

# The Northern Exposure

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# In this Issue...

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## On the Cover

**Photo of the North Side  
Steppers by Maria Bisby**

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# Finding Your Treasure at First Fridays

*Katie Langle-Staff Reporter*

The sound of music and delicious smells fill the air. Food trucks line the streets and people crowd into buildings searching for treasures they did not even know they needed. If you are looking for something fun to do on the first weekend of each month, First Fridays in the West Bottoms may be the place for you.

While today its historic buildings are a treasure hunt filled with unique and quirky finds, it was not always that way. The area began as stockyards in 1871 and then moved into manufacturing and the livestock exchange. After WWII and the flood of 1951, the stockyards were closed and abandoned. In the 70's, many of the old buildings became some of the city's premier haunted houses. Then in 2008, First Fridays began and many shops including Good Ju Ju, Bella Patina and Nook and Cranny KC opened up. First Fridays has been gaining popularity ever since.

"I used to like when people didn't know about it, that was my favorite part, it was always fun to go to the antiques and I always go shopping with my friends and look at antiques," Tara Hood, art teacher, said.

First Fridays is one of the hidden gems in the city. They

have 22 warehouses and a little under 600 vendors. It is always filled with people all looking for a hidden treasure. These weekends can draw up to 40,000 people.

"It's always fun to see new people and meet new people. It's just a fun atmosphere," Tiffany Ford, sophomore, said.

The shops in the West Bottoms have all kinds of different items for sale. Products there range from clothes and jewelry to furniture and home decorations. A lot of furniture items have been refurbished and revamped.

"[My favorite part about going to first Fridays is] walking around and getting to see all of the stuff that's older but has been re-done. And all the older stuff that most of us don't recognize but most of our grandparents thought that this stuff was super cool," Cassey

Kinman, sophomore, said.

First Fridays is open the first Friday through Sunday of each month from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. One of the attractions at the festival are the food trucks. There are always different types of foods for people to try. The food trucks have things from Cajun and Mexican food to carnival and bar food. There are also snack options inside many of the warehouses.

"My favorite part about first Fridays was the food trucks. I like trying new foods and there is always good food there," Ford, said.

The next festival will be held October 5. First Fridays are the perfect weekend activity. Get out there and look around. You never know what hidden treasure you might find.



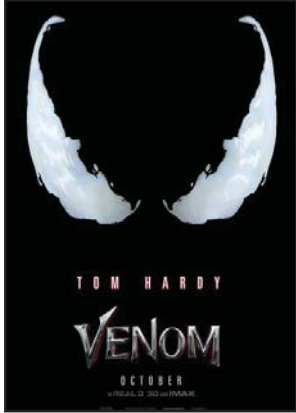
*Vendor's shop in West Bottoms where antiques were being sold.*

*Photo by Tiyah Gipson*

# MOVIES COMING OUT THIS MONTH

Prajukta Ghosh-Staff Reporter

From an American slasher to a romantic drama, October is filled with different movies. From thrilling horror to glamorous drama, every movie released this month appears heart-wrenching and chilling, which might come in the form of a nightmare or a fantasy in your dreams.



“Venom” is an American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character, directed by Ruben Fleischer and produced by Avi Arad, Mat Tolmach and Amy Pascal. The movie stars Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed, Scott Haze and Reid Scott. The film focuses on reporter Eddie Brock who develops a superpower after becoming a host to an alien parasite.

“I think the movie will be entertaining with a lot of special effects and hopefully Tom Hardy does a good job in acting,” Brody Ethridge, senior, said.

The movie is scheduled to open on October 5. The end of filming did not stop the flow of casting news, as Luke Cage and “This Is Us” actor Ron Cephas Jones announced their appearance in the movie just before it hits the theatre.

“I would not be able to watch this movie alone, I am scared of the horror stuff,” Joy Cov-

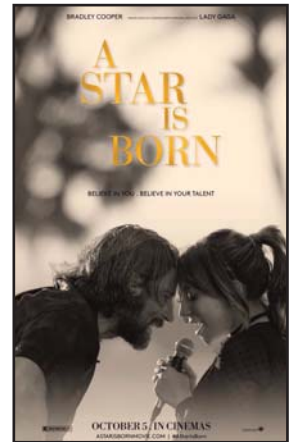
*The movie poster for “Venom.”*

“A Star Is Born” is an American musical romantic drama produced and directed by Bradley Cooper. It is the third remake of the original 1937 film, which was adapted into a 1954 musical and then remade as a 1976 rock musical with Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson.

