAFF WRITER

As October marks the beginning of the fall season with the cool weather and falling leaves, there is anticipation for October 31, Halloween. When people decorate their homes in spooky decorations, put funny or scary costumes together, and gear up for the night of Halloween. Although Halloween is an exciting holiday filled with dressing up in costumes, trick or treating, and decorating, the holiday was not always like this. Halloween originated as a Celtic holiday, which celebrated the end of the summer harvest. When Pope Gregory III designated November 1 as "All Saints Day", a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation in which saints and souls in heaven are celebrated. Then October 31 was referred to as "All Saints Day Eve" or "All Hallows Eve" which was then shortened to "Hal-

loween". Katie Farthing (12) said, "All Hallows Eve is the vigil of All Saint's Day, and Catholics can celebrate actual feast days, so many Catholics attend Mass on Halloween. Catholics participate in typical Halloween festivities, but we also honor the dead and the people who have gone to heaven because it is the vigil of All Saints Day". Halloween has a deep religious history comprising of traditions celebrated by the Catholic church, but other students at Madison Central choose to include different traditions into their festivities as well.

Halloween is filled with other traditions such as carving pumpkins, watching horror movies, and dressing up in your best costume. Brooke Fairfield (11) said, "Every year, my family turns on 'Hocus Pocus' and carves out pumpkins for the year". Halloween movies are enjoyed by friends and families. Others who enjoy this tradition are Ava Gee (11), "After trick or treating, I usually have all my friends over and

watch horror movies". Celebrating with friends and family is another thing that makes Halloween such a fun holiday. Trick or treating is another thing that has become a tradition for Madison Central Students. Although students feel that they are too old to trick or treat and rather hand out candy to the younger generation, Gee feels that she is not too old to collect her portion of candy, "I love trick or treating, and I get even more candy because my brother does not like chocolate". Trick or treating is a Halloween classic and collecting as much candy as you can is a Halloween challenge. Clark Davis (10) who also enjoys trick or treating with his friends said, "I love going trick or treating with my friends on Halloween. This year I am planning to dress up Walter White from the TV show, Breaking Bad". Dressing up in costumes make trick-or-treating even better. Some people opt to do a funny costume, dress up as their favorite character, or even a scary costume that falls into

the true spirit of Halloween. As Halloween is drawing near, students are already making plans to carry out their Halloween traditions. Between planning costumes, trick-or-treating routes, buying pumpkins, and deciding on what movie to watch- there is a great excitement for Halloween this year from Madison Central Students. The historical and modern-day traditions are tied into the festivities of Halloween by people who choose to celebrate in order to make a fun night on October 31.



## HALLOWEEN MOVIE VOTES

NEWSPAPER STAFF EDITION

**Hocus Pocus: 2 votes**

**Scream: 7 votes**

**Nightmare  
Before Christmas: 3 votes**

**The Addams  
Family: 2 votes**

## ★Coming Soon to Theaters

**Madie Moseley**  
STAFF WRITER

Every year the film industry releases tons of new movies for family and friends to enjoy. As the beginning of Fall rolls around our corner, so do many new movies. Some potential blockbusters are being released within the next few weeks, such as The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes, Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour Concert film, and Five Nights at Freddy's to name a few. The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes hits theaters November 17, 2023. This film is a prequel to the Hunger Games franchise, fans are excited to meet the new characters they have never seen before. The plot of this movie centers around the young President Snow and the 10th annual Hunger Game. Snow, in the film, mentors young Lucy Baird from district

12 and shows the start of Snow getting into political savvy and ultimately asking the world: if they are songbirds or snakes? President Snow, played by Tom Blythe, Lucy Baird, played by Rachel Zegler, and Hunter Schafer, plays Tigris Snow, to name a few of this star-filled cast. "I am so excited for this movie, I think it will be such an amazing experience, I have always loved the Hunger Games series", said Mary Claire Henderson (10). Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour Concert film released October 17, 2023. This movie gives the audience an in-depth experience on Swift's world-wide best-selling tour. Running for two hours and 45 minutes, fans are excited to see the tour in a new view and perspective. With

the Ticketmaster complications not too long ago, fans can now go and watch this popular concert without the expensive cost. Belle McNeil (10) said, "I'm so excited to see what they include in it, like if they cover all the songs or just the hit songs... as well as what surprise songs they include." This movie will be played in select theaters. But many fans are still making plans to visit and dress up, like they would as if they were going to the Eras Tour. These outfits would consist of sparkles, glitter, and fun colors that represent an "era" of Taylor Swift's life.

