

# CHIEF

PONTIAC TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL



**LIVINGSTON COUNTY  
ART SHOW**

PTHS holds the 2nd annual county art show where our art students were able to show off their skills!

**2017 PROM  
PREVIEW**

The 2017 PTHS Prom is right around the corner! Details inside!

***REVIEW OF  
13 REASONS WHY***

You read the book, but are you watching the new Netflix hit?

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# DISPLAY OF TALENT

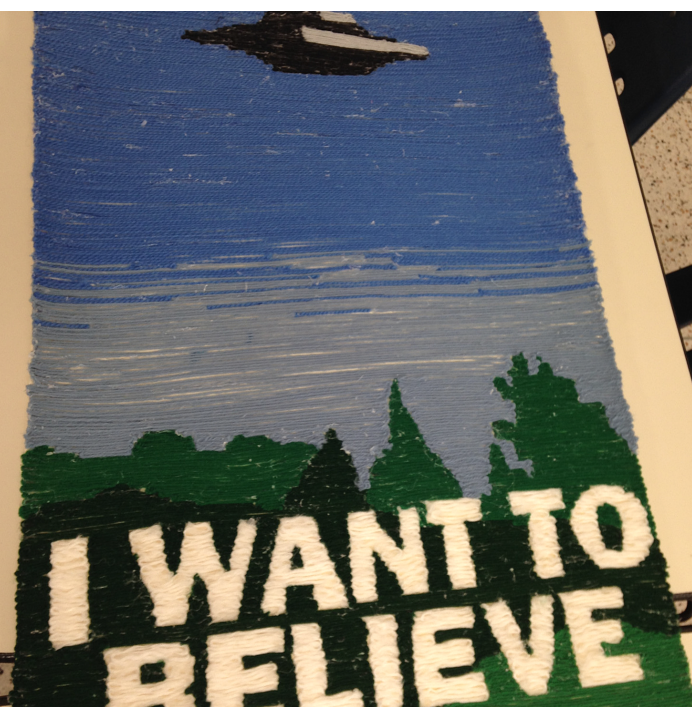
By Allyson Shoff

On April 3rd, PTHS hosted the second annual Livingston County Art Show. Surrounding high schools attended to showcase art in Black and White Drawing, Color Drawing, Ceramics, Mixed Media, Painting, Printmaking, Pen and Ink, Sculpture, and Photography. Art students from PTHS helped set up before the show started and assisted in helping the show run smoothly. Students and teachers from all participating schools were given time to view the collection of entered art and to chat amongst friends. Before we heard from our speaker, a student from each school was selected to participate in a friendly competition where they showcased their skills in modeling with clay. Calvin Ruiz participated from PTHS.

Our speaker this year was a representative from The American Academy of Art located in Chicago, who gave students an overview on the school's programs. We were also shown samples of students' work including improvement comparison photos. This was a real eye opener for some students on how much they could improve with a lot of practice. Students were also shown a many career options that came with a degree in art.

The final portion of the art show was the awards. While "Best in Show" went to a very talented student from Dwight for an amazing painting, Pontiac took a large amount of awards. In the Black and White Drawing Category, Jordyn Langer received 1st place, Owen Putnam received 3rd place, and Kaite Bates received an honorable mention. In Ceramics, Kylea Bradbury took 3rd place, and Ashlynn Becker received an honorable mention. Mixed Media gave Shelby Jennings 1st place, Olivia Welshans 2nd place, and Gabby Deacetis an Honorable Mention. Ashlynn Becker also received the 2nd place award in Painting with Nicolle Leon-Araujo placing 3rd. Her third award in this show, Ashlynn Becker, received 2nd place in Sculpture, and Sarah Christopher took 3rd. Pontiac dominated the Printmaking category with Madison Wright placing 1st, Clay Miller placing 2nd, Emma Brummel placing 3rd, and Josie Noonan receiving one of the two honorable mentions. Pen and Ink gave Hannah Lee 1st place and Jordyn Langer two more prizes with 3rd place and an honorable mention. Color Drawing and Design gave Nicolle Leon-Araujo and Josie Noonan a second award with 1st and 2nd place respectively. Andrea Araujo placed 3rd in this category. The final category, Photography, gave Gabby Deacetis her second award with an honorable mention.

