

THE PANTHER'S PAW

Friday, March 31, 2017

Spring Hill High School

Vol. 71 No. 4

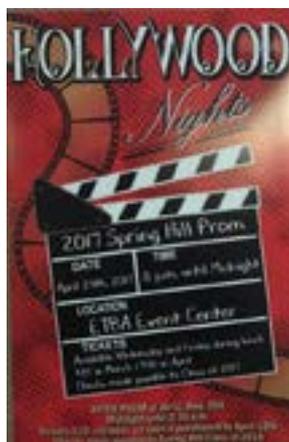
Spring Hill sweeps competition at UIL district contest

High school academic UIL
defends title as district
champion, several advance
to area level

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Current Events and Social Studies teams with sponsor Charlotte Kincy



Prom problems?

The Panther Paw staff weighs in on the best dress shops and the best ways to ask someone to prom

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Life lessons served

On March 22 SHHS students gave back to the community by volunteering and giving back

Story on page 2



Self serve: students learn the value of giving back

by Sophie Buckelew

Spring Hill High School students participated in a community-wide service day on March 22.

Staff and administration is seeing the benefits of having their students participate in service projects, ensuring this to become an annual event.

The service day got 2 big thumbs up from not only the students, but the community too.

Students helped with everything from cleaning up trash to planting flowers. Some students helped at the animal shelter, while some organized books in the Boys and Girls Club Library.

"It was a great opportunity to serve the community with friends from school," Senior Savannah Macdonald said. "I encourage people to get out and do it on their own time and definitely would do it again."

There's many places in Longview to volunteer. Whether you want to put in a days of work or just an hour or two, every little thing helps.

Our service day last week brought lots of recognition to SHISD. It not only helped our community, but taught students an important life lesson that they can't get in the classroom. No math lesson can compare to the warm feeling you get after helping others.



More than just math Students learn valuable life skills

by Stacia Viator

Activity periods have given students the chance to relax and learn more about life skills. When in class, we only get to learn about curriculum so the activity periods give us more opportunities to learn other topics. It's necessary to be "book smart" but beneficial to be "street smart."

"I enjoy the break and relaxation from learning more about things we need outside of the classroom," junior Sophie Buckelew said. "I hope we will continue them."

Students can be a part of various activities, such as travel club, self defense, cooking, sewing, etc.

"I was in travel club," junior Maddie Malloy said. "I learned about how to book a vacation and about the tourist sites in France. I think it's cool to know how to do that."

While a lot of the population of the school went to different life skill activities, the other part went to UIL, Z Club, NHS, etc. This allowed them to take advantage of the provided time to work on their event(s) or hold meetings.

"I had UIL current events and social studies," senior Jacob Moore said. "We studied really hard during that time. Both teams placed first in district."

The provided time allowed for Z Club to do good deeds for the intermediate campus.

"Z Club made clovers to motivate the testers for STAAR," senior Grace Stark said. "It was nice to have to have that time to make signs to encourage our upcoming generation."

The activity period system was a success to the majority.



The Panther's Paw's prom guide

Say yes to the dress

by Rebecca Heaton

One of the worst (and most expensive) parts of prom season is the Herculean task of finding the perfect dress. You may be overwhelmed by the amount of options or, if you're smaller or larger than most people, you may be worried about finding one that even fits you. Luckily, our staff has been to enough of them to compile a list, with rankings in price, style, size selection, and atmosphere of most of the stores around the area.

Longview

Lillies and Lace: With a very cute, very quaint atmosphere, and dresses on racks arranged by size, I would highly recommend checking this place out. Not only is it local (so you'll be helping out one of our small businesses), they offer free alterations if you buy your dress from them. Though they're toward the middle-high end of the price spectrum, they have beautiful dresses worth every penny. Plus, they register their dresses to make sure no one going to the same prom accidentally wears the same dress - at least, not sold by them.

Emily Rae's Boutique: Another small store in downtown Longview, this one has a larger collection also arranged by size. If you're looking for brand names (think: Jovani, Sherri Hill, etc.) without fear of price tags, and you want a low-stress shopping experience with helpful workers, I would definitely give this underrated shop a shot.

