

# THE TOWN CRIER

Volume 14, Issue 18 [phstowncrier.weebly.com](http://phstowncrier.weebly.com)

May 26, 2015

## Hats Off

By Kensey Schol

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015 the seniors finally graduated high school. It was a bittersweet moment watching all the seniors say their last goodbyes. Although it was a little sweaty in the gym, it was still a success. The speeches this year were short and sweet. Madison Schneider, Ryan Klute, and Adrianna Summers-Reynolds gave speeches. The students that received scholarships at the ceremony were Tiffanie Miller, Cody Schindler, Madison Schneider, and Adrianna Summers-Reynolds. Overall, it was a great time. We'll never forget the big loud boom from the speakers when Mr. Stoner announced Kirstan Bennett to the stage. Congrats to the class of 2015! We all wish the best of luck to them.



Hats off to the class of 2015

## What's that sound?

By Madison Schneider

Have you heard the chirping throughout the school the past couple days? Take a stroll by Mrs. Tallon's room and you will. The eggs have hatched! Mrs. Tallon's science classes have been in the process of hatching baby chickens over the past month. They checked on the eggs each day by making sure the temperature and humidity levels in the incubator were stable. The classes also got to candle the eggs every few days. Candling is the process of holding a source of light, like a flashlight, up to an egg in order to see its contents and measure the baby chick's progress. Unfortunately, some of the eggs were green or brown, depending on the kind of chicken they came from, so those were much harder to see into. In addition to these steps, they also kept track of the eggs' mass over the incubation period. Some students were very surprised and worried when they noticed that the eggs were weighing less and less with each weighing. As it turns out, this is completely normal and meant that the chicks were developing properly.

Unfortunately, there were two eggs that were damaged throughout the process, and one did not survive. Despite this loss, it was an overall good hatching. There were 21 eggs that hatched, altogether, out of the 27. Of these 21, there were three or four different kinds of chicks hatched. The few that did not hatch were labeled as "quitters", and the class performed egg-topsies to determine what may have caused issues with development and approximately what day development of the chick stopped.

The first egg to hatch, number 24, gave a lot of encouragement to the others. It hatched on Monday, May 11, during seventh hour. By first hour the next day, the incubator was full of fluffy little baby chicks. The chicks are now settled into a confined

## What's that sound? (cont.)

area by Mrs. Tallon's desk where they are running around and chirping like crazy. If you have not gotten a chance to see them, stop by her room before the end of the year. It is definitely a sight to see.

Thank you to Mrs. Smallwood who brought in the eggs for the science classes to use and for taking the baby chicks under her wing when they leave the high school.



The baby chickens!

## Senior Activities

By Shannon Son

As we all know May 12, was the seniors last official day of school. I'm sure we all have mixed emotions about this day, but it's finally over! Although we will all be back within the week to either, take our final or to show up for graduation practice.

But before we are completely finished with this school we still have a couple activities to accomplish together. As in finals, graduation practice, our class trip, then finally graduation. Finals should be completed on the 13, but if not we are welcome to finish up after graduation practice. That will be held on the 14 at 10 o'clock in the gym. It is mandatory, and we will not walk if we don't attend. Our class trip will be on Friday, the day before graduation. We will be leaving at 6:30 A.M. and not a minute after. We all will enjoy lunch at the park and will stop for dinner on the way home. The following morning will be graduation! Graduation starts at 1 o'clock and will be located in the gym. All seniors must be at the school an hour early for pictures. We will all be sure to get plenty of them. Also, during the ceremony we will be announcing the scholarship winners, congratulations to all of you! The ending here certainly came very quickly, and I hope we are all thankful for our time here at Peoria Heights High School.

## Brown Bag-It

By Cole Reilly

From artists to musicians and from graphic designers to vocal specialists Brown Bag-It is the place to go if you're looking for a daily dose of high school artistic talent. Every year, schools gather in downtown Peoria to take part in this event. We send students from all different corners of our collective art group. From what I've been told, there were some very impressive displays and performances at this year's Bag-It. Our band and choir both performed with the outgoing seniors as the rest of the students ate lunch as they watched. If Brown Bag-It sounds interesting to you then add an art class to your schedule next year, and you might even find a new passion in your journey to the field trip.

