

Your *Country* Neighbor

Free
June 2019

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A Magazine for Small Towns & Rural America







Traffic re-routed from I-29 is causing increased traffic flow on Hwy-75. Drive sensibly!



PSC Graduation Photos, page 13.

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The Nuthatch is a year-long resident of Southeast Nebraska.

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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June Writers

Devon Adams

Stephen Hassler

Dorothy Rieke

Janet Sobczyk

Thank You!

Convert Your House To A Home

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

When does a house become a home? Contrary to popular belief, physical conditions of the house itself have little effect in converting a house to a home. Nor do changes in furnishings or decor make a difference. Instead, creating a home often depends on the people involved, their attitudes and their characteristics. In fact, at times, guidance is required to develop certain admirable traits conducive to occupying a home without friction.

A few months ago, I was talking with a stranger. We discussed several subjects including where we lived. She acted like she was ashamed when she stated, "My family lives in a log cabin." At once, I countered, "You know it isn't where you live or what your house is like, it is the love within the family and the caring for each other."

She stood quietly for a few moments thinking of what I had said. Then, with a changed attitude and a smile, she offered, "You are entirely right!"

Treatment of each other with sensitivity is desirable for family members involved in a harmonious existence within a home where love abides.

Concern and thoughtfulness color every home environment with shades of encouragement, attentiveness, and support. These are prime requisites in making a home for a family.

When a house becomes a home, it portrays:
The incredible warmth and wonder of an abiding love.

Concern, thoughtfulness and kindness.

Devotion and loyalty; trust and faith.

Compatible purposes and ambitions

A desire for the security of togetherness.

Mindful of each individual and his or her concerns.

Support in times of worry and fearfulness.

It is a wonderful experience to live in a home and experience the benefits of caring and love. We who were brought up in "homes" have many wonderful memories of the power of love.

Photos from car show at Peru's
 "Old Man River Days".



'07 Shelby GT Mustang
 Dan Bailey, Brownville



'71 Oldsmobile Cutlass 442
 Larry & Charlie Stephenson, Nebraska City



'67 Chevy El Camino Dean Krog, Nebraska City



'37 Chevy Coupe Dave Flies, Auburn
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Notice! Tourists, Visitors!

Brownville businesses are open as usual; eating establishments, art galleries, antique shops, museums, the bookstore, and of course the Whiskey Run Creek Winery.

Brownville is not flooded! A campground and the Meriwether Lewis Dredge Museum along the river are closed, but the business district is on a hill above the river. Flood issues are on the Missouri side affecting mostly farm land. And by the way, Nebraska City isn't flooded either.



Carson House Museum in Brownville, Nebraska with Dogwood tree blossoming. May 2019.



