

# Your *Country* Neighbor **Free!**

January 2023



American Bald Eagle  
December, 2022.



Brownville Theatre; frosty scene due to fog rolling through Southeast Nebraska from the Missouri River, its mist freezing on branches and brush.

*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

### Contents

This Month's Photos...	1,3,4,5,6,10,16,17,18
Eagle Photos.....	1,3,10,16
Here's January!.....	2
Virus Update.....	2
Merri's "Diary of a Part-time Housewife"....	3
Landscape Photos.....	4
Cardinals.....	4,5
Community Christmas.....	6
Peru City News.....	7,8,9,12
<i>A New Year Can Mean A "New You"</i> .....	13
<i>"Window On Fifth Street"</i> .....	13
Devon's Poetry.....	14
Sheila Tinkham's Poems.....	15
 Peru State Men's Basketball.....	17
 Peru State Women's Basketball...	18
 Peru State College News.....	19
 Valentino's Coupon for up to Six!!.....	20

Volume Twentyfour, Number One



January 2023

# It's January!

A Message from your Publisher

The days are getting lighter! By mid January I will notice the late afternoon light lingering longer.

Finally, there was some migratory activity at the Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge that was more interesting than just ducks. I missed the snow geese on my first trip this season, but there were several Bald Eagles and scores of Trumpeter Swans. Now that the temperatures have dipped into single digits and below, Geese and ducks will have moved farther south to open waters. In January, I will explore again.

The first "Wintry" appearing morning of the season in Southeast Nebraska was due to a foggy mist rolling westward from the Missouri River and coating treetops with a frosty look. In many cases brush along fence rows were attractively affected as well. Brownville was especially picturesque, but when isn't it? See photos page 4.

I woke up to our first real snowfall Thursday, December 22nd. More than an inch, maybe two. Cardinal photos on pages 4 and 5.

Happy New Year! And as always, be careful if you travel.

Stephen

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

(Note the last issue had "January 2022" typo. They will still honor it.)

## Virus Update

Stephen Hassler, Peru

The CDC estimate for influenza deaths from October 1, 2022 through December 10, 2022 is at least 9300, but could be as high as 18,000 due to unreported cases.

Americans dying from the Covid virus amount to **386 deaths per day** as of December 14th. There has been a "spike" in cases since the Thanksgiving holiday. It would not be surprising to me if there is another "spike" after Christmas.

By now you shouldn't need any more hand-holding when it comes to vaccines and other prudent behaviors for virus prevention, but for helpful information, visit the CDC online at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

I'll pay attention to this Winter's reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. I urge you to do so as well. Be safe, be well, live long, but not *Covid Long*.

## Your Country Neighbor

Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

Plus, peruse the happenings in a small town on pages 7,8,9,12

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## This Month's Writers & Contributors

Devon Adams 14

Angela Allgood, Peru City News 7,8,9,12

Stephen Hassler 2

Merri Johnson 4

DiAnna Loy 9

Dorothy Rieke 13

Sheila Tinkham 15

Thank You!

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

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

Maya Angelou

## Your Country Neighbor

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

## Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn



American Bald Eagle, December, 2022.

I hope by the time you read this, we will no longer be staring down the barrel of a blast of Artic air. Predictions for this last week before Christmas are calling for below-zero windchill temperatures. Not a nice forecast to ponder. But at least the northwest wind we have been experiencing the past several days has ceased. Today, the sun is shining and the temperature is almost up to freezing, so it's a good day to fill bird feeders and check on the status of our pond.

Several days ago I looked out the window and caught ominous glimpses of orange shapes beneath the ice on the pond. I briefly entertained the notion that they might be maple leaves, but I knew that the truth of the matter was that our large gold fish had succumbed. Despite running an aerator in the deep end of the pond, the water had apparently not held enough oxygen to keep the fish alive in their state of torpor. It could be that the smaller fish are still alive, but only time will tell.

In the meantime, other critters need open water to survive. Just last week I startled a fox when I stepped out onto the back deck fairly early in the morning. He streaked away to the cover of the row of evergreens behind our neighbor's house. I expect he had been drinking at our pond; at that time, it was completely free of ice.

But today, despite the fact that I can see bubbles under the surface of the ice above the aerator, there is no fountain of foam on top of the ice indicating that toxic gases are actually escaping: hence, the dead fish. Hubby has informed me that pounding on ice can kill fish underneath the ice, but since the fish are already dead, I figure I might as well try to open up a couple of holes so those gases can escape and other creatures can get a drink.

Hubby may be right about ice pounding and fish kill, but I think I'm in pretty good company engaging in it. I'm reasonably certain that Henry David Thoreau wrote about cracking ice on frozen ponds as he observed and journaled all things natural. And the great folk singer Judy Collins composed the most evocative winter song I know of – "The Fallow Way" – in which she extolls the virtues of experiencing the restfulness of deep winter, with the lyric "I have nothing seem to do or need, but crack the ice on frozen ponds."

