

CALENDAR  
OF EVENTS:

December 8

- FFA State Leadership Development
- 7:00 pm School Board Meeting

December 9

- 6:00 pm WR @ Clark
- 6:15 pm JH GBB @ Redfield

December 10

- Region FFCLA Meeting @ Wauertown

December 11

- 4:45 pm JH GBB @ Faulkton
- 6:30 pm GBB @ Faulkton

December 12

- 10:00 am Enhancement

December 13

- 9:30 am WR @ Burke/Gregory • 1:00 pm



# Patriot Pride Today

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 8TH, 2025

## Should Phones be Allowed in School?

The questions of whether phones should be allowed in school continues to be a major debate among students, teachers, and parents. Some believe smartphones are valuable learning tools, while others argue they cause more problems than they solve.

Supporters say that phones can help students stay organized, research information quickly, and access educational apps. In emergencies, they also allow fast communication between students and their families. With technology becoming more important in everyday life, many feel that banning phones is entirely unrealistic.

On the other hand, many teachers say phones are one of the biggest distractions in the classroom. Notifications, social media, and texting can



pull a student's attention away from lessons. There are also concerns about cheating, cyberbullying, and the pressure that comes from con-

stant online activity.

Some schools have chosen a compromise: students can bring phones to school but must keep them put away during class. This approach allows students to have their devices without disrupting learning.

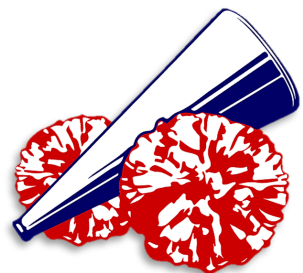
As school continues to adapt to a changing digital world, the debate over phone use isn't going away. The challenge is finding a balance that supports learning while recognizing the role technology plays in students' lives.

-Madisen Watson

## Cheer Team Spotlight

The cheer coach, Miss Brock, goals for this season are to be in-sync, stay positive, practice with purpose, and to have fun. She thinks what makes this team unique is that the majority of the team are brand new to cheer, so everyone gets to learn all of the cheers from scratch together.

She describes the team's growth and progress since the start of the season as great! She says "the amount of growth and improvement that I have seen in just the last couple of weeks is incredible! They are working very hard and it definitely shows!"



She also mentioned that this group of girls is very excited for the season! They can't wait for the games to get started, so they can cheer on our Patriots!

-Tess Bixler



Popular shoes this year are the Ugg Ultra Minis (above) and the Hey Dude Wally (right).

## Trending Styles

This year, students seem to be loving comfy shoes like Hey Dudes and Uggs. Hey Dudes have become very popular because they are easy to slip on and come in many different colors.

People have mentioned that they are very comfortable and are the best shoes to buy for everyday wear. Uggs have also become a favorite to many because they are very warm and comfortable, especially with these colder months com-

ing around.

TikTok has definitely been a big contributor to some of the latest fashion trends. A big one is oversized hoodies and baggy sweatpants. People claim they are easy to throw on, comfortable, and still look decent for school. (Make sure to check out the HT Store for some comfy hoodies to wear that also show off school spirit!)

Right now, it seems as though students are all about feeling good and

comfortable in what they wear, not caring much about how good it looks. They enjoy mixing different styles as a way to show off their personalities. Overall, comfortable and fun styles are what everyone seems to be into this year!

- Kayla Fasching

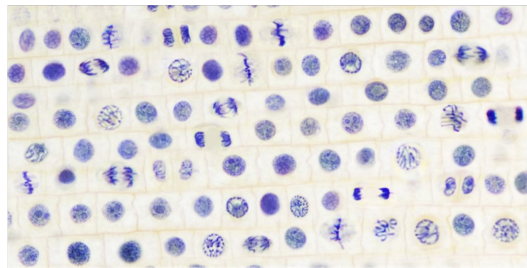


## Science Lab Fun

For some students, the science lab is one of the most exciting parts of science. Whether you are throwing on goggles for chemistry and mixing up chemicals or looking at plant cells under a microscope, the science lab is a fun place to be.

In the latest biology lab, students had the chance to observe onion root cells to

bring what we have learned about mitosis in the textbook into real life. This



process was fascinating to see and though it took a minute, seeing mitosis and all its phases is quite fascinating.

At the end of the day, labs are more than just cells in a microscope. Labs are about learning, teamwork and curiosity. Overall, the science lab continues to be a place where curiosity grows, questions are asked, and learning is an adventure.

- Laina Puffer

Students examined onion root cells in different stages of cell division (right).

