

Madison Central



UPROAR

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What's In? What's Out?

Anticipation For What's Next

Logan Kennedy
STAFF WRITER

The year 2023 was memorable for its trends and events that met expectations for most but just like every year ends, people always expect the next year to be better than the last. The new year brings excitement for new beginnings but familiarity with past experiences. As the second semester of the 2023-2024 school year starts, students are excited to get back into their school routine finishing the year strong, while seniors are looking ahead and reminiscing about past memories. 2024 will also bring a new school year in August, bringing in underclassmen and the start of college for seniors. Although that might seem far away, it will go by quickly as always. As we make expectations for the new year, it is important to look back on the previous year to see what might be phasing out for 2024. With several huge trends claiming their spot in 2023, students at Madison Central are gearing up to take their guesses on what trends will be out and what trends will be in for 2024, as well as making personal goals to get the most out of this year.

The Stanley water bottle was a huge trend for 2023. The stainless-steel cup that comes in a variety of colors quickly became an "I have to have it" item, which can be seen all around schools with students carrying different Stanley Cups. Cope-land Brown (11) said, "The Stanley Cup was a popular in 2023, but my prediction is that it will be out for 2024 and will be replaced by a new water bottle trend". Brown's prediction is possible as the predecessor to the Stanley Cup was the Hydro Flask water bottle, which means the Stanley Cup could fade out for

2024. Sarah Helen Thomas (12), disagrees with Brown and feels that drinking water will continue to be a trend in 2024 and will be propelled by the Stanley Cup. Another trend that was big in 2023 and might become less popular is predicted to be low-rise jeans. Landry Mader (10) said, "The resurgence of low-rise jeans in 2023 is a trend that will go out again like seen before in past years. The trend keeps leaving and coming back so I could definitely see it going out for 2024 and being replaced with another type of jean". The low-rise jeans are another example of how fashion trends come and go, throughout the years, 2024 it is also important to predict what will become popular this year.

Fashion is such a big part of our society, being used as an outlet for self-expression and allowing students to create new trends. Mader stated that she believes bows will become trendy in 2024, "I think that pastel-colored bows like pastel pink and purple will become trendy in 2024, as you can already see their popularity growing on TikTok". Thomas (12) also stated, "I think that cowboy boots will become very trendy in 2024, as you can wear them for most occasions, and I believe people will use cowboy boots to experiment with their style."

Both pastel-colored bow accessories and cowboy boots are cute trends for 2024 and are guaranteed to allow for personalized style in 2024.

Seniors at Madison Central are starting 2024 with their second semester, which offers a lot of exciting things like graduation in May. The anticipation is felt by every senior that walks across that stage. The year also offers the start of freshman year of college for most seniors. Thomas, is excited to experience these opportunities, Thomas states, "Senior year has been a lot of fun, and while I have enjoyed getting to share memories with friends, I am ready for graduation, and ready to start the next chapter of my life in college." Senior year teaches students a lot about



Above: Madison Central's class of 2024 Seniors Parading in 2023.
Photo Courtesy of Yearbook Staff member Lola Williams

themselves as they become the leaders of the school, and start to apply for colleges. These experiences can help the students reflect on themselves and even shine a light on what goals they want to make for themselves. In 2024, Thomas said she wants to be more open to meeting new people and giving people second chances, "I think it is important to give everyone a second chance. It is senior year and we all should get along the best we can."

ber that although college is a few months away, there are still a few months left of senior year to enjoy.

As 2024 kicks off, seniors are preparing for graduation and life after highschool. The new year also brings new possibilities for seniors, students, and trends. Students make their detailed predictions of what items and fashion will become the hottest items. Fashion predictions such as what students will be wearing include colorful cowboy boots and pastel bow accessories to make this year a burst of color in fashion. It is also important to remember that you do not always have to follow trends, and you can make your sense of style that is individual to you. Fashion allows students to mix and match their style with popular trends, allowing for individuality. These student-made predictions are guaranteed to shape the year 2024, which will bring excitement and growth to everyone.

TRENDING Now!

Graduation closes up a chapter at Madison Central for seniors and starts new beginnings in college and other ventures. These experiences that will occur this year are thrilling for all students such as Cassie Sellers (12) who stated, "College is only a few months away and while I am so ready to start a new experience, I am taking it day by day to strongly finish out my senior year." Seniors need to remem-



Sports

Check out page 7 for information about the Bowling team and Archery schedule!



News

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



Feature

Check out page 4 for information about Jaguar Java!

