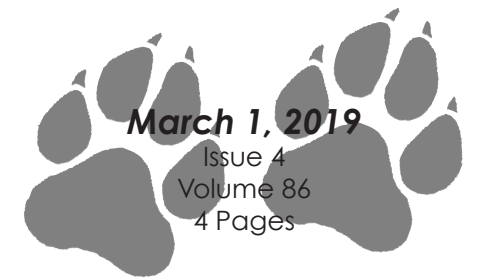


TAKE AN INSIDE LOOK AT PAGE 2 FOR A STORY ON BRACES. PAGE 4 FOR STATE WRESTLING AND PAGE 3 FOR CLASS CORNER.

Student newspaper of
Phillipsburg High School
410 South Seventh Street
Phillipsburg, KS 67661

The Panther Pause



FCCLA receives Community Service Organization of the Year Award

SUMMER PEAK

Reporter

On Saturday, February 2, Phillipsburg's FCCLA association was awarded the Community Service Organization of the Year award by the Phillips County Chamber of Commerce.

However, this exciting time was not expected by either organization leader Deb Weishaar or FCCLA President Melissa Conn, as the group was up against other organizations that are big in the community service world like the Phillips County EMTs.

The fact that the group was up against some tough competitors made the win that much more exciting for club leaders.

"[I felt] honored that our club was just nominated in the first place, and it's so awesome that we won in such a small community," Conn said.

Nevertheless, groups' focus has never been one of greed or competitiveness as their goal is just to help the community as much as possible. Brenda Chanley, owner of Blossoms and Butterflies, decided that it was about time the FCCLA association got recognized for all their good deeds, as she was the one who nominated the group.

After being contacted by Chanley about the nomination, Phillipsburg's FCCLA group then had to make a list outlining the hours of community service they've done in the last year. Some of these services included different fundraising activities for scholarships and some student medical bills or other various activities like the rodeo and the color run.

Weishaar said she didn't even realize just how much community service the club had actually done until they made the list.

Additionally, since the association has won the award, there has been more attention from the community, but with fame comes pressure. Both Weishaar and Conn agree that now that they've won the award, there is a bit of pressure on them to keep up with what they've started.

"There is a definite pressure; to do as much as we already have been doing-- if not more," Weishaar said.

But Conn thinks that maybe by winning this award, the club will get even more involved in the community. And while the FCCLA group does not plan on actively trying to achieve any awards in the future nor do they have many community service activities planned in the very near future, they do plan on-- in Conn's own words-- just "taking [community service opportunities] as they come."



Left: Senior Melissa Conn and FCCLA Sponsor Deb Weishaar proudly display the Community Service Organization of the Year award presented to the FCCLA organization at the Phillipsburg Chamber and Main Street Annual Banquet on Saturday, February 2 at the Huck Boyd Center. The FCCLA organization was nominated by Brenda Chanley, owner of Blossoms and Butterflies. Top: Posing with the award are FCCLA members seniors Mya McDonald, Nikole Huntley, Elizabeth Gourdon, Sponsor Deb Weishaar, senior Melissa Conn and Brenda Chanley. The FCCLA organization organized several community events to raise money for worthy causes. *Courtesy photo.*

Forensics team off to a good start

MEGAN STAPEL

Reporter

The forensics team kicked off their season on January 26. As of February 15, the forensics team had only attended two meets but has had four entries qualify for the state tournament, which will take place on the first Saturday in May.

"We are off to a good start in my opinion and the season is still very young. We have several tournaments coming up in March which will hopefully lead to good success," Forensics Coach Mrs. Kim Pakkebieer said.

A new event has been added to the forensics list as of this year, which is known as P.O.I. Even though this event was recently added, Phillipsburg has already had a participant qualify for state in this event. Sophomore Summer Peak qualified with a second place finish at the second tournament of the season on February 2.

"I chose to do POI because I thought it was an interesting category and I could be good at it. I liked how it was new and how it involved multiple categories at the same time. It felt awesome to qualify for state since I have never qualified in anything else. The trophy I got was a

'dundy' from The Office which made the whole situation that much better. The season has been going good so far, we have had many points and placements, and I believe we will do better as the season continues," Peak said.

