

THE TOWN CRIER

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The New Year

By Cole Reilly

With 2015 spiraling towards us and the first semester of this school year coming to an end, most students had a lot on their plates. We had finals of course, the over-exaggerated tests with everything we had learned in 18 weeks all in one booklet or packet. The stress of looking for presents to give to your family for the holidays, or even deciding whether or not you had the funds to do so. Thinking of a quality New Year's Resolution like getting a gym membership, using that gym membership, applying yourself to school, keeping a job, or even something simple like keeping a more positive attitude.

The candidates obviously differ from each person to another, but most have the same idea. They are goals set to better the conjurer of said goal. Although most of my resolutions have fallen through within weeks of making them, I'm determined this year to make mine stick. I wish all of those who also made a plan luck. The New Year brings a second chance for some to get their priorities straight. Maybe someone is slacking off in school, or could be performing better at his or her job. You could have treated someone better or even stood up for another when they were being wronged.

The lifestyle you had been living may no longer appeal to you and you may feel trapped, so maybe it's time to change. There may only be a week or two between now and your last wrongdoing, but if you want a better perspective to look at it in. That was last year. It may not seem like a huge time span now, but as the days go by they seem to get faster. This means that the bad days go by faster as well, but so do the good ones.

So, enjoy yourself this year because who knows how many good ones you'll have left. A new year also brings a new semester to PHHS. This means all grades are reset and everyone has a fresh start to really prove their scholastic prowess or show how they improved over the 18 week period. If you have struggled before academically making a point to try harder or seek for help this second semester should be a very highly prioritized challenge for you. The tools to educate yourself are in front of you in almost every situation, and there is nowhere with such an abundance of these as a school. The teachers, the books, the computers; they're all here for you. You have to take the first step towards the better side of things though. Because they will help you across the line, but they will not drag you.

The devastating truth is that everything has to come to an end eventually. Some things may last longer than others, but the outcome is always the same. So enjoy the life that has been granted to you, and try to make the best of it. Happy New Year students of PHHS.

Shaking up Springfield with Bruce Rauner

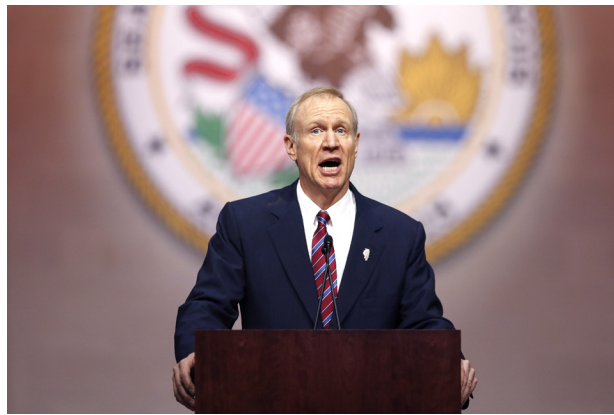
By James Janis

Change is coming to Illinois! During the last election in November, we elected a new governor and he has just taken over after his inauguration on Monday.

His name is Bruce Rauner and he was born and raised here in Illinois. He is a self-made business man and a hard working student with a degree from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. from Harvard University. He then came back to Illinois and became a lawyer in a startup firm that is now one of the biggest in the state.

Rauner has promised a lot of change in Springfield, but what exactly is his plan? His biggest problem is the budget crisis in Illinois. He then plans to fix education in Illinois. He promised to give funding back to the schools and better the education in Illinois.

Bruce Rauner has a lot to fix in Illinois, and I can't wait to see what he does. Keep an eye out for the Town Crier to hear updates on Rauner and how his administration is performing.



Bruce Rauner delivers his speech
Courtesy of Google Images

FASFA Time!

By Madison Schneider

Attention seniors! If you have not already, it is important that anybody planning on going to college fills out their FASFA application as soon as possible. Applying for federal student aid through FASFA is an easy and excellent opportunity that should be taken advantage of to help pay for college.

If you're intimidated by the FASFA, don't be! Although it is a pretty big deal, it is actually a very simple application to fill out. All you will need is your basic information and federal income tax information, if you will be filing this year. You will also need your parents' information if you are a dependent student. If you haven't filled out your FASFA because you're waiting on your or your parents' tax information, don't wait any longer! You are allowed to fill out the application with estimates based on last year's income tax and submit it. You then will just have to go back and edit the application with accurate information whenever you or your parents file.

There are many different grants available, but the longer you wait, the less money will be available. Also, many colleges have FASFA deadlines so you should make sure you're getting your applications in on time. Along with the grants that will be offered based on your FASFA application, there are also many other grants and scholarships available that you should research and apply for. Grants

and scholarships can come from the federal government, state government, your college or career school, or a private or nonprofit organization. Remember, grants and scholarships are basically free money that you don't have to repay, so everyone should take full advantage of them. The only time that you may have to repay a grant is if you withdraw from school before finishing an enrollment period.

Often, grants are need-based while scholarships are merit-based, but there are always exceptions. There are also always deadlines on scholarships so do your research and pay close attention! Good luck!

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships>



Courtesy of Google Images.

