

THE **NORTHERN** EXPOSURE

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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:

**Owen Barnhill, senior, wrestles
in varsity match against Lee's
Summit High School.
Photo by Areesa Steele**

The graphic features the Wellspring Healthcare logo at the top left, which includes the letters 'W', 'S', 'H' and a stylized flower icon. To the right is a circular portrait of a man with a beard wearing a white shirt and a blue bow tie. Below the logo and portrait, the text 'Upcoming Webinars' is displayed in a blue rounded rectangle. Underneath this, there are three rows of webinar information, each consisting of a calendar icon, the date and time, a QR code, and the webinar title in a blue rounded rectangle. The first row is for 'Heart Health' on Feb 21st, 2024 at 6:00 pm. The second row is for 'Ethical and Legal Considerations of End of Life Care' on March 6th, 2024 at 6:00 pm. The third row is for 'Dementia' on March 20th, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Date	Time	Topic
Feb 21st, 2024	6:00 pm	Heart Health
March 6th, 2024	6:00 pm	Ethical and Legal Considerations of End of Life Care
March 20th, 2024	6:00 pm	Dementia

AI: FRIEND OR FOE

By: Kay Haas - Staff Reporter

A common pattern throughout history has been man's constant drive of inventing. Since the dawn of time, humans have created new and efficient tools to make their lives easier. This pattern has not stopped. But, as humans have evolved, inventions have become more elaborate and sophisticated. Now that artificial intelligence is readily available to everyone; this has some people excited for the future, while others fear for mankind.

Artificial intelligence is not a new concept. The first AI was developed in 1956 by John McCarthy and Marvin Minsky at Dartmouth. But it has not always been as accessible as it is now.

In 2023, artificial intelligence became more mainstream. The introduction of chatbots made people aware of the importance and danger of AI. Chatbots are computer programs that are designed to mimic and feel like a human conversation. They first went viral in January with new generative AI sites, like ChatGPT, gaining popularity on different social media apps. ChatGPT can hold a conversation with a person, create human-like artworks, and explain different topics in elaborate detail.

Rashelle Weissenbach, art teacher, has conflicting feelings regarding AI in education and in art.

"We need to continue to look into how we can use it as a tool rather than just putting up a wall and saying we can never use it no matter what," Weissenbach said.

Weissenbach teaches Foundations of Design, Foundations of Drawing, IB Art, Painting 1-3, and Visual Arts.

Michael Russell, librarian, is shown using a chatbot AI site. Photo taken by Kay Haas



One of the major conflicts and issues surrounding the commonality of AI is job security. As AI continues to advance and grow, different jobs are in severe risk of getting replaced. AI is quicker and more accurate than a person can be, this has its benefits but also negatives. Companies are starting to replace people with AI. Artificial Intelligence is also able to analyze vast amounts of data in a short period of time, with little to no errors.

Jennifer Belmore, science teacher, talks about some of the benefits and cons of AI.

"We use computer assisted programs to process data already so I do not think that that is a stretch. It cuts time on calculations for data analysts. My concern with using AI for that stuff is errors in the results," Belmore said.

According to Forbes, many office jobs are at risk. Banks and law firms are two of the most impacted by technology replacing humans.

AI is not just replacing jobs. Since AI is so universally accessible, students have been using AI to write essays and cheat on tests.

Jayla Walker, sophomore, shares her opinion on the use of artificial intelligence in education.

"I do not think that AI should be writing students' essays because that is a skill that you should be able to learn by yourself," said Walker.

AI chatbots can create essays without plagiarizing anything. This makes work written by AI much harder to detect, so each university has started to make their own policy and standards.

While The University of Kansas does not have their own official policy on AI, they do have expectations of their students. On KU's Center for Teaching website, they discuss how AI should be used as a tool and should be used only in situations where the professor has granted them permission to use it.

There are some positives to AI. Since artificial intelligence is fast and accurate, it can cut down on work that humans have to do. Work that could take a couple of hours can now be reduced to seconds. AI also has the ability to help in the medical field. According to the National Library of Medicine, AI can be used to diagnose a patient and help discover new drugs. In the article, they also state that some AI programs have reached the accuracy of a top professional in medicine.

Since the start of artificial intelligence in 1956, the danger and the use have always been present. While there is danger and harm, there are also useful and valuable applications of it. As AI continues to grow and change, humans will need to be open to AI while also being cautious.

