

# THE TOWN CRIER

Volume 15, Issue 9 phhstowncrier.weebly.com

Dec. 15, 2015

## Breaking News

By Charles Schneider

Since the last edition of *The Town Crier*, there have been two major news stories: more information on the Paris Attacks and the attack in San Bernardino. First, we now have much more information on the Paris Attacks. We now know that there were 130 people killed in the attack, with 368 more injured. The mastermind of the terrorist act, Abdelhamid Abaaoud, was killed in an apartment raid by police. Countries around the world stand with France with a common enemy: ISIS. Social media also stood with Paris with the famous hashtag: #Standwith-Paris.

As for the San Bernardino attacks, they were done by an Extremist Islamic couple. The couple, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, may or may not be linked to ISIS, but ISIS has not claimed responsibility for the attack. 14 people were killed and 21 more were wounded.

## PHHS Christmas Band Concert 2015

The sounds of Christmas filled the air of the Peoria heights Grade School gym Monday night. Mr. Chris Piper and the fifth grade band opened the concert with *Jingle Bells*. They followed with the traditional favorites, *Good King Wenceslas*, *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*.

The PHHS choir, under the direction of Mr. Bolton, presented *A Christmas Medley*. This year's choir is small but mighty! Members include Jessica Quinn, Emmy Tiethoff, and Susan Kness. The Peoria Heights Grade School sang two numbers, *Christmas in the Air* and *On Christmas Morning*. The PHHS choir joined them for *Go in Peace*.

Senior Emmy Tiethoff sang *Silent Night*, and Mr. Piper and the PHHS Concert Band, a combined group of high school and junior high played *Christmas Winds*. The band closed the concert with Mussorgsky's *The Great Gate of Kiev*, rounding out the evening of music festivities.



The PHHS Choir during the Christmas Concert.



Mr. Piper directed the PHHS Band at the concert.

## Congratulations to Kelsey Walton, Student of the Month for November.

Senior Kelsey Walton was selected student of the month for November. She is the daughter of Steve and Tanya Walton; she has two younger sisters, Hailey, a freshman here at PHHS and Paige, at PHGS. Kelsey has gone to Peoria Heights schools since pre-school.

Sports has been an important part of Kelsey's life. She has played basketball and volleyball, and has run cross country and track (her favorite). She has also been a cheerleader all four years.

An honor student, Kelsey has been active in other aspects of life here at PHHS. She has been a member of Student Council and of the Homecoming Court.

Kelsey's teachers had some great things to say about her. "Kelsey is a very driven individual, always seems to have a positive attitude and a smile on her face."

"Kelsey Walton is participating in Volleyball, Cross Country, Cheerleading, Girls Basketball, and Track. Along with this she is literally at almost every other event the school offers supporting her classmates. With all this she maintains good grades as well."

"Not only is Kelsey active in school, but she has two jobs outside of school and extracurriculars. This lady is crazy busy and very dedicated!" "One of her jobs she works third shift on weekends as a CNA using her ICC program education to help her get into nursing school." "Kelsey would be an excellent nominee for SOM." "Although I do not have Kelsey in class or in any activities, she is a positive role model to have in our school. She is dedicated to her studies, school, and work. She always has a friendly smile on her face and a positive attitude!" "I think Kelsey is very deserving of student of the month."

"Kelsey is such a hard worker and a very positive force in my class!" "I believe Kelsey is very worthy of being named Student of the Month. She is hard working, polite, cheery, and very involved inside and outside of school. When you look at everything she's involved in, it's pretty amazing! What a great role model for her fellow students." "I think Kelsey would be an excellent candidate for student of the month! She works very hard in everything that she does, whether that be school, extracurriculars, or work outside of school. She is very involved in multiple sports, sometimes even in the same season, she works multiple jobs including an internship as a CNA, and she manages to keep up all of her grades and school work in the meantime. Kelsey is very driven, determined, and dedicated! She will be great at anything she does!"