Not only are individual events successful for this year's forensics team, but two duet teams have qualified for state, as well. The first duet team, consisting of senior Kyleigh Russell and sophomore Zoey Dinkel, qualified for state in the category of duet acting which is rehearsed before the tournament event. The second duet team, consisting of sophomore Jacie Roth and senior Nyla Salinas, qualified for the state tournament in the IDA category which is a drawn event the two make up 30 minutes before performing.

Talent comes in many ways other than athletics and academics. Forensics is a way for students to express themselves and be introduced to competition at the same time. The forensics team has been successful in their season so far and plan for upcoming success as well. The next tournament will take place on March 2 at Ellis.

"We are off to a good start in my opinion and the season is still very young," Pakkebieer.

The Daily with Braces

BY SUMMER PEAK

REPORTER

From brackets and wires breaking to awful food restrictions, most teens and plenty of adults know braces aren't fun to have and they can make day-to-day life more difficult.

History teacher Kendall Fiscus said that a daily struggle he had with braces was dealing with them during sports. Fiscus said he always had to make sure that they weren't caught on anything.

Additionally, English teacher Kim Pakkebier said the most difficult thing to do with braces was eat sticky foods like caramel or popcorn.

But caramels and popcorn aren't the only bad food to eat with braces, although lots of people who have had braces have agreed that those are some of worst foods to eat with braces. Other bad foods to eat with braces include steak, bread, chips, Laffy Taffy, apples and just overall anything sticky.

On the other hand, some good foods to eat are ice creams (which Pakkebier said is always good), yogurt, cheese, mashed potatoes, apple sauce and just anything with little to no chewing. Or if you're Fiscus "anything with a fork" is just fine.

However to some people, getting food stuck in their braces is the least of their worries. Those people are more likely to agree with Fiscus, whose braces would constantly give his lips deep cuts. Or how braces would occasionally break, like sophomore Nathaniel Huntley's. For others, the worry was about cosmetics.

"My least favorite thing about them was basically how they looked; it was awkward being a 40-year-old with braces," Pakkebier said.

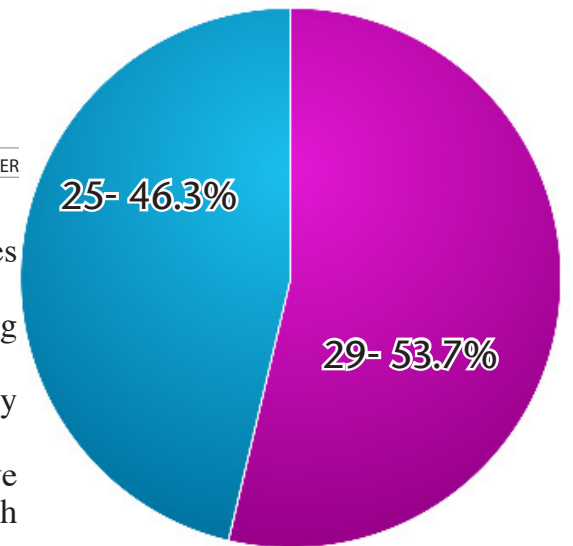
And while some people may feel like not liking their braces isn't that big of deal and that it won't really have an effect on a person, they would be incorrect. Not liking braces can affect a person in multiple ways, including changing a person's smiling habits or decreasing confidence.

"I smile more I guess with teeth now that my braces are off. I feel more comfortable [with smiling]," Huntley said.