So, with Thoreau and Collins as my inspiration, I fetched the 16-pound sledge hammer from the shed and began whaling away at the ice. It took a number of swings, but I managed to break through. I estimate the ice is at least two inches thick. I made one opening in the shallow end and another just above the aerator. We'll see if either hole is still open in the morning. Hubby says "no way."

I can only hope that the foxes, feral cats and maybe even a coyote or deer will come along and get a drink before the ice returns. If I have to, I can crack the ice every day. If the Alaska natives we watch on "Life Below Zero" can do it to obtain their own household water, I guess I can do it for the critters.

I hope you find inspiration to get out and experience the unique wonder of the world in winter.



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“Lady” Cardinal, December 24, 2022



Trumpeter Swans, Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, Dec 2022.



The ‘Lady’ Cardinal chewing lunch.



Solie Barn (Apple Barn); more ‘frost.’ See Cover Photo.



Need a little more snow on these branches.



Trumpeter Swans have been numerous at the Refuge the past few years.



The Cardinal photographs better on a limb, and when his mouth isn't full. He is particularly shy this season and hard to surprise.



I have not seen the Flicker Woodpecker in more than a year. This one, Dec 29, was just in time for the January issue.

## River Crossing Antiques



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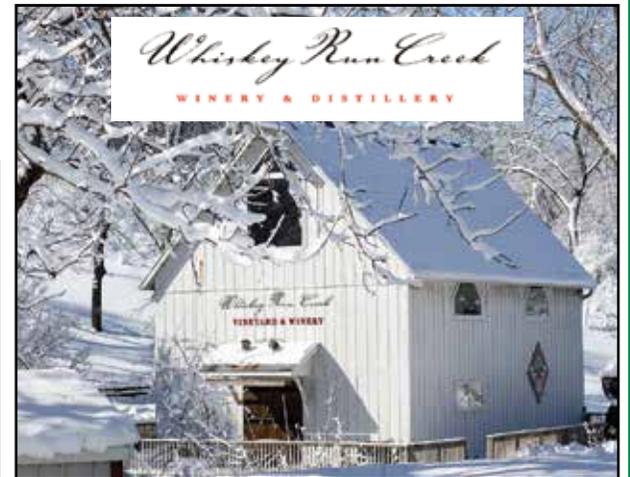
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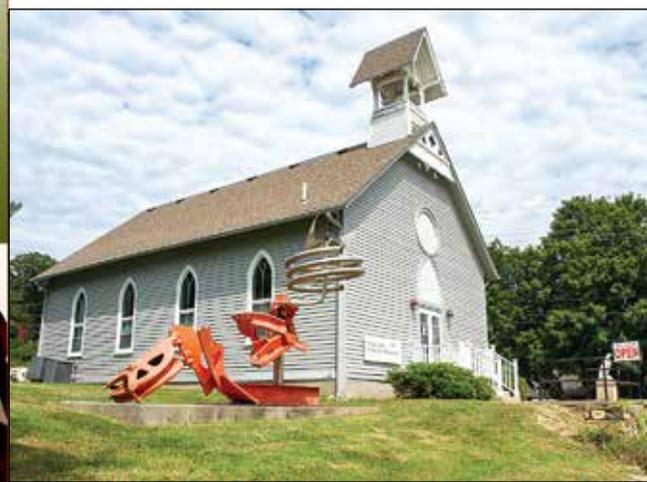


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## Peru State's Garrison Dodge Honored in Sugar Bowl Activities!



Garrison Dodge (Oakland, NE) flew to New Orleans to take part in the Good Works Team® activities leading up to the Sugar Bowl game on Saturday, December 31. Dodge was recognized, along with 21 other football players and a coach, during halftime of the game. The game featured the fifth-ranked Alabama Crimson Tide versus the 11th-ranked Kansas State Wildcats.

For just the second time in Peru State College football history, there was a Bobcat representing the College as a member of the Allstate AFCA Good Works Team®!

