

# The Mustang Times

The Official Newspaper of Madison Early College High School

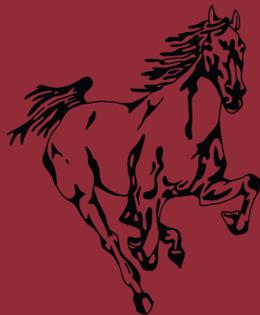
Volume # 1  
Issue # 1

HIGHLIGHTS

October/November  
2019

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Music	5



## Personnel:

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founder and editor

Ben Owen-  
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Kyla Briggs

## Study Tips from a Procrastinator

By Georgia Mrozkowski

Progressing through high school, the pace of classes start to pick up. Homework loads start to increase, and motivation to get through it drops significantly. You can quickly find yourself sifting through homework, trying to find a boost to get it done. I have been there and done that, and I have acquired a few helpful tips along the way.

1. The library is actually really nice. This one seems cliché, but many people overlook it: The library. It's very quiet, there are little distractions, and the wi-fi is really fast. The library staff are always very nice and helpful and if you don't have a printer at home, then it can be a great resource. Just get yourself some coffee at Zuma and head to the Madison County Library on your next study venture!

2. Make a schedule. Sometimes it can be really difficult to study when you're not sure when you should study or what you need to study. Making a study schedule can alleviate some of that stress. You can use an app to schedule, I personally like The HW App, or use a physical planner.

3. Make studying fun and social. A very popular concept for students is to make study groups with your classmates and friends. Make a group chat with some studying friends and schedule a time to meet up at the library or a coffee shop and study together. This includes quizzing each other, going over each other's notes, and so on.

*We intend to turn this section into a regular advice column. If you have further ideas or questions, e-mail gmrozkowski@mcsstudent.net.*

## You Ought To Be In Pictures!

By Mrs. Long

Your yearbook staff is planning something great for this year, but we need your help! Download the ReplayIt! App on your phone and start uploading pictures to the MECHS yearbook site. Announcements will be made starting this week asking for specific types of pictures. Start today with a picture from your summer adventures and be entered in a drawing for a monthly prize. Think of it as a receiving an award for something you do anyway—taking pictures. Say Cheese!



**ReplayIt! Logo—look for it on your app store.**

## Calling All Madison County Residents!!! Do you remember this???

By Mrs. Schoof

Madison Early College High School is embarking on a Challenge-Based Learning adventure! We are partnering with the Town of Marshall Parks and Recreation Dept. to revitalize the beloved former community hangout, the old Marshall Swimming Pool. We need the community to share old photos and memories of your time at the pool for a kick-off event to be held in January, 2020. Please post photos and memories on our Facebook site or send them to MECHS Attn: Jennifer Caldwell, Principal, 5734 US Hwy 25-70, Marshall, NC 28753. Thank you in advance for supporting our students.



**We assume that this is the old Marshall Swimming Pool. It looks fun, no?**

## The Mustang Times wants YOU!

By Ben Owen

This is the first issue of our new newspaper! All of us who are involved have high hopes for it, but we can't run this thing with the limited staff that we have right now. As you can probably tell, we're hurting for content this first week, and we need YOU to help us with that problem.

If you're an artist and have

some artwork that you'd like to show off, then we could use that. If you would like to do movie and TV reviews, we could also use that. If you'd like to come on board as a reporter and write about school happenings (no gossip, please, you have Snapchat for that), we could definitely use that. The possibilities are endless.

Does this sound interesting? Email [elong@madisonk12.net](mailto:elong@madisonk12.net) and pitch your ideas. We look forward to seeing what you can come up with.

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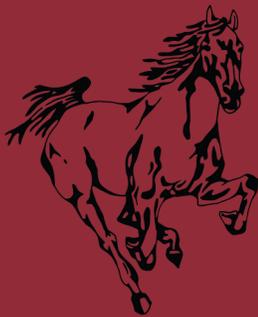
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## MECHS Adds an Outdoor Classroom

By Ms. Long

Ms. Oshen Wallin's project that began last year with a native plants garden on the northern side of the early college building has entered phase II. This time, the project involves not simply plants, but also the hardscaping required of an outdoor classroom. The new space will occupy the circle in front of the school and provide an outdoor space for learning as well as a pollinator garden to help offset the school's environmental footprint.

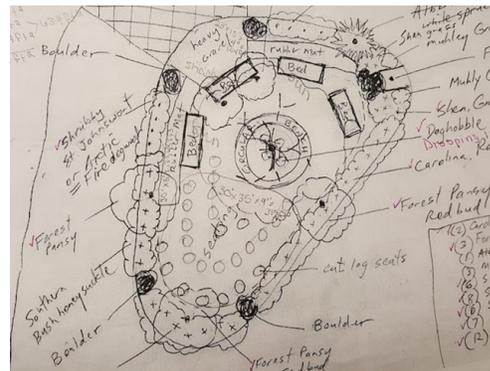
Ms. Wallin applied for grants to pay for the space and received \$2000 from the Pigeon River Fund through the Mountain Valleys Resource and Conservation Development and Ivy River Partnership as well as \$250 from the Madison County Rotary. In addition, many local businesses and individuals have donated their time and product to make the space possible.