COMING TO LEE'S SUMMIT IN 2031... Discovery Park

By: Abbey Euritt- Sports/Co-Assistant Editor

Coming to Lee's Summit in 2031, Discovery Park, located between Colbern Road and Douglas Street is a large development open to the community. The build will include "The Village at Discovery Park", providing residents with luxury apartments, and multiple hotels. Additionally, the complex includes "Discovery Crossing" which holds retail options, ranging from clothing to grocery stores. The third component of Discovery Park will include "The Promenade at Discovery Park" giving residents leisure options made of pickleball courts, and an entertainment space. The project has potential to affect the community of Lee's Summit in many ways; the changes the city plans to endure with the new build may influence economics or population growth.

"I believe it to be inevitable. I think a city like ours is a destination city people want to live in and want things to do in. I do worry about growth being too much too fast and being able to support all of the amenities available and filling all the housing. If we were to have a big economic downturn nationwide or worldwide I worry what all these new buildings might end up being or if they would sit vacant too long," Tim Collins, Principal, said.

Though residents of Lee's Summit have not received a lot of information on the depths of Discovery Park, some potential ideas that would benefit the city have circled the air. For some people, adding in a larger variety of retail and food options would be a good addition to Discovery Park.

"I think more restaurant choices are always great to have and new places to



The construction preview of Discovery Park.

shop that are affordable and have a wide range of items to select is also good. In terms of other businesses, I would hope we will be able to attract businesses that would provide our students and residents with job opportunities so that we could employ more of our citizens. It seems this will be a wait-and-see development and I hope it succeeds," Collins said.

As the developers have just broken ground on Discovery Park, the anticipation watching the build go further along will be an excitement to some Lee's Summit residents to see what will be included in the final project.

STUDENT VOICE ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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



As the LSR7 School District expands, new opportunities for people in the community arise. This year the school district is starting a student board. This student board will be able to participate in meetings, input ideas, and share experiences.

"Students on the board have the opportunity to provide input on policies, share student perspectives, and actively participate in discussions that impact R7 School District," Rodrick Sparks, President of the LSR7 Board of Education, said.

Many students in the district are able to participate in this activity.

"I had to fill out an application and then interviewed me," Nora Mason, junior, said.

The board has realized that it is important that students have a voice in choices made in the district. Students contribute perspective and insights

into what they might like to see for their future and others.

"The idea emerged from recognizing the valuable insights students possess and the desire to enhance their engagement in shaping their educational experience," Sparks said.

As the first year of students being on the board happens, there are a lot of goals that students, staff, and school board members are looking forward to. The system that the school board is setting up is inspiring to younger students in our district that are looking to contribute their voice and opinions to the district.

"In the first year, we hope students on the board will contribute fresh ideas, promote transparency, and inspire a collaborative atmosphere within the district. Also, it will be super imperative for this inaugural class of students to help establish a model that we can build on in the future," Sparks said.

Not only are school board staff excited for this new change, but the students are as well. Students looking to expand their opportunities and speaking take this opportunity with stride. These students know that this may be a once in a lifetime opportunity to change who they are and the perspectives of the district.

"I hope that I can work on my public speaking and hope to make decisions to better our school and our system," Mason said.

Without this diverse perspective, the school board would not be able to create plans that relate more to the students. As members of the LSR7 district, recognize the school board of education is looking towards the future for the district.



THE OSCARS



By: Kate Gerding- News/Feature Editor

Movie awards season has officially begun. The Golden Globes and Emmys were first in some of Hollywood's biggest nights of the year, and will close with the fan-favorite Oscars on March 10. Terry Durnell, film teacher, is excited to watch how this year's awards season will unfold.

"Awards season is my Super Bowl like I live for this," Durnell said.

Durnell says she enjoys watching all of the awards ceremonies but is most excited for the Oscars.

"I have it marked on my calendar when the Golden Globes are, the Critics Choice Awards, the SAG Awards, and of course all culminating to Oscar night because it's really the last one," Durnell said.

Many different categories are

awarded an Oscar. The categories for this year include Best Actor/Actress, Best Picture, Best Original Song, Best Director, Best Animated Feature, and Best Documentary Feature. These are just a few of the many that will be given out at the 96th Oscars and are all listed on the official Oscars website. Although the nominees were announced on January 23, Durnell has some predictions of her own.

"I think Oppenheimer and Barbie will probably sweep a lot of the categories, but it's hard to compare the two because they are very different movies," Durnell said.

For Durnell, it is important to incorporate the Oscars and movie awards into her student's curriculum.

"I love having debates, especially with my film students about what they think

is gonna be the best film. And now that I do IB Film, it's become a tradition that I try to choose one film that I don't think they can get access to very easily and then we watch it as a class," Durnell said.

In her opinion, many characteristics make a movie great, but it is not always the ones that are most popular.

