

PASSAMARI

The Official Voice of the Sheridan Panthers Since 1923



During the 2021 season, the Panthers defeated the Falcons 35-8. If the co-op is approved, both Sheridan and Twin Bridges students will play on one football team.

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From Opponents to Teammates: Falcons and Panthers Consider Co-Op

Jorien VerHow- Senior

On Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. the Sheridan School Board Committee met to discuss a possible co-op between the Twin Bridges Falcons and Sheridan Panthers football teams. A co-op, or cooperative team, is the joining of two teams from separate schools to create one sport. The Sheridan School Board voted for the co-op, and it passed unanimously in a 6-0 vote. The Twin Bridges Board also voted unanimously to pass the football co-op. Now, the superintendents of both schools, Mike Wetherbee and Thad Kaiser, will write the co-op proposals to submit to Mr. Beckman, the administrative director of the Montana High School Association (MHSA). If Beckman does not approve the co-op, the two schools plan to appeal to the state board to try and get it approved. If everything gets approved, decision making will go back to the school to get all of the logistics worked out. The two schools have tried to co-op a few times but have been denied state approval because of roster numbers. "I think there are some pros and cons for sure, some cons are we would have to split

Co-Op continued on page 4

Big Changes to Semester Test Incentives

Jenna Nate- Senior

With the end of the semester comes the dreaded semester exams. At the end of the semester, students have to take a semester test in every class; whether the “test” is a paper, project, or an actual test. While this has always been unavoidable for the first semester, Sheridan has offered an incentive to opt-out of the semester two exam. This long-standing policy might be coming to an end this year. “That’s still in the air, absolutely. Too many people are just opting out of tests. You’ve got college prep kids that are opting out of tests that when they go to college, they don’t know what a test is all about - a real test - not just a flaky by the minute test,” said Superintendent Mike Wetherbee. These are real concerns for students who are planning on furthering their education in college, but what are the pros and cons of a test exemption incentive for students?

Offering an incentive to get out of semester exams gives students another push to do well throughout the year. If students are focusing on doing well on everyday assignments, participation, and projects, they will gain a better understanding of the material. This consistent show of excellence proves to be more valuable than doing well on one test. On the other hand, exams show whether students are meeting a certain benchmark before passing the class. If students are opting out of exams, teachers can’t always get a complete picture of learning. School isn’t just about getting good grades; it is also about learning and retaining the information long term. Testing students on the material ensures they are putting together the important information so they can apply it in the future. This is important for all types of students, not just those who are planning on attending college. Being able to take away important information from a class and apply it, as well as time management while taking a test, are important skills that can also be put to use in the workplace. Keeping tests ensures that students are able to gain these skills that will be important in many areas of their life, not just in education.

The incentive also applauds students for working well throughout the year, not just regurgitating facts on a piece of paper that they probably won’t think about again. When students stress about a semester exam, they likely only memorize the material that is going to be on the test. Once the test is said and done, though, they don’t think twice about what they put on the exam because they didn’t truly learn the material. Conversely, students aren’t likely to receive an

incentive to be exempt from exams in college, so practicing test-taking and hard work without an incentive is beneficial to students. If students are consistently allowed to opt-out of tests in high school, how will they know effective studying and test-taking strategies for college? Without this practice and experience, they gain from high school test-taking, students in college are left scrambling trying to figure out how to effectively study and take a two-hour-long assessment without getting burnt out.

Whether Sheridan High School will keep the test incentive is still under debate, and is largely up to the student council to decide. “I think there’s still some chance, but I don’t think it’s going to be as whole hog as [getting out of all tests]. While I can appreciate that because you worked hard to get there, I think there’s some flaw in that concept,” said Mr. Wetherbee. The process of keeping the incentive or figuring out a new one will be a long and arduous one that the student council, consisting of seniors Kaiden Batzler, Kole Hill, and Noah Caldwell, will have to endure. Executive Student Council President Kaiden Batzler reported that there is still a lot of discussion that needs to take place before anything is set in stone. “Student Council is planning on keeping the test incentive, but we may have to compromise and come to an agreement with the school board and the teachers. That will be up for more discussion at the meeting. No matter what, we’ll try to keep the incentive in place for students. It gives students a goal for the year...and generally, it incentivizes kids to do better.”