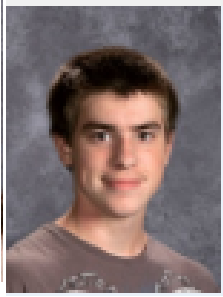
This year's Livingston County Art Show was a great success. It felt like there was more art presented than last year as well. I hope to be able to attend next year's art show as it holds a spot in my heart as one of the best memories of high school. Thank you to all schools and judges who attended this year!



## What do you want in your Easter Basket?



Michael Styner



"Candy!."



Elle Giovanini



"A puppy."



Taylor Brooks



"Tickets to Hawaii"

# Brazilian Students to Visit PTHS

By Taylor Ritter

As many of you have probably heard, Pontiac Township High School will host 14 Brazilian students from April 22nd to the 29th. These students are traveling here to perform water tests for levels of Atrazine in our waterways. Along with water testing, the students will enjoy exploring Chicago, Route 66, and our local agriculture and museums. Students from the Dual Credit Environmental Earth Science class here will be hosting these students and showing them how life is in central Illinois! We look forward to meeting the Brazilian students and exchanging different cultural perspectives.

# Brazil



# **PTHS Music Dept. Update**



## **Chorus**

By Eve Pouliot

This last month the Choir and Band went on a trip to New York. They went to many places such as Radio City Music Hall, a Manhattan tour, Central Park, Grand Central Terminal, a Broadway production (either Aladdin or Phantom of the Opera), Chinatown, Little Italy, Times Square, and several others. The whole thing was a wonderful experience, though it was certainly rushed at times. This upcoming month we have a choir concert which will be held on the 23rd of April.

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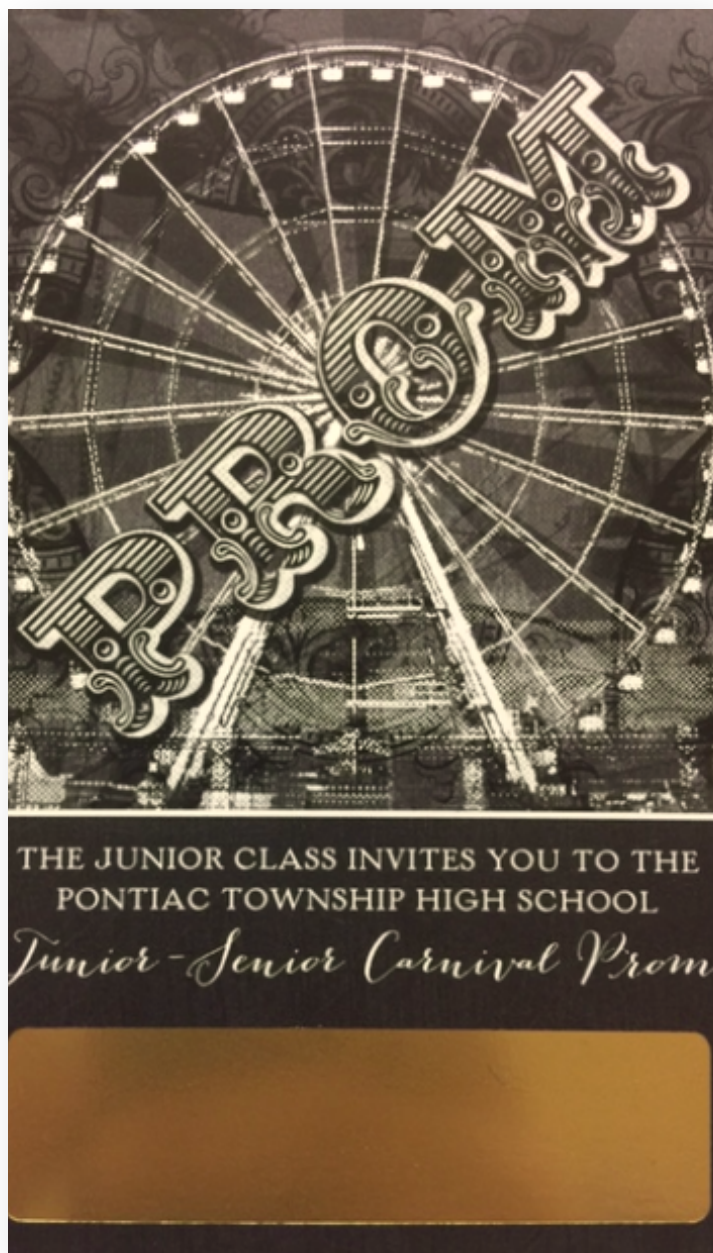
## **Band**

By Matthew Birkett

For Band, we all attended the WIU concert at the school on April 7th. Next, we'll have the Spring Concert on the 30th. Coming up next month, we'll have the Awards Night on the 2nd for both Band and Chorus. Memorial Day will feature the Marching Band and the following day is the start of band Camp.

