

THE NORTHERN EXPOSURE

Thursday, December 1, 2016 VOL. XXII, ISSUE III



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THE AFTERMATH OF THE ELECTION

SavannahMullen-StaffReporter

This year's election has split the country apart and now people are starting to protest against President Elect Donald Trump and speak out against the election all together.

"Honestly, I hope Trump does well, but so far it does not look like it. I hope he comes through and surprises us all," Sadie Joy, sophomore, said.

Starting off with national, even world wide, news of Trump gaining Presidency, people are now reacting and starting to protest. There have been protests nationwide such as in New York City, Chicago, Portland, Seattle and many more, there have even been protests in Kansas City.

In New York City on the day after the election, there was a protest that went all the way to burning the flag outside the Trump Tower. In a city near Seattle, there were five people shot and injured during one of the protests.

"Protest would've happened no matter who got elected and I think if Clinton got elected the protests would of been worse due to the guns laws that were believed to be in jeopardy," Bishop Smith, senior, said.

At these protests, people scream "not my president" and declare they have no respect for President Trump.

"However, Trump gave a voice to

some people who never had a voice before. His candidacy also brought people together whether it was for him or against him," Cecilia Nord, junior, said.

Trump has brought people together such as at the protests, they may be against him however they are still speaking their opinion and coming together. At some of the protests people are declaring Hillary Clinton should have won.

For the popular vote, Clinton won significantly with over 2 million more than Trump. With this in the news, Jill Stein, Green Party nominee, is raising money for a recount. Stein's goal of the fundraising is 7 million and

is almost there. So far, she has raised enough money to have recounts in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

There are ideas going around saying that the electoral college may go rogue once they are told to make their final decision on their vote in December. Many people are fighting against the electoral college asking themselves and anyone else, is the electoral college still needed or necessary?

Peace protests are not the only effect of the election, there have also been racial attacks, one even in a school. There was an incident at New Mexico University Library where a man in a Trump shirt attempted to rip off a woman's

hijab.

On the other hand, Dow Jones, the stock market, is at an all time high since the election. On the election night, the stocks went significantly low however, now they are at a record high.

The election has taken a toll on the country and the nation as a whole and even outside countries. Whether people are for or against him, the world will forever remember the 2016 election when Donald Trump, businessman and entrepreneur, won and now, will soon become the President of the United States of America.



Tobacco 21 Ordinance Now Official in Lee's Summit

Zoey Barnes - CoEditorInChief



2016, a year that will go down in history as one of the biggest in American political changes. In November, Donald Trump was elected as 45th president of the United States as well as many new senators, governors and laws. This took place on a national scale, however many new changes will begin on a city scale as well. Tobacco 21, a new law on the age of cigarette possession has gone into effect today, December 1.

"I understand what the point of this ordinance is because they're trying to help young people be healthier, but if someone that young is going to smoke they'll smoke," Maggie Curran, senior, said.

The Tobacco 21 Ordinance is a new citywide ordinance that has risen the age of buying, selling and possessing tobacco, nicotine and vapor products from 18 to 21. Enacted with the hopes of increasing the health of Lee's Summit community, in the cities hope for a "Healthy Lee's Summit".

According to the Lee's Summit's Health Education Advisory Board, 80% of people that are intaking tobacco products start before they are 21. Doctor

Ed Kramer, a doctor who has aided enacting this ordinance in 17 cities around the Kansas City Metro Area, stated that there is a predicted 25% drop in young people who smoke as well as an 12% drop in the overall smoking rate.

"I believe that if you are 18, a legal adult, who is treated as a legal adult, who can vote, gamble, and be charged of a crime, you should be able to sell, buy, and possess tobacco products," Paige Stahl, junior, said.

The ordinance was presented to the City Council over the summer on July 7. The ordinance was approved a month later on August 18, making Lee's Summit the 18th city in the metro area to enact the law, following communities such as Grandview, Overland Park and Independence.

"I think that if people who are or under 18 are smoking already or want to start smoking they will find a way to get it, especially if the law isn't enacted in other states or communities," Lauren Garcia, junior, said.

