

# THE RAM PAGE

First Quarter Edition

• Developing Leaders •

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## Helle Finalist for Teacher of the Year



*Mrs. Heather Helle, SC's beloved music teacher.  
BY: Katelynn*

I sat down with music teacher Ms. Helle to interview her about how she got nominated for Missouri Teacher of the Year. I asked her, "Why do you like teaching music? She said she enjoys teaching music because she gets to go over all of the subjects such as: math, writing, history, and language. They also get to explore cultures and all the places around the world. She thinks that music is a really fun subject, and she enjoys getting to see the kids learn music and perform and step out in confidence. A couple things that made her want to be a music teacher are her past teachers that taught her. She also wanted kids to have an experience that she did not have at first, as in choir and musicals. Mrs. Helle has been teaching music at Scott City for 24 years. She is not sure

how she was nominated for Missouri Teacher of the Year because it is anonymous, and she doesn't know who nominated her. During the initial phases she had to write three essays about being a music teacher. When she made it to Regionals, she had to write three more essays. She felt excited, humbled, and honored about being one of the top 7 people up for Missouri Teacher of the Year. She felt that way because she represented her teacher friends, the area, and Scott City. They have already picked a winner and sadly it was not Mrs. Helle, but she will always be a Missouri Teacher of the year finalist, and because she was a finalist, she will still get to be a part of things throughout the year.

## High School Yearbook to Commemorate 75th Year

This year Scott City will be celebrating 75 years of the high school yearbook. I sat down with Mrs. Pruden to talk about the yearbook's special anniversary. I started by asking her how she was going to celebrate. Her response was that they are going to do school wide shirt orders with the yearbook theme, "Moments of Blue & Gold/75 years of Ram Pride." Then, I asked her how the annual Josten's Yearbook workshop at SEMO went. She said Avarie O'Brien (2023 graduate) won 3rd place in Sports Action Photography, and Mrs. Pruden herself won Elementary/Junior High Advisor of the Year. The high school staff also won the school of distinction award through Josten's, which they have not won since

2019. They worked very hard trying to fit everyone into the yearbook three times, had an increase in sales and met all of their deadlines as a district! I asked Mrs. Pruden what is going to be new this year. She said she wants to utilize the new media room, and have in-person interviews for the quarterly middle school newsletter, and design a special cover for the 75th volume of the high school book featuring senior signatures on the back cover, which they have not done since 2017. Look for new hallway prints to be up by parent teacher conferences on Thursday, Oct. 27th.

**By: Skylar**



*A prototype of the 75th anniversary shirts and yearbook cover for the 2024 high school yearbook. Order yours today!*



## Laxton Leaves Legacy

Like last year, there are several faculty members that are going to be retiring at the end of the school year. This quarter we are focusing on Gifted teacher, Ms. Becky Laxton. She has been teaching for a total of 30 years. She has taught at different schools such as St. Joe's, Lake of the Ozarks, Cape, and Scott City. She has taught many different subjects, but for most of her career she has taught Math and is currently teaching SEEK, our schools Gifted program. Ms. Laxton started at Scott City as a middle school teacher's aide for Mrs. Sauerbrunn. She began teaching 6th grade Math whenever Superintendent Umfleet became the middle school principal years ago. When asked what her favorite part about teaching is, Ms. Laxton said getting to know 'her kids' is her favorite part. After Ms. Laxton retires she plans on getting a part-time job, and spending time with family and her two new cats, Misty and Twilight. Her favorite memories while teaching were Seek field trips because she got to hang out and laugh with students. In conclusion, she loves teaching and believes that teaching was her calling. Mrs. Pruden had this to say, "Everyone loves Ms. Laxton because she is such a good listener and friend. We will all miss her immensely." High school SEEK student, Ian Weber had this to say, "I will miss Ms. Laxton because I feel like she understands and cares about everyone in her class as an individual."

