

THE TOWN CRIER

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Honor Roll Breakfast

By Taylor Peterson

The honor roll breakfast was held this past Friday, January 5th, during first hour. All students that made the honor roll for both grading periods in the first semester, were qualified to go. The cafeteria staff made an entire assortment of breakfast foods for the students, such as cinnamon rolls, breakfast pizza, and pancakes with sausage. If you didn't make it for the breakfast this year, you can work hard and qualify during the first semester next year!

The Boy

By Seth Boyer

The Boy is a great thriller that was released on January 22, 2016. The plot is a young girl named Greta lands a job as a nanny to an English couple that has an 8 year old boy in a small English village. To her surprise, the boy that she is taking care of happens to be a doll. At first, she is amused by this, and laughs it off. Until she realizes the couple is 100% serious. She finds out that the boy, named Brahms, really died in a fire in a fire in 1991. The parents have such a hard time dealing with it that they use the doll in place of their son, acting as if it was real. She finds all this out from the grocery boy named Malcolm. The parents give Greta a list of rules to follow for Brahms, and she promises to fulfill these duties. As soon as the parents leave, she does not take care of their "child" and does not attend to any of the duties. Ironically, weird things start happening when she does not follow the rules. Her clothes would end up missing, the doll would move to different places when she is not in the room, and she hears weird noises and even voices around the house. After she realizes the doll moves by its self, she showed Malcolm and proved that the doll does indeed do so. Eventually her ex-boyfriend Cole finds that she has the nanny job and comes uninvited to bring her back home. He sees Malcolm there, and assumes that they are together in a relationship and he handles it very poorly. He then takes Brahms and breaks it on the ground to pieces in anger. What happens next is the best part and the prime of the movie. Something so unexpected happens. It is so crazy. I highly recommend everyone goes and gives this movie a try, as I will bet they will not suspect the ending. It is one of the best movies I've seen in theaters in a long time! I honestly give it a 4.5-5.

Have you signed up for the ACT test yet?

By Taylor Peterson

Have you signed up for the ACT test yet? If you're a junior considering a four-year university or any of a variety of college scholarships it's time to do that!!! The state of Illinois has required juniors to take the ACT and has provided the test to school districts for the last few years. But this year, with its infinite wisdom and ongoing money problems and budget issues, suddenly the state is no longer requiring – or fully funding – the ACT experience for Illinois juniors. Colleges, universities, and scholarship boards still want an ACT score for entrance etc. – the test has not disappeared!!! What does that mean for each of our PHHS juniors? It means you're on your own for this important step in college preparation. What should you do? Well, www.act.org has most of the information that will help you decide. That site will give you a list of fees – on time, late, with and without writing – and test sites – you will have choices, rather than just going where the school bus takes you – as well as other information.

To prepare for the test, much of the classwork offered here at PHHS helps directly with the ACT. The information from your PLAN and PSAT test scores would also be helpful. There are books available – Barnes & Noble, Amazon, etc. are all willing to sell you helpful information. Mrs. Wenzel says that she has some practice information as well. The ACT website will also direct you to available prep classes and information – most of these require a fee, rather than the free, school supplied preparation of earlier years – so be prepared! When you go to that website – you can sign in as a student, then go to Useful Information – Test Dates to find out about deadlines(March 4 , 2016 for the April test), ACT Fees to find out about cost etc. There is also information about times, test sites, picture ids that are acceptable, and calculators, pencils, and other necessities. You can also register on the same website, with a credit card for the fees, or you can register by mail.

Whatever you do don't wait too long to check it all out – March 4 is just around the corner!!

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Iowa Caucus

By: Charles Schneider

With the Iowa caucus in the books, we are officially into the next step in the "Race for the White House." On February 1st, 2016, delegates casted their votes in Iowa, making their voice be heard. On the Republican side, Ted Cruz led the caucus voting, followed by Donald Trump. On the Democratic side, Hillary Clinton beat Bernie Sanders by a fraction of a percent.

So, why is the Iowa caucus specifically so important? It doesn't determine who is going to be the next President, and it has often been wrong in its votes for who is believed to win. For example, in 2008, the Iowa caucus predicted that Rick Santorum would be the next Republican nominee. It was instead Mitt Romney. The caucus, however, does serve a purpose. It helps give us a better look at where the candidates are in the standings right now. So, the Iowa caucus has shown us that, as of now, the frontrunners for President are Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders, and Ted Cruz.



With The Iowa Caucuses out of the way, it was then off to New Hampshire for the candidates.
Courtesy of Google Images

Seniors

By Cole Reilly

This year has been one for the books. The introduction of the lip sync battle, a second spirit week (a possible third), the upset of teachers in the annual volleyball game, and loads of other things. But, one thing always remains constant at PHHS, there's a senior class that will be walking out of those doors for the last time as students this coming spring. We've had "senoritis" since our first week of high school back in 2012, but I would be lying if I said we aren't going to miss this circular labyrinth a little bit. We have grown some colorful personalities in the class of 2016, and I am sure that whatever they plan to do in life they will succeed. From getting out of here and going to University of North Dakota, to keeping it close and attending ICC, we've got it all. We even have a few athletes and our own Bob the Builder that I'm sure will construct the next world's tallest building or something of that sort. We will be launching ourselves into new lives whatever path we take, and I can confidently say that our class has been special. I'm ready to leave, but if I had the choice I'd bring them all with me. Never in my wildest dreams have I wanted to be a part of any other class that I have seen walk through these halls, because why would I when I'm graduating with the best one this school has seen in years.

