



Lourdes Central vs Sacred Heart

Just a weed to some, but an uncommon wildflower; see page 3.

Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha to sweeten your coffee break.

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

A Magazine for Small Towns & Rural America

Cases “tested positive” for Covid-19 in our “Country Neighborhood.”

Source; Nebraska Department of Health

Date	Nemaha	Otoe	Johnson	Richardson
August 7	25	44	13	21
August 15	35	63	14	27
August 22	59	86	21	28
August 29	77	112	23	33

This table shows that these southeast Nebraska counties increased in Covid-19 cases through the month of August. Next month’s data, if available, will be presented here. Info regarding counties bordering SE Nebraska is on page 2.

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Your Country Neighbor

Voices and Views From the Valleys of the Nemaha

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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

September Writers

Devon Adams - 7

Stephen Hassler - 6

Merri Johnson - 2

Dorothy Rieke - 5

Janet Sobczyk - 11 & 12

Thank You!

Your Country Neighbor
can be found online at;
yourcountryneighbor.com

Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

Summer is waning. What have you not done yet that you once had hopes of achieving before fall? Cancelled plans due to Covid-19 don't count. This is about procrastination, forgetfulness, poor planning, uncooperative weather – the usual things that get in the way.

I'll go first. I really meant to get after the half of the south wall in our garage that has never been painted. Primed, yes, but not painted.

It's been 12 years.

That fact is both incriminating and justifying. After so long, you just don't notice anymore. Still, I would feel better about the garage if that wall was all one color. In the big scheme of improving the looks of the garage, however, half a wall of paint isn't going to make much difference.

Every time I say something about the mess that is our garage, Hubby shrugs it off. “It's just a garage.”

Just an attached garage, not a shed. Fully insulated. Dry-walled on walls and ceiling. With epoxy floor paint. We actually intended it to be a space that would not be an embarrassment.

Continued on page 10 >>>>>

Covid Cases In Counties Bordering Nebraska

Source: Google Search; County, State Covid Cases

Date	Kansas		Missouri		Iowa
	Brown	Nemaha	Atchison	Holt	Fremont
Aug 8	42	48	14	8	--
Aug 15	47	50	19	41	--
Aug 22	52	53	21	50	52
Aug 29	68	55	25	58	57



Swamp Milkweed (Rose Milkweed)
 “Zooming out” of the image on the cover page.
 Another view on page 5.



Creeping Wood Sorrel
 Its leaves look like shamrocks..



American Bellflower
 Other than the sky, blue is an uncommon color in nature.

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My Cardinal appears to be molting; not his best look. That's a sunflower seed in his beak, taken from the feeder.



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White Egret hunting frogs near Rock Port.

Memories: Windows To The Past

Dorothy Rieke

Do you recall Bob Hope's theme song, "Thanks for the Memories?" The lyrics of that tune dealt with a lost love. However, the words of that title make sense to me in a very different way.

Memories, faculties of the brain that record and store events and knowledge, help us manage times past, enhance present time, and provide continuity as well as meaning for the future.

Our memories affect our personalities by defining who we are. For example, we are influenced by the people we have met, the mistakes we have made, the conversations we have had, events of our early years, and other experiences.

Fortunately, some unpleasant memories, emotionally arousing, are short-lived and too painful to recall. These bad memories often bring stress to our daily life. Luckily, our good memories often override the bad bringing the joy of remembrance.

Our memories bring recognition of our past experiences. These experiences influence the way we act and react. We often recall certain ways that led to fulfillment laying foundations for the future.

Memories, making us aware of the changes which influence our lives, provide us with recollections of the good times in our lives. They bring us out of depression, allow us to recall fondly that we love others, and permit us to keep memories of those who have passed on.

In fact, memories are good for reminiscing. Recalling past pleasant happenings, achievements, and successes bring a sense of well-being and happiness. In other words, good memories "jumpstart our minds," giving us the unique pleasure of recalling. Those special happy memories also benefit our physical and mental health, reducing stress and assisting in making good choices.

When we meet past acquaintances, we use our memories to resurrect past-day events. We not only recall those persons, but we manage to recall their personalities, their roles in our lives, and the pleasure of their association.

Having taught school for many years, I often have had the pleasure of someone saying, "You taught me in school." That person introduces himself or herself and often relates some past classroom incident. What a joy that is to see my students and recall the pleasures of our association!

