

# THE Northern Exposure

Friday, October 11, 2024 Vol. XXX Issue I



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## 2024-25 Staff

Kate Gerding.....Editor-in-Chief  
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 Kay Haas.....News Editor  
 Isabelle Flood.....Social Media Editor  
 Talon Cleveland.....Feature Editor  
 Morgan Hill.....Sports Editor  
 Antil Snoddy.....Staff Reporter  
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# October

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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:

Dance team, color guard, and marching band perform on the field for the first home football game of the season

Photo by: Kay Haas- News Editor



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# ELECTION TIME

By: Kay Haas- News Editor

The election can be a very exciting time but it can also be a very challenging time. In the US, there is a major presidential election every four years. This year, the presidential election will be on November 5th, 2024. The presidential election starts with the primaries and caucuses. At Caucuses, party members will vote for the best candidate. At the Primaries, party members will decide on who will represent their party in the General Election. The next step is the National Conventions. This is where the party will finalize and endorse their official candidate. Then starts the General Election. This is where people in the United States vote for their favorite presidential candidate. Then the election process moves on to the Electoral College. Here the electors or representatives of each state cast their votes. Whichever candidate gets more than 270 of the electoral college votes becomes the President and Vice President of the United States. Then the new President and Vice President are inaugurated in January.

The Democratic presidential nominee is Madame Vice President Kamala Harris. She was not the original democratic nominee. President Joe Biden had been running for president as the incumbent but then decided to stand down and remove himself from the running of president. Harris then became the Democratic presidential nominee. Harris will be accompanied by her vice presidential running mate, Tim Walz. The Republican presidential nominee is Former President Donald Trump. Trump will be accompanied by Republican vice presidential running mate, JD Vance.

The past couple of presidential elections have caused division and chaos. A factor that led to these issues was social media.

"Social media allows for news to travel at an incredibly fast speed. News from around the world can be easily accessed. Social media can play a role in

encouraging more people to register to vote and participate in the political process," Michael Westacott, history teacher, said.

Although social media can be helpful, it can cause a lot of issues. It is also a place for misinformation to spread.

"The amount of misinformation presented on the various social media platforms is staggering," Westacott said.

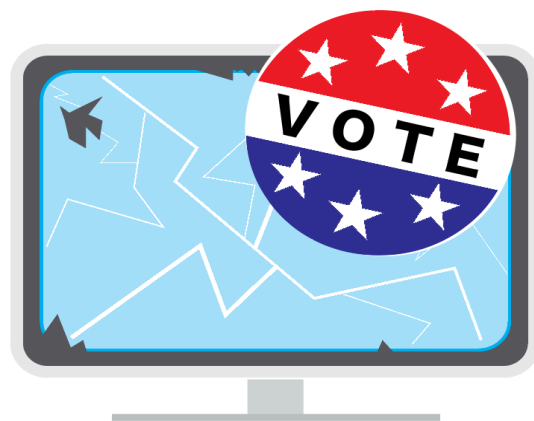
Westacott went on to discuss the cons of social media.

"Social Media has created a sense of entitlement and self-importance that didn't used to be so exaggerated in our culture," Westacott said.

Makenzie Baldwin, junior, shared how social media influences her as a student trying to navigate the political scene.

"Social media influences my opinions by showing me information that is targeted to my beliefs, making it more difficult to see viewpoints of others who may have differing opinions," Baldwin said.

During this election season, make sure that your information comes from a trusted source and do research before deciding on who to vote for.



# A Taste of Fall

**Frost**

*By: Bailee Council- Assistant/Entertainment Editor*

In November 2022, Frost Coffee and Tea opened its doors to the public, and since then it has brought delicious beverages for all, especially during the holiday seasons. After Jack Frost Donuts closed down in the mid-80s, the building was used as an office space. That is until July 2022 when they decided to resurrect a part of Lee's Summit history by renovating the space into a modern cafe. This autumn, Frost is bringing you handcrafted drinks like a Banana Bread Latte, an Apple cinnamon latte, and the traditional Pumpkin Spice.

"One thing that we look for is what the people are looking for, people love the classics like pumpkin spice but then you want to find something different that sounds good that someone else hasn't come up with before and that's kind of a challenge," Christian Hern, Assistant Manager, said. The cafe has a variety of pastries to choose from, which they acquire from two bakeries throughout the week. Both Kansas City local, Scratch Bakery, and Fox and Bowl Bakery. However, if you are looking for a sweet fall treat, along with apple fritters that are now available, Scratch has a pumpkin espresso scone coming soon to the store.



