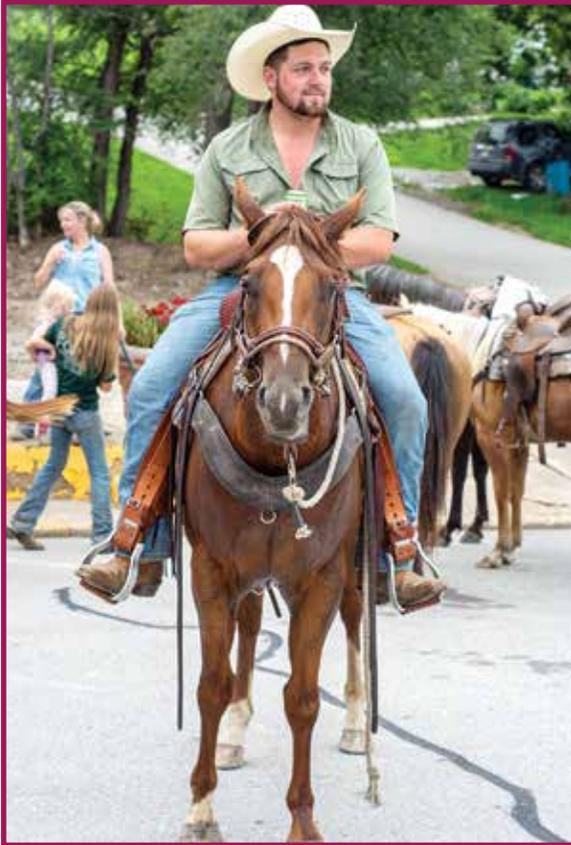


Your *Country Neighbor* Free!

August 2022

Auburn • Brownville • Cook • Falls City • Johnson • Nebraska City • Nemaha • Peru • Rock Port • Syracuse • Tecumseh • Verdon



Trail Rider - Story page 7.



One of our Praire Sunflowers, the Compass Flower. More Wildflowers Inside.

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You will have a good time exploring communities in the Valleys of the Nemaha River. Take this free publication home with you to use as a reference when planning your next visit to this charming area.

Readers!

Returning this month are most of your favorite Nemaha Valley columnists. This 20-page issue can be your 2-cups-of-coffee companion.

Viewers!

In this issue you will find some of my recent photographs of wildlife and other rural images of Southeast Nebraska.

Shoppers!

Keep up with local businesses and news of what's special this month. Please thank them for advertising in "Your Country Neighbor!"

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Your Country Neighbor
 Your "2-cups-of-coffee" companion
 including local photos and articles
 with the flavor of rural America.

This Month's Writers & Contributors

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Thank You!

*"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 made them feel."

Maya Angelou

Covid in Southeast Nebraska

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Covid-19 infections continue to increase this Summer.
"Positive" Cases of Covid-19
in these Southeast Nebraska Counties.

Any date overlap is due to irregular reporting of data.

<u>Date Range</u>	<u>Nemaha</u>	<u>Otoe</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Richardson</u>
07/06 - 07/19	25	51	5	66
07/20 - 07/26	10	23	1	12

Dr. Eric Topol, head of the Scripps Research Translational Institute, has called BA.5 "the worst variant yet." The highly transmissible BA.5 variant now accounts for 65% of cases with its cousin BA.4 contributing another 16%. The variants have shown a remarkable ability to get around the protection offered by infection and vaccination.

Covid cases have not gone away, 100's of americans are dying from Covid-19 daily! Do not become complacent. Use caution when and where appropriate. Wear a mask indoors when among crowds.

To track Covid-19, google; your **county**, your **state**, covid.
 (example) otoe county, nebraska, covid
Wear an N95 mask per CDC guidelines.
Wash hands often when out in public.

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 7,8,9,12

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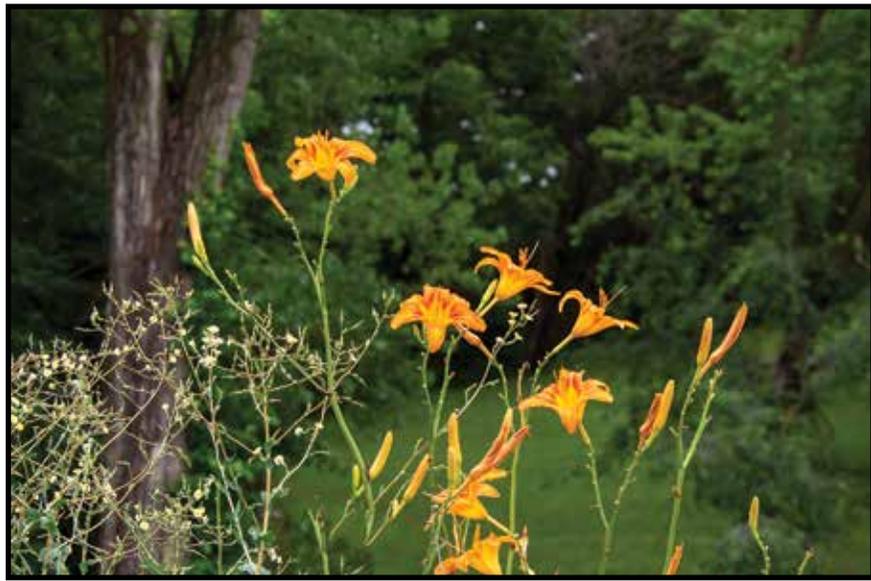
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Milkweed has the sweetest fragrance of Nebraska Wildflowers.



Canada Geese enjoying the lake in Auburn's city park.



A more familiar wildflower in Southeast Nebraska.

