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April 2022

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Chuck is an Auburn HS graduate & grew up north of Brownville. He is a 30 year employee of Atchison Holt Electric and currently on long term disability as he continues his cancer battle. Chuck and his wife, Kayla, have 2 daughters and are longtime residents of Rock Port.

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Highway 67 West of Peru, Nebraska, March 8, 2022

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# ***Your Country Neighbor***

*Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha*

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

*Plus, peruse the happenings in a Nebraska town on pages 6,7,8,9.*

P.O. Box 126  
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**Online; yourcountryneighbor.com**

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*“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*“People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you make them feel.”*

Maya Angelou

## **This Month’s Writers & Contributors**

Devon Adams 13

Angela Allgood - Peru City News, 6,7,8,9

Frieda Burston 3

Stephen Hassler 2, 14

Andrea Hincapie 5

Merri Johnson 12

DiAnna Loy 8

Ean Miller 7

Dorothy Rieke 14

Shiela Tinkham 12

Thank You!

## **Covid in SE Nebraska**

Stephen Hassler, Peru

New “Positive” Cases of Covid-19 (reported)  
in theses Southeast Nebraska Counties.

<u>Date Range</u>	<u>Nemaha</u>	<u>Otoe</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Richardson</u>
01/25 - 02/07	87	192	29	160
02/07 - 02/21	31	63	12	55
02/20 - 03/05	19	127	3	55
02/24 - 03/09	11	122	2	53
03/10 - 03/23	2	8	0	6

I am cautiously optimistic that the light at the end of the tunnel is the last spark of Covid. We are in the 3rd year of a pandemic and I want my life back to normal. That includes running in local and regional 5K races, especially the “Brownville Freedom Run,” which is part of Brownville’s 4th of July celebration weekend, and my favorite “feel good” day of the year. And feeling as if my life without a mask is no longer a health threat to people I meet. So I’m hoping the latest Covid variant fails to make its way here from Europe. But if we get another ‘variant spike’ within the next month or so, it will not catch me being complacent.

Track Covid-19 in your county. Search covid case updates.

Google; **county, state, covid.**

Wear an N95 mask per CDC guidelines. Wash hands often when out in public.

## ***Your Country Neighbor***

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#### **Readers, Please Note:**

*This article was written more than a decade ago by Frieda Burston (now deceased), who used to be a regular contributor until she passed sometime before 2008. I was reading through some old material and was re-awakened by the rich history that Frieda brought to "Your Country Neighbor." I will try to find room in the future to share some of Frieda's stories. Here is part 3 of 3 parts, continued from February and March.*

## **JESSE JAMES' HOUSE (last of 3 parts)**

by the 'Late' Frieda Burston

*Continued from March*

I don't know what Mama asked the boys next morning, but they told her they had danced on the grave of a bad robber. Mama said that Jesse James wasn't buried there, and it was very disrespectful to dance where people had died. When we went visiting the next year, the Jesse James shack was off-limits to all the kids in the crowd. Instead, we all got pennies to go down a few blocks to a corner grocery and choose candy. Trading bites after that took up most of the afternoon, and left no scars like the windows of Jesse James' House. I was happy, especially since I was wearing a neat and practical cotton dress made from old dish towels and dyed with yellow onion skins.

But you see now why the truth is so involved. Every bit of this story is necessary to prove that I did indeed know where the windows were on Jesse James house. But you can see why I didn't try telling that Committee woman this story, back where it started with the beaded green dress. I never argued about Jesse James' House again. When I went down to Columbia to study at MU, I found that all the girls in my co-op sang "But the dirty little coward who shot Mr. Howard, he has laid poor Jesse

in his grave"—I had no idea that anybody in Missouri idolized that vicious raider and robber. Now that I know more Civil War history, I know that since the girls came from Swamp-East Missouri, (bordering Tennessee and Kentucky), they naturally had the Southern view that Jesse was a hero. That view went with the territory.

But that wasn't the view in St. Joe. When it came to Jesse, St. Joe was Union and Jesse James was part of Quantrill's Raiders from over the Free-State-Kansas line. Most of St. Joe would have felt that dancing on the floor where Jesse had fallen, was quite proper, and completely respectful of law and order in Missouri.

The last time I saw Jesse James' house was in the 1970's or 80's. It had been dragged out to the freeway and was the tourist attraction for a motel. It was all gussied up, painted and prettied to look like a house, not like the dried and crumbling shack that we children had played in.

We stayed all night in a motel room there, just for the fun of saying so. I put a quarter in the slot on the bedpost, and the water bed went into deep waves. It shook until I got seasick and had to sleep sitting up in a chair.

I don't know about that house on the freeway. Seems to me it was another fac-SIM-ileee like the one in the Apple Blossom Parade. Or maybe my head was too muddled after a night of waving water, for me to check the windows with my scars.

Anyway, I saw that I was right in lying about it so many years ago. People were going to believe what they wanted to believe about the Jesse James House, and the truth didn't matter one way or the other.

Seems to me that a fac-SIM-ileee can also be a lie, so if it doesn't matter, go ahead and fac-SIM-ileee all you want to—as long as it doesn't matter, it's all right.