Although this law states that no person under 21 can

buy, sell, or possess tobacco products, primarily cigarettes, this law does take into account the grandfather effect. The grandfather clause states that any person who turned 18 before December 1, 2016 will still be able to purchase tobacco products.

Tobacco 21 is a national movement that is

currently sweeping the nations in hopes to raise the national age for tobacco products to 21. California and Hawaii are the first two countries to make Tobacco 21 a statewide law, however this small number is rising day by day with over 200 cities in accordance with the ordinance.

Lee's Summit is passing a new law stating that an individual must be 21 and older to possess tobacco products.

Photo by Zoey Barnes



Practicing Preschool in High School

Jillian Jamaledin - Staff Reporter

Many students hear about the preschool class available, yet know little to nothing about the class. Preschool is a child development class allowing students to experience what working with young children is actually like. Jessica Struckhoff teaches the students the basic knowledge before the preschoolers begin coming to class, and then the students take over. Students are graded differently throughout the class from before the preschool starts to the time the preschoolers are here.

"They are at first graded in a traditional educational environment. We go through six units very quickly in order to prepare them to teach starting in the middle of October. Once that happens, they are graded on their preparation to lessons, willingness to provide care, and ability to teach," Jessica Struckhoff, FACS teacher, said.

The materials for the child development class are provided by the FACS department budget, while the class itself is free to run. A majority of the preschoolers enroll through

the school's partnership with Parents As Teachers. They connect families to the school's program and enroll the families' children who did not qualify for head start program at LSN. Along with that, children of staff and other kids in the community are enrolled in the class.

The preschool occurs on the daily days of school from second to fifth hour. These hours carry the responsibility of planning lessons, teaching, and guiding the preschoolers. Each day of the preschool there are different lessons and activities for the preschoolers to engage in. The preschool contains around 15 to 20 preschoolers on the days it runs.

"I am in second hour which is when the kiddos first arrive. We have a letter of the day, art lesson, science lesson, and other different lessons depending on whatever hour you are in. We try to keep the kids active and involved," Lilly Frevort, senior, said.

Students learn a wide variety of skills they can apply to real world experiences. The curriculum focuses on teaching information on child development and readiness to work in this career path in the future. After the class, students can further determine whether or not

they would like to pursue a career in teaching, working with children, or more.

"They are learning information regarding human development and early childhood education. They are learning responsibility, patience, and compassion. Most of all, they are learning skills that will be necessary should they decide that they want to pursue a career in education or childcare..." Jessica Struckhoff, FACS teacher, said.

Students in class get to have hands on experiences and discover what a job in that career path would be like after they finish school. Some advice for students considering taking the

class in the future is to prepare to plan lessons and be enthusiastic about working with the preschoolers.

"Students who take this class need to make sure they are very responsible and make sure they can be prepared for every lesson they need to teach. They also need to learn how to be patient with the kids as well," Olivia Krehbiel, junior, said.

The preschool class is open to any students who want to take it. If a student is interested in taking the class, all they have to do is go see Jessica Struckhoff, FACS teacher. The only requirement is that the students are confident, responsible, and willing to work the children. Students who want to pursue a career in teaching or working with children are encouraged to take the child development preschool class.

Many students are involved in the preschool class offered at LSN where they teach and look after children from around the area.

Photo by Gracie Snook



Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps

SavannahHenslee-StaffReporter

Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps more commonly known as AFJROTC, is an elective class that helps prepare students for joining the Air Force. They learn about planes, different areas in the Air Force and physical training. Another aspect is learning discipline, self respect and respect for others, leadership skills and responsibility.

They participate in several activities such as Drill Team which is a competitive marching group with special drill rifles, paintball, and Cyber Patriots which is where they learn to protect computer operating systems and networks from hackers. They also have PT, which is physical training, every Friday.

The mission of AFJROTC is to develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community. The Honor Code of AFJROTC is "I will not lie, cheat, or steal nor will I tolerate those that do."

There are some members that are continuing family tradition in the military. They feel it brings them closer to their family that was in the military. Others feel

they have to live up to their family that was in the military before them.

