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### Mercy Newsprint Editorial Policy:

As Mercy Newsprint staff we promise to keep you entertained and informed with accurate and unbiased information. Our goal is to provide timely news while promoting diversity and representing the entirety of the Mercy community. We encourage letters to the editors and any other feedback you may have. You may reach out to us through our email ([newsprint@mhsmi.org](mailto:newsprint@mhsmi.org)), our Instagram ([@mercy.newsprint](https://www.instagram.com/mercy.newsprint)), or through any of our staff members.

# First time to the polls for Mercy seniors

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MAURA MCSWEENEY

On the first Tuesday of every November, Americans get together to vote for their elected officials. Whether it is every four years to elect a president or every two years to elect a state representative, voting is an important part of our democracy. In recent years, young voters have become very involved in the political sphere and have discovered new ways of finding out information.

This year is a midterm election which means that Americans will not be voting for a President, but this does not mean that this election is not important. From voting for proposals on the ballot in your state to voting for national representatives, there are many important decisions for U.S. citizens.

As we approach this year's midterm elections and some of Mercy's seniors are voting for the first time, it is important to understand the importance of voting and the impact it really has. This year, in Michigan, there are three very big proposals on the ballot that will likely impact you. Some elections may be decided by only a few votes so registering and voting can truly make a difference.

"Your voice is important especially in local elections where you have a smaller population voting. You are close to the people and the topics that you're voting for," Mrs. Cindy Richter said. "But even in the big national election your voice matters and we get to decide what is important to our population based on

who we put in office."

"Voter turnout at midterm elections is typically lower than at a presidential race, but it's interesting because if you look at our ballot, you're really voting for all of your representatives and some of your senators," Richter said. "You're voting for all of your local stuff that affects you the most."

Finding reliable information about candidates and other topics up for voting and being educated is extremely important when going to the polls. In this day and age, young voters are finding new ways to look for information about candidates and elections, such as TikTok and Instagram. This new way of information is in addition to reputable sources such as news stations or sources and getting both perspectives from these sources as there is a lot of biased information in the media.

"[A candidate's] ad campaign popped up on my TikTok, so I did more research into him and his TikTok was very appealing to me because he is obviously trying to appeal to my age group," senior Alexis Conway said. "Some of the stuff that he was saying went with my views and what I have been taught to view."

Senior Grace Roberts has also been attempting to find different sources of information with the help of her parents. Discussing topics in a calm, productive environment can be very helpful in discerning what to do.

"My parents and I have been discussing where to find information and we've been finding a lot of things online through ads and TV," Roberts said.

Voting is extremely important and being educated about what and who you are voting for can make a big difference. If you are old enough to vote, register and take advantage of an opportunity that not everyone has.

"Never take for granted that we have this right to vote, don't waste it, but also educate yourself before you go to the polls," Richter said. "There's other countries and places out there that don't have this right and I think that we need to make sure that we're exercising it and protecting it."



To find more about how to register to vote and where to go, check out [michigan.gov/](https://michigan.gov/)!

## Maroon & Gold Raffle

STORY: JULIA LORELLI, SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS EDITOR

The weather is getting colder, but the competition for the Maroon & Gold Raffle is heating up. As a school, Mercy has already made the money needed for the first and second additional days off which are April 4th and May 12th. The more tickets that are sold, the more days students get off of school.

Even though the closing ceremony is tomorrow, tickets can be turned in through November 4th. The closing ceremony will reveal who were the top sellers along with the winning class which will put those students one step closer to an additional day off of school.

As of now, there are \$106,595 raised through the Maroon and Gold Raffle and the freshman have the lead in ticket sales. If the raffle can make \$150,000, students will also earn Friday, May 26th off.

Proceeds from the Maroon & Gold Raffle are used for many reasons to benefit the school.

"The main reasons we have the maroon and gold raffle include working to bridge the tuition gap, curriculum enhancements, faculty upgrades and technology updates," senior

class board representative Ella Sinawi said.

In case anyone has missed it on the announcements, there are so many benefits to turning in your tickets. Getting to come to school in pajamas during December is super comfortable and everyone enjoys being warm and cozy while it is freezing outside. Students who have turned in their tickets can also be out of uniform during the hotter part of the school year, closer to and during finals. Everyone is going to want to be out of uniform while it is either freezing or boiling outside.

The top sellers in the school will also earn cash prizes: \$150 for the top school seller and \$100 for the second best seller. The class that has a combination of the most spirit points and most sold raffle tickets will also earn an additional day off of school.

Important Dates:

November 1: \$175,000 goal

November 4: last day to turn in tickets

November 28: out of uniform for fall

November 23: off

May 12: off

May 26: off if raffle raises \$150,000

April 4: out of uniform for spring



Mercy Student Government starts the Maroon & Gold Raffle. Photo by Julia Lorelli

The benefits have already started with winners being pulled each day to receive gift cards to places such as Starbucks, Dunkin', Amazon, Target, Panera and Ther Mercy cafe. Mrs. Andrea Kowalyk's, Mrs. Shelley Bajorek's, and Mr. Curt Klueg's adviser groups won a Crumbl Cookies party by bringing in the most money through October 21.



# Breast Cancer Awareness Month

STORY AND GRAPHICS: **ALYSSA TISCH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**



The month of October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This month is an annual international health campaign put together by different charities to increase awareness of this disease and to raise funds for research, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure.

So, what is breast cancer? Breast cancer is a type of cancer where cells in the breast grow out of control. Both men and women could get breast cancer, however it is more commonly found in women. There are several types of breast cancer, but the two most common are invasive ductal carcinoma and invasive lobular carcinoma.

In invasive ductal carcinoma breast cancer, cancer cells begin growing in the breast ducts before spreading to other parts of the breast tissue and then potentially to other parts of the body as well.

