

UPROAR

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Beauty & Beau: The Most Memorable Nights

Taylor Martin
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Beauty and Beau is a week-long pageant put on by Madison Central's Financial staff. Each night features a different grade of boys and girls who wear sleek tuxedos and stunning dresses, where they get to showcase their looks on stage. Judges evaluate each contestant, and at the end of the night a certain number of beauties and beaus are announced as winners. The end of the senior's night – which is always on Friday – features the most anticipated award: MC's Most Beautiful.

This year, after ten beauties had been announced and all of the beaus had received their honors, it was finally time for the big announcement to be revealed. There were 20 beautiful girls still left standing on the risers when Ken Hackman went to reveal who would be passed the crown and receive the most sought-after title of Most Beautiful. Everyone held their breath in anticipation as Hackman called out the winner – contestant number 21 - Adya Praveen. Ellie Hetzel, Madison Central's Most Beautiful for the class of 2021, came back to crown Praveen – who won wearing the most gorgeous, beaded champagne dress that suited her perfectly. When asked about her thoughts and feelings during the unforgettable moment, Praveen said, "It was honestly a blur, and the whole moment just felt so surreal. But once the moment sunk in and I processed everything, I was honored to hold the title." Praveen received a beautiful pageant crown and a plaque that she gets to

keep forever to remind her of the special night. Although for Praveen, winning wasn't the most important factor or even what she sought out to achieve.

In her interview, Praveen said, "It was never really about winning for me. It was more about the chance to get dressed up and feel pretty. And it is really fun getting to do something like that with your friends." Praveen loves to get dressed up, and Beauty and Beau gives her – and all of the other girls involved – the chance to feel like a real-life princess for the night. As Praveen said, "The point of me doing it was simply an excuse for me to get all dolled up, since I like that type of thing." She is definitely not the only one who has the mindset about the pageant. When asked about how she feels about the event, Elizabeth Wasson (11) said, "This was my third year doing Beauty and Beau, and I have loved it every year. Getting dressed up is always fun, and I enjoy it." Wearing absolutely stunning dresses, fancy accessories, and getting one's hair and makeup done is a process that many do not get the opportunity to experience very often. Although it requires a lot of preparation, Beauty and Beau is night many people enjoy and will never forget, no matter the outcome.

Many careful measures are taken in order to make Beauty and Beau a success, on the planning side, as well as the participants' side. Decorations have to be made; tickets have to be sold; programs and shirts have to be made and passed out; the curtains must be opened and closed on time, and the music has to be timely and appropriate. Elizabeth Walters (11), who worked behind the scenes and participated in the pageant, said, "Beauty and Beau is always my favorite time of the year and helping put it all together is the cherry on top. It is so cool to see everything piece together and

knowing that you've made an impact on something so dear to the school, whether it is big or small."

This year, many students worked long and hard to put together the backdrop for the event, as well as working it to ensure that everything ran smoothly. All of these things are done with the guidance and orderly procedures established by Vicky Williams – who teaches foundations of journalism and all of the staffs.

On the contestants' side of things, the day of the pageant is often a hectic one – mostly for the girls – as well as the days leading up to it. Girls often get spray tans, in addition to getting their nails painted and eyebrows waxed. On the day of the competition, hair and makeup is usually professionally done. This requires girls to book their appointments in advance, and they must be to the school on time in their dresses that generally aren't cheap. This can be a stressful time for some, but Praveen had the opposite opinion. She said, "I did not think it was nerve-racking or hectic at all. I had other people getting me ready which helped, and my sweet mom drove me around everywhere." All of this only contributed to the wonderful night she had, and the many memories that were made.

When asked about what her favorite part of the night was, Praveen said, "I feel like my favorite part overall was talking to the other girls



Above: Adya Praveen smiles big after being crowned MC's Most Beautiful. Photo courtesy of Macy Thornton.

in the dressing room. We had a lot of fun, and I liked talking to all of them about the whole process that we were experiencing together." Not only does Beauty and Beau give individuals the chance to feel their absolute best, it also gives people the opportunity to enjoy the moment with their friends and fellow classmates. Beauty and Beau is a hectic week that is so reward-

ing and enjoyable for many, both students and adults alike. It is a time that many will not forget, and this is certainly true for this year's Most Beautiful – Adya Praveen. She will get to keep her crown for the rest of her life, to remind her of the unforgettable night, all of the memories that were made, and – obviously – how absolutely amazing she looked.

sports

Check out page 7 for a recap of the National Championship game!

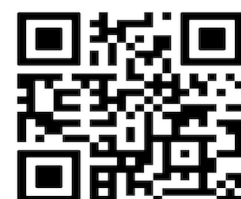


news

Take a look at page 2 for an article about black history month.



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The Importance of Celebrating Black History Month

Allie Hurt
STAFF WRITER

The month of February is dedicated as Black History Month. It is a time to celebrate African Americans achievements and their integral role in United States history. The celebration has taken place every year from February 1 - March 1 since 1970, 50 years after the passing of the 13th Amendment. Although slavery was abolished many years ago, there is still a continuous fight for freedom amongst Black people today.

Carter Godwin Woodson and Jesse Edward Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) in 1915. This organization is committed to promoting, preserving, and researching the accomplishments by Black Americans and people of African descent. Today that organization is known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). This group was responsible for the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926, which Woodson selected to be the second week of February to commemorate the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Furthermore, cities across the country began ensur-

ing yearly proclamations to recognize Negro History Week. This is when the Civil Rights movement endorsed an official shift from only devoting a week for Black History to a month. Kristen Stephenson, a teacher at Madison Central said, "The truth is Black Americans have been instrumental in shaping our history—It could even be argued that Black Americans have made the greatest contributions to the American Democracy with the Civil Rights movement." They were the focus of protests, sit-ins, and boycotts, all in the name of equality for Black Americans in America.

