

Your *Country* Neighbor **Free!** February 2022

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American Bald Eagle 01/24/2022, Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge

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Your Country Neighbor

Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

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

P.O. Box 126
Peru, Nebraska 68421

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Online; yourcountryneighbor.com

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

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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

Maya Angelou

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Thank You!

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Covid Cases “Spiking”

Stephen Hassler, Peru

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>
12/09 - 12/22	54	115	18	103
12/16 - 12/29	39	93	10	86
12/29 - 01/11	93	167	35	100
01/05 - 01/18	96	271	50	145
01/12 - 01/25	130	377	42	196

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

Google; **county, state, covid**

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Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge
East of Rulo, Nebraska December 12, 2021

The belly feathers of the first year Bald Eagle begin to pale by Winter, and the underside of the wings show a lot of speckled white coloration. In three years the brown body with white head and tail is developed.



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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 promoting
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and Pride in the Peru Community**

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by Peru Community Members.
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Visit *Your Country Neighbor* online at;
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Above and below; Bald Eagle pair not far from their nest.
Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, 01/24/2022.



It's mate flew to their nest... see page 15.



Readers, Please Note:

The article to the right was written more than a decade ago by Frieda Burston (now deceased), who used to be a regular contributor until her death sometime before 2008. I was reading through some old material and was re-awakened by the rich history that Frieda brought to *Your Country Neighbor*, so I will try to find room in future issues to share some of Frieda's stories. Here is the first. >>>>>>>>>>

JESSE JAMES' HOUSE

by The 'Late' Frieda Burston

It was no place and no time for me to tell the truth about the Jesse James House, so I lied. I always feel sorry about lying like that, but when the truth is long and involved and a lie is fast and simple, and it's not something that matters a whole lot, why not?

I felt bad about it on the day of the Apple Blossom Parade in St. Joe, but not bad enough to stop lying to save time. Thirty years later I was still doing it, in a classroom in San Diego.

I had spent days making a visual presentation of the coming of the Spanish ships to the Americas, and I expected to bring it home to every little second grade heart there that if they had looked out from where we all now sat, we could have seen those ships coming up like big white birds out of the water, and that's what we would have thought they were.

"How do you know that?" asked Tommy. I was prepared. "I read it at the Museum in a notebook that a soldier wrote, a soldier who was on one of those ships."

"How do you know the soldier wrote it?" Tommy persisted. "Because he married an Indian girl, and their grandchildren saved all his things and gave them to the Museum." "But who says he was telling the truth?"

The attention of my little audience was slipping away. I said desperately, "Because I was there, and I saw it, and that's exactly how it was!" Tommy sat back and said, "Well, why didn't you say so in the first place?"

Now, you see why I was still lying, thirty years after the Apple Blossom Parade?

I was standing in Smith Park downtown in St. Joe, and the crowd was three deep there to watch the parade close up. When the Jesse James House came by, I said out loud without thinking, "Oh, THAT isn't the Jesse James house!"

Unfortunately, I was standing near a lady who turned out to have been on the Parade Committee, and she heard me. She was a very gracious lady, and a very condescending one to explain their errors to the young. "Of course it's not the real Jesse James House," she said, "It's called a fac-SIM-ileee, sort of like making a carbon copy exactly like something but you can move it around. We couldn't move the house around, you know."

I felt that I had to explain. "The Jesse James House has a window ACROSS from the door but UP from that corner, not DOWN from it like this."

"Really!" The lady became frosty. "And how do you know that? Did you live near it?" Right there I saw how long and involved it would be to tell the truth. I lied. I said, "Yes, I lived near it."

The lady pushed out her jaw, pulled out a notebook, and made a note. I could see that someone was going to get into trouble, and I melted back before she could pin me down and the truth would matter. I could only lie comfortably if the truth didn't matter.

The reason I was so positive about where the windows were, was that I had tiny splinter scars on my belly where I had clambered through one of them to get into the house. But I wasn't going to pull up my dress in Smith Park to show her, and then maybe she'd want to know what I was doing there, etc., etc., etc., and the parade would be long over and I'd still be there explaining. So I lied, and lit out.

