

EXCALIBUR 2024
LIBERTY high school
COLORADO SPRINGS
VOL .37

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it's where

it's where

STAND...

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COVER: STEPPING INTO HER SENIOR YEAR. *Genevieve Meyer*¹² shows off her personality in her new Nike Dunks on the commons lawn. In Meyer's four years at Liberty, she's been involved in Cheer, Dance, DECA, and will be graduating with honors. With the experience gained in High School, Meyer has goals of attending nursing school and has been accepted into multiple universities. Additionally, Meyer has an obsession with shoes, which she gets from her sister. When discussing her experience of standing at Liberty, Meyer stated; "The first thing I think of when I think of "standing" is having a good foundation... like how the shoes you wear are the foundation of your outfit that help you stand out.". Meyer attributes her academic success to Liberty as a whole. "I think school teaches you an important lesson on creating a foundation of who you are, how to balance things in your life, and truly get to know yourself," Meyer said. "All of the staff, teachers and students here give me a really good foundation. The plans I have for my future, to go to nursing school, motivate me to be my best self. Balancing my current routine with the way I'm motivated in school will be good to keep up in college to be successful, so I think it's really important in order for me to achieve my dream.", photo by emily robertson, lighting by ava dawes, creative direction by ava lund.

RIGHT: STANDING IN HIS LEADING ROLE. *Alexander Sledge*¹¹ smiles out at the crowd as The Pride of The Lancers Marching Band completes their last home football game performance of the 2023 season on Oct 28. Sledge took on the role of color guard captain this year, getting to teach his teammates, earning a solo and hand making The Holy Grail, the most vital and thematic prop of this years' performance. "It's magical to stand on the field," Sledge said. "It feels like a place where I can show off what I'm actually capable of. I always come off the field and I just can't stop smiling. I think it's just a nice feeling that the performance I'm giving can put a smile on someones face.", photo by emily robertson

it's where

YOU STAND...



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PREPARING FOR THE FIRST HALFTIME SHOW OF THE SEASON, Drum Major *Alexis*

Mead '22, proudly stands as she watches the crowd from her podium on Aug. 24. The Pride of the Lancers Marching Bands' theme for this school year was "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" under new direction from Band Directors *Joy O'Day* and *Caroline Aylward*. "I feel like we've really stepped it up this year," Mead said. "I feel like doing new things for the band will be really great for the program and I'm excited to see where it goes this year."

photo by paige miller



it's where

YOU STAND...

EXCALIBUR 2024



LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

8720 Scarborough Drive,

Colorado Springs, CO

LHS.ASD20.ORG

719. 234. 2200

@libertyhighschool20

@libertyofficialyearbook

Principal: Matthew Sisson

STUDENT POPULATION: 1567

SENIORS: 401

JUNIORS: 373

SOPHOMORES: 406

FRESHMEN: 387

STAFF: 180

GLANCING BACK AT THE SCOREBOARD while speaking with **Coach Grundvig**, quarterback **Elijah Rupejko** ¹² accepts that any hope of winning was slipping out of the team's hands. Liberty lost their third game of the season, against Sierra High School on Sep. 7, with a score of 20-3. "None of our plays were working," Rupejko said. "We really put ourselves in a hole at the start of the season. It was disappointing." Even though Liberty lost their first three games of the season, they would continue to win the next three against Gateway, Hinkley and Palmer. Liberty's Varsity Football ended the Fall season 4-2 in the league. photo by emily robertson.





It's where YOU STAND...

Is it where you stand on the field, stage or even behind the camera that helps you find your path? Or is it the connections you made along the way? Figuring out how you impact our school as a Lancer; makes it a place for you to be **YOU**.

From the moment you walk over all the freshly painted parking spots, to the front doors you cant see through anymore, there are a lot of upperclassmen waiting to welcome you into **OUR HOUSE!** Don't be shy **Izabella Creekmore** ¹¹ and your other Link Leaders are here to help guide you to the new wing. Believe it or not they also had to ask Assistant Principal **Ms. Thiessen** for help a time or two.

