

Peru City News! See pages 6-9



Verdon Lake at Verdon State Park, just west of Verdon, Nebraska, November 2, 2021

*Sweeten your Coffee Break with these
Views and Voices from the
Valleys of the Nemaha.*

NEW!

Peru City News

Pages 6,7,8,9
Water Improvement
Grocery Store
Tuesday Club
Student Life
Peru Community Christmas

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Your Country Neighbor

Voices and Views From the Valleys of the Nemaha

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

P.O. Box 126
Peru, Nebraska 68421

countryneighbor@windstream.net

Online at 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

This Month's Writers & Contributors

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Thank You!

Covid Update

Stephen Hassler

Should there not be mandates for vaccines? After all, there are no Federal mandates to eat vegetables. The difference is that not eating a good diet does not make it possible for your neighbors, friends, and family members to be hospitalized with a deadly virus that you might be carrying. You're not sick? Are you betting your family's lives on it? Not getting the vaccine is not just a personal choice. Not getting the vaccine during a pandemic, you are choosing that everyone you come in contact with must take the same risk that you are willing to take.

Should there not be mandates for vaccines? No, there shouldn't be. People ought to have sufficient common sense to behave in a responsible manner. But when they don't, the greater good needs to be considered. Five million people have died of Covid world-wide. Some call that a tragedy, others call it a statistic.

Do you no longer trust the American medical profession? Has someone been misleading you with false information? Is our education system so poor that so many people can't understand basic statistics?

On November 15, the threat level for the district containing Nemaha County rose to "Severe Risk." That's the highest threat level on the CDC scale. Be responsible and act accordingly. Google your county at; (name), County, State, Covid. For example; Nemaha County, Nebraska, Covid. Or; Otoe County, Nebraska, Covid

Follow CDC Guidelines as to how to avoid Covid-19.

Do Not Relax Your Handwashing.

Masks work in the fight to end the pandemic.

Protect others, protect yourself.

New "Positive" Cases of Covid-19 in our
"Country Neighborhood" Counties

<u>Date Range</u>	<u>Nemaha</u>	<u>Otoe</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Richardson</u>
10/14 - 10/27	27	110	15	15
11/03 - 11/16	49	129	18	55
11/07 - 11/20	61	134	23	72
11/11 - 11/24	47	102	20	75



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An Autumn to Remember! Along Scenic H-67, south of Peru. **December 2021**

Your Country Neighbor 3

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The memorial plaque at the bottom is for Alice. See page 10.



Church in Brownville. (Bob's place.)
See larger photo on page 16.

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Peru City News
is a monthly news section in

Your Country Neighbor
See pages 6,7,8,9

Peru City News
is a volunteer project
supported by the Peru, Nebraska community.
Thank You Peru!

Who do you know that would like to keep in touch with happenings in Peru?

Relatives who might have moved away?
PSC Graduates?
Followers of PSC Sports?
Parents and Grandparents of Students?

They can visit *Your Country Neighbor* online or, mail them a copy.
(Subscriptions are not available at this time.)

Find *Your Country Neighbor* in fine businesses in the cities listed on page 1.

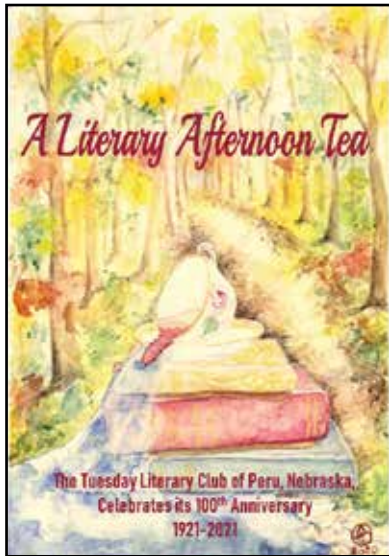


I can't resist printing photos of Peru taken from 'cemetery hill.' There is so much to see; the historic monuments, St Clara's church, and of course, this year's Autumn colors in the hills of Peru.

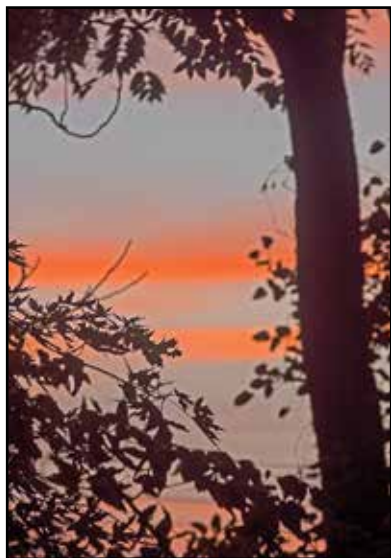
PERU CITY NEWS



Early Morning, November 10, Downtown Peru.



See Tuesday Club article on page 7.



Peru Sunrise, Bands of Red November 10.