## Sweet Kiss Brigaderio Cafe



This mother-daughter duo is known for their Brazilian desserts and treats but are bringing new fall-inspired items with a Brazilian twist to the menu. Four unique lattes including White Chocolate Pumpkin Mocha Paçoca, Peanut Butter Latte Pão de Mel, a Honey Cake Latte, and a Caramel Apple Butter Latte.

"My favorite is the Honey Cake. It is inspired by a very popular Brazilian sweet called, pão de mel. It is the perfect combination of chocolate, honey, Dulce de leite, and cinnamon. It is perfect for fall," Jessica Harris, Co-Owner/Founder, said.

Since 2015, Harris and her mom have been making signature drinks that are inspired by Brazilian sweets. Born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, they specialize in bringing a piece of their culture to the Lee's Summit community. Fall seems to be everyone's favorite season, and everyone is always looking for something different. Sweet Kiss Brigaderio has just that.

"We came up with as a team with a focus on creating something unique and Brazilian..."

"We did a lot of different tests and combinations until we perfected the recipe," Harris said.

As the weather gets colder and you crave the spices of the seasons, come to Sweet Kiss Brigaderio Cafe to experience fall in a whole new way, a Brazilian way.

## Three Dog Bakery



Founded in 1989, the Three Dog Bakery has been making pup-friendly treats that owners can count on. Just like the average person dogs love a festive treat to enjoy during the fall. From pumpkin cupcakes in large and small, pumpkin bars, s'mores pop tarts, and pumpkin cups with organic pumpkin as the main ingredient, just to name a few.

"We work with AAFCO which is an organization for dog food that monitors the quality of different dog food but also monitors us because we are a bakery," John Torpey, owner, said.

Striving to have a variety of options for a variety of dogs has given this place its reputation. Aside from popular belief, most dogs have allergies to grain and wheat, so some of the food mixes are free of either ingredient, along with that, a majority of their products are salt and sugar-free.

"I knew I wanted to do something dog related, I have four dogs myself...I wasn't a baker or a decorator so it wasn't something I had thought about because of those aspects but I inquired about it," Torpey said.

Four and a half years later, Lee's Summit and all dogs still have the pleasure of welcoming them to the community. So this autumn after you grab your latte for the day, stop by and grab your furry friend a delicious treat as well.

# North In Photos

By: Talon Cleveland- Feature Editor Photos By NE Staff



# HOMECOMING

2024

By: Kate Gerding- Editor-in-Chief

## Broncos Show Their School Spirit



Monday:  
“Gold Rush”

Tara Dinh and Abbie Scheer decked out in gold



Tuesday:

“The Golden Age”

Carter Harrington and Olivia Fuentes dressed for decades day



Wednesday:

“Old is Gold”

Ms. Weir swapped outfits with a student for the day



Thursday:

“Go for Gold”

Addison Bleckinger repping Royals for jersey day



Friday:

“Broncos Win Gold”

Tara Wells and Claire Yoder in their Bronco gear

## The Parade and Friday Night Lights

Following the pep assembly on Friday afternoon, people lined the streets of LSN’s surrounding neighborhoods to watch the homecoming parade



Ella Hayes, sophomore homecoming attendant

go by. Each year, the dance team, cheerleaders, marching band, homecoming royalty, and fall sports teams participate in the parade to celebrate their accomplishments and welcome a new season. The parade has become a favorite for both participants and the parade’s spectators.

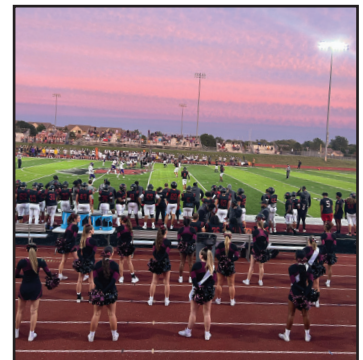
“My favorite part was the parade and getting to throw candy out to all the little kids,” Garrison Volkmer, senior, said.

Asher Vogt,

freshman, also enjoyed being a part of the parade and the opportunity to be on homecoming royalty.

“A lot of people have come up to me and congratulated me and that’s felt really good throughout the entire week, so it’s been just a huge honor to be a part of and a lot of fun,” Vogt said.

Of course, homecoming weekend is not complete without a varsity football game. On Friday night, the student section was packed full. Students



Homecoming football game on Friday, Sept. 27

came to support their fellow Broncos while dressed all in gold to match this year’s theme: 24k Gold. The Broncos took on the Blue Springs Wildcats, defeating them 44-12.