"I plan on going into the military myself to honor my ancestors...my long term rela-

family.

"You get to know the students really well or even become good friends with them. Because ROTC is one big, happy family," said Nelson.



tives that were in the military themselves, and my father didn't continue it and so I'm continuing on the tradition from my family," Eric Webb, sophomore, said.

AFJROTC focuses on both physical and mental development.

"I strive to overachieve at everything I do," said Makayla Nelson, freshman.

"With ROTC everybody is a family and it's all put together," said Webb.

The close environment of AFJROTC gives a sense of safety classrooms that have mixed ages. To many students the AFJROTC classroom is like a second home and most of the students feel they are all

When some people like something there is almost always some who do not like it. Such

as, there are also different uniforms they have to wear different days of the week. The instructors of AFJROTC share a very similar view of how they feel about the class, but there are a few different views.

"Time... It just takes a lot of time. It is six if not seven days a week. This weekend is like the second weekend of the entire semester I actually have an entire weekend and I am going to spend it washing sleeping bags." Mark Schmidt, AFJROTC instructor, said.

AFJROTC has many opportunities for students and many benefits that go along with them. It is something constructive and enjoyable at the same time.



AFJROTC is a class for students to get an idea of what the air force is like.

Photo By Gracie Snook

GSA: A SAFE PLACE FOR ALL STUDENTS

Rebekah Panek-Staff Reporter

Gay Straight Alliance, also known as GSA, is one of the many diverse clubs at LSN. In GSA, students can learn about lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) issues within the school and in the community. The club meets somewhere from once to twice a month in Terry Durnell's, Broadcasting teacher, room, 2131.

GSA was started when a group of students decided they wanted a safe space for students to go to discuss and learn about the LGBTQ+ community. Rachel Russell, Language Arts teacher, started off the club with the help of a few other teachers. When Russell could no longer be in charge of the club it was handed down to Deborah Parker, German teacher, then later on to Terry Durnell and Jennifer Mooney, Social Studies teacher.

Durnell explains what GSA means to her and why she believes it is important.

"I want every LGBTQ student to feel safe and supported not only here at school but when they leave the school as well. GSA should be that place. It should be a place where students can make connections and create a support system. It should also be a place where they

can explore who they are and begin to understand their history," Durnell said.

Last December they had a holiday party and exchanged white elephant presents, with gifts varying from candy, homemade scarfs to watercolor paint. After swapping presents, the members of GSA were able to talk and celebrate among friends.

Bailey Cox, sophomore, talks about why she goes to the meeting and how she got involved.

"My friend told me about the club and we decided to go, I like the club because of the non-judgmental environment and getting to be apart of something I believe in," Cox said.

GSA is known for being safe space for all students, no matter what gender or sexual orientation they are.



LSN prides itself in being a safe place for all students.

Photos by Gracie Snook

"GSA provides a safe space for like-minded students to meet and have a good time. It's a place where each student can be whoever they are and know they will find acceptance," Durnell said.

Coming into GSA students can expect a variety of activities to participate in. Some of the topics talked about in GSA are LGBTQ+ history, Trans rights, people of color in the LGBTQ+ community and much more. Some activities GSA has participated in are celebrating National Com-

ing Out day, holiday parties, creating a window display to recognize Transgender awareness month, and watching LGBTQ+ videos.

Hayden Saunders, junior, after going to the first meeting decided they wanted to be a part of GSA.

"Being able to connect with people who understand what it's like," Saunders said.

During the second week of December, the fifth through the ninth, GSA will be working with Gender Equality Club to collect clothes for a clothes drive. The clothes will be going to transgender and homeless LGBTQ+ youth. The clothes can be dropped off in either English teacher Brian Ray's room, 2118, or in Durnell's room, 2131. After the clothes drive is over, the clothes will be taken to Passages, a youth center for LGBTQ+ teens where they meet on Wednesday nights and Like Me Lighthouse. The clothes will be handed out, to the teens in need.

GSA is seen by members as a great place for students to expand their knowledge on issues someone may not know about, such as gender-neutral bathrooms, coming out or anti-LGBT laws. Any and all students are welcome at GSA, as long as they are contributing to keeping the environment a safe space for other members.

