

# >>=The Tribal Times==>

Peebles High School Newspaper



October 2009

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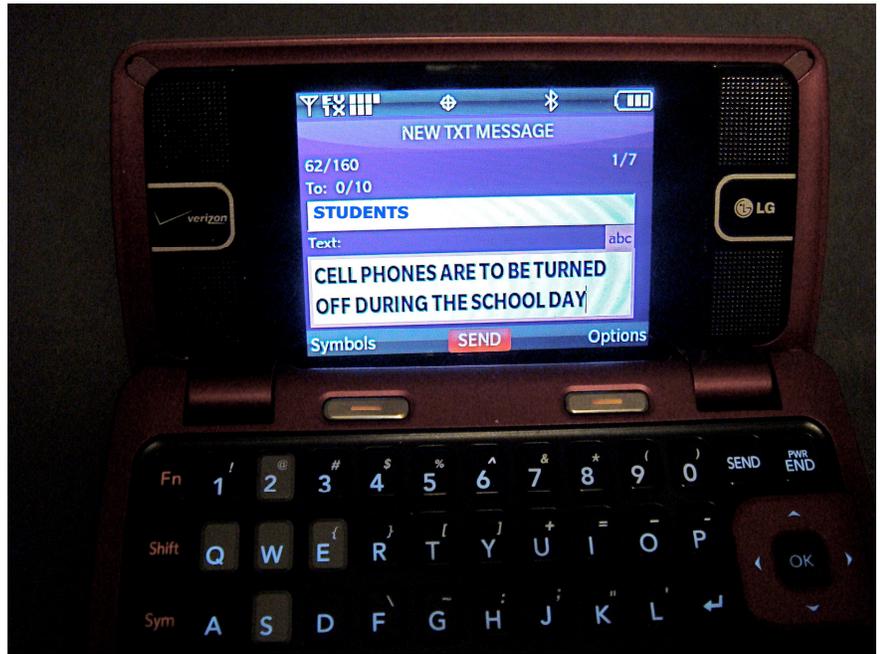
## PHS ADJUSTS TO 'NO CELL PHONE' RULE

BY TARINA QURAISHI

Peebles High School's new cell phone policy has some students texting, "WT...?"

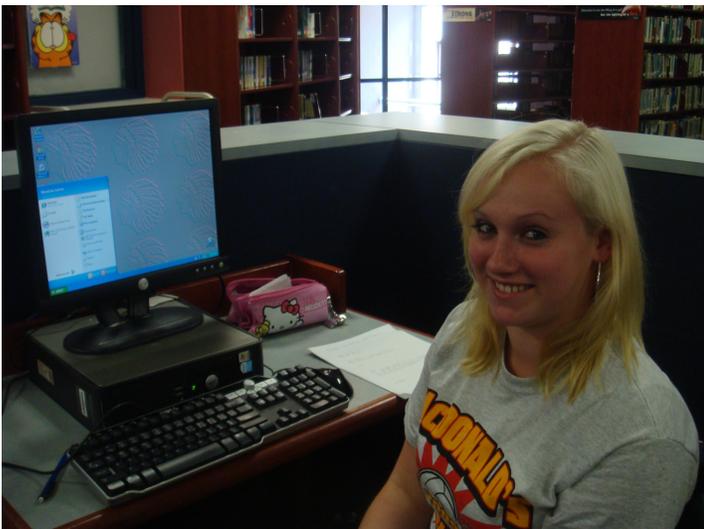
Cell phone usage in class has always been against school rules, but the 2009-10 school year kicked off with a stricter, more elaborate policy. "These devices are becoming more and more of a problem in schools," Ohio Valley superintendent Pat Kimble wrote in a district news update in August. "Beginning with this school year, violation of the guidelines on cell phones and electronic devices will be very clear cut and progressively punitive."

*Continued on next page.*



The rule against cell phone use is stricter this year, but many PHS students are reluctant to give up texting.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Inside this issue: An interview with Mareike Kahrs of Germany (pictured above)

- Get to know Peebles High School's Newest Teachers
- Exchange Student Interview
- "My First Junior High Experience"
- Saturday Night Revolution

# THE (THEORETICAL) END OF TEXTING AT SCHOOL

*(Continued from front page.)*

To enforce progressive discipline, local high schools have adopted a three-strikes policy. Phones are confiscated from students who are caught using them for the first time, and the second offense sends students to Friday night school.

"The third time, the cell phone or electronic device will be confiscated and kept as evidence," the OVSD student handbook states. "The student will be turned over to the Prosecutor's office, and unruly charges will be filed."

"The [punishment for the] third offense is too much. It's high school," said Shonacy Bick, a senior.

By definition, an unruly charge can only be filed against a minor and processed in Juvenile Court. According to the web site of attorney Gregory McKeithen, unruly offenses include truancy, curfew violation, and possession of alcohol by a minor.

While breaking a school rule does not directly translate to legal punishment, like more serious unruly charges do, the district policy goes on to say that illegal or obscene images found on students' phones may lead to criminal charges.

