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October 2021

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Peru State v Benedictine, page 13



It was a beautiful day for the AppleJack Parade, September 18, 2021.

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Your Country Neighbor

Voices and Views From the Valleys of the Nemaha

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

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Peru, Nebraska 68421

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Online at yourcountryneighbor.com

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

Ralph Waldo Emerson

October Writers & Contributors

Devon Adams - 6 & 7

Merri Johnson - 10

Dorothy Rieke - 11

Janet Sobczyk - 12

Thank You!

Wanted; Volunteers

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The City Of Peru, Nebraska!

No Experience Necessary Except



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Interested individuals or groups email your interest to;

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Well finally, Nebraska is releasing data regarding Covid-19 cases again. This needs to be done in order that people know when to use extra caution or protection. Note these numbers!

New "Positive" Cases of Covid-19 in our "Country Neighborhood"

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Nemaha</u>	<u>Otoe</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Richardson</u>
9/8-9/21	42	230	20	43
9/11-9/24	54	256	21	48

Last month it appeared to me that South East Nebraska had no new cases since the end of June. Now newly reported case numbers are shown above. All 256 cases in Otoe County were added the week of the 20th. Could this be related to the crowded weekend on the 18th and 19th? Cause and effect is not a sound theory, but it reminds me of how things started in the Grand Island area last year at a large gathering.

As more get vaccinated, including children, there is hope that the Delta Variant will run its course soon. I don't know how sound this idea is, but in the meantime, use common sense and appropriate precautions against colds and influenza, as well as Covid-19; wash hands, avoid crowds, wear masks, and get vaccinated. I got my flu shot September 22nd; now I'm waiting for the Moderna booster to be available.



Old Time Autumn, Brownville October 9th & 10th

- Black Powder Display & Demonstrations
- Buggy & Trolley Rides • River Boat Rides

Saturday, October 9th, 2019

- 11:30-1:00 • Chicken Biscuit Lunch, Town Hall
1:30 • 1st Nebraska Volunteers Brass Band (circa 1861-62)
3:00 • Spirit of Brownville Tour
1:00-4:00 • Museums Open

Sunday, October 10th, 2019

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Nebraska City Applejack Parade September 18, 2021



Here comes the Applejack parade.

Peru State College Homecoming Parade September 25, 2021



Peru State College Alumni



Pioneer Pride



Was there a prize for the most colorful 'entry'?



I didn't know about this! Thank you.



Nebraska City was represented among the visiting bands in the Peru State College Homecoming Parade



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Roadside Wildflower Garden, H-136



Common Sunflower



There's still some Wild Chicory around; this along H-67.

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

Poetry by Devon Adams, Peru

DREAM SHADOWS

On the morning end
of a long night, our
minds work hard to
process all the stress
and strain of yesterday.
The dream machinery
cranks into overdrive,
and we should be ready
for some wild curves
and corners. In the
deep caves of our
brains are images
and thoughts going
back to childhood,
and they mix with
recent times. Dreams
can be so vivid and
convincing that when
we awake, we can't
shake the feeling.
Being in two places
at one time seems
impossible, but the
shadows of our
dreams follow us,
whether they're
welcome or not.
The most intense
scenes of our dreams
stay with us, like real
memories. Were we
really there?

NEGATIVE ZERO

As the sun is sinking
on an autumn evening,
the trees blaze with
fire colors before wind
strips branches of their
summer life. The long
days are gone now,
merging into endless
nights of dark. Moon
cycles will bring silver
light to fool the eye into
thinking something so
beautiful can't be bad.
But silver can be cold,
when the land is held
hostage to negative
zero temps and the
seal of an ice storm.
It might not happen,
but it usually does.
Now is the time to
relish crisp air and
the brilliant glow that
lingers long after our
raging ball of heat has
left the edge of the sky.



My Red-bellied Woodpecker is more active these days.

WARM SOCKS

Just admit it, you love it when it's time to put on your warm socks! The house has chills around the edges and the floor isn't kind to bare feet, especially bare wood or tiles that felt so good last summer. Now that you think of it, a sweatshirt might be the perfect item to put on this evening. And there they are, in the drawer next to your socks: sweat pants. No matter if they match in color or trim, your new outfit is for comfort, not fashion. As soon as your body relaxes and you realize that you were cold, the thought of popcorn pops into your brain. There now, are we set, or what? Not yet, not until we clean out the fireplace and build a cozy fire!