Scenes from Southeast Nebraska



Irrigation near Cook, Nebraska



Corn looks good in Southeast Nebraska



New (relatively), Hospital in Syracuse.

Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

I enjoyed my breakfast this morning in the screened porch with the sound of gentle rain keeping me company. The usual avian choir was missing, except for the quiet call of a solitary Eastern wood pewee. He perches in the hackberry trees in my front yard sometimes but is more typically only heard and not seen. I'm back indoors now, sitting at my computer with a window open, letting in the 66-degree air. Such a lovely change from a few days ago.

Hubby and I made a short visit to family in northwest Iowa from this past Wednesday to Friday, anticipating the arrival of our grandkids at our house on Saturday. A slight change in plans resulted in their arrival being moved up to Friday evening, which was fine since we planned to arrive home by around 8:00. About an hour out of Auburn, our son called to inform us that they were at our house, and oh, by the way, "your air conditioner is not working."

Great. The temperature was still around 90 degrees outside and nearly 80 degrees inside. Not exactly conducive to a good night's sleep, which Hubby and I really needed after being on the road and staying up later than usual (until after ten p.m.!!) the previous two nights.

Our son and daughter-in-law had left by the time we got home, but our grandkids (ages 14 and 9) met us at the door. Being a take-charge type, Hubby checked out the fuse right away, but that wasn't the problem. He thought perhaps a capacitor had failed but had no way to fix that. So, he called and texted SOS messages to our HVAC guy, hoping to get immediate, and likely expensive, after-hours help. No response.

Fortunately, we have a pretty tight house, so even though it was warm, it was not sticky. And we still possess what most people would call a ridiculous number of fans. We always run our ceiling fans continuously in the summer on low or medium, and augment with a couple of oscillating floor fans in the living area. Under the circumstances, we bumped the ceiling fans up to high and employed two more oscillating fans in the living room and our bedroom.

Unfortunately, the extra fan in our bedroom rattled every time it made the switch from one side to the other. After an hour of trying to fall asleep with that noise, I got up and turned it to a slower speed, hoping that would eliminate the rattle. Of course, that didn't work. So, I thought I would replace it with the stationary fan from my bathroom. I was fumbling around in the dark, trying not to wake Hubby, but I couldn't manage to get the other fan

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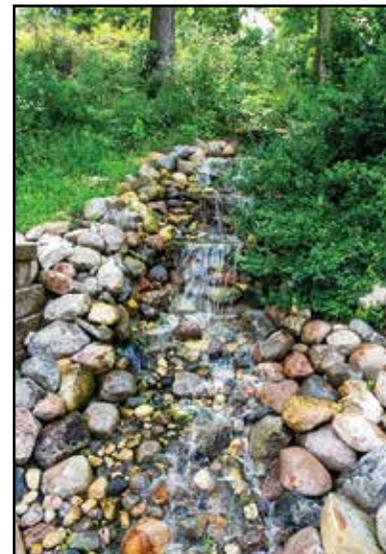
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plugged in. After a minute or so of blindly stabbing at the outlet and muttering under my breath, a grumpy voice came out of the dark: "Just turn off the oscillating feature." Why didn't I think of that?

Once the noise was eliminated, I fell asleep despite the fact that the house was a good ten degrees warmer than usual. Our grandkids were sleeping in the living room, which has been their preference since they outgrew sleeping with us in our bed or in the basement bedrooms. They are used to sleeping on the same floor as their parents, so I understand that being on their own in the basement with a walkout patio door and windows accessible to who-knows-what-kind-of-intruder is a little creepy. Anyway, being in the living room meant that they were awakened at 6:30 a.m. when Hubby's phone rang on the nearby kitchen counter and he went thundering from the bedroom to answer it. It was the HVAC man (bless him!!) saying he would come by shortly before heading out of town for a day of boating.

Hubby had been right about the capacitor, which was an easy fix for the repairman, and we were back to comfort by the time I got up at 7:45.

Ah, the luxury of air conditioning. It feels decadent, compared to the situation of many Europeans, as well as Americans, who are currently experiencing a major heat wave and have no A.C. Hubby and I grew up without it, and in fact, didn't have it until we moved here in 1987. As with many life situations, it's all about what you're used to. We can tolerate the absence of something we never had, and also take for granted what we have never had to do without. Let that be a lesson to us all to live more gratefully for what we have and more generously toward those who have less.



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(issues updated monthly)

Uprooted

Janet Sobczyk, Omaha, © 2022

Last summer's geranium survived the winter
inside near sunny window
pink petals delightful
before bleak snow-gray scene
separated by glass from the cold
never dormant, kept blooming.

At season's change
geranium placed on porch
to breathe fresh air
feel soft spring rains
blossoms bigger than ever
happy to be outside.

Summer storms brought high winds
blew pot over, dirt outpoured, roots exposed
stems and leaves lying helpless
petals pummeled
gentle hands repotted it, hopeful
and geranium survived, then thrived!

Another sudden storm brought hail
uprooted again
shredded its leaves
sad, gentle hands set it aright
barely daring to hope
and geranium survived, thrived, bloomed again!

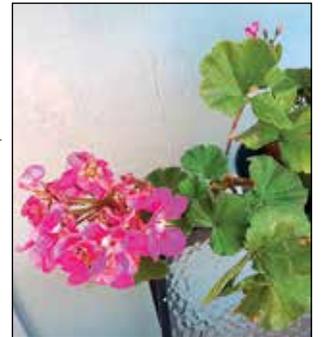


Photo by Janet

As do we
upset and flattened by life's storms
getting a hand up
carrying on, time after time
bearing scars but
still able to bloom.