Dylan Thomas
STAFF WRITER

Inventions Vs. Ethics

The world of artificial intelligence (AI) has been in an upheaval for the past few months and began when Sam Altman, a CEO at OpenAI, was fired seemingly out of the blue. OpenAI originally began in 2015 as a non-profit organization. Its goal was to develop new AI technology and is responsible for the creation of ChatGPT. Altman was one of the original chairmen of the company and stayed on the board of directors when OpenAI changed from a non-profit to a for-profit company in 2019. Altman's connections in the corporate world were partly why Altman being fired in November of last year was so surprising. It even caused outrage and distress within the company. This led to board member

Greg Brockman resigning along with several other employees threatening to resign and go to Microsoft, the company that had offered Altman and Brockman a job running their own team at Microsoft that would be dedicated to AI development and research. Altman was rehired back onto OpenAI only a few days after he was fired. Sara Sinha (11) commented on the situation, "I find the entire situation interesting. OpenAI's board claimed there was a lack of confidence in his ability. However, the OpenAI employees disagreed, which is ultimately the reason for rehiring him." Him being fired is still considered a mystery, but it's believed that ethical disputes between board members may have occurred. Ethics have always been a complicated topic in the AI community. For one, some people working in AI would like to be able to invent, test, and research

the limitations caused by ethics-based restriction. However, others are far more cautious when it comes to AI because scientists still do not know what to expect. Bryce Von Kanel (10) brought up an example of AI getting out of hand when he said, "There was an AI that was primarily created for purposes of war, and they told the AI to create potent chemicals. They came back and the AI came up with 40,000 of the deadliest chemicals humanity has ever seen. They took it down and killed the AI." Uncareful usage of AI can lead to conflict. This fear is part of why ethics is so important, but on the other hand, some innovators worry about how ethics inhibit creation. Some OpenAI board members supposedly had issues with Altman regarding him pushing products too quickly and ignoring the ethics of it. The board members worried that Altman was abandoning the principles that OpenAI was founded on and instead was moving to try to turn OpenAI into a bigger corporation. Many suspect tensions may

have been a factor in Altman's firing, but it has not been confirmed by any of the board members. Altman, himself, stated that he was centrist on the issue and wanted to consider the ethics while also striving for better things for AI. The battle around ethics does not end there, however. As if ethical issues were not enough, OpenAI was sued in December by the New York Times because they were using New York Times articles to train AI. The New York Times sued under the impression that OpenAI committed a violation of copyright laws. However, the New York Times is not the only group suing OpenAI, as well-renowned authors like John Grisham, Jodi Picoult, George R.R. Martin, Jonathan Franzen, and more are all suing OpenAI because of illegal action on OpenAI's end. These lawsuits tie into the overall conversation around the ethics of AI using people's work to better itself. Emma Martindale (12) stood in solidarity with the New York Times and said, "They

have every right to sue. As far as I know, OpenAI provoked legal action." OpenAI has since argued that using the material available on the internet falls under fair use, and that the New York Times lawsuit is meritless. Many seem to disagree with that stance. While courts have consistently ruled in favor of tech companies in lawsuits like these, a verdict is still hard to dictate due to how copyright crimes are determined. When discussing AI and its innovations, inventors want to uphold the public's safety, but they also need the ability to research and invent with full creative liberty. While a conclusion cannot yet be seen, OpenAI and the public both hope for the best outcome possible.



Cartoon Credit:
Lola Williams

Violet Daniels
STAFF WRITER

GOVERNING MISSISSIPPI

With the New Year comes the inauguration of the Mississippi Governor. On January 9, 2024, Tate Reeves was sworn in for his second term as state governor at the Mississippi State Capitol. This inauguration is held in honor of Tate Reeves and his successful reelection. Chief Justice Mike Randolph issued the oath of office to both Reeves and his wife, Elee Reeves. Following the ceremony, Reeves gave his inauguration speech where he expressed his gratitude to all the people of Mississippi and then addressed his past terms accomplishments and his future term goals. The achievements Reeves highlighted in his speech included the teacher pay raise, which was the largest in state history, as well as the largest tax cut in state history. Despite all of these accomplishments Reeves still has more he wants to do, and Reeves said, "You have not seen nothing yet. We

have got some big things coming. Projects that will fundamentally change lives and transform our state for the better." Throughout Reeves' reelection campaign he stated, "Mississippi has momentum, and this is Mississippi's time." He has built his new goals for the state on this and the theme of his second term which is "Mississippi's Time." Reeves states in his inauguration speech that his goal for his second term as governor is to combat the number of young people leaving the state. Jack Mattingly (10) stated, "Mississippi does not provide the right resources for much of today's youth to flourish" Mattingly also believes Reeves' work to improve the number of young people will help the state. Sneha Vuyyuru (12) stated "I think his goal to get

