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Schick brings 44-year teaching career to an end

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Senior Editor

Imagine the bell rings and you are ready for band class to start. Soon your band director breaks the news to the class that he is planning to retire. This scene is exactly what occurred when Band Director Mr. William Schick announced that he is planning to retire after the school year.

Mr. Schick started his career in 1979 and has been teaching band for 44 years: 21 years at Plainville and 19 years at Phillipsburg.

Prior to beginning his teacher career, Schick attended Barton County Community College for two years and then Fort Hays State University where he received his Bachelor's and Master of Music Education degrees.

"I taught at Plainville for 21 years and taught some great musicians just like here at Phillipsburg. We were selected twice to perform in the Citrus Bowl Parade in Orlando, Florida. The second trip to the Citrus Bowl Parade, we brought the year 2000 in at Disney World," Schick said.

During the last few years of teaching at Plainville, Schick taught instrumental and vocal music. He couldn't keep up with keeping both programs at a competitive level, so when the Phillipsburg job came open, he decided to move "home."

Throughout his years, Schick has experienced changes in education.

"Changes that I have noticed from when I started teaching to now are that students are the same, but there are more activities and technology has changed," Schick said.

Schick chose to teach band because when he was in school he had a really good band director who was a big influence on him.

"Victor Sisk was my first band director and he eventually went Fort Hays State University and was my band director in college and was my clarinet instructor," Schick said.

Schick plays the clarinet and plans to still be involved in music by helping any future band director if he or she needs assistance.

His favorite part about teaching is watching students play their instruments for the first time and then see their progress to their senior year. He also enjoys students' enthusiasm when they play their instruments.

Schick's main focuses when teaching his students consisted of pride, perfection and professionalism. He worked hard to build his students self-esteem and confidence. He also taught respect, honesty, generosity, trustworthiness, kindness, responsibility and patience.

Three of his students are currently band directors

and colleagues to Mr. Schick.

One of his favorite moments while teaching and performing is watching the expression on students faces when they are successful at what they do.

Some accomplishments and awards that Mr. Schick received over the years are that both Plainville and Phillipsburg bands together received First Division Ratings at the State Fair 25 years in a row. He was selected as the Outstanding Music Educator for the Northwest District Kansas Music Educators Association (NWKMEA). Schick was also selected twice as the Outstanding Middle School Music Educator of NWKMEA. He was president of NWKMEA and served on the state board. Plainville Middle School Band 1+ rating at MCEL league contest and every student in band either played as a soloist or in an ensemble and received a First Division Rating. Schick was conductor three times of Youth For Music Festival Band. He was also recognized as Plainville's School District Outstanding Educator.

"I've had numerous students performing in various honor bands and many were the first chair players," Schick said.

Schick also likes to teach all various genres of music and has his own record collection.

"I started collecting my records when I was in high school and it has grown over the years. I think I have around 25,000 records of just about any kind of music imaginable. Whenever I am organizing my records I am playing something. They are all organized by genre and alphabetized," Schick said.

Some students are sad to see their band teacher leave like senior Sierra Portenier who describes Schick as an extremely hard working man who would do literally anything for his students. She has learned many valuable lessons from Schick. Some examples being the importance of practice, being punctual and his favorite phrase to tell the class: "If you can't count it, you can't play it!"

"I think Mr. Schick has been an amazing teacher. We seniors have grown up with him and have had him as a teacher for eight years now. Mr. Schick truly loved teaching all these years and he has definitely made a difference in a lot of people's lives. I hope he can relax and enjoy retirement and know that we are all extremely grateful for what he has done for us," Portenier said.



Top: To go along with the Halloween performance, Mr. Schick dressed up as Tigger from Winnie the Pooh during the home football game on Oct. 27, 2016. Bottom: Mr. Schick poses with the members of the 2014 band following their spring concert.

