

Summer 2022

Chalfont, PA

Unami Middle School

The Unami Times

Newspaper

"The liberty of the press is essential to the security of the state."

Kind Like Joey Bench

Ashlee Ranes

A bench commemorating Joey Edwards can now be found near the bus loading platform of Unami. This new monument to the Kind Like Joey Foundation is owed to a fellow student in the Central Bucks school district and friend of Joey's, Chris. This project was funded by Kind Like Joey. He decided to have the bench placed there as a project for Eagle Scouts long before the small ceremony which took place on April 20th at the bench. This ceremony provided an opportunity for Chris to talk about the purpose



of the project and the message about Joey's kindness that it

conveys, which is rooted in Kind Like Joey. Like the many other events that have taken place at Unami to commemorate Joey Edwards, the new bench is meant to encourage the spreading of the values and principles of positivity that Kind Like Joey represents.

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Freshman Day

Diya Mahesh

Freshman Day is going to be a blast, and it is coming up! It is a celebration just for 9th graders. On June 8th, 9th grade will be going to Camp America to have a great day, with food and fun activities.

Students will be leaving the school around 9:15. They will reach Camp America at 9:30, travelling by bus, and be able to choose from a plethora of activity choices for the rest of the school day.

Students will have access to a pool (with water slides), recreational fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, gaga courts, playground areas, a lake for fishing or boating, and an outdoor picnic area.

It is recommended that students bring any needed sport equipment, swimsuits and pool towels, and sunscreen.

A picnic lunch will be provided for the freshman, with choices such as burgers (with vegetarian options), hot dogs, chips, water, soda, and tea.

At 2:00, the students will return to school, by bus, for dismissal.

This year has not been easy, but it is almost over. The fun activities are just weeks away, so keep working hard, and expect rewards for all the work very soon!



Source: *Campleaders.com*

Unami Times

2021-2022

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World News

Ketanji Brown Jackson: An Influential Confirmation

Madelyn Engstrom and Grace Piro

Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson has recently made history, as she has become the first African American woman to be confirmed to the U.S. Supreme Court. The two-time Harvard graduate was awarded the Constance Baker Motley Award from Columbia University's Law School for empowering women of color. In her acceptance speech, she stated that being a judge means "doing the work that is necessary to protect the rule of law and to promote equality and justice for all". Additionally, her and her husband, Patrick, have two daughters, Leila and Talia. Her and Patrick, now a surgeon at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, met while studying at Harvard. She served as a district judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia from 2013 to 2021, until she was appointed to fill the seat of Attorney General Merrick Garland in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit by President Joe Biden. The fifty-one year old D.C. native will also be the first justice to have experience as a public defender; she was an assistant public defender from 2005-2007. During this time, she says she argued before the Court of Appeals about ten times, and represented several defendants who were not able to afford private counsel. She was then nominated by President Joe Biden on February 28, 2022 to the Supreme Court, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 7, 2022 by a vote of 53-47. Upon her confirmation, she will replace former Justice Stephen Breyer, whom she clerked for from 1999-2000, which provided her with an inside view of the court processes, as well as Justice Breyer's approach to the role of justice. Furthermore, Judge Jackson would also have more experience than four of the current justices combined.



Judge Jackson is known to have methodical and extremely comprehensive work and rulings. Her opinions and analyzations tend to come from careful investigations of all aspects within a case and a deep respect for one's limits within the law. Her keenness on examining and finding facts to deliver information and arguments can be drawn back to her education, especially at Harvard Law School. Being a black woman in such a predominantly white and male field, it was much harder for her to be listened to and valued. She likely developed her philosophy of assiduousness during this time. Along with this pattern of meticulous work, it should be noted that Jackson is known to adjudicate by law rather than any other forces. While she is democratic and often times liberal, she is known to make decisions solely based on her knowledge within the law. This makes her decisions typically unaltered by external political forces. One example of this unaffected adjudication is in relation to her past as a public defender. This has caused much concern for many people, as they fear that Jackson will be biased and partial in cases concerning criminal defendants. This issue can be easily disputed with an overview of Jackson's past with cases of this sort. On multiple occasions, such as sentence-reducing decisions, the rulings have also been supported/pushed by multiple Republican judges, making it clear that Jackson did not act on a personal or liberal agenda. Overall, it can be gathered that her attention to detail and law-based decisions are crucial for proper adjudication. Due to the revolutionary nature of Jackson's confirmation, it can be expected that many SCOTUS decisions will become even more spotlighted within the media. Despite the controversies that may be created and credited to her confirmation and becoming a justice on the Supreme Court, one thing is for sure: Her nomination is historical, evolutionary, and influential.

