

To see how the Panther athletics did this season, see page 4

Student newspaper of
Phillipsburg High School
410 South Seventh Street
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the panther pause



Food drive challenge in full swing Drug test changes result in controversy

MEGAN STAPEL

According to *usatoday.com*, on average one in seven Americans rely on food drives for their food source. Starting October 22 and continuing until November 9, USD 325 will hold their annual food drive.

Like years past, the schools will be accepting both canned food and money to count towards the pound goal. For an added bonus and encouragement the high school will get “block days” if 200 pounds is raised towards a classroom.

“I think block days are good; high schoolers deserve a break sometimes,” Spanish advisor Brandy Christy said.

Block days are old news as the high school has participated in the activity the last few years. Also in past years, if the schools collected or gathered enough pounds, they were to get that extra day before Christmas break off. Things are getting switched up a little this year as the schools will no longer receive the day before Christmas break off but rather the day before Thanksgiving break.

“I personally don’t like the switch. Getting off the day before Christmas break gets me more excited for the season, and for my family, it’s a much bigger holiday than Thanksgiving,” junior Jillian Bohl said.

As the food drive helps those in need, it also helps students learn an appreciation towards helping community members. Blocking classrooms, an extra day off of school, and knowing students did something good for the community are just a few reasons USD 325 participates in the local food drive.

MEGAN STAPEL

Screams, cries and frantic calls to parents were heard throughout the hallways on October 16; however, the chaos wasn’t because of an intruder.

During the monthly drug test collection, a different representative from the testing company collected hair samples in an unexpected fashion.

Last year when drug testing was conducted, hair samples were taken from three small areas on the head. These samples were approximately the size of a pencil eraser. This year, however, the individual collecting the samples collected one larger section near the crown instead of three small sections.

This collection method left many students with a noticeable spot on their heads and frustrated parents, who took to social media to rant about the collection method.

“I thought the way the drug testing was conducted was a little out of hand. However, I believe it made the school

look bad as many parents got involved and have ranted over social media,” junior Kylie Saville said.

Superintendent Mike Gower personally apologized to each student and the parents of the students whose hair was collected in the last drawing for the way the hair samples were collected.

Moreover, the controversy has prompted some changes for future drug-testing procedures. In the future, samples will be collected from three spots as they were done last year and a school employee will also be in the room to ensure collection methods follow procedure.

Additionally, a policy that has always been in place but not necessarily publicized will be communicated to the public: the student’s parent(s) may request to be present when samples are taken.

“The apologies from USD 325 really helped just by making me feel better because I know this wasn’t their inten-

tion at all. The school and school board were very kind, and that meant the most. I am also glad that things are getting changed, mostly because that means no student will have to go through what a lot of us have went through,” junior Lexie Wood said.

The school board will also be conducting a meeting to discuss the drug testing issue on November 12. At this time, the board may be looking at a change in companies for collecting and analyzing the samples.

One company that the board will consider is a company that collects a pencil lead-sized sample for its testing. For this company, a local individual would have to collect the sample.

While the board was willing to work with the concerns of the community, now that outside media outlets and social media has been involved, Gower believes that the board will be less likely to compro-

mise.

“Ultimately the decision is up to the School Board. The board was willing to compromise before, but now that all of this negative publicity has happened, they may be less likely to make changes,” Gower said.

Gower admits that information regarding the reasoning behind the adoption of the drug testing policy and the procedure being used was not communicated to the public as well as it should have been.

However, Gower also reiterated that the drug testing policy was put in place initially to deter students from turning to drugs and other illegal substances. In other words, the policy is in place to protect the students, not harm them.

“The policy was put into place to deter kids from making that lifestyle choice, not to catch and punish,” Gower said.

Art students gain insight from visit to University of Kearney

SUMMER PEAK

On Thursday, October 11, art teacher Julie Peterson-Shea took six students on a field trip to Kearney, NE, to visit a college that focuses specifically on art and design.

Students left the school around 7am and arrived at the college around 8:45am. From there, the students received lanyards with their names and workshop opportunities listed.

After getting their lanyards, students waited in the gym until 9 am when guest speaker and artist William Estrada spoke about his art journey, how he became the man he is today and his involvement in different communities.

After Estrada finished his presentation, students were then dismissed to go to their first workshop. Students got to attend two different hour-long workshops which were broken up by a 45-minute lunch break that was provided by the college.

Some students like junior Cole Wenzl took this opportunity to socialize with students from other schools and make friends. Others just enjoyed their sessions.

"I enjoyed the photography session and 'painting' with light," senior Aryssa Peterson-Shea said.

After their second session ended, students attended a Q&A panel about life in college. There, students had their questions answered by college students that attend UNK. After the panel, students turned in their lanyards and received gift bags with shirts, notebooks, pencils and other goodies.

