

Your *Country* Neighbor **Free!**

October 2022

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



Lourdes Central Catholic High School, AppleJack Parade, September 17, 2022

Nemaha County Rodeo; see page 3

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

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October!!!

Watch for the “Full Moon” October 9th.

October is the first full month of Autumn! Brownville’s “Old Time Autumn” festival is the weekend of the 8th. It will include Civil War Re-Enactors this year! Don’t miss it! Details on the back page.

In addition to your favorite columnist(s) and poet(s), enjoy viewing the many photographs in this issue, including **rodeo riders, parades, and photographs of the PSC home games of football and volleyball.**

In the “Peru City News” we introduce “The Market.” Thank you to the Schmidt family for bringing a grocery store to Peru. It’s so beautiful, they could almost charge admission!

I hope you have a great October Autumn, have a safe Halloween and remember to **clip the Valentino’s coupon on page 20, and carry it with you!**

Stephen

This Month’s Writers & Contributors

Devon Adams 13

Angela Allgood, Peru City News section

Stephen Hassler 2,14

Merri Johnson 4

Marty Peregoy Peru City News section

Sheila Tinkham 16

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

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

countryneighbor@windstream.net

www.yourcountryneighbor.com

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Covid in Southeast Nebraska

Stephen Hassler, Peru

The Food and Drug Administration authorized Covid booster shots August 31st and the CDC signed off September 1st! It is the first time the FDA has authorized an updated vaccine formula since the original shots rolled out in December 2020. The tweaked shots made by Pfizer and rival Moderna offer Americans a chance to get the most up-to-date protection at yet another critical period in the pandemic. They’re combination or “bivalent” shots — **half the original vaccine and half protection against the BA.4 and BA.5 omicron versions** now causing nearly all COVID-19 infections. **Covid deaths are still averaging over 400 American deaths daily!** Use caution when and where appropriate. Don’t be shy; wear a mask indoors when among crowds. Get the life-saving vaccine!! **Do not become a statistic!**

“Positive” Cases of Covid-19 in these Southeast Nebraska Counties.

Any date overlap is due to irregular reporting of data.

<u>Date Range</u>	<u>Nemaha</u>	<u>Otoe</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Richardson</u>
09/01 - 09/25	37	17	5	28
09/26 - 09/30	0	0	0	0

To track Covid-19, google; your **county**, your **state**, **covid**.

(example) otoe county, nebraska, covid

Wear an N95 mask per CDC guidelines.

Wash hands often when out in public.



Team Roping



Team Roping



Calf Roping



Autumn is many people's favorite season. What's not to love about visiting the local pumpkin patch, going on a hayrack ride, and feeling a bit of chill in the air?

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Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

I'm a big believer in recycling and repurposing; Hubby, not so much. He is of the opinion that there is plenty of room for more landfills, so trash is not a problem. I think tossing recyclables in the trash should be added to the Seven Deadly Sins, and I'm not even Catholic! Just last week I reclaimed one of those large plastic sheet cake covers from our church kitchen trash can. What a find! That's the equivalent of about 20 clam-shell berry containers. I tell you, that made my day.

Despite Hubby's cavalier attitude toward trash, when we needed to replace our back deck earlier this summer, even he got on board with salvaging as much of the old lumber as possible. We had been toying with the idea of converting part of our vegetable garden space to raised beds, and the lumber would save some expense. We wanted the beds to be high enough to install a ledge all around the top edge so we could sit to plant, weed and harvest. For some reason, our backs and knees are starting to object to stooping and kneeling.

Hubby got right on the task of researching YouTube videos for designs and instructions. If you've done any kind of construction since 2020, you know that material costs are up and availability is down. We found most items at the big box home improvement stores, but galvanized roof flashing for corner supports eluded us. I suggested we check with the metal building company right here in Nemaha County. Hubby was skeptical, but he finally called them. What do you know? They had the material and could fabricate what we needed right away AND at a very reasonable price. Sometimes I make very good suggestions.

With all supplies on hand, Hubby fired up the power tools. Two or three do-overs later, he had produced two handsome 4 x 8 foot raised-bed containers. At 17 inches high, the next task was to fill up the bottom 8 to 10 inches with biodegradable material like branches, old lumber and cardboard. With the number of mature trees on our property – plus all the windy weather we've had this year – accumulating enough branches and twigs was no problem. We tossed on some mulch, several dismantled pallets and a layer of cardboard over the sticks to level the surface a bit before adding soil.

