



FEBRUARY 2022



VOLUME LIV

Sword & Shield

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER

February 2022



// 6 Licorice Pizza Review

// 10 Figure Skating: The Road to The Olympics

// 15 Founder of Theranos, Found Guilty

11 // 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics Updates and Preview

21// The Earth-Shattering Power of "No"

22 // Oscar Predictions

Happy February, Spartans!

Hi everyone, I'm Amy, the Opinions editor!

I joined Sword & Shield because I have way too many opinions, and my favorite part of being an editor is reading and refining everyone's beautiful Op-eds while learning from their unique perspectives. When I'm not writing for Sword & Shield, I love to figure skate, play board games, and watch an unhealthy amount of stand-up comedy.

From some delicious spooky season recipes to more information on the fall play, we hope that you will find an article or two that piques your interest.



**Amy Qiao,
Opinion Editor**

ARTS & ENTER.	STUDENT LIFE	NEWS	SPORTS	OPINIONS
4 // <i>The Hero</i>	9 // <i>5 Fun Valentine's Day Activities For Single People</i>	13 // <i>Failed Voting Rights Bill</i>	18 // <i>College Football Bowl Season Recap</i>	23 // <i>Why Is The Music Industry So Male-Dominated?</i>
4 // <i>Art Throughout Black History</i>	9 // <i>Start Studying for AP Exams Now</i>	13 // <i>2022 Midterms Update</i>	19 // <i>Olympic Figure Skating</i>	24 // <i>A Retrospective Reflection Of New Year's Resolutions</i>
5 // <i>Nightmare Alley Review</i>	10 // <i>BSU February Agenda</i>	14 // <i>Revised Build Back Better Bill</i>	20 // <i>Beijing Winter Olympic Updates</i>	24 // <i>The Strange Art Of Nail Painting</i>
5 // <i>Sphinx</i>	11 // <i>Supporting Black Liberation in Madison</i>	14 // <i>Founder of Theranos Found Guilty</i>	21 // <i>Wisconsin Men's Basketball Exceeds Expectations</i>	25 // <i>The Earth-Shattering Power of "No"</i>
6 // <i>Happier Than Ever Review</i>	12 // <i>Memorial's Winter Musical: Mamma Mia!</i>	15 // <i>Cloth Masks Aren't Enough For Omicron</i>	21 // <i>USMNT World Cup</i>	26 // <i>Oscar Predictions</i>
6 // <i>Licorice Pizza Review</i>	12 // <i>Club Reviews!</i>	16 // <i>Justice Breyer To Retire, Offering Biden Scotus Nomination</i>	22 // <i>Poms Team for the Win</i>	27 // <i>Lionel Messi is the GOAT</i>
7 // <i>Nightmare Alley Review</i>	12 // <i>Valentine's Day Chocolate Fundraiser for Green Club!</i>	17 // <i>British Man Holds Texas Synagogue Goers Hostage. All Escape Safely</i>	22 // <i>NFL Coaching Carousel</i>	
7 // <i>Peacemaker Review</i>	12 // <i>Join AI Camp!</i>			
8 // <i>Golden Globes Makeover Works to Salvage its Reputation</i>				



What's happening
THIS MONTH at JMM?

- 1 — Lunar New Year Start of Black History Month
- 2 —
- 3 —
- 4 —
- 5 —
- 6 —
- 7 —
- 8 —
- 9 —
- 10 —
- 11 —
- 12 —
- 13 —
- 14 — Valentine's Day
- 15 — Spring Primary
- 16 —
- 17 —
- 18 —
- 19 —
- 20 —
- 21 —
- 22 —
- 23 —
- 24 — School Musical
- 25 — School Musical
- 26 — School Musical
- 27 —
- 28 —

EDITORS

- Co-Editors-in-Chief*
Amira Pierotti &
Mihika Shivakumar
- Assistant Editor-in-Chief*
Sophia Jiang
- Student Life Editors*
Olivia Zhu & Sophia Jiang
- Opinions Editor*
Amy Qiao
- Sports Editor*
Nolan Sullivan & Lydia Lenz
- News Editor*
Anvika Annyapu
- Arts & Entertainment*
Editor
Ava Kenney
- Layout & Operations Editors*
Nadya Konadu & Amy Yao

ADVISOR

Teri Parris Ford

CONTRIBUTORS

- Anvika Annyapu
- Jonathan Buscher
- Sophia Jiang
- Ava Kahn
- Donghyun Kim
- Nadya Konadu
- Lydia Lenz
- Lauren Morse
- Amira Pierotti
- Amy Qiao
- Felipe Rey
- Alexandra Saffman
- Eliana Sauer
- Rowan Schreiber
- Mihika Shivakumar
- Nolan Sullivan
- Elliot Weix
- Olivia Zhu
- Black Student Union
- Akanksha Denduluri
- Lavenia Vulpal
- Gang Wang
- Leeyan Nasrallah

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THE HERO

By: *Laura Lopez*

Black or Brown or white
 No matter if you are stuck in the past or ready to fight
 We've all heard of the hero who led the battle
 A hero who managed to gather brothers, sisters,
 siblings to ride with him on his saddle
 It was not easy with all the hate and shame filling into
 their heads
 Victory earned without asking for weapons or
 bloodshed
 Floods of black power united to support a speech
 A speech, not just anyone could preach
 "Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning"
 It's the beginning of a new American Dream
 Let's make our dreams become reality, one union, one
 team
 Our hero Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded millions of
 stubborn racists of the power, success, and intelligence
 that are held in the hearts and minds of Black people
 Show respect not because you owe it, show respect
 because you care and know what's fair



BLACK ARTISTS TO KNOW FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

By: *Olivia Zhu*

Do you love looking at art? Are you wondering who are the Black artists of today? Here are three Black artists to check out for Black History Month!

1. Kehinde Wiley

Without a doubt, definitely go search up Kehinde Wiley's art. Many people know him for being commissioned to paint former president Barack Obama's portrait, but that's only just one of the many masterpieces in his repertoire. His works focus on realistic contemporary portraits of young Black men and boys with flourishing details in the background.

2. Bisa Butler

Butler started off as a painter but now mainly works on quilted art. She states her mission through art is to convey stories so as to keep their memory alive. Working with all kinds of fabric--silk, cotton, velvet, and more--Butler creates rich quilts that emphatically convey emotions of individuals.

3. Jammie Holmes

A self-taught painter, Jammie Holmes creates expressive paintings that depict Black life in the deep south, focusing mainly on Louisiana and its extensive history with racism and poverty. During the protests over George Floyd's murder, Holmes was known for organizing airplanes to display banners with Floyd's last words over multiple states across the US.

NIGHTMARE ALLEY REVIEW

By: *Felipe Rey*

After being away from the silver screen since directing the Oscar-winning *Shape of Water*, Guillermo Del Toro is back with *Nightmare Alley*, a psychological thriller remaking the 1947 classic of the same name.

The film centers around an ambitious carnival worker, and I would argue that not knowing anything else plot-wise enhances the viewing experience.

Nightmare Alley has a particular quality that I love to see in movies, which is that the plot feels as if it could go anywhere at any time. Every moment still leads perfectly into the next, but at the same time it's almost impossible to predict any part of what's coming soon. It's a film which is constantly changing and shifting as it follows Bradley Cooper's Stan Carlisle, and it never fails to excite.

Another great element of the movie is how lived-in many of the areas seem to be. It never feels like the characters are on a set, it feels like they're legitimately in a bar or a campground or wherever they may be in the movie. The movie also doesn't wander particularly far into unnatural territory and usually stays very grounded, which helps add to the thrilling and shocking nature of the film. With that being said, it does still have some occasional graphic violence, particularly in the opening scene when a man eats a live chicken.

Without getting into details, the ending of this movie is absolutely incredible. The way it wraps up this tortured character in a way that fits his arc and pays off some earlier setup flawlessly ends this already fantastic film. Some have called it "the best ending of the decade" which is a little farther than I would go, but it was one of the best I've seen in a long time.

I would highly recommend anyone who enjoys seeing slow-burn neo-noir thrillers to check out *Nightmare Alley* as soon as possible before it leaves theaters. From its performances to its story, it's a nearly perfect movie which only slightly stumbles in its pacing and keeps you entranced and entertained throughout.

SPHINX WORKS TO BRING MUSIC ACCESS TO ALL

By: *Ava Kenney*

Music is extraordinary in that it allows cultures to come together and celebrate stories. A group that demonstrates this is The Sphinx Organization, a non-profit aiming to "Transform Lives Through the Power of Diversity in the Arts" by promoting performance ensembles, education programs, and opportunities for young classical musicians that identify as Black or Latinx. Since its establishment in 1996, its array of programs have uplifted the voices of aspiring musicians nationwide. Sphinx commissions composers of color and awards grants for arts entrepreneurship, and provides music education scholarships. Along with reaching out to their local community in Detroit, Michigan, they are constantly expanding their work across the country. Performing ensembles affiliated with Sphinx, like the Sphinx Virtuosi, Exigence Vocal Ensemble, Catalyst Quartet, and the Harlem Quartet, have brought Sphinx's outreach programs and performances to numerous communities. This past September, the Sphinx Virtuosi worked with students from the Suzuki Strings of Madison program, followed by a brilliant performance at the Union Theatre of works by underrepresented composers, from Jessie Montgomery's enlivening *Banner for String Orchestra* to Florence Price's beautiful *A minor String Quartet*.