"Most people only ever watch mainstream films and so independent and foreign films are something that they don't ever watch. But, when my students are exposed to those different films they really start to realize that some of the better films, not just production value, but the emotional, gripping films are the ones I remember the most," Durnell said.

No matter the outcome, Durnell is excited and looking forward to watching all the upcoming awards.

Student Picks: The Best Movies of 2023

Similar to The Oscars, students were given a survey in their English classes of 17 different movies released in 2023. These are the results of what students favorite movies from the 222 responses received for what the most popular movies were.



AMI Days From Different Perspectives

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

During the school year, the district receives five days of AMI days. These days are decided by the weather and road conditions of the Lee's Summit community.

"An AMI (Alternate Method of Instruction) day is a day our district can provide learning to our students in a virtual environment in the event of a snow day or emergency day off. Students are expected to login to Schoology and complete homework/classwork for each of their classes during these days," Tim Collins, Principal, said.

Any AMI day that we have is not decided by the principals of the LSR7 community, it is decided by the State Board of Education and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Board. On given AMI days it is Dr. Collins job to make sure staff and teachers are set for their day.

"I support our staff and students in any way I can," Dr. Collins said.

Alternate Method of Instruction days allow students and staff to have a flexible schedule at home. Even though students tend to engage more with in-person learning, it is comforting knowing that students and staff have five days of online learning before the days missed add on to the end of the school year.

For teachers in the district, online learning days look different than students online learning days. On these days, many teachers will assign work that informs students more on what they are currently learning.

"I rely on NoRedInk often because that gives them lessons and tutorials to take the place of me being with them, and it also expedites the grading process. For me, assignment completion equals attendance for that day," Jessica Brown, English and Yearbook teacher, said.

Many teachers in the district have young children, so their AMI day may look different depending on each day. Most likely their children will be home with them so it adds onto their day.

"I do whatever I can to make my life the easiest. If that means giving my students something the computer grades or gives automatic feedback on, I do it. If that means putting my daughter in front of Miss Rachel on YouTube so I can respond to a student email, I do it," Mrs. Brown said.

During AMI days teachers do their best with their teaching life and personal life. Teachers are dedicated to being there to help their students even though they are online learning.

For students, AMI days require them to participate in their normal activities they would in person. Creating a schedule during an AMI day plays a vital role in finishing an online school day.

"I normally try to get my work done early in the day, that way I can go about the rest of my day stress free and maybe have a little free time," Bailey Passanisi, junior, said.

For some students, AMI days may be a little more difficult.

Certain classes that are offered require students to be more hands-on. With AMI days it makes it difficult for students to truly get the hands-on learning experience.

"I think AMI days are semi-productive because some of my

classes require hands-on learning that we are not able to do online. We could get more done in person more often than not," Passanisi said.

In-person classes are made for in-person learning. With each AMI day it makes it more difficult to learn material that you would normally be learning in a classroom. Students and staff are either a fan or not a fan of AMI learning.

"No, I do not like AMI days really at all because I know I learn a lot better in class. I think we should have built in snow days rather than AMI days," Passanisi said.

Even with the AMI days given, it gives students the opportunity to catch on missing work. The online work days also give students the day to have a more calm schedule.

Snow days look different for seniors compared to the student body. The amount of AMI days mixed with snow days does not affect seniors. But during each AMI day, seniors are still expected to participate in the work their teachers have given them, even if the amount of work is not the same as in person.

"Usually it's a lot of notes, but sometimes I'll have reading passages. Sometimes IB dip can work where I have an essay due that I need to make edits or a reflection on work I've already done that I need to write," Cooper Spacil, senior, said.

Even though juniors and seniors may be taking harder IB classes. The amount of work given on an AMI day may be easier compared to most non weighted classes.

"With IB teachers they are usually more laid back. For some classes like Chemistry, it'll be notes on your own. For History, read the packet you've been given. Otherwise it's pretty not stressful. The only ones where it is I would say is IB math, you really need to keep up with your notes otherwise you'll get behind on homework," Spacil said.

Each AMI day differs from person to person. It is important to get your work done on AMI days even if you are a senior.

Off the Field with LSN Football

By: Isabelle Flood- Staff Reporter

From August through October, almost all students look forward to Friday nights to watch the LSN football program in action. This program has made even more of an impact than most realize and extends past the football field.

"This is more than just football now," Jamar Mozee, head varsity football coach, said.

Countless players, who once played football at LSN for Coach Mozee, have gone on to a higher level of play at college. Many of those players now play at either a D1 or a D2 school.

"It is well over 100 guys that go and play at that high college level, since I have been here," Mozee said.