Ah, the soil. Again, Hubby took to YouTube gardening experts for guidance on the proper mix for raised beds.

Diary, continued on page 14 >>>>>



Syracuse High School Rocket Band.
AppleJack Parade, September, 17, 2022



Eagle High School Marching Band, PSC Homecoming Parade



Peru State Football Booster Club, PSC Homecoming Parade



Brownville's Fall Flea Market
Second Day, September 25th, 2022



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Featured Guild Member, Phyllis Masters of Syracuse
Heritage Guild's Quilt Display, Applejack, 2022



Featured Guild Artist, Lois Whitehead of Sydney
Heritage Guild's Quilt Display, Applejack, 2022



Kansas City Car Club visits Brownville, Nebraska, September 10, 2022

John Lokke of Brownville, Nebraska reports that the
Steamboat Trace is now open
for hiking and biking from the Arbor Trailhead,
(approx. 5 miles south of Nebraska City, on OPPD road),
to Brownville. Just in time for Fall!

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A crowd began to gather shortly before the 8:00 A.M. ribbon-cutting at *The Market* in Peru, Nebraska, September 22, 2022.



New in Peru, *The Market*.



Ribbon Cutting, *The Market*, September 22, 2022



Bicycle group unloading at the Peru Depot,
Trailhead of the Steamboat Trace.
September 25th, 2022



On September 7th, Peru State College held its annual kayaking, paddle boarding, fishing, and outdoor education event at Duck Creek. There are plans to further enrich the event with other campus programs, Game and Parks, and the surrounding communities.

The Market – Peru

by Angela Allgood

I asked Lindy and DJ what made them want a store in Peru and they said it was by chance. They said they came down to see the store, but it had already closed. They stated that one of the owners happened to be there so they started talking. Over the course of several weeks they talked about buying the store in Peru and they finally came to an agreement to buy.

Can you believe that was back in November of 2021? The excitement in the air to have a new grocery store had been building. With no store in the little town of Peru, we had to drive either 15 minutes to a small town grocery store or 30 minutes to a big corporate store.

They would have liked to be open sooner, but there were delays about equipment and getting on contractors' schedules.

September 22, 2022 by 7:45 am, there was clearly an air of excitement. A small crowd of locals and PSC students and staff gathered. The anticipation was high. Everyone wanted to know what was behind the wrapped windows. More of a crowd gathered and at 8 am, Deborah Solie spoke briefly, the mayor spoke briefly, and then the scissors went through the ribbon. Everyone clapped and made their way into our new store. It was buzzing with excitement. People loved the fresh produce, the rotisserie chicken, the brightness of the store and the “home grown” aisle.

The opening of the new store was exciting for the entire town of Peru. The community had been without a grocery store for several years. The store opening helps both the community members and the college students and staff. Not only is it bringing in fresh produce and locally branded items, but Lindy and DJ are hiring both PSC students and locals and they are still looking for more help.

Before the store opened, I talked to a few people who were waiting to get the bulk of their groceries at the new store. They were ready for it to open and they were ready to support it. Of course, I forgot eggs so I went down there a couple of nights later, and they were still busy! I saw a friend of mine from Nebraska City in there! She said she wanted to go “check things out.”

Lindy and DJ were excited to unveil the store. Thank you to the Schmidt's for all their sweat, hard work and dedication to bringing The Market to Peru. It is truly a blessing for this community.



Ted Harshbarger is *The Market's* first customer!



Harper, Lindy, Rylan, and D.J.



The new store is well stocked.