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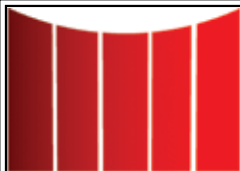
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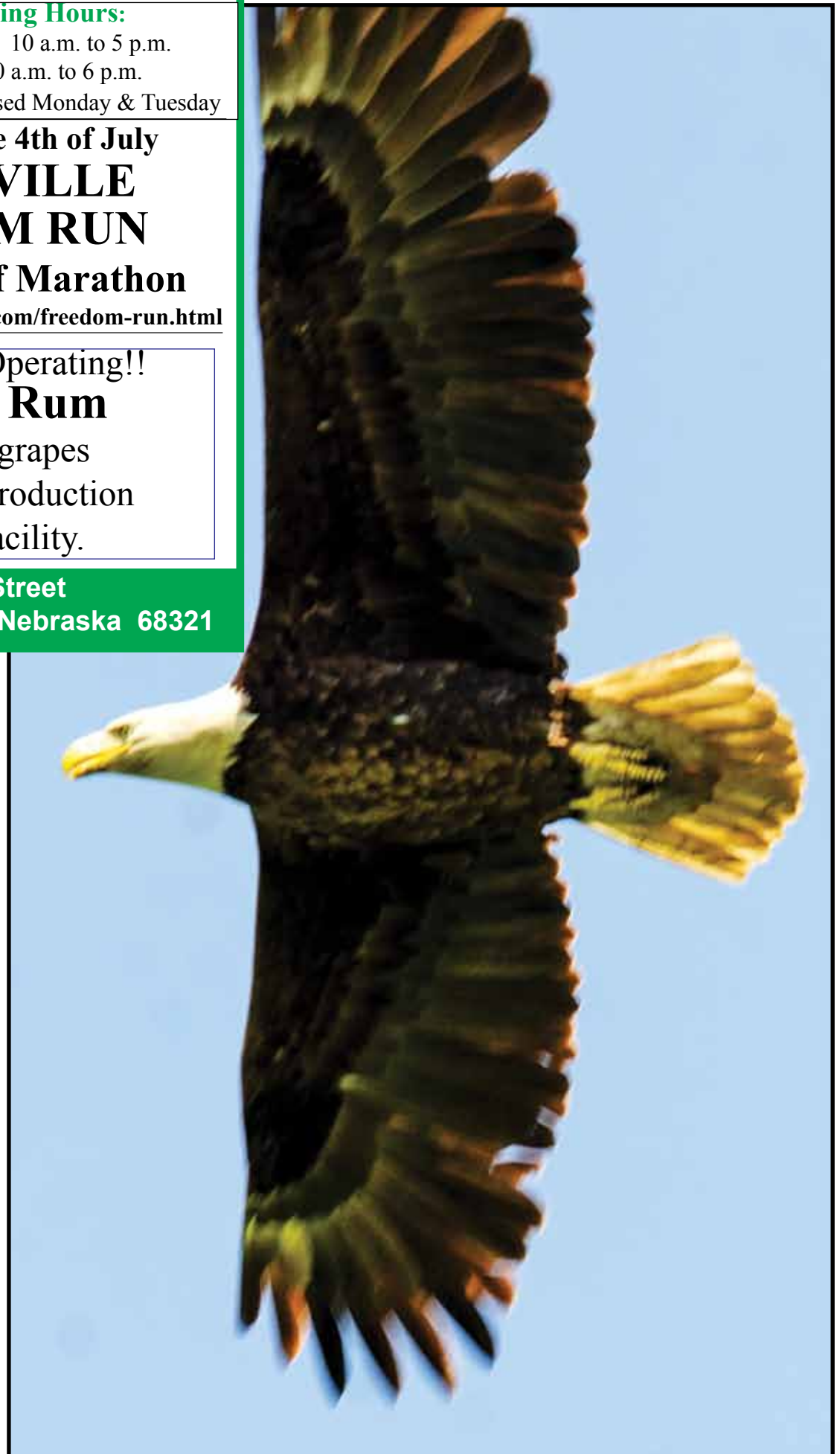
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American Bald Eagle
Circling its nest in the Dawson area.



June was “bustin’ out all over” during “Old Man River Days” in Peru, Nebraska. June 1,2,3.



The “Tropical Sno” was a popular treat.

A different kind of a ride.



What’s next?



Water fight within boundaries

Car Show during “Old Man RiverDays” in Peru.



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Hell was all wet, from melting ice and snow and rain. The landscape has been twisted and mangled and moved around, so that sand is deep over grass, and swathes of soil are missing and presumed to be mud down on the Mississippi delta. The great sweep of the Missouri Valley is open and without the artificial protection of levees. Each summer storm refills the flooded fields and homes of those who believed in flood control. Now the long view from the bluffs is of a never-ending lake. As in the intrigues of politics, the channels and currents of communication have been muddled and defiled, leaving shattered lives and futures waiting to be salvaged.

MORE THAN EVERYTHING

Not so long ago they were small, and tall people told them what to do and how to grow. It took awhile, until the truth was clear that other people mattered. Then the lessons went on and on, until one day they met each other. And right there and then, that was that. They were one, together. Then the babies came, and now they have more than everything.

Poetry

by Devon Adams, Peru


HER GARDEN

I have a picture of her there, in her faded apron that was always ironed and fresh from sunshine on the clothesline. She always wore a dress, and never owned a pair of jeans, coming from a generation born long before the kids who have phones grafted to their ears. But she knew what was important and was satisfied with daffodils beside her kitchen door, and poppies dancing in a gang at the end of a row of green beans, and peony bushes blooming their exotic scents in the yard next to the yellow roses. Lilacs by the cool cellar full of canned fruit left their purple memories all summer long, as honey bees, dragon flies and lady bugs kept her company when she picked black raspberries and dug potatoes and picked bright red tomatoes. I think I saw her there yesterday, waving at me from forever.

