

THE Northern Exposure

Tuesday, December 16, 2025 Vol. XXXI Issue III



In this Issue...

2025-26 Staff

Isabelle Flood.....Editor-in-Chief/Social Media
 Morgan Hill.....Assistant Editor/Sports
 Kay Haas.....Copy Editor/News
 Emerson Godfrey.....Staff Reporter
 Reagan Hill.....Staff Reporter
 Malaykah Mbeche.....Staff Reporter
 Gracie Wolverton.....Staff Reporter
 Mindy Haesemeyer.....Adviser

November

Table of Contents:

News

- 3: Kay Haas- M-A-M-D-A-N-I / No More Banned Books
- 4: Emerson Godfrey & Isabelle Flood- District-Wide Technology Bans Affect Students

North In Photos

- 5. Gracie Wolverton

Entertainment

- 6. Emerson Godfrey- The Stages, Shops & Sights of the Season
- 7: Reagan Hill- LSN Holiday Favorites

Feature

- 8: Kay Haas- Changes to Student Council/ Isabelle Flood- Behind The Scenes of The Northside Steppers
- 9: Reagan Hill- LSN Music Ends The Semester on a High Note
- 10: Malaykah Mbeche- The Speech and Debate Programs

Sports

- 11: Morgan Hill- Holiday Traditions Through Sports
- 12: Gracie Wolverton- Diving into Girls Swim and Dive/ Morgan Hill- Should the College Football Playoff Expand?
- 13: Isabelle Flood- New Season, New Team: The Transformation of LSN Girls Basketball

Interactive

- 14. Malaykah Mbeche

Ads

- 15 & 16: Advertisements

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:

The Northern Stars perform their new routine at the Liberty North girls basketball game

Photo By: Isabelle Flood



**AD SPACE
AVAILABLE!**

Interested in advertising in the newspaper? Contact us!

mindy.haesemeyer@lsr7.net
OR
DM us on Instagram @lsnnewspaper

M-A-M-D-A-N-I

By: Kay Haas - Copy and News Editor

Zohran Mamdani has made history as New York City's first Muslim and South Asian mayor-elect. Mamdani was born in Uganda and moved to NYC when he was seven years old. Before running for mayor, Mamdani was involved in numerous advocacy efforts. He was elected to the New York Assembly in 2020 and won reelection twice. He also participated in a hunger strike for taxi workers and succeeded in raising funds for public transportation.

The NYC Mayoral race was a tumultuous journey. Mamdani ran as a Democratic Socialist and won the Democratic primary over Andrew Cuomo, the former Governor of New York. Andrew Cuomo then decided to run as an independent. The third candidate in the race was Republican Curtis Sliwa, a radio talk show host and founder of the Guardian Angels.

Mamdani ran on a platform promising to

lower the cost of living in NYC by creating free childcare, free buses, and freezing rent in some areas. After two riveting debates, Mamdani proved to be the favorite. The debates became extremely popular on social media, and Mamdani's supporters began to grow outside of NYC. Mamdani won 50.4% of the votes, Cuomo with 41.6%, and Sliwa with 7.1%.

This is only the beginning of Mamdani's career, and not just New Yorkers will be watching him.



Zohran Mamdani speaking about his upcoming mayoral race
Photo courtesy of Britannica

NO MORE BANNED BOOKS

Banning books is not a new concept. In 2023, 100 books were challenged in the Lee's Summit School District. None were banned, but that isn't the status quo. Over 300 books were banned in various school districts across Missouri in 2022. This was the result of Missouri's SB 775.

"It makes me sad when I read about books getting



banned. The world is too full of hate, and banning books can perpetuate ignorance and hatred by removing access to voices that are historically the first to be silenced," Michael Russell, librarian, said.

This 2022 law restricts the provision of "explicit sexual material" to students. Most of the books banned under this law featured people of color and LGBTQ+ characters. After the law was passed, the American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri sued over the law, citing that it violated the First Amendment, was

unconstitutionally vague, and specifically targets books where minorities are the focus.

"Without access to these voices, it is easy to 'other' someone from another culture, or the culture as a whole. State-wide book bans in schools... deprive millions of students the opportunity to encounter other voices, cultures, and worlds," Russell said.

Since the punishment for violating this law is a \$2,000 fine or up to a year in prison, many librarians are afraid to add diverse books to their

libraries. This causes huge issues because it reduces the amount of representation in school libraries.

"Having a wide range of books allows students to broaden their horizons and understand a bit more of the world and the people in it," Russell said.

Jackson County Circuit Court Judge J. Dale Youngs recently struck down the law, calling it too broad and stating that it violated the Missouri Constitution.

While it is just the start, this is a huge win for librarians and students across the state.