The amount of talent leaving this football program directly results from Mozee's



Coach Mozee walks with Chase Clark, Isaac McIntosh, Isaiah Mozee, and Elijah Leonard. Photo credit: Mike McGurk

coaching style and endless support. The boys all have their own relationship with him and can depend on him.

"Some guys I am like a father, some guys like a big brother, mentor, some guys I am just Coach, I always make myself available to be whatever they need me to be for them," Mozee said.

Not only is Coach Mozee expressing his compassion for his players and their relationship, but he also talks about his undeniable love for coaching. A lot of the players have never had a coach quite like him.

"I am going to miss playing for a coach like him. I don't think I will have another relationship with a coach like I do with him," Williams Nwaneri, senior, said.

The underclassmen are already starting to develop respect and a relationship with Mozee early in their high school career. Caleb Green, freshman, has expressed that bond.

"Coach [Mozee] knows how to treat us right," Green said.

Coach Mozee has taught his boys much more than just football skills. He also prioritizes teaching life skills they can use off the field. He expects a lot from the players but knows they can all meet his standards.

"We talk about conduct and how to handle yourself in the building, how to go about your business, staying out of trouble... how to be an example of what standard we are trying to set and pass your classes, doing what you're supposed to do in class," Mozee said.

Playing football for LSN also includes the student aspect of being a student-athlete. These athletes work very hard to do well in school and on the football field to get offers and scholarships from colleges.

"I got 36 offers," Nwaneri said.

Nwaneri is the number one recruit from the 2024 class in the country. Out of the many offers he received, he finally committed to Mizzou in the fall of 2023.

"It's basically home so it's not that far and the relationship with the coaches and coaching staff helped my decision," Nwaneri said.

It is no small accomplishment being the number one recruit of the 2024 class. Nwaneri set his goals high and did whatever it took to achieve them.

"[I got to where I am by] being determined and having goals for myself and trying my best to wake up every day and try my best and work towards my goals," Nwaneri said.

Nwaneri has a lot of success and achievements he has accomplished, but he doesn't take all the credit for himself.

"I play for God and he gives me all my talents, my abilities, and my strengths," Nwaneri said.

Many of the football players have Christian-based habits in their life. They currently host the LSN Sanctuary in the Aux Gym during Bronco Time.

"It is like Chapel, so Damian is like our football chaplain... he's kind of just branching that out and opening that up to the rest of the school. And they use the gym to do it, they used to use the weight room now it's gotten big enough to move to the aux gym," Mozee said.

The club has grown a lot in the past two months it has been open. On February 3rd, the club organized a worship night at Summit Park



Students pray together in the LSN Sanctuary club. Photo credit: Brookelyn Geschwind

Church. There were baptisms, worshipping, food, and many excited LSN students. The football players are the foundation of this club and share their values with the rest of the school.

"Our leadership group in our football program has grown tremendously and in that leadership group we do a lot of those values, Christian values," Mozee said.

The values the boys take from high school go with them as they conquer the next step in their career, playing in college. While Nwaneri had his decision about committing to Mizzou set early on, others had some more back and forth. Cayden Green, the previous LSN football player, and student, just transferred to Mizzou after committing to Oklahoma last school year.

"His situation wasn't bad, he made the change because it was the best thing for him and I think he had an opportunity and he took advantage of it," Mozee said.

Nwaneri is looking forward to his reunion with Cayden Green next year, both playing football for Mizzou.



Hank Natalie, Drew Gray, Aaron McGhee, and Brentley Comer sit on the bench together. Photo credit: Mike McGurk

Stanley Cup Craze



By: Talon Cleveland - Staff Reporter

drinks hot, unlike the Quenchers of today that keep drinks cold. The cups back in the day mostly used glass to keep drinks hot, which worked fine until they broke. This was a common problem all cup manufacturers faced. Stanley wanted to solve this problem so he started using thick steel to keep drinks hot. This was a big advancement in the cup world and led to other companies copying.

Also, Stanley is in the fight to keep our planet clean; they make reusable bottles made from recycled materials. The bottles made now are very different from the ones before. There are differences in colors, shapes, materials, and most importantly the group using them.

"I like the Hydro Flask and Stanley until it becomes someones personality," Taylor Kindler, junior, said.

Stanleys have become a fashion accessory these past few years. Tumblers are now part of social identities, mostly females. The popular tumbler before Stanley was Hydro Flask. One of the biggest noticeable differences between the cups are their looks, Hydro Flasks have the normal water bottle looks compared to Stanley's handle and straw, But that is not the main difference. Hydro Flasks were decorated in stickers to be more fun and give it personality. Meanwhile there are few Stanleys that have stickers, they are more clean and sleek. Maybe the cup change represents growing up and caring about appearance.