"Overall, it was cool, but I think the guy [William Estrada] should have let his hair down instead of up in a manbun," Wenzl said.



After a long bus ride art students finally arrived at UNK. Photo by Summer Peak



Victoria Goro-Rapoport shows students how to spread ink properly. Photo by Summer Peak



Seniors Aryssa Peterson-Shea and Nicole Babcock admire Victoria Goro-Rapoport's artwork. Photo by Summer Peak

Environmental science implements recycling program



SUMMER PEAK

People throw away a great deal of plastic bottles and aluminum cans in regular trash cans rather than recycling them on a daily basis. Mrs. Dani Suchsland's environmental science class noticed this trend and decided to take action.

During the week of Oct. 15-19, Suchsland's class visited the Phillipsburg recycling center and talked to workers about starting a recycling program at the high school. The recycling center's staff believed it was a good idea and provided the class with information about what they could and couldn't recycle.

After the trip to the local recycling center, the class looked for a way that they could get this program started. Soon after, they found the PepsiCo Recycling Rally.

The Recycling Rally is a nationwide recycling project used to try and boost recycling in schools. PepsiCo gives resources and reward points to schools when they send in the aluminum and plastic bottles they collect at the school.

After the school gains a certain amount of reward points, PepsiCo helps schools by giving them something that will help aid with their recycling.

To collect the recyclables, the environmental class decorated seven trash cans with recycle signs that they got off the PepsiCo website and put the cans where school activities would be the busiest. Like when there's football games, they will put the trash cans out by the field or inside the school for gym activities.

Every Monday, the environmental class will sort through the trash cans and separate the plastic from the aluminum. The class will then take the recyclables to the recycling center.

Suchsland hopes this program will give her students a sense of stewardship while also helping the school's recycling habits. Suchsland and many others want this program to continue for years to come.

"I think it's good that we started [a recycling program] around the school, so it can become a bigger thing and we can help the environment more," junior Lexi Wood said.



Juniors William Kibbee and Zack Johnson work together to drill holes in the top of trash can lids. Photo by Nicole Huntley



Junior Trent Herrick sprays a recycle symbol on a trash can to help distinguish between regular trash cans and recycle cans. Photo by Nicole Huntley



Junior Dominic Rudd rinses out plastic bottles, so they can be recycled. Photo by Nicole Huntley

Do You Know Your Peers?

Freshman

The Kansas City Royals are my overall favorite sports team. My favorite person is Michael B. Jordan. A holiday food I enjoy is cranberry sauce, and 13 is my favorite number. I also bake a lot!

Sophomore

In Truth or Dare, I tend to choose truth more often than not. My favorite number is 3 and food wise I'm more of a sweet person. Tigers are the coolest wild animal in my opinion and my car's name is Barb (or Barbra)!

Junior

I'm personally more of a salty person when it comes to food. My favorite Halloween-related activity is carving pumpkins, and pumpkin pie is a holiday food I really like. My car's name is Dippy, and I would switch lives with Superman if I had the chance

Senior

I broke my toes once! Horror is my favorite movie genre. I prefer jackets over hoodies, and I bake a lot. And wolves are the coolest wild animals.

If I could be in one episode of any TV show I would be in *Taxi*. To me hoodies are better than jackets, and I prefer the sci-fi genre. I've broken my pelvis before and I like mash potatoes and noodles as a holiday food.

Teacher

Rules-You have to spell the mystery persons' first and last name correctly in your email or it will not count. You have to be the first person to guess correctly to get the reward. You cannot guess yourself. You only get one guess per person.

Parents given opportunity to discuss students' potential careers

CHEYENNE MCGILLIVRAY

Senior editor

What is the meaning behind the actual parent/teacher conferences? For seniors, fall conferences meant discussing their future with Mr. Joe Buresh and their parents.

Conferences were Monday, October 22 and Tuesday, October 23 from 5:30-8 p.m. Seniors were required to schedule a time that fit both their schedule and their parent's schedule in order to meet with Mr. Buresh.

"Basically we discussed what career or college choice the student wants and if that choice is a realistic program for them. We will work on applications for colleges, the FAFSA form and enrollment. Students want to be ahead of deadlines and apply for scholarships that are offered here," Buresh said.

Buresh's goal with these meetings was to help students and parents with the FAFSA form, scholarships, school choices or student's plans to go into the military. Another goal was to get students and parents on the same page on what the student wants to do with his or her future and what is best for him or her.

The idea for senior conferences came from last year during spring Career Cruising conferences. Buresh discussed with Mr. Bowman and they made the conferences earlier so seniors would have more time to decide on what they want to do.

"The purpose of these meetings was to help students and parents prepare for going to college or the military and the options that are out there to choose from," Buresh said.