Earth/Environmental Science students from the spring of 2019 designed the outdoor classroom which this year's students have begun production on. Although the bulk of the physical work has fallen to this semester's Earth Science students, Ms. Wallin has also called upon her Chemistry students to step up when deliveries have arrived during class time.

Mother Nature has thus far been cooperative, providing warm sunny days for landscaping duties, but fall is quickly approaching and Ms. Wallin hopes to have the hardscape complete by the time the weather turns bad. "It's easy to get the students to pitch in," she says, "especially when it involves being outside and working on a project like this garden."

MECHS wishes to acknowledge the following for their generous donations:

- Mountain Valleys Resource Conservation and Development
- Ivy River Partners
- Pigeon River Fund
- Marshall Native Gardens Initiative (Ed McNally)
- Wild Bud Natives (Nathan Buchanan)
- The Longest Yard Mulch and More
- Marshall Stone Sales
- Sawyer's Mulch (Truett Sawyer)
- Yancey Soil and Water Conservation District
- CLS (Construction Landscape Service) Chad Bailey
- Teresa Warren's Wood Work (Michael Warren)



The master plan, as inspired by Spring 2019 Earth Science students and drawn by Ed McNally with Marshall Native Gardens Initiative.



Installation of the gravel path, thanks to the shoveling expertise of Ms. Wallin's science courses.

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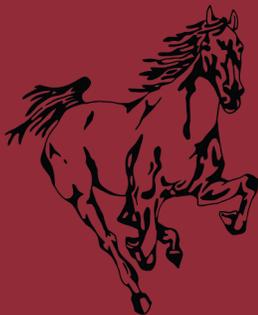
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## Neoliberalism

By Wyatt Mrozkowski

We have lived in a neoliberal economic order for nearly 40 years. What does that mean? "Liberal" makes it sound like a problem from the left, but most Democrats and Republicans support it. It lives in every boardroom, every empty business suit, and every nameless skyscraper. It thrives on debtors, the poor, the sick, and the helpless. And yet for all of us it's destroying, this ideology is a mystery.

### Part I: Classical Liberalism

A familiar entry point for classical liberalism is John Locke. He was an advocate for limited government in a time when that notion was considered radical, and his views influenced the American founding fathers and many other liberal thinkers. In the time of the English Civil War and American Revolution, this black-and-white view of small governments being better than big governments seemed obvious from the massive betrayals of justice made by the British Empire. They represent one view of what the crimes of the British Empire were, and one that for European-descended people, ignored slavery, colonialism, and poverty. The problem simply was the government was treading on their right to... own slaves? Not pay taxes on tea and sugar?

Today, the term classical liberal is mostly used to describe libertarian-leaning people. The Mises Institute, an organization that advocates for small government, says this about classical liberalism: "'Classical liberalism' is the term used to designate the ideology advocating private property, an unhampered market economy, the rule of law, constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion and of the press, and international peace based on free trade." The Mises Institute believes that people are not free if they cannot openly participate in the free market, and they believe it's in the best interest of everyone if the government chooses not to interfere with wealth, profits, or corporate power. This shows in their definition of liberalism. All of the rights they name are negative rights. Negative rights are rights that do not need to be fulfilled, they just need to not be violated. This is the foundation of classical liberalism. The Bill of Rights doesn't guarantee you a home, or care when you're sick, food, water, or anything. It just says that Congress cannot infringe on a few negative rights. In principle, these rights apply to everyone equally. But an unhampered market economy means some will have far more resources than they could ever use, and others have far less than they need. The people at the top often accumulate political power through hefty donations to candidates and lobbying. Politicians become much more interested in defending the rights of these people than the rights of the working class and poor.

This was the conception of liberalism that lasted until the Great Depression. Most people during the 1800s were too poor to become truly active in their democracy, as robber barons dictated the political order of the day. Little was different between political parties, and most attempts to regulate capitalism (such as the Sherman Anti-Trust Act) were complete and utter failures because government power could not approach the threatening amounts of power in the hands of a few very rich men. The market crashed because of a series of short-sighted decisions by those in power, unemployment soared, and people lost their homes and life savings. It was becoming clear that the laissez-faire approach liberal governments had taken toward the economy was not sustainable. Classical Liberalism was proven ineffective at dealing with an economic crisis created by the free market.