# 24K GOLD

## Crowning King and Queen

Another school favorite homecoming tradition is the crowning of royalty. A week prior, voting was opened for students to nominate who they wished to represent their grade. Once the candidates were narrowed down, the senior class was then asked to vote on who their king and queen would be. On Friday night, the 2024 homecoming attendees were escorted onto the field during halftime of the varsity football game. After everyone was on the field, they announced Emma Stafford, senior, as Homecoming Queen and

Garrison Volkmer, senior, as Homecoming King.

"I didn't even know it was me at first because I couldn't hear anything or anyone but then my brother tried to push me over and I knew," Stafford said.

Volkmer was also shocked when he heard his name called.

"I was like no way, I was not expecting to win. My mom was really excited and she hugged me really hard," Volkmer said.

When asked if they were nervous to walk at the assembly or on the field, Volkmer and Stafford agreed that they were not super nervous. Stafford felt that she was

so busy throughout the week that it felt like a blur.

"I honestly wasn't nervous because I didn't have too much time to think and I was so tired I didn't really know what was happening," Stafford said.

Volkmer also said he was not nervous before the assembly or the game.

"I was more just really excited," Volkmer said.

Of course, the night didn't come without a few bumps in the road.

"Walking down the field, my brother went the wrong way and I had to pull him over...he was probably more nervous than me," Stafford said.

One of Stafford's



2024 Homecoming King and Queen- Photo By: Mike McGurk

favorite parts of the experience was picking a song to play at the dance.

"We got to pick one song at the dance and I love the song Everybody by Nicki Minaj so that was awesome," Stafford said.

Both Stafford and Volkmer enjoyed being on homecoming court as well as being crowned King and Queen.

## The Dance

The homecoming festivities culminated in the dance on Saturday night. Many students dressed up to take pictures and go to dinner before attending the dance.

"I went with a big group of friends and we went to Longview Lake to take

pictures and Summit Grill for dinner," Adelyn Fieleke, sophomore, said.

By 8 p.m. students were lined up outside of the door for the actual dance. Inside, the Events Lobby and the Commons were decked out in gold decor,

complete with a stage for the DJ.

Fieleke said she had a lot of fun at the dance with all her friends but the night can be exhausting.

"My feet were so tired afterward, they were numb," Fieleke said. Although it was a very



busy night, the dance was a great way to end homecoming week.

# LSN Welcomes Two New Principals

By: Bailee Council- Assistant/Entertainment Editor

As most may know, Lee's Summit North welcomed two new principals to the building this school year. Both Assistant Principals, Dustin Conard and Matt Woolf, are excited to see what new opportunities LSN holds. Replacing Barry Crilley and Steve Moore, Dr. Conard and Mr. Woolf simultaneously bring new perspectives and opportunities for students along with them. When asked about his connection to the Lee's Summit community, Dr. Conard expressed that he was born and raised here. Aside from getting his Master's at Northwest Missouri State University, Dr. Conard moved back to Lee's Summit and started raising his family here.

"Lee's Summit is a special place even if you guys don't think so right now, there's always just something special about coming back home," Dr. Conard said.

While still trying to get a lay of the land, Dr. Conard hinted he was not in a rush to push any changes since he had just gotten his foot in the door. Dr. Conard has always been drawn to working with high schoolers. While at Pleasant Lea Middle School, he also coached the Lee's Summit High School wrestling and football teams.

"There are some things I and Dr. Collins are working on...COVID did a horrendous thing on communication skills, everything seems to be miscommunicated...but that is something that I am trying to push for," Dr. Conard said.

On a personal note, Dr. Conard and his wife have been together for 16 years. He also has two kids: a daughter in fourth grade who is battling Leukemia and is expected to make a full recovery in June 2025, and a son in first grade. In his spare time, he is a very active person.

"I just really enjoyed the interaction I had with high school students, that's why I wanted to always come to the high school level when I got into leadership," Dr. Conard said.

Unlike Dr. Conard, Woolf is new to the LSR7 district. He was at a middle school in Independence and was a principal in the Center School District.

"I've never worked in a school this large...I want just to get to know as many kids as I can and help out," Woolf said.

He lives locally in the Blue Springs area. He has two girls in the first and fourth grades, and a wife of 11 years whom he coincidentally went to high school with. In his spare time, Woolf stands out with his band the Cherrybombs. Excited to begin this journey, Woolf wants to remind students not to take this time for granted.

"Embrace this time of your life, the days drag but the years fly by," Woolf said.

Woolf and Dr. Conard will bring loads of positivity to the LSN community. With new beginnings and the start of a new era, LSN is proud to welcome these two to their family.