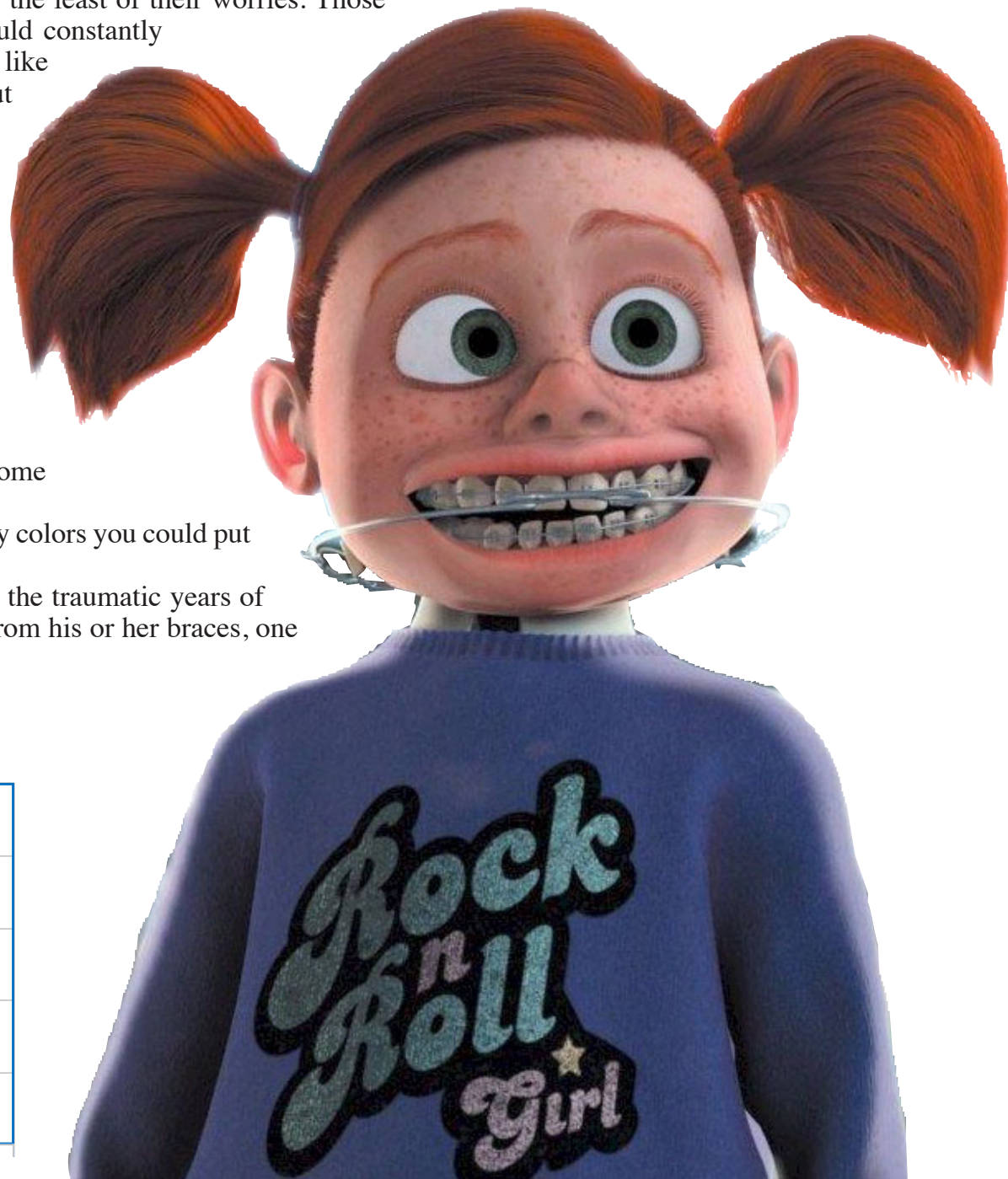
But braces don't always affect people in negative ways; to some braces are the best.

"I really liked them a lot. I liked how they looked and how many colors you could put on them. I want them back," senior Nyla Salinas said.

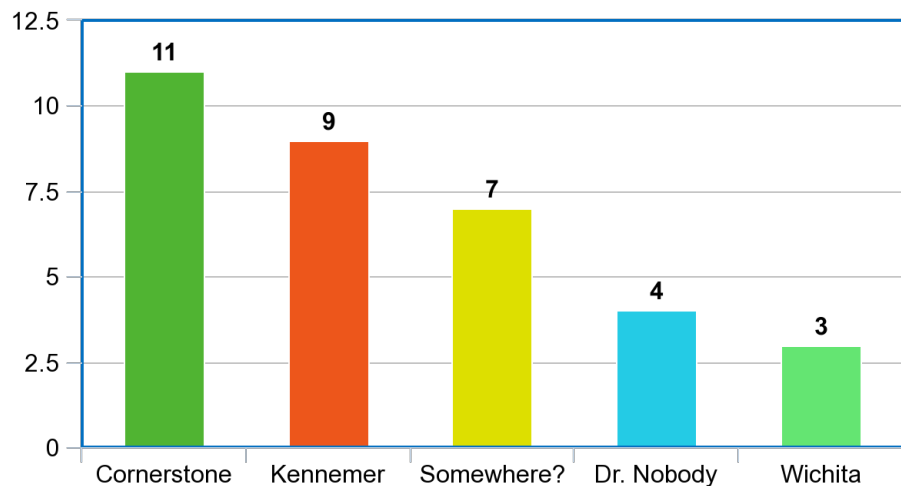
So in the end, whether one has braved his or her way through the traumatic years of having braces or has yet to struggle to dig out popcorn kernels from his or her braces, one thing is still for sure: braces can definitely disrupt one's life.