An Ohio law that addresses sexting by minors is in the works. "Currently, teens could face felony child pornography charges which could force them on to sexual offender registries for as long as 20 years," reported Bill Price of Cincinnati's ABC 9 News.

Administrators also have to consider school safety. "Cell phones have been used for calling in bomb threats to schools and, in many communities, cell calls cannot be traced by public safety officials," according to the National School Safety and Security Services web site.

Cell phones can provide students with a



Shonacy Bick dramatizes how students secretly text in class.

sense of security at school; in an emergency, they can contact their parents much faster than a school's automated system can. However, heavy phone usage in an emergency can overload cell phone towers.

Officials also fear that students' addiction to technology could jeopardize their safety in situations like a school lockdown.

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"Videos, photos and Facebook groups all started by students during the lockdown [at a Toronto public high school] show that some weren't exactly hiding quietly in their classrooms with the doors locked, the lights off and away from windows," reported the *Toronto Sun's* Don Peat after an incident involving a suspected gunman at the school.

Another cell phone hazard the policy safeguards against is cheating. "I guess the rule makes some sense. I see how it's possible for people to cheat, like using text messages," said an anonymous senior who still texts in class. "But that doesn't mean that students are doing it."

In fact, the majority of students use their phones in class to send regular text messages. The main purpose of the rule, therefore, is to prevent teens from socializing via technology when they should be studying a lesson plan.

"It wouldn't be fair for the teachers if students used their phones. Then the lessons would just be pointless if no one took anything away from it," an anonymous junior said.

Some students are skeptical that the cell phone ban will have much impact on academics, though. "Most people aren't going to be more productive because they can't use their phones. I know plenty of people who don't use their phones during class and still get nothing done," the anonymous senior said.

Others said that their peers are simply ignoring the rule, anyway.

"It seems it scared some people, but then again it makes people sneakier

about it as well," Ariel Knoechelman, a senior, said.

Some students may even pay less attention in class as they spend more energy trying to keep their texting discreet. Before the stricter policy, Peebles students often texted in class by hiding phones in their purses or behind a textbook.

On the other hand, several PHS students claim that they text less or have stopped using their phones at school altogether because of the new policy.

Most students also feel that there are positive sides to the rule. "It affects all students, not just some. The rule is fair," said an anonymous senior.

As with all rules, there are gray areas to the cell phone policy. Questions arise such as, "Why can't you text if you're a teacher's assistant with nothing to do 8<sup>th</sup> period?"

"It (the rule) probably helps kids pay attention some, but if they are done working or whatever then they should be allowed," said an anonymous junior.

*"No matter how much faculty says not to bring them, it is just not going to happen because they are so useful and needed now."*

"No matter how much faculty says not to bring them or leave them in lockers, it is just mainly not going to happen because they are so useful and needed now, and if you leave them laying around they'll get stolen."

For now, students, staff, and administrators agree that school should be a productive and positive environment.

"I understand that the schools are trying they're hardest to control a problem, but they just haven't found the right way to do it yet," Knoechelman said.

# Grace Fellowship Just One of the Churches to Offer a Fun Time for the Weekend

BY CARRIE CHALKER

Why sit around just doing nothing on the weekend when the opportunity for a fun time is just down the street? Instead of playing PS2 for the millionth time, why not check out some of the events held by local churches for teens and high schoolers? A good example is at the Grace Fellowship Church during their monthly *Saturday Night Revolution (SNR)*. Plus, it's easy to find because it's right across the street from school.

*Saturday Night Revolution* is an event held on the third Saturday of every month. The doors typically open at 7 PM and the events goes till 11 PM. There are sports, games, sometimes Game Cube and Wii competitions, tons of food, and of course chill time with friends.

Scott McFarland, one of the usual speakers at *SNR*, says, "*Revolution* has brought the youth from different churches together, giving the young people in the area something fun to do."

The biggest part of the night comes at eight o'clock, when a rising Christian band performs live. Past bands have included Triblessed, Abandon,



The band *Burning Yesterday* performed at Grace Fellowship Church's *Saturday Night Revolution* on September 19th.

7eventh Time Down, Me in Motion, Live Fish, and many more. During an intermission-like break in the concert, a speaker talks about issues that young people can relate to in their own lives.

Last week, the band *Burning Yesterday* performed a rather exciting show. This band was the first metal-Christian band to step foot in *Revolution*. The concert attracted many teens, including some from other youth groups.

Following the first of the night's proceedings, Robbie Chandler and Shelby Maddox, both of Grace Fel-

lowship's youth group, performed an interpretive dance.

"I think *SNR* is a good way to reach people; I feel like we are still in the learning stages, though," says Chandler.

Then Tasha Bailey, the teens' former Sunday school teacher, gave the lesson. Bailey gave her popular speech, "Respect the Twirl." The speech was a lesson on innocence and impacted many attendees, who filled the altar during the prayer.

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# Church Events for Teens

(Continued)

The evening's main festivities finished up with *Burning Yesterday's* final performance. That left SNR attendees with about an hour to talk to the band and mingle before returning home.