Dr. Dustin Conard



Matt Woolf





# Two Dominant Programs Under New Leadership



By: Isabelle Flood- Social Media Editor

When people think of LSN, the first thing that comes to mind is our football program. Rightfully so, with the impression and legacy they have left in the past years. But every year is never the same as the last, and this 2024 season has a new head coach. It is no easy position to fill after the legacy that former head coach, Jamar Mozee, left.

“I came here with Mozee in 2015 and so a lot of what was built I was a part of already. We have a lot of those same standards, characteristics, all those things dwell within me too. So it’s just putting my own spin and my own spirit on it,” Jason Rogers, varsity head coach, said.

The football program constantly preaches about its fundamentals and the philosophies that they instill in its players. Rogers has his own philosophies this year.

“Love, discipline, and dominion. Love what you do. Love each other. Discipline. Just be disciplined in every way that you can be. And then dominion. I’m big on walking in my authority and having self-confidence,” Rogers said.

One of the best ways they can practice those principles and philosophies is to have leaders and captains guide their teams. This team is certainly not short on players who can be leaders.

“Solomon Cole, he’s a faith-based man, very high standard. Isaiah Mozee is just a playmaker. He’s experienced since he started when we were a freshman. Jaden Hines is a junior linebacker. He’s just a blue-collar guy and always comes ready to work. And Kamari Moore, he kind of just brings the team together. One of the hardest working guys on the team,” Rogers said.

Some leadership roles come with a lot of pressure and expectations. Constant stress and pressure can be detrimental to athletes’ mental health if they don’t have coaches who they have bonded with and trust.

“We joke and play around, but we also know when to be serious and when to get focused,” Rogers said.

Rogers has some big shoes to fill and high expectations to meet from the students at LSN. But after leading an undefeated season and looking forward to a game against Blue Springs South on October 4th, there is no doubt that he will lead his team to victory.



Jason Rogers, head varsity football coach



Katie Kubiak, head varsity cheer coach

It is no secret that the LSN cheerleaders bring so much energy and school spirit to every game and pep rally they go to. They also have a competitive reputation. Being two-time consecutive state champions is no easy feat. But the team has faced many changes this year with new girls and new coaching staff.

“My approach to coming in as the new head coach is starting from scratch... We remind ourselves that this is not the same team as the past two years, nor do we have the same coaching staff. This is a fresh start where we can build, improve, and grow as a program,” Katie Kubiak, head varsity cheer coach, said.

With all the changes on the team, they have already endured some struggles early in their season.

“We have had some injuries that affected our competition routine, but we continue to push through and make the best of every situation,” Kubiak said.

By continuing their perseverance through hardships, Kubiak shows that she knows what it takes to be on a winning team and how to coach them to set them up for success.

“I was lucky to be a part of the 3x state championship team in 2014, 2015, and 2016, so I understand how the program needs to run to be successful,” Kubiak said.

Being a part of an LSN sports program is something a lot of people take pride in and Kubiak is no exception.

“Without [the cheerleaders], I am not whole and without me, they may not know their full potential. I am not only proud to be a coach, but I’m incredibly proud to be their coach,” Kubiak said.

LSN is very excited to see the potential of not only the new team but the potential of the new coaching staff and their impact.

# KC Sports Enjoy Recent Success

By: Morgan Hill- Sports Editor

As Kansas City has grown as a city, so has its sports impact throughout the world.

For teams like the Chiefs and the KC Current, citizens have rallied behind their success and continuity as a team. From the Chiefs success alone, as well as the Taylor Swift factor the Chiefs have been amazing for fans to cheer for.

“Travis Kelce has one of the most popular sports podcasts in the world, people obviously like him. You can’t forget about the Swifties either. With that being said, they are certainly a target to be dethroned and knocked off of their pedestal,” Brad Ralston, science teacher, said.

Having their sights set on winning their 3rd consecutive Super Bowl, the Chiefs have become quite the target in the NFL to be taken down. Their success over the years has been due to many things one being success in recent NFL Drafts.

“Pacheco, Watson, Cook, and Williams are all non-first-round draft picks who are starters or have played big roles in the game. They have also been able to keep their good players, large in part because of their success in the draft, like Jones and Kelce,” Ralston said.

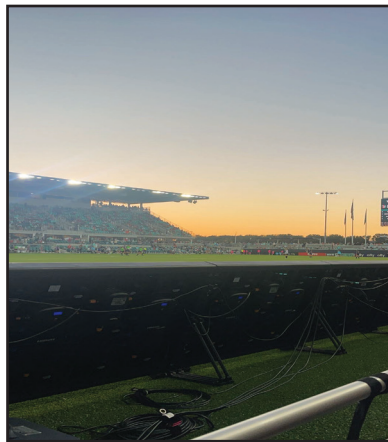
The Chiefs have been able to maintain their own success over the years with Patrick Mahomes and Coach Reid. The target that is freshly painted on them has and will remain for the rest of Mahomes’ tenure in KC due to their success of winning multiple Super Bowls.

