

Madison Central

UPROAR

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AQUA JAGS DIVE INTO CHAMPIONSHIP

Violet Daniels
STAFF WRITER

On October 20, the girls and boys swim team traveled to Tupelo Aquatic Center for their state meet. The stakes were extremely high as both the girls and boys held the state title. After a long day of competing, the results were in. The girls and boys teams both won the state championship. For the boys, this was their fourth consecutive win, and for the girls this was their tenth. All the team's hard work had finally paid off, and they could ride back home celebrating the victory.

This win did not come easily though. The Aqua Jags have practices every fourth and eighth block at the Madison Healthplex. Henry Largen (10) stated, "Going to practice is really draining but it is very rewarding at the same time." Practices include a series of sets that target specific muscle groups, cardio, and skill. The swimmers first get in the pool at around 2:20, and start with a 300-meter warmup which is 12 laps around the pool. For the next hour, Coach Eddie Ware gives the swimmers a mixture of different sets. These different sets help improve their sprints, kicks, streamlines, underwaters, and flip turns. The swimmers finish practice with a cooldown which typically consists of a 100, four laps, or a 200, eight laps.

Most of the Aqua Jag swimmers are also on club swim teams. This means they have extra practice outside of school. Jaden Davillier (11) stated, "Having to wake up early in the morning for practice and then go to practice again in the afternoon is very challenging, but doing things that you do not want to do is what it takes to be the best." The swim team coaches also play a big role in the success of the team. Coach Carmody and Coach Eddie work extremely hard for the team. Isabelle Pike (11) added, "We as a team are so thankful for our coaches we would not be where we are today without them constantly

pushing us to be the best." The Aqua Jags and their coaches have worked hard, and their time and energy have benefited them in many ways.

Although the Aqua Jags practice a lot, that does not stop them from getting scared. Isabelle Pike (11) stated, "I get really nervous, so I just start talking a lot, it helps me calm down especially because I know my team is there listening to me ramble." Fancier Shi (12) stated, "I cannot ever look at the times of the people that swam before me." Shi said doing this makes her feel on edge, sacred she would not beat their times. Shi also stated that whenever she competed in her 100 fly, she needed her teammates to stand behind her and cheer. "I was convinced that their presence was going to make me go faster, and every time my team was there, I cut time and the one time they were not there I did not." The Aqua Jags have always supported each other, and this support has made them a very tight knit team.

The seniors especially were proud of this win. Many had been on the team since seventh grade including Abby Jo Flowers (12) who stated, "After a long day of swims, it was announced that the Lady Aqua Jags had won for the tenth year in a row. We all screamed, cheered, and went to collect our trophy and take pictures. It is a great feeling to know you contributed to a decade of winning." For many of the seniors, this win was a bittersweet moment. While they had just won the state championship, this also meant saying goodbye to their underclassmen. All the seniors pass down "Senior Wills" to each teammate. When the seniors graduate, they "will" down certain things to the younger swimmers. This helps them all remember the team and the graduating seniors for the years to come.

The bus rides to and from meets are extremely special for the team. Adel Abdo (12) said, "While there are a bunch of things I am going to miss,



Above: Girl's and Boy's Aqua Jags after State Championship

one of the most fun memories I have is sharing long bus rides with the team." On these bus rides everyone plays Nintendo together, sings karaoke, screams, and laughs. Abby Jo Flowers (12) added, "One time the team told scary stories the whole way home and another time we all sang the national anthem together." These bus rides have bonded the team and created a wonderful atmosphere.

The Aqua Jags do more than just win, the team is very close to one another. Clark Davis (10) stated, "Everyone is very supportive, and we have a

lot of fun swimming with each other." The Aqua Jags all hang-out and go to events with each other. Abby Jo Flowers (12) stated, "The high school swimmers spend a lot of time together, we do things for Homecoming, Halloween, and Christmas. They really are my best friends." All this love and support on the team has created an environment worth working and winning for.



Sports

Check out page 7 for information about the Soccer and Basketball teams!



News

Take a look at page 2 for an article about the Israel and Palestine conflict!



Feature

Check out page 4 for information about the Toys for Tots donations!

Remembering Matthew Perry

Meredith Morrow SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Best known as Chandler Bing, his role played in the 1990's sitcom, *Friends*, Matthew Perry recently passed, on October 28, 2023, at only 54 years old. Although he came to the limelight during his mid-twenties, Perry's passion for acting had begun in high school. He participated in several school theater productions, which ignited his love for the performing arts. Once he graduated, he moved to Los Angeles to pursue acting full-time, where he eventually had his breakthrough on *Friends*. Although his role in *Friends* seems to be his claim to fame, he had become a best-selling memoirist and wanted to leave a legacy of helping people, living, and loving, as he had told *The Times*.

Perry's death touched the lives of many, and

even was memorialized by Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, one of Perry's childhood friends. He wrote Perry's death to be "shocking and saddening." Although he was very successful throughout his life, Perry openly struggled with drug addiction for most of his life, and even helped others battle addiction.

What many may not know, however, is that Perry often used improv throughout *Friends*, and came up with many of his best lines on the spot, which many fans found interesting, considering he incorporated a lot of himself into his character, Chandler

Bing. His lines were so witty that he was the only actor on the show who had been allowed to sit with the writers. *Friends* fan, Sydney Walls (12), agrees with most fans and said, "I thought Matthew Perry played Chandler Bing real-

ly well, and I thought it was really cool that he wrote most of his lines, which made him different from his other costars." Along with his role from *Friends*, Perry was also known for his roles in romantic comedy, *Fools Rush In*, as well as *Three to Tango*, and even went on to create and star in his own sitcom, *Mr. Sunshine*.