Kansas City: Home-town Holiday Traditions

DanielleZammar-SocialMediaEditor

Christmas in the Park

With over 300,000 sparkling lights and 175 animated figures, Longview's *Christmas in the Park* has grown to become a beloved holiday tradition for the people of Kansas City. After kicking off the event with *Christmas in the Sky* on the night before Thanksgiving, the park stays open Sunday-Thursday from 5:30-10:00 p.m. and from Friday-Saturday from 5:30-11:00 p.m. The event is free of charge, although small cash donations for local charities are accepted at the end of the drive but not required, and the employees of the park provide each car with some candy when finished.

"I am obsessed with Christmas lights and after seeing this display for the first time, it was well worth the wait in line. I recommend playing Christmas music in your car for the full effect," Jessica Whitmore, senior, said.

For visitors of all ages, *Christmas in the Park* will amaze and create a true winter wonderland atmosphere.

Magic Tree

During the last few Christmases in Lee's Summit, an enchanting tree - entirely covered in multicolored bulbs, has appeared and taken place as a top attraction in the city. Off of View High Drive and Interstate 470, the Magic Tree is a celebratory landmark for residents to revel in and also serves as a majestic photography setting.

"My favorite part about the tree is the color. I also enjoy that it is such a peaceful experience because there is no commercialism or any distractions around the area," Pamela Schleiden, science teacher, said.

The Magic Tree organization additionally partners with Lee's Summit Social Services during the season to provide for those who are interested in supporting the community's needs. This year, the Magic Tree lit up on Thanksgiving day.

KCP&L Plaza Lighting Ceremony

Yet another holiday tradition that took place on Thanksgiving day was the 87th annual KCP&L Plaza Lighting Ceremony. On November 24th, the switch was flipped and the plaza's skyline was instantaneously illuminated. The celebration was at the main stage by Brio Tuscan Grille and festivities for the day began at 5:00 p.m. Special guest, Jack Sock, had the honor of turning the lights on and ushering in the season. Sock won both bronze and gold medals in the 2016 Rio Olympics for tennis. The plaza lights shine daily from 5:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. until mid-January.

Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting

One of the nation's tallest Christmas trees, standing at 100-feet-tall, is the centerpiece for Crown Center Square each holiday season. The record-breaking tree is a symbol of the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund, which is dedicated to assisting Kansas City's less fortunate. Mayor Sly James and a honorary celebrity guest, this year Olympic skating champions, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, ignite the decorations. Once the festivities have ended, the wood from the tree is created into commemorative ornaments sold the following year to benefit the Mayor's Christmas Tree fund. This event took place on November 25th at 5:30 p.m.



Summit Fair puts their Christmas tree up early to get everyone in the holiday mood.

Photo by Gracie Snook

Classic Holiday Movies at Union Station

An event not familiar to most, holiday films are on their way back to Union Station's Regnier Extreme Screen Theatre this winter. For only three dollars, sit within the auditorium of 440 seats and experience select classics on an 80 by 53 foot screen.

"I really liked the theatre because the screen was really big and when the Christmas lights turned on in *Christmas Vacation*, the whole place lit up and it made me happy because I love Christmas," Andrea Hupman, senior, said.

Various movies will be streaming this season including: *Elf* from November 25th to December 1st, *National Lampoons Christmas Vacation* from December 2nd to the 8th, and *Polar Express* from December 10th to the 13th. A special feature with the *Polar Express* incorporates the ability of the audience to come and enjoy the specific cinema in their pajamas. Showtimes take place at 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, and 8:00 p.m.

MOVIE NIGHTS IN THE LMC

CaraPanarisi-OpinionEditor

Last year, the librarians had a new idea that would spark the interest of many students and families.

In the LMC they began to have movie nights that are based around a specific book or book genre.

“We started doing movie nights last year, it was more of a way as a community outreach, and last year we did all the Harry Potter movies and had just outstanding participation from even the little kids down at the elementary school. It was fun to see them come in with their Hogwarts robes and Hedwig pillows and all of that, it was a lot of fun,” Michael Russell, librarian, said.