Just to show how complicated the truth is, I'll start at the beginning of how I knew about the windows in Jesse James' house. Papa had lost the family shirt when he tried to open a produce store in Emporia, Kansas but didn't read the fine print on the real estate contract. It was Deep Depression time. We lived in the House By the Tracks, among other poor people. No electricity, just a kerosene lamp. A faucet in the house, but no drain. Spidery outhouse in back. Four chairs bought for 25 cents each at the second hand store, (five in the family, but not enough food for sit-down meals, so it didn't matter). Po' folks. >>>> *Continued in March* <<<<

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PERU CITY NEWS

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Nikki has the Buzz in Peru

by Angela Allgood

Both the bee sculpture above and the one downtown are very pretty. They represent art but also bring wonder and education to my mind.

Did you know that there are over 20,000 kinds of bees worldwide? And 4,000 in North America. I am sure you have seen some in your own back yard. The two that you probably see the most in Nebraska are the honeybee and the bumblebee.

Did you know the female worker bees can live six weeks and the Queen can live up to five years? Did you know that bees do not hibernate in the winter time? They stay in a cluster around the Queen bee to keep her warm.

Nikki Hayes and her husband Danny are local bee keepers. In doing research for this article, everything I learned, I learned from Nikki. She was a wealth of information and I hope that you are as intrigued about her knowledge as I was. Hayes said that they became beekeepers because they wanted to do something “helpful for the environment.” Now, Hayes says that, “eight years later, we now understand that becoming a bee

Continued on page 7 >>>>

“Sky Fire” -- View from 5th Street. Dawn, January 4, 2022.



What a fascinating history!

by Angela Allgood/Joanna Evans

I was told that Mrs. Joanna Evans, First Lady at Peru State College, was a very fascinating woman. I sat down and talked with her, and that is an understatement! The stories she had were amazing!

Mrs. Evans has spent her entire life in education. She has a master’s degree in Biology and Education. She started out in a small public school teaching combined fourth, fifth, and sixth grades in Western Massachusetts—in a hilltown with a population of 500 people. She left that role to work as an editor for an educational publisher. She and her husband, Michael, purchased an abandoned old farmhouse from a man who built duplexes on the land that had formerly been a fruit farm. He was having trouble selling the new houses because the old farmhouse looked like a haunted house. He agreed to sell the Evanses the old house at a very reasonable price if they fixed up the exterior within one year, and they did just that!

Joanna and Michael moved from Massachusetts to Indiana with their twin sons so that Michael could pursue his doctorate at Indiana University. By this time, Joanna had left the publishing company and had established a career as a freelance editor. To supplement her editing, she also worked part-time as the Education Director at a local art center. In addition to the wide range of classes for students of all ages, she started a program that offered home-schooled students classes during the day and secured a National Endowment for the Arts grant to support after-school classes for at-risk teens.

Continued on page 8 >>>>

<<<< Buzz Continued from page 6
keeper is not the best thing you can do
for bees.”

Some species of bees are extinct or are on the endangered list. “Albert Einstein predicted that if bees go extinct, man would survive no more than four years.” Hays notes that our food system is “very dependent on bees and other pollinators. And foods we enjoy would no longer be available or would become very expensive. “Some foods are 100% reliant on bees for pollination, while other foods are assisted or helped by bees with greater yields when bees are present.” Hays continued.

There is a decline in bees for many different reasons; loss of habitat, overuse or misuse of chemicals and bee diseases. “We all need to work together to implement best practices for pollinators.”

If you want to “help” bees, look at the naturalness of the earth, us and bees. For example, let your yard be more natural, do not bag your leaves in the fall, and keep your lawn chemical free. Plant more native “flowering plants, shrubs, and bushes.” Learn the “honey flow” periods in Nebraska. The first is when you see White Clover growing and the second is when Golden Rod blooms in September. Letting them grow will help the bee population! And, for those of you who hate those pesky dandelions ... well, those are actually the best things for bees! They are rich in nectar!
If you believe you want to be a bee

keeper, Hayes said it is recommended that you should start out with at least two colonies. Each colony has 80,000 bees in it. Bee keepers lose up to 50-60 percent of their colonies each year. Hayes stated that you would also need hive equipment such as Langstroth, Top Bar or Warre, a bee suit or veil, gloves, a smoker and hive tool.