STATE AND LOCAL TECH CHANGES: THE IMPACTS

By: Emerson Godfrey - Staff Reporter

Schools around the globe are always changing. The needs and wants of each staff member and student often vary. But, overall, the safety and security of schools is something that is always valued. However, the different priorities for different schools can frequently raise the question: What goes into making these decisions? In Missouri, this question has been asked when thinking about Senate Bill No. 1481, which restricts the use of cell phones during school hours. The bill was enacted in early May of this year, and the ban took effect on July 1. The bill was enacted because of a growing want for distraction-free education.

Additionally, certain websites were blocked on school devices for the safety of students and security for school-owned devices.

“These decisions are all made in alignment with our district technology policy and with student safety in mind,” Tim Collins, Principal at Lee’s Summit North, said.

The process to block a website has several different components.

“When the technology department evaluates student access to sites, we have multiple factors that we take into account, including privacy policy, terms of service, instructional usage, and others,” Megan Gretzinger, Executive Director of Technology for the LSR7 School District, said.

The website bans included websites like Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. In the case of YouTube, the user agreement did not fully align with the policies set; therefore, it was blocked from student access.

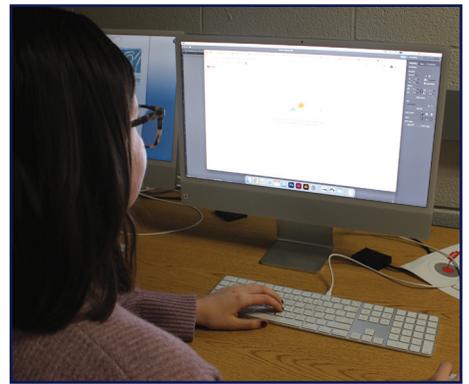
“The decision to limit access to YouTube was made during the prior school year. This decision was made by consultation with our legal counsel, instructional leaders, and the technology department,” Gretzinger said.

Senate Bill No. 1481 does allow for shifts to this policy for select educators and courses. With approval from

administration, cell phones can be used to help improve classes. In the case of the publications classes at LSN, the cell phone ban was lifted for select use in order to improve publication efficiency and successfully create media.

“The majority of decisions are made based on school policy, terms of service, and instructional needs,” Gretzinger said.

The decision to prohibit technology and websites in Lee’s Summit was a big shift for some, but also a change to better the school district.



WEBSITE BANNING FROM A JOURNALISM PERSPECTIVE

By: Isabelle Flood - Editor-in-Chief/ Social Media Editor

Schools will often block websites to limit distractions for students while using their computers. Although intentions are good, it can hurt the students, especially those in publications classes. As a member of the *Northern Exposure* newspaper staff, social media is not just used for entertainment. Instagram is an incredibly useful tool that helps us do our jobs better.

Editorial Instagram can allow student journalists, like myself, to see what their classmates are interested in and would like to read about. Trends, polls, comments, and more can help us figure out how to appeal to the students. Without access to Instagram on computers, our staff can feel very disconnected from the students, as we no longer have that information easily accessible.

YouTube is another great tool that we no longer have access to during the school day. YouTube is a platform full of tutorials on page designing, Photoshop, and photography tips. Losing that tool made learning those things much more difficult and time-consuming. Exploring Adobe InDesign to

figure out what all the features can take much longer than simply watching a YouTube video that shows how to navigate everything easily. Using YouTube as a tool makes our job much more efficient, as there is a lot that goes into being a student journalist.

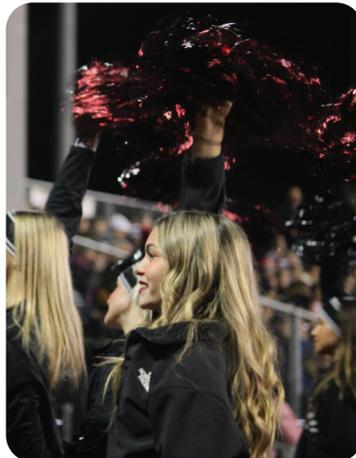
As a school newspaper, our stories and print issues only reach so many people. Using social media platforms, like Instagram, can help give us a bigger reach. A single Instagram post can reach hundreds of people in minutes. Many people also use social media as their main source of news. Using these platforms, we not only learn about how modern journalism operates, but we also learn skills for the real world; we just use them in a school setting.

Schools should teach students how to properly use these platforms instead of just taking them away. Social media is a big part of our world today, especially in journalism. School is meant to prepare students for life after high school and the real world. If they want us properly prepared, they should be teaching us how to use these tools responsibly, not just take them away.



NORTH IN PHOTOS

By: Gracie Wolverton - Staff Reporter
Photos By: NE Staff



The Stages, Shops & Sights of the Season

By: Emerson Godfrey - Staff Reporter

The Nutcracker



Kate Gerding performs in *The Nutcracker*
Photo courtesy of Kate Gerding

The holidays are always a busy time of year. Days filled with gift shopping, food preparation, and what seems like endless snow shoveling. Although this season is busy, it goes by fast, and there are numerous ways to spend and spread holiday cheer.

A delightful and cheery Kansas City favorite is performances of *The Nutcracker* at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts.

