

# THE TOWN CRIER

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## Christmas Break.

By Sarah Knott

How was your Christmas break spent this year? Did you go on vacation; did you visit family; did you work; did you not do anything? I know for my Christmas break I worked, spent time with my family, went to the boys' basketball tournament in Galva, spent time with Tyler G., and went to dance practice. The Varsity boys' basketball team spent some of their break in Galva at the basketball tournament. Shawna and Cody Stewart went to Clear Water, Florida with their family. Shawna also attend cheer practice, and she worked. James Janis worked and put in 72 hours over break, 40 more hours than he was scheduled. That's a lot of hours!! Bringing in that money. Mrs. Gibbons went to Chicago and visited her granddaughter. Charlie Schneider went to Chicago. Noah Nelson spent time with family and played basketball majority of his break. DJ Huggins did not do very much this year, but he plans on having a better one next year. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and a happy new year.

## Effects of Social Media

By Shawna Stewart

Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, After School, Yik Yak: when people think of these social media sites they probably think of staying connected with other people, but that is not all social media is used for. Over the last few years, social media has gotten better known and is used by people of many different age groups. These social media cause many different problems for people, especially teenagers. One of the most recent problems that teenagers are facing today is an app called After School. This app is designed strictly for high school students and not many parents know about it. Parents are not allowed to get on the app because the app makes you verify through Facebook that you are in high school. When someone first downloads this app, you have to select which school you go to, verify through Facebook, and then you're allowed to post whatever you want. There are both pros and cons to this app. This app was originally designed for high school students to be able to post their crushes, confessions, and worries without anyone knowing who they are. The cons are that some people take advantage of not getting caught for their actions. While this app started off as people complimenting each other, as more people started to use the app, the compliments turned to insults and bullying. A 17-year old student from Michigan threatened on this app to bring a gun and practice shooting on his classmates. He plead guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail. Some students are calling their classmates hurtful names, threatening people, and telling their fellow students to "go kill themselves". They are also taunting people and accusing them of being gay and posting vulgar remarks about people. The creators of this app estimated there to be about 2 million to 10 million high school students using this app. Another app many teenagers are using today is Facebook. About 68% of teens in America have a Facebook account. Facebook was created for long lost friends to stay

## Effects of Social Media(cont.)

connected to each other but teens have taken it to an extreme level through cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is easier to do than bullying because you are not face to face with the person you are insulting. Cyberbullying has gotten so out of hand that people have had to be medicated or have decided to take their own lives. Social media will continue to advance as technology advances. Parents, schools, and schools administration need to continue to be aware of what is happening on these sites.

## Financial Aid

By James Janis

Paying for college can be a scary thought. Thousands of dollars in debt and to have it pile up for four years scares many people. Thankfully, there are many different programs that exist to help lessen that debt. One of the biggest programs of this kind is FAFSA. FAFSA, also known as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, offers thousands of dollars in public assistance to college students, but it is on a first-come first-serve basis. Because of that, if you haven't already started your FAFSA, it would be wise to do so now because money is quickly running out. There are a few items you will need to have with you though before you start the application. First, you will need to create a FAFSA ID through the website. This will be a login for you, but it also will serve as your ID while on FAFSA because it will be checked and verified by Social Security. Along with your ID, you will want to make sure you know your social security number and have your parents' taxes on hand. The FAFSA asks many questions about your income and about your taxes, so it is essential you have your taxes done to complete the FAFSA. If you have not done 2015's taxes yet, fear not. Instead, you can use 2014's taxes and there will be an option for you to go back in later and update your tax information once your parents have filed. The FAFSA can be scary at times, but remember that we are talking about potentially receiving several thousand dollars of aid, so make sure it fill it out.

Besides FAFSA, there is another place many get money for college from and that is through scholarships. Scholarships are really easy to do because for most all you have is an essay to write. The school has some scholarships as well and they will be going up by the end of January. Besides the school scholarships, there are many other places to find scholarships, so make sure to look around.

Paying for college can be scary, but it doesn't have to be. If you are willing to put in the work, you can earn enough money to pay for college. If you have any questions or need any help, come talk to Mrs. Wenzel or to the financial aid advisor, Ms. Gray, when she comes in every other Monday during lunch and advisor.

## Colleges to Consider: Eureka College

By Charles Schneider

When looking around for colleges close to home, Eureka College is a great one to keep in mind. Even though it is most famously known for being the college that President Ronald Reagan attended, Eureka has a lot to offer outside of his legacy. It is a small school with many majors. Eureka also attracts many students due to the low tuition costs, something often seen in small colleges. Eureka's most famous majors are in the areas of liberal arts and science, but it also has many other majors from social studies to business. One quality about Eureka that attracts many students is the class size, which is 13 students to every teacher. This is a class size that is very reminiscent of classes here at Peoria Heights. Eureka has more than forty sports and clubs, and it is a NCAA Division III school. So, when thinking of colleges around home, keep Eureka in mind!



Courtesy of Google Images

## Seniors

By Kensey Schol

"Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path." Our final semester of high school has officially started. As the end of the year approaches, the busier we're getting. Just like we did in the fall we will be having another fundraiser to raise money for our senior trip. We will be selling candy bars again. If you don't want to pay to go on the class trip we strongly encourage you to sell your candy bars and turn in the money on time. If we get enough money, which we most likely will, we will be going to Wisconsin Dells on May 13<sup>th</sup> for the senior trip. The plan is to leave early in the morning and spend all day at Kalahari. It's an indoor water and amusement park. The school will be providing food for us. The only money you will need is spending money. All graduation order forms should be turned in. Lastly, if you haven't signed the class motto poster in Mrs. Vogel's room, please do so immediately.



