

MADISON STATE OF MIND

The Newspaper of James Madison Preparatory High School



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Congrats Seniors!

Student Life

Senior Highlights: Oc'Taejah Hill, Tyler Platt, Ben Whigham, & Kersten Malone

By Roxanne Gosseck

Every month we take a little bit of time to recognize the seniors here at JMPHS. As we end the school year, our seniors will be heading off to college, trade school, or right into the workforce. This month we be recognizing senior's, Oc' Taejah Hill, Tyler Platt, Ben Whigham, and Kersten Malone. If you see these students, or any other seniors for that matter, make sure to give them a pat on the back for a job well done.

Oc' Taejah Hill, or simply Tae as most call her, is the first senior on our list. If she had to choose, her favorite class would have to be Mrs. Bergeron's English class. She said she wasn't at school often but some of her favorite memories were always in English class where they'd have a ball! After graduating high school, Tae plans to go to South Georgia State where she has a scholarship to play softball. For her underclassmen she recommends this, "Don't joke off. Do your work even if you don't come to school, you still need to do your work."



CINCO DE MAYO!!!! 5/5

Next on the list, Tyler Platt. Some of his favorite memories of high school are from when he directed a Crusader movie and acted in an Eisenhower movie for class projects. He struggled with English during his 9th and 10th-grade years, and it wasn't until new teachers took over that he was able to comprehend the material. His favorite subject was Math, and he misses the many jokes from Mr. Androski's class.



His advice for his underclassmen is to, "Make sure to bring P. White his favorite coffee often and don't mess with his encyclopedias." After graduating, Tyler is going to finish at NFC to complete his AA and then transfer over to the University of Florida.

Thirdly, we have Ben Whigham. His favorite class subject was American History. His favorite memories are of bringing his pet chicken to school to show Mr. Akerman and working free of pay for Mr. Walker. He struggled with Florida Virtual School and didn't like it. College Spanish was much more enjoyable. To his underclassman, he recommends choosing those you date carefully. He plans on completing his AA and joining the military after graduation.

Lastly, we'll be recognizing Kersten Malone. Some of Kersten's favorite memories of high school were the moments where she and her friends would just cut up and have fun. Making lifelong, special friendships along the way. Math is her favorite subject because it's always been enjoyable and has simply come easy to her. The main thing Kersten has struggled with is time management. She says it still hasn't gotten any better. After graduation, she plans to complete her AA and, by that time, hopes to have made a decision on further education. The advice she'd give her underclassmen is to stay on top of your schoolwork but don't forget to have fun, and make new friends.

She also says, "Pursue what you enjoy. The more you work at what you enjoy, the better you will become. From there, you can make what you enjoy into your future. I've been working on singing, seriously, for 3 or 4 years. No matter what you do, there's always room for improvement so don't give up on yourself."



Meet Sonjiamaria "Bella" Vasquez

By Abby Washington

Bella Vasquez is a freshman at JMPHS. She is currently 16 years old. Bella enjoys her classes here at this school very much. When asked what her favorite subject was, she answered with reading because she enjoys that class.

Bella came to this school because she had a great feeling about it. She says, "I believed that this school would get me to my dream college, the University of Florida. JMPHS has changed my life. It made me feel more confident in my work and made me believe that I can go to my dream college."



However, the hardest challenge she has had to face this year was being quarantined over and over again.

When asked what she does in her free time, she says she works at a restaurant so she doesn't have much time to herself.

However, in her free time, Bella loves visiting St. Augustine because of the beautiful beach and many activities to do there. She said that it was her happiest place to go. She also says that she loves eating healthy foods like salads to keep her body healthy.

One of her favorite shows is "The Vampire Diaries" on Netflix. When asked if she listened to any music, she replied with, "Most of my day I enjoy listening to music. My favorite song is "Does She know" by Astrid S. She impresses me with her songs because they always have a meaning behind it."

Bella is a great person who cares greatly about her education. With high hopes of going to her dream college, she certainly has the confidence to achieve her goals. It was awesome to have the opportunity to learn something new about one of my classmates.

New Mask Rules

By Lexi Carroll

Since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year students have had to follow a number of covid restrictions. One restriction included wearing a mask inside of the classrooms. Teachers were constantly telling students to put their masks on.