"I had never been to a ballet production prior to going to *The Nutcracker*. I wasn't sure what to expect. I enjoyed the performance a lot, from the costumes to the live orchestra, it was very entertaining to say the least," Greg Konda, discipline secretary, said.

With 26 performances spanning from November 29 to December 24, the ballet lights up the stage with dazzling colors, dancing, music, and stage design. The ballet follows E.T.A. Hoffman's classic story, bringing the holiday season to life.

"What makes *The Nutcracker* a holiday staple for me is the iconic music. My two favorite songs are the 'Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy' and 'Waltz of the Flowers,'" Konda said.

The Nutcracker performances are a timeless classic, perfect for music, art, and ballet lovers alike.

Merry Market



Merry Market advertisement

Although there are popular events like *The Nutcracker* performances, there are some hidden holiday gems around Kansas City. One little-known event is the City Market's Merry Market, an exciting holiday shopping experience for all who come. The Merry Market includes loads of local vendors, live entertainment, and delicious treats, all perfect for any holiday endeavors.

"There were vendors selling jewelry, food, homemade gift items as well as many local KC vendors. There were many gift idea options at a variety of price points. The items were unique and had something for anyone on your gift list," Terri Clement, business secretary at Lee's Summit North, said.

The Merry Market runs on Saturdays and Sundays, on November 29-30, December 6-7, 13-14, and 20-21. Do not miss out on this festive holiday experience.

Festival of Lights



Powell Gardens lights
Photo courtesy of Terri Clement

Powell Gardens is known for its vibrant botanical gardens and landscaping in the warmer months. But in the winter, Powell Gardens provides a bright and cheery adventure for all ages. Powell Gardens' Everygy Festival of Lights features the gardens lit up with 20 miles of glittering lights wrapped up into a mile-long walking path.

"The overall lights and aesthetics is peaceful and puts you in the holiday spirit. There are many opportunities for photos," Clement said.

The Festival of Lights will be happening during most of the holidays, including December 11-13, 19-23, 26-29, and January 2-3.

"I enjoyed that it was outside and not structured. There was a general path, but you could go whatever way you want and loop back around. There is also a silo that you can go to the top and see all the lights from up high. There are drinks and snacks to buy if you want. Mr. & Mrs Claus are there on the weekend. It is a great experience for all ages," Clement said.

The Everygy Festival of Lights is in Johnson County and is an experience like no other.

Whether it be ballets, shopping, or enjoying an evening under holiday lights, these events are sure to create perfect memories for this winter season.

LSN Holiday Favorites

By: Reagan Hill - Staff Reporter

With the holiday season quickly approaching, it brings life to many songs, movies, foods, and traditions just waiting to be unleashed when the winter months roll around. These iconic categories contribute to the magic of this time of year, as many people associate them with happy childhood memories and warm smiles.

Due to the significance of these seasonal traditions, many people tend to have favorites associated with these items. Some of the most memorable parts of the holiday season are the music, movies, food, and family. Eighty-two LSN students were surveyed on their favorites in each category.

Beginning with music, the top picks were Wham!'s "Last Christmas" and Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas is You".

"I chose "All I Want for Christmas is You" as my favorite song because it gives off that iconic Christmasy feeling that I get around the holidays," Gretchen Cobb, sophomore, said.

Movies keep a humorous theme with top answers including Home Alone and Elf.

"I chose Elf as my favorite holiday movie because it has a fun and funny vibe, which really reminds me of my childhood and watching it with my family," Cobb said.

