

THE NORTHERN EXPOSURE

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November

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Northern Exposure Policy

The Northern Exposure will strive toward excellence by reporting news accurately, objectively and thoroughly. Providing leadership through editorials and establishing a forum. "Letters to the Editors" are accepted and encouraged, but should be written responsibly, in good taste, free from libel, obscenities and invasions of privacy. "Letters to the Editors" should be less than 300 words and must be signed. Letters may be delivered to room 2103.

1st Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

ON THE COVER:

Cheerleaders lead on the student section at the homecoming game on Friday, September 29th.
Photo by: Kate Gerding- News/Feature Editor



Climate Change and How to Help

By: Kate Gerding- News and Feature Editor

The urgency of global warming has become even more of an issue in recent months. New studies on Earth's rising temperatures show that permanent damage due to carbon emissions could be here within the next five years.

"Scientists have pretty definitively said we are on a fast path to destruction if we don't significantly change what we are doing," Rachel Russell, English teacher,

said.

According to Russel, everyone should care about the protection of the Earth and its environment.

"It's our planet, it sustains all of us, but it is a limited resource," Russel said.

There are many things a student could do to help limit the contribution of greenhouse gasses. Chris Gerding, science teacher, shared what the easiest way is for teens to lower their carbon footprint.

"One of the biggest

things is changes in diet.

Meat is a big contributor to greenhouse gasses so eating less meat, or meat that is produced more efficiently like chicken rather than beef," Gerding said.

However, meat is not the only way food can have a negative impact on the environment.

"Trying to eat things that are locally sourced and aren't packaged is also a great way to help in your community," Gerding said.



For more information about ways to help out here in Lee's Summit, talk to Chris Gerding. You can also visit websites like the United States Environmental Protection Agency at www.epa.gov/climate-change/.

LSR7 Mental Health Resources

By: Bailee Council- Co-Assistant and Social Media Editor

Through generations, mental health has not been an easy subject. However, the topic of someone struggling mentally and reaching out for help has become an easier conversation.

"I just think kids are doing a better job of just realizing that if I need help there's nothing wrong with that," Rebecca Steele, counselor, said.

Lee's Summit North has opened a door for students and families, allowing them new resources for help. A

new resource in the district is the Behavioral Emotional Health Support, or Burrell.

"We get parent permission and do a referral and then Burrell does all of the contact of the families as part of the programming for them. LSN is a Burrell school, but the district also partners with Re-Discover which partners with some of our other schools in the district" Steele said.

Opening that door for students and young adults is one thing, yet many are still not reaching out in time. Suicide is

the second-leading cause of death for teens and young adults, ages 10-34. This is a higher percentage than any other age group in 2020.

"It's hard to say just reach out if they've never come into my office, and never had a chance to sit down and get to know me, and I know them," Dana Green, Counselor, said.

Green expresses the importance of finding someone you feel safe with in the building or in your life. She suggests that students find a group of people that are going to build



them up and encourage them to do positive things. So, when in crisis mode, that same group of people can help lead that student to a beneficial resource.

Lions, Tigers, Banned Books, Oh My!



By: Kay Haas-Staff Reporter

Fahrenheit 451, *The Catcher in the Rye*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*,—three classic novels that have been taught and enjoyed for decades. But not without conflict. Some people believe that the ideas in these books are too controversial for young people to read. Book banning has been on the rise in recent years. With Missouri ranked third in banned books, it is more important than ever that students understand why so many people fight to keep books available for everyone.

Jane Hough, sophomore, is a member of the book club and an avid supporter of keeping all books available to everyone.

“I think it is important to keep banned books available in the libraries because they give us new perspectives and new ways of looking at topics and conflicts in the world,” Hough said.

Hough went on to discuss how crucial the pursuit of truth is and how it can be found in books.

“If we only see one point of view or one writer of one book then we’re not going to see the full picture of the full truth,” Hough said.