Many students hated this restriction while others thought it wasn't bad and it was actually helpful. It wasn't until recently that masks were no longer required at JMPHS.

There are many benefits to masks being optional, but there are also many negative factors. A plus is not having to worry about constantly pulling up your mask or if you might get into trouble by a teacher. Also, it is easier to focus for some. On the negative side people could possibly spread covid easier. There is no perfect system to operate things where everyone is happy, but I think making masks optional is a very good middle ground.

Down Home Days

By: Anna Meyer

April 24th was Downhome Days. One of the most popular days here in Madison county. This year was Madison County's 40th annual Down Home Days Festival.

At Down Home Days there is usually a parade; however, this year we did not have the parade because of Covid-19. However, it was still a lot of fun bc of the cool booths and food trucks. You can buy stuff such as home décor, clothes, and all types of jams and jellies. The food truck food is also to die for. I mean we're talking about funnel cake, cotton candy, and corn dogs. Just don't eat them in that order.

There was even a booth for our school. Our amazing staff was out there supporting our school. Also, Becky's Dance step Studio put on an amazing performance for the crowd while dancing in the street.

Down Home Day was a very fun and eventful event.



Teacher Times

An Interview with Kaitlyn Ortega

By Ethan Beach

I interviewed Kaitlyn Ortega with these questions. "What is a normal day for you like?" And she responded with, "A normal day for me is a lot of reading. I read all day long whether it is famous novels, stories, or essays, or student-developed writing."



I then offered the question, "Do you enjoy teaching? Why or why not?" and she answered with, "I like teaching because even though I have been doing it for years it never gets stale. There are always new challenges and developments in education to keep my job interesting and fresh." Next I asked her, "What do you do in your spare time?" and she responded with, "Most of the time I hang out with my family and currently, I have been spending a lot of time writing." I then asked, "What plans do you have in the summer?" She answered with, "I am planning to have a family reunion trip and a road trip with my nuclear family." For my final question, I asked, "Where and when were you born?" She answered with, "I was born in Valdosta, Georgia, on a Tuesday, several years ago."

Teacher Highlight: Deshawntee "Ironhead" Gallon

By Blake Grass



Deshawntee Gallon teaches Hope PE, Leadership, and industrial communications at JMPHS. He was a football player for the Arizona Cardinals in 2017, the Philadelphia Eagles in 2018, and the Ottawa Redblacks

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in 2019. He has been a teacher for approximately eight months. He went to school at Madison County High School and then to college at Georgia Southern University, where he got his Interdisciplinary Studies Degree. Students can contact him by email at dgallon@jmphs.org. His position was safety, but last year his season got put on hold due to Covid-19. With his history as an athlete, he decided that teaching was his best way "to be in a position to help the kids," he said. His favorite part of teaching is his opportunity to help kids improve their health. After teaching, he plans to return to football. When Mr. Gallon isn't teaching, he likes to spend time with his family. He devotes some of his time to working out and staying fit for football. Even with his food choices, he is staying prepared by eating homemade meals or places like Subway. When Mr. Gallon is spending time with his family, one of his favorite activities is to watch movies.



**INDY 500 DAY
5/30**

Sports

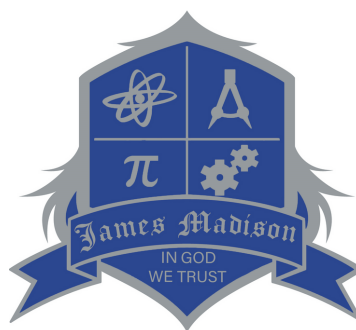
JMPHS Tennis

By Olivia McIntire

The tennis team season here in Madison county is coming to an end. This season has been fun, but also a struggle due to covid. However, they have persevered through all of the sickness and finished their season strong. Their last game was on Friday 16, 2021 in Tallahassee, Florida. It's a district game and everyone at JMPHS wishes them good luck.

Jack Agee is a sophomore at JMPHS. He plays for the MCHS tennis team and he says that his favorite thing about playing tennis is his teammates. He enjoys them cheering him on and supporting him throughout the season.

The team's favorite school to play has to be Taylor County High School. They said it's a lot of fun and it is one of the teams they could play around with. The head coach that has been the leader throughout the season is Mrs. Gudz. They have practice Monday-Thursday at MCHS. If you are looking to play Tennis next season you can contact the coach (Mrs. Gudz) or you could call MCHS.