Information Sources:

<https://classroom.synonym.com/pros-cons-final-exam-exemptions-4919.html>

<https://www.uhsecho.com/2014/05/final-exam-exemption-pros-and-cons/>

Hope Squad Puts on Winter Olympics

Faith Larsen- Senior

The Hope Squad put on a new, fun, school-wide activity, in Sheridan High School this year named "The Winter Olympics." The Winter Olympics was a week-long event consisting of different events and finished off with team-based competitions. Each day was a different event, such as an ugly sweater contest, locker decorating, and dressing up as a Christmas Character. The final event took place on December 23rd, right before the kids were excused for Christmas Break. Grades 7th through 12th participated, as grades were mixed together, and split into teams of roughly ten kids each group. Each group then rotated to different classrooms where they completed game-like activities in ten classrooms and had approximately 20 minutes in each classroom to complete the challenge. "It was a fun time and added something new to the school," said Emily Layacona, a sophomore. "I think that we should continue this into the coming years." One activity teams seemed to like the most was the rubberband shooting in Mr. Pierson's room. Mr. Pierson had set up desks and placed red solo cups on the obstacle course of desks and books. There were many kinds of characters then taped onto the cups. He also created a regular shooting line and a challenge zone line. "The regular shooting line is 1 point per cup that gets hit. Each person got 5 shots at the cups from the regular line and from the challenge line as well. The challenge line was worth 3 points for each up hit." Every person on the team got to go through each line twice to rack up points for their team. Each teacher put on different games, like the aforementioned rubber band shooting, trivia, and blindfolded drawing. "I think it was an interesting day, but it was fun," stated Mr. Braaten. "The kids seemed to enjoy it, and I think it's a good way to end school before the Christmas break." At the end of the day, each team's points were totaled up and the top three winning teams were announced and given prizes. Overall, kids all throughout the school seemed to enjoy the day and the event was a huge hit. The Winter Olympics may become a tradition here at Sheridan High.



Abby Curtis and Claira Haag announce the teams. To make things fair, each team consisted of an equal number of students from each grade.



Glynn Wood, a junior, had one of the more impressive "ugly sweaters" for Tuesday. Each day of the week during the winter Olympics featured a different theme for dress up.



Pierson's rubber band shooting competition was one of the kids' favorites during the winter Olympics. Senior Caitlyn Galiger zeros in on her target.



Faith giggles during the "blind draw" competition. "Blind Draw" featured similar rules as Pictionary, with one obvious exception - no peeking!

Co-Op from page 1

home games and figure out all of the logistics, but the pros are we would have more kids to choose from and have more opportunities to be more competitive,” said Clay Pierson, the head coach of the Sheridan football team. Not only do the coaches support the co-op, but so do a few of the players of the Panthers. “I’m all for it. It will give more depth to our team and we will be able to play for a trophy,” said Cade Cathey, a sophomore. While most people are in support of the co-op, some have reservations. “I don’t want it because they are our rivals,” said Kyler Theis, a current sophomore. Regardless, the co-op is still in its early stages of development and approval. Overall, it will take some time to get the logistics worked out.

Making People’s Days

Madeline Lindroth- Senior

The members of FCCLA were very busy during this holiday season, spending their time trying to spread cheer by selling and handing out candy cane grams to the members of the Sheridan school district. In December, the FCCLA sold 180 candy canes at one dollar each. Additionally, Bartoletti Dental generously donated \$100, which will help fund other activities and projects for FCCLA members. “It was really cool to see the students in our school spread holiday joy by sending candy canes to their friends and peers. The holiday season can be a really tough time for lots of people and it makes you feel good to see others spreading joy,” said senior Rachel Zielinski. FCCLA wants to say thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraising event. During the holiday season, FCCLA members also held a Christmas party filled with games and contests. Sophomore Michael Galiger was surprised by the outcome of some of the games. “Madeline is oddly good at games that involve candy,” said Galiger. FCCLA will continue to put on fundraisers and raise money for the club. “FCCLA is actually a lot of fun. It’s cool to get involved with the school and the community,” said freshman Tristan Stout. FCCLA stands for “Family Community and Career Leaders of America” and it is their goal to spread cheer and be involved as much as possible.



Can We Graduate Already?

Brooke Grow- Senior

The clock is ticking down as the school year slowly approaches an end. Senioritis is flooding the halls of Sheridan High school. With the exhaustion from semester tests, the school year continues to drag on and the will to do school work no longer exists. “I want to finish school very badly. I have never enjoyed high school, so I’m ready to start my life in college,” stated senior Katherine Tucker. For the lucky students who don’t understand what senioritis is, it is “a supposed affliction of students in their final year of high school or college, characterized by a decline in motivation or performance.” (Oxford Dictionary). As shown by a number of junior students, senioritis doesn’t only exist in the senior class. “I have suffered with senioritis since my sophomore year. I can’t shake the idea that school is annoying. I know that I could do other things rather than being here.” states junior Myckena Wood. School is exhausting for students. Not only do hours of homework come into play for the exhaustion, but the encouraged extracurriculars keep having the tendency to destroy sleep schedules and the time available for school work. According to cdc.gov, “1 in 6 students have enough behavior or emotional symptoms and impairment to be diagnosed with a childhood mental disorder that resulted from the stress of school.” Experts say that in order to deal with the stress of school, students need to take time to focus on themselves. It’s okay to prioritize mental health and well being over homework. It is a difficult thing to do, but finding a stress outlet, such as recreational outdoor activities, reading, drawing, etc. are sufficient stress relievers. As we near the end of the 2021-2022 school year students are encouraged to persevere whether they enjoy it or not. Keep it in your thoughts that summer is approximately 4 months away! Finish strong and hold onto every little bit of happiness you have!



