

UPROAR

Volume XXV • Issue 3 • 2020

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Emily O'Reilly
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Pictures by Jackson Free Press, Clarion Ledger, Mississippi Today, and the Library of Congress.

Black History Month is an annual observance, also known as African American History Month. Carter G. Woodson proposed a national "Negro History Week" in 1926 to showcase the accomplishments of African Americans. Black History Month was then proposed by Black educators and the Black United States at Kent State University in February 1969. It was not until 1976 that Black History Month was celebrated nationally, when President Gerald Ford recognized the month. It is in February because February first is National Freedom Day, the anniversary of the approval of the 13 Amendment. Since 1976, every

President in America has endorsed a specific theme for Black History Month in February (History). The Association for the Study of African American Life and History chose the theme "Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity" for Black History Month 2021. The theme explores the spread of Black families across the United States and the remembrance of African diaspora.

Since its inception, Black History Month has expanded beyond educational institutions. By 2020, Black History Month had become a focus beyond schools. Black History Month is a time to reflect on the continued struggle for racial justice and an end to systemic racism.

To celebrate Black

History Month, educate yourself and others. The Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture is offering digital programs as well as the ASAALH. Read books by Black authors. Donate to important causes such as the Black Lives Matter movement and shop Black owned businesses. Black History Month is a way to show respect and recognition for the sacrifices and accomplishments made by African Americans.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT TIMELINE

July 26, 1948

President Harry Truman issues Executive order 9811 to end segregation in the Armed Forces

May 17, 1954

Brown v. Board of Education ends racial segregation in public schools

August 28, 1955

14-year-old Emmett Till is murdered in Mississippi. The case brings international attention to the civil rights movement after pictures of Till's open-casket funeral pictures are published in *Jet* magazine

December 1, 1955

Rosa Parks refuses to give up her seat to a white man in Montgomery, Alabama Started the Montgomery bus boycott.

September 4, 1957

"The Little Rock Nine" are blocked from integrating into Little Rock Central High School. President Dwight Eisenhower sends federal troops to escort the troops.

August 28, 1963

The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom occurs. Martin Luther King Jr. gives his "I Have a Dream" speech.

July 2, 1964

President Lyndon B. Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964 into law. It protects against employment discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion and national origin

February 21, 1965

Malcom X is assassinated.

March 7, 1965

The Selma to Montgomery March occurs where 600 civil rights marchers walk to Selma, Alabama to Montgomery in protest of Black voter suppression.

April 4, 1968

Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated

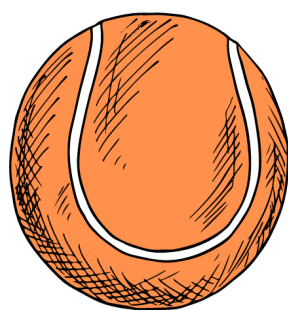
April 11, 1968

President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1968 that provides equal housing opportunity regardless of race, religion or national origin

(source: history.com)

sports

Check out page 7 for information about tennis!



news

Take a look at page 2 for an article about former president Donald Trump's second impeachment.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE



A LOOK AT THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Rowan Gentry
STAFF WRITER

The possible cure to COVID-19 has finally begun to be distributed across the United States. With health care workers and those in the high-risk category being reached first, millions across the US hope for a cure. It has been reported that 5.9 million Americans have received the vaccine thus far, at a rate of half a million people per day. Although it may seem like a lot, the distribution has been slow. The original target was 20 million people by the end of 2020. Some health care workers believe that the delay could be caused by the holidays.

One company specializing in biotechnology called Moderna believes that the vaccine should protect people against COVID-19 for at least a year. The vaccine is cur-

rently being given in two doses a month apart. Since the vaccine was invented so rapidly, nobody knows how people will react and how long it will provide protection against the deadly virus. The company is also testing people to see if adding a third dose will extend protection for a longer period. With so many unknown factors, it is difficult to pinpoint the effects on individuals across the nation.

When the vaccine is offered to students, teenagers, and even children, will they accept it, or are the possible risks too vast and unknown to try? When Rob Embry (12) was asked if he would get the vaccine or not he said, "Yes I am going to get it. Getting the

vaccine will hopefully allow us to at least take a step back toward something normal. It will also make everyone around me less at risk, making everyone at least a little bit safer." Life before CO-



VID-19 is something everyone longs for and hopes to reach again.

Even though there is a possible risk of long term unknown effects from the vaccine, many students are willing to take it on to have a chance at life again. When another student, Nan Callum (10), was asked this very question, she stated,

"I will get it if my parents make me. I would rather give it some time and see how it plays out because I have heard a lot of false news." Many false rumors about the vaccine have been spread very quickly across the United States on how people are being affected by the vaccine.

Many reports have been proven to be inaccurate, so what can we trust?

On the other hand, some students said they would opt-out immediately when offered the vaccine. When

Annslay Lott (11), was asked if she would receive the vaccine or not, she said, "I am not going to get the vaccine at first. I'm going to wait to see what all of the side effects are of it because we are still not super sure yet, and my mom is a pharmacist and a good vaccine is made at the very least in 5 years and this vaccine has been made in maybe a year." This vaccine surely has many risks considering the short amount of time it was formed. Many Americans across the country will not take it because of fear of the unknown.

The COVID-19 vaccine could either greatly improve many American's lives across the United States, or it could drastically make matters worse. The unknown risks of the vaccine cause many individuals to feel uneasy and question the reliability of what is contained within the needle. Will you take on the risk of the vaccine?

DONALD TRUMP IMPEACHED IN A HISTORIC SECOND TIME

Emily O'Reilly
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The second impeachment of the 45th president of the United States, Donald Trump, occurred on January 3, 2021. That was one week before his term was due to expire on the 20th. There have only been four impeachments of a president. Trump is the only one to have been impeached twice.