In the United States, books with LGBTQ+ themes are targeted and banned because these books have been perceived as inappropriate for students to read. The most banned books in the U.S. are *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe, *All Boys Aren’t Blue* by George M. Johnson and *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison.

In *Gender Queer: A Memoir* by Maia Kobabe, follows the author’s childhood journey and how they had to overcome the many challenges revolving around their self-identity. *All Boys Aren’t Blue* by George M. Johnson, is about how toxic masculinity and the pressures come from that affected the author as they were

trying to grow up. *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison is about a young girl growing up in Ohio who faced an abusive household during the Great Depression.

All of these books tell harrowing tales that have happened to real people all around the world.

One of the major organizations that is targeting these and other books in districts and libraries across the country is Moms for Liberty. This group is devoted to keeping books out of libraries that they personally disagree with the theme and morals. They attempt to ban books on the account that they are not needed for the curriculum, not educational, and contain inappropriate material.

Selena Harris, senior, works in Lee’s Summit North library during the afternoons. Harris has strong opinions regarding the topic of banning books.

“When people ban books it would go against the First Amendment because you are censoring information from people,” Harris said.

It is important that students have access to books that they feel seen and represented in. The danger of not having access to them is that these students can feel as if they do not belong.

Brielle Laster, English teacher, has a strong belief that each and every person has a right to read whichever book they want and that they deserve to be represented in books.

“I think that every person, especially at the age of high school, should have the autonomy to choose what they read,” Laster said.

Censored information can seem like a far-off topic, but as of last year, 56 books were challenged in the Lee’s Summit School District.

“Society expects highschool students to be responsible in many ways and they should be trusted to make their own choices about what they read,” Laster said.

Once the district got the challenges, committees were formed. 28 committees were formed and met to decide whether or not they should be retained without restrictions, retained with restrictions, or completely removed from district libraries. Of the 56 challenged, all were retained with restrictions or without restrictions.

Four books were weeded out of the district’s libraries before the reviewing of the books because three of the books were deemed a misuse of resources. The fourth book that was weeded out was removed because after the publishing of the book, false information was found out which is why the book is no longer available at schools in the district.

Each year, more and more books are banned and challenged in libraries everywhere. But, there are people out there who will fight these allegations so they can continue to read any books they want with any plot, characters, and themes.

THE IRON DISTRICT

in review

By: Kate Gerding- News/Feature Editor

Located in North Kansas City, the Iron District is a collection of many different local vendors that run their business out of re-purposed shipping containers. This setup makes for a one-of-a-kind experience that is definitely worth checking out. The Iron District’s new fall hours are Thursday-Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Sundays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

 The Drive & Parking: ★★★★★

The drive ended up being a little over 30 minutes and was slightly difficult to navigate. Not the most ideal for teen drivers but it would be great to go with a group or as a family. As far as parking goes, it can vary depending on the time of year. There is a small lot just outside the area, but it would fill up quickly during their more busy seasons.

Seating & Activities: ★★★★★

There many great options no matter the time of year. During the warmer months, there are picnic tables and yard games. As it gets colder, several shops have space to warm up inside, but there is also an enclosed area with picnic tables, heaters, and even two private rooms that overlook the courtyard.



MELTBX Ice Cream: ★★★★★

The Sourdough Spot is the perfect place to stop for a snack or a light lunch. This one-of-a-kind food vendor has all things sourdough: Avocado toast, grilled cheese, and so many different types/ flavors of sourdough bread. For coffee lovers, they even offer cold brew coffee that is great to pair with your meal. The only downside was the price. For a large avocado toast, it was \$8 and a large grilled cheese was \$9 so it can add up pretty quickly. However, as far as customer service goes, the owner was super sweet and even offered to bring our food to where we were sitting by the heaters. Highly recommend giving it a try!

The Sourdough SPOT: ★★★★★

No matter the weather, MELTBX Ice Cream is a must when visiting the Iron District. Their ice cream is so smooth and delicious, and there are many different things to choose from.