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## Be Kind To One Another

Submitted by Andrea Hincapie, Nebraska City Community Organizer

Only when we see closely the consequences of suffering from untreated mental illnesses such as depression, that causes low self esteem, often feeling lonely, and much more, only then we pause our lives, and evaluate ourselves as, parents, children, siblings, friends, and as a community. The questions come in, what are we doing to help these people? It is then when we realize that something so simple such as a smile or a nice compliment at the right time can help a person's self esteem, it allows them to know that he/she matters. Are we teaching them that it is ok to seek professional help? That this might be the best and only option at the time?

We must remember that we cannot live in the past, we must learn from the past. We need to stop getting frustrated when we think about our future, because we never know if that future is ever going to arrive. We must learn how to have goals, but also to enjoy the path we are going to take to reach those goals. We must learn how to live in the moment and make today count.

Parents, lets teach our children that no one is perfect. We are human beings and make mistakes as all humans do. That is okay not to be okay, to reach out for help, to find that support system that works for each of us.

Children, please do not judge your parents. As parents we do the best we can, and we also make mistakes. Your parents are your lifelong friends that will be there during ups and downs.

Siblings, friends, family members; let's be kind to everyone, we might be able to see the outside of a person, but we will not be able to know what each person is dealing with, what they are struggling with, thinking, feeling, and wishing. A kind word, a compliment, a quick text/call to let them know that you care, can go a long way.

Community, let's normalize mental illnesses, identify the support systems the community has available such as professionals, groups, etc. to assist those who are struggling.

Be kind to one another, let your loved ones know how much you care about them daily as tomorrow is never promised.

[suicidepreventionlifeline.org](https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org).

**1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

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Se habla español. 402-427-0002. [sedhd.org](https://sedhd.org)**



# PERU CITY NEWS

*Communication • Information • Pride In Community*

Noah Montanelli, Heart Warrior  
by Angela Allgood



I would like to introduce you to Noah Montanelli. His parents are Trevor and Sarah (Decker). Noah is four years old and loves tickle fights, but he calls them “tickle vs tickle so it doesn’t sound so mean.” Noah also has a brother, Henry, and both boys love the Avengers, especially Spiderman and Iron Man.

Noah has a rare medical condition called Heterotaxy Syndrome. Heterotaxy affects 1 in 10,000 babies. This is unique to each child and for Noah it is abnormal development of organs in his body. In the womb they knew he had defects but they did not know the extent of it. Noah’s heart tried to make two right sides. His heart has two chambers instead of the 4 we are supposed to have.

At 36 weeks he was ready to meet the world. They didn’t think she was going to make it to Lincoln so they stopped at CHI Neb. City and they gave Sarah medicine to slow the contractions down so they could get to Lincoln. They were instead taken to Methodist Women’s. At Methodist, they decided on a C-Section so it would be less stress on Noah’s heart.

*Noah Continued on page 7 >>>>*

## A Growing Community

by Angela Allgood

Peru is seeing an outburst of positiveness, hope and growth!

With a new grocery store and water system in our near future, with parks and community gathering spots being worked on, and new families moving to our town, we cannot help but feel a little pride in our community.

Peru has been and is home to many of us that were born and raised here. We have loved the small town feeling. Knowing our neighbors, feeling safe at night, and even waking up to a roosters crow! Fishing at the river or walking the trail and seeing the beauty and nature Peru has to offer! Even being there for each other when times get tough. We know our town has always been special.

Many other families are starting to learn our secret. In 2021 we welcomed seven new families and in just three months of 2022 we have had three move to Peru and one just closed on a home!

## What I Learned at City Council

by Angela Allgood

- Governor Ricketts is proposing a bill for \$5 million to the Peru Levee.
- Deborah Solie is looking into grants to update the maintenance shop.
- PinPoint Internet is looking to serve Peru, Nebraska in the near future.
- The Bark Park project will see work done May 20-21 as a fence will be erected. The Leadership class has raised over \$3,500 in fundraisers and has received a \$1,000 Tourism Grant.

*Council Continued on page 9 >>>>*



## Sew Sisters

by Angela Allgood

Sew Sisters is a unique and wonderful group of ladies consisting of Cheryl Cotton, Barb Sherman, Kathy Pebley, Marty Peregoy, Tammy Lotter, Cate Wyckoff, and Joanna Evans. This group of ladies hang out at Barb Sherman’s home every Tuesday between 10:00 a.m. and noon. They have fun and work hard!

Sew Sisters was conceived by Cheryl, Barb and Kathy and is based on making small hugable quilts to those who “need a hug.” Barb Sherman says that each quilt made is full of love and hugs for those who receive them!

Sometimes the ladies all work on the same quilt and other times they bring their own projects and enjoy the company and the conversation. Each lady also brings knowledge of quilting to the group. Believe it or not, Barb said that each of the ladies has a different way to tie a knot or stitch a stitch. The ladies help each other piece together fabrics or give ideas on how to do something. Joanna stated that she loves Sew Sisters  
*Sisters Continued on page 9 >>>>*

<<<<< Noah *Continued from page 6*

Noah was born with no spleen which means all of his organs are located on the left side. No spleen also makes Noah more susceptible to bacterial infection. If Noah has a 100.4 fever, they immediately have to go in and get blood work done to make sure he does not have an infection and he goes through 48 hours of high dosage medicine.

