

THE TOWN CRIER

Volume 14, Issue 7 phstowncrier.weebly.com December 5, 2014

Ferguson Riots Continue after Grand Jury

By Tiffanie Miller

Black smoke continued to pour out from buildings in the early hours of Tuesday morning. In Ferguson, Missouri, riots, looting, protests, and violence are still in action after Officer Darren Wilson fatally shot 18-year-old Michael Brown on August 9. On November 24, a grand jury did not indict the officer for any crimes related to the death. The main focus of this tragic event is racism, because Wilson was white, and Brown, black, was unarmed. Shortly after the grand jury made its decision, shots were fired, protestors were vandalizing police cars, leaving at least one on fire, and putting many businesses in flames.

"We are recommitted to rebuilding the city and to once again become a thriving community for economic development and residential stability," Ferguson Mayor James Knowles said at a news conference. Last Saturday, Officer Wilson resigned from the Ferguson Police Department, citing fears for the safety of local residents and fellow police officers.

Clean up and reconstruction continues.



Courtesy of Google Images.

Thanksgiving!

By Sarah Knott.

Thanksgiving was just here! It was Thursday, November 27th. Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday in November. Thanksgiving is a venerable and much beloved American holiday. It is where Americans gather for a day of feasting, football, and family. In the US, about 280 million turkeys are sold for the Thanksgiving celebrations. Each year, the average American eats somewhere between 16 - 18 pounds of turkey. Kirstan Bennett had a wonderful Thanksgiving with her 3 dinners. Shannon Son went to Chicago for her Thanksgiving and had a great time with her family. A lot of families go out of town for Thanksgiving, celebrating with friends and families. Overall, I would say the majority of families have a great holiday!

Sports Corner

By Cody Schindler

NFL- As we enter December, we also enter the final month of the regular season in the NFL. The Chicago Bears are 5-8. On Thursday Chicago hosted Dallas, and fell 41-28. However, the bigger loss was Brandon Marshall, who had to leave the game in an ambulance after taking a knee to the back. It was the second straight week the Bears played on Thursday, as they lost last week to Detroit on Thanksgiving. Head coach Marc Trestman is on the hot seat, and his job may be in jeopardy after this rough season. The Bears were predicted to compete for a division title, and a playoff spot this year.

As for the rest of the NFL, five teams are tied with the best record at 9-3, and two of those teams faced off last week. The New England Patriots traveled to Green Bay to take on the Packers in a possible Super Bowl preview. Green Bay entered the contest averaging over 40 points per game at home. The Packers would hop out to a quick 13-0 lead, but the Patriots would battle back, and were down 23-21 in the fourth quarter. With the Packers up 26-21, the Green Bay defense got their only sack of the day, halting a New England drive. The Packers would go on to win by that score, 26-21. Aaron Rodgers threw for 368 yards and two touchdowns in the win. Arizona, Philadelphia, and Denver join the Patriots and the Packers as 9-3 teams.

College Football- This year starts a new era in college football. Instead of two teams playing for a national title, there is now a four team playoff in place. Each Tuesday, the selection committee reveals their top 25, and the top four teams fall in line for the championship tournament. The final rankings will be released on Sunday. This week's rankings have Alabama at the top, Oregon second, TCU third, and Florida State fourth. However, the rest of the college football playoff system didn't change. There will still be plenty of bowl games to get your fill of.

NBA- We are almost a quarter of the way through the season, and there are a few surprises in the early going. The Cleveland Cavaliers assembled a big three of LeBron James, Kyrie Irving, and Kevin Love. However, the team has struggled, with a record of 8-7 entering December. The Western conference is loaded, as expected, but one of the top teams is a bit of a surprise. The Memphis Grizzlies are 15-3. Perhaps the most exciting team to watch right now is the Philadelphia 76ers. It's not for their talent, however. The 76ers won their first game of the season on Wednesday, to improve to 1-17.



Packers' wide receiver Jordy Nelson reaches for the pylon against New England. Courtesy of Google Images,

Congratulations to October Student of the Month Kia Williams!

Sophomore Kia Williams is the daughter of Estella Robinson, and the granddaughter of Bessie Tory. Kia has attended Peoria Heights all her life and has three younger cousins who attend PHGS.

Kia's favorite classes are creative ones such as art, painting and ceramics, and English. Here at PHHS she is a member of the dance team and the choir club.

An active member of the larger community, Kia is on her church Praise Dance team, and has acted in plays there. She is part of Goodwill GoodGuides mentoring program. She has also participated in beauty pageants.

Kia's future plans include a performing arts college to study performance or fashion design.

Kia's teachers had many good things to say. "Kia Williams has been a phenomenal student all year for me. She works hard, turns in all of her work and participates."

"Kia is an awesome student to have in class. This is the first year that I have had her, and she is the perfect example of what a student should be. She is dedicated, well behaved, and prepared. I look forward to seeing her grow as a student the next couple years!" "Kia is one the hardest working and most conscientious students I have. She participates in class activities and works well with everyone. She is generally a nice person with a great personality."