Considering he had been so skilled in acting, Perry had been nominated for various awards, including Primetime Emmy nominations, the Screen Actors Guild Award, and the Teen Choice Award. Along with being an actor, Perry could also play the piano, and had showcased his musical talent on various occasions. In awe of all Perry was capable of, Ava Tripolee (11) said, "I am so sad he has passed, I grew up watching *Friends* and watched several of his interviews on YouTube, and I thought Matthew Perry was really funny." In addition to all of these achievements, he even went on to venture into voice acting, and made appearances in music videos, such as "MMMBop" by Hanson and "Dance with the Devil" by Breaking Benjamin.

Perry's costars on *Friends* are especially devastated by this



Above: Young Matthew Perry during his time on *Friends*, Photo Courtesy of *People Magazine*

loss, as each costar has dedicated their time with Perry into words, in many ways, such as social media posts and tributes. Matt LeBlanc, who played Joey from *Friends*, went on to say on Instagram, "It is with a heavy heart I say goodbye." In addition to this tribute, other costars like Jennifer Aniston, Courtney Cox, and David Schwimmer dedicated tributes to Perry. Madison Central's AMC

director, Mr. Cooper, even went on and said, "As a fan of the arts, this loss shocked me. Personally, I think that Matthew Perry fell under the same spell that Robin Williams did, as their work was quite similar and they both gained so much attention and fame in such short time." As Perry told *The Times* in April of 2023, he had hoped to leave his mark on the world, and it is safe to say that he did just that.

! THE EVER-GROWING CONFLICT !

Dylan Thomas STAFF WRITER

Many people are aware of the war between Hamas and Israel, however very few know why it is happening and where it comes from. This conflict can be dated all the way back to 1896, which is when the idea of a Jewish State was published by Theodor Herzl as a response to antisemitism. Antisemitism is prejudice towards Jewish people. However, Palestine was primarily made up of Arabs at the time, with Jews being the minority. This idea of a Jewish State was made somewhat of a reality in 1917, when Britain declared in the Balfour Declaration to help establish a Jewish State, and Britain took control of Palestine from the Ottoman Empire. With the League of Nations mandate in place, Britain controlled Palestine, and tried to facilitate the migration of Jewish people into Palestine. But the Palestinians were against the mandate because they believed it did not recognize their independence. They feared that the increased migration would lead them to be pushed out of the country. By the end of World War II, the United Nations decided to split Palestine into two independent states, but Palestinians refused to acknowledge the resolution creating tension. When Israel declared independence in 1948, the Israeli-Arab War began. The Israeli-Arab War was the first of many wars between Israel and Palestine. Daniel Cox, a history and govern-

ment teacher at Madison Central, characterized the historical significance of this war when he said, "The Arab-Israeli War of 1948 set the stage for subsequent conflicts and shaped the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, leaving a lasting impact on the region's history and contributing to ongoing tensions." This war continues to leave an effect on the world today. Before Israel declared independence, conflict had already begun to break out between the two groups, eventually turning to war. Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon all supported Palestine efforts, while Israelis slowly took more and more control of Palestine, despite the Arab states' efforts. In February of 1949, a tentative agreement was made that created a border between Israel and the five main Arabic powers fighting for Palestine which lead to many being displaced. Egypt held control over the Gaza Strip, and Jordan held control over the West Bank. Violence would break out again in 1956 with the Suez Crisis, and then in 1967 there was the Six-Day War. The Six-Day War resulted in Palestine losing control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Even though the war technically only lasted five to six days, the conflict never fully resolved, and violence persisted until the Yom Kippur War in 1973. After that was the Lebanon War of 1982. The Lebanon War of 1982 caused what is known as the First Intifada. This Intifada was a movement of Palestinians resisting the Israeli government through means of protests, boycotts,



Above: Community in Palestine protesting their rights and for peace. Photo Courtesy of *Carnegie Endowment For International Peace*

and physical attacks. Part of the upset also had to do with the continued displacement of the Palestinian people and how many, even now, are under the refugee status. Eventually, the protests stopped because of the signing of the Oslo Accords. The Oslo Accords stated that Palestine would be given rights of self-government, and it would also be given governmental authority over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The Oslo Accords also affirmed Israel's right to exist as a country. However, later negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders slowly dissolved, and a second Intifada broke out in 2000. Violence grew between the two states, and many were killed in the Intifada protests. In 2006, the Second Lebanon War broke out. Hamas became the main political party in power in Gaza in 2006, and there was another war in 2014 coined the Gaza War. All these events set the stage

to where the conflict is now. Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023, and since then the situation has only intensified. Kristen Stephenson, the AP United States Government teacher, discussed why this modern-day conflict is the way that it is. Stephenson said, "There is a deeply rooted resentment on both sides that has been building for 70 years." This is partly why the war has captured the eye of international news. After the attack on Israel and the hostages taken by Hamas, Israel announced a siege on Gaza as a defense against Hamas. Israel began airstrikes on Gaza to weed out Hamas, and they warned civilians in Gaza to leave. Palestinians are saying that leaving the country is proving to be very difficult. There are many discussions on humanitarian efforts because thousands of citizens in Israel and Gaza are getting caught in the crossfire. This war is ever-changing, and, in a situation like this, it is

highly suggested for people to do their own research. Cody Logan, the ninth grade AP World History teacher, said "Students should know that the war is more complicated than it seems on the surface. It is important to do your own research and understand as many facts and points of view before confirming your own belief." Logan would like to emphasize the fact that when trying to find information on the war, they should search through multiple sources to find the consistent facts. This way students can avoid as much bias as possible. Logan reiterates, "It is important to stay vigilant about what you learn, and also how you learn it." Which is not just good advice to follow when researching about this war, it is also good advice to follow when researching in general. Some sources that are great places to start are *Britannica.com*, *Associated Press*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Al Jazeera*.