Cowgirls Softball

By Bella Vasquez

The Cowgirls softball season began in January. There are ten girls on this year's season playing for the softball team. There are four coaches this season that are helping our cowgirls work to be an undefeated team.

Many know these coaches as: Matthew Replogel, Danny Thompson, Sam Wetherington, and Chris Robuck.

The team practices five days a week in order to be prepared for the next game. Every team has their biggest Rivals. Our Cowgirls Biggest Rivals are Union, Suwanee. Throughout the season the Cowgirls has won 10 games and lost 11.

All the girls claim that the hardest part of this year's season is that softball practice is everyday and can be very tiring, not getting down on yourself, and knowing you are not only planning for yourself, but for the whole team.

The Cowgirls put their hearts and souls into this season's softball team. They all may get frustrated when something goes wrong or they lose a game, but they all face it together and help each other through it all.

We are proud of our Cowgirls for doing an awesome job of this season. They may not win every game but we are proud of them for putting their effort into this year's season.

Events & Weather

Chris Cooks

By Casey McFall

Chris Cooks is a Lieutenant in the Madison Police Department, and during his off time, he holds barbeque cookouts. He pulls money from his own pockets and expects nothing in return. He has been serving his community since 2018 when his mother passed away from cancer. He wanted to help people who may be enduring illness and bring them to a better place.

His brother, John Cooks said, "He's always giving. He's 100 percent down for helping others and being an honest man. I wouldn't have it any other way. He deserves some props for helping out as much as he does. It often goes unnoticed, but he still does it." Chris's Kind actions have been acknowledged by people around the Madison community.

Original Article Source:
<https://www.greenepublishing.com/serving-the-community-outside-the-line-of-duty-chris-cooks/>

Go Bandits!

Mother's and Father's days

By Tramiya Bea

There is a special holiday that people celebrate to thank the women who took care of us and gave us what we needed and wanted. They helped us through tough times, never gave upon us, and always reminded us that we can do anything we put our minds to. It is MOTHERS DAY, so let's shower them with gifts and tell them how much they mean to us.

But, remember it's not about the gifts. It's about showing your mother you care for her. Lots of people celebrate mothers day on 2 different days, may 9 and May 12.



Mothers day on May 9 came to be when an American woman, named Anna Jarvis, held a small memorial service for her own mother. Anna Jarvis's mother died in 1905. Mothers was made official in 1914 when President Woodrow signed a measure establishing the second Sunday in May as mothers day. Mothers day was made for you to respect, honor, and show love towards your mother. This is the day that makes people remember the importance of their mother being in their life. There is another day that we celebrate, but it's not in May. It's actually in June and that is FATHERS DAY, which is June 20th. Fathers day came to be by a girl named Sonora Smart. William Jackson, her father, was not only a civil war veteran, but also a single father of six.



Fathers are amazing and I don't think people give them enough credit so let's celebrate them. Let's give them gifts and let them know how much they mean to us. What are students at JMPHS doing for Mother and Fathers day?

Well let's find out! "For mothers day I bought my mother a Pandora charm and I haven't figured out what I'm doing for fathers day." (Tramiya Bea). I also asked a few students what they were planning to do. Abby Washington said, "I'm planning on spending time with my parents". Allie Wilkerson said, "I usually write a note or card to give to my parents and spend the day with them. Whether it's going on a picnic or having family game night, we always make it a fun day."



NATIONAL SUNSCREEN DAY 5/28

The Re-Opening of Wild Adventures

By Lillian Washington

The large theme park, Wild Adventures, just opened back up on April 3rd after taking a break to renovate and meet Covid-19 precautions. People have been awaiting the opening of Wild Adventures. The entrance was filled with a mile-long line of cars and the parking lot was quickly packed. Wild Adventures decided to wait to open up on April 3rd because that marked the 25th anniversary of when the park first opened. During the break that Wild Adventures took, they made some renovations to the park. These include adding a petting zoo with animals such as baby cows, chickens, goats, pigs, sheep, and rabbits. The most popular of these are the pigs because many people have seen chickens and rabbits, but they haven't seen a pig. All of the 27 animals in this petting zoo can be petted as long as the animal allows.