Had Braces Never Had Braces



Most Common Orthodontist



Classroom Corner: A look inside what's happening in the classrooms

MEGAN STAPEL

REPORTER

FACS: hospitality rooms

As many students know, especially if they're in one of Mrs. Weishaar's classes, a lot of food is cooked for hospitality rooms for a variety of activities such as sub-state volleyball, scholars bowl, Panther classic, forensics and anything MCL or Regional related.

"When I started teaching FACS, I was told it was a part of this job. Ever since I began the hospitality rooms, I have involved the students which wasn't a key factor prior to me being here. Since I have started that, all funds come from the instructional budget rather than the school board itself," Weishaar said.

Hospitality rooms have provided not only coaches but also many students and athletes with plenty of food during competition.

English 4: invention project

English IV started working on 21st century invention projects beginning January 22 and presented their projects on January 30. The main focus of the project was to enhance the importance of 21st century skills, which according to gettingsmart.com, all students need for success in school, work and life.

"We worked on 21st century skills and we began with the first set of skills such as: critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication and literacy, so the invention project was a way to combine all those skills together and provide them with a creative outlet to display their mastery of those skills," English IV teacher Mrs. Robin Sides said.

A total of seven inventions were made. Some inventions included the rechargeable I-Pad case, a table with warming centers, a prescription screen protector and a water circulation system for a stock tank. All inventions were

either made up by the students themselves or revised from past inventions.

"Our project was a table that had electric burners built in to heat your plates, pots, or even pans. The purpose of this project was so that we as individuals know that not everything is done in one simple thought, but that it requires a variety of different skills as well," senior Mariah Nelson said.

Through simple projects, so much can be learned such as the variety of 21st century skills being taught in English IV.

Government: Debates

Government debates have been going on since the beginning of second semester. Debates are conducted between two students who are either for or against a chosen topic.

"The biggest model we see today with debates involves mostly yelling and little discussion. Through government debates in my classes, we can learn about problems and discuss them in a civil manner," Government teacher Mr. Kendall Fiscus said.

Government debates in Fiscus's class have been going on for roughly three years. As most debates are conducted through arguing and opinions, those same thoughts are the reasons why debates appeal to some students.

"I enjoy government debates, because it raises awareness to subjects that are controversial in today's society. The purpose, I feel, of debates is to help develop young minds to form opinions about certain subjects," senior Nikole Huntley said.

Arguments can occasionally be a good thing to have happen within the classroom. Through government debates not only can some express their feelings, but they can also feel respected through their opinions.

History: Great Depression Food

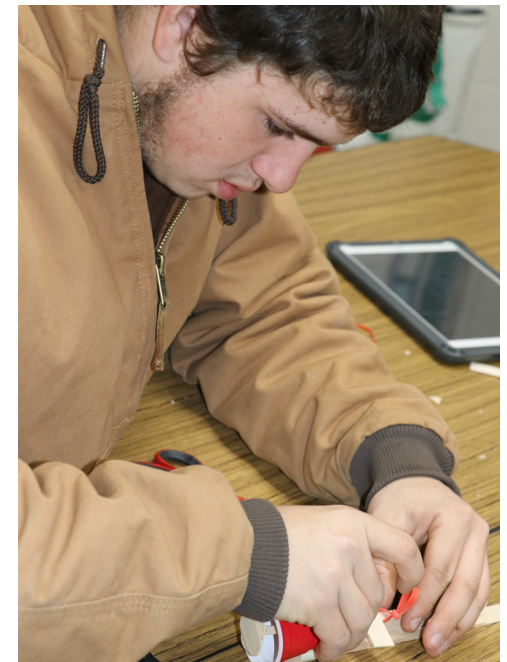
Mr. Fiscus's American history classes have been learning about the Great Depression and how people at that time lived. On February 7-8, history students combined classes with Mrs. Weishaar's class to cook creative food ideas using the few ingredients given from the 1930s time period.

"I think cooking food from the Great Depression era is important because we can talk about it, read about it and I can explain it, but it's not going to be a big deal until you experience it for yourself. You are more likely to remember if you get involved, and cooking and/or eating Great Depression food can help you realize how good we do have it today. I also enjoy when we can do cross curricular activities such as combining FACS and history classes," History Teacher Mr. Kendall Fiscus said.