He was immediately transferred to Children's hours after his birth and monitored until day four when he had his first open heart surgery for a BT Shunt that connected his aorta to one lung. Fluid around his heart was a result from his open heart surgery where they assume a lymph node duct was nicked. He had a chest tube placed to drain the fluid.

Noah had hour long feeds because he did not tolerate the specialized formula used to increase calories without the fat in his diet.

He had his BT Shunt taken out at seven months old because his oxygen levels were going down and was put on The Glenn. This was his second surgery and again, they think the doctors nicked another duct. It took him about six weeks to heal.

Three years later The Glenn is working but the next step would be to have a Fontan procedure. This would give Noah better oxygenation pressure and give about 95% blood flow to his lungs. Doing this procedure depends on what the doctor thinks. It goes by the child's weight and what their body can handle. It can cause damage to the liver and kidneys. The Fontan procedure pump propels blood so the heart does not have to work so hard.

Noah has not had an easy start, he knows pain and sickness, but with the support of the family, he also knows silly, adventure, and most importantly love. Noah makes friends everywhere he goes and he is not shy. If you see him, I'm sure he will be quick to ask you to play with him.

### Save the Date!

Sunday morning, May 29th, 2022

Annual Memorial Day Fundraiser supporting Mt. Vernon Cemetery

It's a Pancake Breakfast!

Hosted by the Peru Cemetery Auxiliary

Look for more information in May's paper

*Submitted by Theresa Westfall*

**The status of the Steamboat Trace is open from Arbor Trailhead south of Nebraska City to two miles south of Peru. Closed from just south of Genie Hollow to Brownville. Happy Hiking and Biking!**

Peru City News is made possible by Peru volunteers and the following fine institutions;



Western National Bank  
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**Peru  
State  
College**

### New City Hall Hours

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri; 8:30 to 4 pm

Wednesday; 8:30 to Noon

Wednesday; Noon to 4 pm either by

Phone or Email;

402-872-6685

cityclerkcityofperu@gmail.com

## Student Life

by Ean Miller, Sophomore at PSC

Spirits are high on the campus of a thousand oaks with students returning from a week-long break and the harsh winter conditions begin to make way for the spring.

This being after what many students consider to be a successful mid-term break (aka "spring break"), with many students traveling away from southeast Nebraska in search of warmer weather and relaxation from the academic burdens they face.

With many trading the banks of the Missouri for the beach, students were welcomed back with cold weather and some snow- a stark contrast for those who ventured away, but a stern reminder that winter isn't quite over yet.

With students returning to campus from mid-term break, one would expect there to be a consequential rise in COVID-19 cases on campus. However, this appears to not exactly have been the case, as no noticeable impact has been observed post-break.

And even better, many students can breathe a breath of fresh air now that masks are no longer required on campus. While most of the students are very enthusiastic about this, some still utilize the mask just to be better safe than sorry, and some students and staff believe that this transition to a mask-less campus was done too soon.

Regardless of your beliefs and thoughts on the current status of the pandemic and mask requirements, one thing is for sure- with warmer spring weather, color beginning to return to the campus quad's grass, and student's socializing with excitement to end the semester and begin their summer, it's hard not to smile- even if it's from behind a mask.

# City of Peru / Peru State College Clean-Up Day

Friday, April 30th Beginning at 9:00 A.M.

by Angela Allgood

The City of Peru and PSC Students are joining together for the 11th annual City-wide clean-up Day.

This is a perfect opportunity to to get rid of trash, furniture on porches and other unused items. Anyone with items for the town cleanup should leave them on the curb by 9 a.m. Clean-up teams will be by to pick up items after that time... for FREE!

TVs or computer monitors must be brought to Peru City Hall on April 28 or 29 for environmentally safe disposal. Please notify City Hall of any drop-offs.

If you need help moving an item, please contact Angela Allgood at the Peru City Hall, 402-872-6685 Volunteers will be assigned to assist you.

Anyone interested in volunteering should meet at Peru City Hall at 9 a.m. Coffee, juice and goodies will be available for all volunteers.

For more info, contact Angela Allgood at; (402) 872-6685.

## Peru Community Impact Group

Annual Egg Hunt  
in partnership with Peru State College  
Rotaract Club & Black Student Union

April 9, 2022  
10 am  
Peru State College

3,000 eggs will be hidden throughout campus!

Golden Egg winner in each age group;  
Littles – PreK  
Kindergarten - 2nd Grade  
3rd - 5th Grade

## Recycling Is Back!

by Angela Allgood

The City of Peru has recycling again!!! The recycle trailer can be found at the north end of town next to the trail-head.

The compartment labeled recyclables are for plastic / tin / aluminum and the other compartment is for paper / cardboard.

Please follow the guidelines so we can continue to use this service!

