



Go get all of the need-to-know information about *Seussical the Musical* on page 6. Photo By: Elizabeth Barton *Uproar*



Check out the dance team on page 4. Photo By: Katie King *Uproar*

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Calendar
of events

October

10/31-11/5-
Seussical

November

11/8- 11/11-
MS Youth
Legislature

11/9- Veteran's
Day Program

11/13- Fall
Choir Concert

11/20-11/24-
Thanksgiving
Break

December

12/2- Christmas
Parade

12/4- Who's
Who

12/9-
Madgrigal
Dinner



Homecoming Queen, Brooke Thomas (12), poses with Mary Morgan Williams (10) as “Ginger Jag”. Photo by: Katie King *Uproar*

Madison Central celebrates ‘Home Sweet Homecoming’

Hayden Ray
STAFF WRITER

Avid Jaguars will tell you there is no better homecoming week than homecoming week in the Jungle. The atmosphere of the Jungle during homecoming is overwhelming, but it is filled with a lot of fun and excitement. Homecoming is a long week packed with activities for everyone to show Jaguar spirit. Throughout the week, dress-up days, a community wide pep rally, class pictures, Minute to Win it Olympics, class lunches, a pep rally, a football game, and a homecoming dance all occur to fill the school with excitement. Madison Central’s 2017 Homecoming theme was “Home Sweet Homecoming,” and it aimed to incorporate the true heart of Jaguar spirit. To bring back the original Jaguar spirit, everything was about blue and orange, Madison Central, the Jungle, the Jaguars, and community. The students participate in dress-up days. All the dress-

up days coordinated to the theme. “My favorite dress up day was on Thursday when the sophomores dress up as kindergartners, the juniors dress up as nerds, and the seniors dress up as senior citizens. This was my favorite day because everyone gets involved, and it’s fun to see what everyone put together for their outfits,” explained McKenna Goddard (10). On Thursday night, MC coordinated a community wide pep rally. This pep rally promoted unity within the community and all of the “Jag-zone” feeder schools. The pep rally welcomed all students, adults, and faculty from the Jaguar community to share their Jaguar pride with each other. It included face painting with the cheerleaders, pictures with the Jaguar, football team, dancers, and cheerleader, a variety of foods, a performance from the cheerleaders and dance team, and a speech from Coach Anthony Hart. Friday was a very exciting and fun filled day for the school. Friday was spirit

day, so students dressed up in their school colors for their respective grade. First block consisted of a class picture in the commons. During second block, the students walked down to the football field for Minute to Win It Olympics. Minute to Win It includes a selection of games such as the water balloon toss, skin the snake, over and under with a sponge, and the hula hoop race. Luke Little (12) said, “My favorite game in Minute to Win it is the shoe treasure hunt. It’s very chaotic, so it’s fun to watch. Minute to Win It is fun because you are trying to beat the other classes.” (Winners earn points in each game which adds to their grade’s homecoming points for the week. It is truly the battle of the grades.) During third block, each grade was called to an area outside in front of the school to eat with respective classes. The homecoming pep rally was held fourth block. Each grade’s section was decorated with a theme that the Student Government Association put together on

Thursday night. The pep rally consisted of cheers, dances, a drumline performance, class yells, and more. Nelson Washington (12) said, “I love the drumline during the pep rally because I like their energy. It gets me and the rest of the students pumped up.” The homecoming court put together a dance to do at the pep rally. The spirit stick was awarded to the seniors. At the Homecoming football game, the MC Jaguars went against the Provine Rams. The game ended with a score of 38-6, putting the Jags on top. During

halftime, the homecoming court was presented, and Brooke Thomas (12) was crowned homecoming queen. The homecoming dance falls right after the game. The dance was set up and put on all by SGA. The dance is a fun night filled with decorations, friends, singing and dancing, a DJ, and food and beverages. Claire Iupe (11) said she loves getting dressed up with her friends and taking pictures together then getting to spend the rest of her night dancing away with all her friends.



Madasine Brown (11) and Tommy West (12) having fun at the 2017 Homecoming dance. Photo by: Ashton Giesecke *Uproar*

Recent natural disasters impact many

Jillian Russell
STAFF WRITER

Recent hurricanes and earthquakes recorded this fall have been some of the strongest and most catastrophic natural events to occur in decades. However, the United States and other affected countries have been able to support each other through these shattering events. Although these events have wreaked havoc over many homes, they have also been able to unify countries and cities alike. Hurricane Irma was an extremely powerful Category five major hurricane. Reaching its peak of intensity over the British Virgin Islands on September 6, making it the strongest observed hurricane in the Atlantic since 2005. Hurricane Irma formed on August 30, 2017 and dissipated September 16, 2017. USA Today called it the worst hurricane to land on the U.S. since Katrina in 2005. Irma made landfall in the mainland U.S. in a state that is home to more than 20 million people. However, Florida did not break; roughly 20 million people lost power and seven million were evacuated or displaced, and consequently 600 shelters opened up across the state. “I have friends that live in Florida and many of them had to evacuate, but none of their houses were destroyed too badly and lots of them were able to get power back as well,” Kayla Adams (11) stated. Over 34,000 federal government forces were deployed to help with Irma’s effects. From pulling survivors out of the water to cooking hot meals, faith based groups and local businesses are continuing to help those in need. Hurricane Maria formed September 16, 2017 and dissipated October 3, 2017. As of October 14, there were 68 direct fatalities. Hurricane Maria is regarded as one of the most catastrophic natural disasters on record. It caused damage mainly in the Northeastern Caribbean causing major humanitarian crisis in