THE MORNING RIVER

It is hidden in the fog of autumn, as chilly air settles in the valley. Cottonwoods reach above the damp layer of moisture, their tops like islands on a white sea. The half-truth of the half-light makes goblins out of dead trees, and smudges deer into ghosts, as they pause to hunt for the scent of danger that they can't see. The woods are not so much a presence as they are a feeling, being invisible to the eyes of wild beings. Sounds are scattered randomly, their origins obscured by the dense veil along the river. As sun shafts pierce the murk, a haunted cackle ricochets from the throat of an owl, heralding the dawn of the day before the night of Halloween.

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BLUE ENAMEL

High noon in October is a deep sky flooded with a perfect cobalt hue. There are no clouds or smudges of smoke to mar the perfect surface of what appears to be blue enamel. It is a lid covering a giant pan of rolling prairie. The horizon line is a circle where earth meets air, and there is nothing to block our view of the edge. Land and sky, sky and land: complete in shape and serenity, it is a place of solitude and silent contemplation.

COLD REALITY

The late autumn rain mutes the flagrant, flaming colors of the rolling hills and their steep valleys. Not yet sleet, but almost there, the chilling moisture seeps deep into bones, making them ache for every year of our lives. Summer is only a brief whisper of memories as light lingers for less time every day, and we wake to mornings darker and darker before dawn. But, it's not yet winter and we can rejoice in the cool dry air with it's electric, exciting energy.



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Syracuse Germanfest Float, Applejack Parade.



Syracuse High School Marching Band, Applejack Parade.

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Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

At last, we are in the season when the outdoors feels like a friend instead of a foe.

Of course, I love the outdoors all of the time, but during the growing season, weeds as well as garden plants can be like houseguests that, however beloved, have overstayed their welcome. I trimmed off several bushels' worth of tomato vines the other day. That's what I get for planting indeterminate varieties. And the Asiatic dayflower vine at the east end of my woodland was on its way to total dominance. Luckily, it pulls easily. I left some of it since it is still blooming. But, it being a non-native plant, it may not be beneficial for our native pollinators. And since the flowers are small and I can't even see them from my front porch, maybe I should just yank all of it. Decisions, decisions.

Insects, too, have been more bothersome for me this year. I don't know for sure which insect is responsible for the rashes of bites I have experienced on arms, legs and torso. Spiders or chiggers are the usual suspects, but they seem to be causing more and longer-lasting skin irritation than they used to. Perhaps my age is a factor in that. (Yet another thing one is more susceptible to after age 65.)

A good friend of mine recently developed a severe infection from an unknown insect bite, so I am keeping a close eye on myself and taking more precautions. My gardening get-up consists of old, shabby-but-comfortable, knit pants tucked into socks (a fashion flub if there ever was one), a sleeveless shirt tucked into my waistband, another (also shabby) long-sleeved shirt over that, insect repellent at neckline, jaw line and wrists, and sometimes a hat. My neighbors are probably embarrassed for me, looking like I have been stranded in the wilderness for a year or so. (Note to self: hit the used clothing store for an updated set of yardwork clothes.)

And summer weather? Heat and humidity can't leave town soon enough for me. Fall is definitely my season.

As I write this column, we are preparing to travel to Oregon. The forecast for our high-desert destination is highs in the mid-60s to 70s and lows in the 30s and 40s. That will be a nice change. Hubby commented that the lows would be "good sleeping weather," as in sleeping with a window open. I responded that we consider lows in the upper 50s and 60s to be good, open-window sleeping temperatures here. He thought about that for a few seconds and then conceded that we would probably be needing to use the heater in our rented cabin. This, of course, complicates packing. Hubby was hoping we could each get by with one carry-on roller bag for the overhead bin

plus one other bag to stow under the seat. But now that I need to pack a light jacket, at least one pair of long pants, and a heavier bathrobe, I am going to need an additional bag. Leaving the swimsuit behind will not free up enough space for all of that.

In the end, Mother Nature has the upper hand. All our plans are subject to hers. We would do well to take more care in how we treat her, lest she turn on us in ways we cannot mitigate. Enough said.

Make Your World Beautiful!

