LIBERTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EDUCATOR

Winter 2026



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SCHOOL DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Early Childhood/Elementary Schools

Early Childhood Center	9600 NE 79th St. KCMO 64158	736-5324	Bart Tittle, Principal Sabrina Dotson, Asst. Principal
Alexander Doniphan	1900 Clay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5400	Beth Cunningham, Principal Chavis Clawson, Asst. Principal
EPiC Elementary	650 Conistor Liberty, MO 64068	736-5730	Jamie Ackart, Principal
Franklin	201 W. Mill Street Liberty, MO 64068	736-5440	Amy Toebben, Principal Jaysa Hartman, Asst. Principal
Kellybrook	10701 N. Eastern Ave. KCMO 64157	736-5700	Jerrod Fellhauer, Principal Megan Thompson, Asst. Principal
Lewis and Clark	1407 Nashua Liberty, MO 64068	736-5430	Mitch Hiser, Principal Dawn Shannon, Asst. Principal
Liberty Oaks	8150 N. Farley KCMO 64158	736-5600	Jeanne Hinnenkamp, Principal Ashlyn Garton, Asst. Principal
Lillian Schumacher	425 Claywoods Pkwy. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5490	Matthew Krohne, Principal Jaysa Hartman, Asst. Principal Emily Griffin, Asst. Principal
Manor Hill	1400 Skyline Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5460	Jordan Williamson, Principal Julie Gosnell, Asst. Principal
Ridgeview	701 Thornton Liberty, MO 64068	736-5450	Tyler Shannon, Principal Heather Buckman, Asst. Principal
Shoal Creek	9000 N Flintlock Rd. KCMO 64157	736-7150	Christy Boman, Principal Ashley Assman, Asst. Principal Danielle Compton, Asst. Principal
Warren Hills	1251 Camille St. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5630	Michelle Swierski, Principal Heather Lee, Asst. Principal

Secondary Schools

Discovery Middle School	800 Midjay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-7300	Greg Mees, Principal Courtney Dickerson, Asst. Principal
Heritage Middle School	600 W. Kansas Liberty, MO 64068	736-5380	Reagan Allegri, Principal Ryan Dahm, Asst. Principal Alec Eslick, Asst. Principal
Liberty Middle School	1500 S. Withers Rd. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5410	Jeremy Bradham, Principal Morgan Dawson, Asst. Principal
South Valley Middle School	1000 Midjay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-7180	Jill Mullen, Principal Jennifer Selock, Asst. Principal Whitney Weakley, Asst. Principal
Liberty High School	200 Blue Jay Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5340	Mike Sharp, Principal Tara Bell, Asst. Principal Caleb Champ, Asst. Principal Bridget Herrman, Asst. Principal Ryan Nichols, Asst. Principal Jason Cahill, Activities Director
Liberty North High School	1000 NE 104th St. Liberty, MO 64608	736-5500	Rosemary Camp, Principal Lee Allen, Asst. Principal Josh Baldwin, Asst. Principal RoseAngela Taney, Asst. Principal Stacy Syler, Asst. Principal David McDorman, Activities Director
Liberty Academy	1115 Blackberry Dr. Liberty, MO 64068	736-5470	Melissa Norris, Director of Alternative Education



2025-2026 Liberty Public Schools Board of Education - Pictured (Back row, L-R): Dan Currence, AJ Byrd, Nick Bartlow, Drew Marriott; (Front row, L-R): Karen Rogers, Angie Reed, Jenn Bauer

Board of Education

Karen Rogers, President
karen.rogers@lps53.org

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Drew Marriott
drew.marriott@lps53.org

Liberty Public Schools

District Offices
8 Victory Lane
Liberty, MO 64068
(816) 736-5300

Superintendent

Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker

Website

www.lps53.org

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ON THE COVER

2nd grade students at EPiC Elementary pose for a photo shortly after being announced as a 2026 Top 20 finalist in the Battle of the Brains competition on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.



Liberty Public Schools Community,

I hope this update finds each of you doing well. It is hard to believe that we are now several weeks into the spring semester in LPS. I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to each of you following the announcement of my retirement in October 2025. Serving as superintendent of Liberty Public Schools for the past twelve years has been such an honor. I am deeply thankful for the trust, collaboration, and support you have shown me throughout this journey.

Liberty Public Schools is a truly special district because of its people. Our dedicated staff, inspiring students, supportive families, and engaged community members make LPS a place where excellence thrives and relationships matter. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated successes, and remained steadfast in our shared commitment to student success. I am incredibly proud of all that we have accomplished as one LPS family.