Last year at Harry Potter was the biggest crowd they had. There was about one-hundred and fifty people that had showed up. This year, they are hoping to get anywhere from seventy-five to one hundred.

This year, they plan on providing six different movie nights that are all based around a book genre. For the first one, they did scary books, and the next one they have scheduled is based around adventure books. There are also other nights that will contain mystery, fantasy and reality. They are also providing another night specifically for the Harry Potter movie series.

“I look forward most to probably Mean Girls and High School Musical,” Maggie Ross, junior, said.

In order to have enough space for the students and their families, they basically redesign the library and its contents. By the big windows, they take away where the T.V.’s and tables are, which is known as the collaboration classroom area. In its place, they then set up an estimate 17-foot T.V. screen

with a big sound system.

“You can either sit in the library chairs, we put those on a wider arch, or you can bring in your own blankets and pillows and sit concert style on the ground up front,” Russell said.

As far as admission goes, it is free to get in. They also give the option to sell the traditional movie theater concessions, such as popcorn, soda, and candy. In addition to these discounted concessions, there are people who also create themed snacks that are based on the displayed movies for the night.

If families prefer not to purchase any concessions, then they can also bring their own snacks, too. In comparison to the movies, it is really affordable.

“The snacks are really good and fun because they match up with the movie and a lot of it is fundraising for the book club trip to Europe coming up and the Anime trip to Japan so it is helpful to that,” Ross said.

These fees go towards not only these trips, but also help out pricing for these movie nights and other library

student based projects going on.

“On Saturday nights if you do not have anything to do you can just kick back and relax from homework or something,” Jessica Carnahan, sophomore, said.

If one weekend you do not have anything planned, head to the LMC for a night full of discounted movies and good snacks.

LSN offers a free movie night every Saturday evening with two shows and snacks for sale.

Photo by Gracie Snook.



ALL AROUND THE WRITER'S CIRCLE

BlairClark-JuniorEditor

Writer's Circle is a place for students and staff to express themselves in many different ways. Writer's Circle is full of creativity ranging from narratives to art work. All of this hard work gets put into *The Ink and Quill*, a magazine, which is published every spring for anyone to read.

"Students can write anything they want. We have a really wide range of the types of writing as well. Some people like to do non-fiction analytical essays, some people like to write fiction, some people like to write poetry," Ashley Washington, Language Arts teacher, said.

The Ink and Quill is more than just a place for writing; it also features comic strips and artwork. Anyone, including staff along with students, is able to submit their work and can submit up to five pieces.

"I am actually not much of a writer. I am in there for editing purposes. Last year I was Copy Editor, this year I might be the same or Editor-in-Chief," Cara Shelton, senior, said.

For all of the types of submissions, there are certain guidelines. For personal essays, fictions and book reviews, some of the requirements include for the writer to have a title, contact information, word count, header and MLA formatting. Each piece has slightly different regulations and they all can be found on LSN's website under the Writer's Circle tab.

"This is our fourth year for Writer's Circle and it actually started with my English classes. The first unit we wrote a personal narrative and I had

a couple of students who just wrote these absolutely beautiful pieces and I got to talking to them and found they just love to write," Washington said.

Writer's Circle also holds



Writer's Circle is a club for students to publish their different types of writings for the student body to read.

Photo by Gracie Snook

showcases and open mic nights for the writers and artists to share their work. Open mic nights happen periodically and dates and updates can be found on the Writer's Circle website.

"... it went from being this little tiny circle of just a few people to the second year, we had the magazine, the third year we had a better magazine, and this year we have the writer's showcase and we started an open mic night and so it has just really grown from just a little seed of an idea," Washington said.

Writer's Circle is a place for

students to also receive help to better improve their writing skills as a whole. Washington is the only staff member involved with Writer's Circle and helps students produce their pieces.

There are also many resources on the website to help the writers as well.

"I write on the side and it is mostly just poems that tell a story. The only deadlines in Writer's Circle are if you want to take your pieces to the showcase," Soleil Goss-Short, junior, said.