Another aspect of this movie is that it will feel like a concert; people will be singing, dancing, and enjoying time with friends and family. Five Nights at Freddy's will be released to the-

aters on October 27, 2023. It will be based on its popular video game. This movie is a unique take on the video game. Starring Josh Hutcherson as the "troubled security guard", the plot centers around Hutcherson's character realizing that this job at Freddy's won't be as easy and carefree as he thought it was going to be. Emily Kay Kirk (10) said, "I'm so pumped, I love Josh Hutcherson and I think it will be a pretty good movie." Alongside Josh Hutcherson, fans are excited to see Matthew Lillard as William Afton, the main villain, as he did in the original video game.

Movie fans are extremely pumped and excited for all the fun new movies coming to the big screen, as well as, still watching some of their favorite classic films. Since October is the month of Halloween, twice as many more hor-





# Disney's 100th Anniversary

Violet Daniels  
STAFF WRITER

On October 16 Disney celebrates 100 years of magic. Walt Disney founded the company on October 16, 1923, in Los Angeles, California after his last studio Laugh-O-Gram went bankrupt. In 1928 the famous Mickey Mouse was introduced in Disney's short film Steamboat Willie. After the popularity of the Mickey Mouse shorts Disney decided to create his first feature film. This film went 400 percent over budget and had over 300 animators, artists, and assistants. Luckily for Disney, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was a hit. Since then, Disney has been responsible for the creation of dozens of groundbreaking and acclaimed films.

When talking about Disney it is almost impossible to not think about the Disney Princesses. Maggie McKenzie (10) stated, "Disney princesses are just iconic; they all played such a big role in my childhood and many other young girls." There are a total of 13 official Disney Princesses. This list includes Snow White, Pocahontas, Cinderella, Belle, Moana, Ariel, Mulan, Aurora, Jasmine, Merida, Rapunzel, Tiana, and the newest addition Raya. Sara Abdrabbo (12) stated "I love how the Disney Princesses are diverse, you have Mulan, Tiana, Pocahontas, and Jasmine that all represent different ethnicities, and then you have gingers, blonde-, brunette- and black-haired princesses. It really

makes every kid feel included." Disney has been working hard on their princesses since 1937 and continues to do so year after year. Along with films and princesses Disney also had numerous theme parks across the world. These parks are well known for their impressive rides, hardworking staff, delicious food, and magical feeling. In celebration of Disney's 100 years Disney World offers special activities and events at the parks. Disney is also releasing exclusive short films on their streaming service Disney+. Along with movie theaters showing The Lion King and Moana on the big screen throughout the month. Many students at Madison Central love Disney and the parks. Sela Waller (11) stated "I really love Disney. The parks are all so different and

allow for a really cool experience for everyone who goes there whether you are a big Disney nerd or not. They provide good memories and good food." Disney really lives up to their magical reputation with how hard they work to make sure everyone at their parks has a wonderful time. Disney does more than just make movies and food, they create lasting memories for people around the world. Ramon Rodriguez (10) stated "The Disney movies have connected me with my family. I remember watching Toy Story Four and Coco with them in theaters. It was really fun, and I got to see my niece and nephew all excited to watch the movies and it was so adorable. Coco specifically connected with all of us because the day of the dead is a big part of our culture within my family. I loved seeing representation on the big screen." Joseph Belser

(10) stated "Disney is what I mostly remember when I think of my childhood. Along with Pixar and DreamWorks. As a kid I didn't really have many friends to play or hang out with when I came home. So movies like Disney filled that feeling

of companionship." Disney has done so much for people across the world over the past 100 years, and continues to do so every day.



Above: Brittan Mcfadden and Clancy Baker in front of Magical Kingdom's Epcot  
Photo Courtesy of Brittan Mcfadden

## Lana Del Rey

comes to  
Brandon, MS



## Fun Times at the Fair

Katherine Elfert  
STAFF WRITER

From ferris wheels to funnel cakes, the fair is a place everyone can enjoy. The 164 annual Mississippi State Fair was in town October 5-15 and was held at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in Jackson, Mississippi. The fair started in 1858 and has been extremely popular ever since. The Mississippi State Fair ranked 15 nationally out of 50 state fairs according to the Carnival Warehouse in 2021. The fairgrounds cover over 105 acres of land. Last year, the fair welcomed over 519,000 people after implementing new safety measures. Some of these include metal detectors, surveillance cameras, and more law enforcement officers. The Mississippi State Fair has over 85 food vendors and over 55 different scheduled rides for everyone to enjoy. Some people come for