Since Election Day, President Trump has made numerous attempts to overturn the 2020 presidential election. On January 6, the "March to Save America" rally occurred in Washington D.C. at the National Mall, for which Trump encouraged his followers to attend. At the rally, Trump and the other speakers of the rally repeated false claims that the election was "stolen" and that he should have won. Adam Maatallah (11) said, "For weeks after the election, he spread conspiracy theories and lies about the election being rigged. This led his supporters to believe these misconceptions and lies that he spread. Trump had repeated lies to his supporters about the election, and the lies got them so aggravated and outraged that they became violent. He encouraged the violence." On the day of the Capitol riot, Trump repeated false claims of election fraud.

That same day a joint session of Congress began counting the elec-

toral votes. The supporters at the Mall stormed the United States Capitol in an attempt to prevent the counting of electoral votes and protest Joe Biden's win. The rioters occupied, vandalized, and looted the building for several hours. They targeted House Speaker Nancy Pelosi by vandalizing and looting her offices. Her mail was stolen, which is a federal crime. Many became violent and assaulted police officers and reporters. Five people, including a Capitol Police officer, died as a result of the riots. Officer Brian Sicknick was overpowered and beaten by the protestors at the Capitol; he died from those injuries he sustained. Two other Capitol police officers have also died after being on duty. Both Howard Liebengood and Jeffrey Smith died by suicide days after. About 140 officers sustained injuries from trying to suppress the mob.

The Capitol Police evacuated the Senate and House of Representatives chambers. All of the buildings in the Capitol were on lockdown. Explosive devices were also found near the Capitol grounds, the Democratic National Committee offices, and the Republican National Committee. Trump initially resisted sending the D.C. National guard to stop the mob. It was former Vice President Mike Pence who sent them in. Patricia Bethea (12) said, "Trump should have called upon the National Guard sooner. Trump shouldn't have been inciting things. It is very concerning though that people were at a point where they could be incited into storming the Capitol."

In a Twitter video, Trump called the rioters "very special" and told them to "go home in peace". He was still repeating the false claims of voter fraud of the presidential election. The FBI has opened more than 170 investigations into the event. Members of the Oath Keepers anti-government paramilitary group were indicted on conspiracy charges for allegedly staging a planned mission in the Capitol. As of January 28, there have been 135 arrests involving the Capitol riot.

Congress cited his phone call on January 2 with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and alleged that Trump incited the storming of the U.S. Capitol after his numerous attempts to overturn the election. An article of impeachment charging Trump with incitement of insurrection against the U.S. Government-

ment was introduced to the House of Representatives. Pelosi gave Pence an ultimatum to invoke the 25 amendment to

assume the role of acting president within 24 hours or the House would proceed with impeachment proceedings. There were 232 votes in favor of impeachment and 197 votes against. Four did not vote. The House impeached Trump the second time on January 11. 10 Republicans split with their party and voted in favor to impeach Trump. Betha says that there will be a split in the Republican party. She said "I believe that there will be a split in the Republican party. In my opinion, it will be split into 2 main groups: the people who supported Trump's impeachment and conviction and the peo-

ple who were against Trump's impeachment and conviction. However, I am doubtful that the split will form new parties; I think it will just cause infighting." Time will tell if there is a split in the Republican party.

The trial in the Senate is scheduled to start on February 9. The president pro tempore of the Senate, Senator Patrick Leahy will preside of the Senate trial. A conviction would cause a second vote in which a simple majority in the Senate could permanently disqualify Trump from holding public offices and to run for re-election.



SPRING BREAK: 2021 EDITION

the Uproar

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Adya Praveen
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Spring Break is one of the most awaited periods of the year, when families and friends can get together and welcome the upcoming season. A much-needed getaway, spring break is loved by many students as they appreciate the break from the stress of every-day life. Even in early history, people have long been celebrating the arrival of spring by spending time with their loved ones and enjoying the warmer weather the season brings. Now, spring break is one of the busiest periods of the year to travel, as people travel all over the world to indulge in all the season has to offer.

This year at Madison Central High School, spring break is from March 15-March 19. Students are given one week of vacation to spend however they please. Students have differing

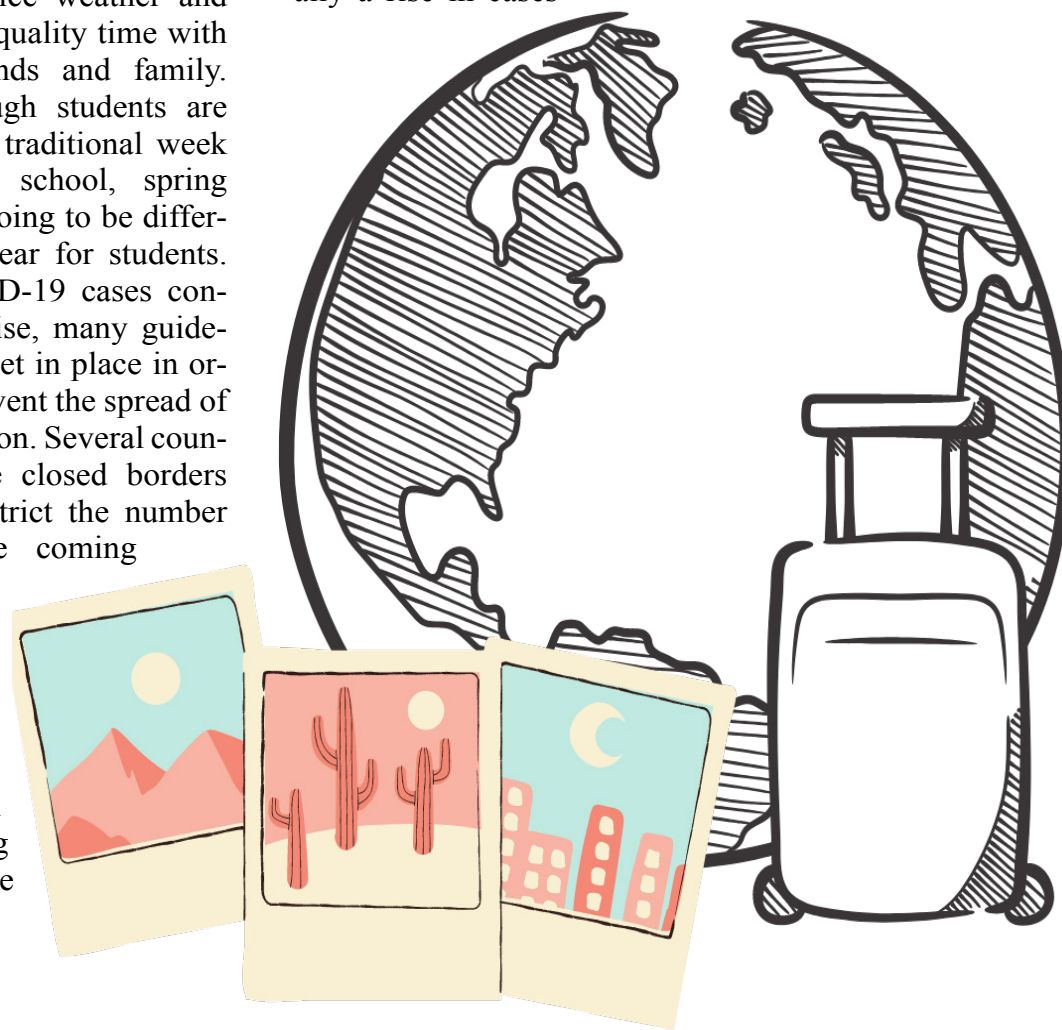
plans for the approaching holiday. Ford Copeland (11) said, "A few friends and I are going to Seaside. I am looking forward to a week without school." Other students plan on taking a different route. Olivia Phelps (10) said, "I plan on staying home this spring break and spending time with my family". Both plans, however, involve the students enjoying the nice weather and spending quality time with their friends and family.