Overall, Writer's Circle is a great place for the students and staff at school to express themselves and share their projects. Writer's Circle is more of an escape for people who love to write.

IT IS TIME TO GIVE THE ATHLETES WHAT THEY DESERVE

WillMauer-SportsEditor

What if a massive network paid \$7.3 billion dollars to televise your games? What if I told you another station paid \$10.8? What if I told you thousands of fans would come to watch you play, paying outrageous prices to see the you play at a high level? Then what if I told you the organization you play for generates just under \$1 billion per year? Oh, and you, the athlete, get none of it.

First class universities around America make an incredible amount of money, a lot of it from the football and basketball programs. They give the athlete a scholarship, including books, room and board. But it just is not enough.

Just look at the University of Missouri, head football coach Barry Odom makes \$2.35 million a year, lowest in the SEC. Nick Saban, football coach at Alabama, makes just over \$9 million, which is more than just about every single NFL coach this year.

"It does not make any sense because they are not 'professional,'" Dillon Uhls, senior, said.

This makes no sense. One argument against paying the college athletes is that they are "amateurs". This is completely inaccurate. What amateur athlete plays with billions of dollars swirling around and they

get none of it? What amateur athletes play for schools that make more money off of them than professional teams? The Alabama football team produces more money than every NHL team, and more than 80% of the NBA.

The NCAA is very hypocritical

a penny on it?

"Control of their likeness is what I'd propose. Students be able to get local sponsorships, sign autographs, profit from NCAA video games and their jersey sales," Carrington Harrison, host on 610 Sports Radio, said.

The Alabama football team produces more money than every NHL team, and more than 80% of the NBA.

when it comes to athlete pay. They will not allow the athlete to make a surplus on his/her likeness, which makes no sense. The schools have the football jerseys in the team shop. A cut from those sales should go to the player whose jersey is being used. In what other field are there people willing to spend thousands on merchandise and the actual athlete, whose likeness is being used, cannot make

Another reason in favor of compensating college athletes is the fact that other students at universities are allowed to profit on their likeness. A music student can apply their trade in any facet they want. They will not be stripped of their scholarship, or removed from the band. If Leonard Fournette got caught selling himself for a profit, the NCAA would absolutely punish him.

Some people argue it will ruin the game if the universities start compensating the athletes. This is false. There is so much money swirling around these athletes, that everybody is striking gold besides them, it is ridiculous.

"Nobody ever said, 'If we start paying these coaches hundreds of millions of dollars the game is going to crumble.' Nobody says, 'if we start putting these things on TV and we start having billion-dollar television contracts the game (is going to plummet),'"

Jay Bilas, College basketball analyst for ESPN, said (Courtesy of Complex.com.)

Bilas is an emphatic yes for compensation for the college athletes. He has been on the bandwagon for some time. On twitter, he has embarrassed the NCAA by highlighting their asinine hypocrisies regarding selling players jerseys. Before Bilas showed the public, a fan could type in a nationally known player in the search box of ShopNCAAsports.com, and it would send them to a screen to buy that player's jersey. They make the money, the player they are exploiting gets zilch.

The NCAA has been exploiting the athletes for some time now, and at some point I anticipate that this will change. It certainly will not happen overnight, but the change is inevitable. At some point, the athletes have to stand up for themselves and get the piece of the pie that is rightfully theirs.



JackLangle-JuniorEditor&EntertainmentEditor

The National Basketball Association is in full force. Records are being broken, teams are having their highs and lows, and things are starting to take shape. All this madness started last June in the offseason, and there is no stopping until next June.

Prior to this season even beginning, the summer of 2016 was packed with NBA news. The Cavs are fresh off of their first championship in franchise history, Kevin Durant is playing with the 'super team' Warriors, and do not forget, the association saw some future hall-of-famers step into retirement.

Kevin Durant made some of the biggest noise in the 2016 offseason by signing with the Golden State Warriors many dubbed them the 'super team'. With a core group that appeared in back-to-back NBA Finals, adding Durant seemed like it would create an

unstoppable team.

"I was very surprised Durant went to Golden State- they are a strong team. I think now more than ever free agents are getting paid way too much," Elijah Farr, junior, said.