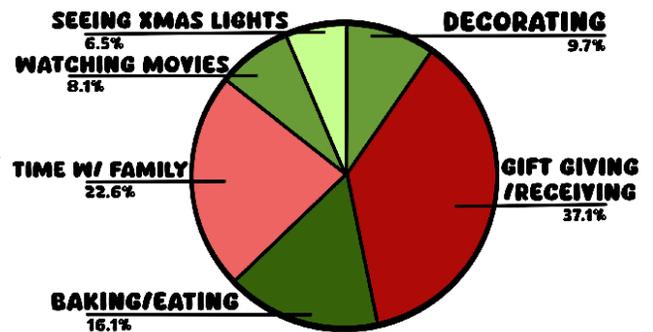
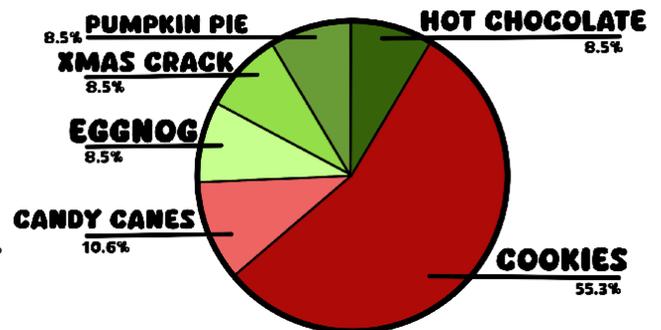
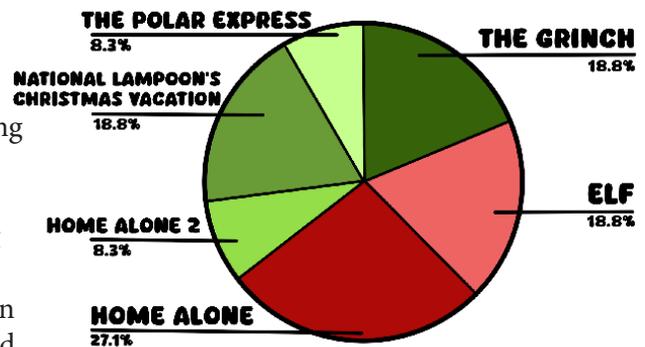
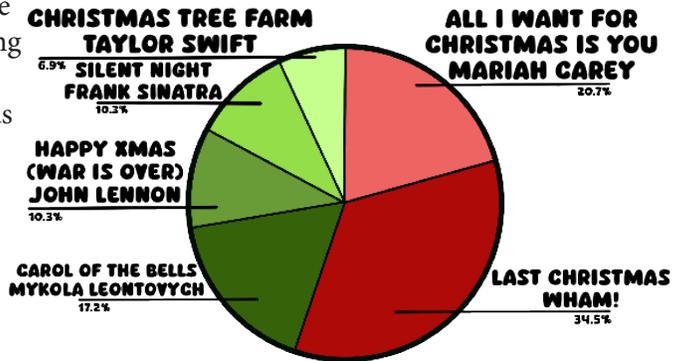
Cookies "take the cake" as well as candy canes and hot chocolate for the food category due to their flavor varieties and traditional tastes.

"When I was little, my grandma would make a kettle of hot chocolate and my cousins and I would drink it by the fireplace. It was really memorable for me because it was a time in which all my family was all together and happy," Baylie Huston, senior, said.

The traditions category has more scattered results, with answers ranging from wrapping/giving and opening presents to baking and eating, and even decorating for the holiday season. These unique traditions are what makes the season so special for individual people.

"Every year on Christmas morning, my brothers and I wake up to an envelope on the tree. Inside it, there is a letter from our mom saying how proud she is of us and why she is excited for the new year," Huston said.

As widespread as the results may be, these holiday favorites are shared by many and help to create the bubbly atmosphere often seen during the months of November and December.



Changes to Student Council

By: Kay Haas - Copy and News Editor

Student Council (STUCO) is a student-led organization that does a variety of activities. Jane Hough, senior, is the President of STUCO.

“Student council organizes school events like the Homecoming dance, and reaches out to the community through public service,” Hough said.

This year, LSN’s STUCO went through some leadership changes. The organization just got two new sponsors, Theresa Carroll and Olivia Vella.

Carroll is a special education teacher and also co-teaches Biology 1. This is Carroll’s second year at LSN, and her first year helping with LSN’s STUCO. But at her old school, she used to be a sponsor for STUCO.

“I enjoy being a Student Council sponsor because I love to help support

students who want to be leaders,” Carroll said.

Another new addition to the STUCO is the Committees. Seven different committees have been added to the organization. Each committee is focused on a particular aspect to better the school, STUCO itself, or the general community. Officer positions are reserved for seniors, but the new opportunity for committee chairs allows underclassmen to have a leadership role in STUCO.

“I wanted to become a committee chair because I found it to be a way that underclassmen can help the council more,” Neko Silvers, sophomore, said.

Silvers is very passionate about this new opportunity to better the school.



STUCO Seniors attend MASC to get new ideas for their council

“Our school doesn’t get to see or be helped by the council more than dances, and now with this new system, we should be able to have more fundraising and outreach programs to help our community,” Silvers said.

Moving forward, STUCO is determined to do its best to better the school and community.

Behind the Scenes of *The Northside Steppers*

By: Isabelle Flood - Editor-in-Chief/ Social Media Editor

The LSN step team, The Northside Steppers, is a student favorite at assemblies and games. Although they are known for their high-energy performances, there is more to the Northside Steppers than just the entertainment.

“There is a sense of pride that comes with being on the team. We have a lot of fun,” Tina Rambo-Faulkner, head step team coach, said.

A good relationship and chemistry between the team and a coach can be a big factor in how successful and cohesive the team is.

“I would say our relationship is really good. We all really like her,” King Baker,

sophomore, said.

The relationship between the steppers and Coach Faulkner allows them to be creative and bring new things to the table.

“Some people will come up with new steps, dances, or song requests as we are going,” Baker said.

Being able to be yourself and having a safe space to be creative and learn new things is something not many people know is a major part of the step team.

“What’s fun about step is that it lets you get all your energy out and just have fun. Especially when we make up dances and steps,” Baker said.

Another big part of the Northside

Steppers that people don’t know is how many new connections they make.

“Definitely helps form new connections. There’s people that you would have never spoken to unless they weren’t [on the team],” Baker said.

