

# THE TOWN CRIER

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## One Year Anniversary of Central Illinois' Tornado

By Tiffanie Miller

One year ago today on November 17, hundreds of people's lives were changed forever. The EF4 tornado touchdown in Washington, IL, one of the few that also touched down in East Peoria and North Peoria. The total cost of damage in Washington, IL, amounted to \$935 million dollars. Thousands of homes were damaged, leaving the majority completely uninhabitable. As the days grew on, hundreds of volunteers came together to help the community. They brought food, clothing, cleaning supplies, and faith. One year later, over half of the damage is still left to be fixed, but there is much improvement. Slowly, but surely, the people whose lives were effected are gaining back their piece of mind. As the one-year anniversary lingers, remember those who were affected by this disaster.



Courtesy of Google Images.

## Ebola

By Cole Reilly

Ebola is now in the United States. Very few people have been confirmed as infected in the U.S., so we should obviously all be looking out and being more cautious in our everyday life. But, the beauty in it is that most of us have a genetic mutation that helps us fight off Ebola that those on other continents do not. We are not a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country either, and we can make advances in the medical field to fend off the spread of the disease. The majority of cases in the United States have been cured so the odds are definitely in your favor. Honestly, as long as you have careful hygiene it is very unlikely for you to get Ebola from anything other than direct contact with fluids from an INFECTED person's body. This is a great time to get our flu shots, and even just take a step towards living a more healthy life all together. Wash your hands people!



Courtesy of Google Images

## 2014 Election

By Seth Boyer

The 2014 elections were full of excitement this year. Aaron Shock (Republican) remains our U.S representative (18<sup>th</sup> district). His votes were at a whopping 177,684 votes. He won with 74% of all people voting for him. His competition was Darrel Martin (Democratic) he lost with 62,158 votes and a 26% percent of all votes. We also got a new Governor. Bruce Rauner won with 1,745,455 votes and 51%. The trailing people are Quinn and Grimm. Quinn lost with 1,589,503 votes and 46%. Grimm lost with 116,322 votes and 3%. All the Peoria Height's funding was going to help the taxes for ambulances. But it did not get enough votes to go through. There were 53 Democratic, 45 Republican and 2 independent senators (both of whom caucus with Democrats). In all, there were 36 elections: 33 senators were up for election this year as class 2 Senators, and 3 faced special elections (all from Class 3). Of all these seats, 21 were held by Democrats and 15 were held by Republicans. This year the elections were quite crazy. Keep reading the Towncrier for more updates.



Courtesy of Google Images.

## Veterans' Day

By Kensey Schol

As we're all very excited to have the day off of school on the 11<sup>th</sup>, we need to realize what Veteran's Day is about. Veteran's Day originated as "Armistice Day" on Nov. 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I. In 1954, President Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. Veteran's Day pays a tribute to the living/dead American veterans. Since it is a federal holiday schools have the day off and most jobs do. Free meals for Veterans are offered in many fast food and casual dinner restaurant chains. If you know a veteran tell them to check out Applebee's, Bob Evans, Chili's, and Golden Corral for a free meal!

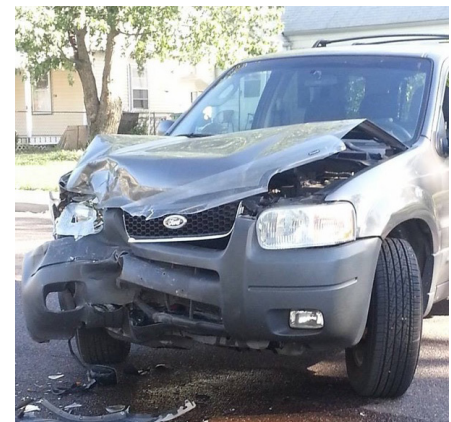


Courtesy of Google Images

## Traffic Collision!

By Sarah Knott

On an average, there are more than 6 million car accidents on the roads of the US, annually. Distracted driving is the number one cause in the United States for car accidents, so please pay attention to the road when you are driving. I do not want other teenagers going through what other people had experienced. I can relate to this because on Monday, October 6 Alyssa Carr, Kendall Bennett, and I were in a car accident right in front of my house. All three of us went to the hospital, and we were all in major shock of what had just happened. We were all quite scared, honestly, and we were in a lot of pain. This accident was quite an experience for the three of us and don't want to have to go through it again. We all came to realize that life is a special thing to have and it can be taken away from you no matter what day it is or what you are doing, so live your life to the fullest. We are glad that we are okay and still alive.