<https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmenalth/health/features/school-aged-mental-health-in-communities.html>

<https://languages.oup.com/google-dictionary-en/>

FFA Set to Host District CDE's

Kaiden Batzler- Senior

Despite an underwhelming month, the FFA has many events coming up. Last month consisted of the typical monthly meeting discussing old and new business. All of the fair checks have finally been collected from Mr. Braaten and people have signed up to take animals to this year's fair. Even though the last month has been slow, there are several upcoming events that will keep members busy in the coming weeks. Basketball and FFA have some conflicting events in the next couple of weeks; Fergus Mechanics and the White Sulphur Springs game are on the same day, so in order to make both, students will have to do their mechanics competition and then immediately go to White Sulphur. Additionally, LDE's (leadership development events) fall on the same day as the Lone Peak games, so students again will have to make time for both. "I think it will be hard to be at both, but Mr. Braaten [has] already made a plan to get us back to basketball," said FFA member and basketball player, Jorien VerHow. Sheridan School is also hosting this year's CDE's (career development event) in the ag building. This will consist of mechanics, agronomy, and FBM competitions and several schools from our district and state will be participating. "It's a nice change to have an event in Sheridan this year; less traveling," said senior Brooke Grow. The FFA has a busy upcoming month with many competitions. "I forecast good competitions and that we are going to work hard and win some," said Senior Vice President, Noah Caldwell.

Speech and Debate Prepares For State

Joe Gilman- Senior

With many sports coming to a close in the next month or two, many people are focused on the upcoming games, but one thing few people are focused on is Sheridan's Forensic team, who traveled to Divisionals on January 22nd. While Divisionals can be difficult, many of Sheridan's team members were hard at work to prepare. Members met on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with their coach, Mrs. Minert. To help the students prepare, Coach Minert instructed them to read through a piece: an article, song, or poem. Members were able to choose the piece, or a random one was assigned to them. After reading and presenting the piece, Mrs. Minert assessed how they did, giving information on how they could improve. With how much effort the members of the Speech and Debate team have put forth, it is no wonder they have done so well throughout the season.

Louella Voegeli placed 8th in Dramatic Oral Interpretation. While Voegeli is the only member advancing to State, Joseph Gilman and Noah Caldwell were able to make it to the finals in SPOI at both the Forsythe and Red Lodge meets. Tristan Stout, the youngest member on the Forensics team, said, "I have had a lot of fun this year with Speech and Debate. It really helps my public speaking skills."



Mrs. Minert coaches the members of Speech and Debate by giving them suggestions on how they can more effectively present their pieces.



Senior Joe Gilman competes in the SPOI, or Spontaneous Oral Interpretation, category of Speech and Debate, and has placed in the top 10 numerous times.

The Life of Zak McCormack “Sports, Shoes, and Music”

Jason Munns - Junior

Zak has lived almost his whole life in Sheridan, MT. While he's not sure which college he'd like to attend after high school, he's set on moving out of state. His favorite thing about school, other than friends, is sports. His favorite sport to watch is basketball because he likes paying attention to specific things going on on the court, but his favorite sport to play is by far football because of all the teamwork it takes to win - and he loves to win. His love of winning has made him very proud of the football team for beating Twin Bridges this season, a rivalry that has gone back generations. He says that he thinks his biggest strength is his personality. If he could pick three words to describe himself he would say “sports, shoes & music, not necessarily in that order.” (Hence the title) Zak is really proud of his grades; he really struggled the first couple of years in high school, but he has stepped up a lot this year when it comes to academics. Zak's biggest role model is his dad. Something that makes him unique is his collection of shoes; Nike and Jordan are his favorite brands. To the younger students, Zak leaves some word of wisdom: “Work hard on school and athletics. Make every moment count”.