By: Ella

## District Receives Air Purifiers for every Room

By: McKenna

You may have noticed on your first day of school something new in every classroom (hint: the air purifiers.) I interviewed Mrs. Tresa, our school nurse, about the new machines. I asked her who thought of the idea for the air purifiers. Mrs. Tresa said, "I don't know who thought of the idea, but I got an email about a grant program and so then I initiated in working with our maintenance man, Trevor Job to get them ordered, delivered, and set up. I then asked Mrs. Tresa what the total price of the air purifiers was. Mrs. Tresa said, "It didn't cost us anything because it was through a grant, so everything was free to the district. She added, "I got an email about how much it would have cost us. I don't remember how much it was, but it was in the six digit range. Next, I asked what difference can the machines make? Mrs. Tresa said that it will take time to know the changes. They are going to help with more than just Covid. They should help kids with asthma, allergies, and help filter the air." I asked Mrs. Tresa how the new purifiers will be maintained. Mrs. Tresa said, "Mr. Job will have to change the filters every so often."



The new air purifier in the 5-12 Library Media Center.

## SC Begins E-Sports

By: Lorna

This year Scott City middle and high school is offering a new club called esports. Esports is being run by 1st grade teacher, Ms. Jourden. Esports is online gaming. The esports team is not competing this year, but Ms. Jourden hopes to be competing next year. There are three high school students and 14 middle school students currently participating. They practice and play a game called 'Rocket League'. The high school practices take place in the high school library media center on Tuesday from 3:10-3:40 p.m. The middle school practice is in the same place on Wednesday's from 3:10-3:40 p.m. The school provided the esports club gaming PC's and is currently trying to provide them with Xbox controllers. Ms. Jourden got introduced to esports by Mrs. Ort and was asked to be their coach. The long term goals are to compete next year on a broader scale and compete this year with local schools. Ms. Jourden also hopes to get more kids involved and get scholarships. Esports has been well received throughout middle school, but not as much as high school. Best of luck to Ms. Jourden and the new esports teams.

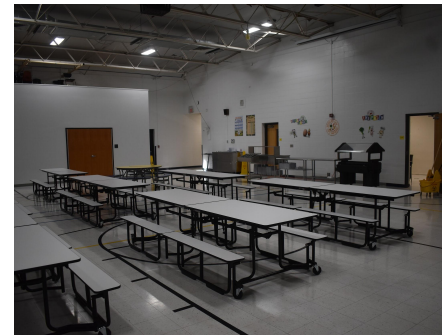


*Middle school student, Kevin Sutton, plays 'Rocket League' after school during an esports meeting in the media center.*

## Elementary Gets New Cafeteria

By: Lorna

Last year Scott City School decided to turn the old elementary gym into a cafeteria. This decision was made to have more space for elementary kids. This allows them to not have to eat so early. It also gives middle and high school more space. They also have their own place. The transition was rough at first, but they are doing a lot better now. They are purchasing new items to improve it and make more space. The elementary students like having their own cafeteria so far. Scott City School is helping to provide more things to improve this new elementary cafeteria in the future. Lunch duty teacher Laura Sterling said "I think our students really enjoy having their own space. It's really come together and just makes sense with our lunch and recess schedules. It's been a great addition to our elementary school." Mrs. Jodi Palisch added "It's really nice having our own space. The kids also love that they get to go outside to recess right after lunch!"



*New elementary cafeteria.*

## SC Park Has New Archery Range

By: Madison

For this month's community spotlight article, I sat down with Scott City Parks director, Skyler Cobb and interviewed him about the new archery set up at the Scott City Park. I asked Skyler if he could describe the archery set up to me. He described it by telling where it was located, which is by the walking trail entrance at Scott City Park on Ruth St.. He said that there are three targets. I asked about the hours for using the targets, and he said that since it's a public archery range, people can pretty much stay and use the targets whenever they want from daylight to night time. He mentioned that the range is open for 8 months of the year; April-December. I asked about rules for the archery range and he said that one rule is that shooters can't go and pick up their arrows until everyone is done shooting, for safety. Another rule that he mentioned is that people can't bring crossbows because they are too powerful for the targets. I asked him how much the whole set-up cost and he said \$2,000 without a lot of tax costs. I asked where the funding came from and he said that some other cities pitched in. When I asked if a lot of people have been using the targets, he said yes. He said that he can tell because the targets are covered in holes from people shooting the targets. After that, I asked if he's happy with how the set-up turned out. Skyler said that even though he didn't really know what he was getting into since he'd never done anything like that before, he said that he thinks everything turned out great and that the guys did a great job working on it. Skyler said he hopes to get better seating for the range in the future.



*The new archery range at Scott City Park offers three targets up near the walking trail starting entrance.*

# 2024 Publications Staff

8th grade



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