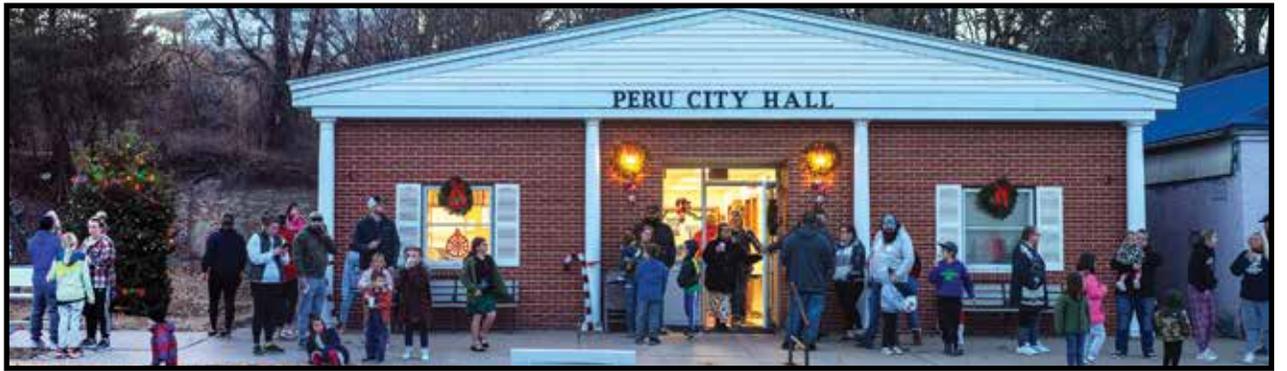
Dodge has been a leader among the student-athletes in terms of community service with his biggest focus being the Athletes 4 Children – a charity he and his father created while he was in high school. To this point, over \$18,000 has been raised for the benefit of Children's Hospital in Omaha. In addition, Dodge has been very active on campus in a variety of other community service activities.

Dodge met his fellow honorees and they participated in the Sugar Bowl Parade.

During halftime of the game, all 22 of the players and the coach were honored.

His father and other family members joined him for the game.

Dodge will be student teaching next fall. He is presently substitute teaching, finishing his education course work, and is helping to coach the Johnson-Brock Eagles boys' basketball team.



Waiting for Santa to arrive.



Thank you Santa, for visiting Peru, Nebraska's Community Christmas!

# PERU

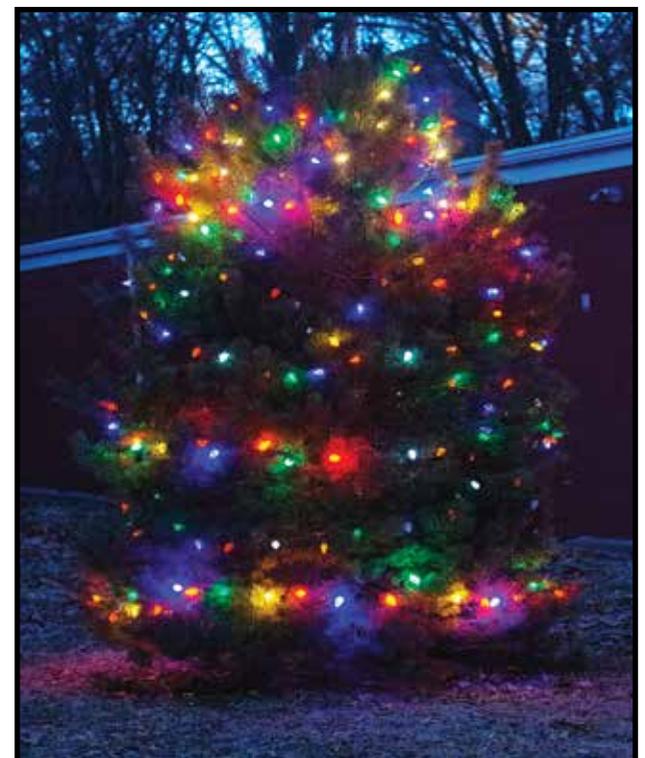
## IMPERUVING AS ONE

**Mission Statement**  
To work together to promote a unified and vibrant community by connecting people, ideas and resources to achieve the best future for the City of Peru and Peru State College.

**Vision Statement**  
Peru will be a welcoming, thriving and engaged community with exceptional amenities that attract people to live, work, visit and learn.

**Planning Teams**  
Housing \* Infrastructure \* Relationships and Communication  
Economic/Business Development \* Attraction and Retention

PCIG, keep up your great work in 2023!



Peru's Community Christmas Tree

## Peru Community Christmas!

Angela Allgood

A lot of fun was happening December 4th, and City Hall was packed with kids and adults. People came as far as Indiana to celebrate in Peru (Okay, technically they were already here hunting, but they did come down for chili and a great time meeting everyone).

There was the 1st Annual Chili Contest that was lead by Josie Coatney and she had help from Julia Perry. It was a great turnout. There were seven people who entered their chili. There was some fierce competition. We had families competing against each and even a couple of spouses duking it out for bragging rights and a cool trophy. The following people entered into the contest: Dan Cotton with his “Just Chili”, Rebekah Hutchison with “Umami Beef Chili”, “Hot Mama” was made by Shelly Hastings while Ken Hastings brought his “13 Hours Later”. The other contestants were “Mean Jean’s Chili Beans” brought down by Karena and her daughter Leanna Reeves, and the last of the competition was from Eron Baker with “The Crowd Pleaser”, and “Southern B’s Chili” from Jennifer Baker.