There is no question that the Steppers are very entertaining, and their hardwork and comraderie show that.



The Northside Steppers learn a new step at practice

LSN MUSIC ENDS THE SEMESTER ON A HIGH NOTE

By: Reagan Hill - Staff Reporter

Band

The LSN Band program has just concluded their 2025 marching season, and has begun work on their objectives for upcoming performances this winter and spring.

"All three of the concert bands are working on music for our winter concert at the beginning of December, jazz band is just getting started and will be working on music for our jazz festivals, and winter guard has begun to work on their competitive show for the spring," Grant Fischer, Band Director, said.

With many plans and goals for the rest of the school year, the bands are using this time to prepare for success in the coming years.

"I'd like to see the band continue to grow both in numbers and in skill level. We have a lot of really talented and dedicated students in the band right now who are building on the legacy of students who have come before them," Fischer said.

Many students have also had positive experiences during their time in the program.

"My favorite part of the band is the people and the environment. It's such an accepting and fun group to be around, and the directors do a great job of keeping the environment uplifting," Ella Snead, sophomore in Wind Ensemble, said.

Surrounded by so much positivity, the bands are looking forward to another year of growth and excitement!



Grayce Williams rehearses her music in band class

Choir



Mr. Krinke rehearses with Crimson Camerata

After a successful holiday concert, the LSN Choirs have made great progress in expanding their skillsets throughout the school year. Continuing on for next semester, the choirs will be working towards preparing for future concerts and competitions within the coming months. With such a successful program, students have shared their favorite parts of choir and the many joys of performing their pieces.

"I just love being able to show off all the hard work we put into our songs," Katrina Huynh, junior in Concert Choir and Crimson Camerata, said.

Being a part of the LSN Choir program has allowed many students to succeed as performers, peers, and even learning and growing in such a supportive environment.

"I think that if there's any wisdom that I can pass on to them [students], and to make them be a better person, that's what my goal is," Jonathan Krinke, Choir Director, said.

The time and dedication inputted by all choir students is what makes the program such a successful and energetic environment to be in.

Orchestra

The LSN Orchestra program is busy preparing for their upcoming holiday concert featuring the Concert, Philharmonic, and Symphony orchestras.

"All of our LSN Orchestras are working towards their Winter Concert on December 16th. This concert will be filled with holiday music (of course), but also at least one piece from each group is meant to show off their technique and skills," Samantha Asel, Orchestra Director, said.

The Holiday Concert is a very special event for the orchestra and helps spread holiday cheer throughout Lee's Summit.

Besides concerts, orchestra gives these students a positive environment at LSN, many enjoy the class because of the lifelong friends they have made in it.

"My favorite part of orchestra is being able to see my friends. I love being able to see them in class every day," Alex Grechus, sophomore in Philharmonic Orchestra, said.

With the preparation during this first semester, the orchestras are continuing to set themselves up for success in their concerts and competitions in the upcoming months.



Ms. Asel rehearses with Symphony Orchestra

The Speech and Debate Program: The Power of Words

By: Malaykah Mbeche - Staff Reporter

Speech and Debate is an academic activity that allows students to compete in different events that develop skills in critical thinking, research, and communication. In debate, everyone can feel at home, and everyone can find their own special thing.

The Speech and Debate program is made up of two disciplines. The speech side of the program includes the events of International and United States Extemporaneous Speaking, Informative Speaking, Original Oratory, etc. The debate side of the program deals with Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Public Forum Debate, and Congressional Debate.

Kate Sweeney, English teacher and speech coach, has been involved with the speech team since the year 2000 when she was a student in the program. She has been the speech coach since 2014.

The teams put in plenty of work to get the extraordinary results that are seen. Speech is a very inclusive program, and anyone can be a part of the team.

“Speech is all about learning every time you perform and growing. Anyone can be good at it, you just have to do the work and be reflective,” Sweeney said.

Not only does there need to be learning and improvement, but there also has to be a passion for the art.

“I’d say skills that are really necessary for my events, the first one is probably just discipline, put in work even when you’re not doing it and



The Speech and Debate team posing with their awards
Photo courtesy of Ms. Sweeney

the second one is really just confidence,” Maxon Chen, senior, said.

Not only do the speech members find their voice and learn to speak, but they also create amazing bonds and memories that they cherish.

“In 2024, I went to the national tournament in the summer, and I just spent time with my friends,” Chen said.

Sweeney is quite proud of the children in her program.

“Last year, if [Vivian Chira] could’ve taken two events, she would’ve double qualified,” Sweeney said.

Sweeney has some hopes and ideas on which students would be likely to get past districts.

Ben Jewell, history teacher and debate coach, has been involved with the speech team since 1999.

Jewell mentions how all the students in the speech and debate program succeed in different ways.

“Depends on how you measure success, like some students come home every weekend with trophies and some students just like a good time,” Jewell said.

The coaches are quite proud of the program this year.

“Mr. Jewell and I have been talking all week about how this team this year is one of the best teams we have had in a very long time,” Sweeney

said.