One of Sphinx's most prominent events is its annual competition, where young Black and Latinx string players compete for career building opportunities with prominent orchestras around the U.S. Because of Covid-19, the event was broadcasted on virtual platforms. Competitors submitted single-take performances recordings; three finalists were eventually chosen from the Junior and the Senior divisions. Shortly after the competition, Jonathan Okseniuk and Kebra-Seyoun Charles were nominated as the junior and senior winners, along with Brandon Leonard and Gabriela Lara as the audience choice awards. Overall, this year brought an incredibly exhilarating competition, and there is no doubt it will be exciting to watch these artists progress further into their careers for years to come.

HAPPIER THAN EVER REVIEW

By: Amy Qiao

Musical artists get to do something we often wish we could do more easily. By dedicating an album to an era of their lives, they can tie that point of time into a bow to treasure and reflect upon while still moving on. But we, the audience, often do the same thing with their music by assigning it to an era of our own lives--even though their songs have nothing to do with us. This is the doing of one of the most powerful aspects of an album--its universality.

I'll admit, I had no intentions of listening to *Happier Than Ever*. But while watching Billie Eilish as the host and musical guest of SNL, I had no choice but to stare in awe at her electrifying and energizing performance of *Happier Than Ever*. The silent and sweet acoustic beginning only made the second half more empowering. After that, I basically had to listen to the whole album.

Much like the song of the same name, the *Happier Than Ever* album features a broad range of musical styles. Her slower, quieter songs--"Male Fantasy", "My Future", and "Billie Bossa Nova"--were fueled by her spellbinding lyrics. Her more techno, alternative, "bad-guy-esque" songs--"I Didn't Change My Number", "Oxytocin", and "NDA"--were an extremely catchy addition. But a large number of her songs fit into a more unconventional category- songs that aren't centered on others but rather herself.

While her breakout single "Ocean Eyes" was written from the point of view of an admirer, the *Happier Than Ever* album is a version of "Ocean Eyes" about herself. Her album opens with "Growing Older", a song dedicated to reflecting on her flaws as well as her own growth on the path to becoming "Happier Than Ever." In "My Future," she falls in love "not with anybody else" but herself. Arguably the most powerful song on the album is "Not My Responsibility," which focuses on her experience with body shaming as a young woman in the entertainment industry. She grapples with the impossibility of pleasing people and ultimately decides that "[their] opinion of [her]" is "not [her] responsibility."

Although her songs are personally specific to her own experiences, I can't help but see myself in them. The overarching theme of growing older and an endeavor to become happier than ever is incredibly

universal, even with her own specific stories backing them up. No matter your age, *Happier Than Ever* is the perfect album to accompany the change and growth we fear yet need. Because if she's searching for happiness, why don't we?



LICORICE PIZZA RE- VIEW

By: Felipe Rey

Since the announcement of *Licorice Pizza* under its original title, *Soggy Bottom*, anticipation has been building for Paul Thomas Anderson's latest work. Fortunately, the wait was absolutely worth it, as this comedy-drama coming-of-age story was one of the best films of the year.

Licorice Pizza doesn't really have a definite plot--it more just follows the growth of the main character, Gary Valentine, a teenage actor with an abundance of confidence, and Alana Kane, a disillusioned 25-year-old who begins the film as a school photographer's assistant, all with the backdrop of the 1970's in the San Fernando Valley. The two begin to form a bond after Gary takes interest in her when he sees Alana at his school, and the film moves in all sorts of directions from there.

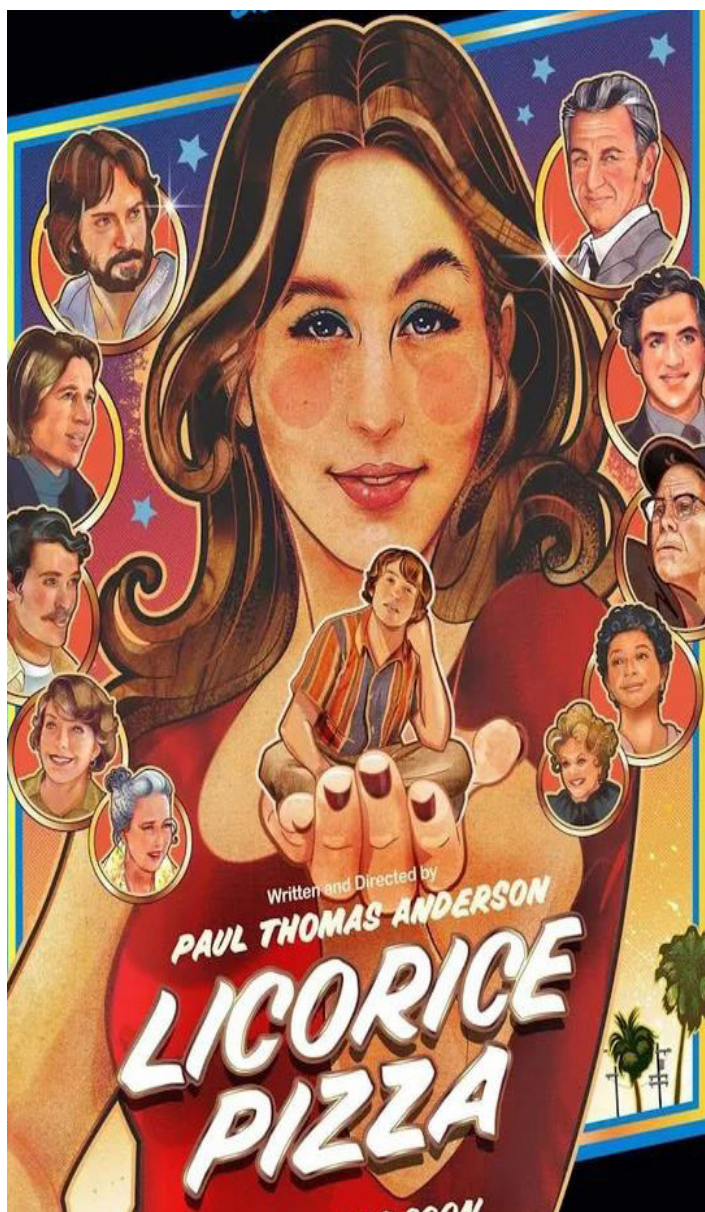
Licorice Pizza could be classified as a hangout movie, where the characters are just living their lives and doing things without necessarily an objective or are pushing forward at every single moment. It meanders through their lives and captures how odd and disorganized life can be. In one moment they'll be installing a water bed for Barbara Streisand's husband, and in the next scene they'll be meeting with

cont.

an insane casting agent (probably the most bizarre and delightful performance of the movie). It takes you through their lives as they grow, and it does an excellent job of doing so without boring you--whether that be through thrills, laughter, or drama, there's always something going on to excite the audience.

One of my few gripes with the film is the title, which the director explained came from two words that created "a pavlovian response and memory" from his childhood. I would argue the original title, *Soggy Bottom*, works much better, as it's a plot point within the film.

Nevertheless, *Licorice Pizza* is a great film with complex characters and plotlines that flawlessly brings Paul Thomas Anderson into a genre he hadn't really previously delved into, and I would highly recommend it along with all of his previous works.



PEACEMAKER REVIEW

By: Felipe Rey

As the DC universe continues to expand in all sorts of ways, from *The Batman*'s potentially new continuity to the CW's low-budget "Arrowverse", *Peacemaker* has broken through as one of the best pieces of media from DC, even if it's still currently overshadowed by the film that spawned it, *The Suicide Squad*.

Peacemaker follows the titular character, played perfectly by John Cena, after he's chosen to work for the government due to his commitment to following the rules. He's paired up with two characters who first appeared in *The Suicide Squad*, Emilia Harcourt and John Economos, as well as several new characters, the standouts being his best friend, Eagly, and his former crimefighting companion, Vigilante.

At the time of writing this, only half the series has been released, but so far it has been delightful. John Cena nails the physicality and the comedy of his character, and most of the cast is great as well. The comedy doesn't rely heavily on any one form, such as quick quips or physical comedy, but is rather a blend of all kinds of humor. The show also does a good job of creating emotional moments along with all the comedy, and on top of that, the action is never lackluster. The pacing is solid, the music is phenomenal, and the plot is unpredictable enough, even if it's not at the same level which *The Suicide Squad* was at.

Two particular tendencies in the series which I especially have been liking is the offhanded inclusion of bizarre DC characters such as Matter-Eater Lad and Bat Imp, as well as the end-credit scenes which take the form of comedic extensions of earlier scenes that add little to the overall story but serve as a great comedic moments.

I would highly recommend this to any superhero fans who are looking for a great addition to the genre, and I would also like to recommend the opening credits sequence to anyone with a pulse (it's on Youtube, and I would strongly suggest finding it when you have a moment). *Peacemaker* is currently streaming on HBO Max.

GOLDEN GLOBES MAKE-OVER WORKS TO SALVAGE ITS REPUTATION

By: Felipe Rey

The 79th Golden Globes broke tradition in many ways due to some controversies in the past few years. While the event is usually attended by Hollywood’s biggest celebrities, has a monologuing host, and contains award acceptance speeches, none of these things were true this year. It wasn’t even broadcasted. Instead, it was a private event attended by members of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), and the results were posted live during its usual Sunday 3-hour window.