The movie stars are Bradley Cooper, Lady Gaga, Andrew Dice Clay, Dave Chappelle and Sam Elliott. It is scheduled to be released in the United States on October 5. The movie revolves around a well-known musician, Jackson Maine, who falls for Ally, a brawling artist who wants to be a famous singer. But as her career takes-off, the tender and personal side of their relationship breaks down.

“The main reason why I would watch this movie is because I want to see Lady Gaga’s performance,” Covington said.

The movie also has a collection of incredible music and vocals by Lady Gaga and Cooper.



*The movie poster for “A Star Is Born.”*



The third movie coming out this month is “Halloween”. “Halloween” is an American slasher, directed and written by David Gordon Green, Jeff Fradley and Danny McBride. It is the 11 segment in the “Halloween” franchise and also a direct sequel of the 1978 film of same name. It is releasing on October 19, starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Judy Greer, Nick Castle, Andi Matichak, Virginia Gardner and more.

“I hope that “Halloween” is going to get a good rating and I am really excited to watch the movie,” Ethridge said.

The story focuses on Laurie Strode who survived the vicious attack from Michael Myers on Halloween night. She is now facing a terrifying showdown when Myers returns to Haddonfield, but this time Strode is ready for him.

“I have not seen the movie but I definitely recommend the movie to others,” Ethridge said.

*The movie poster for “Halloween.”*

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# Midterm Elections: A Vote For Your Future

*Rhayla Huff-Editor in Chief*

The 2016 Presidential Election changed America forever, whether it is because Donald Trump was originally “a businessman for the people” or the fact that Republicans now own the house. That is not to say, however, that any of this is a bad thing. Whether you are a Democrat or Republican, the 2018 midterm elections are possibly the most important elections to date.

“The midterm elections this year stand to change the makeup of Congress in a significant way; since the Senate is controlled by the Republican Party by such a small majority. A change in the party controlling either house of Congress could make federal law-making look differently moving forward. This is also a unique election because the number of candidates who come from groups (based on race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, etc.) that are historically under-represented in the government is quite high. It will be fascinating to see how the outcomes of these elections show a desire for continuity or change in the American people,” Sarah Courtney, history teacher, said.

After numerous allegations and accusations against President Trump and his supposed ties with Russia, Democrats are hoping to take control over Congress and Senate to keep the investiga-

tions running.

“The Republican majority in the House of Representatives is one of the strongest in the last hundred years, and though President Trump’s first two years in office have certainly provoked a lot of opposition, some even from within his own party, I am not certain that the American people will have shifted drastically in terms of their choices for representatives,” Courtney said.

If Democrats do turn the tables in this election, the investigations for Trump’s Administration would be pushed and further documented. They would be able to send subpoenas for documents and instigate more witnesses to come in and testify.

Currently, Democrats need 24 seats in the House of Representatives (HOR) to flip control and 38 Grand Old Party (GOP) members have since announced

retirement before this election. In addition to hoping to regain control, Democrats are also planning to prevent further damage to the American people by hindering seemingly nonsensical notions by the Republican Party.

“That being said, the number of open seats (representatives who are not seeking re-election) is great this year and open seats tend to be more likely to flip, so the Democrats certainly have an opportunity to gain significant numbers in Congress,” Courtney said.

Since the Republicans initiate a bill to rid funding for Planned Parenthood and similar programs such as the Hurricane Relief Act of 2017 and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the GOP seems to be going further downhill. Many Democrats believe that if they take back the HOR, then they can revert these laws