Puerto Rico. According to The Weather Channel, Maria destroyed 80 percent of Puerto Rico’s agricultural industry. Those without electricity has reached about 1.57 million customers in Puerto Rico, and they are predicted to remain without power for up to 10 months. After causing major devastation in the Caribbean, Hurricane Maria did take a turn north towards the east coast. By the time it hit the U.S. it was a Category one storm. East coast states experienced some tropical storm conditions including heavy rain and dangerous surf, but these were transcendent compared to what the Caribbean islands experienced. Three radical earthquakes hit Mexico in September. On September 8, a magnitude-8.1 earthquake struck 54 miles southwest of the Mexico-Guatemala border. Eleven days later, a magnitude-7.1 struck near Mexico City. On September 22 a magnitude-4.1 hit just outside Pijijiapan. While Mexico’s position along major tectonic fault lines makes it a beacon for seismic activity, the first two earthquakes have been the most devastating since 1985. Over 230 people have been reported dead and more than 40 buildings completely collapsed in Mexico City. “We don’t really think about earthquakes a lot because living in Mississippi we aren’t really affected but seeing all of the pictures of what Mexico experienced made me thankful for our safe environment,” Emma Grace Bryans (10) said. After witnessing the hardships endured over the last couple of months by those affected by such natural disasters, many people have participated in canned-food drives, school supply drives, or donated money to different charities to help people overseas or in the United States recover from these devastations. Even though a tremendous amount of help has been given, it is going to take several years for these countries to fully recover from the aftermath of record-breaking hurricanes and earthquakes.



A geographical image shows the true nature of intense hurricanes. Photo from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA)

Rohingya people suffer due to genocide

Vanessa Anguiano
STAFF WRITER


Genocide is an issue that has been around for thousands of years. It can be described as a cruel act of killing a large group of people, especially those in a particular ethnic group or a particular nation. Rohingya people in Myanmar are battling this situation. These people have been beaten, shot at, and tortured. “I feel like this is an awful issue that needs to be solved. No one should be killed or tortured just because of what their ethnicity is. People who are Muslims should not be killed,” Dasha Burnside (10) stated. This particular genocide, similar to its many predecessors, has caused much controversy, and thousands of people are against it. This also caused Myanmar to be accused of committing crimes against humanity by rights group. The persecution of Muslims has happened for decades, but recently thousands of Muslim people have died in Myanmar in the past month due to a genocide attacking the core of the Rohingya peoples. The Myanmar army has burned thousands of villages, and they have killed thousands of innocent women, children, and men. The military is also torturing these people and destroying everything that belongs to them. The Rohingya, an ethnic Muslim minority group, fear for what could happen to their villages, families, and everything they love. Myanmar’s security forces

have been accused of committing many violations and “crimes against humanity,” including murder, forced deportation, and persecution of the Rohingya. “People today are judgemental and automatically assume someone is bad just because what they believe in. They automatically want to get rid of the problem by using violence. I am totally against it. I think genocide is wrong and inhumane, and I think people should find another way to solve their differences,” Allie Moore (11) stated. During an interview for CNN, Nobin Shuna, a refugee, explains that the military asked everyone to stay inside their houses, “if we stay inside then they set our houses on fire, shooting at us or slaughtering us,” Nobin Shuna remarked. This issue has forced many people to leave their homes searching for help. Around 440,000 Rohingya people have fled to Bangladesh. According to Newsweek, some 40 percent of Rohingya villages are now unoccupied due to this issue. Even though these people are now safe from Myanmar officials in Bangladesh, they are undergoing serious starvation, physical pain, and traumatization. Some of these refugees stated that they have no rights and that no Rohingya is safe in Myanmar. People who have made it to Bangladesh are considered lucky; many other people who have tried to escape have been killed and beaten brutally. Innocent Rohingya people who get tortured just because they are Muslims are not only get beaten by the Myanmar

military and security forces, but they are also beaten and killed by Buddhists, just because of their beliefs. Aung San Suu Kyi, a democracy activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner who fought to bring democracy to military-ruled Myanmar and became a symbol of peace resistance in the face of oppression, has been strongly criticized. According to *Vox.com*, Suu Kyi’s reputation has rapidly disintegrated due to her refusal to speak out and do something about the genocide happening in her home country of Myanmar. Many people are disappointed because they saw her as a hero, “She has a responsibility as a political and moral responsibility to speak out to stem this violence. She hasn’t and that is hugely disappointing,” Olof Blomqvist, refugee of the Myanmar genocide, stated during an interview for *Vox.com*. According to CNN “She’s a Nobel Peace Prize winner and what it seems is happening is that she does care about peace for Buddhist, but not for the Rohingya.” Even though Rohingya people are partially safe, and live peacefully in Bangladesh, they will never forget the faces of those people who died due to genocide. The difference in religious beliefs still cause inexcusable issues such as genocide. “I don’t think it is right to kill people just for standing up for what they believe in. Everybody has the right to believe whatever they want to, and it does not matter how different our beliefs are. We should all understand and respect one another,” Hunter Wolfe (12) stated.



The Myanmar flag now represents the attack of Rohingya people. Drawing by Vanesa Anguiano Up-roar



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Mississippi CPS Tries to Foster Change

Maeve Rigney
WEBSITE MANAGER

Twenty pounds is the weight of something small. It is the weight of a tiny dog, a dining chair, or the lightest dumbbell at the gym. It was also the weight of a profoundly malnourished four-year-old girl. The workers at the emergency shelter released that when the young girl, Olivia Y., was brought, they were quick to notice that she had been severely neglected, abused, and underfed. They discovered that she had lived in several homes, one of which included the home of a convicted rapist. All of this happened while Olivia was a ward of the state. Children in foster care are reported to undergo a number of struggles in life. The National Center for Youth Law said that foster children are more likely to be incarcerated and struggle with mental health issues. For Olivia, and many other children in Mississippi’s foster care program, many of the problems they face are caused by the state. Olivia’s situation caught the attention of an activist group, Children’s Rights. In 2004, the advocacy group sued the state of Mississippi for maltreatment of children under their care, according to the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS). Levi Donelson (11) said, “My opinion on the foster care system is that it needs to undergo a serious reform.” The court agreed. It ruled against the state in the 2004 case *Olivia v. Barbour*. Children’s Rights used state data from 2001 to determine that over 6,200 reports of abuse in the system were never investigated by Mississippi social workers. The advocacy group, Children’s Rights, stated that a settlement was reached in 2008, and a modified settlement was agreed to in 2012. In the settlements, Mississippi