## FOOTBALL

By Cody Schindler

As the students get ready for summer break, the football team is about to ramp up their off-season workouts. If you have been in the gym after school, you would see plenty of football players ready to get into the weight room. You also may have noticed a few new faces waiting to pump some iron. Those kids are from the Quest Charter Academy, and they will be joining us in football for the 2015 season forming a new co-op called HeightsQuest. With the addition of some new teammates, there will now be some added competition at every position. We certainly know the players are up to the challenge, but the coaches have new enthusiasm for the 2015 campaign.

When speaking with Coach Adkins, you could hear the excitement in his voice. Coach Adkins is rarely short on words, but in this interview, he only needed two words, "Let's go". The coaching staff will remain the same, with the exception of a running-back coach from Quest. Coach Youngren will focus on defense, and is very excited about the program, but Coach Youngren reminded me how important his job is as a coach. "Our expectations haven't changed. It starts with us, we have to hold ourselves to a higher expectation." He also said "The coaching staff will work harder than ever, and with that being said, we know that our players will follow our lead."

In conclusion, the 2015 football team should be fun to watch. Everyone is excited to see how the new team meshes together. I hope that both schools can come together, and root on the Heights Quest co-op.



The football team walking onto the field for the homecoming game

## Biology

By Madilyn Tortat

The biology classes have some big projects coming up. Not everybody will be thrilled by the dissections, but they are about to happen. Last week anatomy dissected a fetal pig. This week, biology will finish up all dissections including the rat, crayfish, and grasshopper. I remember how nervous I was freshman year to dissect the rat as well, but it was a good educational experience that I learned a lot from. Trust me, it's not nearly as bad as you may think. So good luck to all the biology classes this week!



# EXTRA! EXTRA!

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## Summer Time

By Seth Boyer

I can't wait! Summer time is almost here. It is a time to spend time with your friends and make memories. It is going to be a hot summer, so swimming might be on everyone's schedule. Besides swimming, there is many things I know I am going to do. I am going to be skateboarding, hanging out with friends, and possibly going to six flags. If you can't think of anything to do during summer, you can use some of these ideas; play basketball, play football, spend time with family, apply for a job, go on bike rides, and just sit back and relax. Those are some of the things I am going to be doing this summer. What are you going to do? Keep reading the Towncrier for more updates.

## Avengers: Age of the Ultron

By Kirstan Bennett

8.2/10 Stars

When Tony Stark and Bruce Banner try to jump-start a dormant peacekeeping program called Ultron, things go horribly wrong and it's up to Earth's mightiest heroes to stop the villainous Ultron from enacting his terrible plans. Parents need to know that *Avengers: Age of Ultron* is the highly anticipated sequel to 2012's epic adventure *The Avengers*. Fans will love the mix of over-the-top action and humor as Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Thor (Chris Hemsworth), the Incredible Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), Captain America (Chris Evans), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner), and Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) reteam to defeat Ultron (James Spader), an intelligent robot determined to wipe out humanity. The biggest issue, of course, is the explosive, comic book-style violence, which includes nonstop destruction, fighting, weapons, flipping cars, imploding buildings, citywide devastation, and massive civilian casualties implied. There's also one sad death, as well as some kissing/flirting/innuendo/cleavage, swearing and celebratory drinking. But as always with the Avengers, the ultimate message is that teamwork and loyalty will always save the day.

## Train Crash

By Shannon Son

Devastation caused by an Amtrak derail in Philadelphia, killing six people. Dozens were critically injured, and the survivors explain it as a terrifying experience. The accident closed the busiest Amtrak between New York and Washington. Investigators searched all the rumble to try and find out what exactly went wrong. As the cause of the derailment is still unknown. This train was holding 238 passengers on a Tuesday night, not long after 9 P.M. is when it all went wrong. More than half of the a boarded members took a trip to the hospital for burns and fractured bones. One of the passengers quoted "I was nearly asleep, when the train fell off the track." All she could see was broken glass and smoke in the air. "They told us we had to run away from the train in case another one came." These are words that we never think we'd hear.

The area where the train crash occurred is known as the Frankford Junction. It is very close to where one of the deadliest train accidents has occurred. The 1943 derailment of The Congressional Limited. This accident in the past, killed 79 people.

## Train Crash (cont.)

We are thankful that the derailment of Philadelphia was not as fatal as the one in the past, but also hope for these tragedy's not to happen. Thank you to the police officers, firefighters, and the EMTS who risk their lives on a daily basis to help people in these terrible accidents.