The Stanley cups have been around for nearly 110 years, but have recently gained a new popularity because of one cup. Originally, they mostly focused on providing drinkware with regulated temperatures to blue collar workers. What really has put Stanley in the spotlight is the Quencher, which arrived in 2016. This 40-ounce cup varies in price, from \$45-\$55, and is supported by a handle.

"I like having a Stanley because I've never had water bottle with a handle and I can carry more than one thing in my hand," Morgan Hubert, senior, said.

The Quenchers' first few years did not go so well. Quenchers went unnoticed until 2019, when Stanley made a deal with Ashlee LeSueur, cofounder of Buy Guide. LeSueur added these cups to her blog and they were an instant hit. LeSueur helped push the idea of

a handle bottle.

"It holds a lot of water at once so I can stay hydrated throughout the day, and I think they're really cute," Claire Burrows, sophomore, said.

Now when someone thinks of a Stanley they don't think of the classic green bottle, they think of the tumblers that come in different colors.

Stanley's have gotten so popular that people have begun collecting them, trying to get all the colors and styles. Rare Stanleys can be sold online for hundreds of dollars.

"I've had mine for six months, this is my first one and they're so expensive I can't," Hubert said.

To understand how Stanley's became so popular, we need to go back to the beginning. Stanley was created in 1913 by William Stanley Jr. The original Stanley's focused on keeping

Getting Ahead with Scholarships

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

As students make their way through high school, they face the decision of what they want to pursue after graduation. For many, college is the path they choose. With that comes the preparation and dedication that students need to achieve their goals. Lee's Summit North has created many opportunities and ways for students to help them explore those options.

"If they have decided where they're going for college, definitely try applying for scholarships that are offered by that school. I would also advise them to look for local scholarships because most of the time, those are the ones that are easier to get versus national scholarships," Rocel Wright, College and Scholarships Coordinator, said.

The LSN guidance website has given students access to a massive list of scholarships to choose from, depending on their needs and preferences. It has been advised for students to complete their FAFSA as soon as possible. If you have decided where you going for college, try applying for scholarships that are offered by that school.

"I look for places I have a connection to; I try to make

sure I have something that I can say that will tie me to the company that will make me have a better chance of being there," Lily Winkle, senior, said.

Every student has a different plan for their future and that will dictate what type of scholarship you apply for. Merit-based scholarships require students to have a certain GPA, community service hours, and extracurricular activities. On the other hand, financial aid-based scholarships choose students who are predominantly from low-income families. One requirement for this type of scholarship is the FAFSA completion. Most scholarship providers and even colleges want to make sure that they are giving their scholarships to students who need it the most financially.

"I also tell students that when it comes to scholarship opportunities, the sky is the limit as long as they are willing to put in the effort in submitting applications," Wright said.

She also recommends students look at websites like Scholarships.com and Bold.org. Along with going to some local websites like The Lee's Summit Educational Foundation, Optimist Club,

Kiwanis, and some local businesses as well.

"Start as early as you possibly can, There are scholarships posted on the guidance website a huge master list of them that you can look at even starting now to see what the questions look like," Winkle said.

It is never too late, or too early to start looking into scholarships that could potentially help you achieve your goals. Walking into high school, graduation, college, or any other path may seem so far away. But the sooner you have a plan for what you want to achieve, the better decisions you can make to prepare yourself in advance. LSR7 counselors and admin had done a good job of giving access to the students for the resources they need or may want to look into. A lot of scholarships and financial aid forms are going to ask the same questions such as, your skill set, and what you plan to do, so having those confirmed will make it easier to just fill them out as you go. Overall the biggest recommendation for students is to start this process as early as possible, because the earlier you start the better it will look for you.

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org**

NORTH in PHOTOS

Page By: Kate Gerding- News/Feature Editor Photos By: NE Staff





2024 Olympics Preview



By: Abbey Euritt- Sports/Co-Assistant Editor

This summer, the Olympic games are coming to Paris, France with highly skilled athletes and fans ready to admire their favorite contestants and sports. The 2024 Olympics have added four new sports to the games, including break-style dancing, rock climbing, skateboarding, and surfing. No matter if fans are watching the games from home or attending the Olympics in Paris, they tend to be a popular watch during the summer months.

"I always enjoy watching the track and field, especially now that we have one of the best pole vaulters in the world and American record holder living and training here in LS. My entire family loves watching the swimming events as well. I really enjoy watching the best athletes in the world do what they do. I've always admired people who do things at the highest level because I know what it takes to be at that level. It's more than I could ever do," Eric Davis, Track and Field coach, said.

