

# Your *Country* Neighbor

**Free**  
**May 2018**

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

A Magazine for Small Towns and Rural America



Nebraska City Pioneers High School Marching Band, Arbor Day Parade, April 28, 2018

Finally, Blossoms, Brownville, NE



Peru State College 'Blue-White' Scrimmage Under the Lights, April 20, 2018.  
 More PSC Sports on pages 13 & 14.

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## ***Your Country Neighbor***

*Voices and Views From the Valleys of the Nemaha*  
Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

**Readers!** Returning this month are most of your favorite Nemaha Valley columnists. This 16-page issue is your 2-cup coffee-companion.

**Viewers!** In this issue you will find some of my recent wildlife photographs, rural landscapes, and my favorite action shots of Peru State athletes.

**Visitors!** Welcome! You will have a good time exploring communities in the Valleys of the Nemaha River. Take this free publication home with you to use as a reference for your next visit to the area.

**Shoppers!** Keep up with local businesses and news of their monthly specials. And please thank them for advertising in "*Your Country Neighbor*".

### **Find Your Country Neighbor at these high traffic businesses;**

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**Falls City;** *Art Gallery, Sun Mart, Norma's Antiques*

**Hiawatha;** *Bread Bowl*

**Nebraska City;** *Fareway, Walgreens, Johnny's Corner Cafe*

**Peru;** *Deckers, Mainstreet Bank, PSC*

**Rock Port;** *Food Country*

**Sabetha;** *Hearthside Country Store, Health Mart*

**Syracuse;** *Do It Best Hardware*

**Tecumseh;** *Central Market, Harvest Bowl*

## **Old Man River Days -- Celebrating One Hill of a Town**

**Saturday, June 9th, in Peru, Nebraska**

9:00 am	Radical Challenge Registration (details on facebook)
9:30 am-12 pm	Radical Challenge -- PCIG Fundraiser
	9:30 Grades k-2                      10:00 Grades 3-5th
	10:30 Grades 6-8th                11:00 Grades 9-12th
	11:30 Adults 18+
10 am-2 pm	Craft & Vendor Fair (message us on fb to register)
	Family Fun: \$5 unlimited pass (adult & child tickets)
	Barrel Train, 53' Slip-n-Slide, 93' Obstacle course, Face-Painting, Petting Zoo, & Magic Show at noon.
11 am-1 pm	St. Clara's Lunch at City Hall
12 pm	Rutiger the Magician
1-2 pm	Cake Walk -- Peru Daycare fundraiser
2-4 pm	Old-Time Games & Scavenger Hunt
4-7 pm	Burgers & Brats -- PVFD Fundraiser
4-6 pm	Kids (& Kids at Heart) PG Karaoke
7-9 pm	Community Trivia Game (details on facebook)
9 pm-1 am	Evening Music & Entertainment
	<i>Zach's Bar &amp; Grill and 5th Street Post</i>

Events Funded & Sponsored by the Peru Community Impact Group, City of Peru, Decker's Food Center, and Mainstreet Bank of Peru  
**\*events & times subject to change\*      [www.facebook.com/perucig](http://www.facebook.com/perucig)**

## **April Writers**

Devon Adams  
Steve Adams  
Stephen Hassler  
Mary Ann Holland  
Merri Johnson  
Vicki O'Neal  
Janet Sobczyk  
Merlin Wright

### **Thank You!**

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**Window On Fifth Street**

Stephen Hassler

Looking out my window on 5th Street today, I am seeing a reflection. I'm having another crisis of nostalgia. Last year it was Annette. This time it's Dylan. I've had nostalgia for "the 60's" and Bob Dylan's music before — now and then listening to 'youtube' videos of his 60's performances, trying to understand who and what he was. This time it's Dylan's and Baez's 'together' years, and how Joan affected his popularity by recording some of his songs, and how his song writing gave her needed 'material' for songs to record.