Although students are given the traditional week off from school, spring break is going to be different this year for students. As COVID-19 cases continue to rise, many guidelines are set in place in order to prevent the spread of the infection. Several countries have closed borders which restrict the number of people coming in to the country, thereby preventing students from traveling to those

countries without meeting specific guidelines. However, even with the unconventional aspect, students are optimistic about what the future break holds. Mary Clinton (12) said, "Spring break is going to be different this year because there are going to be stricter traveling guidelines and precautions, but it is still going to be safe and fun". As there are usually a rise in cases

after major holidays and breaks, students need to enjoy their time, while also remaining safe from the virus.

Students look forward to spring break and plan to enjoy their time away from school. Even with the untraditional features that COVID-19 places on the break period, students remain optimistic and look ahead to have a safe and enjoyable break.



What's coming up next:

2/15
Distance Learning Day

2/23:
ACT testing for Juniors and Reville Reveal Show

2/25:
Progress Reports and Reville Reveal Show

3/15-19:
Spring Break

3/22:
Back to School

4/1:
60% Day

4/2:
No School

4/5:
Distance Learning Day

College planning during these uncertain times

Emily O'Reilly
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

This time of the year, seniors are getting their acceptance letters and applying for scholarships. During these unprecedented times, the Class of 2021 have to prepare for their future.

When asked where students can apply for scholarships, Counselor Jessica Peacock said, "There are several places to look for scholarships, so many that it can be very overwhelming. You will get most of your money from the school you are attending. Most schools offer a certain amount based on a GPA/ACT sliding scale. You do have to apply for this money though. You can find that application on

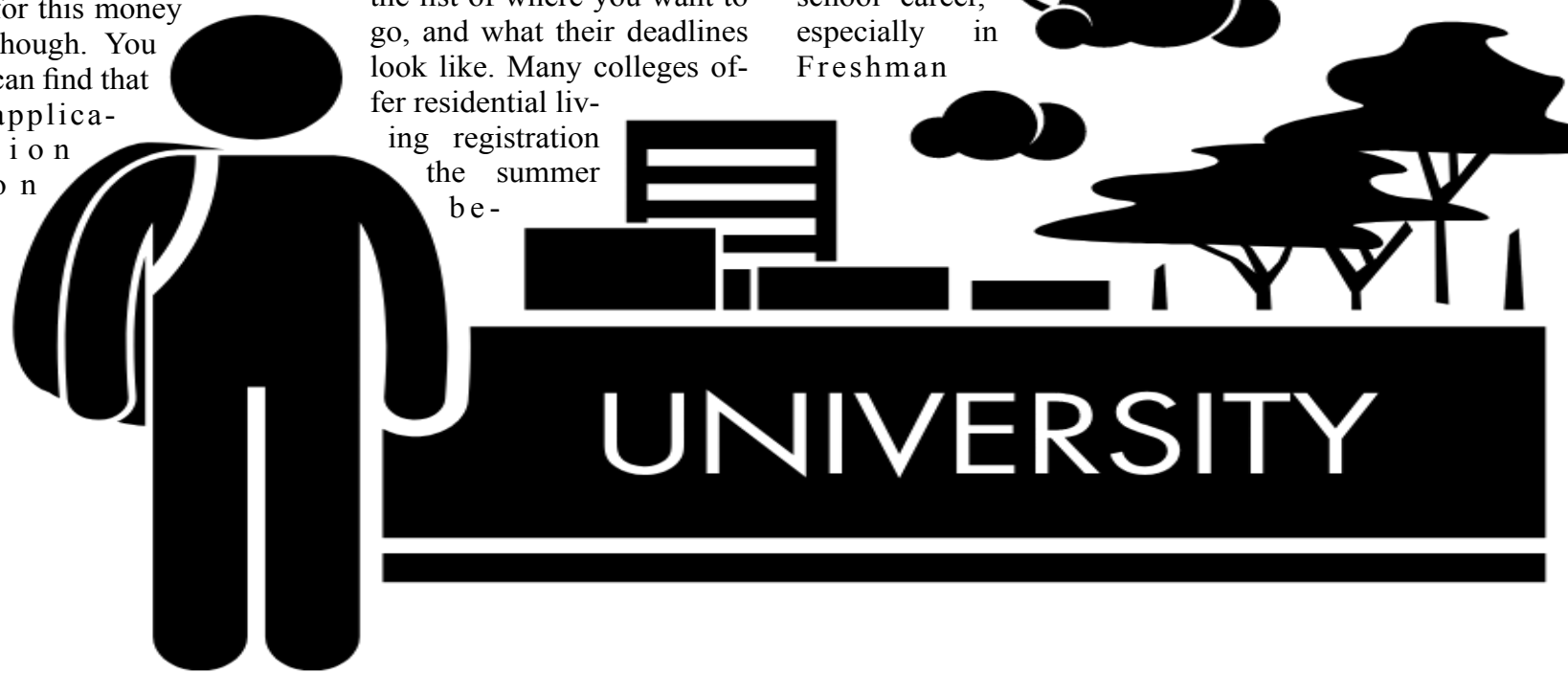
the school's website under 'scholarships', or 'freshman scholarships.'" The website mcjags.com is another place to look for scholarships. The counselors post scholarships as they arrive so have an eye out for them. Students must fill out a FAFSA before they can be awarded any scholarship money. The FAFSA will determine your eligibility for grants and loans. Go to "studentaid.gov" to apply for it.