# Day in the Life of a Teacher

Have you ever wondered what happens in a day in the life of a teacher? I interviewed Mrs. Bixler about what a day in the life of teacher is like and here was her response:

Mrs. Bixler wakes up at around five am every morning. Then she works out, and gets her son, Bodie, ready for daycare.

After she gets him ready to head to daycare, she heads to

work, where she spends her day teaching kids math.

Once she gets out of school, she then heads over to Bodie's daycare to take him home.

Then, she and her husband, Chase, decide who makes dinner. They go to meal during a busy week is barbeques and broccoli. After supper, they clean up then head to bed.

Mrs. Bixler says she reads in

bed for at least 30 minutes. One book that she hasn't read yet, but hopes to read soon, is "The Let Them Theory" by Mel Robins.

Finally, she falls asleep at around nine thirty, ending her eventful day.

-Evelynn Jennings



**Mrs. Bixler shares what a day in her life is like.**

## What's Cooking in FACS?

There were some fun food recipes that were made in November in FACS class. One of these recipes was pies. Before Thanksgiving break, everyone in Mrs. In Johnson's FACS class made a variety of different pies.

One of the recipes made was Chocolate Raspberry pie. Many thought that this pie tasted so good!

It also looked very cool too. It was red, pink, and white all swirled together, like a peppermint candy and the chocolate melted perfectly on top of the cream. This pie puts the best flavors and best foods into one snack.

Another pie that was made was apple pie. It had a perfect crispy, golden-brown crust; the

apples were coated in cinnamon. Some said this apple pie was bursting with flavor when they took a bite of it.

Overall, Mrs. Johnson said this about the students' pies, "They turned out very well considering the unplanned, early release!"

-Tess Bixler

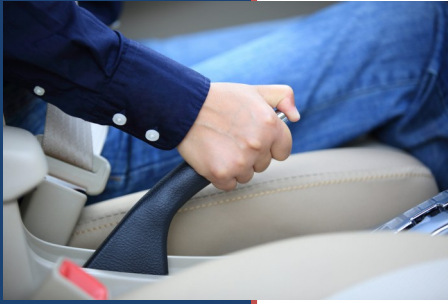


**(L. to R.) Students Olivia Fasching, Keilee Schone, and Laina Puffer pose with their pies.**



**Senior Avery Estey made a rhubarb pie.**

## English Class Highlights



Do you understand how to use an E-brake?

On just about any day from 10:48 to 11:35 a.m. you could walk into Mr. Wollman's Junior English class, and it's usually filled with sarcasm and banter. Whether it's within the students themselves or between Mr. Wollman and the Junior class.

On this particular day, half

of the class was gone to talk to a college representative, leaving mostly girls. The topic was how some the students were going to drive around later using an E-brake.

For the first half of the conversation Mr. Wollam was just listening, until he started asking for clarification questions. As he was asking these questions, he realized the girls didn't fully under-

stand the concept of an E-brake.

Now the girls were confused because they thought they understood, but according to Mr. Wollman they did not. The girls were bantering back and forth with Mr. Wollman.

This left the rest of the class laughing and adding on to the joke.

- Jocelyn Wagner

## Tik Tok Trends

There are some TikTok trends that shouldn't make a comeback, according to people around school,

A popular vote was the 6-7 trend. Many schools have banned the use of the joke 6-7 and there are some classroom bans as well.

Another one is the skibidi toilet. This one was very popular for a while, but had died down by now. Which is good considering it was voted to stay dead.

A cringey trend was the "Gen X Rise". Another trend that was very popular not too long ago was the "Five Big Booms"

trend.

Sophomore Laina Puffer says "Any of the TikTok duets bother me." She hates when people duet other people, which is understandable. Speaking of annoying duets, "the clock strikes 12, midnight arrives" duet was a painful watch for almost everyone.

-Evelynn Jennings



What Tik Tok Trends would you put on the list?

## Science Class Highlights

Recently, the Biology II class got to watch the Disney movie, Zootopia, as part of their learning on interactions in ecosystems. It was a fun and interesting way to understand the concept to add onto the previous knowledge.

Instead of just reading about it and doing a normal assignment, they got to have fun and enjoy a movie whilst learning. This adds a positive variety to the class and mixes it up for a change, engaging the students in the subject.

During and after the movie, the

class answered questions about how animals in Zootopia interact, like predators and prey, and how they fit into their environment. It was interesting to see how they all depend on each other and how it relates to real life scenarios.

The movie helped them understand the ideas better because they were able to see them on screen and relate it to something fun and simple.

Everyone thought it was a fun

change from the normal class-work. It made learning about ecosystems and their interactions more interesting and easier to understand.

This class definitely deserved to be highlighted for making learning fun!

