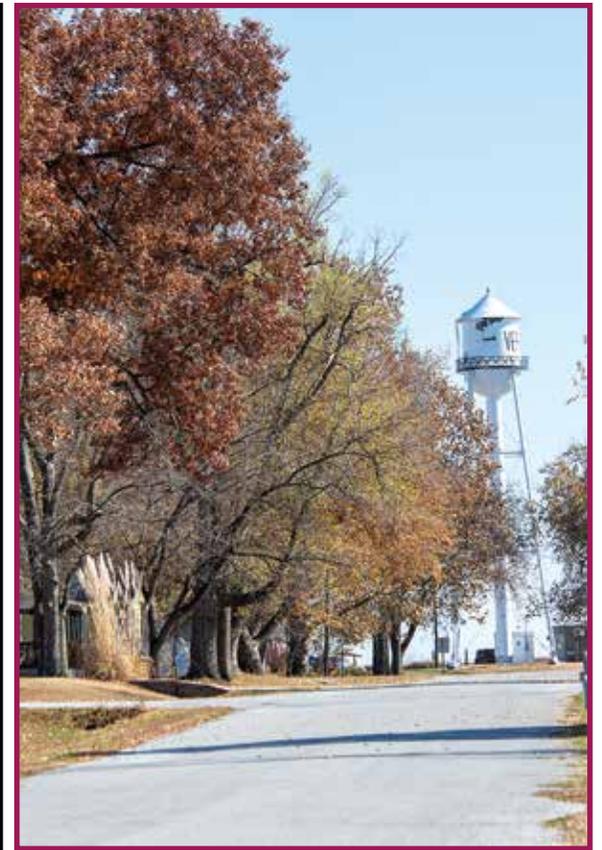




Sunsets often illuminate interesting cloud formations.



Street in Verdon, Nebraska.

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

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

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Men's and Women's Basketball Seasons are in full swing.

# December!

A Message from your Publisher

Thank you for being a loyal reader.

This month's photography is limited due to the 'not-so-photogenic' previous month. But Winter birds are making their appearance at birdfeeders, and sunsets this time of year can be interesting.

You'll enjoy the Christmas memories from a small town and a holiday poll of "Peru's favorite pie."

I hope you have a very joyous Christmas, and a Happy New Year! And as always, be careful if you travel.

And if you think of it, thank our advertisers for supporting "Your Country Neighbor."

Don't forget to **clip the Valentino's coupon on page 20,**  
**...and carry it with you!**

Stephen

## Virus Update

Stephen Hassler, Peru

By now you shouldn't need any more hand-holding when it comes to vaccines and other prudent behaviors for virus prevention. We don't "notice" the 300 Americans who have died from the flu virus already this season. That's not surprising since **325 deaths per day** are still being reported as a result of the Pandemic virus and they don't receive the "notice" they deserve either.

Some didn't notice the 98 total deaths in the southeastern Nebraska counties of Nemaha, Otoe, Johnson, and Richardson, since the pandemic began. I don't believe that number includes people transported out of the area for special treatment, who might have died in a Lincoln or Omaha location.

I'll pay attention to this Winter's reports from the Centers for Disease Control. I urge you to do so as well. Be safe, be well, live long.

## 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

P.O. Box 126  
Peru, Nebraska 68421

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[www.yourcountryneighbor.com](http://www.yourcountryneighbor.com)

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### This Month's Writers & Contributors

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Stephen Hassler 2,13

Merri Johnson 4

DiAnna Loy 9

Cecilia Marnell 9

Sarah Montanelli 12

Dorothy Rieke 13

Sheila Tinkham 15

Thank You!

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Left; Red-headed Woodpecker



Right; Hardy Dandelion

Both photographed along the Steamboat Trace on November 23.



15 miles east, Rock Port Windmills seen at Sunset, from H-67.



Red-bellied Woodpecker



Looking east, at sunset, November rainbow..

# Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

The Charming Chickadee is  
a familiar Winter visitor.

Dateline: Savannah, Georgia

We left Auburn, Nebraska three days ago, with a local forecast for snow in the rearview mirror. We are waking up in Savannah this morning to a light overcast, accompanied by a steady northerly breeze and 46 degrees. It's better than Nebraska weather, but not what we have come to count on down here. But, no worries, I packed multiple long-and-short-sleeved tops, plus a vest, a sweater, an insulated sweatshirt, a light jacket and a winter jacket. Hubby, on the other hand, is actually considering buying a long-sleeved shirt, since he brought only short-sleeved ones along. It isn't like this cool weather is a big surprise. He had checked the forecast multiple times and still failed to pack accordingly. This could turn out to be the first trip to Georgia that Hubby does not get his space-consuming golf clubs out of the vehicle.

Good thing we have a big vehicle for all that cargo.