A view from 5th Street, November 11.

Water Improvement in Peru

by Angela Allgood

Peru made the decision to link into Auburn’s water supply for a better quality of water. There are not enough wells in the hills of Peru to offer a sufficient water supply and water from the river bottom is high in iron and manganese which is not healthy. Peru could have the Auburn Board of Public Works operate the water treatment plant but that is an expensive option. Peru could fix the old water treatment plant but that would be costly and FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency, would not help pay for the expenses. Building a new plant means 40 years of low maintenance and warranty. PVC piping going to Auburn would last eighty to one hundred years and FEMA is helping with the costs because of the flooding.

The process is moving forward smoothly. Mayor David Pease informed me that a route has been figured out, farmers have been contacted and they have been offered a one-time price for the loss of their ground. Now, it is up to FEMA to evaluate the land route for environmental or historical findings.

Continued on page 9 >>>>>>

Welcome the Schmidts and The Market

By Angela Allgood

Let’s give a big Peru welcome to Lindy and DJ Schmidt. Who are they? What is The Market?

Lindy and DJ Schmidt are the new owners of the old Decker’s Grocery store building and it will be called The Market! They officially took possession of the building Monday, November 15, 2021.

Lindy grew up in Central Nebraska – Columbus. She has lived in California and Minnesota. Minnesota is where she met DJ Schmidt. Now her husband. Lindy had worked for General Mills almost twenty years while DJ was in the automotive industry. They moved to Louisville in 2013 to raise a family in a smaller community. Two and-a-half years ago a gentleman in Louisville owned a store and wanted to retire. It never sold and he closed it down. The Schmidt’s discussed purchasing the grocery store after being closed a few months. Lindy quit her

Continued on page 8 >>>>>>

Tuesday Literary Club

by Angela Allgood

I would like to introduce you to the Peru, Nebraska Tuesday Literary Club! It is one of the three oldest literary clubs in the state and has been meeting continuously all those years.

There are currently 13 members. Six members are from Peru, three are from Brownville, three are from Auburn, and one is from Nebraska City plus, there are four Honorary members! An Honorary member is not involved in the club as much due to moving from the area, but the current club keeps them informed of what is going on via emails!

Let’s meet the Tuesday Literary Club. The president is Cecelia Marnell, the Vice-President is Susan Pease, Secretary is Dorothy Chase and Treasurer is Valerie Able.

There is a committee of three people that pick a few themes and then the entire club will vote on the one they want to do. Themes in the past have been “Banned Books,” “Nebraska” (author or about a town in Nebraska), etc. The theme for their 100th Anniversary (November 18, 2021) was “Journeys.” DiAnna Loy mentioned that a journey can be mental or physical.

Loy said that their literary club is a little different. Most literary clubs have everyone read the same book and they talk about it together as a group. Loy said that Peru’s literary club has one person read a book and then do a report on it to the group. It can be any book as long as it stays within the theme. The club meets about two hours. The first hour is socializing/snacks and club business. The second hour is the book review.

Dues are only \$5.00 a year and anyone who loves reading can join!

Each year in October, they have their annual meeting and discuss the upcoming year’s theme.

Loy mentioned that when a member passes away, they usually donate a book to the Auburn Memorial Library in their name.

Loy also mentioned that they do not do a lot of “projects” unless it focuses on “literary” items. They were in charge of the Library in the gazebo downtown and starting November 18th, 2021, there will be a cookbook called, “A Literary Afternoon Tea.” Members of the Tuesday Literary Club share their recipes. Loy stated that on the left side will be a story and the right side will have recipes. If you are interested, check out Amazon starting November 18th. The book will sell for \$12 on Amazon and \$3.00 on Kindle! The club will donate 35% of sales from each Cookbook to the Auburn Memorial Library. (See book cover on page 6.)

The Tuesday Literary Club meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, with few exceptions, at 1 pm.

Tuesday Literary Club Reads

by DiAnna Loy

November found the ladies of the Tuesday Literary Club gathered and listening to Alice Holtz as she presented a review of *The Bingo Palace* by Louise Erdrich. While this book is the fourth book in a series of eight, it reads well as a stand-alone book. The books accurately describe current life on reservations. Erdrich is widely acclaimed as one of the most significant Native American writers.

Our main character, Lipsha Morrissey, has left the reservation and has been living in Fargo, North Dakota working in a sugar beet factory. When his grandmother tells him it is time to return to the reservation and become reconnected to his spiritual and cultural roots, he returns home. Once back on the reservation, Lipsha realizes he no longer feels comfortable with the routines of life on the reservation where he grew up. He deals with finding love, gainful employment, childhood trauma, and where he fits on the reservation.

Continued on page 9 >>>>>>

Student Life

by Ean Miller, Sophomore at PSC

As the semester winds down at Peru State College and the holidays draw closer, the atmosphere among students is lively and complicated.

