

THE TOWN CRIER

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Gravitational Waves

By Sarah Knott

A team of scientists announced that they had heard and recorded the sound of two black holes colliding a billion light-years away, a fleeting chirp that fulfilled the last prediction of Einstein's general theory of relativity.

That faint rising tone, physicists say, is the first direct evidence of gravitational waves, the ripples in the fabric of space-time that Einstein predicted a century ago. It completes his vision of a universe in which space and time are interwoven and dynamic, able to stretch, shrink and jiggle. And it is a ringing confirmation of the nature of black holes, the bottomless gravitational pits from which not even light can escape, which were the most foreboding part of his theory.

More generally, it means that a century of innovation, testing, questioning and plain hard work after Einstein imagined it on paper, scientists have finally tapped into physical reality, where the weirdest and wildest implications of Einstein's universe become manifest.

Conveyed by these gravitational waves, power 50 times greater than the output of all the stars in the universe combined vibrated a pair of L-shaped antennas in Washington State and Louisiana known as LIGO on Sept. 14.

If replicated by future experiments, that simple chirp, which rose to the note of middle C before abruptly stopping, seems destined to take its place among the great sound bites of science, ranking with Alexander Graham Bell's "Mr. Watson — come here" and Sputnik's first beeps from orbit. "Einstein would be very happy."

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/12/science/ligo-gravitational-waves-black-holes-einstein.html?_r=0

2016 Summer Olympics: Rio

By Charles Schneider

It is time once again for the Summer Olympic Games! The Rio Olympic Games will begin on August 5th, when the people of Brazil will find an interesting way to light the ceremonial torch. Many will remember the London and Sochi torch lightings. After the opening ceremonies, we will have 15 days of the best athletes in the world competing for the gold medal. Whether you like swimming, track and field, volleyball, or even archery, there is never a dull moment in the Summer Olympics.

In the 2012 Summer Games, the U.S. led the world in gold medals with 46, the next highest being China with 38. The U.S. also led in total medals, with 103, followed by China, with 88. The U.S. has long been atop or near the top of the leaderboard in the Olympics, especially the Summer Games. So, with a country supporting them and the world watching, the U.S. will try to keep its place at the top of the Olympic leaderboard.

Tension in the Courts

By Shawna Stewart

On the Supreme Court, there are normally nine judges, but one has recently passed away. Judge Antonin Scalia recently passed away on February 13th. Scalia was 78 and died in his sleep during his trip to Texas. There was no autopsy performed, nor was there any investigation due to the fact that Scalia's private physician revealed that he was had many health issues and was not feeling very well the night he passed. Doctors believe that he died of natural causes. Scalia was appointed to the court in 1986 by President Ronald Reagan. Scalia is the longest serving justice on the Supreme Court. Once a Supreme Court justice dies, the President is normally the one who chooses the person who will fill the new position, but since Scalia died so close to the end of President Obama's second term, there is much debate over whether Obama should get to fill the position or the new President who will be elected in 2016. President Barack Obama plans to nominate a new court justice despite all the protest from Republicans to wait until next election. Once Obama decides who he wishes to nominate that person will have to go in front of the Senate and get the majority vote. Rarely is a Supreme Court nominee forced to withdraw or is rejected. Since becoming President, Obama has already appointed two Supreme Court judges during his two terms, and may be lucky enough to get a third. Supreme Court judges serve until they retire or pass away. This will give Obama a huge amount of lasting power in the court system.



Judge Antonin Scalia recently passed away on February 13th. Courtesy of Google Images

Counselors Corner

By Kensey Schol

Juniors, if you haven't signed up for the ACT yet, you need to do so. If you sign up now you will be taking it in the summer. It's better to get it done then wait till the fall date. Also for the juniors, the PARCC test will be in April. Every junior will be taking the English test and if you're in Algebra 2 you'll be taking both. Freshmen, sophomores, and juniors: you will be selecting your classes for next year soon, so start thinking about the classes you want to take. Lastly, scholarships are still available for the seniors. There are packets and packets to take on the wall by the study hall area. See Mrs. Wenzel if you have any questions.

School Safety

By James Janis

School can be considered one of the safest places for children, but there is much behind-the-scenes work to make that so. Teachers, Principals, Police, and even secretaries all go into creating schools as safe as they are. I had an interview with Officer Vaughn on this very subject, and he shed much light on school safety and how to prevent trouble in schools. One of the ways this is accomplished is through our drills. Fire, tornado, and lock down drills all have a very important role in keeping everyone safe.

Drills may seem unnecessary at times, yet they serve a big purpose. Drills not only give everyone practice on what to do in case of a real emergency, but they also give the administration tips on how to plan the drills to make them more efficient. Drills also serve as information for students on what to do for each drill depending on where they are at the time of the drill.

One of the scariest drills can be the lock down drill. A lock down would only be issued if a threat was inside the school or was in the community around the school. Because of this, lock down should be taken the most seriously out of all the drills. Simple parts of lock downs such as keeping quiet and staying concealed can make a huge difference if something really was to happen.

Another part for parents is to not rush to the school. Parents' instinct will be to rush to the school if there is an emergency, yet in doing so they are creating much more danger. By coming to the school, parents are putting themselves, their children, and the police in danger because now the police will have to protect the parents as well.