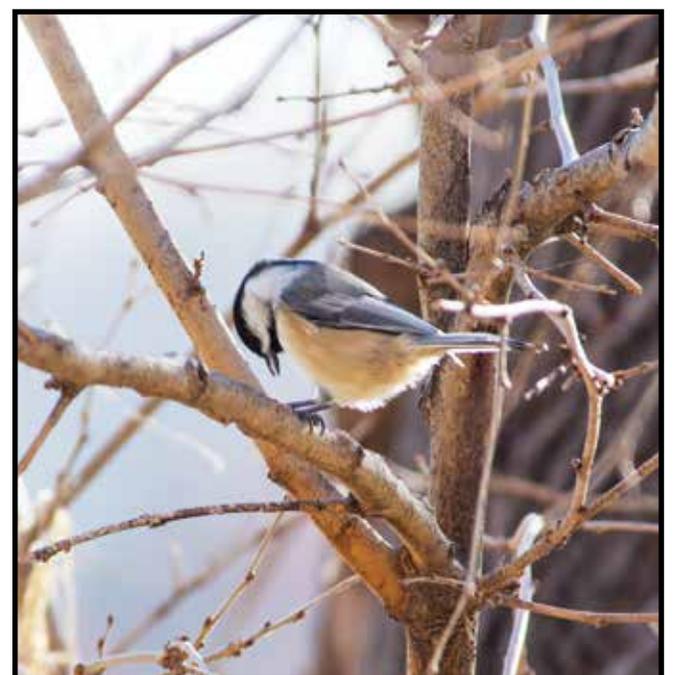
Our trip coming down was pretty uneventful. We stayed at a Drury Inn one night. Complimentary supper and breakfast are included in the room rate. Cheap – I mean thrifty – travelers take advantage of these things. Of course, one has to arrive early lest the supper buffet run dry, which has happened. We like to be off the road before dark, so we were checking in shortly after 5:00 p.m. Supper serving started at 5:30, so the dining room was still empty when we went up to our room. We got situated and headed for the dining room at 5:45, because what else is there to do?

At least a dozen people were already half-way through their meals by then. I am assuming that means they had already checked into their rooms before we did and must have been waiting in line at the moment the dinner bell rang. I confess to feeling a tad self-conscious being among the crowd of senior citizens that checks into the hotel at 4:30 (good grief!) and then makes a point of being first in line for a mediocre meal. There was a nice restaurant right next door that we could have gone to. But, after eight hours of driving, we were ready to stay put, and to save up for all the dining out we always do in Savannah. So, that's my justification. We aren't really "those people" who close up shop as soon as the sun goes down, right??

Then again, maybe I should just own it. There's no shame in living in sync with your circadian rhythms. And we are in our seventies now, so a slower pace is probably OK. But not too much slower, especially when traveling. There is nothing worse than being sequestered in a hotel room for the entire evening. Dark or not, there is generally no good place to take a walk and stretch after hours in the car. And the television viewing choices are dismal. It takes an effort to resist crawling under the covers, lights out, before 9:00 p.m. (Full disclosure: this sometimes happens at home, too.)

But, we are settled in here in our apartment in Savannah for the next two weeks. We will be doing lots of daytime walking, re-visiting the Squares and soaking in the ambiance of the lush landscape and Southern architecture. Leisurely strolls like that back home do not generally happen in November.

I plan to spend some quality time sketching and visiting my favorite bookstore. If I'm lucky, the afternoons will be mild enough to enjoy a cup of tea from the superb tea shop here, along with a good book, on our apartment balcony. Hubby will make multiple trips to his favorite coffee shops and research restaurants we have not already tried. And the holiday lights will make the evenings extra special. Of course, the best part is time spent with our daughter and son-in-law, which is why we come here in the first place. If we have to travel halfway across the country to visit them at Thanksgiving, I'm just glad the trip takes us south instead of north.



### Visitors! Tourists! Welcome!

Welcome to this Christmas Season within 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 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 Christmas shopping specials this December. Please thank them for advertising in "Your Country Neighbor!"



The House Finch's red plumage is often subtle, but in the Spring it's song is almost as sweet as the Wren.

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4:30-6:30 pm at City Hall



Oh no! Patch was caught by Cruella.



Halloween isn't just for the children.

PCIG PRESENTS

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Peru's downtown was full of cute and spooky costumes.

## Perfect Trunk or Treat Event!

Angela Allgood

If you did not make it to downtown Peru for the annual Trunk or Treat event, I think you were the only one! 2022 was a huge success and we need to say “thank you” to Kelsee Sayer, PCIG member, for doing a great job!

Kelsee said there was about 20 trunks and four food trucks. Someone else mentioned they thought there were at least 200 people there. Kelsee stated that there were 12 costume winners, 4 coloring contest winners, 3 trunk winners and 1 adult costume winner. The costume winners won halloween baskets with halloween themed things and treats donated from local businesses and the coloring contest winners received halloween goodies. The trunk winners were 1st place Maggie Foster with a Beetle Juice theme, the 2nd place winner was Hope Kieler with Under the Sea, and the 3rd place trunk winner was Jean Reeves with Skeleton Island.