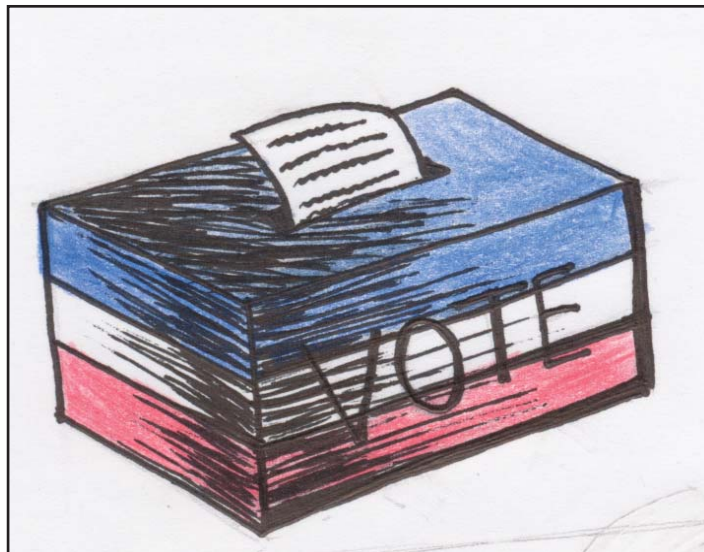
to what they believe in and begin to make the desperate and drastic changes. Some of these include removing tax cuts and keeping Obamacare.

“We also have several state constitutional amendments on the ballot, including several proposals to legalize medical marijuana and a proposal to increase the minimum wage to \$12.00/hr,” Courtney said.

As of September, Democrats are predicted to win the majority vote, but it is unclear if the Millennials will be voting. It is hoped that they vote in favor of the Democratic Party so that the board is not completely tipping in one direction--a direction I fear and stand against. The elections take place on November 6 of this year, and it is crucial that everyone who can--votes.

“I feel strongly that the involvement of citizens in civic responsibility of voting is vital. As US citizens, we have the privilege of choosing our leaders and, on the local level, the laws under which we live. We must take advantage of this privilege in order to create a society and a government that more adequately represent and respond to the views and priorities of our population,” Courtney said.

Whether you are a Republican and want full control of the HOR, or a Democrat that wants balance it is absolutely important to vote for whomever you believe in.



Graphic by April Cowan

# Standing Up by Sitting Down

AJConner-StaffReporter

Sometimes the strangest things can come from listening to children speak. This became evident to me upon hearing my eight-year-old sister recite the Pledge of Allegiance with her dolls. I asked her if she knew what she was saying and I found that she did not understand most of the words in the pledge, but she still stood for it each morning at school.

It is impossible to discuss the Pledge without talking about politics. Some find the Pledge to be a statement of their patriotism, others do not. The meaning each person draws from it is their own, and elementary school children that do not understand the definitions of the words in the Pledge are unable to form their opinions of it. However, most school days begin with a request to stand for the Pledge. If a child does not know what “allegiance” means, a word that appears in the title before the Pledge begins, how are they to know what they are standing for?

“I think that we should be proud of the country we live in because even though we have problems—we do have problems, and that’s just gonna happen—but I think that we have more first world problems: our problems are major in our own sense, but there are other countries that have different problems we don’t have, and I think we have a really good life here. I think standing for

the pledge is one thing I can do to show that I support this country,” Madelyn Taylor, sophomore, said.

In beginning each day like this, without explaining the meaning, children just accept the Pledge without having the knowledge to consider what they really think of it.

Recently, social media and word of mouth have spread around a revolution, one that started with the Black Lives Matter movement and made Colin Kaepernick’s kneeling for the national anthem a national discussion.

However, the willingness of citizens to question the small things in this country is not new. In fact, the Supreme Court case that enables students to exercise a right to not stand for the Pledge was decided in 1943. The West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnett case began with two students; the children of a Jehovah’s Witness refused to stand for the Pledge and the students were expelled. The students’ father decided to push back, and the case made its way to the Supreme Court, where a 6-1 decision led by Justice Jackson overruled a previous case that allowed schools to force their students to stand. Jackson defended his ruling by stating the First Amendment rights of students allow them to not stand for or recite the Pledge if they so wish.

Soon after this case, in 1954,

President Eisenhower requested an addition to the Pledge. Communism had reared its ugly head, and Americans were afraid of “godless Communism”. Thus, a line was added: under God. Debate has since spiraled in America over whether the line is overstepping boundaries. America was founded on Christian principles after all, but the Constitution states the country is not allowed to establish an official religion or imply it. Does the mention of God overstep? I say no. It is possible to believe in one god that is not the God of Christianity, and it is possible to believe in something greater than humanity that is not a god.