The Season of Giving



Logan Kennedy
STAFF WRITER

Thanksgiving is an annual holiday that celebrates religious observances and traditional family gatherings. The holiday started as a result of a harvest celebrated by the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people in 1621; since, the holiday has been held on the fourth Thursday of November. The Thanksgiving meal is also of importance as traditionally people eat turkey on Thanksgiving along with other complimentary dishes. Thanksgiving usually surrounds family, friends, and showing gratitude for the things we consider blessings in our lives. The Thanksgiving holiday also means students get a week out

of school which is usually filled with traveling to see family or celebrating at home in Mississippi.

Thanksgiving break is usually one of the busiest travel holidays and some students are contributing to that by taking advantage of their week off. Joy Chen (12) and Kate Odom (12), traveled to see recent graduate Zoe Zhang at the University of Texas Dallas, where they toured the university and spent time with their beloved friend, Zoe. Chen said, "This was our first time seeing Zoe since she left for college in August and we were so excited to see her. We will be toured the UT Dallas campus and enjoyed seeing the city of Dallas." Thanksgiving break gives students the ability to travel to see friends and family members that they do not get to see often. CC Matthews (10) said, "This year I visited both my Dad's family in Oxford and my Mom's family in St. Louis, so the

was filled with a lot of traveling for me". Thanksgiving, although busy, is important as it reunites friends and family after time apart. Whether traveling or not, Thanksgiving also sets aside time for loved ones to celebrate their traditions as well as eating a spread of good foods. Davis McQuirter (11) stated, "Thanksgiving is important to me, as it is a time to gather with loved ones, express gratitude, and eat good food like sweet potato casserole. I love eating Thanksgiving lunch with my family and watching football". Several football games are also held on Thanksgiving which allows for families to cheer together for their favorite team or compete against one another. The Thanksgiving meal centers around the Turkey which is enjoyed by Matthews, "I am not a big fan of Thanksgiving food except the turkey and pumpkin bread. After we get done having our

meal as a family, I always go shopping with my Grandma." The mix of great food and traditions such as watching football games and going shopping is what makes Thanksgiving a family-oriented holiday. Although students are thrilled about getting a week off of school, it is important to remember to show thanks and love to friends and family members during the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanksgiving is a great way to connect with loved ones over traditions such as going around the dinner table and saying what you are thankful for, football, and great food for all who celebrate.



WHO'S WHO

HEROES

DECEMBER 4, 2023

THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF SANTA



Kathrine Elfert
STAFF WRITER

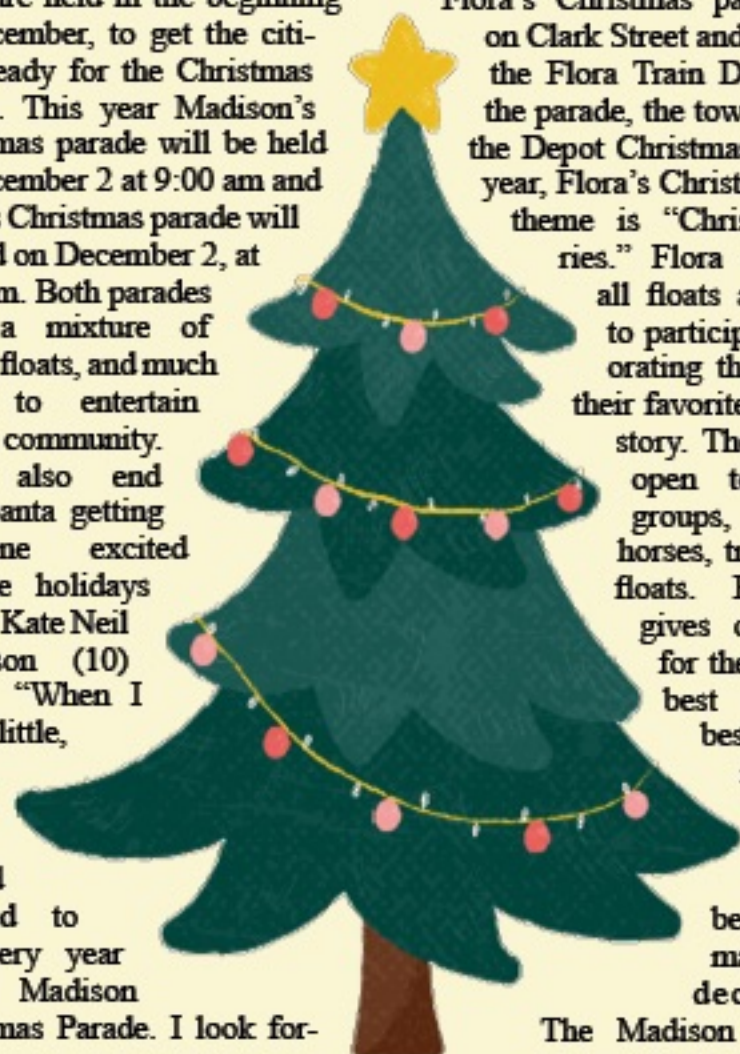
Every year, people line the streets of Madison and Flora to watch the town's exciting Christmas parades. Madison and Flora's parades are held in the beginning of December, to get the citizens ready for the Christmas season. This year Madison's Christmas parade will be held on December 2 at 9:00 am and Flora's Christmas parade will be held on December 2, at 4:00 pm. Both parades have a mixture of bands, floats, and much more to entertain the community. They also end with Santa getting everyone excited for the holidays ahead. Kate Neil Davidson (10) stated, "When I was little, my family and I used to go every year to the Madison Christmas Parade. I look for-

ward to the parade every year because it means Christmas season is here, which is my favorite time of the year. My favorite part of the parade is the end when Santa comes. I love it because it is so magical and it really gets me excited for the holidays." Both the Madison and Flora Christmas parades have many different aspects that make them special and enjoyable to the community.