I couldn't afford the vinyl record albums of the time. I didn't catch many lyrics on my car radio, and barely had time to listen to "The Beach Boys" or "The Beatles". I missed Dylan's lyrics all together, except when sung by Peter, Paul, and Mary, or by Joan Baez. I don't remember hearing Dylan's voice on Omaha radio stations. I wish I had paid more attention.

I listened to all the lyrics of "Diamonds and Rust" a few weeks ago, and understood what the song was about for the first time. My memories are bitter-sweet (diamonds and rust), when I think of their relationship and what might have been... what I wished for them... but what had to be. I thought of other familiar 'great loves'; Anthony and Cleopatra, Bogart



The Bethel Church at a country crossroads near Peru is as pretty a picture as it was almost 20 years ago.

*Continued on page 6 >>>>>*





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## Guitar Poems

Steve Adams



I know the difference between right and wrong  
But sometimes...  
Wrong just comes along  
Yeah, wrong just comes along

Well this time wrong's  
About five foot three  
Big brown eyes  
Looking back at me  
Yeah, wrong just comes along

Well, I know better  
At Least, I think I do  
But sometimes...  
wrong just makes me a fool  
Yeah, wrong just comes along

This time wrong's about five foot three  
Big brown eyes  
Looking back at me  
Sometimes...  
Wrong just comes along

Well, I know better  
Least I think I do  
But sometimes...  
wrong just makes me a fool

Yeah, wrong just comes along  
Sometimes...  
wrong just comes along

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*Yellow Garden  
Spider with milk-  
weed seeds  
snagged in its web  
by the wind.*



## Caffeine Musings

Merlin Wright

Some people like to plant a garden. Some people like to sit with friends and drink coffee. Some people like to do both. Some gardeners decide when to plant potatoes based on when there is a full moon. Some gardeners deny that they plant by the sign of the moon. Those people instead like to plant potatoes on Good Friday. The funny thing about all this is that the date for Good Friday is based on the moon. Each year in February I like to refresh my knowledge of how the date of Easter, Good Friday, Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Passover and Mardi Gras are determined. This knowledge gets me 'smart points' with other people at coffee. I wish I could pay for my coffee with those points.

Each year the first day of Spring is about March 19, 20, 21. There is a full moon every 28 days. Easter is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the first day of spring. The other observed religious dates can then be set by backing up six weeks or so. If you want some 'smart points' at coffee just clip this out and carry it in your pocket until spring time of 2019. Google tells me that Easter next year is on April 21. Easter can be as early as March 22 and as late as April 25. There are several more rules that determine the date of Easter in some special cases. Sometimes the date of Easter is set to avoid having it during the week of Passover. Delaying Easter a week in 2018 would not have kept it out of Passover week so it was left on April first.

Here is a comment about what you may have read in the previous month of this paper, along with a photo of a bird and some snow: The LAST snow of winter, which was on March 6. The Auburn folks did not know about that snow as it mostly was east of highway 67. Then we woke on Easter Sunday and were amazed to see another snow. The last snow of winter was the correct wording as it did not snow again before March 20. The snow on Easter was the first snow of spring. The second or third snow of this spring will hopefully be the last until much later this year. I don't like it. Noooooooo, single digit air temperature is a cute way to say it will be below 10 degrees. I don't like it. Some fruit trees had buds and the MASTER GARDENER in our house says that even a low of 27 degrees will cause no peaches to develop this year. I don't like it. On a fruit tree web site the lowest temperature for apple buds is 9 degrees so we shall see about fruit later this year.

April is usually the month for the first morel mushrooms to be found in southeast Nebraska. The deadline for this article appears to be too early for mushrooms here this year. I don't like it.

## The Irony of Spider Webs

Janet Sobczyk ©2011

Sometimes I stand in wonder  
at the spider web  
woven overnight  
between car and bush.  
I stop to examine it,  
sturdy and sticky enough  
to catch the largest insects,  
but dainty and sparkly,  
beautiful, symmetrical.  
Could easily be ruined  
by the swipe of a mean broom.