Jori's Next Chapter

Myckena Clark - Junior

When Jori was little she wanted to be a veterinarian but because she didn't like seeing animals in pain, she decided to be a nurse practitioner instead. Jori always does her best on her work and studies a lot to get the best grade she can on her tests. Not only is Jori good in the classroom, but she's good on the court as well; for the last four years, she has played basketball and volleyball. Because of all her hard work, she has been accepted to Carroll College, her first choice. When she is older she wants to possibly stay in Helena and get a job as a nurse practitioner. Ten years from now, Jori said she sees herself possibly married with a nice house and a good job, maybe kids, dogs for sure, and living in Helena. Someone Jori really looks up to is her mom because she is very smart and always there to help her with the things she needs help with. In the end, all of Jori's hard work really paid off because she got the Bishop Carroll scholarship and was accepted to the college she wanted. She truly is ready for the next chapter in her life.



Lady Panthers Continue the 2022 Season

Simah Anson- Senior

The Sheridan lady Panthers had their work cut out for them as they battled the Ennis lady Mustangs in the Friday night game on January 14th. There was a lot of anticipation for this game directly after the boys beat the Mustangs by over ten points. The starters for this game were seniors Faith Larson, Caitlyn Galiger, Kaymbreigh Schwartz, and Brooke Grow as well as sophomore Emily LaYacona, coached by Mike Grover and Amanda LaYacona. Other games this month included Shields Valley on the 7th, Gardiner on the 8th, Ennis on the 10th (JV), Lima on the 15th, Butte on the 17th (JV), West Yellowstone on the 21st, and Lone Peak on the 22nd. Sheridan beat Lima 49-31. "I think I did well, I had a few steals and shut some people down," said senior Kaymbreigh Schwartz. The game against West Yellowstone didn't end with a win for the Panthers, but the players thought they played well regardless. "We did really well not giving up, and we started the first half with more energy than we have in the past so we were able to score a lot of points," said senior Brooke Grow.



Junior Kassidy McCoy looks for an open teammate to pass the in ball to.



Senior Caitlyn Galiger watches and waits for her chance to get the rebound.



Sophomore Emily Layacona and Senior Caitlyn Galiger look to stop the opposing player and get the steal to score more points for the Panthers.

Game	Score
@Harrison	65-41 (W)
@Ennis	22-54 (L)
Twin Bridges	19-66 (L)
Shields Valley	20-68 (L)
@ Gardiner	28-69 (L)
Ennis	27-58 (L)
@Lima	49-31 (W)
West Yellowstone	56-72 (L)
Lone Peak	18-47 (L)

Sheridan Beats Ennis; Falls to West and Lone Peak

Kole Hill- Senior

The Panthers have had a full schedule during the month of January, but they have started the new year out with a bang. On January 8, the Panthers destroyed the Bruins on the road 57-50. "We need to be more consistent and work together like we know how to do," said senior Zak McCormack. The Panthers won that game and moved on to take on the West Yellowstone Wolverines. They fought hard against the Wolverines, but sadly, couldn't bring home the win; the final score was 68-35. The game against the Ennis Mustangs on January 14, however, was a different story. Earlier in the season, when the Panthers played Ennis, they lost 57-45. The Panthers would go on and beat the Ennis Mustangs in one of the best games that they have had all season. "We scored more points than the other team and that's what matters," said Assistant Coach Clay Pierson. Even though they got the win, Pierson thinks the team has some things to work on. "We didn't rebound very well." The final score of the game was 54-40 with the Panthers on top. While the Panthers were also hoping to seek revenge again West Yellowstone, they lost to the Wolverines 60-27 on January 21. They also lost to Lone Peak 47-38.

Game	Score
@ Harrison	16-62 (L)
@ Ennis	45-57 (L)
Twin Bridges	(L)
Shields Valley	33-66 (L)
@ Gardiner	57-50 (W)
@ West Yellowstone	35-68 (L)
Ennis	54-40 (W)
West Yellowstone	27-60 (L)
Lone Peak	38-47 (L)

Come out and support the Panthers! For the schedule, see page 10.



Senior Kaiden Batzler contributed 13 points to the win over the Mustangs on January 14.



Cade Cathey, a sophomore, calls out a play during the Panthers road game to Gardiner. Cathey has been a huge asset to the lineup, averaging 15 points per game.



Abram Miller, a sophomore, has stepped up after the Panthers lost one of their players mid season.

Varsity Basketball

Day	Date	Opponent	Time	H/A	Order
Thursday	November 18	First date for practice			
Thursday	December 9th - 11th	Tip Off Tournament Hartowtown	TBA	A	JV-V
Tuesday	December 14	Harrison / Willow Creek	5:30	A	B/G
Friday	December 17	Ennis	5:30	A	B/G



