

**Your  
May  
2021**

# Country Neighbor

**Free! Take 2  
and Share!**

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



April was a good month for PSC Baseball!

May 1st was a great day for a parade in Nebraska City!

## A Magazine from Small Town & Rural America

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

### Deaths so far, from Covid-19 in our “Country Neighborhood”





Source: Google Search; ‘Name’ County, Nebraska Covid

<u>Date</u>	<u>Nemaha</u>	<u>Otoe</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<u>Richardson</u>
April 3	14	9	9	18
April 10	15	9	9	19
April 17	15	9	9	19
April 24	15	9	9	19
May 1	15	9	9	19

Your Mask Protects Others Around You  
Shouldn't your patriotic duty be to protect  
your relatives, friends, neighbors?

Follow CDC Guidelines! Wear a Mask! Get the Vaccine!

## Inside

Covid-19 Deaths in Southeast Nebraska.....	1
“Brighten Your Days With Success”.....	2
Local Photography.....	1,3,4,5,8,11
‘Welcome To Medicare’ Workshop.....	4
Devon’s Poetry.....	6 & 7
Brownville Flea Market This Month!.....	9
Merri’s “Diary of a Part-time Housewife”.....	10
Janet’s “The Lucky Penny”.....	10
“Window On Fifth Street”.....	11
 PSC Sports Photos.....	12,13,14
 PSC News.....	15
 Scholarships At Peru State!.....	16
 Valentino’s Dollar Coupon!!.....	16

# *Your Country Neighbor*

*Voices and Views From the Valleys of the Nemaha*

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

P.O. Box 126  
Peru, Nebraska 68421

**countryneighbor@windstream.net**

**Online at [yourcountryneighbor.com](http://yourcountryneighbor.com)**

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

Ralph Waldo Emerson

## **May Writers & Contributors**

Devon Adams - 6 & 7

Stephen Hassler - 11

Merri Johnson - 10

Dorothy Rieke - 2

Janet Sobczyk - 10

Thank You!

## **Total Accumulated Covid-19 Deaths in Nebraska**

April 3 2284

April 10 2328

April 17 2332

April 24 2358

May 1 2366

Check here again next month.

Your Mask Protects Others Around You

**Shouldn't your patriotic duty be to protect your relatives, friends, neighbors?**

Follow CDC Guidelines! Wear a Mask! Get the Vaccine!

## **Brighten Your Days With Success!**

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

A few days ago, a radio announcer proclaimed, “The only place you’ll find success coming before work is in the dictionary.” It is true that success seldom appears “out of the blue” without effort. Success generally requires planning, input from others, perseverance, and work and more work.

Success is often preceded by ideas, goals, and labor. Ideas, unless acted upon, never develop. They must be first deemed workable and vital to lifestyle goals. They must then be reviewed and evaluated. Some ideas are not suited; some are not worthy of our attention; still others require too much work to be the focus of our actions.

Once our good ideas have been separated from bad ones, the good ideas can be acted upon and pursued. Ask yourself, “What does it take to bring these ideas into reality? What steps must be taken to reach goals concerning these ideas?” After reviewing what is needed to turn your ideas into goals, the decision may be made to forget that particular idea, or the idea may be deemed worthy of your attention.

If the idea will be beneficial to your life, make plans to proceed. List goals and actions needed to bring that idea into reality. Utilize your knowledge, resources, and talents. What skills are needed to succeed? What time frame is needed for completion?

Work to succeed may involve disappointments, setbacks, and even defeat. However, with renewed energy, courage, and hope, proceed to completion.

Finally, when work is completed, evaluations can be made. Now is the time for the wonderful feelings that success brings.

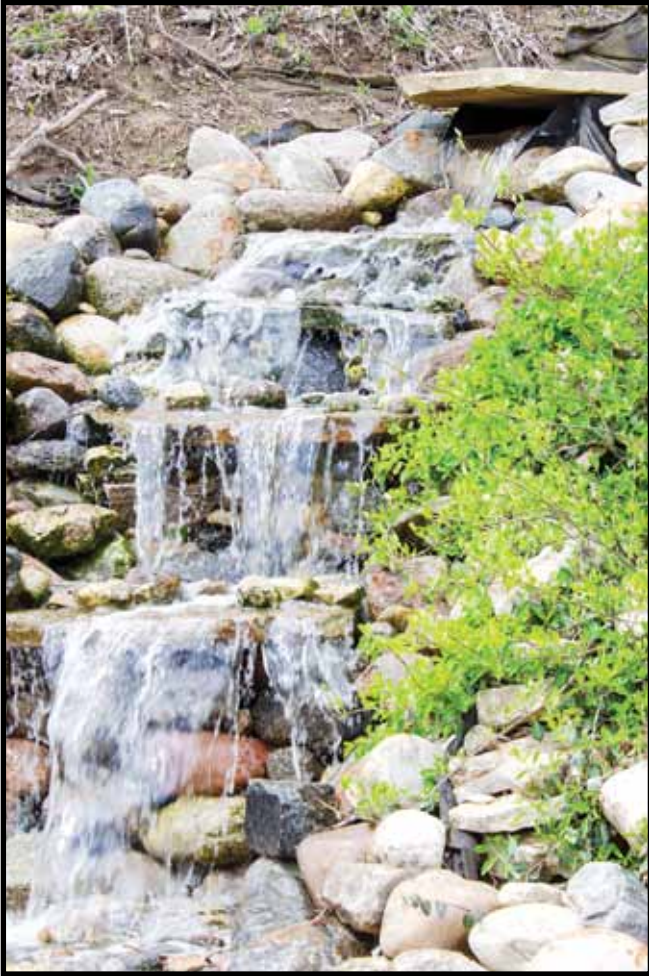
Success has a way of encouraging, pleasing and elating. It establishes exaltation and hope for future endeavors. However, remember that success is a heady emotion that is best drunk in small quantities. Small quantities are all we need to bring elation and satisfaction. Success is what makes life interesting and productive. It is always worth the effort.