Sometimes I simply marvel  
at the swift acrobatics  
and skill of the small spider  
who crafted this masterpiece,  
and rests at the far edge  
waiting for food to be snared,  
then springs into action  
like a small cowboy roping,  
wrapping the victim in silk.  
I ponder the poor fly's plight...  
it is the circle of life.

Sometimes I don't see the web,  
and walk right through it!  
It stretches beyond limits,  
instantly adheres to skin.  
I cringe from the shock of it,  
dance around peeling strands  
in sheer disgust.  
The invisible silk sticks  
in hair, on fingers.  
Recoil in fear, just think...  
the spider might be on me!

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<<<<<< 'Window' Continued from page 3

and Bacall, and one other comes to mind. Those 'loves' are forever, but (sadly?) not the love of Dylan and Baez.

One would think that I should be an expert on the history of the era. I was in high school and college all through the 60's, but I wasn't paying much attention to anything outside of class except the space program and farm chores. I remember Viet Nam and body bag counts on the nightly news. I heard about marijuana and heroin. I watched news 'footage' showing protests and tear gas. I played touch football and chess, and I remember the pretty girl I took to the remake of "Gone With The Wind". But otherwise, I was busy studying, working my way through college, obsessed with NASA and men going to the moon, with car payments and computers, and wondering how so many college kids had time to do so much marching and protesting and pass exams too. I figured they all were smarter than me.

I'm hoping what comes out of my 60's musings will be a better appreciation for living in today, in the moment, knowing that having lived through some things hasDockFilesMay put me on a path to a destination which, if I make it to 100 years old, I'll look back and feel nostalgic again, for when I was occasionally prompted to write about a memory and share it with friends. Perhaps my rusty old memories of the past will remind me to be aware of the diamonds in the present moment. Like these few diamonds Bob Dylan wrote for his son, and recorded by Joan Baez, "May God bless and keep you always, and may you stay forever young."

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## 'Welcome to Medicare' Workshop in Nebraska City

Submitted by Mary Ann Holland

The Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program [SHIIP], a division of the Nebraska Department of Insurance, is pleased to host the "Welcome to Medicare" workshop. Medicare eligibility, enrollment, affordability and other insurance basics will be covered.

The Welcome to Medicare workshop will be held on Thursday, May 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Learning Center in Nebraska City, 819 Central Avenue.

As you or a family member approaches Medicare eligibility, the task of understanding the program can be daunting. Mary Ann Holland, SHIIP Certified Medicare Counselor, and retired Nebraska Extension Educator will be the presenter. This event is co-sponsored by Southeast Community College and the Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program [SHIIP]. Tuition is being provided by the Nebraska SHIIP. There is no cost to attend the workshop, however participants must register to ensure adequate handout materials. To register, please visit the [www.doi.ne.gov/shiip](http://www.doi.ne.gov/shiip), or call 402-471-2841 at the SHIIP office.

Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program [SHIIP] offers free, unbiased Medicare counseling and education to help seniors and people with disabilities make informed decisions about health insurance. Services are provided statewide by 350 certified volunteers. Nebraska SHIIP is federally-funded and is coordinated by the state Department of Insurance.



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# Poetry by Devon Adams

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## REUNIONS

Like a blue bullet streaking through the park, the indigo bunting shot across a picnic table filled with food for a score or more of former residents coming home to say hello again to those they used to see each and every day as they learned their way through all the grades inside the building made from bricks. Memories are sharp and very precious, and relived in every tiny detail. “See you all again next year,” they say, hoping that it will happen.

## FLOWER CHILDREN

A young mother strolls through a field of wildflowers with her two toddlers. Soft breezes play with strands of their wavy blond hair that is glowing from the rays of the setting sun. “Angels must look exactly like them,” she says silently to herself as she gazes at her children. They are enchanted by the colors and the heady scents of the many flowers, which meet them face to face, as they stop to smell each bloom. The scene is a perfect portrait of flower children, both the human and the plant kind, and all of them are precious beyond words.