There are many prominent figures such as Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, and Harriet Tubman that have made an impact in Black History. Although Black History Month is dedicated to these figures, it is also used to highlight the other influential African Americans that are not as heard of such as Mae C. Jemison. Jemison was accepted into NASA's astronaut training program

in 1987 and went down in history as the first African American female astronaut in

er invented specialized hair products for African Americans after she suffered from her own hair loss, becoming one of the first American women to become a self-made millionaire.

Being educated about Black History and our nation's past is

very necessary.

Adam Mattallah (11) said "Many people turn a blind eye to the history and development of black people and their culture in today's society. However, through the use of this month, we are able to reveal the legacy of black people in the country and see how they have shaped our nation's history."

This is a time to understand what many African Americans went through and still go through to this day. It is

an opportunity to discuss Black leaders and their accomplishments and understand Black history beyond conversations about racism and slavery. Every year, there is a new Black History Month theme. This year's theme is "Black Health and Wellness", which pinpoints the importance of how American healthcare has unequally supported different races, specifically the inadequate support for African Americans.

Black History Month is essential because it gives people of different backgrounds a time to observe the lives of African Americans in the past, present, and future. When asked why it is important to have a month dedicated to black history, Yasmine Ware (12) said, "Black History Month encourages America to reflect and refocus on a community whose significance is often erased from our history books." It also helps adults and children gain a vast understanding of Black histories and "recognize the intersectionality that comes alongside our identities and honor the complex history of our ancestors," said Ware. It is vital that more and more people are learning about what Black people have done to shape our nation. Although there is only one month dedicated to Black History, Black History Month should be celebrated every day because it commemorates the lasting impacts that African Americans have made in our country.



space.

In addition, Daniel Hale Williams

was one of the first physicians to successfully perform open-heart surgery. He also founded Provident Hospital, which had the first interracial staff in a medical facility.

Lastly, Madam C.J. Walk-

BETTY WHITE

"THE TELEVISION TRAILBLAZER AND CULTURAL ICON"

Adya Praveen
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On December 31, 2021, America lost its sweetheart. Betty White, award-winning actress and cultural icon, peacefully passed away in her sleep three weeks before her 100th birthday, devastating millions throughout the country. One of the first ladies to star in television, White defied all expectations, never afraid to speak her mind. Best known for her comedic work and her enactment of two of television's infamous characters, it is certain that America will remember Betty White for decades to come.

Growing up in Los Angeles as an only child, White's first job entailed her working as an assistant at a local television station. Through this medium, she was able to soon after launch her first television series "Life with Elizabeth", in which she starred as the main character and producer. As she became a regular on the screen through guest appearances on t.v. shows, talk shows, and game shows, White certainly began to create a name for herself. Despite her popularity on these

shows, her true rise to fame began when she was selected to star as Sue Ann Nivens on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show". They could not have chosen a better actress; White played the duality of her character perfectly: the deviousness of her character along with the charming persona of White created a lasting impression on the audience. "Her talent shone through the camera," said Sneha Cherukuri (12), a fan of her work. This dual nature was the norm for White. She was time-and-time again casted to play characters that had a hidden layer underneath their sweet and innocent surface. However, this completely changed when she took on the role of Rose Nylund on The Golden Girls. She initially went into the audition with her heart set on playing Blanche Devereaux, a near doppelganger in terms of personality to her previous role of Sue Ann Nivens. However, this time around White decided to take a different route and play Rose Nylund, the sweetheart of the show, taking the naivety and the silly nature of the character to a whole new level. By 1985, Betty White became a household name.

White's long array of appearances made her a shoo-in for multiple competitive awards. She boasts

an impressive collection of five Primetime Emmys, one Daytime Emmy, as well as, one Grammy Award for the "Best Spoken Word Album." White didn't stop there. After her seven-year premiere on Golden Girls, she had several guest appearances on popular sitcoms such as "That 70's Show," "Boston Legal," and "Ally McBeal," remaining on day-time television well into her 90s. As the younger generation began to influence television trends, White also accustomed to her audience. In May 2010, White appeared as the host of "Saturday Night Live(SNL)," taking part in several sketches that coincided with the actor's trademark humor. When asked about White's influence, Elizabeth Wasson (12) said, "She is someone I see myself getting along with. I have loved growing up watching her." As much as White was a trailblazer in television, she was also equally influential in social issues at the time. She understood the influence that her platform can create in society to help shape American culture and bring justice for oppressed groups. Many resonated with her inclusivity and personable attitude. Benton Donahue (12) said, "Betty White was one of the most positive and heartfelt actresses to walk the earth. I am forever grateful I got to experience her contributions

to Hollywood." In 1954, White was starring on a daily TV show on NBC, in which she had multiple entertainers on the show. Many individuals in the South protested against the show due to the show starring a Black tap dancer, some even going as far as to threaten NBC to remove the show from airing. However, White stood her ground. She said, "I'm sorry, but, you know, he stays. Live with it." (2018 Documentary "Betty White: First Lady of Television") She was also a pioneering animal rights activist devoted to creat-

ing a better life for animals in captivity and at risk for endangerment. She had a lifelong commitment to helping these animals, donating money to shelters, and even personally adopting many animals. When asked about her work in an interview in 1990, she stated, "Being remembered for Rose and Sue Ann and the others were wonderful. But I also want to be remembered as a lady who helped the animals."

White's influence on the country is undeniable. Her eccentric personality alongside her definite talent paved the way for the star's constant popularity from her early 20s all the way to her late 90s.



Above: The beloved Golden Girl strikes a pose in 2018.