- Kayla Fasching

**Ms. Brock made learning fun by letting Biology II watch Zootopia.**



## Girls Basketball Season Preview

With practices starting and energy building in the gym, the Hitchcock-Tulare Patriots girls basketball team is gearing up for what they hope will be a strong and competitive season. The Patriots have been focused on conditioning, fundamentals, and sharpening their offensive and defensive systems as they prepare for their first match.

Under the coaching of Coach Jeremy Nowell, the team has

been working to establish consistency, improve communication, and strengthen the team overall. Practices have shown steady progress, with players pushing each other and building confidence as they settle into their roles.

Although no games have been played yet, expectations remain hopeful as the Patriots continue to develop rhythm and intensity before the season officially tips

off. Fans can expect a hardworking squad that brings energy, teamwork, and determination to every game.

The Patriots open their season December 11th, against the Faulkton Trojans, a matchup that will set the tone for the weeks ahead.

- Olivia Fasching



## Physical Education Fun

Hitchcock-Tulare high school requires seventh, eighth, and ninth graders to take physical education. Usually when kids take P.E., they grow to like one game above the others. For our school, the one game that rises above all others is kickball.

Kickball is a team sport that

resembles baseball, but is played with a rubber ball. Instead of hitting with a bat, students kick the ball. A team scores by getting their team members back to home plate.

Another popular game was basketball. Basketball is another team sport and has a round

leather ball. The objective of the game is to get the most baskets over four quarters played.

By seeing our students favorite sports, we can tell that these kids prefer team sports and do not like playing alone as much.

- Keilee Schone

## Christmas Snacks

Christmas snacks are a lovely tradition, and this year people voted dipped pretzels as their favorite. According to a recent poll taken at the Hitchcock-Tulare high school, people love the sweet and salty combination. Usually, they are covered in decorative sprinkles.

However, there was a hard competition with sugar cookies, Chex mix, and puppy chow also in the running.

Sugar cookies have always been a classic for their festive shapes and delicious taste. Chex mix is loved for its wonderful crunch and easy assembly. While puppy chow, is a mix of cereal, chocolate, powdered sugar and is known for its sweet, addictive flavor.

From the crunchy sweetness of dipped pretzels to a classic sugar cookie, these snacks give everyone a

festive feeling. With all these favorites, comes a wonderful Christmas filled with family, friends, and treats.

- Keilee Schone



**Dipped Pretzels are a favorite of many at Hitchcock-Tulare!**

## An Interview with Coach Nowell

As the new basketball season gets underway, Girls' Varsity Coach Jeremy Nowell is focused on building a team that plays with discipline, consistency, and confidence. His goals for this year center on sharpening fundamentals, improving communication, and establishing a steady pace the players can rely on in tight situations.

Coach Nowell's main strategic approach is developing a fast but controlled transition game. The team has spent the preseason working on quick outlets,

up-tempo movement, and creating scoring opportunities before opposing defenses can settle. By developing stronger ball handling and decision-making under pressure, the goal is to reduce turnovers and maintain momentum throughout each quarter.

Defensively, the focus is on versatility. Coach Nowell plans to rotate between man defense and zone formations depending on matchups, allowing players to adjust quickly to different offensive styles. Practices have also stressed re-

bounding responsibility and tighter help-side coverage.

Team chemistry is another major component of his approach. Players are encouraged to communicate constantly, support one another, and take on shared leadership roles.

With clear goals and detailed strategy in place, Coach Nowell aims for steady improvement each week as team works toward a strong, competitive season.

- Madisen Watson

## The Lotus Corner

The Lotus Corner is a lotus drink business ran by juniors Tess Bixler, Patrick Maynard, and Jocelyn Wagner. The business first started last year in the school's employability class taught by Mrs. Johnson.

The three students wanted

to keep the business going, so they decided to make it into their FCCLA project for this year. The Lotus Corner has a variety of lotus recipes as well as flavored soda drinks.

Some Lotus drinks are the Ocean Vibe, Pot of Gold,

Peachy-O, and Pink Puff.

The most popular drink among the students and staff is the Cloudy Thunder.

The Cloudy Thunder consists of a Dr. Pepper base along with vanilla syrup and half & half. The first time the Cloudy Thunder was on the Lotus Corner Menu it was a hit and has stayed on it ever since.

- Jocelyn Wagner



**The Lotus Corner (Logo to the left) is enjoyed by both teachers and students at Hitchcock-**

# What Brings Holiday Joy?

With the holiday season approaching, we surveyed students and teachers on their favorite things about Christmas. While everyone celebrates Christmas differently, many students have similar things that they all look forward to.