Overall, the decision of each individual to stand or not stand is their own.

“I think that we need to be open minded and let this melting pot of America be able to voice its opinions. If people feel inclined not to stand then that is their right, as well as people that do want to stand for the pledge, so I feel like we should be open to others’ ideas and be respectful and considerate of whatever they choose to do,” Michele Holt, personal finance teacher, said.

Whether you stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance with your hand over your heart or stay seated and demonstrate the rights you also possess, anyone can see that America is a wildly changing country with diverse people and ideas. It will be up to students to define the future of patriotism. This is, after all, one nation.



Graphic by April Cowan

# Voting Is The Best Way To Change Our Country

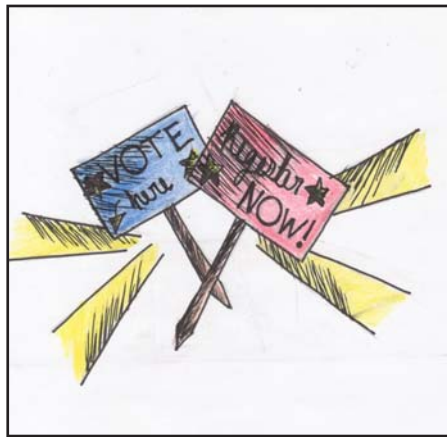
DavidStevens-StaffReporter

A democracy is defined as “a system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives,” - or better put, a government ruled by the people. But this doesn’t work if the people choose not to rule. The whole system falls apart. Take the last presidential election: It was extremely divisive and in a time where we need unity and resolution, we saw one of the most dramatic declines in participation in election history.

The responsibility and responsiveness of government entirely hinges on the obligation we as citizens have to come out and vote. Voting is the best way to incite change and government response.

Justin Collis, social studies teacher, said, “You have to let the politicians know exactly what you want and if that voice is strong enough - I mean you’ve seen the Supreme Court, you’ve seen politicians, they want to keep their careers, and the Supreme Court will generally rule with public opinion over time, not immediately, but over time they will.”

A democracy is entirely dependent on the people to function and was built with the populace in mind. A government built without the people in mind will never be held responsible to the wellbeing of the people. Citizens who believe voting doesn’t change anything are caught in a self-sabotaging cycle of political apathy. They create this by not voting.



Graphic by April Cowan

Everyone who doesn’t vote only adds to the feeling of powerlessness, and the only way to break it is to just get up and vote.

“I wish more people would get out and vote - more people would get out and participate. It’s an important part of a democracy and it’s the only way that we’re going to maintain it - people getting out to exercise their voice. That’s what

our government is built on,” Collis said.

Not to say that there are not genuine reasons not to vote; many find the process of registering inconvenient and stressful, which has a significant effect on the turnout. People are worried about work, daycare, transportation and school. There are many barriers between us and the voting booth but Collis offered an ingenious simple solution.

“People are worried about getting to work, they are worried about feeding their families ... generally you have to leave work, get in a voting booth, wait in line then you have to come right back to work or whatever the case might be. Make it like a holiday, if you have those days off you’ll see people getting out and doing things,” Collis said.

If there truly is a strong desire to make change - if there truly is a will to right a wrong, then take action. The age to register is 17 and a half and the age for voting is 18. To whomever it may concern, here’s a URL where all good Americans may register:

<https://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/govotemissouri/register>

# The Bamboozled Bewitched

MariaSmith-JuniorEditor

With things like the show “Supernatural” and “Buzzfeed Unsolved” gaining popularity more and more people have taken on a belief of the paranormal. While ghosts, ghouls and other supernatural beings have steadily kept a spot in box offices and on the tv screen they did not start off that way. Holidays like the day of the dead and a pre-commercialism Halloween celebrate a day for spirits to come across the veil.

Some people start believing in ghosts when they are young due to the media’s coverage the subject.

“I was always into supernatural stuff as a kid because I loved fantasy and fiction. It seemed like it was plausible when I saw a ghost as a kid,” Anne Ball, senior, said.

She started to believe due to her interest in fiction, but she quickly took her interest to a new level by seeking out more paranormal experiences.