agreed to make steep changes and pledged to hire more workers and make improvements so more children would not fall through the cracks. According to the New York Times, in July 2015, a contempt motion was filed by the plaintiffs. In court, defendants of Mississippi Child Protection Services recognized, under oath, that they had not complied with the settlement they agreed to seven years ago. The court monitor’s progress report saw that only 36 percent of maltreatment investigations were completed within 30 days. They also shuffled children through an unnecessary amount of homes and government institutions. The Jackson Free Press documented the story of Jamison J. in 2013. Jamison had lived in 28 different foster homes, been institutionalized in a mental health center, given drugs for mental disorders he did not have, and was put in a juvenile detention center, despite never having been charged or convicted with a crime. The Times states that this contempt of court put Mississippi closer than any other state to having its foster care system taken over by the federal government. Riley Houston (12) thinks that this is the right decision. “I think if the federal government is more competent than the state has been at taking care of the foster care system, they should take over. They’ve been given chances to improve.” The foster care system (MDCPS), separate from the Mississippi Department of Human Services (MDHS), provided new leadership to the program. Governor Phil Bryant hired former State Supreme Court Justice David Chandler to head the system. The system needed serious reform, which costs a lot of money. Chandler recognized this, and his department asked the Mississippi State Legislature for \$34.5 million. Most of the money was planned to go towards hiring more workers. Chandler told the Clarion-Ledger that the state needed to offer more money to employees so

Exotic pets create problems

Ashton Giesecke
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

To animal lovers, exotic animals make luxurious pets. From birds to snakes to sugar gliders, some love to own these unique critters. However, there are many consequences to owning exotic pets, including the destruction of entire ecosystems or the endangering of species. Animal lovers may not realize the unintentional harm they are doing by owning these types of pets. When pets come to mind, people often think of dogs, cats, goldfish, rabbits, hamsters, or even mice and horses. However, there are pets as extreme as a tiger or macaw. More often than not, these types of animals will be illegally smuggled into the United States and bought by those who do not or cannot properly care for them. According to *onegreenplanet.org*, there is a widespread international market for capturing and selling these animals. One of the most commonly smuggled pets is South American birds, such as the green macaw. Zoology teacher Ken Hackman stated that these poachers smuggle birds in extremely cruel ways. “Many that experienced and qualified employees would not leave the state for a job that offered more money. The legislature responded by offering 3 million, which is much less than the proposed 34.5 million. Despite this unexpected receipt of funds, the program has been able to hire 415 more workers and have reduced the number of miss-



Hackman keeps many tanks of exotic animals in his classroom; he has a permit. Photo by: Ashton Giesecke *Uproar*

smuggling. Maddie Heath (12) pointed out that “if it’s illegal for [poached birds] to leave the country, then there is a reason.” Heath also stated that poaching “seems to be more of a profitable gain on the [poacher’s] part rather than the animal’s.” Another problem that comes from owning exotic pets is the endangering of species of animals. Acting children in their care. This year, there are more foster children in Mississippi than ever before. Some are Madison Central students. US News reported that the program is no longer on the verge of federal takeover and that serious improvements are being made.

cording to *onegreenplanet.org*, once plentiful species, such as green macaws and seahorses, are quickly becoming endangered. Sugar glider populations are also decreasing because they are a desired pet. These animals can be placed on the market with “prices up to \$350.” In addition to endangering entire species, owning an exotic animal can also destroy entire ecosystems. “Once animals are introduced into foreign habitats whether intentionally or not, they create great problems as they have no natural enemies to keep them in check,” Hackman explained. One such example of this is the lionfish, a popular exotic fish originating from the Indian Ocean. Lionfish are now thriving in waters they did not previously inhabit, and are demolishing coral reefs. More often than not, exotic pets are adopted and consequently neglected by their owners. According to the *humansociety.org*, people want to buy exotic pets when they are adorable babies. However, when they grow up, their wild instincts take over, and they become dangerous. Owners will be attacked and injured by their pets; this is when owners often release their pets in the wild or put them back into the illegal pet trade. “Most exotic pets belong where they live naturally and nowhere else,” stated Hackman. Nicholas Carter (10) believes that people should be able to own exotic pets “as long as they take care of them.” Carter also stated, “The person should have a permit to be able to own them.” Hackman disagrees that owners should not be able to keep exotic animals at all. However, if one wants to own an exotic pet, Hackman explains they should be kept indoors and should be neutered. Owners should “purchase only from reputable dealers,” and make sure to only keep pets that will not be able to survive in the Mississippi environment. Pet owners hold a responsibility to ensure their respective pets are safe and protected, even if it demands a sacrifice to ensure the success of exotic animals.

New science leads way to building babies

Adele Russell
STAFF WRITER

According to Merriam Webster, gene editing is the use of biotechnological techniques to make changes to specific DNA sequences in the genome of a living organism. Gene editing can be used to add, subtract, or repair a certain DNA sequence. An enzyme cuts the DNA at a specific sequence, and when this cut is repaired by the cell a change or edit is made to the sequence. According to Beth Hawkins, genetics teacher at Madison Central, “Gene editing shows a lot of promise to cure genetic diseases.” Scientists have only used gene editing on human embryos

experimentally. However, if process of eliminating genes that cause disease is established, doctors could treat a wide range of illnesses from heart disease to Alzheimer’s. According to National Geographic, gene therapy is now being used to treat eye disease, and early trials suggest that it may be able to treat the blood disorders, beta thalassemia, and sickle cell anemia. A CRISPR is a genetic engineering tool that uses a CRISPR sequence of DNA and its associated protein to edit the base pairs of a gene. CRISPR modification allows permanent changes to genes within organisms. This breakthrough in gene editing tool has made several things possible. Ac-

cording to NBC, with the help of the CRISPR method, scientists successfully used gene editing to completely extract HIV from a living organism, developed semi-synthetic organisms, used CRISPR to successfully target the “command center” of cancer, slowed the growth of cancerous cells, made superbugs kill themselves, made mosquito-born diseases extinct, and even edited out Huntington’s disease from mice. The term designer baby is coined as a human embryo that has been genetically modified, usually following guidelines set by the parent or scientist to produce desirable traits. Before the advent of genetic engineering and in vitro fertilization, designer