The top three winners were, 1st Place Dan Cotton with “Just Chili.” A comment made from Noah Murphy of Indiana was, “Oh my goodness, that one’s good.” Another one of the guys from Indiana stated that it tasted like regular chili only with a little “kick.” Second place was Jennifer Baker with “Southern B’s Chili” and the 3rd place winner of the chili contest was Rebekah Hutchison! Not only was this a fierce competition and great chili, but this 1st Annual Chili Contest raised \$455 that will go towards the Easter Egg Hunt that PCIG sponsors.

The children were there decorating their own ornaments and cookies made by “Treats by Ashley.” Shirley Robbins and Josie Coatney’s table were a favorite stopping place because they had an assortment of cookies, apple cider and the crowd favorite ... chocolate spoons to stir cocoa with for more yummy flavor.

And I guess a couple were there to see Santa! Okay, actually there were 50 children downtown to see Santa! The Peru Volunteer Fire Department helped get Santa to Peru! Santa heard many Christmas gift wishes and even made a couple of little ones cry. The most popular toys on the children’s wish lists were: Pokemon Cards, Barbie and her doll house, hunting gear and of course, a puppy!

All of this fun was again sponsored by PCIG. We are excited to see so many community members out celebrating the holidays and the spirit of Peru!



Dan’s “Just Chili” wins!

*Photo by Josie Coatney*



Cookies & Cocoa



Making Christmas Ornaments

## Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

The December meeting of the Tuesday Literary Club met for its Christmas gift exchange and Nancy Wheeler gave her book talk on “The Pursuit of Happyness” by Chris Gardner with Quincy Troupe and the movie by the same name.

We start the book with Chris remembering himself as a 3-year-old child waiting for a woman he vaguely remembers to make pancake syrup into homemade pull candy. He finally realizes that she is his mother. Early in Chris’ life his mother, Bettye Jean, becomes involved with a less than reputable man named Freddie. The rest of his childhood and teen years are fraught with watching his mother being the victim of abuse and trying to protect himself from Freddie’s wrath. Freddie is hauled off by the police many times but there are never any repercussions. Soon after graduating from high school, Chris enlists in the U.S. Navy.

The Navy proves to be a good experience for Chris and after spending eight years as a medic, he gets out and follows one of the doctors he worked with to San Francisco to work with him on a research project. He gains a lot of valuable experience but his salary is substandard. He moves into medical equipment sales as a way to better himself financially. It is during this time that his wife becomes disillusioned with him and their life. She signed on to become a doctor’s wife eventually; she ends up leaving. Also during this time, Chris meets a gentleman who he credits with being one of the most influential people in his life. He gives Chris information on becoming a stockbroker and taking advantage of the training programs various brokerage houses offer. Chris immediately sets his cap on becoming a stockbroker.

Chris has met another women and she has had his son, Chris, Jr. Chris has vowed from an early age, because of his experience of life without a father, he will always stay close to his children and be involved in their lives. Because of a variety of circumstances, while searching for an opportunity in a training program to become a stockbroker, he is let go from his current employment. Just when he is given that opportunity, his girlfriend gives up hope and disappears with his son; leaving with all of his belongings. Chris must go to his friends for places to sleep and borrow clothes to wear to the training.

At this point Chris has just become one of the approximately 12% of our population that is homeless while still working full time. Chris proves himself by working harder than anyone; never taking any shortcuts. Moving ever upward professionally, he accepts offers with other brokerage firms where he thinks he can improve himself. He eventually gets his son back and adds a daughter to his family. He starts his own brokerage firm catering to his clients in a whole new way.

Which is best, book or movie? I would have to say the book. You get a much more complete understanding of everything Chris Gardner went through from being born in abject poverty to working his way to becoming a successful business person in only 28 years.

Happy Reading!

## Soup

It just makes you feel good!

Angela Allgood

The town of Peru has celebrated with a soup supper in November, and a Chili contest in December but officially, January is National Soup Month!

When I first decided to write about soup, I thought, “Angela, this is so lame”, “How interesting can soup be?” Actually, I learned a lot. I Googled “soup history” and “soup facts” and was sent to BuzzFeed, and other websites with lots of interesting facts.

I don’t know about all of you, but soup is perfect in the winter time, and I LOVE soup! It is easy to make, some of it can be frozen and used all winter, and it just warms the soul on a cold winter day! When I was younger, I loved it when mom would make me soup when I was sick, and everything would be better! It just gives you warm fuzzies.

My three favorite soups are vegetable, chili, and home-made chicken noodle soup. Oh yeah, I cannot forget the cheesy potato soup ... yummm! However, I may need to add a new soup as a favorite. At the Methodist Church soup supper, I tried the cheeseburger soup and I must say ... yum!

Growing up, my favorite was chicken noodle soup and a grilled cheese sandwich. You couldn’t go wrong! Or how about a bowl of chili with a warm cinnamon roll all gooey with the glaze topping?!

