



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

# the panther pause



Auditions for the school play were held September 9-20 and practices started Monday, September 30. The play will take place November 23-24.

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## Junior English students attend a live production *Of Mice and Men*

MEREDITH JACOBS

Reporter

Soft, fluffy rabbits; playful, furry puppies and sleek silky hair—what do all of these have in common? They were all obsessions of Lenny, the mentally challenged character of John Steinbeck's novella *Of Mice and Men*.

Traditionally this novel is taught in sophomore English; however, Ms. Leslie Struckhoff decided to extend the students' knowledge of the novella into junior English with a new take on the novel.

This year, English III teacher Leslie Struckhoff took students to see the live play *Of Mice and Men*. The play was held in an actual barn located at Mountain Rose Ranch in Kearney, NE. Crane River Theatre hosted the play, and actors from all around the country came together to reenact John Steinbeck's classic story *Of Mice and Men*.

On Friday, September 20, Struckhoff took 28 students to Kearney to observe a book that they have read come to life. Struckhoff hoped that students enjoyed interacting with the director and actors to see what those involved with the play were personally trying to get across through their performance.

"Seeing how the actors got so into character and how they played their role" junior Summer Peak said.

Because so many students were interested in going to see *Of Mice and Men*, the school paid for half of each student's admission cost for the play. Students which enjoyed the play version *Of Mice and Men*, in part



Members of the Crane River Theater performed the classic *Of Mice and Men* story on September 20 at the Rose Ranch in Kearney, Ne. Photo by Meredith Jacobs

due to the play being performed in an actual barn, helped make the scenes more realistic. The play effected students in different ways.

According to junior Ava Schemper, who's never been to a play before, says her favorite part *Of Mice and Men* was seeing the actors stay in character throughout the entire play.

The actors did a really good job of displaying the characters emotions and bringing this story to life. Students that attended the play experienced a new form of literature.



## College classes

SUMMER PEAK

Senior Editor

From instructor to advisor, college classes move online for teachers who do not possess their masters in their content area.

One of the many things students have always appreciated about high school is the college credits offered to students during their junior and senior year, but late last spring, teachers were told that they would not be able to teach their college classes anymore, unless they had a master's degree or proof they were trying to acquire said degree in the field they desired to teach.

Soon after, as the 2018-2019 school year came to an end, many students started to panic as rumors of the college classes moving online came about. Students and teachers alike were concerned about not only the possible chaos it would cause in the classroom but also whether that meant the high school was closer to losing the opportunity for college credit completely.

The high school's school board made the decision to keep dual credits an option for students by offering the online version rather than getting rid of the option completely.

Although the online version gives students the opportunity for credit, many students and teachers have still felt an overwhelming amount of frustration during the transitioning period. But many of those who are affected, such as the former teacher and now advisor to college algebra, trigonometry, and statistics, Rachel Miller, theorize that the most difficult and frustrating part is just getting used to using the new online program.

"I don't think [the online classes are] necessarily a comfort situation for

them yet, they're just getting used to it. The material isn't harder, I think the process is just difficult to adjust to right now," Miller said.

Most members of the high school agree with Miller's belief, while others believe the most frustrating part is that with certain classes being online they are taking away from the actual point of the class, like with public speaking. A class that is specifically about teaching a student to speak in public is now taught online where the supervisor of the class, Kim Pakkebie, will record their speeches and students can turn in the video version of their speech that they liked the most.

But proctor of College Government, Kendall Fiscus believes that these classes being online will actually help prepare students for actual college.

"I think it will help prepare for online classes. I know a lot of places they expect you to use canvas or blackboard or something—whether it's an online class or not—[the new format] will help [students] in a college setting," Fiscus said.

Others look at class being online less optimistically and instead as more of just a hassle; such as senior Kaycee Campbell, who says that assignments can be confusing because their professor doesn't always give clear details.

However, asking for clarification is harder for students than in previous years, on account of the fact that students have to email their professor and wait for a response instead of being able to ask face-to-face and getting an immediate reply.

Although students can

try to ask their class advisor, advisors may also be in the same situation as the students and have to wait for further instruction from the Colby professor, as advisors know about the same amount of information as students.