As we look ahead, I am confident in the district's future. In recent weeks, our Board of Education has been working diligently to identify the next superintendent. This thoughtful process has included meaningful opportunities for community feedback, reflecting the Board's commitment to transparency and collaboration. I am grateful for their leadership and care in ensuring a smooth and successful transition. Liberty Public Schools will introduce its next superintendent in the coming weeks, with the official transition taking place on July 1, 2026.

Thank you again for the incredible support you have shown, not only to me, but to our entire district. It has been a privilege to serve alongside such passionate and dedicated individuals.

I wish all of our Liberty Public Schools community an amazing 2026 filled with continued growth, opportunity, and success. In the meantime, I encourage you to take a few moments to see for yourself some of the amazing things that have been accomplished in our district that are reflected in this month's magazine.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker,
Superintendent - Liberty Public Schools







If you would like more information about Liberty School District, please contact the Communications Office at 736-5300, or visit our website at www.lps53.org.

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Sharing the LPS Story

In Liberty Public Schools, several social media platforms that we have in place provide us with the opportunity to tell our story. One of these platforms is X (formerly Twitter), where we share updates daily. Provided are some posts that were shared this semester to help tell the LPS story. In addition, you will find all of our school X handles and hashtags below, and we encourage you to give them a follow!

Name	Account	Hashtag
Elementary Schools		
Alexander Doniphan	@ADdolphins	#lpsad
EPiC	@EpicElementary	#lpsepic
Franklin	@LPSFranklinElem	#lpsfranklin
Kellybrook	@KBElementary	#kbcougars
Lewis and Clark	@lcblazers	#lcblazers
Liberty Oaks	@LibertyOaksLPS	#libertyoaks
Lillian Schumacher	@LillianSchuElem	#lssharks
Manor Hill	@MHPatriot	#mhpatriot
Ridgeview	@RVRoadrunner	#rvroadrunner
Shoal Creek	@ShoalCreekStars	#starssc
Warren Hills	@WHWildcats	#whcats
Middle Schools		
Discovery Middle School	@dmsbluejays	#dmsleads
Heritage Middle School	@heritagescoop	#heritagems
Liberty Middle School	@LibertyLMS	#LMSsoars
South Valley Middle School	@svmsEagles	#svmseagles
High Schools		
Liberty Academy	@LibAcademy	#LPSAcademy
Liberty High School	@LHSJAYS	#lhsjays
Liberty North High School	@LNEagleNews	#northnation



FOLLOW US ON X

EXCELLENCE ON A STATEWIDE STAGE



Blue Jay Boys Swimmers Turn Heads at State Meet

The Liberty High School's boys swim team made waves across Missouri this past fall, delivering one of the most memorable performances in school history at the Missouri Swim and Dive Championships in St. Peter's, MO, on November 14-15, 2025.

Competing against the state's best, the Blue Jays showcased depth, speed, and consistency, winning 7 of the 12 events at the meet and piling up 253 team points, which were the most ever recorded by a Liberty swim team. That remarkable effort earned Liberty its second consecutive fourth-place trophy and extended an already impressive streak of 10 straight top-eight finishes at the state meet.

At the center of the celebration were several standout individual performances.

• **Cole Tobin** captured state titles in both the 200 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle, setting the tone for Liberty's dominant showing.

• **Graham Henderson** delivered a truly historic meet, winning the 50 Freestyle and the 100 Backstroke, with his backstroke time ranking as the fourth fastest in Missouri state history. Henderson's season-long excellence was recognized with the honor of Missouri Class 2 State Swimmer of the Year for 2025.

• **Nathan Searls** added to the medal count by claiming the state championship in the 100 Butterfly.

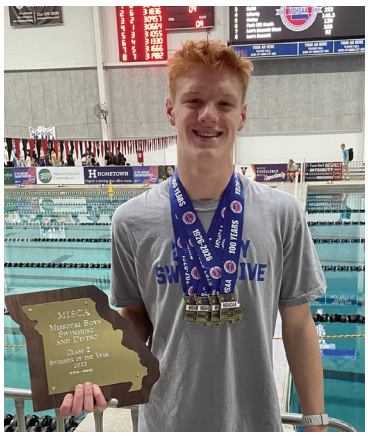
Liberty's relay teams were just as impressive, proving the strength of the program's teamwork and depth.

• **The 200 Freestyle Relay team of Cole Tobin, Nathan Searls, Jace Graham, and Graham Henderson** finished with the second-fastest time in state history, missing the state record by a razor-thin 0.01 seconds.