Nikki and Danny Hayes do sell honey and you can message them through Facebook for pickup. Hayes also stated that they often sell at local events and that the amount of honey they have available varies each season.

Hayes wanted everyone to know that, “we believe it is valuable to teach children that bees and bugs are good. They are crucial to our ecosystem. When you eradicate bees and other bugs from your lawn, you trigger a chain effect harming birds and other wildlife. We are not separate from nature, we are part of it.” She continues on by saying, “Please teach your kids and grandkids that bees and bugs are not scary. We need them for a diverse and healthy planet. They help provide yummy food.” And she ended with, “Please do not buy honey from big chain stores. Buy from a local, ethical beekeeper whenever possible. Store bought honey is often adulterated with high fructose corn syrup. If your honey does not crystalize, it is not real raw honey or it has been pasteurized. Crystalization is a natural process. Honey never goes bad even after years on the shelf.”

Student Life

by Ean Miller, Sophomore at PSC

After returning to campus in January amidst the newly heightened Covid-19 concerns, a sense of worry and uncertainty exists on the campus of a thousand oaks.

Many students worry this may be a new chapter in the story of Covid-19. After many students have traveled far and wide for the holidays, it seems that they brought more than gifts - they have brought back the virus with them.

This was of course expected for many - after all, Covid-19 is known to spread easier during the winter seasons, when we all crowd inside to avoid the cold outdoors. And without the natural heat and sunlight that we all miss from the summer that helps cut-down on the virus, it has been expected to spread easier this winter.

And this proves to be true, as many students, faculty, and community members finding themselves testing positive for the virus, despite the fact that they may be vaccinated or not, many vaccinated students have found themselves testing positive, which comes as a shock to the many who believed they were immune.

Even with this heightened spread of the virus, campus life continues as it did last semester with little change. The same protective policies as last semester are present, and students are still free to attend class and campus events.

Although, there’s no saying for sure if this will continue to be the case. Many professors warn the students that they are ready to switch to online classes if the situation becomes severe enough that in-person classes are considered too risky for the community. With this potentially devastating prospect looming on the horizon, the students are left worried, uncertain, and in many cases, Covid-19 Positive.

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<<<<<< Evans *Continued from page 6*

When Michael's studies took him to the Canadian Arctic for nine months, the twin boys were five years old, so Joanna resigned from the art center to focus on them and her editing. She describes this time as a period of "solo parenting" because she had Michael's support and thus was not a single parent.

A couple of years later, Michael had completed his degree and was an Assistant Professor at Indiana University. In September of 2011, Joanna's freelance contracts with New York-based publishers for the next two years were quickly put on hold and then canceled following the 9/11 attacks. At that time, she sought work at Indiana University. She became the Director of Field Placements in the School of Education. She and her staff placed more than 1200 students a year in schools for their practicums.

She later became the Director of the Advance College Project, the university's dual credit program. The program was one of the first in the country and enables students in Indiana and neighboring states to take IU courses in their high schools for both high school and university credit. At the time, the program served more than 2500 students in more than 100 high schools each year.

From there, she was a Director of Admissions for ten years in New Hampshire, New York, and Maine. She said it was a privilege to travel the world recruiting students, but it was hard work, and she has great respect for anyone who works in admissions. She was responsible for running the admissions office on campus and maintaining contact with local families while she was overseas.

Before moving to Nebraska, Joanna was a Project Manager in the School of International Engagement at Southern New Hampshire University. Originally hired to edit their new Emergency Manual for study abroad, she researched and developed a Virtual International Exchange Program and made a database of scholarships to support study abroad.

The next part of her life is quilting! Joanna started making quilts in 1974. She does not make a lot of quilts, and most of the quilts she has completed have been gifts or donation

Continued on page 9 >>>>

Tuesday Literary Club Reads

by DiAnna Loy

The book discussed at the January meeting of the Tuesday Literary Club was *The BOOB Girls* by Joy Johnson.