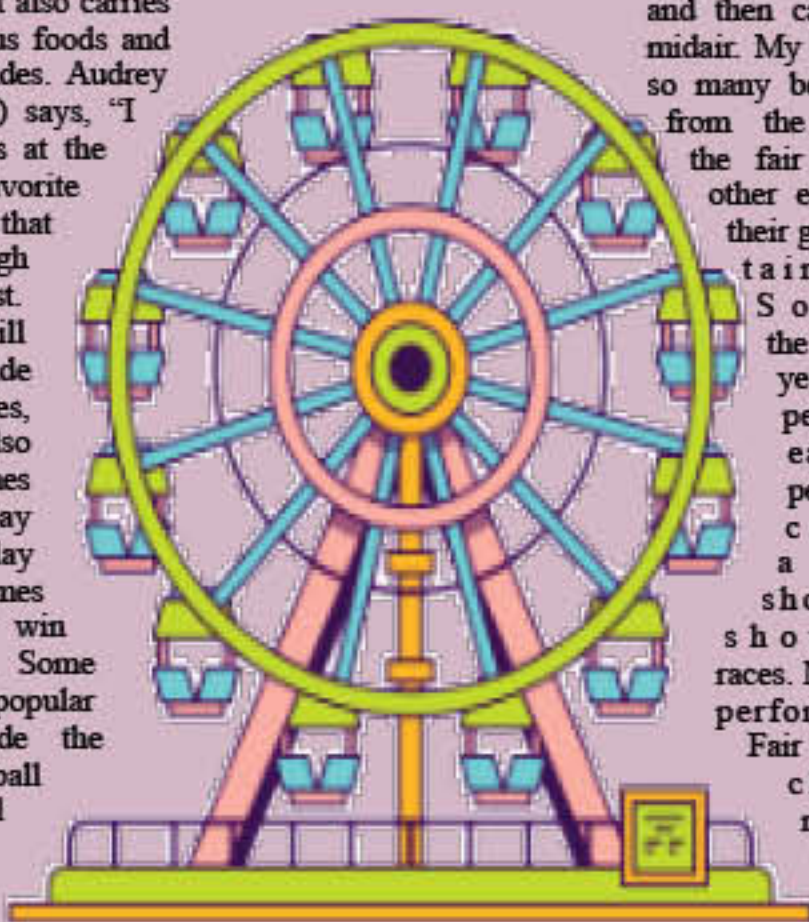
the petting zoo or the pig races while others go for the fun rides and tasty food. Lillian Heard (11) says, "I usually go twice every year with friends or family. I look forward to the food and the ferris wheel the most. The fried oreos and caramel apples are my favorite." Like Heard said, the fair is a great place to hang out with friends and have fun with family. It also carries many delicious foods and exhilarating rides. Audrey Hammett (10) says, "I love the rides at the fair. My favorite ride is the one that goes super high and drops fast. I love the thrill of it all." Aside from the rides, the fair also offers games where you pay money to play certain games to hopefully win a big prize. Some of the most popular games include the Ping-Pong ball and Fishbowl game where

the prize is a live goldfish for you to take home. Hammett states, "One of my favorite things to do is win a fish. I get one every year. I have a fish tank with only fair fish, and I love adding to the tank each year. We have one fish we won at the fair that is four years old." The fish you win at the fair can last years, or they can last days. Ellis

Nichols (12) also won a fish at the fair and he stated, "I won a goldfish one year and it died after two days. R.I.P. Goldilocks." The fair creates lasting memories for everyone that attends. Nichols goes on to say, "One of my favorite memories from the fair was when I was riding the Ring of Fire, and I dropped my phone and then caught it in midair. My heart skipped so many beats." Aside from the fun rides, the fair also hosts other events to keep their guests entertained.

Some events the fair held this year include a petting zoo, pageants, comedic performances, concerts, antique car shows, talent shows, and pig races. Many artists performed at the Fair this year, including Ernest, Walker Wilson, The

Commodores, and Jeremy Camp. They also had comedians, such as Rita Brent, JJ Williamson, Kerwin Claiborn, Marvin Hunter, and DJ Kool Aid speak. This year the fair also hosted their very own Mississippi State Fair Idol. The fair had contestants submit videos before September 1 for the competition. The top 40 contestants were selected to perform on October 9 at 6 pm. They then picked the top 20 contestants to perform again on October 10 at 6 pm. The final five contestants won a VIP executive producer audition for American Idol. The Mississippi State Fair works all year long to make sure anyone that goes to the fair has a good time. Whether it is games, rides, food, or talent shows, the fair is a way for everyone to have fun.





# Speeding Through The Season



Meredith Morrow  
STAFF WRITER

Madison Central's Cross-Country team is one of the high school's many prestigious athletic departments, as it is known across the state for having some of the fastest runners. With the season being in full swing, the team prepares and practices daily for the upcoming state championship, as well as continuing to stay focused on the goals they have set.