“I went on a paranormal investigation to the Missouri State Penitentiary. We took pictures, recordings and a seance. We used a spirit box to communi-

cate better and a white box to throw bursts of energy and radio waves out,” Ball said.

While the media and childish imagination can lead one direction, some people have different reasons not to believe.

“[I don’t believe in ghosts] because it just doesn’t make sense to me. My way of thinking is that when you die you are gone. Nothing is there waiting for you. You are just not there like before you were born. There was nothing. No time, no light, no dark, no sound, just nothing,” Logan Neal, freshman, said.

While this is a fairly common belief with people who do not believe in ghosts, Neal takes his reasoning a step further.

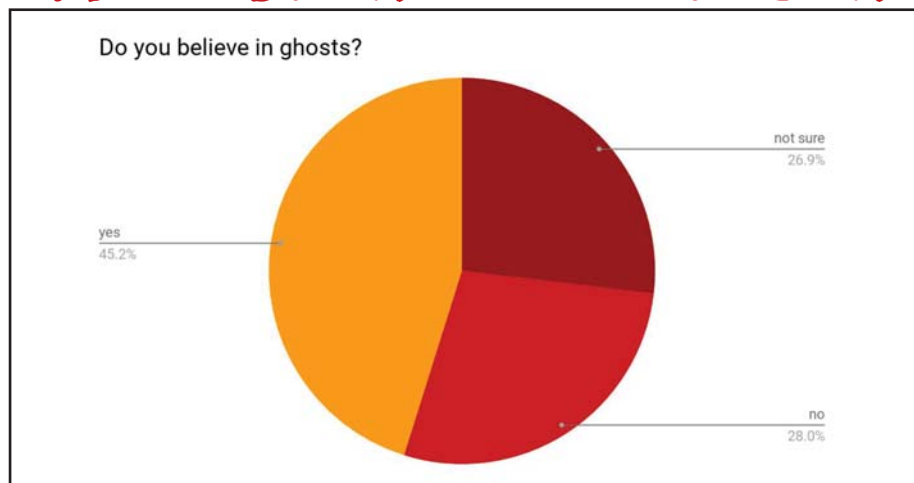
“So if there was such things as ghosts they would be created by our own minds because we are hurting because a loved one died and you are just wishing they

would come back. We will do anything just to talk to them for a small amount of time. So, no, I don’t believe in ghosts because there is nothing after life,” Neal said.

Some people claim that they know the answer to this widely debated topic and others simply do not know.

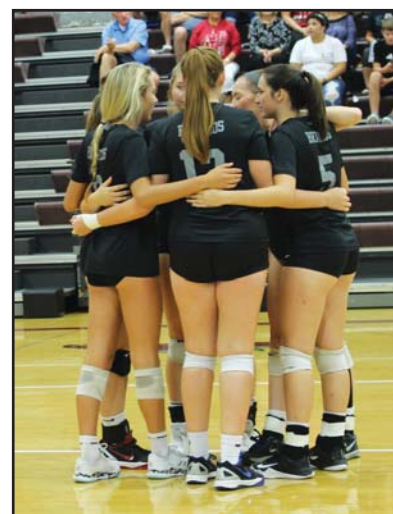
“I believe in them, but also I don’t believe in everything I see. I guess that I’m both a skeptic and a believer,” Madeline Godfrey, sophomore, said.

According to this survey of people at North, 45.2% of people that participated said that they do believe in ghosts, 26.9% say that they are not sure if they believe in ghosts and 28% say that they do not believe in ghosts. It is hard to say if anyone is right in this debate. The world might never know the answer. Ghosts, ghouls and the paranormal may just have to stay unknown.