Monday	December 20	Twin Bridges	5:30	H	B/G
Friday	January 7	Shields Valley	5:30	H	B/G
Saturday	January 8	Gardiner	5:30	A	B/G
Thursday	January 13	West Yellowstone	5:30	A	Boys JV-V
Friday	January 14	Ennis	5:30	H	B/G
Saturday	January 15	Lima	5:30	A	JV Boys V Girls
Friday	January 21	West Yellowstone	5:30	H	G/B
Saturday	January 22	Lone Peak	4:00	H	G/B
Thursday	January 27	Drummond	5:30	H	G/B
Saturday	January 29	White Sulphur Springs	5:30	A	G/B
Tuesday	February 1	Harrison / Willow Creek	5:30	H	G/B
Friday	February 4	Manhattan Christian	5:30	A	G/B
Saturday	February 5	White Sulphur Springs (Beator Night)	5:30	H	G/B
Friday	February 11	Lone Peak	5:30	A	G/B
Wed. Feb 16 th - Sat. Feb 19 th		Districts Tournaments - TBD			
Thurs. Feb 24 th - Sat. Feb 28 th		Divisional Tournaments - Franchtown			

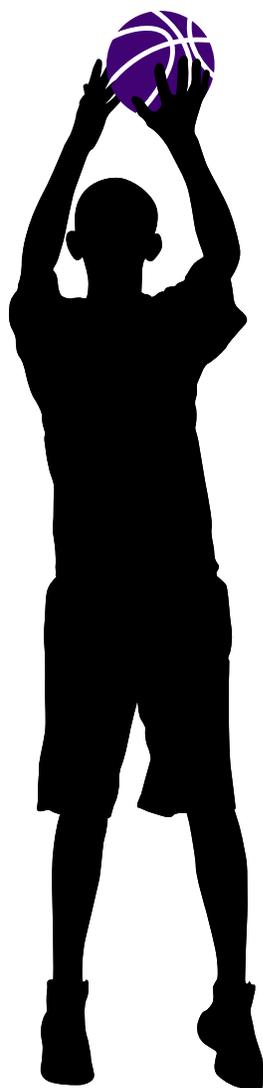
BASKETBALL

SENIOR NIGHT

Saturday, February 5th

Recognition of Seniors: 5:00 PM

Game Time: 5:30 PM



Seniors

#35 Caitlyn Galiger

#10 Brooke Grow

#11 Jorien Verhow

#22 Kaymbreigh Schwartz

#23 Faith Larsen

#10 Kaiden Batzler

#15 Zak McCormack

Panthers vs. Hornets

How it Works:

Before being able to practice positive self-talk, you first have to identify the patterns in your negative thinking.

- **Personalizing.** You blame yourself for everything or talk down on yourself.
- **Magnifying.** You tend to only focus on the negative parts of situations.
- **Catastrophizing.** You go straight to the worst-case scenario.
- **Polarizing.** You see the world as either good or bad, instead of seeing any situation somewhere in the middle.

Self-Talk

Rachel Zielinski - Senior

The voice inside of your head, or your internal dialogue is also known as self-talk. It may not come out verbally, but it reveals your inner thoughts, feelings, and beliefs. Most importantly, it affects the way you view yourself. Self-talk varies person to person, and can influence your mood either positively or negatively.

The Difference:

- Negative: I'm not as attractive, smart, athletic, etc. as everyone else.
- Positive: I may not be the best at everything, but I'm the best at being me, and that's what truly matters.

Benefits of Positive Self-Talk:

- Greater life satisfaction
- Less stress and distress
- Better physical wellbeing
- Improved sense of confidence

For Athletes & Mathletes:

- Negative: I lost the game for everyone.
- Positive: I made mistakes that I will work on during practice, but we're a team and I don't have to take the blame for it all.
- Negative: I failed the test, and I feel stupid.
- Positive: This wasn't my best grade on a test, but it doesn't reflect my intelligence or change my character.

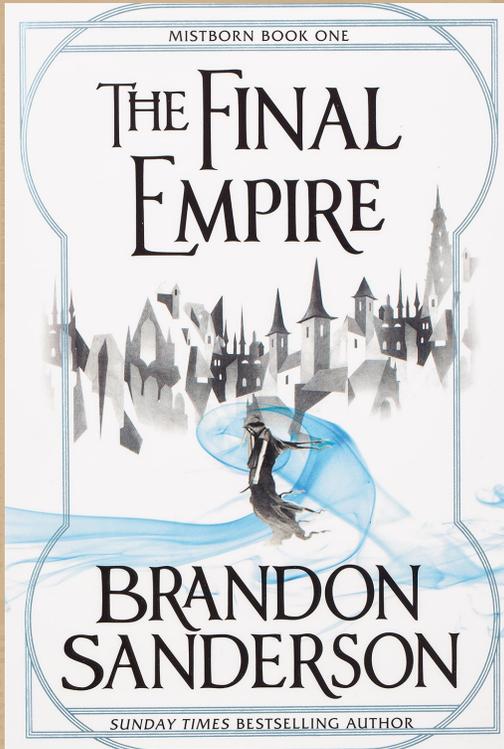
How To Practice:

Practice makes perfect. Working on positive self-talk everyday will eventually encourage you to incorporate it into your everyday life. If you are still struggling with negative self-talk, seek help. Therapists and mental health experts can help bring light to the sources of your negative self-talk and give advice on how to fix that.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/positive-self-talk>

Book Review

Katherine Tucker- Senior



Mistborn Book One: The Final Empire

Brandon Sanderson

Fantasy, Fiction, YA

Goodreads- 4.44 Stars

Me- 5 Stars

government plot explores the idea of an evil, immortal ruler who has set himself up as the “god” of his country. As both the religious leader/god and the political leader of the country, he has absolute mental and physical control over the people. The different social classes are determined by race, with each race seeing the other as a completely different species. The higher classes are identified by their “noble blood,” as well as special powers that “only they have.” The lower classes are not even considered to be human and are used as slaves and servants in an artful comparison to historical slavery. The lower classes are so discouraged and beaten down that most don’t even have the want to rebel within them anymore. But that doesn’t stop the rebels from staging a rebellion, while at the same time also staging a heist. Will it be successful? If I could change anything about this book, I would say to make the action sequences a little shorter and spend less time explaining everything about the magic system. These features were vital to the success of the story, I just don’t enjoy long descriptions of action sequences as much as perhaps other people do. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and am definitely going to finish reading the rest of the trilogy, although I most likely will not review them here so as to avoid giving spoilers.

Mistborn: The Final Empire by Brandon Sanderson is the first book in the *Mistborn* trilogy. Described as a “hybrid epic fantasy heist story with a focus on political intrigue and powerful action scenes” on Brandon Sanderson’s official website, it features an extensively described and well thought out magic system, well-developed, loveable characters, and a thrilling plot. Though the page count of 672 can seem incredibly intimidating at first, the story is engaging enough that if you just sit down and start reading it, 100 or so pages fly by in a moment. Sanderson stated on his website that he wanted to “write a story about a world where the good guys lost. I wanted to take the standard fantasy story I’d read a dozen times, that of a young peasant hero who went on a quest to defeat a Dark Lord, and turn it on its head. What if the Dark Lord won?”. He added, “The book has a little of everything for everyone. Romance, lots of action, a wiz-band cool magic system, dark lords running amok, great visuals, and character tension. And that’s just book one.” The story revolves around two main characters: a young girl who has been raised on the streets as a thief and an ex-crime lord turned vigilante rebel. There are two main plots going on in the story: a heist plot and an “overthrow the evil government” plot. I haven’t read a heist-based story in quite a while, so I really enjoyed reading it. The

<https://www.brandonsanderson.com/the-mistborn-saga-the-original-trilogy/>

Whiteout: Part I

Cody Underwood - Senior

The blinding white expanse of a snow-covered field is always a welcome sight. The cold September winds brought snow to the valley last night, and the pristine, untouched surface of the new snow has always brought me a certain sense of contentedness and security. Simply put, it snowed, and I'm happy. I stay outside and stare at the field for a little while longer, just soaking in the pure, clean Alaskan air. I walk inside, into my little cabin and make a pot of coffee. While it brews, I turn on the stove, place my cast-iron skillet onto the front and grab some bacon from the fridge. After tossing a few strips of bacon in the skillet, I walk out to my small chicken coop and collect the eggs. I take the few little eggs inside the cabin and rinse them off. It's probably not necessary, but my mother always told me to do it when I was growing up. I flip the bacon, pour myself a cup of coffee, and lean against the kitchen counter for a few minutes, enjoying the aroma and taste of the bitter black coffee. I take the bacon out of the pan and put it on a plate. I crack two eggs into the pan, frying them in the leftover bacon grease. Any dietician would probably tell me this isn't healthy, but the nearest dietician is two hours away by snow machine. Besides, it's delicious, who cares if it's unhealthy?

After breakfast, I grab my jacket, go outside, and turn left toward my little greenhouse. I step into the small plastic building and check that the little electric space heater is still working. It is, so I move on and check each plant bed for any problems or progress. My carrots and potatoes are growing nicely, but the tomatoes are coming in a little stunted. I'll need to fix that before the harvest arrives. My strawberries and green onions are doing well, and my garlic is spreading like a wildfire. All of the other plants are doing all right as well. I pick a few carrots and one potato plant, shaking the soil off of the spuds. There are two potatoes on this particular plant, and both are a little small, but they'll do nicely for dinner tonight. I collect a few other herbs and a garlic clove, set the auto-waterer, and head inside.