“I absolutely think the Chiefs are the villain. But in a kind of a loveable way,” Ralston said.

As the Chiefs remain a force to be reckoned with in the NFL their season should continue to be exciting with Mahomes and company working together on all forces.



Arrowhead Stadium



CPKC Stadium  
Photo By: Sophia Cleveland

The growth of soccer in KC is not only supported by Sporting KC but also by the newest professional sports team in KC, the Kansas City Current.

The Current represents one of the teams in the NWSL (National Women’s Soccer League) and has gone through tremendous success already in their first few years in KC.

“I think the Currents have had lots of success through the years because their fan base is growing and they are very tight-knit like a family,” Sophia Cleveland, junior, said.

The Current and women’s soccer continues to grow across the country as more people are interested in how women’s soccer is competing on a professional level.

“I think more people are watching women’s soccer because there is a lot more vocal players going online and because of the Olympics. For example, Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe have made women’s soccer more well-known by going fighting for women’s equal opportunity in sports,” Cleveland said.

This change in advocating for women’s sports has begun to result in multiple professional leagues such as the NWBA and Athletes Unlimited Softball.

The advocacy that widely known women’s soccer players have done has promoted and resulted in the Current having their own stadium and representing the country as the first-ever women’s only stadium.

“I think the Currents’ having their own stadium has helped them and women all together tremendously because it’s made history as the first stadium made for women,” Cleveland said.

The success of professional sports teams’ in KC has left a mark on the city and has in turn promoted more love and growth for sports of all ages across the city.

The growth of sports in KC is what makes Kansas City so special when our hometown teams are on the run. From adding more programs into youth sports and encouraging many little kids to enjoy the love of soccer, Sporting KC has done a good job at expanding and bringing soccer to everyone in the city.

“Sporting has put a ton of resources into the community. They have built four major soccer complexes in and around town. They have built an academy system for the youth as well,” Rick Saunders, English teacher, said.

As Sporting is looking to grow and be successful for their MLS team, they have joined in on the trend of the growing soccer community that is happening nationwide.

“I think the sport of soccer in general has been growing in the US. The growth has sparked an interest in kids and because more kids are playing the sport, their adult parents are also showing a greater interest in being fans of the sport,” Saunders said.

The growth of the sport at all levels has encouraged many to come and support the teams in the city as well as athletes to move to Kansas City.

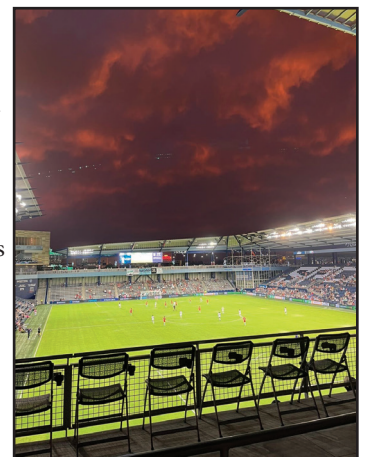
“By building competitive teams here in KC, people want to travel here, not only to watch our teams win, but also because of how the organizations are run,” Saunders said.

The travel that fans have done to watch KC soccer is also increasing the economic standing of the city.

For example, the World Cup in 2026 will be partially hosted in KC at Arrowhead, this hopes to have a huge economic impact as well as increasing the love for soccer.

“Having games in KC will definitely bring people from all over to experience our town. When people get here and see KC is an affordable place to live, I think it will help the city grow,” Saunders said.

As the sport begins to grow the support and resources of Sporting KC should only help to grow sports in KC.



Children’s Mercy Park  
Photo By: Sophia Cleveland

# Royals Resurgence Leads to Postseason Play

By: Morgan Hill- Sports Editor

In the past eight years, the Kansas City Royals have been known as a bottom-feeder team in the MLB and the AL Central. The Royals have been struggling to remain a competitive team in their division since their 2015 victory. After losing 106 games last season, they have come back and brought back the winning spirit that took over Kansas City when the Royals were in postseason play. Most think that the 2014 and 2015 postseason runs revitalized the city and are hopeful that a possible run will do the same.

“I think this city is craving another playoff run. I will always hang my hat on how the 2014 playoff run revitalized this town. There were no Heart KC shirts, KC Stores, or a sense of KC Pride until that fall. I think the Royals getting back would do wonders for the city,” Josh Keeney, varsity softball and baseball coach, said.

