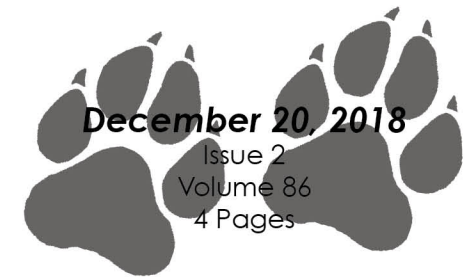


To read about Feature Athlete, see page 4. For Diet vs. Reg Pop Info Graph, see page 3. For Nontraditional Christmas, see page 2.

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

the panther pause



Money! Money! Money! It's raining money in art!

Money! Money! Money! Mrs. Julie Peterson-Shea's class is making money. No not illegally, it's a project that art students are doing for an assignment.

The purpose of this currency project is to get to think of different features money has and what money looks like in different countries compared to the United States' money. Peterson-Shea's goal with this project is to have students think about how stippling and cross hatching applies to money. This project will give students better understanding how cross hatching and stippling applies to engraving.

"This {project} will benefit students if they travel to a different country. They would be more aware of what money looks like and the anti-fraud that is built into most money and the project also gives them a good understanding design," Peterson-Shea said.

Some ideas that students are doing are President Trump, video games, Pac man, sunflowers, tattoo ideas, funny denominations and different shapes. Students were given two weeks to do this project and the project itself is due December 14.

"I choose to base my money off of South African money. I choose it because of the colors and they used animals instead of people. Most challenging part was coming up with details and standards that were needed for this project," Senior Aryssa Peterson-Shea said.

The requirements for this project were the name of the country, serial number, explanation over why images are chosen, denominations, security features, how currency is accessible for all, how currency fits how students' use money and how denomination will be the same or different. The media of this project is cross hatching and stippling.

While in art class, junior Megan Stapel draws a dog on her money as she works on her money for her class. Photo taken by Melissa Conn.

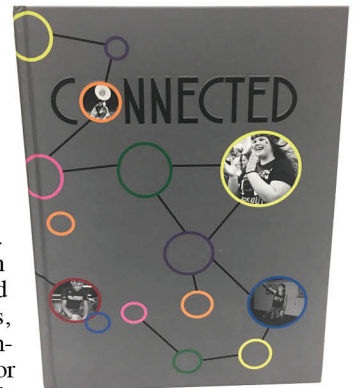
"[Students] would be more aware of what money looks like and the anti-fraud that is built into most money, and the project also gives them a good understanding design."



Yearbook staff earns All Kansas honors

On December 4, yearbook advisor Robin Sides received notice that the Panther yearbook staff had been awarded the merit of All Kansas for the production of the 2017-1018 yearbook entitled "Connected."

Entries for the Kansas Scholastic Press Association contest were submitted in October and judged by out-of-state professionals in the journalism industry. All books were judged based on the following criteria: concepts, coverage, reporting, photography and design. Each section was awarded All Kansas, Award of Commendation or Award of Merit.



The 2018 Panther yearbook received the highest honor of All Kansas in each of the five areas being judged.

The judge commented, "The theme 'Connected' is well developed verbally and visually throughout the yearbook with the use of circles and lines. The academics section covered subjects in a unique manner, using topics like technology, hands-on, competition, kinesthetic, life skills, school to community, dual credit, alternative learning and collaboration. The staff [went] above and beyond the typical to produce a book that set the tone of the school year and [did] so with a unique approach."

The most recent years, the Panther yearbook staff has fallen just short of the All Kansas status in their yearbook evaluations. Not since 2014 has the staff been awarded the All Kansas honor, so the news of the staff's success fell on welcome ears.

"I was hesitant to open my email when I saw the All Kansas evaluation. We have been so close to getting All Kansas the last few years that I didn't want the staff to be disappointed again. Happily, the news was good and we finally got over the hurdle with regards to the All Kansas award. It was a great honor to be selected, and I feel like the award is representative of the time the staff takes to ensure they produce a quality book that the student body can enjoy," Sides said.

Only four books were selected for the All Kansas honor in the 3A division.

The Panther yearbook staff will receive their official plaque during the opening ceremony of the KSPA state contest on May 4 in Lawrence.



Spreading a little holiday cheer

Working to assemble a spirited message to the candy canes, freshman Caitlyn Cheney helps fellow student council members spread the holiday cheer by attaching candy canes to the students' lockers. Following Thanksgiving break, students returned to a festive environment, as StuCo members decorated the school. Photo by Ashley Babcock.

