October/November 2026

THE

NORSEMEN NEWS

Heard in the Halls -

Autumn Edition

By: Gracyn Schultz, Anna Creps, Kenzie Doss, Kaylin Ryan, and Emma Ceja

As the air becomes cooler and the leaves continue to fall, students begin to file into the building as the fall holidays aaproach. Although Halloween has passed, Thanksgiving is right around the corner and many people are very excited. Many people love Thanksgiving because of the food and the opportunity to make memories

Many NCHS students have plans for the exciting season coming ahead of them and all that it brings to the table. As fall continues, Thanksgiving is the next holiday that many people look forward to, especially with Thanksgiving break coming up November 25-29. It is a time to gather with family and friends, enjoy delicious food, and reflect on what we are thankful for. However, some are still reflecting on all the fun they had during the Halloween season.

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Science teacher, Mr. Childers planned something special for family this Halloween, recalling that. “My favorite part of celebrating Halloween with my family is just being able to spend time with my wife and son. I love seeing my son excited and hearing his comments on the spooky things seen around the neighborhood.” Dressing up, running around and collecting candy is always something people find fun and entertaining, especially kids, while also making endless memories.



Above: Senior David U. shares a smile during band class

Along with the Halloween Holiday, fall activities are also a big part of enjoying the cold weather. Freshman Bryson Miller, elaborates on his time spent carving pumpkins with his family. He says “This fall season I went to a pumpkin patch with my friends and brought a pumpkin home to carve with my family. I had a lot of fun carving pumpkins with my little sister.”

Halloween is usually a time for students to have fun and hangout with their friends. Seeing how students have spent their Halloween over the years is also really exciting. Senior David Ulrich shares one of his favorite memories of dressing up for Halloween. He says “My all time favorite Halloween costume was when I dressed up as an emoji turd when I was younger.”

With Halloween just recently passing and Thanksgiving coming up, Junior Jacey Johnson describes her all time favorite Thanksgiving dish, “definitely mac and cheese because I enjoy how creamy and delicious it is. I also love sweet potato casserole because it is glorious to my taste buds.”



Above: Junior Jacey J. shares her excitement for thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is such a wonderful time of the year where many people enjoy spending time with their family. Sophomore Teighan English says she is “planning on going to Wisconsin to visit family and see my little baby cousin.” Thanksgiving shows the joys of bringing family and friends together and celebrating this holiday season.

Hearing students’ plans for Halloween and Thanksgiving brings a heartwarming thought to the rest of the students. Both Halloween and Thanksgiving are important holidays to many people, and we hope everyone enjoys the cool weather and fall season!

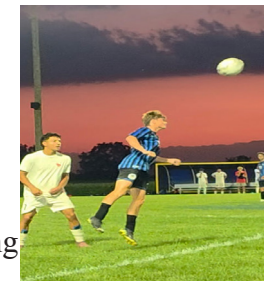
Between Two Nets

By: Taylor Jeffers, Ellie Lieser, Evan Smith, Ethan Redmond, Monica Pedroza, Bailey Schutter

The crowd cheers as sophomore, Harrison Mathre, and senior foreign exchange student, Inigo Garcia-Lopez runs onto the soccer field with their eyes set on winning the game. Meanwhile, miles away on the lake, seniors Matthew and Owen Underhill stand, waiting for a fish to bite their line.

Both the NCHS varsity soccer and bass fishing teams had very successful fall seasons. Both teams have matched their goals and created memories that will last forever. The soccer team made it to the regional championship with Harrison Mathre and Inigo Garcia-Lopez as key players on that team. In addition to soccer, Matthew and Owen Underhill helped the bass fishing team place in multiple tournaments throughout their fall season.

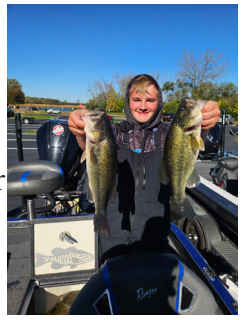
For sophomore Harrison Mathre, this year has been extra special as it is his first year starting varsity. He says, “I wanted to do it from the start. We had this thing where you put your position of what role you wanted to be on the team, and I wanted to be a starting varsity player. I knew I could do it.” Harrison loved playing this year, he made so many memories and had a great time with the team. One of Harrison’s favorite memories this year was meeting his new friend from Spain, Inigo. Inigo also made so many memories this season, but one specific memory stuck out. He says, “My favorite memory was the first day when I was talking with all the team, they were asking me questions about Spain and myself.”



