

# THE TOWN CRIER

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## Isis vs America

By Sarah Knott

Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), mainly a Sunni jihadist group, seeks to sow civil unrest in Iraq and the Levant with the aim of establishing a caliphate a single, transnational Islamic state based on sharia. The group emerged in the ashes of the U.S.-led invasion to oust Saddam Hussein as al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), and the insurgency that followed provided it with fertile ground to wage a guerrilla war against coalition forces and their domestic allies. The rebellious group was launched by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, an Arab of Jordanian descent, and flourished in the sectarian tensions that followed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003. By June 2014, the group's fighters had routed the Iraqi military in the major cities of Fallujah and Mosul and established territorial control and administrative structures on both sides of the Iraqi-Syrian border. ISIS is currently led by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, also known as Abu Du'a. The U.S. government believes he resides in Syria. According to ABC, the US has launched 334 airstrikes against ISIS — 248 in Iraq and 86 airstrikes in Syria. Article courtesy of [www.abc.com](http://www.abc.com)



President Obama speaks out against ISIS. Courtesy of Google Images.

## When your favorite TV Show Returns

By Shawna Stewart

With the fall season returning, so are favorite TV shows. *The Biggest Loser: Glory Days* premiered September 11. This season the contestants are all former athletes. The show airs on Thursday at 8/7c on NBC. *The Voice*, Season 7, began September 22. The Voice has two returning coaches, Adam Levine and Blake Shelton. Also two new coaches, Gwen Stefani and Pharrell Williams. The Voice airs Mondays and Tuesdays at 7. *The Walking Dead* will return for a 6<sup>th</sup> season this fall. The Walking Dead is a post-apocalyptic world dominated by flesh-eating zombies. It will premier Sunday October 12, at 9. Be on the lookout for more information and interesting opinions as these seasons progress!



Courtesy of Google Images.

## Explosion!

By Tiffanie Miller

There were no warnings. No shaking ground. Just terror. On September 27, 47 citizens lost their lives, leaving nearly 70 injured. Mount Ontake erupted about 125 miles west of Tokyo. Mount Ontake is the worst volcanic disaster in Japan for 90 years. Doctors have discovered that most of the deaths were caused by rocks, hitting the victims. Experts say that the hikers may have been hit by rocks flying as fast as 300 kilometers per hour. Survivors said they fled for their lives as rock and debris rained down on them while they struggled with hot air and ash hitting their face. The search for other survivors are still in action. The death toll of Mount Ontake is the highest in Japan's postwar history, exceeding the 43 killed in the 1991 eruption of Mount Unzen in southern Japan. In Japan, they are under 24-hour monitoring, but there was no sign of such a big eruption.

Source: [www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)



Courtesy of Google Images

## Should They Play?

By Seth Boyer

Many crazy things have been going on in the world pertaining to the National Football League. While the news surrounding Ray Rice and Adrian Peterson has died down, we thought we'd look back at what happened. Former running back for the Ravens, Ray Rice, got caught on camera of what looks like him beating his wife unconscious in an elevator. Star Vikings running back, Adrian Peterson, got charged with felony injury to a child using a tree branch to discipline his child. Spanking with an open hand or an object like switch is not illegal in the United States. Adrian Peterson quotes "I am not a perfect parent, but without a doubt, I'm not a child abuser either." My opinion for the Adrian Peterson case, if he was just disciplining his child like he says, he shouldn't get a punishment. However, Peterson was suspended indefinitely. Ray Rice's case is a little bit different. The video is of him punching his wife, Janay Palmer, until she gets knocked out. Only the people in the event know the true story of what went on in both scenes. In both cases, my opinion really doesn't matter. I believe if either get a punishment, they both should be able to play in the future. I do believe in second chances no matter what the crime is. Do you guys think there should be a punishment?

## Sports Corner

By Cody Schindler

NFL- We are now entering week 6 in the football season, and the local Chicago Bears enter the week with a 2-3 record. The Bears have lost two straight, and play another road game at Atlanta. The Bears turned it over in their last three possessions Sunday in a loss to Carolina. The Detroit Lions and the Green Bay Packers are tied atop the NFC North with 3-2 records. Green Bay has won two straight, both in blowout fashion against Chicago and Minnesota. Detroit fell at home to Buffalo 17-14 last week. And the Lions may have bigger problems, as star wide receiver Calvin Johnson has a nagging ankle injury.

Peyton Manning made some more history, as how surpassed the 500 touchdown plateau. Manning now has 503 touchdowns, five away from the all-time leader Brett Favre.

MLB- The MLB playoffs have been very exciting, and four teams now remain. In the American League, the Baltimore Orioles and Kansas City Royals each swept their opponents in three games to advance to the American League Championship Series. Baltimore beat Detroit in three games, to advancing to their first ALCS since 1997. Detroit had the last three Cy Young award winners on their team. The Royals took down the Angels in three. The Angels finished the regular season with the best record in baseball. Kansas City used the combo of timely hitting and impressive defense to advance. Remember, this is the Royals' first playoff appearance since 1985. The Royals and Orioles open up their series tonight.