“There were so many flavor options and toppings. I got cookie dough with marshmallow fluff,” Emma Gerding, freshman, said.

MELTBX has staple flavors like chocolate and vanilla, but they also change their menu seasonally.

“For fall, they had pumpkin, oatmeal cookie, witch’s brew that had espresso and pumpkin in it,” Gerding said.

Despite the cold, we were able to enjoy our ice cream inside with a heater, and it was a great way to end the day.



Holiday Events Throughout KC

By: Bailee Council-Social Media/Co-Assistant Editor

Haunted Houses - West Bottoms KC



For almost 32 years now the West Bottoms in downtown KC has built a reputation with their chilling haunted houses, through the weeks of September 22nd through November 11th. Two houses, Edge of Hell, and The Beast opened in 1991, while Macabre Cinema opened in 2008. Throughout the years Full Moon Productions has owned the houses.

“Everyone scares differently so these haunts were built to address these different ways. Therefore, the most popular is whichever scare the person likes,” VP of marketing, Amber Arnett-Bequeaith.

The Edge of Hell is based around phobias and the journey from heaven to hell. The Beast delves into the tortured beast of man through the ages and werewolves. It includes a Louisiana Swamp and a Forest. The Macabre Cinema has visitors pass through the movie screen and into the horror film where horror villains make you the victim. They have real horror movie sets in the house too.

“High School is coming of age where young adults are seeking experiences,” Arnett-Bequeaith said.

A professional haunted house is a safe experience whether they like the escapism aspect, a date, team bonding, or the thrills. A new and exciting experience for everyone, so if you missed the opening this year, be sure to mark your calendars for 2024.

Photo Courtesy of: Amber Arnett-Bequeaith

Festival of Lights - Powell Gardens

2023 marks the seventh year Powell Gardens has presented the Festival of Lights. Visitors enjoy the unique nature of this winter festival. There is simple magic in bundling up with friends and family and walking through a lighted winter wonderland. This year, Every Festival of Lights at Powell Gardens will be open November 16 - December 30, Wednesday-Sunday, 5-10 p.m..

“Visionary icy landscapes meld with mystical performers to create a flurry of fleeting moments that must be experienced to be truly believed,” Marketing Specialist, Laina Burdette, said.

Every Festival of Lights at Powell Gardens is close to Lee’s Summit and has a lot of things to do. This year, Powell Gardens is working with Quixotic to Crystal Chambers, an immersive performance in the gardens’ glass-domed Conservatory.

“I think high schoolers especially will enjoy climbing to the top of the Missouri Barn Silo and looking for selfie stations along the lighted pathway,” Burdette said.

For plant enthusiasts, check out the succulent tree in the Garden Galleries or Powell Gardens-grown poinsettias in The Marketplace

“As I’ve learned more about conservation, plants, and the #MidwestSpiritOfPlace, I’ve liked my job even more!” says Burdette.

As Kansas City’s botanical garden, Powell Gardens has a variety of seasonal festivals and offerings. In 2024, check out Orchid Delirium, Painted Garden, Festival of Butterflies, Dark Forest, and Festival of Lights as well as weekend horticulture highlights throughout the year.

Photo Courtesy of: Laina Burdette

Mayor’s Tree Lighting - Lee’s Summit



This 2023 season on November 17th, Lee’s Summit will host their 33rd Annual Mayor’s Tree Lighting ceremony. This year, Mayor Bill Baird along with other special guests will join and bring together the community for the holidays.

“He was elected to office in April of 2018 and was re-elected in April of 2022,” Events & Promotions Director, Julie Cook, said.

An evening of joy for families will emerge at Howard Station Park on November 16th. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. and will include musical performances. Santa & Mrs. Claus will make their grand entrance and stick around for photos with families until 8 p.m. Dozens of locally-owned shops and restaurants will stay open late for families to shop, go out to eat, and take in the magic of the gorgeous holiday lights.

“We will have free keepsake ornaments available while supplies last at our sponsor booths on SE Main Street during the event,” Cook said.