World News

The Unexpected Battle

Atharva Bhargude

Air Raid sirens were wailing throughout Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Conflict quickly arose between the two countries. Russia declared war on Ukraine. Bombs were dropped, thousands of missiles were deployed, and fighter jets were patrolling the area. Many called it the start of WWIII. This has scared a lot of people, as they thought they were in danger. So far, 3,280 people have been killed with an additional 2,000 – 3,000 injured. Over 12 million Ukrainians have been displaced. And an eye watering 63 billion dollars in damage has been done so far to Ukraine! Families are homeless, people are going days without food. We take the food on our plates for granted. People in Ukraine are having a hard time. You can help by donating at <https://crisisrelief.un.org/> and <https://give.unrefugees.org/>. The impact of the war was not just experienced in Ukraine. Gas prices have gone up as the US and many other countries put sanctions on Russia. Inflation has been experienced global wide. All these things lead up to one question, why? Why has Russia invaded Ukraine and what does Putin want? Well, according to BBC news, “The Russian leader's initial aim was to overrun Ukraine and depose its government, ending for good its desire to join the Western defensive alliance, NATO. After a month of failures, he abandoned his bid to capture the capital Kyiv and turned his ambitions to Ukraine's east and south.” Putin later added that he wanted to ensure Ukraine’s neutral status. Back in Russia, millions of people do not support what Putin is doing. They have publicly announced that war is wrong. All over the world, many people shout, “No War.” An anonymous citizen of Russia said, “War must be stopped. It must be. What is going on right now is crazy. We should all shout no to war.” And “I don't want this war. Almost no one here wants it. I want the whole world to see that we do not want it. We don't want it to weigh on our conscience for decades. I don't want to feel guilty for living here through my whole life.” The story of this conflict is still unfolding. Make sure to watch the news to be updated.



Sports

76ers Playoff Update (as of May 10)

Ramsey Polis

The Philadelphia 76ers seem to make it to the playoffs every year, but they never are able to deliver. Could this finally be the year the Sixers win another championship? We have arguably one of the best starting lineups in the league: Tyrese Maxey, James Harden, Danny Green, Tobias Harris, and Joel Embiid. If Embiid stays healthy, this might be the year the Sixers finally deliver.

The Sixers went into the playoffs as the 4th seed in the Eastern Conference. Their first round was against the Toronto Raptors. Embiid and the Sixers beat the Raptors in the series 4-2. However, in the final game, against the Raptors, Embiid took an elbow to the face and suffered an orbital fracture and a mild concussion. When would he return? Nobody knew. Next, they were to face off against the Miami Heat in the Conference Semifinals. The Heat are the number one seed in the Eastern Conference. Everyone knew that the Sixers had no chance without their star center, Joel Embiid. The Sixers were served devastating loses in Game 1 and Game 2. Luckily, news emerged that Embiid would be available to play in Game 3 which would be played at home, in Philadelphia. Everyone was ecstatic for this game knowing that it was an inevitable win with our star player in our arena. With Joel Embiid, we beat the Heat in Game 3 and Game 4. The series is now tied 2-2. What a close series this has turned out to be.



Source: *Sporting News*

Hopefully, Embiid and the rest of the team continue to stay healthy. If the Sixers continue to play like they have been, they will be able to win the Conference Semifinals against the Heat. Then, they will play either the Bucks or the Celtics in the Conference Finals. After that, (hopefully) they will move onto the championship and hopefully become the 2022 NBA Champions. Go Sixers!