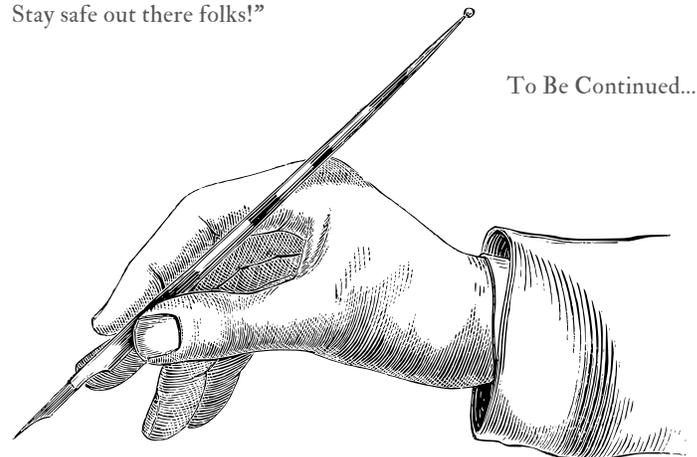
After setting the small armload of potatoes on the kitchen counter, I head back out the door and turn right, toward the shop. I enter the shop and sigh. It seems that my snow machine has still not decided to spontaneously fix itself. The engine hasn't been turning over lately. I'm pretty sure the spark plugs are old, so I pulled both of them and I'm going through the process of testing them one at a time. I test both spark plugs and one of them is weak, while the other works just fine. I dig through my spare parts and find a new spark plug. I test it, and it works perfectly. I replace both of them and fire up the engine, and sure enough, it fires right up. After turning off the snow machine engine, I head into the house and turn on the TV. Surprisingly, even though I'm miles from civilization, my satellite connection is great. I flip to a news channel and sit down in my worn leather recliner. "—winter weather warning for most of the Yukon, with low temperatures, high winds, and the possibility of blizzard conditions. Please be advised to prepare for the worst, as the storm conditions appear to have the possibility of lasting several days or more." I switch the channel. Who honestly cares about the weather anyway? I've lived in

Alaska for over three years now. I know how to handle a storm. I'll just bring in the chickens, get the generator ready, and drag my woodpile a little closer to the cabin. I'll be fine. I spend about an hour getting my chickens situated in the cabin's small laundry room. It's gonna smell really bad in there for a while, but that's nothing I can't deal with. After the flock seems to be comfortable. I walk out to the shop, drag my beat-up old generator out, and position it just outside my back door. I grab a couple of five-gallon cans of gas and set them just inside the door. I fire up the generator, just to make sure it works. It's really loud, but it's functional, so that's good, I guess. After that's done, I spend about an hour and a half moving my entire stock of firewood and stacking it up all nice and tidy against the side of the cabin on the other side of the backdoor from the generator. With all of my prep work complete, I head back inside, start a fire in the woodstove, and kick back in my chair with a good book. I love it here, and I wouldn't change it for the world. The storm hits three hours later. The wind howls like a demented banshee, and I turn on my favorite CD to drown it out. Humming along to Diamond Rio's Meet in the Middle, I start preparing dinner. I'm making an [moose] meat stew with potatoes, carrots, onions, and other vegetables from my own garden. Dinner is done rather quickly, and I sit back in my chair and enjoy it. The rest of the night passes relatively quietly, excluding the screaming wind. Before I know it, I've drifted off to sleep in my chair.

I wake up cold the next morning, for my fire has burned down to nothing over the course of the night. The wind is still screaming as I build a new fire, which is slightly concerning, to be completely honest. With a new fire crackling in the woodstove, I make a quick breakfast. Before sitting down to enjoy it, I draw back one of the curtains and peek outside. Snow has drifted halfway up the window. Uh oh, that's gonna be fun to dig my way out of. I turn on my tv and sit down to eat my breakfast. After flipping through the channels, I decide to check the news and see if this storm is gonna end anytime soon. After a few reports about traffic, petty crime, and the latest viral video, the report finally switches to the weather.

"Winter weather warnings continue across the area, as the storm seems to have stalled over the valley. Temperatures hang in the negatives, and the wind is blowing continuously at a rate of forty miles per hour, with gusts of up to eighty. Our best prediction as to when the storm will end is anywhere from four days to a week, so use caution, and stay indoors unless going outside is absolutely necessary. Stay safe out there folks!"

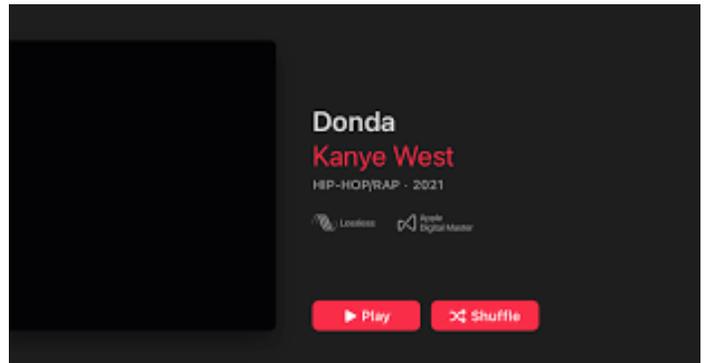
To Be Continued...