Dedicated to Peter Sobczyk, my son and survivor of many storms.

Visit Janet on Facebook



“Skipper” butterfly on a somewhat rare wildflower at the Duck Creek Recreation Area approximately 5 miles west of Peru.



Trail Ride pauses in Peru, Nebraska. Story page 7.

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Did you know Great Blue Herons build their nests in trees? Here are two family members relaxing at the Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge.

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PERU CITY NEWS

Communication • Information • Pride In Community

“The Market,” Peru update!

Submitted by DJ and Lindy Schmidt

We are moving right along on the renovation of 623 5th Street. Many of you have stopped in to introduce yourselves, chat and see some of the changes we've made and we really appreciate that! We've made changes top to bottom starting with a new floor, insulation and all new electrical, plumbing, HVAC, siding repair and windows/doors. These were necessary pieces that had to be repaired but now the “fun” things will start happening!

You will start to see changes to the exterior of the building soon, new paint and signage! All new equipment arrived 7/21; this includes brand new coolers, freezers and meat cases. The interior of the building will be laid out soon with shelving and then it will certainly start to look like a store again!

Not to spoil anyone's fun, but the reason we blocked the windows is that we really, really want the transformation to be a surprise! We want the “big reveal” to be special for the community as soon as we open the doors.

Please keep the faith and know we are working hard to get “The Market” open as quickly as possible. With delays with equipment and contractors we had hoped we would open sooner, but know our opening is right around the corner and we are as excited as you to be able to serve this community!

If you'd like to hear more about our progress, please tune into B103.1 FM about 8:15 a.m. on Thursday, August 4th to hear us discuss the project on “The Morning Show.”

Finally, we are hiring! If you or someone you know would like to learn more about upcoming job opportunities at “The Market,” please email us at;

contact@themarketflc.com

We can send you job descriptions and an application. We will be hiring for several positions, Full-Time with benefits as well as Part-Time positions for days, evenings and weekends.

Thanks for welcoming us into the Peru Community!
DJ and Lindy Schmidt

Hauptman's 4th Annual Trail Ride

by Angela Allgood

If you were in Peru Saturday evening you probably noticed a lot of horses and riders in town. It was the Hauptman's 4th annual trail ride sponsored by “Creek Valley Horse Training” of rural Peru, Nebraska. I had a chance to talk to Allen Hauptman and his son Colton while they were in town. They informed me that there were approximately 30 horses that weekend. It was a three day event that started Friday.

Continued on page 8 >>>>

Back to School!

by Angela Allgood

What did those words mean to you growing up?

For me, I hated those words. It meant no more camp outs or staying over night with friends, it meant that for me, I had to go to bed early and get up even earlier. It was pure torture to get up, dress, shower, eat, and get on the bus by 7:30 am.

There were only two good things about those words. One was that we could eat the pizza and chili and cinnamon rolls at school. Those were my favorite days to eat! The other reason was that my mom and I got to go shopping for the perfect “back to school” outfit. I always loved my “first day of school” outfit!

I asked a mom about how her two boys reacted to the “back to school” words and how expensive it was for parents on that first day “back to school”.

Max and Jack Johnson from Auburn, (Rebecca and Tony Johnson's boys), are not ready for school (I don't think any kid ever really is). Jack is going to be a sophomore and Max will be in the 7th grade. Jack enjoys a school lunch just like I did! His favorite meal is sloppy joes. Max misses out on the great school food because he has home lunches. Mom's cooking might be good, but who can pass up school sloppy joes! Both boys will be in Band and they enjoy classes that are more on the creative side, listing art and writing as their favorite subjects.

When my niece and nephew were growing up, I prided myself in sitting and helping them with their homework. There came an age in their life I couldn't help much anymore. I was confused at how they were teaching math and stuff, and I was not helping them. When I asked Becky if she could still help her kids with homework, she said yes, but APS “does a great job of structuring time during the day to complete assignments.” When I was thinking of my “first day

Continued on page 12 >>>>

August 2022 Your Country Neighbor 7

<<<<<< Trail Ride from page 7

Cheyenne, his daughter, stated that this was just a casual event where riders bring food and snacks and they ride around during the day and hang out at their house at night camping and having a great time. Allen mentioned that riders come up from Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, even South Dakota for this annual ride. He also said that one of the riders came from as far as Ashland, Wisconsin!

As I am talking to Allen and Colton I see this huge horse walk up with a young child on it. The child looked so small on that big horse. Allen introduced his five-year-old son to me. Walker, the young child, said that he liked the ride. He also told me his horse's name was Trigger.

We talked a little more, and I learned that they usually take 11-12 horses for 4-H and they do shows, lessons, and train horses. Colton also mentioned that his sister Cheyenne does barrel racing and actually won her first check during the local National Barrel Horse Association race at the Nemaha County Rodeo. To win a check, there are placings. The fastest time of each division in the race, (D1, D2, etc.), wins a check.

Allen said that they train horses for 30 days and that is just to "start" the horse. The owner will take it back home and continue the training. They mentioned that they got three new horses on Friday to start training.

"Creek Valley Horse Training" also gives children horse riding lessons. They teach the children how to care for a horse and ride one. Children must be 7 years of age and up. Joann Dunn enrolled her grand-daughter Keira in their lessons. Joann said they asked how much experience Keira had and what she wanted to get out of the lessons. Keira wanted to learn about taking care of the horses as well as riding. "It's a wonderful family-run operation. And they make scheduling a ride super easy. They always gave Keira the same horse which now she pretty much says is her horse. We would highly recommend Creek Valley Horse Training," stated Joann Dunn.

For more information about riding lessons or their annual rides, you can check out their Facebook page: Creek Valley Horse Training, or call Allen at 402-209-1231.

