

Your *Country* Neighbor **Free!**
September 2022

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



Monarch on Milkweed.. See page 3.







Falls City Sacred Heart, Nebraska City Pioneers, & Opponents hosted by PSC in the Oak Bowl.

A Magazine from Small-Town & Rural America

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

Region Invited to Celebrate PSC's Homecoming

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Volume Twentythree, Number Nine



Peru State College President Dr. Michael Evans and the First Lady Joanna Evans invite Bobcat alumni and area residents to campus for PSC's homecoming, "Bobcats in Boots," Saturday, October 1. See details on page 19.

September 2022

September!!!

The artist Lorado Taft, upon his visit was so impressed with the scenery in and about Peru, and the interesting history, he said, “The inspiration coming from this spot ought to bring forth artists and authors.” And it has, and it continues. Furthermore, Peru State College brings forth athletes and scholars.

In addition to your favorite columnist(s) and poet(s), view **photographs of the first home games of Peru State College** football and volleyball, as well as late Summer wildlife.

In pages 7, 8, 9, and 12, The *Peru City News* is revealing that it is a community which is a desirable place to live in Southeast Nebraska!

Remember to clip the Valentino’s coupon on page 20 and carry it with you!

There’s a Quilt Show at the AppleJack Festival Friday through Sunday, September 16, 17, 18, put on by the *Heritage Needlework Guild*.

And the “Raffel Quilt” will be on display at the Johnson Bank in Auburn September 3rd through the 14th.

This Month’s Writers & Contributors

Devon Adams 13
Angela Allgood, Peru City News, 7,8,9,12
Stephen Hassler 2 14
Merri Johnson 5
DiAnna Loy 9
Dorothy Rieke 14
Janet Sobczyk 4
Deborah Solie 7
Sheila Tinkham 5, 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

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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 about 500 deaths daily! Do not become a statistic! Use caution when and where appropriate. Don’t be shy; wear a mask indoors when among crowds. Get the life-saving vaccine!!**

“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>
08/17 - 08/23	5	20	1	8
08/24 - 08/30	2	11	0	13

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.



Pipevine Swallowtail



Tiger Swallowtail



Pipevine Swallowtail



As your growing child gets ready for a new school year, think beyond shopping for a bigger backpack or a bigger pair of shoes. You may also need to upgrade to bigger speeds for your home's internet connection—to better handle the bigger demands of more online homework (not to mention more streaming when the homework's done).

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Nebraska's "Golden Rod" makes its appearance in August.

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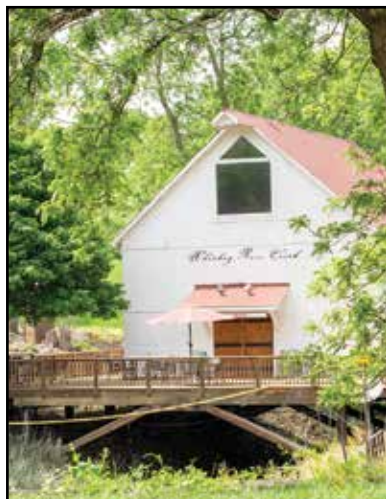
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Labyrinth

Janet Sobczyk, 2022

This summer a quiet call beckoned
not through sound waves and ear canals
but thought waves that ebb and flow
returned to mind again and again
took shape, grasped my hand
led to parents' hometown
a familiar place
I hadn't seen in years.

Almost forgot the way
scenic route with small towns
strung along the highway
missed the billboard declaring
"Welcome to Norfolk, NE
home of Johnny Carson!"
didn't stop by his museum
instead drove through city parks.

Recalled taking turns to climb timidly (no- bravely!)
up tall ladders to slide down hot metal
flying on black-seated swings
holding tightly to the chains
trying not to kick a hapless child
then jumping off and landing, mostly on feet, laughing
all replaced by now with colorful, safe, plastic
designed to attract children... where are they?

Drove past grandparents' houses
updated, freshly painted
wisps of memories teased each window pane
mind's eyes pressed with cupped hands to the glass
watching Grandma baking
little me licking a spoon
or spinning in a swivel rocker
to induce dizziness and giggles.

Drove to the cemetery
drawn to the spot, walked
through dry brown grass in need of rain
to touch parents' name plates once again
gaze at uncle's headstone
knowing I'm in the generation to go next
and younger brother has already gone...
wishing I'd invited my sisters to come along.

Continued on page 5 >>>>>

Continued from page 4

Drove to the convent
across the street from my parents’ old house
which still has flowers by the porch
but a different bench upon it
used to walk the dog with Mom
from house to convent grounds, strolling
past rose garden, bubbling fountain, stately trees
and The Labyrinth.