BOOB Girls is short for "Burned Out Old Broads" but the characters in this book are anything but 'burned out.' Our ladies meet at the Meadow Lakes Retirement Community in Omaha where each of the ladies has recently come to reside, willingly or under outside influence, and has been assigned to dine at Meadow Lakes Table 12. As we join our cast of 'characters' we have Maggie Patten (Sandhills Rancher), Hadley Joy Morris-Whitfield (wealthy and wise), Mary Rose McGill (sweet Catholic girl), and Robinson (Robbie) Leary (university professor).

The ladies are a lively bunch trying to find exciting things to do in their current surroundings. As they meet, talk, and spend time together, they are soon inseparable, but it is clear that they have come up woefully short of excitement at the Meadow Lakes Retirement Community; except for the man in the laundry room wearing only a brown vest, a Stetson hat, and cowboy boots. Soon our ladies are discussing what they can do to make life more interesting without facing the wrath of their families.

Our ladies take off without telling anyone or leaving a forwarding address to see if they can expand their horizons for adventure. Their first stop is Maggie's Uncle Homer's home in the Sandhills to pick up a better mode of transportation; a Hummer and a 34 ft. light-weight aluminum travel trailer with two slide outs. After leaving the Sandhills, they find a dead body in the woods and set out to capture the killer; adopt the boys at the Ragged Ass Saloon; and close down a sleazy porn shop along with other adventures. In addition to their adventures on the road our ladies also have run-ins with family members as could be expected. They certainly find the adventures they are seeking. Be ready for laughs all the way through.

I was privileged to meet the author, Ms. Joy Johnson, several years ago at one of her book talks before I had ever heard of her books. Johnson is in her 70s and is thoroughly engaging in her talks from beginning to end. Her joy of life and of writing is clearly evident. She is a Nationally-known speaker and has written or edited more than 100 books on grief, mostly for children. There are eight books in the BOOB Girls series.

Happy reading.

<<<<<< Evans *Continued from page 8*

quilts. Since 1995, Joanna has been a member of The American Quilt Study Group, which has been based in Lincoln, Nebraska, since the late 1990s. She has played several roles within the organization, including serving as a Regional Representative in Indiana. Joanna is currently the editor of *Uncoverings: The Research Papers of the American Quilt Study Group*. Researchers on topics related to quilting past and present submit completed papers to the organization. Joanna edits the selected research papers and oversees their preparation for publication. The organization holds an annual seminar at which the papers are presented, and members receive their published journal.

Joanna and Michael are delighted to be living in Peru. They have found the college community that they were looking for and have been enjoying getting to know people affiliated with the college and the local community. Joanna said, "Michael loves his job, and I love my role as First Lady. It is great to work with students, faculty, alumni, and all the other stake holders in Peru State College! We both love living here, and we can't say enough about how kind and friendly everyone has been!"

Say Hello!

by Angela Allgood

I would like to introduce you to our new Post Master!

Her name is Brooke Taylor. She grew up in and currently lives in Auburn. She attended Peru State College.

She worked at the Falls City Sheriff's Department but wanted a career change. Peru is her first gig as a US Post Master!

Her boyfriend, Shawn, is from Kansas but moved up to Auburn. And, she has an Australian Shepherd mix named Benny. She rescued Benny when she worked at the Falls City Sheriff's Department.

Say hello when you go to grab your mail!

Ready, Set, Vote

by Angela Allgood

It is too early to vote, but if you are interested in being on Peru City Council, now is the time to sign up.

Peru has two of four Council members, Ethan Coatney and Marty Peregoy, that hold a seat up for re-election. Anyone in town who would like to be on the ballot to fill the Council member seat needs to file for office by March 1, 2022 with the County Clerk/Election Commissioner. You can then go to Peru City Hall and pay a filing fee to the City Clerk.

Coatney and Peregoy can also run for re-election as Incumbents but they must file before February 15, 2022.

Council is a four year term. Council meetings are once a month and special meetings will be called as needed.

Peru voted against wards in the last election so this is an "At Large" vote. Simply put, anyone from any part of town can now run for election. There are no longer East or West wards in Peru.

The Primary election will be May 10, 2022 and the General election will be November 8, 2022. We at PCN intend to keep you informed of those running for Peru City Council and other offices.