THE RIVER KNOWS

Down the silver satin ripples in the sky ran the rain drops, falling into sheets of water, slanting sideways with the wind. Whispers in the dark were speaking sacred secrets of how the river used to run before the hand of man became the god of nature's ancient rules. Flooding started in the tiny veins of prairie fields, stealing bits of grass and soil and rolling always down, and down to the creeks that wound into the rivers that found the great Missouri, churning into a monster muscle of invasion. Levees were no match for the force of water running free and wild, and destruction came to structures built without regard to rules written before humans ever had a brain.

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DADDY'S ARMS

She flies into his arms the minute he walks in the door. Her hugs are fierce, and it is clear that she owns every ounce of his being. His face glows with a devotion deeper even than his daughter's. Where did this miracle come from, and how is it that he is the one to receive such joy? Her face is a mirror of her mother's, but he is her slave, addicted to the radiance of her smile and the softness of her butterfly kisses. His arms gently enfold her small substance. He will wrap her in his love as long as his heart beats, and even after that. Someday, he'll enfold her in his angel wings and, somehow, she will know that he is there.

MOONLIGHT DREAMS

In the soft sounds of the night, I whisper to the moon to tell a story of long ago, when we thought today would always stay, and when tomorrow was coming so much faster than we knew. I see you there, standing on the hill with stars behind you, diamonds cut in sparkles on black velvet. Your eyes were full of joy and tears and hard to read because they lied, but truth was not important to me then, and for awhile we lived on other planets far away from the reality that came to be eventually.



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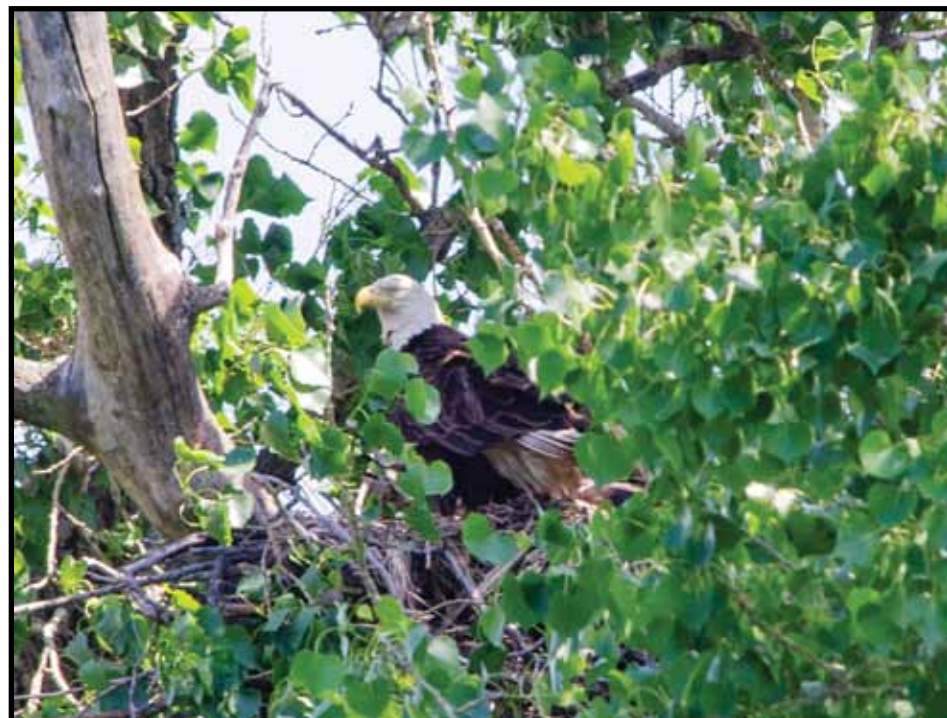