In invasive lobular carcinoma breast cancer, cancer cells begin their growth in the breast lobules before expanding outwards to other parts of the breast tissue and again potentially to other parts of the body, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Breast cancer can be treated in a variety of ways. There could be a surgery where doctors cut out the cancer tissue, chemotherapy where drugs are administered to shrink or kill the cells, hormonal therapy which blocks cancer cells from getting the hormones they need to grow, biological therapy which works with your body's

immune system to help it fight off the cancer cells, or finally radiation therapy that uses high-energy rays to kill the cells according to the CDC.

Today, Mercy is conducting their annual PINK OUT where students can pay \$5 to be out of uniform wearing the color pink. The proceeds will go to the Angel Pillow Project (a project that provides heart pillows as well as comfort and support to breast cancer patients), Beaumont Hospital Sharing and Caring (a patient-driven network that helps breast cancer survivors in their recovery) and St. Mary Mercy Hospital Marian Women's Center (a hospital in Livonia, Michigan).

"[Students and faculty can promote awareness of the month] by participating in the fundraiser as well as learning about breast cancer on their own," Mrs. Eleasha Tarplin, Dean of Student Affairs said. "Self breast examinations are encouraged for students and staff and [as well as] encouraging their moms, grandmoms, sisters and other female relatives to have regular mammograms."

These examinations are key for early detection of the disease.

"I started having mammograms regularly once my doctor told me to," Tarplin said. "I take it seriously, however, once my mom was diagnosed in 2021, with no history of the disease in our family, it became real. I also had two other good friends around my age diagnosed in 2020 and 2021, all with different types of breast cancer, that called for different treatments

from surgery to chemotherapy. I want to stress that early detection is so important when it comes to breast cancer."

Another option to celebrate this month is this year, the National Breast Cancer Foundation (NBCF) is putting on a fundraiser called RISE where people can select exactly what they want their donations to go to. People can choose to have their money go to a multitude of different categories: screening, education, support or a general fund where NBCF directs donations to the areas with the greatest need.

Additionally, on NBCF's website they have a calendar posted with different things that you can do everyday in honor of the month ranging from sharing words of encouragement on their Wall of Support to learning what to say and what not to say when someone shares with you that they have breast cancer. While this month is coming to a close, you can still look back at this calendar and complete these activities regardless of the date to make the most of them.

With a new person being diagnosed with breast cancer every fourteen seconds, according to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, it is unfortunately likely that most people know someone with breast cancer in their life making it crucial for everyone to take time out of their day and truly honor this month.

# Dive into diversity: Native American Heritage Month

STORY AND GRAPHICS: **MAURA MCSWEENEY**

As October ends and November approaches, National Native American Heritage Month approaches as well. A time of remembrance and reverence for the history of Native Americans and what they have endured throughout the history of the United States comes with the celebration of Native American cultures and contributions to this nation.

Celebrated since 1990, when President George H.W. Bush declared November as Native American Month, the United States takes the month to celebrate and remember everything that Native Americans have endured. According to the U.S. Department of the Interior, Native American Heritage Month "is a time to celebrate the rich histories, diverse cultures, and important contributions of our nation's first people."

Celebrating the histories of all peoples in the United States is of the utmost importance as it is critical that we understand and respect everyone's cultures. Mrs. Traci Smith, the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion here at Mercy, expressed the significance of learning about everyone's cultures.

"The United States is a tapestry made of several different races and ethnicities who have all made significant contributions to our nation, and they should

be acknowledged," Smith said. "These celebrations help to foster understanding and respect for other cultures."

Recognizing Native American Heritage Month is one thing, but actually celebrating and commemorating this month respectfully is another thing. Attending educational events and learning about the Native American history of your area are just some of the ways that you can help understand and respect Native American history and culture.

"Learn how many Native Americans call Native Americans call Thanksgiving a Day of Mourning because of the tragedies that occurred once Europeans landed in North America," Smith said.

While participating in these educational activities, it is also important to know what not to do in order to pay respect to Native American culture. We often see sports teams or school mascots that continue to reinforce racist statements and stereotypes. Smith named a few don'ts when asked about commemorating Native American Heritage Month.

"Don't desecrate sacred Native garb by wearing cultural or spiritual items as costumes," said Smith. "Don't erase Native history by not recognizing them as the first settlers and title holders of this continent."

There is much more that you can do for Native Americans during this month, but, the most important thing, is being willing to learn and respecting cultures that you may not be familiar with.

"In all cultural celebrations be sure to take the lead of those who are in the culture," Smith said. "They are your cultural guides."



# Current news in the world

STORY: LENA LAJOY

## Hardship in Ukraine continues

The war in Ukraine rages on as hostility between Russia and Ukraine continues to rise.

Recently, a bridge exploded in Russia which connects Russia to its neighboring peninsula Crimea. President Vladimir Putin was especially upset about this attack, blaming Ukrainian special services for an organized attack, yet Ukraine has not come forward to claim responsibility for the explosion.

According to BBC reporter Aoife Walsh, President Putin blames Ukrainian intelligence forces for the destruction of the Crimean bridge claiming it was a planned attack on Russia.

President Putin is especially upset about this explosion because of the bridge's significance to Russia. The bridge is used for civilians and for Russian troops to gain access to Ukraine, and provide their militia with supplies. Due to this bridge being used by civilians and the military, Ukraine does not want to claim responsibility so as to avoid further conflict.

Marko Milanovic and Michael N. Schmitt of Lieber Westpoint reported that in response to the attack missiles and armed drones were sent into civil-

ian centers.

Despite Ukraine not claiming to have harmed the bridge, the attack has helped the country. The bridge was a way for Russia to access Ukraine and bring their own militia into the Ukraine.

According to the New York Times, the Crimean bridge has been used by Russia to send military forces into southern Ukraine since the initial invasion.