When I surveyed women of Peru to see what their favorite soups were, I got all kinds of yummy soups. There was Tomato Bisque, Cheesy Potato with ham or

*Continued on page 9 >>>>*

<<<< *Soup, Continued from page 8*

bacon, Taco soup, Ham & bean, Chili, Broccoli and Cheese, Clam Chowder, or Potato Soup. No one I surveyed mentioned their favorite was “hippopotamus soup,” yet that was the first soup of consumption that dates back to 6000 BC. Ummm, no thanks.

Soups can be classified into two groups. You have clear soup or thick soup and soup can be hot or cold (tomato-based gazpacho). From the people I surveyed, it looks like thicker soup is a favorite. It is said that around the 1700s, the French King was so infatuated with himself that he had his royal chefs create a soup that would allow him to see his own reflection in the bowl. As a result, clear broth was created.

In my research, Americans have over 10 billion bowls of soup every year. Wow! Researchers also say that 99% of all American homes have soup in them. I know mine does!

Did you know that “canned soup” was introduced in 1897 (it was tomato). Guess who! If you guessed the Campbell Company, you are correct! They introduced Cream of Mushroom and Chicken Noodle in 1934. These are the top three soups from Campbell’s and it is estimated that around 2.5 billion bowls of these three soups alone, are consumed each year.

Talking about all this soup has made me hungry. I think I will grab a can of Chicken Noodle soup and make a grilled cheese sandwich. I might even put a thin slice of ham in the grilled cheese! Yumm!

Happy eating!

## Peru Holiday Dash and Baking Bash

Angela Allgood

Last year, sisters Miranda Decker and Sarah Montanelli did a vendor fair the weekend before Christmas. They said it was a “Procrastinator” vendor fair for those last minute shoppers.

They decided to do the vendor fair again this year but they added to it. They asked volunteers from the community to make cookies for a free will offering at the event. Sarah Montanelli stated, “We are excited to incorporate the bake sale to benefit the city playground.” Proceeds made from the cookie sales go toward the playground equipment at the Sid Brown Park.

This was another successful event. The crowd was “sporadic and small.” There were eleven vendors and it was a steady flow of people all day. There were a lot of great last minute deals and products available for those last minute Christmas shoppers. Sarah added, “I have done Direct Sales from home for over 7 years and have found it to be a way for me to connect with others, and I especially enjoy the vendor events where I get to see so many others and help find the perfect item for them.”

Miranda and Sarah used local vendors again this year, “There are many in our community that sell products from home for many reasons and we are happy to be offering a space for them to be seen for the holiday season.”

You could purchase items from Miranda Decker, Sarah Montanelli, Maggie Foster, Jeannie Montanelli, Judy Douglas, Cailyn Winkleman, Amanda Ackley and

*Continued on page 12 >>>>*

## Cookies and More!



City Hall was a Shopping Mall for a Day.



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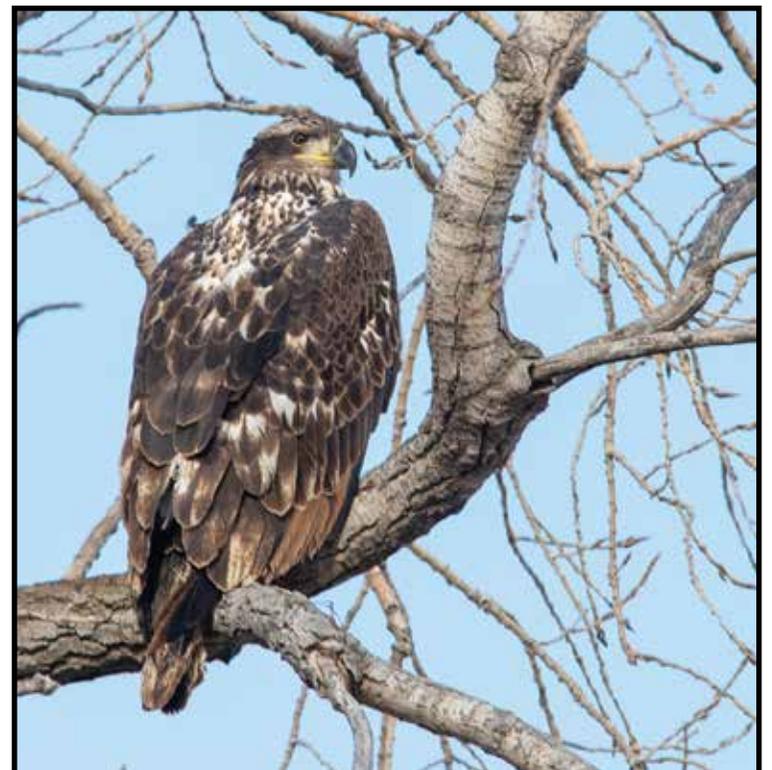


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The Goldfinch is changing to its Winter plumage.



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# Peru Progress

Angela Allgood

It is so easy to focus on the negative. Peru has been through some rough times and when dealing with government programs, action is not always as quick as we would like. AND REMEMBER, things take money, paperwork from the government programs Peru works with, etc. Things do not happen overnight.