In another StuCo sponsored activity, senior Mya McDonald works to attach a red shirt to Mrs. Robin Sides' door during SA. StuCo held their annual door decorating contest the last few weeks of the semester. Some of the door themes included the Grinch, a naughty and nice list, a Teleprompter and a Christmas tree. Photo by Anahy Sanchez.

Following Christmas traditions

SUMMER PEAK

Reporter

It's Christmas Eve, there's fresh snow sparkling on the ground, lights are strung around houses and Christmas trees with piles of presents beneath can be seen through living room windows. Parents drink their eggnog and cozy up together on the couch while their children eagerly open their early present as per tradition.

This holiday scene isn't the only Christmas tradition out there. Many other families have their own unique set of traditions.

For instance, in sophomore Jaeven Howell's family, on Christmas Eve him and his brothers all grab a gift and go into different rooms to open them. After opening their presents, they return to the living room to show each other their gifts.

Lots of other families have more traditional holiday experiences like going to a relatives' house, having a special meal or feast, going to church with the family or even just watching a

special movie with close ones.

History teacher Kendall Fiscus' family goes out to his aunt and uncle's authentic log cabin to cut down a tree and decorate it. Afterwards, the family has their traditional Christmas dinner, followed by games and singing in the afternoon.

Some peoples' traditions are more simple like sophomore Trey Grismore for example.

"My Christmas tradition is just sit at the table and get fat," Grismore said.

But others like senior Jackson Horn traditions are more about spending time with family and eating plenty of candy canes.

While not everyone may have eating candy canes as their tradition, many people do share different traditions like putting up a Christmas tree right after Thanksgiving and decorating it, participating in secret Santa gift exchange, hanging personalized stockings or opening presents with family.

Santa: believe or not?



Out of **78** students, **68** said they, at one point, believed in Santa.

Out of those **68** students, **31** stopped believing around ages 9-11.

25 stopped believing around ages

6-8. **8** stopped believing around

ages 12-14 and **6** stopped believing at ages younger than 6-8.



Snow days bring a variety of activities

MEGAN STAPEL

Reporter

As the first few flakes of snow drift down from the sky, the one thing on many students' minds is snow day! Snow days may not be as common in Kansas as they are in Minnesota, but that doesn't mean students don't have plans for their free time off of school.

Although some students believe snow days are their time to enjoy the day with friends, others like to remain warm and cozy in their homes.

"On snow days, I usually just hang out at home and get comfy on the couch. Most of the time, I watch movies, and my favorite one to watch would be The Grinch," junior

Em-

mie Kenney said.

Staying at home and hanging out with friends or family are not the only options for students. Some prefer to get out and earn money, whether the money comes from scooping driveways or side-walks or simply just going to the students' everyday jobs.

"I usually work when we have snow days, and pretty much every other day. I work for Mr. Fehlman, and I do a variety of different tasks whether or not it is snowing," senior Allen Conner said.

Snow days are not just for the students, teachers and staff members also enjoy

their time away from school.

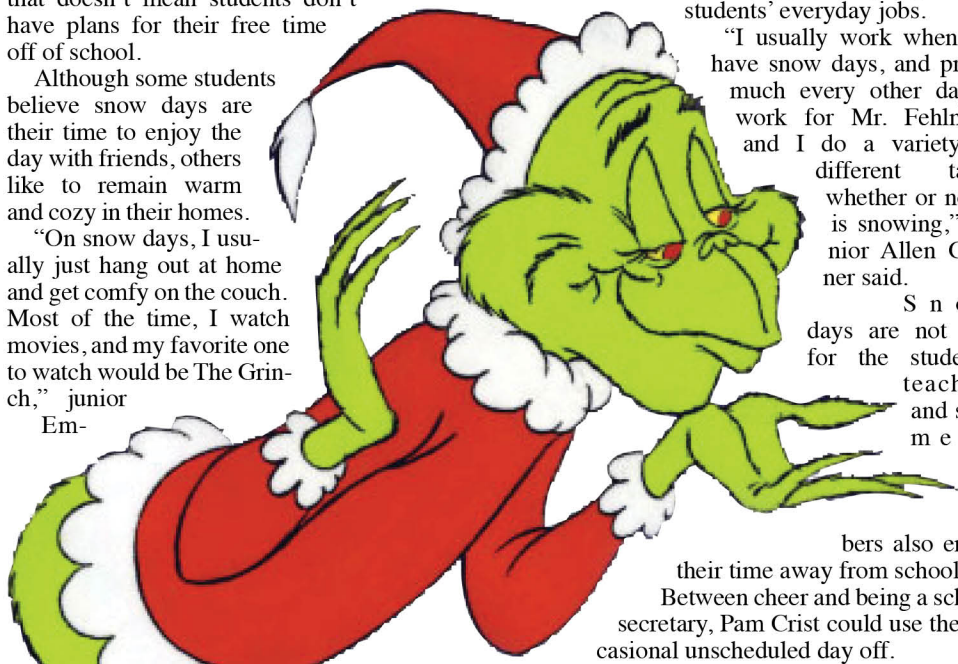
Between cheer and being a school secretary, Pam Crist could use the occasional unscheduled day off.