Note color photo of Trail Ride on page 6.

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



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Allen Hauptman, "Trail Ride" organizer, and Walker.



Walker on Trigger.



Cheyenne provided info for Angela, PCN reporter.



Couple of cowpokes?

Tuesday Literary Club Reads

By DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

“The White Christmas Inn”

Everywhere I look it's Christmas in July and Tuesday Literary Club was no different this month when Roxanne Nickerson talked about the book, “The White Christmas Inn” by Colleen Wright. It was a nice cool interlude as Nickerson set the stage at the Inn with snow and evergreen trees everywhere.

The White Christmas Inn is owned by Jeanne and her husband Tim who bought it from Iris ten years ago. As part of the condition of the sale, Iris is allowed to live in a small cottage on the Inn's grounds and work at the Inn. Their happy family is rounded out by Cassandra, a gigantic Bernese mountain dog.

The Inn is going through a bit of a dry period as a new, fancy ski resort has been built on the other side of the mountain. Jeanne and Tim are counting on this Christmas season to get them through the winter. They have a full house booked due to a wedding that is scheduled during the holidays.

The first guest to arrive at the Inn for the Christmas holiday is Molly, a children's book author. Molly is in a writing slump and hopes that her quiet time away at the Inn will solve her problems.

Hannah, the bride-to-be, and her maid of honor Audrey, are the next to arrive. Hannah and her family have only visited the Inn during the summer in the past and she is pleasantly surprised with all of the holiday decorations. Hannah is eagerly awaiting the arrival of her fiancé, Trevor, and Audrey is hoping her husband, Jared, who is in the military, will make it in time for the wedding.

The next person that comes stomping through the door, trying to get the snow off his boots, is Luke. Luke is Iris's grandson and is on his way to have Christmas with his family and has stopped at the Inn to visit his grandma before continuing on. He always helps out while there and this time is no different; bringing in wood, scooping snow, etc.

It's time to bring Stacy and Bob in to our story; they are Hannah's parents and are still in their car driving in near blizzard conditions trying to get to the Inn without mishap. Stacy is driving and although they have seen other cars and trucks stranded, she is determined to get to the Inn and not miss her daughter's wedding. They arrive frazzled but safe only to find the wedding has been cancelled minutes earlier by the groom, Trevor.

In rapid succession, we have the next three sets of visitors arrive; all have reservations at the new resort on the other side of the mountain and none can get there because of the blizzard. We have Frank and Eileen, an older couple barely making it and begging for any room available. Next a white haired elderly gentleman, Godwin, is blown in. Not as warm and friendly as the others but he nonetheless promises to add an interesting flair to the group.

The front door banged open one more time and two young girls barreled into the room. The girls, Addison and Bailey, are soon followed by their father, Marcus. Marcus declares that the roads have been closed by the blizzard and they can go no further.

Our cast of characters is complete and the story continues in earnest; people pulling together to take care of each other during the blizzard. Old friendships are rekindled, new friendships are formed, and secrets are revealed. One for all, except...

Definitely a book worth reading!

Dogust 1st!

by Angela Allgood

Dogust (August) 1st is a day for celebrating adopted and rescued dogs' birthdays if the owners do not know their exact birth dates. That may sound odd to some people, but I have had several animals that I did not know their real birthday. Actually, we do not know when Bella's birthday is and celebrating on Dogust 1st sounds perfect!

I have never exactly “rescued” from a shelter but I have always rescued animals. I have always been an animal lover thanks to my father. The two of us always brought something home! We have rescued raccoons, rabbits, and tons of dogs. My friends knew I liked animals and every time a dog was a stray or someone no longer wanted their dog, they would bring it to me. They wouldn't tell me about it because my mom would have probably said “no more animals” but as long as she could see it, she couldn't tell me no. Our sweet Bella, who is now 14 years old was rescued from a family that had her penned up most of the day. They worked, then had practice after school. I told them that was no way for her to live and the next thing I knew, I was bringing her home!

I know someone who has adopted dogs from shelters as well as rescuing dogs themselves. This couple has rescued close to 200 dogs in their lifetime. They were either “dropped off” or the town asked them to “help” because they were “running around” and no one claimed them. They were more than happy to help save a dog's life. They tried hard to re-home each and every dog and never once asked for an adoption fee. There were some dogs they just had to add to their own family. In their life-time, they adopted 48-50 dogs! They have had dogs of all kinds of breeds. They have had old dogs who were not with them long as well as dogs they had for 14 or 15 years.

If you are looking for a special dog, there are a lot of animals in shelters that would LOVE to come home with you and your family. There are shelters close to Peru that you can contact. “Hearts United for Animals” has approxi-

Continued on page 12 >>>>>



JOHN DEERE



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<<<<<< *Back to School from page 7*

of school outfit,” I asked Becky about how much it cost her to get the boys ready for school. She said that they buy things throughout the year so there is not a big cost all at once. She also said that it will still probably cost about \$300 for clothes, supplies, shoes, etc.

After talking about how ready, or not ready, the students were, I wondered about the teachers. It has to be hard for the teachers to come back as well. They need to get their curriculum ready and they need to make sure they have books and supplies the students will need. Unfortunately, most school systems only pay for what the teachers “need” for their curriculum. That includes the basics of staplers and office supplies. They do also provide curriculum materials, which is the academic information itself. “Any additional items, I pay for out-of-pocket generally,” stated Angie Bowers.

I asked Ms. Bowers of Peru, a few questions about what it was like for a teacher to get ready for “back to school.” Ms. Bowers has begun a new position with Auburn Public Schools. She will be teaching 8th & 9th grade Special Education. She stated that not only will she teach, she will also be the head coach for Junior High Volleyball and the assistant coach for Varsity Volleyball.