Many fans look forward to the same events every Olympics, but with the addition of four new sports, there is now even more for people to enjoy while watching. After the 2020 Olympics, the new sports were proposed to bring in more inclusive centered games. With the four new sports added, that gives the Olympics a total of 32 different games offered. The additional sports are giving more people an opportunity in the Olympics, as well as bringing in a larger audience.

"I think it's always good to make the games even more inclusive for more people to enjoy. Everyone who participates in these events will be amazing at what they do and will be fun to watch," Davis said.

With the new sports, fans are already looking forward to seeing them in the competitions at such an advanced level. The additional games will also add different terrains, such as rock climbing and surfing. Overall, fans are looking forward to seeing the new sports get added to the Olympics, increasing the variety available to watch.

"I've always been really interested in rock climbing and surfing because I perceive those to be extremely difficult to master given that no mountain for waves is ever the same twice, you have to be able to adapt to new conditions and

situations constantly. A lot of respect for people who do those things at a high level," Davis said.

Often fans watch the Olympics in respect to the highly trained athletes or for a sense of inspiration to themselves in their sport. Getting to see such high-leveled athletes perform their sport in front of the entire world can bring a sense of encouragement to young athletes who see a future at that level.

"As an athlete, watching the Olympics shows how people have committed their entire lives to the sport, and most of the gymnasts are around my age, so it's really inspiring," Alecia Barnette, senior, said.

For fans, getting to see the best athletes perform at their sport is what many people look forward to in the games. For Barnette, gymnastics is her favorite thing to watch, since she is a gymnast herself.

"I'm most excited to see [gymnastics] bars and floor. Bars is really interesting to watch with the different releases, and you get to see the different personalities of the gymnastics during floor," Barnette said.

Another aspect that people look forward to every year in the Olympics is watching their favorite athletes compete for gold. In terms of gymnastics, the United States holds the best gymnast in the world, Simone Biles, who is a favorite to watch during the games.

"I am excited to watch Simone Biles, since she is the best in the world, and also Jordan Chiles, but I don't know if she is coming back to elite gymnastics," Barnette said.

Overall, the Olympic summer months are a time where all parts of the world come together and focus on the talent that comes from different countries. Watching the Olympic games is a way for fans to come together and cheer for their favorite elite athletes. In the 2024 Olympics, it is expected to have a large audience in Paris, because France is ultimately accessible to most parts of the world. Many fans will cheer for particular athletes to get a gold medal, and others plan to watch for the excitement of it all. Of the 32 sports available in the games this year, there really is something for everyone to watch. The Olympics will start July 26th and end August 11th, so plan to watch on one of the many live networks that stream the games daily.



Hurdling into the Season

By: Morgan Hill- Staff Reporter

Track and Field is a sport that has been very popular for generations and only continues to grow. At LSN, the track and field teams are very successful and will have many opportunities to win championships this upcoming season. The team is run by Eric Davis and his fellow assistant coaches.

With the 2024 Summer Olympics coming up after the school year, track and field will be a very popular sport internationally. However, at LSN, it does not always get the attention it deserves. This upcoming season

promises huge success for the Broncos during the state championships. There are many events involved in track and field.

"Track events are purely running events of different distances (some with hurdles) and the field events are all of the jumping and throwing events," Coach Davis said.

With track being mainly running distance, it is important to have fast runners in those events. To prepare for the season and create faster times most of the teams' athletes have been doing some offseason training in preparation for the season and state.

The motto for Frank Sparks, senior, is an example for most of the teams' athletes of how important their offseason work is.

"Train hard," Sparks said.

The preparation has been going on for months, and many of the athletes have taken advantage of the extra time.

"Since after Thanksgiving, the bulk of the team has been doing running workouts either on the track or out on the roads getting mileage in. A lot of kids are playing other sports which is also good preparation," Coach Davis said.

The scoring in track and field is different from any other sport. Individual scoring and team scoring all factor into the total points scored.

"Individuals who compete in their events (you can do up to 4 in a meet) get points for the team based upon their placing," Coach Davis said. With the individual scoring gaining points for placing, the team gets those points and after all the events have been completed the points are tallied.

"When you add up all of the points each person scores you get an overall team score and the team with the most wins the meet and usually gets a plaque," Coach Davis said.

Due to the sport being partially individual, it is very important to have a team environment to be successful. Those teams support their teammates at each level of their respective competitions. On top of being supportive, each individual has to pull their weight in each meet

to win for the school.

"Because in a relay you have to rely on your teammates as you all are running the race together," Zach Paul, senior, said.