The food trucks were a huge success! The Spotted Cow Catering Co. served BBQ pork or brisket with sides as mac and cheese and potato or pasta salad. They estimated that between 70-75 people went through their line. “We were incredibly excited to be asked to be one of the vendors at this year’s Trunk or Treat. PCIG put together a wonderful event for the local communities and it was great to see it all come together and be able to work with them to serve our customers”. Mother Talisa’s wood fired pizza truck stated that they served 80 people and they, “loved seeing all the wonderful costumes! It was great to see a small town come together to provide fun and safe events for kids and their families.” The Caffeine Frenzy Truck served specialized coffee drinks, lemonade, chili and cinnamon rolls. They stated that they served roughly 65-70 people. “I think this was the best Trunk or Treat yet! It was a great turnout! Everyone was so happy and the kids had a blast!” The last vendor truck downtown was the Rogue Taco Truck. They served a Hawaiian taco, chipotle mango taco and a couple of others. They stated that they served just under 100 customers. “It was a wonderful turnout!”

Pastor Daniel Hutchison and his family loved Trunk or Treat. Even though their daughter is too young to know what was really happening, they loved seeing her fill her kangaroo pouch with candy and seeing friends. Kelly Adams, a trunk decorator stated, “It was awesome! Biggest crowd ever!” Even Vanessa Sherman, who is also a member of PCIG, stated that she was “stunned by the amount of people”. She went on to say, “We are so excited to see this event grow more every year! We especially want to thank businesses that donated to the trunk awards and the food trucks that traveled to be here! We are stunned by the number of people that support this even in our small town!”

None of this could have happened without the wonderful local business donors. The Market, The Fork and Tiller, Hallowed Cinque, Treats by Ashley, Gospel Coffee and Ice Cream, Parker Detailing The Flower Shoppe, Crunchy Bits, Hodges Cookies and Be Yourself Boutique. We also need to thank Western National Bank for providing prizes and Rachel Ann Photography for taking some great halloween pictures.

## Sharing Christmas Memories

Angela Allgood

For this article, I enjoyed talking to people about their Christmas memories. Julia Perry (Whisler) shared her memory of those wonderful brown bags we used to get from Santa Claus! You know, the ones with the orange, the apple and the hard candies? Given out in and around the 1970’s. She said she remembered that on Saturday afternoon Santa arrived in Peru on the fire truck handing out those brown paper bags. Kathy Pebley stated, “my kids would eat the fruit and leave the peanuts and hard candy.” Chelsea Parker said that she could smell the bag. It was “every church goodie bag ever received!” Marty Peregoy said that the bag “looked like what the Shriner’s gave out at Pershing Auditorium every Christmas.”

Charlotte Carpenter liked getting the Life Saver Books! She said that the butterscotch were her favorites. She said she also gave away “MANY to friends too.” I also remember getting and giving those books as well. Full of rolls of life savors. Yum! Cherry and Orange were my favorites. Julia Perry also received them from friends and “my grandma.” Her grandma knew she loved life savers.

Marty Peregoy stated that when she and Theresa Westfall were looking for things at Walmart, the “new ones just aren’t the same.” She remembers when the old boxes had entire rolls of cherry, mixed, peppermint, butterscotch, etc.

I want to thank the ladies for the fun memories! Sharing the memories and love of traditions, fun times with family and friends, for me, that is what Christmas is about.

Merry Christmas everyone!

## Holiday Pies!

Angela Allgood

My dad could not wait for the Holidays! Not necessarily for the gifts or the family reunion, but for the food. He always said that was the only time he got real food!

Mom fed us – honestly, however, he was right. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, we did feast on some great food! My mother always cooked for an Army during the holidays! We would have ham and turkey, corn, home-made noodles, potatoes, fruit salad, veggie tray (carrots, celery, olives, etc.), deviled eggs, fruit tray, and pumpkin, coconut cream, and pecan pies, we made all kinds of cookies (coconut drops, sugar cookies that we decorated at Christmas), peanut brittle, pistachio pudding salad and we made taffy that hurt my hands because you had to pull it while it was still warm. Our table was full of the “normal” food and the other table had all the pies and goodies that didn’t fit on the main table.

So, with all the pies she made, it made me wonder what pies everyone else likes! I asked a lot of Peruvians what their favorite pies were! I was really surprised that apple pie was NOT number one. It was in a three way tie with cherry pie and coconut cream with four votes! Pumpkin Pie was in first place with six votes!

Traci Robertson said that she liked apple pie because “Grandma Ford made the best apple pie you ever had. Crust on top, always extra cinnamon.” She said it made her hungry just telling me about it. Cecelia Marnell also said, “Nobody could make an apple pie like my grandma, but I am getting better at it.”