Some students and parents felt the meetings were a good idea and helped with communication that will come up and as students pursue college and future choices.

"I thought it was a good idea to meet at the same time with students and parents. It was nice to have parents right there to talk about what we wanted to do after graduation," senior Ashley Babcock said.

Spring career conferences will continue with the sophomores, freshmen and juniors.



On Wednesday, Oct. 17, seniors were given another opportunity to think about their futures as they attended a College Career Fair at Smith Center. The fair had roughly 20 colleges represented ranging from junior colleges to universities. Seniors Alexi Beach and Leah Nyland receive information from the Fort Hays State University representative. Photo by Logan Solida.

Upcoming ACT tests prompt teachers to use a variety of practice methods to improve students' scores

CHEYENNE MCGILLIVRAY

Senior editor

Math test, science test, reading test, English test, so much difficulty in the ACT, but teachers are here to help.

Mrs. Sides, Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Suchsland are all prepping their students for when students take the actual ACT test.

Mrs. Miller is giving her Algebra 3 students some sample questions to work in class with time restrictions. Mrs. Miller's focus is mainly on the math portion, but she plans to look at other areas as requested. She is spending two weeks prior to the October ACT Test to prep students for the ACT test. The ACT carries a lot of weight for students in getting scholarships and unfortunately, students don't spend enough time preparing for the ACT test.

"I think students struggle with time management part of the ACT and don't use a multiple-choice test to their advantage," Miller said.

Mrs. Suchsland is also prepping students for the science part of the ACT with materials provided by the school through Career Cruising. She plans to prep students all year for any ACT that happens during the year. Suchsland began her ACT prep at the beginning of October for students.

"I think this is good for students so they know what the ACT questions are like and they

get helpful hints on how to take the test more effectively," Suchsland said.

Mrs. Sides' focus is prepping students for the reading and English portions of the ACT test. She started prepping her students on September 17 has been doing a practice test once a week since then.

"I think students struggle with time management part of the ACT and don't use a multiple-choice test to their advantage."

"So many of the seniors had told me that English and reading were their lowest scores on the ACT, so I felt like we needed to take some additional time to review the types

of questions present on the test and some tricks for eliminating wrong answers. I think that the extra practice has been valuable to them, and I am hoping that their scores will increase due to the added practice," Sides said.

Students are also seeing the value in the added ACT practice.

"I like how Mrs. Sides gives us ACT prep because I feel like it should be helpful to students," senior Logan Solida said.

The next upcoming ACT dates is December 8. Registration deadline for December is November 2.

COMPILED BY CHEYENNE MCGILLIVRAY

SAT vs. ACT

Stronger emphasis on vocabulary in context	Vocabulary	If vocabulary isn't your thing, you may do better on the ACT
If you're a true science-phobe, the SAT might be better fit	Science	The ACT has a science section that tests your critical thinking skills
You do NOT get a calculator on all the math questions on the SAT	Tools	You get a calculator for ALL math questions on the ACT
The SAT is scored on a scale of 400-1600	Scores	The ACT is scored on a scale of 1-36

Hunnacutt breaks state record



ETHAN LEIDIG

As football season gets into full swing so does kicker Jon Hunnacutt's leg. So far in Hunnacutt's career, he has the record for the school's longest field goal at 52 yards. He also broke the state scoring record this season during the Hoisington game.

"One of the kicking records that I had my sights set was the career points record in the state."

The record Hunnacutt broke was 214 points (133PAT/27FG) set by Joe Garcia from Olathe North in 1996.

"I am also hoping to getting the longest field goal in the state," Hunnacutt said.

That record is currently held by Mike Ross (Blue Valley-1993) and Sean Simoneau (SM West-1994).

"Before I kick I always focus a high point in my life and kick while focusing on that. I also practice kicking all the time, and I get a lot of help from my dad. Ron and Justin Juenemann have also helped me with my kicking and improving through my career," Hunnacutt said.

Hunnacutt's longest field goal in a game is 52 yards and his longest ever is 60 yards.

Hunnacutt hopes to kick in college, but he is undecided on where he will attend.

During the September 28 Homecoming game against TMP, senior Jonathan Hunnacutt begins his approach to add another point to the Panther scoreboard. Hunnacutt broke the state kicking record on October 12 during the home game against Hoisington.

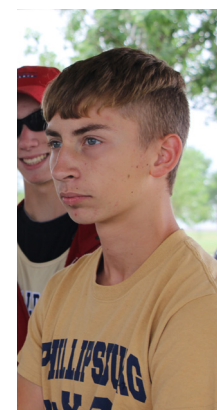


Feature Athletes

This issue's feature athlete for tennis is sophomore Kalli Moore. Moore has played tennis for two years. Her favorite part of tennis was being able to be with a team and be supported by the community and school. Moore's main goal for her team was to go to state. Her personal goal for the season was to do her best, make better shots and anticipate the shot better. In practice she liked tag team singles.