Along with the Warriors, the other defending conference champion, Cleveland Cavaliers seemed to not skip a beat. LeBron James has been playing some of the best basketball of his career and just recently scored his 27,000th point, being the youngest ever in the NBA to do so. The Cavs are favorite to win it all again and are currently among the teams with the best records in the association.

"You can never be satisfied, especially in this league. It can be up and down, despite anything that you can do. So you just try to put yourself in a great position every single day," Kyrie Irving, Cavs point

guard, said (Courtesy of bleacherreport.com).

Other teams have not been as fortunate as the super teams and even though little, there has been some trade talk already this early in the year. DeMarcus Cousins out of Sacramento has been a name that has had the best likelihood of getting moved by the deadline, and other rumors regarding Klay Thompson and Anthony Davis have surfaced, whether they will be shopped or not.

However after last season, some of the more seasoned players to work in the league announced their retirement. Kobe Bryant had a farewell tour throughout the 2015-16 season and hung up his jersey after the Lakers failed to reach the postseason.

Another future hall-of-famer, Tim Duncan also decided to call it quits. Duncan, however, announced his retirement in July, after the NBA season had con-

cluded. Another notable star to leave was former All-Star Kevin Garnett, who played 21 seasons with three teams in the NBA.

Regardless of what happens during the offseason, or in the beginning months of the season, the NBA can prove one thing. Nothing is for certain. There are still five more months of regular season ball left, and a month of playoffs after that. Nothing is set in stone yet.

"This season is going to be crazy. But the Cleveland Cavaliers are going to win another NBA Championship and the Golden State Warriors will not be a factor," Aaliyah Johnson, senior, said.

The only thing that can be guaranteed for sure is this NBA season is nowhere near finished, and with that, plenty of more surprises are in store for players, coaches, and fans alike.

Northern



Exposure Editorial

ScribedByLexieTalpers

The Commercialism of Christmas

As the holiday season approaches, many people begin shopping for Christmas presents and decorating their houses for Christmas Day. Although Christmas time is typically referred to as 'the most wonderful time of the year,' Thanksgiving is almost overshadowed as the rush to get to Christmas is so prominent.

While most wait to put up their Christmas trees until after Thanksgiving has passed, Christmas always seems to be on everyone's minds. Thanksgiving in itself almost seems to become eclipsed as it is only one day, where Christmas can be called a season. We tend to appreciate Thanksgiving only on the day of Thanksgiving.

We enjoy celebrating Thanksgiving as we get to

see our family, eat good food and spend time appreciating those who hold a special place in our hearts. But as soon as Thanksgiving is over, it seems everyone immediately switches into Christmas mode.

The real Black Friday is a great time to start it all; the shopping, baking, music, lights, and more. A month is a great amount of time to devote to a holiday, especially one this big. Take your extended weekend after Thanksgiving to put up your tree and pick out the best songs for your playlist for the next month, but right now- right now, worry about if you are going to want your turkey cut thick or thin.



The Cost of Education: Teacher Pay

MadisenSmith-StaffRep/rtter



In most people's opinion, teachers have a very important job. They often get the opportunity to affect students in a way that only few can do. They can reach the heart of a kid and impact their future. Although for such an important job, teachers are not paid enough.

I think teachers should be paid a little bit more because the job they do can be very difficult, but it is also very important.

In 2015, the average weekly wage for a teacher was 17 percent lower than those of comparable work. So people with the same education as a high school teacher are receiving more pay, as the teacher receives less money for the same amount of education. The average high school teacher received an annual salary of approximately 56,310 dollars in 2014, which in my opinion, is a small compensation for the work they do.

"The national average for a master's degree is around 60,000 a year. I believe we should be on the high end because in essence, we are turning over a product that continues the progress of society. Major industries are created off of our products," Sara Witteman, English teacher, said.

I believe that teachers should get paid just as much as doctors. Physicians are paid at least 200,000 dollars annually. Although doctors

and physicians help diagnose children and help cure the injured, teachers are the foundation to a child's future, and get the opportunity to shape the world's future on a daily basis because the kids of today are the adults of tomorrow.