Whistle Stop Coffee will set up a hot cocoa station outside their business. A lot of businesses will feature Live Window Displays. Families can scan the QR code in the window to vote for their favorites.

“Attendees are sure to love the Selfie Stations we have set up in Howard Station Park and near the Amtrak Station on SW Main Street,” Cook expressed.

As high schoolers become less interested in the holiday spirit, the town still makes an effort to meet every one of all ages interested in the season. Additionally, Lee’s Summit High School Robotics Team has programmed an animated light display near the Amtrak station, which features a 20 foot Christmas tree.

“This is the perfect opportunity for high schoolers to enjoy a fun night out with friends,” said Cook.

As the temperature drops and the holiday season approaches, it’s suggested to grab something yummy to eat, and hot to drink, and find the best spots for selfies that night.

Photo Courtesy of: Julie Cook

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—Foreign Exchange Students—

By: Talon Cleveland-Staff Reporter

Sacha Thiebault, from Belgium, is visiting the US for the first time.

“I like being with my host family and discovering all the typical American things with them, especially the food,” Thiebault said.

Sacha has had to adapt to many changes living in the US, like

earlier school days but these days Thiebault has gotten to experience American classes.

“My favorite classes are ceramics and math. My least favorite class is American history,” Thiebault said.

When not at school Sacha likes to hang out with friends and go shopping.

Enzo Eimeke is visiting from Germany. Enzo has never been to the US before so he is fascinated by the differences in our everyday lives.

“My favorite part of the US is probably the school and the people. The different school format and the people I’ve met,” Eimeke said.

There is a wide difference between American lives and German, but for a teenager those differences could include little things such as the high school experience.

“I like meeting up with friends, go to football games, try new things with my friends here,” Eimeke said.

Enzo is amazed at the different variety of fast food restaurants we have in the US. Above fast food he likes Texas Roadhouse over all else.

Jorna Keezer, from the Netherlands, is experiencing American culture for the first time. “I like bagels, I think they’re really good,” Keezer said.

Jorna was excited to experience Halloween, a holiday that is not celebrated in the Netherlands. She also wants to experience an American Christmas.

The school system is different here than in the Netherlands. Keezer finds some parts harder than others.

“American government is hard because it’s in English and they use all these different terms,” Keezer said.

Keezer also hopes to play soccer and explore the city a little more.

Daniela Segura Conde, from Spain, has interest in dance, especially tap, and singing. Daniela played Toffee, the main female character in LSN’s production of Zombie Prom.

Segura Conde has experienced many differences being in the US, but she enjoys the challenge.

“It’s so different here. It’s too complicated,” Segura Conde said.

Daniela is a vibrant person who enjoys having a good time with her friends.

Photo Courtesy of: Talon Cleveland

broncomedia.org

Pablo Lerin Pineda is from Spain. He likes to hang out with his friends and try new restaurants around KC. Pablo enjoys lifting weights, so Coach Mozee’s weight class tends to be his favorite. Though he enjoys many things here, there are difficulties he is still getting used to.

“I don’t like the distance between things, that I have to take the car to go everywhere,” Lerin Pineda said.

There are of course some differences that Lerin Pineda has to adjust to, but not all of them are bad. Pablo likes Chipotle like most people.

“It’s really different than being in Spain,” Lerin Pineda said.

Helosia Bramilla is visiting from Brazil. This isn’t Bramillas first time in the States, she has been to Florida. This is her first time being an exchange student and she chose the US, but not for the fast food.

“I like the pancakes and cookies here,” Bramilla said.

Helosia likes trying different American foods, but she thinks fast food is gross.

“I like the sports here, I was playing volleyball and Im going to do archery,” Bramilla said.

Bramillas favorite thing to do in Brazil is partying and hanging out with her friends.

Ivy Lee is from South Korea. This is Lee’s first time in the US and she is fascinated by the differences.

“Its cool and its really different,” Lee said.