Much of the criticism of the Golden Globes came due to the lack of Black representation within the HFPA. After originally making some plans to create change, they were further criticized for a lack of legitimate and clear plans, as well as slow movement that would mean no real change by the 2022 awards ceremony.

Shortly after Netflix and Amazon Prime announced they would stop interactions with the HFPA, the channel which televised the event, NBC, declared it would not be doing so this year, but would potentially host the show once again in 2023 if changes were made.

In terms of actual awards, the night was fairly unsurprising. *The Power of the Dog* won in the Best Drama category, as well as the Best Director category, and *West Side Story* won in the Best Music or Comedy category.

The Golden Globes made history with Rachel Zegler as the first Latina ever to win the Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy award (as well as the youngest actress ever), and for its first transgender winner, Mj Rodriguez, who won the Best Actress in a TV Drama award.

Overall, despite those historical breakthroughs, the night was disappointing for obvious reasons, and soured the start of awards season. Hopefully the Oscars can revitalize this flagging tradition and help the film industry remain strong for years to come.

SUPPORT SWORD & SHIELD!

JOIN OUR TEAM!

*Mondays, during lunch in
the Photo Lab (Room 521)!*



STAY UP-TO-DATE!

jmmswordandshield.com



STAY IN-TOUCH!

memorialswordandshield@gmail.com

IG: @jmmnews

STUDENT LIFE

5 FUN VALENTINE'S DAY ACTIVITIES FOR SINGLE PEOPLE

By: Sophia Jiang

Are you sick of seeing couples having the time of their lives on Valentine's Day, while you are stuck at home alone wishing that you, too, could live it up? Well, don't worry, because below is a list of activities that even single people can do on Valentine's Day!

1. Watch Romantic Movies with Friends

La La Land, The Notebook, To All the Boys I've Loved Before, you name it! Whether it be throwbacks, rom coms, new releases, grab some popcorn, sit back and relax with your best friends on a Saturday night. Not into romantic movies? That's fine; watch whatever you and your friends enjoy!

2. Go Out and Buy Yourself Some Chocolate

You deserve a little relaxation after working so hard this week. Go on. Treat yourself to some creamy, milk chocolate, or some rich dark chocolate. Trust me, you won't regret it.

3. Go Shopping

Want to check out the trendiest clothes? Or perhaps you just want to explore new products in stores out of curiosity. Whatever the reason, shopping is a great way to have fun! Whether you are shopping by yourself or with someone else, shopping provides a way where you can focus on yourself for an afternoon.

4. Bake Something!

Make something sweet! Try a new recipe! Baking is a great way to spend an afternoon. Bake as many brownies, cakes, and heart-shaped cookies as you want.

5. Try Out a New Restaurant

Have you been longing to try out a restaurant that's been recommended to you, but you just simply haven't had the time? Now is the perfect opportunity! With family and friends, you can enjoy your evening being around people that make you happy.

START STUDYING NOW FOR AP EXAMS

By: Elliot Weix

About three months remain before the start of AP testing, and the most important tip I can give you is to start studying today. While studying may be a daunting task best left for future-you, it's startlingly easy once you break it down into manageable pieces.

Start by taking stock of where you are: consider the number of exams you have ahead of you and the content of your classes. Then think about the amount of free time you have in the day. If you can afford to part with a half-hour block or so, that's perfect. If not, find times throughout the day when you have perhaps five or ten minutes; you don't have to study in a single period. No matter how you decide to partition your time, it's important that you make a commitment to studying: write it down somewhere or make an agreement with a group of friends.

Once you start studying, do so with intent. DO NOT just sit and re-read your notes for twenty minutes per night; unfortunately, you'll only give yourself the illusion of studying. Instead, actively test your knowledge: discuss the class with your friends, explain lessons to your family, and quiz yourself on each section. If you have the time and inclination, build a practice test all yourself and then take it.

If you do this for 7 or 8 minutes per AP class, you'll be much better prepared for your exams. You don't even need to study every night, though it's certainly helpful for building good habits. It doesn't have to be all at once: take time on the bus ride to look over some flash cards. A little bit each day adds up quickly.

Memorial Black Student Union

BLACK HISTORY MONTH *celebration*

Wednesday 2/2 Lunch and chat with the 100 Black Men of Madison 12noon-1pm wolf Study hall

Wednesday 2/9 open mic and karaoke 12 noon - 1pm fieldhouse

Wednesday 2/16 Know your heritage trivia 12noon-1pm wolf Study hall

Wednesday 2/23 Showing of Movie American Skin 12noon -1:30pm Auditorium

Friday 2/25 I AM Black Excellence Awards Night 5pm - 6pm
Memorial High School Cafeteria

Memorial's Students VS Staff Basketball Game TBA

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Mrs. Jones (608)663-6168 or apjones@madison.k12.wi.us

Made with PosterMyWall.com

SUPPORT BLACK LIBERATION

By: Amira Pierotti

Madison Black History Month Events:

- Honoring the Black Woman Art Exhibit: All February, Truax Art Gallery, 1701 Wright St
- Black History Education Conference. Event details: <https://place.education.wisc.edu/k12-programs/black-history-education-conference/>
- Wisconsin Historical Society: Black History Month Open House: 816 State St., Madison, Wisconsin 53706, 10am-4pm
- JMM BSU Events (left)

Madison Black-Led Organizations to Support:

- Freedom Inc.
- Nehemiah Center
- Progress Center for Black Women
- Foundation for Black Women's Wellness
- 100 Black Men of Madison Inc.
- Harambee Village

Black Activists in Madison to Support

- Sirena Flores
- Noah Robinson
- Nalah McWhorter
- Mathew Charles
- Ayomi Obuseh
- SunShine Raynebow (she/they/queen/goddess)
- Dana Pellebon (she / her)
- Brandi Grayson (she / her)

Black Joy Representation:

- POSE (TV Series)
- Hair Love (book & short film)
- A Garden of Black Joy (poetry book)
- Hidden Figures (movie)
- Coming to America 1 & 2 (movies)
- Soul (movie)
- Akeelah the Bee (movie)
- Love & Basketball (movie)
- *You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson
- *With the Fire on High* by Elizabeth Acevedo
- *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi
- *Felix Ever After* by Kacen Callender
- *Black Girl Unlimited* by Echo Brown

Documentaries:

- *13th*
- *In Our Mothers' Gardens*
- *Disclosure*

- *The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson*
- *Who Killed Malcolm X?*
- *Good Hair*
- *They've Gotta Have Us*
- *I am Not Your Negro*
- *Freedom Riders*
- *King in the Wilderness*
- *Whose Streets?*
- *The Black Power Mixtape*
- *John Lewis: Good Trouble*

Nonfiction Books:

- *Killing Rage* by bell hooks
- *Stamped from the Beginning* by Imbram X. Kendi
- *400 Souls* edited by Imbram X. Kendi and Keisha N. Blain
- *Freedom is a Constant Struggle* by Angela Davis
- *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander
- *When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir* by Patrisse Khan-Cullors & Asha Bandele
- *How We Get Free: Black Women and the Combahee River Collective* edited by Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor
- *Assata* by Assata Shakur
- *Hood Feminism* by Mikki Kendall
- *Narrative of the Life of Fredrick Douglass* by Fredrick Douglass
- *Between the World and Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *Sister Outsider* by Audre Lorde
- *White Rage* by Carol Anderson
- *Killing Rage* by bell hooks
- *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson *Heavy* by Kiese Laymon
- *Are Prisons Obsolete* by Angela Davis
- *Dear Senthuran* by Akwaeke Emezi
- *Redefining Realness* by Janet Mock

Fiction Books:

- *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison
- *Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston
- *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett
- *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler
- *Another Country* by James Baldwin
- *The Salt Winners* by Toni Cade Bambara
- *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead
- *Freshwater* by Akwaeke Emezi
- *Black Girls Must Die Exhausted* by Jayne Allen
- *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jasmyn Ward
- *Punching the Air* by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam

CLUB REVIEWS!

By: Sophia Jiang

“My favorite parts about HOSA are the competitive events and the ability to choose which part of the medical field we want to learn more about.” -Leeyan Nasrallah

“Spartan News is a space to have fun and be creative. My favorite part about this club is that every idea is considered and there’s so many different things you can do as a part of SN. Whether it be the question, clip, or sports report, everyone has a chance to do something they enjoy.” - Anvika Annyapu

“My favorite part of HOSA is the way that they have such different fields you can study and so many different ways you can show your understanding. It’s been a really helpful factor in narrowing down what future career paths I might take and it’s really fun to research about topics that interest me.” -Akanksha Denduluri

“FBLA is honestly one of the most fun clubs I’ve joined at Memorial. I’ve met really cool people through it that all share the same passions as me. I’ve had the opportunity to expand my business interest and demonstrate it at regional and state conferences. FBLA along with the friends I’ve made from it will always be something I remember from high school!” - Lavenia Vulpal

“Chem club is cool because it takes what we learn in class and applies it. It’s cool because we get to see the application and variety of chemistry. We also help tutor!” -Jian Wang

VALENTINE’S DAY CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER FOR GREEN CLUB!