Sadly, in response to this attack on the Russian bridge, missiles were launched on the Ukrainian city Zaporizhzhia. This city is filled with civilians, some of whom had fled their homes to avoid fighting closer to where they lived, and moved to Zaporizhzhia.

"Thirteen people have died and the injury count has risen to 89 people, among them 11 children, in the rocket attack by Russian forces on the city of Zaporizhzhia, a top Ukrainian official said," according to CNN.

In our own community at Mercy, last school year, students in the Pro-Life Club helped organize a fundraiser for refugees around the world after hostility in Ukraine began.

"When the crisis in Ukraine was

starting in February into March, when it became an all out war we were all upset by the everyday struggles people have to go through, women, men and children, etc.," Mrs. Lauren Marquard said.

Through student efforts Mercy was able to raise money to donate to a center which would directly distribute the money raised to countries with refugees in need.

"After all the money was counted, we found out that we raised just over \$1,000 for refugees across the world!" senior Emma May said. "All the proceeds went to Catholic Relief Services, and were sent to support the refugees and the crisis as a whole in Ukraine, Ethiopia, Rohingya, Venezuela, Syria, Afghanistan and Central American Countries."

The ongoing war in Ukraine has resulted in a great loss of life and destroyed homes and families. Hopefully, at some point in the near future, the conflict will end and Ukrainian citizens can begin rebuilding their country.

## How did this conflict start?

- In 2014, the seizing of Crimea resulted in hostility between Ukraine and Russia

- Ukraine originally wanted to join NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) which angered Putin

- President Putin aimed to demilitarize Ukraine and ensure the country remained neutral

- Putin has problems with NATO due to his belief that the group is deliberately holding troops close to Russia's border

- The invasion happened on February 24

(cfr.com) and (bbc.com)



Map of the border between Russia and Ukraine. Photo used with permission by University of Texas Libraries.

## Hurricane hits Florida and affects our community

In Cuba, Florida, South Carolina and Puerto Rico, Hurricane Ian has caused devastation destroying homes and also affecting people in the Mercy community.

Specifically, in Florida, flood damage has been a major problem for residents. Flooding has made it difficult for families to acquire help and the basic necessities they need for life. Many civilians needed to be helped from their homes to escape damage.

"All told, nearly 6,000 homes in the county have been damaged, with some homes mired in water up to the owners' shoulders. Hundreds of residents had to be rescued, many of them with help from the National Guard," reported The Washington Post.

In our own Mercy community, families have been affected by Hurricane Ian. Wind and rain created devastating effects on many homes, schools and businesses in Florida, especially on the west coast. In fact, one student's condo on Sanibel Island

was completely destroyed.

"The whole condo and complex was taken down to the studs," freshman Aurene Stoltz-Bango said.

The intensity of the tropical storm also led to widespread power outages in many parts of Florida.

Rebecca Santana of AP News reported that the hurricane took power out for around 2.6 million people in Florida due to the storm's wind intensity of 150 mph (241 kph).

Power outages happened all over the areas affected by the hurricane and even some further outside the areas by the coast. Mr. Adam Walker's parents recently moved near Orlando, Florida and despite their distance from the coast, they still experienced some power outage problems.

"Orlando is inland enough that they only lost power for approximately 24-36 hours," Walker said.

Many individuals all over Florida are struggling to protect and provide for them-

selves due to the disastrous effects of Hurricane Ian. One way to help is by donating to groups that help with flooding and providing supplies after natural disasters. Specifically, the Red Cross which is working hard to help aid those in need in Florida.

"More than 1,600 Red Crossers from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are supporting relief efforts," (redcross.org).

Hopefully relief will be reached soon for Floridian families and those in Puerto Rico, Cuba and South Carolina. With the hurricane having passed by, rebuilding can begin and individuals can attempt to restore their homes and lives.



Aurene Stoltz-Bangos Florida home destroyed after the recent Hurricane in Florida. Photo used with permission by Aurene Stoltz-Bango.



# Mercy haunted house: back after 2 year hiatus

STORY AND GRAPHICS: MAURA SULLIVAN

From ghosts and goblins to vampires and werewolves, the scares the Halloween season can bring are endless. One way in which people like to get into the Halloween spirit is by visiting haunted houses. Here at Mercy, the International Thespian Society (ITS) will be hosting a haunted house, so all students can get a taste of Halloween fun.

On October 28th, from 2nd to 6th hour in the drama hall, Mercy students can experience the thrill of the Mercy haunted house. Most students have not had the experience of visiting the haunted house, as it has not happened since 2019 due to COVID-19.

"I know that it has been a Mercy staple for many years," senior and ITS President Valentina Hutter said. "We do this because it is an opportunity for Mercy students to show off their talents and to have fun in a one of a kind way."

Despite this being a new role for many in the theater department, ITS is determined to give Mercy students a good scare.

"For the haunted house, people have to be casted, we have to get our costumes and do our own horror makeup, we have to think about a storyline and a workable flow through the haunted house, and we have to build the house itself in the drama studio," Hutter said. "Mostly people prepare on their own, but we normally do a couple of run-throughs to work out any kinks."

One ITS member who is excited to show off

their new scaring skills is senior Ava Radze.

"As this is my first and last ITS haunted house, I have been preparing by practicing my maniacal laugh and facial expressions," Radze said.

ITS Vice President Emilee Theofanopoulos is also ready for the haunted house.

"Really nothing is off limits, so I'm excited," Theofanopoulos said. "The only thing we can't do is touch people."

It is not just ITS members who are excited for this year's haunted house. Many seniors are eager to visit the attraction because they have fond memories of it from freshman year.

"I remember going to the haunted house my freshman year and absolutely loving it," senior Kate Stahl said. "I think I ended up going three or four times."

Getting ready for the haunted house is a lot of work and the ITS members are excited to showcase their talents to all their classmates.