# Tuesday Literary Club Reads

by DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

With March comes Read Across America in most schools and the celebration of Dr. Suess’ birthday. Valerie Able didn’t just present a book review of one Dr. Suess book but talked about several of his books.

It’s always fun to talk about your favorite Dr. Suess book and tell why it’s your favorite and Able left ample time for our group to do that. But she also talked about a variety of Suess’ books and the political statements that were imbedded in his books that most of us didn’t know about. It wasn’t easy for Seuss to get started; To Think That I Saw it On Mulberry Street (1937) was rejected over 27 times before it was accepted by Vanguard Press children’s section.

His books had messages for children and encouraged them to read but they also carried political messages. His book Horton Hears a Who! (1954), is an allegory for the American post-war occupation of Japan. The Lorax (1971), is about environmentalism and anti-consumerism; The Sneetches (1961), about racial equality; The Butter Battle Book (1984), about the arms race; Yertle the Turtle (1958), about Adolf Hitler and anti-authoritarianism; How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1957), criticizing the economic materialism and consumerism of the Christmas season.

My favorite Dr. Seuss book is Gerald McBoing Boing. “Gerald” actually was first published as a short-animated film that was written about a little boy who didn’t speak words, he spoke sound effects instead. The film was written and produced in 1950 to promote the acceptance of diversity. The book was written from the film in 1953. Gerald McBoing Boing won the 1950 Oscar for Best Animated Short. The film can be viewed on YouTube.com. “In 1994 the film was voted #9 of The 50 Greatest Cartoons of all time by the members of the animation field. In 1995, it was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.” (Wikipedia)

About a year ago there was much discussion regarding some Dr. Seuss books being censored. This is not totally correct. Dr. Seuss Enterprises decided that they should stop publishing six books; And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street, If I Ran the Zoo, McEligot’s Pool, On Beyond Zebra!, Scrambled Eggs Super!, and The Cat’s Quizzer. It is one thing when an outside organization censors a book that they don’t want others to read and an entirely different thing for the Dr. Seuss organization themselves to take books off the shelves that they feel are no longer appropriate in today’s political climate.

Happy reading.



<<<<<< Sew Sisters *Continued from 6*

because the group has helped her meet people in town with the same interests. The ladies did tell me that they are not all work without a little play. They stated that they venture out and have fun! They have shopped the Missouri Star Quilting Company in Hamilton, Nebraska, and plan on going on more “Shop Hops”.

Barb stated that quilting is not perfect. There are fabric mishaps and some quilters leave the mistake to add interest to the quilt. Quilting takes time, but the end result is worth it!

Barb does not do quilts for fundraisers. She stated that if it has to be done, it is more pressure and less love put into the quilt. She does not even sell her quilts.

Joanna stated that quilting used to be popular with people 63 and over, but the internet is bringing the younger generation around. She stated that there is a Quiltcom (just like Comicon) and that is attracting the younger generation as well. Joanna stated that the generation is going more solids and grays.

If you are interested in quilting or even just great conversation, join the Sew Sisters every Tuesday from 10 am to noon or call Barb Sherman for more details.



St. Clara's Catholic Church  
604 6th Street  
Pastor Fr. Timothy Danek  
Mass - Sunday 8:30 am  
Confessions - Sunday 8:00-8:20 am



Peru Community Church  
520 Nebraska Street  
Pastors Raymond & Rebecca Girard  
Services - Sunday 10:45 am



Northridge Church  
Pastor Daniel Hutchison  
Services at Peru City Hall Sunday 10 am

## Household Hazardous Waste Collections

Saturday, April 2, 2022 7:30 – 9:30 am

Rodeo Area parking lot by Rotary Lake in Auburn, NE

Items accepted include cleaning products, lawn & garden chemicals, paint, used oil, florescent light bulbs + other hazardous household items.

NO Farm chemicals NO tires,

NO appliances, science lab chemicals, items containing asbestos, wood preservatives, PCB's, explosives or commercial quantities.

HHW program personnel reserve the right to reject any materials.

\$5.00 donation per household requested. Help keep these events going!

Questions: Call Bobbie Meints at Five Rivers RC&D at 402-239-2409

<<<<<< Council *Continued from page 1*

- City Council has approved the proposal from JK Energy Consulting to perform a water rate study. Further information will be available soon.
- Xpress Bill Pay – Residents can pay their water bills online! You can also go in and have your bills automatically taken out of your account / card now, you can view your bill / usage online and so much more. Sign up today and check it out!
- Textmygov.com – The City of Peru is providing more communication for residents to keep up with issues. Residents can go online and sign up to receive texts dealing with the City of Peru
- Playground equipment may not be put in by summer 2022
- Splash Pad will open this summer. The City is looking at opening it Memorial weekend!
- Licensing fee for BOTH altered dogs and cats is \$5.00. For Unaltered dogs and cats, the fee is \$20.
- City Council is working with the City Attorney to establish proper procedures for nuisance abatement.
- Council has tabled the Code Enforcement Office job description until further information is established with a neighboring community.