young people to stay in Mississippi is important because the state is going through a brain drain." Vuyyuru also thinks that Reeves needs to prioritize other factors such as healthcare and quality of life. The state of Mississippi often faces a lot of controversy. Sara Reeves Thomas (11) stated "I think a lot of people do not see the good around Mississippi. Of course there are some flaws, just like every other state, but we are trying to fix that." Thomas went on to say that Tate Reeves has done an excellent job as governor in his past term, and his work has not gone unnoticed. Mississippi has grown a lot over the past four years and will hopefully only grow more in the years to come. The ceremony was not the only event planned for the inauguration of Mississippi's governor. After

Reeves was sworn into office honored by a parade, which contained many floats, including Franklin County High School JROTC, Choctaw Indian Princess Nalani LuzMaria Thompson, and Jackson State University's Sonic Boom of the South. The parade began at 2 p.m. in Downtown Jackson and concluded at the Governor's Mansion. Following the end of the parade the Mississippi Governor's Mansion Open House began. This mansion has housed every one of Mississippi's highest-elected officials since 1842 and is a National Historic Landmark. After the Open House, people gathered at the Mississippi Trade Mart from seven to eleven o'clock for the Inaugural Ball. This event included dining and dancing, which contributed to being a wonderful conclusion for the night. The Governor Inauguration was a wonderful success to signify the achievements of Mississippi.





SETTING THE SCENE

Hannah Evans
STAFF WRITER

Show choir is a class at Madison Central where students audition for the upcoming school year. It consists of singing and dancing. It consists of three choirs; Radiance, the freshmen at Rosa Scott, Renown, all girls from both Rosa Scott and Madison Central, and Reveille with its boys and girls at Madison Central. Even though there are several different sections, all still at Madison Central share similarities that make them



love show choir. They have many performances where you can see all the students' talents. Their annual "Dancing with the Teachers" is a school favorite. Dancing with the Teachers is an event held during the fall semester every year. The show choir students split into groups, chose a teacher, and each group consist of a different theme. Each group competes for the trophy, one group wins by the audience choosing which group performance they like best. Their competition season starts in the Spring Semester. Most students enjoy show choir and do it every year, Aaron David (10) said, "I was in Radiance last year as a freshman and this year I'm in Reveille. My favorite thing about being in a show choir is getting to interact with other performers, and learning more about what my voice and body is capable of. My favorite event to perform at the Jackson Academy Show Choir Invitational. Show choir has helped me expand



my vocal range and get me out of my comfort zone doing cool choreography." David stated that one of the best things about show choir is how he is becoming a better singer and dancer. Their competition season starts in the Spring Semester. Breanne McKelvey (11) said, "My favorite thing about being in Reveille is the competitions and traveling to competitions and getting to watch all the other shows. Also competing as a group. My favorite place to compete is Brandon Amphitheater and it's really fun with an open stage. We're not doing it this year unfortunately. It's helped in different

styles of dancer because every song we do is a different style and it's different from normal dance." Two seniors on reveille also shared how they love the competitions and how reveille has helped them with their stage presence. Kylira Griffin (12) said, "My favorite thing about being in show choir is going to show choir competitions at different schools and performing in front of different groups and getting feedback from our performances. My favorite event to perform at is Deep South at Madison Central. Show choir has helped me as a singer and dancer, it has given me the opportunity to practice and perform regularly, which has improved my skills and stage presence. Also being part of a loving group, it has taught me to work hard with others." Brooke Bungarner (12) said, "My favorite thing about show choir is the opportunity to get to know so many different types of people. We all come from different backgrounds and

have such a diverse selection of personalities, so I get to have new conversations with new people almost every day. My favorite event to perform at is the Reveal show. It's our first time performing for the season. Show choir has given me confidence to reach out of my comfort zone by being on a stage, which helps my ability to sing and dance in front of others." Show choir is a school activity if you like to be on stage or to watch if you want entertainment. The shows are incredible with wonderful, hardworking students. Madison Central cannot wait for all their 2024 performances.



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A FRIEND OR FANCY
this Valentine's Day**

**SOLD 25¢ PER
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FEBRUARY 8, 9, & 12



REPORTING THE REPORTERS



Meredith Morrow
SOCIAL MEDIA
MANAGER

As a part of Madison Central's Academy of Multimedia and Communications, JNN (Jag News Network) is Madison Central's award-winning broadcasting staff, which produces content about the school and community. The staff is constantly aiming to reach their goal of being a well-respected and well-known publication not only at school, but also around Madison. JNN discusses topics such as sports coverage and daily announcements.