The lack of communication can be incredibly frustrating for teachers who prefer to have control over their class's homework and lesson plans and students are appearing to notice.

"(My teacher) seems very stressed. Because there's not like a whole lot she can do about things, except for just kinda like guide us through things or like talk to the teacher or talk to Mr. Buresh," Campbell said.

Fiscus suspects the most difficult part of the whole transition for him, when his Government class finally starts in the second semester, will be figuring out where he'll fit into the system or how the new teacher will interpret and teach certain subjects compared to him.

Fiscus isn't the only teacher whose online class starts during the second semester. Supervisor to public speaking, Kim Pakkebie's class changed from a full two semester class to an online eight-week course.

But that doesn't mean she doesn't still have a class for the first semester. Once Pakkebie learned the start date of the course, she decided to teach the first semester similarly to how she normally teaches it, to hopefully give students a jump start on the online class.

Pakkebie changed minimal things to this semester, but one change she made was not making students memorize their entire

speeches, knowing that the online professor will not require that from students like she previously did.

Based off this fact, Pakkebie thinks the class will not only possibly be easier for students but also for her since she doesn't have to grade or evaluate students' work anymore.

The high school does still have one teacher who hasn't—and most likely won't for a long time—experienced any changes to her college classes: college chemistry and biology Professor Danielle Suchsland. Suchsland has achieved a master's in biology and graduate hours in chemistry, so she is certified to teach both courses at a college level.

Suchsland's thoughts regarding the new online classes is that while she doesn't know if classes being online will affect students' learning, live instructors, like herself, would help students' ability to understand and succeed in a subject.

"Those courses were offered online already, but with a live instructor to aid in the learning process, I think students will have much more success than trying to take them on their own," Suchsland said.

However, senior Austin Miller says that it shouldn't affect students learning at all and that students should be able to figure out the work by themselves.

In time, the high school will learn if these changes will affect students' learning and how teachers adjust to their new role as an advisor rather than instructor. For now, while people may have different opinions and frustrations, everyone seems at least relieved that their high school still offers duel credit courses.



## Getting groovy at the drive-in movie with StuCo as they sponsor a movie night

JENNA HOOVER

Reporter

With many new and old traditions, StuCo is hoping to make a new one this year. President Kylie Solida and Vice President Anahy Sanchez have been pushing to put on a drive-in movie.

This year, they decided it would be a great activity for students to come and enjoy a movie with friends. Students had a chance to pick their movie of choice which will be *Crazy Rich Asians*.

"The drive-in movie is to show appreciation to the student body; it is not

a fund raiser. The concession cost is to cover the actual cost of the snacks. The idea came from Smith Center's FCCLA who hosted a drive-in movie night," said senior Kylie Solida.

The drive-in movie will take place in the high school parking lot on Sunday, October 6, at 8:00 p.m. When students arrive, they will pay \$5 per person and receive a coupon. With the coupon, students will receive a drink and a choice of popcorn or cotton candy. Any extra items will be sold for \$1.



# Homecoming Means Tradition



Mr. Sides and Mr. Swenson represent K-State on Twin Day



Freshmen Erin Johnson and Heather Schemper get their VSCO girl on during VSCO vs Hick Day



Senior Emily Schneider displays patriotism on America Day



Sophomore Lauren Gibbs is ready to conquer any medical emergencies that could happen on career day.



Senior Domic Ridd shows off his dark side by wearing this Darth Vader jersey on Jersey Day

ETHAN LEIDIG

Editor

Homecoming week brings many activities for the students and staff. One of the activities was decorating floats and showing them off in the parade on Friday, September 27.

After the parade, the judges chose the float winners. There were two categories: most spirited and most creative/best overall.

The Art club won most spirited float, while FFA had the most creative/best overall float.

With so much work to be done the afternoon of Homecoming, some groups used extra time throughout the week to work on their floats.

“The KAY club worked on their float two SA periods ahead of time and also all-day Friday. We had about 12 people help ahead of time on the stage in the gym. All together as a club we spent around \$50 on the float to get candy to throw or just extra decorations,” head of the KAY float committee Meredith Jacobs said.

Each organization was responsible for coming up with its own float. Ideas included VSCO, Just Beat ‘Em and Can’t Touch This.