Not a maze, no dead ends
path circles around
comes to the center
then leads back the same way
no getting lost, no need to think
just focus with prayer
releasing one’s cares
reaching the center and resting there.

A shady place to sit
inhale peace
watch bunnies play nearby
fill up with hope
rekindle a purpose
then retrace the path
leading out into the world
and take home a new view.

Reluctant to leave
drove home in welcome rain
not knowing when (or if) I’ll return
but certain it will be waiting
even if its brick paths
should overgrow with weeds and grass
will still entice weary ones
to make their way to its center.

*This poem is dedicated to Sr. Celine and Sr. Hilda, with gratitude
for their hospitality at the Immaculata Monastery and Spirituality
Center in Norfolk, Nebraska.*

September

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

School days, new books, new pens, new grades
Life begins each day anew
And like Fall, which September woos
With cooler, crisper nights and Labor Day
Memories of summer swallowed and inhaled
And eased into another soft, leafy Fall

Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

Hasn’t the weather been fantastic lately? I have been lingering over morning coffee in the screened porch every day for at least a week now. Clear, calm and cool: my favorite combination of conditions. The only thing that could make the mornings nicer would be more birdsong. The piping orioles have been absent for weeks already, and our bachelor house wren finally gave up his mating song. I haven’t heard the Eastern wood pewee lately, either. Robins no longer feel the need to wake the neighborhood before sunrise, though cardinals and Carolina wrens still announce it.

Mid-afternoons have been especially quiet. The cooing of mourning doves from our neighbor’s grove can lull a person to sleep even if you aren’t tired, and the squawks of blue jays seem muted as if they know it’s naptime and they are trying not to disturb anyone with their gossip. As the afternoon progresses, however, cicadas chime in. They have no qualms about the amount of raspy noise they make in their attempts to attract mates. Apparently, the females can hear the males up to a mile away. I ask you, Mother Nature, is that really necessary?? You couldn’t have come up with a less obnoxious mating call?

Complaining aside, it is quite remarkable that song birds actually sing in a way that is pleasing to humans. When you consider the vocalizations of all the other animals with which you are familiar, can you name one other category that you would want to listen to for more than a few minutes? Humpback whales are interesting. But they sound more like a random series of artificial sound effects than music. And purring cats are always nice, especially when they are curled up in your lap or kneading your belly with their paws.

But have you ever seen a CD (or downloaded an app) of “livestock” sounds? I’ll grant that there is a certain appeal to the lowing of cows, snuffling of swine and clucking of chickens. I could probably listen to that at bedtime and drop off with a sincere feeling of contentment. But those sounds are not musical.

Elephants are said to “trumpet,” so maybe that counts as music in the mammal kingdom. A horse’s neigh is rather shrill, though a nicker is nice. I could add “horse nickering” to my livestock chorus.

If dogs are man’s best friend, I’ll take one that lets me do all the talking, or that has a deep baritone voice. Our daughter has two black lab mutts and they are both equipped with ear-splitting barks that I am sure have raised the dead somewhere within earshot of her house.

It seems to me that God really had a good idea when he gave melodious voices to creatures as small as songbirds. With their diminutive size, they fit anywhere and never get in the way of anything at all. Many are colorful as well, delighting both the eye and ear of we poor stressed-out human beings.

Soon, this lovely, open-windows weather will give way to chilly mornings and even fewer songbirds as migration kicks into high gear. Make it a point to listen for the distinctive voices of the songbirds still in your yard. And get that CD or app ready to keep you company through the winter to come.