"My favorite part of the haunted house is the fact that your very own classmates can transform themselves into someone or something that's totally unrecognizable and terrifying. I am looking forward to seeing Mercy terrorized by the amazing acting talent within our ITS troupe!" Radze said. "You should expect the unexpected. There will be gore, terror, your worst nightmares, and so much more at this haunted house."



An ITS member poses at the 2017 Mercy haunted house. Photo courtesy of Newsprint archive.

## Rules:

1. Do not touch the walls
2. Do not touch the scarers
3. Do not separate from your group
4. Do not run
5. Do not have your phone out



An ITS member dressed as a clown crawls at the 2017 Mercy haunted house. Photo courtesy of Newsprint archive.



# The best autumn has to offer

STORY AND GRAPHICS: HELENA NAJAR

## Pumpkin Patch

Nothing says autumn like pumpkins. Pie, lattes, carving jack-o-lanterns for halloween, there are so many creative ways to use a pumpkin but in order to have all the amazing things, you first have to pick one out.

Going to the pumpkin patch is the one part of fall that everyone loves no matter what age you are. From the smallest babies to the elderly, going to the pumpkin patch is a universal experience that so many people have the honor to enjoy. Freshman Julia Rossi understands the happiness that comes with going to the

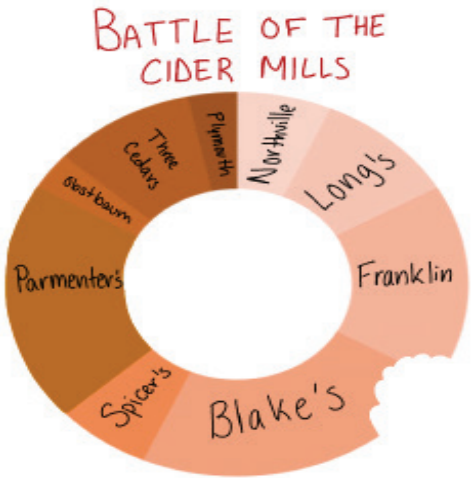
pumpkin patch, and enjoys seeing the younger people around her enjoy it.

“It’s kind of wholesome, watching all the little kids having the joy of trying to find the pumpkin that fits right,” said Rossi. “The one that you can actually carve out perfectly. You’re trying to find the perfect pumpkin so it could take minutes or it could take hours.”

Grab your annual pumpkins at Three Cedars Farm, Blake Farms, or even your local supermarket.



People scramble as they search for the best pumpkin. Photo used with permission by Jessica Koehler.



Mercy's favorite cider mills battle for the No. 1 spot.

There are so many amazing reasons to love the fall. Whether your favorite part is the colorful leaves or the new Starbucks drinks, one answer surpasses all others when asking the question, “What is your favorite part of the fall?” And that is the cider mill.

The smell of cinnamon, the sounds of people laughing, the warm sun and the cool breeze instantly makes it known that it is autumn. Warm donuts and cool apple cider are enough to make anybody love the season, especially families. Campus Minister Mrs. Mary Kate Becker loves the cider mill for many reasons and these are just a few.

“I love the crisp air and being able to wear a sweater or jacket,” Becker said. “It’s so fun being able to explore cider mills with my daughter.”

## Cider Mills

Without a doubt one of the best parts of the cider mill is fighting with your best friends over which one has the best cider and donuts. Michigan has so many amazing cider mills to choose from, the Mercy community was completely divided on which was the favorite.

Blake’s, Franklin, Three Cedars, were only some of the many answers provided.

To determine which cider mill is really the Mercy favorite, Newsprint sent out a poll asking and our donut chart has the answer. With a whopping 23%, Blake’s Orchard and Cider Mill is the winner.

While making plans this fall, never forget that the cider mill will always be waiting for you with the tastiest treats you could ever imagine.



## Haunted Forest

What do you think of when someone says the word fall? Is it crunchy leaves? Gilmore Girls? The endless amounts of food you eat on Thanksgiving? There are so many amazing elements of autumn, but the one part that makes its way into everyone’s mind is Halloween.

Halloween is the time for horror movies, candy and dressing up as your favorite character. Halloween is also the time to get scared. Nothing is more frightening than walking through a place you do not know, a place where anything or anyone

could jump out at you at any moment. If you love to get scared, junior Julia Holt has nothing but exciting things to say about the haunted forest she attended called Terrorfied Forest in Livingston County, Michigan.

“I went to this terrifying forest and it was just such a fun fall halloween thing to do, to get spooked out with friends,” Holt said.

Terrorfied Forest is located at 145 Swarthout Rd, Pinckney, MI 48169 and is open until the end of October.



Junior Julia Holt and sophomore Sophia Bishop pose with a bloody character at Terrorfied Forest. Photo used with permission from Julia Holt.



# Spotlight on fall sports

STORY: LENA LAJOY

## Swinging into victory

The Golf team drove into the new season with new school records and achievements including a win at states. This season the Mercy Varsity golf team has had great success and continues to prove themselves. Through hard work at practice and team camaraderie, these girls have had a memorable season.

“I think our team gets our strength from each other. When one of us has a bad hole or a bad round we are always there for each other and ready to pick them up,” junior Abigail Slankster said.

With teamwork and determination, the golf team has become stronger and reached new milestones for Mercy.

“We have had lots of success this year, including breaking the school record for a tournament, scoring a collective 311, we have won multiple tournaments, and were co-champions of the Catholic League championship,” sophomore Maeve Casey said.

Going into the state competition, the golf team felt confident in their abilities and hopeful that their success this season would pay off and help them win. In order to win states, the golf team made sure they were prepared.

“We really focused on where we missed certain strokes at our regional finals the week before and tried to clean up those areas,” Slankster said. “We made sure we kept our putts to a minimum, worked on staying out of trouble off the tee since it was a tight course and hitting the greens in regulation.”