Sweeney took over as the speech coach last year from Rachel Russell, who was her coach when she was a student.

Sweeney has some joyous memories from speech; however, her favorite moment has to be when she got her first national qualifier.

“When Vivian qualified, she was my first-ever national qualifier. I was crying, all the coaches from the Kansas City area took a moment and gave me a special shoutout,” Sweeney said.

Her first qualifiers gave her the best experience a coach could ever ask for. In that moment, she knew this was what she was meant to do.

“This is it, this is my dream,” Sweeney said.

Like Sweeney, Chira’s favorite memory from being in the speech program is when she surpassed her own expectations and qualified for nationals.

“Before that it seemed like such a utopian idea and it’s like that’s such a great achievement and the first time I did it I was a sophomore and it was just so crazy because I couldn’t believe it,” Vivian Chira, senior, said.

The students in the programs not only enjoy the programs themselves but they also enjoy being in the community.

“I like how I develop a skill that is really important in life, just being able to communicate but I also do really like the community, I love Mr. Jewell and Ms. Sweeney the team, it’s just a nice community,” Chen said.

Speech and Debate is only a program, but it is also a home and a family where students can feel appreciated and have fun while still learning how to speak and converse in a professional manner.



The Novice Speech and Debate team after a successful tournament
Photo courtesy of Ms. Sweeney



Holiday TRADITIONS



By: Morgan Hill - Assitant Editor-in-Chief/Sports Editor

Every year during the holiday season, there are plenty of sporting events to go around. With the NFL, NBA, college football and basketball, NHL, and other sports playing around the most wonderful time of the year, it makes for great TV.

Traditionally, during Thanksgiving and Christmas, there are major games from each sport with entertainment as well.

For the NFL games, the NFL has several major music artists perform as a halftime show for each of their 3 spotlighted games on Thanksgiving.

In the past few years, artists like Shaboozey, Laney Wilson, Dolly Parton, and Jack Harlow have headlined these shows and gained fans to improve their personal platforms and followings.

Traditionally, the NFL has not usually had holiday halftime performances, but as the NFL continues to expand into many other industries, the shows are becoming more popular and are frequently performed each year.

Each year since 1966, the Dallas Cowboys and Detroit Lions have hosted a home game on Thanksgiving Day, which has become a tradition for some households, regardless of the NFL team to root for, to watch the Thanksgiving games with their family.

“Football is just part of the Thanksgiving experience for us, like the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade or eating Turkey. I think there is just a nostalgia for tradition and carrying on like previous generations have,” Aaron Layendecker, Spanish teacher, said.

The NFL, by playing on Thanksgiving Day, has brought special traditions to families across the country and gives some background noise for those post-meal naps.

Similarly, on Christmas Day, the NFL has also introduced a lineup of games for fans to watch during the holiday.

With a triple-header of primetime games, the NFL has boosted its holiday entertainment and has allowed families to spend more time together while watching football.

This move to playing on Christmas has given the NFL more primetime viewing slots and created great football in the crucial part of the season, when playoffs are on

THROUGH SPORTS

the line. As the NFL moves to continue the traditions of playing on Christmas and Thanksgiving, it is promising future seasons to have great football over the holidays.

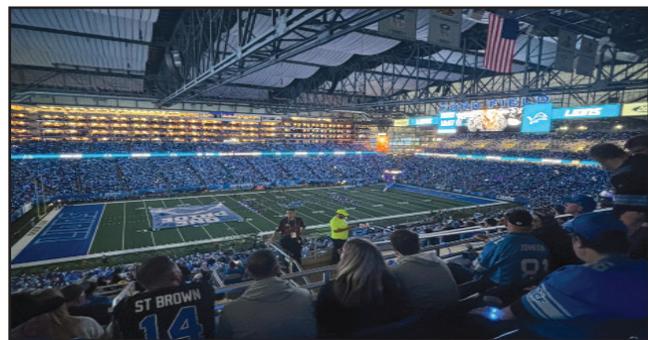
Similar to the NFL, the NBA also plays on Christmas Day. Traditionally, there are no guaranteed teams that year after year are set to play in these matchups; however, some very commonly picked Christmas games involve the Boston Celtics, Los Angeles Lakers, New York Knicks, and Golden State Warriors.

Every year, the lineup of games is different, depending on the teams that are excelling that year and their current roster. While the NBA doesn’t always guarantee that the same teams play every year, it does guarantee that a lineup of great games will be available to watch and showcase the best of the best that the NBA has to offer.

“I know that the NBA Christmas Day games always feel like the first big day of the season for the NBA. They have games on all day, and you do get to see most of the best teams/players that day,” Aaron Wilson, math teacher, said.

The NBA creates a great lineup of games on Christmas Day, which also gives viewers at home a chance to bond with their families over basketball and share the joy of watching some of their favorite teams and/or players.