Photo drawn by:
Hannah Smith (11)

babies were primarily a science fiction concept. The process includes making the designer baby have blue eyes, blonde hair, be a genius, an amazing artist, and an incredible dancer. There are a lot of problems that would be the result of designer babies, such as termination of embryos, gap in society, possibility to damage the gene pool, loss of individuality, and genetics are imperfect. There is also a huge controversy over designer babies. Some think that it is great that people could possibly choose their children’s hair color, eye color, personality, athletic ability, and even memory; however, others think it takes out the individuality out of society, creating a “perfect” culture without quirks. Tyler Blaylock (11) said, “I think gene editing in a medical perspective is very, very good. Taking out genes that cause the U.S. billions of dollars is amazing. Gene editing

should only be used for medical terms and not for making ‘designer babies’”. On the other hand, Chanu Cherukuri (12) said he does not support it. “I think that gene editing could potentially help a lot in the future, but from an ethical standpoint, I can’t support it.” Another factor in the controversy of such processes is that only the rich will be able to afford designer babies. This will create an even larger gap in between the “haves and the have nots.” Hawkins said, “If I knew my child was going to have some kind of disease that, as a parent, I could prevent before it was born I would definitely remove the disease.” Because gene editing is becoming more prominent in America it is important to know the consequences and benefits. Gene editing paves a way for fixing genetic disease, but it could also destroys individuality and uniqueness.



Graphic by: Maeve Rigney *Uproar*



Dance team leaps to new heights

Jordan Carter
BUSINESS MANAGER

At every Madison Central football game and pep rally, most people can agree that the MC Mystix Dance Team puts on a great performance and provides incredible entertainment. The 2017-2018 dance team is made up of 18 girls, consisting of nine seniors, three juniors, and six sophomores. To be a part of the Mystix team, each girl is required to try out in front of several judges, execute a series of routines, and are then judged based on these performances in addition to grades and teacher evaluations. Once the tryouts have concluded, the team begins preparing for the next school year’s performances. The coach of the dance



Madison Copeland (12) cheers at the community pep rally. Photo by: Katie King Uproar



The MC dance team performs at the Community Pep Rally. Photo by: Katie King Uproar

Cheerleaders fly through the season

Sarah Elizabeth Johns
BUSINESS MANAGER

Cheerleading is a multifaceted and strenuous sport, but it can also be tons of fun and incredibly rewarding, according to members of the Madison Central cheerleading squad. In order to be a part of the MC cheer squad, students must tryout in the spring. At tryouts, cheerleaders are required to do tumbling, chant, jumps, and perform a cheer and a dance for judges. As soon as the list comes out, the team begins practicing for camp and prepares for the upcoming year. The team also hosts a kiddie camp and a cheer night for little girls in the community that are

interested in cheerleading. The MC cheerleaders attend a UCA (Universal Cheerleaders Association) camp in Gulf Shores each year where they learn new skills and compete against other teams. This past summer, the team won first place in the extreme routine and sideline cheer. Seven of the senior cheerleaders also got All-American Cheerleader recognition at the end of camp. After school practices begin on the first day of school in August, and are held everyday until after homecoming. The cheer team has many different responsibilities. Riley Tabor (11) said, “We make homecoming decorations, we plan the community wide pep rally and Minute to Win it, we paint signs and hang them

fourth and eighth block and after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During these practices, they perfect the dances they perform at football game and pep rallies. During half-time at football games, the dance team performs a kick dance and at pep rallies they perform a hip hop dance. “In my opinion, pep rallies are way more fun because I love hip hop and I love seeing the crowd enjoy watching us dance,” third-year member Madison Copeland (12) said.

The dances are always choreographed by the members of the dance team. Because there are no captains this year, the seniors are really helping with each dance. To organize these dances, seniors are split up into groups among the juniors and sophomores and then each group comes up with a routine the girls either perform at a game or a pep rally.

Many girls on the team consider the Mystix to be their second family. The girls spend a lot of time not only practicing but also just hanging out together outside of school and performances. “The best part about being on this team is the friendships you make, sounds cliché, but I’ve never met a group of girls who will be there for you and love you no matter what. We are constantly encouraging each other and help each other through each and every practice,” said Georgia Ishee (10). After the conclusion of the football season, the girls start preparing new dances for the basketball season.

Football season progresses

Ashton Giesecke
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Madison Central Varsity team is continuing the year with the most recent game being the Homecoming match. So far, the varsity team has had six

wins and two losses overall, and has three wins and one loss in the District. The varsity team ranks eighth in Mississippi. In the Homecoming game against Provine High School, the team won with a score of 38-6.



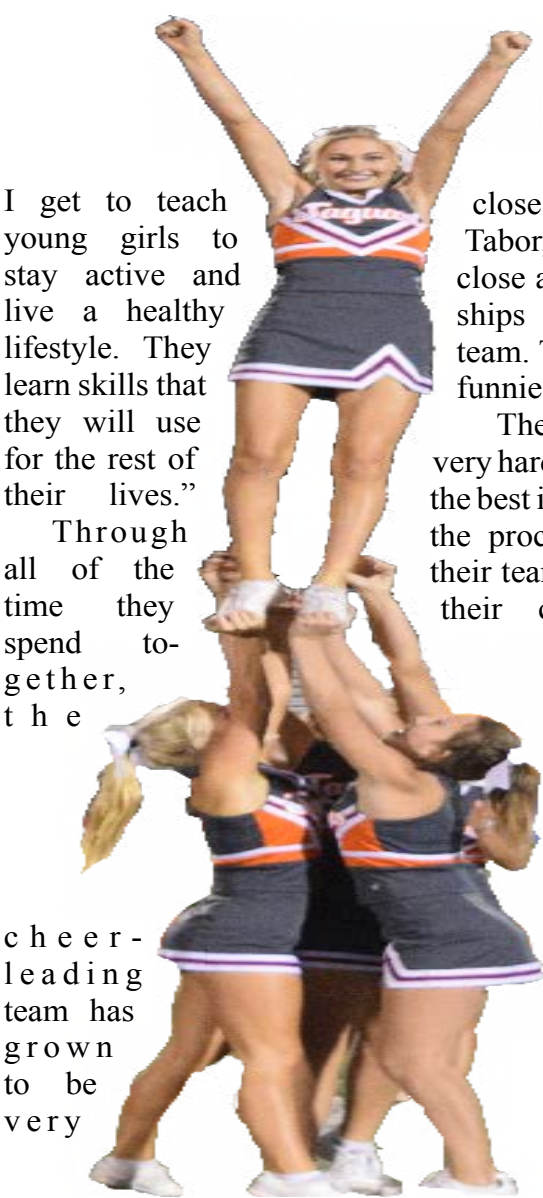
The MC football team lined up against Warren Central. Photo by: Maeve Rigney Uproar