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

Light up your life, and make your world beautiful sounds wonderful, doesn't it? Perhaps our first thought is how to do this. After all, lighting up my life and making my world beautiful seems like a tremendous task!

First, we must take time to realize what we love to do. What makes our hearts race with excitement, makes us feel good all over, and gives us a sense of peace? The answer is bringing beauty into our world. We must be identified with what we accomplish for others rather than who we are. After all, "beauty is the promise of happiness."

First, let's consider, "He who lives unto himself alone does not live at all." So it is only by losing ourselves in dedicated service to others that we actually reach the fullness of life. In other words, "Giving is living."

Indeed, true living consists of true giving, and the highest form of living is giving of ourselves for the good of our fellow-men. Someone once observed, "If you want happiness, practice compassion." Of course, giving ourselves in service requires daily interaction with others. It's the simple things that add up to creating a good example.

The following are ways to lose ourselves in service to others.

1 Compliment someone sincerely. Sincere compliments bring joy to others and create an awareness in us.

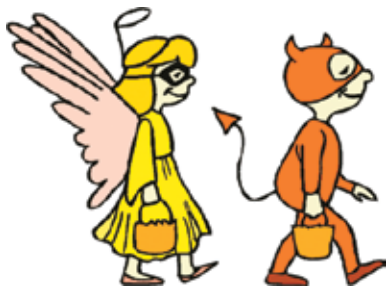
2 Assist a friend. Friendships are cemented with kind acts and consideration.

3 Write a note or call someone. Communication lessens opportunities for misunderstandings, and encouragement provides the basis of hope.

4 Speak out on what you believe is right. Acting on our principles and ideals builds self-respect and earns respect from others.

Continued on the next page >>>>>>>

This Halloween Watch Out For Trick-or-Treaters



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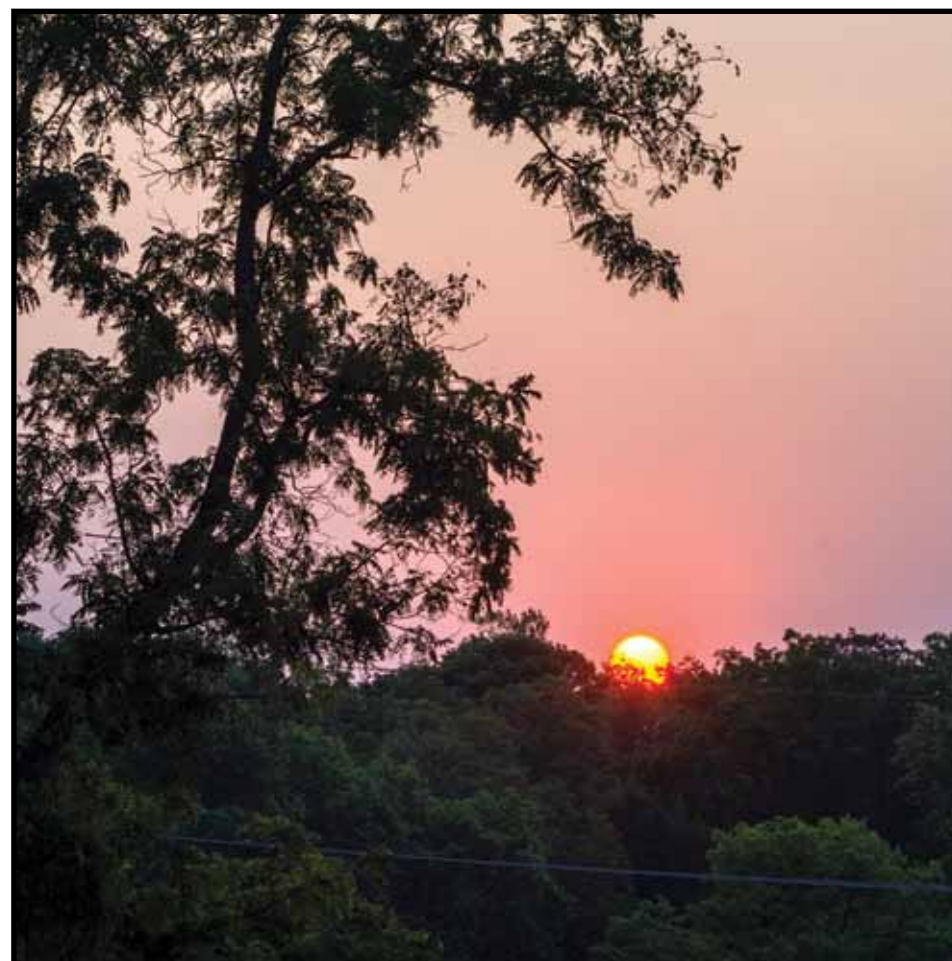
5 Appreciate your blessings and in turn, be a blessing to others. Color others' worlds with caring, thoughtfulness, and concern. Heartfelt gratitude as well as positive thoughts makes your world a better place to live.