"I vote for Kia Williams. Such a sweet girl and a very hard worker!!!"

"Kia Williams does the Goodwill Good Guides program that helps younger kids every Tuesday and Thursday after school at PHGS. Kia is very polite and well-mannered, along with being kind to everyone she meets."

We here at PHHS expect great things from her someday!!



Congrats to sophomore Kia Williams on winning Student of the Month. She poses with her check with Mr. Schlink of the Lions Club, and Mrs. Adkins, who nominated her.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Volume 14, Issue 7 phhstowncrier.weebly.com December 5, 2014

Boys' Basketball

By Madilyn Tortat

Here we go Heights, here we go! The boys' season started out at the Turkey Tournament. The varsity team won against Deemack the first night of the tournament, 50-45. The patriots lost a thriller against Peoria Quest. Noah Persich tied the game in the final seconds to send the game into overtime where Quest prevailed by 4. They then fell to Illini Bluffs and Peoria Christian. Noah Persich was selected by the coaches to represent our school on the All-Tournament team. Tuesday night the varsity team defeated Beardstown 41-31.

The JV team competed in the Peoria Christian Tournament. They finished with a record of 1-3. Tuesday night they also won against Beardstown. JV will play Quest 12/9/14.

Varsity has a long break before their next game, December 12. Both teams will play the Lewistown Indians. Come out and support your Patriots!



The boys' basketball team dig on defense against Quest in the Turkey Tourney.

Red Storm

By Seth Boyer

You are going to need more than an umbrella to protect you from this storm. This year the Red Storm is as hype as ever. Usually it is just for the boys' basketball team, but this year we encourage you to support every sport in the Red Storm. Most of the time there is a theme for Varsity games for boys' basketball. So far this year, there has been a Red Storm for every single boys' basketball game, and there will be many more. The next home game, December 12, the theme will be cowboy night. If you are interested on coming out and supporting your fellow Patriots please do. Talk to Cody Schindler about the theme if you are interested in participating. Thank you for reading this. I hope all of you had a good Thanksgiving. Keep reading the Town crier for more updates.

Tip Off!

By Kirstan Bennett

The home opener was on Monday for the girls. They played the Brimfield lady Indians. The score was 36-62 with Brimfield winning. The girls had 13 fouls. Taylor Hess was the leading scorer with 13 points, followed by their fellow basketball players. The girls played North Fulton Lady Wildcats on Thursday. The score was 38-66. Adrienne summers-Reynolds had 14 points and followed by her fellow basketball players. The girls had 11 fouls. The girls had great games this week. Come out and be a part of the red storm to cheer on your Lady Patriots!



Senior Kirstan Bennett jumps for the opening tip-off.

Financial Aid

By Cody Schindler

Are you planning on going to college? Well, if you are, you'll probably need some financial aid. College is very expensive. On December 2, school counselor Mrs. Wenzel hosted a financial aid night. Many parents and students came and gained valuable information on the FAFSA, and scholarship opportunities. Mrs. Wenzel said the night went well, and "a lot of information was given." Miss Gray from the ISAC, presented information on the FAFSA. To fill out the FAFSA, there is a free website in which you fill out all of your important information. Mrs. Haste, the financial aid advisor at ICC spoke at the meeting. If you were unable to attend the meeting, but want information, please see Mrs. Wenzel.



Mrs. Wenzel, our school counselor, who works here with Cody Schindler, organized the Financial Aid night.

From the Top Ropes

By Cole Reilly

The wrestling season is in full swing and our Peoria Heights team is ready to compete. Our wrestlers made a statement on Saturday at Illini Bluff's Invitational. Tanner Coleman finished 1st in his weight class and David Dellit, Ethan Bickersham, and Brandon Mirabal all finished in the top 5 of theirs. Many people, including myself, have high expectations for this year's wrestling team. Coach Smith and the team have been made a lot of progress in this off-season and it's showing in their recent matches. We'll keep you updated on how the boys are doing as the season goes on.



The 2014-15 Wrestling team.

Mockingjay Madness!

By Kensey Schol

This year Mrs. Poole held her third annual Hunger Games competition. If you haven't been there are a bunch of Hunger Games activities to participate in. Those activities were archery, berry tasting, a movie quiz, and a quote quiz. The students volunteered as tribute for the grand prize. Whoever won the most points got art from Mrs. Cocquit. The winner ended up being sophomore, Seth Randolph. This year was a great turn out. Mrs. Poole said there was around 50 kids that came. Mrs. Smallwood even came, but she didn't do too hot in archery. May the odds be ever in your favor!

2014-15 Journalism Staff

Kirstan Bennett
Seth Boyer
James Janis
Sarah Knott
Tiffanie Miller
Colton Reilly
Wanda Rogers
Cody Schindler
Madison Schneider
Kensey Schol
Shannon Son
Shawna Stewart
Madilyn Tortat