In the end, the golf team was able to accomplish



Varsity Golf prepares to compete at States. Photo used with permission by Lila Polakowski.

their goals and take the win at states. The team celebrated together for this particularly special victory. The Mercy golf last state championship was 2001, making this achievement even more special for the close knit group of girls.

To become as successful as they are, the golf team works hard at practice yet still makes sure everyone has fun. They practice multiple times a week where they develop their skills and work to better themselves.

“It depends where we are for practice but most of the time we will either play nine holes or practice on the range and putting green,” Casey said.

Faced with the stress from states, the golf team worked together to ensure everyone was relaxed and ready to do their best.

“On the range before heading out our teammate Abby was telling us all to just relax because we play better in that mindset. Her words clearly paid off!” sophomore Lila Polakowski said.

Overall, the golf team had an amazing season with many accomplishments to be proud of. With their recent state championship win they can celebrate and carry on a new legacy at Mercy.



Mercy Varsity Golf poses with trophy after winning States. Photo used with permission by Mia Juday.



Mercy Teacher and Coach Vicky Kowalski has coached about 70 seasons of sports at Mercy. Photo used with permission by Ella Shields.

## Sports shoutout: Mrs. Kowalski

STORY: LENA LAJOY

From coaching to teaching, Mrs. Vicky Kowalski has been a part of the Mercy community for years and continues to make a significant impact on Mercy athletics. Kowalski began coaching at Mercy around 1978-1979, after coaching previously at Clarenceville High School.

“I even coached when I was student teaching, so I’ve been coaching something since like 1977,” Kowalski said.

Throughout her coaching career, Kowalski has headed teams in many different sports, coaching each for at least a year. She has always been willing to step up and help sports teams in need.

“I’ve been coaching the golf team since 1980, I coached one year of JV volleyball, and then I coached two years of Freshman volleyball,” Kowalski said. “I coached cheerleading one year because they could not find anyone else and this will be the 21st season of the bowling team.”

Due to her many years of experience, Kowalski has known many students and helped make an impact on their lives in both sports and school. She has taught and helped students become the best versions of themselves for their futures.

“She really cares about her students and wants them to do well,” junior Ren Stojkovic said.

Kowalski especially loves the aspect of coaching which allows her to make connections with many different students and coaches.

“I really like interacting with the students outside the classroom. I’ve always been interested in athletics, and I enjoy interacting with the other coaches. There’s like a coaching camaraderie there,” Kowalski said.

Recently, with the addition of the Hall of Fame, Kowalski has been recognized for her exceptional academic and sports participation at Mercy.

“It was quite an honor and I didn’t know if they would put me in first though I know I have coached 70 seasons here,” Kowalski said.

Throughout her Mercy career she has coached almost 70 seasons of sports and helped countless girls improve in their athletic and school lives. This dedication to Mercy is one of the reasons she is a beloved member of the school community. Kowalski’s continuous commitment to Mercy sports is one reason why she is such an important figure in our community.

## New additions to Mercy athletics

STORY: LENA LAJOY

The addition of the Hall of Fame in the school lobby adds a new visual representation of the athletic success at Mercy. Blank panels cover the walls waiting to be filled with the talent and hard work of Mercy students and coaches. Words of inspiration and photos of athletic success welcome students, and give hope that they too can be honored.

“The Hall of Fame also is recognition of all that athletics does for young women beyond winning games, in other words sisterhood, perseverance and dedication, the qualities that really support our Profile of a Graduate,” Mercy President Dr. Cheryl Kreger said.

The ideas for this Hall of Fame have been in the works for quite some time. There have been many discussions about how to ensure the Hall of Fame reaches every ideal the creators had when deciding to create the display.

“This has probably been a process a year in the making, just how to make it happen, how to put a committee together and then how to display it,” Athletic Director Mr. Brandon Malinowski said.

One way this Hall of Fame was made possible was due to Kreger and her husband John Kreger, who are huge sports fans, providing a donation for the project. Upon seeing different Halls of Fame at other schools, Dr. Kreger and her husband knew Mercy should have one of its own.

“Every time we went to a different school he would say ‘look here’s another school with a hall of fame honoring their students,’ so this was the core idea that led to this,” Kreger said.

The main goal for this Hall of Fame is to make students excited and provide examples of wonderful athletes from Mercy. Hopefully, the Hall of Fame will serve to inspire athletes and honor past students who were successful and made a difference.

### People honored in the Hall of Fame:

- Kristina Bell (‘07) - Mercy Swim Team (‘72)
- Jodi Yambor (‘74) - Larry Baker (‘75-’96)
- Margaret “Meg” Mallon (‘81)



# New JV dance team

STORY: ALYSSA TISCH, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Prior to this year Mercy has always had just one dance team, the varsity dance team. This year, however, a JV dance team was formed as well.

“Our program has grown immensely since taking over 5 years ago,” varsity coach Brittany Burns said. “We started with less than 8 girls trying out on year one to over 30 girls trying out now and unfortunately, I cannot take that many girls on varsity. This led to the creation of the JV Dance Team to retain the many talented dancers and have them gain that dance team experience right away versus waiting another year for varsity tryouts.”

Freshman Sophia Segars is one of the members of the new JV team.

“I have danced since I was three so I thought joining the team would be a good way to integrate that into my school life as well,” Segars said.

As they are a newer team, they have not performed thus far into the season, but are planning to perform at basketball games in the future as well as a joint performance with varsity at a Detroit Pistons game.

The JV dance team has been working hard in the meantime to become the best that they can be.

“Practice consists of conditioning/stretching [and] technique (turns, jumps, etc),” JV dance coach Elise Armstrong said. “The girls will review choreography they have learned and we clean dances step by step.”

Not only is the team working hard, but they are getting closer and having a fun time doing so!

“I love the team,” freshman Cadence Washington said. “We feel very close and we have definitely bonded a lot.”

