

# The Devil's Advocate

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Peotone High School

Since 1995



## Just Do It Or Just Don't Colin Kaepernick and His Protest

*by Ashleigh Viola*

“Believe in something. Even if it means sacrificing everything.” On September 5th, 2018, Nike came out with a new ad featuring Colin Kaepernick. If you are not familiar with Kaepernick, he is a former NFL quarterback who caught the spotlight by kneeling for our country's national anthem. The NFL and the 49ers were not happy about his protest and he is no longer playing in the NFL. Colin Kaepernick built his revolt on oppression and inequality. As a very patriotic Republican, I find this whole controversy disgusting and so pointless and disrespectful to so many. The fact that this has been given the platform and support it has amazes me in the worst way. I

always make it a point to be civil towards other people's opinions, if they are being presented in a good way. Colin Kaepernick has shown nothing but disrespect toward our country and the men and women fighting for it, and because of that I have lost all respect for him.

When this ad first came out, I was outraged that a company can represent someone who does not respect anything that this country stands for. I just cannot wrap my head around someone being rewarded with millions of dollars for doing the wrong thing. This country and the people fighting for it are risking it all to allow us keep our freedoms. They give

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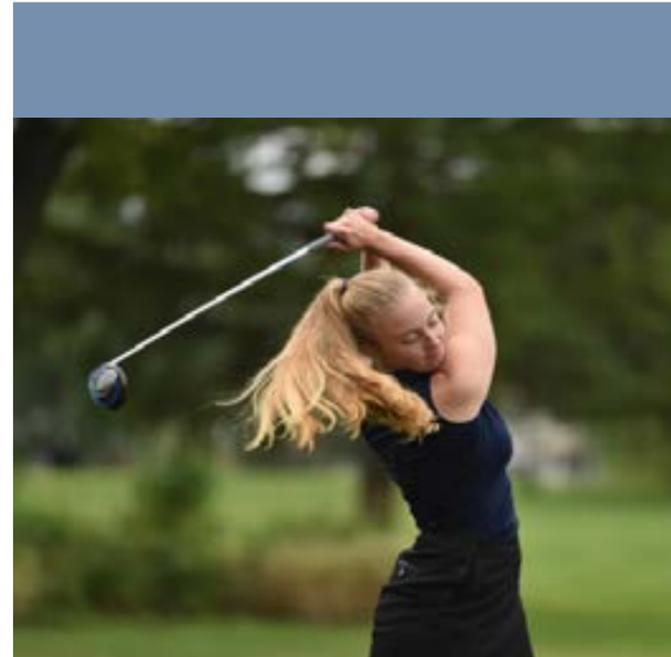
us the chance to do all things we do and believe all the things we believe. How can one not feel outraged at the sight of people kneeling when we are supposed to be honoring so many? It is so wrong and selfish to take the spotlight and attention in this situation. Aside from the photos and videos of praise that made the news, I did not see many people with opposing views speaking out on how they feel on a large scale. Soldiers give us the chance to do all things we do and believe all the things we believe. I, along with many others who have unpopular opinions on the topic, don't have the platform and support to share them. Even if we do, we just are ridiculed and beat down until we do not speak out anymore. Besides a lone news channel, Fox News, you don't see conservative views being overly televised. I'm tired of being silenced for my conservative views on controversial topics.

I was curious to see if anyone I knew felt the same way. I talked to Sophomore Grace Renier, about her opinions. "I think it is ridiculous how a company can use someone like Colin Kaepernick to be the face of their brand after everything that man has done. He refuses to stand for the National Anthem, which really bothers me. Needless to say I will not be purchasing much from Nike anymore." When I asked her about speaking out on the topic, I got an answer that confirms what I thought. "Nobody really ever takes it seriously or wants to hear the opposing point of view. They all say things like "Everybody wears Nike so who cares?" which is really sad. We should be listening and taking this seriously and talking about it from both sides, not just one."

This is our country and I believe that we should do everything in our power to respect and honor it and the people fighting for it.

There are so many things about Kaepernick's protest that should not be encouraged. The fashion in which he went about protesting is very wrong. You have

every right to feel a particular way and take action on those feelings. Personally, I think you should stand up for what you believe in, not kneel.