Peru Children Purchase Playground Equipment

by Angela Allgood

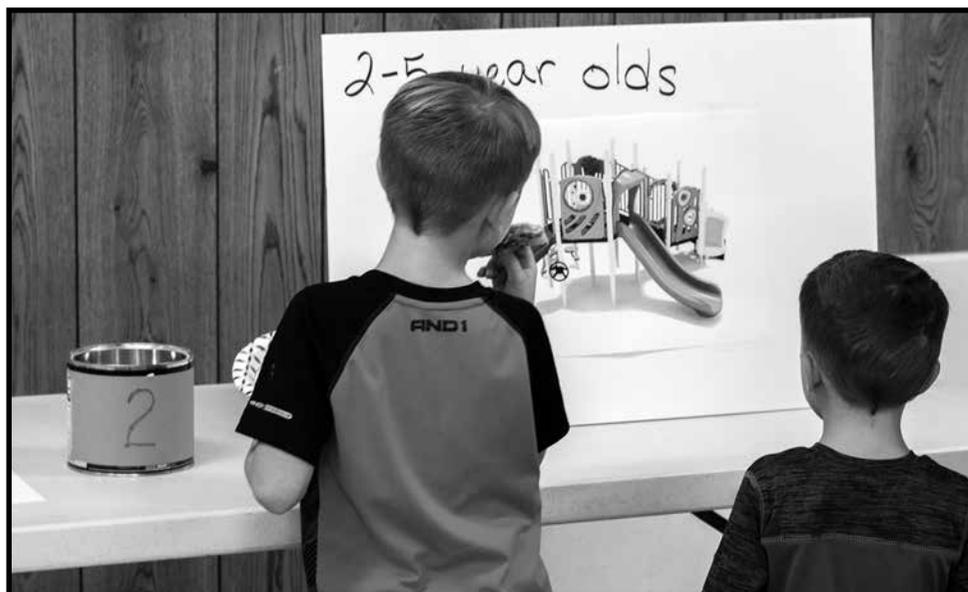
On September 27 at the City Hall, Peru children and parents were invited to look at a few pictures of playground equipment that Commercial Recreation Specialists (CRS) provided. The kids had a great time going around looking at the pictures. They were excited about all the monopoly money they could spend. There were kids there from the age of one to fourteen. Parents, grandparents, and even aunts were there to vote. Mommy to be, Stephanie Boden was there to check things out as well!

Chloe, Cheryl Cotton's granddaughter, was really excited to see all the equipment but she said she really wanted to spend her money on monkey bars. Deborah Solie said she would write down monkey bars and put her money towards them. Then shortly after that, Henry Montanelli said he wanted some too. Patrick Pierce from CRS, said that we could easily add monkey bars if we wanted them! I even got in on the voting. I loved the "Selfie Swirl With Me" and the swing that lets the child and you sit together as you swing. Adi and Olivia Sherman were the oldest kids that came down (12 and 14) and they voted on the regular swings. Everyone, no matter the age, loves the swings. Even college kids have been seen on them!

After all the excitement of spending their "money," the kids grabbed a variety of cookies, cake, and either chocolate or vanilla ice cream. We need to say thank you to The Market – Peru for donating the ice cream as well as a thank you to the Cemetery Auxiliary for the yummy treats!

Deborah Solie stated that the playground would be done in phases and the next step would be to write a grant application, which CRS will help with. The city will also do fundraisers and even ask individuals for private donations. There will be many ways for the community to get involved in getting a new playground.

Look for more details in the PCN in upcoming issues.



Peru kids looked over several equipment options presented.



Some helped little ones understand.



Kids voted on their favorites with monopoly money.

Peru Progress

by Angela Allgood

- The wellhead protection fee was removed from the monthly water bills

- Carstensen Contracting won the bid for placing the pipes for the Water System Improvement. The project should start in November.

- A few people / businesses in Peru would like to get a Chamber of Commerce started. There will be a meeting in October to discuss this plan farther.

- The hydrant along the Avenue has been fixed!

- The hole at 3rd and Nebraska is currently being worked on and should be finished by the time this is printed!

- The City of Peru added two more streets to our 1 & 6 Year Road Plan.

- We have a new Clerk. David Slater from Auburn was hired. (More on that next month)

- The downtown area is going to see some changes soon! Zach Reeves stated that he has a lot of money in the old Shooters Bar. He has spent the money to make the bar into four apartments and he is hoping it will be done in the fall. You will also see new doors on the old gas station as well, and again, it should be done this fall! Zach has other plans and as soon as they work out for him, this reporter will be giving you the scoop.

Peru Plant Exchange is a Growing Tradition

by Marty Peregoy

If you had looked at the pictures of plants posted on Facebook this past month, you would have seen undeniable evidence that the semi-annual Peru plant exchange is a hit with green-thumbed Peruvians. Pictures of Theresa's mother of thousands, Sarah's purple heart, Shelley's cannas, Kelly's snake plant and Pat's aloe vera were everywhere. That is what the plant exchange has done for the community of Peru: it has beautified many yards and homes since it's beginning three years ago.