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February

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

February

The month of love

Of hope, of ice and snow

Of presents and cards sent to loved ones and possible loved ones

February, so truncated, so brief, a sigh and yet

A harbinger of Spring, of possibility, of love, of laughter, of life itself.

February...

Spring knocks at February's door

Cooing words of love and sunshine

Soon Winter will die away

Easter, new birth, new life

The slothful cold now leads to busy planting

The gardens hum; seed me, feed me

The calves yearn to be born and touch the blue Nebraska skies

The tractor dreams of furrows and long days of planting,

At one with the farmer and gps...

Wake up. The long siesta is almost over.

March will soon be here.

Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

Last month, you may recall, I wrote about the Midwest Living magazine cover welcoming Winter's "crackling fires and ice castles, cozy soups and sled rides" and extolling how "A New Year brings possibility." I jumped on the "possibility" bandwagon, focusing on dreaming of finally achieving success with yeast bread. Full disclaimer: I have not yet tried the fail-proof recipe in the magazine.

But I have consumed several varieties of cozy soup and enjoyed my sister and brother-in-law's crackling fireplace. Sled rides and ice castles have not materialized, but Hubby did get acquainted with a patch of ice on the aforementioned sister's driveway recently. Fortunately, he received only minor physical injuries.

He was probably hurt more by my lack of sympathy. I couldn't help but notice that he was wearing his backless, slip-on house shoes (as in "wear these on ice and you will slip on that ice, mister"). Hubby insisted he would have slipped no matter what he had been wearing on his feet. I say that style of shoe is hazardous and should be outlawed for people over 65. I later apologized for my lack of sensitivity and assured Hubby that I only meant to encourage him to be more cautious. He wasn't buying it.

One of my brothers-in-law is currently wearing a walking boot after dropping a sheet of drywall on his bare toes, breaking three of them. He probably thinks his toes would have been broken regardless of what he was wearing on his feet when that happened.

Speaking of shoes, Hubby has a tendency to leave them lying about, especially in the laundry/mud room. There is a bench in that room with a shelf just for his outdoor/work shoes. So why do I frequently find shoes (including the infamous slip-ons) sitting on the floor in front of the shelf instead of on the shelf? I told him the other day that the grabber works really well for picking up a shoe and depositing it on that shelf without requiring one to bend over, so he has no excuse!

I also find shoes tucked under the footrest in front of Hubby's spot on the living room sofa. He thinks I won't notice them there. Wrong. And it's not unusual for two or three pair to be clustered on the closet floor right in front of an empty shoe shelf.

In retaliation for a recent scolding, he countered that at least he "doesn't leave shoes sitting on top of the kitchen island." I confess to doing that occasionally, but at least they are not a tripping hazard up there. And if a few bits of dirt were left behind they would blend right in with the potato chip and bread crumbs left by Hubby. So there.

I am convinced that married couples relate to each other more and more like siblings the longer they are together. The difference is that we don't have parents around to referee those "he's looking at me" or "she started it" squabbles. We have to figure out our own conflict resolution strategies. "Redirection" is the preferred method of correcting misbehaving preschoolers these days. I may have to give it a try the next time I find Hubby's shoes where they don't belong. I will simply "redirect" them to a place of my choosing until he admits the error of his ways. I'm sure that will work.

If you have a Sweetheart, be nice and refrain from nagging on Valentine's Day! And watch out for ice.



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GHOST TOWN

There are layers of lives lost under the dirt of today. Just a little town that used to be bigger, but then got smaller. House by house, it fell down a nail at a time, board by board by shingle and chimney, 'til it was a pile of rubble, claimed by weeds and critters in dens. But under that story was a tale of teepees and campfires and buffalo and smoke. They were here before we came, but all our spirits will remain in this place. Even after the grass grows soft and deep, and the wind sings a lonesome song.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Think of people like books: we don't have covers, front and back, but we have pages that can be read by other people, whether we like it or not. Do you remember ever trying to fool your mom about something? She read you like an x-ray machine, didn't she? Detectives also have skills that bore through lies like high speed drills. But it's not just lies that fall apart. Emotions are hard to hide, but not always easy to read. Fear wears a mask that says ANGER, and depression can brush so much BLUE paint over a face that it is frozen, like it's had too much dart poison. It's hard to hide HAPPY, though, and on a good day, it will spread to other faces facing you.