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talk with company
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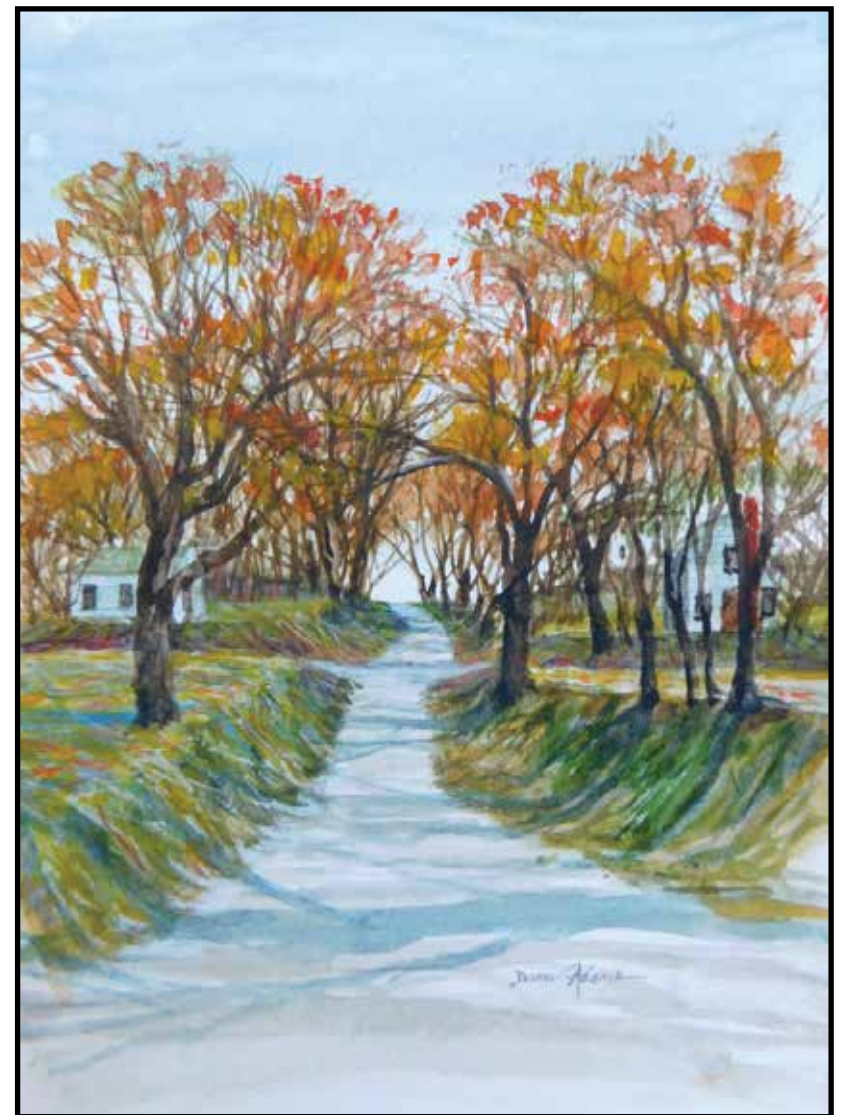
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SEPTEMBER 27TH ICE CREAM SOCIAL & PLAYGROUND PLANNING EVENT

Your Opinion Matters
Come see the options for playground equipment for Sid Brown Park while enjoying ice cream and dessert. Help choose the playground equipment by voting for your favorite with “funny money”.





“Gut-buster Hill”
Painting by Devon Adams.

Share this experience with friends by offering this link;
yourcountryneighbor.com
(issues updated monthly)



One of the proposed buildings in the “Project ROAR” additions to the Peru State College Campus of a Thousand Oaks.
(MP Dome Interior. Planned location north of the Oakbowl.)

PERU CITY NEWS

Communication • Information • Pride In Community

Progress Continues in Flood-Impacted Areas of Nemaha County

Submitted by Deborah Solie, LTRG Disaster Recovery Coordinator

The Northeast Nemaha Long Term Recovery Group reports progress on crucial infrastructure projects while advocating for the region's flood recovery and disaster preparedness.

Recovery continues throughout the area impacted by the 2019 floods as projects are completed, and others show significant progress.

“FEMA recently provided the final approval for the waterline connection between Peru and Auburn,” said David Pease, Mayor of Peru.

“We were waiting for this approval before opening the project for contractor bids, but I am pleased to announce bids will be collected in City Hall on September 13 and the contracts awarded during the September council meeting.”

JEO Consulting is leading the project, and working with the Peru City Council, they have acquired needed easements along the water line route and pre-procured the pipe.

“With the rise in construction costs and challenges with the supply chain, we took steps to pre-order the pipe for the water line,” said Zach Schulz, lead engineer. “The pipe is currently in Lincoln and will be housed by the contractor when the bid has been awarded. City Council took this important step to save time and money.”

The Northeast Nemaha County Long Term Recovery Group (LTRG) continues to support and seek funds for infrastructure projects.

“FEMA is the largest funder for the water line project, but the State Revolving Fund and the Water Sustainability Fund are also assisting with financing,” said Deborah Solie, LTRG Disaster Recovery Coordinator. “We continue to seek additional funds to help with all infrastructure projects, including Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery funds available through the state.”