Winter Time Hiking

Noah Caldwell- Senior

Strap on some warm hiking boots and warmer clothes and get ready to hike. Now you might be asking yourself, why I am even mentioning hiking this time of year with snow piled up on the mountains? Well, this week's article is all about the winter hiking sport called snowshoeing. Snowshoeing begins with strapping these awkward paddle-like flats onto your shoes. Once strapped in, you can get right into your hike. At first, the shoes will feel weird and might cause you to trip a little bit, but widening your stride will help make it feel like a regular hike. Another great part of snowshoeing is that it is inexpensive: a pair of snowshoes could be less than \$100. Snowshoeing can be performed anywhere from your backyard to national or state parks. You can also bring your skis with you. Snowshoeing is a great outside activity as well as good exercise. Do your research prior to picking a path or heading into the boondocks to guarantee you're ready. For instance, courses might have limitations on specific winter sports, uses, and pets. Furthermore, boondocks regions might have occasional terminations or security limitations. Follow Leave No Trace standards, regardless of whether on a path or in the backwoods. This means whatever you bring in, pack it back out. This helps protect our wilderness. It's okay to go off-trail while snowshoeing. In any case, be aware of picking regions with adequate snowfall and keep away from regions where plants are looking out of the snow to save vegetation. Additionally, while out on your adventures, keep in mind to be safe and send your pictures to the Passamari staff, and you might make it into the paper.



West's album, *Donda*, features a black cover. According to West, the black cover "represents letting go of grief and recovering."

Donda by Kanye West

Zak McCormack - Senior

Kanye West's latest album, *Donda*, has been topping charts since it was released. The album was dedicated and named after his mother, Donda C. West, an American professor and chair of Chicago State University's Department of English, Communications, Media and Theater, before passing in 2007 (Romano). *Donda* is the 10th studio album produced by Kanye West and the August 29 release had been highly anticipated by fans. *Donda* consists of 27 songs, with the whole album lasting an hour and 48 minutes. It was released through the label GOOD Music and distributed by Def Jam Recordings. West recorded much of the material at multiple locations in the summer of 2021, including Bighorn Mountain Ranch in Wyoming and Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta. The style changes throughout the different tracks on the album give *Donda* a truly different character than West's older albums. The length of the album really shows us why it took West so long to complete and perfect it, a total of 18 months. *Donda* contains many features from other artists, from singer The Weeknd all the way to rapper Fivio Foreign. One of my favorite songs on the album, "Off The Grid," shows the skill West has in producing a beat for his songs. The 6th track, "Praise God," starts with a snippet of a speech given by West's late mother mentioned earlier, and quickly switches to a jumpy, bassy beat. West incorporated many snippets of his mother's sermons in this album. Overall, I give *Donda* a 9/10 and think it's better than rapper Drake's album released during the same week, *Certified Lover Boy*. The release of Drake's album was equally anticipated, and the two artists had been feuding over diss tracks sent back and forth to each other. When you hear "rap album" you probably think of crude and explicit lyrics, but *Donda* is centered around his mother and God, containing no swear words. If you are interested in trying out a different genre of music or aren't very hip to the "new age" of music, *Donda* is a great place to start.

<https://www.vox.com/culture/22652228/donda-kanye-west-album-controversy-explained>



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February



<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tues</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
		BBall vs. Harrison G/B 1	Oula & Yoga Adult Ed 6:30 2	Girls MS BBall @ Twin Bridges 3	BBall @ Manhattan Christian G/B 4	BBall vs. WSS G/B Girls MS BBall @ Shields Tourney 5
	BBall @ Whitehall C/JV 6	Board Meeting 7:00 7	Sheridan Spelling Bee Oula & Yoga Adult Ed 6:30 8	Girls MS BBall @ Whitehall 9	BBall @ LP G/B FFA Districts LDE WSS 10	Elem. Kitchen Pool Pizzas 11
	<i>Happy Valentine's day</i> 12		BBall Districts Tournaments Science Fair Oula & Yoga Adult Ed 6:30 13	BBall Districts Tournaments Midterm 3 Oral Health Day 14		
	FFA District CDE 15		Oula & Yoga Adult Ed 6:30 16	BBall Divisional Tournaments Frenchtown Parent/Teacher Conferences 4-7 pm 17	BBall Divisional Tournaments Frenchtown 18	
28						