If you are looking for good pies this Christmas or Thanksgiving, here is a list. Pumpkin (6 votes), apple (4 votes), cherry (4 votes), coconut (4 votes), strawberry rhubarb (3 votes), peach (2 votes). The following received one vote each: custard, peanut butter, french silk, rhubarb cream, pecan, lemon meringue, banana cream, rhubarb and chocolate cream! There was even a vote for anything Cheryl Cotton made, as well as someone saying they liked every kind of pie except banana!

Happy eating!

## Magic Reindeer, A Christmas Memory

Devon Adams

It was just a little house, set on the side of a bluff on the edge of town. Heat came from a big oil stove in the living room. The other rooms were chilly in the winter, but sleeping was always cozy under a layer of quilts and wool blankets. As Christmas Eve approached, my five year old self was enthralled with the story about Santa Claus and his reindeer dashing through the sky on the night before Christmas. My mother would read it over and over to me, and then my dad would take over reading when Mom was busy after evening supper.

My questions were many and often: “Will Santa know if I’m asleep when he stops here, or will I be able to sneak down the hall and peek at the Christmas tree when he is there? Will there be noise on the roof from reindeer hooves? Will that wake me if I’m sleeping?” Inserted here would be the query, “Will Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer be pulling Santa’s sleigh with Dasher and Dancer and all?” Gene Autry, the movie singing cowboy star, was on the radio constantly with his monster hit song.

It was dark in the house, but the moonlight made silver squares on the floor where it came in the window. Outside, a snow blanket covered every surface with sparkling softness. I thought that I was awake, but I must have been dreaming, because I heard hooves on the roof over my bedroom. Afraid to be discovered by Santa, I just lay there, listening. The next thing I knew, sunlight painted my walls golden yellow and I blinked myself awake.

Our Christmas tree glowed with strings of blue lights, and I could see that Santa had come and gone and that I had missed him. But still I wondered about those hooves that I had heard. No! I did hear them and I told my parents about it. Daddy wrapped me in his big warm coat and carried me outside.

He walked along the side of the house until he came to the window to my room, and pointed. There in the perfect snow were clean cut tracks of REINDEER! These were real tracks, made by real feet. All these years later, I still believe that I heard hooves, but I’m sure they belonged to the white-tailed deer who lived in the woods by the creek that gurgles its stories into bubbles even now.

## Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy and Cecilia Marnell, Tuesday Literary Club

Our theme for this year is books that have been made into movies; it should make for some interesting discussions. The book that was presented this month by Cecilia Marnell was *Brideshead Revisited* by Evelyn Waugh. Along with reading the book, Cecilia also watched the Public Television version of the movie.

The main characters of this book are Charles Ryder (narrator of the story), who is unsure of his desire or goals in life; Sebastian Flyte, younger son of Lord and Lady Marchmain, who is haunted by deep unhappiness that he tries to numb with alcohol; Julia Flyte Sebastian's sister, who Charles loves for much of his life; and many others that are used to fill out the story line.

In the Prologue of this story, Charles Ryder, an English officer in WWII, arrives on the grounds of Brideshead with his troops. He begins to recall his life of 20 years ago when he first saw the beautiful, immense mansion of Brideshead.

In Book One, Charles has just arrived in Oxford as a university student. It is then that he first befriends Sebastian Flyte and then the rest of his aristocratic, but dysfunctional family. He observes how the mother, Lady Marchmain, controls all the members of her Catholic family.

In Book Two, several years later, Charles is an artist and he comes across Lady Julia, Sebastian's sister. They begin a love affair even though both are married. Lord Marchmain returns home to Brideshead from his exile in Venice and spends his remaining days there. On his death, Julia decides not to marry Charles and wants to repent for having led a sinful life.

In the Epilogue, Charles wanders through the abandoned mansion that will soon be converted for use by the British army and ends up in the chapel where he seems to realize that God is the only eternal element in life.

Cecilia stated that she enjoyed watching the series that was made for British TV in 2008. The novel was also made into a movie in 1980. The beautiful surroundings and family relationships that influenced Charles' decisions were much more apparent by watching them on screen than in the book. Many of our members had read the book or watched the movie and thought both were worthwhile.

Happy reading.

---

A Christmas Memory by DiAnna; We did not have much money when I was young. Mom and Dad decided to go to college then. Dad's GI Bill was our only source of income until Dad found a job working at a service station. I had two older brothers. We always had what we needed and not much extra but I always felt incredibly loved.

The Christmas I remember from when I was young must have been second or third grade. I remember waking up to a new ironing board for Mom and sitting on it was a new pair of shoes for me; a pair of penny loafers with BRAND NEW PENNYS! In each shoe was a sock. One was filled with hard Christmas candy and had a tiny Speidel ID bracelet around the top. The other sock had an apple and an orange in it. It was a wonderful Christmas!