“In America: Not Following the Dress Code”—A Met Gala Theme

Cassidy Fisher

“In America: An Anthology of Fashion” was the official theme of the 2022 Met Gala. Invitations sent to celebrities detailed the dress code as being “gilded glamour, white tie”. This theme is meant to highlight the history and evolution of American fashion, but more specifically refers to the Gilded Age of New York from 1870 to 1890. Clothing was expression of your social status. At the time affluent people thought the best way to flaunt their status was through big and bright clothing that couldn’t go unnoticed. The more layers, patterns, and colors the better. Of course, these bold statements were made through the form of gowns. As for men, white tie refers to the most formal of dress suits topped off with a black tailcoat. The Costume Institute made it very clear what its guests should wear, but there is still much room for differing interpretations, especially when it comes to celebrities.

As predicted, little to no guests invited were able to correctly interpret the gilded age. Before awarding best dressed according to the dress code, I would like to give an honorable mention to both Emily Ratajkowski and Madelaine Petsch for attempting to be on theme. Both women had mastered the



funky patterns and bright colors of the gilded age and were able to create outfits that stood out. The clash of pattern and color doesn’t work in our modern-day view of fashion, but it most definitely is an outstanding representation of the gilded age. Both dresses highlight the uniqueness of the time era.

Runner up is most certainly Blake Lively. The symbolism of her dress change, meant to show the oxidation of the Statue of Liberty, was by far the most interesting spin. Her dress was beautiful, but the shape did not represent the gilded age, which is why she’s a close second. I believe our true winner of this year’s gala was...Billie Eilish. Although her dress is not representing the pops of pattern and color of the time, the shape of her dress perfectly replicates the time. Her color choices and accessories almost add a bit of modern touch that makes the look mesh so beautifully.

Most looks this year were dissatisfactory to say the least, so let’s look at the top three most off-theme looks. At number three is Kylie Jenner. Kylie’s dress is not gilded age related whatsoever. I was confused as to why she is in a wedding dress, but what’s more confusing is why she has a veil infused with a baseball cap. Her accessories, specifically her earrings, don’t enhance the look, but actually make it even less coordinated. Kylie has had some amazing met gala looks in the past, but this one has to be very low on the list. In second place, we have David Lauren. He was so close to getting the point, but then you see that he is wearing ripped jeans. The dress code, especially for men, was very self-explanatory. White tie is meant to be the utmost of formal dressing. Perhaps Lauren thought that the addition of ripped jeans was a testament to more recent American fashion, but regardless, the two universes his looks are in gives you whiplash. Finally, the man who takes the cake for worst met gala look, Sebastian Stan. Stan’s bright pink, almost street-wear style outfit went completely off theme. The outfit itself isn’t terrible, but it is just so disappointing to see how meaningless the dress code was for some guests.



With such a glaring dress code, I was looking forward to seeing some clever and modern spins on an iconic period of time but was left very disappointed. It appeared that most invitations, which clearly stated the details of the dress code, got lost in the mail. I believe a more fitting theme for next year should revolve around not following a theme. Obviously, celebrities want to make social statements with their outfits. The theme of the met gala is a mere afterthought in the mind of its attendees.

Source for all photos: [vogue.com](https://www.vogue.com)



Technology & Entertainment

Highlights of the 2022 Oscars

Ashlee Ranes

Despite the viral conflict between Will Smith and Chris Rock, the Oscars this year had many more highlights. Coming back from the pandemic, 2022 has been a great year in the Academy Awards. All the winners had a lot of art and diversity to celebrate in the films they had worked on.

First, the film, CODA, won the Oscar for Best Picture. This film follows a protagonist who grows up with an entirely deaf family, which sent an impactful message and made it an even more meaningful win. Academy Awards are trying harder to fit in diversity and this film was no exception. In addition, according to Vanity Fair, it was the first streaming film to win an Oscar.

