

# THE PANTHER'S PAW

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Spring Hill High School

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## Junior Landrum named athlete of the week

Jayla Landrum made local news recently as Longview News Journal's Player of the Week. As shooting guard, Landrum has scored over 100 points for the season.

Full story on pg. 6



Photo courtesy Alexann Yancey

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# 2016

**Best of the worst:  
good things from  
2016**

Finding the positive in the negative and other causes for celebration from this year.

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**Stumped on what  
to get him/her?  
Let us help you**

A foolproof gift guide for whoever you're giving to this year, plus a few pro tips

Full story on page 3



## Panther pride in the streets

by Grace Stark

On Thursday, December 1, Longview citizens gathered downtown for the annual Christmas parade.

The streets were lined along the entire parade route with families clutching hot chocolate in their mitts and sniffing through their rosy noses. Families from all walks of life gathered to enjoy this event. Many Spring Hill students participated in the parade.

The Blue Brigade led the Spring Hill crowd followed by the Junior High flags and twirlers as well as the Pacesetters.

Wrapping up the large Spring Hill group, seniors Jacob Moore and Cameron Seymour rode in style in Seymour's dad's blue Jeep, as band beau and sweetheart. They were escorted by senior and band president, Braedon Sims, who due to an injury could not march with other band members in the parade.

Junior, Ashleigh Martin also made an appearance in the parade representing the Miss National Cover Girl.

Martin travelled to Anaheim, California to compete in National Cover Girl. She won the title National Cover Girl in addition to placing 2nd overall in Photogenic.

Martin encourages other students to strive for their dreams, "If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride and never quit, you'll be a winner."

After working incredibly hard in Anaheim, Martin was glad to come home and share her honor with Longview.

Martin shared her experience by saying, "It was an honor to be representing Longview. It was such a fun experience, and if you ever have a chance to be in a pageant take it, because you'll make friendships that will last a lifetime."



Photos by Grace Stark

## New year, same you (probably)

By: Mallory Wallace

"New Year's Resolutions" is a theory or an idea of making a change in your life that you may find challenging to your normal lifestyle.

For example, the most common type of resolution is about getting healthy.

However, only 8% of people hold true to their goal for the first six months, and only 2% throughout the whole year.

The truth is we are obsessed with the ideology of "New year, new me."

These resolutions are made to try and set the pace for the New Year in hopes of changing lifestyles.

Junior Hannah Gossage said her lifestyle changed in the year 2012 when she made the resolution to quit soft drinks, and almost 5 years later she continues to uphold that New Year's Resolution to this day.



# Tree debate: real or artificial the way to go?

by Marley Phillips

Trying to find the perfect Christmas tree can be difficult, but deciding between an artificial or real tree is the real challenge.

It might be a family tradition to go pick out a real tree, and the smell of pine in your house brings in the Christmas spirit.

Real trees can be a hassle though; they need to be watered and can often be messy, and the pine needles fall in your house which leads to sweeping constantly.

Real trees are much cheaper than artificial trees, and the extra money saved from buying a real tree can be spent on presents.

Artificial trees are easy to store and last longer, since you can't reuse a real tree.

Whichever tree you decide, both can be decorated with lights and ornaments to celebrate the Christmas holidays.



## Ring in the holiday season

By: Sophie Buckelew

The Christmas season brings joy and happiness. The Christmas season also means we get to be blessed with another band concert... which is basically the same thing.

Last Thursday was The Blue Brigade's annual Christmas concert. "We've been putting in work for the show," Junior Travis Herberger said, "I'm really proud of how well everyone did." The 6th grade band kick-started the concert, then The Blue Brigade took the stage. The concert band came on first then the symphonic band closed the show. Each band and each student in each band played flawlessly and didn't miss a beat. They played some Christmas classics, and if that doesn't put you in the Christmas spirit, then honestly, I don't know what will.

The turnout for the concert was unreal. There wasn't an empty seat in the house. People were standing in the back on their toes, just to try and get a better view. But I mean, what can you expect when you're fifth in the state?

A big round of applause to everyone who was involved in the concert, and thank you for making our hearts and ears happy.



## How to "sleigh" Christmas gift-giving

By: Stacia Viator

There are plenty of gifts that work perfectly for everyone! All you need is a guide. Here are a few gifts you can get anyone on your holiday shopping list who's impossible to buy for:

### For guys-

- A gift card
- Cologne
- A nice wallet
- Clothes
- Tools
- Food

### For girls-

- A gift card
- Hair ties/  
Bobby pins
- Shoes
- Clothes
- Makeup
- Cute decor

Don't forget to leave a gift receipt. Also, make sure you know their size before buying clothes or shoes.



# Before the Year Ends

## 18 days to do everything you wanted to do this year



by Rebecca Heaton

It's practically impossible to name everything I want to do in life: be successful, be happy, own like at least 500 dogs, etc. Hopefully I have a lot of time to do those things, but here's another deadline: the end of 2016. Here are a few of my goals for the end of the year, and maybe they'll serve as some inspiration for you too, to fight that Christmas break boredom.

