

THE TOWN CRIER

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CAT is getting a face lift

By James Janis

You all know CAT. They have the museum downtown, they have several industrial plants all over the place, and chances are, someone in your family works there. You may know them, but did you know that they are building a new world headquarters?

On Friday, February 21, Caterpillar held a press conference at the Caterpillar Visitor's Center, and announced plans to build a new headquarters here in Peoria.

The new plans include a 31 acre plot along the riverfront with three main office towers that are about 200 feet tall, and will total nearly 2 million square feet of office space. The towers will be connected by a three story office building. This building would include many different services and attractions such as: a fitness center, child-care, food, and even shopping.

CAT staying in Peoria will create hundreds of new jobs, and a massive boom to our economy. Construction is not planned to begin in 2015, but when it does, the riverfront will be getting a huge face-lift.



An artist's rendering of what the CAT Headquarters will look like. Courtesy of WEEK 25

The Luck of the Irish.

By Sarah Knott

Every March 17th, thousands of people don their greenest garb, march in Irish pride parades, eat green clover-shaped cookies, and quaff frosty mugs of green beer in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. But do you really know who St. Patrick was and why he is celebrated?

St. Patrick's Day is a global celebration of Irish culture on or around March 17. It particularly remembers St. Patrick, one of Ireland's patron saints, who ministered Christianity in Ireland during the fifth century. It is a national holiday in Ireland where people do not work, but observe it in worship and family gatherings. In the United States, the first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York on March 17, 1762. It consisted largely of Irish soldiers.

Today, St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by wearing green, which symbolizes the return of spring as well as the Irish culture. Also prominent in this celebration is green beer, pointing back to Saint Patrick's introduction of alcohol to Ireland. What started as a Catholic holiday became an official feast day in the 17th century. Since then, it has become a secular celebration of the Irish culture. Neither Saint Patrick nor St.

Patrick's Day is mentioned in Scripture. While we would strongly disagree of some of the aspects of Catholic theology that St. Patrick taught, the fact that around 1,600 years ago a man dedicated his life to proclaiming the gospel, resulting in tens of thousands coming to faith in Christ, is most definitely worth celebrating.

Courtesy of: <http://www.gotquestions.org/St-Patricks-Day.html#ixzz3TtSq6pON> & <http://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/common/st-patrick-day>



Courtesy of Google Images.

Congrats to Cody Schindler

By James Janis

Congratulations Cody for winning the Lincoln Award this year! All of in the Heights are very proud of you, but for most of us, we have no idea what the Lincoln Award is. Well, let me try to help.

The Lincoln Award is an annual award handed out to seniors in the Central Illinois area. The winners are nominated by their Social Studies teachers and must possess the qualities of Abraham Lincoln.

This was the thirteenth year for the Lincoln Award, and it has become a well-known award. This year, 16 schools from the Central Illinois area had winners, and each received a t-shirt, a \$50 book nook gift card, and a plaque with their name on it.

Congratulations again to all the winners, and a special congrats to our own winner, Cody Schindler. Way to go Cody!

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The Experience is Back!

By Kirstan Bennett

Since 1996, The March Madness Experience, a family-oriented extravaganza of fun, interactive games, historical exhibits, and good times, has been an integral part of the Boys State Finals in Peoria. Just across the concourse from the tournament action at Carver Arena, the March Madness Experience fills up the Peoria Civic Center's huge Exhibition Hall. It's free to fans who have game tickets, and just \$2 for everyone else. Once inside, there's no charge for any of the attractions. The Civic Center, has been able to utilize its nearly 100,000-square-foot Exhibit Hall to showcase the Experience, an interactive setup of basketball games geared towards people of all ages. The two 2015 tournament weekends — March 13-14 and 20-21 — will be Peoria's 20th year as host. Our Peoria Heights Key Club and Letterman's club will be having students volunteer and help run the attractions. The Letterman's Club will go on Friday, and the Key Club will go on March 17. Here are the matchups for the first weekend. Class 1A: Semifinals will be on March 13, 2015. At 12:15 Mounds (Meridian) will be playing Forreston. Then at 2:00 Colfax (Ridgeview) vs. Brimfield. Class 2A: Decatur (St. Teresa) vs. Taylor Ridge (Rockridge) at 6:30 and then Chicago (Uplift) vs.



March Madness is celebrating its twentieth year in Peoria. Courtesy of Google Images.