In the National League, the St. Louis Cardinals advanced to their fourth straight National League Championship Series, by defeating the Los Angeles Dodgers in four games. In game 4, with the Cardinals trailing 2-0, first baseman Matt Adams came up and hit a three-run homer to give the Cardinals a 3-2 lead which they would not relinquish. The Cardinals defeated the Dodgers' star pitcher Clayton Kershaw twice in four games. Kershaw had just three losses in the regular season. In the other series, the Giants defeated the top-seeded Washington Nationals in four games. The Giants won all three games by one run, including a 2-1 victory in 18 innings in the second game of the series. The Cardinals and Giants start their series on Saturday in St. Louis.



Cardinals' first baseman Matt Adams celebrates his go-ahead home run in game four of the NLDS. Courtesy of Google Images.

# EXTRA! EXTRA!

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## Courage! Fire! Desire!

By Kirstan Bennett

The Lady Patriots got their first victory but they are looking for another one. On Tuesday September 30, they went to Havana. The scores were 16-25 & 16-25. Jessica Carter had 2 Kills, Kirstan Bennett had a Block, Cassy Powers and Adrienne Summers-Reynolds both had 1 Dig. On Thursday October 2, the girls went to Beardstown. The score was 14-25, 21-25. Even though it was a loss coach Barnes said "that was the best game they played all season." On Monday October 6, the girls went to Peoria Christian. The scores were 15-25, 9-25. Kirstan Bennett had 2 Kills, Adrienne Summers-Reynolds had 2 Assists, Shannon Son and Taylor Peterson had 2 Digs, Kirstan Bennett and Taylor Peterson had a Block, and Shannon Son had 2 Aces. On Tuesday October 7, they played North Fulton. The score was 18-25, 20-25. Taylor Peterson had 2 Kills, Cassy Powers had 3 Aces, and Kirstan Bennett had a Block. The girls did not get a victory but they gave a valiant effort.

## Pink game!

By Shannon Son

On October 7, PHHS hosted Volley for the Cure. The whole gym was covered with people in pink to support breast cancer awareness. Many fans came and cheered the volleyball team on.

In between the Varsity and JV games we announced the winners of the raffle. With our journalism teacher, Mrs. Gibbons winning one of the prizes, Mrs. Lowe and Mr. Stoner winning others. Many people bought tickets to support the cause. Each dollar given has been donated.

We had a great game against North Fulton. The first game was 18-25, second game was 21-25. We were ahead the whole second game, then suddenly they came back. We tried our best and worked together as a team. We each have our ups and downs, but we all appreciate each other.

**2 facts:** (1) although breast cancer is rare in men, an estimated 2,150 men will be diagnosed and approximately 410 will die each year. (2) Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women.



## HS Football

By Cody Schindler

In week 5, the Patriots hosted Lewistown in a conference matchup. The game started out promising, as Brayten Hess took the opening kickoff 50 yards to get the Patriots in good field position. However, Lewistown would crank up their offense, and win by a final of 68-14. Austin Ames scored his first touchdown of the year, with a 50 yard run. Blake Begner threw for a touchdown for the third straight game.

In week 6, the Patriots traveled to Abingdon to take on the Tornadoes, one of the best teams in the state. Abingdon won to remain undefeated. The Patriots host North Fulton tonight.



The varsity team huddles up during a timeout.

## The Roar of the Band

By James Janis

You're sitting in the stands during a football game, and rising from the field, you hear the thud from the drums. During a basketball game, you are sitting in the bleachers, and you hear the sound of the brass. "What is that noise?," you say. That is the roar of the Peoria Heights Band.

"What is the band up to this year?," you may ask. Well, during this time of the year, the band is actually very busy with concerts. On November 8, there is the Illinois Music Educators Association Concert, or the ILMEA for short. Emmy Tiethoff and Brianna Varvil have been nominated to go to the ILMEA concert. On the 22nd of November, Logan Monast is going to a Strings Concert in Dekalb.

Also during this time of year, winter sports season is coming up, and the band has been working hard for our Sport teams. The 20th of October is Senior night for volleyball, and on November 24th, the Turkey Tournament for basketball starts. Also, believe it or not, the Holiday season is coming up quickly, which means the winter band and choir concert is coming up. Mr. Piper is picking the songs for that now, and the concert will be held on December 15th.

With all the hard work the band is doing, make sure to come out and support them at their next event! This is an exciting season for the band, and I know that they will put on a great show.

The girls' volleyball team also had a bake sale, at left Jessi Webb frosts cookies.

## Volley for the Cure!



# PATRIOT PRIDE!

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## Yearbook Convention

By Kensey Schol

Last week the journalism class went to a yearbook convention at Glenwood High School. The school is located in Chatham, IL. Once we walked in, it was like we were in a new world. We obviously aren't used to normal looking high schools, with a normal number of people in their school. One student quoted, "I feel like I'm in college." Several different schools around Illinois were at the convention as well. One of the best parts was the free donuts, if you ask me. The day was filled with different workshops, giving tips on yearbook designs, ad sales, and etc. We got a lot of tips and ideas on how to make our yearbook even better than it already was. We can't wait to get started on this year's yearbook! I hope the future journalism classes continues to make this field trip every year. It's a very educational trip that every journalism staff member should experience.