The freshmen already ran through their gauntlet but **Seth Lippert** ¹² is ready to record the seniors as they receive a rather overdue entrance into the gym, where Bruno Mars is blaring "24K magic". Bittersweet tears fill seniors eyes as you hear the crack of the confetti cannons after the party cheer. Talk about a main-character moment. This is it.

Junior year jitters creep up when you are finally warm in your car with your new drivers license. FINALLY you don't have to wait in the snow for the bus thats a block away. Well, you're running late, have to park in overflow and search for your ID.

First period begins with you and **Isabella Cardarelle** ¹² getting moved in Astronomy, but she brought Mr. Brown a Chick-Fil-A sandwich in order to try and get her old seat back. Hopefully it works...

See pages 12-13 for a newly painted tradition

Can you hear the chants through the photos? see pages 10-11 for school spirit

At least Doug is there to greet you with a "Good Morning" smile. see pages 192-193 for security

But thats not all that makes us **STAND OUT...**

*One thing you'll learn as the years fly by its that our school has a lot of history full of little shenanigans. Like our fall production of TRAP where **Eliza Waters** ¹² is doing her monologue and the lights go out...*

*The emotion of **Gavin Leyba** ¹⁰ focusing on getting in the right mindset to end his first season on varsity, contrasted with **Gracie Green** ¹¹ falling over in laughter trying to put on a scarlet red '25 on her check, backwards in the bathroom. The infamous dad stance of Principal **Matthew Sisson** and Athletic Director **David Thomas** on the sidelines, somehow calling out a Facemask before a flag is even thrown.*

*Where do **YOU** see yourself at this school?*

***Molly Williams** ⁰⁹ is rolling out of bed at 5:00AM, spilling redbull on her light blue STUCO shirt on September 30, to help transform the halls for a night in Hollywood.*

***Byam Lovell** ¹² can be found skirrrting into the parking lot in his Navy Blue Bronco. Keep watching, he's definitely going to have to re-park today.*

*Where is **Maryjane Ramirez** ¹⁰ ? Getting ready for the softball team dinner to say goodbye to **Sagan Gehrke** ¹² and her other senior teammates.*

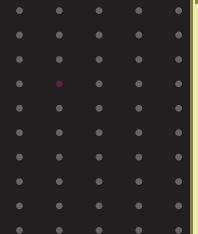
***Cole Davis** ¹² can be seen showing up early to school, for the first time ever, on the last day to pull off a major senior prank. Are the juniors flipping through these pages, chowing down Miggys Meltdown, and discussing how they can do it better?*

False alarm it was just Phil. see pages 68-69 for Tech Theatre

Who knew that administrators cared more than the players? see pages 126-127 for football

VROOM
VROOM
see pages 80-81 for auto

Who walked the red carpet? see pages 24-25 for the homecoming dance



LAUGHING TOGETHER, *Jayla Kulikowski*¹² and *Jordyn Snipe*¹² share a moment at their last glow dance with each other. The Glow Dance is Liberty's back to school dance that was held on Aug. 18. With a different style from previous years, The Glow Dance was held outside this year- in front of the school's view of Pikes Peak. See pages 14-15 for more Glow Dance coverage. photo by ms gill



*We cant spoil all of that right now, so just keep looking for things that **STAND** out to*

YOU...

DANCING TO THE BEAT
*Kierstyn McFerran*¹²
 shares a moment with *Kendell*
*White*¹² at the Glow Dance.
 photo by miss gill.



