

THE TOWN CRIER

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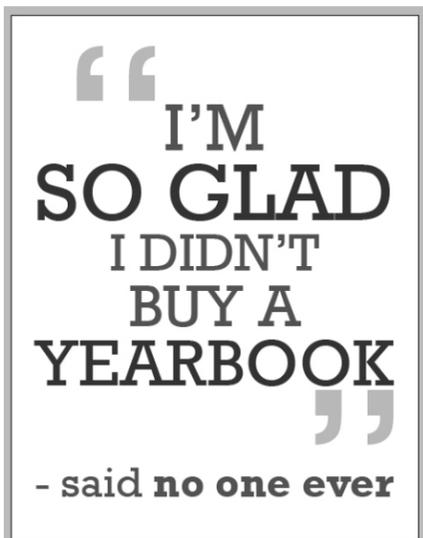
Picture This!

By Madison Schneider

It is getting closer and closer to the end of the school year, and you all know what that means. Time is running out to buy your yearbook! A yearbook is a wonderful keepsake that you will be able to look back on forever. It is filled with memories, and this year it is more personalized than ever. The main focus of the yearbook this year has been student activity and involvement; that means tons and tons of pictures that you know you want to see!

Another exciting thing about this year's yearbook is the senior pages. This year, each senior has a personalized half page to his or herself. This half page includes a senior portrait, brags, fun facts about the senior, and candid pictures.

As you can tell, this year's yearbook is going to be one to remember. The cost is \$50, and you can purchase one online or from Mrs. Henricks in the office. There is a link on the school's website to follow if you would like to purchase it online. Do not miss the opportunity to have all of the year's memories at your fingertips; buy your yearbook now!



Seniors

By Wanda Rogers

With only a week or so of school left, senioritis has definitely kicked in. Everyone, including myself, just wants to graduate and get out of here already. We want to start our futures! Be free! Get out of stifling classrooms already!

But, really, the last few weeks of school have to be the hardest when it comes to being focused on schoolwork, that's for sure. Luckily, seniors have a couple of fun events coming up: awards night, the class trip to six flags, and graduation are all just a few things to look forward to. So, don't give up now, seniors! Continue working hard in all of your classes; it'll definitely be worth it come graduation day.

Kayla Martin, Student of the Month for March!

Congratulations to junior Kayla Martin! Kayla was chosen student of the month for March. Kayla is the daughter of Kyleen and Ricky Martin. She has two younger siblings, Remy and Ricky. Kayla has attended Heights schools throughout.

Kayla has been an active member of the PHHS community. This year she has been one of the PHHS cheerleaders. In the larger Peoria Heights community, Kayla has participated in PGSL softball, and she has been studying dance for some time.

Kayla was nominated by Coach Jon Adkins, for stepping up. "I would like to nominate Kayla Martin. I do not have her in class, however, I watched her yesterday do the nicest thing I've ever seen. She made the boys stop a basketball game and told them to pass the ball to Adam Davis so he could get a couple shorts in. This was a very nice thing for her to do, and I just think she needs to be recognized for this action." "I think Kayla Martin is a wonderful choice for SOM. She always puts forth great effort in all of her work. She is truly a pleasure to have in class. Also, she is friendly and polite to everyone." "I second Kayla Martin! I always appreciate anyone who's helpful to our students." "I also think Kayla would be a great choice!" "Kayla is a great choice for student of the month. She has grown and matured so much just in the years she has been here."

Kayla's future plans include a four year university, and after that veterinary school. She is considering the University of Wisconsin. We at PHHS wish her the very best, and know she'll do well!



Kayla Martin poses with Mr. Schlink from the Lions Club, and Mr. Adkins. Kayla was March's Student of the Month.

Police Supper

By Madilyn Tortat

This year's police fundraiser was a great success! They raised money by selling dinner that consisted of hot dogs or pulled pork. They also raffled off several baskets from various businesses. They had a silent auction for a few pieces of signed memorabilia from actors and sports stars. The baseball team helped out by running the kids' activities. Overall, a great time was had by all!

School Safety

By Cody Schindler

Last week, our school had a lockdown drill. Did you take it seriously? What would you do in a real lockdown situation? Our teachers and school faculty members are very passionate about school safety, and you should be too.

I talked to Mr. Youngren about the lockdown drill, and he is aware of the growing trend in school violence. "In the last 30 years, there have been over 130 school attack incidents in the United States. Both staff members and students should approach these procedures with the same actions and protocol as if it were the real thing."

I also sat down with our principal Mr. Stoner to discuss school safety. He is a firm believer that practice truly does make perfect. "The importance of a lockdown, or any drill you do, is to improve on your actions. Our building is so unique; it is important to practice because you could very easily be in an open area." I also asked him if he has learned anything from previous lockdown drills. "We have added teacher-appointed positions, which we learned to do from previous practice." He also said to remember all the physical steps the school has taken to make the building safer. "With the new front entrance, it is much harder to enter the building."