Katelynd Williams, a PHS Junior who recently attended *Revolution*, says, "I thought it was a fun way for everyone to have something to do and not go get in trouble; to have fun and not go break any laws or anything."

The only catch is... there is no catch. The entire event is free.

Of course, *Saturday Night Revolution* is not the only teen event held by Grace Fellowship. Recently, the church held its very first

lock-in, called *The Awakening*.

A lock-in is an overnight event where people attempt to stay up the whole time, or just sleep in designated areas for separate sexes.

The night typically includes food, games, and activities.

Instead of lasting twelve hours, *The Awakening* was actually took place for 24 hours. It began on Friday, September 11 at 6 PM and went to 6 PM the next day.

Unlike *Revolution*, it did not have a live band, but rather several sessions of lessons with different speakers. These speakers included Aaron Davis, who gives a lesson each Sunday morning to Grace Fellowship teens.

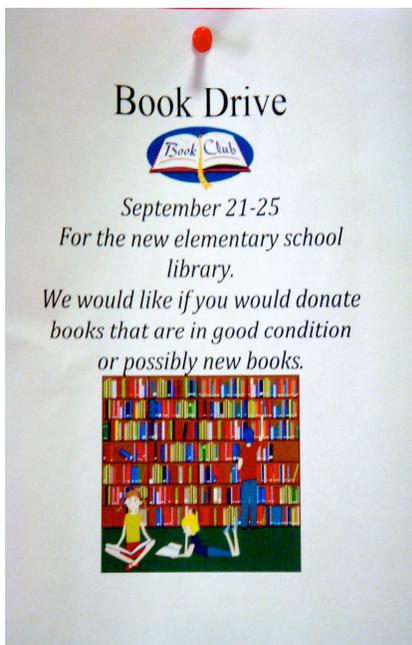
"I thought the kids were great, and I enjoyed myself," Davis says. "Some took it to heart and some didn't, but I think some of them did grow spiritually."

Still, these are only a few examples of local church events for teenagers. Several local churches hold similar events, and asking peers is a good way to get a first-hand opinion about them.

When asked if she would recommend *Revolution* to people, PHS Junior Ashira Gardner, another fairly new person to the events, says, "Yes, I would! I told a lot of people about the night I went. It's so fun and I loved it."

Check it out.

## Book Drive for New Elementary Building



From September 21st-25th, PHS held a book drive to benefit the new Peebles Elementary School building.

Ms. Long organized the project, and the students in her classes participated.

"The idea was started after my eighth grade Language Arts classes created a goal to 'help out' at least once every nine weeks," Ms. Long said. "Organizing a book drive was their idea for the first nine-weeks grading period."

During the week of the drive, students dropped off new and gently used chil-

dren's books in designated boxes throughout the school.

"One of the main reasons we feel it's important to provide books to our elementary school kids is so we can help them to become more interested in reading," said Ms. Long.

"We hope that the younger kids may be more likely to read some of the books that high school kids and teachers are giving them."

The new elementary building is scheduled to open this December.

# Foreign Exchange Student Interviews

The newspaper staff interviewed the foreign exchange students. This year there are five.

This is from foreign exchange student Alexandra Leonard.

1. What country are you from?

*I am from Belgium.*

2. Why did you decide to come to America and, more importantly, Peebles High School?

*I came because I'd like to improve my English and discover the "American's Life."*

3. In your home country, what is your favorite food and what does it have in it?

*My favorite food is italian food.*

4. What are the colors of your flag?

*They would be black, yellow, and red.*

5. What rules do you have at your school that are, or are not, at our school?

*We can leave the school during lunch. We have to stand up when a teacher comes in the classroom. Also, we can't wear training shirts (sport's clothes).*

6. Do you have a favorite food here? If so, what is it?

*That would have to be brownies.*

7. What is the capital of your country?

*Bruxelles is the capital. It is also the capital of the European Union.*

8. What town or city do you live in? What part of the country is it in (north, south, east, west)?

*I live in a village (Vedrin) near a small town called Namur. It is in the middle of my country.*

9. What is your favorite thing to do?

*I like to make party with my friends, see them, and dance.*

10. What are the names of your family and your relationship with them (mom, dad, brother, sister)?

*My mother is Carine. My father is Serge. My brother is Geoffrey.*

These are the words of Maren Holst.

1. What country are you from?

*I'm from Germany.*

2. Why did you decide to come to America and, more importantly, Peebles High School?

*I decided to come to America because I wanted to learn something about this land and its people.*

3. In your home country, what is your favorite food and what does it have in it?

*My favorite food in Germany is black bread. It's just whole grain and it is hard, not soft like bread in America.*

4. What are the colors of your flag?

*They are black, red, and gold.*

5. What rules do you have at your school that are, or are not, at our school?

*We don't have the rule that you need a formal letter from your teacher to go outside.*

6. Do you have a favorite food here? If so, what is it?

*My favorite food here are brownies.*

7. What is the capital of your country?

*The capital is Berlin.*

8. What town or city do you live in? What part of the country is it in (north, south, east, west)?

*I live in Hamburg. It's in the north of Germany.*

9. What is your favorite thing to do?

*I like to meet friends, make party, and jog.*

10. What are the names of your family and your relationship with them (mom, dad, brother, sister)?

*The name of my father is Haus- Hermauu. My mother is Ingrid. My little brother is Malle.*



# Nguyen

## Lhuong

This is what foreign exchange student, Nguyen Lhuong Ngan, has to say.