Because I respected and cared for each of my students, I believe we forged pleasing relationships. Some students did not excel in my English classes, but I realized and treasured the diverse talents in each of my students.

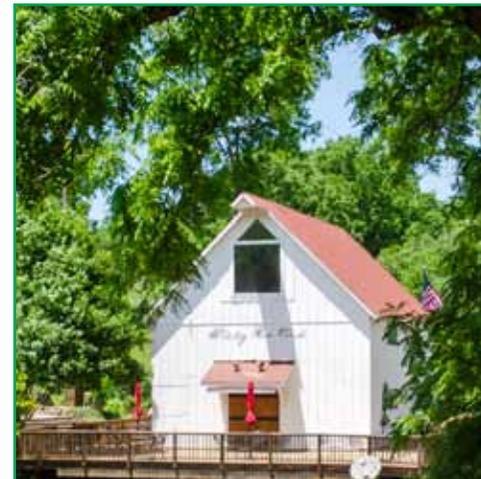
Memories do play a huge role in our everyday lives. They are what we are, they influence our decisions, they are responsible for our actions, and they dictate loving as we love. Once we act, that action simply becomes a part of our individual history, a memory which can be recalled, appreciated, and cherished.

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Swamp Milkweed (Rose Milkweed)

It reminds me of a rose, so I prefer the second name, but since it prefers a wetland location, *Swamp Milkweed* is appropriate. This milkweed species is not invasive.

This September



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Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Childhood memories of mine include the family farm; picking mulberries in June and green apples in August, fishing in the fish-less creek, playing fetch with my dog, my mother feeding the chickens, tending the garden, and hanging laundry on the clothesline in the back yard.

It was a “traditional farm” including an orchard with Cherry trees, Apple trees, and Mulberry trees. Around the house there were lilacs, roses and peonies. There was a windmill, barn, milk shed, corncrib, hog shed, chicken house, and outhouse.

My father didn't care about the stately evergreens framing the east entrance of the house or the poenies and rose bush flanking the porch. He fenced off that area from the driveway and so access was limited. An extension of the yard northward, however, provided space for the clothesline and a garden.

So name-wise, our “yards” were reversed from what is conventional. We referred to the front yard as the back yard because it didn't get as much use as the other side of the house, where the door to the kitchen (back door), led to the milk shed, the barn, and the chicken house. This was the entrance and exit that got all the screen door slamming in summertime that annoyed my Mother, “Don't let the flies in!” (With animal pens within 200 feet, flies were part of life in Summer.) Outside that door was a small lilac tree, very fragrant in the late Spring, as was the bridal wreath bush nearby. Next to it was the potato cellar whose door was not a very good “slide,” and whose damp steps during a thunder storm were not welcome seating.

The east entrance to our Sears “kit” house was seldom used because the living room area was assigned as my parent's bedroom, and not a thoroughfare in and out of the house. The “other front door” got almost as much use as the kitchen door. This entrance to the south led to the family car; shopping, school, and church. Off our parents' room was the real downstairs bedroom, which each of three siblings occupied at one time or another, two together or all three in one bed until I was old enough to move upstairs.

The “upstairs” was three sections in a T-shape; two ends were connected by a wide hallway. A closet opened on one side of that hall, its sloping ceiling matching the slope of the east roof. Just opposite the closet was a door to the bottom of the T, my room. Not just a bedroom, but a place to listen to my radio and dream dreams that a teenager dreams; girls, cars, and space travel. But not imagined were dreams of days when an older man might dream backward to his days of youth, not comparing which side of life was better, but knowing each were “book-ends” to a life undreamed of, and in between, a window on Fifth Street.

P O E t r y

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OLD FLAMES

On the sweet spring breeze was a hint of old memories, a faint scent of smoky debris. No billows of distant flames were climbing into the sky. It was a mystery, but the air was carrying clues that spoke of an old house, a long-time resident of the village. Perhaps the passage of time had claimed another home that had lived past it's prime. And that was true, as I learned later, when driving past the address of the fire. Only ashes and bricks and metal skeletons of furniture and appliances were left to mark the site. The grand old lady was gone now, her shade trees singed and damaged by the flames. The family ghosts were camping out in the rubble, but no one knew they were there.

AUTUMN WINE

It's time for the wine of autumn to be cherished as the distilled remains of another season of life. Deep in the color of the lovely liquid are thoughts of summer splendor and the memories we'll keep forever. From sunbaked days that were briefly perfect, to days of rain that made the season green, we have woven another tapestry to hang on the wall in our halls of yesterday. Celebrate the change of season and hail the fall to come!