## HOUSE KEEPING

We all know people who are compulsive about their house cleaning. Some won't, or can't, tolerate the lightest trace of dust insulting the the contents of a home, not to mention stains on upholstery or part of a carpet. Hell awaits the person who leaves a house before it is impeccable in every sense of the word. Then there are other beings who also take care of their living quarters in a similar manner. That there are wings involved isn't really a factor though, because a bird's nest is also a home that is crucial to the health and safety of the family it encloses. Anyone who has found a nest dislodged by a storm has observed the intricacy involved in weaving a tight basket, lined with soft fibers from hair, milkweed, moss, ribbons, yarn, fabrics, grass and multiple other “found objects,” knows that a master builder was responsible for the magic house.

## THEIR WAY

Mirrors have people behind them. We see ourselves, usually, but sometimes we see one of our parents looking back at us. Crazy as it seems, the older face staring at us is the soul of our heredity, the cells that will never die, as our genes pass through the generations. But more to the point, that is our own mother or father, who is always watching us, as we hear their voices echoing in our ears. Even when we are not usually aware that our actions and choices are almost identical to those who created us, there are times of confrontation when our comprehension dawns and we can recognize the resemblance.

## FALLING INTO SLEEP

Out of the light of day and into the gray of evening, colors slowly dim and die into shades of steel and sooty black. Like a fading picture, the thoughts that defined our consciousness change as sleep creeps at the edges of our eyes. Soon we are at the boundary of reality and have crossed it's murky edge. Through fields of dreams we walk into places of memory or altogether new. We talk with people who are familiar or unknown, and one thing leads to another until we wake in a new place and time that is our tomorrow.



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- (A) '07 JD Z445, 306 hrs, 54" deck.....\$1800
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## Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson



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I'm writing from St. Joseph, Missouri, this month, where hubby and I are enjoying our grandkids – and getting REALLY tired! – while our son and daughter-in-law are vacationing in Jamaica.

The closest hubby and I have ever gotten to Jamaica was a cruise to the Bahamas back in 1997. It was our 25th wedding anniversary celebration. I have to say, the weather was crummy. The cruise was in January and the whole country was in the grip of a very deep jet stream. Arctic air brought rain and high seas to the Caribbean for the majority of our trip. According to the cruise propaganda, the Caribbean gets sunshine 360 days out of the year. Wouldn't you know we'd manage to pick the other five days to set sail. We should have gone in September, when our anniversary actually falls, but that's peak hurricane season. So, we thought what better time to go south than in January, when escaping cold and snow would be so lovely? Unless there's a deep jet stream in play.

Hubby got seasick, despite taking Dramamine, and we were both a little underwhelmed with the shipside entertainments. I recall Janet Jackson performing. Definitely not our style. All we really wanted was to sit beside the top-deck pool and soak up the sun, and make the scheduled stop on a private island. Both of those activities got canceled. We did get to snorkel off Key West on our last day. But hubby was so worried about getting left behind while our catamaran returned to shore, that he had a hard time enjoying it. All-in-all, the experience pretty much soured us on ever taking another ocean cruise.

On the other hand, a European river cruise looks pretty appealing. We've looked into those a little bit – anniversary #50 is bearing down on us. The historic and cultural sites, the food, the scenery (with a tour guide taking care of all arrangements!) sound fantastic. On the other hand, the cost is several times that of an oceanliner cruise. Then, of course, there's the threat of attacks by crazies. Although that likelihood is probably less than the chances of being left behind in the open ocean by your catamaran. Or, we could opt for "Europe light" and just go to Montreal. Oui oui!!

We could challenge ourselves to backpacking 50 miles of the Appalachian Trail just to see if we can do it. I could maybe get into that if it weren't for the possibility of black bears wanting to share our tent. Or maybe we could rent our own houseboat on the Mississippi. The downside to that could be mosquitoes pretty much all the way from Minneapolis to New Orleans. We could visit a state we've never been to: North Dakota comes to mind. I hear the Bakken Oil Fields are nice in September.