A playoff run would create a new buzz within Kansas City that Royals fans crave. This season, the star players have had career years and the team has rallied behind their success.

“One of the main reasons the Royals have been so successful through the season is all the star players making big plays and leading the team,” Kale Lepert, junior, said.

The recent resurgence of the Royals’ offense and All-Star shortstop, Bobby Witt

Jr, have helped the Royals get to a point to compete within the division and for a playoff spot.

“Bobby Witt Jr. is an absolutely special player...he is definitely one of the top baseball players on the planet right now,” Michael Westacott, varsity baseball coach, said.

Bobby Witt has become one of the best players in the MLB currently, however, he would not be here without the Royals and their farm system.

The farm system or the system of minor league teams that lead to the major league team has helped the Royals grow their draft prospects into All-Stars like Bobby Witt and Vinnie Pasquantino. However, with the injury to Vinnie Pasquantino, the injury could hurt the postseason run in the worst way.

“I think he was a key bat in the middle of our lineup that we could count on to drive runners in when they got on base. That production is going to have to come from somewhere else,” Keeney said.

With a major injury to one of the Royals main production players, the Royals could get into trouble further on down the line of the playoff stretch. In July of this season, the Royals were competing in their division but needed a jumpstart to put the team in a postseason mode. The Royals at that time would capitalize on the MLB trade deadline creating new life for the team and gaining players that were needed to fill holes in the roster.

“[The Royals] took advantage of it, especially with getting Paul DeJong because he has been making some big plays and hits,” Lepert said.

The acquisition of Paul DeJong and other bullpen pitchers has been crucial to the team’s longevity down the stretch of the season. Since the last time the Royals made the postseason was in 2015, only two players are still actively playing



*Kauffman Stadium*

from that team, Salvador Perez and Johnny Cueto, Perez is the only one of the two that has remained a Royal since then.

Perez in turn has become a fan favorite since his debut in 2011 and he would be a crucial piece to a deep run in the postseason this year.

“Salvador Perez is an amazing leader; he is a “big-brother” figure to the men on the team but he still plays with the joy and heart of a kid,” Westacott said.

Perez and his postseason experience will be counted on this year and help the other players get used to the playoff atmosphere. However, the Royals aren’t completely at a deficit of playoff experience, manager Matt Quatraro, also brings experience and belief in this team.

“However, our manager Matt Quatraro was with the Rays organization during their post-season success. It’s encouraging to know there’s experience up top,” Keeney said.

The leadership of the current staff and players is hopeful that it can be successful during the playoffs. The Royals have officially entered a new era of Royals baseball with all their new stars and all signs are pointing to a successful postseason run.



*Fireworks display at Kauffman Stadium*



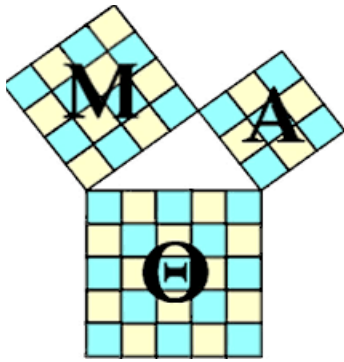
# Hidden Gems Within LSN

By: Talon Cleveland- Feature Editor

Lees Summit North has a variety of welcoming and inclusive clubs where everyone can be true to themselves. Whether it be science, fashion, writing, etc, there is a club that everyone can fit in and be surrounded by like-minded peers.

Math Honor Society - Mu Alpha Theta, is a global community of individuals hoping to nurture and improve their mathematical skills. Mu Alpha Theta partners with numerous professional mathematics organizations, including the Mathematical Association of America, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges.

Mu Alpha Theta's goal is to improve the understanding and enjoyment of mathematics in highschool and 2-year college students. MHS participates in contests through the Log1 Contest, Rocket City Math League and the Mathematical Minutes Video Contest.



"We participate in multiple math competitions throughout the year (by interest of our members) around the metro area. There are different competitions from KU where they build things, math presentations to normal competitions like when we go to Warrensburg where students compete in certain areas/subjects against others from the area," Jennifer Phi, math teacher, said.

Math Honor Society meets every month and is welcome to anyone with hopes of improving and excelling in their mathematical education.

"I would recommend any student join that is interested in a STEM field, advanced math classes, or anyone that wants to compete in math competitions, or join an honor society in college. This would be a great resume builder for jobs and college," Phi said.

Anyone interested in joining should contact Jennifer Phi, or see her in room 1312.

First Priority is a nationwide organization that helps install student-led Christ based clubs in public schools. In the 2023-2024 school year 1,054 clubs were established and 5,887 leaders were trained. First Priority's goal is to bring the hope of Christ to every student.