“Our float’s theme was ‘superheroes;’ we chose that theme, because that is this year’s theme for all of Kansas’ KAY organizations. If we would have won the competition it would have meant a lot to me because it would show off all of our hard work and time that we put into the competition,” Jacobs said.



## Another Annual Husker Harvest Days in the Books



GRACIE JESSUP

Reporter

Every year Ag teacher and FFA sponsor Mr. Marvin Fehlman takes a group of FFA member to Husker Harvest Days in September. This year, 46 students traveled to Wood River, Ne. on September 10 to attend the event. Many students went to find out what new things are going on in the agriculture community.

“I take kids because I am perfectly happy living in Phillipsburg, Kansas, but I believe that students should be able to see more than what we have here. They can see a bigger world than what we have in Phillipsburg. They need to be able to choose what they want to do with their life and see what else is out there,” Fehlman said.

Activities that students could attend and learn about ranged from equipment retailers to seed distributors to weather station manufacturers. Students also enjoyed a variety of food options from various vendors.

Below: Freshman Boston McDonald and junior Clint Gower converse as they make their way to many of the booths offered at Husker Harvest Days on September 10. Right: Sophomore Claire Chestnut checks out the cab of a new vehicle while attending Husker Harvest Days. Photos by Gracie Jessup



## Where does your garden grow?

GRACIE JESSUP

Reporter

New growth is budding in the library this fall. Chemistry teacher Mrs. Dani Suchsland has begun a project in the library. Suchsland's students are growing their own indoor garden for a continuous project throughout the year.

The library was selected as the indoor garden location because the space taken up by the planters is not being utilized by anything else. Students will be growing the plants of their choice, like various fruits and vegetables.

The project began from an idea FACS teacher Mrs. Deb Weishaar had.

"[The garden is] to provide learning activities through growth of plants all year round,"

Suchsland said.

To get funding, Suchsland wrote a grant for the \$3,000 project and got it cleared by Principal Todd Bowman.

This isn't the first project Suchsland has received funding for. She has also requested funding from the nonprofit organization, Donors Choose. Donors Choose is a website designed for teachers to request funding for specific projects to enhance the learning environment for students.

Suchsland has received funding for a 3D printer and microscopes for her classroom.

Another teacher that uses Donors Choose is elementary school teacher Mrs. Sky Davis. Davis has requested donations for extra seating so all of her students have a comfortable place to sit while they read.

Donors Choose was established in 2000 and has funded 1,508,000 projects, reaching 36,083,927 students since.

Any teacher can utilize this resource to secure funds for projects or upgrades to their classrooms. The website is [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org).

To begin the process of growing plants in the newly acquired gardens, senior Dylan Capelton plants seeds in the pods that will be placed in the garden. Photo by Kylie Solida.



## Welcome to the new Chill Zone

GRACIE JESSUP

Reporter

Thanks to last year's seniors Kyleigh Russell, Mya McDonald and Logan Solida, a new ice machine has been installed in the work room outside of Counselor Mr. Joe Buresh's office. In Mrs. Robin Sides' comp II class, seniors were challenged with coming up with a creative solution to solve a problem within the school or community. These girls came up with the idea of a 12-gallon ice and water machine that would be available for students to use throughout the day. The administration approved of the plan, but increased the capacity to a 40-gallon ice machine. The machine was funded by various sports programs and clubs: StuCo, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, football, tennis, wrestling, FCCLA, FFA, SAFE Program and the Cheer Squad.

While the installation of the ice/water machine has been a welcome addition, students must remember to follow the established rules in using the machine in order for it to remain in operation.

### Rules for Use:

1. Ice can only be put into cups. No hands, mouths, etc.
2. Any mess made needs to be cleaned up immediately.
3. No kicking, hitting, or tilting the machine.
4. NO putting or pouring anything into the sink of the ice machine.

## Coding class gets reboot

GRACIE JESSUP

Reporter

Though not a new class, computer coding took a new turn for this school year. The seven computer coding students are learning the coding language Python and how to work with different robots and computing equipment. Geometry teacher Mr. Jon Weinman is teaching this class in lieu of web design.

"I have experience with working with computer languages and I am familiar with the computer side," Weinman said.