The individualized competition creating a team score also relates very well to various workplace settings. As a result, track and field can help teach important life skills to prepare you for future endeavors.

"The main reason is that it's good for all of us to be a contributing member to something bigger than ourselves, to work together with other people to achieve something we wouldn't be able to do by ourselves," Coach Davis said.

At LSN, the track and field team has many athletes making impacts and succeeding in their meets. However, there is one event that is destined to set new records.

"Our 4x4 relay, it's probably going to break the school record," Paul said.

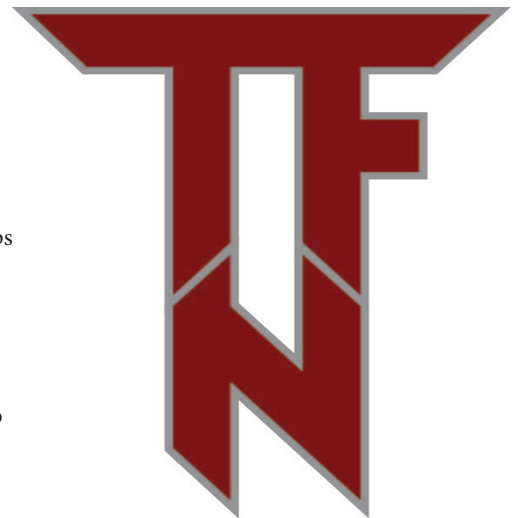
While many are looking forward to the potential break of school records, others are excited to see new faces on the team and new competition.

"New upcoming freshman and the competition that we beat last year," said Sparks.

For track and field, the individual's success over the season can be determined by whether they are chosen to represent LSN at the district and state competitions. Those who are not chosen for these opportunities might feel discouraged. However, for some, this can also motivate athletes to train harder and accomplish their dreams of getting to the competitions.

"My sophomore year when I didn't make state, that motivated me to make state for next year," Paul said.

The competitive spirit that track and field encourages helps this sport stay very popular among observers, athletes, and coaches. Be sure to show up and support your Bronco track and field athletes this 2024 season.



Friendships and Unbreakable Bonds with Girls' Swim and Dive

By: Isabelle Flood- Staff Reporter

The Lee's Summit Aquatic Center is the second home to the girls of the swim and dive team, a sport that often gets overlooked during the winter sports seasons.

"It's a hard sport to recognize, especially next to basketball and wrestling. It's a bittersweet feeling because we are literally damaging every muscle in our bodies while we are swimming," Brookelyn Geschwind, senior, said.

Even though swimming can be difficult, teammates are all going through the same experience. Environments like that can bond teammates closer than they could have ever imagined.

"We have a really close team, I could consider all of them my best friends," Miley Bruce, sophomore, said.

Some friendships happen naturally, but others take more work to create the bond. Geschwind makes an effort to include everyone on the team to develop the close bond they all have.

"I try to make sure everyone is involved. If there is one person in the swim lane by themselves I will invite them over to be in our lane and stuff like that and it makes people feel welcome," Geschwind said.

Being a senior, Geschwind considers herself as one of the leaders of the team. She uses her leadership skills and influence to benefit the team.

"I am just very outgoing and I like to socialize with a lot of people...I just make sure everyone is a part of something," Geschwind said.

The swim meets and practices are one place where the team bonds but they also have activities outside of the aquatics center to bring them together. They have pasta parties to help the girls relax and bond before meets.

"Our teammates bond and create friendships through pasta parties which we have the night before each meet," Adeline Cooley, sophomore, said.

While the girls' swim and dive team might feel they get overlooked, their bond is undeniable and cannot be ignored.



The girls rest on the wall of the pool in between events.
Photo credit: Mike McGurk

Lacrosse Takes the Field

By: Kay Haas- Staff Reporter



Lacrosse is a competitive sport that is similar to hockey and soccer. The objective of the game is to score by throwing a ball into the goal by using a lacrosse stick while making sure that the other team does not have the opportunity to score. Lee's Summit North's Girls Lacrosse season starts in late February and ends in May. They practice Monday through Friday for two hours to prepare for their multitudes of competitions throughout the season. During the practice, they learn different techniques like passing, ground balls, and

switching hands. Lindley Osborn, sophomore, is a returning player. She played lacrosse before her freshman year and then decided to join Lee's Summit North's team.

"I like lacrosse because it's a fun and relaxed sport that still has a competitive aspect to it. It is also a great workout," Osborn said.