Lynn Merigold



Karli Borsch

# Welcome to PHS

## Getting to know the new staff

by Mike Reidy

As the year goes on the new teachers become more and more accustomed to life here at PHS and their expectations are starting to become a reality. This month, for our continuing series "Welcome to PHS", Mr. Thomas and Ms. Markowicz were given the same questions as the teachers from last month, to give students an idea of how teachers feelings and opinions develop over the year. But the year is still young and they still have their hopes and fears that were present at the beginning of the year. And they have plans for how to deal with them.



Mr. Thomas, Science Teacher

**Before you became a teacher where did you go to school?**

"After high school I went to a junior college for two years called Rock Valley College... After I did that I transferred all my credits and spent two years at NIU and got my BS in Chemistry."

**What is your favorite part of teaching?**

"I would say my favorite part of teaching is just watching my students learn... When I see students do really well on things I give them it is really rewarding to me to know that I was the one who taught them that."

**What are you most looking forward to this school year?**

"I would say just getting to know my

students and getting to know the district. I moved from a couple hours away to teach here, and I'm really enjoying it so far. I really want to spend this school year learning as much as I can about Peotone and seeing all that it offers, as well as what I can add to it."

**What would you like your students to get out of your class?**

"Teaching science, I would say there are a couple of main things I want them to get out of it. First, I want them really to know what science is, and understand the process of science.... I also want them to practice being problem solvers. Whether it be linear problem solving, or outside the box problem solving, they will have to do both to do well in my class. I think learning how to think through things logically is a skill that can be applicable anywhere."



Mrs. Markowiz, Math Teacher

**Before you became a teacher where did you go to school?**

"I went to Lewis University, and graduated with double majors in Mathematics and Secondary Education."

(Cont. on page 4)

(Cont. from page 3)

**What is your favorite part of teaching?**

“My favorite part about teaching is being able to help students understand every problem has a solution(not just the math problems) and that it takes individual steps to get an answer. The best moment for me as a teacher is when the students have a light-bulb moment when everything just clicks into place and makes sense.”

**What are you most looking forward to this school year?**

“I am looking forward to getting involved and getting to know not only my students, but all students at the school... I am excited to be a part of the school and celebrate in all the different accomplishments each and every student has. I am also excited about being the coach for Math Club and cannot wait to see how the students do at our first competition.”



Joey Uthe



Dustin Klecka



Sophia Perry



Mia Kuypers

# Peotone's Fall Fest

## Skills USA hosts festival in downtown Peotone

by Mia Steeves

The Peotone Fall Fest comes to town on Saturday, October 20th this year. The fest has been going on for a few years now, and is mostly full of vendors and craft booths. The different booths are lined up throughout downtown Peotone, on Main and Second Street, and open up from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For the first time, the fest was run by our own Skills USA chapter.

Peotone Skills is under the leadership of the new Industrial Arts teacher, Mr. Nealon. Nealon has done an excellent job in taking over classroom and Skills duties, as well as taking on the job of being the new tech director for the PHS Theater. President of Skills USA, Senior Maura Daly, explained some of the activities that the chapter is involved in. “Skills USA is organizing vendors on Second Street as well as running its own booth.” Activities, she says, vary from vendor to vendor. Some of the vendors also participate in the trunk-or-treat and hand out candy from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Crafts are a popular part of the fest, “We are expecting a wide variety this year...come to Fall Fest to find out!” Daly said. Overall, the fest is expected to be a large success, and is only one of many projects that Skills has planned for this year. Daly listed off their busy schedule: “Skills USA runs football concessions with FFA. We are also involved at Christmas in the Village, and we have a booth there and help vendors set up. We also do some community service projects throughout the year.” The money raised at the Fall Fest supports both the Peotone High School Skills USA, as well as the newly founded Peotone Junior High Skills. This money will help reduce costs of conferences, competitions, and other events.



A few cast members from the upcoming play, *The Hobbit*, came out to the Fall Fest and participated in the trunk-or-treat. Freshman Richard Martz and Brook Bonk dressed up in their costumes, along with Junior Rylie Pine who will star as Bilbo Baggins in the show.