So far, students have learned how to connect to the Sphero Bolts, their first robot they are working with, they have learned how to block code, made a game that when the ball is thrown it makes animal sounds and are currently using block coding to make the Sphero go through a paper maze.

"We get to do coding [programs]. We get to code robots and a turtle," sophomore Hunter Dougherty said.

Nick Poels, Director of Phillips County Economic Development, at the Fischer Building, helped to provide the opportunity for the computer coding class to be able to go once a week during class time to use the new tech center at the Fischer Building, along with a few other classes from the middle school and elementary school.

Throughout the course of the year, the computer coding students will get the chance to work with four different robots and learn more of the coding language.

"Computer coding is a pretty fun class to be in. You get to learn new things," Dougherty said.

## Do you have the Connections?

GRACIE JESSUP

Reporter

Having the right connections can really help you get a lot of things in life. The new class, career connections, is helping students gain some helpful life connections in learning about potential jobs for them by human services.

"It is a Kansas State of Education class for my approved pathway of human services. In Kansas schools, we are supposed to meet several facets of each student's needs, and we try to strive for a variety of classes to challenge all students and meet the requirements set forth by KESA. This professional learning experience helps students decide if a career in human services is right for them," FACS teacher Deb Weishaar said.

Four days a week, the eight students go to their jobs. On the fifth day they stay in class to discuss what they learned about their job that week.

Junior Nick Schemper is conducting his observations at the elementary school, as he is interested in pursuing a teaching career.

"So far I have learned that patience is key and if the little kids have a problem it is best to let them sort it out themselves," junior Nick Schemper said.

According to Weishaar, the goal for the students is to become familiar with academic enrichments, career exploration objectives, awareness in "all aspects of an industry" objective, skill development objective,

and understand what that job field requires them to have to do. They also have had to research certain qualities to have while being employed like, initiative, positive attitude, honesty, flexibility, work ethic, responsibility, professionalism and confidentiality.

"I had to get a lot of papers signed by my mom agreeing to let me drive and confidentiality papers," sophomore Ishia Calhoon, who is also observing at the middle school, said.

Some students decided that shadowing someone in the education field would be a great start for deciding if they would like to pursue the teaching job that they have considered as an option.

"I have always been interested in the education field," Schemper said.

Other students have decided that they may like a different field of service as a career.

"Honestly, I thought [the middle school] was going to be putting me in different situations, and I would rather be working with a different

human services situation," Calhoon said.

Overall, the students enjoy the opportunities they have been given to be able to explore more options after high school as a career.



Junior Audrey Wood helps prepare for an upcoming Xray during her career connections work study at Phillips County Hospital. Photo by Kristen Wells.

## Jamming to a New Beat

GRACIE JESSUP

Reporter

While the choir and band are busy learning their new music for their performances, the new music appreciation class of 13 students is busy learning how music influences their lives and how music affects people differently. This class is an extra option for students who wanted to get their fine arts credit without the struggle of reading music or expressing themselves through art.

"By having another opportunity besides art, choir or band, students can take a different approach to studying music. If a student can't play an instrument or feels uncomfortable learning about art or drawing, [music appreciation] seems like a good option to pick up the fine arts credit," Band Teacher Mrs. Vesta Still said.

Most comments from students are positive about the addition of the new class.

"[I think it's] positive because it gives students a better chance to learn about music," junior Maddy Kendall said.

Students enjoy having a different option for a fine arts credit. They learn about the history of how music started and how it affects the world.

"We just finished unit 1 which was about how music is an expression of who we are. We looked at some of the music the students like and how/why they like certain types of music. We also studied a little about music from other cultures and its influence on music now. We learn about why music and what is music. Soon, we are going to look at country music and the upcoming country music award show," Still said.

Junior Maddy Kendall sketches the names of some of her favorite musical artists for music appreciation. Photo by Summer Peak



Even though the students have only just started this new class, it has already had an overall positive reaction from the students.

## E-Cigs Evolution; Popularity increases despite potential risks

SUMMER PEAK

Senior Editor

Adults and children all around the world are getting nicotine addictions and Phillipsburg is no exception.

A survey was sent to all members of the high school which included, 171 students plus 33 faculty/staff; 114 people responded. Of those responses, 64.9% said that the high school has a problem with Electronic Cigarettes.