Flora's Christmas parade starts on Clark Street and will end at the Flora Train Depot. After the parade, the town will light the Depot Christmas tree. This year, Flora's Christmas parade theme is "Christmas Stories." Flora encourages all floats and groups to participate in decorating their float as their favorite Christmas story. The parade is open to walking groups, vehicles, horses, tractors, and floats. Flora also gives out awards for the best float, best motorized, best walking group, most entertaining and best Christmas story decorations. The Madison Christmas

parade starts at Ridgecrest Baptist Church and ends at the Red Caboose. This year Madison's Christmas parade theme is "Santa's Workshop." The parade has elected officials, music groups, dancers, marching bands, and many more. The parade throws candy to its spectators. Some awards for the parade include best float, best dance team, best band, and most Christmas spirit. Many Madison Central students love and enjoy these parades. Some students have even been in the parades themselves. Nataleigh Nix (12) said, "I have either attended or been a part of the event since I was two. For several years I danced in the Madison Christmas parade, with Repeat Performance Dance Company. However, for the last few years I have ridden in a convertible representing my title. I won the state title in April, and I will be Miss Mississippi's Teen." While Nix represents a state title, McClara Morton (10) was in the parade last year on a float as a grandma. Morton said, "Last year was

my first time being a part of the parade. I was in the parade with Crown Club dressed as a grandma. My friends dressed up too which made it even more special. It was so much fun because I got to see everyone in the Christmas spirit." Not only do Madison Central students enjoy watching and helping put on these parades, as the community loves them as well. The Madison and Flora Christmas parades take a lot of work to put on and they require many volunteers to participate in the parade. With all the floats, bands, choirs and more the parades are enjoyable and are popular events in both towns. The Madison and Flora Christmas parades bring so much Christmas cheer to the community and people look forward to watching them every year.



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Donating Toys For Tots



Emily Hodges
STAFF WRITER

It is the season of giving and Madison Central is now ready for Toys for Tots. Just as expected, Madison Central is known for dominating the donations. Last year in the Jungle, students donated enough toys to fill the back of a Two-Men-In-A-Truck moving vehicle. There are many different things being offered to help jump start the giving spirit. This year some teachers are offering extra credit, clubs are offering service hours, and there are many more incentives as well, which encourages students to donate. Now that Christmas is approaching, it is time for us to give to the kids who aren't as fortunate this season. Madison Cen-

tral is extremely excited to help this year the best it can. Madison Central's student government is giving students the opportunity to get service hours through donations. This is a great chance to not only give to those in need, but also receive hours for other clubs inside or outside of school. Mary Katherine McIntyre (11) is a representative of SGA. She said, "SGA really encourages everyone to bring as many toys as possible. You can bring as much or as little as you would like." Through SGA, students can finish up service hours due at the end of this semester. Other

clubs are also using Toys for Tots as an opportunity to receive service hours, Beta Club being one of them. There are many people in Beta Club every year, so it is common for them to be counted on for big projects like this. Kyra Davis (12) is also one of the Beta Club representatives. Davis said, "Beta Club is looking forward to this Toys for Tots donations drive. We have many different opportunities and are ready to see our club members participate." Being able to receive service hours is just one of many reasons as to why students should donate this year in this charity project. Donating is a great way to give back to the community and help support those who are less fortunate during the holiday season. There is not anything better than the feeling of serving others. Manveen Multani (11) said, "I am really excited



Above: Newspaper Staff members helping load the trucks for Toys For Tots. Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Vicky Williams



to donate. I always feel good after I do things like that, so I am looking forward to seeing how much we do as a school to help others." Multani, like many, believes that this project is a fun way to feel good and help the communities around us. Students do not have to donate much to make a difference. Even doing something as simple as getting action figures at Walmart can help.

Toys for Tots is something Madison Central looks forward to taking part in every year. Having the opportunity to give to others is a blessing. It is exciting to see how Toys for Tots goes this year. Through clubs, teachers, and the holiday spirit, the gift of giving is going to be spread.



WE ASKED SOME STUDENTS WHAT IS ON THEIR CHRISTMAS LIST HERE WERE SOME COMMON ANSWERS!!!!

- Stanley Cup
- Nike Socks
- Digital Camera
- New Phone
- Loaded Tea Giftcards
- Personal Computer/Macbook
- Video Games
- Apple Watch

- make up
- jewelry
- candles
- clothes
- Uggs
- Airpod Pros
- Aviator Nation
- Sweatpants
- Heatless Curls Set



Students Take on State Legislature

Logan Kennedy
STAFF WRITER

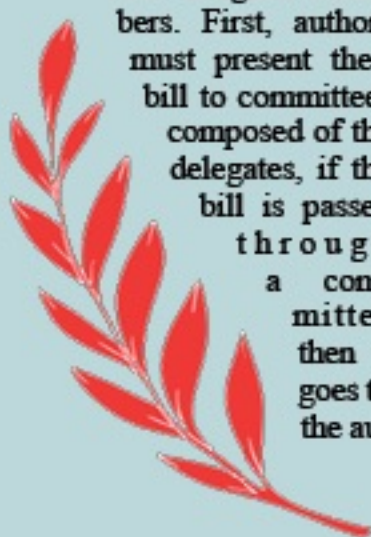
Several students from Madison Central attended the Mississippi Youth Legislature convention, this November. Youth Legislature is an annual event at the Mississippi Capitol that involves students from schools all over the state coming together and acting as legislators in a mock state congress. Attendees are assigned as a member of the House of Representatives or the Senate, where they are tasked to create a legislative bill and present it in front of their assigned chambers. First, authors must present their bill to committees composed of the delegates, if the bill is passed through a committee then it goes to the au-

thor's chamber where it is either passed or failed. If passed, the bill finally makes its way to the Youth Legislature's Governor's desk where it can be passed or failed. Co-Presidents of the Madison Central Government Club, Katie Farthing (12) and Hollin Brewer (12), acted as leaders in preparing fellow students for this year's Youth Legislature. They helped students get interested in the program and led them to the Capitol building. Students in grades tenth through twelfth attended the conference such as Kendall Mckinsey (11) became involved in Youth Legislature after gaining interest in government through her class at school. Mckinsey was assigned to be a Senator and authored a bill alongside Ella O'banion. "I learned a lot about the exact process that a bill goes through in order to become a law on a state level. I learned from the Senate how important making decisions on legislation is that could compare to what the actual Mississippi Senate is able to