Maybe I'm getting the cart in front of the horse. Who knows if we'll make it to our 50th anniversary? And by "make it" I mean "still be alive." At this point, our marriage likely has a statistically higher chance of survival to "death do us part" than our actual lives have. If that makes sense.

Anyway, I'm thrilled that right now our son and daughter-in-law are having a great time in Jamaica, and hubby and I are having a great time here in St. Joe. Our future is not guaranteed, but our present is pretty darn good.



## At a Veteran's Graveside Service

By Janet Sobczyk ©2017

In memory of Tom Otto of Norfolk, NE.

We step amid headstones, through parallel rows  
a motorcycle honor guard in Harley vests  
holds stars and stripes on long poles.

Mourners gather under a green canvas tent  
with bowed heads we listen to a final blessing  
carried away by the wind.

With focus downward, I notice shoes:  
brown penny loafers  
white shiny flats

black stilettos digging divots  
blue sandals with matching toenails  
tan boots with camo pants tucked in.

A yellow butterfly weaves on the breeze  
amidst legs, alights on flowers  
cascading over the casket.

"Taps" begins to play  
but the bugle sounds tinny  
I turn to see a seasoned vet in dress blues.

Holding horn to lips with white-gloved hand  
he isn't playing  
it's a recording.

When done he lowers the bugle  
discreetly turns off device in its bell  
and salutes.

A son of the vet takes roses off the casket  
hands them to women with hugs and tears  
the crowd disperses.

Car doors slam  
tires crunch on gravel  
as the line snakes through the gate.

At home, my red rose  
stands silently in a simple vase  
and wilts.



Nemaha County Veterans Memorial, Auburn, Nebraska

### STONES & FLOWERS

Devon Adams

If she could,  
she would sit up  
and smell the  
fragrant peonies  
that are blooming  
by her stone.  
They were her  
favorites, although  
lilacs were lovely  
and lasted longer.  
But to sniff the exotic,  
perfumed blossoms  
was almost heaven  
so many years ago.  
Now her daughter  
smells them for her,  
as she herself rests  
softly, under the spring  
green of the grass.

## MEMORIAL DAY



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## "Heaven-sent Angels"

By Vicki O'Neal



I was still catching Zzzzzz's at 6 a.m. when the phone call came from my dear old 'Miss Priss.'

"Can you take me to the hospital?" Priscilla's voice sounded muffled. "I'm dizzy, and my left side is going numb."

"Give me a minute," I said. "I'll be right there!" I breathed a prayer for Miss Priss, as I shimmied into my clothes. Then I ran out the door.

These stroke-like symptoms were nothing to sneeze at! I was scared for Priscilla. She was a brand new client, but from the moment I laid eyes on her, I'd loved Miss Priss...a blue-eyed Angel with a halo of white curls.

When I first saw her, she was standing in the doorway with her little whippet dog peering between her legs. "Oh..." I gasped. "You look like an Angel...an absolute Angel!" Then I'd ducked my head, embarrassed at myself.

Miss Priss didn't mind my strange interjections. We were soon great friends—but her whippet-dog, Carmella, wasn't so sure of me! Carmey had issues. She'd been rescued from an abusive home, and she now owned Miss Priss without question—and was very protective of her!

But then came the emergency call at 6 am. I had to get Miss Priss to the hospital post-haste! The whippet-dog, Carmella, was distraught when I arrived at Priscilla's door.

"Poor little Carmey! She's so upset!" Priscilla said. "She saw me slapping myself—trying to get rid of the numbness in my arm and leg. And now she doesn't know what to think!" Priscilla's sky-blue eyes clouded over like they were about to rain. "I really need to get to the hospital!" she said. "We'd better go right this minute!"

I hustled her to the car, and sped toward the hospital. We needed a miracle for my dear Miss Priss. Her symptoms weren't good. I feared she had a major stroke coming on.

The medics at the Emergency Room were efficient. Soon after arrival, Priscilla was whisked away into the white abyss of the Hospital's "great beyond". And I was left alone.....