The LTRG continues to receive positive updates on several infrastructure projects that are key to recovery for the region, including:

- Lagoons – Repairs have been completed.
- Steamboat Trace Trail – The NRD has reopened the trail to visitors, and a dedicated group of community members is working to improve the Peru trailhead.
- Street repairs – Design is completed for the 5th Street project, and we are working through an easement process; the project is expected to kick off in the summer of 2023.
- New grocery store in Peru – The LTRG and the City of Peru worked together to secure funding to bring a new grocery store to Peru. The Market will be opening soon and providing the area with access to healthy, fresh food.
- Sid Brown Park renovation – The City of Peru is seeking funding for a new playground. The community is invited to an enjoyable evening on September 27 to view proposed plans and provide input by voting on their favorite equipment.
- Bark Park - Nemaha County Leadership Class 7 continues raising funds for a dog park installation in the ballfield north of the field house.
- Levee repair – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is moving forward with the repair of the breach, although the timing is still uncertain. Congressman Adrian Smith has recently reached out on behalf of Peru to prompt the Corps into action.
- Housing - Peru is partnering with the Southeast Nebraska Development District to rehabilitate homes and attract single families to Peru.

“We want to celebrate the movement on these flood-related projects,” said Deborah Solie, Disaster Recovery Coordinator. “But, also remember the Peru community and surrounding areas suffered an estimated \$7.91 million in economic loss, including \$4.2 million in agricultural revenue losses due to levee damage. The LTRG’s goal is to emerge from recovery as a community stronger than before the floods. We have begun focusing on disaster preparedness as part of that recovery.”

The LTRG, the City of Peru, and leaders throughout the area continue to work together as recovery continues for the region.

About Our Group: *The Northeast Nemaha County Long-term Recovery Group brings constituents together to build relationships, coordinate efforts, communicate needs, pursue funding to rebuild and strengthen the City of Peru and the surrounding region, and support individuals following the 2019 floods and other potential disasters.*

Geothermal Project at Peru State College

by Angela Allgood

If you drove by campus at all this summer, you noticed the AWAC parking lot was torn up. Why, might you ask? Well, I will tell you. PSC started another geothermal project and the parking lot was torn up so that wells could be installed under it.

Geothermal systems assist in cooling buildings in the summer by circulating cooler water from underground to the building cooling system. In the winter, it assists in heating buildings by circulating warmer water from underground to the building heating system. The cost of installing geothermal is paid back out of energy savings accumulated annually.

So far, five buildings on campus have the geothermal system. V.H. Jindra Fine Arts, the Performing Arts Center (PAC), T.J. Majors, W.N. Delzell Residence Hall, and the Administration building.

The State of Nebraska appropriated funds for this project but as we see prices escalate, PSC will need to pursue additional funding in 2023 for the Library, the Center for Achievement & Transition services (CATS), AV Larson, and the Al Wheeler Activities Center (AWAC) to also get the geothermal system. The Administration building and Hoyt Science will also receive energy conserving improvements if additional funds become available.



Work begins. Late June.



AWAC Parking Lot. Late July.



Pouring concrete. Mid-August.

Peru City News is made possible by Peru volunteers and the following fine institutions;



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Tuesday Literary Club Reads

By DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

Valarie Able presented our book talk this month and she did a fine job as she presented two books by Mary Connealy; *The Accidental Guardian* and *The Reluctant Warrior*. These are the first two books in Connealy's High Sierra Sweethearts series.

In *The Accidental Guardian* we join a wagon train in 1867 around the north end of Lake Tahoe, Nevada. The wagon train is in slumber as two young women, Deb and Gwen, quietly take their young charges, cousins Maddy Sue and Ronnie, on a predawn jaunt into the tall grass hoping to get there before waking the others in their wagon. While in the grass they hear shouting and gun fire coming from the wagons. They hide and keep the children quiet. As the noise is dying down Deb comes to the edge of the grass only to witness three men on horses destroying the wagon train. She clearly sees the face of one of the men, Raddo Landauer. The women and children continue to hide until later in the day when a lone horseman approaches the burnt wagon train and they come out, signaling for help.

Trace Riley is indeed a good man and takes the women and children to his ranch. Trace remembers when his wagon train was attacked by thieves and his father killed. He was 10 years old and the only survivor. He had to learn to make his way on his own. He has spent most of his life alone but recently two hired men have joined him on the ranch. Trace has a house and barn but it will soon be winter and there large gaps between the side boards on the house. The men take the barn and the women the house.

There is plenty of work that needs done to prepare for winter including building a better house. There are adventures with a little romance thrown in. One of the adventures is that Maddie Sue's father, Cameron Scott and his sister Penny, find their way to Trace's ranch hoping to claim his daughter and make it back to his homestead before winter but they are a little late. They are forced to spend the winter because of the weather.

As we begin *The Reluctant Warrior* it is now April 1868. Cameron wakes to a smoke filled bunkhouse; a bunkhouse surrounded by a wall of snow. The main house is on fire. The bunkhouse is saved but the main house is burned to the ground; no lives are lost. They track Raddo as he leaves the scene. Everyone moves into the bunkhouse.