There are a lot of things Lee is enjoying here. But, there are some she can’t wait to experience.

“I’m really excited for Christmas because in South Korea we don’t do it this big,” Lee said.

Lee is ready to experience all the holidays the US makes so big like Christmas, Halloween, and Valentine’s day. While she is here she plans on eating burgers and hanging out with friends.

Alexa Tolzin is from Germany. This is Alexa’s second time visiting the US.

“I like everything here in general just because everything is so different,” Tolzin said.

There were a lot of differences Tolzin had to adjust to but she is having an amazing time in the States. Alexa joined the LSN cheer team which is not something offered in Germany.

“I enjoy going to school here and just every moment,” Tolzin said.

Alexa is gonna spend the remainder of her exchange hanging with friends and having a great time.

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THE BEST OF... KC Coffee Shops

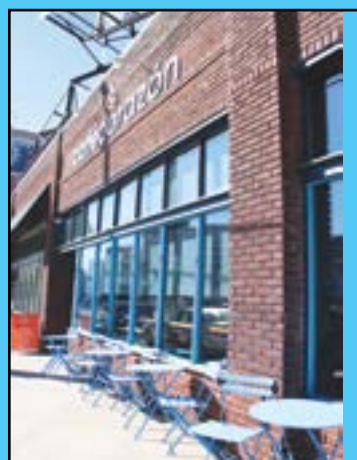
By: Areesa Steele- Entertainment/Editor-in-Chief



Looking for a location that has a indoor and outdoor seating? Vested Beacon Hill Coffee is the perfect place for you. Something more unique about this coffee shop is that it has a RV on the inside where you order. The service is perfect for when you want a quick to go coffee or a sit down coffee. Being able to find a good atmosphere where you can study and also meet with others is a must and Vested Beacon fits both of those options. The price is amazing for what you get. Vested Beacon is easy to get to and has multiple locations as well.



If you want a fun location, Cafe Corazon is for you. The ambiance with the coffee shop being connected to the outside is nice. If you want a place that is a little more in the city and especially more busier, Cafe Corazon would be a great fit. The service is good for how busy they usually are. If you want a chance to sample different coffee a latte flight is for you. A plus to Cafe Corazon is they have multiple locations in KC.



The atmosphere in the Roasterie is more of a professional environment. If you want to go to a darker coffee shop The Roasterie is for you. The people working there are nice and welcoming. The location is easier to get to. If you want to spend your time walking around and shopping, it is perfect because there are many different stores near The Roasterie. If you're looking for a more affordable coffee shop, The Roasterie will fit your budget.



This is a perfect coffee shop that is not super busy. If you want to get away from the busy city coffee shops this is the place. Even though it is farther away from most places in KC, it is harder to get to and it has more of a cynic route. The service is good even though the price is more on the expensive side. Blip has good choices in fall drinks. It is recommended, if you like pumpkin flavored coffee, to get the hot pumpkin butter latte with sweet pumpkin flavor.



A LOOK INTO... Some Clubs at LSN

By: Abbey Euritt- Sports/Co-Assistant Editor

Medical Club

One of the many clubs offered to students is Medical Club (Med Club) which hosts any student with an interest in the medical field. The club provides members with different activities related to healthcare and the many professions of it.

"We complete community service projects once a month and have different medical professionals come in and speak about their careers," Jia Patel, senior, said.

The students in Medical Club are offered opportunities that can benefit them after high school if they choose to go into the medical field.



Chess Club

Last year, Chess Club was brought back for students to join after being gone from school for many years. Chess Club has competed in two competitions since they reopened to students, and the future plans of the club aspire for more.

"The other two schools in Lee's Summit also have Chess Club, so we are looking to have a three school meet up and a competition," Thomas Berhe, senior, said.

The club is open to all members, no matter their skill level. Chess Club is a great use of Bronco Time, as well as a way to keep students' minds active.



Fashion Club

A new club was brought to the student body last year joining together students who love fashion. The club focuses on individual style, while still respecting the style of others.