Many junior class students enjoyed the "out of the classroom experience" as they walked their way down the hallway towards Mrs. Weishaar's classroom. Although many may have viewed this experience as a way to eat, others found a deeper meaning.

"I think cooking food from the Dust Bowl times is important because we never realize how good we have it now days. My favorite part of the experience was watching my potato and rice soup transform into a cake consistency," junior Trent Herrick said.

Even though the food may have not tasted good to the participants, getting to experience a little taste of the Great Depression was the key objective. In nearly the century that's passed, much has changed from not only the food but the quantity and quality of the food itself.



Senior Allen Conner attaches objects for his English IV confetti launcher invention. Photo by Kyleigh Russell. Seniors Logan Solida and Mya McDonald mix cinnamon and sugar for their Great Depression food choice. Photo taken by Megan Stapel.

Journalism contest experiences changes State offers free ACT opportunity to juniors and seniors

CHEYENNE MCGILLIVARY

SENIOR EDITOR

Everyone is tense and rushing to create and make a unique carry in to place. Regionals journalism, which was held Monday, February 25 at Fort Hays State University, consisted of a few changes this year.

Regional journalism was broken into groups by classification instead of by geography. Yearbook and journalism students participated against 3A and 4A schools assigned to their regional grouping instead of just the schools near Phillipsburg.

KSPA made these changes over the summer due to the decrease in membership.

"We will participate against Silver Lake, Hiawatha, Holten, Rock Creek, Piper and Wamego instead of 3A/4A schools in our area. This change definitely makes qualifying for state more difficult," Publications Advisor Robin Sides said.



Yearbook and Journalism students take a small break during the regional journalism competition on Monday, February 25 at Fort Hays State University to complete their homework and check their messages. Photo taken by Meg Keeten

Senior Mya McDonald participated in two contests: sports photography, which was a carry in, and yearbook sports writing, which was completed on site.

"The most stressful part about regionals is meeting deadlines for my carry-ins," McDonald said.

The deadline for all carry in contests was February 13.

Senior Ashley Babcock participated in two contests, as well: advertising and yearbook layout.

"I think the most stressful part of regionals is finding the best way to showcase your creativity and stand out to the judges. The fun part is going to regionals, hanging out with friends and finding out how you placed," Babcock said.

As regional journalism approached Babcock and McDonald were busy preparing for their respective contests.

"To prepare for regional journalism, I looked over past years' contests and tried my best to take pictures at most sporting events," McDonald said.

For Babcock, getting an early jump on the contest was essential.

"Well I tried to get my contest done as soon as I got the information so I could really take my time and do a good job. I'm really good at procrastinating, so I just tried to get them done with plenty of time to spare," Babcock said.

Along with the change in regional groupings came changes in the judging of the contests. Because all entries from a grouping must be judged by the same judges, the process will take more time. Final results are expected to be completed by March 8.

State offers free ACT opportunity to juniors and seniors

CHEYENNE MCGILLIVARY

SENIOR EDITOR

"Time's up! Pencils down!" This expression was heard on Wednesday, February 20 and Thursday, February 21 as juniors and qualifying seniors completed the free ACT test offered by the state.

The state of Kansas allowed juniors and seniors who have not taken the ACT to take a free ACT test at their school during the school day, and Kansas is paying the bill.

The purpose of getting the free ACT is to give everyone an equal opportunity to take an ACT test. With this decision, Kansas became the 19th state to offer a free ACT test date.

"A free ACT will benefit students in saving money and giving up a Saturday in order to take the test," Counselor Joe Buresh said.

Buresh tested 48 students for the ACT and hopes that the state of Kansas continues to allow it every year.

Students appreciated the idea of a free ACT test.

"I liked that we had the free ACT because it gave those of us who haven't taken it yet the opportunity to do so without having to pay for it," junior Kaycee Campbell said.

In addition to an ACT test, the state is also offering the ACT WorkKeys assessment for all juniors and seniors. The WorkKeys is designed to evaluate a student's readiness for work-related tasks. This test included such information as reading charts and working with business math problems.