By: Green Club

Come to the **commons** or the **welcome center** before or after school on **Wednesday and Thursday (Feb. 9 and 10)** to purchase **Fair Trade Chocolate** for \$5! Profits go to supporting Green Club. First 20 Buyers pick a **FREE CARD!**

MEMORIAL’S MUSICAL: MAMMA MIA!

By: Eliana Sauer

Are you sick of winter and craving a Greek island escape? Well, Memorial Theater Company can help you with that! Get ready to lose yourself in the ABBA music-powered story of Sophie (Jillian Sytsma) as she gets ready for her perfect wedding. There’s just one small hitch: Sophie has invited three men because she thinks that one of them must be her dad. Sophie has to cope with trying to figure out if Sam (Elijah Edwards), Bill (Emmit Thom), or Harry (Charlie Maloney) is her dad while also trying to keep the whole thing a secret from her mom Donna (Izzy Zeman). Sophie talks to each one of the men, trying to find kinship with one in particular. At the same time Donna reminisces with each one on the old days.

Join the talented actors and crew members of Memorial Theater Company for our winter musical, Mamma Mia! Performances will be February 24, 25, and 26th in the auditorium and tickets will be sold at lunch the week of the show, and online purchasing information will be made available via Spartan News, daily announcements, and posters around the school. Student tickets will be \$5.

JOIN AI CAMP!

By: Akanksha Denduluri

Founded by Stanford graduates, AI Camp teaches you about Artificial Intelligence and AI applications. In the past, students have made some of the following products: AI detects cancer, AI identifies endangered marine species, AI text summarization, and AI mimics tweets. Students build insightful projects and learn about the technology field. If you show true passion for AI, you could be offered an internship or even a job with AI Camp’s internship program!

It’s a three-week long, fully online program, with flexible hours! No coding experience is required to participate! During these three weeks, YOU can create an impressive AI product (that you can put on your college application!). Scholarships are available!

If you have any questions or would like the link to sign up, please contact Akanksha Denduluri at sdenduluri2@madison.k12.wi.us, or scan the QR code below:

NEWS

NATIONAL NEWS

THE FAILED VOTING RIGHTS BILL

By: Ava Kahn

The new voting rights bill is a combination of the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and the Freedom to Vote Act. In short, this bill is an attempt to make voting more accessible for all. On January 19th, after a long day of debate, the bill was denied by the Senate after receiving only a 51-49 vote. The amount of votes needed to pass a bill in the Senate is 60 votes. Therefore, the bill was not passed.

The John Lewis Act is an attempt to reinstall the Voting Rights Act of 1965, after it was discarded in 2013. The law of 1965 required states with a history of voting rights discrimination to get clearance from the Department of Justice before changing any voting laws. An effort to voting laws like relocating polling places and imposing strict voter ID requirements would need clearance. The Freedom to Vote Act is a collection of many things including; making election day a national holiday, allowing states to have ear-

ly voting for two weeks prior to Election Day, and allowing voting by mail with no excuses needed. It also requires states to make voting more accessible for people with disabilities, and the states have to broaden the forms of identification that are acceptable.

Hours after the voting rights bill was declined, a separate vote took place. However, this vote was also denied when Democratic Senators, Joe Manchin and Krysten Sinema, did not vote for it. They worried that it could worsen the divide between the United States parties. Joe Manchin spoke on the Senate floor saying, "Allowing one party to exert complete control in the Senate with only a simple majority will only pour fuel on the fire of political whiplash and dysfunction that is tearing this nation apart." It is going to be very hard to get this bill passed if there is no compromise between the two parties. Even President Biden does not know if it will be possible. "The honest to God answer is I don't know whether we can get this done," President Biden said. Republican Senator, John Cornyn, called the bill a "partisan bill to take over the nation's elections." There will definitely be more debate to come over voting rights before the 2024 election.

2022 MIDTERMS UPDATE

By: Alexandra Saffman

The 2022 Midterms present Democrats with the opportunity to retain their control in the Senate—34 seats will be contested, while the demographics of the House of Representatives hang in the balance, and 36 state governors are to be decided. This election will also be affected by the redistricting of the 2020 US Census. Currently, several districts lack incumbent representatives and will be battling it out for the first time. Historically, midterm elections favor the party opposite the executive branch correlate to a president's approval rating meaning that this year, Republicans may have a chance to win back Congress.



THE REVISED BUILD BACK BETTER BILL

By: *Ava Kahn*

President Joe Biden's \$1.5 trillion Build Back Better Act, a bill dealing with climate change, healthcare, education, and housing, was discarded after the Senate ruling. Now, President Biden is looking to get pieces of the bill passed, specifically regarding switching to clean energy.

A very crucial part of the bill is regarding climate change. \$555 billion would go towards relying on clean renewable energy sources instead of fossil fuels. The bill offers incentives for clean energy users. It would give tax credits for producers and buyers of renewable energy. It would also give tax credit to those directly using wind turbines, solar panels, geothermal pumps, and electric cars. This is a piece of the bill that President Biden thinks he will be able to get passed. He also believes he could pass the early child education part of the bill, offering universal pre-K. There are many other pieces to the bill, such as expanding child tax credits and free community college, that would not be as easy to get passed.

With the \$555 billion going towards transitioning to clean energy, climate experts say that cutting emissions in half by 2050 is possible. President Biden aims to use the climate portion of the bill to reduce the

carbon emissions of the US. The world's temperature has already risen 1.1 degrees celsius since the Industrial Revolution. In order to keep the temperature from rising more, there is a call from the global community for a significant reduction of carbon emissions.

There has been much debate between Democrats and Republicans over this bill. Senator Joe Manchin, who was the only democratic senator who did not vote for the bill, is receiving a lot of publicity for his decision on this vote. However, he has said that he would vote for a smaller version of the bill, as he sees the urgency of climate change. Many republican senators, however, do not see this as a planetary emergency. Senator John Boozman called climate provisions "a far-left agenda." However, two republican senators, Lindsey Graham and Lisa Murkowski, said that they would back some climate measures. Some republican senators are in favor of other solutions like carbon taxing and carbon capture. Carbon capture is the act of capturing emissions and storing it underground, which is very expensive. The actions necessary to combat climate change is an ongoing debate.

The revision of the Build Back Better Act, if passed, could mark a turning point in solving climate change issues. Only 51 out of 100 votes are needed to get the bill passed. Reconciliation can only be used once a fiscal year, so President Biden is having trouble knowing what to include in his revised Build Back Better Act.

FOUNDER OF THERANOS, FOUND GUILTY

By: *Alexandra Saffman*

In 2003, Elizabeth Holmes founded and became CEO of Theranos, a Silicon Valley company that was going to revolutionize the medical field, allowing people to undergo extensive blood testing through only the prick of a finger. Just recently, on January 4th, 2022, accused of mass fraud, Holmes was found guilty of four out of eleven federal crimes.

At age 19, Holmes dropped out of Stanford to begin to create her company. She claimed that she could create a technology that would be able to detect thousands of disorders by examining tiny volumes of blood, no more than a fingerprick. This would bypass the need for blood draws, which generally require 3-10 milliliters of blood, making blood testing quicker, safer, and more accessible. Despite skepticism among medical experts that such a feat could be scientifically

possible, Holmes' dream quickly attracted a multitude of investors, raising \$92 million in venture capital by the end of 2010. Soon, Holmes had made contracts with Walgreens, Cleveland Clinic, Capital Blue Cross, and AmeriHealth Caritas to include Theranos technology in stores and hospitals. She was named the world's youngest self-made female billionaire by 2014.

In 2015, a private investigation by the Wallstreet Journal revealed that Theranos technology gave out inaccurate results and that most of Holmes' so-called instant blood testing was actually carried out through real blood draws and non-Theranos devices. Although Holmes initially attempted to deny the claims, further investigations revealed them to be true, leading to the dissolution of the company in 2018. Holmes was charged with nine counts of wire fraud and two counts of conspiracy to commit fraud.

Elizabeth Holmes now faces up to 20 years in prison, as well as a fine of \$250,000 for each count of fraud.

CLOTH MASKS AREN'T ENOUGH FOR OMICRON

By: *Elliot Weix*

With the highly infectious Omicron variant driving new COVID surges around the world, it is more important than ever that we double down on protective measures: vaccination, masking, and limiting travel. Vaccinated people who have received a booster shot are much less likely to need intensive medical treatment, relieving some of the burden for our already-stressed healthcare systems. The above graphic, from the Wall Street Journal article “Why Cloth Masks Might Not Be Enough to Stop Omicron,” gives a handy key for the efficacy of different types of masks.

Buff, scarfs, ski masks and similar gear offer no protection against COVID transmission; a cloth mask is the bare minimum if you want to stay safe. However, cloth masks should be a last resort. Because they are not capable of filtering the smallest viral particles, cloth masks do little to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Disposable and surgical masks are much better options. Polypropylene, a plastic with electrostatic filtering qualities, allows these masks to filter much smaller particles than any cloth mask. If you decide to use a disposable mask, it is also prudent to buy a mask brace or mask fitter to create a better seal. When used correctly, a mask brace and disposable mask can be almost as effective as an N95 mask. UW Madison has instructions on how to make one yourself in a few minutes with inexpensive materials. Visit making.engr.wisc.edu/mask-fitter/ for more information, or do a web search for “badger seal” and click the first UW-based link that pops up. Double masking with one cloth mask and one disposable mask is another alternative to achieve a better fit: wear the cloth mask over the disposable mask for best results.