Peacock also said, "Everyone's timeline is different. If you are looking to go to a 4 year out of state, you will need to prepare differently than those going to local community colleges. Overall, Start working on your resume now. You'll need it before you know it. Junior year you should really narrow down the list of where you want to go, and what their deadlines look like. Many colleges offer residential living registration the summer before

senior year. Take advantage of your college visits when colleges begin offering them again." Start looking at deadlines your junior year and apply to colleges your senior year. To apply for scholarships, Besty Hart (12), "used get2college, googled different scholarships, and [her] college's website." Go to get2college for services on how to get to college. They can help you with FASFA, offer free Act Prep classes, career interest survey's, and more.

It is always the right time to think of your future. The resources listed above will help you get to college. Sarah Leroux (11) said, "I have been building my resume throughout my high school career, especially in Freshman

and Sophomore year. During Junior year, I will start looking at and touring colleges and preparing my resume, and by senior year I will apply to colleges and scholarships to finally select a school. I also took a variety of AP Classes in high school to try to compensate for some of my college classes." Every year at MC is a year to prepare for college or what you want to do after high school. With Covid-19, college is uncertain. Only time will tell if colleges will continue the need for ACT and SAT scores. Would they keep the exception the Class of 2021 were given?



SPOTLIGHT OF ADVOCATES FOR CHANGE CLUB

Taylor Martin
STAFF WRITER

Advocates for Change is a part of a wide variety of clubs that Madison Central has to offer. The main focus of the club is “to bring awareness to different social issues in [the] community [and] to educate [its] members so they can be better advocates for what they’re passionate about,” according to Vice President Sneha Cherukuri (11).

Any student at Madison Central is able to be a part of the club, and it is a great way to become involved. The club meets twice a month, and they discuss a wide variety of topics from mental health to feminism and women’s rights. “Usually, one meeting a month is dedicated to a speaker and the other meeting is a discussion-style meeting where we talk as peers and discuss pressing issues,” stated Emma Christy (12), President of the club. The officers of Advocates for Change work hard to make sure that the members are active and engaged. They host virtual game nights, coffee talks, and they frequently ask their members “Questions of the Day.” In addition to this, members in Advocates for Change are able

to participate in food drives and attend virtual meetings with influential people. For example, in November members had the opportunity to attend a zoom meeting where Dominika Parry, the founder of 2CMississippi, talked to them about climate change and the environment.

All in all, Advocates for

Change is a club that offers a wide variety of topics for its members to discuss and be passionate about. Emma Christy (12), says her favorite part of the club is “meeting a lot of new people that I wouldn’t normally meet because we are in different grades, and my other favorite part is learning.” Learning and educating its members about

topics such as domestic violence, climate change, mental health, and disabled rights is something that the club is extremely enthusiastic about. Then, Sneha Cherukuri (11) said her favorite part “is seeing other members grow and become passionate about something.” She also said, “It is pretty amazing to

see someone else grow as a person, and I love being able to provide some opportunities to them to advocate for what they believe in.” Advocates for Change is a club that allows its members to explore sensitive topics, and they are able to discuss the true weight that many of these topics hold. Its members are given a voice and the resources to truly make a difference in the world.



MISSISSIPPI CHANGES ITS FLAG

James Phillips
STAFF WRITER

On November 3, 68% of voters voted to change the Mississippi state flag in a public referendum. The new flag will replace the 126-year-old banner that incorporated the Confederate battle flag into the corner. In 2001, a majority chose to keep the flag. 65% of the votes were to keep the flag and 35% voted in changing the flag. Chloe Gramling said, “I think it took so long for Mississippi to change its flag because of the history that came with. For a lot of people it was a symbol of our southern heritage and where we came from, but where we came from involved a lot of slavery and other things that many do not want to represent Mississippi.”

With racial justice campaigns sweeping 2020 and the Black Lives Matter marches, a new call to change occurred. State lawmakers voted to replace the flag on June 5, with the state commission choosing “The New Magnolia.”

“The New Magnolia,” designed by Rocky Vaughan, will be the new state flag. The new flag is anchored by a magnolia blossom in the center-

state flower of Mississippi. 20 stars circle the magnolia, representing Mississippi’s admission as the 20th state. Red, gold and blue stripes cover the flag as well. The phrase “In God We Trust” is at the base of the circle and a five-point star represents the Indigenous tribes who lived on the land before

Mississippi. There have been positive responses to the new flag change. Gramling said, “I love the new flag and I’m glad we could get some positive change in our growing world.” She and other Mississippians are glad for the change in the right direction.

Governor Tate Reeves says “This is not a political

moment to me, but a solemn occasion to lead our Mississippi family to come together to be reconciled and to move on.” The new state flag is a sense of rebirth and hope for change.



AFJROTC replaces the old state flag with new on January 21, 2021 (Photo by Payton Abner).

TRYING TIKTOK RECIPES

The Uproar
STAFF WRITERS

TORTILLA WRAP



The tortilla wrap hack is a fun take on a typical quesadilla or burrito. In order to make the tortilla wrap, make a cut from the center of a tortilla to the outside edge. Then in each fourth of the tortilla, put ingredients like chicken, lettuce, cheese, and a sauce of choice. Finally, fold each quadrant over beginning with the side closest to the cut and put it on a pan to heat up. This is a creative, trendy recipe that is worth a try.