That was the intention when the exchange was started three years ago – to give Peru a bit of a face lift. Lots of people want to do something to their yards for more curb appeal, but plants are expensive. We have some fantastic gardeners in Peru, and each spring, they were tossing potential curb appeal into their garbage cans as they thinned and pruned their own beds. The plant exchange makes both former and new owners happy. The guilt at tossing “perfectly good plants” is eliminated, and people looking for plants get them for free.

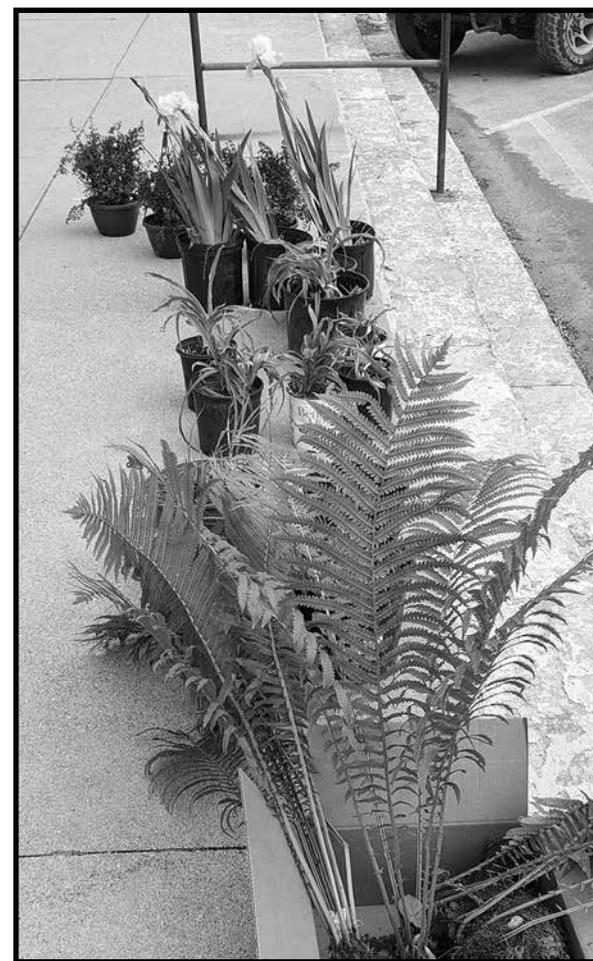
The first year of the exchange, there were about five varieties of perennials and houseplants, and about five people attended. It was at the first exchange that someone came up with the idea of having an exchange in both spring and fall. In years two and three, that is exactly what happened.

At the most recent plant exchange on September 17th – the first one that had to move inside due to rain – over twenty-five different varieties of plants and seeds were brought in, from ground cover to houseplants, annuals to perennials, bare root to potted. Gardeners bring what they have in hopes of going home with something new. It's also an opportunity to get rid of extra gardening pots and summer produce and to gain some good advice

The spring exchange is usually held the weekend following Mother's Day and Peru State College's graduation. The fall exchange is usually just prior to the college's Homecoming, when people are once again thinning their perennial beds and bringing overgrown house plants back inside for the winter.

If there's something you're looking for, I probably know someone who has it, and you don't necessarily need to wait for an exchange. At any given time, true plant lovers will have several things started and looking for a new home.

Nobody has ever been turned away for not having something to exchange. In fact, the last couple of exchanges, all the leftovers have been given to Peru residents who were establishing new garden beds and had given us a wish list.





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There will still be Golden Rod to see in October.

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Trunk-Or-Treat

by Angela Allgood

There is no actual known start date for when the ghost and ghouls got treats from trunks in Peru, NE, but Vanessa Sherman said it was going in 2008 when she joined. Kelsee Sayer and Hope Kieler took over around 2014 and started to grow it into a big event for PCIG and the town.

Ghosts, goblins, princesses and many more have been known to rack in some pretty cool prizes as well. In Halloween's past, their costumes won them prizes that are Halloween themed, such as books, fidgets, Casey's coupons and more. Even the trunks win prizes of gift cards or cash (sometimes both), but best of all ... bragging rights. Kelsee said that they "like to keep our prizes local as much as possible to support our community."