“The team is really cohesive,” Segars added. “We all have different roles that we play, and we really just have a lot of fun.”



The JV dance team takes a photo together after one of their practices. Photo used with permission by Cadence Washington.

## Upcoming Sporting Events:

**Friday October 28:** Cross Country MHSAA Regionals at Hess Hathaway at 10 a.m.

Swim and Dive Mercy vs Marian at Mercy at 6 p.m.

**Saturday October 29:** Volleyball Grand Blanc Tournament at Grand Blanc at 7 p.m.

**Monday October 31:** Ice Hockey season starts

**Wednesday November 2:** Volleyball MHSAA Districts at Mercy at 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday November 3:** Swim and Dive Catholic League Finals: Diving at W. Kettering at 5 p.m.

# Committed: Mercy volleyball star goes D-1

STORY: HELENA NAJAR



Senior Erin Kline poses in her Mississippi State t-shirt as she announces her commitment. Photo used with permission from Erin Kline.

Playing a sport is more than just an afterschool hobby for many people. Being a student athlete is an enormous commitment with practices, games, and tournaments along with keeping up grades, it can be easy to become overwhelmed. But senior Erin Kline, is a perfect example of how all the stress is worth it when you have a true passion for a sport.

Kline started playing volleyball in the third grade. It was something that she never would have expected to do, but thanks to her parents, she found a hobby she learned to love.

“My parents signed me up for volleyball and I grew to love it,” Kline said, “Over time, I started to take volleyball more seriously and realized it was something I really loved.”

Everybody knows how overwhelming it can be to try out for a sport, especially as a new freshman. With new people and new coaches it’s impossible to know how you are going to do, even if you are a great player. This is not an uncommon feeling for Kline, however she overcame all the nerves and aced her tryout.

“Trying out for the Mercy volleyball team my freshman year was exciting but also nerve-racking. I think that I did well at the tryout and I was very excited when I found out I made varsity,” Kline said.

Mercy volleyball is not the only team that helped Kline succeed in her athletic career. Her club volleyball team, Legacy, pushes her to be the best player she can be and helps her gain recognition from scouts around the country.

“Club is a much more competitive environment and requires much more commitment like traveling and long tournaments,” Kline said.

All of Kline’s hard work on varsity and club volleyball ultimately paid off when she received offers to play at college. This was a vital moment in her career because she had officially succeeded.

“Receiving an offer was super exciting! I chose Mississippi State because I loved the environment and the coaching staff,” Kline said. “I also really loved the campus, it has a family feel.”

Volleyball is such an important part of Kline’s life and her passion for the sport always keeps her determined to be the best she can be. Volleyball is more than just a passion it’s her career.

“Volleyball is a passion I developed at a young age and I chose to continue my volleyball career because it gives me the opportunity to play at the highest level,” Kline said.



# Buying a cookie can make a difference

STORY: MAURA MCSWEENEY

Claire Harris's response when someone asks about her business is "cookies for a cause" as she donates a part of its proceeds to the Alzheimer's Association.

Harris, a senior here at Mercy, runs a business called "I Want More Cookie Company" where she sells all different kinds of cookies from brown butter chocolate chip cookies to s'mores cookies. Starting a business is no easy task, but Harris loves what she does and is interested in pursuing aspects of business later on in life.

The name "I Want More Cookie Company" comes from a phrase that Harris's grandfather, who has Alzheimer's disease, always says. Harris' goal is to raise awareness and she donates money to the Alzheimer's Association through her cookie sales and social media presence.

"Donating to the Alzheimer's Association gives my company and myself purpose," Harris said. "Making money and having sales is one thing, but knowing that some of those sales are going to something bigger than yourself is extremely fulfilling and inspiring."

By donating to this organization, Harris continues to be reminded of her "why" for the business and is making a difference in the lives of all those affected by

the disease and those researching cures.

Running a business is nowhere near easy especially as a student, but Harris makes sure to prioritize school and her business above other activities.

The time commitment is large, but it all depends on how many orders she has or what she needs to get done. She may spend at least a couple of hours everyday after school baking or focusing on the finances of the business while other days she may not have as much going on.

"I prioritize my business and school work so much that I will have to sacrifice some of my other experiences to focus on them after school," Harris said. "I take a lot of time to make sure I am well organized so I can accomplish all of the tasks I have set for my day."

Although Harris does not believe that this business endeavor of hers will continue into her college career next year, she has learned countless lessons from running this business and is excited to continue to pursue business in the future. She would encourage others to follow their passions and never be afraid to start something.

"Starting a business is rewarding yet challenging. I would tell someone who is interested in starting one to do it and always be open to feedback," Harris said.

"Never be stuck in one thought or moment and always continue to evolve in every area of your business."

*If you are interested in purchasing from Claire and supporting her cause, you can find her on Instagram at @iwantmorecookiecompany or on her website: [www.iwantmorecookiescompany.com](http://www.iwantmorecookiescompany.com).*



Making cookies day and night, senior Claire Harris owns a cookie business where she sells cookies and donates some of the proceeds. Photo used with permission by Claire Harris.

# The art and business of accessorizing

STORY: HELENA NAJAR

Being a student is one of the most stressful parts of life. From homework and studying to after school activities like sports, making money can be extremely hard to do. Having a job is often not feasible for many students but junior Addison Abraham found a perfect way to make money without the stress of schedules and covers: owning her own business.

Abraham first started making jewelry for herself in late 2021. She had decided that she wanted to wear more jewelry but while shopping she was unable to find anything that met her standards.

"I couldn't find any brands that had high-quality

jewelry for an affordable price in the style that I like," Abraham said.

The pieces of jewelry that Abraham found interesting were all way outside of her budget which became frustrating as there were so many different types she loved but because of the price she had to start limiting what she could allow herself to purchase.