Rating: 8/10

CAKE POPS



On the snow day, I decided to try making cake pops from a video I saw on TikTok. They looked so yummy, and I was so excited to get started. I actually messed up mid-recipe because of something I didn't pay attention to, but that didn't stop me from finishing the job. I went back to the store and got more of the ingredient that I needed, and I finished them. My friends and family loved them, and they turned out wonderful. It was definitely a longer process that I had originally hoped, but the results were worth it.

Rating: 10/10

TWO INGREDIENT FUDGE



: One recipe that I saw many people try on TikTok was the two ingredient fudge. All you need is a container of frosting and a container of peanut butter. You melt both of them down until they are a liquid-like consistency, and then you mix them together. Once the frosting and peanut butter is well combined, you put the mixture in a container and place it in the refrigerator to harden. Then after a while, you have the easiest and the yummiest fudge. When I tried it, the peanut butter had a very prominent taste, so - if you aren't a fan of that - I would recommend using something like Nutella instead. However, overall, I thought it was very delicious.

Rating: 9/10

STUFFED JALAPENOS WITH CREAM CHEESE AND TAKIS



I made the jalapeño takis that have been trending all over TikTok. I initially saw the trend and immediately wanted to try it because I love spicy food. It was a very simple recipe, as it only requires three ingredients: jalapeños, cream cheese, and takis. I would say the hardest part was deseeding the jalapeños, but other than that, it was very easy to make. Taste wise, it had a very unique flavor. It wasn't super spicy, which was what I was looking forward to. I think the cream cheese may have balanced it out. It also didn't look the most appetizing, but overall it honestly didn't taste bad. It had a more tangy flavor than what I was expecting. You had to get the perfect ratio of the ingredients, however, or else the ingredients wouldn't all fit together.

RatingL 6.5/10

A REVIEW OF ALBUMS AND SINGLES

Mary Addison Loving BUSINESS MANAGER

During 2020, artists have had a lot of time on their hands due to the many things COVID-19 has cancelled for artists and songwriters. They have had a lot of free time, and some were able to set aside that time to create and make more music.

Taylor Swift was an artist that stood out in her productivity over quarantine. She first released her album, *Folklore*, in July of 2020. The main mood of *Folklore* is very emotional and indie inspired. Although it doesn't contain as many upbeat songs as her other albums do, listeners can connect to the slower side of Swift that hasn't been apparent since some of her earlier albums.

Swift also used her time in quarantine to create the extremely creative and surprising album, *Evermore*. After Swift quickly released her album *Folklore*, she got to work and produced *Evermore* about six months later. It is a collection of seventeen new songs that serve as a sequel to the *Folklore* album, and as Swift described it, *Folklore's* "sister record." *Evermore* introduces a whole new cast of characters that the songs describe and explain. The album connects the listeners to places they have never been and people they will never meet. Swift

did a great job of making the album as a whole feel familiar if connected with the *Folklore* album.

Former Disney star Olivia Rodrigo released her debut single "Driver's License" in January, and it very rapidly gained popularity. Quickly after it was released, Spotify announced that the emotional song about teenage heartbreak broke the record for most streams of a particular song in one week, and it has now surpassed one hundred million streams. There was also a lot of drama surrounding the song that concerned Rodrigo's past relationship with Joshua Bassett, and that attracted many listeners that were intrigued in the drama. Additionally, there are many trends with the song that emerged on TikTok. So, it is very safe to say that the song has blown up on most platforms and has had a very successful debut.

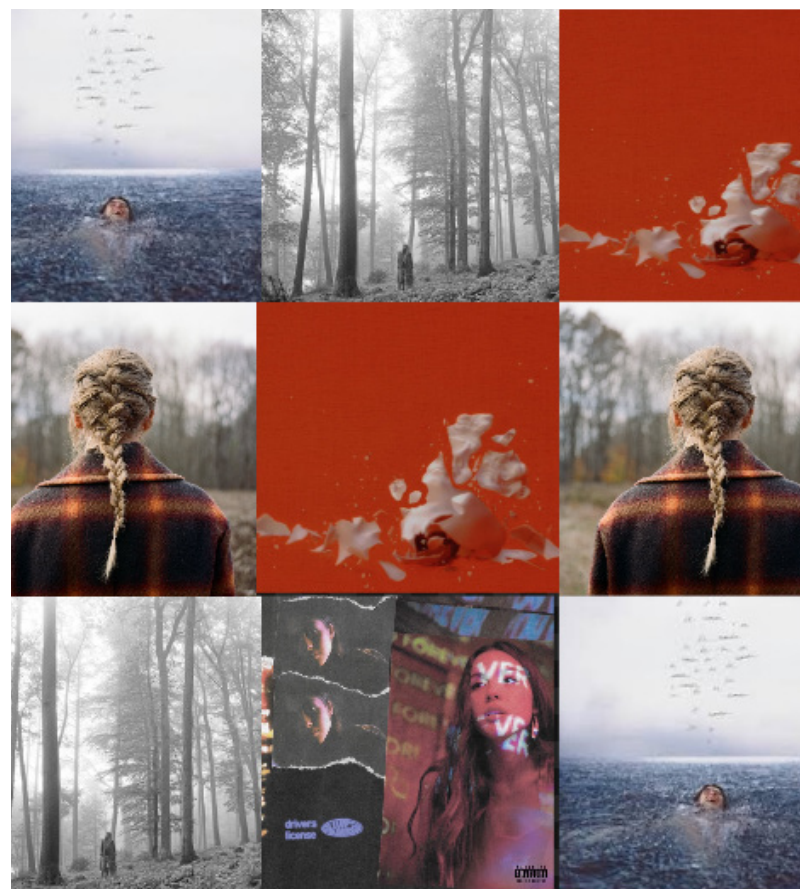
One of the most popular album releases of 2021 is Morgan Wallen's *Dangerous: The Double Album*. Wallen worked on perfecting his double album for three years, and through the 30 songs on the album, it contains just about every tone of country music. This album is full of clever lines that make listening to it entertaining and easy. It has reached over 240 million streams and has set an astonishing new country streaming record.