"On snow days, I like to make cookies. My favorite kind of cookie would be a monster cookie. I also like to spend my time watching Christmas movies. My favorite Christmas movie channel is Hallmark," Crist said.

It doesn't matter how much students hope for snow days, the job of determining whether a snow day will occur falls on Superintendent Mike Gower. And the determining factor of whether or not to call off school isn't always simple.

"The amount of snow is not always the issue. The timing of the snow and wind are crucial. Will we have time to clean the lots? When is the storm hitting? What is the wind speed? Are the roads icy? What is the temperature supposed to do throughout the day? Do we have activities planned? Every day is different. I drive the roads sometimes as early as 4:00 AM. I do visit with other superintendents, board members and sometimes parents to see what the weather and roads are like in their area. People need to realize we live in Kansas and that the roads may have some ice and snow on them from November to April. Student and staff safety are always on my mind 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year," Gower said.

No matter what the outside is like on a snow day, students and staff both agree--snow days are a welcome treat!



Vending machine offers a broader selection of drinks

CHEYENNE MCGILLIVRAY

Senior Editor

Student Council has taken the saying “Variety is the spice of life” to heart and added new drink options to the new vending machine. Some of the recent additions include regular soda, diet soda, Kickstart products, and Propel flavored water.

“Kickstarts will be a good addition,” Student Council Sponsor Rachel Miller said.

Drinks available in the vending machine do pass certain guidelines set forth by the school. Student Council sells the drink products for a reasonable rate and uses the money to give back to the school and student body with Homecoming activities, dances and snacks. The drinks for the machine are purchased from local sources.

In the time that the machine has been operating, some products have emerged as clear favorites.

“Diet Dr. Pepper seems to be the most popular,” Miller said.

Not only are the drinks being bought frequently,

but students are enjoying the drinks that they buy from the vending machine.

“The vending machine is good, and it actually works and takes credit cards. It also gives an opportunity to students to make payments for drinks,” senior Matt Merklein said.

While many people enjoy the addition of new beverage choices, some feel that the selection should include healthier choices.

“I think it’s a good for the Student Council to earn more money. However, their choice to provide diet sodas during school hours instead of regular is a poor choice. Diet soda is so much worse for you than regular soda. Instead of soda, I would suggest providing more healthier drinks like Gatorades, juices, protein drinks and milk,” senior Mariah Nelson said.

In the future, Student Council hopes to add more Propel flavored water choices to give students an even broader selection.



Secret Students

BY MEGAN STAPEL

Senior

My favorite color is turquoise. I enjoy playing volleyball as well as spending time with my animals. I have a total of eight siblings, three of which are on my mom’s side and five on my dad’s side. My parents were also never married.

Junior

My favorite hobbies are fishing and small engine repair. Most days after school I spend my time working on engines. The class I like most is welding and my favorite color is orange. Something not many people know is that I have lost about 50 pounds on the Keto diet.

Sophomore

I participate in football and basketball. My all time favorite sports team would be the Texas Longhorns. Out of all seasons, I enjoy summer the most because it’s nice outside and we don’t have school. If I could live anywhere on Earth it’d be Canada because it doesn’t get too hot.

Freshman

I enjoy hunting and fishing. My favorite activity in the fall is to help with fall harvest. I have two dogs and my all time favorite sports team is the Kansas City Chiefs. My middle name is Jo. If I could be any animal it would be a dog because all they do is lay around.

Email Mrs. Sides your guess at rsides@usd325.com for a chance at a reward!

Which is Healthier Diet or Regular Soda?

SUMMER PEAK

Reporter

For years there has been the ongoing debate about whether diet or regular soda is healthier. Many people have their belief of which is right without bothering to research, but the people who have in fact researched a little about this topic understand that the answer is a little more muddled than one might expect.