Vanessa stated that when Trunk-Or-Treat first started, they were lucky if it brought in 10 trunks but now, Kelsee says people are so excited about Trunk-or-Treat that they start texting her in July excited to sign up their trunk! Now, Kelsee says anywhere from 200 to 250 people show up and 25 or more vehicles participate.

"Having Trunk-or-Treat gives Peru back its sense of community because adults and children get to gather in one safe place and enjoy a childhood tradition," states Kelsee. Kelsee goes on to say, "Peru isn't very active on Halloween night, so I think this is our prime time Halloween event instead!"

They have a photographer that night to take family photos in costumes for free. This is Kelsee's favorite part because she gets a family photo in costumes, "which can be a challenge!"

Not only do the ghosts and goblins get to raid trunks, but they can dance, play games, etc. Community members and organizations do a free-will donation meal inside City hall as well.

Peru State College has always been involved with Trunk-or-Treating in the dorms, and pictures are taken with the Bobcat at the President's house. This year, PSC plans to add a movie on campus, mini-golf, dorm trick-or-treating, and pictures with Bob at the President's house.

Boo Bash (college event) is October 30th starting at 3:00 pm with mini-golf and a movie. At 4:00 pm, treats in the dorms, and at 5:00 pm Trunk-or-Treat will start in downtown Peru!

Mark your calendars and be on the lookout for fliers / Facebook advertising the howling good time. They will also be putting a call out for trunk volunteers! If you decorate your trunk or just have yummy candy, come on down and have a goulishly great time!

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 reading experience
with your friends and relatives.

Send them this link;
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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 STAR SAPPHIRE SKY

On a brilliant hill,
painted with an
Autumn brush,
winds are quiet.
Busy hooves are
printing tracks on
the dusty path
that winds through
the timber stand.
In the wavy heat
of afternoon, horse
sweat scent drifts.
Leaves have a
crisp dried aroma,
like Autumn cereal.
Saddles squeak
as leather groans
from muscles moving,
as strong bodies
climb hills and
descend into
shadow canyons.
Above it all,
October paints
a gem blue sky
that hides
the diamond
stars of night.

WINTER WHISPERS

The rows of corn speak
in crisp words about the
fading of the greens that
grow until it's time to go.
On a windy day, across
rolling fields the death
rattle of Summer comes
from drouth dry leaves.
Water has been scarce
for too long, and harvest
started early, without the
mud that bogs down huge,
harvest machines. If the
past is a clue, though,
rain will come too late, too
much and too often, and
some crops will be stranded
and out of reach until a
freeze. Winter is coming,
and doesn't care
what we think about it.

P o e t r y

by Devon Adams, Peru

SPOOKY

So, you want to
trick or treat?
Come to my
house for something
good to eat!
I'll put a blindfold
on your eyes,
so you can't
see what I
will serve——
I'll make some
scary sounds,
as you sit all
around my table.
You can stay
seated, if you're
able.
Then, I'll crack
an egg into a
bowl, and have
you reach into
a sack.
When your hand
comes back, you'll
have a snack of
rocks and snails,
some of them
slimy!
Then, if you dare,
you'll stick your
finger in the bowl,
and stir. What could
fill a whole bowl?
Is it raw and rare?
Will you stay
and eat with me?
Or will you run,
and find some fun
anywhere but here?

THE APPLE SCENE

Orchards groan with
the weight of fruit
pulling down the
branches. The still,
hot afternoon is
soaked in apple
scent, as crowds
of seekers come to
see and buy a taste
of Autumn. Inside the
store, shelves are
lined with Apple
this and Apple that,
so that it's hard
not to buy one of
everything, and then
come back for more.
To end a lovely day,
the gold of afternoon
celebrates the sun
by painting the sky
a ribboned celebration
of pinks, purples,
reds and oranges,
exploding in the west,
as travelers drink cider
toasts to evening dusk.

COFFEE COMFORT

How could we
not start
our morning
with a cup?
SO MANY flavors
and brands and
brews and cups
and grinds and
pots and filters!
But it has to be
HOT or things
won't go well
all day.
Life is hard
and then you
die,
but in-between,
so many hours
are soft and
lovely.
Coffee helps
you contemplate
your fate
and savor the
sweet part of
the day!

HOMECOMING

It is a family reunion,
coming from bonds
cemented by college
years, and friends who
stay together, even if
they live far away
from each other.
Walking onto campus
for the first time can
be a nervous twitch
of emotions, fears,
expectations and the
joy of being on your
own and finding wings
to help you soar into
the rest of your life.
Kids who have never
met discover the
truth of being together.
Differences don't matter,
when interests and
ideas meet.
You find brothers and
sisters who are as real
as blood, and who will
walk with you into the
future.