*Survey Statistics based off student responses.*

# NORTH IN PHOTOS



Photos by Tiyah Gipson and Maria Bisby

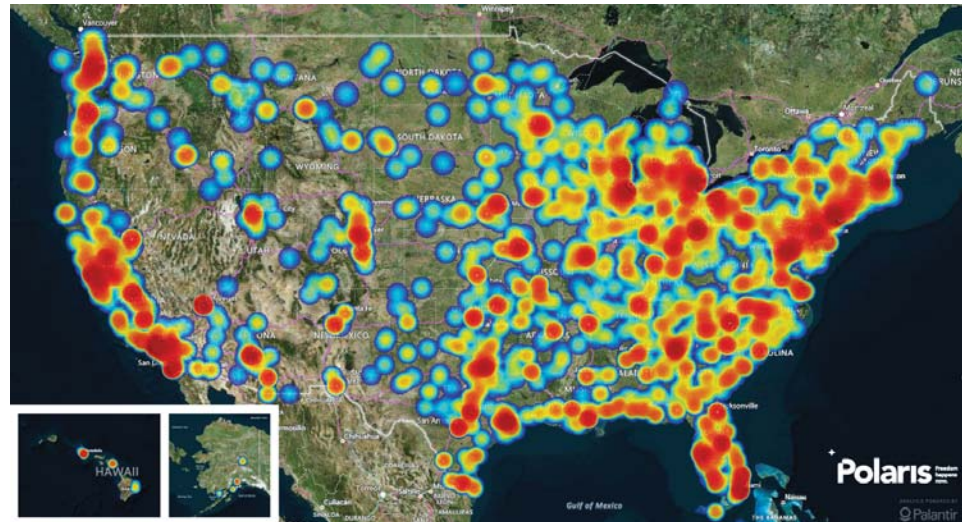
# SENIOR'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING SCARE BECOMES LEARNING EXPERIENCE

KaylerSmith-StaffReporter

Nobody thinks it could happen to them, until it does. Lee's Summit North senior, Sidney Grego, found this out the hard way. She recalled her chilling experience as she shared it publically through Twitter to warn others of these dangers.

"So I was leaving my house to go to Chipotle and I noticed this car was behind me and he was kind of riding my bumper and I just thought he was being a jerk, then I went all the way to Chipotle and he went to the gas station that was next to Chipotle. I was in there for two minutes. I had an order, I just called ahead. Then he was behind me again and once we got onto Adams Dairy he was riding my butt again and then he gets in the other lane and tries to get in front of me, but didn't use a blinker so I didn't let him over because there was traffic and I was stopping at the light," Grego said.

There has recently been a plethora of people in the Midwest sharing stories of potential human trafficking kidnap attempts similar to Grego's through Twitter as a way



*A map of where the most human trafficking has occurred. -Courtesy of the National Human Trafficking Hotline*

to make others aware of these things happening.

"I think everything is surfacing more on social media. I think people are becoming more comfortable with it. The more the stories come out the more people are becoming comfortable with sharing their stories and what's going on," John Heil, LSN Resource Officer, said.

There has been some heightened nerves from students because of these incidents and while this is not a new issue, it has become more prevalent in the area. As a school, there has been a lack of education of such, but administration hopes to spread more awareness about personal safety.

"If you're going to

be in a public area or you're going to be somewhere late, just be aware and do not have your head down in your phone. You see those clips of people running into walls and holes, they have their head down in their phone, they have no awareness of what's going on," Rhea Moses, assistant principal, said.

If a student ever feels they are in a suspicious situation or feel uneasy about their surroundings they need to try to remain as calm as possible and get him or herself to safety.

"Usually if something makes the hair on the back of your neck stand up, there's

probably a reason for that... Stay in a public area, call the police and we'll come out and check," Heil said.

As soon as the driver following Grego saw her get on the phone, he drove away. Grego hopes other students can learn from her experience and be more aware of what is going on around them.

"I wanted everyone to know that it could happen to anyone, I mean I didn't think it could happen to me but it did and I just wanted people to be aware," Grego said.

It is important for people to be aware of their surroundings as to avoid potentially dangerous situations like these.

# Girls' Volleyball Sets Up for a New Season

MariaBisby-StaffReporter



*The team rallies after they score a point against Liberty. Photo by Tiyah Gipson.*

The girls varsity volleyball team has already hopped into a new season, and there are higher hopes for this year's varsity team. Varsity coming out of a six win season, they have a big hope of taking the win at districts. The girls team is working harder than ever and they have even bigger goals this year compared to last year.

The girls team had a win percentage of .188%. They had a 2-26 season for their 2017-18 season and were ranked 109 in the state of Missouri.