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- (S) '16 JD 825i Gator, 105 hrs, pwr steering, 72" hyd front blade.....\$21,700
- (A) '10 JD 825i Gator, 540 hrs, pwr steering, mag wheels.....\$10,500
- (S) '14 JD X320, 135 hrs, 54" deck, 22HP Kawasaki Engine.....\$1,900
- (S) '03 Frontier GM1084, 7' cut, 540 PTO, cat1, rear discharge.....\$2,500
- (S) '14 JD Z930R, 1094.5 hrs, 54" MOD deck, sus seat.....\$6,900
- (S) '12 John Deere 825i Gator, 230 hrs, power steering, radio, windshield, roof..\$11,500
- (A) '16 JD 825i Gator, 816 hrs, pwr steering, dlx cab w/ glass doors.....\$15,200
- (S) '17 New Holland Boomer 50, 643 hrs, mfwd, 3 spd hydro, R4 tires....\$28,200
- (A) '13 JD 825i Gator, 465 hrs, pwr steering, roof, turn signal kit.....\$12,900
- (S) '09 JD X500, 1196 hrs, 54" deck, Kawasaki engine.....\$1,950
- (S) '15 JD Z960R, 192 hrs, 72" deck, 31HP kawaski.....\$9,850
- (S) '12 Frontier WC1103, wood chipper, used once, 3" capacity.....\$2,500
- (S) '13 JD 825i Gator, 140 hrs, camo, alloy wheels, roof, bucket seats.....\$11,800
- (S) '12 JD 568 Round Baler, twine, wrap, hyd, Megawide pick up.....\$26,900



Bald Eagle on "lookout" near Dawson



Bald Eagle on its nest near Dawson

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Male & Female "House Finch"

Spring Cleaning

by Janet Sobczyk, Omaha, ©2013



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There's something about the first warm days of spring that makes me want to clear leaves out of flowerbeds, sweep the porch, clean out the cars, and wash my windows and curtains.

I don't feel that strongly about those things at any other time of the year, so why then? Maybe it's because of my mom, who set a fine example for years.

Twice a year, spring and fall, without fail, she would go full speed cleaning the house and cars. She washed walls, windows, and floors. Always top to bottom, of course.

All the furniture would be moved, cleaned, rearranged. The vacuum would probe every corner. Sometimes tiny treasures were found under the couch or behind the console TV.

As a child I enjoyed watching her. Sometimes it was best to stay out of the way before being enlisted to lend a hand. But I always enjoyed the finished results.

Rooms that almost glowed. Everything seemed so fresh and pretty. I loved the novelty of furniture in new places and clean windows open to the breeze.

This is the first year that Mom is not spring cleaning. She talks about wanting to work in the yard and needing to clean windows. But she doesn't have to now; she is in "assisted living."

She can't quite adjust to having things done for her. After so many years of spring and fall cleanings, she still thinks it needs to be on her to-do list. I guess a woman's work really is never done.

School's Out!



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Before planting. west of Brownville, Nebraska



Old but sturdy barn west of Stella, Nebraska



Old Filling Station. Stella, Nebraska



Dogwood tree in Neal Park, Peru, Nebraska

Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

When looking out my window on Fifth Street, I don't see an abundance of wealth. I see some riches, most of which cannot be measured by financial means. But no 5-star hotels or 5-star restaurants visited by people wearing tuxedos and evening gowns and arriving in limousines. Where does wealth come from and why don't I have it?

You may have heard or read about the concept of "letting go and letting God." I like that concept. Many years ago I was introduced to another concept or belief system that if I wanted something badly enough, the Universe would bring it to me because my positive emotions contribute to the creation of my reality. It's a "law of attraction." One could ask oneself, "If I really didn't want that event to happen, then why did it? The concept 'says' that if I strongly "don't want" a thing or event (negative emotion), then I am strongly attracting it.

The concept has two faces. I attract what I think about, positive or negative, wanted or unwanted. And "what is" is more real to me. And if I'm short on money, I'm liable to focus on that "lack," which attracts more of the lack. Maybe that's why I haven't won the lottery. Concept; negative emotions and positive emotions are both strong attractors.

I can't tell anyone how valid "the law of attraction" is, but I find it interesting. It would be wonderful if the thought of simply desiring a beautiful Summer would result in one. Similar to finding a parking space near the door at a restaurant or movie theater. But focusing on rain and clouds and road closures and flooded farms and tornados, retains a negative attraction in my mind. So Summer for me could be as wet as this Spring or last Winter. I seem to recall last Fall was wet too. I'm not sure I remember what a beautiful Summer is like. In my mind the last one was too short.