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Boys Basketball

By Noah Nelson

The boys' basketball season is almost over. On January 29th, they played the Abingdon Avon Tornadoes. The Varsity beat the Tornadoes 67-59. Then, on February 2nd they hosted the Havana Ducks. Both JV and Varsity won. The Varsity beat the Ducks 55-43. Then, they travelled to Bushnell to play the Spartans on February 5th. The JV team ended up losing a very hard fought game. The Varsity team played very well and beat the Spartans 65-50. On Tuesday, they travelled to Peoria Christian to play the chargers. The JV and Varsity team played a hard tough game but ended up losing both games. On Friday the 12th they travel to Brimfield to play the 5th ranked Indians in the state. Come out and support the basketball team at their last home game on Friday February 19th against the South Fulton Rebels.



Tanner Doerr was one of the star athletes at Peoria Christian last Tuesday

Girls Basketball

By Kailey Klute

The Lady Patriots basketball season is sadly coming to an end. Senior night for the two seniors; Jessi Webb and Kelsey Walton, was on February 4th. They played against Bushnell-Prairie City, with Bushnell taking the win. Their last game was played at Rowva on February 8th. The final score was 22-45 with Rowva taking the win.



Congratulations to Jessi Webb and Kelsey Walton, our two seniors.

Black History Month

By Kensey Schol

It's finally February, and that means it's black history month. Until the 20th century, black history was mostly absent or misrepresented. In 1915, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, the son of former slaves who had become a scholar and a historian, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. This helped produce a journal of African American history. The journal was filled with achievements of black men and women that were untold. The journal is today called *The Journal of African-American History*.

Black History Month was first proposed by the leaders of the Black United Students at Kent State University in February 1969. Black History Month is a month set aside to learn, honor, and celebrate the achievements of black men and women throughout history. Men and women like Rosa Parks, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr., Maya Angelou, and many more. It's very important for teachers around the world to start educating their students more about black history month.

Valentine's Day!

By Sarah Knott

Valentine's Day is near. Valentine's Day is February 14th, if you did not know, but if you have a special someone this year; what do you plan on getting them? Well if you have not thought about, it is crunch time. Ladies like chocolate and flowers. Valentine's Day is when many people exchange cards, chocolate, flower, candy, etc. with a special someone. Also, in many countries, couples go out to dinner to fancy restaurants and are just eager to celebrate their relationship and the love they have for one another. If you do not have money to buy your special someone something; make them a gift. Most people appreciate handmade gifts instead of a bought gift and if you are not very crafty just take them to a dinner and a movie. Just spend time with one another, stay home and watch movies. For Valentine's Day I would just want to be with my special someone and no gifts being exchanged. Just being with them and spending time with them is all I could ask for.



Happy Valentine's Day!
Courtesy of Google Images

Sports Corner

By Shawna Stewart

NFL- Super Bowl 50 took place on February 7 at Levi's Stadium in California. The Carolina Panthers were number 1 in the NFC South and had a record of 15-1. The Denver Broncos were number 1 in the AFC West and had a record of 12-4. Almost all the predictions put the Carolina Panthers on top so the Broncos were certainly the underdogs in this game. The game kicked off at 5:30 and the Broncos took an early lead against the Panthers. The Broncos managed to hold onto to that lead throughout the entire game. The final score was 24-10. This is the Denver Broncos third Super Bowl win in franchise history. Bronco's linebacker Von Miller was named this year's Super Bowl 50 MVP. It is still up in the air if Peyton Manning, the Broncos quarterback, will retire this year but with two Super Bowl rings now, it is looking more and more likely. We'll find out soon enough what he decides. Good luck to all the teams next season!

MLB- The 2016 Major League Baseball season is set to start on April 3. The game will be between the New York Mets and the Kansas City Royals at Kauffman. On April 4th, Opening Day, there will be 13 games played, starting with Cincinnati and against Philadelphia. The 8 games are scheduled for April 5th. The Chicago Cubs first game will be played on April 4th against the Los Angeles Angels. San Diego will host the 87th All- Star game on July 12th. The teams will start spring training in February.



Baseball season is just right around the corner!
Courtesy of Google Images

Spring Sports

By Madiilyn Tortat

Preparation for spring sports has begun! The baseball team will begin practicing on February 28th, with games starting in March. Track practice will also begin soon, and the coaches are still looking for participants. Both teams have very positive outlooks on the upcoming season. The baseball team returns almost everyone, along with the same talented coaching staff. They'll continue to look towards their junior standouts for success. They are hoping to improve on last year's record of 9-19. If you are interested in being on the team, it's not too late to join! See Mr. King for details. The track team is also excited for upcoming races. Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Barnes, and Mr. Smith all return as coaches. It's also not too late to sign up for track, so if you believe you have what it takes to handle those famous conditioning practices, see one of the coaches!