L'Patricia: While the fluorescent lighting and smell of polyester is understandably a turn-off when looking for something glam, if you journey into the dress area in the back of the store, you'll quickly change your mind. L'Patricia offers a variety of dresses of different colors and sizes, but smaller girls be warned: As a 00-0 myself, I have never been able to find a dress that fits me there, which is a shame considering how beautiful yet affordable they all are.

Tyler:

David's Bridal: Since they have great prices but small selection of styles and sizes, this store would be best for someone who knows exactly what they want and range from a size 4-10. Finding other sizes here is possible, but definitely not guaranteed. Though the dresses here are gorgeous, they're definitely off-the-rack, warehouse quality, so make sure you check your dress carefully before purchase.

Prom + Tux: Again, a limited selection of sizes, but a great number of styles at decent prices. I would highly recommend this shop if you have a decent budget and no issues finding your size. However, these dresses are arranged by color, so if size is an issue for you, it can be a bit difficult sifting through so many.

Shreveport:

Yellow Ribbon: Lots and lots of beautiful dresses in a great variety of colors and sizes and styles, this shop is definitely one to look at if you're in the Shreveport area. They have a few name brands as well as more affordable options and are arranged by size. I would definitely recommend this one.

Azarue's: This is another great store with plenty of choices. Though they are arranged by color, they have quite a few larger sizes. Unfortunately, even some of their smallest dresses couldn't fit me, and I'm not the smallest person in the world - so if you are, you may want to look somewhere else. Still, their workers are very helpful and friendly, and the atmosphere is nice, although their dressing rooms are ridiculously dim and a little cramped.



Pro(m)posals

by Stacia Viator

Promposal season is here and although the expectations are high, there are many of other easy and cute ideas to use to ask!

Classic ideas for guys is getting her flowers and writing a sweet note asking her to prom.

Most girls like a sweet promposal, so keep that in mind.

Another simple way to ask is through food puns and spelling out "prom" on a cupcake or cookie.

However, girls can ask guys too.

You can ask through the sports they play, such as spelling out "prom" in baseballs (or whatever sport they play).

Or you can keep it simple and buy him his favorite food or snacks and ask him from there!

Out with the sweaters, in with the sandals

by Stacia Viator

The transition of your wardrobe from winter to spring can happen just as effortlessly as the changing of the seasons with these simple tips.

The single most important fashion technique for making the winter to spring transition is layering your looks. This will ensure that you are ready for Texas' unreliable weather. For best results, wear light weight garments such as blouses, t-shirts, camisoles, leggings or dresses as a base and work from there. Cardigans, a denim jacket, trench or military style coat, and sheer thin scarves are excellent tools for creating a layered look and are versatile enough to use as wardrobe staples, meaning you'll get good fashion mileage for your cost.

Spring is a time of regrowth - the blooming of flowers and trees make the world seem lighter, fresher and effortless. Your wardrobe should reflect it. This time of year is all about lightening up your look by mixing in pieces that speak to the colors of the cool spring breeze. Think flowing fabrics, delicate detailing and softer styling. Pairing a pretty pastel with your winter denim or adding a feminine skirt to a sweater and boot combination. Complement and highlight your look by slowly working in the upcoming seasons' lightest garments, colors and trends.

Last year's vintage finds are on their way out and being replaced with retro-inspired wares. You can easily incorporate this fashion forward look by incorporating some faded tees from the back of your closet, or picking up a new pair of washed out denim.

Breaking into the new season, print is one of the easiest ways to play with your look, offering big impact for small additions: substituting a monochromatic sweater for a graphic blouse, opting for denim with a modern pattern, or even selecting garments that have interesting texture. Each piece is going to add visual appeal to your outfit and ensure you are transitioning into the spring with a chic and dynamic wardrobe.

If you are still in need of more tips, Pinterest is a great go-to for more info.

Picture-perfect memories

by Sophie Buckelew

With prom and graduation right around the corner, having some places to take pictures on hand is never a bad idea. Longview and Texas in general is full of rustic old buildings and thick woods. Whether you're wanting to drive 5 minutes down the road or are willing to make the trip, there's always a good place for a quick photoshoot. So, I made a list of the top 8 places to take pictures that will definitely take your Instagram game to the next level.