Mallory Sullivan (12), Sydney Butler (12), Savannah Murphy (12) and JonMorgan Malone (12) pose as senior citizens on Thursday of homecoming week. Photo by: Jillian Russell Uproar



Katie King (11) and Tyler Blaylock (11) as Daphne and Scooby-Doo. Photo by: Lauren Barham Uproar



The cheer team stunts Skylar Kelly (12). Photo by: Katie King Uproar

I get to teach young girls to stay active and live a healthy lifestyle. They learn skills that they will use for the rest of their lives.” Through all of the time they spend together,

close. In the words of Tabor, “We’ve grown so close and I love the friendships I’ve made on the team. They are some of the funniest people I’ve met.”

The cheer team works very hard all year to make MC the best it can be, and, through the process, grow closer to their teammates and improve their cheerleading skills.

cheerleading team has grown to be very

up for games, we sell ads for the media guide, we go to several community events, and we greet the children at the feeder schools for every home game.” Mary Morgan Williams (10), the mascot, is also in the cheer block. Williams (10) said, “The games are my favorite part because I get to pump up the crowd and cheer on the football team.” Cheerleading is not all fun and games though. Brooke Thomas (12) said that “the hardest part is probably when [Coach Mandy Malone] says, ‘Hit the track.’” However, team members agree that the hard work is well worth it. Malone has been the cheer coach at MC for 11 years. She said, “My favorite part of cheerleading is the working out and conditioning...

Arguments over alien life create controversy

Phoebe Waters
STAFF WRITER

Alien life is a hotly debated topic and ranges from conspiracy theories to actual science. To some, the idea of aliens is certain, to others, it is unsure. “Do I think that it’s possible? Yes. Do I know that it’s possible? No.” RJ Mack (10) said. One conspiracy theory is that aliens helped to build the pyramids in Egypt. “I believe that people before the Industrial Revolution, that time period before modern technology, they’re way smarter than we are today; I totally think they could have built the pyramids,” Candice Williams (11) said. In an interview with PBS, Egyptologists Mark Lehner and Zahi Hawass stated their belief that Egyptians built the pyramids solely on their own. Their theory is that while Egyptians did work year-round on the structure farmers came to work on the pyramids when the Nile River flooded the surrounding fields. According to Professor Donald B. Redford, after the blocks of stone for the pyramids were cut, Egyptians and/or teams of animals were used to drag them up ramps and to put them into place. In an article for Forbes, Kristina Killgrove stated that this pseudoscientific idea that the Egyptians did not build the pyramids on their own also is rooted in a colonialist ethnocentric view; groups of people like the Egyp-

tians could not have built the pyramids because they are not considered as advanced as other groups, despite contrary evidence. Another common occurrence within alien conspiracy theories is the pseudoscientific evidence that is used to justify the existence of aliens. For example, in 1947, rogue United States Army weather balloon crashed on a ranch outside of Roswell, New Mexico, but reports and rumors spread to say that it was a crashed alien spaceship. Beyond conspiracy theories, some truly believe aliens could be thriving in space. Last year, the astronomical world went into a frenzy when a star 95 light-years from Earth was said to have emitted a strange signal. However, according to a CNN article, it was later revealed that the Russian scientists who originally detected it had neglected to account for an old satellite, which was what was causing the signal. There is also debate over what aliens may look like. Will Stanard (12) stated that aliens might look “like a big blob of

tentacles and slime.” In a TED article, neurologist Anil Seth asserted that aliens may be a bit like an octopus in the idea that intelligent life may manifest itself differently. According to him, as the idea of consciousness is the ability to interpret the world in order to survive, we may be limited by our views that consciousness means existent thought. On the other hand, cosmologist Martin Rees, according to an article by The Telegraph, has stated that if other civilizations make contact with Earth, it will be via robots. No definite proof is available to confirm if aliens are real or not. Despite the conspiracy theories that seem to consistently pop up on gossip sites predicting our demise, there is no reason to fear if nothing can be proved. Until there is any way to prove there are aliens, these conspiracy theories and inquires will not be quenched by a culture that seeks to understand the unknown.



An interpretation of what an alien might look like. Drawing by: Davis Dear (10) *Uproar*

Students “fall” for fashion

Sara Whitehead
STAFF WRITER

As the seasons change, students begin to think about the newest fall fashions. Some are already shopping for the cooler months ahead. Urban Outfitters and Forever 21, for example, have recently put out their newest fall trends. “Urban Outfitters is my go-to when shopping for clothes, because they have everything I’m looking for from casual tees and sweaters or formal dresses,” Lucy Cavett (12). Fall trends are unique in their purpose as weather and style transitions from warm summer months dressed in shorts to chilly winter ones adorned with coats and sweaters. By combining expected seasonal trends and practicality, fall fashion emerges as an eagerly distinct style. Long sleeve shirts and pants are a necessity as temperatures fall. Some of the previous decades’ fashion have also made a comeback into modern