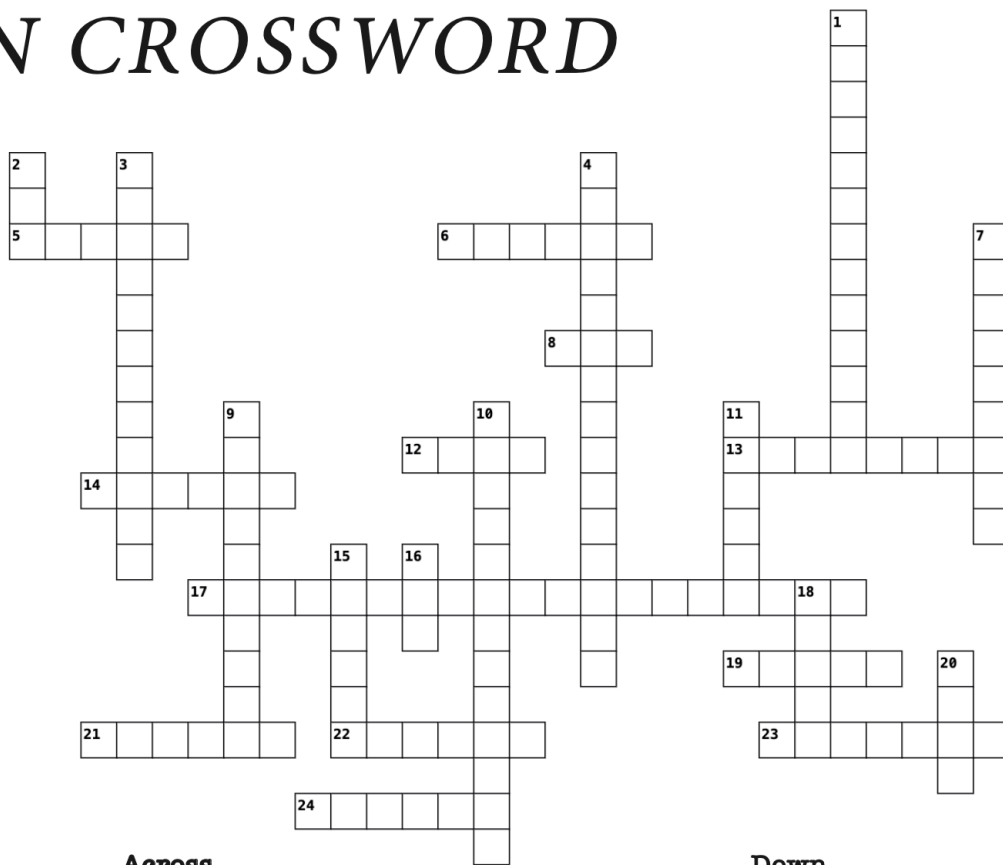
Makenzie Baldwin, sophomore, is also a returning player this year. Baldwin played lacrosse at the start of her freshman year.

"One of my friends introduced me to the sport and I then decided to play," Baldwin said.

Once Baldwin started playing, she was hooked.

"My favorite thing about lacrosse is the environment they give you and it's a really fun sport that welcomes everyone," Baldwin said.

LSN CROSSWORD



Across

5. What is the head football coach's last name?
6. The editor-in-chief of the school newspaper is also on the tennis team (last name).
8. What is the last word of the second line of the fight song?
12. How many credits of English do you need to graduate?
13. What is the last name of the IB Coordinator?
14. Who is the sponsor for the Medical Club?
17. What is the name of the student newspaper?
19. The school literary magazine is called the THe Ink and _____.
21. Who is the culinary teacher?
22. Our school colors are crimson and _____?
23. This LSN teacher has a daughter on the school newspaper staff.
24. What is the last name of the head boys' varsity basketball coach?

Down

1. What is the name of LSN's dance team?
2. Where did Mr. Lepert go to college?
3. Who was valedictorian 2017-2018?
(Clue: It's written on the wall of Elliot Hall)
4. Which #1 pick graduate football player signed with The University Of Missouri?
7. What math teacher has been in the building since the first year it opened?
9. Where are pep assemblies held?
10. What is the name of the cow in the LMC?
11. What is the name of our school mascot?
15. Which social studies teacher recently got back from military training?
16. What is the name of the student broadcast?
18. What is the last word of the first line of the school song?
20. What is the last name of the girls' basketball coach?

1-NorthernStars, 2-UCM, 3-SpencerBlack, 4-WilliamsNwaneri, 5-Mozee, 6-Steele, 8-Way, 12-Four, 13-Rossiter, 14-Walker, 17-TheNorthernExposure, 19-Quill, 21-Warnex, 22-Silver, 23-Gerdling, 24-Hughes

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