Both the NBA and NFL help to make the holiday season so special and are a part of the reason why sports fans across the world are able to share the love of sports with their loved ones.



Detroit Lions home-opener football game for the 2024-25 NFL season
Photo by: Isabelle Flood



Diving into Girls Swim and Dive



By: Gracie Wolverton - Staff Reporter

The LSN girls swim and dive team is kicking off its season this winter. They are sure to have a fun and rewarding season.

Community within a sport is the foundation for having a successful season. Girls swim and dive at LSN has a great community with a culture of support and a sense of belonging.

“Having a team that supports you through everything is very important and can make or break the sport for you. This team has shown me that I do have a lot of people supporting

me,” Emma Fry, junior, said.

A good support system and team culture are important for any successful team. Having support is key in helping swimmers overcome any challenge.

“The most challenging part sometimes is just the practices. The practices can be hard, but the way I overcome them is the support I get. All the coaches and managers are very supportive,” Fry said.

What makes a swimmer so successful is the ability to overcome difficulties. Resilience,

coupled with a good work ethic, is a desirable trait for a swimmer. Above all else, the most important quality for a successful swimmer is comfort in the water.

“For some people, it’s finding familiarity with the water. For those that already kind of have that, it’s learning how to really train hard in it, being in the water for long amounts of time, getting through really high-intensity interval training, and just being able to hold form together when the body gets really, really tired,” Thomas Faulkenberry, Girls swim and dive coach, said.

Swim and dive is a tough sport that comes with many difficulties; however, the LSN girls swim and dive team helps each other overcome difficulties and be successful. The strong community that this sport brings makes all the challenges worth it.



Girls Swim and Dive practices after school at the LSR7 Aquatic Center

Should the College Football Playoff Expand?



By: Morgan Hill - Assistant Editor-in-Chief/Sports Editor

Over the past decade, the postseason for Division One College Football has changed immensely.

Previously to the 2024 season, the College Football Playoff (CFP), consisted of a four-team format made by a committee. Typically consisting of the four major conference champions. However, many college football conferences and media members pointed out that this format did not allow for other great teams to have a path to the playoffs without a conference championship. Therefore, in 2024, the committee decided to

expand the playoff to 12 teams, the top five highest-ranked conference champions, and seven at-large teams to complete the field.

Many college football fans have discussed whether this expansion should be greater or if it works for the current state of college sports.

The new changes to the CFP in 2024 saw an expanded number of teams, created better atmospheres, and closer games. This is great for revenue and continuing to grow the sport. However, this new format will create more controversy and several more teams with experience the heartbreak of being so close, but not close enough.

This new format, so far, has allowed for great football, but it begs the question of whether more expansion is needed to set a standard for this committee and limit controversy. But no matter how many teams are in this postseason, great teams are bound to be left out.

Only time will tell if this format of 12 teams is working for creating the best postseason play and getting the best and battle-tested team as the national champion.



A tough game with big CFP implications between Mizzou and Alabama

Editorial

NEW SEASON, NEW TEAM:

THE TRANSFORMATION OF LSN GIRLS BASKETBALL

By: Isabelle Flood - Editor-in-Chief/ Social Media Editor

The Girls' Basketball team has undergone many changes since its last season, including a new head coach and a new senior class. Beginning their season with a game against Oak Grove High School, the team hopes to start strong.

Although going through numerous changes to start their season is not ideal, the girls and their new leader have adjusted well.

"The transition has been good. Just having to learn the new landscape of a new school, but basketball is basketball no matter where you are," Bryan Austin, varsity Girls Basketball head coach, said.

The girls have adjusted well to their new coach and are excited about what he brings to the table.

"I think [Coach Austin] has so much in store for our team and loves the sport of basketball," Bailey Wirth, senior, said.

Even though it is a new school and a new program for Coach Austin,



Bailey Wirth gets set at her position on the court during the Liberty North game

he is still implementing aspects that he knows will help the team be successful.

"I have implemented some small things that I have done over the years that have brought consistency at the programs I have been at," Austin said.

As Coach Austin is adapting to his new position, the players are learning about the expectations for the season.

"My expectations for the season are to compete, play hard, and play together every time we have the opportunity to step on the floor," Austin said.

Players, especially seniors, also have expectations for what they want their season to look like.

"I expect this season to have lots of new additions and to be an outgoing, positive team," Wirth said.

The team bond is so important to a team's success. This team certainly doesn't lack friendship and connection.

"Though our team is mostly underclassmen, we all get along and love to laugh," Wirth said.

It is important that the relationships between the players off the court translate to on-court connections.

"How we communicate is a very important part of the team and our program. Communication can solve a lot of problems, so making sure we all do it intentionally is a major part



The team comes together during a timeout

of the team," Austin said.

Coach Austin has goals to be successful this season, but his biggest goal isn't focused on winning. He has a main goal of making his players better.

"Biggest goal is to just grow. If our players are growing, that means they are getting better, which means the program is getting better and growing as well," Austin said.