6 Give back to the community. Be involved in important causes by volunteering.


7 Lend a helping hand to family members. This kind of contribution sets a precedent and draws family members closer.

8 Be a good citizen. Democracy means involvement and voicing opinions. Set a good example by being patriotic and displaying a love of country.

Our world is not a place where one lives a life of solitary confinement. Instead, it should be a place where there is an absence of every ill feeling or selfishness and where there is charity and good will. Once we set our sights for the "the bigger picture," we can work wonders setting an example exhibiting love and concern for others. Live with a giving heart because that inspires others and leaves us feeling happier. If we light up our lives, we inspire beauty in the world.



Sunset from the Peru State Campus



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Migrating Monarch pauses to feed on Late Boneset.

“Little Janet”

Janet Sobczyk, Omaha

I came to live in Omaha on my own when I was 20 and soon found a job at a retail jewelry store. The older co-workers made me feel like I had joined a work-family instead of just a group of co-workers. They helped me feel safer in this “big city.”

Working retail often means long hours every weekend with a day off during the week. I managed quick trips to Norfolk to visit my parents about once per month. The first holiday that I couldn't make it home, one of the sales staff invited me to join her family. She was a single mom raising two sons and the meal would be at her parents' house. Just the four of them. Perfect! I'm a bit introverted, so small groups help me feel less awkward.

Her parents were welcoming and funny, and served delicious comfort food. Her sons soon dubbed me “Little Janet.” She explained that they knew another Janet who babysat for them and was larger than me, and they began calling her “Big Janet.” I hoped not to her face!

At the time I was very slim but have always struggled with a distorted view of my size. With two older, slim sisters I saw myself as the chubby one, even if photos of the three of us revealed I wasn't. So it was a relief to be dubbed the little one.

Fast forward through almost 40 years, different jobs, and raising five kids of my own. My tendency to enjoy comfort food had added many pounds. The memory of the nickname, “Little Janet” mocked me, and I wondered if I would always be overweight and tired like my dear Grandma Rose.

I had hope from the example of my mother, though, who had gone through the same struggle, and in her grandma years lost the extra weight. I wanted the same for myself as a new grandma. I didn't want to be too tired to enjoy precious time with my grand-daughter.

That was my motivation last February to begin a journey with a weight loss clinic that my doctor approved. Now I feel much lighter and happier. The journey isn't over but I enjoy shopping for clothes in a smaller size and not cringing when I look in the mirror.

Recently I was called a new name that made me smile. A crew of workers was removing our storm-damaged roof and debris lay on the ground. My little dog needed out so I carried her, tip-toeing out the front door and across the grass to avoid nails and shingles. As I set her down on the sidewalk to begin our walk I heard one of the crew call to a worker on the ground. In Spanish he told his pal to clear the path for the “abuelita.” Two things struck me about that sentence: the respect/concern in his voice, and that he called me a “little grandma.” It made my day!



PSC September Football Action Home Games 9/11, 9/25 (Homecoming)



PSC v Benedictine College



PSC v Benedictine College



PSC v Midamerica Nazarene



PSC v Benedictine College



PSC v Midamerica Nazarene





PSC September Volleyball Action Home Games 9/06, 9/10, 9/21



Peru State College News

Peru State Athletics to Host Fall Craft Festival

The Peru State athletic department will be hosting its first-ever Fall Craft Show the first weekend in November in conjunction with its final home football game.

The Fall Festival will be held, Saturday, November 6, in the Al Wheeler Activity Center. It will allow Bobcat fans and others in the region to get a jump on their holiday shopping.

The festival will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held alongside a pair of other activities on the College's campus that day.