Wrestling concludes season with six members attending state



By: ETHAN LEIDIG

REPORTER

Working his opponent, junior Aaron Lenker gets in position for back points during the 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament at Hays on February 22-23. Lenker went 2-2 on the weekend. *Photo by Anahy Sanchez*

The wrestling team had 10 members compete at regionals at Beloit on Friday and Saturday, February 15-16. Eight members represented Phillipsburg, while the other two represented Logan, even though they had competed for Phillipsburg all season.

At regionals, the team faced many schools that they had seen before, but also some schools that they had not seen very much or at all including Belleville, Southeast of Saline, Herrington, St. John's Military, Sterling and Sylvan Lucas.

Compared to the Panther Classic, the competition was not as strong at the regional contest according to Coach Andy Kenney. A lot of the schools at regionals were smaller than most of the schools that the Panthers competed against throughout the year. The teams at The Panther Classic had more kids out for wrestling and were bigger 3A and 4A schools.

At regionals in Beloit, the team placed sixth with six people qualifying for state. Five wrestlers from Phillipsburg qualified and one from Logan. Regional results were as follows: 106-Pinkerton, 1-2 DNP; 113-Hugunin, 0-2 DNP; 120-Lenker, 4-1 third; 126-Sisson, 3-0 first; 132-Niblock, 3-1 third; 145-Moon, 1-2 DNP; 152-Russell, 2-2 DNP; 160-Kirkerndall, 2-2 fourth;

170-Minkler, 2-2 fourth and 285-Hays, 3-2 fourth.

On Friday and Saturday, February 22-23, class 3-2-1A state wrestling was held in Hays, Kansas. Phillipsburg had five wrestlers competing and another from Logan. Phillipsburg finished tied with Cimarron for 14th place with a team score of 43.0.

At state wrestling, the team had two of the six wrestlers place. State results were as follows: 120-Lenker, 2-2 DNP; 126-Sisson, 3-1 second; 132-Niblock, 3-3 sixth; 160-Kirkendall, 1-2 DNP; 170-Minkler, 1-2 DNP and 285-Hays, 1-2 DNP.

According to Kenney, at the state wrestling tournament, the competition was a lot tougher than regionals because there were more ranked wrestlers. Even with the tougher competition, Kenney thought that the team competed really well at state.

"I thought that the team was very prepared for state, and that they all competed really well. I was glad to see Austin Niblock wrestle really well to beat a couple of ranked wrestlers, because I knew he had it in him. It was also nice to see the three seniors who had wrestled all four years make it to state and compete well," Kenney said.

Panthers advance to second round of substate

By: ETHAN LEIDIG

REPORTER

The Panther boys' basketball team finished their regular season with a record of 17-2. Their record was good enough to secure the first seed in sub-state tournament.

Panther's coach Keith Sides believes that the team needs to work on executing their plays better and finishing their plays. In Sides' mind, the team has an opportunity to do well because of their speed, agility and defense.

Sides' goal for the team is to play well every night and to ultimately make it back to the state tournament again.

The Panthers hosted Southeast of Saline on Tuesday, February 26 in the first round. The Panthers defeated Southeast of Saline 61-38.

They will travel to Hoisington to play Smoky Valley in the sub-state semifinals on Friday, March 1.



Closing out on defense, senior Jonathan Hunnaccutt stops the shot from his Southeast opponent during the first round substate game on Tuesday, February 26. The Panthers defeated the Trojan 61-38. Hunnaccutt contributed four points and five rebounds on the night. *Photo by Robin Sides*

Lady Panthers end their season with first round loss to Southeast of Saline

By: ETHAN LEIDIG

REPORTER

The Lady Panthers came into the sub-state seeded fourth and hosted Southeast of Saline in the first round on Tuesday, February 26.

The Lady Panthers went into sub-state with a 12-8 record.

In the week between games, Coach Rachel Miller wanted the team to work on their offensive decision making, defense and making it harder for the opposing teams to drive.

Coach Miller believes that the team has great leadership from the upperclassmen and that everyone is so unselfish that they should be able to score.

The Lady Panthers came up against an aggressive opponent in Southeast which resulted in a loss 52-47 and ended their season.

The Lady Panthers finished with a 12-9 record.



Taking on two Hoxie defenders, senior Ashley Babcock makes a move to the basket. The Hoxie game was held on Tuesday, February 5 and was designated senior night. The Lady Panthers upended Hoxie with a 56-46 victory. Babcock contributed 12 points and six rebounds in the competition. *Photo by Melissa Conn.*