1. KICKING OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR, *Melanie Saraceno*¹⁰, *Makalya Dowd*¹⁰ and *Mikael Torrez*¹⁰ show off their Nike Dunks over the school's motto. The three best friends didn't plan on matching in their popular sneakers, but happened to all wear them on the same day, multiples times in the year.
 photo by paige miller

2. CHEERING FOR A CURE while representing Breast Cancer Awareness month, *Cole Davis*¹² and his friends scream at the Varsity girls' score. The gym was full of pink clothes, accessories and sneakers on Oct. 4 for the volleyball game against Fountain-Fort Carson. Liberty won 3-1 against Carson, putting them at 16-9 overall.
 photo by ava lund

3. LAUGHING AT A SURPRISING PLAY during the senior barbecue, *Matica Tenbrink*¹² enjoys a game of four-in-a-row with her friends. Seniors participated in a new tradition on Sep. 8 by gathering together as a class, and grilling on the commons patio.
 photo by katherine george





its where
YOU STAND...
with your
PEERS

You get home from school on Friday, Aug. 18 and get ready for Glow, the first dance of the year. You had gone to Hobby Lobby earlier that week to get all of the glow-in-the-dark paint you could get, so you can stand out. Who will be the first in the dance circle?

Liberty provides many opportunities to stand next to your peers, develop new friendships, and make new memories.

"Glow was such a great bonding experience," Conner Kolahi said. "If I saw someone on the side who wasn't dancing, I would pull them in and make them feel included- even if I didn't know them. I

think it's one of our best and biggest events because we all get to see our peers in a new light- their fun, party side."

Lancers create a culture where YOU can belong, where YOU can feel supported as you stand out among your peers. Liberty is formed by over 1600 students who stand apart in their own ways, yet stand together as a school.

"...[Liberty] is very special," Lillian Shirkey said. "Standing with your peers makes up one of the strongest bonds at school. I am glad to be able to experience a comfortable and competitive school, that feels like a big family."



7



2



3



STANDING WITH THEIR BROTHERS,

the non-seniors on the football team line up on the field for the traditional senior night football game. It is something they do to honor the seniors as they walk down the field for their last home game. "The seniors definitely had an impact on me,"

Gavin Leyba¹⁰ said. "they pushed me hard to do my best and it is sad to see them go as they are starting a new chapter in their lives." photo by emily robertson



2. UNDER THE STADIUM LIGHTS

the boys soccer team lines up before a home game to get their names called out and throw shirts into the stands. "Everyone's excited or nervous to play," **Evan Jones¹²** said. "but as captain I know I just need to get my team to settle down and play our game, it's just energy and at this point everyone is ready to get out to the field and leave the nerves in the locker room." photo by Tazlynn Prigge

3. HUDDLING TOGETHER,

the cheerleaders bring more spirit into the student section at an away football game against Sierra. "All of the blood, sweat, and tears suddenly become worth it when you wear a sparkling uniform and perform for two minutes and 30 seconds on a nine panel mat," **Anna Finkelstein¹¹** said. "It's really difficult seeing other teams at competitions knowing that you won't be competing like they will." photo emily robertson

4. COMING TOGETHER AS A TEAM

the girls field hockey team gets together to celebrate scoring a goal, prioritizing being a team first and supporting one another. "It was a really good season," **Brooklyn Galvon¹⁰** said. "I learned a lot from it and had a lot of fun not only with the sport but with my teammates." photo by peyton fedorkowicz.



its where

YOU

STAND...

in the

HUDDLE

For most Lancer athletes, being on a team means being part of a family who stands together through everything.

"My favorite part of football is that it has given me a new family that I know I can always go to if I need anything," **Jacob Mesias** ¹⁰ said. "Its given me structure and a good way to end the day, plus friends that I know will last a lifetime, and who are more like brothers than anything else."

Being a part of a team huddle is one experience that every sport has.

No matter which ball you are throwing, hitting, or kicking, the huddle is common place to find **YOUR** strength.

"Being in those huddles is kind of surreal," **Alex Nolder** ¹⁰ said. "You look around and everyone in there loves and cares about you. Those huddles, at least for me, help me to feel really connected to the rest of the team. It helps to show that we are in fact, one big family."

Who do **YOU** stand in the huddle with?