In order to improve their segments, the staff makes sure that their topics are story-oriented. In order to make the publication known

among the students of Madison Central, JNN has made itself a strong social media presence, where it can keep its audience informed about upcoming events and recent jaguar achievements. For example, some of their segments can be found through YouTube, Facebook, Apple Podcasts, and Instagram, while other reels can be found on their TikTok page. Natalie Mann (11), in charge of reporting JNN's weekly announcements, said, "Our videos are usually posted weekly on social media. Besides making segments, it is also our job to brainstorm ideas for social media posts and interview topics. Once we set up interviews, we have to get the b-roll." While it can be interesting to see what the students have

to say about the school through interviews with the staff, it is also interesting to see what roles certain members of the staff

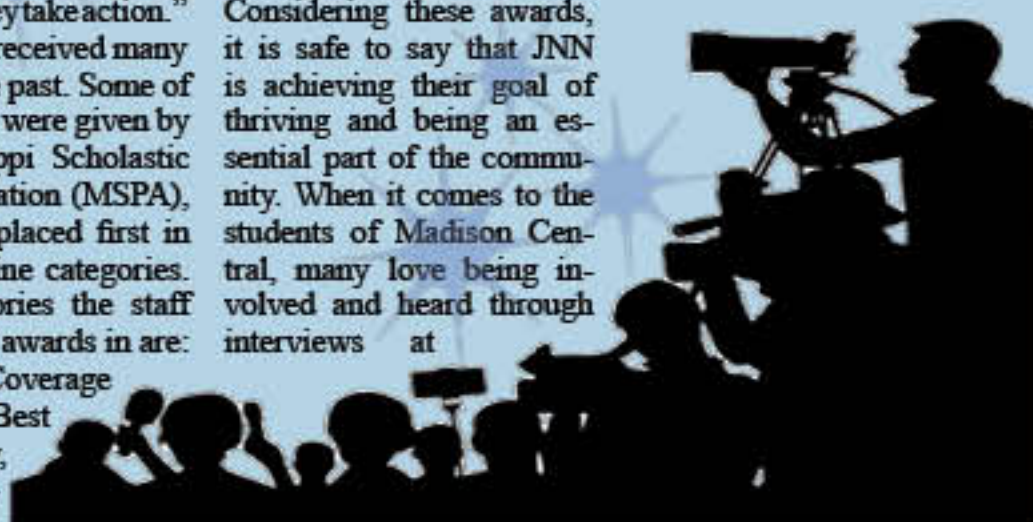
play. When asked about their roles as a staff, Zoey Deel (11) said, "There are many different roles. There is a main producer, social media producer, sports producer, podcast runner, weather anchor, local anchor, global anchor, and two sports anchors. I am a sports anchor, and usually attend sport events to take pictures and document our athletes as they take action."

JNN has received many awards in the past. Some of these awards were given by the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association (MSPA), as the staff placed first in more than nine categories. Some categories the staff has received awards in are:

Best News Coverage (twice), Best News Story, Best In-Studio Anchor, Best News Reporter, Best Hype Video, Best Feature Coverage, Best Sports Coverage, and Best Creativity. In addition to these awards, JNN has also placed finalist in more

than eighteen categories, some including Best Sports Story (three times), Best News Story, Best Feature Story (twice), Best In-Studio Anchor (twice), Best News Reporter (twice), Best Weather Reporter (twice), Best Hype Video (twice), Newscast of the Year, Best Feature Coverage, Best Sports Coverage, and Best Creativity. Considering these awards, it is safe to say that JNN is achieving their goal of thriving and being an essential part of the community. When it comes to the students of Madison Central, many love being involved and heard through interviews at

break. When asked, Katelyn Nichols (12) said, "I really think JNN is a great program, and cannot wait to see what they achieve this year. I hope I get the chance to get interviewed soon." Like Nichols said, it will be interesting to see what the student-run staff will accomplish this year, and in the years to come.



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SIPPING JAVA AND SUPPORTING YOUR JAGS



Emily Hodges
STAFF WRITER

Looking for a refreshing, inexpensive, and easily accessible beverage? Jaguar Java is the place to go. Every Friday, Jaguar Java is set up in the first-floor annex. They sell sweet treats and drinks to put smiles on students' faces. This allows students to connect and learn life skills through the people who go and support Jaguar Java. Taking place before school and during break on most Fridays, Jaguar Java is out and ready for students to come by. Through clubs, students, and support, Jaguar Java is able to thrive and help make differences in students' lives.