So how do we prevent such events from arising? It all starts with the parents. Everyone knows that parents need to be involved in their kids' lives and have good parenting skills because sometimes just being a friend is not be enough. Besides parents, students and teachers can also help. At school, if you notice someone who is failing in class, has no motivation in or out of school, or is always down or angry, these traits could lead to all sorts of problems including school violence. If you see someone who has some of these traits or the situation seems threatening, don't just let it happen. Sometimes, all they want is someone to talk to as a friend, so try to be one and see what the problem is. If talking to them doesn't work, bring the student to a teacher's or police's attention to see if they can help. These are skills that we have all been taught before, yet sometimes we lose sight of our teachings and all we need is a refresher.

School safety and lock down can be a scary topic, but there is no need to worry. Through all of our drills we do and the teachers' observations, we are a safe school. We do many parts of the drill right and we have nothing much to fear. Thanks again to Officer Vaughn for the Interview and remember, if you have any questions or need any help, reach out to other people, or if you see someone that needs help, reach out to them because we are all here to help one another.

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Boys Basketball

By Madilyn Tortat

Congratulations to the boys' basketball on a great season! Last week was senior night, and Jarin Wallace, Tanner Doerr, and Quinn Miller were recognized and played their last game in the Roger Bergia Gymnasium. The seniors were honored with signed posters, cardboard cutouts, and many other gifts to honor them. We look forward to seeing what great things our seniors will do on and off the court! Regionals started off on a great note with the patriots defeating Hartem 72-56. Martarius Haywood energized the storm with a put-back dunk. The Patriots lost on Wednesday to Elmwood in the regional semifinal. It was a hard fought game, with the patriots racing off to a 9-0 before falling 67-48. Jarin Wallace led the team with 15 points in his final game. Tanner Doerr also added 14. The Patriots finished the season with a record of 13-15. Tanner Doerr led all scorers with 425 points on the season. Tanner Doerr also led the team in rebounds with 138. Geno Hess added in a team high 49 steals. Jaedon Banks led the team with an impressive 25 blocks. Overall, the first season under Garrett Youngren was a success and also a learning opportunity for the younger players. We look forward to seeing how next season goes for our Patriots.



The JV Basketball team watches closely as the game unfolds in front of them.



Geno Hess fends off another player as he goes in for the shot.

Wyse

By Kailey Klute

WYSE has officially started. The team had regionals on February 9th at ICC. Everybody did great and many placed and will be moving on to sectionals. Lily Quinn got first place in Biology. Rachel Seitz and Michelle Dang also placed in Biology. Sectionals will be held next week, so good luck to them at sectionals!



Congratulations to all the WYSE members that won medals at regionals.

Scholastic Bowl

By Taylor Peterson

The scholastic bowl team's season is coming to an end. Last Saturday, the team made it into the championship round against Elmwood at the masonic sectional tournament, held in Lewistown. They ended up placing 2nd in the tournament. There is a sectional championship meet on March 3rd, held in Abington-Avon. Their regionals then will begin on March 7th, at Peoria Christian. Good luck to all scholastic bowl members with the end of their season!



The two coaches, Ms. Robinson and Ms. Ahlers, look over data for the last game.

Baseball

By Noah Nelson

Baseball season is right around the corner. The first practice of the new season is this Monday the 29th. If you are interested in playing, make sure you be there for the first practice. The baseball team is returning many of their starters from last year and are hoping to do even better than last year. The first game of the year is Saturday March 19th at Monmouth-Roseville. Their first home game is Thursday the 24th against Peoria Central.

Sports Corner

By Seth Boyer

The sports world is as crazy as always. Many things have happened this year, from Kobe Bryant announcing his retirement, to the Denver Broncos getting a Super Bowl ring. NFL season has officially come to an end, and if you are a fan like me, you are already waiting for the next season to come. It should be here in no time. Besides football, basketball is still going. The Golden State Warriors became the first team ever to reach 50 wins in such a short time. With that being said, they still have a chance to beat the Chicago Bulls record of 76-10. The warriors currently stand at 50-5, which is extremely impressive and still remains the best record in the NBA as of right now, and it does not look like any team will be surpassing them. Sports are always exciting, and have always had their surprises, so who knows who is going to come out on top in the NBA.



Stephen Curry is one of the key members of the Golden State Warriors that brought them to 50 wins. Courtesy of Google Images

Awards Shows

By Cole Reilly

It's about that time of year; the time of year when we find out who is considered the best of the best in the world of music & acting. Drama always swirls around these incredibly popular events, but it's always a surprise which controversy makes the headlines each year. Will it be whether Matt Damon's comedic but on point acting in the *The Martian* or Leonardo DiCaprio's serious wayward adventurer will take the win for best actor at the Oscars, will Kanye West's outward display of annoyance with the Grammy's because he did not receive a reward be the most talked about conflict, or will the only debate be who had the best performance at the Grammy's (personally I believe this would be the best, because who could really come up with a concrete decision, they were all wild). 2015 was littered with great music, and great movies. The obvious frontrunners for most awards pertaining to flat out "best movie" categories are *Mad Max: Fury Road* & *The Revenant*, both of which broke records and captured hearts of audiences. The Grammy's winner pool was full of young talent this year in Kendrick Lamar, Taylor Swift, and Ed Sheeran. The "oldies" obviously received their recognition as well, and each individual(s) who received an award will be remembered and raved about until next year's Grammy's come rolling around.