That sounds like a lot of work once school is going. To get “ready,” she needs to look over student IEP’s (Individualized Education Plan), she creates her schedule and her para-educators schedule “to ensure the students on my case load are supported according to their IEP”. She still needs to get her room ready and make sure she has supplies and materials needed for her students.

When asked if she was ready, she stated, “I don’t think I am fully ever ready for a school year until I have my students in my room and in the building. I never really know what they need or what I will need until we are really rolling with academics and getting a routine down.”

Wow. Now I feel bad for saying that I was never ready to go “back to school.” All I had to do was buy a nice first-day-back outfit.

<<<<<< *Dogust from page 9*

mately 175 dogs currently at their shelter and 20 cats. They are a no-kill shelter who would love to help you find your perfect family member. You can look up dogs and cats at <https://www.hua.org/>. Once you have found your fur-ever buddy, contact HUA and make an appointment to meet the dog/cat. HUA has limited staff and volunteers so make sure to call them before going there.

In Falls City there is a smaller shelter which is only 38 miles from Peru. It is the Sam & Lela Schuler Humane Society. They have 5 dogs and a “huge array of cats and kittens” for adoption. And they spay/neuter, and “chip” their animals. If you want to adopt a cat, call Julie Phroper at 402-245-2338. For dogs, call Ardis Ramsey at 402-245-2779. Make an appointment to see what fur-ever buddy they have for you! They are also a no-kill shelter and short-staffed.

There are a lot of other shelters, some are even kill-shelters so it would be good if you save an animal from the shelter and from being euthanized. It is sad how many shelters are out there. Just remember, kitties and puppies grow up, they need walks, they get sick sometimes too, but most of all, they need your love!

“Adopt, don’t shop.” That puts puppy mills out of business and saves an animal’s life from the shelter.

Peru City News

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Confessions - Sunday 8:00-8:20 am

SEEDS AND WEEDS

After Winter, the dead garden was ready to go into grow gear. Soil heat rose higher each day, as sunshine reached deep down and found moisture. At last a hoe struck, as it's sharpened edge cut into soft, warm loam. Straight rows soon filled sections inside the fence, and the gardener got her seed packets picked for planting. "Sleep well my friends, and grow all night," she whispered to her blooms to be. And they did that. But so did the weed seeds that were hiding in the dirt. By Summer, the little plot had become a battleground, as wild and tame competed for light and life. Humidity and tropical heat conspired to hatch thousands of bugs, who loved being there and eating everything in sight. It was a daily fight to brave the sticky, buggy, itchy, sneezy, sweaty conditions, but the gardner fought for her flowers against her enemies, the formidable weeds. By Autumn, it was a draw, with both sides owning spaces and losing places. There were a few bouquets that came to the table, but the noble warrior had to admit that she had added a few wild and wonderful stems that had their own beauty!

P o e t r y

by Devon Adams, Peru

THE LONG DISTANCE

River country is a hilly kingdom of wind whipped, sifted dirt that was blown across the prairie from the western mountains. It used to be rocks, but the Loess was eroded by weather and water, and when it piled into the blue bluffs it was soft and fine. You can stand on the top of a bluff and look up and down the Missouri River Valley and out across the prairies that roll forever. Distance in this place is an insubstantial dream. The dirt in the wind, plus some smoke, mixed with moisture from a Summer humid climate, or Winter spitting snow, or frozen air that is a curtain, will tease your eyes and fool your mind, so that you have no real sense of how far is far. But it doesn't matter, because the beauty of place is so profound and magical that you will pray to stay here, as time seems to reach back to yesterday and even into tomorrow.

CIRCLE DANCE

A sacred circle made of stones is dancing with the shadows of yesterday as our sun creeps across a sky of burning blue. A lost reason to build was written somewhere, or maybe it was sung, in the many verses of a story, by clans and tribes for generations. A tale told about the magical timing that is the celestial clock of our pretty blue planet, the rocks are set for celebration of the top of the arc of Winter and of Summer. A single sunbeam shoots like a bullet through a keyhole in a blue stone, and we still know we are at the apex of a yearly miracle. You don't have to know what religion caused Stonehenge to be built. The timing tells a truth that is not an accident.

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SHIFTING GEARS

Hot tires on a Summer road have done some traveling, and now it's time to knock down the engine speed, take in the scenery and plan for golden hazes and frosty edges. Heat still sizzles, bugs are biting, and sunburns happen, but our mind paintings have vivid visions of ruby sumac, fiery gold and orange leaves, crisp apples, steaming cider with cinnamon, and warm socks on cold floors. We love the anticipation of sitting by a wood fire, savoring scents of juicy hot dogs dripping grease into flames, as smoke rises to kiss the star-filled sky. We will lean closer to the warmth, before yet another season descends upon us, with icy knives and frigid windy blasts.

COLOR BOMBS

Someone is shooting a paintball gun, but colors coming out of the barrel are feathers. They flutter and fly beside gossamer wings attached to butterflies who sail silently, carrying their kisses from bloom to bloom. A goldfinch in a fast flash darts for the stem of a sunflower to test for a seed snack, then is gone in a yellow streak that disappears in the sun shimmering on the blue bachelors buttons by the gate. An oriole hangs sideways on a purple clematis vine, his flashy orange a gaudy contrast next to such fancy flowers. Winter will be like going from a color TV to an old black and white set.

The Role Of Romance In Our Lives

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

“Moonlight becomes you, it goes with your hair. You’re all dressed up to go dreaming. Now don’t tell me I’m wrong and what a night to go dreaming. Mind if I tag along?”