"It is hard to compare the two years, [especially] with there being new girls for each year. We have five returning varsity members this year and a drive to compete,"

Shelby Hoffman, varsity volleyball coach, said.

Varsity is constantly working to improve and they show this through their constant hard work and willingness to compete.

"[This year's goal for the team] is to make it to districts," Bailey Willis, sophomore, said.

Districts are on October 22 of this year for the 2018-19 season. For the 2017-18 season they went 1-9. While districts are on players' mind, coaches have a different point of view.

"I hope they figure out how to play as a team on each point for every game! It takes a lot to give your all for every point, but it will feel so worth it in the end,"

Hoffman said.

Varsity's first chance to show what they could do at their first game was August 28 against Liberty North. They took a devastating loss in the first set 25-19 and the second set 13-25. They had different expectations for their first game.

"I was expecting to come out and play together. I feel like we did that but we need to work on it more," Jayln Walruff, freshman, said. Overall each player has stepped up their game for this year's season,

"Cori Corrado is leading our team in kills currently and Mallo-ry Meers is leading in assists. All of our seniors are taking ownership in this year and fighting for

what they are hoping to be an awesome season. We have some freshman who are stepping up and commanding attention on the varsity level. Jalyn Walruff is leading our team in solo blocks currently and is eager to push her teammates!" Hoffman said.

This year's team so far has had a 2-7 season, and winning their first game against William Christman in the second week of the season. They also rank at currently 231 in the state of Missouri and 6226 in the nation. They did not move ranking from last year's season to this year's season. The future for girls volleyball is already looking brighter for future seasons.



*Hannah Robinson getting ready to serve for the team. Photo by Tiyah Gipson.*

# The Tee on Girls' Golf

*Jacob Sellinger-Staff Reporter*



*Brooke Binger teeing up to the ball.*

*Photo courtesy of Matt Bolch*

As the fall season of school sports begins, the girls' golf team is in full swing. While girls' golf may not compete at such a high intensity as the other fall sports, they do still compete at a competitive level. The LSN Girls' golf team may maintain a relaxed, open, and fun atmosphere but it is nonetheless more than qualified to compete at a high level and represent the best of North.

"Girls Golf differs from other sports at North because in this sport, consistency is key. At our practices, we only have one goal; to hit the ball

further than we did the last one," Brooke Binger, senior, said.

The girls' golf team gives the opportunity for girls of varied experience levels and grades to come together in a relaxed environment and do what they love.

Practices are relaxed and the coaches, although laid back, are eager to help one improve creating an amazing team atmosphere that not only fosters the love of the sport but also fosters the love of competition and improvement.

"I chose to play golf because it's a small team and the girls are so nice and

it's such a good environment and the coaches are great," Alli Russell, senior, said.

Golf demands its own kind of focus and determination that is found in few other sports, it is not about raw speed and agility and is not decided by who is physically larger; the winner is decided by focus on one's technique, form, and control. The golfers, while having a fun time, learn skills that don't just apply to golf but apply to life.

"Golf requires a calm and determined state of mind, as well as focus relating to school, as we are

constantly missing school for tournaments, and have to find a way to catch up," Natalie Eisenmenger, junior, said.

While golf is a sport that takes a lot of time to play, most of the players will say that they have a really fun time during the season and it helps them relieve stress from the school day. The pressure to compete, instead of causing adrenaline rushes and anxiety as in other sports, is focused on slowing down and focusing on form and technique and all the little things that go into making a great player, student, and citizen.



*Photo courtesy of Matt Bolch*

# The Crimson Cafe

*MadiSmith-CopyEditor*



*Ms. Green taking orders from students in the Crimson Cafe.*

*Photo by Tiyah Gipson.*

Late for school and left the house without some morning coffee? Pulled an all nighter, had three cups this morning but half-way through the day the caffeine crash hits? Well, beginning this year, the Life Skills program has your back, serving coffee and other drinks throughout the day on the first floor between the office and the commons.

"I like working in the cafe because I get to meet new people who I will get to talk to," Dylan Alexander, senior and worker at the cafe, said.

This new program providing hot chocolate, coffee and tea to the student body and staff of LSN is called the Crimson Cafe. The cafe is run by the Life Skills department and was inspired by a similar program in Colombia. LSN began the program last year, making and delivering a variety of drinks

to the staff members at school. This year, the cafe now has its own room, located in between Elliot Hall and the Commons and serves to anyone who stops in. The cafe officially opened Aug 29 and ever since has been a popular stop for most students and staff.