The Madison Central cross-country team has been training since

the start of the school year for the meets they soon would have. The runners have been competing in numerous races this fall to try and qualify for the championship. Cross country runner, Aneta Kukuckova (12) said, "So far, this season has been great. Everyone on the team has hit a personal record, and everyone is constantly pushing each other to do their best." Before the season started, the team had been preparing immensely to beat previous records and come out on top. Kukuckova added, "This year, we have started running at the middle school. It helps us get more practice on the trails." Throughout the week, the team does strategic workouts and long runs to get ready for upcoming meets. This preparation is to ensure that by meet day, the team is focused and ready to run.

The team undergoes strength training, as well as running different routes and lengths to prepare for upcoming meets. Head Coach, Katie



Above: Madison Central's Cross Country Team  
Photo Courtesy of Vicky Williams, Yearbook

Shuster, said, "In practice, we focus on workouts and mile repeats to make sure we are ready for our meets. Leading up to meet days, the team stays focused on their goals for themselves and the team. This season has been great so far. To prepare for races, we build up mileage so by the end of the season we are at our best, and so far, this season has been great. Water and stretching are a necessity leading up to meet day as it helps us gain strength while running." On meet days, the team checks out the course they will be running, warms

up, and gives each other pep talks to calm their nerves before heading to the course. Alex Lee (10) said, "I really enjoy being a part of this team, as I only joined Madison County Schools last year, and this team was my first real sense of belonging. The girls made me feel so welcome, and only strengthened my heart for running. I think it is so special to have coaches who are so involved and so adamant to help us to be our best." Lee is one of Madison Central's fastest runners, as she has finished top three in many of

Madison Central's races. When Lee is not running, she is making sure that her nutrition and health habits stay a necessity in order to reach her full potential.

Throughout this cross-country season, the team has been training and competing against other schools to win the title of state champions. As the season continues, the team is striving to not only reach its goals but go beyond them. Since the season is coming to end soon, the team attempts to reach its top potential to head into state meets.

# Marching Band Takes The Trophy

Jenny Nguyen  
STAFF WRITER

At Madison Central, the marching band puts time, practice, and dedication into their performances. These students practice nearly every day, whether it is in the heat or the cold. The Madison Central Band gives it their all to give the school an outstanding performance. They play and practice a variety of songs and moves to pull off what they do at pep rallies, football games, festivals, competitions, evaluations, and more events. On September 30, the MC marching band had their yearly ranking.

In these yearly evaluations, Madison Central had earned an All-Superior status for 31 years and is now onto their 32nd. At this festival, there

eight minutes. Each band plays outside while the others wait for their results inside. The rankings range from a one to a five. A "one" meaning All-Superior and a "five" resulting in a poor performance. The band plays with every member including the color guard. After this event, the band will have an official state ranking on October 7, in Pearl.

When asked how the performance went, piccolo player, Bethany Barry (11) said, "Although there were some malfunctions, at the end we were still able to receive the All-Superior ranking, which was very uplifting and encouraging for next week at Pearl." Malfunctions to the performance included the props being pushed out of place for the final set and getting in the way of marching due to the harsh wind. Despite these complications, the band persisted and continued their performance successfully. MC's band performance included the song "Let the Sunshine In" which represents their theme of the 1960s.

One may hear the band practice from outside every morning, that is because they are. The band students go through a diligent practice routine daily during the school week and have afternoon practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 6 p.m.. On Fridays, they play for



Above: Madison Central's Marching Band and Color Guard,  
Photo Courtesy of Lola Williams, Yearbook Staff

hours to prepare and perform at the football games. Although all this talk on band practices seems unfair or too much, the students are rewarded with just as much. When asked what their favorite part of the band was, baritone player, Ravleen Kaur (11) said "I like everyone that I work with and how we all come together to make music. My favorite, rewarding part of the band are the trips every two years. The last trip we went to Six Flags and made lots of memories there." There are plenty more rewards and opportunities like scholarships, college band, and careers, but most of all the friends they make along the journey. Andy Lu (12), a tenor saxophone player, said "I look for-

ward to my last year in MC's Band and will give it my all as I enjoyed playing music for others with my friends." As interviewed, many other band members have said how the band is like their second family.

All the MC band results and efforts have not been done without Mr. Reynolds, Mrs. Sills, Mr. Presley, Mrs. Ross, Mr. Cagle, Mr. Wallace, and Mrs. Abels. Giving their all into directing the students, these teachers are equally as proud as when getting an All-Superior rank. Hoping that this streak of 32 years continues, the MC band will continue to practice and play as the newer generations come.

are usually five judges, and the band performs for around





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