These words from a popular forties song bring back memories of romance. Romance today, in some cases, is non-existent. In our highly educated, technology-laden lives, romance has taken a back seat. That is too bad as romance should be one of the most fun activities in our busy lives today, and the demise of romance can lead to love’s ending, in some cases.

Years ago, women generally dated men with expectancy of marriage. Some walked into marriage with little or no knowledge of what would be required of them. Even with little or no knowledge, those marriages lasted. Today, too much knowledge in some areas and the absence of romance may be disastrous for long-lived marriages.

What are romantic activities to you? These generally fall under the heading of thoughtful and caring activities. A rose from the garden given for a special event in someone’s life. Buying someone a special food that he or she loves is a romantic thing. One woman prepared a steak dinner for her house-bound husband on their anniversary. A stolen kiss in an elevator or in the car or behind your desk seems romantic.

What have we lost? We have lost feelings directly connected to our hearts. It seems fairly obvious to me that our entertainment has changed, our manner of living has changed, clothing choices have changed, and our very existence seems permeated with being busy.

Years ago, certain songs led the way to romance. Today, the screaming, non-existent meanings of the words of some songs leave most of us “cold” with desires to run away from the noise. Our dining ways have changed. Instead of sitting down in a restaurant to eat a nice meal, we eat fast food in our cars. Instead of driving on romantic outings, we hit Walmart or Target for groceries. It seems that shows of affection are scarce in most lives today.

What characteristics need to be present for a happy romantic life? First, kindness and understanding bring satisfaction long term. Someone with similar interests means fewer problems later. Certain personality traits enhance romance. These include thoughtfulness, kindness, and compassion. Also, a person’s attitude toward life and how to live it make a great difference.

The truth is that romance needs to be a normal part of our lives. Without this valuable commodity, we miss out on some very special feelings.

Romance needs to be a normal and necessary part of our lives. There are no secrets to romance. With romance, each partner needs to know what works for the other person. What is it that makes that person happy? Apply that as often as possible to improve and enrich the relationship. Sustaining a marriage or a relationship demands thought, work, commitment, and patience. Try romance; your life will be enriched with it.

Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Except when it rains, there’s no view of water through my window on Fifth Street. The Missouri River is about half a mile east, and I can’t see it from here because of the hills of Peru. There was a time when travelers from the east looked across that river from the other side and referred to the western shore as the “Gold Coast.” The river meandered so wide prior to the Corps of Engineers narrowing its waters for shipping, that it’s valley appeared to stretch to the western horizon, and farther on was Colorado’s “Pike’s Peak,” the destination for prospectors of gold, hence the label, “Gold Coast.”

One can believe the width being greater than today by observing the valley between the river bluffs. Locally, the expanse is from Brownville to Rock Port at I-29, a distance of approximately five miles, far enough to appear beyond the horizon on hazy days. Recently a friend pointed out to me that there wasn’t actually water from bluff to bluff, but a few years ago the Missouri flood waters covered that valley bluff to bluff. So I can imagine.

I’ve also read of Spanish explorers coming up from Mexico searching for gold, and of being intrigued by Native American stories of wide waters to the east. The explorers interpreted the indigenous description as an ocean, but more likely it was the wide, shallow waters that used to be a different Missouri River.

I’ve been fortunate enough to have visited three ocean shores; the Atlantic, the Pacific, and the Gulf of Mexico. When reflecting the blue sky, the view of the ocean is beautiful with its white caps of waves breaking, but I didn’t like the smell of the ocean at first. I smelled it before I saw it. It had a fishy smell until I got used to it. Thereafter it seemed to be a salty and misty aroma from the waves.

An ocean beach is inviting; pleasant to look upon, walk upon, recline upon. The smell of the water, the sensation of the mist on one’s skin, the sounds of the waves massaging the shore, smashing the rocks. Foam, spray, rushing, roaring sounds. Beach characteristics can be desirable and satisfying.

The ocean waves dared me to enter. But I didn’t desire that, I’m distrustful of water. I am satisfied with the damp sand beneath my feet and the occasional spray I feel on my face, cooled by the breeze. I want to look, not touch.

I know some people prefer to live near the ocean, or on the beach, but I would miss the birds. The only birds I’ve seen near the shore have been gulls and pelicans. And they wouldn’t land in a tree if trees grew there. I’ve seen seals among the rocks, and I know whale-viewing is a possibility, but to me inland wildlife competes well with the ocean shore.

So give me my window on Fifth Street. I’m content with people, traffic, and my bird visitors. If you want to give me more, how about a beach house as a second residence? I could live with that.



Black-eyed Susan along H-67 southeast of Peru, Nebraska

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And pucker my lips
Waiting for labor day to say
Labor Day has arrived
Summer is gone
But for now I inhale the fresh opulent air
And savor life in the fullness of August
And for once I think the name is appropriate,
For you round out the summer with your tall corn,
rodeos, and ice cream cones melting right into my mouth
And the birds warbling a new song of
Soon to be Fall....



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Peru State Summertime News



Peru State Students Win National Awards at PBL Conference

Peru State College students competed in the 2021-2022 Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) National Leadership Conference (NLC) in Chicago, earning eight top-ten national awards. Kelsi Leininger — a senior business administration major from Shenandoah, IA — won two national championships, in Business Sustainability and Strategic Analysis & Decision Making.



Peru State students and faculty recently attended the Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference in Chicago, IL. Those in attendance were (left to right): Azlyn Fendrick, Kelsi Leininger, Austin Guhde-Egger, Shea Kinnison, and Dr. Sheri Grotrian. Not pictured is Noah Kreifels.