Billie Eilish was in quarantine, she created the song, "Therefore I Am." It was released on November 13, 2020, and there are many opinions about how the song should be interpreted. However, in an interview with Zane Lowe

from Apple Music Eilish said she felt that the song should be, "very, very up for interpretation." Eilish revealed that she wanted this song to be interpreted by the individual listener.

Shawn Mendes released his fourth studio album, *Wonder*, in December of 2020. Although some listeners think that Mendes's *Wonder* album is less polished than some of his other albums, it is still filled with many great songs about mental health, security in relationships, and toxic masculinity. Through the *Wonder* album, Shawn Mendes immensely communicates his love for his girlfriend, Camilla Cabello. In addition to the album, Mendes partnered with Netflix to produce a film called "Shawn Mendes: In Wonder" that depicts the making of the album. Both the album and the film have proved to have been very successful, thought provoking, and inspiring.

Through the year 2020, songwriters have had many opportunities to create and release new music. Most were forced to isolate, and as a result, there were many new, successful albums and songs recently released.



Concrete Rose book review

Emily O'Reilly EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

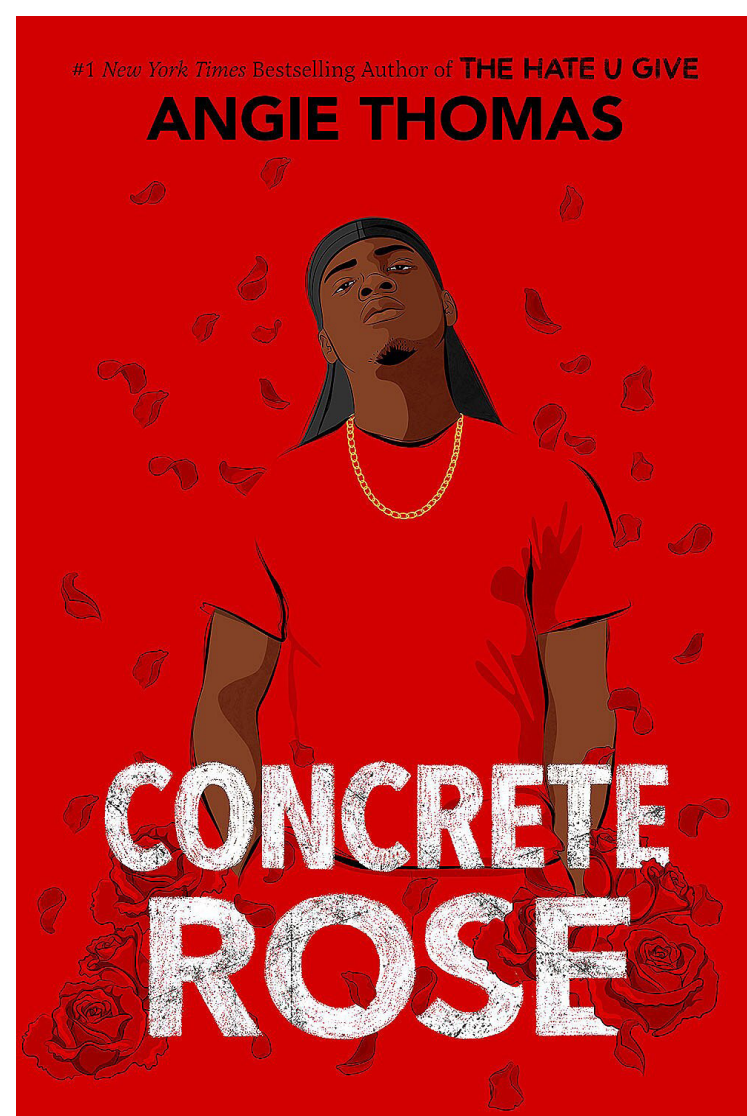
Concrete Rose by Angie Thomas transports the readers to the past. It is the prequel to Thomas' bestseller *The Hate U Give*, which followed teenager Starr Carter navigating the world after she witnessed her friend get shot and killed by a police officer. It follows the beloved characters from Thomas's *The Hate U Give*. *Concrete Rose* follows Maverick, Starr's father, as a 17-year-old high school senior. He is also a member of the King Lords gang in Garden Heights.

1998 is when the book begins. Maverick is a son of a poor mother and a father who is serv-

ing a lengthy prison sentence. Because his father is in jail, Maverick has inherited a gang affiliation. Members are protected from rival gangs and the risks of their lifestyle. To leave a gang, a member must risk his freedom or his life. Maverick has the dilemma of taking the risk or not when he finds out he is to be a father. He gives up dealing drugs, and when faced with the financial pressures, the neighborhood market owner Mr. Wyatt offers him a job. His father tells him he must weigh the cost of the demands of the street to those he loves most.

Thomas thrusts Maverick into lost after loss, the stakes higher each time. He must see himself as not following the family legacy, but as a

parent focusing on the future. A person's ability to blossom is determined in part by his own choices but also by the actions of his community. Regardless of mistakes made, beauty can break through the concrete and bloom.



MC Swings into a new softball season

Mary Addison Loving BUSINESS MANAGER

Due to the school shut down last March, all of the spring sports at Madison Central were cut short. One team, in particular, that is very excited and eager to play again is our softball team. They have been working and practicing very hard to be prepared and ready for the upcoming season.

Due to the way last year's season ended, many are just ready and excited to get to play together again. Taylor Martin (11) said, "I think we are all just looking forward to the chance of having a full season this year. I think we were all disappointed with the way last year ended, so we're all just ready to play again." Many players were left frustrated with the abrupt ending of last year's season, so they are looking forward to playing again this year. Claire Boykin (10) said,

"One of the best feelings is cheering on our teammates in the dugout and I can't wait for us to be able to do that again soon." The team is very excited to play together and to get to play against other teams and opponents.

Many precautions have to be taken this season due to the pandemic.