Above: Sophomore, Harrison M. stops the ball with a headbutt.

In addition to the varsity soccer team, the Newark Bass Fishing team made countless memories but one specific fisher seemed to stand out. Senior, Matthew Underhill has had a fishing year like no other years before. He says, “This season’s weather has been different with the climate, so it’s been warmer and that has been changing things with fishing.” Clearly, he weather hasn’t stopped their amazing season and drive to succeed!

Below: Senior Matthew U. shows off his winning bass.



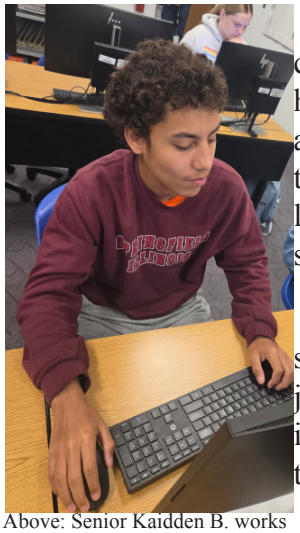
Many new members have joined the fall bass fishing team this year. Because of this, Senior Owen Underhill has taken on a mentorship role this season. Due to this change, Owens’ season has been different this year. He says, “This year a ton of freshmen joined the bass fishing team, so now I’m not playing as much.” Also, the bass fishing team only has two boats so that has also been a challenge for them this year.

Overall, our Norsemen have grit, perseverance, and are determination to do their best, and it shows. Soccer had an amazing season this year and the bass fishing team is ready to carry on in the spring. They always work hard to improve and show our community what they are capable of. Although the season is officially over, be ready to watch the bass fishing team continue to improve and succeed in the spring.

(A).P. U.S.H.ing It to The Limit

By Samuel Day, Caleb Morgan, Evan Sittler, and Talyn Holmstrom

It's morning. The clock reads 8:50; it's silent as a mouse. Then, "APUSH!", Mr. Hall, the instructor for A.P. U.S. History (among other history classes) approaches the front of the room – the intensity of a sergeant – rearing to approach history with a mindset rivalled only by the best scholars of our time. Mr. Hall has been a teacher for nearly 30 years. However, his feel-good attitude has roamed these corridors for nearly 30 years, emanating a beaming beacon of light for all those willing to see it.



Above: Senior Kaidden B. works hard working on his project for AP U.S History.

The students are engaged and ready to learn. AP U.S. History is a challenging class that pushes students to new levels and helps them to learn history on a more personal level. This class works allows students to work at their own pace, but not without challenge. The students who choose to enroll in this class can look forward to that challenge, conquering and learning from their struggles. AP Classes like this can help to shape a student's future, both personally and academically.

Kaidden Bailey, a senior in A.P. U.S. History shares that one of his biggest struggles within AP U.S. History is "Being scared of all of the tests, but I just got a really good grade on my last one." Even though Kaidden wasn't initially confident in himself, he still persevered and got a good grade on the test, which is one of the most valuable lessons learned in an AP class.

Often, the course's expectations can be the hardest part of AP U.S. History, meaning students do still struggle at times and have to dig down in themselves to find the perseverance to keep pushing. However, in cases like these, there's always a shoulder to lean on. It's not uncommon for students to have a hard time on these tests, some even calling it a hard class, although like Kaidden says, it is possible to push forward. Mr. Hall helps make this a possibility through his understanding of the expansive effort required to keep up in class.



Above: Mr. Hall Stands tall and is showing his christmas Spirit in the gym during Homecoming Week.

Admitting these difficulties, he says, "APUSH is usually a more rigorous, time-consuming class with more reading and homework assignments. It dives deeper into some of the details of history, more so than most regular US History classes."

Taking an AP class can also develop skills that have the capability to assist a community as a whole. For some, those skills can differ. For example, many students find this most important because studying history makes it possible to avoid past mistakes. "I feel like learning history helps you learn from your past mistakes. This helps us with preventive measures

that have happened in the past. Like 9/11. Our government knows how to put new safety requirements to prevent this," says Junior Johnathon Nicosia.