One thing that loads of people are worried about is gaining weight. Many people believe that regular pop is a leading cause to gaining weight. But in all reality in one 12 ounce can of regular pop, there are only around 150 calories. According to livestrong.com to put a single pound on, a person must consume 2500-3500 extra calories in a day or a week. But this can vary depending on the person.

Unless someone’s diet is three to five sodas on top of his or her average 2,250 calories every day, the casual soda most likely is not going to cause someone to gain a ton of weight.

That being said, someone still

does have the chance to gain weight from regular pop, and according to the American Cancer Society excess weight may increase a person’s chances of developing diabetes and cancer.

Although regular soda may not cause weight gain very easily, diet soda inadvertently can. While this factor is not completely supported by every researcher, according to scripted.com there is still a lot of research that backs up the idea that diet sodas’ artificial sugar substitutes cause weight gain by inducing hunger in people.

There’s also plenty of research - ers that agree with the FDA

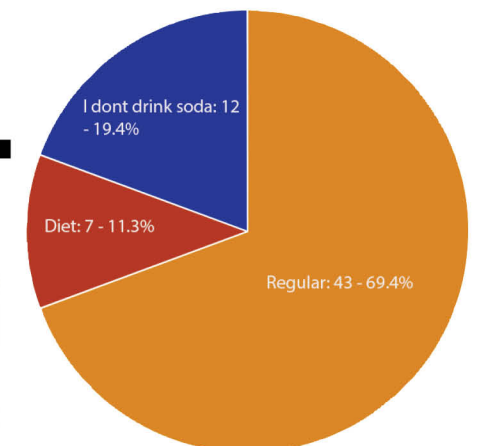
proving artificial sugar substitutes, as researchers have found that artificial sugar substitutes can cause or lead to an increased risk of acquiring joint inflammation, neurological problems, cancer and metabolic problems.

The good thing about diet soda though, is that it doesn’t cause tooth decay like regular soda can. As regular soda is a sugary drink and sugar can lead to tooth decay. However, the effects of the sugar on someone’s teeth can be minimized by brushing their teeth. Furthermore, diet soda has an acid inside of it so overtime, diet soda can strip the enamel from your teeth and leave them more vulnerable to cavities according to medical-daily.com.

In the end, there really isn’t a clear-cut answer to whether diet or regular is healthier. So really the choice is up to the individual about which type of soda they want to drink, or if they want drink any at all.



What type of soda do students drink the most?



RESULTS FROM 62 RESPONSES

STATE CHAMPIONS

Football team captures second championship in four years

ETHAN LEIDIG

Reporter

As the final moments ticked off the clock and the Panthers lined up in victory formation, another successful football season for Phillipsburg came to an end with the state championship trophy brought to town. Along with the trophy, experience was also brought back with Coach Covington and his team.

“This was a great season, every night all of us came together as one in practice and grew more and more every night,” Covington said.

Although the Panthers ended with a 13-0 record and shutout Riley County in the championship game on Saturday, November 24, they previously played in a nail biter when they battled Conway Springs in the sectional round of the playoffs.

“Conway was a really tough opponent, I thought that they were a really good team, and I think that we played really well against them and showed perseverance and heart, not only in that game, but all season we showed some great teamwork and stuck together in tough situations,” Covington said.

Although this season seemed like the perfect season for the Panthers; Covington still has some places where he wants to improve.

“I would like to get a JV schedule worked out, so the JV can see more playing time instead of just practicing. Practice is good, but [the young players] need game-time experience to also help them learn in tough situations that we may not be able to simulate in practice,” Covington said.

Although this season is over, the coaches are still thinking ahead to next season.

“Next season we will have to do what we did this season and find players who will step up for the team and be leaders,” Covington said.



Celebrating after the trophy presentation, the Panther football team gathered to recite their concluding prayer one last time. The team successfully completed a perfect 13-0 season that was capped off with a shut out of Riley County in the state championship game on November 24. Many players received all league honors, as well as area media outlet honors. Additionally, Coach J.B. Covington was named 2A Coach of the Year and All Class Coach of the Year by the Kansas Football Coaches Association. Moreover, senior Trey Sides was selected to play in the Shrine Bowl game that will be held in Dodge City, Kansas, on June 8. Photo by Ashley Babcock.

