



The Panther's Paw

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

Vol. 70 No. 5

Spring Hill High School



December fashion

INSIDE

Sophomore Sophie Bucklew searched the school for useful fashion tips and found the hottest places for teens to shop on a budget.

Magnificent Seven

by Taylor Gee

What to do when a team only has seven players? For the Spring Hill Varsity Lady Panthers, only having seven players is not an obstacle rather an advantage and allows the team to become one small family unit.

It lets them build chemistry try new things and work harder to build character and hopefully come out with a win. This team is 'in it for the Nguyen'. They have worked hard this season, and this is shown in their remarkable record for this season thus far.

See page 6 for whole story.



Christmas cookies

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Band ends semester on a high note

Marching contest may be over with, but that doesn't mean the Blue Brigade has stopped working. The band split into the concert and symphonic bands to make concerts easier on top of preparing for all region try outs, the band sure has been busy the past few weeks.

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Randy Kiser photo / The Panther's Paw

Brooke Presley

Age: 17 Grade: Junior



Taylor Gee Photo / THE PANTHER'S PAW

Brooke has worn a Christmas sweater every single day of December. In this picture she is wearing a sweater that light up and has her older brother's picture on it

Student Spotlight

Most people think singing and eating Christmas cookies are the best way to get into the holiday spirit, but that's not the case for junior Brooke Presley.

"I like sweaters 'cause I feel like they help me express my holiday spirit," Presley said.

Presley does love sweaters, and her closet is full of them.

"I have approximately 25 sweaters," Presley said.

Not all the sweaters are store-bought; Presley makes some of her sweaters,

like the one on the left with her brother's face on it.

"Some are bought and some are made," Presley said. "You can definitely tell if they were made or not."

Presley has worn a Christmas sweater every single day in December thus far.

"I don't know how, I just started wearing them, and now they are my thing," she said.

Indeed they are. When people think of Christmas sweaters, they think of Brooke Presley.



Photo courtesy of Randy Kiser / THE PANTHER'S PAW

Jacob Pipak conducts the high school concert band last Thursday for the band's Christmas concert.

Band finishes semester strong

by Laura Gibson

The Spring Hill High School Band sleighed (slayed) their Christmas Concert last Thursday while kicking off the holiday season with an array of medleys.

"The concert was very good, and being a senior in it was somewhat upsetting being our last Christmas concert," senior Thomas Utzman said. "But it was also fun, because it was our last Christmas concert."

The symphonic, concert and 6th grade bands all played festive tunes to bring Christmas cheer and display their musical talents to their audience.

"I think 'Sleigh Ride' by Leroy Anderson was my favorite piece," Utzman said. "It had a very pretty sound and was fun to play."

The band program continues to put in great work, as they on traveled to Mount Vernon Saturday to audition for All-Region.

The band was very successful at the auditions; many students placed, such as flute players Esmeralda Adame and Adriana Solis, oboe player Danielle Giffin, clarinet player Kamryn Morris, bass clarinet Brooke Presley, trombone player Brendyn Massey, euphonium player Gabe Johnson, and percussionists Braedon Sims and Travis Herberger.

Six of these players, Herberger, Johnson, Massey, Presley, Morris and Giffin placed so well they will continue on to Area auditions January 9.

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Vol. 70, NO. 5 - Wednesday, December 16, 2015
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Dear Darcy

Dear Darcy,

What is the best decision a freshmen will or can make?

A lot of upperclassmen regret the joking around they participated in during their freshmen year. Since it's the first year of high school, many freshmen don't really care or think about their GPAs. I would recommend focusing on your schoolwork a lot, even to the point of an excessive amount. You'll learn how to study now instead of figuring it out later in high school, earning yourself a lower GPA than you're capable of. Once you have a low GPA, it's pretty difficult to bring it up. So study to keep it high!

Dear Darcy,

I'm having trouble focusing in school. How can I stay focused?

A lot of kids don't eat breakfast, but eating in the mornings can fuel your brain to keep focused. Cut out any distractions you may have in class if possible, like moving away from a talkative friend or turning your phone off. Staying organized and making to-do lists is helpful to keep your mind clear and focused during school and with homework, too.

Dear Darcy

What is the best way to keep my grades up while playing sports?