E-Cigarettes are cigarette-shaped devices that contain an inhalable nicotine infused water vapor. The water vapor juice is contained in interchangeable pods. E-Cigarettes—also commonly known as Vapes or JUULs—became popular in the U.S. around two years ago but made their appearance in Phillipsburg last year at both the middle school and high school.

These water vapor cigarettes were originally advertised as a way for people to quit smoking, as they performed very similarly to regular-cigarettes, but supposedly had little to no nicotine content. But as E-cigarettes got more popular, different flavors were created and introduced, these fruity or sugary flavors attracted a different and larger audience.

The audience that was attracted to these new flavors seemed to be much younger than the previous demographic. The new demographic included adolescence, people who were 12-30 years of age.

Over half of those who attend this high school believe that these different flavors are more enticing to people. Psychology teacher and athletic director Andy Kenney believes that the flavors are enticing specifically to the younger generations because the aroma caused by these flavors can help hide the activity. He contends that the older generations are less likely to care about trying to hide it, although, they might appreciate that a lesser amount of people get offended over the smell.

Senior Dallas Miller thinks that the E-Cigarette flavors mask not just the activity but also the possible harmful consequences.

“[People might think it’s less harmful] because it doesn’t taste like burning poison. If it smells like strawberry muffin, then it doesn’t taste like it’s hurting. That’s for sure,” Miller said.

But flavors weren’t the only cause of this new demographic. Influences, such as those that people follow on social media, watch on TV, or even friends and family members tend to be blamed.

“I think older siblings that are allowed to vape let younger siblings try it, and then it just passes on,” freshman Cheyenne Schwerman said.

One reason these teens want to try E-Cig-

arettes is a reason that goes back for decades: the desire to fit in. When kids see their older siblings vaping, their friends JUULing, their favorite online or TV personality smoking—no matter who it is, as long as they hold some sort of influence or importance to them, those kids will want to be like their influencers and start smoking E-Cigarettes too, no matter the consequence.

But a vast number of these teens and kids who vape, don’t know or simply don’t comprehend the possible risks they are taking.

“The Juul pod is like smoking 20 cigarettes. So, if you go through your pod—which is, you know, fairly small—they say that has just as much nicotine as a whole pack of cigarettes. So yes, it can become just as harmful [as smoking a regular cigarette], and I think some of [the people who JUUL] might know that because the information is out there, but also I don’t think some of them do realize it because [to them] it’s just a new thing to try,” Kenney said.

It’s a well-known fact that nicotine is an extremely addictive drug, but as Kenney explains it, adolescents tend to have a sense of invulnerability and will often believe that something bad, like addiction, couldn’t happen to them. Therefore, they will continue to do the potential harmful action because of their inability to comprehend the consequences of their actions.

But in other cases, people truly believe they’re getting a “zero percent nicotine” pod, while in reality, the pod may actually contain a lot of nicotine.

Although, the E-Cigarettes companies advertise some nicotine-free E-Cigarettes, there is still debate around the high school whether that is really true or not, based results from the survey, adolescent get addicted to E-Cigarettes whether they are the nicotine-free or not.

But some people think that the reason people get addicted to nicotine-free JUULing might just be because it’s become a sort of mental habit, much like chewing gum can be.

Director of Nurses at Phillips County Health Systems, Vicky Gibbs, BSN, RN, MICT, says she had a friend where a few years ago she had stopped smoking and switched to E-Cigarettes; the friend had explained to Gibbs that the purpose of using the E-Cigarettes was not to appease the smoking addiction but instead to fill her need to have something up to her mouth, which Gibbs still believes is a form of addiction.

Senior Jacob Mahathey believes an addiction to the flavor or a simple social thing is also a possible explanation.

“It could be a social thing, like just doing

it socially in your friend group. Someone’s vaping, they pass it around and you just do it,” Mahathey said.

There are several different ideas about what could cause adolescent to want to do something that’s potentially dangerous to their body. But Phillips County Health System’s Michelle Brown, LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse), says that as an ex-smoker, if she had thought her cigarettes tasted better back then, that she might not have ever stopped smoking.

Even though the idea behind E-Cigarettes is to help stop smoking, junior Kenlee Ebner thinks that the real problem behind vaping is that it can actually lead to smoking real cigarettes.