- Do something crazy. I'm not encouraging you to do anything illegal or dangerous here, but step outside your comfort zone. End the year with an unforgettable memory, something you normally wouldn't do, something that makes your heart race. And if it doesn't end well? Come January 1, 2017, it'll be so last year.

- Spend one day in bed. Or maybe not necessarily in bed, per se, but take a day to relax. You just finished an entire semester. Enjoy yourself. Drink some coffee or hot chocolate, read a book or play a video game. All work and no play is no way to live your life.

- Make sure my loved ones know how much they mean to me. I know this is so cliché and a little depressing, but people aren't around forever, and I think this lesson is currently hitting all of us harder than ever. So hug your dad, tell your mom just how beautiful she is, let your grandparents know you appreciate them (and not just the money they put in your birthday cards), because you never know when your last chance will be. And also just because it's a good thing to do.

- Charity. There are so many people in our community who don't have the holidays as good as others. Spread some cheer.

- Eat. This is probably aimed more at the girls (though, you know, forget gender roles). Don't be afraid to pig out on sugar cookies. You're young. You're healthy. Enjoy these things while you can. You'll still look cute at that New Year's party, I promise. (Though make sure you don't go absolutely insane. Getting sick is a sure-fire way to ruin the holidays).

- Just enjoy life. Savor every moment. Nothing is guaranteed in life, so when the good stuff comes around, let loose, and have fun.

2016 isn't over yet, so make sure to make the most of what we've got left. Don't let negativity win - end the year with great times and even greater memories.

### **Santa Land vs Carmela's: is bigger always better?**

by Sophie Buckelew

Christmas is a time for giving, candy canes, and waiting in never ending lines to look at Christmas lights.

Living in Longview has blessed us with living within 30 minutes of two Santa Lands. You could either drive 30 minutes to Lindale to see the lights, or drive 15 minutes to Carmela's Mini Santa Land.

Both have pros and cons.

If you decide to go to Santa Land in Lindale, you'll be faced with a longer drive and long lines. But, the lines should be more organized and move quicker. You have to pay to enter this Santa Land. So, is a longer drive and a charge worth it when you can just go to Carmela's?

If you decide to go to Carmela's Mini Santa Land here in Longview, you will get in for free, but still have to deal with long lines. Although this Santa Land is smaller, it's more personable and heart warming knowing that it's all for charity. When you're exiting there's a donation bin where you can make donations or even just throw in some spare change.

Whichever Santa Land you decide to go to, you will be faced with millions of twinkling lights and Christmas music. Going through these Santa Lands with your friends and family is just the thing you need to put you in the Christmas spirit.

Carmela's Mini Santa Land Tip: Keep an eye out for the hidden 12 days of Christmas!

# At the movies

By Ben Harold

## Tom Hardy



Edward Thomas also known as Tom Hardy was born in Hammersmith, England, on September 15, 1977.

Best known for his work as the villain, Bane, in The Dark Knight Rises, he got his start in the 2001 film Black Hawk Down.

Then in later years he starred in the 2012 drama Lawless. Earlier in the years, in he teamed up with Leonardo DiCaprio in

the 2010 action thriller Inception.

In 2015 he was in remake action movie Mad Max Fury Road. Then later he teamed up again with DiCaprio in the Oscar winning movie The Revenant. In 2014 he married Charlotte Riley.

He owns two rescue dogs.

## National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

National Lampoon's Christmas vacation stars Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo. In this fifth instalment of the National Lampoon's series, Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) tries to impress his family with the best Christmas yet. But when things become a misadventure and a disaster, his family must discover and come to terms with the true meaning of Christmas.



# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



### Across

2. The finishing touch on a gift
4. The most famous snowman
7. They come to your door and sing songs
8. The reindeer with a genetic mutation
12. People decorate their trees with these
14. Where a holy baby slept after birth
15. Leave these out with milk on Christmas eve
16. Christmas is a great time to see \_\_\_\_
19. Santa's preferred method of transportation

### Down

1. The \_\_\_\_ Express
3. Tidings of comfort and \_\_\_\_
5. People have contests about who has the ugliest one
6. A promise people make to change on January 1st
9. Ho ho ho!
10. Santa's is red and white
11. It's better to give than to \_\_\_\_
13. Common tree-topper
14. The Jewish candle holder used for Hanukkah
17. People decorate their houses with these
18. "Buddy the \_\_\_\_, what's your favorite color?"



# Landrum athlete of the week



Landrum back row, 3rd from left

by Keaton Hicks

The week of December 4th through the 10th Spring Hill's very own lady Panther Jayla Landrum was announced as the Student Athlete of the Week.

Landrum is a key player to the Lady Panther basketball team and always gives her all.

"I was thankful," student athlete of the week Jayla Landrum said. "I'm not going to say that I deserve it but it was well earned."

Not only was she happy but so were her teammates.

"I'm very proud of her," senior Kayla Crowe said. "She definitely deserved it."

## A season well-played and a celebration well-deserved

by Sophie Buckelew

This Sunday, The Summit Club hosted the Fall Athletic Banquet. The teams and organizations in attendance were football, sports medicine, cross country, team tennis, cheerleaders, drill team, and volleyball. Athletic banquets are a time to recognize and award coaches and athletes for all the hard work they have put in during their season. Athletes were awarded for their dedication to their team and for any big accomplishments met during the season.