THE RIVER REMAINS

There it is, slithering like a snake, in the valley between the blue bluffs, the Muddy Mo, star actor in so many floods. For many, many years, water from the western mountains has found it's way down the slopes and out across the plains, calling all the tributaries to join the journey to the sea. The water wins in every test of man and nature, and the ghosts of dreams are all that's left of homesteads, barns and business buildings built and lost because the Mo was here first and she remains the last in this place. So she will be for all the years of her life.

CIRCLE OF LIFE

When I think of time, I see a circle of seasons that have no beginning and no end. The dance around our sun is exactly set, as if an unseen watchmaker has used his precision tools to craft the finest clock that ticks forever (or until the sun explodes). Like a delicate ballerina, earth spins and tilts across the deep black stage of space. Each of us is allowed to travel for awhile on this round blue ship sailing in a sea of eternity. We never know when or how we'll reach our final port, but the journey itself is the ultimate destination.

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RAIN LIGHT

Summer shimmer flashes as shiny leaves dance in the breeze of a storm. Storm clouds roll across, like a dark shade pulled over a window, until day is almost night, and color becomes shades of gray. Fury is fast though, and it runs away. Slanting sun from the dying day cracks open the clouds and catches the wall of rain going east. Instantly, a rainbow arches across the sky. Golden light suffuses the scene, reflecting off low, left-over clouds, transforming evening into an ethereal reality that is gone as soon as the sun falls under the horizon.

COUNTRY SHADE

Driving down a city street lined with trees that bend over the sidewalk is a relief from the steamy heat bouncing up off the cement. It can't compare, though, to the protected yards just a few blocks away, where grass is cool under over-hanging branches of mature trees. Children play tag with dancing polkadots of sunshine as they grow swiftly from babies to teens. But it is the kids in the country who have a mirror into heaven, as they roam wild through fields filled with critters sharing the space that goes on forever, with no neighbors, or cars, or cement. After a dip in a cool creek, they flop down in the shade of a giant oak or cottonwood and enjoy the country peace that is theirs.