DEEP SPACE?

How old is time? Is the universe deep enough to hold forever, or is that another place that we can't see from here? How cold can it get inside the black folds of space that look so blank between stars that must be hot, at least until their fires are only a memory. Are the blank spaces really hidden energy where tomorrow lives? How many places are there, really? Can we find them with a telescope, or will they find us, someday? Or is time only a trickster that plays it's cards by a sleight of hand? Maybe it is always now, behind the filmy curtain of reality.

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WILD HEARTS

Soaring deep into the high blue of an early Spring sky, the lovers cut circles and spirals with their powerful wings in solo performances that are miles apart. But they are coming home once again to find the warrior cottonwood that has battled many storms. He and she ride the river valley thermals until they meet in a frantic battle dance of recognition, mock fighting, falling, falling until their talons meet and grip in a renewal of vows, because that is the way of eagles.

PHANTOMS

Between night's dark sky and morning, a gray phantom of a veil creeps over the hills. Can I believe what I see, or is it all illusion? Is that a deer, or a quiet bush, standing so still in the long meadow grass? Did I see a fox glide through those trees? Is the sky lighter, or do I just want it to be dawn? Are there answers, or is this a space forever lost in the mist of dreams and shadows.

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May Love Come To You this Valentine's Day

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

Do you recall the Valentine days of years ago? At that time after the excitement of Christmas left and children tired of drawing January snow scenes, art teachers began preparations for teaching their students how to construct valentines during art classes, conducted after recess on Friday afternoons. Most students looked forward to those relaxing creative endeavors.

Talk about creative, students made valentine men and women, valentine booklets, valentine cards, and other valentine-themed art projects. However, some of our creative abilities were dimmed by the fact that J.D. spent his time eating the paste from the paste jar.

It seemed that children of years ago were more focused on communicating with friends and family. During those early years, students were busy creating valentines for their friends, fathers, mothers or siblings.

At that time, giving valentines was a time for revealing feelings for others. More than one young lady blushed after she received an unsigned valentine proclaiming love for her. "Who could have sent that?"

For the Valentines's Day party, most students brought penny valentines and placed them in a decorated valentine box made by one of the mothers. Those boxes were generally covered with white paper and decorated with bows, ruffles, valentines, lace doilies, and ribbons. Of course, every girl and some boys were intrigued with this beautiful box, so after the party, a name was drawn for the student who would take the box home.

Most of the valentines in the box were penny valentines always selected carefully for each individual. How important it was that each valentine matched the receiver in some way!

The afternoon of the party finally arrived. Valentines were distributed. An added bonus was a stick of gum in some valentine envelopes.

Soon, refreshments were served. Usually these consisted of a drink of Kool-Ade and a cookie. Once in a while, cupcakes were baked by one of the mothers.

One year Jenny's mother made cupcakes. The icing on the cupcakes never did "set" properly and was very sticky. As a result, faces, hands, fingers, desks, cards, and papers were all decorated with this glue-like substance. Crumbs compounded the mess. After students left, I believe, the teacher washed off every desk.

Those Valentine Days were special because they represented ways to express our feelings for others. The valentines were colorful reminders of others' feelings for the recipient. To this day, valentines represent a way to reveal special feelings and make others feel good. It is not the price of the valentine but the sentiments expressed in a caring way.

Window From The Past

Stephen Hassler, Peru

I notice a lot of the world and a lot of life through my window on Fifth Street, and every day I notice the weather. As I get older, I am becoming convinced that the most important things in life are family, friends, food, and the weather. The first three can be summarized in one word, fun. And yet good weather is fun, bad weather is exciting, which is also fun, so I guess I am saying all those elements of life are important because they can be fun.

Weather is the most recent addition to my 'what's important list.' I'm actually surprised at myself for not including it long ago. Everyone talks about it. You find it around you everywhere you go. It's seldom the same even if you stay in the same spot, so it's seldom boring; it's often exciting, and always a point of conversation.