Briefs

State:

Following the Sunday, Jan. 20 loss to the New England Patriots, the Kansas City Chiefs organization fired Defensive Coordinator Bob Sutton, who had held that role since 2013 when Head Coach Andy Reid took over. The Chiefs ranked among the worst defensively in the NFL this season and finished 31st in the regular season in yards allowed--405.5.

Local:

On the night of Jan. 16, a little before 7 p.m. police were called to the Hays Walmart responding to a possible active shooter situation. A single bullet was shot from a pistol when it was accidentally dropped, but no one was injured. Phillip and Linda Lipe were arrested due to criminal use of a weapon, endangerment, unlawful discharge and drug use.

National:

The government shutdown has been going on now for a total of 34 days. Senators are voting on the House's proposal to reopen the government. The House proposed a bill that would fund the government until Feb. 8. The funding does include \$12.1 billion dollars in disaster aid. This vote has been expected to fail. President Donald Trump shut down the government in the first place due to the money needed to build the wall separating the United States and Mexico. Those government workers, a total of 9,700 people, will not get paid until the government reopens. All will receive back pay under the legislation of President Trump. According to the *Washington Post*, government workers will be owed \$6 billion in back pay by the end of this week. The shutdown of government is projected to end by Jan. 29. Nancy Pelosi requested Trump delay his Jan. 16 speech as the Secret Service is without funding as well. President Trump gave his speech, disregarding Pelosi's statement.

Commissioners Change Local Speed Sign

SUMMER PEAK

Reporter

Whether a speed limit is increased or decreased, someone has to be in charge of changing it. But the question is: who exactly is that person and how does he or she go about changing the limit?



Actually, it isn't just one person who's in charge of those type of changes, in fact it's three people. Max Dibble, Bill Grieving and Larry Meili are the county commissioners who are in charge of changing speed limits like the one recently changed on the East Santa Fe Road (also known as the Chicken Inn Road).

County commissioners are a group of people who have the power to vote on matters brought up to them by the general public. They have no power individually and cannot bring up possible subject matters or issues by themselves. For example, on the E. Santa Fe Road, the residents in that area talked to Dibble about raising the speed limit, but Dibble could not personally bring

up the idea of changing the speed limit.

When it comes to speed limits or just laws in general, everyone knows the police are bound to be involved. But what's surprising to many is that the Phillips County

police haven't gotten the chance to be very involved in the process of changing speed limits or other changes the police will later have to enforce; that is until recently.

The county commissioners had not previously thought about including the sheriff department in their decisions. Although, they all did agree that it would make sense to include the people that enforce the laws being changed, and the commissioners will now consider the sheriff's opinion in similar future matters.

The commissioners actual process and steps to change a speed limit is rather simple. As explained by Grieving, all they have to do is first make a motion, second it, and lastly vote on it. If the vote passes two to one, the motion is passed and implemented into the county.

Commissioners after the vote have little to no involvement in the matter, which means they also have no involvement with making the change known publicly, so finding out about changes is often left up to the to discover. And because of the public isn't always aware, some people become very confused over changes, just like they did with the Chicken Inn--East Santa Fe Road.

"It took me a long time to figure it out; I just thought I was tripping, because it was just suddenly 40 [mph] one day," sophomore Kenlee Ebner said.

But in the end, future changes' like the East Santa Fe speed sign are ultimately up to the public to change. And if someone wants to change something in their county, they should consult their county commissioners.

Repetitive Behaviors range from habits to OCD to BFRB disorders

SUMMER PEAK

Reporter

The first thing people think of when they hear "repetitive behaviors" are things like traditions or habits; the less often thought of being OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder) and the even less thought of being BFRBs (body-focused repetitive behaviors), which not a lot of people have actually heard of. But all of these repetitive behaviors are different in their own unique way.

Regarding OCD, everyone has a vague idea of what it is, knows someone who has it or has it themselves, but not many people would consider it to be labeled as a habit; and that's because it isn't. A habit is a tendency that is hard to give up, and OCD is an excessive tendency that is hard to get over.