As one of the most anticipated wins, Ariana Debose won Best Supporting Actress for her role as Anita in Stephen Spielberg's remake of West Side Story, or as he described it, a "re-imagining". What was so special about this award was that Rita Moreno, the original 1961 film's actress for Anita, won the same award for the same character 60 years ago. They wrote in a new role for her in the movie and she was able to be there to witness Ariana carry on her legacy from one of the most timeless musicals ever made. Ariana mentioned her in her acceptance speech, thanking her for "paving the way for tons of Anitas like me".

The new science fiction film, Dune, won the most Oscars of anything this year, taking away 6 awards. While famous actors such as Zendaya and Timothee Chalamet were featured, this film was highly praised for its artistic visual effects and music score.

Cruella, the live action origin story of beloved Disney villain, Cruella Deville, won best costume design. The main actress, Emma Stone, wore many extravagant dresses and outfits throughout the film which received lots of praise since its release.

Finally, the internet popularity of Encanto payed off in the end when it won Best Animated Feature. This film, coveted for its characters and music, was an instant success in a wide variety of audiences. Its Oscar win was well deserved for the amount of detailed work put into it by animators, voice actors, and more.

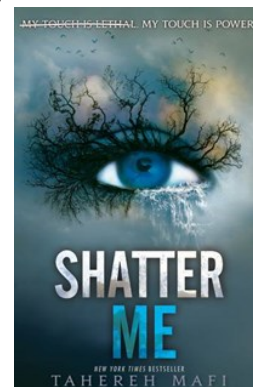
Reviews

Shatter Me: Thoughts from a Re-reader

Cassidy Fisher

In Tahereh Mafi's *Shatter Me*, all aspects of the world have gone to chaos. Climate change is at its peak and the majority of the population lives in poverty. With promises of restoring the Earth, The Reestablishment takes over the entire globe, but does not follow through on their guarantees. Juliette Ferrars appears to be a normal seventeen-year-old girl, except for her deadly touch. After being locked in an asylum for 264 days, Juliette is taken to The Reestablishment's base to be used as their weapon. As Juliette rebels against her captor, Warner, the commander of Sector 45, she falls in love with the guard stationed outside of her room, Adam Kent. They conspire a plan to escape to the outside world, but will they be able to run from The Reestablishment?

This book was a great introduction to the *Shatter Me* world. It draws in the reader with its language, twists, and cliff-hangers. Mafi's use of figurative language is unique and engaging throughout the story. Told from the perspective of Juliette, the author's method of crossing out some of the narrator's thoughts vividly shows the main character's insecurities. The use of cross outs throughout the series is also very distinctive way that Mafi shows character development. Juliette begins to cross things out less and less as she gains confidence in herself and her decisions.



Source: Google Images

As a first-time reader I was drawn into the dystopian world painted by Mafi, which prompted me to continue reading. As I read further, the characters and their interactions made the book even more engaging. Almost every character has a unique and loveable quality. Kenji Kishimoto, for example, lightens the mood of every page he is on, playing the part of the comic relief. (continued on page 6)

Reviews

Shatter Me: Thoughts from a Re-reader (cont.)

Cassidy Fisher

As a re-reader, it was a nostalgic experience to be able to re-visit the beginning of the *Shatter Me* world. Being re-introduced to some of the characters brought back so many amazing memories. It was interesting to be able to put myself in the mindset I had while first reading. I was able to laugh about some of the misconceptions that prompted me to either like or dislike certain characters. It makes it even more blatant how much the characters have developed over the six book long series. There are many connections you are able to make to future plot events, and you are able to appreciate the world building even more the second time.

If you are on the fence, I encourage you to pick up *Shatter Me*. It is a quick read and will easily get you out of a reading slump. If you are interested in reading the series, I recommend that you also read the novellas. There are four novellas throughout the series, which are shorter stories in between main books. They give insight into important topics and are absolutely necessary to understand the full picture of the series. Some of the best fictional characters I've come across are from this series, so don't hesitate to pick up a copy!