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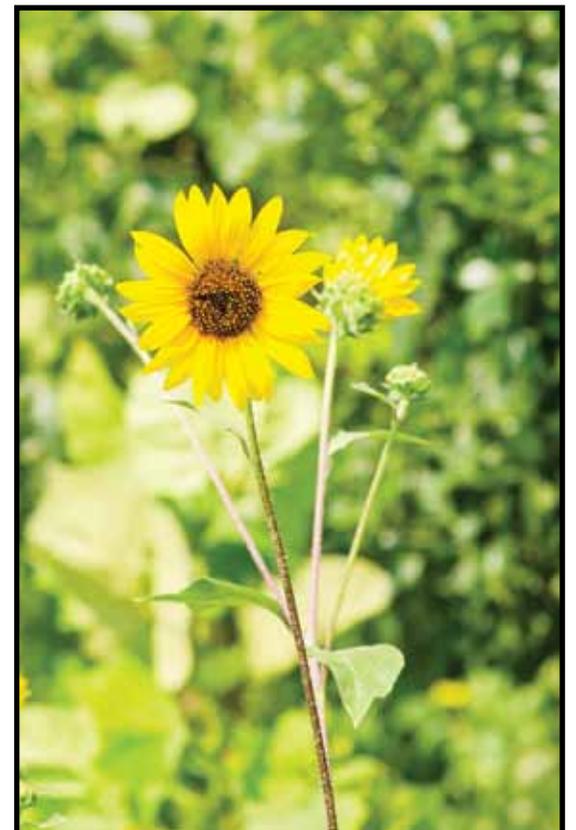
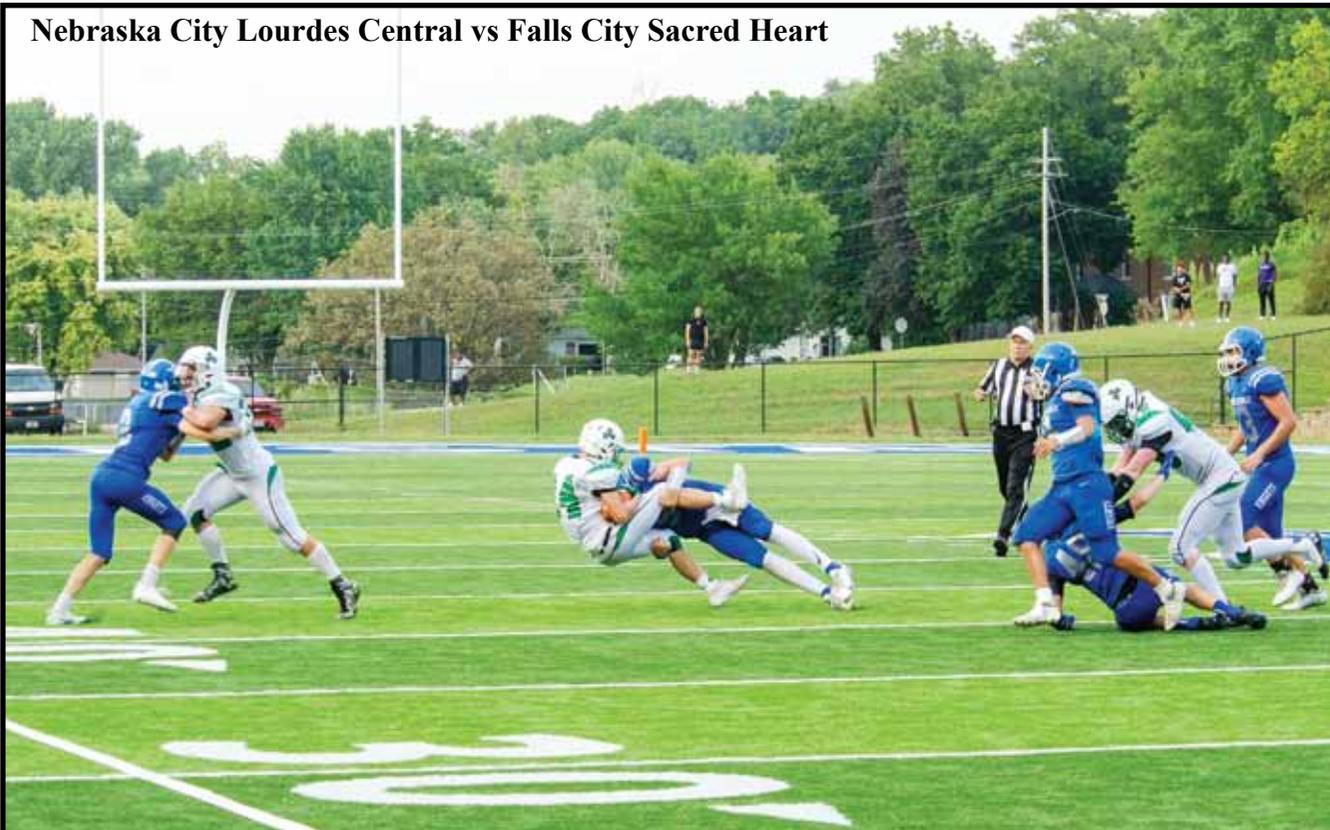


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(A) '10 JD X320, 48" deck, 126 hrs, hydro.....	\$2,150
(S) '96 JD 345, 54" deck, 1374 hrs, hydro.....	\$2,400
(S) '18 JD X380, 48" deck, 39 hrs, hydro.....	\$3,500
(A) '03 JD X485, 62" deck, 820 hrs, hydro.....	\$4,460
(S) '16 JD X3590, 54" deck, 463 hrs, hydro.....	\$4,910
(A) '15 Snapper NXT2242, 42" deck, 22hp.....	\$910
(S) '18 Hustler Raptor SD26, 60" deck, 157 hrs, 26hp.....	\$3,550
(S) '05 JD 1445 4wd, 60" rear discharge.....	\$7,555
(S) '17 JD X390, 117 hrs, 54" deck, pwr deck lift, pwr steering.....	\$4,480
(S) '13 JD 997, commercial zero turn, diesel, 72" deck, 2530 hrs.....	\$7,800
(S) '14 JD Z930R, 1094.5 hrs, 54" MOD deck, sus seat.....	\$6,200

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Nebraska City Lourdes Central vs Falls City Sacred Heart



Common Sunflower

Humboldt Listing



72035 637 Avenue, Humboldt \$175,000

All the charm of a country cottage, with so much more! 2398 square foot unique floor plan and plenty of yard space, lofted dairy or horse barn, two story 2-car detached garage. Three bedrooms, three baths. Seller has listed with 10 acres, but will adjust to buyers wants/needs. Potential to purchase full 160 acres - currently bulk of area is pasture ground with several ponds.