"I hope students learn a new perspective from the student leaders in First Priority. It takes courage to share about something so personal like faith, and it's neat to see teenagers taking that step through First Priority," Jessica Brown, club advisor, said.

First Priority's messages move in four week cycles. Equip Week, where students learn to equip the Gospel as a tool. Prepare week, when students learn how to lead in their schools. Invite week, where students invite as many people as they can to join for the message. Connect week, when student leaders help new faith students get connected to local churches. Faculty advisors also help organize the club and keep everyone on task.

"I like being First Priority's sponsor because I get to build rapport with a different group of students than what I already have in my English classes and in yearbook. It's a privilege to get to share my classroom and create safe space for First Priority students," Brown said.

If you want to grow your faith or learn more about it, this is the place for you. See Ms. Brown in room 2135 for more information.



# The Highs and Lows of Boys Soccer

By: Isabelle Flood- Social Media Editor



The team comes together after a hard drill at practice.

Photo By: Talon Cleveland- Feature Editor

All sports have always been very popular at LSN and Boys Soccer is no exception. While they did not have the start to the season they wanted, the Broncos have been improving as the season progressed.

“We have had a really tough schedule, so we haven’t had the results we wanted, but we’ve improved each day, each match, and

we’ve gotten better on the season so far,” Ryan Kelley, varsity head coach, said.

Improvement doesn’t just start during the season. Players had to put in work outside of the regular season and it has been paying off.

“We started towards the end of July... just kind of building the teams and try to build the culture, the style, the focus of how we

wanted our team to be,” Kelley said.

Establishing the base and the fundamentals of a team early on can be vital to how the players learn and get better. That also applies to individual philosophies players put in place to better themselves.

“My parents have a saying for me. They know I can be very hard on myself so they told me my expectations can’t be higher than my preparation. I can’t control everything that happens in a game, but I can control how much and how well I prepare for the game,” Tre Paulding, junior, said.

The mental part of any sport is just as important as the physical part. Mentality and ensuring your mental state stays healthy and your top priority is vital to athletes and coaches.

“In each moment, being able to pull a guy aside and talk to them, talk them down from their emotions, help them think through the process of what happened, and understand what they need to do or change to be better the next time,” Kelley said.

Tough conversations are a part of every sport and every relationship. Relationships that players form with each other and with coaches can make lifelong impacts and friendships.

“They spend a lot of time off together. They do a lot of stuff together, going out, playing golf, coming up and knocking the ball around together, supporting each other. They get along very well. I feel like we have a really good relationship. I enjoy this group,” Kelley

said.

While playing a sport, it can get tough to balance everything: school, sports, your social life, family, and more. However, learning a way that works for you and prioritizing is a great way to get through it.

“The biggest thing that helps me is my to-do list. I write down what assignments I have to do in each class and when they are due. This helps me stay on top of upcoming assignments,” Paulding said.

The goal of every season is to get as far as possible in districts and hopefully, state. This team has the same expectations and goals for themselves. They continue to work hard and push themselves to improve constantly. LSN students and staff are just as excited and hopeful for this 2024 team.

## Girls Tennis: Goals and Expectations

By: Antil Snoddy- Staff Reporter

With the start of a new school year, the girls tennis team has begun a new season. The team has had a lot of tough competition so far.

Olive Neighbors, a senior and dual sport athlete who participates in varsity cheer and tennis, talked about how she balances both sports.

“The biggest thing for me is communication. I write down my schedule, I make sure to text my coaches, both of my coaches will know like if I have cheer or if I have tennis at the same time. So communication is really important,”

Neighbors said.

Neighbors talked about the impact of the loss of many seniors last year. It affected the team but has not kept their morale down.

“All the girls have done a really good job keeping their spirits up and all of these girls are really hard workers,” Neighbors said.

The new season has also brought new objectives and expectations. The head coach, Stu Reece, had some things to say about the goals he set for this season.

“We want the girls to learn how to compete. Compete in tennis, in

school, and in life. We also want to learn how to win and how to lose,” Reece said.

Coach’s expectations are high for the girls this year. He does not just expect the girls to do well on the court, but expects them to represent the school on their jerseys in a respectable way.

“We want to grow as the season progresses. We also expect the girls to represent Lee’s Summit North and our community in a first-class manner in all they do,” Reece said.