I breathed a sigh of relief and was just starting to relax when my cellphone rang again. It was more

trouble-in-the-making. Another client needed my help!

I hurried to help with the latest crisis, after promising the hospital attendant that I'd return later to check on Priscilla.

Emergencies seemed to be the order of the day. I spent my morning rushing here and there—helping people left and right. By the time I was done, I seriously needed a break. I also needed time to say a prayer for my angelic Miss Priss.

I noted that right down the street, a Meeting was going on...A "Ladies' Prayer-n-Praise-Meeting" was underway at my local Church. So I went there and eased into a seat.

Now folks—if you don't believe in the Supernatural, you might as well stop reading right now—because you simply won't believe what happened next.

In the course of the Meeting, I felt inspired to stand up and gave a testimonial about various Miracles in my Life...How the Good Lord has protected me through dire situations...Times when I should've died, except for the divine intervention!

When I was concluding, I was interrupted by a voice from the back of the room.

A young woman jumped to her feet—a humble, but gifted young woman—who hears from the Lord in unusual ways. "I have to tell you something!" she said. We all stared at her, startled...But she was too excited to care.

"While you were speaking, I saw a figure standing behind you. I couldn't see his face clearly because he was glowing, but he was dressed in shining white." The young woman was nearly in tears. "His arms were stretched out toward you! He...he was very tall! His head almost touched the ceiling. The Lord let me know that it was your personal Guardian Angel!"

My own Angel...!? I was amazed.

Everyone else was astounded, as well, and the room was abuzz with chatter and exclamations. The day was turning out to be exciting, indeed! An angelic visitation at the Ladies' Meeting? Are you kidding?

Later, when I talked to the gifted young woman, she said: "I've seen a lot of unusual things, but only one

other time in my life have I seen an Angel standing behind somebody! I took a picture with my cellphone. The Angel was visible when I showed the photo to someone else—but then the camera refused to save it and the picture disappeared."

The young woman's eyes glowed at the memory of what she had just seen. "I can assure you of one thing," she said. "That Angel behind you, today, was very real!"

Well, folks...I have to tell you. I just about 'floated' out of that Ladies Meeting—feeling refreshed and so much better than when I'd arrived!

Later that afternoon, I returned to Priscilla at the hospital, she too looked refreshed and rejuvenated. It turned out that her diagnosis wasn't nearly as dire as we'd feared, and surprisingly, she was allowed to go home that very evening!

I helped check Priscilla out of the Hospital and drove her home at sundown.

Carmella, the whippet dog, was overjoyed to see us arrive back home safely. She cried and made a fuss over Miss Priss like she hadn't seen her in a year.

The setting sun cast a golden sheen upon the world, as I settled Priscilla into her home. I made her a cup of Lipton and the two of us sipped tea as the sunshine melted into dusk. It had been a long and eventful day—filled with craziness...fear, hope, and surprises!

I reflected upon the irony of it all. Today, I'd been sent to help my white-haired angel, Priscilla, and several others. In return, my own Guardian Angel had made an appearance! Would wonders ever cease?

Life is odd sometimes, my Country Neighbor—and quite unbelievable! Reality is much stranger than fiction!...a fact that Miss Priss, herself, never doubts!

And so it was, folks...when I told Priscilla about the events of my day and the appearance of my Heavenly Guardian at the Ladies' Meeting, she didn't seem shocked, nor surprised. And why would she?

Miss Priss has no trouble believing in Angels. None at all.

It's only natural, you see. Angels always believe in other Angels....!