The classes who run Jaguar Java look forward to selling their drinks

and sweet treats. For some, it is the highlight of their week. One of the students behind Jaguar Java, Cameron Germany (11) said, "Jaguar Java is a lot of fun because we sell coffee and snacks. I love getting to meet new people and hanging out with my friends." Germany has learned a lot from Jaguar Java, thanks to the staff, and students that participate. Mrs. Bruce is one of

the teachers that helps her class run Jaguar Java. She guides the students and encourages them to interact with other students. Germany said, "I enjoy being able to help Mrs. Bruce set up the cart and snack tale."

Germany is one of many students who love being a part of Jaguar Java and making the memories connected to it. The students' can learn and undergo new experiences.

Clubs like the National Honor Society set



Above: Back Row (left to right) Beau Gregory, Drew Williamson, Cameron Germany, Tiyona Polk, Hunter Persac, Front Row (left to right) Tanner Knotts, Abraham Ali

up time for students to volunteer at Jaguar Java. Club members are exposed to the behind the scenes of what it is like to keep up a student-lead business. Val Medina (12) is one of the volunteers who take their time on Friday mornings and breaks to work with students. She said, "I usually go on Fridays when they are up, and I volunteer there sometimes as well. We help count the money, pour hot drinks, and overall, we just help the students run the stand." Even when Medina isn't volunteering, she still likes

to stop by on Fridays to support Jaguar Java. It is a treat for most, like Medina said, "There are so many different drinks and treats that you can buy. A lot of people want to go home on Fridays, so Jaguar Java is a nice incentive to make your day a little sweeter." Students at Madison Central come by and purchase drinks on Fridays Jaguar Java is available. Alex Gibbs (11) said, "I look forward to purchasing from Jaguar Java every Friday. It gives me something to look forward to at the end of the

week." Something simple like buying a coffee goes a long way. Jaguar Java is set up for people to get a treat on a Friday and to make new friendships in the process. Buying a Jaguar Java drink or snack supports the student lead business and offers a great start to the school day.



WELCOMING A NEW LEADER

Katherine Elfert
STAFF WRITER

Starting July 1, the Madison County School District will welcome a new superintendent, Ted Poore. He will begin his journey as the new superintendent following the retirement of our current superintendent, Charlotte Seals. Poore has been working closely with Seals to prepare him for his new position.

The Madison County School District is excited to welcome Poore as the new superintendent. However, the district is sad to see Seals go, as she has worked as the superintendent for five years, and she has worked in the district for 35 years. Seals said, "I will most definitely miss the people; the amazing students, teachers, principals, and support staff. It is bittersweet but I am ready to spend more time with my family and support them. With my demanding schedule, my family has always been there for me and I would like to give back to them." When asked about Poore, Seals stated, "I am so excited that Poore will be our next superintendent. Poore and I have known each other for over 30 years. My advice

to him would be to remain a humble servant to our students, staff and community." Like Seals, the district cannot wait to welcome Poore.

Poore has been the assistant superintendent since 2019 and has worked for the district for 26 years. Poore stated, "I am looking forward to continuing to build on the positive personal and professional relationships that have already been established and look forward to building even

more relationships in the days ahead. Madison County Schools, in my humble opinion, is the most outstanding school district in Mississippi, and one of the best in our country. Therefore, I believe that maintaining, and even improving areas of needed growth will be accomplishments that we will continue to strive for, and all be proud to be a part of." Poore graduated from Delta State University with a Bachelor's and

Master's Degree and earned a degree in Educational Leadership from Mississippi College. He worked as the principal and assistant principal of Rosa Scott Middle School, and was the first principal of Madison Middle School and later returned to Rosa Scott when it became home to only ninth graders. Poore has held many titles throughout his career, such as Madison County Schools Administrator of the Year, MASSP Middle School Principal of the Year and MASSP High School Principal of the Year. The road leading to the Rosa Scott campus is also named Poore's Pass after him.

Not only has he earned many awards, but also the respect of his fellow coworkers. When asked about Poore, the current principal at Madison Central, Dr. Burchfield said, "I was fortunate to have worked with Poore for four years as a teacher and coach at Rosa Scott. He is one of my main role models as a practicing administrator. I am excited to be able to serve under his leadership." The school district is excited and eager to welcome Poore as the new superintendent and cannot wait to see what next year holds.