FACS teacher Mrs. Deb Weishaar considers her nervous habit to be self-talk. However, she doesn't consider her self-talk to be a "bad" habit. In fact, she views the self-talk as a strategy that has worked for her to cope with difficult situations.

"This habit has probably always been with me somewhat, as a way to encourage myself when I was afraid or worried, even when I was little. I became more aware of it because I used to always help Alec with little phrases to say to himself, then I would find myself saying them to myself. Things like, 'It will be ok,'" Weishaar said.

Even though Weishaar feels like she uses self-talk on a daily basis, she doesn't believe it is a compulsive disorder. She is confident that she does it as part of her everyday thinking.

Whereas, OCD is a compulsive behavior

that makes day-to-day life difficult and may make a person feel like they have no control over their actions. An example is when someone is obsessed with germs to the point they can't go on with their daily activities until they are sure something is clean or won't spread germs somewhere else.

A habit is a regularly repeated behavior that tends to occur subconsciously. For instance, when people shake their leg, that's a habit that they tend to do without thinking too much about. But with OCD, people do think about everything that involves their specific type of OCD.

For example, sophomore Shyann Miller repeatedly bites the inside of her lip or taps her foot when she feels anxious.

"I feel like I'm helpless when I can't [tap my foot]. I'll be doing it for a while then realize later that I'm still doing it," Miller said.

Although she tries to stop when she realizes her behavior, often she is unaware that is biting her lip or tapping her foot.

Now you know the difference between OCD and a habit, but what are BFRBs? How are they different and why haven't a lot of people heard of them?

Well BFRB stands for Body-Focused Repetitive Behaviors, and while that may sound like some strange complicated science vocab, it really isn't. BFRBs-- according to bfrb.org-- are not actually habits or ties but instead are disorders.

Some examples of these disorders are common things most people would probably consider to just be "bad habits" or even may-

be OCD, such as cheek biting (morsicatio buccarum), skin picking(dermatillomania) and nail-biting(onychophagia).

The difference between bad habits and BFRB is that BFRB disorders cause people to repeatedly carry out actions that cause physical harm or damage. As mentioned earlier this may sound very similar to OCD too, and that's because it is. BFRB is a sort of cousin to OCD because most BFRB disorders are classified in the DSM as OCD or other.

The reason why almost all BFRBs are classified as OCD is because BFRBs don't have near as much research behind them as OCD does. But that may change in the future as OCD, body dysmorphia, and other disorders have also previously been in this under-researched stage.

In the end, BFRBs, OCD and habits are all just different levels of repetitive behaviors. But if someone is struggling with one of these three repetitive behaviors and believes he or she needs help, he or she should get in contact with a therapist who is professionally trained to help people get over their disorders and problems.



Fun and learning combine as FFA members attend stock show

MEGAN STAPEL

Mountains covered in white, friends skiing down in unison and endless laughs forever remembered in memory. Skiing can be not only a fun activity but also a learning experience. Juniors participating in FFA had the opportunity to travel to Denver, Colorado, January 18-22, to not only ski but also attend the Denver Stock Show and much more.

Students have been attending the Denver Stock Show long before Mr. Fehlman arrived, and for many, the trip was an exciting experience.

“The part I remember most about the Denver Stock show last year was the huge lot of cattle and all the pens. I’ll remember it most because even when you think you’ve seen it all, you can turn another direction and you’ll see more. It was crazy to see all the cattle and to even see some people from Phillipsburg there. The part I enjoyed most was the Rodeo; it wasn’t like Phillipsburg’s Rodeo, but I have always enjoyed rodeos. It was cool to see ‘other styles’ of rodeo, as well,” senior Melissa Conn said.

Although this school trip is intended to teach students about the Denver Stock Show and what all it involves, adding in a few extra activities

may be incentives to get more to participate. Not only did those that went get to experience skiing, they also attended visit the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, mint and Monfort Feedlot. As the trip is funded by the school, all money for extra activities was supplied by the students themselves.