Grotrian added, “I’m very pleased with the effort that many of the PBL members put forth this year considering the difficulty in achieving traditional levels of student engagement, and I’m exceptionally happy that 5 students chose to pursue the opportunity for national competition.”

Of the five students, four placed in the Top 10. The following is a listing of the individual winners for the Peru State College PBL Chapter:

Leininger — senior business administration

- 1st place –Business Sustainability
- 1st place –Strategic Analysis & Decision Making
- 5th place –Business Executive

Austin Guhde-Egger — senior computer management information systems and management major from Auburn
5th place — Information Management
7th place –Networking Concepts

Azlyn Fendrick – junior marketing major from Lincoln
9th place – Future Business Executive

Noah Kreifels — junior management and marketing major from Auburn
9th place – Personal Finance
10th place — Financial Concepts

In addition, Shea Kinnison —senior business administration major from Nebraska City — made it to Finals in Job Interview & Public Speaking.

Grotrian added, “Without the support of the College and the community with our fundraisers, students would not be able to have these experiences.”

Peru State Football Booster Clubs Host Successful Golf Tournament

On Friday, July 15, the Peru State Football Booster Club hosted their annual golf tournament at the Auburn Country Club. This year they had a great turnout of 21 teams in total.

The tournament was directed by Booster Club officers Mike Gerdes and Rick Janssen. This was the 11th year that Gerdes has overseen the tournament. Gerdes commented, “Despite the heat, we almost had a full tournament field which helps lead to a successful day.”

There were two flights in the event and the top three in each flight are as follows: First place in the first flight was Team Rasmussen with a score of 59. On team Rasmussen was Lee Rasmussen, Shannon Schulz, Zach Blessing, and Zach Undajon. In second place was the Bowldog Alley team with a score of 60. Golfing on team Bowldog Alley was Nate Seitz, Ron Seitz, Lee Adams, and Jeff Kidd. In third place was Team Cotton with a score of 61. Those on Team Cotton were Dan Cotton, Mark Hahn, Ron Perry and Russ Blex. Taking first in the second flight was Lincoln High Football with a score of 69. Golfing on the winning team were A.J. Santos, Dan Beckmann, Alex Cerny and Tyler Francis. In second place was Team Moles with a score of 69. On Team Moles was Jack Moles, Tim Hall, Don Hardekopf and Stan Wissel. In third place was the Dolezal/Reinert Clan with a score of 70. Playing on the Dolezal/Reinert Clan was Mark Dolezal, Terri Dolezal, Sam Dolezal and Cody Reinert.

There were also hole prizes on each of the nine holes on the course. The winners were: Hole 1 Closest to the Pin – Nathan Bianchi, Hole 2 Longest Drive – Shannon Shulz, Hole 3 Closest to Pin from off the Green (Any Shot) – T.J. Gulizia, Hole 4 Closest First Shot – Lee Rasmussen, Hole 5 Longest Drive in Fairway – Allison Tichy, Hole 6 Closest Second Shot – Jeff Gerdes, Hole 7 Longest Putt – Mary Ernster, Hole 8 Closest Second Shot – Stephanie Gerdes, and Hole 9 Longest Putt – Dan Beckmann.

The Peru State Football Booster Club would like to thank these hole sponsors: Arbor Manor, Auburn Agency, Auburn Family Health Center, PC, Auburn State Bank, Big Iron Auctions, Bowl-

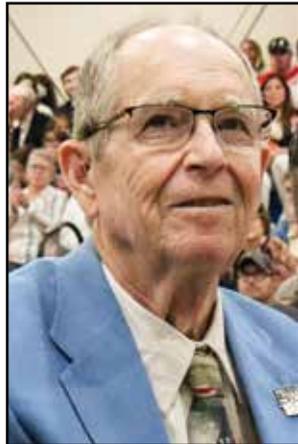
Continued on page 18 >>>>>



Peru State Summertime News



Peru State Honors Dr. Daryl Long with Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Daryl Long

The Distinguished Service Award is conferred upon an outstanding person who has made a significant contribution to Peru State College. Dr. Long began teaching at Peru State College in 1967, after earning bachelor's and master's degrees from Iowa State University and a doctorate from UNL. He retired in 2017 after a half-century, teaching chemistry, energy, and math among other subjects. He dedicated his career on campus to the students; his legacy is living on through their lives.

Upon his retirement, Long said, "You dedicate your whole life here, and people ask why did you stay at Peru? Well, I wanted to teach, and you love that you're at a small college in rural America and you get to know people, which was one of my goals. It's home, it's where we are."

<<<<< *Golf Tournament from page 17*

dog Alley, El Portal Mexican Restaurant, Fast Global Solutions, Frank Pelican – Pelican's Meat Processing, HACO Electric, Harold Hitch, Hill-top Dental of Auburn, Hunters Headquarters, Kent & Becki Propst/Jerry & Christina Joy, Meyer-Earp Auto Center, Nemaha County Hospital, Pieters Construction, SBS Insurance, State Bank of Table Creek, Steve Schneider and Ted L. Harshbarger.

The Booster Club would also like to thank the Flag Prize, Auction and Raffle Donors: Auburn Newspapers, Auburn State Bank, Big Iron Auctions, Brooke Earnest, Pastor Ken Miller, PSC Athletic Department, PSC Football Booster Club, Sack Lumber and Ted L. Harshbarger.

Gerdes also stated, "I would also like to thank all who contributed and/or participated as we once again generated some excellent funds for the Bobcat football program." He added, "Thanks, too, to Pamette Grable and the Country Club for hosting the event."

The Peru State football team kicks off the season on Saturday, August 27, at Missouri Valley College at 6:00 p.m.