Lastly, I discussed school safety with Officer Vaughn from the Peoria Heights Police Department. He also agrees that a lockdown drill is about practice. The more you practice, the better you do. Officer Vaughn reminds us that we as students have a couple of jobs to do. "It is important to know where to go, and to locate the exits around you." I also asked how the department would respond in case of an actual lockdown. "The average response time is 2-5 minutes. Once we arrive, we would park our cars in a tactical manner, and if there was a live threat we would enter the building." The interview with Officer Vaughn

Car Crashes through Peoria Restaurant

By Shawna Stewart

On Sunday, April 26, a car crashed through Chili's on University at 10:57, a few minutes before the restaurant opened at 11. It was a woman who was driving a red Mini Cooper. Allegedly she was trying to park her car and claims her car malfunctioned and it was too late for her to press the breaks. It went over the curb, through a bush, right into Chili's windows and tables. There were no customers yet in the building, and all the employees are safe. All employees were sent home for the lunch shift but instructed to come back for the dinner shift. No charges were pressed and the Peoria Police did not issue a ticket. The hole was boarded up and Chili's opened up for dinner. They'll be working on fully repairing the hole for the next couple weeks but Chili's will continue to remain open.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

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Peoria Heights Leadership Academy Job Fair

By James Janis

Getting a job can be a huge highlight for someone in high school. With a job you can now pay for your own car, take road trips to wherever you want, and go shopping and buy whatever you want. Having a job is great and has many benefits, but getting the job can be the hardest part. Businesses want people with experience or have a degree in that field. This can make getting that first job extremely difficult. Thankfully the Leadership Academy has taken the first step for you.

The Leadership Academy has been working hard for many months contacting businesses, planning, and arranging a job fair just for high schoolers. All the jobs at this fair are looking just for people to fill jobs that require little to no experience.

We already have a few businesses signed up to show and more are signing up every day! We would love to have you come to our job fair and it will be a huge benefit to you as well to check out the jobs available. Hope to see you there!

Job Fair Time & Date

Wednesday, May 6, 2015
4-7pm in the High School Gym

2015 summer movies

By Seth Boyer

Many people have been really excited for the summer. Not just to be out of school, and to wake up at 12 every day, but also to watch some awesome movies. Opening the summer season, *The Avengers: Age of Ultron*, on Friday. *Jurassic World* is coming out on June 12th, *Ted 2* comes out June 26th, *Insidious* comes out June 5th, and *The Fantastic Four* comes out August 7th. From my point of view, *Jurassic World* looks like it is going to be a great movie. It stars Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard. Keep reading the Towncrier for more updates about the school year and the summer!



Avengers Age of Ultron poster. Courtesy of Google Images.

Step Up To The Plate!!

By: Sarah Knott

The Patriots had a victory against the Illini Bluffs Tigers, winning 3-1. Sophomore Rylee Miller had his first varsity win. The Jv team won against Brimfield Indians on Tuesday on a weird situation with a weird outcome. The Varsity baseball team fell hard against the Morton Potters. The Varsity team had their makeup game against Knoxville, they played two five inning games and fell hard in both of the games. Blake Begner had a lot of strike outs. The game against Eureka was good, we had the lead for a while and then we ended up losing by one. To me, that is pretty good for playing against a 2A team. The boys split a double header on Saturday against North Fulton. Wish the boys on their games this week if they do not get rained out.



The 2015 Peoria Heights Patriots Baseball team.

Post Prom

By Kensey Schol

This year's prom was a smash! Although there was slow songs after slow songs, a lot of people enjoyed it. The dinner, which was chicken, green beans, baked potatoes, and rolls, was delicious. The prom king and queen ended up being Cole Reilly and Madilyn Tortat! Followed by court members: Seth Boyer and Kendall Bennett, Kensey Schol and Quinn Miller, Gabby Williams and Alex Wilts, Kirstan Bennett and Brayten Hess, Cody Schindler and Madison Schneider, Shannon Son and Rafael Menchaca, Nathan Anderson and Tiffanie Miller. Shout out to Mrs. Vogel and the junior class for making prom possible.



The Prom 2015 court.



2015 Prom King & Queen, Madilyn Tortat and Cole Reilly

Art Fair

By Kirstan Bennett

Congratulations to the following student's for winning either 1-5th place or student choice statue. Adrienne Summers-Reynolds won 2nd in drawing and painting. She also won student choice in drawing. The last one she won was in mixed media which was 5th place Trè Washington won 1st place in drawing. Haley Shearburn won 5th place in drawing. Brianna Carnes won student choice in oil pastels. Attention to all student's that put something in the art show at the Peoria Heights Library Art Contest there will be a lunch for the contests that put art in. That will be on Friday April 24, 2015.



All the students who went to this year's job fair

Key Club Events

By Cole Reilly

The Peoria Heights High School Key Club has been busy lately with all the volunteer opportunities that have been presenting themselves around the area! From cleaning up beat up houses to working a pancake breakfast. They've had a surplus of opportunities presented to them lightly, gladly accepting any chance to help others. Charlie Schneider and the rest of the 2015-2016 Key Club Officers were inducted at the regional luncheon. Charlie, our lieutenant governor, delivered a speech and announced all of the newly inducted members and those who were exiting officer. Raking yards, cleaning walls, making, and eating pancakes. Quite the eventful past few weeks for the Peoria Heights Key Club!



Charles Schneider with Mrs. Gina Gorman at a Key Club Event.

Earth Day

By Shannon Son

Wednesday April 22, was Earth Day. This is the day where we celebrate our earth being better than ever. Year by year our world becomes more livable. Sure, there are scarce resources and pollution happening, but we are lucky to live on this planet. Earth day should be a day of joy and celebration that life on this bountiful planet is better than anytime in human history. Appreciate every moment you have.