Chatham Glenwood High School. Courtesy of Google Images.

## Construction Exposition

By Seth Boyer

On Wednesday, September 24, 2014, Mr. Smith's Construction and Production class went to Exposition Gardens to participate in a field trip. They went to serve as guides for 8<sup>th</sup> graders that attended there. Not only did they go there to serve as guides, but they also went there to learn some things themselves. There were carpenters, electricians, plumbers, construction workers, and all types of other trades. Tri-Con was there to speak to everyone as well. Tri-Con is an organization that works with labor and construction trades in Central Illinois. Tri-Con told everyone about how making good decisions throughout life is a big deal. They also said if you have a goal in life, as long as you are committed to it you can achieve that goal. Though I was not able to participate in this event, I can tell that it would have been a day to remember and a really fun time. Keep reading the Town Crier for more updates.

## Meet Stella Kippe

By Madilyn Tortat

Peoria Heights has a new kid in town. Her name is Stella Kippe and she's a foreign exchange student from Germany. A foreign exchange student is someone who comes to a different country to study for a certain period of time. This program was developed after World War II to provide students with a better cultural understanding for groups of people. The United States also thought this would be a good way to leave students a positive impression of America. There are many programs that help place worthy students with a host family. AIFS is one of those programs, and they placed Stella in her first home. Unfortunately, her first family didn't work out. Luckily, one of our own Heights families decided to open their home in order to prevent Stella from having to switch school districts. Stella is from Berlin, which is a huge city. For example, it has almost a million more people than Chicago. So the small town of Peoria Heights took some getting used to. One difference Stella noticed is in Germany, it's really easy to jump on the subway and meet up with her friends; while here she has to have someone take her everywhere. She enjoys our school system but, like many others, hates the no walls and windows. She really enjoyed her time at homecoming, as her school in Berlin has no dances or spirit weeks. The graduating seniors participate in one "dress-up week" the week before they graduate. Overall Stella enjoys her life here a lot, but she still misses her friends back home.



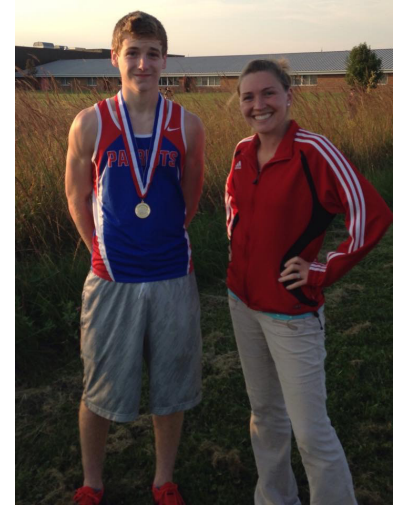
Stella Kippe and Asiah Herron enjoy dress to impress day.

## 2014-15 Journalism Staff

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## CROSS COUNTRY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY TEAM ON THEIR VICTORY OVER A-TOWN AND S. FULTON LAST NIGHT. TY COLEMAN FINISHED IN FIRST PLACE; BRANDON MIRABAL, MICHAEL RAICES AND JOSH BEENY ALL FINISHED IN THE TOP 10, AND ZEPHEN SCHAILL AND TRE CONNORS BEAT THEIR FASTEST TIMES. GREAT PERFORMANCE GUYS!



Senior Ty Coleman with Coach Cocquit after being named All-Conference.

## Movie of the Month:

### The Maze Runner

By Cole Reilly

Let's set the scene...

You wake up on a flat surface. You are surrounded by other boxes that have a variety of items in them. You and all these other boxes are in a larger box, it seems to be similar to a mineshaft elevator, that is rising at a rapid pace. At first you don't have time to think about yourself because you are terrified of what's going on, this is a good thing. You get to the top and are harshly greeted by a large group of the same sex who are obviously not strangers to a confused person rising out of the ground in a large box. They call you something that you don't quite comprehend at first, then one of them pulls you out of the box. They all stand over you examining you and you scramble around looking for a way to escape. You find a hole in the massive circle of people and you don't think twice. You run as fast as you can in that direction, but once you take in your surroundings you are astounded and somewhat horrified. You lose your footing and get a delicious face full of dirt. This is when the wheel in your head starts to spin. Where am I? How did I get here? Who are those people? You turn back to look at the people who were waiting for you outside of the box. They are slowly walking towards you. Obviously not in a rush. New questions are born into your mind, chilling questions that you know you should have the answer to. What is my name? What are my parent's names? Where are my parents? Who are my parents? Who am I? The only thing you do know is that you want to leave. But, as you look up at the enormous walls that surround the grassy land that you are laying in, it all hits you. Everything goes dark and you faint...

I personally am a huge fan of the book, so I had the highest of expectations for this film. With that being said I do think that anyone who has a general liking of dystopian fiction should give it a watch.