This tennis season has brought a lot of

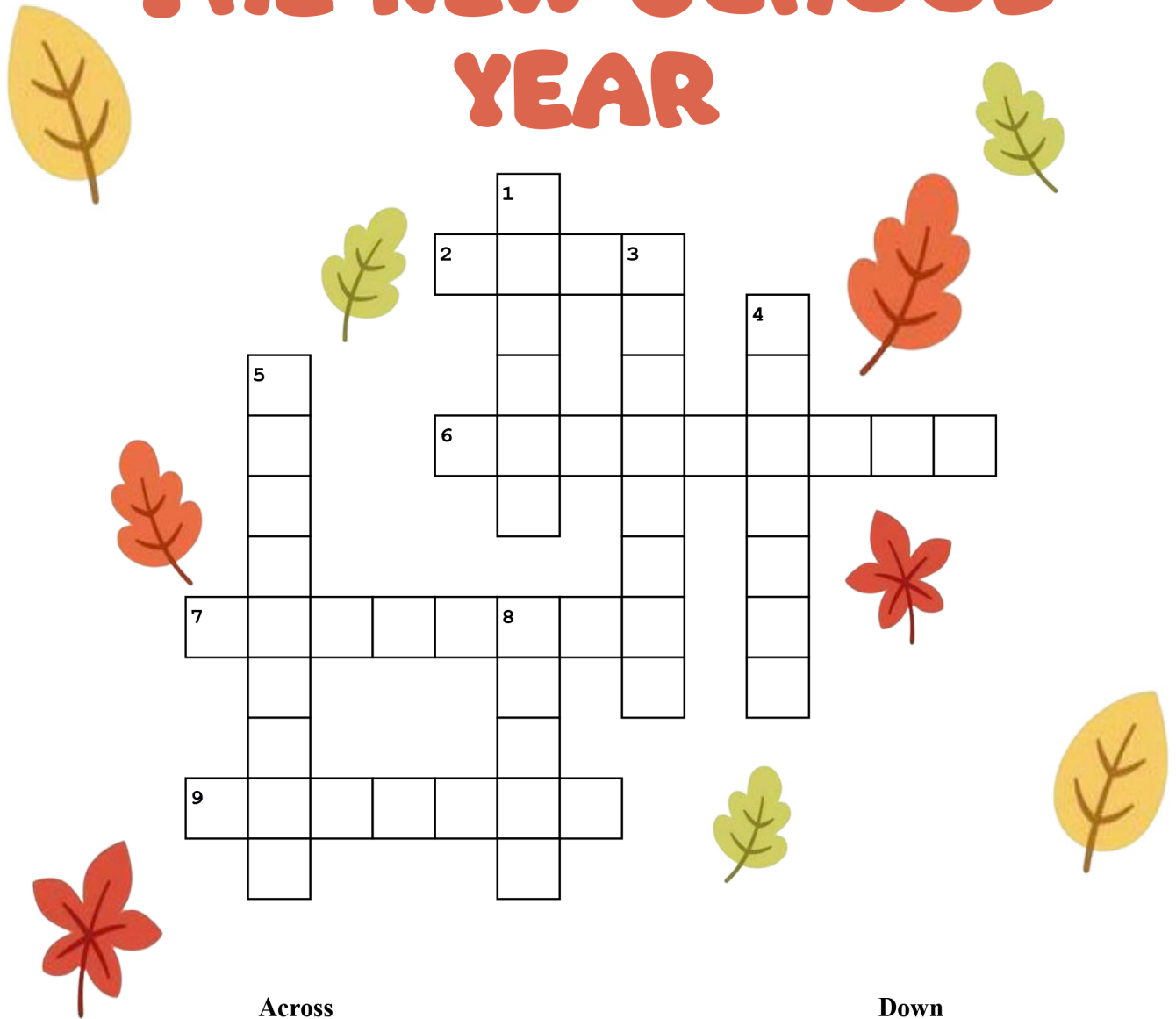


Nikki Wright and Olive Neighbors congratulate after a point. Photo By: Kate Gerding- Editor-in-Chief

excitement and new opportunities for the team. With the start of the new season new goals and routines have been set for

the players. The girls have put in a lot of hard work this year and it is bound to show.

# FALLING INTO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR



## Across

2. \_\_\_\_ is a sport played on a course. The girl's team starts in the fall.
6. What is the first month to start the "ber" months?
7. \_\_\_\_ is a Girl's team sport that starts in fall and is played on a field
9. What is the most popular back-to-school item?

## Down

1. \_\_\_\_ is a sport played on a field. The boy's team plays in the fall season.
3. LSN has the best \_\_\_\_ team.
4. \_\_\_\_ patches, \_\_\_\_ pie
5. What holiday do you dress up for?
8. \_\_\_\_ cider, \_\_\_\_ pie

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