Success, indeed, is seldom a random happening. There are steps as well as personal qualities that lead to this type of accomplishment. The following are helpful in reaching goals leading to success.

- 1 Cultivate an acute memory.
- 2 Develop an appetite for hard work.
- 3 Establish a tireless interest in details.
- 4 Set goals to advance.
- 5 Cooperate with others, allowing them to assist and advise.
- 6 Set your creativity on fire.
- 7 Pay attention to relevant facts.
- 8 Use determination and persistence to proceed.

Success is the ultimate in achievement. It enlivens lives, enriches futures and builds self-confidence and self-esteem. As Sophocles once observed, success is “The reward of toil.” It is worth waiting for and worth working for.





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Full Moon, April 26, 2021



The pink blossoms were especially welcome this Spring.  
Brownville Theatre, 04/18/21.



## 'Welcome to Medicare' Workshop May 6th in Nebraska City

Submitted by Mary Holland

The Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program [SHIP], a division of the Nebraska Department of Insurance, is pleased to host a "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 6th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Southeast Community College Learning Center, 819 Central Ave., Nebraska City.

As you or a family member approaches Medicare eligibility, the task of understanding Medicare enrollment can be daunting. Mary Ann Holland, SHIP Certified Medicare Counselor, and retired Nebraska Extension Educator will be the presenter. According to Ms. Holland, "You will have a better understanding of how and when to enroll in Medicare health coverage, what to do about employer health care coverage, and the importance of preparing ahead so that no deadlines are missed putting you in jeopardy of late enrollment."

The workshop is co-sponsored by Southeast Community College and the Nebraska SHIP. Call now to register. Tuition is being provided by the Nebraska SHIP. There is no cost to attend the workshop, however participants must register to ensure adequate handout materials. To register, please visit the SHIP website at [www.doi.ship@nebraska.gov](http://www.doi.ship@nebraska.gov), or call the SHIP office at 402-471-2841.

Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program [SHIP] 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 SHIP is federally-funded and is coordinated by the state Department of Insurance.




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# MEMORIAL DAY



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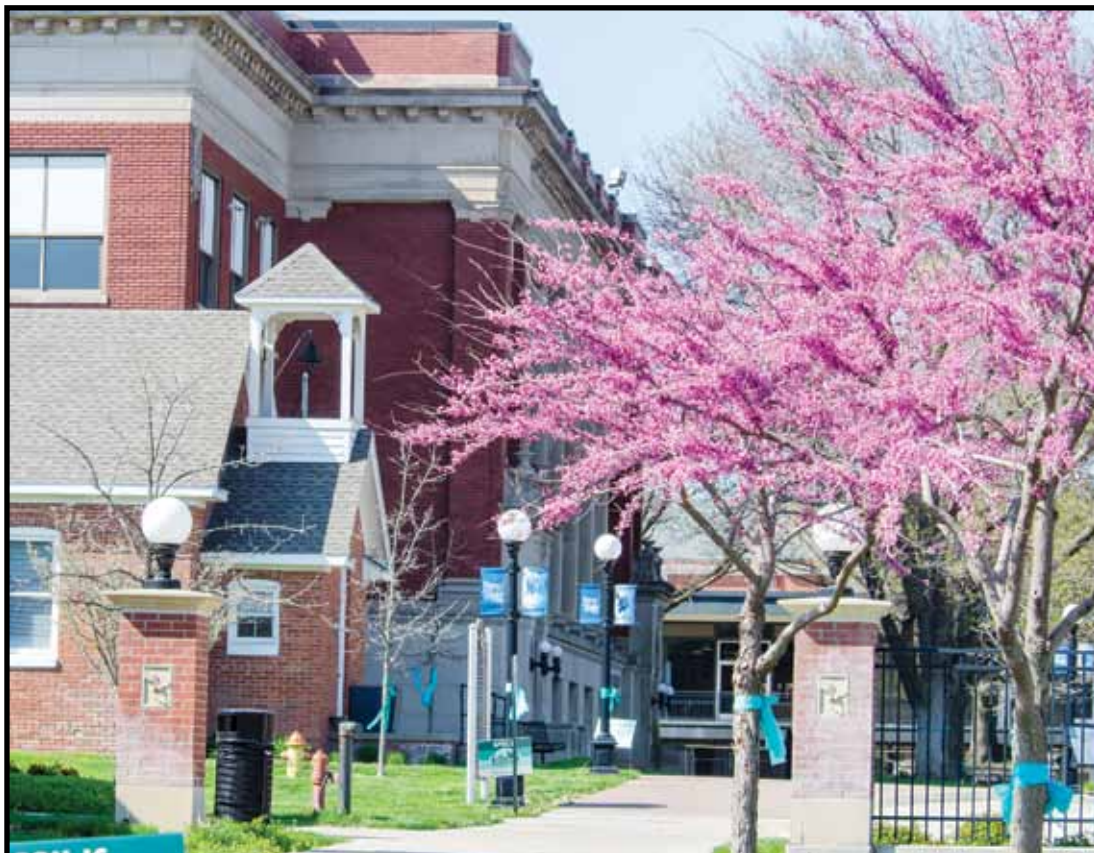
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**BLACK SQUADRON**

