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NEW COACH

ON THE BLOCK

CHARLOTTE WHALEN | staff writer

This year, schools all across the country are having issues with staffing, and LASA is no exception, leading to an influx of new teachers this year including Derrick Lewis. As a former National Football League (NFL) player, he received an offer earlier this year to serve as the team's head coach and athletic coordinator and accepted the position at the beginning of the semester.

Lewis didn't start playing football until he was a junior in college, unlike many other NFL players, but he soon developed a love for the sport. By the time he graduated college, he had over 50 professional football offers from all over the country eventually leading to his draft into the NFL in 2002. He started his professional football career with the New Orleans Saints, later going on to play with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Houston Texans. Lewis also played for the Austin Wranglers, a team a part of the Arena Football League that plays indoors. He has chosen to continue his career by teaching football at LASA, hoping to be challenged and make the team respectable in the district.

"I chose LASA of all of them because I made a reputation of being a developmental coach," Lewis said. "I take kids that otherwise wouldn't have gone to college for football and after a year or two are training them for that they end up on college radars, and they end up going to college to play football. And so I thought that this would be the best place for me to display that skill set to take a team that no one really thinks much of and develop and make them into a respectable, decent team."

Although his professional football career was successful, exemplified by him breaking records with the Austin Wranglers, Lewis chose to coach high school football instead of coaching for NFL or college football. Lewis said he made the choice in order to spend more time with his family.

"Honestly, [with] the hours required to be a college coach and the size of my family, it'd be impossible to satisfy the workload and spend time with my kids," Lewis said. "And in high school, there's enough time that I can go home and play with my babies."

In addition to his many duties as the head football coach, Lewis also serves as LASA's athletic coordinator. Lewis said he plans on using this position to strengthen all of LASA's athletic teams, not just football.

"My job is just to control the program and make sure that all teams and all coaches have everything they need to compete to have success in the sport, to bring in outside sources to help the coaches and players and just to build the program up," Lewis said. "I want it to get to the point where when you're competing against a LASA team, you know that it's going to be a competitive match, and we won't be a doormat."

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Graphic by Kayla Le



what's news



photo by Kayla Le

Water polo makes a debut at UIL as a competitive sport

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photo by Kayla Le

Arthur Stiles residents take a walk down memory lane

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LIGHT AT THE END OF THE

TUNNEL V!SION

KATIE BUSBY
SARAH GARRETT | entertainment editors

On multiple days throughout the spring and summer, Austin teens congregated at local venues to enjoy the music and art created by people around them and be able to visit an event designed specifically for them by people like them. Tunnel Vision, organized by senior Elise Ponder is an event 'for teens, by teens', giving Austin teenagers a space to share their art. People who visited the series were able to enjoy bands, purchase art, and support local businesses at all four events.

Junior Sofia Francis was able to go to two of the Tunnel Vision events and said she really enjoyed them. Tunnel Vision not only offers music performances, but also art vendors, which Francis enjoyed.

"Tunnel Vision was just such a great experience," Francis said. "I was amazed by how well organized it was and how unique the different events

Tunnel Vision featured many different artists and musicians throughout the series. Senior Aviva Shaevl sold her art at the first Tunnel Vision show. "At Tunnel Vision, I set up a booth displaying my original paintings as well as the prints of them that I was selling," Shaevl said. "I spent most of my time there at my booth interacting with people who came to the show and selling my artwork."

Ponder also wanted a place for creative teens of Austin to showcase their work. She invited teens all around Austin to create a space designated to display art with specialties ranging from acrylic painting to acoustic guitar.

"I just had a lot of creative friends, and there was no physical platform for them to show off their creativity," Ponder said. "I just sent an email to a venue and wanted to see how far I could go with my idea. I went through a few different ideas. I almost decided to put on a 'battle of the bands', but I wanted to do something that would bring our local teens more niche musical and artistic community together."

The series provided an opportunity for teens from around Austin to interact and see other people's creativity. Shaevl really enjoyed this space and found it interesting to be able to see other people's ideas come to life in their art.

"My favorite part of Tunnel Vision was going around to all of the other booths that people had set up and looking at their work because it was really inspiring to see different peoples artwork as well," Shaevl said.

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how well were. My favorite part was the ambience. The alternative art market with live music playing in the background was such an exciting combo, something really reminiscent of Austin's classic downtown music and vendor scene." Ponder organizes each Tunnel Vision event, with the first one taking place in April at the Far Out Lounge. She said that the event was important to people who enjoyed the classic Austin scene. "I really loved getting to see how much the event resonated with Austinites who remember 'old Austin,'" Ponder said. "The vibe, the music, the dancing, the collective passion really shot a lot of older Austinites back into the authentic Austin "golden days", and getting to hear their stories after the events and see their eyes light up meant the whole world to me. I also liked being able to help support some of my favorite local venues through these events, because most venues, along with the rest of the Austin music scene, have had a lot of trouble post-pandemic."



photo by Lili Xiong



photo by Katie Busby