## Memories of an Allgood Christmas

Angela Allgood

I have many memories of Christmas. Growing up, we would have the family together every Christmas. And when I say "family" I mean all of us. My father's side of the family had six brothers and sisters and they each had my eight cousins. Of course, you had the spouses and crazy Judy! Judy was my aunt's best friend, but she was part of the family. We would always gather at the VFW Club and have a wonderful potluck lunch! Some of the cousins came down the night before and some were there just in time for lunch but always stayed later!

We always had so much fun terrorizing California Street! We would go to my house and watch TV or something crazy. My brother and I were the youngest of all the cousins and man, there were two cousins (don't worry Tina and Johnny, I won't print your names --- oops!) that picked on us. They showed no mercy. All in the name of "fun" of course. Our family reunions were always loud, crowded, and so much fun.

Of course, I also remember a few of my gifts. When I was younger, my parents bought me this beautiful Southern Belle type of doll. She had on a blue lacey dress that was full and layered. Like a beautiful Scarlett O'Hara dress with a hat. She had curly blondish hair and little pearls in her ears and as a necklace. She was the most beautiful doll I ever owned.

My most favorite memories of Christmas is due to having a niece and two nephews. Christmas is always more special with children. The day after Thanksgiving, I would pull out the Christmas tree and let the kids decorate it. It didn't matter what the tree looked like, it was a memory and experience for the kids to enjoy! After that, our next "tradition" was that we each opened one gift on Christmas Eve. That has been a tradition in our family since my brother and I were growing up! On Christmas Day we would open all the gifts and then eat lunch. Christmas was full of wonderful food and heartfelt memories.



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The Godfinch is changing to its Winter plumage.

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## Voting Results

Angela Allgood

For those of you who have not heard the results at the voting polls, let me do a short breakdown.

In Nemaha County, there are 4,405 registered voters with 2,386 voting at the polls on November 8, 2022! That is a 54.17% voter turnout.

I will tell you that there are NO new changes at the Nemaha County Courthouse. Diane Johnson is still the Clerk; Mallory Lempka is still our Assessor; the Treasurer will again be Jana Gerdes; with Angelo Ligouri being the Attorney and Brent Lottman voted in as the Sheriff. Sitting on the NRD Board Sub-district #7 is Daniel Stukenholtz

The above impact our town, but the two main ones to impact our town are the City Council Members. We need to congratulate Incumbent Marty Peregoy and write-in candidate Cate Wyckoff for getting voted in as Council Members.

City Council meetings are every third Monday of the month at City Hall starting a 6:00 pm.

## Peru Progress

Angela Allgood

- *Caffeine Frenzy* and *The Market* are looking to collaborate and bring in the food/drink truck a few times.

- The city of Peru will collaborate with Peru State College to work on Washington Street (more in future issue).

- City of Peru has plans to update website. PCIG will be in charge of their own webpage.

Remember, throughout the year of 2023, I will be writing about some old businesses that used to be in Peru. I hope these trips down Peru's "memory lane" will bring a smile to your face and a memory to your thoughts. If you want to share them with PCN throughout the year, email me!

[angallgood.pcn@gmail.com](mailto:angallgood.pcn@gmail.com)

OR

Your Country Neighbor, P.O. Box 126  
Peru, Nebraska 68421



## Peru Holiday Dash and Baking Bash!

Sarah Montanelli

Peru Holiday Dash and Baking Bash December 17th 10am-4pm. Multiple local vendors for some Holiday Shopping and a Free Will Offering Bake Sale to Benefit the New Peru Playground.

We hope you all will come to City Hall December 17th between 10am-4pm to support our local home businesses and to the bake sale to support the new playground for our community.

## Peru City News

is a volunteer project promoting  
**Communication, Information,  
and Pride in the Peru Community.**

is supported by the Peru Community.  
**Thank you to everyone who participates!  
Special thanks to reporter, Angela Allgood.**



Northridge Church

Pastor Daniel Hutchison

Services at Peru City Hall Sunday 10 am



Peru Community Church

520 Nebraska Street

Pastors Raymond & Rebecca Girard  
Services - Sunday 10:45 am



St. Clara's Catholic Church

604 6th Street

Pastor Fr. Timothy Danek  
Mass - Sunday 8:30 am  
Confessions - Sunday 8:00-8:20 am

## Window From The Past

Stephen Hassler

If you had looked through my Window on Fifth Street last month, you would have seen me getting all geared up for Thanksgiving; I roasted some turkey, registered for the annual “Turkey Trot” 5K in Omaha, and had begun to wish friends “Happy Thanksgiving,” when suddenly I smelled Christmas.