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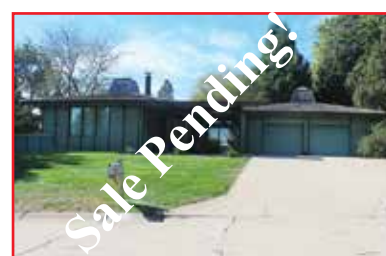
1023 5th Street  
5 apartments 1,568 sq ft



1100 Central Av, Auburn \$130,000  
Commercial property, 2 overhead  
doors, office space, corner lot.



703 13th St., Auburn \$149,900  
5 bed, 2 bath, updated kitchen, for-  
mal dining room, main floor laun-  
dry/bath. 2-car detached garage.



1604 G Street \$259,000  
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approx .35 acre  
2-car garage



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## New Life

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

Life begins  
Spring sings a song of New life  
New possibilities  
Try a new hobby  
Learn a new joke  
Try to raise a plant  
Plant a seed  
Begin again  
Renewed like the seasons  
Life begins  
Easter  
Passover  
A glimpse of the eternal  
Amidst the ordinary present  
Life begins  
Build a new life  
Live a new Spring  
This April  
Begin anew...

## Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

Spring Equinox will have come and gone before you read this column. But other springtime rituals and observances will still be relevant, so I will pass along some springtime wisdom and lore from “A Pilgrim’s Almanac” by \*Father Edward Hays.

Most of you will be familiar with the tradition of planting potatoes on Good Friday. According to NorthernNester.com, potatoes should be planted two to three weeks prior to the last frost. In Southeast Nebraska, last frost is typically between May 11 and May 20, resulting in a planting date as early as April 20 this year. That corresponds quite closely with Good Friday because Easter is relatively late this year, occurring on April 17. But in years when Easter falls as early as the last Sunday of March, Good Friday could be a risky planting date. On the other hand, with climate change, Good Friday could become more and more closely aligned with NorthernNester’s guideline.

But let’s take a look at Father Hays’ contemplation of “Easter Potatoes.” He compares the ritual of cutting out the “eyes” of the potatoes for planting in the good soil of the garden to cutting out the “I” of self. Just as the potato is buried so it can grow into a full plant producing much fruit, the surrender of our egos (our “I”) allows us to invest ourselves in something greater than just our “self.” He concludes his reflection on planting potatoes thus: “We all need a ‘beyond’ to which we can consecrate ourselves, a dedication to something bigger, greater and more transcendent than the self...Easter eggs have for centuries been a beautiful symbol for the emergence of resurrection life. But perhaps the cut-up Easter potato might be a more awakening symbol for this great feast.”

I regularly find myself questioning whether I am personally investing enough in something greater than myself. No matter how much time I dedicate to worthy causes, it seems inadequate. Father Hayes has something to say about that in his essay on “Easter Eggs, Lilies and Turtles.” He suggests adding a new symbol to those already associated with Easter. In addition to colored eggs, lilies, and sunrises, he proposes the turtle. He says, “The turtle can symbolize that the spiritual journey that each of us is making is a slow one. And there are no short cuts....We frequently set goals for ourselves ... as our humanity longs to be completed, but the grind of daily life seems to prevent us from these goals...To be human is to be a pilgrim – and a slow one at that, as slow as a turtle.”

As you wish others a “Happy Easter” this year, consider Father Hays’ advice to “take time to appreciate all the sources of happiness that are ours today. Be grateful for good health, shelter, clothing, good friends, family, the peace of our national life and that most precious of all gifts: life. Easter is the feast of New Life. And if we could truly appreciate what a gift it is to simply be alive, how could we help but be happy?”

Here’s to Easter potatoes, turtles and simple happiness.

\*Father Edward M. Hays passed away in 2016. To read his obituary (the most playful and poetic obituary I have ever read), Google “EdwardHays.com/bio”

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# A PEACEFUL HEART

As new life  
is born from  
the long death  
that is Winter,  
we search for  
truth that calms  
troubled minds.

## WHOSE FOOL?

It's a good thing  
that the time doesn't  
change on the same  
day that we're  
supposed to be  
fooled, on the first  
day of April. Daylight  
"Savings" isn't a  
real thing, when  
it starts in March.  
Somebody, sometime,  
somewhere said  
"Let's set the clock  
ahead, so we can  
leave early and  
still have lots of  
light on the golf  
course!" Thanks  
for all the missed  
appointments, early  
alarms knocking us  
out of bed, sleepy  
kids, sleepy teachers,  
groggy drivers, foggy  
brains, and days on  
end that our bodies  
get to play catch up  
with the sun coming  
up and going down.  
We adjust slowly as  
days fly by, until we're  
sure we have it nailed.  
Right.

## COUSIN CLUES

Science is not only  
marching on, it has  
been shot out of a  
canon, so to speak.  
Look back at history,  
when "modern" humans  
were living in caves,  
and their neighbors  
were cave bears,  
mammoths and saber-  
toothed tigers. We  
were a little rough  
around the edges  
yet, but your Uncle  
Charlie and Aunt  
Amber would probably  
recognize a few faces  
that look like some of  
your cousins from the  
family photo album.  
But now, with the help  
of the newest gene  
research, we can trace  
our origins and find not  
only our exact DNA  
heritage, but also the  
locations of our early  
cousins. If only they'd  
had cameras!