Soon after, John McCall, enters the scene. John is an agent for the Pinkerton Agency and has been hired by Ronnie's grandparents to find Ronnie and bring him back to them. It seems Ronnie is the beneficiary of a large trust fund from his great-grandmother and now that his parents are dead, whoever has possession of Ronnie will control his money. The Riley's and Scott's are having none of John McCall's story, even knowing nothing about the trust fund.

Adventures continue even on in to the third book in the series, *The Unexpected Champion* which the Tuesday Literary Club will read as a group and discuss at their Annual Meeting in October.

Happy reading.

Auburn Backpack Program

By Angela Allgood

Food insecurity is on the rise in Nemaha County, that is why the Auburn Backpack Program is an organization near and dear to my heart. This program is for students who qualify for the free and reduced lunches at their school. Many of the children rely on the hot nutritious breakfast and lunch they receive from the school. For some kids, these are the only meals in their day. The Backpack Program helps the parents on the weekends by providing these families with food. Food is acquired by the Lincoln Food Bank of Lincoln. Vouchers for bread, milk and eggs are also given out 9 months of the school year.

The Auburn Backpack program was organized in 2012. The cost of food the first year was approximately \$6,000 per year. The cost of food was \$5.88 per week to serve one student and his or her family for the school year. The program began with 38 kids and 18 backpacks. During the 2021-2022 school year, food costs were \$7.35 for a total of \$250 per student. 2,017 bags were packed (on average 55 bags per week) for 108 kids in 54 families. Most of the children are in elementary school, but 16 bags go to junior and senior high school students.

The Lincoln Food Bank delivers food and volunteers carry it up the stairs at the St. Paul Lutheran Church. Bags are packed by volunteer organizations from the area on Wednesday and taken to the elementary and middle school where the students can pick them up on Fridays. Every Friday the child's backpack will be filled with food including items like cereal, juice, canned fruit, vegetables, tuna helper, peanut butter and jelly or macaroni and cheese. There are six rotating menus for the food and the menus are set by the Food Bank of Lincoln

If you are a parent and you would like to sign up for the Backpack program, all middle and high school parents need to contact Sara Toedman, if your child attends Calvert Elementary, please contact Brennan Poston.

If you would like to be involved with the Backpack Program, there are a few ways. Your organization could pack the bags with food or help unload the truck. You can also make a tax-deductible donation that stays local or, save your SunMart receipts. They can be turned in to any member or taken to the St. Paul Lutheran Church.

The Backpack Program could not help these children and families, if it were not for the wonderful volunteers and donations received each year. This program is supported through donations, fund raising, and grants, and everyone involved is a volunteer.

To learn more information about the Auburn Backpack Program, you can contact us at auburnbackpack@gmail.com, check us out on Facebook, or call Gina at 402-274-7868.

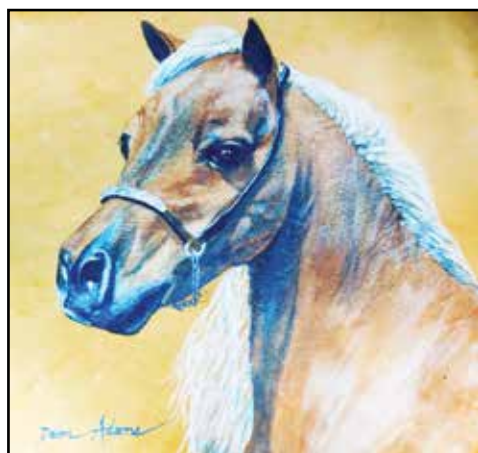


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Send Photo(s) to:
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Crop “duster” approaching field. (*Inset: banking on approach.*)

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1023 5th Street
5 apartments 1,568 sq ft



1100 Central Av, Auburn \$130,000
Commercial property, 2 overhead
doors, office space, corner lot.



910 10th St., Auburn \$20,000
5 Bedroom, 2 bath.



1604 G Street \$259,000
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approx .35 acre
2-car garage



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Peru Thanks You

By Angela Allgood

Thank you to HyVee Fresh Ideas in Falls City and to HyVee Fresh Ideas in Nebraska City for donating the bottled water to Peru residents during the last boil notice. We appreciate your help!

Thank you Julie Cotton for volunteering to take care of the flower pots downtown. We cannot wait to see what ideas you have to help beautify the downtown area!

Save the following dates!

The community is welcome to come to the City Hall **September 27** to see the plans for the Sid Brown Park playground equipment. Children will be able to vote on what they would like to see at the park! Watch for more details.

Also

Peru Fall Plant Exchange

Peru City Hall

Saturday, **September 17**, 2022

10:00 A.M. until Noon

October 1st

10 a.m. – Homecoming Parade – Peru State College to downtown Peru.