It's where YOU STOOD...

*Approximately 269 days ago we came into this building as Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors- leaving now as new people. We will all have different memories that we will remember in 10 years, but nobody can forget the feeling of **STANDING** in the gym on that first day.*

As you flip through the book and reach the girls basketball page, you're taken back to that moment when the score is 39-35 and "I. BELIEVE. THAT. WE. JUST. WON." is being chanted in the background, you're hit with a rush of nostalgia longing to feel that just one more time.

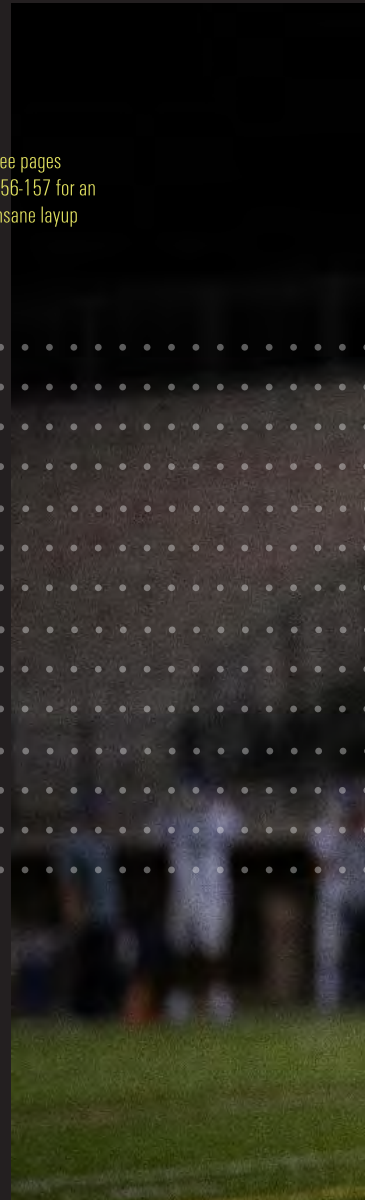
Has everyone found where they STAND?

***Brooke Steinberg** ¹² stood with the Girls Basketball team. **Amiyah Berry** ¹¹ stood for the flag. **Yullia Kuavska** ¹⁰ stood for her home country. **Crede Hunt** ¹⁰ stood with his football team. **Monroe Castle** ¹² stood with the robotics team at state. **Madeline Bendig** ⁰⁹ stood at the DECA store to pick up her daily Monster. **Kaleb Woodard** ⁰⁹ stood on the field, catching his breath before playing the next line of our fight song on his trumpet. **Haley Blackmon** ¹¹ stood for saving our planet. **Mia Garica** ¹¹ stood next her their peers in GSTA, loving them for who they truly are.*

This year, you all learned more about yourselves, leaving a legacy for many more Lancers to follow in the years to come...

See pages 62-63 to see how well you know your continents.

See pages 156-157 for an insane layup





... we gave you a place to stand, now **YOU** go and move the earth.



WITH HIS HANDS IN THE AIR, Jackson Hunt ¹² celebrates a winning touchdown at the Thorton vs. Liberty Varsity Football game on Oct. 20. Lancers beat the Trojans with a score of 49-0 at their last home game. "I'll miss the relationships we had," Hunt said. "I miss the underclassman I took under my wing and helped grow as a player and a person. Never felt like friends actually, they felt like family. I would never be where I am today as a person if it weren't for any of them. photo by emily robertson.

it's where

YOU STOOD.

GLANCING BACK AT THE STUDENT SECTION behind her, *Ashlynn Westover*¹² celebrates a 'Liberty first down'. Varsity cheer pumped up the energy from the sidelines as the varsity football team beat Gateway High School with a 17-6 win on Sep. 19. With this first league game win, the crowds continued to fill, with the cheer squad leading the engaged student section. "The support we get from the crowd really effects the energy of the entire game", Westover said. photo by tazlynn prigge.