1. What country are you from?  
I am from Viet Nam.
2. Why did you decide to come to America and, more importantly, Peebles High School?  
I took part in the cultural exchange program and came to America to improve my English, receive a new education, and a new culture. Besides, I wanted to introduce Vietnamese culture to American friends.
3. In your home country, what is your favorite food and what does it have in it?  
My favorite food is meat pie. It is made from pork, chicken or beef, and wrapped in banana leaf.
4. What are the colors of your flag?  
They are red and yellow.
5. What rules do you have at your school that are, or are not, at our school?  
At my school, all students have to wear a uniform.
6. Do you have a favorite food here? If so, what is it?  
Yes, I do. They are hamburgers, pizza, hot dogs, and spaghetti.
7. What is the capital of your country?  
The capital is Ha Noi.
8. What town or city do you live in? What part of the country is it in (north, south, east, west)?  
I live in Ha Noi. It is in the north of Viet Nam.
9. What is your favorite thing to do?  
Reading books, chatting, cooking, and raising pets are my favorite things to do.
10. What are the names of your family and your relationship with them (mom, dad, brother, sister)?  
My father: Nguyen Manh Dat    My mother: Tran Thi Xuan Phuong  
My brother: Nguyen Dinh Ngoc

# Ngan



Laura Armando shared a few words with us.

1. What country are you from?

*I am from Brazil.*

2. Why did you decide to come to America and, more importantly, Peebles High School?

*I thought it would be a good experience to learn English, get maturity, make more friends, and live in a different culture. I didn't choose to come to PHS. When you are in an exchange program, the host family chooses you; you don't choose the state, city, or school.*

3. In your home country, what is your favorite food and what does it have in it?

*My favorite food is cheese bread. It is a bread made with cheese that is a famous Brazilian food.*

4. What are the flag colors of your country?

*They are green, yellow, and blue.*

5. What rules do you have at your school that are, or are not, at our school?

*In my school we can skip classes because the teachers believe that it is better for everybody if only the students who want to learn stay in class. However, there is a percentage of classes for each subject that you must stay in class. At lunch time, we can have lunch at home or another place and go back to school.*

6. Do you have a favorite food here? If so, what is it?

*No, I don't.*

7. What is the capital of your country?

*The capital is Brasilia.*

8. What town or city do you live in? What part of the country is it in (north, south, east, west)?

*I live in Sao Paulo in the south.*

9. What is your favorite thing to do?

*I like to play soccer, hang out with my friends, go to movies, go to parties, and more.*

10. What are the names of your family and your relationship with them (mom, dad, brother, sister)?

*My mom is Camila. Dad is Eduardo. My brother is Luis Eduardo.*

Mareike Kahrs wants to tell us her answers.

1. What country are you from?

*I am from Germany.*

2. Why did you decide to come to America and more importantly, Peebles High School?

*Before my exchange year, I heard a lot about America. I wanted to know more about it, especially the culture, way of life, and school.*

3. In your home country, what is your favorite food and what does it have in it?

*German food, like "Wieno Schnitzel" and "sweet burritos" with sugar and apples.*

4. What are the flag colors of your country?

*Our flag has three stripes and they are black, red, and gold; but on most pictures it is yellow not gold.*

5. What rules do you have at your school that are, or are not, at our school?

*In our school, but also in most schools in Germany, you can wear what you want, like shorts and tank tops. Also we are allowed to leave the school during our lunch break or if we have free-lessons. This also happens if a teacher is sick or not at school.*

6. Do you have a favorite food here? If so, what is it?

*Yes, I have a foavorite food. I love Macaroni and Cheese!! : )*

7. What is the capital of your country? What part of the country is it in (north, south, east, west)?

*The capital of Germany is Berlin with 3.5 million people.*

8. What town or city do you live in?

*I live in Velzon, but I'm sure you don't know it, so it is better to say I live near Hamburg. Hamburg is in the north of Germany and is the second largest city with 1.8 million people. I know it is not as big as the second biggest city here, but for Germany it is big.*

9. What is your favorite thing to do?

*I like to meet friends and go shopping with them and of course play volleyball!*

10. What are the names of your family and your relationship with them (mom, dad, brother, sister)?

*My parents are divorced since five years. I live with my mom, Claudia, and my stepfather, Matthias, in a house. I also have a brother who is nine named Florian. My dad's name is Dietmar. He lives with my stepmother, Iris, on the same street.*

# Exchange Student Pics



# MY FIRST JUNIOR HIGH EXPERIENCE



By HANNAH ROGERS

My first junior high experience was probably just like every other seventh grader's: confusing.