• **The 200 Medley Relay squad of Graham Henderson, Adam Houck, Nathan Searls, and Cole Tobin** also etched their names into the record books, posting the fourth-fastest time in state history.

Behind the scenes, this success was guided by outstanding leadership. Head coach Chris Murphy was named Coach of the Year by the Missouri State High School Activities Association, a fitting honor that reflects both the team's historic results and the culture of excellence built within the program.

Congratulations to Coach Murphy and these amazing student-athletes for bringing home all of these state medals!



Graham Henderson



Liberty North Cheerleaders Capture State Championship

The Liberty North High School varsity cheerleaders have reached the top of the podium, earning the 2025 MCCA 4A–6A Small Coed Division State Championship! The Eagles delivered an outstanding performance marked by precision, energy, and teamwork, showcasing the dedication and talent of the entire squad.

Adding to the celebration, seniors Lily Currence and Aubrey Owen were both honored as All-State tumblers, a testament to their exceptional skill and leadership.

Congratulations to Head Coach Kelsey Mayabb and the Liberty North cheer team on an incredible season and a well-deserved state title. Way to go, Eagles!

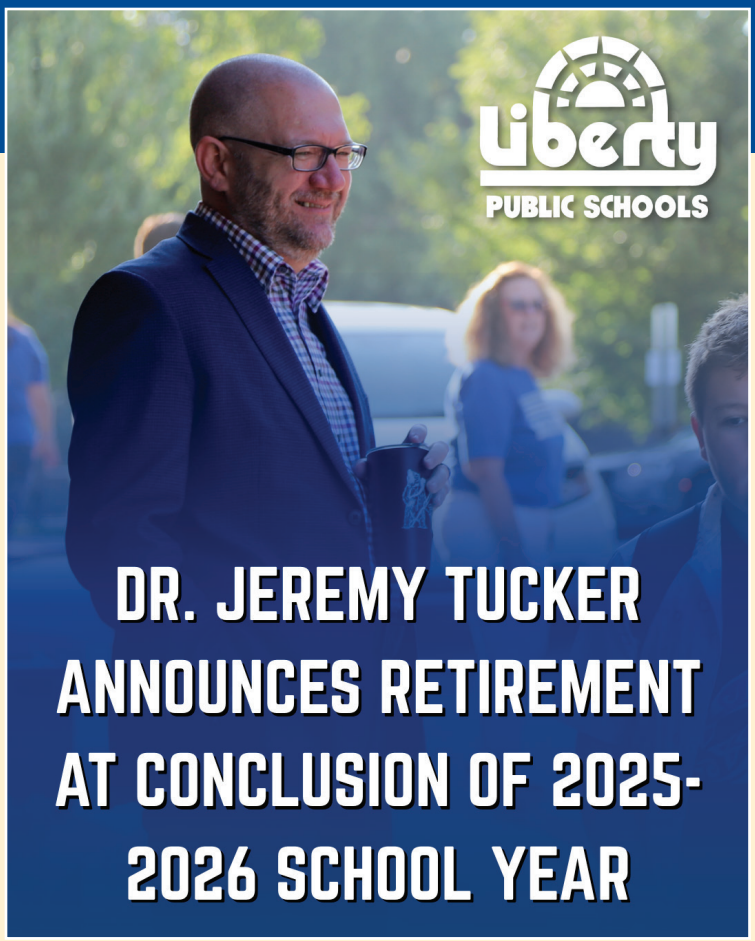
Liberty North Boys Cross Country Brings Home the Hardware

On November 7, 2025, the Liberty North High School Cross Country teams traveled to Columbia, Missouri, to compete in the Missouri State Cross Country Championship against the top 16 teams and 160 of the best athletes in the state. What followed was a day to remember for the Eagles.

The highlight of the meet was a thrilling performance by the Liberty North boys team, who captured the State Championship title, marking the program's second state title (2022, 2025) and its sixth team trophy in just 16 seasons. The boys scored 77 points, edging out a strong Rock Bridge team by only four points. Five Eagles earned All-State honors, led by junior Nate Haberlach with an impressive 6th-place finish. He was followed by senior Isheaneasu Nziramasanga (14th), junior Drew Gray (19th), sophomore Beckett Andreasen (25th), and sophomore Joey DeRouchie (27th). Seniors Ezra DeRouchie (67th) and Kevin Lewczyk (78th) rounded out the scoring effort with determined performances.