Congratulations
Nataleigh Nix



Above: Nataleigh Nix (12) is our reigning Miss Mississippi's Teen who represented our state in the national competition in Orlando in January. Madison Central and our state are proud of you, Nataleigh.



RECAPPING THE SEASON

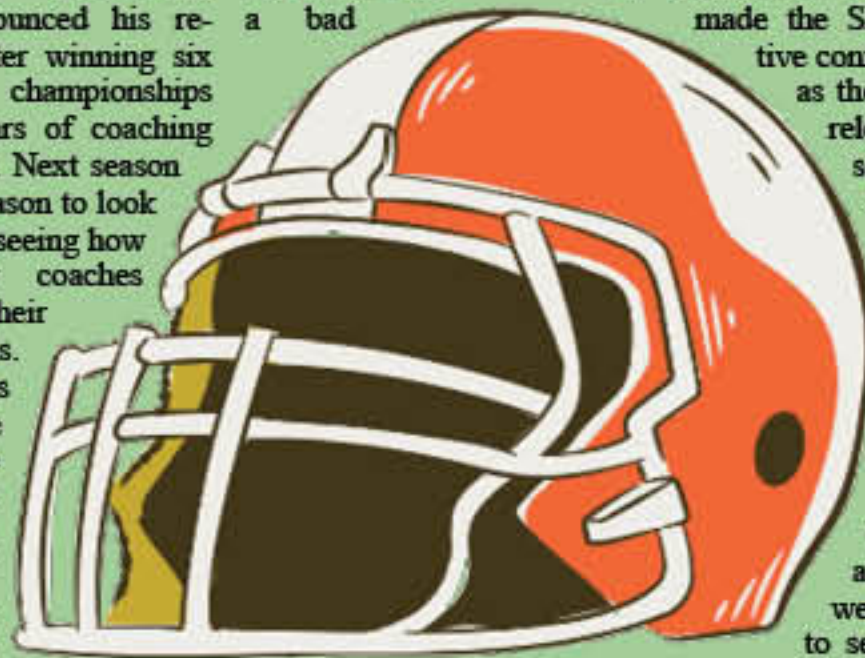


Lauren Heffington
STAFF WRITER

For the past few months Americans have been consumed by college football, every Saturday either watching or traveling to or from college stadiums, to watch their favorite team play. Especially, if you are a fan of the NCAA Southeastern Conference or SEC, this season was met with record-breaking seasons and heartbreak in the playoffs. Fans are also excited for the changes in the SEC for next season. The SEC is preparing to make some changes to next year's teams. Teams like Mississippi State, Texas A&M, and Alabama have hired new head coaches because of the team's previous coaches retiring or being released from coaching. Jasleen Multani (10) said, "I was

upset to find out that Alabama's Coach Saban had decided to retire, but I am excited to see what Coach DeBoer can do for the team next season." Coach Nick Saban announced his retirement after winning six national championships and 17 years of coaching at Alabama. Next season will be a season to look forward to, seeing how these new coaches perform at their new schools. The SEC has added more teams to the conference as of the 2024 season, in the beginning of 2024 the SEC welcomed Oklahoma and Texas, two previous Big 12 powerhouses. These teams now make the conference 16 college teams. As a result of adding these

teams, the conference decided to ditch their SEC East and SEC West division formats. Titus Amos (11) stated, "Adding Texas and Oklahoma to the SEC is a bad



move, by adding these two big powerhouse's we are allowing room for more teams to enter the conference, which leads to corruption in the SEC." Amos is not the

only one who feels this way, many others are skeptical to see how the incorporation of these two big teams will go in the future. The additions of Oklahoma and Texas have made the SEC a competitive conference to be in, as they have already released the game schedule for the 2024 season. The College Football Playoffs brought some emotion for SEC fans, with unexpected rankings for the season. In addition, fans were surprised to see, not a single SEC team made it to the National Championship. Analise Kirk (12) stated, "I felt that all the teams that made the final four really earned their spot. Although there were teams like Florida State

that had better records during the regular season. The teams that made it to the final four performed better against more difficult opponents during their seasons. I was however surprised by the final two, since this was the first time in 10 years that the SEC has not been featured in the National Championship." The National Championship ended in a Michigan win over Washington, neither of which was an SEC team. As some fans might not feel the way Kirk does, it is fair to say that the previous playoff rankings and games threw everyone for a loop. The Southeastern Conference has had its ups and downs this past season. Fans and even players are excited to see what is in store for next year with new teams, coaches, and schedules. With that being said, the SEC has opened room to have an interesting upcoming season, the countdown till SEC football is on.