Kelsey's future plans include attending Nursing school; she's considering Methodist College of Nursing. She's thinking about becoming a pediatric oncology or labor and delivery nurse or maybe specialize in anesthesiology.



Congratulations to Kelsey Walton for earning student of the month for November.

## The Presidential Race Continues

By Charles Schneider

As we continue toward Election Day 2016, we are seeing major changes in the Presidential Race. For example, we now only have three candidates for vying for the Democratic spot: Hillary Clinton, Martin O'Malley, and Bernie Sanders. As far as the Republicans go, there are still thirteen candidates in the race: Jeb Bush, Dr. Ben Carson, Chris Christie, Ted Cruz, Carly Fiorina, Jim Gilmore, Lindsey Graham, Mike Huckabee, John Kasich, George Pataki, Marco Rubio, Rick Santorum, and Donald Trump. In the polls, Donald Trump leads by a landslide for the Republicans, while Hillary Clinton is leading for Democrats. The race still has almost eleven months left, and there are still many candidates in the race, so it should be exciting to see who our 45<sup>th</sup> President will be!

## FAFSA Night

By Cole Reilly

The Peoria Heights High School held their annual FAFSA night for the college-bound students on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December. The school's financial aid advisor came and spoke to all of the curious students in the High School's library. She dropped some knowledge on how to obtain the most federal aid/grant funds out of your FAFSA application. She provided multiple reference sources to the students and parents from packets to folders full of informative sheets. Filling out the FAFSA is a very important step for students that plan on attending college next fall, and we're very thankful for Mrs. Wenzel and the speakers she brings in to help us with the process. If you did not attend, I highly suggest speaking to someone that did and obtaining whatever information that you missed out on. Also, make sure you're ready to fill out your FAFSA as soon as possible! The earliest date you can start working on the application is January 1<sup>st</sup> and they give out federal aid/grants on a first come first serve basis. The Town Crier Weekly Reviewers wish all the students who are going off to college next year luck with all of their endeavors.



# EXTRA! EXTRA!

Volume 15, Issue 9 [phhstowncrier.weebly.com](http://phhstowncrier.weebly.com)

Dec. 15, 2015

## Counselors Corner

By Kensey Schol

Financial Aid night for the seniors was Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. A representative from Midstate College came to talk to the seniors and their parents about financial aid and other ways to pay for school. One of the topics she went over was how to fill out your FAFSA forms. It's very important to start filling out your form the day it's available, which is January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Wenzel will be talking to the juniors soon about the ACT. Just a reminder that you do need to sign up and pay for it on your own. If you get free lunch you're eligible for a waiver. The waiver covers the ACT fee. If you're planning on taking the test in April the deadline to sign up is March 4<sup>th</sup>. It's important to start studying now. Before you know it it'll be the day of the test.



Charles Schneider sees Mrs. Wenzel for help planning for the ACT and College

## Canned Food Drive

By Madilyn Tortat

The annual food drive has a new format this year! Along with the help of Mr. Stoner, Student Council got together and organized the new event. Rather than each advisor class competing, each class will unite and compete against the other classes. At the end of the drive, each class will take all their donated goods and build a "Tower of Cans." They will have approximately 10 minutes to complete building, so it's important to plan out your structure beforehand. Teams in charge of building will consist of around 5-6 people, and the teachers will judge each tower and come to a decision on a victor. There will be two pizza parties at stake this year, one for whoever brings the most cans, and another for whoever wins the contest. Several teachers are also providing extra credit for bringing in cans as an extra incentive, so make sure to start stockpiling any extra canned goods!



Cole Reilly puts his cans with the rest of the Senior's donations under the tree.