They also made renovations to some of the animal habitats. They expanded the habitats so now you can see animals that you couldn't see before. For example, you could barely see the tigers before the renovation, but now they expanded the habitat so you have a better view of them.

I asked C4, an employee for Wild adventures, about the park's new changes. He mentioned that he actually likes working there better since the changes have occurred. He also said that another big change is that they sadly have to get a new elephant because their previous elephant passed away. I also talked to Ja'Shanti about Wild Adventures, as she is another employee. I asked her if working there was better with the changes, but she said that she hasn't been there long enough to see Wild Adventures before the changes. She said she believes the changes make it better. She also said that since the re-opening it has been very busy. I asked both of these students what their favorite addition to Wild Adventures is and they both said the new petting zoo. It has rabbits, goats, a new baby cow, and pigs.

Along with expanding the habitats and adding a petting zoo they are fixing up an old ride. Many people who have been to Wild Adventures are familiar with Pharaoh's Fury. They decided to move the ride to a new location in the park and refurbish the ride. They are adding new paint and some Egyptian music in the background. It will be open to ride some time in May. They always want to keep the park as fresh as possible especially since they just hit the 25th anniversary.

Another new thing that Wild Adventures is adding will be "Dive-in Movies". Every Friday night in June and July a screen will be set up to watch a movie or concert in Splash Island, Wild Adventures' water park. It will be available to watch from the wave pool or the lounge area.

As you can see Wild Adventures has made many changes to the park in many different ways. They are trying to make the experience as memorable as possible for all visitors.

Source - Valdostadailytimes

April Showers Prove Dangerous

By Melana Webb

Through the second weekend of April, some storms caused power outages, torn roofing, flattened buildings, and mangled vehicles. Some states that got hit with these storms were just hit previously in mid to late March. Several people were injured and at least three people have died.

Severe weather hit the South, bringing large hail to Texas and Alabama and leaving many vehicles damaged. Roads in Mississippi were flooded and there were dangerous winds, lightning, and a tornado reported in Florida and Louisiana. In Palmetto, Louisiana there was a stretch of homes that a tornado ripped through, causing seven injured and one dead. Eight homes were damaged along with about five or six vehicles. Debris from the damage was found in neighboring fields. Also in Shreveport, Louisiana a tree fell through a 48-year-old man's house and ended up killing him.

A convenience store in Panama City, Florida was severely damaged by the cause of a tornado that touched down Saturday. The store's roof flew off and crashed into a house. At the time there were only three people in the store and a few in the house, none of them faced any injuries. People were helping clean up the store and a local woman has started raising money for the store owners to help it get back up and running. This information was found mostly from the article "One Killed in Louisiana as Storms Hammer South; Buildings Destroyed in the Florida Panhandle" by Jan Wensler Childs. In Mississippi some roads were closed due to severe flooding, leaving roads completely underwater. Alternate routes were given. When approaching a flooded road the safest thing to do is turn around and find a different route to take.

All of the states impacted received power outages. More than 14,000 outages were reported in Florida, about 10,000 in Louisiana, and more than 13,000 in Mississippi. In Florida, a 17-year-old girl died after being electrocuted by a downed power line. Her car collided with a knocked-down power line, caused by a falling tree. After her car collided with the other person's vehicle, her car caught fire on the driver's side. When trying to escape she stepped onto the active power line, causing fatal electrocution.

When faced with dangerous storms it is important to stay somewhere safe like in a shelter that is in a safe location. It is best to keep your vehicle in a garage or on higher ground if flooding occurs. Make sure you organize important documents, create a home inventory, have an emergency kit, and have an easily accessible emergency fund.



Invasive Species in Our State

By John Carver

In the state of Florida, countless invasive species ravage the local economy and ecosystem. Unfortunately, many of these species can be seen out your window right now. In fact, you can see these plants on the walk from Lanier Field to the school. Costing the county of Madison the presence of local forms of wildlife, these plants and animals continue to damage our community. Luckily, some of these florae and fauna can be easily identified by the untrained eye.