### Job Opportunities:

**Pearl Dealership in Peotone for a receptionist/cashier. Call Bill VanRamshorst at Pearl 708-258-1700.**

**Dralle Chevrolet is looking for a part-time evening and weekend cashier. Call Cindy at 708-258-3902.**

**There is a job opportunity for a part-time maintenance worker for after school and weekends. Call Ray at 815-719-1126**

**\*\*\* See the Job Opportunities bulletin board at the bottom of the main staircase for more information.**

# Say NO to Drugs

## What is with all of this drug testing?

by Lynn Merigold

For most students September 18th was a typical Monday at Peotone High School. That was about to change when the bell rang to start second hour. A group of students, chosen at random, were selected by Riverside Health Care to partake in a drug test. They were pulled out of their respective class and escorted to the main office, where the urine test was administered.

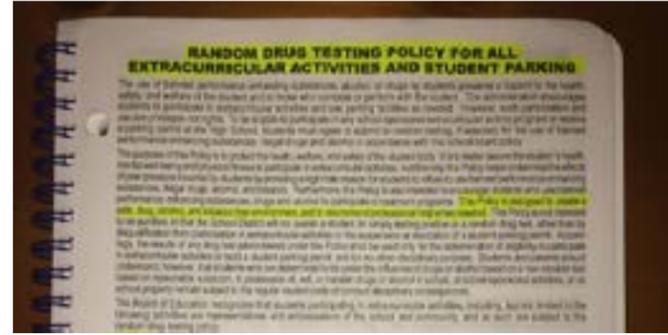
As part of the 2018-19 Student Handbook, students who are involved in extracurricular activities, such as sports and clubs, as well as students who have parking permits, are required to agree to random drug testing if they are selected. The handbook states, "The purpose of this policy is to protect the health, welfare, and safety of the student body." Every month a select number of students will be chosen. If a student refuses to take the test, it will be treated as an admittance of guilt, meaning the student will receive the corresponding consequences. This information is found on page 139 in the PHS Student Handbook.

Recently the random drug test is being mixed up with the Peotone School District 207-U drug and alcohol policy. According to this policy, the proper authoritative role has the right to administer a breathalyzer or a drug test if the student is under reasonable suspicion of using either of those illegal substances. This policy, found on page 127, is completely separate from the Riverside random drug testing.

There is one more policy that needs to be discussed which is instilled in our Code of Conduct. As part of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) there is a rule about drug testing for student-athletes. On page 104 of the IHSA eligibility rules it states that, "Student-athletes in the 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades at IHSA member-schools are subject to random

selection for performance-enhancing substance testing."

Senior Alexis Kielczynski agreed to do an interview pertaining to this rather



On page 139 (shown above) the handbook clarifies the random drug testing policy.

controversial topic. She feels strongly that "no one should be tested unless there is reasonable suspicion." Many students would agree with this, voicing their opinions that the school should not be involved with the students' personal lives. Some students feel that administering this test invades their personal privacy. Another issue that has been debated among the students is whether there should be a 24 hour notice prior to taking the actual test. Unfortunately, doing this would minimize the surprise factor, potentially altering the results, making the entire test useless.

Numerous policies relating to drug, alcohol, and tobacco use are enforced this school year. In the real world jobs often test for drugs in a similar way: unexpectedly. Students should cooperate with the school's policies and say NO to drugs in the first place.

**Yearbooks are on sale again during lunches beginning Monday, November 26 through November 30 for \$60. Prices go up to \$65 January 1st!**

# Rearrangments on Rathje Road

## Construction reroutes student traffic

by Julia Beechy

What is going on with Rathje Road? It is the question we have all been asking since the beginning of school. Construction was scheduled to start in June, but began at the start of the new school year, the most inconvenient time for people in and out of the high school on a day-to-day basis.