The remnants of the girls' vehicle. Thankfully, all three girls were okay.

## Book Review

By Wanda Rogers

☆☆☆☆: 4 Stars

The Truth About Alice by Jennifer Mathieu was an interesting book. Although the story was pretty forgettable, it does deal with some common teen issues in the world today. The narrative follows the lives of several teenagers who are all connected in one way or another. Slowly, these teenagers try to reveal the truth about Alice—did she actually kill the star quarterback, or not?

If you would like to hear more discussion about this book—or would like to discuss the book yourself—please come to the book club meeting at Peoria Heights Public Library on Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will be held in the Local History Room from 3:15 to 4:00PM.

Even if you don't have the chance to read or finish the book, please come to the meeting anyway for the chance to read next month's book! We will have snacks and soda, and we would love to get a good teen book club going in the Heights. Thanks for reading, and hopefully we'll see you there!



# EXTRA! EXTRA!

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## Winter Sports are here!

By Kirstan Bennett

Basketball and Wrestling practices have begun. The boys have the Turkey Tournament just around the corner, the first game will be on November 24<sup>th</sup>. The girls are dribbling their way to the Lexington Tournament, which will begin November 17<sup>th</sup>. The wrestling practices have begun. The team has some have some returning wrestlers and some new faces. The team is hoping to improve off last season's success, and junior Taner Coleman will try to return to state. All the teams are ready to go, so come out and support your Peoria Heights Patriots!



## That's a Wrap!

By James Janis

*The Odd Couple* is a well-known play that has been performed in local theaters, such as the Peoria Players or Cornstock, on bigger stages, such as on Broadway, and it even had its own TV show from 1970 - 1975. Last Friday, on November 7<sup>th</sup>, our high school put on a lesser known version of the play, *The Female Odd Couple*, which stars two girls instead of two boys. It was put on over at the Grade School, and it was a huge success. We had over 100 parents and students attend our play, and it was greatly enjoyed. If you missed it, don't fret! The Grade School play will be put on in the spring, and there is always next fall for the High School play. Great job to the cast on their performance, and we can't wait to see the play next year!



The 2014 play cast.

## Manufacturing Career Expo

By Shawna Stewart

Imagine wearing a helmet that makes you look like Darth Vader and using equipment hot enough to melt metal! That is exactly what was going on at the Excel Manufacturing Facility, part of the field trip that Mr. Smith and his Production Industrial Tech, and Graphic Communications classes took. Students got to try out a welding simulator - the helmet etc. - which allowed them to get a better idea of what it's like to actually be a welder. The students also toured the Excel Manufacturing facility. The field trip also included the Discover Manufacturing Careers Expo which was started in 2008 to show students various career pathways available in our area. There are 13 sponsors for this event including Catepillar, Cefcu, and Illinois Central College. This year PHHS went to the career expo at Woodruff Career & Technical Center, for more information on this expo visit [DiscoverManufacturingCI.com](http://DiscoverManufacturingCI.com)



(Right) Chris Messner is ready to give blood!

## MOJO

By Cody Schindler

The MOJO group is back for another year, and the group kicked off the year with their freshman activity day. On this day, the MOJO group focused on teamwork, and realizing the value in yourself. The day began with dancing as always, and this year we added a new dance, the *Interlude*. Next, we shifted into small groups and learned about a little bit about each other. It was a good experience, especially for the upperclassmen, because we did not know much about the freshmen. However, the best part of the day were the competitions. We played a lot of games from NBC's game show *Minute to Win It*. My favorite game was called Hut, Hut, Hike. The objective of the game was to hike toilet paper through your legs, like the center in football, through hoola hoops. Also, we had cup stacking, and we had to throw a deck of cards into a piece of Styrofoam. The freshman participated really well, and I hope they enjoyed the day as much as the MOJO group did.

This year's MOJO group consists of sophomores Josh Beeney, Shay Collins, Anna Kelly, and Zephen Schail. The juniors are Michelle Dang, James Janis, Quinn Miller, and Emmy Tiethoff. The seniors are Alex Campbell, Shannon Michael, Cody Schindler, and Adrienne Summers-Reynolds. The group plans to add freshmen soon.