N95 masks offer the best protection, but also cost the most. CDC studies show that it takes 25 hours to transmit COVID between two people wearing non-fit-tested N95 masks, and a N95 mask still provides around 2.5 hours of protection even against transmission from a mask-less individual. If you decide to purchase N95 masks, use websites such as the N95 project (projectn95.org) that screens for counterfeits.

25-hour protection when both people are wearing fit-tested N95 respirators

Time to infectious dose for an uninfected person (receiver)*

		Receiver is wearing (%inward leakage)					
		Nothing	Typical cloth mask	Typical surgical mask	Non-fit-tested N95 FFR	Fit-tested N95 FFR	
Source is wearing (%outward leakage)							
	Nothing	100%	75%	50%	20%	10%	
Nothing		100%	15 min	20 min	30 min	1.25 hr	2.5 hr
Typical cloth mask		75%	20 min	26 min	40 min	1.7 hr	3.3 hr
Typical surgical mask		50%	30 min	40 min	1 hr	2.5 hr	5 hr
Non-fit-tested N95 FFR**		20%	1.5 hr	1.7 hr	2.5 hr	6.25 hr	12.5 hr
Fit-tested N95 FFR		10%	2.5 hr	3.3 hr	5 hr	12.5 hr	25 hr

*The data for % inward and outward leakage of cloth and surgical masks were derived from a study by Lindsley et al (2021). Data for non-fit-tested N95 FFRs come from a study by Brosseau (2020). Data for fit-tested N95 FFRs are derived from OSHA-assigned protection factor of 10 for half-facepiece respirators. Also, times were established before wide circulation of more transmissible Delta variant.

**FFR= filtering facepiece respirator; N95 = not oil-proof, 95% efficient at NIOSH filter test conditions



JUSTICE BREYER TO RETIRE, OFFERING BIDEN SCOTUS NOMINATION

By: *Amira Pierotti*

On January 26th, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer announced he would be retiring at the end of the term in late summer. The sudden announcement reveals a well-planned decision: to ensure a Justice with liberal views can take his seat. Breyer has been a Justice for 27 years, helping shape rulings on abortion, students' free speech, Obamacare, and affirmative action.

Justice Breyer's many years of service have earned respect from leaders across political ideologies. He has graduated from Stanford, Oxford, and Harvard Law School before earning a SCOTUS clerkship. Prior to his appointments to judicial benches, he was a professor of Harvard Law School for decades, worked in the Justice Department anti-trust division, investigated the Watergate scandal as an assistant prosecutor, and served as chief counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

In 1980, President Jimmy Carter nominated him to sit on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. Justice Breyer served on the bench for fourteen years, serving as chief judge for the last four. During his time on the federal appeals bench, Breyer was also a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference & the Sentencing Commission.

President Bill Clinton appointed Justice Breyer to the Supreme Court in 1994. He, on numerous occasions, has decried an originalist approach, instead affirming in his decisions that the Constitution evolves along with the times. While he has ruled with conservatives on numerous occasions, his philosophy lands him squarely in the liberal block. For decades, Breyer has quietly influenced Supreme Court decisions by debating cases with his colleagues; however, Breyer has never taken credit for this work. On rare occasions, Justice Breyer has noted his frustration with the growing hard-line conservative influence on the Court.

In hopes of maintaining a liberal foothold in Supreme Court decisions, Justice Breyer announced his retirement before the 2022 midterms, allowing for a smooth confirmation process in the Democrat-held Senate. As the Court has a decisive 6-3 split between conservatives and liberals, President Biden's appointment to the Court likely will not break ideological divides. However, Justices have the ability to shape the course of the country for decades, opening many opportunities.

President Biden has stated his commitment to appointing the first Black woman to the Supreme Court. While some have criticized this decision, others note that no Black women's rulings have ever shaped the Supreme Court thus leading to a need to take action to include the voices of all Americans. The so-called "short list" of candidates include Judge Kentaji Brown Jackson who sits on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, Justice Leondra Kruger who sits on the California Supreme Court, and Judge J. Michelle Childs who is a U.S. Federal District Court judge in Tennessee. Biden has promised to announce his choice by the end of February.



BRITISH MAN HOLDS TEXAS SYNAGOGUE GOERS HOSTAGE; ALL ESCAPE SAFELY

By: *Eliana Sauer*

Texas religious communities are no stranger to threats of violence. The state has been home to its fair share of religiously-motivated attacks, including the deadliest shooting at a place of worship in American history at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs where 26 people were killed in 2017. Nationally, hate crimes against people because of their religion make up 20% of hate crimes reported to the FBI from 2015-2020. This number is also thought to be a gross underestimate, since hate crime data is reported from local police stations and relies on voluntary reporting by the victims of these crimes. In addition, attacks on Jewish people have been on the rise over the past five years, as incidents of anti semitism have increased by 60% according to reports by the Anti-Defamation League.

On January 15, Texas was again the victim of a heinous attack on a religious community, as a ceremony that should have been the most holy day of a young man's life, was instead marred by unspeakable horror. During a young man's Bar Mitzvah service at Beth Israel synagogue in Colleyville, Texas a gunman held four hostages in an 11 hour standoff. The suspect, now identified as British national Malik Faisal Akram, entered the sanctuary on Saturday morning spouting about Islam, and the release of a convicted terrorist from federal prison while a Facebook livestream recorded his actions. Colleyville SWAT teams descended on the synagogue at 10:41 am local time and the FBI arrived on the scene to negotiate with the suspect as he held four people, including the congregation's rabbi, hostage. The Facebook livestream continued until it was removed around 2:00pm. As it recorded, no faces could be seen but an individual (assumed to be Akram) made repeated demands to speak to his "sister" on the phone and have her released from prison. The person the suspect was speaking about is believed to be Aafia Siddiqui, who is currently serving an 86 year sentence at a federal prison in Fort Worth for attempting to assassinate US soldiers in Afghanistan. In a statement through her lawyer, Siddiqui condemned the actions of Akram, and said she does not condone or accept any actions that would harm other individuals.

Throughout the livestream, the suspect gave several vague, expletive-laden rants. He claimed to like the congregation's rabbi, but threatened that any police officer who tried to apprehend him would be shot. He claimed that he had been carrying a bag full of weapons for 16 hours. NBC also reported that Akram got the rabbi to call another rabbi in New York and demand for Siddiqui's release, but the New York rabbi called 911 instead. The suspect also made references to his mortality saying that he believed he was going to die, and that he would be leaving behind, "six beautiful kids." He expressed anger at England, and made several mentions of his "sisters" which law enforcement officers say still referred to Siddiqui. As the hours drew on, The White House, Texas senators Ted Cruz (R) and John Cornyn (R) were in contact with local authorities. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett also said that he was monitoring the situation closely.

Around 9:00pm local time on January 15, an FBI Hostage Rescue Team entered the building and Akram was killed after the hostages were released. Reports from the FBI said that one suspect was released, unharmed, around 5:00pm. However, Akram was getting progressively more agitated and aggressive as the day wore on, leading to the ultimate response from the Hostage Rescue Team. In the aftermath of the situation, President Biden has told reporters that they are still searching for answers on, "why he targeted that synagogue, why he insisted on the release of someone who's been in prison for over 10 years, why he was engaged, why he was using an anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli comments." Authorities are currently trying to piece together the remaining pieces of the puzzle, and more information will likely be coming out on the situation in the coming weeks and months.

SPORTS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL SEASON RECAP

By: Nolan Sullivan

The Georgia Bulldogs have won the National Championship! With a score of 33-18, Kirby Smart's team laid claim to their university's first title in 41 years. Led by their stout defense that made Heisman-winning quarterback Bryce Young struggle tremendously and a fierce rushing attack that gave the Alabama defense fits, the Bulldogs denied the Crimson Tide from repeating as National Champions. Former walk-on quarterback, Stetson Bennett, threw for an efficient 224 yards, along with two touchdowns which was just enough to propel their offense. While Alabama did have an opportunity to tie the game with just minutes left in regulation, that chance was put to rest when freshman cornerback Kelee Ringo intercepted a pass and returned it 79 yards for a touchdown.

Despite the two CFP semifinal games being dominated by Georgia and Alabama, the remaining New Year's Six games certainly lived up to the hype. In Pasadena, the Rose Bowl hosted Ohio State and Utah from the Big Ten and Pac-12 respectively. The game was the definition of a shootout, including a three minute stretch in the second quarter that saw a total of 35 points scored. In the end, the Buckeye's elite passing attack prevailed, with Jaxon Smith-Njigba racking up 15 catches for 347 yards and three scores in the 48-45 victory. The Fiesta Bowl featuring Oklahoma State and Notre Dame was also heavily influenced by both teams' offenses. The Fighting Irish started out very strong, with quarterback Jack Coan throwing for four touchdowns in the first half alone to give them a 28-14 lead at the break. After halftime, however, Mike Gundy's Cowboys completely shut down Notre Dame's offense, and quickly tied the game up at 28. A late interception by Malcolm Rodriguez sealed the deal for OKSU, who went on to win 37-35.