It's clear that APUSH is a difficult class. Mr. Hall is aware of this fact, balancing the difficulty of the class with the work ethics of the students enrolled. It's a belief of Mr. Hall's that pushing the students to their limits is an important step to take, he says, "The hardest part is to keep pushing their limits in terms of knowledge and skills. I don't want any students to shut down or wish they hadn't taken the course."

AP U.S. History is a class responsible for the development of many students, these developments appear in a multitude of ways, including time management, social-skills, and a more objective view on events. Mr. Hall and his students craft and hone their skills day after day, making it a class to remember year-after-year.

Newark's Haunted Homecoming Week

By Owen, Maddie, Easton, Jacey, and Nathan

Every seat of the bleachers filled as the crowd shakes the building with their cheers, and every student buzzes with excitement. These were the sounds of Newark High School's 2026 Haunted Homecoming week.

Homecoming Week is the appetizer for the rest of the school year here at Newark High School. This year's Homecoming theme was "A Haunted Homecoming" and it ran from Monday, September 27th to Saturday, October 3rd. Homecoming week included events such as flag football, powder puff soccer, and volleyball, dress up days, a faculty and staff barbecue fundraiser, hallway decorating, the Friday Night Games, and of course, the Homecoming Dance. The Homecoming Court consisted of Freshmen Adele Martinez and Paxton Westerfield, Sophomores Ella Martinez and Brock Friestad, Juniors Eastin McBroom and Cayla Pottinger, Senior boys Jaxon Collins, David Ulrich, Austin Reibel, and Iñigo Garcia-Lopez, and Senior girls Bailey Schutter, Taylor Jeffers, Tessa Kot, Gracyn Schultz, and Kenzie Doss. The Homecoming King and Queen, Iñigo Garcia-Lopez and Taylor Jeffers, were crowned at the conclusion of the Friday night games.



Above: Members of the Senior Court find out who won this year's Homecoming King and Queen.

Mrs. Kotora, one of the teachers who helps plan Homecoming week, says, "The most memorable part of Homecoming Week this year was the Seniors' impressive comeback. A true Homecoming miracle." Throughout the week the Seniors were trailing in last place until the Friday Night Games. There, the Seniors placed first in the Lip Sync Battle, the Tug of War, and the Obstacle Course. The Seniors also placed highly in Balance the Brain and Halloween Trivia. The Seniors' hard work and persistence throughout the week led to an amazing comeback with them winning first place and the first class ever to win Homecoming as both Sophomores and Seniors throughout their high school career.



Above: The Junior class struggles to win a round of tug of war vs. the Sophmore class

One of the events the students and staff got to participate in was dress up days. A talented and strong competitor of the Senior class, Sadie Clausel says, " The zombie dress up day was my favorite day because I got to cut up clothes to make the outfit." Sadie's quote encompasses the amount of creativity students can have with Homecoming week. Sophomore Sean Crowe describes a differnt kind of creativity and time put into Homecoming week, particularly the amount of work that goes on outside of school.

He states “We went to our classmate, Brock Friestad’s, house for the lip sync around 6 or 7pm every night, and we practiced our lip sync until we got it right.” The Sophomores’ dedication to the lip sync shows the kind of teamwork needed outside of school. Their hard work paid off with the Sophomores earned second place in the Lip Sync battle beating out both the Juniors and the Freshmen.

However, the lip sync battle is just one small part of the annual homecoming games. Gryffin Sittler, an exemplary Freshman, states, “The games were my favorite part of Homecoming week because it was my first year and I found it really, really fun.” Gryffin is a perfect example of how every student in each and every grade can be included and have a fun time throughout this awesome week. Every student has the chance to battle for the top of the Homecoming leaderboard.

Even if you missed the Newark Norsemen’s spooktacular Homecoming dance, you can still enjoy the many events throughout the week. From having dress up days every day of the week, to competing in Friday night games, to dancing the night away students have a blast throughout the week. Homecoming is most people’s favorite part of the school year where everybody shows their teamwork and their pride and works together to have an ecstatic and memorable week.