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buckskinz@windstream.net

<<<<< Diary, *continued from page 4*

We have a farmer/cattle feeder friend who graciously gave us a load of composted cattle manure, which we intended to amend with whatever the UNL Extension Agent recommended. But first we needed a soil test of the manure. Hubby was pretty confident that the manure would be super fertile. Boy, was he right. The Nitrate Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium numbers were OFF THE CHARTS. No way you could amend this stuff enough to grow vegetables.

Time for Plan B. The composted manure would become an additive, rather than the base, of our soil. Hubby called in a favor from another farmer friend to acquire actual soil. We'll add in some composted manure, perlite and vermiculite and have a top-notch container garden soil. Plus, we'll have enough manure leftover to fertilize our entire garden for years to come.

By now you may be wondering what all of this raised bed business has cost. I confess that I am not sure I actually want to know precisely how much we spent on this. Suffice it to say, 64 square feet of raised bed garden space will probably never grow enough produce to justify the cost. On the other hand, I'm pretty sure Hubby spends more on golf in a single season that we spent on these beds, which will hopefully last ten years.

Small-scale vegetable gardening is not really about saving money by growing your own food. It's about the joy of planting and watching things grow. And about the satisfaction of harvesting fresh, fully ripened food that tastes so-o-o-o good. And about all the fresh air and sunshine and exercise you get doing all of that. And about sharing the bounty.

The point of the raised beds is to facilitate our ability to keep doing something we enjoy as long as possible.

Sooner or later the wooden frames will rot and be recycled by Mother Nature. I hope someone will repurpose the metal components. But if they end up in the trash, my ghost will haunt that person for a very long time.

**Share this experience with
friends by sending this link;
yourcountryneighbor.com**

“Window” From The Past

Stephen Hassler, Peru

As I look out my window on Fifth Street, it's back-to-school season; school buses, football practice, and when I was in school, cruising around town. The freedom to get in a car and go anywhere I wanted was once just an anxious teenager's dream. Now, whenever I want, I can take my modern car with air conditioning and CD player and tour the rural countryside. This is one freedom I cherish but often take for granted. Before I received my driver's license, I didn't have that freedom of movement.

Before I had a driver's license, travel was viewed from the back-seat of my father's '57 Ford Fairlane. Often, a parent's head would obstruct my view, so I just looked out the side window and watched my world go by about 45 miles an hour. There were the ever-changing fields of grain and grasses; the lavender of blooming alfalfa or the gold of ripening oats. Now and then there would be a train passing by on the tracks that ran parallel to the graveled country road.

As my father steered into town, we connected with the highway and coasted down a hill to the traffic light and the drive-in on the corner. High School kids stood around in small groups with their red and black letter-jackets sipping Coke and Pepsi or Dr. Pepper and munching on hamburgers. Some sat in cars and leaned out of windows in conversation, listening to the latest Bobby Vinton song or the Beach Boys on the radio.

I wanted my red and black jacket letter-jacket. This was a new town, a bigger school, and new friends. I was fifteen and dreamt of going to college, of breaking out of my rural world, and into the real world of NASA missions, the nuclear age, and new cars.

It was 1962. The 60s! But my 60s were not the images I saw on the new color TV in the old Iowa farmhouse where I was painfully trying to grow up. My world was the school bus before dawn ten miles from my homeroom. My world was trying to learn chemistry and geometry, while having to learn English Composition. My world was one of solitude and three wishes; I wished that I were a star on the basketball team, that I were popular enough to go out on Saturday nights with the prettiest girl in school, and that I would get my name in the paper as one of those on the semester honor roll. Those three wishes were never heard by any Genie in my world. And so for me, growing up in the early 60s amounted to getting my homework done and trying not to get beat up.

It helped a lot that I got a car my Senior year. That old '53 Chevy was freedom from school buses, and freedom to go see friends if the urge came up. It was independence and image; it added a new dimension to my life. Occasionally, during lunch break, I would drive a few friends around town; me, showing off my wheels, and they, going for a “joy ride.” And if we saw friends doing the same, an exchange of horn honks was not only a greeting, it was like saying, “How about this? This is living!”