This issue's feature athlete is freshman Eric Moon. This is Moon's first year in cross country. Moon enjoyed meeting new people the most. This year Moon's goal for himself was to get under 19 minutes in a race. Moon's favorite game in practice was the scavenger hunt. "My main goal for the team was to push everyone and make them better."



Fall sports find success in post season

VOLLEYBALL

As the volleyball season comes to an end, the Panthers ended with a successful record of 29-11.

"I think that the volleyball team did well. They put in the work to be successful, I expected a lot from them and I think that they met my expectations. The girls really wanted to win because they are naturally competitive. We also did some fun drills in practice to help keep them motivated. They competed well and improved throughout the season," Assistant Coach Mrs. Kim Pakkebie said.

The Panther season ended at Sub-State here in Phillipsburg on October 20, with a 26-24 loss in the third set to Beloit, and finished in second place out of eight teams.

"We will miss our seniors, but I expect next year's group to get better and build off of it," Pakkebie said.

FOOTBALL

Going into the playoffs, the Panther football team is 8-0 and

looking to build on it.

"So far we have accomplished all of our goals, and we are getting better every week. To keep focused we continue to get better at practice and show that on Friday night," coach JB Covington said.

With the playoffs kicking off October 26, coach Covington is focused on getting the team back to 100%.

"Right now we are banged up so we just need to get healthy and build depth for the playoffs. Any team could jump out and trip us up, we just have to be ready and play every game the best we can. We hope to win since we've been playing great on offense and tough defense," Covington said.

CROSS COUNTRY

On October 20 the cross country season came to an end at the regional meet in Salina, but Coach David King was happy with the way the season went.

"The cross country team had an outstanding season. Our team continued to succeed by setting several personal records, meadling as a team, or individual, and becoming a 'family'," King said.

Although no runners from Phillipsburg competed at state, teammate Sam Pinkerton from Logan qualified for 1A state in Wamego.

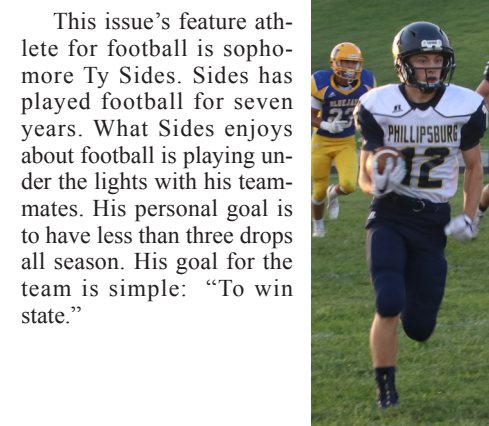
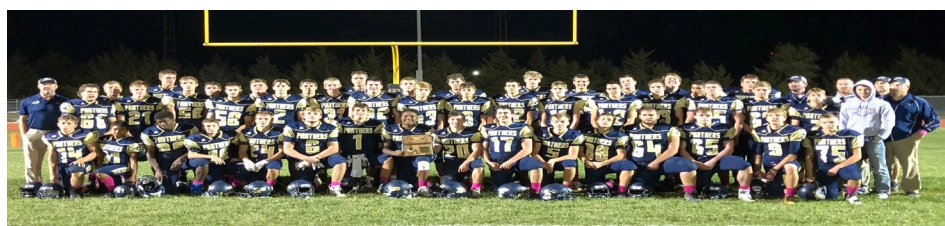
"Overall, we performed well and competed hard at regionals. I am excited to see their growth as runners next year. I also look forward to the new team members each year and how this sport grows. We have had an excellent group of kids the past few years that have really created excitement and attracted new kids to the sport of running," King said.

While happy with their effort, their goal was to get a little better every day. Everyone on the team met his expectation.

TENNIS

Tennis season came to an end at the state meet in Pratt on October 13. The team finished with an overall record of 250-124.

"This team exceeded my expectations and most of the younger kids had winning records for their first years. The varsity players stepped up into their roles. At state, Megan and Logan were the only players to place, and they went 3-3 to place 11. The state competition was fun to watch and see how our players stacked up. We have good young talent, much enthusiasm and three state qualifiers returning to compete next season," Head Coach Donna Jarvis, said.



This issue's volleyball feature athlete is senior Ashley Babcock. Babcock has been playing volleyball for nine years. Babcock loved playing with her teammates. "It has been so much fun playing with them all these years." Babcock's main goal for the team was to become MCL champions and to make it to state. "This was my last year with these girls and I'm going to miss them so much."