The so-called solution to the apparent dilemma is this; one should state one's desire to the universe, in a prayer, or on one's bulletin board, or whatever, and then forget about it. It is "desired", and it's coming. Thinking about it not being here is counter-productive. Can you ever remember really desiring something, but never bothered thinking about it again, perhaps because you believed it to be unrealistic? And then one day, bingo! There it was.

Here's something you might find interesting about all this. If "letting go and letting God" is a valid concept, then count your blessings and be happy with what you've got. You know what you want, and it's coming!



Brownell Museum, Peru



Spring in Neal Park, Peru



Spring Sunrise, Peru

Peru State College 2019 Graduates





Performing Arts Center Grand Opening



Cutting the ribbon at the Grand Opening. From left to right, former District 1 State Senator and current Public Service Commissioner Dan Watermeier; District 1 State Senator Julia Slama; Dr. Judith Grotrian, professor of business; Sue Green; Charles Grotrian; SaraBeth Donovan, chair of the Peru State College Foundation Board; Elaine Hanson, first lady of Peru State; Dr. Dan Hanson, president of Peru State; Dr. Paul Turman, chancellor of the Nebraska State College System.

Peru State College held the Grand Opening for its newly renovated Performing Arts Center on May 3. The Grand Opening of the Performing Arts Center saw the cutting of the ribbon, a performance from members of the Peru State Music Family, and the Debut of the Phi Alpha Theta Oral History Documentary, “The Little School That Could.”

The Performing Arts Center was originally built in 1921 and the theatre retains the sweeping curves of the time period. The renovations were made possible through funding by the Nebraska State Legislature and gifts from many alumni and friends of the College. At the Grand Opening, Peru State College and the Peru State College Foundation were able to recognize the contributions of these private donors.

Dr. Dan Hanson, president of Peru State College, spoke several times throughout the evening of his high regard for the work and gifts of so many people. More than 200 donors made gifts to Peru State College for the Performing Arts Center renovation.

Green Family Auditorium

The Green Family Auditorium recognizes the support of the extended Green Family, the descendants of John and Ella Green. The idea for naming the auditorium or the Green family’s commitment to education originated with Larry and Sue Green. Larry, a graduate of Brock High School and Peru State College (class of 1977).

Garth and Gloria Adams Campus Beautification

In celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary, Garth and Gloria (Bean) Adams made a generous gift to support campus beautification and a landscape screening project. As local residents, the Adams have a special interest in maintaining the beauty of the campus.

Betty Teten Green Room

In 2018, the Teten family made a generous gift in memory of Betty Jewel (Whipple) Teten to commemorate her love of education. The Performing Arts Center is an integral part of the School of Education’s outreach into the community.

Haws Family Lobby

The second floor lobby is named for Butch and Dobe Haws, natives of Falls City, who became educators in the Lincoln area. Butch’s knack for ingenuity, honed in industrial arts classes at Peru State (class of 1969), led him to a career in custom manufacturing.

Hoffman Piano

Cindy (class of 1982) and Tim (class of 1984) met while they were both students at Peru State College. They own and operate a family business, Rixstine Recognition, in Lincoln. Their son, Justin Hoffman, is currently enrolled at Peru State as a music major with a focus on piano performance.

Mainstreet Bank Lighting Booth

Mainstreet Bank is Peru’s hometown bank. Owned by the Douglas family, Mainstreet Bank has been a generous friend to Peru State College. The Douglas Entrance Plaza is named for Joyce and her late husband, Judson, who provided the lead gift for the Park Avenue improvement project. Judson Douglas was a member of the Peru State College Foundation Board of Directors for more than a decade.

Artwork and the Sesquicentennial Plaza

The Sesquicentennial Plaza was named to celebrate the College’s founding 150 years ago in 1867. The “Cat in the Hat” sculpture was donated by Dr. Daryl and Peggy Long in honor of the years of Dr. Seuss activities held on campus by Peru State education students.

Alumni and friends of the College that donated to the Sesquicentennial Plaza were recognized with engraved paving stones in the Plaza. This donation program is still running and more information can be found at www.peru.edu/foundation/pavingstone.

Peru State Hosts First New Student Orientation of Summer

Almost 200 students, parents and other guests visited the “Campus of a Thousand Oaks” in May as part of their next step in the college admissions process. Peru State College expects to host hundreds more on campus throughout the summer.