Senior volleyball player Kaylin McWhorter was one of the many athletes recognized. "The athletic banquet was a great way to wrap up volleyball season and look back at all we accomplished," McWhorter said, "And I'm very blessed to have received First Team All-District! It's a big step up from honorable mention last year!"

Congratulations to all of the award winning athletes and congrats on many successful seasons.

### Varsity Boys Golf Schedule

Jan. 30th – Spring Hill Invitational – Wood Hollow

Feb 24th & 25th – Lindale Golf Tournament – Garden Valley

Mar. 20th – Canton Regional Preview – Van Zandt CC

Mar. 27th – Lindale Golf Tournament – Hideaway Lake

### Varsity Girls Golf Schedule

Feb 6th – Spring Hill Invitational – Wood Hollow

Feb 22nd – Brook Hill Golf Classic – Emerald Bay

Feb. 27th – Lindale Invitational – Hideaway Lake

Mar. 9th – Lindale Invitational – Garden Valley

Mar. 21st - Canton Regional Preview – Van Zandt CC

# Holiday Sugar Cookies

## Ingredients:

2  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all purpose flour  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon salt  
1  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups margarine  
2 cups white sugar  
2 eggs  
2 teaspoons vanilla extract  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  cup white sugar for decoration

\*Prep time: 10 m

\*Cook: 15 m

\*Ready In: 25 m

## Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. In a medium bowl, stir together the flour, baking soda, and salt; set aside. In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and 2 cups sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time, then the vanilla. Gradually stir in the dry ingredients until just blended. Roll the dough into walnut sized balls and roll the balls in remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of sugar. Place cookies 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheets and flatten slightly.

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven, until lightly browned at the edges. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.



Though the holidays are a joyful time of the year and this issue is filled mostly with Christmas fluff and spirit, the Panther's Paw would like to offer our condolences to the families in our community that are going through difficult times of loss and grief.

Our thoughts are with you.

# Santa stories come to life

SH students share their most memorable moments with the Jolly Man himself.

Download a free QR Code reader app and scan to hear their versions.

Carson Fruge, junior



Carter Pasel, freshman



Eli Nichols, junior



## Christmas Travel Plans

By: Savannah MacDonald

“We’re going to Colorado for Christmas and to have fun.” - Anna Ferrell and Emily Riddle

“I’m going to Missouri with my sister for the festival of lights for the whole weekend.” - Brooklyn White

“I’m going to Oklahoma to spend time with my redneck cousins and eat good food.” - Chance Crane

“I’m going to San Antonio to Camp Swift for Staff. I’m going to be first sergeant of the 103rd squadron.” - Keaton Key

## The official holiday to-do list

7 ways to break the boredom

by Mallory Wallace

Christmas Break is a sacred time for students and faculty. At first, it can seem like you will never get bored of laying in bed all day and watching your favorite show (and most likely you won’t), but here are some ideas of ways to pass the time during your Christmas Break.

- Have a gingerbread house competition against your friends.
- Go to Santa Land or Carmela Davis’s Mini Santa Land
- Bake holiday cookies
- Give to the Angel Tree
- Volunteer at Highway 80 Rescue Mission
- Avoid Skyward at all costs so you don’t have to face the reality that you bombed your midterms
- Organize your closet

There are several different ways to spend your Christmas Break but make sure you relax and enjoy the much-needed holiday!

## Silver linings: the best of 2016

by Rebecca Heaton

It’s no secret that 2016 has been a tough year. Plenty of horrible things have happened, but so have lots of good things. Life’s not always bad, and it’s important to stay positive, even when it seems impossible and like nothing good is happening.

We asked some students what the best things that happened to them this year were. Here’s what they said.

“Making first lieutenant for Pacesetters.” - Sydney Ritchey, 11

“Winning Defensive Player of the Week.” - DQ Armstrong, 12

“Going to State [Marching Contest].” - Nick Vadasz, 9

“Getting to know my freshman, Riley Smith.” - Cameron Seymour, 12

“I made twirler on my birthday.” - Allie Robinett

“Harambe jokes died.” - Raygan Barnhill, 10; CJ Heydon, 11

“Meeting my boyfriend, Jimmy.” - Sydney Jester, 12

“I get to move away from Spring Hill.” - Payton Jones, 9

“I broke my foot.” - Braedon Sims, 12

“Coming off the hype of State Marching Contest with Blue Brigade Day and all the love the school showed for us.” - Madalyn Carpenter, 12

“Going to Regionals in Cross Country.” - Austin Martin, 9; Mason Hancock, 9

Even though it seems like everything possible has gone wrong this year, that’s simply untrue. Life is a constant balance of good and bad.

An important mantra of mine is an old proverb: “This too shall pass.” It’s a reminder that nothing is forever. If things are bad, just hold on, it will get better (I promise). And if things are amazing, enjoy every second.

Everything will even out in the end. You just gotta take a deep breath, remember you’re not alone, and wait for the next amazing thing.