"This club promotes owning your style whether others like it or not. If you love your sense of fashion style...that is all that matters," Michell Owens, sponsor, said.

The unique style of Fashion Club brings a positive atmosphere that welcomes all students who are passionate about the fashion industry.



French Club

French Club welcomes any student, no matter if they are in a language, to come together once a month and celebrate cultures and holidays. This year, French Club has done many activities together to celebrate and learn about different cultures around the world.

"This year for our first meeting, we learned about Swedish traditions, and we had cheeses. We also did All Saints' Day where we painted pumpkins, made gravestones, and ate food," Elle Zinn, senior, said.

In the future, French Club has many activities planned to celebrate upcoming holidays.

Braids and Fades Club

One of the new clubs brought to LSN, Braids and Fades Club, is a cosmetology and barber-focused club. The club invites students of any skill level to join if they are interested in the hands-on aspect of haircutting and styling.

"We want to provide students with the skills necessary for doing their own hair, then decide if they want to eventually work with clients and make money doing their hair," Christasia Strickland, sponsor, said.

Braids and Fades Club teaches students about the haircutting profession and the skills that are involved in cosmetology.



NORTH IN PHOTOS

Page By: Areesa Steele- Entertainment/Editor-in-Chief Photos By: NE Staff



KANSAS CITY

Making Women's Sports History

By: Abbey Euritt- Sports/Co-Assistant Editor

Starting next season, the Kansas City Current women's soccer team will experience changes to their program. With a new head coach and the recently built stadium, the team will face many differences going forward. The 117 million dollar stadium, located in Berkley Riverfront is the first women's professional stadium ever built. As Kansas City makes women's sports history, fans hope that this will influence other places and sports in general.

"The stadium, being the first-ever women's professional stadium, makes me excited for Kansas City to be seen as a leader in support of women's soccer. I hope the stadium influences others around the world to do the same," Kylie Binger, junior, said.

As Binger herself is a female soccer player, the support towards women's sports has become an inspiration to her. The steps that the Kansas City Current has taken towards the growth of women's professional sports, will hopefully have a great effect on the future of female athletes.

"It is inspiring to see amazing support from all of Kansas City towards a women's professional team. It is also inspiring to watch my former assistant coach, Rylan Childers, and LSN alumni, Addisyn Merrick [play]," Binger said.

The new stadium is intended to influence other female sports all over the world as they are beginning to receive more support and recognition.

"I think that it will help to grow women's sports across the Globe. It helps to give the Current and NWSL a step toward being viewed as a stable and legitimate league. It will also bring attention from many other Countries who will come to look and see how to support women's teams and sports," Ryan Kelley, Varsity Soccer Coach, said.

The growth of women's sports is important for all ages, as it continues to build and give a future in professional sports to more female athletes. Not only will the stadium impact soccer, but it will also influence other sports and the importance of investing in the game.

"It shows that investing in women's sports can be beneficial to the players, teams, and community. This will help to bring more young girls to sports which is beneficial for them as they go through life," Kelley said.

Next year, the Kansas City Current soccer team will begin to use their newly constructed stadium in Berkley Riverfront and make history in women's sports.



A GOOD TEAM REQUIRES A GOOD COACH

By: Areesa Steele- Entertainment/Editor-in-Chief

Last year, the Chiefs had an amazing season. Coming back from a big win, is this seasons football. As of right now, the record is L7-2 (as of November 8th). There is a lot of expectations coming from fans in this years football season.

"There is a long way to go...it is still too early to make a year end prediction," Michael Westacott, history teacher, said.

Coming off from their great season last year, many fans are looking at how they are playing this year. When having as big of a sports team as the Chiefs, it comes with a lot of support as well as what people think the team could fix.

"Defense looks like its the best its been in years, the offense has a ways to go yet," Westacott said.

In order to have a good team, it starts with the coach. Andy Reid has been with the Chiefs for eleven years. With this comes a lot of responsibility. He has shown great effort with the team and helping the players be themselves on and off the field.