So when you look out your window on your street, try not to shake your head in disgust at those teenagers who might seem a bit noisy. Not all of them are popular or athletic, and few are geniuses. But they are all struggling to fit into a world so much bigger than they are. They are trying their wings. They are exploring freedoms withheld from them while they were children. They are beginning to experience what you and I take for granted; freedom is fun!

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I didn't see much during my visit to the wildlife refuge this month, but I did catch this Goldfinch snacking on Canada Thistle seed.

This Halloween Watch Out For Trick-or-Treaters



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October
Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

Boo to you!
I scare September
And now I am here
Ready to trick or treat you into Fall
Wile away October with me
Watch the colored leaves fall
And immerse yourself in the cool breezes of Fall
Wear your costumes
Dunk for apples
Go for haunted pumpkin fields
And pick your pumpkin prize
And ride the hay bale rides
Eat pie with ice cream a la mode
And thank God each day to be born in this amazing place, the USA.



Peru State College Football

PSC vs Baker, Win! 19-14

PSC vs Evangel Loss 0-28





Peru State College Volleyball



PSC vs Evangel, Loss 0-3

PSC vs Culver-Stockton, Win 3-2



PSC vs Evangel



PSC vs Evangel

Peru State College News

Renita “Toni” Closner takes over Bobcat Softball Program

The Peru State athletic department recently announced the hiring of Renita “Toni” Closner to head the Bobcat softball program.

Closner is a Peru State alum where she attended the college from 2011-2015 and where she played softball under the late head coach Mark Mathews. Closner collected a plethora of accolades in her time as a Bobcat.

She coached summer softball for Nebraska Gold. She was the assistant coach at Lincoln North Star from 2017-2020. Then from 2020-2022 she was the head coach at Lincoln Southeast leading the Knights to a district championship in 2020, taking the team to the state tournament in her first season finishing in fifth, and was named “Female Coach of the Year” in 2020-21.

Said Closner, “I am very blessed and excited to be back in Peru to lead a program that is dear to my heart. I truly enjoyed my experience at PSC and learning what it meant to be BOBCAT PROUD.”

Garrison Dodge Honored

Allstate AFCA Good Works Team®

Allstate and the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA) announced the final roster for the 31st Allstate AFCA Good Works Team®, recognizing 22 college football student-athletes and an honorary head coach for outstanding contributions to their communities.

Among those being honored is Peru State College **Bobcat Garrison Dodge** (Oakland). Dodge, a senior wide receiver, is one of only two NAIA players selected for the honor. It is a rarity for the NAIA to have a selection out of nearly 100,000 university or collegiate football players across the country. Dodge is the only player from Nebraska named to the list.

Only one other Peru State football player has ever been selected for this honor. Five years ago, **Gunnar Orcutt** (now Dr. Orcutt) of Omaha became the first Bobcat to be recognized.

“I’m humbled by the honor and by being in such great company as the other football players recognized as part of the 2022 Allstate AFCA Good Works Team.”

Team officials from across the country nominated players from their schools for the prestigious award, looking for players that demonstrated exceptional leadership on and off the football field.

Fells, Joys To Lead Peru State ROAR Campaign; Hansons Return to Assist

To achieve the goal of completing its largest fund drive in history, Peru State College and the PSC Foundation knew they needed a special leadership team, one with deep, wide and lengthy ties to Nebraska’s first college.

In co-chairs Jerry (Class of 1964) and Christina (Banks ’88) Joy of Stella, NE and Paul (’67) and Arlene (Borchert ’67) Fell of Lincoln, NE, Peru State has done just that, Foundation Chair Jeff Greenwald (’71) of Lincoln announced.

Previous President Dr. Dan Hanson and former First Lady Elaine Hanson of West Des Moines, Iowa have agreed to return and assist with the campaign as consultants, Greenwald said.

PSC President Dr. Evans noted that Peru State is tasked with raising \$4 million of the \$14.6 million cost of the five-building Project ROAR. The need is urgent to keep it on schedule, with a target date for ground breaking next Spring.

The Fells and the Joys are all alumni and former faculty/staff members at Peru State, and have remained engaged with their alma mater throughout their adult lives. Jerry Joy was a longtime football coach, athletics director and administrator at the college; Chris Joy ran the college bookstore for a number of years. Paul Fell was an art professor and Arlene Fell taught home/consumer economics at Peru State from 1974-84. Later they were longtime co-Presidents of PSC’s National Alumni Association.