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1023 5th St., Peru \$75,000
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905 O St., Auburn \$110,000
3 bedrooms, 1 3/4 bath, ALL fresh paint/carpet, New Roof.



508 Nebraska St., Peru \$65,000
Three 2 bedroom apartments, with potential for 4th apartment. Fully occupied at present.



208 California St., Peru \$175,000
2 bedrms upstairs, Master suite w/ jetted tub & corner shower. Bs-mnt 90% finished w/fam room



1100 Central Avenue \$130,000
Corner lot with Hwy frontage. Bldg size; 3150 sq ft. Lot size; 10,224 sq ft.



1213 3rd St., Peru \$45,000
3 bedroom, 1.0 bath, 1768 sq ft single family home with full basement. Approx. .26 acre lot.



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<<<<<< Merri's Diary, Continued from page 2

But, like I said, the wall paint is minor. The real eye-sores are the mis-matched shelving units.

When we built this house, Hubby installed a work-bench that had been in the basement of our previous house. I think it originally came out of a farm machine shop. It's built of unfinished lumber, unless you count decades of grime build-up as "finish." A grinder and a vise are mounted on the bench, so it is really not very usable for anything else, except accumulating small items that belong somewhere else. Above the bench is a piece of peg board with various items mounted more or less willy-nilly: strands of rusty wire, a trouble light, a heat lamp, a small fan, several small hand tools, and not a few really BIG wrenches and other tools Hubby will likely never use.

At a right angle to the bench sit a pair of metal open-shelf units like you see in an auto parts store. Except in an auto parts store, the items are grouped in neat rows and in some kind of logical fashion. We have boxes of drop cloths, coolers, buckets of ice melt, gallons of windshield washer fluid, small boxes of golf balls, at least two dozen partial cans of paint, bags of charcoal, grass seed. I could go on, but you get the picture, and it isn't pretty.

Then there are the two enclosed cabinets that hold gardening supplies, out-of-season yard art, bird seed, potting mix, etc., etc. Add to the assortment of overflowing shelving all the items too big to fit on a shelf, plus the racks of garden tools hung on the walls, and you have a perfect storm of clutter!!

Oh, how I long for one of those garage organizer professionals to rescue me from this jumble of stuff.

I have to admit that in terms of summer chores, I have failed to tackle the big one. But I did finally get my windows washed, so I feel good about that!

And who knows, if Covid-19 closures keep us home this winter, I may get that garage wall painted after all.

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Back To School After Covid

Janet Sobczyk, © 2020, Omaha

It took courage
to step in those doors on August 10th
the doors we last walked through on March 16th
stunned, struggling to understand
all our plans evaporated
in the wake of a mystery illness
striking randomly
like an enemy submarine taking out our country's fleet
stealthily, swiftly, inciting mass fear.

One survivor said on the phone
"My family got Covid,
I don't know if I'll ever be brave enough to teach again."
Another teacher texted,
"I quit after getting Covid,
I'm praying for you as you return to school."
Grateful for her prayers
I think, with hope, "they survived!"
against the odds, both were most vulnerable.

And so did the woman
I feared wouldn't make it
the first documented case in Nebraska
played basketball at Special Olympics
against my daughter's team
so friendly, talking smack, smiling
we ate lunch with her
only God knew she'd soon be
in critical care for weeks.

She was vulnerable
so is my daughter
and my spouse, and me, scared
wanting to stay home in a safe bubble
venturing out for weekly supplies
content to work remotely,
study online, video chat
walk the dog, do yardwork
as sunshine beckons.

Now summer recedes, duty calls
ignore the statistics and news
gather strength for a new journey
re-enter a school familiar
but profoundly changed
interact with people in person again
anxiety's high
but there's comfort, too
a team working for a good cause.

August 17th, it's showtime!
the stage is set, protocols in place
to welcome brave students
with bright eyes and masked smiles
wanting to hug, holding back
they line up at arms' length
thrilled to see friends again
but nervous knowing the danger
one pukes and goes home.

The day is filled with teaching
routines, new rules, not much math
sanitizing, washing hands
taking temps three times a day
sanitizing, washing hands
the students tire, barely speak
teachers talk all day behind masks
feel claustrophobic, dehydrated
everyone goes home exhausted.