“I [was] around a lot of people in Hays and they vaped all the time over the summer, and now it seems like they’re all buying cigarettes,” Ebner said.

No matter the reasoning for the addiction, addiction is still a difficult thing to overcome. Both nurses Gibbs and Brown are interested in visiting all the schools to educate students on the risks and possible consequences vaping can cause. They hope to prevent students from the possible life-altering injuries a JUULING addiction could possibly cause.

While the long-term effects or injuries are not known at this point, it is hypothesized that effects will be similar to that of regular smoking illnesses, like lung cancer, COPD, emphysema and other severe lung diseases.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has information available not only for medical facilities but also for the public regarding vaping and the different symptoms and potential illnesses. Some of the symptoms they warn of include difficulty breathing, fatigue, chest pain, fever, weight loss, nausea, diarrhea and more.

Many victims of E-cigarettes caused illnesses or even deaths are speculated to be caused by homemade pods that include tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main psychoactive component of marijuana, cannabidiol (CBD) oils, a phytocannabinoid and other substances and additives. These chemicals can be potentially harmful and should not be attempted to be created at home.

“[The pods are] not coming from the vape company, it’s coming from a guy named ‘Reggie,’ who made it in his basement,” Miller said.

If one is suffering from a symptom listed by the CDC, professional, medical help should be sought out. For more information on illnesses caused by E-Cigarettes, visit <https://www.cdc.gov>.

## Quick Facts:

64.9% believe there is an E-Cigarette problem in this school

Aquired from a survey with 114 responses

Most E-Cigarettes contain nicotine

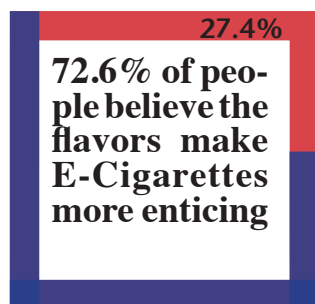
Aquired from the CDC

Use of E-Cigarettes may lead to the use of regular cigarettes in the future

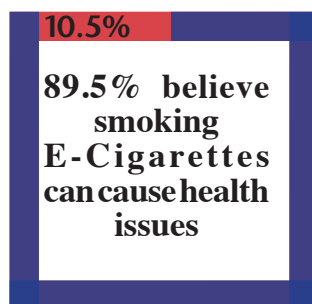
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E-cigarettes can contain other harmful substances besides nicotine

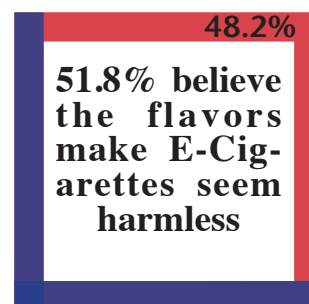
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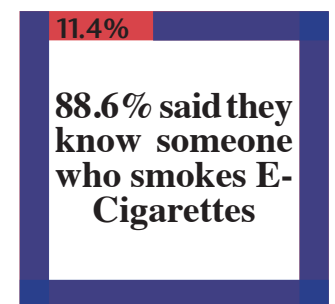
based on 113 responses



based on 114 responses



based on 114 responses



based on 114 responses

# Ethan "Tex" Leidig



**Favorite team?** Texas Longhorns  
**Favorite player?** Sam Ehlinger  
**How often do you sport Texas?** Daily  
**How many articles of clothing do you have?** 30ish  
**How many sporting events have you been to?** So far three, but more to come.  
**How did you start following the team?** I would follow them on sports apps, like ESPN