## *Prom 2017 Preview*

By Shelby Jennings



Prom this year will be held in Lexington at the Castle Gardens. If you have ever been to Castle Gardens, you know that this place is beautiful. The theme is “carnival” and will be held on Saturday, May 6th, from 6 pm to 11:00 pm. Students will be able to enjoy activities included with their ticket such as a carousel and train ride. As always, delicious food will be provided all throughout the dance. I hope to see you there!



## Boys Tennis Update

By Owen Putnam



The Boys Tennis season has begun and so far they have looked good. They started with a tournament win at East Peoria by defeating Washington by one point. The team played U-High last week and lost, but bounced back with a win against St. Beede. So far, the biggest obstacle is the weather. Not only has rain cancelled or postponed meets, but also practices. However, they hope for clear weather from here on out. This year's squad features five seniors in their top six, as well as a talented freshman in Rocco Sartoris. The team is deep with talent and should finish well over .500 this season. If you have a free evening, be sure to check out the tennis schedule and come support your Indians!

# Upperclass Acts



## Alexa Duffy

NAME: Alexa Duffy

NICKNAME: Lex

ROLE MODEL(S): My mom and dad

ACTIVITIES @ PTHS: Symphonic Band, Color Guard, HOSA, Spanish Club, NTHS

FONDEST MEMORY OF HIGH SCHOOL SO FAR:  
Color guard and Homecoming week

3 MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST: English, nursing, cooking

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: Travel and go to North Central College

FAVORITE MOVIE: *Finding Nemo*

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SONG: "Love Yourself" by Justin Bieber

FAVORITE CLASS: Anatomy

FAVORITE AUTHOR: James Dashner

MOST POSITIVE MOMENT: Starting color guard freshman year and doing well at every competition

PET PEEVES: Obnoxious people

WHAT MY FRIENDS WILL REMEMBER ABOUT ME: I'm funny, caring, and always up for going on an adventure

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$1,000,000?: Travel the world and pay for college

IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT 3 ITEMS WOULD YOU WANT WITH YOU? : Phone, sunscreen, ice cream

LAST WORDS OF ADVICE: "Strive to do your best until the end."

# Upperclass Acts



## Aysha Willis

NAME: Aysha Willis

NICKNAMES: A, Willis, Bubby J, Aysha Ann

ROLE MODEL(S): My mom, Dr. Bandy, Morgan Willis (sister)

ACTIVITIES @ PTHS: Softball, Student Council, Science Club, Spanish Club VP, National Honor Society

FONDEST MEMORY OF HIGH SCHOOL SO FAR: Hitting a homerun sophomore year in softball, 2016 Prom

3 MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST: Science, Math, and Writing

PLANS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL: Attend Southern Illinois University-Carbondale and major in Biology

FAVORITE MOVIE: *The Conjuring*

MOST INSPIRATIONAL SONG: "Try" by Colbie Caillat

FAVORITE TEACHERS/CLASS: Mr. Krause, Mr. Ritter, Mr. Christie, Señor, Mr. Blair, Mr. Nollen, Mr. Soares / Anatomy

FAVORITE AUTHOR/BOOK: "The Fault" in Our Stars by John Green

MOST POSITIVE MOMENT: Being named as a 2017 Illinois State Scholar

PET PEEVES: People chewing with their mouth open

WHAT MY FRIENDS WILL REMEMBER ABOUT ME: My sarcastic personality

HOW WOULD YOU SPEND \$1,000,000? I would use half towards my college debt that I will be attaining these next several years into my life and donate half towards the Alzheimer's Association in honor of my Aunt Jewel who suffers from Alzheimer's.