Free and open to the public. Registration to be in the parade is available at <https://bit.ly/3hkiFFf>

11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Tailgate and Carnival – Campus Quad

Say Hello to our New Postmaster

By Angela Allgood

Many of you have already met our new Postmaster, but let me tell you a little about her.

Karen Robertson is married and lives in Talmage. Her and her husband moved there from Battle Lake, Minnesota in 2015.

Karen loves to do stained glass but has not done it for awhile. She gives them away as gifts and wants to get back to doing it. Karen also loves riding motorcycles and taking trips.

You might also recognize her from Sunmart. She worked there for five and a half years and said she wanted a change.

She says that the people of Peru are very friendly and patient with her as she learns.

If you have not met her yet, when you get your mail, say hi!



City Hall gets a New Roof

Peru Progress

By Angela Allgood

- Crack filling on Park Avenue and 5th streets was completed July 15, 2022.
- Barrett Construction did clean-up and removed the nuisance at 820 2nd street. Finished August 24, 2022.
- Tillotson finished the roof of City Hall August 25, 2022.
- Lagoon repairs have been completed.
- NRD has opened the Steamboat Trace Trail to visitors, and a dedicated group of community members is working to improve the Peru Trail Head.
- The Market will be opening soon! Shelves are stocked, outside is being painted. We just need to wait on the electrical work to be done! And Inspections.
- Peru is partnering with the Southeast Nebraska Development District to rehabilitate homes and attract single families to Peru.
- Glen Hogue has retired as our Zoning Administrator (aka building inspector), and Jake Armknecht has been hired.

Peru City News

is supported by the Peru Community.

Thank you to everyone who participates!

Special thanks to reporter, Angela Allgood.



614 5th Street

Under Construction

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

P o e t r y

THE LOCUST BUZZER

Summer is like
a baseball game
because we can't
wait for it to start.
A cold winter and
stormy spring full
of constant stress
left us yearning for
peace of mind. Or,
if not that, at least
warm sunshine!
It was wonderful,
at first, to feel the
rays and doze in
a lawn chair. But
then the sweat ran
and dripped, bugs
bit, and we spit
out blowing dust.
The green plants
withered, and our
teams wilted out
there on the dusty
diamonds as they
cooked in temps
better suited to
ovens than those
hot uniforms. But
one day the buzzer
blew, when the first
locust took out his
little saw. His scratchy
tuneless tune grated
on our ears, but it was
a signal. The Summer
game was in it's 8th
inning! Soon to follow
will come shorter
days, cooler nights,
and finally, FROST!

SHADOW WINGS

A silent shadow raced
on the ground, teasing
the cat and scaring birds
at the feeder with it's size
and shape. It flew to the
grassy ditch by the road,
spooking a field mouse
into breaking it's cover.
But this bird wasn't out
for living prey. It was
seeking dead bodies. Bird
talk had halted briefly, as
thoughts asked danger
questions. "Are we safe?
Is this a hawk hungry for
lunch?" The giant wings
held steady, unmoving,
as the vulture rode the
back of the breeze. At the
sharp highway curve, a
rabbit hopped out of the
grass into a collision with
a speeding tire, and the
question of "What's for
lunch?" was answered
for the hungry hunter.

by Devon Adams, Peru

DRIFT WOOD

Silvered shafts of river
wood scattered on the
sand are proof of floods.
Giants reaching for the
sky were felled by water
cutting out their roots,
and they lie beside the
other tribes of trees that
have come to rest on
this lonely beach.
Roiling currents flex
their water muscles in
this month of drought.
They wait for new days
of rain when they'll be
carving out the muddy
banks and eating living
plants. Beauty is here,
though, as the rays of
the rising sun burn the
fog and touch every
weathered fragment,
making creations carved
from light and shadows.

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THE TOMORROW LIST

The tomorrow list
gets longer as our
time on the clock
grows shorter. It
helps not to know
how many days
are left on our own
personal calendars,
because then we'd
only think about the
things we haven't
yet done. We may
never do them, but
the important thing
is not to miss each
minute. The future
takes up too much
room in your brain.
The past is as alive
as you want it to be.
You can enjoy once
again the most lovely
days of your life.

HOOF PRINTS

His hooves made
only soft sounds
in powdered dirt,
as the wind died.
It was warm and
quiet. Even tiny
birds could be
heard in the
trees along the
little creek. I loved
being there and my
horse loved it too.
He was in no hurry
with his loose reins.
So we ambled
through the lovely
afternoon until the
early evening pinks
painted the sky, and
stars started to shine.