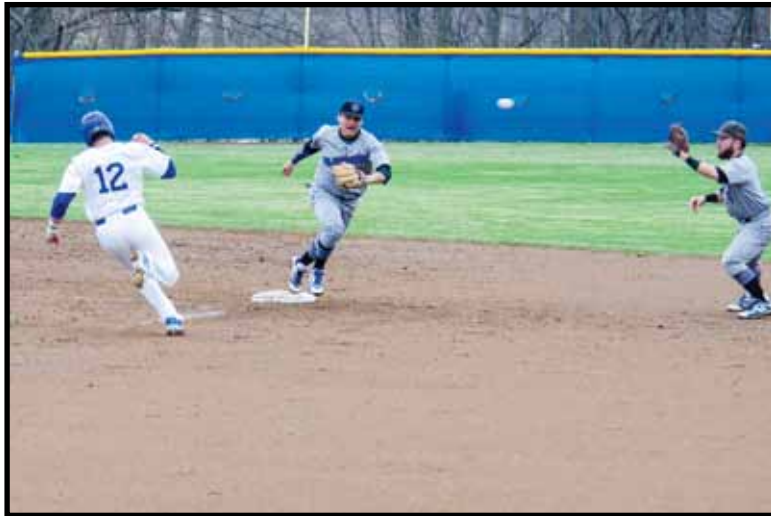
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## Peru State hosts 25th annual Greater Southeast Nebraska Mathematics Challenge

The Greater Southeast Nebraska Mathematics Challenge, which was founded in 1993 on the Peru State College campus, has announced the winners of its 25th annual contest.

Dr. Laura McCauley, assistant professor of math at Peru State College, said, "It was awesome! More than 125 students from 12 schools joined us for a great time at the 25th anniversary of the Challenge."

The competition consisted of three different sessions. The first session was a forty-question multiple choice individual exam in the subject for which the student registered. The second test was a team exam where students answered open-ended mathematics questions. The third session was a quiz bowl against other students in one of the specific subject areas.

The top three individual scores on the written tests and the top team score for each division and subject were given awards. Certificates were presented to the quiz bowl finalist teams. Team results are shown below. Individual awards were too many to be presented here.

The Peru State College PBL chapter was again recognized with a Gold Level Excellence Award. Gold Level Excellence is the highest level possible and shows that the chapter contributed to regional and national conferences, PBL public relations, community service, and fundraising. Peru State was similarly recognized in 2016 and 2017.

Dr. Sheri Grotrian-Ryan, professor of business and Peru State's PBL advisor writes, "Peru State Phi Beta Lambda continues to excel when competing at the State Leadership Conference. It's truly exciting having new students each and every year experience what PBL has to offer and to showcase their knowledge and talents. Students continually accept the challenge of these competitive events and perform at a very high level. I look forward to having a large Peru State group represent Nebraska PBL at the National Leadership Conference this summer."



Bindle is one of 50 U.S. and international college students selected through a competitive application process. The Lifesavers Conference showcases the latest research, evidence-based strategies, proven countermeasures, and promising new approaches for addressing the nation's most pressing traffic safety problems.

Bindle is pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice, Counseling and Psychology and minoring in Substance Abuse Counseling at Peru State College.

Peru State College student Bailey Bindle has been named a 2018 Traffic Safety Scholar (TSS) and awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to attend the 37th annual National Lifesavers Conference on Highway Safety Priorities, April 22-24 in San Antonio, TX. Bindle was also a 2017 Traffic Safety Scholar.

Harvard took home the team award for Algebra Division II.



Weeping Water took home the team award in Algebra Division III.



Harvard took home the team award in Calculus Division II.



Thayer took home the team award for Geometry Division II.



Sterling took home the team award for Geometry Division III.



Thayer took home the team award for Precalculus Division II.



Johnson-Brock took home the team award for Pre-Calculus Division III.



###

*Ashley Peiman contributed to this release*

Romance Writers of America is pleased to announce that the work "In His Arms" by author Julia Harney Stamps has been named as a finalist in the Romance Novella category of the 2018 RITA awards. Stamps writes under the pen name Jules Dixon. The RITA, the romance publishing industry's highest award of distinction, recognizes excellence in published romance novels and novellas.

Stamps has more than twenty publications under the name Jules Dixon including the series Triple R, Holiday Hotties, and Cherry County Cowboys.



Alumna named national finalist for 2018 RITA award for "In His Arms".

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