- Anywhere downtown basically
- The American flag wall by A1 Driving
- Tom Bonis (Sounds weird, but trust me)
- Arboretum in Dallas
- Synergy Park
- Silver Grizzly
- Any park with trees & flowers
- Lake Cherokee or any lake in general

Director spotlight: Megan Ellison

by Ben Harold

Megan Ellison is an American film producer who is the CEO of the production company Annapurna Pictures, established in 2011. Her brother David Ellison is also a producer. She grew up in Santa Clara County, California. She's best known for producing *Zero Dark Thirty*, *Lawless*, and *American Hustle*, which were all acclaimed films. She also produced recent films such as *Joy* and *Sausage Party*.



Get lit(erate)

An unofficial reading list for the pickiest of readers

by Mallory Wallace

***In the Garden of the Beast* by Erik Larson**

Larson recounts the career of the American Ambassador to Germany, William Dodd, particularly the years 1933 to 1937 when he and his family, including his daughter Martha, lived in Berlin. The Ambassador, initially hoped that Germany's new Nazi government would grow more moderate, including in its persecution of the Jews.

***The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead**

It tells the story of Cora and Caesar, two slaves who make a bid for freedom from their Georgia plantations by following the Underground Railroad, which in this novel becomes an actual underground subway.

***13 Reasons Why* by Jay Asher**

Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier.

On tape, Hannah explains that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he'll find out how he made the list.

Through Hannah and Clay's dual narratives, debut author Jay Asher weaves an intricate and heartrending story of confusion and desperation that will deeply affect teen readers.

Method to the Madness

Tournament becomes important teaching tool for AP students

by Rebecca Heaton

While basketball is cool and everything, March Madness isn't just for sports. Emmie Drueckhammer has spent the last few years using it as a teaching tool for her AP US History students.

Students had the opportunity to fill out brackets - except, instead of choosing teams, they chose different presidents of the United States.

A pairing is assigned each night, and the students pick who they think "wins" and write a paragraph about why they think their choice is the best.

"It's interesting to see who picked their top presidents and why," said junior Madison Snell.

The game is not only about researching each president but seeing which qualities win out over each other and whose good (or bad) deeds outweigh their competitor's.

"Presidential March Madness" as the APUSH students call it has been a popular teaching tool.

"It usually has a good response. It helps review presidents and their accomplishments for the AP test," Mrs. Drueckhammer said.

Despite being a lot of work each night, it has proved invaluable when it comes to success.

"Writing down the presidents' greatest accomplishments and failures and being able to compare them helped me distinguish which presidents I thought were good ones! Knowing the time period helped too," said current senior but ex-APUSH student Sommer Harkins.

As for who the winner is, it has yet to be decided, though the past two winners have been Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D. Roosevelt. However, a Roosevelt is not guaranteed, so keep an eye out for the winner at the end of this month.

A "hole" lot of heart

by Keaton Hicks

The Spring Hill Girls and Boys Golf Team will compete at Wood Hollow Golf Club for their annual district tournament on April 5-6.

"I think that we have a really good chance at district this year," Junior Zoe Mayfield said. "At regionals I think we also have a good chance since we placed third at the regional preview, as long as everyone works hard."

Last year Mayfield placed first in regionals second in regionals and third in state.

"The three new girls are excited about playing in the district tournament and hopefully will advance to regionals," golf coach Angus Pool said. "Of course when we have someone like Zoe that will shoot in the low 70's will give us a big advantage. The boys team, on the other hand, will be going up against a strong Bullard team at district. We are hoping to put together two good rounds so the boys can advance to regionals."

Last year during district the girls team placed first and moved onto regionals, while only Braden Norris of the boys team advanced to regionals.

"I'm excited to see how we'll do, but we really need to come together to go to regionals," Norris said. "I want the guys to experience it because they've never had the chance and it's one of the favorite tournaments all year."



Photos from shisd.net

Magical memories for Blue Brigade marching band

by Mallory Wallace

On Wednesday, March 8 the Spring Hill Blue Brigade loaded up the charter buses and began their journey to Disney Orlando Florida.