### Part II: Embedded Liberalism

After the Great Depression, it was clear that world governments needed to start getting involved in the economy for the benefit of their own people. US President Franklin Roosevelt called this project The New Deal. Roosevelt didn't know where to start, so he listened to the labor movement (through Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins), his Brain Trust (a group of professors and academics), and other people with ideas about how to move the economy forward. The actual solutions FDR brought about aren't so important, many of them were contradictory and all of the different people Roosevelt was listening to had different ideas. Instead of a perfect plan, the New Deal functioned as a rapid-fire spray of policies that punished those who had caused the depression (banks and the stock market) and created opportunity for those affected by the crash. New universal economic rights that had once been controversial, like Social Security, became integral parts of American life and vital social resources. These universal programs brought people together as Roosevelt mobilized the economy to create the jobs needed at a time of record unemployment.

Countries across the globe, especially in Europe, adopted this model of the economy in the post-World War II era. After the time for economic mobilization to fight the depression was over, western countries had learned their lesson. Unrestricted free markets are great for growth and GDP, but take a heavy toll on the population. But they weren't willing to throw out markets altogether. Thus, the compromise of embedded liberalism. John Gerard Ruggie, who is often credited with coining the term embedded liberalism, said this in his essay, "Taking Embedded Liberalism Global: The Corporate Connection": "Capitalist countries learned to reconcile the efficiency of markets with the values of social community that markets themselves require in order to survive and thrive. That lesson did not come to them easily." Remember, the free market failed in the 1930s because those at the top made decisions that caused disaster for working class people and families. Corporations and robber barons were not held accountable for the social repercussions of their choices. In Europe and America, these revelations manifested in different ways. In the US, we had the New Deal programs and a Keynesian approach to government intervention in the economy. Keynes was an economist that believed the depression could be tampered with government spending, seeing spending not as a burden on the government but an economic stimulus.

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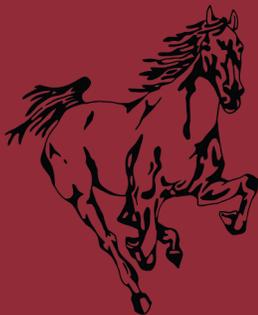
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## Neoliberalism (continued from page 2)

By Wyatt Mrozkowski

Part III: Neoliberalism

Paris, France, 1938. A group of economists in suits are having a meeting. Among them, Friedrich Hayek and Ludwig von Mises (remember the Mises Institute from earlier?). They had big problems with the programs governments were using to relieve the economic crash caused in part by their ideology. Governments were moving from classical liberalism to something closer to socialism, especially in Europe. Hayek, in his book *The Road to Serfdom*, paints this government involvement in the economy as step one on the path to fascism and communism. They come up with a new name for their movement--neoliberalism. They caught the attention of some very wealthy people, wealthy people that wanted to bankroll countless think tanks pushing a neoliberal agenda--tax cuts for the rich, deregulation, and a rollback of social welfare programs like Social Security and Medicare. These think tanks heavily influence the policies that come out of Washington, and include groups like The Cato Institute, The Heritage Foundation, and The American Enterprise Institute. But as these groups formed and the ideology solidified itself, the name neoliberalism faded away. Ask these people today their ideology, and they'll likely give you some form of "libertarian" (like Cato) or "conservative" (like Heritage). Which one is mostly determined by how much disdain they have for sexual and racial minorities. But they are distinctly different from social conservatives, paleoconservatives, and neoconservatives. Libertarianism also encompasses many radical ideologies that the neoliberal order would never endorse, though neoliberal think tanks do employ radical libertarian rhetoric (challenging the validity of state power, only to call for tax cuts instead of abolition of the state).

In the 70s, inflation had reached an incredible high, and the economies of major countries had slow growth. Economists coined a word for it, stagflation, and got to work looking for a solution. Before they could decide, in 1976, the UK had to apply for a \$4 billion loan from the IMF (International Monetary Fund), on the condition they make deep cuts to public spending. The government at the time was from the Labour Party, Britain's left-wing party. Prime Minister James Callaghan was forced to make these changes shortly after becoming leader, and Labour had a hard time winning re-election. This marked the beginning of an incredibly destructive era in British politics--austerity. Austerity is where governments with debt issues either cut spending or raise taxes to deal with the deficit (when spending exceeds income). These policies are often applied when a country is in the midst of a recession, like in the 1970s. However, this is often counter-productive. As *The Economist* points out, "Keynesians argue that the automatic stabilisers are very useful in a recession since they support demand. A recession means that the private sector (individuals and companies) are trying to cut spending. This may make sense at the individual level but the aggregate level, the effect can be perverse. Overall demand falls, making the private sector even worse off. Government spending can cushion the blow." In Britain, these policies were doubled down on by the Conservative government since 2010 under David Cameron, Theresa May, and now, Boris Johnson. Their austerity has mostly taken the form of cutting welfare benefits and the National Health Service, which has made life extremely hard for poor Britons.