# TIME AND SPEED

You know those  
days when your  
brain is on a  
different schedule  
from the clock?  
When time is  
running faster  
than you are?  
Or the day is  
dragging it's little  
feet through deep  
mud, and every  
time you check  
your watch is  
only ten seconds  
later than the last  
time you checked?  
I don't think Albert  
Einstein would be  
much help here,  
because his brain  
could think farther  
and faster than  
almost everyone  
else, and he basically  
lived on another planet.  
But, like us, he  
thought about how  
time moves, or how  
we move in time.  
I'll let you know if  
I hear any good ideas  
for fixing the clocks  
inside our heads.

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## ONLY THE GRASS

Wind words blow  
through the trees  
and weave into the  
leaves. Tiny lives  
walk on their paths,  
sharing passage  
with each other,  
leaving scents  
and clues. A doe  
jumps the old  
fence that doesn't  
keep anything out.  
She nuzzles her  
fawn who is curled  
against a gray stone  
covered with names  
engraved long ago.  
It was a family who  
lived and died here,  
with only the grass  
and this stone to  
remember them.

## SHARP EDGES

On a morning when  
the blue above is a  
sea in the sky kind  
of clear, sunshine  
cuts sharp edges.  
There is no ambiguity  
here, no gray doubts  
about the lines of  
definition between  
dark and light.  
A barn stands out  
in the stark reality  
of it's naked old  
boards, and in the  
winter weeds is a  
bucket holding sun  
fall in it's dents.  
The clarity of vision  
is stunning, like the  
edge of truth when  
it cuts through lies.

## Is Your Life One Of True Beauty?

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

Beauty often refers to physical attractiveness. Certain facial features and prettiness are perceived as true beauty. However, other meanings are associated with this phrase, “true beauty.” True beauty, in its purest form, pertains not to appearance but to the desirable traits and mannerisms that give that individual a special presence or way.

In fact, physical features are not relevant to the traits that create “true beauty.” The essence of true beauty lies in the ability to enhance others’ lives by influencing them in beneficial, worthwhile ways. It means being happy and contented with your own life.

Those attributed to having “true beauty” are generally selfless individuals intent on being compassionate and caring. Through special charitable acts, they improve the lives of others in the best ways. They constantly experience the satisfaction of serving.

How is “true beauty” detected? Those with true beauty generally have certain qualifications and characteristics. The following are common traits:

1. Being compassionate. Compassion is a prime requirement for recognizing needs of others and desiring to help. Concern, kindness, and a display of love in relationships add up to “true beauty.”
2. Facing life’s challenges with courage and grace. This ability has a two-fold benefit. Facing challenges strengthens character and increases our ability to cope. It also sets examples for others. Similar circumstances form a bond of caring, and others benefit by observation.
3. Inspiring to others. Being an inspiration to others with the “good life” requires encouraging others to achieve and do their best. Inspiring means motivating as well as influencing others actions and attitudes.
4. Maintaining a fighting spirit that never gives up or gives in. A strong defense in times of stress and trouble employs determination and perseverance.
5. Willing to share with others. Sharing goes with caring. Giving, sharing, and blessing constitutes a state of mind that enhances one’s life and the lives of others. What is done for others is more important than what we do for ourselves.
6. Accepting your talents as well as your flaws. Accepting talents means recognizing and utilizing them. Once flaws are determined, seek ways of improvement in those areas.
7. Having faith that you are capable of great things. Self-esteem and self-respect are valuable to mental attitudes. Fill your heart with sights, sounds, ideas, images, and experiences and feel worthy.
8. Having courage to follow your dreams. Fulfillment of goals enhances our lives, making us appreciate what is ours. Through success, our attitudes toward others, outlook on life and our demeanor are improved with wonderful joy dividends.

True beauty is, at times, elusive for those who desire it. However, if a spirit of love and concern is abiding, true beauty grows and matures. True beauty makes life a memorable, wonderful experience.

## Window From The Past

Stephen Hassler, Peru

When I was in the second or third grade, I seldom had homework except for “Numbers.” “Numbers” involved many demeaning, laborious tasks of counting pictures of pennies and dimes and other coins; of counting a row of three trees, then another row of six trees, and putting them all together and counting nine trees. I guess that was the way the concept of addition was introduced to me. But I was bored. And not only did I have to study numbers at school, I sometimes had to do a lesson at home. I preferred to chase butterflies around the school yard’s blanket of dandelions, put them in a jar and feed them blossoms.

My mother was nurturing and understanding, and knowing that numbers were important, I guess she wanted to motivate me. She told me that I was good with numbers just like my dad. My father sat at the dining room table nightly with his long heavy ledger of long green pages with so many lines up and down and across, where he would write with his ‘Pioneer Seed Corn’ pencil, the numbers that said how much fertilizer cost, and numbers of bushels of corn that were in the south 40 or the west 40. I was relieved that I was good at numbers, but I really wanted to catch butterflies.