In total, Liberty North celebrated six All-State athletes and a championship that reflects years of dedication and excellence. Congratulations to Head Coach David Chatlos, Assistant Coach Brian Curp, and the entire Eagle Cross Country Team for bringing home the championship!





DR. JEREMY TUCKER ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AT CONCLUSION OF 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

Dr. M. Jeremy Tucker, superintendent of Liberty Public Schools, announced Wednesday, October 22, 2025, his plans to retire at the conclusion of the 2025-2026 school year, after serving the past 12 years as our superintendent.

"Serving as your superintendent has been an honor and a privilege," said Dr. Tucker. "The LPS community has been truly incredible and so supportive to our family since we first arrived here. The future is bright for Liberty Public Schools, and I couldn't be more proud of our district."

Dr. Tucker's last day will be June 30, 2026. The timing of this announcement will allow the Board of Education to conduct a thorough search for the next superintendent and to provide a seamless leadership transition.

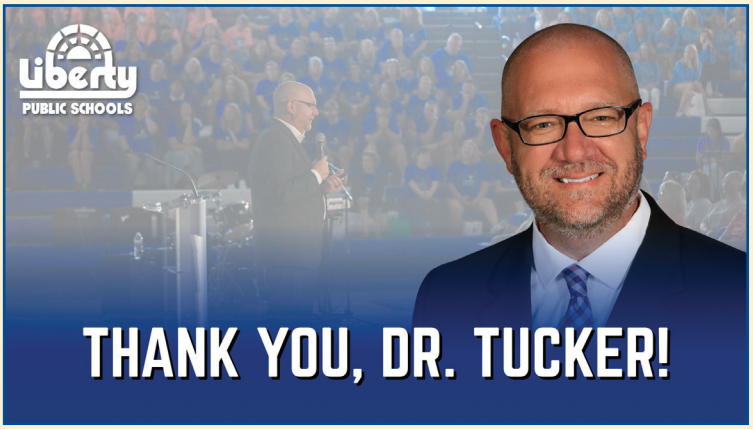
A public educator for nearly 30 years, Dr. Tucker became Liberty's superintendent on July 1, 2014. He had previously served as the superintendent in the Logan-Rogersville R-VIII School District for the previous 6 years. In total, his time in Logan-Rogersville spanned 15 years, in the positions of teacher, coach, and principal. He also served as an assistant principal in the Dallas County R-I School District in Buffalo, MO.

As part of his tenure in Liberty Public Schools, Dr. Tucker has guided the district through several iterations of the strategic planning process, leading to the LPS Vivid Vision and Graduate Profile, which have become a staple within the district's framework. Real-world learning opportunities for students, and ongoing community partnerships and engagement has also become a staple during Dr. Tucker's tenure. Additionally, voters have approved two bond issues, the most recent in April 2023, which was the largest bond issue in the history of Liberty Public Schools at $120 million and gained a voter approval rate of 80%. Projects made possible by the bond approvals have provided students and staff with innovative learning spaces to increase learning opportunities for all.

A personal highlight for Dr. Tucker was when he was named the 2019 Missouri Superintendent of the Year by the Missouri Association of School Administrators. Within the announcement, MASA shared the following: "He is dedicated to a 'student-centered' approach to education and other educational leaders in Missouri and across the country call on Dr. Tucker for his insights into the best ways to effectively guide the learning process in a school district."

"The Board of Education is grateful for the incredible leadership that Dr. Tucker has provided this district for the past 12 years," said LPS Board President Karen Rogers. "The longevity that he provided us in his role is truly remarkable, and he provided us with much-needed stability in his role as superintendent. He is a transformational leader who has remained focused on providing the best educational opportunities for our students."

The next superintendent of Liberty Public Schools is expected to be announced in the coming weeks. For the latest updates, stakeholders of LPS are encouraged to remain engaged with our district website (www.lps53.org) and social media platforms.



2026 BOARD CANDIDATES



Liberty Public Schools Board of Education Update

Board candidacy for the Liberty Public Schools Board of Education election officially closed on December 30, 2025. Three positions were open on the Board, and three candidates filed for those seats: Ms. Angie Reed, Mr. AJ Byrd, and Ms. Jenn Bauer. All three individuals are current members of the Board of Education.

Because the number of candidates matched the number of open positions, there will be no Board of Education election held on April 7, 2026. Ms. Reed, Mr. Byrd, and Ms. Bauer will each begin new three-year terms and are scheduled to be sworn in at the regular Board meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.