Not only does Austin want his players to be successful on the court, but he also wants to help them be successful in life.

"My players know that we can talk about things not related to basketball if they need to have those conversations. I am here to help them be successful in whatever path they choose in life," Austin said.

The girls have faced a lot of challenges and changes, but their teamwork and determination continue to push them forward. With a new coach, new mindset, and strong goals, the team is ready to make this season a success.

Bronco Wordsearch

By: Malaykah Mbeche - Staff Reporter

U G D P R I D E F O G W P T M O G Y U M H U U A O
 S F C T B B U C K L E U P B E T S Y D O T F O U O
 R P I N H B W U L A Y B O Y M H R M N S D W N O U
 A D R B S C H O O L S T O R E F R R H S U I E B O
 T D N I L D D D A P P C R I G O H G S R C I M O N
 S M A R C H I N G B A N D M T O Y S R E N N I W Y
 N D P G C P L U B B B U R U S T T S N F D Y T N B
 R H I F N P R L I S U B U U C B E N F A R Y O G Y
 E O N G N O R T H T H B A H I A S H I E T E C H I
 H N C Y N Y A M S B G P U G M L U T U N O G N E C
 T T R A M S O C N O R B H L E L O S U R F A O Y P
 R D H B N U I B U O O W I T D C H T O T S R R M M
 O B E F H S F D O A C W N I A O D N D L M A B Y I
 N U S R P S G N Y E N L S R C M L S T E P P E R S
 F E H U W Y G G D W O Y S I A M E Y L S I L V E R
 T B P B T S M B H R R U B P D U I H B Y D E F E W
 S R E P A P S W E N B E O S U N F T G U L O H N G
 H S P L D L A H B D P F B L T I P H D E E O U U B
 F D U D N M W N M H Y G I I I T S S Y B M I F S P
 B R U T U S B U L T H H B U H Y S C R I M S O N U

L
S
N

FIND THESE LSN WORDS

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| COMMUNITY | BRONCO SMART |
| BRUTUS | BUCKLE UP BETSY |
| BRONCO | SCHOOL STORE |
| FIELD HOUSE | BRONCO TIME |
| CRIMSON | ACADEMICS |
| NORTH | NORTHERN STARS |
| PRIDE | SILVER |
| SPIRIT | FOOTBALL |
| WINNERS | NEWSPAPER |
| STEPPERS | MARCHING BAND |



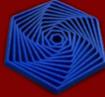
THE MANE STREET STATION

More apparel and items available in store and online



New Black and Grey Sweatshirt - \$30

New Fidget Spinners - \$6.50



New Trucker Hats - \$25

Grey Basketball Shorts- \$20



OPEN 7 AM- 2 PM MONDAY-FRIDAY
KATIE WILSON- KATIE.WILSON@LSR7.NET
ROOM 2156

CLOSED DURING BRONCO TIME



Wellspring Healthcare



Wellspring Healthcare:
Compassionate, expert care for seniors. Trust us with your loved one's health and happiness!

Brian Haas, DO, FACP, CPE



Introduction videos



Website

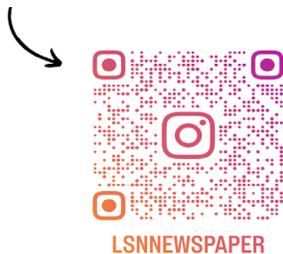
The Northern Exposure

Stories updated weekly at
broncomedia.org/newspaper/

Follow us on Instagram!
[@lsnnewspaper](https://www.instagram.com/lsnnewspaper)

OR

Scan before or after school!



LSNNEWSPAPER

CAPTURE YOUR MOMENT

Senior Photography
Senior Videos
Event Videography
Sports Highlights
Sports Recruiting Videos
Livestreaming



21 SE 3rd Street • (816) 246-8888
Downtown Lee's Summit

[f](https://www.facebook.com/summitvideoservices) [i](https://www.instagram.com/summitvideoservices) @summitvideoservices
summitvideoservices.com



SUMMIT LITHO
INCORPORATED

WE BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

WE'RE SO MUCH MORE THAN INK ON PAPER

Summit Litho problem solves by first understanding the specific needs and challenges for our clients. This involves thorough communication and collaboration to identify key objectives and constraints. We do not expect our clients to be print experts. It is our job to find the answers for you so you can focus on your objectives.

JUST A SAMPLE OF WHAT WE OFFER

- Brochures
- Labels
- Menus
- Pocket Folders
- Light Packaging
- Shelf Talkers
- Business Collateral
- POP Displays
- Large Format Printing
- Direct Mail
- Table Tents
- Design Services
- Sell Sheets
- Books and Magazines
- Promotional Items



visit summitlitho.com

VISIT OUR LOGO MALL

For all of your promotional item needs from pens and cups to apparel, we can pretty much put your brand on anything you can think of.



SUMMIT LITHO
1807 SW Market St.
Lee's Summit, MO 64082

 816.525.1810
 info@summitlitho.com
 summitlitho.com