I remember having trouble with multiplication and division in the fourth grade, fractions in the fifth grade, and square root in the eighth grade, but I persisted because I knew I was good at numbers. Eventually I learned those concepts, and when High School Geometry came along, learning it was just a matter of time, so I spent a lot of time on Geometry, and learned a lot of it. Algebra was difficult, trigonometry in college nearly defeated me, and I spent half my time on Calculus the following semester, because I knew I could master it eventually. Finally, I had a college degree in Mathematics. I was ready for anything.

But I had this newer car with monthly payments and a car insurance rate for age-22 males, and I was out of college and out of part-time work. It was time to find a real job. My car was my life, and I had to make those payments. After a frustrating period of several weeks, a referral agency sent me to an advertising company. The man who hired me had a math degree as well, so I guess he must have thought I had to be good at something. And so began my career in advertising, marketing, and sales.

After my sons were raised, I went back to school, looking for a better career. I decided I would get a Masters Degree in Math, and teach college. After all, mom said I was good at numbers. After several years of going to graduate school part time, and working at MacDonalds and doing substitute teaching, I was fortunate to get a position teaching college algebra at Peru State College. That was the best job ever! But one day, I got the wild idea of publishing a newspaper, which turned out to be an even better part-time job.

I had to learn to take pictures, which was fun. I started by taking photos of businesses, then barns, windmills and other country scenes, then birds and trees and butterflies and wildflowers. Butterflies! I had collected butterflies every summer from the first grade to my junior year in High School. I would have liked to have been a biologist who went on journeys following butterfly and bird migrations, but I was good at numbers, and numbers were more practical in life than butterflies. How was I supposed to make a living collecting butterflies?

These days advertising comes easy to *Your Country Neighbor*, so I can spend more time taking pictures. Weekly, I attend that outdoor classroom; on the trail, along the roadside, near the water, watching for the Red-tailed Hawk, the Indigo Bunting, and the Bald Eagle. But the Tiger Swallowtail butterfly’s beautiful display of delicacy and color makes me feel like a kid in the school yard chasing across the dandelions after a pair of powerful, lacy wings belonging to an earthbound angel, dancing in the air with a little boy.

It has taken me about forty years to learn a lesson that might be of value to you, your son, your daughter, or your spouse. When struck by a dream, follow that dream. If you don’t, it will follow you. It will haunt you the rest of your life until it has the opportunity to strike you a second time. And it will knock you down, turn you around, and make you start all over again. So if you find yourself daydreaming through your window on your street, watch out!



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Sunset over the Platt River near Kearney, NE, 03/26/2022



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This little “Winter” bird (Chickadee), will not be seen around feeders so much any longer. It will find its food more naturally as the Spring months go by. But for a short time you might hear its uncharacteristic and high-pitched ‘tone’ which is more often heard during this time of the year. Another bird with a pleasantly melodious tone, deeper and richer, is the Blue Jay. Its Spring song is also uncharacteristic compared to its harsh “Jay! Jay!” that we are used to.





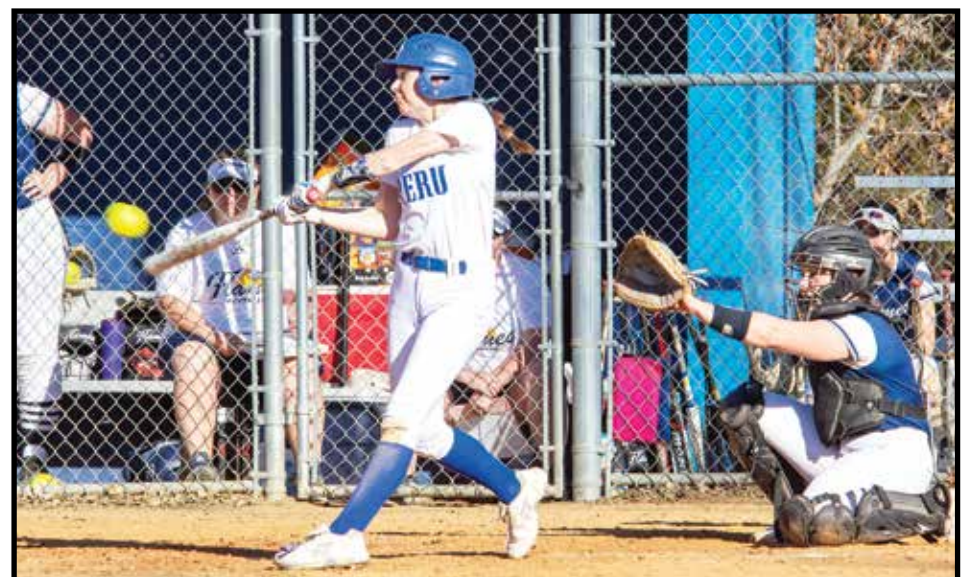
# Men's Baseball At Peru State, March 2022







# Women's Softball At Peru State, March 2022





# Peru State College News

## PSC Athletics Celebrates National Athletic Trainers Month

The Peru State athletics department celebrated National Athletic Trainers Month in March. We know how important athletic trainers are to each athletic department across the nation. The athletic department would like to take a moment to thank our athletic trainers who do such a wonderful job of working with our athletes and coaches across all sports here at Peru State College.