Part IV: What's Next? [Warning: Opinion Incoming]

We are in the midst of a wide array of challenges and crises as a nation and across the globe. Climate change, income inequality, and the global rise of fascism and white nationalism all pose existential threats to life as we know it. And these things partially are the result of neoliberalism. Corporations have been detached from their social role, only focused on growth and profits. Corporations are like pyramids, filtering profits upward off the labor of workers at the bottom. Jobs in these corporations alienate people, turning us all into robots and slaves for the capitalist machine. There is, however, a way out. The only power strong enough to challenge neoliberal capitalist forces is a strong, active government that punishes those who got us here, relieves the effects of austerity, fights poverty, and takes over our energy system from big oil and coal.

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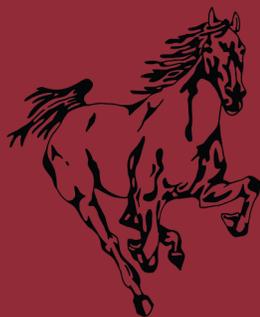
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MUSIC

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## The Music Review

by Ben Owen



**ARTIST:** Crusade

**TITLE:** Codename It (feat. Anthony Vincent)

**TYPE:** Single

**GENRE:** Metal/Rock

**RATING:** 5/10

Let's get started with a little backstory. Crusade is the brainchild of Nashville, Tennessee musician Michael Kupris, who runs the infamous metal music-themed YouTube channel Become The Knight. The channel has about 150,000 subscribers at the time of this writing, and has obtained most of its fame from Kupris's "Mike The Music Snob" series of music review videos, in which he trashes various kinds of music, praises various kinds of music, and does other music critic-related activities. Kupris has been known to lay severe beatdowns on cultural phenomena such as Cardi B and Taylor Swift; as such, being a musician himself, he has been put under a lot of pressure by fans to turn out some of his own original music. (Think along the lines of the classic shutdown "If you can't do better, then don't criticize it!") Now, after a long period of announcements and delays, Kupris's band has emerged with the promise of taking the pretentiousness out of progressive music. But does the band's debut single, "Codename It", live up to the high standards that people are expecting?

As it turns out... not entirely. "Codename It" isn't a bad song by any means; it's just not up to those high standards. It's your average progressive metal/progressive rock song, with the obvious influences from Kupris's favorite bands leaving minimal room for original styles and sounds. Drummer Ryan Metroka and bassist Steve Casto lay down the rhythm section, with the latter suffering the "low-volume" fate that is associated with metal bassists. Video game-style keyboards tinkle on in the background, and of course, Kupris provides the guitar work. All the instruments have been mixed well with each other, and the production is crystal clear. As any appreciator of music would tell you, it's a fantastic-sounding song. So - what's wrong with it, then?

What's wrong with it is that it's not anything new. The musicians are competent, to be sure, but their talents are wasted on material that doesn't sound like itself. Kupris plays an uneven mix of Dream Theater-style melodic metal riffs, Tool and Opeth-style hard rock power chords, and djenting (chugging on a single note, for those not familiar with the term). The keyboards carry an obvious Dream Theater influence as well, and the drums and inaudible bass could be a machine for how run-of-the-mill they are. The vocals don't help things, either. Anthony Vincent's performance may showcase an impressive vocal range and a passion-filled unclean voice - he's not a bad vocalist - but his unclean voice in particular sounds as generic as they come. He could be any other emo screacher. You could get the same musical satisfaction that you get out of this song by going to literally any other progressive metal/rock band's SoundCloud or Bandcamp page and listening to a random track.

Again: "Codename It" is musically competent; it doesn't suffer from complete creative bankruptcy, but it draws a bit too much from other characteristic styles not created by the band. It *sounds* good, and is even quite catchy at times. It will satisfy die-hard Become The Knight fans or those who pay attention to sound alone and need to scratch the ol' heavy rock itch. It will fool people who haven't heard any of Crusade's obvious influences into thinking that the song sounds unique. It won't satisfy people who listen to artists for their characteristic sound. Perhaps, in the future, we will see this young band's not-so-young members blend their influences in a more creative way and develop their own style. For now, though, it seems like they're content to not play outside the musical box. Mike the Music Snob has proved his worth as a musician already. His next step is to not be something that he likes to criticize pop music for being: cookie-cutter. We can only wait and see if that will work out for him... or if he and his band will just become a slightly different cookie cutter.

If you want to suggest a song or album that you would like to see reviewed here, send info about the album/song (including a link to it) to [therealdiamond02@gmail.com](mailto:therealdiamond02@gmail.com). No streaming services - only YouTube, SoundCloud, and Bandcamp links will be considered. Any type of music is allowed; the only restriction is that it must have been released within the past month.