"I think beginning teachers should be paid more. I think my salary at this point in my career is fair. I'm getting paid for my Master's Degree and sixteen years in the district and feel it's decent compensation for 9.5 months work. Beginning teachers struggle to make ends meet, especially now that they have to put money away for a high deductible insurance policy," Pam Schleiden, science teacher, said.

Compared to the majority of countries, the United States pays teachers way less for the work they do. Most countries pay their teachers more than the U.S. pays them. For example, Switzerland pays around 68,000 dollars per year, which is much more than eachers in the United States receive.

"I do not think people really respect

our job, we get a lot of time off. I think they think our job is important, but do not think they understand what really goes into being a teacher," Bob McIntosh, science teacher, said.

But most teachers enjoy teaching far too much to consider taking another job that gives a higher pay. They enjoy watching students grow in their education and livelihood.

"My favorite part of teaching is the students! What a great job to have, to get to interact with the adults of tomorrow on a daily basis. I'm encouraged by how responsible and mature most of them are! Watching the light bulbs go on as students master difficult content is especially fulfilling." Pam Schleiden, chemistry teacher, said.

In many people's views, teachers are underpaid. But they are a valuable part of society, teaching kids about the world and impacting their future. Hopefully one day, their importance will be discovered, and their pay will represent their worth.



The Flaws in Our School System Could Cause Lives

CarolineLuna-StaffReporter



With the burst of modern technology, many overlook the issue clearly presented in today's society that could affect them in the blink of an eye.

Although schools have initiated their best efforts to increase security around campuses, there is still an underlying fear among students and faculty of threats outside their walls.

"I believe that most schools do not take the proper procedures to protect the children and keep out intruders. Lee's Summit public schools have no policy to check for weapons within the school," Spencer Apel, senior, said.

Recently, Lee's Summit District has increased their intruder precautions through new security systems and lockdown procedures. Previously all school doors were unlocked and parents had easy access into the building. Currently, every LSR7 building has a recently installed lock system that allows the front desk to see through a camera who is requesting entrance and ask what is their intent for their visit.

Although there have many benefits to this implemented system, it is still near impossible to insure parents are coming into the building for their stated intention. Living in today's world, lying for a negative purpose has

increased and is too often seen.

Students tend to not fully comply with instructed safety procedures during practice drills.

"When we practice such drills, teachers and students lack interest because it interrupts class and some tend to not completely commit to the procedure," Payton Hill, senior, said.

This leads students to act as if this threat is irrelevant to them and that their school is safe from this danger. Often during practice intruder drills students are instructed to remain completely silent, although this rule gets broken too often and people tend not to take these drills seriously.

Ultimately, if an intruder wants to enter the building, it is likely they will find a way to do so. The next step in controlling this risk, is

focusing on what to do once they are in the building. The newly implemented security among the schools, while beneficial, cannot one hundred percent stop a person who intends to do harm from entering the building.

A question currently being discussed surrounds the idea of if more district employees should have the right to carry

guns or not. This is a debatable topic that has received a lot of attention recently.

"I think administrators should have that training and have that right. Our administrators are walking all around our building all day and have easy contact with each other via walkies and I think if there was an intruder and our administrators had defensive weapons they would be able to eliminate that threat more quickly," Kaitlyn Hilbert, senior, said.

Guns are highly debatable within the school system for safety reasons. Many people do not trust teachers even if they have received proper training and background checks.

"Most people that support the increase of firearm rights to prevent a shooting incident see firearm training and an increase in weapons as a panacea, and

in reality this is not the fact. While giving an administrator the right to carry a weapon, I do not believe that any or all would actually do so. As well, if teachers or administrators are allowed to carry a weapon this does not eradicate a threat one hundred percent. Over the summer prior to the school year teachers go through an extensive two day training, and at present this is the way to handle the issue," Austin Alvidrez, senior, said.

Although multiple sides of this argument exist, and it presents itself as a very debated topic, most people can agree that the main goal is to keep schools and students safe. Some people differ in opinions and ways to make this goal happen, but everyone can come to the same conclusion that student safety is the number one priority.






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