5,000 Miles Away From Home

Anna Kimbrell
STAFF WRITER

Foreign exchange programs can be a topic many people are not familiar with, however, around one million students each year come to the United States to take part in the International Education Exchange (IE). The U.S. brings in more foreign exchange students than any other country to further their education and career opportunities. The international exchange program began in 1951 with 26,000 students coming over to America and in the past 70 years the number has skyrocketed. The huge rise in international students is because of the great experience students can receive from taking part in the program. The students can become more culturally aware, improve upon a foreign language, and meet new people.

Madison Central has two foreign exchange students this year, Chiara Brandtner (10) and Maylis Brami (10). Brandtner is from Tyrol, Austria, which is 5,101 miles from Madison, Mississippi. The process to getting into Mississippi required filling out an ap-

plication and turning in forms from her school and teachers. She also had to submit a video of her speaking, showing that the language barrier would not be an issue. The whole process of filling out the forms needed and applying took around five months. Brandtner saw the idea of the foreign exchange program on the internet, and she said, "I instantly knew that this was something I wanted to do." Because of American television in Austria she "always wanted to go to an American high school and see what it was like." On the application there is an option to choose where in the U.S. the student wants to go, but she decided not to. "I just thought that I can make the best out of this year, no matter where I ended," said Brandtner. Austria and the U.S. differ in how people interact with one another, and Brandtner said, "Americans are so much more friendly and welcoming to almost everyone. Austrians are friendly and kind as well but are not as outgoing and socially skilled as Americans." Even though there can be some cultural changes between countries, Brandtner encourages people to take part in the exchange program. Brandtner said, "I've never enjoyed something more than the time I have had here, and the memories I made are some I'm going to keep forever." The

process may seem frightening but the experience one gets will be worth the change.

Brami is another Madison Central foreign exchange student, and she is from France. The process of becoming a foreign exchange student took her around four months, but the usual preparation time ranges from around seven to eight months. When asked why Brami wanted to do foreign exchange, she said, "I wanted to travel, meet new people, discover a new culture, and improve my skill level in English." The foreign exchange program is a great way to immerse oneself into a new lifestyle and cultural setting. However, moving to another country can not always be like you expected. "You can be shocked by the culture and become homesick, but it is also an experience that you will not forget," said Brami. Homesickness is common in foreign exchange, considering that the student may be thousands of miles away from their home.

Even though one can miss their home country, the ability to be a part of the foreign exchange student program is incredibly rewarding. France and America are 3,831 miles apart, and with that distance comes cultural differences. Brami said, "[American schools] are really different. They have more school spirit and a very

competitive view of sports in high school." While people in France use public transportation, bikes, or go by foot, people in Mississippi typically travel by car. Brami said, "Everyone here is friendly. I really enjoy being here." The foreign exchange student program gives so many students lifelong memories they can cherish forever. Isabella Ngai (11) said, "I definitely think foreign exchange program is something I will look into because of the amazing experiences I would get to take part in." The exchange program is in over 45 countries, a surefire way to get everyone to a place they will love.

The foreign exchange program allows students from across the globe to take part in a once in a lifetime experience. The program makes the students and the host schools more culturally aware. The program helps the students learn a new language, meet new people, and it offers them new career opportunities. The host families can also benefit from this program by developing a better understanding and appreciation for those of another culture. While many people only think of what the students gain from these programs, the schools, host families, and new friends are also positively impacted forever.

The Uproar

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Dates to Remember:

2/21:
Presidents' Day
Holiday

3/11:
Distance Learning
Day

3/13:
Daylight Savings
Time

3/14-18:
Spring Break

THE RISE OF REVEILLE

Meredith Morrow
STAFF WRITER

Reveille is Madison Central's (MC) incredible competitive show choir, which includes 50 of MC's most musically talented students. Max Lyall, the choir's director, conducts this prestigious program that competes in various competitions throughout the state during late winter to early spring. The performing arts program has taken part in the National Adjudicators Invitational, multiple concert festivals, and other events throughout the southeast.

According to the Post Gazette, one in six Americans sing in a show choir. People participate because it gives them a sense of community, a family. Sadly, this will be the last year for the seniors to be a part

of MC's Reveille. Madelyn Janus (12) said, "I have been in Reveille since my junior year, and it immediately felt like home. It is such a bitter-sweet feeling being a senior, because we are all excited to be going to college next year, but we also know we will never get to be a part of this again." Although this is the seniors' last year being a part of such a big family, newcomers, like Sophia Heffelfinger (10), are also being welcomed to Reveille. When asked about her first year, she said, "Being in Reveille is amazing. You have a family you can count on to take care of and help you whenever you need anything." Another newcomer, Nataleigh Nix (10), said, "Reveille is great, and even though there is a lot of hard work involved, it is so fulfilling to be part of such a loving family." In fact, Nix's mom is a huge help in making Reveille successful, as she helps Lyall with managing all aspects.

This year will be Lyall's 12th year to be teaching choir for MC. He shared his experience in conducting his sing-

ers. He said, "Nix and I have been directing Reveille ever since I first came here. Show choir is a very unique activity in which you have the competitive aspect of sports combined with the musical aspects of the arts." Although it is very physically tiring activity, the students thoroughly enjoy it. There are also several other ways to be involved in Reveille besides being on stage, as there are students who help with light cues, designing props, and the backstage crew. "Overall, I enjoy getting to know the students and build such tight-knit relationships with them," Lyall concluded. In fact, there are other teachers that assist Lyall with choir-related topics, such as Courtney Melton, who helps with the Stage Crew, and Jessica Payne, who is the newest choir director at MC.

Reveille is about bringing people together to do what they love, whether that is being in the band, stage crew, or, of course, one of the singers. It really teaches students how to come together and make a great performance for their audience.



Above: The performers shine during their stellar showcase at Jackson Academy (Photo courtesy of Rivers Walker).