You know how certain smells can take you back to a time almost out of memory, and trigger corresponding sights and sounds, assembling a vivid feeling or image of an event almost forgotten. Well, this time for me, it was chocolate. I don’t remember if it was one of my granola bars or a few chocolate chips, but right there in the kitchen I felt an awareness from my childhood that was a feeling of Christmas. A dreamy cloud of colored lights and pine needles, toys in store windows and cookies with sprinkles. And then it was gone, but it made me realize that ahead, in just a few weeks or so, the dreamy cloud would be triggered again and again, by bits of pageantry, or snowfalls, Santa Clause stories, and Christmas songs; Silent Night, Silver Bells, Little Drummer Boy. And Christmas shopping!

Christmas shopping with our loved ones and for our loved ones. Someone to shop for, someone to walk through the snow with, a lover to hold hands with while watching a Christmas movie like “You’ve Got Mail”. A special someone makes the holiday more joyous, more complete.

There have been lovers who didn’t quite make it work. It seemed as if it would be so perfect, but then, one was distracted by another, or by work, or fame. In any case, each went their separate ways. One or both had created a different life. A “what-might-have-been” story. But what is worse is marrying the wrong person, requiring a mid-life correction later on, and dividing a family. Later, even if you get it right the second time, one wonders what might have been... if I had not leaped, if I had only recognized the signs, if I had not needed, wanted, expected. But then, what would have happened to “today”? Some tragedies allow something better to evolve, finally getting it right.

So with this in mind, the approaching holidays bring hope with the realization that tragedies and wonders, triumphs and disappointments exist in our lives, and the sight of a frosty morning or the scent of cookies baking are mystical reminders of what has been and of what could be. The “best parts” of our past can be repeated, enhancing the new “best parts” of our present. There are new opportunities for something better, allowing joys rather than sorrows. But both joys and sorrows can, and probably will happen again, in time. There is still time. A time for every purpose.

Have a Merry Christmas!!

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## Rein In Christmas Spending

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

Someone once told me, “Christmas is not a time to save money!” Perhaps not, but economic situations change. A few years ago during the month of April, one of my friends told me that her dad was still paying Christmas debts incurred during the previous Christmas celebration. To me, this seems to defeat the purpose of Christmas. Christmas should be a time of wonderful feelings and contemplation. It should be made memorable. More important, it should be a time for the celebration of Christ’s birth.

As is the custom, we want to give gifts to those close to us. This may present problems for those who are affected by the economic conditions that exist today. Does this mean that there will be no gifts under the Christmas tree? Certainly not!

Developing a gift giving philosophy helps. Does gift giving mean finding the perfect presents? Does it mean impressing others with how much money you spent on that gift? Do you spend like crazy and regret it later?

One of my friends told me that she gave fifty dollar bills to her grandchildren the previous Christmas. She said, “I won’t be able to do that this year.”

The following are a few suggestions for Christmas spending on gifts:

Shop early; don’t wait until the holiday season begins. Some believe prices are higher then. Buy good quality on sale.

Give fewer gifts that cost money. Here are some suggestions: My friends have numerous children. They can their garden tomatoes as gifts; they pick out walnuts for gifts, and they bake apple crisps for gifts.

Give a gift that is memorable, personal, and one of a kind. Make it! Embroidering pillow cases, knitting mittens, baking pies and cookies and other delicious foods are generally greatly appreciated. Say “Merry Christmas” with something homemade.

One gift greatly appreciated was a box of adult color books, candy, crossword puzzles, crackers, veggie chips, pens, greeting cards, crayons, scarves, and other useful things.

Check discount stores for stocking stuffers. Buy candy on sale. Find gel pens, gloves, socks, and character-themed washcloths to fill those stockings.

Don’t go overboard on wrapping paper and ribbon. Use reusable bags from a dollar stores. Try wrapping gifts in newspaper using red twine. Use red and green tissue paper.

We are not talking about giving someone a useless, ugly gift. These suggestions are for useful gifts that will be appreciated. Also try to give presents that will make a real difference in lives. Budget your money, give much thought to the gifts you give, and enjoy good tidings for Christmas this year!

# P o e t r y

by Devon Adams, Peru

## WINTER BEACH

Skiffs of snow wrap into dried weeds from summer, and branches bare since a freeze are howling into a stiff cold breeze coming off the icy river. The dry sand is covered with prints. Small tufts of gray and white fur are caught on low brush along a path leading into the timber. Did the cottontail see death coming, or was he caught without a clue? Running deer left deep cuts in the sand with their sharp hooves, as a bullet followed them and blood dripped into their tracks that lead out of sight. But polished silver beauty lies along the river banks where driftwood has been left after high water. The pieces are sculptured by the hands of nature, equal to art in a gallery, and free for all to see.