Flu Vaccination

By Shawna Stewart

Why should you get the flu shot? The best way to protect yourself against the flu is to get the vaccine. Having the flu can lead to hospitalization and sometimes even death. The flu is contagious so any one can get sick no matter how healthy you are. In the United States "flu season" can begin as early as October and last as late as May. By getting a yearly flu vaccination (either the flu shot or nasal spray flu vaccine) it reduces the chance that you will get the flu and spread it to others. Two weeks after getting the vaccination antibodies begin to develop in the body. Antibodies combine chemically with substances that the body does not recognize. These antibodies help protect your body against infection. There are many different flu vaccines that are available this season. What flu shot you get depends on how old you are and where you live. If you have questions about which vaccine is right for you, you should talk to your doctor. Getting plenty of rest, eating a healthy diet, not sharing drinks or Chap Stick, and washing your hands are also things you can do to prevent yourself from becoming sick.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

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Boys' Basketball

By Kensey Schol

During our school's winter break the boys weren't on break for basketball. First, they started off with a close game at Rushville Industry. Austin Craig hit a buzzer beater to win the game, 47-45. They also had a tournament in Erie. It was a tough tournament making their record 1-4. Noah Persich was named the All-Tournament at the Erie Holiday Tournament. After the tournament, we came back with a win in Monmouth with a score of 63-56.

Last week, the Patriots were at Henry. Unfortunately, the Heights would fall to the Mallards.

On Tuesday, the Patriots were at Lowpoint-Washburn. The Patriots hammered L-W, winning

Tonight, the Patriots host Knoxville, as they look to remain undefeated in conference play. The Red Storm theme is pajama night.



Noah Persich passes the ball to a teammate in a game against Lewistown.

Cheerleading

By Madilyn Tortat

There's been a few changes on the cheerleading squad this month. The Varsity team got brand new uniforms! They're only slightly different than the old ones but the team is still excited about wearing something new. There's also a new face as head coach. Mrs. Adkins is filling in for Mrs. Thornton while she's on maternity leave, (congrats Mrs. Thornton!) Mrs. Adkins says she is having fun and has always wanted to be a coach. "It's a lot of fun teaching the girls new things." The team has been working hard on new cheers and stunts and are excited to debut them at the next games. Both the team and Mrs. Adkins are very excited about the new opportunity!

Scholastic Bowl

By Cody Schindler

The Peoria Heights Scholastic Bowl team began their season on Tuesday at Morton as part of the Peoria Area League. Three other teams were the meet, East Peoria, Peoria High, and the host Morton. The JV team is coached by Mrs. Ahlers. JV went 1-2, defeating Peoria High, and losing to East Peoria and Morton. The varsity team is coached by Miss Markovich. The varsity team went 2-1, defeating Peoria High and Morton, and losing to East Peoria. Ryan Klute led the team with nine tossup questions answered.

Pass... Shoot... Score!

By: Kirstan Bennett

The Lady Patriots traveled to Princeville to play the Lady Princes. The drive back home was really scary but the girls made it back safely thanks to bus driver Don. The Lady Princes beat the Lady Patriots 48-32. Senior Adrienne Summers-Reynolds led the girls with 12 points. Junior Taylor Hess with 7 points. The girls had 15 fouls and Brittney Williams fouled out. Even though the girls didn't get a victory they still felt like they did in their hearts. On Saturday the Lady Patriots played against the Lady Knights. The Lady Knights won. The Lady Patriots had 3 leading scorers. Senior Kirstan Bennett, Senior Tiffanie Miller, and Junior Taylor Hess all scored 8 points. On Monday the girls traveled to Midwest central to play the Lady Raiders. The score was 86-45 with the Lady Raiders winning. Tiffanie Miller led with 17 points, with Kirstan Bennett and Taylor Hess with 9 points. The girls had 19 fouls. Thursday, the girls played the Elmwood Lady Trojans. It wasn't the outcome the Lady Patriots thought it was going to be, but they kept their heads up and finished. Next week on Monday, 19 the girls will travel to Lewistown to play the Lady Indians, and on Thursday they will have a home game against South Fulton Lady Rebels.



Senior Tiffanie Miller fires a jumper against North Fulton.

Wrestling

By Seth Boyer

Thanks to Mr. Smith and all of the students on the wrestling team, this year is successful as always. All of the students that are in wrestling work hard almost every single day in practice, and its paying off big time. The veteran Tanner Coleman is completely dominating, just like last season. After last night's meet on Thursday, Tanner stands at a flawless record of 18-0. There will be an away wrestling meet in Kewanee on Saturday January 17th that everyone should attend. Come out and support your fellow Patriots, as they get on the mat and rack up a couple more wins! Come back next week and read the Town Crier for more updates.

Future Solider of the Month Award

By Shannon Son

Who got the future soldier of the month award this month? It was a student from our PHHS; Rafael Menchaca. Recruiting commander of Peoria Army office looks over all of the enlistees each month; and decides on one person that fits best for this award. To get this award you're expected to give up most of your time to volunteering and helping others out. He wasn't expecting it at all. He's worked hard and we all know he deserves it!

His future plans consist of being in the army for 20 years working as an airborne infantry man. These soldiers are dropped into battle by aircraft. The adrenaline and action from jumping out of the sky is what Rafael is looking for. He believes this would be a perfect fit for him.

Later on in his career he also plans on trying to qualify to become an Army Ranger. These are special operations soldiers who are highly trained and can be deployed anywhere in the world within 18 hours of getting the call. Just to be selected into their training course you have to be physically and mentally tough enough to endure the harsh conditions they go through in real world environments.

We all wish you luck and hope everything goes as planned!



Congratulations to Rafael Menchaca, who poses here with his award.

Way to Go, Cody!

By Wanda Rogers

Cody Schindler, a senior at our very own high school, was featured in the Journal Star newspaper as the scholar-athlete of the week. Cody is ranked 10th in our senior class and is involved in many activities in the school. His Academic honors include high honor roll, National Honor Society, History Student of the Year, and Student of the Month. In baseball he is a pitcher and first baseman, and he is a Prairieland Conference Scholar-Athlete. Cody's goal is to "attend a four-year university and major in sports communication." Congrats on all of your achievements, Cody! We all expect great things from you!