Everyone's schedule was all messed up, but other than that, my first day was pretty good. Lockers were a big problem for a lot of people, but I got the hang of mine pretty quickly.

Junior high school was nothing like I expected. I thought it would be really hard, and all the teachers would be strict, but the work is pretty easy and the teachers are really nice.

The work I've had so far was just a review of elementary work, so it's not difficult. My favorite teacher is Mr. Doddridge; he tells the funniest stories, and my favorite subject so far is Language Arts because I like writing.

I like the principals and staff. They are very helpful and keep the students in line. The things that I like the most about high school are the new, clean building, the nice cool air condition, and all of the after-school

activities.

The only negative thing about high school is not having recess, but every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday after we finish our lunch we can go to the gym and have free time. Also, every Friday during home-room if you turned in all your work and passed all tests, you are allowed to go to the gym for half an hour and play volleyball or basketball, or just sit and talk.

So far I really like junior high and I hope the rest of the year is as good as these first few weeks.

BY TIMOTHY SMALLEY

The life of a seventh grader is pretty chaotic. There are different rules, and the classes are way different than the elementary. You have to get used to all the new changes of classes and teachers. In junior high, you get more freedom. Even though you get more freedom, the teachers are way stricter! But a flaw is that we don't get recess.



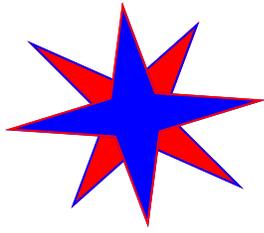
Meet Tribal Times reporter

# Carrie Chalker



*Carrie Chalker is a girl who is thrilled to be starting off the new school year as an upperclassman junior. She is 16 years old and relishes the freedom of the driver's license. However, this new year also brings a new challenge for Carrie as she is starting part-time post secondary classes. Now, not only does she have morning classes at SSCC, but she also takes classes back at the high school. (The license should come in handy!) Carrie is also a proud member of the varsity soccer team and is involved in FCS, Beta, the annual PHS musical, 4-H, choir, Young Defenders, and has been playing the violin for eight years.*

*Carrie is a good student who works hard and strives for her best in everything she does. Although she only has one younger brother, a small, close family and many good friends, Carrie does her best to please everyone around her. Carrie also says that she feels blessed in life because God has given her all the joy she could ever need..*



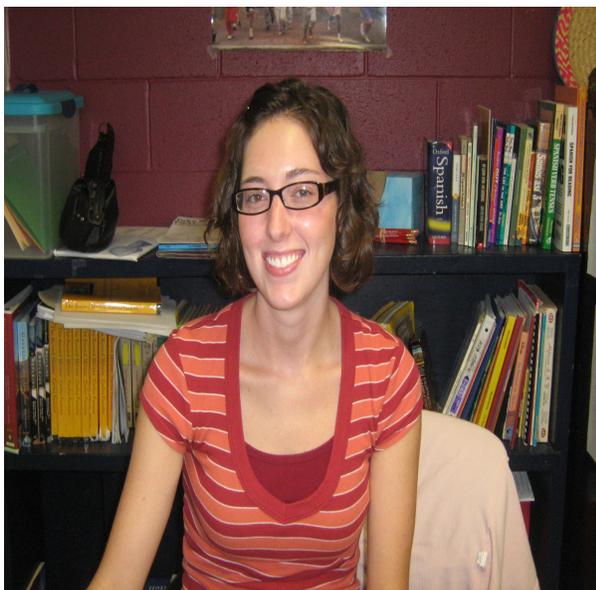
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Interviews  
2009  
PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL



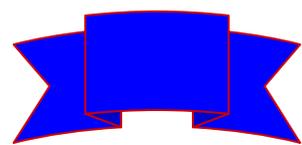
The Tribal Times staff asked Mrs. Robin Boling, who teaches Spanish, a series of questions. Here they are:

1. How long have you been living in either the Adams County School District or the Peebles area?  
*I have spent all my life in Sardinia, Ohio.*
2. What is your favorite non-fast food restaurant?  
*It would have to be "Don Pablo's."*
3. What is your favorite vacationing spot and where is it located?  
*I would like to go back to Ecuador sometime—beaches, volcanoes, mountains, sea turtles! It has it all!!*
4. What is your favorite sport team?  
*That would be Miami Hockey.*
5. What is the name of your high school sweetheart or the love of your life now?  
*His name is Billy, and he is the same person!*
6. What is your dream living environment?  
*That would be somewhere with my family.*
7. What is your all-time favorite book and movie?  
*The books would have to be the Harry Potter series. My favorite movie is Dirty Dancing.*