In addition to the Festival, the College's Admissions Department will be hosting its "Tours and Tailgate" activity which is provided for prospective student-athletes and their parents/guardians to visit the campus. The other big event on campus that day will be the final home Bobcat football game. Peru State will be hosting Graceland (Iowa) at 1:00 p.m. in the historic Oak Bowl. It will be Senior Day for the 'Cats with the seniors and their parents prior to the game.

Spots are still available for area entrepreneurs, crafters, and/or anyone wanting to show and sell their crafts. A booth will be ten (10) foot wide by eight (8) foot deep and will come with one eight (8)-foot table and two (2) chairs. Setup will be available the night before, Friday, Nov. 5, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., or the morning of the event starting at 7 a.m. Student-athletes will be on site to assist in unloading and loading. The cost of a booth is only \$25.

Payment can be made by cash or check and sent to Brenda Lutz, Peru State College, PO Box 10, Peru, NE 68421. If sending check, please make them out to "Peru State College Foundation" and put "Fall Festival" in the memo line.

For more information or to reserve your spot today, contact Lutz at 402-872-2350 or blutz@peru.edu.

It should be a great day with a number of built-in visitors due to the other events scheduled on campus.

Ten Peru State Athletic Teams Named NAIA Scholar Teams Golf Leads the Way

The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has announced over 2,000 teams have earned the distinction for Scholar Teams for the 2020-21 academic year. For a team to be considered for the NAIA Scholar-Team award, it must have a minimum 3.0-grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) as defined by the institution. The team grade point average includes all eligible varsity student-athletes.

Peru State College had ten out of its 13 varsity sports be named to the scholar teams. For the second year in a row all the women's sports team were named to the list. The men's basketball team is making it for the second straight year. The Bobcat women's golf team had the highest cumulative GPA for Peru State team for the sixth straight year in a row. The golfers had a GPA of 3.74.

Members of the Peru State golf team last year were Vivian Brown (Wichita, Kan.), Kayla Myers (Sidney, IA), Allison Tichy (Bellevue), Taylor Finke (Battle Creek), Gretchen Tharp (Rock Port, MO), and Brooklyn Brenneis (Tekamah).



The other Peru State women's teams honored were volleyball – 3.43, basketball – 3.34, softball – 3.14, cross country – 3.12, bowling – 3.01.

The Peru State men's teams that were honored as scholar teams were bowling – 3.28 and basketball – 3.00.

The competitive dance and cheer teams were also honored as scholar teams. Dance had a team GPA of 3.53 while cheer finished with a GPA of 3.43.

Athletic director Wayne Albury was pleased with the efforts of the entire department. Albury commented, "To have ten of our 13 athletic programs be named as Scholar Teams is a compliment to the teams and their coaches. It is difficult to navigate both the academic and athletic rigors they endure during an entire year." Concluding, Albury added, "In addition, the entire department finished with a cumulative grade point average above a 3.0 which is outstanding."

Recently, 59 Peru State student-athletes were named to its Spring 2021 Dean's List.

Ten of the thirteen athletic department's programs were represented with at least one or more individuals on the Dean's List. In order to make Peru State's Dean's List, a student must have a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.99, have completed at least 12 graded credit hours during the past semester, have no incomplete grades for the semester, and be degree seeking. See the Dean's List at; <https://www.peru.edu/news/2021/SpringDeanPresidentList2021.html>




2021 BOBCAT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

AUG 28 MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE PERU, NE - OAK BOWL	SEPT 4 CENTRAL METHODIST UNIV. @Fayette, MO	SEPT 11 BENEDICTINE COLLEGE PERU, NE - OAK BOWL	SEPT 18 BAKER UNIV. @Baldwin City, KS	SEPT 25 MIDAMERICA NAZARENE UNIV. HOMECOMING PERU, NE - OAK BOWL
OCT 2 EVANGEL UNIV. @Springfield, MO	OCT 16 CLARKE UNIV. PERU, NE - OAK BOWL	OCT 23 WILLIAM PENN UNIV. @Oskaloosa, IA	OCT 30 GRAND VIEW UNIV. @Des Moines, IA	NOV 6 GRACELAND UNIV. PERU, NE - OAK BOWL
				NOV 13 CULVER-STOCKTON COLLEGE @Canton, MO



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