"My favorite drink to make is the coffee because it is the easiest," Dante Adcock, freshman and worker at the cafe, said.

As beneficial as the Cafe is for the sleep deprived student, the program is also extremely helpful to any of the kids taking the Life Skills class. It provides them with the opportunity to practice working with customers in settings similar to which they will see when they graduate high school.

The Crimson Cafe has been supported by many departments in the LSR7 district and many people worked hard to make it happen. So far, that hard work has paid off as the Cafe has been a hit.

"We were able to make the Crimson Cafe happen with the help of the District, a PEAK Grant, LSN administration, and the Facilities Staff working hard on renovations! We have had a lot of support with this project!" Brooke Green, life skills teacher, said.

The Crimson Cafe is open in the mornings before school starts and during bronco time on

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. They serve tea, hot chocolate and coffee; with creamer and sugar readily available. Sizes range from small to large with prices ranging from 50 cents to \$1.50. Only cash is accepted as payment.

"The cafe is nice because it gives the Life Skills kids experience for like jobs and stuff, and they have fun! Plus it's nice to be able to grab a cup of coffee or hot chocolate with your friends and not have to wake up way early to swing by Starbucks," Jessica Carnnahan, senior, said.

Be sure to check out the Crimson Cafe this week to fulfill that early morning or mid-day caffeine craving and to support our school's Life Skills program.



*The Crimson Cafe and Gallery.*

*Photo by Jillian Jamaledin.*

# Gracen Bell: Freshman On The Rise

*Tiyah Gipson-Junior Editor*



*Some of Gracen's teammates: Myles Shaw, Raheem Fisher, Keyon Mozee, and Jaylen Hickles.*

*Photo by Tiyah Gipson.*

Gracen Bell, freshman, began his 2018-2019 football season this year with the Broncos on varsity. Gracen has a unique size; he is 6'5" and has been playing football for a while now. Not only does he have awesome athletic ability, but the coaches say he also has the ability to know the game very well, and so far, Bell is beginning the season as an outstanding asset to the team.

"Gracen helps us out on the team a lot, for a freshman. He should start every game," Christian Carter, senior, said.

Gracen was not just put on varsity, he worked really hard over the summer, comes to

practice everyday and brings his everything to the field. On top of that the coaches saw a lot of positive potential in him and thought he handled his responsibilities well.

"He's always smiling, everybody likes him and he earned it," Jason Jones, assistant coach, said.

He works really hard and never complains. He is a great teammate and he fits in well and gets along with the upperclassmen and follows in line, being that the North football team is a senior led team.

"Our team is solid, having him on the team is a plus. He's been a great addition and I believe he has gained the

older guys respect," Jamar Mozee, head coach, said.

The coaching staff must take into consideration the pressures put on the upperclassmen when placing a freshman on varsity.

"Moving someone up always puts pressure on the upperclassmen, it creates competition, but competition is a good thing, it make the team better," Mozee said.

"If anything, it shows we play the best players no matter the grade," Jones said.

For years now the Bell family has kept up a big football legacy. This legacy began with Bell's grandfather Bobby Bell, who was a linebacker and defensive end in the NFL. Following his grandfather's success came his dad and all of his accomplishments, he was the fourth

round pick to the New York Jets in 1984.

"I know his grandfather was a legendary football player for the KC Chiefs, he earned the highest honor a football player can earn, his dad also played for the New York Jets and the Chicago Bears," Mozee said.

With all of these outstanding achievements, Gracen not only has some pretty big shoes to fill during his high school career, but after in the football industry and possibly more. As long as Gracen continues to be the player he is now, he is going to go very far. According to the coaches, in three years or so he has the ability to be an amazing, top tier high school football player. One of the best players in the area and a big time college prospect.



*A look into Gracen's football practice.*

*Photo by Tiyah Gipson.*

*MariaSmith-JuniorEditor*

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- A simple line drawing of three pumpkins. Two are in the foreground, one slightly behind the other, and a third is to the right. They are orange with black outlines and green stems.