MRS. ROBIN BOLING



8. What is your ultimate dream vehicle (year, model, color, etc.)?  
*My vehicle would have to be Silver Eclipse.*
9. What is the quote you live by?  
*'Live. Laugh. Love. & Learn!!!'*
10. Who, in your opinion, is the HOTTEST celebrity?  
*Duh, George Clooney!!*
11. In the history of the arts, what is the best song or poem you have heard?  
*I have no idea..*
12. Pick one: Jewelry or Chocolates? Why?  
*Chocolates, I have a sweet tooth that never quits.*
13. Pick one: Purses or Shoes? Why?  
*Purses, I'm always on the look out for a new bag.*
14. Pick a combination: Blood and Gore or Lovey Dovey/ Why?  
*I'm a sucker for any romantic comedy. Not a fan of horror movies!!!*

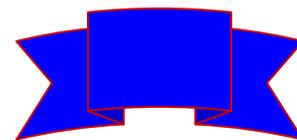


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New  
Teacher

Interviews  
2009

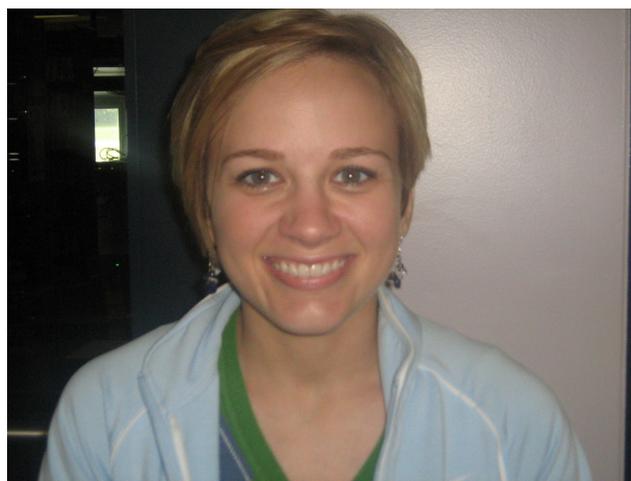
PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL



Another teacher interviewed was Mrs. Meredith Haslam, the distance learning teacher. She answers:

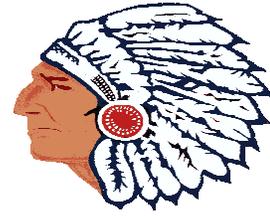
1. How long have you been living in either the Adams County School District or the Peebles area?  
*I have lived here my whole life.*
2. What is your favorite non-fast food restaurant?  
*That would be "J. Alexander's."*
3. What is your favorite vacationing spot and where is it located?  
*My favorite spot is New York City!!*
4. What is your favorite sport team?  
*The Ohio State Buckeyes.*
5. What is the name of your high school sweetheart or the love of your life now?  
*His name is Aaron.*
6. What is your dream living environment?  
*My dream is to live in a penthouse in the upper east side of Manhattan..*
7. What is your all-time favorite book and movie?  
*Book- Pride & Prejudice Movie- The Holiday*

8. What is your ultimate dream vehicle?  
*It is a Volkswagen Toureg 2 TDI.*
9. What is the quote you live by?  
*"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."  
Proverbs 16:3—Carpe Diem*
10. Who, in your opinion, is the HOTTEST celebrity?  
*Brad Pitt, of course.*
11. In the history of the arts, what is the best song or poem you have heard?  
*Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken."*
12. Pick one: Jewelry or Chocolates? Why?  
*Jewelry—it can't make you fat.*
13. Pick one: Purses or Shoes? Why?  
*That's not a fair question!! :)*
14. Pick a combination: Blood and Gore or Lovey Dovey? Why?  
*Lovey Dovey because Blood and Gore makes me faint.*





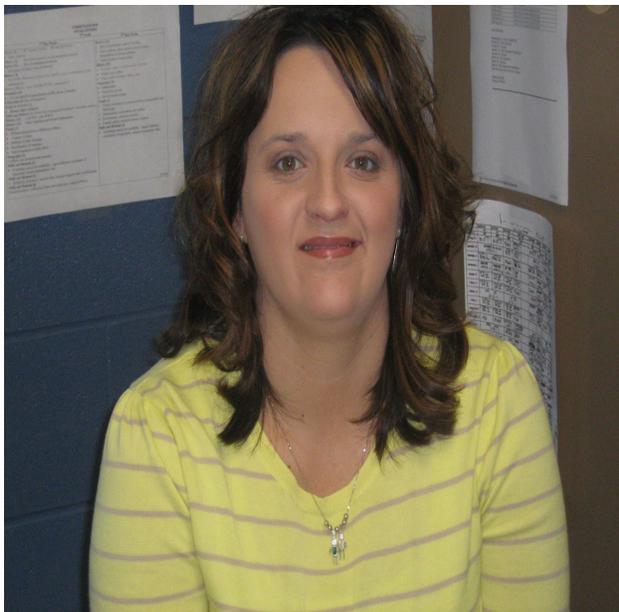
New  
Teacher  
Interviews  
2009  
PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL



Interviewed teacher number three is Mrs. Amanda Myers, who teaches Social Studies.