The poll revealed that the thing that students at Hitchcock-Tulare value most is family. Family time is an important thing at

holidays and one of the things that I personally look forward to the most.

In a close second was presents. Many said they love the thrill of receiving presents. Though, a select few said they love the feeling of giving. "To see the satisfaction on their face and them wondering how I knew what they want is the most rewarding feeling ever,"

one teacher stated.

Some other things people enjoy most are music, food, snow, and last, but definitely not least, *The Grinch*.

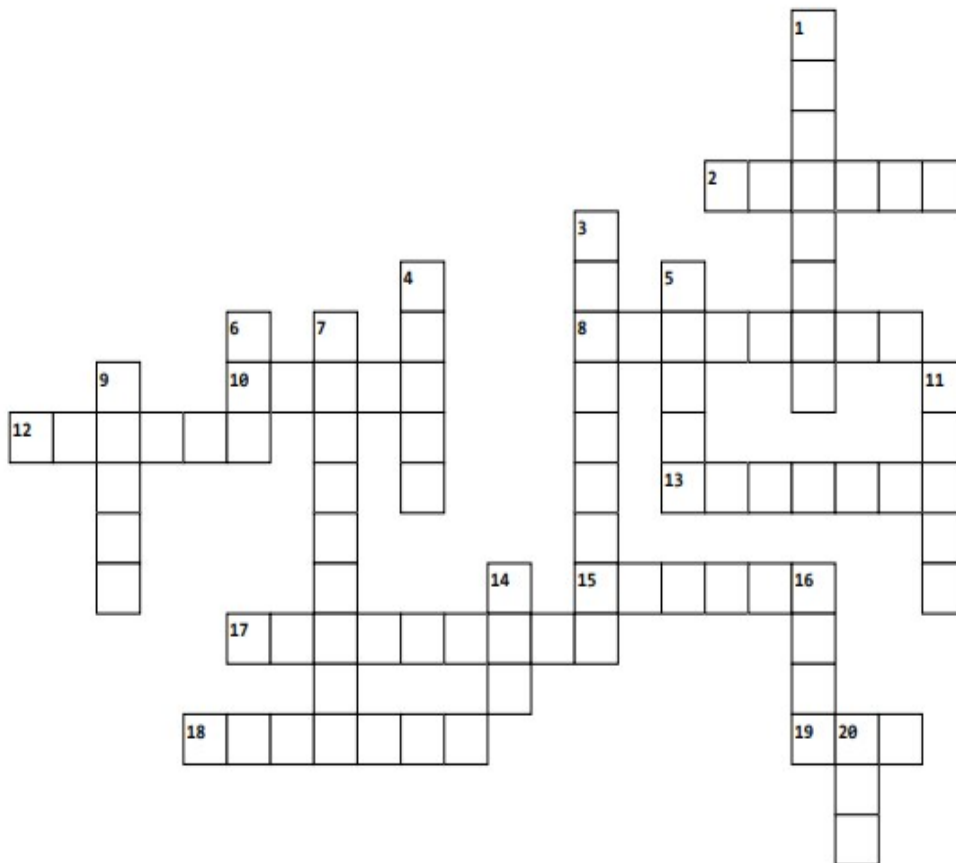
Happy holidays to all!

-Laina Puffer



Dr. Seuss's *The Grinch* is a Christmas favorite enjoyed by many students.

## Christmas Crossword



### Across

- 2. Vehicle Santa rides in
- 8. Santa's flying animals
- 10. Song you sing at Christmas
- 12. Christmas baked treat
- 13. Snow person
- 15. Tiny lights on the tree
- 17. Red and white striped candy
- 18. Wrapped box under the tree
- 19. Color of Santa's suit

### Down

- 1. Month Christmas is celebrated
- 3. Where Santa lives
- 4. Green plant used as decoration
- 5. You give these to friends
- 6. Frozen water
- 7. You hang these on the tree
- 9. Warm winter drink
- 11. Christmas Eve visitor
- 14. Meat often eaten at Christmas dinner
- 16. You put this on top of the tree
- 20. Santa's helper

Answer key located on page 8.



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## Mission Statement

Our mission is to keep the student body informed, connected, and engaged while highlighting the achievements and stories that matter most to our community. Covering everything from sports and academics to arts and student life, the newspaper is created by students, for students.

For more information or to get involved, please contact Olivia Cole at [Olivia.cole@kl2.sd.us](mailto:Olivia.cole@kl2.sd.us).

## Check Out the YouTube Channel



Stay updated with school news, events, and student highlights by subscribing to our official YouTube channel [HTTV.live](https://www.youtube.com/HTTVlive)

Scan the QR code above or visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/HTTVlive>

## Christmas Crossword Answers