“I am most looking forward to spending quality time with friends outside of school. I am also really excited to be visiting the Olympic Training Center,” junior Jillian Bohl said.

Many may often hear the FFA Denver trip referred to as the “junior ski trip,” but it wasn’t until 1996 that skiing was added to the itinerary.

“A group of girls one year had questioned why skiing wasn’t an option and decided to bring it up to the school board. The school board then put into thought why not allow them to go skiing if they are already there and available to do it,” FFA Sponsor Marvin Fehlman said.

School trips are meant to teach students but a little fun and adventure with the learning experience makes the trip better attended. From cows to skiing to exploring Denver, the Denver Stock show was an opportunity in which some FFA members are taking advantage.

Reporter



On January 19, six students in the FFA club went to Denver for a Denver Stock Show. While looking around at tractors, junior Zack Johnson checks out a tractor at the Denver Stock Show. Photo by Megan Stapel.

Program change improves student performance in Spanish

NIKOLE HUNTLEY

Guest Writer

According to data from the Cervantes Institute, within the next ten years, more people will speak Spanish in the US than in Spain. Starting on January 3, USD 325 made new changes to Spanish I and II courses.

Since the previous Spanish Teacher, Mrs. Hart, left, the Board of Education (BOE) had to find a replacement program in a short time. The BOE found an online program called Edgenuity.

At first, the BOE was told that the program can be used on the iPads. But as soon as the students started using the program, the classes soon found out that it was not compatible with the iPads. At the end of the semester, a change needed to be made for the upcoming semester.

“After visiting with the teachers and students, [Acellus] is a much better option for us. The teacher within the program is easier to understand and does a much better job of explaining things. It teaches things in smaller chunks which is very useful in foreign language,” Spanish monitor Brandy Christy said.

The new class has offered students the ability to work at their own pace more, which is a welcome addition for some students.

“The new changes to the Spanish course make the class easier to understand. Each student can learn at their own pace. I enjoy the change a lot,” sophomore Ava Schemper said.

According to Christy, the new program does a better job of explaining vocabulary and ideas to students.

Another added benefit is that Christy is a certified administrator of Acellus, so she has more control over how the program works. Whereas before, Christy had to correspond through email and phone calls with Edgenuity when problems occurred.

The change has been a welcome one thus far, and overall students are performing better with the new program.



While in Spanish class, freshman Elizabeth Sauer and Remi Martin work on their lessons for the day. Photo by Ashley Babcock.

Forensics adds a new category

CHEYENNE MCGILLIVRAY

Senior Reporter

Time for another season of scripts, memorizing and reciting. It’s that time of the year again for forensics, but this year there is a new twist.

A new category has been added to forensics called Program of Oral Interpretation. This new category was introduced at the end of last school year when KSHAA looked at possible changes. KSHAA officials discussed if there should be an event added and decided on Program of Oral Interpretation over the summer. In the fall, coaches voted on the change.

“I think it’s a great to have more events and more opportunities for students to be involved,” Forensics Coach Kim Pakkebiec said.

This event is combined with other events including pros, poetry and drama. The category was formatted to mix with other events. Students are required to find the pros, poetry and drama to make an effective presentation. The category is only offered to schools that are 3A and may only be available at specific tournaments. There are two people in the new category, but Pakkebiec is working on having three people in the event.

There are approximately 18-20 people in forensics and two people taking the forensic class. In class, Pakkebiec uses time to select scripts, memorize and recite. Later on, students will work on rehearsing things.

“For practices we try to fit in practices when we can and as a team as well. I will work with students individually and have different type of practices,” Pakkebiec said.

The first forensic competition is on January 26 at Belleville. Pakkebiec’s expectations for students are to work hard and be competitive. Additionally, she also wants each individual to improve and work at their events. She also hopes the team will have fun at tournaments and celebrate successes.