Many are fatigued by the strains of the semester- a feeling which is only amplified as finals draw closer by the day. But student life hasn’t been better in recent times. With a good football season with no losses at home, and regular activities and performances, bobcats have more to enjoy than ever in recent years.

But with the classic and reliable excuse of “Covid” dwindling, many students are experiencing the full extent of the stresses and challenges of being a college student. For many second years especially, this year has been stressful after a relatively easy first year, and stress couldn’t be higher as finals are less than a month away.

Many new students are experiencing a Nebraskan winter for the first time- a cold, shocking experience for many students, especially those originally from warmer regions. Only time will tell how these students will handle the full extent of the frigid Midwest winter.

The Covid-19 situation on campus has yet to change, with masks required in many places on campus, and social distancing still encouraged for students, staff, and faculty. With weekly Covid tests being offered, but not required, it is difficult to tell the full extent of the virus on campus.

With what has been a good first semester for Peru, one can only hope the semester to follow is the same way. With Covid-19 seemingly on its way out and new opportunities on their way in, the next year should be an exciting one for the bobcats.

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job to work the store while DJ still worked in corporate America. After a couple of years, DJ also quit and they both run the store.

Now, let’s learn about The Market. That is the name of their store in Louisville, Nebraska and will be the name of the Peru store as well! The Schmidt’s are already working behind the scenes and getting a lot of things done. They have purchased coolers, they have talked to their marketing people, they are filing paperwork to do tobacco and liquor which is new to them. There is a store in Louisville that sells liquor and tobacco so they did not want to compete with him. They are hoping to open in the Spring but have mentioned that the after effects of Covid may still slow down their progress.

They plan to have a fresh meat counter, fresh chicken rotisserie, two flavors of in-house sausage, and much more! They also want to work closely with the community and network with home-businesses to sell their products. So, if you make soap, jam, honey, or anything, you may want to contact the Schmidt’s once they are closer to opening their business!

The Schmidt’s are excited to be coming to Peru! They are happy and thankful that so many people from the community are working with them to open the store.

Let’s give a warm Bobcat welcome to the Schmidt family and keep reading this paper because as things progress with the store, the community will be updated.

If you want to check out the Louisville store, go to <https://themarketflc.com/about-us/> or go to <https://www.facebook.com/themarketflc>

Peru Community Christmas

by Marty Peregoy

The Peru Community Christmas event will be held Sunday, December 12, 3:30-5:30 p.m. at Peru City Hall. Children will have the opportunity to make a Christmas ornament, decorate a Christmas cookie, and chat with Santa before the outside tree lighting at 5:30 p.m. Parents are welcome to take pictures of their children with Santa and are encouraged to stay for the event, which is sponsored by Peru Community Impact Group (PCIG) and the Peru Volunteer Fire Department. There is no charge for the event. Children may also participate in a Christmas coloring contest by picking up a coloring page from Peru City Hall, coloring it with their own markers/pencils/crayons and returning it to City Hall by December 1st. Small prizes in each age category, 0-5, 6-8, 9-11, and 12-14 will be awarded at the Peru Community Christmas Event December 12th from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

In addition, there will be a Home Decorating Contest once again this year. Those wishing to enter must have the exterior of their house/property decorated and notify Marty Peregoy, perucig@gmail.com, of their wish to be entered into the contest no later than December 12th at 12:00 a.m. Addresses of decorated houses, along with a voting ballot, will then be available from December 13-20th at Peru City Hall. View the houses and vote for your family favorite by close of business December 20th. One vote per family. The winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate, while 2nd place will receive Honorable Mention. Both the coloring contest and the home decorating contest are sponsored by PCIG.

New to the Peru Community this year will be a memorial Christmas tree inside City Hall. If you’d like to honor a loved one who has passed, please bring an ornament marked with his/her name and hang it on the tree. Coffee and treats will be available at the ornament drop off from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Saturday, December 4th at Peru City Hall. If you’re unable to bring your ornament at that time, you will be able to hang it and/or view the tree anytime during business hours December 4 - January 1. Please plan to pick up your ornament at the start of the new year. PCIG and city employees are not responsible for loss of or damage to ornaments. This event is co-sponsored by the Peru Cemetery Auxiliary and PCIG.

As part of their efforts to support the Peru community at this time of year, the Peru Cemetery Auxiliary will be sponsoring a Christmas non-perishable food drive supporting Project Pantry located in Auburn, Nebraska. They are looking for dry and canned food donations that have not yet reached their expiration date. Needed items include powdered and shelf-stable (boxed) milk, peanut butter, cooking oil, canned soups, canned vegetables, canned meat, canned fish, boxed macaroni and cheese, and breakfast items, among other things. If you donate a boxed mix, check what other ingredients are needed to make it and donate those, too. Donations can be dropped off at Peru’s City Hall during operational hours between now and the Peru Community Christmas event December 12th. All events are subject to change.