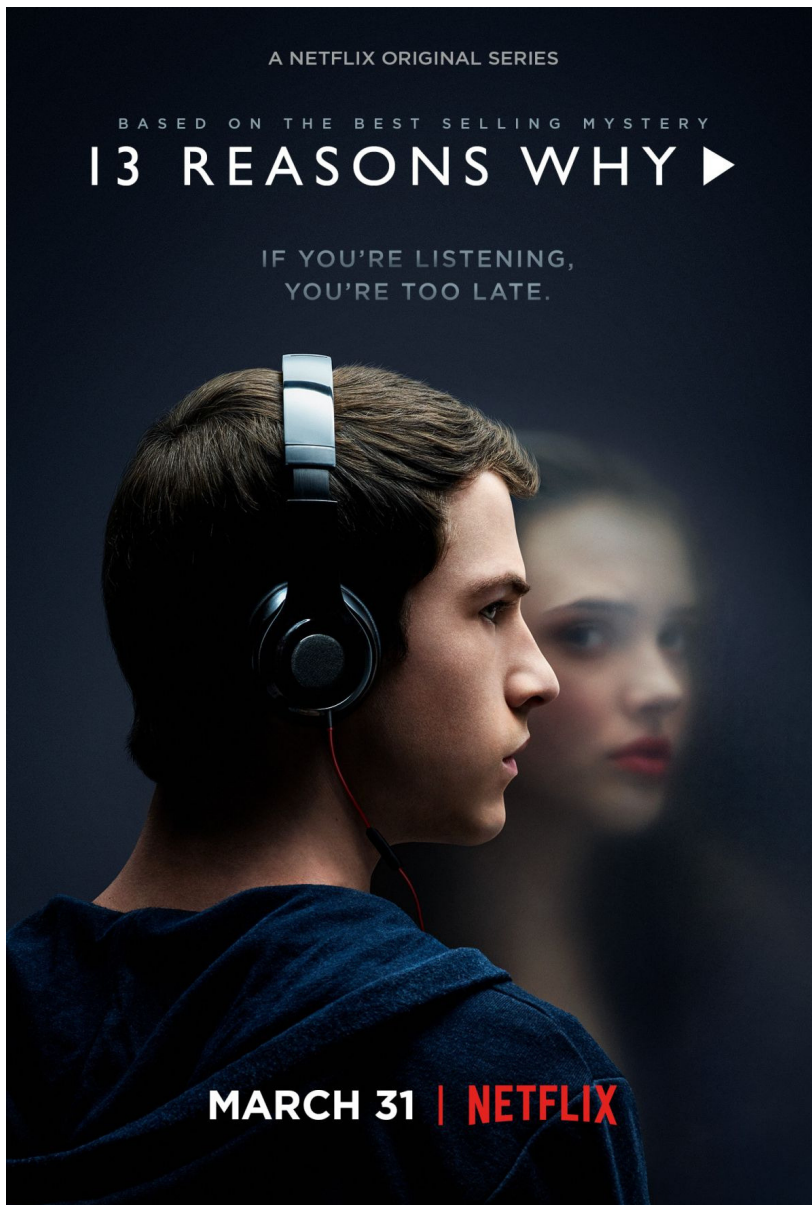
IF YOU WERE STRANDED ON A DESERT ISLAND, WHAT 3 ITEMS WOULD YOU WANT WITH YOU? Sunscreen, chapstick, water

LAST WORDS OF ADVICE: "Branch out of your comfort zone, get involved, and meet new people throughout high school."



## Review of the New Netflix Hit: *13 Reasons Why*

By Carlie Weaver



*Thirteen Reasons Why* was released to Netflix users on March 31, 2017, and it has taken the world by storm. It is adapted from the 2007 Young Adult Novel by Jay Asher. The paperback edition hit #1 on the New York Times best-seller list in July 2011. This popular Netflix Original is all about Hannah Baker or, more specifically, the thirteen reasons why she committed suicide. Before she died, she recorded thirteen cassette tapes explaining, in full detail, how thirteen different people influenced her life so greatly that she decided to kill herself. The story follows Clay Jensen, a person on the tapes and a co-worker of Hannah's, as he makes his way through all thirteen cassettes. Clay discovers secrets and events that the others would not want to get out. At the end of the day, Clay is just trying to figure out why he is on the tapes. With a lawsuit for bullying on the school's hands, they are doing the best they can to get information from Hannah's "friends." In order to save themselves, they need to come together to make sure no one else ever hears those tapes, but will that last? Will Clay squeal? Log on to Netflix tonight to find the complete first season and your answers. It is more than worth your time.