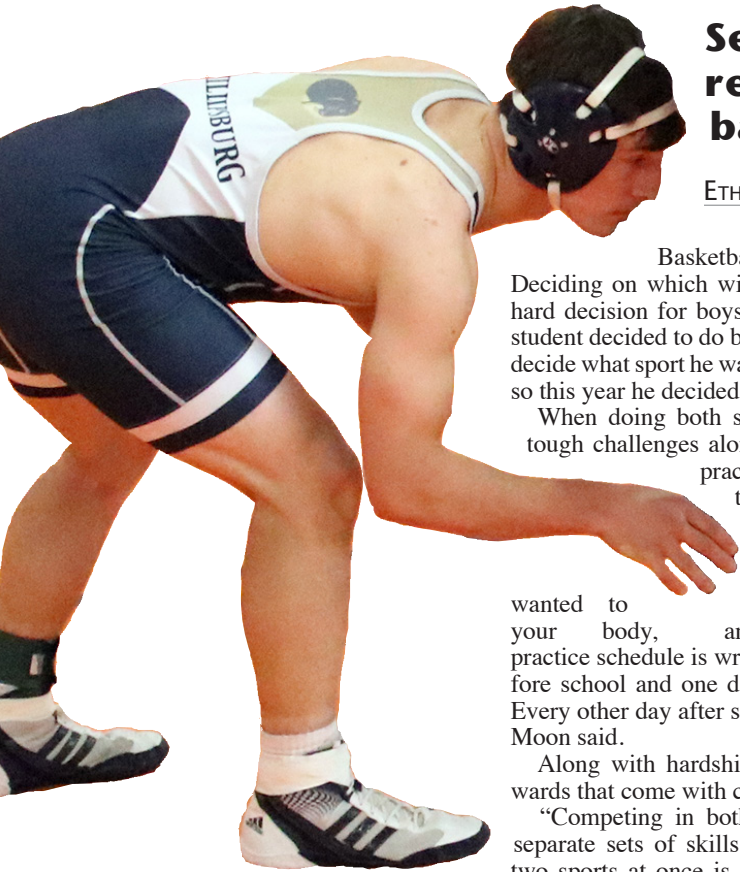
While putting on final touches, sophomore Annie Weishaar paints the final highlights on the hair of the subject. On January 16, six art students traveled to Oakley to participate in the MCL Paint In. The theme this year required students to visualize their concept of “Energy” through creative ideas, composition and use of colors in the medium of paint. Unfortunately, the art students did not place. Photo by Summer Peak.

Dual Threat

Senior Nathan Moon turns dream into reality by competing in both wrestling and basketball this season

ETHAN LEIDIG

Reporter



Basketball or wrestling? How about both? Deciding on which winter sport is to participate in is a hard decision for boys in high school to make, but one student decided to do both. Senior Nathan Moon couldn't decide what sport he wanted to do throughout high school, so this year he decided participate in both.

When doing both sports at once there can be some tough challenges along the way. From finding time to practice to letting your body recover, these are just some of the challenges that Moon faces.

"I've been torn about which sport to choose, but this year, I do both. It's definitely harder on your body, and it's hard to find free time. My practice schedule is wrestling practice in the morning before school and one day a week wrestling after school. Every other day after school, I go to basketball practice," Moon said.

Along with hardships, there are also some great rewards that come with competing in both sports.

"Competing in both sports allows me to learn two separate sets of skills and put them to the test. Doing two sports at once is good because it helps me stay in really good physical shape and compete with more of my

friends," Moon said.

With most experiences, there are small components that you would want to change, from not having time in the day to getting more experience.

"The one thing that I would change is being able to compete a few more times to gain more experience in wrestling," Moon said.

With all of this competing that Moon has been doing, he has some goals that are not so easy to do when just focusing on just one sport.