The student traffic has been redirected in multiple ways over the past couple years. First, students were able to leave the school parking lot through the exit by the subdivision and also by the access road. Last year, they were limited only to the access road to clear the traffic within the subdivision after school. For safety reasons, Mr. Fantin stated, "I was informed last year that we should not have our students leave the parking lot and go through the residential subdivision for safety reasons, therefore we routed our traffic onto Rathje Road." This year, due to the construction on Rathje, the students are only allowed to exit through the subdivision across from the high school. So far, there have not been any traffic complaints from the residents living in the subdivision. Fantin believes that, "as long as drivers are obeying the speed limit and are driving safely, there probably will not be any."

The redirecting of the traffic causes a big hold up on The Hauge Street. Before the construction, it took students approx. three minutes to exit the parking lot. Now, with the traffic directed onto one road, it takes fourteen minutes to finally get to Corning Avenue. The delay not only is annoying, but it causes students, like Senior Grace Hessler, to be late to after school activities. "I have been late to volleyball because of the rush of cars trying to get back out of the parking lot while I am trying to get back in," says Hessler. Some students have had to sacrifice grabbing food before a 3:45 play

practice because they would not make it back in time due to the after school rush. Hessler was not the only one late to events; student driver Jerry Gersch was late to the Homecoming Parade, as well as work, on multiple occasions because of the delay.

All in all, the widening of Rathje Road has created chaos. Hopefully, the added turn lane into the access road of the parking lot will be worth the craziness that takes place after school every day.



The widening of Rathje Road to add a turn lane has resulted in a closed road for over two months. No end date has been set.

Thank you to Mr. Peppmuller and the Golf Team; Ms Bamble, Mrs. Matthias, Mrs. Aguilar, and the Best Buddies for volunteering at the food pantry during the month of October.

The word "Thank You" is not enough to let these students and teachers know how much we appreciate the time that they have taken to volunteer before starting their school day! Thank you for helping us to help others in our community!

**Beverly Christensen  
Helping Hands Volunteer**

# PHS Fun Fair

## NHS sponsors a new fall event

by Averi Fier

Friday, October 19th is a night of nostalgia. National Honors Society is sponsoring a Fun Fair in the PHS gym. This night will be filled with games, food, and prizes... just like when we were in elementary school! President of NHS, Billy Robinson, was interviewed, and he gave all the specifics on the event.

"The Oktoberfest Fun Fair will take place in the gym from 6-8pm on Friday, October 19th. Admission is free, and kids can purchase tickets to play the games," Robinson says. Although this Fun Fair is "focused on kids pre-k to 5th grade", there will be plenty of activities suitable for all ages! You can expect to see a cake walk, Bozo buckets, photo booth, silent auctions, face painting and food such as pizza, hot dogs, chips and popcorn. Robinson also says there will be an "epic fish bowl toss". Kids will be able to win a live goldfish! The animals do not stop there, however. "Ms. Jacobs and the FFA group is adding to the fun with a petting zoo!" Robinson says. This is definitely going to be a night full of fun and games!

So who is involved with the Fun Fair? When Robinson thought of the idea, he remembered how fun these types of fairs were in elementary school. After the idea was sprouted, many clubs and organizations came together to make the Fun Fair extra-packed with games and events. "We could not have pulled this off without Mr. Nealon and the Industrial Tech Department, who are working on making some of our games; Mrs. Honel and the Art Department, for their creative skills in painting our props; Student Council; Ms. Jacobs the FFA/Ag Department; and Mr. Fantin, for all of his support. Also, I can't thank our current PTO enough for their advice, support and supplies to help get us going in the right direction," Robinson says. Since this is an NHS sponsored event,

it is a given that the money earned will go to a good cause, but what exactly are they raising money for? "Our efforts will go to the 'Digital Sign Fund'. We hope this sign can be placed at the corner of Rathje and North street to display school info, events and celebrations. Several graduating classes have donated to this fund over the years, and we hope to push it over the top and get this project complete!"

Finally, Billy Robinson says, "We hope you can stop in and support our Fun Fair! I hope we can reach our fundraising goal, but the best part is doing something fun for the kids and having so much support from our staff and community!" So be sure to bring your family and friends to the PHS Oktoberfest Fun Fair on October 19th, 6-8pm for a fun filled night of fall fun that goes to a good cause!



Seniors, and NHS members, Lynn Merigold and John Schubbe are all smiles as they do their job-encouraging and monitoring the silent auctions. These prizes were very well put together, and they were definitely a favorite of parents.