Cindy Cammack, director of admissions, said, “Orientation is an important first step for students making their transition from high school to college. Students attending orientation have an opportunity to meet with other incoming students, meet their Top Cat who will be their Welcome Week leader, get their student ID, meet with an advisor and register for classes and learn how to access all online tools and resources that they need to get off to a great start at Peru State.”

Students attending orientation are benefiting from the new Success Award model. Students that qualify are guaranteed immediately upon admission a renewable tuition award worth thousands of dollars over the course of four years. Peru State College is still offering these awards to incoming freshmen. To qualify, students must complete an application for admission, including submission of an official high school transcript, and an official ACT/SAT score.

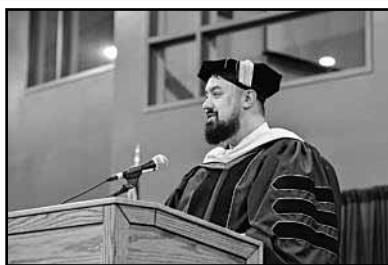
Additional orientation sessions at Peru State will be held on June 7, June 21 and July 19 with reserved dates available in August. Students interested in attending Peru State should contact the Office of Admission at **(402) 872-2221** or visit peru.edu/admissions.

Orientation also gathered some of Peru State’s first class of junior varsity athletes. Peru State will form junior varsity teams for baseball, men and women’s basketball and softball for the first time in the fall of 2019.

Wayne Albury, athletic director and head baseball coach at Peru State, said, “We had a great turnout of student-athletes and their parents. I am excited to see them on campus in August.”

Recruitment is still happening for junior varsity athletics. Interested student-athletes may contact the Office of Admissions or visit pscbobcats.com.

Matt Hill Named 2019 Teaching Excellence Award Winner



Dr. Matt Hill was named Peru State College’s 2019 Teaching Excellence Award winner. Hill was honored during the College’s commencement on May 4. Hill is an Assistant Professor of Music and the Director of Choral Activities at Peru State. He has been at the College since September 2014. In addition to directing the Women’s Choir and Concert Chorale, Hill teaches Music Theory, Choral Methods and Music History.

Hill is the founder and current Artistic and Executive Director of Sing Omaha, Inc. This organization offers ten choirs and two studio locations for private voice, piano and guitar lessons. Hill conducts the organization’s two adult choirs, and maintains an active roster of voice students at the studios.

He has also been honored as both the Choral Director of the Year in 2018 and the Young Choral Director of the Year by the Nebraska chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

Hill is published annually in the Nebraska Choral Directors journal, and in 2018 he was elected as Treasurer to a three-year term for the organization.

Other on-campus duties include serving on the Teacher Education Committee, Chairman of the Assessment Committee, and Faculty Senate.

Dr. Hill earned his Master’s of Choral Conducting degree at Oklahoma State University in 2012 and recently completed his Doctorate of Choral Conducting at the University of Nebraska Lincoln in May 2019.

Peru State Hosts Choral Invitational

In newly remodeled Performing Arts Center Choirs from Auburn, Fremont and Nebraska City visited the Peru State College campus to participate in a Choral Invitational. The Invitational took advantage of the Performing Arts Center’s newly remodeled space and culminated in five choirs performing on the historic stage that evening.

Dr. Matt Hill, associate professor of music and director of choral activities at Peru State, writes, “Thank you to my colleagues Stephanie Stanek (Nebraska City), Andrew Seuferer (Auburn), and Mark Harman (Fremont) for bringing your choirs to campus and contributing to a wonderful day of music making. I’m also incredibly proud of Peru State choristers for their leadership, and for their musicianship. It was an invigorating event for all involved, and I look forward to making this an annual tradition at Peru State.”

The Choral Invitational’s concert featured the Auburn High School Choir, the Fremont High School Choir, the Nebraska City High School Choir, the Peru State Women’s Choir and the Peru State Concert Chorale. The final choir of the evening was a combined choir, bringing more than 200 voices to the stage. The combined choirs were directed by Dr. Matt Hill.

BLOOD DRIVE JUNE 25

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive on the Peru State Campus on Tuesday, June 25, 2019. The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The drive will be held in the Live Oak Room of the Student Center.

Red Cross says, “The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.

To schedule an appointment to give, please contact Thomas Veleba at (402) 852-6063 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: PSC Walk-in appointments will be accepted too.



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