## Yearbooks

By Kailey Klute

The yearbook staff has decided on a theme! The theme for this year's yearbook will be jOURney. We will be keeping you posted on the development of the newspaper and any other events that will be happening. We are currently looking for an artist to design original artwork and cover page ideas. If you are interested or have any ideas, please talk to Mrs. Gibbons or another member of the yearbook staff. This year, we are trying something new for photos. There is going to be a community upload where you will be able to upload pictures so that they might show up in the yearbook and newspaper. To upload pictures you will need to go to [yearbookforever.com](http://yearbookforever.com). You will also be able to purchase a yearbook on there.



2015 Yearbook staff are here with the award won for last year's yearbook

## Candy Grams

By Kailey Klute

Did you receive any candy grams? The Key Club has been selling candy grams during lunch this past week. If you don't know what a candy gram is it's when you buy a candy cane and write a message to one of your friends. They sold for 1 for 25 cents or 5 for \$1. By selling the candy grams, the Key Club was raising money for a good cause, spastic paralysis. This year we sold nearly 200 candy grams and all the profits will be for the spastic paralysis foundation. Good job everyone and make sure to buy some of those candy grams next year!

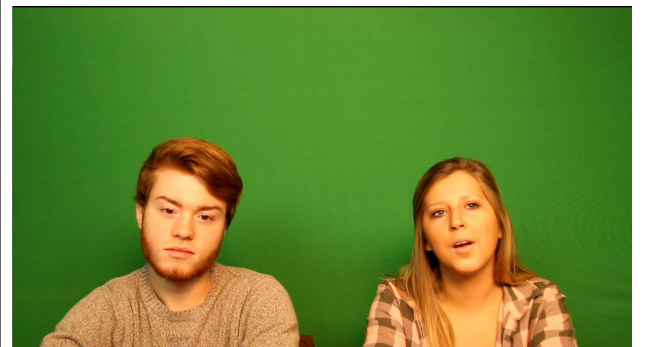


Kensey Schol gives Gabby Williams her candy grams.

## The Broadcast

By Cole Reilly

Everyone knows the loud-spoken, joyful hearted character who came up with the idea and starred on the show last year, Cody Schindler (whom has recently moved onto bigger and better things in the casting world), but it didn't die with his graduation. We knew it wouldn't be quite as awkward or cringe inspiring with the loss of Cody, but we knew we could make it work. Madilyn Tortat took her experiences from working with Cody all year and brought them into this year's broadcast. The cameraman and video editor last year, Cole Reilly, was moved next to her, and tried to fill the shoes of the excitable fella who had sat there 12 months prior. We asked a bit more of our equipment crew, Kensey Schol and Seth Boyer, and had them man the camera, but we knew they were capable. We even have a second set of talent this year in Taylor Peterson and Noah "Nelly" Nelson that take over from time to time. Regardless of the staff changes, we report the same things. Every story that happens here, every holiday celebrated, and every yearbook put on a "teaser" display a couple takes at a time. The news is the same, the people are wonderful, and the editing only gets better. Take the time out of your day to get on the school website and watch it during advisor, you won't regret it!



Madilyn and Cole in front of the green screen while recording the broadcast. What a difference editing makes!

## Football Banquet!

By Shawna Stewart

The football banquet was held on September 30<sup>th</sup> at Peoria Heights High School. The banquet started out with Adkins giving an inspirational speech and thanking everybody that has supported the Heights/Quest football team throughout the year. Then he announced the all-conference football players. This year the Heights/Quest team had 12 all-team conference players. Blake Begner got 1st team quarterback, Geno Hess got 1st team running back, Jarin Wallace got 1st team unanimous wide receiver and 1st team defensive back, Riley Gregory got 1st team offensive lineman, Rylee Miller got special mention offensive lineman, Quinn Miller got special mention tight end and 2nd team punter, Cody Stewart got 1st team defensive lineman, Isaac Ponce got 2nd team defensive lineman, Markus Casley got 1st team linebacker, Ryan Hamilton got 2nd team linebacker, Tanner Doerr got special mention defensive back, and Jose Perez got 2nd team kicker. Congratulations to all the players and good luck to the Heights/Quest football team on their season next year!