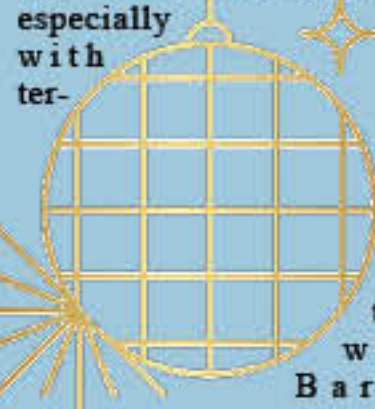
THE GOLDEN GLOBES

Madie Moseley
STAFF WRITER

The Golden Globes is the annual "Who's Who" event for celebrities that celebrates all the entertainment industry. Unlike the Emmys or the Oscars, the Golden Globes combine TV and film awards. The Golden Globe first premiered on January 22, 1944, at the 20th Century Fox Studio, in Los Angeles, California. A special aspect of the Golden Globes is how they really put an emphasis on international films and how they set the stage for the next film events of the year. The Golden Globes took place on Sunday, January 7, 2024, and were hosted by Jo Koy. The 2024 Golden

Globes had trouble finding a host because of the show's declining popularity, past controversy from lack of diversity, and accusation of favoritism and racism. Jo Koy was the last host since nobody wanted to do the job. Headlines after headlines, have been talking about Jo Koy and all his controversial jokes (many unlistable). One that in particular caught the attention of many was his joke about Taylor Swift, Koy said, "One thing different about the Golden Globes and NFL is that there are less shots of Taylor Swift." Abby Blackmon (10) says, "The host said offensive jokes about women in general. It was uncalled for." Also, Ally Cole (12) said, "I do think that the host was a terrible choice.

He was not the best pic for this monumental night, especially with



terrible jokes towards Barbie (thus proving the point why the movie was made). The Golden Globes are supposed to be a time of celebrated talented actors and crew not belittling them. The Presenter's job is to introduce the topic by showing either the importance or making a fun joke that is on the theme or topic of the category or the celebrities that are presenting. Many

fans disagreed on whether the winner should have won. Like Isaac Kelly (10), "I was happy that Oppenheimer won best film because I am a big fan, but I was disappointed that Spider-Man Across The Spider Verse did not win animated film of the year. Regardless, the Golden Globes are fun to watch every year." Ally Cole had some winners she thought were very deserving. "I also think that the Golden Globes were a catalyst to actors and actresses who deserve a lot more recognition. For example, Quinta Brunson, has made one of the funniest shows that has graced our televisions in a while. She has taken the comedic genre to another level. The show Abbott Elementary has elements of love,

comedy, and fourth wall breaks. It really reminds me of The Office." The Golden Globes awarding favorite shows of many really has made the ceremony an enjoyable one. This really shows how much attention social media has brought to this award show. Many users of the social media platform TikTok have posted their opinions on the night and who they think should have won and what they did not like about it. With high-end glitzy dresses, comedic jokes, and recognition of favorite television shows and movies there is something for everyone to enjoy watching the Golden Globes.

VISIT THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Jenny Nguyen
STAFF WRITER

On December 15, 2023, the new British musical fantasy film, Wonka, was released and quickly became a popular hit among fans and children. Star actors that many know and love are: Timothée Chalamet (Willy Wonka), Hugh Grant (Oompa-Loompa), Rowan Atkinson (Priest), Keegan-Michael Key (Chief of Police), and Calah Lane (Noodle). Director, Paul King, described Wonka to be a magical, eccentric, and innovative movie. As of now, Wonka has been given a 91 percent Rotten Tomatoes audience score which is the highest among the three adaptations of Roald Dahl's novel, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Meanwhile, the 1971 movie, Willy Wonka and the

Chocolate Factory, has the highest score on the tomato meter with a 92 percentage.