1. How long have you been living in either the Adams County School District or the Peebles area?  
*I have lived in Adams County my whole life but in Peebles for only three years.*
2. What is your favorite non-fast food restaurant?  
*My restaurant is "O' Charleys."*
3. What is your favorite vacationing spot and where is it located?  
*How about any beach, anywhere.*
4. What is your favorite sport team?  
*The Ohio State Buckeyes.*
5. What is the name of your high school sweetheart or the love of your life now?  
*The name is Seth.*
6. What is your dream living environment?  
*Anywhere my family is, is good for me.*
7. What is your all-time favorite book and movie?  
*My book is Tuesdays with Morrie. My movie is Remember the Titans.*

# Mrs. Amanda Myers



8. What is your ultimate dream vehicle?  
*I don't know.*
9. What is the quote you live by?  
*"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your character is what you really are while your reputation is merely what others think you are."  
John Wooden*
10. Who, in your opinion, is the HOTTEST celebrity?  
*That has to be Matthew McConaughey.*
11. In the history of the arts, what is the best song or poem you have heard?  
*I don't know.*
12. Pick one: Jewelry or Chocolates? Why?  
*Jewelry—it lasts forever.*
13. Pick one: Purses or Shoes? Why?  
*I can't pick one, I love them both!*
14. Pick a combination: Blood and Gore or Lovey Dovey? Why?  
*Lovey Dovey because there's nothing like a good chick flick.*

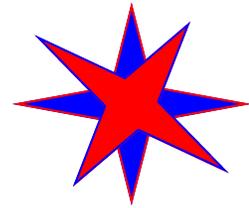


New  
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New  
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Interviews  
2009

PEEBLES HIGH SCHOOL



MISS MELISSA ARNOLD

The last teacher to be interviewed was Miss Melissa Arnold, the MH teacher.

1. How long have you been living in either the Adams County School District or the Peebles area?  
*I was born and raised in Manchester.*
2. What is your favorite non-fast food restaurant?  
*It has to be "Olive Garden."*
3. What is your favorite vacationing spot and where is it located?  
*I went to Gatlinburg, Tennessee.*
4. What is your favorite sport team?  
*The Clemson Tigers.*
5. What is the name of your high school sweetheart or the love of your life now?  
*My fiancé's name is Jeremy Evans.*
6. What is your dream living environment?  
*My dream is to live in a farmhouse on a couple acres of land.*
7. What is your all-time favorite book and movie?  
*The book is The Memory Keeper's Daughter.  
The movie is Sixteen Candles.*

8. What is your ultimate dream vehicle?  
*A 2010 Blue Ford F-150.*
9. What is the quote you live by?  
*"Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the moments that take your breath away."*
10. Who, in your opinion, is the HOTTEST celebrity?  
*Brad Pitt, of course.*
11. In the history of the arts, what is the best song or poem you have heard?  
*Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken."*
12. Pick one: Jewelry or Chocolates? Why?  
*Chocolate...I have a major sweet tooth.*
13. Pick one: Purses or Shoes? Why?  
*Purses...a girl can't have too many.*
14. Pick a combination: Blood and Gore or Lovey Dovey? Why?  
*Neither. I'd rather watch a funny movie. But if I had to choose, it would be Lovey Dovey because Blood and Gore scare me.*



# FLORIDA

By: Elizabeth Polley

A week before school started, August 16 through 21, I went to Florida with my boyfriend and his grandma to see his parents. His parents lived in Lima, before John's pass and right across from Indian Rocks Beach. Indian Rocks Beach borders the Gulf of Mexico. The sand on Indian Rocks is really soft. There are places where there are shells in the sand because of the tide when it goes in and out. When I was there, we swam in the Gulf almost every day. The water was really salty and pretty much like thin soup. Also, the water was always warm, even at night. At night we would walk along Indian Rocks beach. You wouldn't believe it, but the temperature, at the lowest, was probably around 75 degrees.

In Florida, there is a thunderstorm everyday. You do not want to be outside when they happen. If the lightning is at Clearwater and you are at John's Pass, you can still get struck by it very easily. Fortunately, these thunderstorms only last between an hour and two hours.

While we were in Florida, we went to Clearwater to eat at Paradise Palms along the beach. Paradise Palms is a restaurant, owned by a hotel, with the options of inside or outside dining. The outside dining areas and the bar area have misters to keep people cool. People come into the restaurant wearing bikinis and other swimming wear. These people are barely even dressed!

On the last day in Florida, we splurged. That was the day my boyfriend's dad was off so we got to do a lot of fun stuff. We went to the St. Petersburg Pier. St. Petersburg Pier extends a quarter-mile onto Tampa Bay and into the straits of the Gulf of Mexico. In fact, you can see Tampa City across the ways. The Pier had an inside cylindrical aquarium. In the aquarium were clown fish, blue tangs, butterfly fish, Moorish idols, anemone, and more. There were tons of shops, pelican feeding, multiple person bike riding, bars, restaurants, trolleys, and another aquarium with a bigger variety of species. There are also Pier dolphin cruises. St. Petersburg Pier was a lot of fun.