[illegible]

Bids will be read November 18, 2021 for prices of purchasing the PVC piping needed. Bids are being requested now so that we make sure we have the piping when construction is ready to start. This should be about a \$1.75 million dollar bid. Open bids for construction will be in February, 2022 and construction will start in March or April 2022.

Once construction is finished, it will be business as usual. There may be leaks and breaks, but not nearly as bad as what we currently deal with and the water will be cleaner and healthier to drink.

<<<<<< “Literary Club” *Continued from page 7*

Lipsha meets a young woman that already has a baby by his uncle, makes a fortune, invests the fortune with the uncle, and deals with interfering family members. He also engages in some cultural traditions of his nation with varying results.

The Bingo Palace will keep readers interested as Holtz's review kept the members of our group engaged. It was a lively discussion as we talked about Lipsha's mistakes and how he could have managed his life and decisions differently, and possibly for a better result. When asked, three of the members present indicated they would like to read the book and possibly the series.

Peru Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, December 16 at 6 pm in the Peru State College Auditorium or you can participate from home through Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3Diuu84>

Topics will include:

Grocery store update

Green space recommendations from Nebraska Forest Service

Update on Steamboat Trace Trail recovery

Flood recovery topics including:

Connection to Auburn for water

Lagoons

Streets

Purchasing Homes in the Flood Plain

Community involvement - economic development and new equipment for parks and recreation



St. Clara's Catholic Church
604 6th Street

Pastor Fr. Timothy Danek

Mass - Sunday 8:30 am

Confessions - Sunday 8:00-8:20 am

Christmas Eve Mass is at 5:30 pm

Christmas Day Mass is at 8:30 am



Peru Community Church
520 Nebraska Street

Pastors Raymond & Rebecca Girard

Services - Sunday 10:45 am

Christmas Eve Service at 9:00 pm



Northridge Church

Pastor Daniel Hutchison

Services at Peru City Hall Sunday 10 am

Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm at

City Hall on December 24th

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(S) '94 JD F725 54" deck, 1140 Hrs, stk# 387444.....	\$2200
(S) Cub Cadet LT1018 42" deck stk# 390432.....	\$890
(S) '14 JD X730, 60" deck, 287 Hrs, stk# 382978.....	\$7500
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This tree was planted the day Alice Mertes was born. Alice has since passed, and now this Cottonwood tree is about 100 years old.

The tree stands on a former Mertes homestead along H-67, from which came the windmill that stands next to the *School House Gallery* in Brownville. Check out the memorial plaque on it the next time you visit Brownville, Nebraska. See windmill photo page 4.



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Winter

Sheila Tinkham, Omaha

Winter knocks gently on my door
Kiss me Fall
Say goodbye to foliage falling sweetly
Now ice and snow
Sing soft and low
Beware beware
I will freeze your derriere
Winter knocks gently at my door
Thank you
Another season
Of snow-filled delight: sledding, skiing, skating
I adore you with all my might
Winter knocks gently on my door
Winter, Winter whom I adore
Fill the night with egg nog drunk and apple pie half eaten
Sing the songs of long ago lore
Oh yes Winter knocks gently at my door...

Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

As I write this month's column, we are on our way to Georgia for our annual Thanksgiving holiday visit to our daughter and son-in-law. We spent our first night on the road at New Harmony, Indiana, which got its start as the location of an experiment in Socialist Utopia. I probably don't need to tell you that the Utopia failed. They did get one thing right years later, however, when they built the New Harmony Inn and Conference Center with beautiful poplar flooring. Socialism may have lost the popularity contest, but choosing the State tree of Indiana – known variously as tulip tree, yellow poplar or tulip poplar – for construction was a winning idea.

We dined that evening at a small restaurant called Mary Scott's, where the food was definitely above average and the owners – all two of them - were doing all the jobs. Scott was the meat smoker and also the host and waiter, while Mary did the rest of the cooking, and pitched in on the bussing, cashiering, and most likely dishwashing. Scott apologetically informed each arriving guest that he and Mary were "doing it all tonight," and begged patience if the service was a little slow. Instead of apologizing, he had the right to be boasting about their work ethic and dedication. You have to applaud these entrepreneurs who are working hard to achieve their dream. At least they got all the tips, since they had to do all the work!

The Main Street Diner in Boonville, Missouri, where we had eaten lunch, had also been short-handed. Our waitress remarked that this was her first job as a restaurant "employee," having been in restaurant management for fifteen years. Can't imagine why she ever gave up that gig, right? Restaurant management has to be one of the least appreciated and most exhausting career paths. But that woman was amazing, speed-walking every order, sometimes dodging or ducking other staff or the waiting customers lined up along the wall, and directing people to empty booths with a nod or a point as she simultaneously wiped down a vacated table or took an order, and all with a smile. It was like watching an animated Disney movie where the characters can stretch and bend and balance stacks of plates on their heads, never missing a beat. Perhaps we should update the Olympics with a new category that represents real world prowess and stamina. I mean, seriously, how many Olympians go on to spend the rest of their lives competing in athletics? A great waitress or waiter (no gender bias here!) is just as deserving of recognition in my opinion. Until we get that new Olympic event, however, tips are the best award.