Always put grades first when it comes to balancing grades and any extracurricular. When you have away games or tournaments, spend the time on the bus studying and finishing any homework you have. After practice, make time to work on schoolwork before you go hang out with friends or watch TV. Playing a sport while juggling challenging classes is hard, but if you really enjoy your sport and don't want to cut it out, you can find the time to get all of your work done.

Dear Darcy,

What is the best way to take notes?

Everyone has their own tips and ways that help them study and take notes and everyone's way of learning is different, but I've found listening to the lecture and writing down key points the teacher goes over is the best way to take notes. Don't write down every little detail, you'll miss important parts of the lesson your teacher goes over if you do. Learning to take notes really just takes practice. Once you do it enough, you make up your own way to learn from that fits you best.

Dear Darcy,

How far is too far?

When you have any doubt that what is happening may be too far, that's probably when it is. If you even consider or worry about it, talk about it. Don't be afraid to say how you feel and always put your well-being and feelings first in situations that you're uncomfortable with. You don't want to regret something that could have been avoided if you would have spoke up!

Senior Suggest

"Do your homework kiddos."

-Skye Parr

"Don't wake up at 7:55 when class starts at 8."

-Bethany Bell

"Anything in life worth doing is worth overdoing."

-Garrett Self

"At least try to not fail."

-Conner Kendall

"Dress for combat because high school boys are stupid."

-Alexa Willis

"We can do this the hard way or we can do this the hard way. The choice is yours."

-Mason Myrick

"Be nice to everyone. And watch Disney movies"

-Taylor Gee

"High school is more fun if you are involved."

-Hannah Murray

As I was saying...

Alli's words of wisdom

Christmas break is almost here! I know you're all so ready. No worries, I'm not here to lecture you on "making to most of your break" by "staying active" and "keeping on top of your school work".



I mean, I still think you should get all of your holiday homework done, but don't make it your focus these next two weeks.

Christmas break isn't called that for nothing. TAKE A BREAK. Sleep until the afternoon. Binge watch 'Scandal' or 'The Walking Dead' or whatever. Eat a lot (holiday food is the best food, regret comes in January). Sleep some more. Go exploring with your friends. Hot tub at one in the morning. Make pancakes for dinner. Sleep.

My point is, don't focus your entire Christmas break on the fact that it's going to end. Speaking from experience, it's never good to spend your break dreading going back to school. Push it out of your mind. Any break is good, but Christmas is special. Christmas has this special feel to it. So enjoy it! Live inside every little wonderful moment, whether you're napping or on some grand adventure.

So, from this senior to all of you- Merry Christmas fam. Have a great time.

Gingerbread Cookies

- o 1/2 cup margarine
- o 1/2 cup sugar
- o 1/2 cup molasses
- o 1 egg yolk
- o 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- o 1/2 teaspoon salt
- o 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- o 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- o 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- o 1 teaspoon ground cloves
- o 1 teaspoon ginger
- o 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

- 1.) In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and sugar until smooth. Stir in molasses and egg yolk. Combine the flour, salt, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, and nutmeg; blend into the molasses mixture until smooth. Cover, and chill for at least one hour.
- 2.) Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into desired shapes with cookie cutters. Place cookies 2 inches apart on non-greased cookie sheets.
- 3.) Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, until firm. Remove from cookie sheets to cool on wire racks. Frost or decorate when cool.

Peppermint Cookies

- o 1 cup butter, softened
- o 3/4 cup white sugar
- o 1 egg, beaten
- o 3 cups all-purpose flour
- o 1/4 teaspoon salt
- o 1/2 cup crushed peppermint candy canes
- o 3/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- o 5 teaspoons warm water
- o 2 tablespoons crushed peppermint candy canes, or to taste (optional)

- 1.) Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
- 2.) Beat the butter and white sugar with an electric mixer in a large bowl until smooth. Beat egg into butter mixture until completely incorporated. Mix flour and salt into the butter mixture until just incorporated. Fold crushed candy canes into the batter, mixing just enough to evenly combine. Roll dough into balls 1 tablespoon at a time; arrange on baking sheets.
- 3.) Bake in the preheated oven until firm, 8 to 10 minutes. Allow cookies to cool on the baking sheet for 1 minute before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.
- 4.) Whisk confectioners' sugar and warm water together in a small bowl until you have a smooth icing. Dip top of each cookie in the icing, Top with additional crushed candy cane, if desired. Set aside to let the icing dry, at least 5 minutes