# SPORTS

Volume 15, Issue 9 [phhstowncrier.weebly.com](http://phhstowncrier.weebly.com)

Dec. 15, 2015

## Wrestling

By: Noah Nelson

Wrestling season has just begun. The wrestlers have been working very hard at practice and in the weight room. They have had 3 meets and 1 tournament so far. Their tournament was at Illini Bluffs. Keyshawn Hess and Cole Williams placed 5<sup>th</sup>. Jakob Tinkham placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. They had a home meet this past Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup>. David Dellit and Keyshawn won both of their matches. Good luck to all of the wrestlers at their next meet at Kewanee on Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup>.



Keshawn Hess works for position against his opponent from last Wednesday's meet at home.

## Dance and Cheer

By Madilyn Tortat

The dance and cheerleading teams are hard at work in preparation for basketball season. They are both planning and learning new routines for games and the winter sports pep assembly. The assembly will be in mid- January, and I'm sure both teams will have something great planned! The dance team will perform for the first time this basketball season at next Friday's home game. Come out and support both teams!



2016 Cheer Team

## Girls Basketball

By Noah Nelson

The girls' basketball season is in full swing. Although they have had a tough start to the season and a couple injuries, they are pushing through the pain. They started the season off at the Lexington basketball tournament. Then after that they played Brimfield, North Fulton, and Rushville. Although they could not get the win against their opponents they are showing much improvement and they are very hard working.



Taryn Minor crosses the court in the game against Farmington.

## Season has begun!

By Sarah Knott

The boys' basketball team has started off really well. They have just gotten done with the annual Thanksgiving Tournament, with a record of 2-2. The Varsity team went down to Springfield to play at the Prairie Capital Convention Center on Saturday, December 5 against Williamsville Bullets. With the unfortunate luck, they lost. The JV team was a part of an annual Galva tournament and they went 2-4 in the whole tournament. With the new head Coach Mr. Youngren and assistant coach Mr. Adkins, we will be getting a different look of the game from two different way of coaching. Both coaches are looking forward to this season and seeing what the outcome will be. Both teams went to Lewistown on December 11, both JV and varsity lost their first season game. They have a game Tuesday, December 15, at Roanoke- Benson, JV starts at 6 o'clock then varsity to follow. They will be having their first home game, Friday December 18 against Rushville Industry at 5 o'clock then varsity to follow. Come out and support your Patriots!! They really want your support.



Tyler Gregory fends off Quest during the Turkey Tournament.

## Scholastic Bowl

By Kensey Schol

Scholastic bowl is starting up again. Practice starts soon. This year, Miss Robinson will be taking over as the junior varsity coach and Miss Ahlers will be the varsity coach. If you're interested in joining, there is still plenty of time to do so. Any class is free to join. Many of people think scholastic bowl is just math and science questions, but that's not true. They have random trivia, sports, entertainment, world news, and literature just to name a few of the categories. This year, there will be three meets at home, and on those you can come and support the team. All the meets are open to the public. Mrs. Ahlers said she has very high expectations this year for the team. The first varsity meet will be January 9<sup>th</sup>. The first JV meet will be January 12<sup>th</sup>. Good luck to all the scholastic bowl participants this year and let's try to add another banner!