I can barely stand being with some of my family members, even when it's just once a year for dinner. Maybe that's because the dinner is one of those important things, and they're interrupting it. That's unfair to say, since family is the most common reason to have big dinners. With friends, food is merely snacks and drinks... still important though, because it's with friends.

The weather gives us sunrises, sunshine, sunsets, clear blue skies, white puffy clouds, black stormy clouds, fog, rain, snow, and many other variations of water solids and fluids. One or more weather conditions occur near us wherever we are. If we are inside, we look out the window to check the weather, the temperature gauge, and to see if it's raining. I think most people would find the weather much more interesting to talk about if they didn't take it for granted, and realized how interesting it can be.

I suppose I should mention the wind. You never notice the wind unless it's in your face (or at your back), or when it is blowing dust around in the air or garbage cans down the street. Breezes are nice... unless the temperature is too low, then they're not called breezes; the comment is usually, "That wind is cold!" In fact, the wind isn't cold, the air is. The wind may only be a breeze.

Breezes are welcome in Summer, except hot breezes... kind of rare. Wind is expected in March. It's good for kite flying, and since the days are warmer, the wind is not thought of as being so cold as during the Winter.

I don't know of any place in the world where the weather is perfect. I've heard Hawaii, but that's isolated. I've heard of Malibu, but they have earthquakes, mudslides, and forest fires. Florida and the Gulf Coast have hurricanes. Arizona is hot; even 'dry heat' is hot. I've lived there. I don't care what anyone thinks, when it's 107 degrees, it's hot! And all people in those places can say about Nebraska or Iowa or Minnesota is, "It gets cold up there!" But we do have "tornado season."

More and more I am accepting of the weather, especially now that I am finally learning to adjust to it. I try to find ways to photograph it in its "best light," and when I find that picture, I appreciate the weather more. In any case, it's always part of the view through my window on Fifth Street.

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Are they ice-fishing??



This one is perched with its mate on page 4.

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I didn't notice the "kill" in this one's talons until it took flight, as seen lower right. It appears to be a fish. What do you think?



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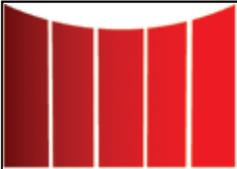
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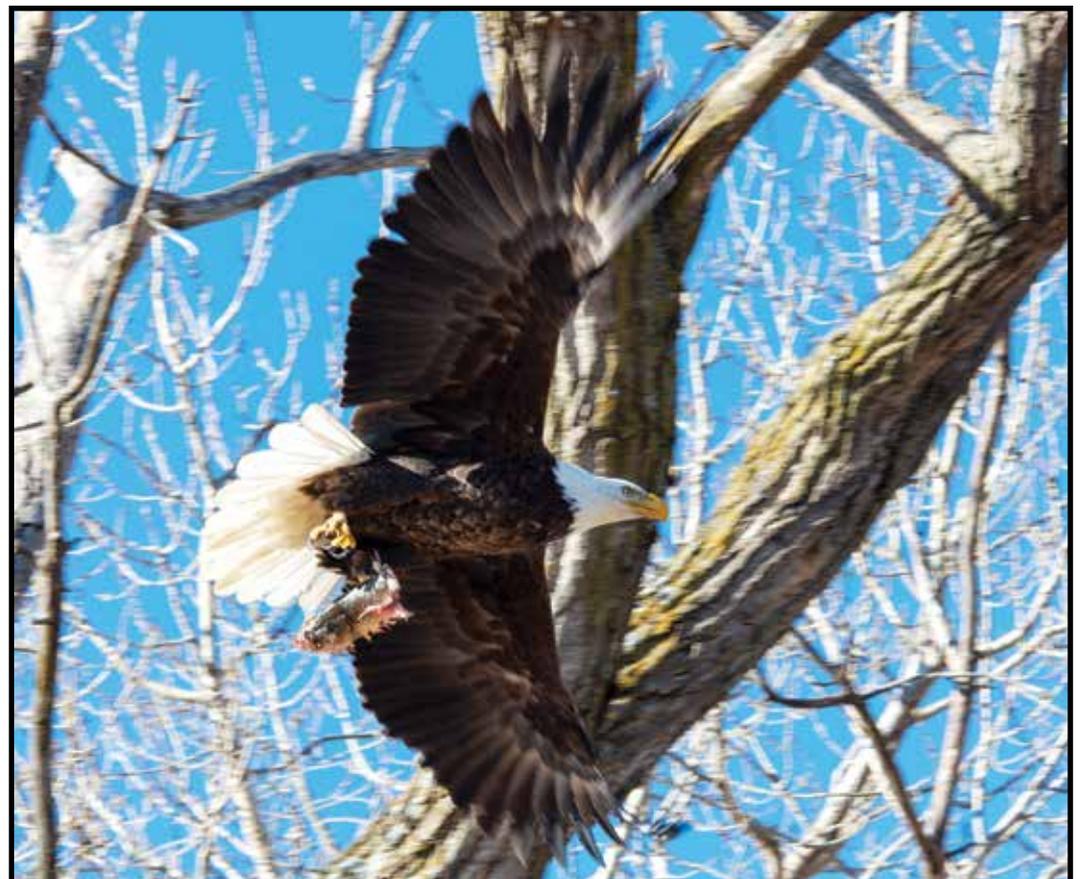
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Men's Basketball At Peru State, Jan. 2022