After losing to Minnesota in the battle for Paul Bunyan's Axe and missing out on a Big Ten Championship game appearance, Wisconsin found themselves up against Arizona State in the Las Vegas Bowl. In

typical bowl game fashion, the Badgers shot out of the gate, forcing a turnover on their first defensive possession and quickly taking a 14-3 lead with scores from John Chenal and Jake Ferguson. After that, it was steady sailing. While the Sun Devils did threaten, the Badgers top ranked defense held its own and then some. Once the clock hit double zeroes, freshman running back Braelon Allen had compiled another 159 yards to his season total, and the final was 20-13 in Wisconsin's favor.

All in all, it was another average season for Paul Chryst and the Badger football team. While the bowl win, solid record, and top-ranking defense shouldn't be forgotten, expectations surrounding the program have risen greatly in recent years. The frustrations regarding this season begin at the quarterback position. Wisconsin hasn't had much consistent play from that spot in the last decade other than the likes of Russell Wilson or Jack Coan who both started just one season at the program. Nearly everyone expected Graham Mertz to be the answer, but after two seasons of starting, fans are running out of patience with the gunslinger from Kansas. With the addition of Offensive Coordinator Bobby Engram, who was a Tight Ends coach for the Baltimore Ravens, there is hope that Graham can take a leap during his junior year and finally live up to the expectations placed upon him when he arrived at Wisconsin.



FIGURE SKATING: THE ROAD TO THE OLYMPICS

By: Amy Qiao

Despite many challenges and canceled competitions, the 2022 Winter Olympics are set to start this February. Here's what you need to know to be prepared for the figure skating event:

The U.S. has a total of sixteen skaters competing at the Olympics- 3 men, 3 women, 2 pairs teams, and 3 ice dance teams. Representing the US men's figure skating team are Nathan Chen, Vincent Zhou, and Jason Brown. Nathan Chen will be incredibly exciting to watch at the Olympics as the current world record holder for the highest combined score in men's figure skating (335.30). He is known for his bountiful quads, and over the past few years, his artistic skills have only improved. Vincent Zhou is another skater to watch out for at the Olympics. As the 2019 world bronze medalist and current champion of Skate America, Zhou not only has the quads to back up his technical score but the artistry to carry him to the top. Finally, Jason Brown is always a fan-favorite at the Olympics. Although his programs don't feature any quads, his artistic skills are mesmerizing to watch on the ice.

Representing the US women's figure skating team are Mariah Bell, Karen Chen, and Alysa Liu. Although they have technical and artistic talent in their own right, they will have to face the Russian women's figure skating lineup that includes Kamila Valieva, Alexandra Trusova, Anna Shcherbakova, and many, many quads. Valieva currently holds the world record for the highest combined score awarded in women's figure skating (272.71) with a free skate program boasting of three quads. Trusova and Shcherbakova are also known for their high technical scores as well as their exceptional flexibility in spins. Currently, Liu is the first and only US woman that has successfully landed a quad in competition.

The US is sending two pairs teams to the Olympics, both of which will be very exciting to watch. Alexa Knierim and Brandon Frazier are a relatively new

pairs team, but they are by no means strangers to pairs skating. Frazier won the 2017 US Figure Skating Championships with his former partner Haven Denney. Knierim skated alongside her husband and previous teammate, Chris Knierim, for eight years and competed with him at the 2018 Winter Olympics. Now, Chris Knierim is one of the new team's coaches, and they are ready to amaze at the Olympics. Ashley Cain-Gribble and Timothy LeDuc have been skating together since 2016, and they have already won two US titles together (2019 and 2021). LeDuc is also the first openly non-binary skater to win a US title, and they are set to be the first openly non-binary athlete to compete at the Winter Olympics.

The US is also sending three ice dance teams to the Olympics: Madison Chock/Evan Bates, Madison Hubbell/Zachary Donahue, and Kaitlin Hawayek/Jean-Luc Baker. Chock and Bates have already competed at two Olympics together (2014 and 2018), won three US titles, and attained two world championships medals. It will be incredibly compelling to watch the experienced team compete at the Olympics. Hubbell and Donahue



are another very experienced team representing the US. They hold three US titles, four Skate America crowns, and three world championships medals. As the reigning world silver medalists, they will be another team to watch at the Olympics. Finally, Hawayek and Baker, although the youngest of the three teams, have been skating together for ten years and won the 2014 World Junior Figure Skating Championships. The four-time US championships medalists will make their Olympic debut this year.

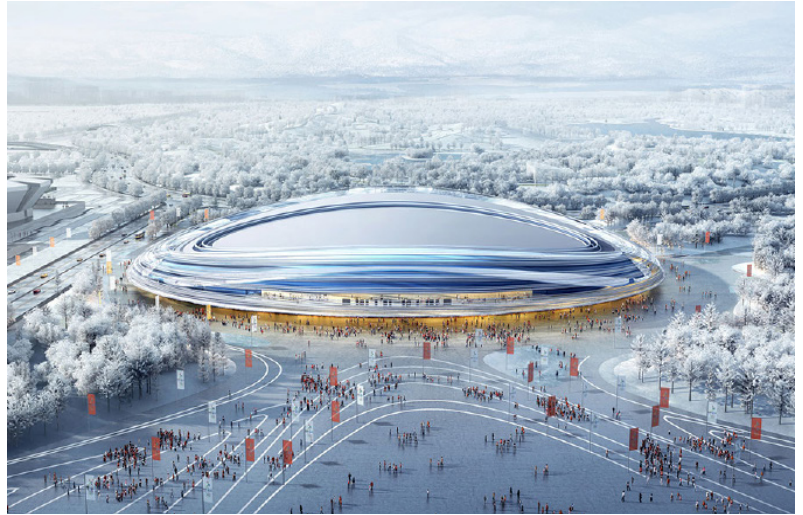
The Olympic figure skating event opens up on Friday, February 4th with the Team Event Men's Short Program- tune in to watch spectacular and record-breaking figure skating at the Olympics!

2022 BEIJING WINTER OLYMPICS UPDATES AND PREVIEW

By: Lydia Lenz

The long awaited Winter Olympics have kicked off in Beijing. On the first day of events, one of the team leaders for US Women's Hockey, Brianna Decker, was rolled off of the ice by medical staff after being tied up with a Finland player during their preliminary match. Sources from ESPN state that "Decker's screams echoed through the empty arena. She attempted to put weight on her leg but was unable to do so." There is little hope to see her play out the rest of the Olympic games this year. Even with the discouraging start Women's hockey came out victorious with a win against Finland of 5-2. While Decker's absence will be noticed, it will be interesting to see how the Americans recover from this hurdle.

With the pandemic being such a prevalent concern the past few years it's important to recognize the safety precautions that are being placed through this following month for both viewers and athletes of the Olympics. Through the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and International Paralympic Committee (IPC) they've maintained and set expectations on Vaccinations, rapid testing on a regular daily basis, guest policies, and practiced efficient transportation to and from events. With the addition of guest policies some concerns have been voiced about being able to support the athletes from other countries. Only China's mainland will be able to access the actual games and must pass health requirements. There is a small "selected" spectators factor that will be able to come and watch from outside countries but very few are allowed. Along with new regulations for people allowed to be in person at the games is a new development of highly efficient transportation routes for athletes at the olympics that make it easier to stay away from threats outside of the olympic village and enclosed to safe clean spaces.



Another popular Winter sport but less appreciated throughout the Winter Olympics are the US curling teams. Mixed doubles took a tragic loss early in the events against Norway 11-6, but will have another Mixed doubles match later in the evening against Sweden. Meanwhile, prospects of the event are looking slightly grim for the US. USA being ranked 8th in the 2021 World Championships compared to Sweden's 2021 World Championship ranking of 3rd. There will be more events through the following week, and we hope to see Mens, Womens, and Mixed events win some gold medals!



Some main highlights of the Winter Olympics are yet to begin, including Men and Womens snowboarding, Men and Womens Skiing, and Figure skating competitions so keep a close watch. Opening ceremony begins February 4th at 8pm (China standard time) so make sure to set your alarms and tune

in so we can all encourage our athletes! With the many events the Olympics provides there are plenty of opportunities for anybody to enjoy what sparks their interest and watch some of the greatest sporting events the world can offer during this Winter season!

WISCONSIN MEN'S BASKETBALL EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

By: Nolan Sullivan

Heading into the 2021-22 college basketball season, expectations weren't all that high for Greg Gard and co. in Madison. Coming off of a Round of 32 exit at last year's NCAA Tournament, the Badgers were slotted at 10th in the preseason Big Ten media rankings. Just over two months into the season, it's safe to say that Wisconsin has greatly exceeded every projection casted upon them during the offseason.

After a frustrating home loss to ranked Providence, a game that didn't feature star guard Johnny Davis, the team knew that they would have to improve a lot before heading into Big Ten play. Just days after that, the young Badgers team stormed onto the scene at the Maui Invitational. Following a win against Texas A&M in the first round, they took down top ten ranked Houston in a back and forth battle, before defeating St. Mary's to take home the final. This early-season tournament is where the team really found their identity, and where Johnny Davis began to truly



emerge as an elite prospect.

As Big Ten play has carried on, the Badgers have only lost three other games, all to ranked opponents, Ohio State, Michigan State, and Illinois. At one point, they went on a seven game winning streak, including a very impressive road win at Purdue. Despite Mackey Arena being packed to the brim, sophomore National Player of the Year candidate Johnny Davis didn't allow that to affect him. Davis dropped a career high 37 points in the win, while also adding on an impressive 14 rebounds.