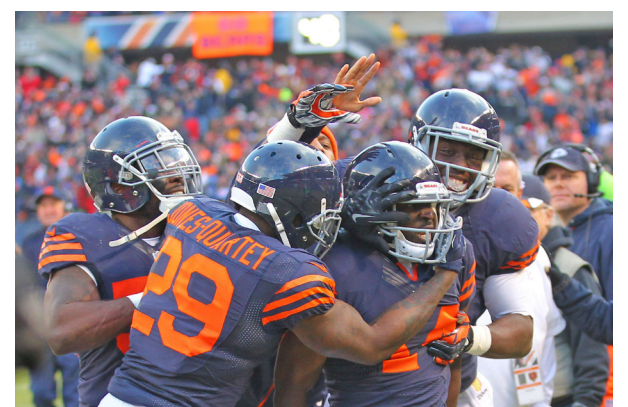
## Sports Corner

By Shawna Stewart

**NFL-** The NFL just ended week 14 and teams are preparing for week 15. The Chicago Bears (5-8) took a loss at home on Sunday against the Washington Raiders. The score was 24-21. The New England Patriots (11-2) faced the Houston Texans (6-7) away and were victorious. The Patriots won 27-6. The Green Bay Packers (9-4) beat the Dallas Cowboys (4-9) with a score of 28-7. The Pittsburg Steelers (8-5) beat the Cincinnati Bengals (10-3). The score was 33-20. The Seattle Seahawks (8-5) hosted the Baltimore Ravens (4-9). The Seahawks won 35-6. There is only one NFL team who is undefeated. This team is the Carolina Panthers. They beat the Atlanta Falcons (6-7) with a score of 38-0. The Panthers are now 13-0. NFL games are played on Thursdays, Sunday, and Mondays so make sure you tune in to watch.

**NBA-** The NBA season is well on its way. On Saturday December 12th, the Chicago Bulls beat the New Orleans Pelicans. The score was 98-94. The Boston Celtics beat the Charlotte Hornets 98-93. On Sunday, December 13th, the Miami Heat beat the Memphis Grizzlies. The score was 100-97.

**NHL-** The National Hockey League season has also been started for a while. On Sunday, December 13th, the Chicago Blackhawks beat the Vancouver Canucks. The final score was 4-0. The Colorado Avalanche beat the St. Louis Blues 3-1. The New York Islanders best the New Jersey Devils 4-0.



Chicago Bears celebrate after a touchdown during week 14. Courtesy of <http://www.windycitygridiron.com>



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Volume 15, Issue 9 [phstowncrier.weebly.com](http://phstowncrier.weebly.com)

Dec. 15, 2015

## Christmas Gift Guide

By James Janis

The Holiday season is upon us, which means it is the busiest shopping season of the year. Although Black Friday and Cyber Monday have already passed us, there are still many deals to be had on Christmas gifts and other festive items, so let this stand as your guide to some of the most popular gifts for this holiday season.

When you think of gifts, most likely the first gifts that come to mind are toys, and if you have a little cousin or maybe a little brother or sister, maybe toys are what you will be looking at. With Star Wars: The Force Awakens coming to theaters in two days, Star Wars toys are bound to be the most popular toys this season. The BB-8 app-enabled droid from Sphero, although priced at \$150, has already been flying off the shelves since its release several months ago, so this will undoubtedly be one of the most popular toys this year. Also, Minions items are very popular this year. The Minions movie was a hit with kids, so there are many toys of those little yellow guys to pick up, one of which is the Minion Kevin Banana Eating Action Figure, and priced at only \$33, this is a much more reasonably priced toy. Even with the Star Wars and Minion toys available, some of the classics are still popular, like Legos and Nerf Guns.

After buying the toys for the little brothers and sisters, it's now time to think of Mom and Dad and other important adults in your life. For Mom and Grandma, if they are into makeup and beauty products, check out the Birchbox subscription box. At only \$10 a month, it is a steal, and it comes filled with different beauty products and samples every month. On the more expensive side, Fitbits and other fitness trackers are popular this year. One of the most popular is the Fitbit Charge at only \$150. Lastly, maybe Grandma has finally decided to ditch the flip phone, but doesn't know what to get. If so, pick her up a iPhone 6s in rose pink and she'll be sure to love it, and at only \$199 on contract, it's not a bad deal at all.