Dream Christmas Present (if you had all the money in the world)

Carson Fruge- sophomore : a multi-million dollar company
 Madison Snell- sophomore : Mac & Cheese
 Colton Herndon- freshman: Truck
 Coach Brey: Property somewhere
 Marley Phillips- sophomore: A bunch of kittens
 Mallory Wallace- sophomore: front row/ backstage passes to a One Direction concert
 Stacia Viator- sophomore: White Camaro
 Hannah Murray- Senior: to go on a Cruise with Mrs. Tucker where we wouldn't have to worry about deadlines.
 Braedon Sims- junior: a life time supply of Road House rolls
 Grace Stark- junior: free college admittance

Christmas Song Scramble

Listen, the signal messengers carol

Jubilation to mankind

Oh sacred dark

Jangle chimes

Swaying about the yuletide timber

I'm hoping for an ivory noel

The only thing I desire for the Nativity is thee

Mother of our Lord, had you noticed?

The previous Christmastide, I handed over my soul

It's the most awe-inspiring epoch of the era

Dost thou perceive what I perceive?

Traipsing in a chilly paradise

Tiny percussion fellow

Ben's movie review

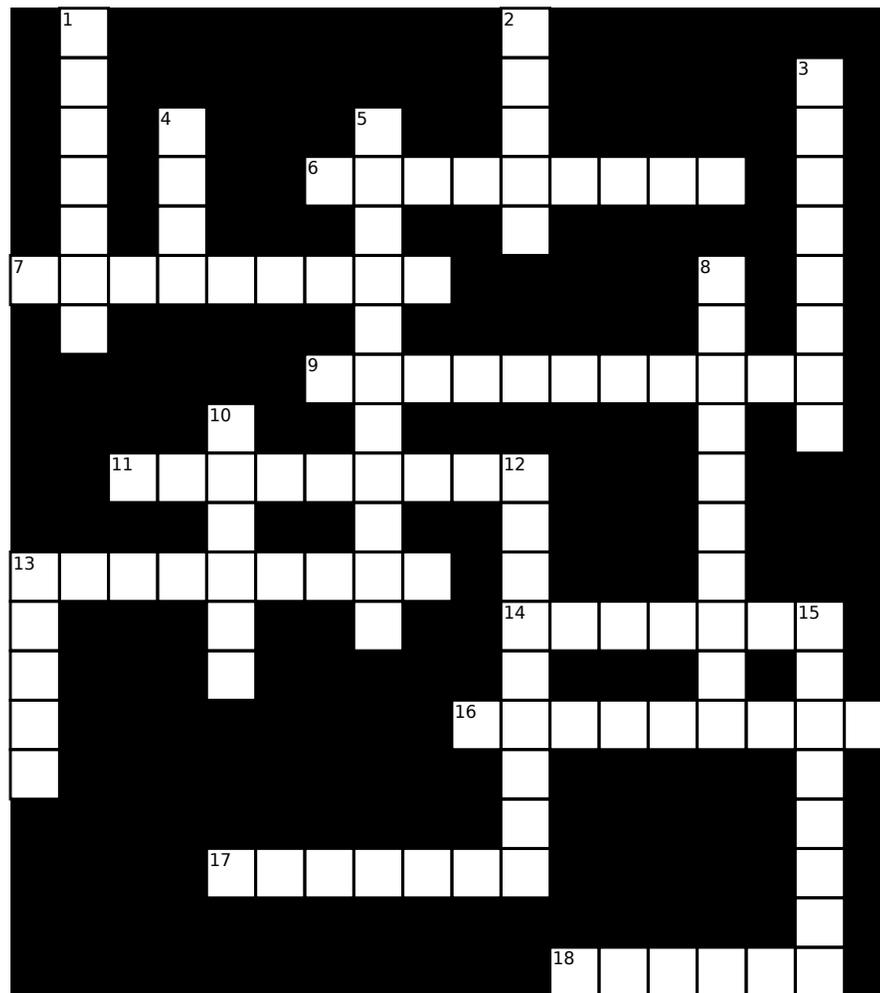
'Creed'



From Ryan Coogler, director of Fruitvale Station comes a new Rocky film.