This portion is “Peru Progress.” A reminder that positive things are happening in Peru and that we should be happy and excited for our community.

- Purchase Rehab Resell – SENDD has purchased a home for this purpose and has identified a few other possibilities.
- Downtown Revitalization – The City is working with a UNL class that begins in January to launch this project. They would like to have surveys out in January, have a town meeting in March and in May. Peru will receive the final report. This project will help Peru get other grants throughout the year.
- COAD – Community Organizations Active in Disaster is a group of community organizations, businesses, nonprofits and individuals working together to plan community responses to a variety of emergency and disaster situations. Deborah Solie and Renee Critser have contacted the area counties and are scheduling meetings with them to discuss participation in a COAD.
- Fifth Street Project – The project should go out for bid in January and begin in May.
- Water Connection to Auburn – This project is progressing as expected.
- Playground Equipment – Total cost of the playground equipment (the company installing it, the equipment, and the ground around it) is \$141,000. The city has applied for a grant that will cover half of the costs. There have been a few fundraisers already and the City Council will decide how much they can cover.

<<< *Dash/Bash Continued from page 9* even the youngest entrepreneurs, “The Sparkle Sisters” (Ackley sisters). *Caf-feine Frenzy* was also outside doing their special coffees, frappes and other hot drinks.

It was a perfect time to stock up on holiday treats. Miranda and Sarah asked volunteers to make cookies. The cookie walk brought in a lot of people. Thanks to all the volunteers and donations, \$450 was raised towards playground equipment.

There was one more surprise down there ... no, it wasn't a box full of free puppies... It was another chili feed during the lunch hour. The owners of the Caf-feine Frenzy Food Truck sponsored this and the proceeds are also going toward the playground equipment. At the time this article was due, there was no total from the Chili feed, but we thank you for helping raise money for our playground equipment.

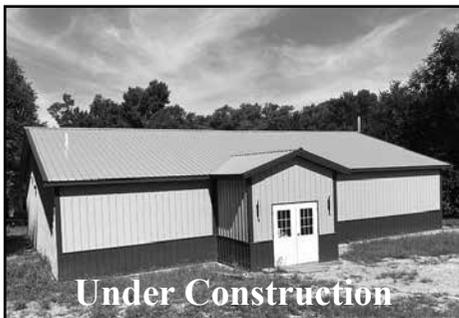
Way to go ladies! Thank you for your continued community support!

## *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.**

Share this experience with  
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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

## A New Year Can Mean A “New You”

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

This coming year, we will have many opportunities to follow our dreams leading to achievement and a sense of exploration. In fact, the year 2023 should bring a sense of adventure, excitement, and opportunities to inspire us.

There are some basic guidelines that we need to follow to focus our efforts in the right direction. For example, WE NEED TO TAKE TIME TO WORK. Working is an important feature in structuring personal and social identity, family, and social bonds, ways of obtaining money, setting daily routines, and building self-confidence and self-esteem.

WE NEED TO TAKE TIME TO THINK. Thinking is an important survival tool. At times, our success depends on our ability to work out what to do. Thinking is important to a happy and successful life

WE NEED TO TAKE TIME TO PLAY. Play offers a sense of engagement and pleasure. It reduces stress, offers greater creativity, improves brain function, creates stronger relationships, and gives more optimism.

WE NEED TO TAKE TIME TO HELP AND ENJOY OUR FRIENDS. Having friends means less loneliness, reduced stress, more emotional support, and aids in personal development. Helping friends leads to good feelings on both sides.

WE NEED TO TAKE TIME TO LOVE. Loving someone offers health and emotional benefits such as reducing stress, improving circulation, lowering high blood pressure, boosting mental health, and creates very special feelings.

TAKE TIME TO PLAN YOUR FUTURE. We need to plan our time securing our future through education, health plans, financial security, and other necessities.

TAKE TIME TO LAUGH. Laughter is the answer to physical, mental, and social well-being and helps reduce stress levels. Laughter helps communicate affection. Bring humor into your life on a daily basis. You will be better for it.

TAKE TIME TO DREAM. Dreaming helps our lives in several ways. Benefits include helping us learn and memorize, aids in problem-solving, retention of knowledge, and helps reinforce memories. Dreaming reinforces our thoughts, desires, and motivations

TAKE TIME TO READ. Through reading, we gain valuable knowledge, exercise our brains, improve our focus on things, gain entertainment, improve memory, and increase communication skills.

Indeed, there is an indescribable feeling that comes along with the start of a New Year. It is the ending of another year, but the new chapter in our lives begins anyway we like. Truthfully, the newness brings multiple opportunities for a fresh start. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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## Window From The Past

Stephen Hassler

Lately, looking out my Window on Fifth Street I have not been expecting to see any signs of Spring. After all, we only recently had the “first day of Winter.” But seeing the many shades of gray; concrete sidewalks, asphalt streets, cloudy skies, trees with leafless branches, the snowless, barren ground, and gray-rock parking lots, I was reminded of an article I wrote years ago in which I said I thought the world through my window on Fifth Street looked as if it had the flu. And I was thinking that all that gray makes me hope for an early Spring!