Women's Basketball At Peru State, Jan. 2022



Peru State College News

Peru State Dance Team finished 9th
in Pom Division Finals in the UDA National Championship.
The ‘Cats were the only NAIA team who made the finals.

On the weekend of January 14-16, 2022, the Peru State Competitive Dance Team competed in the UDA National Championship in Orlando at Walt Disney World. The Championship took place at the ESPN Wide World of Sports with the finals being held in the AdventHealth Arena which was built solely to host this competition.

Bobcat dance coach Noah Roddy was pleased with his team’s efforts at the Championships. Roddy stated, “I think the team performed well for their first time at the National Championship. They worked through their nerves and delivered a sharp and powerful performance. Out of 18 teams from across the nation, the Bobcats secured their spot in the top 50% in order to advance to finals, which is quite uncommon for first year team at the championship, let alone for teams that were established only 18 months prior. I’m very proud of the team for making their mark on the competition and I’m excited to see how the team will grow in the seasons to come.”

Peru State Cheer Team Competed in the Concordia Triangular

On Wednesday, January 19 the Peru State cheer team competed in its first competition of the season. They were competing in the Concordia Triangular. Peru State competed against Concordia and Morningside.

Here is the breakdown of the final scores from Wednesday night’s triangular.

CHEER Concordia – 71.425
Morningside – 52.35
Peru State – 44.45

The cheer team will be back in action on Wednesday, January 26 in Seward, Neb. For another Concordia Triangular this time with Concordia and Hastings College at 8:30 P.M.

Baseball Picked to Finish 5th in Heart Coaches’ Preseason Poll

On January 20, the Peru State baseball team was picked to finish fifth in the Heart Coaches’ Preseason Poll.

Central Methodist is picked to finish first in the Heart this season. The Eagles made a run to the NAIA College World Series and made it all the way to the championship game.

MidAmerica Nazarene is picked to finish second in the Heart Coaches’ Preseason Poll.

For the first time in history the Heart will be hosting a 2022 Baseball Media Day on Friday, February 5. For more information go to; heartofamericaconference.com

The Bobcats will open conference play on March 11 against MidAmerica Nazarene with a four-game series.

Peru State Softball Picked 10th

On January 19, the Peru State Softball team was picked to finish 10th along with Graceland University in the Heart Softball Coaches’ Preseason Poll.

Last season the Bobcats finished with a record of 18-31 and were 12-22 in conference play.

Grand View University is selected to win the Heart for the 2022 season. They are the defending regular season champion. Central Methodist is picked second in the poll. Rounding out the top three was last year’s Heart of America Athletic Conference Tournament Champion Mount Mercy. The Mustangs made it to the NAIA Softball World Series last spring.

The Bobcats’ season begins on Feb. 20 as they go on the road for a double-header against the Bethel College Threshers in Newton, Kansas. Peru State’s first Heart action will be on Saturday, March 12, as they travel to Dubuque, Iowa to face Clarke.

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.

— 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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