The week flies by
students stagger in, not used to early rising
one quarantined Zooms
his face on iPad carried from class to class
strange, but our new normal
Wednesday feels like it should be the weekend
we keep calm, carry on
by Friday we all heave a sigh of relief
we made it through the first week!



Photo by Janet Sobczyk

6 a.m.. Feeding

Janet Sobczyk, © 2020, Omaha

Pale pink sky

low clouds

rustle of wings

sharp eyes spy seeds

sharp beak defends

squabbles rebuff

push off

flutter back

crowd 'round

until...

only shells left.



Peru State football practice in the Oak Bowl.
First 'Home' Game will be September 19th, at 6:00 P.M.



PSC quarterback and receivers look good to my untrained eye.



Nebraska City Lourdes Central vs Falls City Sacred Heart



2020 Peru State College Athletics



Thirty-Six Peru State Student-Athletes on President's List

Recently Peru State announced its President's List for the spring 2020 semester.

Out of the 190 students earning a perfect 4.0 GPA, 36 were student-athletes – one of which was a dual sport athletes. There was at least one student-athlete from each of the nine sports on the President's List.

To make the President's List, students must have posted a grade point average of 4.0 for the semester, completed at least 12 graded credit hours during the spring semester, have no incomplete grades for the semester, and be seeking their first degree. Seven members of the Bobcat women's basketball and volleyball teams earned the President's List recognition. Six Bobcat men's basketball and football players had perfect 4.0 GPAs for the semester.

It should be noted that all accomplished this feat while learning remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The rest of the students earning recognition were on the Dean's List in which they had to have a semester GPA between 3.50 and 3.99. There will be a separate release noting the student-athletes honored on that list.

The student-athletes, their hometowns, and majors being recognized on the first President's List are identified as follows:

VOLLEYBALL

Cheyenne Birkle (Holden, MO) – K-12 Health and Physical Education and K-12 Special Education

Sarah Brown (Seward) – Early Childhood Educ Incl B-3

Alexis Cox (Brighton, CO) – Pre-Radiation Science Tech

Claire Cudney (Marysville, KS) – Early Childhood Educ Incl B-3

Darlene Holguin Quinonez (Anthony, NM) – Management and Marketing

Dawson Sharman (Sidney) – Management

Arianna Waschkowski (Bellevue) – Elementary Education

GOLF

Vivian Brown (Wichita, KS) – Early Childhood Educ Incl B-3

Taylor Finke (Battle Creek) – Language Arts Teaching

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Adreal Bell (Independence, MO) – Elementary Education

Claire Cudney (Marysville, KS) – Early Childhood Educ Incl B-3

Addison Gyhra (Auburn) – Elementary Education

Madison McPhillips (Omaha) – Psychology

Julie Miller (Lansing, KS) – Elementary Education

Anjanea Simms (Saint Louis, MO.) – Criminal Justice – Counseling

Sarah Zule (Leavenworth, KS) – Psychology

CROSS COUNTRY

Brealynn Wattier (Raymond) – English

Julia Zurek (Louisville) – Kinesiology

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Mitchell Blum (Papillion) – Management

Cade Connell (Arnold) – Management

Logan Jasa (Sterling) – Management

Ante Martinac (Zagreb, Croatia) – Management

Isaac Simpson (Papillion) – Elementary Education

Drew Switzer (Casper, WY) – Marketing

SOFTBALL

Emily Deaton (Williamson, WV) – K-12 Special Education

CHEERLEADING

Shea Kinnison (Nebraska City) – Psychology

Destiny Maguire (Greenwood) – Marketing

Cassandra Seckel (Columbus) – Elementary Ed. & K-12 Special Ed.

BASEBALL
 Julian Fernandez (Middle Village, N.Y.) – Criminal Justice – Administration
 Felix Rodriguez (Carolina, P.R.) – Accounting/CPA and Human Resources/Risk Management
 Joshua Santiago (Carolina, P.R.) – Accounting/CPA

FOOTBALL
 Luke Dalley (Shenandoah, Iowa) – Kinesiology
 Bryson Duncan (Hamburg, Iowa) - Management
 Noah Kasbohm (Nebraska City) – Biochemical Science
 Austin Rosas (Red Bluff, Calif.) – Psychology
 Dylan Sales (Omaha) – Accounting/CPA and Management
 Brady Stephens (Council Bluffs, Iowa) - Kinesiology

In addition, Brandon Sullivan (Allen) earned the President's List honor. Sullivan was a student coach for the women's basketball team. Zurek was perfect through eight semesters while Quinonez Holguin was perfect through six semesters after transferring to Peru State. Switzer, also a transfer, was perfect through three semesters. From the football team, Duncan is perfect through four semesters. The 36 student-athletes honored make up nearly 19% of the total 190 recognized on the President's List. It should be noted that many other former student-athletes who are completing their degrees also had perfect semester grade point averages.