This prequel film depicts the upbringing of Willy Wonka's success and origin story. Hoping to have his own chocolate and meet his mother once again, Wonka goes on a journey to share his magic and experience with chocolate. As a chocolatier, Wonka is given the most joy when people like his sweet products. Many love this chocolate and indulge in the happiness and feelings the Wonka chocolate gives them. Valeria Bracamonte (10) said, "I liked this movie because of the magical and heartfelt acting and plot. The special effects and details were great and on point." Dahl's novel is inspired by his experience in chocolate

companies in his schooldays. Not only was Charlie and the Chocolate Factory successful and popular, but also Matilda and The BFG, that



were also written by Dahl. The comparison of Wonka and the other adaptations are related by how Wonka became who he was in the end. Audience watched to realize the motive and dreams pursued by Wonka. Some similarities are the quotes used between the movie adaptations, the chief of police and Violet Beauregarde, chocolate river, and an incorporated Oompa-Loompa origin. Baleigh Adams (10) said, "I liked the Charlie and the Chocolate Factory movie with Johnny Depp more because of the darker tones, plot, and acting. I enjoyed the new Wonka movie but it is more for kids than me." Wonka is perceived to be more colorful, magical, whimsical, and more of a musical. Most may say that the first movie adaptation was the best and did not

like the recent film. However, the two movies are set apart as Wonka is before the timeline of the 1971 and 2005 adaptations and a whole different story. Qua Clark (11) said, "I felt more of an understanding of the setting in the first two movies after watching the most recent. Since the first movie was more of a childhood memory, I felt as if I was reliving that moment in a different perspective." Senses of nostalgia hit the audience with an astonishing experience watching the origin story of Willy Wonka. Overall, the movie had a great rating and most of those who watched left the theaters happy and satisfied. Although with twists throughout the movie that bring out the dark tones from the previous movies, the ending left the audience with a bright and heartfelt feeling. The lesson gathered from the film is to be honest and kind to be rewarded in the long run.



Date of Match	Location	Time
7-Feb-24	Ridgeland High School	4:00 PM
20-Feb-24	Clinton High School	4:30 PM
23-Feb-24	Germantown High School	4:00 PM
2-Mar-24	St. Andrews High School	4:30 PM
21-Mar-24	Pearl High School	4:00 PM
4-Apr-24 (North State)	Lafayette County Multi-Purpose Center	TBA
17-Apr-24 (State Finals)	Kirk Fordice Center	TBA

An illustration of three white bowling pins standing in a row, with a blue bowling ball to the right. The ball has a yellow starburst on its top right.

LEAVING NO ROOM TO SPARE

Jenny Nguyen
STAFF WRITER

Madison Central’s 2023 bowling season is coming to an end soon and bowlers are getting ready for the championship. With great success in the past, Madison Central hopes to keep the streak of good luck and perform with excellent conditions in the next few weeks. Recently, Madison Central played against Ridgeland High School, with both Madison Central’s girl and boy teams winning. As of now, the Madison Central bowling team consists of four bowlers on the boys’ team and four on the girls with eight bowlers in total. The bowling team previously had 12 players last year with four seniors who graduated in 2023. The team welcomes everyone with a passion and interest to the sport, and according to Carter Moody (10), “As long as you get a score of over 100 at the tryouts, your chances



team are very high.” The average score for a bowler is between 130 and 150, but for a beginner it may be around 50 to 70. As many always say, practice makes perfect. The new coach, Brad Moody, is a P.E. teacher at Rosa Scott High School and helps contribute to the team as much as the players do. Coach Moody has done an amazing job at keeping the bowling team in top shape and improving their skills. Practices and home games are held at Fannin Lanes in Brandon, MS. Every Monday and sometimes Saturday afterschool, the bowling team practices their throws, timing, aim, and swing drills. While this is not the most popular sport, many families and friends enjoy bowling to communicate, cheer on, and have fun. Just like those families, Tyra Tucker (10) said, “It is very fun and everyone gradually warms up to each other at the beginning of the season. I have made many more friends and enjoy being in the team.” The main requirement for the team is to show up to practices and be at school to be able to go to a game. At Fannin Lanes, Madison Central’s bowling team is participating in the Regional Class Three District tournament on January 26, at nine in the morning. State Championship takes place a week later on February 2, at nine as well. Ava Robinson (12) said, “The team is doing great after many challenges and tasks of teaching the middle school students.



Above: Madison Central’s Bowling Team during one of their matches. Photo Courtesy of Lillian Heard

Many players have stepped up and helped improve the bowling team’s skills. Overall, it has been a great season.” The major accomplishments the bowling team has achieved are five to six district championships with a three-year streak from the girls’ team. The boys’ team went to the state championship with a wildcard four years ago. A wildcard is a team that qualifies for the championship playoffs without winning their specific tournament (the highest scoring non-playoff team). Madison Central takes pride

in their bowling team and all sports. With great accomplishments throughout the years, there will be more to come in the future including the new Coach Moody. Every Saturday there are junior league matches for ten dollars at eleven a.m., this league is separate from Madison Central and offers students scholarships based on their performances. Any interested students are welcome to spectate and come support the Madison Central bowling players.





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