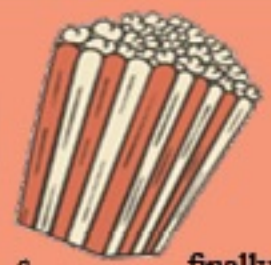
do." Similar to Noah Clapper (10), who gained interest in the convention after being involved on Madison Central's Speech and Debate team. "The best part of Youth Legislature was being able to experience a real congressional session, and doing that while being able to interact with other schools, providing me with new friends," said Clapper. Youth Legislature engages students in a fun and social way in order to gain knowledge of the Mississippi legislative process. Madison Central's own, Katie Farthing (12), acted as Senate Majority Leader at this year's conference. Farthing was tasked with working with the Lieutenant Governor to work legislation through the Senate, a tedious job that required Farthing to lead the Senate in compromising and forming resolutions in order to keep the session moving forward. Farthing said, "I worked with the Lieutenant Governor to guide legislation through the Senate in order to carry out the legislative agenda of the

Governor." Farthing's leadership position was gained after much involvement in the conference for all three years at Madison Central. She is very thankful for the knowledge of the law-making process that Youth Legislature has provided her in order to pursue her future study in government and public policy in college. "I learned the ins and outs of the law-making process in a hands-on setting that I believe truly sets the Youth Legislature apart. I also was able to form lasting friendships with peers from across the state which helped enhance my experience at the convention." Farthing's role was followed by Davis McQuirter (11), who will act as House Majority Leader at next year's convention. The Youth Legislative Convention hosted at the Mississippi State Capitol is an annual event that students thoroughly enjoyed this year. Students were able to engage in issues that were important to them and author laws that they believed needed to be implemented in the state.

Attendees gained knowledge from their hands-on experience in the House of Representatives about how Mississippi Congress works. From debating on different topics, approaching the well to speak on bills, and engaging in politics, this year's attendees from Madison Central are thankful for the opportunity. This year's attendees are thrilled to return next year, and graduates are sad about the closing chapter of such a vital part of their high school experience.



HITTING THE BIG SCREEN



Lauren Heffington
STAFF WRITER

As the holidays are approaching, so are the releasing of many new and popular movies. Starting in early November, movies such as *Trolls Band Together*, *The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes*, Disney's *Wish*, *Aquaman*, and other movies have been released with many to follow.

Disney is putting out more movies such as *Wish* which was released on November 22. Stephanie Ko (12) said, "I love a good Disney or Pixar movie, and I am so excited for *Wish* to come out. I think a lot of people really wanted Disney to introduce some new original characters and

stories after so many live-action remakes were released, and I am really hoping that is what we will get from *Wish*. I personally already love the music that has been pre-released especially ("This Wish"), and although some people had some things to say about the animation style, I think it shows a good balance between 2D and 3D for a story that was allegedly 100 years in the making. Overall I would just say that I am really excited for it to come out, and I hope it is a movie that genuinely touches the audience that watches it." *Wish* follows a young girl named Asha who wishes on a star and gets more of an answer than she wanted. The movie we all loved when we were younger has come out with an-

other sequel, *Trolls 3* or *Trolls Band Together*, released on November 16. The *Trolls* franchise is an animated series of movies that follows the friendships, relationships, and hardships this species of troll must go through. *Trolls Band Together* follows Branch, as he and Poppy start their relationship. Branch also reveals that he was a part of a boy band called the BroZone with his four older brothers. Liv Milan (11) stated, "I am excited to go watch *Trolls Band Together* because I enjoyed the other movies, this movie follows Branch and his brothers as they start their boy band." It is believed that *Trolls Band Together* will end up being a bigger hit than the past two movies.

Other students watched movies such as *Willy Wonka* and *Aquaman*. Sofia Monico (11), "I have loved *Willy Wonka* since I was a kid, and I love Timothee Chalamet who is going to play *Willy Wonka*, so I

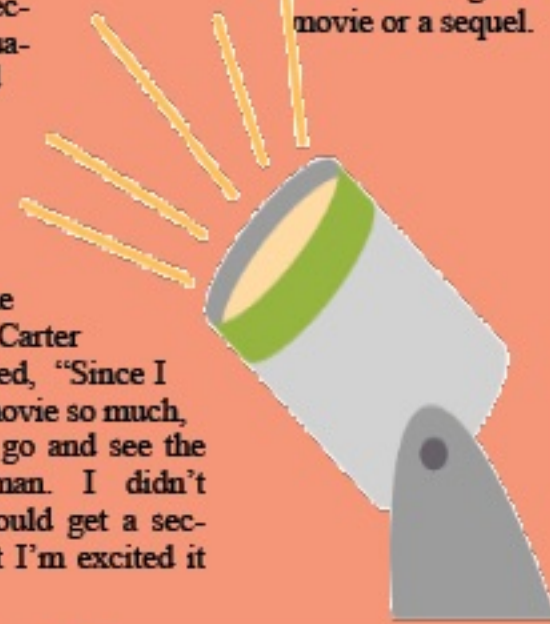
am extremely excited to see the new movie." The *Willy Wonka* movie follows how young Wonka

is finally coming out." *Aquaman* and the *Lost Kingdom* will be released on December 22. *Aquaman* and the *Lost Kingdom* is set to be the last movie of the DC Extended Universe. Over the holidays, many will be able to go and experience all that these movies



met the Oompa Loompas on one of his adventures. *Wonka* is to be released on December 15. *Aquaman* and the *Lost Kingdom* is the second of the *Aquaman* series and it follows *Aquaman* as he helps his half-brother Orm in defeating the Black Manta. Carter Fields (10) stated, "Since I liked the first movie so much, I'm excited to go and see the second *Aquaman*. I didn't know if we would get a second movie, but I'm excited it

have to offer. From Disney to DC the box office is sure to be filled with something for everyone, whether it is an original movie or a sequel.