## Review of *Songs of Love and Death* by Me and That Man By Allyson Shoff

Fans of black metal band, Behemoth, had mixed feelings when Nergal, the band's frontman, announced we would be partnering with John Porter for a folk album. Many were not surprised considering Nergal is known for breaking the mold. He opened a barbarian academy in Poland, after all. Some worried how this would impact the future of Behemoth, though there's been plenty of development within the band to extinguish these worries. The new group, called Me and That Man, released their first album, *Songs of Love and Death*, on March 24th, 2017. I was already excited for this album from the three singles that had been released. Although I expected this album to be good, I was blown away by this album. We listened to this album for the first time on blue and silver vinyl, and it sounded amazing!

The album opened with "My Church is Black," which was the first single released a couple months ago. The video for this song was strange to say the least, and the song is powerfully emotional. Nergal's vocals for this song are perfect! The next song, "Nightride," features John Porter's vocals. This song felt like an old country-rock song. It's catchy and fun, a complete turn-around from "My Church is Black." "On the Road," the third song, is much the same. It does have more a bluesy feel to it than other songs on the album. The fourth song, "Cross My Heart and Hope to Die," is my favorite song on the album. The children's chorus that joins in towards the end of the song is beautifully included. It adds a whole different, beautiful level to this already melancholy feeling the song has. The song is another to feature Nergal's vocals. I might be a bit biased towards songs with his vocals though as a fan of Behemoth.

"Better the Devil I Know" is another favorite of mine. A female vocalist joins in for this song, and it has a strong folk metal sound to it that reminds me of Blood Ceremony, my favorite band. They feature a female lead singer with lots of organ, fiddle, and flute, and they have a strong pagan witch rock vibe to them. This song has something very similar to it with the faint hint of a fiddle in the background and the creepy organ-sounding keyboard between choruses. Another song with Nergal's vocals taking the lead, it's a strong song on the album. The rest of the album is just as good as the first few tracks. "Of Sirens, Vampires and Lovers" is a mellow song full of sadness and regret. John Porter's vocals shine on this track. "Magdalene" is a song with a perfect mix between John Porter's and Nergal's vocals, and they go together perfectly. This song starts with a more upbeat feel, and it even features some electric guitar that makes a nice contrast to a mostly acoustic song. "Love & Death" had a completely different feel to it than other songs in the album. It was a bit more groovy and had more electric elements, and the two vocalists sing together almost the entire song.

"One Day" is probably one of the most upbeat songs on the album. Despite this upbeat feel, the lyrics are fairly dark. "Shaman Blues" has a dark feel to it as well, and has a nice beat to it. "Voodoo Queen" has a similar feeling to "Better the Devil I Know." It's probably my favorite of the songs featuring John Porter's vocals. "Get Outta This Place" is a fun song with some really good guitar solos. "Ain't Much Loving" finished off the album with a truly beautiful feeling that really fits in with the world today. This song is calm and slow. It's full of crippling sorrow and despair. The emotion in Nergal's John Porter's voices speak of the world today as it falls apart around them. The video was powerful as it shows musicians singing the haunting chorus lines together.

# Join *The CHIEF*

By Allyson Shoff

If you're seeing this article, it means you probably already read *The Chief*. If you just so happen not to know, it's Pontiac Township High School's newspaper. Each month, a new issue of *The Chief* is released with articles written by students. These articles are about events at the school, tips for studying, poetry, reviews on the latest books, movies, or music, or just some fun information about what's going on.

Here's the problem. *The Chief* needs new members. All but two members are seniors, which means that there will only be two people in *The Chief* next year unless we get some new writers. The list of interested freshman is pretty great, and joining the newspaper will be a nice way to integrate them into PTHS, but there will still be the need for older students to help guide them along.

That being said, do you like to write? Do you find stuff going on in this town or school interesting? Are you bored during block study hall? If you answered yes to a single one of those questions, there's room for you on *The Chief*!

Enjoy creative writing? If you ever would ever like to see your creative pieces in *The Chief*, contact Mr. Soares or Mr. Blair!

## *The Chief* Staff

Allyson Shoff - Editor-in-Chief

Matthew Birkett  
Cheyenne Dillon  
Shelby Jennings  
Owen Putnam  
Eve Pouliot  
Taylor Ritter  
Carlie Weaver

Mr. Blair, Faculty Sponsor  
Mr. Soares, Faculty Sponsor