LPS Celebrates 4th Consecutive Year of Growth on APR

Liberty Public Schools is proud to announce another year of academic excellence, earning an impressive 86% overall score on the 2025 Annual Performance Report (APR) from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). This marks the fourth consecutive year of improvement for the district, which earned 172 out of 200 possible points, which is nearly a 2 point increase from last year's 84.2%.

"We are thrilled to celebrate another year of growth and excellence across our district," said Dr. Jeremy Tucker, LPS Superintendent. "This continued progress reflects the dedication of our teachers, staff, students, and families working together to ensure every student succeeds."

Academic Excellence and Achievement

LPS demonstrated strong performance across multiple academic measures, including:

• Perfect graduation rate (100%) and graduate follow-up success (100%), showing that LPS students are well-prepared for postsecondary paths.

• Advanced Credit Achievement: Perfect score (10/10) for AP, dual credit, and advanced coursework opportunities.

• Academic Achievement: Target designations in Social Studies (MPI 410.6) and English Language Arts (MPI 405.1).

• College & Career Readiness: On Track designation with 7.5/10 points earned.

Continuous Improvement and District Leadership

Liberty Public Schools earned 98.3% of available continuous improvement points, reflecting the district's ongoing commitment to excellence. LPS achieved perfect scores in key indicators including Improvement Planning, Climate and Culture, and ICAP implementation. The district also met all MSIP 6 documentation and accreditation requirements, maintained fund balance standards, and achieved near-perfect assessment participation rates (99.5%–99.9%).

Performance Growth Highlights

The district's performance category increased from 109.5 points in 2024 to 113 points in 2025, driven by notable gains in Social Studies, Mathematics, and English Language Arts growth measures.

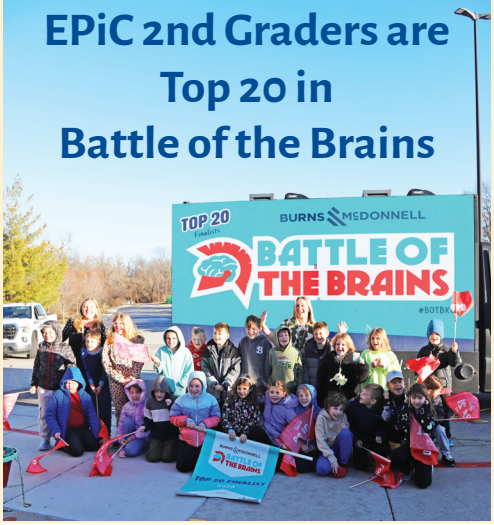
"These results validate our strategic focus on personalized learning, college and career readiness, and continuous improvement," said Dr. Tucker. "We're especially proud of our perfect graduation rate and our students' success after graduation—this is what it means to put students first."

Looking Ahead

Building on this momentum, Liberty Public Schools will continue to expand student opportunities, strengthen academic growth in science and mathematics, and maintain its position as a statewide leader in educational excellence.

For more information about Liberty Public Schools' 2025 Annual Performance Report results, visit the district website.

EPiC 2nd Graders are Top 20 in Battle of the Brains



It was an exciting morning at EPiC Elementary on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, as Burns and McDonnell rolled out the red carpet when they announced the Top 20 finalists in the Battle of the Brains, which is a metro-wide K-12 competition with a focus on STEM (which is science, technology, engineering, and math.

We are pleased to share that the Studio 2 Tellers, which is made up of 25 second grade students and led by teachers Emma Gorombey and Courtney Burgess, have been selected as part of this prestigious group of finalists. Their project is titled Erosion Expeditions, as the students created an immersive experience by showing how time, wind and water affect landforms across the United States.

The 2025-26 Burns & McDonnell Battle of the Brains competition engages more than 6,700 students from 250schools across 48 school districts. More than 710 entries were reviewed by STEM professionals from Burns &McDonnell and Science City, highlighting bold ideas to inspire curiosity, creativity and meaningful learning for visitors of all ages.

$157,500 in grants will be shared among schools with finalist teams to support STEM learning. One team will earn the grand prize: a $50,000 grant and the opportunity to collaborate with Burns & McDonnell and Science City professionals to develop a permanent exhibit valued at more than $1 million at Science City. The winning proposal will be revealed February 4, 2026, at Union Station in downtown Kansas City.