"Andy Reid is a Hall of Fame coach who allows his players to be themselves. They are therefore fun to watch," Westacott said.

During the Chiefs games, many fans like to come together to watch the game. Some even places bets on what team they think will win. Some people choose to stay out of it simply because they do not have money.

"I am a teacher, I certainly don't have any money I can afford to lose," Westacott said.

Chiefs fans are hoping for an amazing season where they can celebrate and enjoy the games. Many are even hoping we make it as far as we did last year.





New Changes and New Chances with Girls Basketball



By: Isabelle Flood- Staff Reporter

With fall sports winding down, preparation for the girls basketball season is in full swing for the 2023 team. New transfers and new coaches are just some of the changes for the new season. Even though there are some new aspects to the team, everyone is still very excited.

"I'm just definitely looking forward to everything, I'm excited," Elyseia Dunn, new girls varsity head coach, said.

Dunn might be brand new to the basketball team, but the girls have already started to bond with her.

"I already like the new coach. I already met her and talked to her a couple times," Addyson Potts, junior, said.

Not only are the girls getting more comfortable with their new coach, but Dunn is also getting to know the girls better.

"We've been doing stuff since June so I've gotten accustomed to a few of them who actually like to come into my room and hangout all the time. I'm definitely building those relationships and those bonds with the girls already," Dunn said.

Relationships that players and coaches develop are some of the most important things in a sport. Not only are relationships important, but chemistry on the team is also important.

"The most important thing on a basketball team is definitely chemistry, you definitely have to like the people you are playing with and you have to be able to trust them," Potts said.



Addyson Potts, Junior, runs through drills at practice.

The bond you have with your team can certainly make a season more fun and enjoyable, but it can also make it very memorable.

"My season last year was fun. We had a pretty good bond," Anyla Gavel, sophomore, said.

While the games are always fun, athletes have to put in the work to be able to play the best they can at the games. Practices and conditioning can be unenjoyable but are necessary.

"Practices are definitely long and difficult and tough and the season is really long so it's just a lot of tough practices," Potts said.

The preseason and tryouts are full of conditioning and demand hard work, but the hard work is just what Dunn is looking for.

"Girls just giving effort, and working hard and communicating...just be focused," Dunn said.

Focus of the student athletes is often needed in more than one place. Not only do they need to focus on the court, but they also require focus trying to balance their workload during the season.

"Towards the end of season things do start to pile up for me because that's also when finals are beginning...but overall I think I do a pretty decent job at managing both," Potts said.

There are more components to being a student athlete than just the athlete part. Coaches also help the players manage the other aspects of their life off the court.

"I'm not just about them being an athlete, I'm about them as people as well," Dunn said.

Some girls are coming to the sport of basketball for the first time to try it out. But others have been playing for as long as they can remember.

"I have been playing since I was in like kindergarten... ,so I have made a lot of friends through basketball," Potts said.

Long lasting friendships and fun memories with this year's seniors is something that players are cherishing.

"Our seniors are Summer and Madi. I'm pretty close with both of them. I played with Madi last year on JV and Varsity. Summer just transferred over," Gavel said.

New additions bring new changes for the veterans of the team. Some of those changes can be seen in how Dunn will be leading her team.



Bailey Wirth, Sophomore, concentrates on her shot at practice.

"The biggest thing I'm trying to get the team to understand is that everybody has a role and everybody has a job," Dunn said.

The additions on the team is a change the team has to adjust to. But new goals are also forming amongst the players as they are adjusting to the change.

"A goal I have for both the team and I is to just go out there and have fun and to try our best every game... and we are gonna have to learn how to play our roles," Potts said.

Even Coach Dunn is creating goals for her team and what she wants her upcoming season to look like.

"Compete every game, don't give up... and I want to get back to that district championship game they were in last year and this year I want to actually win it and go further," Dunn said.