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Off to College

Avery Holland STAFF WRITER

College is a huge decision for students. When deciding on where to go for college, many factors are to be considered. Where do you want to go? What should you major in? Where is the best place to get an education? Lots of Madison Central's finest students have considered these factors and already made their decisions. These seniors are excited and already looking forward to their futures; a few of these seniors include Sarah Shurden, Irene Bishop, and Regal Perry.

Sarah Shurden (12) is a senior at Madison Central who got accepted into Georgetown for their Walsh School of Foreign Service (SFS). SFS is ranked

number one nationwide in international relations. When asked about what she was majoring in, Shurden said, "I am most interested in either International History or International Politics. I have always been interested in the world around me, but never really knew the importance of how countries interact with each other until I joined the Speech and Debate team." She was able to debate topics about International and US

affairs, thanks to the opportunities this club provided her with. Shurden believes Speech and

Debate taught her to look at US foreign policy from a more critical, strategic perspective, and to analyze what was best for US security and the rest of the world.

Irene Bishop (12) won \$100,000 from the J-100. The journey to receiving the scholarship was a four-month long process, and the first few steps relied heavily on her extracurricular activities, AP classes, and her ACT score. Bishop had to meet the minimum ACT and fitness requirements to qualify. She also had to write an essay about a hardship she overcame. Once Bishop made the final stage, she then had an interview that lasted an hour and a half with two current air force officers. Bishop said, "I guess I answered their questions correctly because here we are." Master Sergeant Thompson and Technical Sergeant Carroll were both inspirations for Bishop. She said, "Master Sergeant Thompson

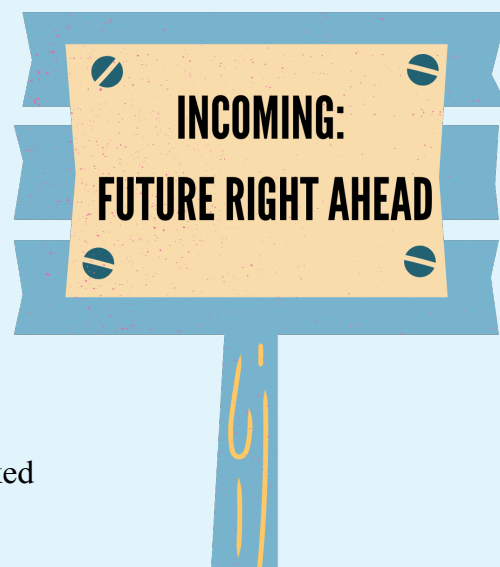
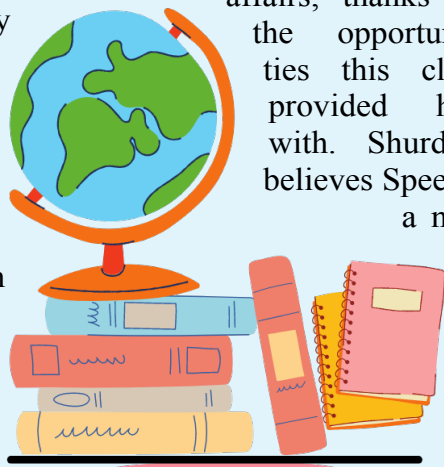
is an amazing and jovial fellow that

has always believed in me. He has put in countless hours from staying after school and attending events and Technical Sergeant Carroll was the exact same way." Another inspiration for Bishop was Jimmy Ainsworth, a teacher at Madison Central. Bishop said, "He always felt so passionate about whatever he taught and was so eager to share his knowledge". Bishop is extremely grateful for her scholarship money and is very thrilled to use it to advance her education at the college of her choice.

Regal Perry (12) was accepted into the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York. Westpoint is one of the top military schools in the US with almost 4,500 students enrolled. In order to qualify you must have a GPA of 3.9 or higher. To apply, students also had to go through a physical test. When asked

about his interest in the program, he said, "A lot of my family's past generations went to Westpoint; that is a big reason why I want to attend." Perry believes it is a great place for him to get the best education for his future.

Shurden, Bishop, and Perry are all looking forward to the next chapter of their lives, starting with college. College is the time people never forget, and bonds are made that will never be forgotten. While these students and others across the school are going their separate ways, they are all going somewhere to advance their future careers.



What Makes an Exceptional Student

Brittan McFadden STAFF WRITER

Every month, a variety of students from each grade level is chosen as "Students of the Month". Madison Central's PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) has a different corporate sponsor each month, which "sponsors" the students selected for that month. Not just anyone gets chosen as a Student of the Month; a student's candidacy is determined by many factors. Teachers nominate students from their individual classes and discuss with one another to create the final list of nominations. The administration also selects students they feel are the right fit to represent the Jag Spirit.

Teachers select their top students from all their classes to determine who is elected as a student of the month. Not only are students chosen for their grades, but also for their hard work. Different teachers look for a variety of criteria when they choose their candidates for Student of the Month. English teacher, Katie Cook said, "In my opinion, student of the month isn't necessarily about grades. When choosing a student of the month, I focus more on highlighting student growth. Whether that means growth in performance, being inclusive

and kind toward their classmates, or overcoming personal or academic obstacles." Cook's views on what she looks for in a student could differ from another faculty members views.

Vicky Williams has similar characteristics for which she looks for in a student. Williams does not choose "one particular factor but for the times that I do nominate it is for something that a student does above and beyond. It could be helping a student or volunteering; it doesn't necessarily have to be someone with the highest average." A variety of factors and a student's performance is what makes a teacher decide on their candidate nominations.

Some of the factors that come into play are students' actions with their peers, growing in academics, or doing better within a class by studying or simply just making sure classwork is turned in on time. Your actions reflect on how a teacher perceives you. Madison Central student, Alyssa Bhansali (11) said, "I honestly didn't know they were doing student of the month, but I always try to keep a positive mindset throughout school and the work given by teachers. I will always try to motivate and encourage other students because it pushes me to accomplish more." When you help other stu-

dents or always do your work, it shows the values you prioritize as a student.