Post Blood Drive

By Kensley Schol

This year's blood drive was a great success. Key Club members donated a lot of their time. The school collected 33 units of blood (1 above our goal). We have collected a total of 61 units this school year. With all that blood, it qualifies our school for a \$500 scholarship for one of our seniors. It also saved a total of 183 lives! It's a very important time of the year to give blood. With the blood banks being low, it's always amazing to get that much blood donated.



Junior Dylan Hrdlicka and sophomore A.J. McCumber help Demarcus Carter, who gave blood.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

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WYSE

By Madilyn Tortat

The Peoria Heights WYSE team had a great season this year! First, they won their regional at ICC in February. When they advanced to sectionals in March, they left with a top three finish. Ryan Klute won second in his biology test, and will be competing in state on April 16 at the University of Illinois. Brianna Varvil finished third in her English test, and Logan Monast placed third in Computer Science. Congratulations to all the members on their efforts and the great season!



The WYSE team celebrates after their regional victory.

National Honor Society

By Shawna Stewart

National Honor Society (NHS) was founded in 1921 by Dr. Edward Ryneerson. NHS serves to honor students who have shown excellence in scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Congratulations to everyone who was accepted into the Peoria Heights High School Chapter of the National Honor Society! These names include: Chris Messner, Tiffanie Miller, Shannon Son, Brittney Williams, Seth Boyer, Tanner Coleman, Michelle Dang, Sabrina Flatly, Taylor Hess, James Janis, Sarah Knott, Rachel Seitz, Shawna Stewart, Taylor Strickler, Emmy Tiethoff, Madilyn Tortat, and Gabby Williams. There will be a meeting held on April 7, 2015 at 6 P.M. Hope to see you all there!



Courtesy of Google Images.

Baseball

By Cody Schindler

The baseball team is entering their second week of practice, and the first week went very well. The team spent a lot of time in the batting cage. They had two morning practices last week where they focused strictly on hitting. The coaches estimate that the team got somewhere between 1,800-2,000 swings in during the past week. Also, the pitchers were throwing in the gym. They all feel good, and are ready to face actual batters.

With warmer weather on the way, the team hopes to get outside. They will get some outfield work in, and an opportunity to throw outside. And with the warmer weather forecasted, there is a chance that the team will actually play its first scheduled game! The team is scheduled to play a doubleheader against Monmouth-Roseville on March 21.



Sophomore Tyler Gregory delivers a pitch in last year's game against North Fulton.

Track and Field

By Cole Reilly

This year's track and field season starts this week, we have a promising year ahead of us with loads of new people coming out for the team. With many returning faces, we also hope to improve on personal bests! Last year's team was small on numbers but we still had representation at State! Hopefully, we can match if not improve from last year's showing again this season.

The team's first track meet is at ISU's indoor track & field facility this month on the 28th! The team is coached by Mr. Smith, Mrs. Lowe, and Mrs. Barnes. We're hoping these exemplary coaches can help improve our production in running and field events. Listen in on the announcements, read the town crier, and watch the weekly broadcast for more news on the track team's success this season!



Junior Cole Reilly sprints toward the finish in a meet last year.

Scholastic Bowl

By Cody Schindler

The Scholastic Bowl season has come to an end. The team finished with 20 victories on the season. Last week, the team was at Brimfield for the Prairieland Conference Tournament. The team would go 1-3. The defeated Havana 280-30. However, they would lose three close ones to Beardstown, Elmwood, and Knoxville.

On Monday the team was at regionals at Peoria Christian. They would fall in the semifinals. Seniors Ryan Klute, Logan Monast, and Cody Schindler participated in their final meets.



The 2014-15 Varsity Scholastic Bowl team. L-R: Coach Markovich, Michelle Dang, Rachel Seitz, Emmy Tiethoff, Ryan Klute, Logan Monast, and Cody Schindler.

Hospitality Room

By Wanda Rogers

A few weeks ago, Mrs. Kahn's classes made food for the Basketball Regional Tournament's hospitality room. They were never completely sure how many people they would have to cook for on the three days they did it. On the first day, there were about thirty people, and on the second and third, there were about sixty people. Some days all four of Mrs. Kahn's classes, not just the Foods, had to work on it.

When asked about the experience, Mrs. Kahn said, "There was a lot of food and a lot of dishes!"

Among the various dishes they made for the Hospitality Room, there was Chicken Spaghetti. This unusual dish is sure to be a favorite!



Freshman Sam Fromm bakes cookies with Mrs. Kahn.