We arrived at The Old Mill B&B in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, on day two at around 3:00 p.m. The former grist mill still has the original water wheel and wooden grain hopper, along with sloping floors and plenty of rustic charm. Our room had a four-poster bed with a HUGE head-and-footboard and a king-size mattress. Admittedly, the king-size mattress wasn't historically authentic. Most furniture from 200 years ago was made for considerably smaller people than today. But the bed was raised high off the floor, as in Colonial times, to keep it above drafts and allow for storage underneath. Hubby and I would probably have been considered above-average height in the 1700s, but we could barely perch on the edge of that mattress. There was no way we could gracefully slide onto it and slip under the covers. It was either throw ourselves backward like high-jumpers and hope for enough momentum to swing our legs up and over the edge, or climb onto it one knee at a time, like a toddler pulling himself up onto a sofa. It wasn't until the next day that I spied what I thought was a storage crate under the bed. It turned out to be a step. But we figured we would either fall off it or stub a toe on it in the middle of the night, so we stuck with our original clumsy technique and left the step under the bed.

Brad met two farmers from Virginia in the breakfast room on our second B&B morning who were also heading to Georgia. They used to hunt in Southeast Nebraska not far from us, and one of them had a son who had recently moved to the same town where our daughter and son-in-law live. Small world, right? You drive 1,000 miles and run into total strangers with connections to your home or family. What is that saying, we are all only six degrees of separation from everyone else? That puts things in perspective a bit.

If your holiday plans include travel, try to support the local restaurants and other businesses along your way, and be open to the possibility of making a connection with someone who used to be a stranger.



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I SEE THE SOUND

From my window
I see the sound
of the wind, but
cannot hear it blow.
Angry trees fight
each gust to save
their heavy branches
from being torn
apart and away
from their mother
trunk. Autumn is
running late, and
leaves still cling,
waiting for a freeze
to release them.
Morning was a
sunshine kiss,
with a warm sigh
of air drifting up
from the southern
gulf. But now a
change has come,
and temperatures
are dropping into
icy numbers. I
came inside the
house as cold
rain began to pelt
the earth, and now
the battered leaves
are being coated
with a heavy glaze
of ice. It won't be
long before breaking
branches echo like
shots fired across
our shivering hills.

CLEARLY

When our earth is
touched by the
magnetic fingers
of an eruption on
the sun's surface,
we can see the
wavy, glowing
northern lights.
However, earth
may one day be
fried, like a
charcoal briquet.
It is one thing to
lie in the warm
rays that can
result in a good
tan, but in the far
future our little
ball of energy
will get to the end
of it's fuel and go
boom, and the
earth and it's
circling planets
will be little black
cinders, or less.
Science knows
this because
our deep space
telescopes have
clearly seen it
happen to other
stars in other
galaxies, and
they know it will
happen to us.
'Til then, have a
good time at your
campfire roasting
marshmallows.

NIGHT ROADS

The air transforms
into icy crystals
that are floating
in the silence of
the silver moon.
Dead quiet haunts
the rolling hills,
and the dirt roads
are frozen.
This is the land
of the wild things
that exist alone
and apart from
human motives.
Whitetails walking
over tire tracks
from daytime cars
leave only the
sound of their
hooves striking,
but they have
owned this place
since before men
came here. Their
blood pulses with
inborn memories
of the old times
when they ruled
the prairie along
with bison and elk.
An old buck pauses
to sift the scents in
the air, and he
spots the stalking
ghost of a gray wolf,
who still wants to
take him down.

SUGAR DAZE

Get ready for another
bout of hyperactivity.
If you have watched
your glassy-eyed
children run amok
causing mayhem
and destruction to
your home after the
Halloween candy
binge, it was only
a warm-up before
the build-up to the
climax of the whole
year. Christmas will
bring guests and
gifts and gooey
goodies that come
in boxes packed
with calories and
caffeine enriched
chocolate. Given
that kids will be on
vacation, you might
indulge their cravings
for our national
ceremonial game
day, play day, happy
day beverage. Yes,
Coca Cola will put
your little ones on
a rocket ship to Mars
after they are already
hyper full of sugar and
anticipation before
it's time to open gifts.
Good luck with that!