Previous Student of the Month, Addison Reeves (10), was nominated in September. Reeves said, "I was confused when I got called at first, but after I was relieved. I did not think I had been chosen as one of the students of the month." Reeves was chosen because of her admirable work ethic. Reeves is a straight A student and is very involved within Madison Central. She is on

the Madison Central Soccer team as well as Reveille. All year long Reeves makes sure to keep up her academics while balancing sports. She is a diligent student, as well as, a caring classmate.

Receiving the title as a Student of the Month could also lead to other awards. Some of Madison Central's top students are awarded with the Citizenship award. This award is given to the students who put forth the hard work all year round and make a dif-

ference within their school.

Being selected is a privilege. Knowing that Madison Central has over 1,000 students, it is challenging to be able to be one of the students chosen throughout the entire school. Students are encouraged everyday by their peers and teachers to continue to work hard in school.



Above: The 15 students honored with the title in the month of January smile for a picture in the commons. Top row left to right are Angel Barnett, Megan Graves, Miriam Milan, and Rebecca Mazingo. Third row left to right are Irene Bishop, Mattie Dupuy, Fancier Shi, and Zoe Lewis. Second row left to right are Selena Silvan, Audrey Guynes, and Nyja Wilson. Front row left to right are Reese Moseley, KJ Begnaud, Bella Lee, and Josh Maatallah.

CRUMBL TAKES ON MADISON

Caroline King
STAFF WRITER

Crumbl has taken the world by storm after gaining a lot of traction on social media for their unique business strategy that many people seem to love. John Ko (12) said, "I am very impressed with how they are able to operate such a successful business on one classic baked good loved by so many." Crumbl is a teenage friendly workplace, as many of our Madison Central (MC) students can attest to. When asked what her favorite part about working at Crumbl, Dalyn Washington (11) said, "Definitely the environment, my co-workers and managers are so nice, and I enjoy the lively workplace." She loves working there, and feels that it doesn't overload her schedule with school and sports.

One other aspect that makes Crumbl a unique and enjoyable bakery is their rotating weekly menu. At the start, Crumbl did not have enough

established flavors to do the rotating menu, but after a few months into their first year in business, they started to try it. In December 2018, the iconic four rotating weekly flavor tradition was started. Since then, they have new flavors every week that thousands of people look forward to and enjoy. Macy Brewer (10) said, "I really like how they change their flavors out each week, and I think it is a great marketing strategy." This is true; changing out the flavors each week keeps bringing customers back for more. The workers even say, "See you next week!" when you pick up your cookies.

To put these infamous cookies to the test, the Newspaper staff at MC decided to try the flavors during the week of January 17-22. The first cookie that the staff tried was the Peanut Butter featuring Reese's Peanut Butter

Cup. It has chopped Reese's Peanut Butter Cups and melted peanut butter chips on top of the warm newspaper writers determined that, in our opinion, this cookie deserves an overall rating of 9/10. Everyone on staff enjoyed the classic taste of this cookie and how it tastes like a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup.

The next cookie that was tried and rated was the Funfetti cookie. This cookie is a vanilla sugar cookie, filled with rainbow sprinkles and served warm. Many enjoyed this cookie because it was a perfect balance of sweetness. The overall rating of this cookie by the Newspaper staff was an 8/10.

Another cookie that the Newspaper tried was the Rocky Road cookie. This is a dark chocolate

cookie that is covered in semi-sweet chocolate chips and almonds. It is also stuffed with a marshmallow filling. This cookie was rated a 6/10 by our staff.

Ending the lineup with the best for last, is the Caramel Popcorn cookie. No one expects popcorn and cookies to be a good combo, but it was unexpectedly delicious. It is a buttery cookie, topped with a thick caramel frosting and a few pieces of caramel popcorn; it is drizzled with a bit of caramel. The Newspaper staff rated this cookie a total score of 10/10.

Overall, the Newspaper staff was very happy with the general appeal and taste of the cookies. From the different flavors each week to the iconic pink box, Crumbl is sure to provide an experience everyone will love.

Crumbl is a new bakery in Madison that serves nothing but delicious cookies and sweet ice cream. Even though it just arrived in town, this company has been in business for a little over three years and has greatly expanded to over 300 locations. It has reached 36 of the 50 states, making it the fastest-growing cookie company in the United States. Crumbl was started by a cousin duo, Jason McGowan and Sawyer Hemsley. They went through many trial runs with different recipes and styles, asking many for feedback along the way. After many errors and thousands of dollars in wasted dough, they were able to create what they say is the world's best chocolate chip cookie.



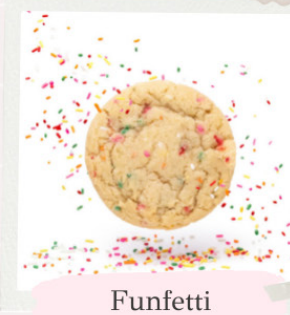
Rocky Road



Caramel Popcorn



Peanut Butter



Funfetti



Chilled Sugar

SPIDERMAN SWINGS BACK INTO THE FILM LIGHT

Hannah Schossler
STAFF WRITER

After over one year from its original release date, Spider-Man: No Way Home was finally released on November 5, 2021. It has since been roughly two months, and the movie has made over \$1.73 billion worldwide, making it the sixth highest grossing film of all time. It surpassed Jurassic World and The Lion King (2019) within 10 days. The film combines three franchises that span two decades and arguably the best actors for the supervillains and superheroes in order to create such a successful show. It has become one of the biggest movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), and chances are that it will stay there.