# College super fans

JENNA HOOVER Reporter

## Lexie Wood



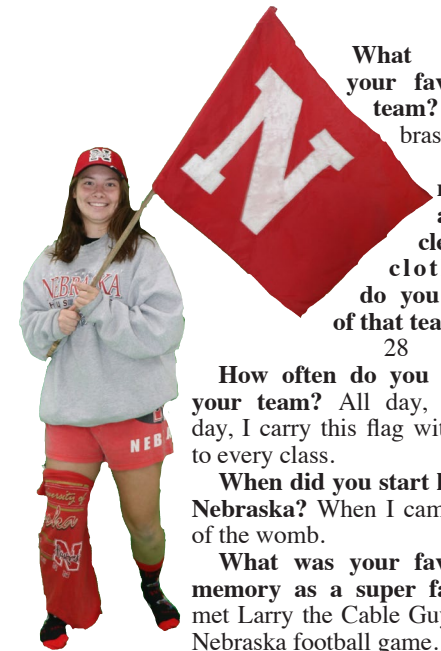
**What is your favorite team?** Kansas Jayhawks  
**How did you start following the Jayhawks?** My family did so I did, too. I went to games and started watching them on TV.  
**Do you like the college in general or the sports?** Yes, I love the college.  
**How many articles of clothing do you own of that team?** I think around 30.  
**Who is or was your favorite athlete from your team?** I will always be a Devonte Graham and Svi Mykhailiuk fan.

## Andrew Meitl



**What is your favorite team?** Oklahoma Sooners  
**How often do you sport your team?** Every day they play, but I follow their news every day.  
**Who is your favorite athlete from your team?** Baker Mayfield or Marquise Brown.  
**What was your favorite memory that you have from being a fan?** Watching football games with my grandpa.  
**How did you start following the team?** My grandpa

## Kenzie Storz



**What is your favorite team?** Nebraska  
**How many articles of clothing do you own of that team?** 28  
**How often do you sport your team?** All day, every day, I carry this flag with me to every class.  
**When did you start liking Nebraska?** When I came out of the womb.  
**What was your favorite memory as a super fan?** I met Larry the Cable Guy at a Nebraska football game.

# Get connected with former Panthers who are now college athletes

Tatum Bartels, plays volleyball at Fort Hays State University-  
**How have sports in general shaped you into being the person you are today?**  
 "Sports have been a huge part of my life, shaping me into the person I am today. Sports have taught me many life lessons and skills including time management. I am a student before an athlete, so I have to make sure I'm staying up to date with all of my classes. I have learned to push through the hard times to overcome adversity. I truly believe teamwork is a big part of life in general. Learning to get along with everyone will get you far. Commitment is probably one of the biggest factors that I have been taught through playing sports. In life, everything you do should involve a commitment whether that be to your academics, relationships, job, or even sports. Over the many years of playing sports, they have taught me about the game of life and the type of person I want to be."