"I wanted to try all these different types of jewelry and mix and match it with my outfits but every store and website that I looked at the jewelry was really expensive," Abraham said. "And it wasn't really what I was looking for so I decided to start making my own jewelry one day."

Soon Abraham's form of providing herself with cute accessories turned into one of her favorite hobbies and something she is passionate about. Abraham realized that making her own jewelry provided her with the creative freedom to customize and create whatever she liked; she was no longer confined to what she found in stores.

"If I don't like something, I can change it and it's so wonderful because if you buy and don't really like it there's nothing you can do to change or fix it," Abraham said. "When I make it myself and I'm not satisfied, I can just do it again."

Learning how to make jewelry was not an easy task though. It took dedication and focus to learn a completely new skill, but Abraham was up to the task. And after she learned, making jewelry became second nature.

"Personally, I don't think it's hard to make jewelry anymore," Abraham said. "As long as you are able to sit down and focus and dedicate yourself to making it. It takes time and you can't cut corners or skip steps in order to make pieces."

There is one vital step of jewelry making that Abraham still struggles with at times, and that is figuring out what to design keeping the cost in mind.

"The only thing that's really difficult about it is finding inspiration to make truly beautiful pieces and the amount it costs. Buying so many beads gets a little pricey after a while," Abraham said.

Despite the occasional hardships, jewelry is something that Abraham will always love making and sharing with the people around her.

"I make jewelry for anyone who asks for it. I don't have a website page, however, if anyone asks me for jewelry and is serious about it I'll make it for them," Abraham said.

If you are interested in owning one of Abraham's beautiful pieces of jewelry for an affordable price there is a very simple, quick process.

"All they have to do is message me with the color and type of metal they want," Abraham said. "All my prices are around the same price. A pair of earrings costs \$8.00, a pendant is \$15.00 and a necklace is \$18.00. Prices might fluctuate depending on time and materials, but they usually don't and are the same."

*You can contact Abraham about a piece of jewelry via her school email [addison.abraham@mhsmi.org](mailto:addison.abraham@mhsmi.org).*



Junior Addison Abraham spends her days crafting beautiful jewelry for all to enjoy. Photo used with permission by Addison Abraham.



# Editorial: The importance of voting

STORY: NEWSPRINT STAFF

Voting might seem like a hassle. Many people may tell themselves that everyone else is going to vote so why does it matter? Or that is not a presidential election so it doesn't matter as much. The Newsprint staff is excited about the opportunity to vote and there are a couple of reasons why we think there is no excuse compelling enough not to vote.

You do matter — It seems as though elections are becoming closer and closer as the number of votes that determine the winner and loser gets smaller and smaller. As opposed to the presidential election where the electoral college vote is employed to determine the race results, popular vote is used to determine all other election outcomes. Therefore, your vote is directly used in tabulating results.

It's your money — Taxes are an inescapable factor in society; one way or another we all pay whether through sales tax on a can of Diet Coke or the withholdings we quickly learn

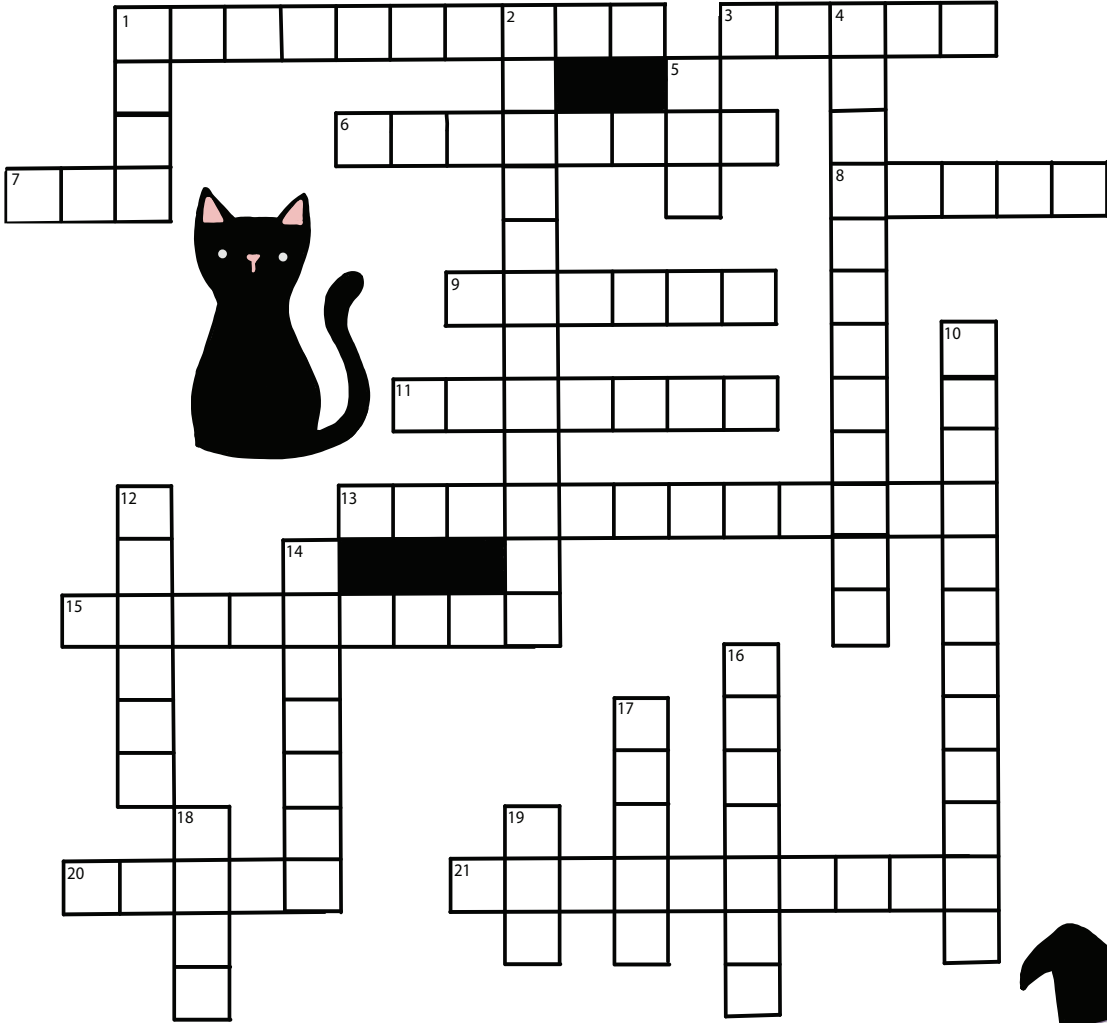
about when our first paycheck comes back much less than expected. Voting is one of the main vehicles we have to steer how money is spent, whether it is through voting for a politician whose spending decisions make sense to us or voting on a specific proposition that requires funding.