Spider-Man: No Way Home is a cinematic phenomenon. It has inspired fans to go back and watch the other movies in this series. As Collin Lee (10) said, "In fact, the day I watched the new one (Spider-Man: No Way Home), I watched the two previous ones (Spider-Man: Homecoming and Spider-Man: Far From Home)." No Way Home has pulled together three film franchises: the original Spider-Man trilogy, The Amazing Spider-Man duology, and the Spider-Man MCU trilogy. Most of the cast has come from the previous two Spider-Man series via multiverse shenanigans. Doctor Octopus (Alfred Mo-

lina), Green Goblin (Willem Dafoe), and Sandman (Thomas Haden Church) came from the original trilogy while Electro (Jamie Foxx) and Lizard (Rhys Ifans) came from The Amazing Spider-Man duology.

Spider-Man: No Way Home starts with MCU Peter Parker (Tom Holland) being outed as Spider-Man by Quentin Beck/Mysterio (Jake Gyllenhaal) through the blog The Daily Bugle run by J. Jonah Jameson (J.K. Simmons), as well as being framed for the murder of Mysterio. After this, the movie focuses on Peter's struggle to live his civilian life normally while the world splits between those who believe in Spider-Man and those who believe in Mysterio.

Peter, Aunt May (Marisa Tomei), Happy Hogan (Jon Favreau), Michelle "MJ" Jones (Zendaya), and Ned Leeds (Jacob Batalon) are taken into custody by the police for questioning. We even see Matthew Murdoch/Daredevil (Charlie Cox) acting as Peter, Happy, and May's attorney, where he catches a brick that is thrown into their apartment and labels himself as a "very good lawyer." However, the murder investigation and legal trouble theme that No Way Home was setting up completely leaves the plot. The main theme of the first act of the film is completely abandoned and is replaced

with invasion of multiversal villains and heroes. This is controversial, because the last film in the MCU trilogy, Spider-Man: Far From Home, set up the social-legal troubles that No Way Home would supposedly follow, but not even halfway into the film it changes. This change is not always taken badly though; Flinn Harless (12) said "I guess it mixed really well because the laws of the multiverse were broken, like Spider-Man's image."

From there we see the previously mentioned supervillains start popping up throughout New York City, as well as two very familiar superheroes. The last half of No Way Home is the classic Marvel fighting cliches – the computer-generated imagery is beautiful, the action is suspenseful, and the characters are classic. In response to wondering what her favorite part was, Isha Pattel (11) said it was "When MJ was falling and Spider-Man caught her." Spider-Man: No Way Home is a wonderful edition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe and a heartfelt reunion to beloved characters.

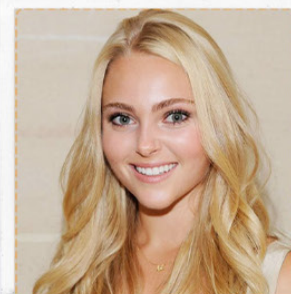
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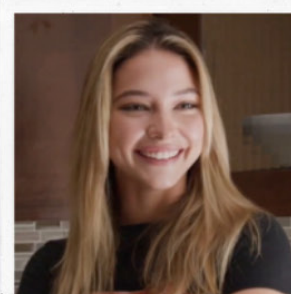
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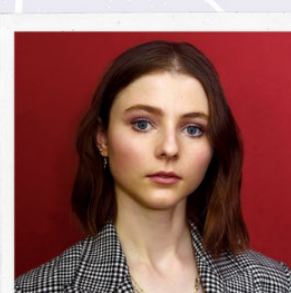
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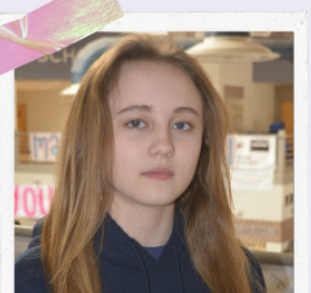
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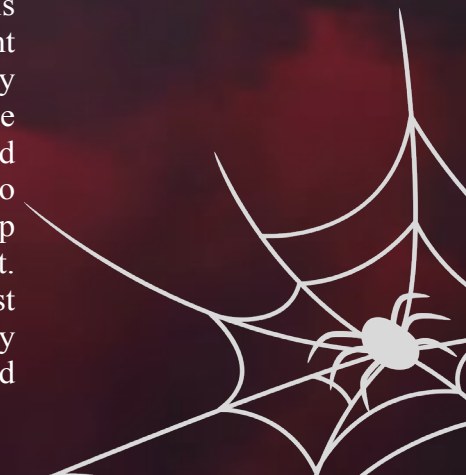
Anna Kimbrell



Thomasin McKenzie



Avery Holland



The Comeback of Concerts

James Phillips
STAFF WRITER

Many musicians and singers have missed the feeling of being on stage performing, and on the flip side, their fans miss seeing their favorite artists performing. Since the pandemic occurred, concerts have been called off for safety reasons, but now, they have recently made a return, providing millions of fans with a source of entertainment to enjoy.

Many artists have recently returned to the stage to put on a show for their fans. One famous singer, Harry Styles, recently went on a tour titled "Love on Tour" with special guest Jenny Lewis. He had a total of 74 live performance shows, in which he performed from September 4 till December 10. A fan of his work, Riley Miranda (11) said, "I would have loved to be able to go to his concert, but sadly, I did not get the chance to. I saw clips of his concerts on YouTube and TikTok, and I saw how beautiful and peaceful it was." Fans were in awe of the theme and the overall

vibe of the whole concert.

Although some concerts had a successful turnout and many fans had a good time on the opposite side, one concert has become infamous for the many sad deaths that had occurred. Travis Scott's Astroworld festival held in Houston started smoothly, just as any other concert would. However, as the concert proceeded, a stampede of fans pushed through the fence resulting in many injuries and fatalities. Noor Hegazy (10) said, "Many people lost their lives just because of poor management skills. I've seen TikToks and read articles about attendees of the concert speaking out about their traumatic experience, and it is heartbreaking hearing about their stories." Astroworld served as a precedent for the future of live music. Many musicians have recently adjusted their performances to fit the needs of the people's safety.