style. The revived wardrobes include crew-neck sweaters, vintage autumn skirts, high-waist jeans for girls, and sweater vests and flannels for boys. These styles can be found at local chain stores, boutiques, and thrift shops. Many new trends have come into play for both genders. Joggers have emerged as a comfortable and stylish look for both men and women. The key to joggers is having a comfortable and loose fit on the upper portion of the garment and a tighter fit around the ankle. The loose fit allows free movement and the cinched cuff provides a way to show off new footwear in a stylish way. “Joggers maintain the perfect balance between comfort and style. I feel like when you are wearing joggers, you have a lot of moving room, while still remaining classy and up to date with the mod-

ern fashion dynamic curve,” Bradley Davis (12) said. Shoes are a component of fall fashion. New styles for footwear are emerging as the fall months approach. Boots and sneakers are two of the common trends that boys and girls share. There are millions of different styles, making them a popular choice for fall fashion. Boots can range from tall boots, ankle boots, heels, and more. Sneakers can be categorized as active and casual-wear. “I like to wear boots because they are essential to fall weather and go with everything,” Virginia Newman (11). Accessories are also a great addition to these fall outfits. Layered necklaces, purses, bags, hats, and scarves are some of the common



Ankle boots are a big part of fall fashion
Public domain photo

How social media affects culture

Lauren Barham
STAFF WRITER

Social media has become an incredibly prevalent aspect of our society. It started with the creation of MySpace on August first, 2003. Even though this site is basically extinct, this was the social media platform that began the revolution; MySpace led to Facebook, Facebook led to Instagram, Instagram led to Snapchat, and the cycle viciously continues to evolve. All of these advances have affected our culture in positive and negative ways. Social media has had an effect on both modern culture and individuals greatly. Will Stanard (12) said, “Instead of talking to my mom, I’ll be on Instagram or Snapchat now.” Instagram and Snapchat are the two most popular social media apps that have proven to have negative effects on our society. People choose to post pictures on Instagram that make them look perfect, which sets an unattainable standard for others. These feelings have reportedly led to an increase in depression because the posts serve to lower the self-esteem of people that don’t look as “perfect.” According to *psychnews.psychiatryonline.org*, a research study showed that people who reported using the most [social media] platforms (seven to 11) had more than three times the risk of depression



Emma Barham (11) looks at her Instagram feed. Photo by: Lauren Barham *Uproar*

and anxiety than people who used the least amount (zero to two platforms). Instagram and Snapchat both serve to increase people’s fear of missing out, also known as FOMO. Snapchat has recently introduced “Snap maps,” which enable people to see where their friends are at all times. However, some people would argue that social media has been beneficial to our society. “I think it can be [positive] because you can spread a lot of positivity through social media,” Allison Hill (10) said. People are now able to keep up with what old friends are up to and stay in touch with people. Although this could be considered a good thing, it also does not change the fact that social media has made it almost impossible for millennials to be away from their phones. Saad Alamgir (11) said, “Instead of doing homework, I spend an hour on Instagram and Snapchat and all that.” Everyone either has their phone in their hands or at least on their person. According to *pewinternet.org*, 95 percent of Americans now own a cell phone of some kind. This addiction to technology has made it difficult for people to experience nature and have real conversations. Overall, social media has had a major impact on society. Social media is something that not only affects the United States, but the whole world as well. With these changing times, it is important to stay true to oneself and not let social media hinder the future of society.

trends emerging during this transitional season. Although, accessories are not always a necessity to fall fashion; they often are a way to add a personal touch to the outfit. “I love to accessorize because I feel that it adds color and a personal twist to my outfit,” Jillian Russell (10) said. While everyday clothing and accessories are essential, one of the most important aspects of fall fashion is outerwear. Many stores that provide male and fe-

male clothing have released their jacket and coat collection for the year. New trends emerge and combine with older styles to create a classic fall look; some of these include denim jackets, fuzzy cardigans, joggers, and vests. Fall fashion is constantly changing. The must-haves of one year may be unrecognizable the next. However, in this year’s fall fashion, it is evident that older styles are once again making a come-back to today’s craze.



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A poll taken from 278 students. Graphic by: Kaitlyn Sills *Uproar*

Creative minds showcase their talents

Bezal Jupiter
STAFF WRITER

Madison Central has a wealth of talented students including actors, writers, and even podcast hosts. There are many different ways students express themselves creatively at MC.

Helen Anne Horecky:
One Feathered Tail

MC’s theatrical production this year is *Seussical the Musical*. Actress Helen Anne Horecky (10) plays Gertrude McFuzz. “I started acting in sixth grade...it really lit this flame, I became passionate about it,” Horecky stated. Acting is an outlet for Horecky, especially when portraying Gertrude in *Seussical*. She said, “I get to be quirky and sometimes awkward. It’s like embracing my inner self in a sense that Gertrude is more of an outsider.”

Ian Hales:
Actors and Mattresses

Madison the City also hosts stage productions, such as *Once Upon a Mattress*, a comical take on The Princess and the Pea. Ian Hales played Sir Luce in the production. Hales said, “It was weird. He was a knight, so it was harder because I had to pretend that I’m something that I’m not naturally.” Even though he was forced out

of his comfort zone, it was still an enjoyable experience.

Cade Harrison:
Renaissance Man

Cade Harrison (11) is someone who does not like to be boxed in; he said, “I’ve always really disliked the idea of something being my thing, like being the ‘piano guy’ or the ‘artist guy.’” Harrison plays the piano, has a YouTube channel full of goofs and music reviews, and even does a podcast. Harrison has also started a podcast, called 1 Meal Club, which hosts a variety of guests and includes a conversation with former MC student, Mallory Tubb. “I’m looking for more people to do a podcast with. A big interest of mine would be a podcast for the school,” he stated.

Derrick McNealy:
Notebook

Derrick McNealy (11) is very casual about his writing, keeping notebooks where he jots down thoughts, poems, stories. McNealy said, “I just write whatever I want, it kind of just happens.” He likes to write poems and short stories, and is the president of the Poetry Club. Like many writers, McNealy struggles with procrastination “I just let it happen, I work better the last minute.”