Peru State Phi Beta Lambda Chapter Brings Home 10 National Trophies



The Peru State Phi Beta Lambda chapter brought home 15 national awards including 10 top ten trophies. Of the 14 students representing Peru State, nine placed in the top ten.

This year's National Leadership Experience Conference took place online from June 24 to 26. These highly competitive students from all over the United States took part in 60 different business and business-related events. In order to make it to the national conference, participants must first receive a first, second, or third in their event at the state level.

Second Place – Kelsi Leininger (Shenandoah, Iowa – Organizational Behavior & Leadership)

Organizational Behavior & Leadership is a 60-minute test administered during the NLC. This event recognizes PBL members who are familiar with organizational behaviors and leadership competencies that affect organizations. Objective Test Competencies: Conceptual and Problem-Solving Skills; Organizational Strategy and Corporate Culture; Leadership Traits and Characteristics; Motivational Theories and Practices; Individual and Group Behavior in Organizations; Power and Influence; Organizational Communication; Teamwork; Organizational Ethics and Social Responsibility; Global Perspectives in Organizations; Multicultural and Gender Perspectives in Leaders and Organizations

Second Place – Rozlyn Cole (Wymore, Neb.) & Diego Korol from York College – Business Sustainability

The Business Sustainability event recognizes PBL members who possess familiarity with the triple bottom line: a process companies use to manage financial, social, and environmental risks, obligations and opportunities— sometimes referred to as profits, people, and planet. This event also represents resiliency over time—businesses survive shocks when they are intimately connected to healthy economic, social, and environmental systems creating economic value and contribute to healthy ecosystems and strong communities.

Third Place – Rozlyn Cole (Wymore, Neb.) – Future Business Executive

This event recognizes PBL members who have demonstrated leadership qualities and evidence of knowledge and skills essential for successful careers in business. A 60-minute objective test of competencies included the topics of Management; Accounting; Business Law; Economics; Finance; Marketing; Technology Concepts; Organizational Behavior & Leadership; Business Strategy; Communication Techniques; and Global Business. The competition also required submission of a cover letter and resume before participating in multiple job interviews.

Fourth Place – Tyler Harms (Falls City, Neb.) & Noah Wynn (Auburn, Neb.) – Business Decision Making

This event recognizes PBL members who develop competency in management, decision making, and leadership quality, and who demonstrate knowledge of these key principles. It involved two parts; an objective test and interactive role play or presentation. A 60-minute objective test will be administered onsite at the NLC. Team competitors will take one (1) objective test collaboratively. Objective Test Competencies: Business Plans; Ethics & Social Responsibility; Financial Management; Government Regulations; Human Resource Management; Legal Issues; Marketing Management; Principles of Business Ownership and Management; Taxation

Fourth Place – Nancy Ramirez (Tecumseh, Neb.) – Cyber Security

This event recognizes PBL members who understand security needs for technology. With the increased use of the Internet for browsing, researching, information gathering, and e-commerce, information and cyber security has become a growing concern for businesses throughout our global economy. It encompasses a 60-minute test administered during the NLC. Objective Test Competencies: Defend and Attack (virus, spam, spyware, Trojans, hijackers, worms); Network Security; Email Security; Intrusion Detection; Public Key; Authentication; Disaster Recovery; Physical Security; Cryptography; Forensics Security; Cyber Security Policy

Fourth Place – Rozelyn Cole (Wymore, Neb.) – Local Chapter Annual Business Report

The Hamden L. Forkner Award recognizes PBL chapters that effectively summarize their year's activities. The event provides participants with valuable experience in preparing annual business reports. The report included the chapter's annual program of work. The report described activities of the chapter that were conducted between the start of the previous State Leadership Conference and the current State Leadership Conference.