PSC President Michael Evans said, “Between the four of them, they know so many alumni and friends of Peru State, and have been involved with the college for a significant amount of time. Those networks, their familiarity with the College and their track records of support make them the perfect people to stress the importance of supporting our project. Dan and Elaine are well loved by so many, and it will be wonderful to have them with me when I go out to meet some of our most important and loyal donors.”

Dr. Dan Hanson was PSC president for 12 highly productive years, supported every step of the way by Elaine, before their retirement in 2021. They, as much as anyone, know the importance of Project ROAR to the vitality of Peru State and its student body.

Anyone with questions about Project ROAR or ways to support it can contact Ted Harshbarger (’77) at the Peru State College Foundation. Email him at; tharshbarger@peru.edu, or call (402) 872-2304 weekdays.

3rd Annual Giving Day for PSC Oct. 19-20, 2022

To celebrate the College’s 155th birthday of the first day of school at Peru State, the College and its Foundation is hosting its third annual “Peru State College Giving Day” on Thursday, Oct. 21. Peru State’s first day of school was Oct. 24, 1867.

“The #PeruState155 Giving Day will be a day to celebrate the Bobcat family through volunteerism and philanthropy on October 19 and 20, 2022. The 24-hour online fundraising and volunteer event for Peru State will bring together students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends to promote the College and through philanthropy will grant opportunities for the next generation of Bobcats.” The goal for the day is to have 155 different donors and 155 different volunteers during #PeruState155 Giving Day.

Funds generated during the Giving Day will be used primarily in four specific areas which include; Project ROAR, Greatest Needs, Bobcat SOS, and What You Love.

A very generous donor is offering to contribute \$25,000 if the Giving Day raises that amount or more during the 24 hour period.

Mark October 19-20 on your calendar and join the Giving Day movement by supporting your favorite Peru State cause. It is more than just a day. It is a movement designed to inspire and unite the Bobcat family to give to the institution they love.

“When Bobcats join together, they make a mighty roar,” said Harshbarger. “This collaborative day of giving amplifies the impact donors can make for Peru State. We hope to recruit members of the Bobcat family to volunteer to serve as Bobcat Ambassadors and help promote the day of giving to friends, colleagues, and family.”

How do I sign up? Just contact the Foundation at (402) 872-2304 or email your willingness to help at pscfoundation@peru.edu. We will send you information on how you can assist us in the #PeruState155 Giving Day!

For more information on the Giving Day and/or to give, please go to:

<https://givingday.peru.edu>
Find. Some. Way. To. Give. On.
October. 19-20. 2022!

October 2022 Your Country Neighbor 19



SEPTEMBER

9	Evangel Univ.	Peru, NE	6:00p.m.
16	Clarke Univ.	Peru, NE	7:00p.m.
17	Mount Mercy Univ.	Peru, NE	9:30a.m.
30	Culver Stockton Univ.	Peru, NE	7:00p.m.

OCTOBER

4	William Penn Univ.	Peru, NE	7:00p.m.
21	Park Univ.	Peru, NE	7:00p.m.
22	MidAmerica Nazarene Univ.	Peru, NE	9:30a.m.

NOVEMBER

1	Graceland Univ.	Peru, NE	7:30p.m.
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CIVIL WAR REENACTMENTS

Saturday, October 8th, 2022

10:00AM- 2:00PM Museums Open around town

10:30 Street Battle by Fremont Pathfinders

12:00 -1:30 Chicken & Biscuit Lunch

AFTERNOON TROLLEY & BUGGY RIDES

2:30 Battle by Fremont Pathfinders

3:00 Sightseeing Cruise on Spirit of Brownville

5:00 Roundhouse Bluegrass

6:00 Fish Fry & Beer Garden at Brownville Market

Sunday, October 9th, 2022

10:00AM-2:00PM Museums Open

10:00 Services at Brownville Methodist Church

11: 00 Services at Brownville Christian Church

12:30 REENACTORS PARADE ON MAIN ST.

AFTERNOON TROLLEY & BUGGY RIDES

1:30 Battle by Fremont Pathfinders

2:00-4:00 Museums open around town

3:00 Sightseeing Cruise on the Spirit of Brownville

www.brownvillehistoricalsociety.org
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