“I had never been to Disney before,” senior Alexis Harkins said. “It exceeded every expectation I had! I loved getting to spend time with my friends and making memories that would last a lifetime!”

The band marched down Main Street on that Friday, playing a march from football season, “Colossus of Columbia.”

“I had so much fun marching down main street, especially because of all the positive feedback from the crowd,” said freshman Grace Iltis. “The crowd seemed to really love our military style!”

After getting the full Disney experience, the band went to Universal Studios.

For most, Harry Potter World was the first stop of the day. Buying wands and drinking butter beer was considered a rite of passage.

Other popular attractions for the band were Jurassic World and meeting comic book heroes at Marvel Studios.

After a long day at Universal Studios it was time to make the long journey back to Longview.



Photo by Jeanette Cobb

What to watch on Netflix

For those days you just *cannot* do another pre-cal problem

by Alyssa Miller

Gilmore Girls: A show all about the family goals between mother Lorelai Gilmore and her daughter Rory. It is a great show to watch with a light hearted plot.

Lost: A series all about mystery and drama. This series is very suspenseful.

Reign: This show is about Mary Queen of Scots set in the 16th century. It is a dramatic show full of romance.

Stranger Things: This series is a sci-fi thriller. That is set in the 80s. It has a very eventful plot that is impossible to stop watching.

Sherlock: This TV show is a modern day version of Sherlock Holmes with a lot of plot twist, making it a great show to binge watch.

Panther pride runs strong as students win UIL contest

By: Grace Stark

Several Spring Hill students will travel to A&M Commerce over the weekend of April 6, 7, and 8 to compete in the regional UIL meet. The students competing in the regional meet previously qualified at the district UIL meet on Wednesday, March 22 at Spring Hill High School. Spring Hill took first place in the meet and has several teams and individuals advancing to the regional competition.

To contribute to the school's first place, several teams took first place in their events.

"I am very excited we got first place!" said, spelling coach, D'Lee Reagh, "And I am proud so proud that it was a team effort!"

The regional meet is the precursor to the state competition. Senior, Jacob Moore competed in state last year and is optimistic about his return this year.

"I feel confident going into regionals, but we just have to hope we get a good test." Moore said. "It feels really good to win district this year after getting third at district last year."

Moore hopes to make the trip to state with his teammates this year after going alone last year.

"I am very excited that the team took first place."

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| Accounting (2nd place team) | Gabe Johnson (2nd), Adriana Solis (4th), CJ Heydon (5th) |
| Calculator Applications (1st place team) | Braedon Sims (1st), Jenny Kim (2nd), Kavin Patel (4th), Marissa Seyer (5th) |
| Current Issues (1st place team) | Jacob Moore (1st), Jacob Schmidt (3rd) |
| Computer Science (2nd place team) | Skyler Sayer (3rd), Austin Buskell (5th), Jayden Tipton (6th) |
| Feature Writing | Stacia Viator (4) |
| Informative Speaking | Jason Galeas (5th) |
| Lincoln Douglas Debate | Chris Woodson (3rd), Ty Barclay (4th), Micah Moore (5th) |
| Literary Criticism (2nd place team) | |
| Mathematics (2nd place team) | Jenny Kim (3rd), Kavin Patel (6th) |
| Number Sense (1st place team) | Jenny Kim (1st), Manuel Flores (2nd), Nick Vadasz (5th) |
| News Writing | Keaton Hicks (3rd), Stacia Viator (4th) |
| Persuasive Speaking | Macy Borens (1st), Mallory Wallace (2nd) |
| Prose Interpretation | Ethan Ender (6th) |
| Ready Writing | Avery Barnhill (3rd) |
| Biology | Jenny Kim (1st) |
| Science | Jenny Kim (5th) |
| Social Studies (1st place team) | Braedon Sims (1st), Matt McFatrige (3rd), Wyatt Simpson (5th), Ethan Ender (6th) |
| Spelling & Vocabulary (1st place team) | Eli Koonce (2nd) |
| Cross Examination Debate | Team 1 (1st Place), Team 4 (2nd Place), Team 2 (3rd Place) |
| Speech (2nd place team) | |