## FIRELIGHT DELIGHT

The fire crackled with heat as wood smoke curled into twisted gray phantoms rising in still air. A cold bite of a draft drifted across the camp and left shivers where it's chilly fingers had touched. A winter sky closed the day with brief colors at dusk, the pale orchid hue so thin and clear that it didn't last. But warmth radiated around the edge of the fire circle, bodies leaning in as they held sharpened branches speared with hot dogs. Fat dripped and the fire ate it with sharp sizzles.. Laughter wove itself into the smoky haze as the scent of toasted marshmallows drifted around the bodies. A crescent moon hung high above, watching from it's lonely perch.

## THE MOON ON A CLOUD

Night cold in dry air, and static sparks were blue between fingers and metal. The silver disk with a face watches us down here. Tonight he was almost alone in his brightness in the black velvet deep sky. But a line of puffy white cotton balls crept over the hill, like soldiers sneaking. They moved toward the light in the sky, and in a space like time in a dream, the silver disk climbed onto a cloud and sat there until the cloud sailed away to the other side of the sky.

## THE PIES

There is a pie on the table, where Mable set it when it was hot, and it's got steaming cherries flavored with almond drops. But over there in the oven is an apple, from Granny Smith, with caramel dapples drizzled over the top. Here is a chocolate dream cream, under whipped drifts of meringue. There is an empty pumpkin shell lonesome for it's filling somewhere near, because it's filling is here in a pie that is sending spicy scents all through the kitchen. Don't bother to choose, eat a piece of each, and don't count the calories!

## BLIZZARD HORSES

They are the ghosts of the storm, with snow plastered to their long, shaggy winter coats. Even eyelashes are covered with ice dots. Steamy clouds of vapor puff out of their warm nostrils as they stand in the lee of a cedar break. Instinct guards them from panic as they wait patiently for an ending to this episode. There will be other hazards to come, but they know all about living through one at a time. Spring will come and so will the foals, with their innocence and bright faces full of wonder.

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## JINGLE

“Open the door, I want more of those peanuts in the jar on the bar next to the nifty whisky glass,” said the mouse coming in the house through a big crack in the floor. His little hands grabbed a nut and threw it to his wide open mouth. “Whew,” he said, “that was a treat!” Soon the jar had lost weight and Jingle had gained. His belly was round like a ball that could bounce down a hall. He got up to walk but he fell in a faint. “I think I should talk to the Doc because I can't walk.” The old mouse in the corner said, “Don't worry so much. You were too eager to chew and you feel too full.” Next time do a dance on the floor before you jingle the bell on the lid of the jar and eat far more than you should.”



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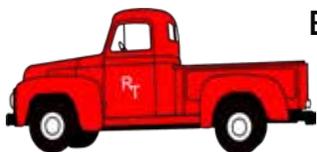
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## November

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

Like a frisky colt November tries to throw off the heat of Fall  
Once trained she guides us toward the ice and snow of December  
But she wears blinders and thinks only of pumpkin pie, mulled cider and  
a nice bed of hay after a hay rack ride....

Whoa girl, steady as she goes  
The real race to Christmas awaits  
My favorite Thanksgiving mare November...

## December

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

December waltzes into my heart, curtsies and promenades  
into Christmas, decorated with baubles and trees  
and Santa Claus dragged about by tiny female reindeer  
since they have horns,  
and yet I forgive her, December,  
for she greets me with a new born Babe and a New Year all intertwined,  
one birth following upon another...

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Christmas



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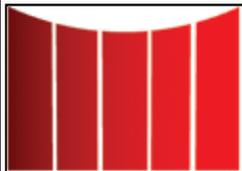
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# Peru State College Football

PSC vs Culver-Stockton College Win 17-12





# Peru State College Basketball



PSC Men vs Avila U. Win 110-61

PSC Women vs Ozark Christian C. Win 97-57



# Peru State College News

## Peru State's Third Giving Day Successful

The Peru State College Foundation recently hosted their Third Giving Day on October 19-20. As of November 1, 2022, \$56,590 has been raised from 90 unique donors.

In addition to the gifts, though, Peru State students contributed by participating in various volunteer events throughout the week.

"The Peru State College Giving Day is a way for the Bobcat family to contribute to a cause – whether through volunteerism or philanthropy," said Ted L. Harshbarger, Interim CEO of the Peru State Foundation.

The Giving Day goals were set at securing different 155 donors on Giving Day and 155 student volunteers during the week. The number 155 is significant as Peru State's first day of classes was on October 24, 1867 – 155 years ago.

While the goal for number of donors was not reached, it appears that student volunteers may have reached the goal of over 155 hours of community service according to Carrie Bradrick, Director of Student Activities and Programs at Peru State.

At least ten different student groups reported on their Giving Day service activities. Student organizations reporting their efforts include the Science Club, Rotaract, Collegiate FBLA, Phi Alpha Theta, Peru State Catholic Union (PSCU), Students Active in Leadership (SAIL), Campus Activity Board (CAB), Black Student Union (BSU), National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS), and the Residence Hall Association (RHA).