EGG BOWL
2023

Ole Miss

DECK THE JUNGLE

Madie Moseley
STAFF WRITER

Christmas is undeniably the most magical time of the year. From hot cocoa, light shows, gingerbread house making, to singing Christmas songs, there is something for everybody to love. The big lead up to Christmas is huge — especially around Mississippi. Two of the most popular attractions around the State are Canton Walk of Lights and Magic of Lights in Brandon. Canton Lights started 35 years ago, and it has been a huge hit ever since. Along with the Canton Walk of Lights, the city of Canton hosts a Christmas festival on November 24 through December 23. Starting last

year, the Magic of Lights began to be displayed in the Brandon Amphitheater. The Brandon Amphitheater transforms into a drive through featuring Christmas-themed lights.

Many people also enjoy going to watch the Nutcracker Ballet. Ballet Mississippi and Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet have performed this exciting ballet year after year. Christmas Party games are also a hit. Dirty Santa, Secret Santa, Snowman building contest, and Reindeer toss are popular game choices among the many. Everybody celebrates Christmas differently.

Maelle Monbaron (10) is a foreign exchange student this year from Switzerland. Monbaron says, "Christmas is

much smaller and celebrated less, so I'm excited to see how different it is here." She will not be able to see her family this year, but they are sending each other postcards. Julia Kim (10) does not get to see her family over the holidays, but she sees close family friends in Georgia. Kim says, "We go to a large Korean Church in Georgia on Christmas Eve every year. Also, we eat a Korean traditional dinner which includes dishes: Japchae, Jeon, Jeyuk, and Bokkeum (spicy stir-fried pork)." In Korea, it is

untraditional to give presents, so in Julia's house they do not give presents to each other, but they do put presents under the tree for decorations. December 1 marks the season of celebrating. Sam Reily (12) has many fun yearly traditions. Reily stated, "We get a tree on December 1 and decorate it that night. We travel to West Point, Mississippi a

few days before, exchange gifts between families, play

Dirty Santa, and have a trivia game. Then on Christmas Day, we open presents in the morning from "Santa" and then my family stays home all day and spends time together." Many students at Madison Central also have fun Christmas Day traditions, such as Liv Milan (11) said, "On the day of Christmas my mom makes us a really good breakfast and my Aunts, Uncles, Cous-

ins, and grandparents all come over and we eat a big Christmas lunch. The week off school I usually use all my gifts and just try to relax." Another huge plus of the holiday season is a long, two-week break.

Christmas will always be one of the most popular holidays. All the festivities just make it harder not to love. The simple aspect of spending quality time with your loved ones is just such a beautiful thing that Christmas has to offer.

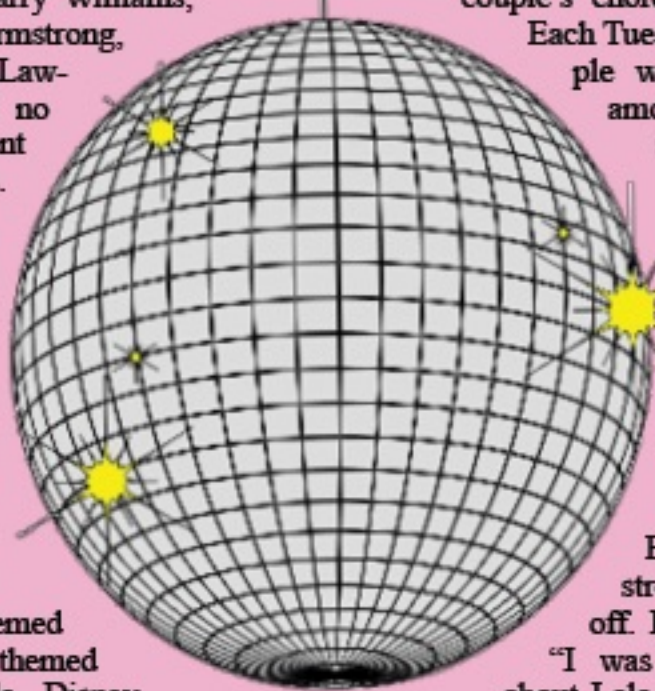


DANCING WITH THE STARS

Katherine Elfert
STAFF WRITER

For 31 seasons, Dancing with the Stars has been a staple on televisions worldwide. Viewers all over enjoy tuning in to see their favorite stars and couples dance it out. They also watch weekly to vote for their favorite couple to keep them going from week to week. The show airs each Tuesday, until December 5, where three couples will be eliminated and the last couple standing will win the show and receive the Len Goodman Mirrorball Trophy. The trophy is named after former judge Len Goodman, who passed shortly after announcing his retirement from being a judge on Dancing with the Stars. Dancing with the Stars takes celebrities known worldwide, and pairs them with professional dancers. This season of Dancing with the Stars has 14 contestants and 14 professional dancers. Contestants and professional dancers are paired up based on height, build, personality and compatibility. Some of the contestants

this year include Harry Jowsey, Jamie Lynn Spears, Xochitl Gomez, Lele Pons, Barry Williams, Brandon Armstrong, and Charity Lawson. There is no age requirement for the stars. The youngest contestant ever was 14 years old and the oldest was 82. Each week the couples get challenged with different dances and themed nights. Some themed nights include Disney, Music Video, Whitney Houston and Taylor Swift night. Throughout the season, the couples will compete head to head and participate in group dances to gain more points for their overall score at the end of the night. When asked about her favorite part of the show, Pranavi Buddala (10) stated, "My favorite part about the show is seeing how hard the dancers work towards their dances and seeing their wonderful dancing. I also love