Julia Bhansali:



These MC students that are a few of many creative minds. from left to right: Derrick McNealy (11), Will Wheatley (12), Cade Harrison (11), Ian Hales (10), Helen Anne Horecky (10), and Julia Bhansali (12). Photo by: Bezal Jupiter *Uproar*

Sight and Sound

When it comes to creating, Julia Bhansali (12) is very active. Bhansali likes variety; she models for JEA, has released an EP and even directed short films. Bhansali also started modeling a little over a year ago. Another passion of Bhansali’s is filmmaking. Bhansali directed a film called *Solitude* about a woman facing loneliness during World War II. Bhansali has released an EP called U earlier this year. Bhansali said, “I would trash stuff I would write until I liked what I made. It took me about two

or three months to record it.” Bhansali has a lot of creative freedom and variety, with interests ranging from music to directing. As far as direction goes, Bhansali has chosen sight and sound.

Will Wheatley:
Rest in Peace

The t-shirt business is no laughing matter, though one would not hear that from Will Wheatley (12), who makes a variety of t-shirt designs. The t-shirts that Wheatley designs are interesting, including a design of himself in the clouds, shooting lasers out of his eyes, the bottom letters read

“Rest In Peace Will Wheatley, 9-20-99 to Infinity.” Wheatley stated, “Whenever someone dies, they make a shirt that’s like ‘rest in peace Uncle Joe,’ and it’s him flying in the sky.” Wheatley sought out to make a rest in peace shirt for himself, he downloaded photoshop and made a design in half an hour. After he was done with the design, Wheatley started screen printing the design onto cotton tees, “I’ve screen printed before, it’s basic, ancient technology.” Though making t-shirts takes time and money, Wheatley has an infinite amount of time until he rests.

Theater gets musical with *Seussical*

Elizabeth Barton
STAFF WRITER

On November 4 and 5, a talented group of Madison Central students will present a product of months of rehearsals: *Seussical the Musical*. *Seussical* is a mash-

up of various, well-known Dr. Seuss stories and characters. They are all brought to life by a young boy named Jojo with a big imagination. Jojo is different than other boys and girls—he has an enormous and colorful imagination. The Cat in the Hat fosters Jojo’s imagination by setting up an imaginary world for him to explore. From Horton the elephant to the Grinch, *Seussical* is a show filled with non-stop fun and imagination.



Bailey Magee (12) and Natalie Gault (11) sing together on the set. Photo by: Elizabeth Barton *Uproar*

While working to perform this show, cast members did more than just learn lines and run scenes. Annie

Hannah Brady (11), who plays Gertrude McFuzz, noted that, “it is so diverse and features students with so many gifts and talents. Overall, the cast is filled with lots of laughs and many new memories.”

One characteristic that distinguishes *Seussical* from other musicals is the intense colors that appear on the whimsical and elaborate sets. Courtney Melton and the stage crew stay after school with the cast to work to make the world of Dr. Seuss come to life through the creation of sets. Bella Ali-mot (10), a member of the

stage crew, said, “The sets are very colorful and it’s almost like a playground for us and designing it was so much fun. We repurpose so much of the set from years past and it’s really cool to turn it into the set that we have now; it’s so exciting.” Bailey Magee (12), who plays Mr. Mayor, said, “As Abraham Lincoln once said,

‘bad sets equal bad show.’”

There will be a total of two shows performed between November fourth and fifth. Tickets will be sold for \$10 for floor seats and \$8 for balcony seats each in advance and at the door of the show. As Dr. Seuss himself once said, “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.” The cast of *Seussical* encourages students to steer to the MC auditorium to experience the unique world of *Seussical*.

Debate team poised for success

Katherine Pudish
STAFF WRITER

Madison Central’s speech and debate team is back in action discussing past and current laws and situations in place. The team competes in categories such as Lincoln-Douglas debate, public forum, policy debate, dramatic poetry, and original speech recitation. Rachel Clapper is the coach of the debate team and has been at MC for three years.

Kelsey Mayhan (10) stated, “The team is a tight-knit family that keeps each other motivated and on track. We have some insanely talented people among our ranks and I’m so glad I’ve gotten closer to them.” Mayhan also stated, “A typical debate tournament lasts two days. Debate events happen on Friday afternoons and Interpretation and Speaking events take place on Saturdays.”

The tournaments last a long time, but the member’s work is pays off after the events are over. Out of the three tournaments that have occurred, MC has been in the top three of each one. The next tournament is on October 27 at Saint Andrews High School in Ridgeland.

Caleb Smith (11), a novice member of the team, remarked, “The team is full

of great people who strive to help each other, not just themselves. You must be dedicated to what you’re doing, to give 100 percent. The tournaments are exciting and help you make it to the next level in order for you to do better next time.” Smith enjoys the ability to express himself in a different way than when participating in sports.

For students interested in trying out for the team, tryouts are held in the spring. Requirements include having a passing GPA and teacher recommendations. The tryouts consist of memorizing a one minute speech that is performed to Clapper and current members.

The president of the team, John Bethea (12), works with other members to hone their skills. He has obtained some measure of respect in the larger debate circuit and presides over congressional sessions, which are meetings of the congressional houses based on the constitutional mandate that Congress assembles at least once a year. “[The team] helps students to develop practical skills that could serve them later in life such as the ability to argue with logic, the ability to act, the ability to create impromptu speeches, and the ability to fabricate evidence. It also helps provide self-confidence, speaking skills, and presentation skills,” Bethea explained.



MC Speech and Debate Team after their third tournament of the season at Ole Miss. Photo Courtesy of: Rachel Clapper

Band continues standard of superiority

Kaitlyn Sills
COPY EDITOR

Each summer and fall season, the Madison Central Band works to prepare a field show that is performed at MC football games and competitions, including the MHSAA Region IV State Evaluation. The 2017 Jaguar Marching Band show is entitled “Rhapsody” and journeys through two musically diverse pieces: George Gershwin’s union of classical and jazz-influenced music in “Rhapsody in Blue” and Queen’s iconic “Bohemian Rhapsody.” The show includes three parts and features instrumental soloists Kaitlyn Sills (11) on clarinet, Peyton Sills (11) on euphonium, Will Humphreys (12) on mellophone; dance soloist Henleigh Johnson (12); and flag features including Karina Amaro (11), and Laken Mitchell (12). Johnson said her favorite part was getting to “put a little personality into [her] solo.”