(Cont. on page 9)

(Cont. from page 8)

Everyone who went to the Fun Fair knows that it was exactly how Robinson described, and more. The gym was decorated with hay, pumpkins, and more fall decor. The silent raffle prizes were amazing and a huge hit. Almost every child went home with a fish, a face-painting, a pastry, and a smile on their face. On behalf of NHS, thank you to everyone who came and supported this event.



Mitchell Janik



Lucas Rumisek



Collin Veltman



Marty Merigold



Collin Novak

# Fall Sports

## Spectacular season for all teams

by Seth Lonard

Fall sports have been spectacular this year. The Varsity football team worked their tails off, but unfortunately finished the season with a record of 4-5. Mark Uthe says "My favorite game was Wilmington since we haven't beaten them since 2001 and never beaten them at Wilmington." Three golfers won All Conference: Lynn Merigold, Karli Borsch and John Schubbe all shot exceptional scores.

Girls Volleyball Varsity team finished with a 16-17 record. Mallory Schlinger says, "Volleyball is a great team sport. Everyone comes together to make the play happen." Freshman Girls Volleyball finished the season with a 19-3 record and took 1st at the Plano tournament. They also went undefeated through their Conference schedule.

Cross Country runner and freshman, Grace Battiato, is showing much promise this season and captured 4th in the Varsity race at the All Area Invite in Kankakee as well as on state. Amelia Kuypers ended up taking 1st in the JV race while Sophia Perry took 3rd and Maggie Kuypers ended up taking 4th. Girls Cross Country has done an amazing job all the way around, taking second in the Conference. The boys Cross Country have placed 4th at the Seneca meet with Joey Uthe placing 13th overall. Collin Bias believes his team has been much faster. Bias states "Cross Country is a fun and a great way to get in shape since all you do is run." The Soccer Varsity team took 5th place in

the Rival Cup with 4-1 win over Bishop McNamara. Varsity soccer player, Justin Marevka, is extremely good. He is in the top five in the country of scored goals. The Varsity team is 20-7 overall. Great work to everyone, and good job showing Peotone works hard and it pays off.



Girls Cross Country team poses for a picture while anxiously waiting for their results to be announced at a meet this month.



Girls Freshman volleyball team after working to win the Plano tournament.

Winter sports pictures will be Wednesday, November 14th.

# Spooky Numerical Superstition

## Be wary of what number is around the corner...

by Lorraine Selucky

You probably have knocked on wood to "unjinx" yourself multiple times or you have avoided stepping on a crack because you "do not want to break your dear mother's back." Well sit back, grab a bowl of popcorn, light some candles and get ready for a superstition.

Triskaidekaphobia. The fear of the number 13 is something that Madison Hunding has. The number is often associated with bad luck. You would not want to have just 13 guests at a party or be on the 13th floor of a building. Madison said, "I started to believe this superstition about two or three years ago. I noticed that on the 13th of any month I would have bad luck; it would be even worse if it was on a Friday." That alone made her have a stronger belief that 13 was unlucky. Yet, what makes the number 13 bad? One theory was made that Judas, the disciple who betrayed Jesus, was the 13th person to sit at the table at the Last Supper. In Norse Mythology, it is also thought that tables of 13 are unlucky.

Hunding now tries to avoid the number 13 in any way shape or form. After interviewing her, she has said that her bad luck got even worse. So does that mean that just talking about the number 13 gives someone a bad luck? We may never know.

On a lighter note, lets talk about a lucky number. The number seven has been associated with being lucky since ancient times. For example, before the invention of the telescope, only seven planets were visible. The Ancient Greeks believed that the number seven was the perfect number. The number seven also appears many times in the Bible. Yet, in Chinese culture, the number seven is associated with death.

Numbers, like thirteen and seven, are not only a huge part of different



Madison Hunding has such a fear of the number 13, she won't even dare look at the number, even if it is for a classroom.

cultures, they are also apparent in many superstitions.

Seniors and their families are able to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The PHS Guidance Department strongly recommends all college-bound seniors complete this application before December 1, 2018. Check out [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) for more information!

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