For example, the arguably most familiar is Kudzu, a plant that wraps itself around trees, blocking sunlight and slowly killing our trees. In an interview with Casey Sullivan, a forestry technician for the United States Forest Service, and previously an ecosystem restoration technician for the Nature Conservancy, he said "the best way to deal with invasive species is early detection and a rapid response". In his line of work, he says Kudzu is likely the worst invasive species in the North Florida area, as it smothers out the native plants and trees, and eventually affects the wildlife.



For the people in the trap team here at school, if you are driving from Highway 90, and onto Roller Coaster Road to the field when the road turns to dirt, you can see Cogon Grass on both sides of the road. Native to Asia and Africa, this species was brought over and it grew rapidly in our soil. It crowds out our native plants and sucks the nutrition from the soil. Originally, it was introduced as a forage plant in the 1930s, but it quickly got out of hand.

One of the most dangerous invasive species is the Wild Hog. Coming over with the settlers from Europe, the natives saw it as a destructive beast, and for good reason. It roots through the ground, looking for food, and when there is a drove of them in an area, it looks like the land was plowed. This



puts a strain on the native animals' food supply. Not only do they damage agriculture, but they can grow to dangerous sizes, with the current record holder in Florida weighing over a thousand pounds. Wild hogs have massive tusks that can cause severe bleeding to even people, and they move very quickly, often catching the unaware by surprise. Luckily, it's nothing a few well-placed bullets can't handle, and there are few regulations on hunting Wild Hogs. Deriving from the pig, the Wild Hog is edible, and it is said to taste like pork but is leaner with a more gamey flavor because of its diet.

With as unfortunately common as many invasive species are, it may seem like some plants and animals were always here, but they are successful at driving out native wildlife and spreading rapidly. At the moment, it may not seem like too much of a problem, but these species work night and day to multiply at the expense of whatever was living here before, silently but steadily causing damage. Many of these species were brought here with good intentions, Kudzu was meant to prevent washout and Hernando de Soto just wanted some fresh pork on his expedition for gold, but when new flora and fauna are brought to Florida, their damage is unpredictable. This is why we all need to do our part to keep our beautiful state in its pristine condition.

NATIONAL HAMBURGER DAY 5/28



Reverse Macro

By Jack Agee

Creative Corner



Reverse Macro

By Cianna Curtis



Theme Series

By Ahmad Straughter

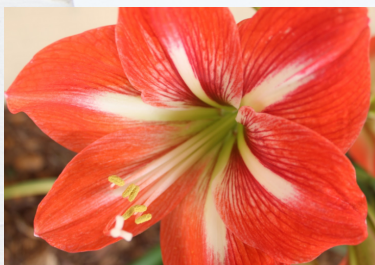


3D Art Class



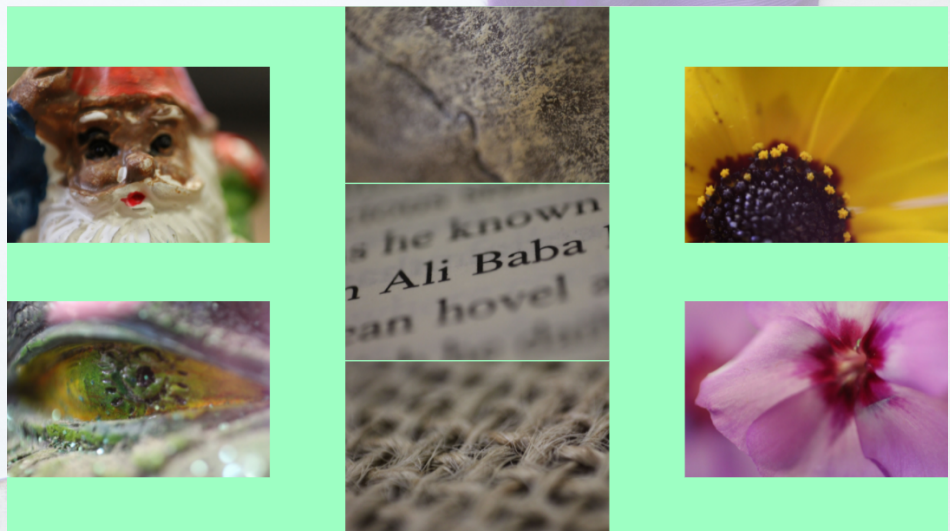
Bubble Photos

By Abi Saltares



Theme Series

By Z'niah Silas



Reverse Macro Series

By Kersten Malone