CHARACTER TRAITS RECOGNITION



Front (L-R): Ellie Harvel (Liberty Oaks), Bo Walerbach (Liberty Oaks), Leo Fuentez (Kellybrook), Liam Untch (Shoal Creek), Emery Hall (Shoal Creek), Lena Zimmerschied (Kellybrook)

Back (L-R): Drew Marriott (LPS Board of Education), Colleen Pelletier (Liberty Chamber), Kristen Pixler (Attic Storage), Monique Deskovick (Attic Storage), Ed Hughes (Northland Rolladium), Kim anaya (Hy-Vee)



Front (L-R): Lilly Sutton (Manor Hill), Charlotte Proctor (Ridgeview), Jillian Thompson (Ridgeview), Wesley Hilton (Manor Hill), Navy Lewis (Lillian Schumacher), Nolan Orendac (Lillian Schumacher)

Back (L-R): Monique Deskovick (Attic Storage), Hank Glaeser (Stephens/Heffner Financial Partners), Ed Hughes (Northland Rolladium), Jeff Klein (ServPro), Daniel Doering (FastKick Martial Arts), Kim Anaya (Hy-Vee), Colleen Pelletier (Liberty Chamber), Karen Rogers (LPS Board of Education)



Front (L-R): Easton Truax (Warren Hills), Brewer Truax (Warren Hills), Eli Bennet (Lewis and Clark), Girard Simmons (Lewis and Clark), Jackson Newcomer (EPiC), Vera Rhoad (EPiC)

Back (L-R): Colleen Pelletier (Liberty Chamber), Katie Mitchell (GI Junk Removal), Kim Anaya (Hy-Vee), Reyann Hay (Nothing Bundt Cakes), Daniel Doering (FastKick Martial Arts), (Ed Hughes (Northland Rolladium), Monique Deskovick (Attic Storage), Nick Bartlow (LPS Board of Education)



Front (L-R): Asher Olsen (Alexander Doniphan), Lincoln Lolley (Kellybrook), Oliver Bowman (Alexander Doniphan), Nyah Howell (Kellybrook), Bennett Carter (Franklin), Ater Tong (Franklin)

Back (L-R): Monique Deskovick (Attic Storage), Hank Glaeser (Stephens/Heffner Financial Partners), Lauryn Schoen (GI Junk Removal), Katie Mitchell (GI Junk Removal), Jeff Klein (ServPro), Kim Anaya (Hy-Vee), Colleen Pelletier (Liberty Chamber), Kristen Pixler (Attic Storage), Daniel Doering (FastKick Martial Arts), Angie Reed (LPS Board of Education)

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EVENT WEBSITE
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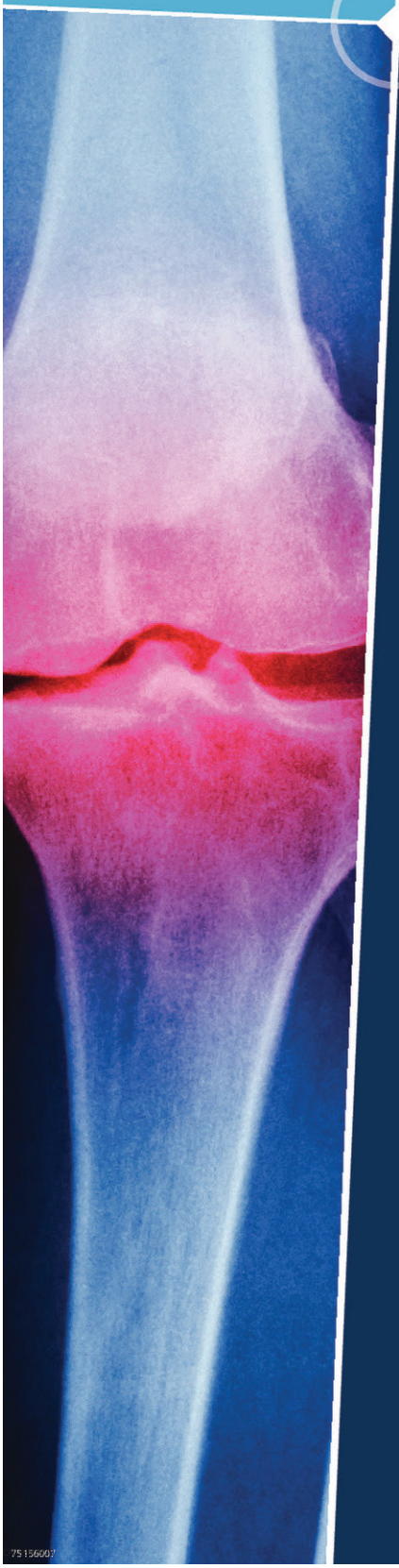
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