At the first home game on Saturday, September 3rd, Peru State hosts Central Methodist University in the Oak Bowl at 6:00 p.m.



Bobcat Cheer Team in the July 4th Freedom Parade.



PSC Hosts Volleyball Camp in July.



Booster Club Golf Tournament Champions.

Peru State College Summertime News

Peru State Volleyball Earns USMC-AVCA Team Academic Award

On Tuesday, July 19, head volleyball coach Madison Kindle and the Peru State Volleyball team received the USMC-AVCA Academic Team Award in the NAIA division. The AVCA announced the honor in a press release.

This is the 30th anniversary of the program and more than 1,200 teams across DI, DII, DIII and NAIA levels received this year's award.

Members of the Bobcat volleyball team which were included in on the honor were: Michelle Beer (Salem), Cheyenne Birkle (Holden, Mo.), Alyssa Bock (Plattsmouth), Hannah Burianek (Lincoln), Alexandra Chavarria (Hollister, Calif.), Jaime Copenharve (Omaha), Tiana Cornist (Bellevue), Christena Crouch (Holton, Kan.), Cassandra Davis (Colorado Springs), Jaddy Duarte (Brasilia, Brazil), Kylee Fischer (Bellevue), Kelley Hein (Omaha), Katie Mendick (Bellevue), Ofalata Mounaafi (West Valley, Utah), Mattie Nichols (Auburn), Sidney Peck (Manitoba, Canada), Hannia Rios (Toa Baja, Puerto Rico), Ace Swadogo (Omaha), Dawson Sharman (Sidney), and Haley VanLeuven (Elgin, Ore.).

"Academic achievement does not happen by accident," said AVCA Executive Director Kathy DeBoer, according to the AVCA press release. "I'm so proud of the hundreds of coaching staffs that make excellence in the classroom a priority."

"The award, initiated in the 1992-93 academic year, honors volleyball teams that maintain a year-long grade-point average of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale or 4.1 on a 5.0 scale," according to the AVCA press release.

Bobcat head volleyball coach Madison Kindle had this to say about the team receiving the award... "This is such a great example of all of the hard work these ladies have been putting in both on and off the court. I am truly excited for what is in store for Peru State College Volleyball."

Peru State volleyball begins the season on Friday, August 19, for a tri match against Central Christian College and Sterling College in Sterling, Kansas starting at 4:00 p.m.

PSC WBB Earns Special Mention in WBCA 2021-22 Academic Top 25 Honor Rolls

On Wednesday, July 20, The Peru State women's basketball team earned a Special Mention in the WBCA 2021-22 Academic Top 25 Honor Rolls. The Women's Basketball Coaches Association recognizes teams from DI, DII, DIII, NAIA and two-year colleges.

"The WBCA Academic Top 25 recognizes NCAA Division I, II and III, NAIA and two-year college women's basketball teams across the nation that carry the highest combined GPAs inclusive of all student-athletes on their rosters for the entire season. The 2021-22 season is the 27th in which the WBCA has compiled the honor rolls," according to the WBCA press release.

Here is what WBCA Executive Director Danielle Donehew had to say about this year's recipients; "We are also pleased this year to recognize all teams that achieved the minimum 3.0 combined GPA required for nomination. That alone is no small feat considering the rigors of playing college athletics."

This year's release also marks the first year in which all teams which qualified for the top 25 rankings with the minimum 3.0 GPA also are recognized for their academic accomplishment according to the release.

Teams having a 3.0 combined GPA and qualifying for consideration in their respective divisions are also listed as special mentions according to the release.

Bobcat women's basketball assistant coach Brianna Bogard had this to say about the mention; "Extremely proud of our girls this year for taking caring of business on and off the court. Really excited to watch this group grow academically and as a team this upcoming year." Members of the Peru State team receiving this team honor were: Maria Alcantara (Recife, Brazil), Elizabeth Baumert (Plattsmouth), Adreal Bell (Independence, Mo.), Natasha Deal (Winnebago), Maddy Duncan (Hamburg, Iowa), Hailey Ingram (Omaha), Julie Miller (Easton, Kan.), Jescenia Mosely (Shenandoah, Iowa), Keisha Snyder (Winnebago), and Samantha Stewart (Mount Ayr, Iowa).

Peru State women's basketball tips off on Saturday, October 29, at McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas.

PSC Men's Basketball Players Blake Petersen & Isaac Simpson Earn NABC Honors Court

On Tuesday, July 19, the National Association of Basketball Coaches announced the 2021-22 NABC Honors Court. Isaac Simpson (Papillion) and Blake Petersen (Columbus) made the NABC Honors Court.

"The NABC Honors Court, meanwhile, includes junior, senior and graduate student men's basketball players who finished the 2021-22 year with a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher, according to the NABC press release."

The NABC's academic awards include honorees from all levels of college basketball according to the press release.

There were over 2,000 players that earned a spot on the NABC Honors Court according to the press release.

Here is what NABC Executive Director Craig Robinson had to say about the NABC Honors Court and Team Academic Excellence Awards:

"Academic success is a core value of the NABC and a priority shared by men's basketball programs across the country," said NABC Executive Director Craig Robinson according to the release. "Excellence in the classroom requires hard work and dedication, and the NABC considers it a privilege to honor these deserving student-athletes and the coaches and staff who support them."

Bobcat men's basketball head coach Bob Ludwig had this to say about the two honorees...

"Isaac and Blake were model student-athletes in their four years on campus," said Coach Ludwig. "They both have extremely bright futures in their respective career fields. I am excited to follow their journey in the years to come and have no doubt that they will be extremely successful."

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