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STEW

The kitchen steams
with scents of savory
sections of celery and
carrots and onions,
spuds, and chunks of
chuck roast simmering
sublimely all through
the afternoon. Hunger
builds steadily, and
then it surges into
starvation as people
go outside for chores,
and come back into
the fog of flavor that
meets them at the
door. Snow sifts down
like the flour that went
into the crust for the
pie that is in the oven.
It is cold and getting
colder, as the sunset
paints ribbons in the sky.
Supper is on the table!

Christmas In July; I Think Not!

Dorothy Rieke

Celebrating Christmas during summer days was a new idea for me when some years ago, Billy Oakley, a homemaker on radio station KMA, explained that she and her friends celebrated Christmas in July.

It seemed that in doing so, they avoided crowded stores, high-priced gifts, bad weather, and hazardous road conditions.

One day in July, she was driving with her friends. Because they “went all out” for their celebration, one friend was dressed as Santa Claus. Several motorists almost drove off the road being so distracted to see Santa in July.

Thinking back to past times, I recall several incidents during December Christmases which have meant much to me.

One evening, as we drove to the Moon River Theater in Branson, snow was falling. The trees surrounding that theater were lighted with tiny lights. I will never forget the beauty of that winter scene.

One evening, I joined my parents and my sister for lunch. I took a Christmas gift one of my sixth grade girls had given me. It was a “tower” dish; each section was filled with delicious cookies and candies. What a treat that was!

Every Christmas season I recall a very special sixth grade class I taught. At Christmas, class members decided to forget the gift exchange. Instead, they sent money to Good Fellows to help others. Truthfully, I would have taught that year without pay; those students were memorable and remarkable!

No, I will not celebrate Christmas in July. Traditions, the beauty of the season, the kindness of others, and the decorations all mean too much to me. Christmas, in my life, will remain in December, a time to help others, enjoy the decorations, and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Often, my window on 5th Street is a window to the past. Recently I was watching a TV series about a single mom and her daughter, and I was reminded of the power that an adult’s influence can be.

In my home growing up, there was very little reading material. I only remember that there was a paperback text about Nebraska weeds, several romance magazines that belonged to my mother, and when I was old enough to read, my comic books. The only other book was from a children’s “All About” series that my mother bought to read to me. It was “All About The Stars.”

I remember going out in the front yard of the farmhouse at night, away from the trees, and looking up at the sky and piecing together the constellations with a flashlight and star charts from library books. Almost 40 years later, my first graduate science course was “Astro Physics.” I wanted to be an astronomer. Call it a midlife crisis, but the roots of that dream were when I was five years old, being read to me by my mother.

As a young father, I had the privilege of coaching a group of first and second graders in a soccer league as part of a YMCA youth program. To begin with, I didn’t even know how to play soccer. I volunteered to be an assistant coach only, but when I went to the first practice, the “coach” had failed to show up. And that’s how I became a coach for a “pee-wee” league soccer team.

The YMCA provided a manual of sorts with positions and diagrams, and we practiced kicking the ball around, and “dribbling” it with our feet. At the first game, the other team was no better prepared than ours, and we had fun. I don’t remember if we won that game, but we did win several games that season.

I remember the best play I divised; our best player would dribble the ball down the sideline toward our end of the soccer field. Most of the rest of both teams would chase after him. Once close to our end of the field, he would kick the ball to a teammate who was all alone in the center of the field in front of the goal, one-on-one with the opposing goalie. We often scored on that play.

As that play developed, more than one teammate would be waiting for the pass, and one time a capable but shy kid, with hardly any confidence, received the pass and scored a goal. He didn’t even know how to act when he made the goal. He had seen the other boys throw their arms into the air triumphantly, so he tried to do that as his teammates ran to him cheering. It was awkward looking, but I knew he was feeling great. His parents were near me during the moment and I told them I was especially glad that he had scored a goal. I had seen his potential, and knew he just needed an opportunity in order to realize it himself.

Weeks later, I saw his parents at a church function. They came up to me and told me how much their son’s life had “changed.” He was doing so much better with school and making friends. I thought about how that change would affect his entire life and the lives he touched. I was a teacher for many years, but I’ve learned that sports can cause a child to discover his talents as much as school-room lessons or star books.

So parents, teachers, and coaches, don’t underestimate the influence you probably have on a child! They are all young seekers or players, thirsty for discovery and accomplishment. When a child is motivated by desire and encouragement, you might create a path that could accomplish more than even you could imagine. Create the spark and watch the fire grow. It’s all about stars.