Memories Of Auburn's Palmer House Motel

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

I was saddened a bit when the Palmer House Motel disappeared to be replaced by a discount store. I had no connection with that motel, but years ago, it represented the ultimate in Auburn motels having the same name as a Chicago luxury hotel.

The name "Palmer House," brought memories to me, so I reviewed the history of Chicago's first Palmer House. It was Chicago's oldest hotel built by Potter Palmer in the 1870s as a wedding gift to his bride. Sadly, it burned one year later in the Chicago fire. It had the name of being a gilded 19th century hotel which had a beautiful decor, lodging and, food to share. Palmer later built another Palmer House that had the city's first elevators, oversized rooms, luxurious decor and sumptuous meals served in grand style.

The name of Auburn's motel gave it a special aura. Most people had heard of the original Palmer House, and perhaps connected the luxury of it to the local motel. As I recall, it was thought of as the "best in town" when it was built. Years ago, I can imagine that travelers wanted a good location, clean rooms, and availability to their destination. Those needs have not changed too much.

One Kansas motel owned by an older couple was immaculate. However, they sold that property to another family. That motel changed drastically. Instead of clean rooms, the rooms were not kept in good shape. A group attending a conference, after seeing the rooms, went to a store and purchased towels, bedding, and bottles of antiseptic cleansers.

One guest, at that same motel, woke up one morning and found a snake in his room. When we stayed there, I noticed a wide crack beneath the outside door.

Recently, our family stayed in a hotel that had chocolate chip cookies all day for guests. Late afternoon, there was a number of crockpots filled with food for guests. In the morning, after a tasty breakfast, as guests left, they were given a snack sack for their trip. That same hotel's breakfast was unique with a cook on duty to create special omelets for each guest.

Some will have lovely memories of Auburn's Palmer House. My friend said she and her husband stayed there on his furlough from the Navy. It was a nice place to stay. Times change and with those changes, we also change with our priorities and our needs. However, many of us will recall the very special Palmer House Motel in Auburn, Nebraska.

Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

September is national "save your photos month." There are probably quite a few special photos in your camera-phone after those summer vacations and other summertime outings. Photos help preserve memories.

When I was about eight years old, I remember taking a picture of my father seated in the doorway of the farm corncrib in the late afternoon just as he stretched his leg out to reach for a match. He had paused his work to take a cigarette break. My pinhole camera caught the essence of his habit, which at the time, annoyed me. He broke his pose just as I pressed the shutter-release button. But as it turned out, the result provided a less staged pose that showed more of his character. I remember that day because I have the photo.

In our family album is a picture of my birthday cake on my third birthday. A white cloth napkin with a red border is under the cake, which was placed on a small "corner table" that would be called an antique today. My mother set up the scene outdoors against the side of our farmhouse which we rented near Atlantic, Iowa. Her Kodak Brownie box camera didn't have a flash. It required applying the "sun over your shoulder" rule.

I remember my mother telling me to step to the side so I wouldn't be in the picture. I'm "off camera," stage right, when I'm looking at the album picture. I'm not in the picture, but I remember I'm right there.

Another time she gave me a silly hat to wear. As I put it on, smiling, I pulled the rims down around my ears. Later she would tell people I was rubbing my ears. But I wasn't. I was having fun with the hat and the attention.

I still have wrinkled photographs of a few pets, some farm buildings, and a calf that was a pet raised from bottle-feeding time to calf-bearing time. And I wonder how many of those memories would still be with me without that album.

These days albums are digital, either on Facebook or in other webpage locations. I hope young people who share their photos online with their friends have a backup, preferably a "hard copy" version. Plus there are the visual treasures of young parents. Some of those frozen moments in time will become cherished memories, but many will be forgotten unless preserved in an album, digital or otherwise.

I see much of the past through my window on Fifth Street, but nothing that I can grasp. "Save your photos."



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Peru State College Football

PSC vs #18 Central Methodist University, September 3 Win! 24 - 0



Quarterback keeper.

Strong running by the offense and a dominating defense, including two punt recoveries, one resulting in a touch-down by the defensive play, brought a 24 to 0 win in the Oak Bowl at the PSC Bobcat's first game at home.

It should be considered that the shooting and killing of CMU football player Torrance Evans within the last week likely had some effect on the CMU team's play.

A moment of silence was held before the game.



PSC had strong running game.



Pass reception.



Punt recovery.



Touchdown!



Peru State College Volleyball

PSC vs #21 Grand View University, August 30 Win! 3 - 2



Peru State College will be hosting

“Community Celebration Day” Saturday, September 17

All area residents are invited to attend the two athletic events for free, to show continued collaboration between the college and the region.

Volleyball game at 9:30 A.M.

Football game 1:00 P.M.