Feature Athletes

ETHAN LEIDIG

Reporter

Boys' Basketball



Senior Jon Hunnacutt
This issue's feature athlete for boys' basketball is Jon Hunnacutt. Hunnacutt has been playing basketball for nine years. In practice Hunnacutt enjoys playing knock-out. Hunnacutt's favorite part of

basketball is “dunking it.” Hunnacutt's personal goal for the season is to not get kicked out of any games. Hunnacutt wants the team to be undefeated and to win state.

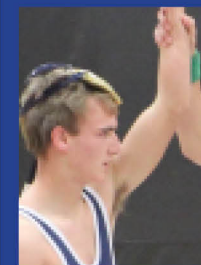
Girls' Basketball



Senior Ashley Babcock
This issue's feature athlete for girls' basketball is senior Ashley Babcock. Babcock has been playing basketball for nine years. Babcock likes the people that she gets to be around. Babcock loves when the team gets together and plays the game of basketball. Babcock's personal goal for this year is to be a leader and someone the younger girls can look up to and to give everything she can to her team.

Babcock loves when the team gets together and plays the game of basketball. Babcock's personal goal for this year is to be a leader and someone the younger girls can look up to and to give everything she can to her team.

Wrestling



Junior Jacob Sisson
This issue's feature athlete for wrestling is Jacob Sisson. Sisson has been wrestling for 13 years. Sisson's greatest accomplishment in wrestling has been winning state in 2018. Sisson's favorite move is the “lat drop.”

In practice, Sisson likes to play shirt tag. Sisson's goal for this season is to win state again.

Competition Results

Wrestling Results

Osborne Invitational

106-Alex Minkler (1-3) 6th
113-Conlee Hugunin (1-4) 7th
120-Aaron Lenker (5-0) 1st
132-Austin Niblock (4-1) 2nd
145-Kevin Russell (2-3) 4th
160-Matt Kirkendall (5-0) 1st
170-Jeremiah Minkler (3-2) 3rd
220-Brock Buresh (3-2) 3rd
285-Rylan Hays (4-0) 1st

Team Dual vs Plainville

Plainville (42) Phillipsburg (40)

Team Dual vs Beloit

Beloit (45) Phillipsburg (30)

Team Dual vs Hays

Hays (45) Phillipsburg (34)

Abilene Varsity Invitational

106-Sam Pinkerton (0-4) 9th
113-Conlee Hugunin (0-5) 10th
120-Aaron Lenker (1-4) 12th
126-Jacob Sisson (3-2) 5th
132-Austin Niblock (3-2) 4th
138-Nicholas Beckman (0-5) 10th
145-Nathan Moon (2-3) 7th

152-Chase Russell (2-2) 9th
160-Matt Kirkendall (2-3) 6th
170-Jeremiah Minkler (2-3) 7th
195-Treytan Gross (3-2) 4th
220-Brock Buresh (1-4) 11th

Basketball Results

Girls Scores vs Ellis - Phillipsburg (67) Ellis (37)

Russell tournament

Phillipsburg (19) Central Plains (71)

Phillipsburg (42) Plainville (41)

Phillipsburg (19) Central Plains (66)

vs Hill City - Phillipsburg (58) Hill City (27)

vs Beloit - Phillipsburg (29) Beloit (42)

Boys scores

vs Ellis - Phillipsburg (50) Ellis (39)

Russell tournament

Phillipsburg (60) Russell (48)

Phillipsburg (66) Smith Center (56)

Phillipsburg (27) Central Plains (46)

vs Hill City - Phillipsburg (54) Hill City (37)

All-league Selections

1st Team Offense
QB-Trey Sides
RB-Treytan Gross
OT-Noah VanKooten
OG-Kasen Keeten
C-Jaret Shelton
WR-Ty Sides

2nd Team Offense
RB-Cha'ron Ellis
RB-Nathan Moon
TE-Austin Miller

Honorable Mention
OT-Tyce Jerby
OG-Parker Dibble

1st Team Kicker
Jonathan Hunnacutt

1st Team Defense
DT-Noah VanKooten
LB-Kasen Keeten
DB-Trey Sides
DB-Nathan Moon

2nd Team Defense
DT-Austin Miller
DE-Jaret Shelton
LB-Tanner Ragsdale
DB-Ty Sides

Honorable Mention

DE-Jon Hunnacutt
LB-Cha'ron Ellis

1st Team Returner

Ty Sides

Kansas Coaches Association 2A Coach of the Year
JB Covington

Kansas Coaches Association All-Class Coach of the Year
JB Covington