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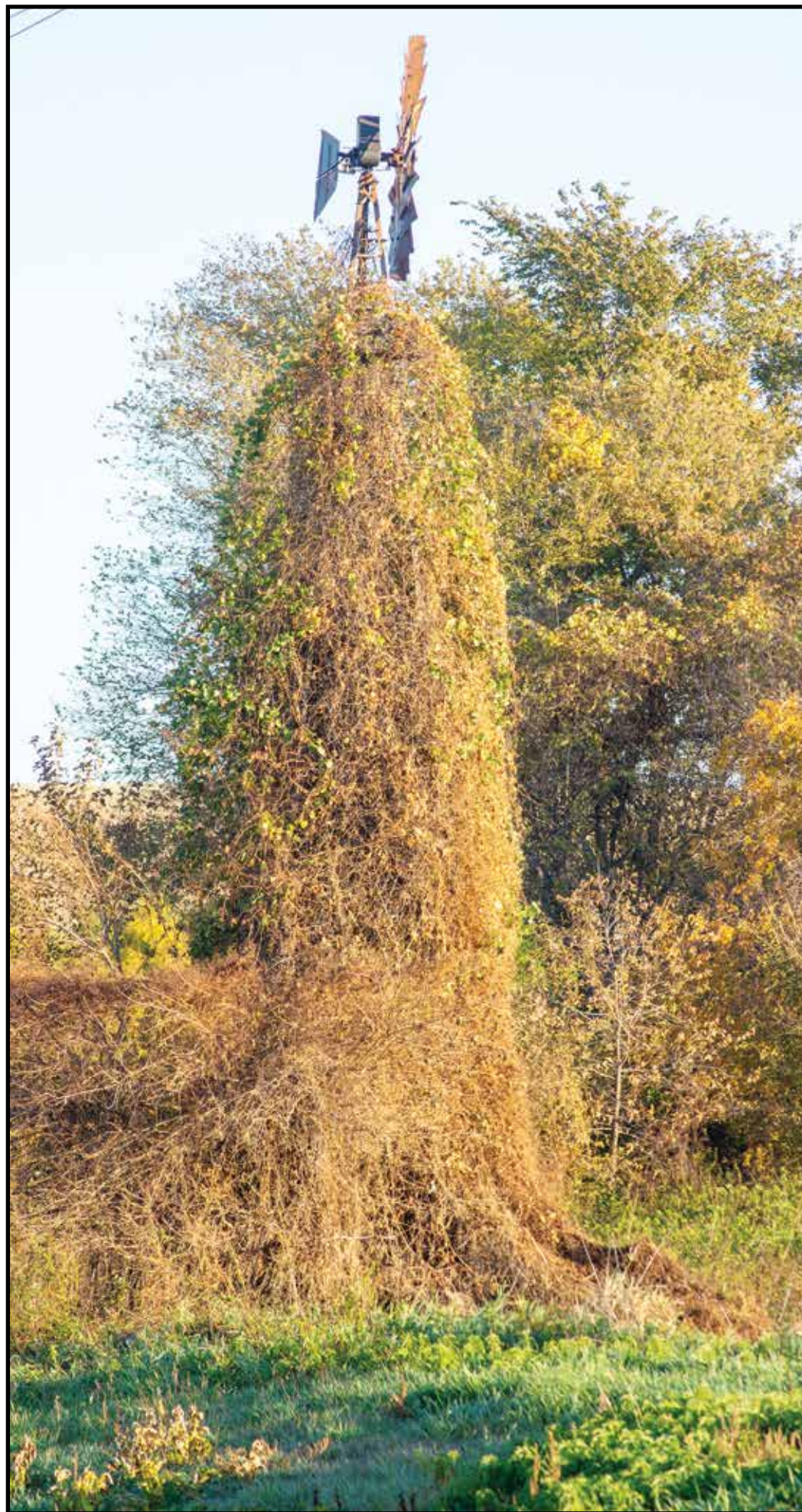
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I see this windmill often, but not with this gown.
Along scenic H-67, November 10, 2021.



Church in Brownville, November 7.




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Men's Sports Action At Peru State, Nov '21



PSC v Graceland Univ. 11/6

PSC v Central Baptist College 11/19





Women's Sports Action At Peru State, Nov '21



PSC v College of St. Mary, 11/8



Peru State College News



Shane McInerney

Shane McInerney Earns Week 5 Conference Player of the Week

Shane McInerney (Galway, Ireland) was voted Heart of America Athletic Conference Special Teams Player of the Week following his performance in the win at home over MidAmerica Nazarene University on Saturday, Sept. 25.

McInerney made field goals of 30 and of 40 yards. McInerney also connected on his lone PAT to go perfect on his kicks for the day to help the Bobcats win 21-14.

In addition, McInerney had one punt which went for 63 yards.

On the year McInerney has made six for six on field goals and has been perfect on extra points going 14 of 14.

This was McInerney's first honor of the year. In addition, he is Peru State's first conference weekly winner for 2021.

With the conference honor, McInerney is now eligible for the weekly NAIA recognition.

Shane McInerney Earns Week 7 Heart Conference Special Teams POW

Shane McInerney (Galway, Ireland) was voted Heart of America Athletic Conference Special Teams Player of the Week following his performance in the win at home over Clarke University on Saturday, October 16.

McInerney made field goals of 22 and of 40 yards. McInerney also connected on two PATs in a shutout win over Clarke 20-0.