Dr. Evans stated, “Recently it was noted that Peru State College is a powerful driving force for the economy of Southeast Nebraska. We realize this has occurred with the help of those in the region. This is just one way the College can pay back the residents for their continued support of the college. We hope many can attend and support both Bobcat teams.”



Peru State College News

The largest construction project in the history of Nebraska's First College, both in terms of square footage and investment, has been announced.

Termed "Project ROAR" - Renewed Opportunities for Activity and Recreation - the five-building project will add more than 104,000 square feet of indoor space to the campus, noted Peru State College President, Dr. Michael Evans. That is more than double the square footage of Peru State's largest building, the Al Wheeler Activity Center.

The price tag, an estimated \$14.6 million, is another "biggest in history." Though tens of millions of dollars have been invested in campus renovations and additions in the past two decades, Project ROAR will yield the first new buildings at Peru in more than 40 years. The Wheeler Center was built in 1979-80.

Project ROAR has already secured \$10.6 million, nearly three-fourths of the total, from the State of Nebraska and from college resources, according to President Evans. Alumni and friends will be called upon to gift the remaining \$4 million, making ROAR the largest fund drive in Peru State's 155-year history.

Project ROAR is, Evans noted, essential to the strength and wellbeing of Peru State and its students - literally as well as figuratively.

"We know we must support our students by promoting regular physical activity," Evans said. "Getting them up and moving helps their physical health, their mental health, their self-esteem, and their ability to learn in the classroom and interact with others."

The Bobcat football team

was picked to finish third in the Heart North. Grand View is the preseason favorite in the North with five first place votes. In second place in the North is Culver-Stockton as they received one first place vote.

The Bobcats get both top North teams at home this season. Peru State hosts Grand View Halloween weekend October 29, with a 1:00 p.m. kick. The Bobcats take on the Wildcats in the last game of the year on Senior Day/Veterans Day on November 12, that will also be a 1:00 kick.

2022 Heart North Preseason Coaches' Poll

Place-School-(1st Place Votes)-Points

- 1st Grand View (5) - 25 pts
- 2nd Culver-Stockton (1) - 21 pts
- 3rd Peru State - 15 pts
- 4th William Penn - 14 pts
- 5th Clarke - 8 pts
- 6th Graceland - 6 pts

2022 Heart South Preseason Coaches' Poll

Place-School-(1st Place Votes)-Points

- 1st Baker (4) - 24 pts
- 2nd Benedictine (2) - 22 pts
- 3rd Central Methodist - 14 pts
- 4th Evangel - 13 pts
- 5th MidAmerica Nazarene - 12 pts
- 6th Missouri Valley - 5 pts

For Peru State's complete schedule visit:
<https://bit.ly/3zhvxnN>

Region Invited to Celebrate Peru State's Homecoming, Saturday, Oct. 1

President Evans said, "Homecoming is an exciting time to visit campus. The parade, the food, the entertainment, and the game will be worth the visit." Continuing, Evans added, "In addition, alumni and family are invited to attend the Peru State College Foundation's alumni reunion banquet Friday night where they will honor classes with milestone anniversaries."

Friday, September 30

6 p.m. - All College Reunion - Student Center

Any Peru State graduate or friend of the College is invited to attend. The Foundation will be honoring the 50-year graduates, as well as those from the other decades. The cost of the meal is \$30. **To attend, please register <https://bit.ly/3hecG4P> by September 20.**

7 p.m. - Bobcat Volleyball - Al Wheeler Activity Center

The Bobcat volleyball team will be in action with the varsity team hosting Culver-Stockton (MO) at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are Adults - \$6, Seniors (over 65) - \$5, Kids (7-17) - \$4, and Children under 7 - Free. **Tickets are available at <https://bit.ly/2X8QvpT>**

Saturday, October 1

10 a.m. - Homecoming Parade - Peru State College to downtown Peru

Free and open to the public. Registration to be in the parade is available at <https://bit.ly/3hkiFFf>

11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Tailgate and Carnival - Campus Quad

Free and open to the public. The tailgate will feature game-day food items. The Peru State Jazz Band will be on hand to entertain the crowd. In addition, there will be inflatables and a variety of other activities available for the young and old alike.

2 p.m. - Bobcat Football versus Evangel - The Historic Oak Bowl

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors (age 65 and older), and \$5 for non-Peru State students ages 7-17. Peru State students with a student ID and children six and younger are admitted free. **Tickets are available at <https://bit.ly/2X8QvpT>**

Halftime - Coronation of the 2022 Homecoming King and Queen.

"It is a full weekend of activities for all of alumnae and friends from the region to enjoy on the beautiful Peru State campus," concluded President Evans.



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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