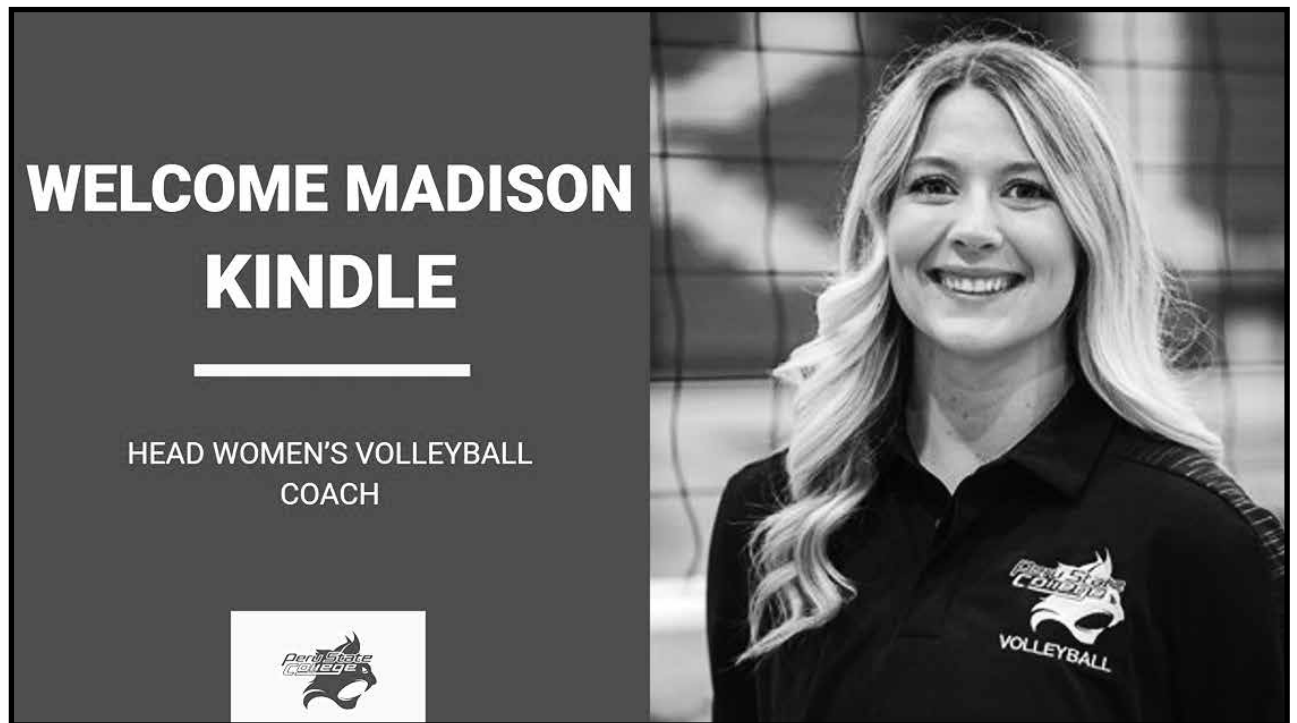
Brent Melvin is our head athletic trainer who works primarily with our football team.

Vickie Sheley and Kimberly Behrends are the department's other full time athletic trainers. Sheley primarily works with baseball and softball teams while Behrends is responsible for the volleyball and basketball teams.

In addition, the department is fortunate to have Alex Schnitzer as a part time athletic trainer who assists as needed with the athletic program.

All of them do an exceptional job with their respective sports and making sure that Bobcat student-athletes are healthy and ready to play at the highest level in the NAIA.

During March, athletic trainers across the country were recognized for their commitment to helping individuals prevent injuries and to stay healthy and active. They are truly health care professionals.



## Peru State Hires Madison Kindle as Head Volleyball Coach

Bobcat athletics has hired Madison Kindle as their new head volleyball coach for the upcoming 2022 season and beyond. Kindle started on February 1, 2022.

Kindle was previously at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas as the assistant volleyball coach for the Ravens during the 2021 season. The Ravens were 15-15 overall and 10-9 in conference play a season ago.

Coach Kindle returns to the Bobcats program after having a short stint in Peru as the assistant coach back in the 2020-21 volleyball season. Kindle started her college coaching career at McDaniel College as a graduate assistant and recruiting coordinator in Westminster Maryland.

Kindle graduated from Benedictine College with a Bachelor of Business Administration as well as obtaining a Master of Science Kinesiology at McDaniel College.

Here is what the new head coach had to say about the opportunity to come back and lead the program; "It feels so great to be back at Peru State and to be surrounded by so many supportive people in this community," said Kindle in a statement. "I am eager to provide an environment of excellence and unity and to see this program grow. I am ready to get to work and get back in the gym with these ladies." Kindle continued, "I'd like to thank Wayne Albury, Dr. Evans, and the search committee for giving me this opportunity. I'd also like to thank my husband for always believing in me and always pushing me to be a better person and coach every day."

The Peru State volleyball team will look to improve upon their 5-28 (3-16) record next season.

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