There have also been several safety precautions set in place amidst the pandemic. Some concerts require fans to be vaccinated or to present a negative COVID-19 test. If an audience member tries to attend without proof of vaccination, a negative

COVID test is required.

An upcoming popular event is Coachella, which is scheduled to take place from April 15 to April 24. The event will be held at the Empire Polo Club in Indio, California. Some of the most notable performers include Harry Styles, Billie Eilish, Megan Thee Stallion, Ye (Kanye West), and Doja Cat. While many people are looking forward to seeing the performers' and influencers' outfits, some are worried about the new variant of COVID-19, Omicron, spreading. People have expressed their concern about having public events with the variant going around and believe it should be canceled or postponed. Fatmah Husain (12) stated, "I am not a very big fan of Coachella or anything along those lines, but it seems pretty unsafe to be in crowded areas with COVID spreading around." Although many have conflicting opinions regarding the safety of the event, Coachella is still scheduled to take place.

Concerts are one of the enjoyments that bring people together. Fans are hoping for a safe transition from isolation to being able to celebrate public events.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

TO DO LIST

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Say Hi to Someone New

Volunteer

Spread Peace

Reach Out

Grow Goodness

MAKE KINDNESS A PRIORITY



ENTERING THE COUNTRY MUSIC WORLD

Brittan McFadden
STAFF WRITER

Born in Sneedville, Tennessee, Morgan Wallen found a love for music at a very young age. He began singing in church at three years old and played multiple instruments growing up. Although he was musically talented at a young age, throughout high school, his focus was on sports; he played baseball but unfortunately had a career ending injury. As a result, Wallen started contemplating choosing music for his career. Little did he know, the closing of this door would open another leading to his highly successful music career.

Many Wallen fans are unaware of the origins of his success. World-renowned songwriter, Morgan Wallen auditioned for The Voice in 2014 and competed on the sixth season of the show. He started off on Usher's team, but later in the season he was stolen by Adam Levine. Unfortunately, he was eliminated in the playoffs, but that did not stop Wallen from becoming known. Even after he was no longer a part of the show, he

started to gain recognition. People from around America started listening to more of his music. Eventually, he became well-known for his country music and decided to take his songs to the next level by producing albums.

Several years after he was eliminated in the playoffs of The Voice, Wallen signed with Big Loud Records to create his first album "If I Know Me" (2018). It was a huge hit in the country music industry. People liked Wallen's music, because it was relatable and different from what most country music fans had listened to. Some even started to listen to country music after they had heard Wallen's music. Ella Thomas (11) loves Wallen's music. Thomas said, "I have always liked his music, but when I started to drive, I really started listening to more of his songs." Three years after Wallen released his first album, he released his next album "Dangerous: The Double Album" in 2021. Amelia Gregory (10) added, "One of my favorite songs is 'Cover Me Up' from Wallen's 'Dangerous: The Double Album'. I love listening to his music, because his songs are different from other country artists. They give a different story than most do." Wallen was a sensation whom people from all over the United States loved to listen to.

However, a few months after the debut of his newest album, Wallen was suspended by his record label. A video where the singer used racially insensitive language had been found, which immediately destroyed his reputation. Wallen's songs and albums were removed from country radio and his tours and concerts were canceled. Anna Kaden Thomas (11) said, "When I first heard about the incident, I thought it was only a rumor. Wallen's actions affected a lot of people who looked up to him and supported him along with his music." This had a big impact on not only his career, but also his fanbase. Millions around the United States turned against Wallen after the video was leaked. Long awaited concerts had been canceled and other country music artists performed instead. His career was in shambles.

On April 13th, Wallen posted many videos apologizing for his disrespectful actions in hope that his fans would accept his apology. He said, "[he] would not be doing any gigs over the summer as he needed to better himself and reflect regarding the controversy". Approximately two months after posting his video, Wallen started setting the stage for his comeback. Getting back into his music, Wallen had his first live ap-

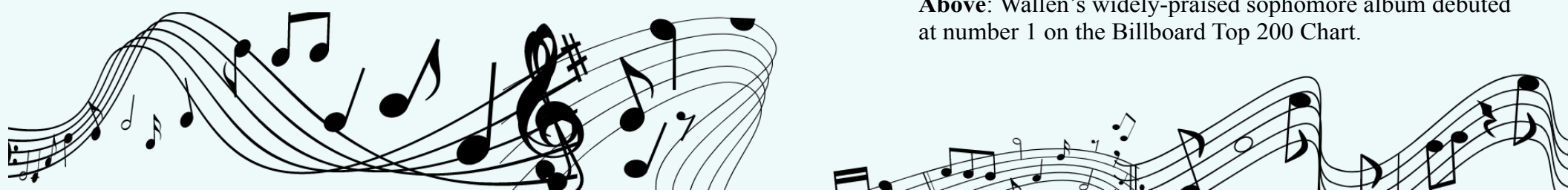
pearance at Kid Rock's Bar in Tennessee. Having not performed in over three and a half months, he loved getting the opportunity to sing in front of an audience. In December of 2021, Wallen had one of his first sold out concerts in Southaven, Mississippi since the beginning of 2021; Mae Mae Davis (10) was one of those fans in the audience. Davis exclaimed, "Morgan Wallen put on an amazing show. Although I have been to many other concerts, his was one of my favorites because of how involved he was with the audience."

Wallen dropped a new song called "Broadway Girls," which was his first release since his Dangerous album. Most of Wallen's fans liked his new song, but it was not a bestseller.