At their height, the Badgers reached the 8th overall spot in the AP Poll. Some analysts have even projected that Bucky will earn a one seed once March Madness rolls around. Despite having one of the hardest schedules in the nation up to this point, Wisconsin hasn't backed down, and it'll be interesting to watch how they respond. their upcoming slate of conference games.

MEMORIALPOMS TEAM FOR THE WIN!

By: Sophia Jiang

On January 8th, the Memorial Poms team competed in the Large Varsity division at Badgerette Pom Pon Wisconsin State Showdown, where they placed 1st in large varsity pom, 2nd in large varsity hip hop, and 1st in large varsity kickline. They danced to a variety of music, including "Head and Heart", a song with a mix of female rappers, and "Glamorous".

A few weeks later, they competed at the WACPC Southern Regionals competition in D1 Pom and D1 Hip Hop, placing 5th in Hip Hop. Due to their impressive performance, they qualified to compete both routines

at WACPC State on February 5th in Lacrosse, WI to compete for the State title!

On February 27th in Brookfield, WI they will attend a competition called the Badgerette Wisconsin Spirit, where they will compete in the large varsity division for pom, hip hop, kickline, and lyrical! "I love being on poms because of my teammates. We are really close and it is like a family. I also love performing at games and dancing with my best friends!" says Lauren Welsh, a junior captain.

USMNT WORLD CUP QUALIFICATION UPDATE

By: Nolan Sullivan

Heading into their first set of World Cup qualifiers in 2022, the USMNT held claim to second place in the CONCACAF Hexagonal. Sitting at the top of the group, which is made up of the final eight teams eligible to qualify for the 2022 Qatar World Cup this November, was Canada, who had a point in hand with just six games left on the schedule. During this international break, the U.S. had matchups at home against El Salvador and Honduras, along with a big test up north against the Canadians. Heading into this stretch of games and a jammed 2022 match schedule as a whole, U.S. Head Coach Gregg Berhalter said, "It's a lot. It is a lot." While brief, that message expresses the importance that every squad selection and result has on the outcome of this busy year leading up to the World Cup.

Opening up the window playing El Salvador in Columbus, Ohio, the Americans started slow out of the gates. In similar fashion to their other performances during these qualifying games, it took until the second half for Fulham FC fullback Antonee Robinson to slot home a bouncing ball just outside of the six yard box. Now was the real test of this slate of games. In front of the home fans in Hamilton, Canada, Berhalter's side conceded an early goal to Cyle Larin, who is leading all players with five goals during the Hexagonal. While the U.S. did well fighting an uphill battle for the majority of the game, dominating possession and creating plenty of chances, it was to no avail. Adding salt to the wound, Sam Adegugbe slotted home a second goal in extra time, putting the Americans to bed. To wrap the round up, the USMNT met Honduras in Saint Paul, Minnesota, while also facing below freezing temperatures.



NFL COACHING CAROUSEL

By: Nolan Sullivan

Almost immediately following the end of the NFL regular season, countless franchises who failed to make the playoffs didn't hesitate to kick members of their coaching staff to the curb. While many of these moves were fully expected by fans and analysts around the league, others took many by surprise. In total, nine head coaching jobs were vacated after Week 18 came to a close, and those spots have been filling up quickly.

Starting off with some of the more expected breakups, a pair of NFC North rivals said goodbye to their skippers with plenty of fans supporting the moves. After winning Coach of the Year in 2018, the sky was the limit for Matt Nagy and the Chicago Bears. They had a young quarterback in Mitch Trubisky, solid weapons on offense, and an elite defense that forced turnovers at an impressive rate. In the three years after that, however, Nagy & co. were only able to muster up one playoff berth, and the talent that everyone saw on display in 2018 wasn't able to produce at the same rate. Over in Minneapolis, the Minnesota Vikings finally said farewell to Mike Zimmer, who consistently led them to above .500 seasons for the majority of the last decade. Despite that, the Vikings only won two playoff games in that time, and after consecutive losing seasons these past two years, it was time for a change.

On the other hand, there were also some surprising changes made across the league. In Miami, the Dolphins parted ways with head coach Brian Flores. Despite winning eight out of their last nine games to close out the season once starting quarterback Tua Tagovailoa returned from injury, management weren't impressed with Flores' failure to reach the playoffs during his tenure. On top of that, many reports came to fruition during the season saying that Flores had "lost the locker room" and "didn't have the respect of his players". In New Orleans, Saints fans were shocked when long-time coach Sean Payton announced his retirement in late January. Payton consistently brought his team on deep playoff runs, including a Super Bowl win back in 2009. Yet, after all of these years, it was time for him to call it quits in New Orleans.

OPINIONS

WHY IS THE MUSIC INDUSTRY SO MALE-DOMINATED?

By: Amy Qiao

With pop superstars Taylor Swift, Ariana Grande, and Doja Cat dominating the music charts, it's hard to believe that the music industry is extremely male-dominated- especially in many ways we may not realize. In 2019, the USC Annenberg music report revealed that 22.5% of the top songs were from female artists, 14.4% of songwriters were female, and only 5% of music producers were female.

There are many reasons as to why this is happening, and much of it is due to the disproportionate amount of obstacles women face in the music industry. Unfortunately, many women in the music industry are no strangers to sexual harassment. When independent digital music distribution company TuneCore partnered with MIDiA Research to survey women in the music industry, they found that 64% of respondents named sexual harassment and objectification as a major challenge women face in the industry. Plus, women face an added layer of ageism compared to their male counterparts. In the same survey, 38% of respondents mentioned ageism when describing the main challenges women face in their industry. Finally, being in a male-dominated industry may find it unequal distribution of resources. Men in the industry can lead to an easier to gain access to mentorship roles, as many of the industry are already



But there are ways we can fight sexism within the music industry. Desiree Perez, CEO of entertainment agency Roc Nation, outlines multiple steps we can take to include more women in the music industry. In her Rolling Stone article, she urges people to tackle issues of sexual harassment and

and to “make reporting issues easy with the promise of confidentiality and accountability.” She continues by adding that companies need to support women with the resources they need to achieve leadership roles. “Corporations must make it a point to actively recruit qualified women... Training opportunities should be offered to women already hired within companies to help them advance their careers,” she explains.

An essential aspect of those resources are mentorships, and Perez asserts that “all leaders, not just women leaders, should mentor and support women already in the field.” The authors of the USC Annenberg music report agree, highlighting three important outreach and mentorship groups that support women in the music industry: She Is the Music, Spotify’s EQL Residency for emerging female engineers, and Women’s Audio Mission.

As we push for a more equal distribution of resources, as well as more compassionate and sincere conversations about sexual harassment and objectification, we can create a more equal and supportive music industry for everyone.

A RETROSPECTIVE REFLECTION ON NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

By: *Lauren Morse*

By the time you're reading this, we will already be well into the new year. Everybody knows the classic sentiment of New Year's resolutions and "new year, new me". While the intent of resolutions may be well set, the outcome is often disappointing. Setting a New Year's resolution is seen by some as a fresh start. The New Year is marketed as a prime time to begin living life how one feels it should be lived. It's a classic tale: you decide on your resolution, stick to it for a while, and then life happens. Eventually, your resolution has faded away into the imagination it came from. There's always next year, right?

The dangerous thing about this seemingly endless cycle is that every time a resolution slips away, one experiences a sense of failure. The feeling may be minuscule, but it is human nature to feel emotion when we do not achieve something. It's February now, and if your resolution is still going strong, I applaud you to no end. But if not, let me ask you this: Why not start today? Tomorrow, even? Goals do not time themselves by the calendar year. They start and begin at your own discretion. If you attach your goal to a widely celebrated holiday like New Year's Day, the pressure will be on. Sure, pressure is a good thing, but when it feels like the whole world is applying it, the feeling can go overboard. The world has become so focused on the setting of a resolution that the execution has been forgotten. People need support to achieve their wildest hopes and dreams and to stick to their resolution. You can set a goal any day. Go for it today, tomorrow, or even on New Year's.



THE STRANGE ART OF NAIL PAINTING

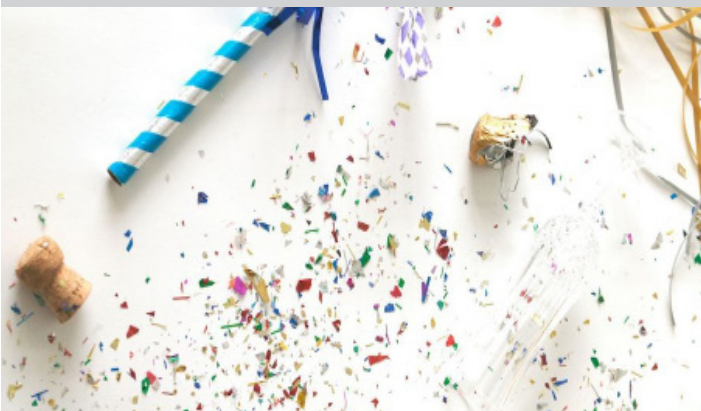
By: *Amy Qiao*

I need to preface this article by saying I suck at painting my nails. This is not an article about how to paint your nails well but rather an article on how to express yourself in a subtle yet simple way.