Johnson’s dance feature and Kaitlyn Sills’s clarinet solo began the show with the recognizable opening statement of “Rhapsody in Blue.” Part one continues to introduce the medleys of Gershwin’s “Rhapsody in Blue.” Part two incorporates the “Bohemian Rhapsody” ballad, and part three begins with Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody” melody and concludes with a reprise of Gershwin’s work. The show began to form at the closure of the 2016-2017 school year with a week-long fundamental camp. The band began to learn marching fundamentals, visual body movements, and establish a foundation for the music before full band camp in July. After undergoing a rigorous week-long camp in July from 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., the band was in full swing for the hopes of a successful season. The band participated in three competition events this year. On September 30, they travelled to Biloxi, Mississippi to compete in the Gulf Coast Invitational. The group placed second out of 19 overall participants and was the highest-placing band from Mississippi. On October 14, the band participated in the annual MHSAA State Marching Evaluation in Pearl where they earned All Superior ratings in all captions, including drum major, color guard, percussion, and band for the 27th consecutive year. That same night, the band participated in the Pearl Invitational where they competed against multiple bands from around the state and placed third overall. Not only does the band perform at halftime for each football game, but they also play stand tunes during three quarters of the game, perform at all pep-rallies, and work hard to excel in each competition/evaluation they participate in. Following the end of marching season, the band will begin work for the Veteran’s Day program and start the implementation and preparation of concert literature. In the spring, the bands will participate in the state concert evaluation. The success of the MC Band does not come at a small price. The band worked cleaning drill, improving music, and repping the show during rehearsals. The band rehearsed every day during first/

son, Tracy Carter, Kraig Gor-eth, Scott Presley, Katy Abels, Jennifer Sills, Terry Miller, and student-teacher Blayde Clark. The rewards of this program go far beyond successful competition placements. The band program creates an environment for encouraged individual and overall success and has adapted a mantra of “One More Time” to illustrate their readiness to improve. “Band has taught me so many things: from learning how to communicate with people who aren’t my closest friends...Being a part of this program has helped me find what kind of person I want to be. I love this place and I’m going to miss the people and performing,” Johnson added. The MC band program teaches more than music; it teaches responsibility, enforces accountability, and recognizes the rewards of working together for a common goal.

Below: Sousophone players Ar-vante Harrington (12), Neil Storey (11), Dylan Malouf (11), Blake Cravey (11), and James Michales (12) on the platform during a halftime performance. Photo by: Bezal Jupiter Uproar

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Engineering Academy builds tech program

Katie King
LAYOUT EDITOR

The Engineering Academy at Madison Central has been in place for four years. Through this innovative program, students can learn key information about engineering and/or STEM-related careers. The Academy does its best to prepare students for any two or four-year college program. The Engineering Academy goes through a program called “Project Lead the Way.” PLTW provides the curriculum for the MC Engineering Academy. Through this rigorous curriculum and dedication, the program teaches students the basics of engineering. Komal Kaur (10) said, “It makes you think more than you would normally think about something.” They learn skills like technical writing, programming, public speaking, etc. It allows students the opportunity to see if they are interested in an engineering or STEM related career before they get to college. Chris Hood (12) mentioned, “People go into engi-

neering in college after doing no engineering, and most of them drop out because it’s really hard and they don’t know what they are doing. [The Academy] was made so that people would have an idea of what engineering is before they throw themselves into it.” Many of the engineering students have received awards and scholarships for their hard work. Last year, a group of engineering students competed in a competition sponsored by C Spire and each won \$3000. They also compete in Science Olympiad, and tenth and twelfth grade students participate in the Science Fair. In order to be in this program, students must have taken Algebra I, be interested in the engineering and or STEM-related fields, and fill out an application online. This course is

not listed on students’ course sheets, so they must fill out an application on their own and wait until their counselor notifies them. The opportunity to join the Engineering Academy first presented itself to rising ninth graders who have completed the prerequisites, engineering follows the same curriculum of all of the students’ core classes. Their core classes, such as math and science and English, are cohorted with the engineering program. That means that they are in many of the same classes with the same engineering students. Therefore, the classes are smaller and more hands-on. Michelle Robinson, co-head of the Engineering Academy, commented, “You have somewhere to belong.” The teachers involved in the Engineering program or who teach co-orted classes are Michelle Robinson, Cam Ogletree, co-head of the Engineering Academy; Paula Mayfield, mathematics; Laura Miller, sophomore English; Amy Bennett, chemistry; and Re-

gina Ballentine, freshman Intro to Engineering Design. Each increasing academic year provides new courses offered to engineering students. In ninth grade, all students who sign up for Engineering take Intro to Engineering Design. In tenth grade, after they have completed Intro to Engineering Design, students take Principles of Engineering. In eleventh grade, students have the choice to take either AP Computer Science Principles or Digital Electronics. Then finally, senior engineering students take Engineering Design and Development. These seniors identify a problem in the world and apply what they have learned from the past three years of engineering to try and fix it. The Engineering Academy at MC has grown over the past four years into a program that helps shape the school into what it is today. Amy Pang (11) said, “It’s little things that I pick up in engineering that I can use in the future.” The students leave high school prepared and equipped for college-level engineering programs.

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Christian Watson (11) solders a number generator. Photo by: Katie King Uproar



Madison Central High School is proud to announce its 2017-2018 National Merit Semifinalists and Commended Scholars. Back row left to right are National Merit Semifinalists David McDonald, Noah Grovich, Jackson Dellinger, Chanu Cherukuri, Luke Little, Advait Praveen, James Michels and Commended Scholar Case Draughn. Front row left to right are National Merit Semifinalists Rimika Banerjee, Maddie Gall, Anna Brock, Abigail Barton, Mary Ranie Miller, Commended Scholar Maeve Rigney and National Merit Semifinalist Claire Smith. Photo Courtesy of: Bruckner's



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