seeing how the different couples work together and how diverse each couple's choreography is." Each Tuesday, the couple with the least amount of judges scores and fan votes combined is eliminated. During week seven, couple Lele Pons and Brandon Armstrong got voted off. Buddala says, "I was the saddest about Lele and Brandon getting eliminated because I really enjoyed watching them for the past few weeks." While seeing a good star go can be sad it leaves the show one step closer to revealing a winner. There are many popular pairs on Dancing with the Stars. Many viewers love to watch their favorite couple take the dance floor. People at home can also vote up to 10 times for the couple of their choice. Katie Norris (12) said, "My favorite cou-

ple is Harry Jowsey and Rylee Arnold because I love Harry from Too Hot to Handle and Rylee is a new pro which makes them fun to watch." This is Rylee's first season at 18 years old, becoming the youngest professional on dancing with the stars ever. However, a fan's favorite couple may not always be the couple they think will win. When asked who she wanted to win Norris stated, "I want Xochitl Gomez and Val Chmerkovskiy to win. Although I love Harry and Rylee, Harry is not the best dancer, and he does not deserve to win." Fans tend to have a favorite couple based on where they know the star from. Anna Claire Loving (10) stated, "My favorite couple is Arianna and Pasha because I loved Arianna's reality show and even though she is not a dancer she tries her best and she is really good." Each Tuesday another couple will get eliminated after putting their hard work into a dance. Soon there will be the final four couples competing in the finale. Dancing with the Stars has so many great couples on the show this season and viewers cannot wait to see who will win it all and take home the trophy. countries around the world.

Amelia Morris
STAFF WRITER

BUILDING A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR MADISON

The city of Madison is constantly growing, especially with their restaurants. Tamper Coffee in Colony Crossing, Aplós in the Renaissance, and Chipotle have been the newest places to go. The population of this city is increasing by the year, which fortunately for Madison's residents, brings in more places to eat and hangout. Tamper Coffee is owned by Tiffany and Jonathan Littleton. They signed the lease on the place in October of 2022 and started working on it around February; it was completed in July. Community partners in Madison held a ribbon cutting September 21. This was the coffee shop's first loca-

tion. The owners moved Madison from Dubai which is where they got their specialty and single origin coffee inspiration from. Single origin coffee is a category that is centered on one distinct area or region where the coffee is grown. In "Online Madison" Littleton said they were inspired by two factors for their name. One being the word "tamper" which is a way of applying pressure to espresso beans. The second being that opening the coffee shop both him and his wife were under a lot of pressure. Tamper's coffees are made from three different espresso coffee beans from different countries like Brazil, Ethiopia and Honduras. Tamper also provides a variety of smoothies, shakes, and pastries. On Thursday October 4,

2023 a sister location to the Aplós in Jackson, MS opened here in Madison. In "Online Madison", founder and CEO Alex Eaton of Aplós said, "We've received incredible support since we launched the original Aplós in Highland village four and a half years ago." Since they have exceeded their expectations they decided to take on more and expand their reasurant to another location, the Renaissance at Colony Park here in Madison. Aplós is a fine-fast mediterranean restaurant, whose food primarily centers around eateries throughout Greece, Italy, and the middle east. Ree Berthelot (11) said, "I would rate Aplós in the Renaissance a 8.5/10. I got the steak gyro and the other day I saw a veggie pizza that looked really good." She has been five times and Berthelot goes with her bestfriends. She recommended it and said she definitely would go again.

Lastly, a new restaurant that has been popular in many other cities and states is Chipotle. Chipotle is an American chain restaurant that specializes in taco bowls, burritos, and tacos. Customers have found it easy to customize their meals, which is a factor of why the place is so popular. The location of Chipotle is right across from one their biggest competitors Moes. Chipotle in Madison opened Wednesday, October 25. WLBT says that Chipotle Mexican Grill is expected to break ground in Madison. Pranavi Buddala (10) said, "I rate chipotle 8/10, I have been once and got the bowl with

chicken." "If I didn't get the bowl, I would definitely get a quesadilla." She went with her mom and said she would go again. Camden Hood (12) also has been to this new location and he rated the place a 7/10. Hood said, "I got the Carne Asada bowl and if I hadn't gotten that I would try a burrito." He has only been once with his dad and would go again. Chipotle has been one of Madison's biggest hits and will most likely be a successful location for the restaurant. Madison is definitely a fast growing town. Tamper Coffee, Aplós, and Chipotle are only a couple of the newest places around Madison. Many of the Madison community are very excited about the new restaurants and places it is getting.

Jenny Nguyen
STAFF WRITER

Tuning Into The CMA's

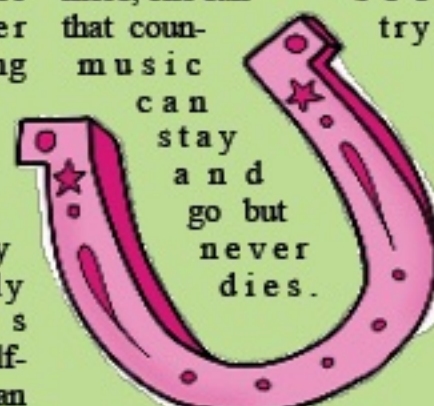
On November 8, 2023, the Country Music Association awards show was held at six o'clock central time. For those who do not know what the CMA show is, it is an annual event that honors the best country music songs and artists. In 2023, the association held their 57th event hosted by Luke Bryan and Peyton Manning, at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena, where it has been held since 2006. With Mississippi being in the south, country music is a hot topic for many people who grew up surrounded by country music or were introduced at some point. McKenzie Boteler (12) said, "I grew up in Texas listening to 90s country music with my dad. Country music is more

popular in the south rather than the north, it mainly depends on where you grow up." The majority of people grow to love country music as their parents introduced the genre. The top three most "country" states in the United States are Tennessee, Texas, and Louisiana. The state with the most country music listeners is Tennessee. Tennessee is known as the country music capital of the world as well as the birthplace of country music. Jimmie Rodgers, a fellow famous Mississippian, was the "father of country music."