I certainly don't want to think about Winter for another two months. But at least the days are getting longer, and by the middle of January I'll notice extra light after 5:00 P.M.

I'm especially looking forward to being able to leave my bedroom window open at night so I can hear birds singing when I wake up in the morning and see sunlight through the blinds! Just a bit more than a crack, since the nights will still be cool.

The Robin's “song” is earliest, before sunrise, then the Cardinal. My favorite sound is the little who, who... who-whooing of an owl. I've heard it late in the evening and early in the morning too. I suppose it's annoying to some, but I would rather lay awake and listen to that sound, or even have it awaken me early in the morning.

Bird songs are usually described as being part of their mating rituals, but I think they're celebratory too, or there would just be color and ‘dancing.’

I don't hear them for long. The days of Summer pass with just a few species producing more than one brood, but most songs and celebrations are over by July. Then it's just noisy, lazy children begging mama and papa to feed them.

So maybe Spring shouldn't be here too soon. With more time to savor looking forward to the future I will appreciate better the brief benefits of a favorite time of year when it finally arrives.

I hope Spring gets here whenever you are ready! Happy New Year!!!

# P o e t r y

by Devon Adams, Peru

## VALLEY OF FOG

A cold gold sun crawled over the horizon, fighting the fog blanket lying on top of the river. All but the tallest trees were hiding under the gray layer, crying to the light, "Touch me first!" Ghostly images walked on the trails through the timber. Maybe they were alive. Or not. If spirits survive, they would look like these formless shifting shapes that appear and disappear in the mist. The old badger who lives in his cave by the cottonwood knows all of them, but he isn't talking.

## FIRE BOOKS

Books and chairs fit together like milk and cookies, or firewood and flames. Like a good recipe, put them all together and they spell magic. Settle in a deep and easy chair in front of a fire in a big stone fireplace and go on a journey with scenes on every page. Listen to people who tell you a story made of imagination. Soon you'll be living inside these pages, with all of your real life in limbo until the last word on the last page.

## CELEBRATE NOW

The party was a blast in the Christmas house full of cheer, and each and every person there was aware that time is riding on a fast train to tomorrow. Their visions in the depths of drink and drunk were jumbled, like a restless dream streaming through the halls of memory. Some minutes seemed longer than a week, while other thoughts were flashes faster than a blink. In the fog of mornings after, each and all awoke to broken images, like puzzle pieces fallen on the floor. Our lives are lived in seconds, so that now is all that's really real.

## BLUE NIGHTS

In the sweep of sky full of worlds far away, hung the pewter moon. Stark and clear, with only cold between he and me, I looked in a radius around the top of the hill by the frozen river. Silver spots winked where ice spikes pointed like silver swords out of the mass of solid water at the bend by the bluff. A quiet wind said nothing, as silent feet padded on the new snow. The fox floated on his feet, like he was walking across a moon valley.

## JANUARY LIGHT

In the deep of the dark of winter, a faint spark glimmers in the hearts of those who love spring. The turning, tilting earth has shifted according to its appointed schedule, and it promises days full of warmth. But not yet. The seed catalogs offer delusions of grand gardens gifted with growth beyond belief, and on a stormy afternoon full of ice and snow, the people of the garden clan give in and order dreams. As time moves though, they are less inclined to order plants than to sit in the sunshine and sleep.

## By Artist, Devon Adams PENCIL PORTRAITS OF PEOPLE, ANIMALS, & BUILDINGS

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### Send to:

Devon Adams

P.O. Box 192

Peru, NE 68421

## I like January

Sheila Tinkham

I like January named after Janus, the Roman God who looked both forward and backward. Why? For the same reason I think fondly of childhood, to be both in the past and present is the kind of magic only the human mind could conceive; for animals live in the eternal now, the present, while we hope for the future and reminisce about the past. So lift your glass full to the brim with sparkling grape juice, say goodbye to 2022 and hope 2023 will be superb! Cheers to you all.

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## January

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

To me the longest month of the year

Cold

Ice

Snow

All knock on my door

But the snow like a white dress flowing over a trembling limb imbues

the air with beauty

Life knocks

A new year answers

A new dawn awaits

Make a wiser, smarter choice

Day by day

Month by month

Step by step

Wave goodbye to 2022

And Greet 2023

With a fresh, lively step and a cheerful, new outlook

Happy New Year

2023, a great year to be alive!

A great year to be American!

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# Peru State Men's Basketball And PSC Competitive Dance Team



Loss in Overtime, 73 to 75 to Baker University. Dec 10, 2022.