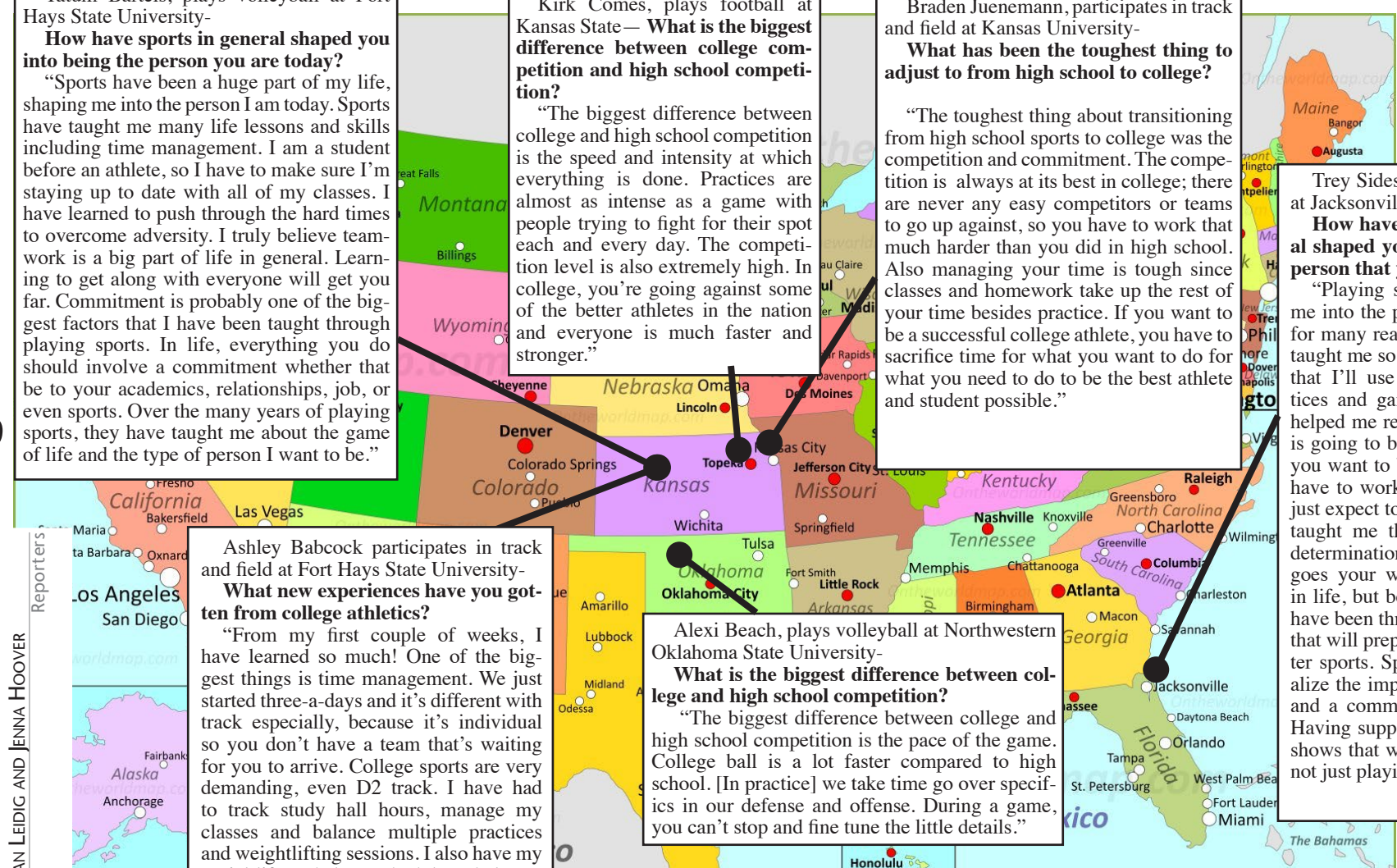
Kirk Comes, plays football at Kansas State—  
**What is the biggest difference between college competition and high school competition?**  
 "The biggest difference between college and high school competition is the speed and intensity at which everything is done. Practices are almost as intense as a game with people trying to fight for their spot each and every day. The competition level is also extremely high. In college, you're going against some of the better athletes in the nation and everyone is much faster and stronger."

Braden Juenemann, participates in track and field at Kansas University-  
**What has been the toughest thing to adjust to from high school to college?**  
 "The toughest thing about transitioning from high school sports to college was the competition and commitment. The competition is always at its best in college; there are never any easy competitors or teams to go up against, so you have to work that much harder than you did in high school. Also managing your time is tough since classes and homework take up the rest of your time besides practice. If you want to be a successful college athlete, you have to sacrifice time for what you need to do for what you need to do to be the best athlete and student possible."

Trey Sides, plays basketball at Jacksonville University-  
**How have sports in general shaped you into being the person that you are today?**  
 "Playing sports has shaped me into the person I am today for many reasons. Sports have taught me so many life lessons that I'll use outside of practices and games. Sports have helped me realize that nothing is going to be given to you. If you want to be successful you have to work for it; you can't just expect to win. Sports have taught me the importance of determination. Not everything goes your way in sports and in life, but because of sports I have been through tough times that will prepare me for life after sports. Sports help you realize the importance of family and a community even more. Having support at every game shows that we, as athletes, are not just playing for ourselves."

Ashley Babcock participates in track and field at Fort Hays State University-  
**What new experiences have you gotten from college athletics?**  
 "From my first couple of weeks, I have learned so much! One of the biggest things is time management. We just started three-a-days and it's different with track especially, because it's individual so you don't have a team that's waiting for you to arrive. College sports are very demanding, even D2 track. I have had to track study hall hours, manage my classes and balance multiple practices and weightlifting sessions. I also have my social life and sleep schedule to balance. It's definitely a commitment and some-

Alexi Beach, plays volleyball at Northwestern Oklahoma State University-  
**What is the biggest difference between college and high school competition?**  
 "The biggest difference between college and high school competition is the pace of the game. College ball is a lot faster compared to high school. [In practice] we take time go over specifics in our defense and offense. During a game, you can't stop and fine tune the little details."



Reporters  
 ETHAN LEIDIG AND JENNA HOOVER