For Dad and Grandpa, you could always get the tie and tools, but maybe this year surprise them with something more. If Dad is a bit more on the tech side, try getting him a nice phone case. You can pick up a solid wood phone case for right around \$60, or you could make him a custom phone case with your picture on shutterfly.com for only \$20. Or, maybe they are not into tech. You could get him a nice watch or a new cologne.

Now that your younger relatives and the older relatives are covered, now you're looking at gifts for your family right around your age, and nothing sounds better for them than some tech gifts. No surprise, the PS4 and the Xbox One are some of the most popular gifts, but there is also smaller gifts. Bluetooth speakers are relatively cheap, with many good ones only \$50, or you could get a really nice pair of headphones at the same price.

The season of giving can be very stressful at times, but that can also be what makes it the most fun. As you are out shopping this season, make sure to look around and find the best deals this year. Happy Holidays and happy shopping from all of us at The Town Crier!

## Season of Giving

By Taylor Peterson

"Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts" –Janice Maeditere. Around this time of year, the opportunities to help others are everywhere. Many churches have opportunities for volunteering, such as at soup kitchens, Christmas parties, and donation centers around the area. Our school has been collecting cans this past week to give to the less fortunate. Our Key Club has been selling candy grams during lunch, to donate the money towards spastic paralysis. The Grand Prairie mall will be having charities wrap gifts for FREE, and donations are allowed. Ask your friends, people at church, or other students at your school for more ways to help give this holiday season.



Salvation Army red ketties are one of many donation opportunities during the holidays. Courtesy Google Images

## Christmas in Peoria

By Seth Boyer

Christmas time is near! I can speak for a lot of people when I say Christmas is their favorite time of the year. There are many great activities to do during Christmas time here in Peoria, including some new ones. The Festival of Lights is always a great thing to do during this holiday season. It's held at Fondulac Park in East Peoria and it's always a great time and I recommend it to everyone. Another great activity to do this Holiday is check out the new ice skating rink down by the Civic Center. I went there within the first few days it opened and it is definitely a pleasant time! This is not all there is to do this holiday season, but these are for sure some fun ones.



Folepi's Winter Wonderland, also known as the East Peoria Festival of Lights, is one of the most popular holiday attractions in Illinois

## Cinnamon Holiday Cookie Pops Recipe

By Taylor Peterson

Who doesn't love Christmas cookies!! These cookies are fun to make and decorate during the holidays or for any special occasion. You can use specific cookie cutters to go along with the holiday coming up. Here's a recipe for the Cinnamon Holiday Cookie Pops, feel free to make them for your family this Christmas! Recipe from [www.mccormick.com](http://www.mccormick.com).

Ingredients:

- Cookie Pops:
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons McCormick® Cinnamon, Ground
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tablespoon packed light brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 2 teaspoons McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract
- 36 lollipop sticks
- Royal Icing::
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 6 tablespoons warm water
- 3 tablespoons meringue powder
- 1 teaspoon McCormick® Pure Vanilla Extract
- McCormick® Assorted Food Colors & Egg Dye

Directions:

For the Cookie Pops, mix flour, cinnamon, baking powder and salt in medium bowl. Set aside. Beat butter and sugars in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla; mix well. Gradually beat in flour mixture on low speed until well mixed. Refrigerate dough 1 hour or until firm.

Preheat oven to 350°F. Roll out dough on lightly floured surface to 1/2-inch thickness. Cut into shapes with cookie cutters. Insert lollipop sticks into each cookie. Place 1 inch apart on parchment paper-lined baking sheets. Refrigerate 20 minutes.

Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool on baking sheets 1 minute. Remove to wire racks; cool completely.

For the Royal Icing, beat confectioners' sugar, water, meringue powder and vanilla in large bowl with electric mixer until stiff peaks form. For stand mixer, beat on low speed 7 to 10 minutes. For hand mixer, beat on high speed 10 to 12 minutes. Divide icing into small bowls. Tint with desired food colors. Spread or pipe icing onto cookies.