The team has been forced to change and adapt to stay healthy, safe, and able to play. Coach Stokes said, "We are wearing masks and splitting into smaller groups to do certain activities. We are also spacing out the number of girls that are allowed in the locker room at a time and adhering to social distancing whenever possible." The team is doing

their part to make sure their season can be played. They are doing what's best for the team's health as a whole and prioritizing safety over their preferences while preparing for the upcoming season.

The team has been practicing a lot in order to be as ready as they can be for the season. Boykin (10) said, "To prepare for this season, we've been spending lots of

time in the batting cage and weight room focusing on things that we feel like we need to work on from last season." They are looking at ways to improve from the previous season and focusing on improvement. They are concentrating on the small things so that they can be one step ahead of everyone else.

Our softball team

has been working extremely hard while preparing for this season. Although the season didn't end how they wanted last year, they are focusing on making this season as good as it can be. They are looking ahead and are ready for all of the exciting opportunities the upcoming season will bring.



Softball Team (2019-2020) in a Huddle Pregame (photo courtesy of Taylor Martin)

A NEW SEASON OF TENNIS IS UPON US

Rowan Gentry STAFF WRITER

The 2020-2021 Madison Central tennis team has certainly had to overcome many obstacles thrown at them regarding COVID-19. Although the virus has caused an upset and disrupted the season, it still must go on. Preparation for the season has still gone as it normally goes this year thus far. The members of the team must still work together and put in hard work and effort to achieve their goals.

Preparation for matches is one of the most important things about the sport and must be approached with a certain mindset in order to be successful. When Alexa Ainsworth (10) was asked how she prepares for a match she stated, "In the fall we go to the healthplex for 8th block and workout. We also have to keep track with how many hours we hit a month. In the second semester, we hit everyday until 4:30." Many hours of sweat and hard work is put in throughout the year for the tennis team. Another member of the team, Ann Cabot Stockett (12) stated, "We have

been practicing during our tennis block and also after school. We have also been working out at the healthplex since the beginning of the year as a team. And we play matches with each other for practice on the weekends sometimes." Despite Covid-19 setting back the team, all of its members treat this year no differently in the aspect of hard work.

Covid-19 has forced many changes to occur with athletics in the Jungle. Many sport's seasons were cut short last year because of the rapid increase in cases. Alexa Ainsworth (10) stated, "Our season has been different this year because we sadly didn't have much of a season last year. And we aren't sure if we can take a team trip to Mobile anymore." Many teams are limited to the amount of bonding and team building they are allowed to do, but it won't stop them from persevering and making the most out of what they have been offered. Aiden Usry (10) stated, "We have had to adjust the practice schedule and have to do more after school practice, but other than that we have tried to keep everything as close to normal as we can." Normalcy is something that everyone wants to regain back in

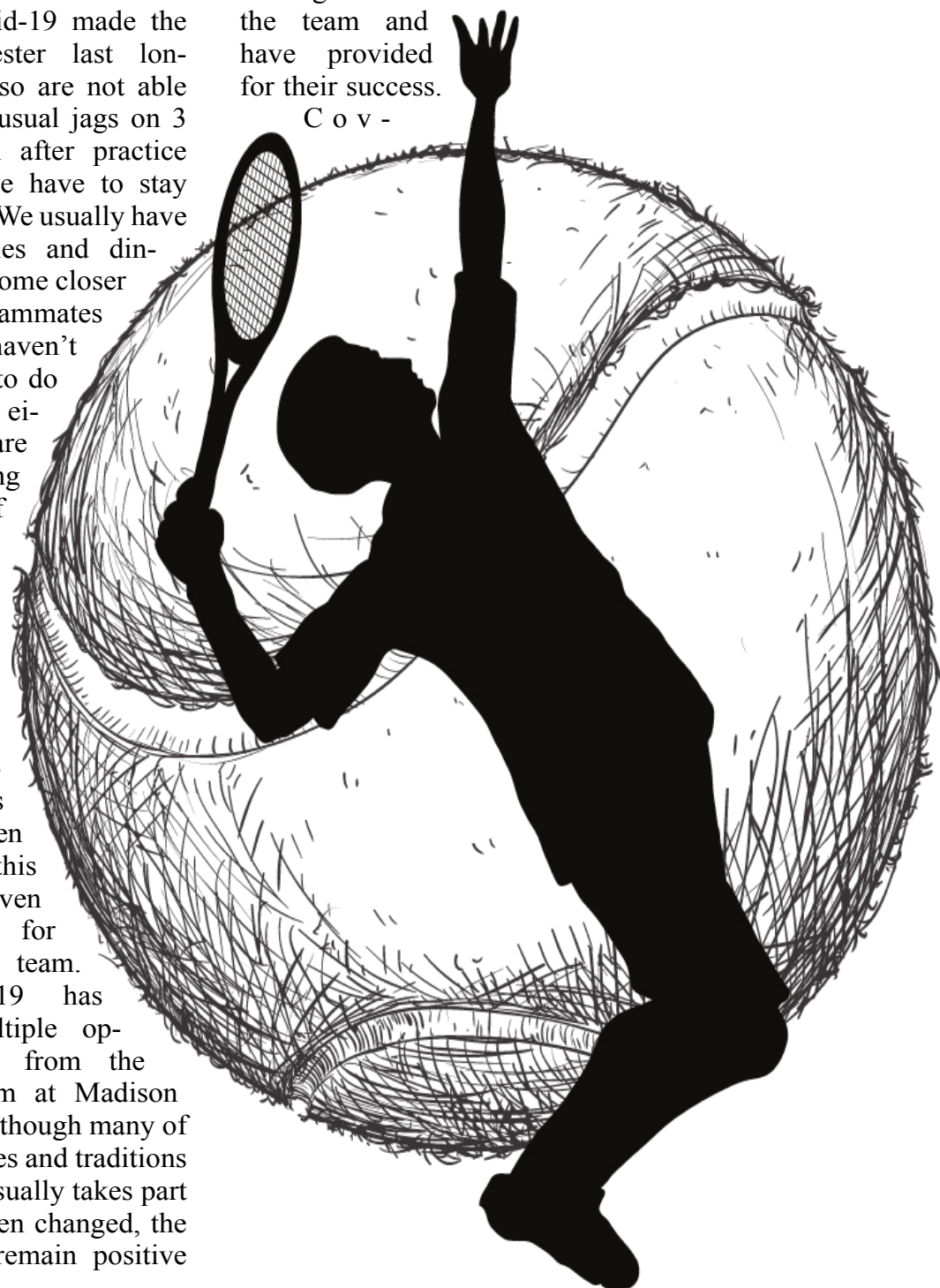
this pandemic but must be approached with the right safety precautions. Ann Cabot Stockett (12) also said, "We haven't been able to practice as much since Covid-19 made the first semester last longer. We also are not able to do our usual jags on 3 breakdown after practice because we have to stay distanced. We usually have team parties and dinners to become closer with our teammates and we haven't been able to do any of that either. We are still making the best of everything and looking forward to our season this year!" Many traditions have been altered this year or even cut out for the tennis team.