Harshbarger noted that for the past two years, a generous donor has challenged the Foundation donors to contribute \$25,000 and if that was met, the donor would add another \$25,000. Another generous donor who stated that she wanted to make sure that the Foundation could still meet the challenge, put us over the top. Obviously, hats off to that donor as well as all our donors and the individual providing the challenge the past two years."

To learn more about Peru State's Giving Day, go to [www.peru.edu/foundation/givingday](http://www.peru.edu/foundation/givingday). Plans are underway for 2023! The tentative dates for the 24-hour event are October 19 and 20 which will coincide with the College's 156th birthday of its actual first day of classes.

## Peru State's KOR Attends ACJA/LAE Regional Conference

Peru State College's Criminal Justice Club, Kappa Omicron Rho (KOR), recently attended the American Criminal Justice Association (ACJA) – Lambda Alpha Epsilon (LAE) regional conference October 27-30, 2022, in Warrensburg, Missouri. KOR received the Top Percentage trophy for Region 3.

KOR members had opportunities to compete in Crime Scene and Physical Agility competitions; written exams; and hear a speaker from the Criminal Justice field.

Faculty members Danny Hayes and Stephanie Huddle, instructors of Criminal Justice, along with college staff member Shawn Sherman, workforce liaison, sponsored the group which attended the annual event.

Hayes commented, "These conferences are an excellent opportunity for our students to create stronger connections to their fellow students, improve their networking skills, and to see how they compare to their peers from other schools around the country. For our chapter to win another Top Percentage trophy is impressive and really shows the other schools how amazing the students at Peru State College really are."

### Garrison Dodge

A senior Peru State College Bobcat football player from Oakland, Nebraska, is among the 22 individuals selected for the prestigious 2022 Good Works Team®. "The Allstate AFCA Good Works Team® is arguably college football's highest honor because it recognizes a player's integrity and service off the field rather than the performance on it," stated Executive Vice President and General Manager, Allstate Sales and Distribution, Troy Hawkes.

Between now and November 22, anyone can vote on any device daily to select a captain from the 22 nominees at <https://promo.espn.com/espn/contests/allstate/2022/index>. Dodge is the only Nebraskan on the list and is from the smallest school represented which also includes players from the University of Pittsburgh, Notre Dame, and Texas Tech.

"Every vote counts," so get online every day and vote for Dodge. Vote. Daily. For. Garrison.

## Peru Theatre Company presents Neighborhood 3: Requisition of Doom

by Jennifer Haley & directed by Austin Martin

Dates & times: Tuesday, November 29, at 6:30 P.M. Wednesday, November 30, 6:30 P.M. Thursday, December 1, at 5:30 P.M. Friday, December 2, at 7:30 P.M. Saturday, December 3, at 7:30 P.M. Sunday, December 4, 2:30 P.M.

Tickets are free for Peru State College students, staff, and faculty. \$20 general admission, \$10 seniors and visiting students.

For more information, contact: Laura Lippman, [llippman@peru.edu](mailto:llippman@peru.edu)

## Adams and Varley Garner Top Heart Honors

The Heart of America Athletic Conference recently announced their Heart North Division All-Conference Honors. Devin Adams (Pembroke Pines, Fla.) won Heart North Defensive Player of the Year for the second year in a row and Lou Varley won Co-Assistant Coach of the Year taking home some of the top accolades the conference has to offer. Adams had 52 tackles and 7.5 sacks this season for the Bobcats. He also had 21 tackles for loss for a total of 82 yards.

Share this experience with others by sending this link; [yourcountryneighbor.com](http://yourcountryneighbor.com)

(publication list updated monthly)

# BOBCAT BASKETBALL

— WOMEN'S —

— MEN'S —

## NOVEMBER

11/7	Haskell Indian Nations Univ.	7:00 p.m.
11/18	Ozark Christian College	5:00 p.m.
11/26	MidAmerica Nazarene Univ.	2:00 p.m.
11/30	Culver-Stockton College	5:30 p.m.

## DECEMBER

12/3	Missouri Valley College	2:00 p.m.
12/10	Baker Univ.	12:00 p.m.

## JANUARY

1/7	Central Methodist Univ.	2:00 p.m.
1/11	William Penn Univ.	5:30 p.m.
1/19	Mount Mercy Univ.	5:30 p.m.
1/25	Grand View Univ.	5:30 p.m.
1/28	Graceland Univ.	2:00 p.m.

## FEBRUARY

2/8	Benedictine College	5:30 p.m.
2/15	Clark Univ.	5:30 p.m.



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## OCTOBER

10/29	Morningside College	5:00 p.m.
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## NOVEMBER

11/5	Avila Univ.	4:00 p.m.
11/11	Bethany College	7:00 p.m.
11/12	Missouri Baptist Univ.	6:00 p.m.
11/18	Ozark Christian College	7:00 p.m.
11/26	MidAmerica Nazarene Univ.	4:00 p.m.
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