Sixth Place – Tory Lamkins (Union, Neb.) – Hospitality Management

Hospitality is an important aspect of business and society. This area includes involvement in the hotel, restaurant, and tourism industry. A 60-minute objective test of competencies included Current Industry Trends; Customer Expectations; Environmental and Global Issues; Financial Management and Budgeting; Human Resources; Legal Issues; Marketing Concepts; and Operations and Management Functions. Competitors also completed an interactive role play situation that included financial management, operations, human resources, customer expectations, legal, environmental issues, etc.

Sixth Place – Kayla Myers (Sidney, Iowa) – Future Business Educator

The Future Business Educator competition required material submission at the conference, a preliminary interview, and a final interview. This year participants created a unit plan for a high school economics course. The plan included a pre-assessment, assessments, activities, and other ancillary materials as needed. The assessments were original in nature and not copied from published textbook materials.

Seventh Place – Dawn Castle (Imperial, Neb.) – Sales Presentation

This event is designed to recognize outstanding students in the field of salesmanship. The purpose of this event is to enable students to use their knowledge of good selling techniques and to create an awareness of the importance of good salesmanship.

Ninth Place – Ashli Becker (Yankton, SD) – Retail Management

The Retail Management competition recognizes PBL members who demonstrate knowledge of the functions of retail management and the changing environment that affects retailing. Tested competencies include Retail Management Functions; Customer Value, Services, Retailing Technologies; Retail Planning and Management Process; Retail Environment; Evaluation and Identification of Retail Customers; Retailing Information Systems; Selecting the Appropriate Market and Location; Financial Aspects of Operations Management; Merchandise Buying and Handling; Human Resource Management in Retailing; Pricing in Retailing; Customer Service in Retailing; Laws and Ethics; and Diversity and Trends.

Other students who participated include Austin Guhde-Egger, Spencer Kerwin, Emily Oestmann, Michael Okpalefe, Reannah Rinchich.

In addition to all of their individual successes, as a chapter, Peru State PBL earned the following recognition: Phi Beta Lambda Outstanding Chapter – for completing a minimum of 15 membership, community service, and education activities.

Peru State College Celebrates 20 Years in Online Education

The College's online expertise makes education attainable for students coast-to-coast.

Peru State College, Nebraska's first college, is excited to announce a 20-year milestone in serving students 100 percent online. The College's early adaptation to online education in 1999 exemplifies the innovative backbone of a college founded more than 150 years ago and regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission since 1915.

Offering fully online bachelor and master's degrees across business, psychology, criminal justice and education, Peru State College Online is nationally known for quality education at a premium value. In addition to enjoying one of the country's lowest tuition rates, the College's online students benefit from career-driving, flexible programs, brought about by 20 years of online mastery.

"From its onset, online education aligned perfectly with our mission to provide access to higher education including students that cannot come to campus," said Dr. Dan Hanson, Peru State College president. "Our purpose has always been to make certain that everyone has the very best opportunity to achieve an education."

"Online education proved to be a game-changer for many students in this regard. By lifting time and distance limitations, the College can best empower students juggling many priorities to realize their greatest potential and transform their lives."

As many college students weigh options for safely persisting in their education this year and beyond, the appeal of online education has never been greater. Peru State's online expertise makes it an ideal solution. The College accepts up to 90 credit hours in transfer credit and offers the same low tuition regardless of where you are in the country or world. Leveraging former learning and experience enables students to seamlessly continue their education online at Peru State, thereby reducing both cost and time to graduation.

Hanson continues, "Students find our online community to be highly engaged and connected. I encourage degree seekers, including transfers, to give us a good look, whether it's to temporarily bridge the gap in their on-ground education, or start and stay with us to graduation."

About 80 percent of Peru State College Online students transfer some sort of credit, whether it's prior coursework, corporate or military training, or even life experience. Bottom line, if you are considering switching schools or beginning your online college education, Peru's 20-year history of online excellence makes it a top choice for you.

For information on a four-year online degree at Peru State College Online, visit online.peru.edu.

About Peru State College Online

Established in 1867 in Peru, Nebraska, Peru State College has served students online since 1999 with undergraduate and graduate degree programs in business, psychology, criminal justice and education. The College is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and also holds continuing accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.

True to its mission to provide students of all backgrounds access to engaging educational experiences, the College offers students affordable tuition, 100 percent online convenience, and premium academic quality and support. Per-credit-hour tuition stands at less than \$300 for undergraduate students and under \$400 for graduate-level students.

For additional information, visit online.peru.edu.



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