Freshman Jaron Webb wins a game of rock-paper-scissors.

## Blood Drive

By Shannon Son

It's that time of year again! Our first out of the two blood drives we host every year. This year was a great success, as always. We had 4 people who donated doubles. Which got us to the goal of 32 pints. Our largest amount we've had donated has been 48 pints. 1 pint potentially saves up to 3 lives. We all saved about 144 lives. We will always be striving for more!

We had fifty six sign ups and 5 walk-ins. Unfortunately, we had about 12 students who decided not to donate. They either didn't get their permission slip signed or they were second guessing themselves. It is very important to only sign up if you're really interested in donating. Thank you to everyone who did donate, and we hope to see you again.



# PATRIOT PRIDE!

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## Preparing for the Future

By Shawna Stewart

I had the amazing privilege of Job Shadowing Derek Asbury at Asbury Law Offices on October 29. Derek Asbury is a family lawyer, but since he owns his own private practice he also branches out to other different types of law. Derek Asbury had 4 cases, so I got to go to the court house and witness some of his cases. After the trials I got to talk to the judge and ask her questions. Job Shadowing Derek Asbury was a great experience and it made me realize that being a family lawyer is what I want to do in the future.

Sarah Knott job shadowed at the Peoria County Police Department. Sarah job shadowed Officer Corey Herron. She went on calls with him and see what his everyday job is like. Sarah wants to start off as a police officer for two years but her main goal is to work up to becoming a forensic scientist.

Seth Boyer job shadowed a physical therapist/ athletic trainer at Midwest Orthopedic. He loved the experience and plans to go to college for physical therapy.

Madilyn Tortat job shadowed Denny Knell at Knell Law on October 30<sup>th</sup>. She observed him and his daily work. She went to a luncheon with him and met other lawyers in the Peoria area. She listened to Justice Lisa White, a speaker, about diversity in the workplace.

High school students job shadow their junior year. Job shadowing help students experience the career they may want to do in the future. Some students decide that job is for them and others don't. Job Shadowing helps prepare juniors for their future.

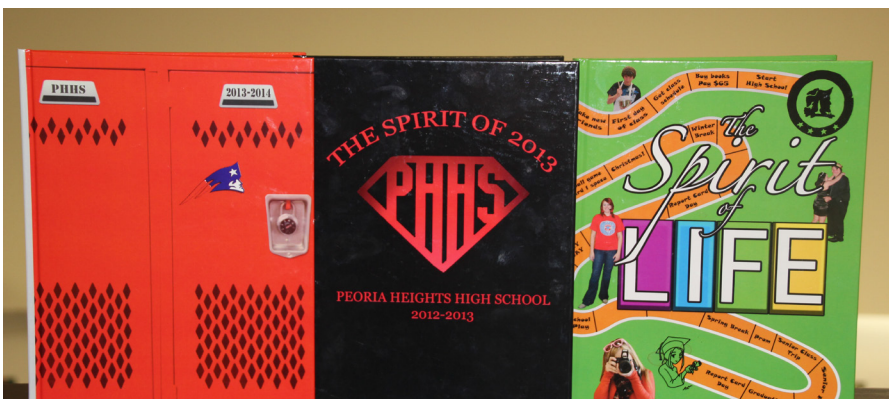


Industrial Arts teacher Mr. Smith, along with the help of other staff, coordinated the junior's job shadowing activity.

## Picture This!

By Madilyn Tortat

Wait till you see this yearbook! This years is anticipated to be the best yet. With a greater focus on each student, it'll be the most personalized ever. Each Senior will have half of their own page and it will feature pictures, brags, who's who, and other general information. The Junior pages will only have 12 students to a page so it will feature more information than usual. The theme for this year's yearbook is picture this! The yearbook is priced at just \$50, which is actually very inexpensive compared to other schools. You can order one from Mrs. Hendricks in the office. These are memories you'll cherish for a lifetime so purchase one today!



The last three PHHS yearbooks. Buy your 2014-15 yearbook today!

## AROUND THE SCHOOL!



## 2014-15 Journalism Staff

- Kirstan Bennett
- Seth Boyer
- James Janis
- Sarah Knott
- Tiffanie Miller
- Colton Reilly
- Wanda Rogers
- Cody Schindler
- Madison Schneider
- Kensy Schol
- Shannon Son
- Shawna Stewart
- Madilyn Tortat