"My goal for wrestling is to help the team win some duals and tournaments. Personally, in wrestling I want to make it to the state tournament. In basketball, I would like to help the team have a winning record and advance through to the state tournament again," Moon said.

Though competing in two sports can be tough at times, there are some rewards that come with it. From staying in shape to broadening your horizons, there are many skills that you can learn.

"The experiences that I have had make me realize that both competitions have things that are different and have multiple ways to do them. If you want to do both sports it is very possible, but you have to enjoy both sports to compete at a high level," Moon said.



MCL Tournament Wrap-up

ETHAN LEIDIG

Reporter

The MCL basketball tournament wrapped up on Saturday, Jan. 19 for the boys' basketball team, with the Panthers going 3-0 in the tournament to take home the gold for the third consecutive year.

In the first round, the Panthers faced the Norton Bluejays at home and defeated them



Sophomore Ty Sides looks to advance the ball down the court during the first round action against Norton. Sides shot 44% against the Jays to accumulate 15 points in the game. The Panthers defeated the Jays 53-38 to advance to the semi-final round. Photo by Mya McDonald

46 to cap off their first place finish in the MCL tournament.

by a score of 53-38. For the semi-finals, the Panthers traveled to Trego to face off against the Plainville Cardinals. The Panthers advanced on to the next round by defeating the Cardinals 68-45. In the finals, the Panthers faced off against TMP. The Panthers defeated the Monarchs 60-

When the MCL basketball tournament finished, the Lady Panthers went 3-1 in the tournament to finish in fifth. The Lady Panthers defeated Hill City in the play-in at Stockton on Saturday, Jan. 12 by a score of 51-18. They then traveled to Norton to play the Lady Jays in first round action. The Panthers lost a close battle 34-37. In the consolation semi-finals the Lady Panthers faced Oakley and won 51-30 over the Plainsmen. In the consolation finals, the Lady Panthers faced off against the Plainville Cardinals for the third time this season. The Lady Panthers completed the trifecta by beating the Cardinals for the third time this season with a score of 61-54 to finish the MCL tournament 3-1 in fifth place.



Junior Kylie Solida passes through the Plainville defending during the consolation championship game on Saturday, Jan. 19 at Trego. The Panthers defeated Plainville for the third time this season 61-54. Photo by Ashlyn Cole

Competition heats up as wrestlers prepare for the end of the season

MEGAN STAPEL

Reporter



Junior Jacob Sisson works to get an escape at the Bob Kuhn Classic on Saturday, Jan. 19. Sisson placed third at the 126 weight class when he defeated Russell's Schoenberger in a 19-4 decision. Photo by Anahy Sanchez

As wrestling approaches the middle of their season, they retain a record of 4-8 in duals with one more coming up before Panther Classic. Even though Coach Kenney may not be greatly impressed with the season record so far, he has high hopes for the upcoming competitions.

"My goals for the rest of the season are to at least be one of the top two teams in the MCL tournament, be one of the top three teams in the regional tournament and overall be one of the top five teams in the 3-2-1A state championship. I would also like qualify as many wrestlers at state as we can," Coach Kenney said.

As more intense competition approaches, some wrestlers may have different strategies to help them better prepare for the upcoming competitors. Whether it's exercising on their own time or finding new ways to improve their skill, wrestlers can think of unique ways to better themselves.

"I usually run on my own time as well as watch film repeatedly to better my skills for future competitions," junior Jacob Sisson said.

Not only are many wrestling athletes focused on bettering themselves but many are looking forward to bigger and better competition. The Panther Classic is Saturday, February 2, regionals is February 15-16 and state wrestling is February 22-23. All of these competitive tournaments fall within a few weeks of each other.

The wrestling team has upcoming competitions, which can help further their skills and assist them into earning a spot at the state meet. Between pushing their teammates in practice every day or pushing themselves to the best of their abilities on their own time, wrestlers are getting ready for what the upcoming weeks have to offer.