Coach Dunn and her players have high expectations for this season and are looking forward to what each match will bring.

"We are gonna be intense and we are gonna get after it, we are gonna work hard but we are definitely gonna have fun," Dunn said.

The 2023-2024 girls basketball team is anticipating bringing a new dynamic to Broncos basketball with Coach Dunn. After tackling new changes, the team hopes to be stronger than ever.

A Surge in College Athletics

By: Morgan Hill- Staff Reporter

NIL has taken over the athletics world and will continue to do so. NIL, otherwise referred to as Name, Image, and Likeness, is the process where athletes who previously were not able to be compensated with earnings made off their name, image, and likeness.

The state of Missouri just recently passed a statute in their legislation meeting, declaring that all Missouri student athletes may begin to accept their endorsement earnings as long as they have signed a letter of intent to attend a public university in the state of Missouri.

This impacts high school students who can now be compensated with their endorsements before they get to college.

The NIL rules have been in effect for NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA for a few years now and have tremendously impacted the way of life for college athletes across the country.

The impact of NIL has been noticed by many, especially athletes and those around athletes.

"It's deciding where more players are going to college because it can get you more money from that college so it offers colleges more opportunities to pay players not through the school but with NIL deals," Presli Houk, sophomore, said.

Others have noticed that its impact has reached students and helped remind them to think of their long-term plans.

"Kids are staying in college longer as they can make money to play in college and they don't have to rush into the professional leagues," Mike McGurk, athletic director, said.

As the reach of NIL and the endorsement deals that come with it, they are not allocated to one sport in particular to create equal opportunities.

However, some have noticed that even though it is for all sports, more of the popular sports are getting more attention than others regarding NIL deals.

"It could be more focused for football a little bit more just because football is really popular," Houk said.

Others noticed similar trends as well.

"It mostly is affecting both football and basketball, men's and women's. Those sports seem to have the most coverage of athletes signing NIL deals," McGurk said. With NIL in place, colleges and universities have to change their approach to how they recruit highschool student-athletes. NIL deals and recruiting with it can entice a student-athlete who wants to play for a university or college if they have a better recruiting strategy than other universities or colleges when using it.

"It can really make or break where a player wants to go because you can really make someone want to come to your school because you are offering them more money for an NIL deal," Houk said.

More specifically in the state of Missouri, it affects college and university recruiting more intensely as if a student-athlete commits to a public college or university in Missouri they can get compensated for their NIL deal sooner than in other states.

"The new law that allows kids who have signed to a Missouri university can start collecting money once they officially sign has impacted a few recruits in Missouri," McGurk said.

With more athletes getting NIL deals there is more money spent on athletics and can help pave the way for new advancements within the industry professionally and collegiately.

However, with higher spenders and donors around the colleges and universities, this can create more of an issue stressed revolving around money for college and university administrators in their athletic departments.

"I think it will put pressure on colleges and universities to come up with money in order to keep up with the "Jones" and allow them to sign the best recruits coming out of high school," McGurk said.

The end state of NIL within athletics is



MU player featured with local chip company.

unknown and will continue to evolve.

Future advancements in athletics can be made possible with NIL and now the general theme that more money surrounds athletics is beneficial to not only the colleges and universities, but also the student-athletes themselves, TV providers, donors, and families of all people involved. NIL has benefits that are tremendous to the athletics industry and many believe that the trend of its benefits will continue for years.

"I think it will continue to be a bigger deal and players will be more focused on that for recruitment," Houk said.

With a new surge of money into the industry many benefits have come to light, however, there have been some disadvantages to it specifically in the collegiate realm with smaller schools that can now easily suffer from not being able to keep updated with schools that have more financial aid.

"It needs to be fine-tuned a bit to make sure the rich don't get richer and the smaller universities can keep up and have the ability to sign high-end athletes," McGurk said.

The future of NIL's abilities and impact will continue to evolve but with many benefits to high-school and college athletes, it should remain a great, innovative tool for athletics as a whole.



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