On the year McInerney has made 11 of 11 field goals and has been perfect on extra points going 18 of 18.

This was McInerney's second honor of the year. He is the only Bobcat to be recognized so far this season.

With the conference honor, McInerney is now eligible for the weekly NAIA recognition.

9th Annual Powerlifting Meet

The Peru State Football Booster Club will be hosting its 19th annual Powerlifting Meet on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2022. The meet will be held in the Al Wheeler Activity Center on the College campus.

High school students in grades 9-12 enrolled during the 2021-22 school year are eligible to participate in the meet that will follow USA Powerlifting rules.

Women's Cross Country Team Finished 12th at the Heart Championship

On Nov. 6, the Peru State women's cross country team placed 12th in their final meet of the season in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The Heart of America Athletic Championship was hosted by Mount Mercy University. The female runners ran a 5K.

Benedictine won the title on the female side by scoring a 49 at the meet. The following places were 2nd Baker, 3rd Grand View, 4th Mount Mercy, 5th MidAmerica Nazarene, 6th Clarke, 7th Graceland, 8th Central Methodist, 9th Park, 10th Evangel, 11th William Penn, 12th Peru State, 13th Missouri Valley, and 14th Culver-Stockton.

Peru State Men's Cross Country Team Finished 13th at the Heart Championship

On Nov. 6 the Peru State men's cross country team placed 13th at the Heart of America Athletic Championship. The meet was hosted by Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

The male runners ran an 8K at the meet.

Grand View University would win the championship with a score of 24. The following teams placed were 2nd Benedictine, 3rd MidAmerica Nazarene, 4th Central Methodist, 5th Evangel, 6th William Penn, 7th Mount Mercy, 8th Baker, 9th Graceland, 10th Park, 11th Clarke, 12th Missouri Valley, 13th Peru State, and 14th Culver-Stockton.

BOBCAT BASKETBALL

— WOMEN'S —

DECEMBER

12/1	Mount Mercy Univ.	Cedar Rapids, IA	5:30 p.m.
12/4	Graceland Univ.	Peru, NE	2:00 p.m.
12/11	Grand View Univ.	Peru, NE	2:00 p.m.

JANUARY

1/5	Benedictine College	Atchison, KS	5:30 p.m.
1/8	Evangel Univ.	Peru, NE	12:00 p.m.
1/12	Culver-Stockton College	Canton, MO	5:30 p.m.
1/15	Park Univ.	Peru, NE	2:00 p.m.
1/19	Mount Mercy Univ.	Peru, NE	5:30 p.m.
1/22	MidAmerica Nazarene Univ.	Olathe, KS	2:00 p.m.
1/26	William Penn Univ.	Peru, NE	5:30 p.m.
1/29	Central Methodist Univ.	Fayette, MO	2:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY

2/2	Missouri Valley College	Marshall, MO	5:30 p.m.
2/5	Baker Univ.	Peru, NE	2:00 p.m.
2/9	Clarke Univ.	Dubuque, IA	5:30 p.m.
2/12	Grand View Univ.	Des Moines, IA	2:00 p.m.
2/16	Culver-Stockton College	Peru, NE	5:30 p.m.
2/19	Graceland Univ.	Lamoni, IA	2:00 p.m.



2021 - 2022
SEASON

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— MEN'S —

DECEMBER

12/1	Mount Mercy Univ.	Cedar Rapids, IA	7:30 p.m.
12/4	Graceland Univ.	Peru, NE	4:00 p.m.
12/11	Grand View Univ.	Peru, NE	4:00 p.m.
12/17	Morningside College	Fort Lauderdale, FL	8:00 p.m.
12/18	Dakota Wesleyan Univ.	Fort Lauderdale, FL	6:00 p.m.

JANUARY

1/5	Benedictine College.	Atchison, KS	7:30 p.m.
1/8	Evangel Univ.	Springfield, MO	2:00 p.m.
1/12	Culver-Stockton College	Canton, MO	7:30 p.m.
1/15	Park Univ.	Peru, NE	4:00 p.m.
1/19	Mount Mercy Univ.	Peru, NE	7:30 p.m.
1/22	MidAmerica Nazarene Univ.	Olathe, KS	4:00 p.m.
1/26	William Penn Univ.	Peru, NE	7:30 p.m.
1/29	Central Methodist Univ.	Fayette, MO	4:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY

2/2	Missouri Valley College	Marshall, MO	7:30 p.m.
2/5	Baker Univ.	Peru, NE	TBA
2/9	Clarke Univ.	Dubuque, IA	7:30 p.m.
2/12	Grand View Univ.	Des Moines, IA	4:00 p.m.
2/16	Culver-Stockton College	Peru, NE	7:30 p.m.
2/19	Graceland Univ.	Lamoni, IA	4:00 p.m.



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