Years after the death of Apollo Creed, a close friend of Rocky, who died in the ring, comes Adonis Johnson (Michael B. Jordan), son of Apollo who wants to follow in his father's footsteps.

With Rocky as a mentor and trainer, he works to become a fighter in the ring to show his true legacy as a creed.



- Across
- 6 "It's the most _____ time of the year"
 - 7 Carmella Davis' house is a mini _____
 - 9 another excuse to kiss a stranger, but in holiday form on December 31st.
 - 11 'Twas the night before _____
 - 13 the Canadian holiday December 26th that no one really understands.
 - 14 leave these out for Santa
 - 16 an excuse to kiss a stranger
 - 17 mean kids' Santa, also the name of a recent film starring Adam Scott
 - 18 sweetened dairy beverage traditionally made with milk/cream, sugar, and whipped eggs.

- Down
- 1 Frosty the _____
 - 2 25-30 million of these die and are sold to be decorated and have gifts placed under
 - 3 Rudolph the red nosed
 - 4 typically under the Christmas tree
 - 5 cool Christmas flowers, but you probably shouldn't eat them
 - 8 "It's lovely weather for a _____ together with you."
 - 10 "You're a mean one, Mr. _____"
 - 12 hang these by the chimney to have it filled with gifts.
 - 13 "_____ the elf what's your favorite color?"
 - 15 starts with a bang and (sometimes literally) on Black Friday and goes until Christmas

Lady Panthers looking good as district play approaches

By Taylor Gee

This past weekend, the Spring Hill varsity Lady Panthers traveled to Brownsboro to compete in a basketball tournament.

"We started off strong winning our first two games on Thursday, but then Friday we played Brownsboro and lost by three... it was so close," senior Ann Hollas said.

This year, the varsity team only has seven players, some might think that is a disadvantage, but not the Lady Panthers.

"Having only seven players is in a way an advantage because it's easy to have chemistry with few people, we are all one small happy family," Hollas said.

Being one big family has its perks, allowing the team to work together better and come out with a win.

"We have a solid record and a lot of potential and we are getting better every game," Hollas said.

Head coach Allan Pope doesn't view the smaller team as a disadvantage either.

"Having only seven means that the girls just have to play longer and play smarter," Pope said.

Last night, the Lady Panthers played Van.

"We got a chance to practice before the game, and try some new things to get ready for district and come out with a win," Pope said.

The Lady Panthers will play in the Hallsville tournament over the Christmas break but get done in time to celebrate the holidays with their families.



Varsity girls pose after a home-game win.
Photo courtesy of Ann Hollas / The Panther's Paw

SH boys' teams battle through pre-district tourney; fall short

by Brooke Williams

The Spring Hill boys' basketball team participated in a pre-district tournament in Brownsboro last Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

"This weekend I felt that we battled in every game, we just came up short," junior Blake Zeilinger said.

The referees and the calls they make play a huge role in which team the game leans towards in terms of points and fairness.

"The calls weren't there when we needed them," Zeilinger said.

In all of the games they played, the scores were close but the Panthers couldn't seem to pull out a win.

"We have to learn how to win close games. All of our games have been close enough to win, it's just a matter of us taking control and being smart," senior Kolby Tulpa said.

The Panther basketball team has been in a season of rebuilding after going through two new coaches in two years, but this is Coach Tim Ender's second year here at Spring Hill.

"Coach Ender is awesome. I'm very glad he's here for a second year and I hope he's here for many more. He's a good coach and is someone Spring Hill needs to turn the program back to how it used to be," Tulpa said.

After losing so many crucial senior players last year, the team is learning their new dynamic for this year.

"The season is getting better as we're learning how everyone plays and how to play better with each other as a team," Zeilinger said.

The boys started their season strong and will continue to get stronger as it progresses.

"I feel good about the season thus far, but there are definitely things we can improve on," Tulpa said.