That evening we went to John's Pass, located on Madeira Beach. If you haven't ever been to Florida and are thinking about going, you need to go to John's Pass. It is full of souvenir shops, surf shops, restaurants, and ice cream parlors. One of the shops had a talking parrot. Pepper (the parrot) was making all kinds of noises. Then, he looked at me and meowed. The owner said he predicted I had a cat. John's Pass also has dolphin cruises along with



*Coconut trees outside the place where I stayed*

deep water fishing trips, deep water diving trips, and more.

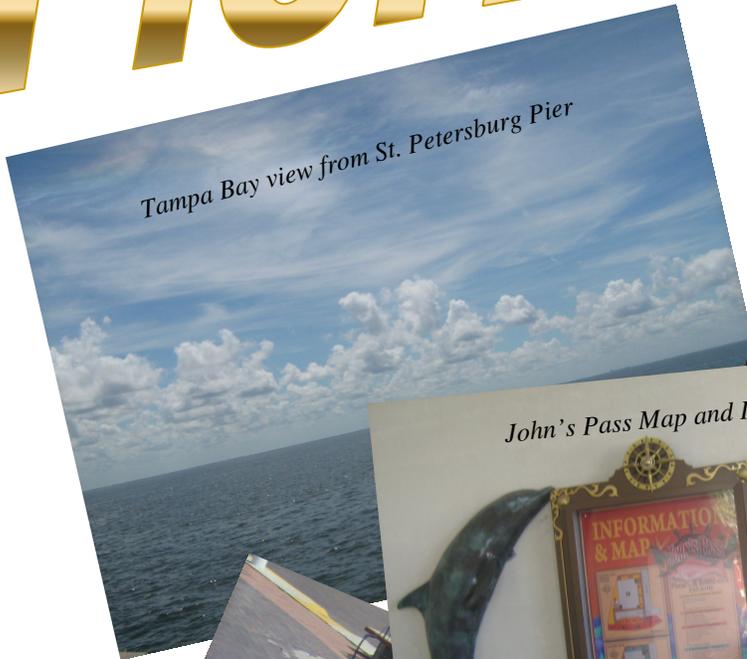
One of the most famous restaurants at John's pass is Bubba Gump's Shrimp Co. Bubba Gump's is based off the movie *Forrest Gump*. The restaurant was a lot of fun. I usually hate shrimp because of the texture, but their garlic shrimp was delicious. In order to get the waiters' and waitresses' attention, there are signs on the table. One sign says "Run Forrest, Run;" which tells the waiters to skip your table, that you don't need anything. The other sign said "Stop Forrest, Stop;" which tells the waiters to stop at your table.

After Bubba Gump's, we went and looked in the shops again. I ended up getting two hermit crabs from the Surf Shop.

If you are ever trying to think of a place to go on vacation, go to Clearwater, Lima, or Madeira Beach in Florida. You will not regret it. Florida is a very fun place to hang out and have fun. It is very easy to get a tan there, too, so that is a plus.

# Florida Pics

A famous line from *Forrest Gump*



Tampa Bay view from St. Petersburg Pier



My momma always said...

*Stupid is as stupid does...*



John's Pass Map and Info.



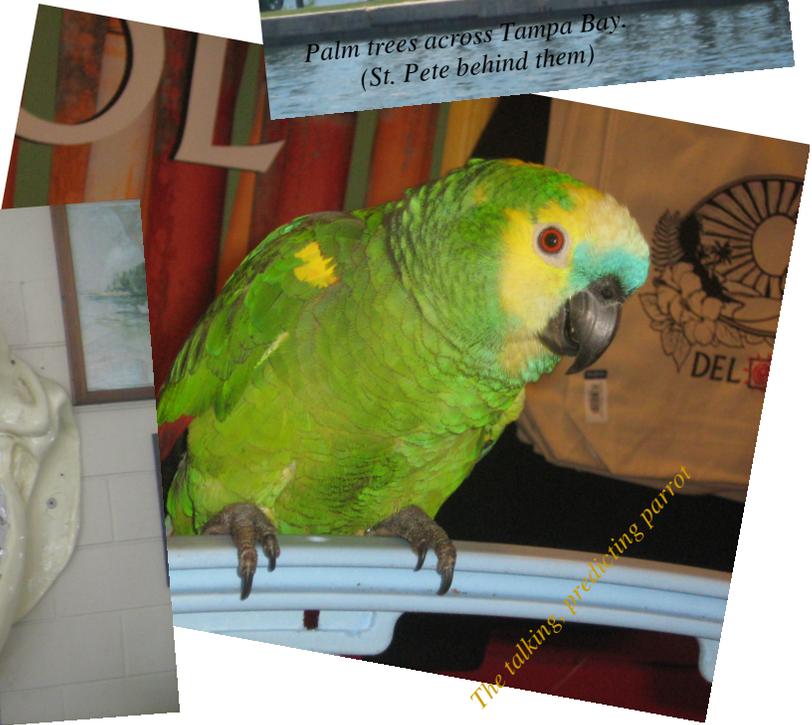
Palm trees across Tampa Bay.  
(St. Pete behind them)



Feeding the Pelicans



Great White Shark Jaw



The talking, preaching parrot