## What Happened?

By James Janis

The 2014-2015 school year is finally over! So many ups and downs and turn-arounds, it's almost difficult to keep up with! Well, you're in luck because here at the town crier, we are here to inform you of all the happenings, and that is precisely what we'll do. This, my friends, is our yearly wrap-up.

Let's start with around the school. Do you remember all the way back at the beginning of the year? How about that first day of school? Anything different about the school? What about those weird rectangles on the ceiling? Yup, that's right, the asbestos was removed over this summer and when we came back, the ceiling was actually white and had the sound-blocking rectangles all over. Also new at the beginning of the year was a couple of new faces, Ms. Ahlers, Mr. Lowe and Miss Wenzel!

What about some activities at the beginning of the year? Well, over the summer, we held our first football for moms' seminar, and many moms got the chance to participate. Also starting over the summer, the Leadership Academy began and held its first meetings. Also at the beginning of the year, Ebola was what was happening in the world. The whole world was freaking out about it, and now it has just vanished.

Further on down the 2014-2015 road, we had finally made it to homecoming. With an "Out of This World" theme for this year, homecoming was a great success. The sophomores won the volleyball tournament and even won against the facility! In the pep assembly, Mrs. Lowe, Mrs. Tallon, and Mrs. Smallwood were the Women in Black and had a great time with the assembly. Juniors won the spirit events, and it was just a blast for everyone. Unfortunately, even though the pep assembly was a huge success, we still lost the homecoming game to Rushville-Industry with a 34-20 score. Also in October, the PHHS play was performed. The Odd Couple was a great success and a lot of fun for the people that did participate.

Late on in October, things started to get crazy in the world. ISIS came about and scared everyone. A volcano also erupted outside of Tokyo and killed nearly 50 people. Also in October, the NFL was just starting a great season and the MLB was wrapping up and the San Francisco Giants ended up taking the Trophy home from the World Series.

Back to the school, at the end of October it got really busy around here. Football came to an end after their last game with Elmwood-Brimfield. Volleyball and cross country came to an end as well with great seasons from both of them.

November was also a busy month for us here at the high school and even others here in Central Illinois. It was the one year anniversary of the Washington tornado, and progress has been made to fix Washington. Also in November was elections.

## What Happened? (cont.)

We got a new Governor, Bruce Rauner, and we also reelected Aaron Shock. Back at the school, winter sport practices were starting up and so was MOJO. The fall blood drive was also in November and we had a great turnout for that.

Now on to December! In December, boys and girls basketball was in full swing and both teams were doing great! Also, the food drive tree was up in the office and the food drive was collecting many cans for local food pantries. Lastly, right before Christmas break the band had its Christmas concert to put that last bit of holiday cheer in before we left.

Once we got back, business as usual continued. The boys and girls basketball teams continued to play, scholastic bowl was starting up, and wrestling was too.

February was when it started to get busy again. It was finally Super Bowl time and after all that hype, New England rose over Seattle with a 28-24 score. Back at the school, the sophomore MOJO day was happening, and the sophomores had a great time with that. The WYSE team also went to ICC for regionals and won first in our division! Unfortunately, with the end of February came the end of our basketball season. They has a great season, but their last game was in February 24 against Brimfield.

Well, now we are finally getting close to the end of the year! In March, Baseball practices had just started up and it looked to be a great team this year. Track was also just starting also with a promising year. Also in March, WYSE and Scholastic Bowl came to an end after a great season for both teams. Letterman's Club also got a chance to go to March Madness and had a blast there. Here at home we had our spring blood drive and collected 33 units of blood from it. After the blood drive, the Key Club officers took their trip up to the Key Club Convention and learned many valuable skills there.

After all that, it was finally time for spring break. Although it was a break from school, it was not a break for sports. Track and filed continued to practice every day during break and so did baseball. Both had a couple matched during break as well, so for them it was quite busy.

Once we got back, you could feel the excitement for the end of the year in the air. Prom was right around the corner and everyone was so excited. Even though prom was not that great, many still had a great time there.

Finally, May is here. Last month of the school year, and everyone was so ready for it to end. The Leadership Academy held their job fair at the beginning of the month and some people even had interviews at the fair! After the job fair, the year was finally coming to an end. Graduation was finally here for the seniors and the school year ending right around the corner.

Well, as you can see it has been quite the year. From Ebola to blood drives, its all happened. From all of us here in the journalism staff, we'd like to wish you a safe and fun summer, and see you again back in August!



# AROUND THE SCHOOL

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