2021 was a rollercoaster for Wallen; from having sold out arenas to temporary suspension from his record label, Wallen has overcome numerous obstacles. Though the setbacks were tedious, he made the most of his year.



Above: Wallen's widely-praised sophomore album debuted at number 1 on the Billboard Top 200 Chart.



The Bulldogs Bounce Back

Taylor Martin
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The 2022 College Football National Championship Game was held on January 11 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was a face-off between the best in the SEC (Southeastern Conference), as number one, Alabama took on number three, Georgia. This showdown was a rematch of the SEC title game from December 4, where Alabama defeated Georgia in a commanding win 41-24.

The National Championship Game is always highly anticipated and enjoyed by millions of people. "It is something that my family and I enjoy watching each year, no matter which teams are playing," said Caroline Tanner (10). This year, an estimated 22.6 million people tuned into

the national title game, which is a 19% increase compared to last year (Forbes). This game is a culmination of hard work, dedication, and countless hours of brutal practices, where the most elite college athletes get to showcase their talents on the highest stage.

Prior to this matchup, Georgia had played Alabama four times under head coach Kirby Smart, over the past five years. All three times, Alabama had come out victorious. Therefore, Smart was all the more determined to come out triumphant. The two coaches were very familiar with one another, since Smart served as Alabama's defensive coordinator under legendary coach Nick Saban from 2008 to 2015. Smart left the Alabama coaching staff in 2016 to become the head coach at Georgia. The familiarity of these two great coaches, both on and off the field, meant that this game was going to be all the more interesting.

The Alabama Crimson Tide was led by sophomore, Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young. On the flip side, the Georgia Bulldogs were led by walk-on quarterback Stetson Bennett, who worked extremely hard to prove himself and, eventually, claimed the starting role.

When asked about each of the players, Alexa Ainsworth (11) said, "I think it was cool to see that both guys were playing on such a huge stage, despite their extremely different rankings coming out of high school." However, it takes more than just a good quarter-

back to win a National Title. Both players were surrounded by extremely talented teammates, which is the reason why this game was one to remember.

On January 11, there were 68,311 people in attendance in Indianapolis, all of whom were cheering for a team in red. When asked about his thoughts on who would win this game, Terron McIntyre (12) said, "I think Alabama dominated in the SEC Championship game, but it is also extremely hard to beat the same team twice. So, I really didn't know who would win." Over the years, it has been shown that the team that loses the first game has a better chance of winning in a rematch, so McIntyre's assessment of the game matched up with the predictions made by many of the experts. This idea was proven to be true for this year's National Title Game,

as the Georgia Bulldogs came out on top with a 33-18 win.

The game was extremely close up until the final minutes of the fourth quarter. At halftime, Alabama was leading 9-6, and neither team even scored a touchdown until the third quarter. It was not until late in the fourth quarter that Georgia started to stretch its lead. Stetson Bennett seemed to find the endzone when Bryce Young could not. The game undoubtedly ended when Bryce Young threw an interception in the final minutes of the game, that sealed their fate. Despite their valiant performance, the Crimson Tide came up short. This meant that the Georgia Bulldogs had won their first National Championship since 1980. All of their hard work was rewarded in the end, and the many long and difficult hours of training had finally paid off.



MC Basketball Shooting for Playoffs

Anna Kimbrell
STAFF WRITER

The Madison Central boys' and girls' basketball teams are officially in season. These two groups practice throughout the year, starting with an eight week-long pre-season boot camp that prepares the athletes, both mentally and physically, for what is to come. The basketball season starts in early November and ends in late spring, depending on playoff games that vary each year. This season the girls and boys have twenty-six games on their schedule. They play non-district games, as well as six district games that count towards their seed for the district tournament. This tournament is played at the

end of each season, and the top three teams from each district go to the playoffs.

In order to prepare for the many games on the schedule, the girls endure practices that consist of various stretches and many different types of drills they complete daily.

The girls also complete shooting drills, defensive drills, and go through plays to prepare for upcoming games. Practicing twice a day ensures that the girls are ready for what is to come this season. Last year, they only lost two games and won the district tournament; this meant they got an automatic advancement

to the first round of playoffs. Julia Lee Riley (11) is a junior on this year's girls' team. When asked about the team's goal for the season she said, "Our hope for this season is to make it to the coliseum where we will play in the state championship and win."

The girls work hard all year and "each [player] is important and helps our team be our best," said Riley. Many girls on the team have been playing basketball all their life forming important relationships and bonds that help them in many ways on the court. Emma Robertson (10) said, "I think one thing we want to accomplish in the next couple of seasons is playing more together, being able to make changes quicker, and of course win state." The girls are ready to make improve-

ments in any way possible to make them the best possible team they can be.

Just like the girls, the boys' basketball team is working equally as hard to ensure they have success. The new head coach, Coach Gardner, is getting the boys in shape for a great season. Caleb Kent (12), captain of the team and point/shooting guard, said, "Practice is very competitive. You have to come prepared to compete and give 100% effort every single day." This year, the boys are going through more intense workouts and practices, as well as being more focused than ever to achieve their goals. Basketball is not just about skill, but the bond between the people playing as well. Kent said, "Our team is like a family. It is important to have the support of your brothers when you step foot on the court." Every person on the team is vital, regardless of their role on the team. Last year, the boys finished with a 6-15 record, and this

year they are currently standing at a 14-10 record. This improvement is because of

the hard work every member on the team brings, as well as the leadership the coaches provide. The boys have been improving each game, Kent also said, "I hope we continue to trend in a positive direction and finish the season strong." The boys finish up their regular season February 4. The team is full of great athletes who all share the common goal of coming together and winning for themselves and our school.

The Madison Central boys' and girls' basketball teams are working harder than ever in practices in order to come out victorious in games. The bond that these athletes create is shown on the court every game, whether they win or lose.

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