# Peru State Women's Basketball

## And PSC Competitive Cheer Team



Women Win over Baker University, 72 to 67. Dec 10, 2022.

# Peru State College News

## Garrison Dodge Named 2023 Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup College Finalist

The “Athletes For A Better World” announced on Tuesday their college finalists for the 2023 Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup Award.

Garrison Dodge (Oakland), a senior wide receiver on the Peru State football team, was among the 25 finalists who represent colleges and universities from across the country and from all levels from junior colleges to NCAA DI institutions.

The mission of “Athletes for a Better World” (ABW) is to use sports to develop character, teamwork, and citizenship through commitment to an athletic code for living that applies to life, and to create a movement that will play a significant role in the transformation of individuals, sports, and society.

The Coach Wooden Citizenship Cup is given in honor of John Wooden, one of the greatest coaches and positive role models in the history of the NCAA. The award establishes the recipient as athletes of excellence both on and off the field, role models as performers and persons, the most important and distinctive honor athletes can achieve.

**See page 6 for more on Garrison Dodge.**

## Six Peru State Football Players Named 2022 Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes

December 13, the NAIA National Office announced the 2022 Daktronics NAIA Scholar-Athletes for football. Six Bobcats received recognition for the honor.

Andrew Rathman – senior management and leadership major (Plattsmouth), Cole Nahlik – sophomore management major (Washington, MO.), Garrison Dodge – senior K-12 health and physical education major (Oakland), Grant Gutschow – sophomore biochemical science major (Elkhorn), Lander Imbimbo – sophomore management major (New Haven, United Kingdom) and Will Mueller – senior management and leadership major (Springdale, AR.).

Peru State football finished with back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 2006-2007. They were 6-5 overall and 4-1 in Heart North Conference play only losing to number 2, Grand View.

## Adams Named AFCA NAIA Coaches’ Second Team All-American

On Thursday, December 15, the AFCA announced the 2022 AFCA NAIA Coaches’ All-America Teams. Peru State defensive lineman Devin Adams (Pembroke Pines, Fla.) earned AFCA NAIA Coaches’ Second Team All-American.

Here is what the AFCA Press Release said about the NAIA All-America Teams; “Morningside (Iowa) quarterback Joe Dolincheck and Siena Heights (Mich.) linebacker Kole Murlin headline the 2022 AFCA NAIA Coaches’ All-America Teams announced today by the American Football Coaches Association. The AFCA has selected an All-America team since 1945 and currently selects teams in all five of its divisions. What makes these teams so special is that they are the only ones chosen exclusively by the men who know the players the best — the coaches themselves.

Dolincheck earned his second straight AFCA All-America honor by leading the nation in passing yards per game (353.9) and touchdowns (37). He also picked up his second straight Great Plains Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Year honor.

Murlin also picked up his second straight AFCA All-America honor. He was fourth in the country with 11.4 tackles per game (114 total) and added 11 tackles for loss and 5.5 sacks. Murlin earned Mid-States Football Association Mideast Defensive Player of the Year for the third year in a row.”

A junior, Adams won Heart North Defensive Player of the Year for the second year in a row. 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.

Peru State finished the season with back-to-back winning seasons for the first time since 2006-2007 as they went 6-5 and 4-1 in Heart North Conference play under the direction of first year head coach Phil Ockinga.

## One Million Dollars Raised for Project ROAR

Peru State College is pleased to announce raising one million dollars in the Project ROAR fundraising campaign. Peru State College President Dr. Michael Evans says, “We’re pleased to reach this important milestone so quickly, and we are grateful to all the donors and businesses that are supporting this transformational project. We still have more work to do with our fundraising efforts, but we are well under way, and the momentum and energy are truly exciting!” In all, \$4 million remain to be raised, making ROAR the largest fund drive in Peru State’s 155-year history.

Project ROAR will add more than 104,000 square feet of indoor space to the campus. This more than doubles the square footage of the Peru State’s largest building, the Al Wheeler Activity Center. Three of the buildings will be near the baseball and softball fields at the Centennial Complex south of the main campus. The other two will be built on a practice field north of the Oak Bowl stadium. The largest components are large air-supported, artificially turfed domes at each site.

If you are interested in giving a tax-deductible donation, please call the Peru State College Foundation office, 402-872-2304 or email Ted Harshbarger at [tharshbarger@peru.edu](mailto:tharshbarger@peru.edu). Donors will have the option of spreading pledge gifts out through 2025. Peru State College plans to start breaking ground in 2023.

Nestled in the hills of historic southeast Nebraska, Peru State College offers a mix of innovative online and traditional classroom undergraduate and graduate programs, including online graduate degrees in education and organizational management.

Established in 1867 as Nebraska’s first college, Peru State has transformed over the past century and a half into a state-of-the-art institution offering diverse, multifaceted educational programs annually to nearly 2,000 students.

# 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.
11/30	Culver-Stockton College	7:30 p.m.

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