Covid-19 has taken multiple opportunities from the tennis team at Madison Central. Although many of the practices and traditions the team usually takes part in have been changed, the members remain positive

during this time of despair. They all keep their head up and hope for the best for their upcoming season this year. Many hours of practice have gone into the team and have provided for their success.

C o v -

id-19 may not have been the most ideal year, but they are putting their best foot forward for the upcoming season.



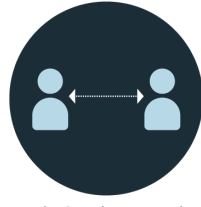
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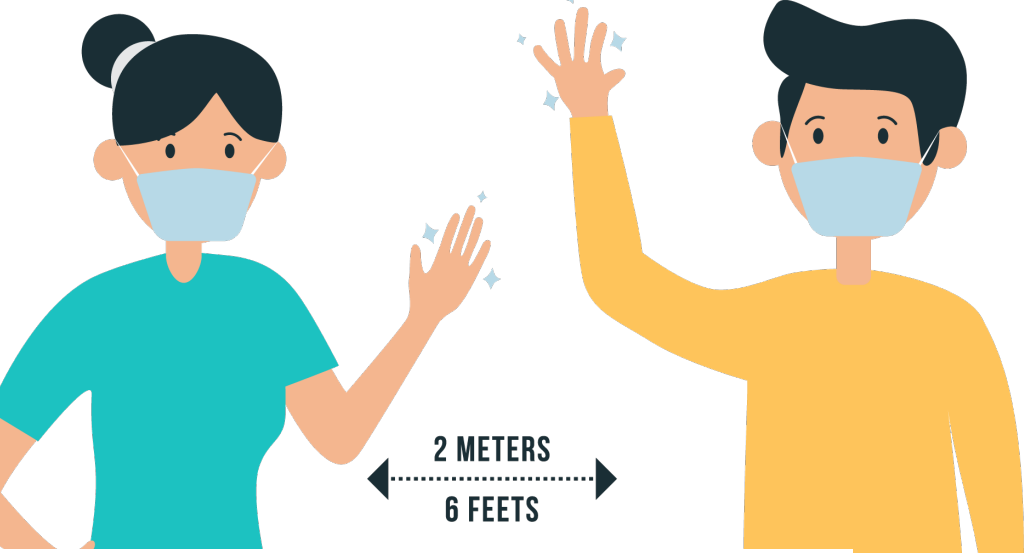
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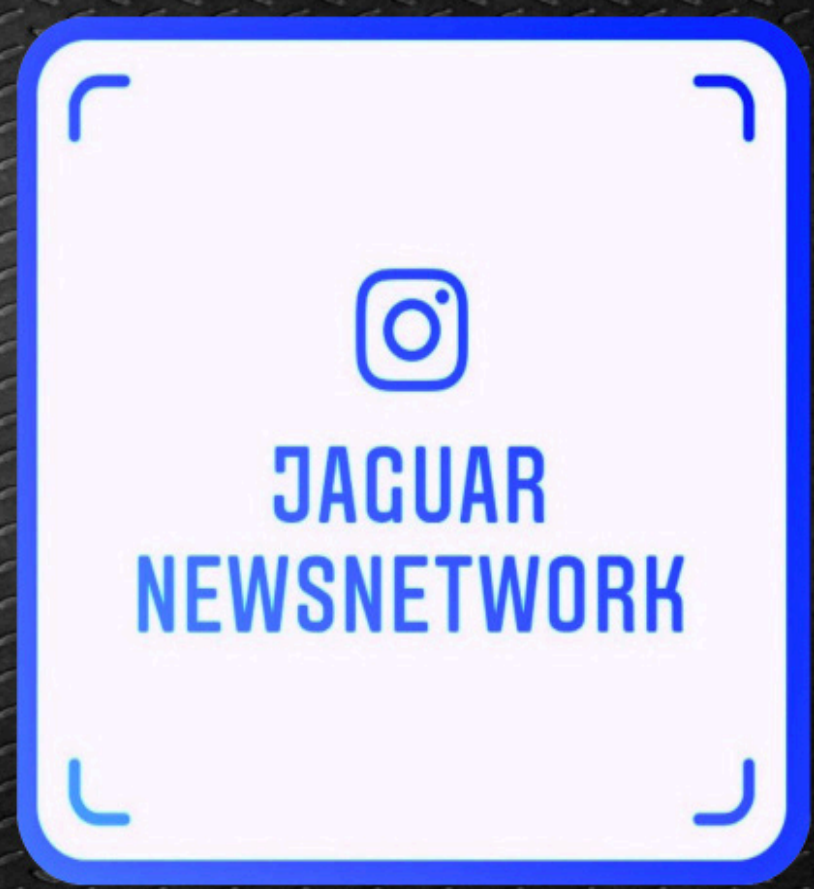
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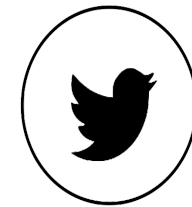
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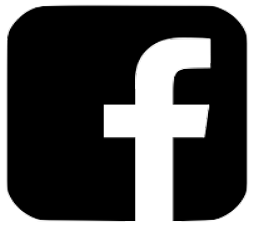
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