Rodgers was also known for combining the blues, gospel, jazz, cowboy, and folk styles in his songs. Growing up traveling due to his father's job, at around 30 years old, Rodgers first recorded in Bristol, Tennessee on August 4, 1927. To the current trends of CMA winners this year, artist Lainey Wilson was given the entertainer and female award of the year. Wilson was also a part of the album awards for Bell Bottom Country. In the end, Wilson was able to take home five trophies. Sadie Weeks (11) said, "I think that Lainey Wilson deserves the awards with

her talent and how hard she has worked. My mom is friends with her since my parents grew up with her in Louisiana. I was able to go to one of her concerts and enjoyed it." Weeks also grew up listening to country music and believes that country music is for everyone, but it has its origin in the South. Weeks stated, "The community is also a big part of country music and has since grown into something bigger." Country music connects people together in its own way whether through the story-telling elements or the emotions people feel while listening. Caydon Jones (10) said, "I love the relaxing tone of country music and particularly how Luke Combs talks about steadiness and self-control." While people can

like country music for any reason, everyone has that one connection to it that all listeners can relate to. Finally, congratulations to all the CMA award winners and nominees. With the biggest night in country music once again, the ABC broadcast gathered an outstanding audience of 6.6 million total viewers. When recognizing country singers like Carrie Underwood, Taylor Swift, Jelly Roll, Zach Bryan, and several more, one can see that country music can stay and go but never dies.





KICKING OFF SOCCER SEASON



Emily Hodges
STAFF WRITER

Soccer season has officially kicked off here at Madison Central. The boys and girls team have a promising season ahead. Both spending hours on end practicing inside and outside of school, the teams have started off strong. Braden Buchanan (11) said, "I feel prepared for this season. We still have many games to go through, but I am looking forward to this season. The team looks

good." As their season keeps progressing, it will be exciting to see how the boys and girls team end up doing. Girls and boys are practicing everyday either during their school block or afterschool. Teammates are getting more and more ready for games as the practices and games continue.

With soccer being a winter sport, it gets cold during some of the games. People get bundled up in blankets and beanies and enjoy hot chocolate sold from the concession stands. The weather may be cold, but the jaguars still need to be supported by their fans. It is not uncommon to see friends laughing together while watching the games. Marianna Wright (11) is commonly seen in the stands watching the girls varsity games. She said, "I enjoy being able to talk to my friends while watching some of my friends play after my games." More

times than not, you are able to see girls and boys supporting their classmates playing the sport that they love. Going to soccer games may be cold at times, but from watching players get excited for a teammate scoring a goal, people always can count on an entertaining game.

Not only does it get cold for spectators, but players on the team also have to deal with the cold weather. But they try and keep good spirits to stay hyped for games. Tanner Nichols (10) said, "The season has been fun so far. It does get pretty cold at times but other than that we manage to have a good time. I am excited to see where the rest of the season takes us." This soccer season is just getting kicked off. Players and teammates are excited for the rest of the year and the memories to be made.

Just like all sports at Madison Central, the soccer team is known for being one of



Above: Junior Virginia Phillips during a soccer game
Photo Courtesy of Angel Kaur

the best sports teams in the state. The girls and boys' team have been putting in the hours and are looking forward for what is to come. So far, both teams are undefeated. Students, parents, and teachers are excited to

watch the players' seasons unfold. At the end of the day, the jags will finish on top. It is going to be fun to watch as the teams move forward.

MADISON CENTRAL'S BOY'S GOLF BECOME STATE CHAMPIONS!!



DRIBBLING INTO THE SEASON

Hannah Evans
STAFF WRITER

The long awaited 2023-2024 basketball season is here and the Jungle could not be more excited. Girls and boys basketball is full of great coaches and players. Basketball is welcoming two great new assistant coaches; the girls', Coach Robin Rae Mercer, and for the boys' Coach Michael Hammond. Mercer said, "I'm very excited to be here and cannot wait to get the season started. We have some great players who show up every day and work hard to improve. Personally, I am making sure that I give everything I've got to help players, as well as the team improve, and perform at their best level to help achieve their goals." Mercer enjoys being a coach and making an impact and bonding

with the students. Being a manager is very crucial to the success of the basketball team. As a manager you are very close with the team and work just as hard. Shamiah Kidd (10) stated, "This year's season has been wonderful so far. We still remain undefeated. It is fun being a manager very close to the team. I feel like I have similar responsibilities as the players. Managers are required to be at every practice, games, and team outings. I take a lot of pride in being a manager." Being a manager is an important role in basketball.

The boys coming off an 18-14 win-lose and the girls coming off an 18-13 win-lose from last season, continue to make a great reputation for themselves and

will continue to do so. The coaches and players are very confident and believe they can accomplish their goals this season. John Parker Baldwin (11) said, "This year we have put in the work to be the best team in the state of Mississippi. We know we have what it takes to win it all. Since last year, I have improved my mental game and strengthened my body. One of my goals for this season is to win a state championship for Madison Central." Baldwin elaborated on wanting a state championship.

Zac Cook (12) said, "I feel great about this year's basketball season. I feel like this year is our best chance to win the championship because we have a great team, and we all work very hard. I have improved by practicing more and started relying more on my teammates. A goal of mine for the season is to win the district and state championship, as well as trying to get a triple-double." Zac explained how he's practiced to better himself and help his team.



Above: Senior Lauren Sutton during a basketball game
Photo Courtesy of Mechaela Edmonston

Basketball is off to a successful start, both teams are currently on a 2-0 winning streak. The Jags have been preparing tremendously over the off season and will continue to work hard to be the best they can be and win a state championship. With many long practices in

the summer and hard work during third and seventh block, the teams are more than ready for their opponent. Madison Central cannot wait to see the wonderful things these players can do, and how great of a name they will give Madison Central.





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