Seniors dress up in their class color of black for class color day during Spirit week



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## Presidential Election

By Cole Reilly

The presidential race is in full swing, and the election will be here before some of our seniors can even register to vote. Although, most high school students prefer not to involve themselves with politics, it never hurts to educate yourself on the main candidates at least. Whether you cannot wait for Obama to leave office, or wish his term was never ending, he will be leaving soon, so it is time to find out about our potential future presidents of the United States of America. The current front runner in the polls Donald Trump. Donald has made some comments that have brought him negative media attention, yet his supporters see this as proof that Mr. Trump cannot be bought or persuaded and will speak his mind regardless of what people will think. Trump supporters also argue that he would be the most proficient economic leader this country has ever had because of his success as a business man, and his renowned world presence has given him a dose of the obvious media requirements of having the title of The President of The United States. All in all, being the economic tycoon that he is puts him in a great position to push a country into new leagues of commerce and monetary ranks. Donald Trump may be getting all of the attention, but there are many other Republicans running as well. Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio, Ben Carson, and Jeb Bush are some of the other front-runners in the Republican Party.

The Democratic Party is quite the battle between two very differently viewed individuals; Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. Hillary, who is currently waving a small lead above Bernie, has been wrapped up in an email scandal for using her personal email while she was Secretary of State, and she has also been accused of fibbing and pitching populist motives for her own benefit in the race. Despite the criticism, Mrs. Clinton retains many supporters for her support towards individual rights and how she does not let her personal opinions cloud her views on the freedom of the people. On the other hand, Sanders has been accused of using very similar strategies, but he is the main proprietor of the free-college movement and legalization of marijuana which swings his popularity among the 18-28 age group heavily.

Voting is a huge responsibility for it really can shape the future. Before going out to vote make sure you register and that you understand that every vote counts. The Primary Elections will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> and that is when each party will decide which candidate will represent their party, so make sure to come out and vote for that, as well as the General Election held in November

## Yearbook and Broadcast

By Taylor Peterson

The journalism class is still working hard on this year's yearbook. The theme for the yearbook is "jOURney". This year's "Who's Who?" is fully completed and posted around the school, along with picture days for each of the different categories. It's never too early to buy a yearbook! To order a yearbook now, go online to [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com), search for Peoria Heights High School, pick which package you would like, fill out the needed information, and when asked for a password, put in "patriots16".

The broadcast team has continued filming weekly. The reporters, Cole and Madilyn or Taylor and Noah, give you a wrap up of all the events that took place that week. They also inform on upcoming activities and events, so you should stay tuned each week!

## Boys Basketball

By Noah Nelson

Have any of you guys been supporting the boys' basketball team? The basketball season is in full swing. Over Christmas break they traveled to Erie for a holiday tournament. They ended up going 2-3 and got 9<sup>th</sup> place. Tanner Doerr ended up getting all tournament team. They beat Stark County and Bureau Valley. On Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> they played Monmouth and fell short 69-65. Their record is 6-9 this year and are playing are trying to improve that record by play this Friday against Knoxville at Knoxville. Make sure to come out and support your fellow patriots!



Tanner Doerr looks to see who is open to receive a pass

## Scholastic Bowl

By Madilyn Tortat

Scholastic Bowl season is officially underway. Both teams are excited the season is finally starting! They kicked off the season last weekend by competing in the A-Town tournament. The varsity team went 5-0, winning the competition. There were some changes prior to the season, with Ms. Robinson taking over JV coach duties and Ms. Ahlers taking varsity. The teams competed in a meet this Tuesday as well, but unfortunately neither team won a match. On January 18<sup>th</sup>, they will host the first home meet of the season. Come out and support the team!

## Girls Basketball

By Kailey Klute

On Tuesday, the Lady Patriots had a home game against Midwest Central. The final score ended up being 68-10 with Midwest Central taking the win. The Lady Patriots held their annual pink-out game on Thursday against Elmwood. The final score was 54-17 with Elmwood taking the win. On Monday, January 18 they will have a home game against Lewistown at 6:00. Make sure you stop by and cheer on your Lady Patriots!



Taryn Minor catches a pass from LeighAn Tiethoff in the game versus Farmington

## Sports Corner

By Seth Boyer

Much has been going on in the sports world right now. Football is coming to an end, but basketball is just getting started. In the world of Football, playoffs have begun. The Kansas City Chiefs swept the Houston Texans in the first round of the playoffs 30-0. The Pittsburgh Steelers continue their season as well, defeating their longtime rivals, the Cincinnati Bengals 18-16. The Seattle Seahawks won an extremely close one against the Minnesota Vikings, 10-9. The Vikings missed a last moment field goal to take the win. There are many playoff games to come, and I can already see it is going to be a great super bowl. On the other hand, basketball has sad news. Legend Kobe Bryant announced his retirement at the end of the 2016 season. Kobe Bryant was drafted to the Charlotte Hornets in 1996 straight out of high school, and immediately got traded to the Los Angeles Lakers and has been with them for 19 years. This year at age 37, he is still doing good, averaging close to 20 points per game even though starting out the season extremely rough. The Golden State warriors stand at 36-2. They seem close to unstoppable this year and many project them to go all the way. Both basketball and football have some crazy things going on right now, and I suggest that you check into their future events on television.



Kobe Bryant announced his retirement at the end of this season after playing in the NBA for 19 years