As an art form, nail painting flourishes with so many facets to express yourself. The colors, patterns, glitter, finish, and more are all deliberate choices that can have hidden meanings behind them. Blue can be a reminder of tranquility and calmness during a time of chaos. Yellow can represent joy and glee. Or if you're me, your hot pink nails serve as a reminder of how amazing Doja Cat's 2020 album was. (It really was awesome, wasn't it?)

But the most important part of nail painting comes afterward. Your nails go with you everywhere- when you read, laugh, draw, and everything in between. Every time you look at your deliberately decorated nails, you will be reminded of whatever message you left for yourself. A single glance can make your entire mood change or simply remind you to breathe, stay strong, smile, or whatever it may be.

Now we just wait for the art department to add Nail Painting 1, 2, and 3 to their multitude of courses.



THE EARTH-SHATTERING POWER OF “NO”

By: Amira Pierotti

I am so tired of the grind. The constant expectation to produce for capitalist systems. To do all the homework then teach all the cisgender people about all the allyship then fix what I can within any given system then advocate for my basic human rights because systems will not do any advocacy until confronted with a big enough issue. But never to be an activist to dismantle harms, to be the avid reader I want to be again, to spend more time on my mental health, to be me. At this point, I am a burnt-out mess, and I have it easy. We should not have to constantly be bone-tired anxious wrecks in order to exist in this world.

My boss recently mentioned I was the hardest-working youth she has ever known. What I immediately took as a compliment now seems like a warning sign with flashing red lights and the biggest, boldest, loudest font imaginable. When success is defined for youth to completely shred any sense of worth

that does not come from the validation of your superiors, are we surprised everyone is struggling?

We should live in a world where our selves are valuable, not how much we can work to build wealth for systems that do not care about our well-being.

Recently, I discovered the power of saying “no.” I am still terrible at it, but even saving 30 minutes every week by not taking on extra work or reviewing a project done by a friend has allowed me to spend time for myself. As

someone who has grown up in a society where I am always expected to be there for everyone and anything, it is incredibly difficult to refuse to help. But boundaries are healthy.

Although this might seem like a basic life skill I happened to miss, I know so many people who struggle with saying “no.” People whose income is needed for their family’s well-being, who need the best grades



so they can go to college where it is safe for them to transition, who need to apply for every scholarship because their family cannot pay for college, who do so much unpaid labor for their community, who are just learning they have a right to their time and self, and who have so many stories.

You have a right to set boundaries and to be your own person. I cannot wait until youth are taught to take care of their well-being. I

cannot wait until schools and workplaces do not expect us to work regardless of whether we can give any more time or energy. But while still living in an imperfect world that demands too much, saying “no” to both the small and big things can make a difference.

OSCAR PREDICTIONS

By: Felipe Rey

Awards season has arrived slightly unceremoniously after the cancellation of the Golden Globes broadcast, but the interest is still high for 2021's award contenders. Though there are many films that could be nominated for or win the Best Picture category, here are nine of the contestants in this year's competition.

THE POWER OF THE DOG:

After winning the Best Drama and Best Director awards at the Golden Globes, the chances of this film nabbing the Oscar are pretty high. Its uneasy, slow quality may detract from its broader popularity, but it's still very likely to win.



TICK, TICK...BOOM!:

Andrew Garfield's incredible performance leads this fantastic Jonathan Larson musical adaptation, which has a solid chance of winning due to its biopic status and critically praised direction.

WEST SIDE STORY:

Similarly to *The Power of the Dog*, *West Side Story* also won many awards at the Golden Globes, including Best Musical or Comedy. The fact that it's a remake of the Oscar-winning classic could be to its detriment or to its benefit (some, including me, would argue that it's better than the original), but its stunning visuals could help pull it through the tough competition.

BELFAST:

Kenneth Branagh's coming-of-age black and white film has also received critical acclaim and seven nominations at the Golden Globes. Its powerful performances will boost its chances, but its faulty narrative may prove to be its downfall.



THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH:

From its cinematography to its performances, practically every aspect of Joel Coen's *Macbeth* adaptation has been praised. Surprisingly, this film only received one nomination at the Golden Globes for Best Actor, and as the Golden Globes often give an insight to the Oscars, there's a chance that this film will be snubbed once again.

LICORICE PIZZA:

Paul Thomas Anderson is no stranger to award season after receiving Oscar nominations for almost every film he's made since 1997. *Licorice Pizza's* coming-of-age story is an incredibly entertaining one, but the meandering story that made it so great may draw too many comparisons to last year's winner, *Nomadland*.

DUNE:

Denis Villeneuve's sci-fi epic is one of the most grandiose films of the year, but is it enough to win the Oscar? The lack of an ending may point towards no.

SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME:

Though it's doubtful that this film will win, Disney is pushing it as an option. Could a fan-pleasing movie that delighted millions be just as worthy as a quiet somber drama that touches someone's heart in a more subtle way?

**Honorable Mentions:**

Nightmare Alley
C'mon C'mon
The Lost Daughter
The French Dispatch
House of Gucci
Parallel Mothers
CODA
Don't Look Up
No Time to Die
King Richard

The official Oscar nominations will be announced on February 9th, and the ceremony will take place on March 27th.

**DRIVE MY CAR:**

This Japanese road drama is expected to win the International Feature category, but the Academy rarely elects an International film, so its chances are slim.

LIONEL MESSI IS THE GOAT

By: Nolan Sullivan

As Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo have risen to the top of the soccer world over the past decade, the debate over who is actually the best player of all time has been never-ending. During their rise, both players seemed to match the other with their accolades and statistics. While many argue that Ronaldo is the GOAT because of his ability to perform at a high level across multiple leagues, his Champions League successes with Real Madrid, and his international record, I am here to tell you why those people are incorrect.

One of the main reasons why people think Ronaldo is superior is because he has played for several teams across several leagues at a top level. All in all, Cristiano has put on the club shirt for Sporting CP, Manchester United, Real Madrid, and Juventus. In total, he has spent 20 seasons playing across Europe. Messi, on the other hand, spent his entire senior career at FC Barcelona up until this past summer when he transferred to PSG. That being said, just because Ronaldo has been “willing to get out of his comfort zone” does not mean he is the better player. After what many consider to be the best decade in Barcelona’s history, the team began to crumble under poor management. Despite that, Messi stayed loyal to his boyhood club and did whatever he could to keep them moving forward.

Another argument brought up by many Ronaldo fans is his success in recent Champions League campaigns. From 2016-18, Real Madrid won three consecutive UCL titles, and Ronaldo contributed greatly to each victory. On the other hand, Messi’s last Champions League victory was in 2015, and he has experienced a handful of collapses by Barcelona since then. However, you have to remember how impactful a role Messi had in two separate historic seasons. In both the 2009-10 and 2014-15 seasons, FC Barcelona won a treble, which is when a club wins three trophies in a single season. Real Madrid, where Ronaldo spent the majority of his career and is most known for, wasn’t able to complete the task during his time at the club.

The last topic of debate regarding the two superstars has been their international record. In 2016, Ronaldo captained his Portuguese national team to the Euro Final, where they eventually won 1-0. Around the same time, while Messi had been reaching cup finals with his Argentine team, he couldn’t seize the ultimate goal. However, just this past summer, they finally got it done.

With a score of 1-0, Argentina took down Brazil in Copa América Final, finally securing Messi an international trophy and ending that argument.

Simply put, Messi is the most technically-gifted and talented soccer player to ever grace this planet. His ability to glide past defenders with ease and execute picture-perfect passes and shots every game is irreplaceable. It is impossible to deny that Ronaldo has an elite ability to finish and dribble, yet Messi still one-ups him in those categories. I could go on and on listing stats and other accolades supporting the seven-time Ballon d’Or winner, but it wouldn’t do justice to his career to simply list off those accomplishments. Just take it from Thierry Henry, former French national team and Arsenal FC striker who is known as one of the best to ever play in the Premier League. When asked about the debate, he explained, “I don’t think we fully realize just what these guys are achieving. So, while huge respect goes to Ronaldo, having played with Messi and shared extraordinary moments with him, both in victory and defeat, it has to be Leo.”



OPEN AN ACCOUNT¹ &
GET \$10!²



SHOW YOUR SCHOOL A LITTLE LOVE WITH A FREE SUMMIT DEBIT CARD – *Go Spartans!*

- Check your balance, make a deposit or get cash at an ATM with it
- Use it with Apple Pay, Google Pay or Samsung Pay to pay on the go with your phone or smartwatch
- Or, choose from over 20 other fun card designs!

Open a Summit account and get your free Madison Memorial debit card today.

**Stop by Summit, right in your school,
to get started!**



Insured by NCUA



New members only. Must open a Summit checking account. Offer valid 2/1/2022-3/31/2022. 1 Minimum to open a Student Free Checking or Balance Account is \$25. Student Free Checking or Balance Account requires a primary savings account. Primary savings account: minimum to open is \$5. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) as of 2/1/2022 is 0.03%. Rate may change at any time. Minimum to obtain APY is \$25. Some restrictions apply. See SummitCreditUnion.com/Checking for details. 2 \$10 cash bonus will be deposited to your account at account opening. Cash bonuses are considered taxable income and are subject to a 1099 tax reporting. © Summit Credit Union 2022