Beyond The Lights

by A'Kia Larke

The Golden State Warriors got off to the best start in NBA history, this year. They started the season by winning 23 straight games, but they lost their first game on December 12th to the Milwaukee Bucks.



The Carolina Panthers remain undefeated with their win over the Atlanta Falcons on December 13th, making their record 13-0 on the season. Their star quarterback, Cam Newton, is also in the discussion for the MVP award.

Derrick Henry won the Heisman award on Saturday December 12th. He plays for number two Alabama University, who will be joined by number one Clemson, number four Oklahoma, and number three Michigan State in the 2015-2016 College football play-offs which begins December 31.

History of Christmas

by Kyle McCain

Christmas, for some a time of joy and celebration, and for others, it's the sheer excitement of a long awaited gift received on a much anticipated day.

Since 336AD this holiday has been celebrated on December 25th, and ever since then has brought endless delight to the world.

Santa Claus, a very intriguing yet mysterious man, has always been involved with this holiday, being the bearer of presents and adding a juxtaposed identity to the normality of society, creeping in from the fireplace and eating cookies sounds a little creepy, but this jolly man only expresses happiness and joy to the children who still believe him.

Yes, Santa isn't real, sorry if that news has not been made known, but even though this is true, his symbolic existence still shines around the world, and gives the young ones something to drool over.

Senior Citizen Luncheon

Organizations pitch in to make sure senior citizens have enjoyable lunch

by Trystan Deck

On Wednesday, December 9, Spring Hill held the annual senior citizen luncheon. This is the chance for many senior citizens who live nearby the school or in the district to come together and get to chat and eat with many neighbors they sparsely get to see.

Many hours were put into setting up and preparing for this program. Baskets of fall items were made for every senior citizen who came and even those who could not attend. Members of Spring Hill's Leaders' Core served food cooked by the culinary arts students and entertainment was brought by the Blue Brigade band and the theatre department.

"The best part was seeing everyone chow down on the yummy food including pies which I didn't get to eat." Senior Mohammad Matin, a member of Leaders' Core and the Blue Brigade said.

These members spent their time decorating tables as Santa's belly, decorating the cafeteria windows to look Christmas-y, and helping clean up once the program was over, all just to help the Senior citizens have a nice lunch.

Winter Fashion at your school

by Sophie Buckelew



Travis Herberger - sophomore

Shoes: Journeys \$120
Jacket: Racquet & Jog \$60
Pants: Cavender's \$40
Hair: Priceless

Sarah Puckett - sophomore

Shirt: Target \$19
Scarf: H&M \$15
Pants: American Eagle \$30



Cameron Seymour - junior

Hat: Target \$16
Necklace: Francesca's \$22
Sweater: Target \$19
Jeans: American Eagle: \$30
Shoes: Steve Madden \$80



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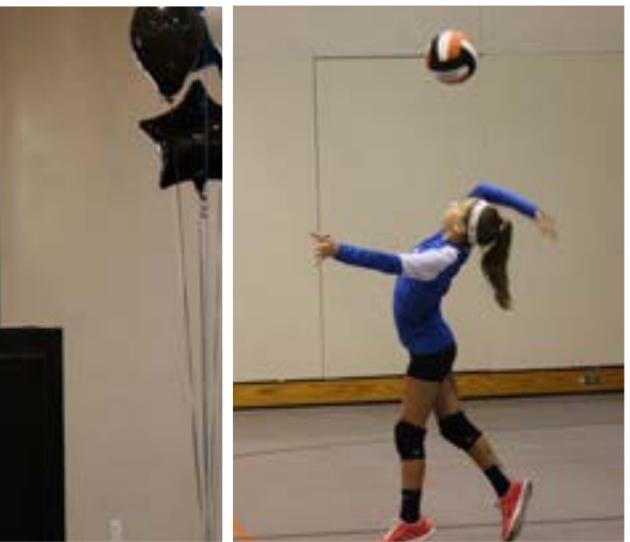
SPRING HILL		PERIOD		MARSHALL	
32	3	18			
FOULS	T.O.L.	PLAYER FOUL	T.O.L.	FOULS	
3	5	25	4	2	
SCORE	MATCH			SCORE	



In the era of 'Build the Hill', the Panthers have set their sights high as the new year approaches. .

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