You want to direct your future — The presidential election is only one piece of the puzzle. Senate and congressional races, referred to as, "midterms", as they are held near the midpoint of the four-year presidential term, determine political control of the House and Senate. Also, state and local political races are at stake, including our own Governor's race this year. What happens in these races will guide the future of our country immensely and we should not be remiss about the future of our state.

You want a voice — Important social and economic laws and policy are impacted and enacted through our governmental process

and leadership. Policy and laws are decided directly or indirectly through the candidates we support and sometimes directly in voting for or against specific propositions.

Voting is said to be a right and a privilege. When you think about it, if we do not care enough to take time out of our day to vote, then what message are we signaling? Are we signaling that we do not want a say in how our money is spent or in the laws that govern us? As Newsprint staff, we do care, and that is why we will vote when we are able to and encourage everyone else to do the same.



ACROSS

- 1. Be safe and carry this with you when you go trick-or-treating
- 3. Lady who flies around on a broomstick
- 6. The day after Halloween, this month begins.
- 7. A bird that hoots
- 8. You'll get a belly ache if you eat too much of this
- 9. Big bug with eight legs
- 11. Orange Halloween fruit
- 13. A pumpkin with a face carved in it
- 15. Holiday that falls on October 31st
- 20. Another word for fright
- 21. Scary book series by R.L. Stine

DOWN

- 1. Season during which Halloween is celebrated
- 2. Charlie Brown and Linus stayed in the pumpkin patch waiting for the...
- 4. What you yell when you go out on Halloween
- 5. What a spider spins
- 10. A place where ghosts might live
- 12. Color of a pumpkin
- 14. What to wear on Halloween
- 16. The tenth month of the year
- 17. A scary being that would haunt a house
- 18. Flying mammals
- 19. What a ghost might shout at you



# How to: Halloween costumes

STORY AND PHOTOS: **JULIA LORELLI, SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROMOTIONS EDITOR**

**G**hosts, zombies, werewolves and vampires are just a few of the classic Halloween costumes. Halloween is a big deal at Mercy and everyone comes in some sort of costume, ranging from simply throwing on a baseball jersey or dress up as a celebrity to transforming into some kind of animated character.

Deciding whether to make or buy a costume is one of the decisions students have to make as Halloween draws closer.

While some students prefer to buy their costume, others prefer to make it like senior Linnea Maier.

“A lot of it is that I do not want to be wasteful,” Maier said. “Buying a costume that I’m only going to wear once from some store is a lot more money and waste than making a costume out of stuff I already have.”

If you still do not have a costume, there are plenty of easy ways to create, last minute costumes. At Mercy, you are going to want to be in costume for Halloween.

According to the Dean of Student Affairs Mrs. Eleasha Tarplin, there is a reason why Halloween is such a big deal at Mercy.

“I think Halloween is such a big deal here at

Mercy because Mrs. Jonell Linskey, who was the dean here for many many years, absolutely loved Halloween,” Tarplin said. “When she came to Mercy, she brought her love of Halloween with her.”

According to an article titled 95 Easy Last-Minute Halloween Costumes 2022 from the website goodhousekeeping.com, some easy last minute and cheap costumes to make are a milkshake with just an ice-cream colored dress, DIY whip cream hat and a cherry.

Other simple DIY costumes include a slice of cake, a unicorn, robots or a stick of bubblegum that could be made simply by using cardboard, paper plates and lots of colors.

Another cheap DIY costume would be M&M’s, just get a M&M colored t-shirt and a matching tutu. Plus, it is easy to do a group costume with M&M’s.

While Halloween costumes are supposed to be fun and creative, Mercy students still need to follow a dress code and make sure their costumes are culturally appropriate.

According to a video made by the Humans Relation Council (HRC), cultural appropriation is the unacknowledged or inappropriate adoption of the customs,

practices, ideas of people by members of another and typically more dominant people. Culture is not a costume and by treating it as such is disrespecting, misrepresenting and demeaning the culture of others.

HRC also gives some guidelines to use when picking out your costume to make sure it is culturally appropriate. Those guidelines are to ask yourself if it involves other cultures’ clothing or practices, if it perpetuates any harmful stereotypes of marginalized groups, if it requires changing of skin tone or hair type, or if it is mocking or parodying any minority groups. If you think any of these qualities apply to your chosen costume, the smart choice would be to rethink your decisions and go with another. The harm cultural appropriation causes is never worth wearing an offensive costume. Enjoy your Halloween without ruining someone else’s.

Check out our  
October Spotify  
Playlist!



Open Spotify  
and scan the  
code!

## October Photo Recap



Mercy Student Government kicks off the Maroon & Gold Raffle. Photo by Julia Lorelli



Sophomores embrace their faith at their retreat. Photo used with permission by Mrs. Mary Kate Becker



The cast of *Clue* tries to find the murderer. Photo by Julia Lorelli