In the pale pink light of a long sundown, they came over the ridge in formation, with the point man leading. He tipped his nose toward a lone figure on the ground and dived into the wind. A silent thunder of wings, and shadows on the ground were the only warning, as the man jerked his head up to see black shapes racing at him. In a panic, he ducked behind a tree. The squad flew past him at almost eye level, their spooky red eyes staring at him, daring him to confront them in their hunt for food. They are sweepers of the sky and predators of the dead, these vultures full of menace that hang high and forever over the earth.

**SMOKY BLUES**

Spring greens were just getting started, with tender shoots of grass and baby soft leaves on the trees. The day was mild and sunny, with a stiff south breeze. Overhead, two eager eagles were doing a sky dance that looked like a fight to the finish. They locked claws and fell together in a death grip. But it was all part of the romance, when boy meets girl before they mate and make eggs and chicks. In a dazzle of feathers, they broke apart and climbed into the sky for another plunge, as a silent creep of smoke from a far fire rode the wind over the hills and wrapped them in a blue haze curtain.

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## SCENT TRAILS AND CONTRAILS

Looking like a bright blue chalkboard, the sky is criss-crossed with contrails from jets that fly over the long prairies below them. The chalk lines are thin, and then they settle into wider widths and dotted marks that seem confused, like students lost track of the problem they were solving, and just let their hands draw random shapes. In spring fields, wild flowers nod at each other, talking among themselves, hosting bees and butterflies on their petals, like handy drive-through fast food stops. Sun warmed air rises from the soil, soaking up scents from blooms. Mixed together like invisible bouquets, aromas carve scent trails through the ground level layers of atmosphere. They are a reflection of the jet lines drawn above.

## NESTING

Once we were all eggs in a nest, curled up and crowded, until it was time to come out and blink. Wet and cranky and screaming curses that would become words some day, we soon found comfort in soft blankets and warm milk. Sleeping was our specialty for awhile, but then it was fun to stay awake until our mother's were too tired to think. Finally we went to school, and our moms were lost without us, whether they had slept or not. Next came the teen years, when we knew everything. Time passed and we had kids and found out how much we didn't know. Mom still loved us though, and she still does, even if we're old and she's old. She still knows more than us.

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## WAILING AND WHINING

On the roll of the prairie, wind rustles the grass and ripples the water in the creek as it bubbles under the bridge by the oaks at the intersection. Dust flies off the road in little clouds of brown, while red-winged blackbirds sit on the reeds in the ditch, talking to each other. The far off farm house lives at the end of a long lane, with tall poles placed in spaces until they come to the yard, bringing a power line to an old homestead that used to be a little cabin. A breeze sighs through the wire, like a country slide guitar, telling sad stories with tears and years of toil and trouble. The people come and go, but the wind never stops singing.

## REMEMBER ME

In the soft, sweet air of spring flowers, the stones rest easy on green grass. There isn't any clock here, because there isn't time here anymore. Tomorrow is a lost memory for all the souls who will never live another day. But when friends and kin come to visit, bringing flowers and tears and memories, they know in ways that will always be mysteries that love is never lost, and that parts of them go on forever in the minds and hearts and the cells of those yet to be born.





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- (S) '97 JD 345, 54" deck, 1362 hrs, stk 374456.....\$2,400
- (S) '96 JD 345, 54" deck, 1374 hrs, stk 372290.....\$2,400
- (A) '06 JD 44 snowblower, stk 322142.....\$750
- (S) '05 JD 1445, 72" deck, 1916 hrs, diesel, stk 371132.....\$7,555
- (A) '18 JD Z540M, 54" deck, 102 hrs, stk 374460.....\$4,295
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## The Lucky Penny

Janet Sobczyk, Omaha, © 2021

“Find a penny  
pick it up  
all day long  
you’ll have good luck!”

Back when penny candy  
was a thing  
it was simply grand  
made him sing  
a copper in hand!

Grasped in chubby fist  
he’d rush to the store  
peer inside, make a wish  
and hope there’s more  
peppermint twists.

Those days are long gone  
now spot a penny  
laying on the lawn  
it ain’t worth any  
folks just walk on.

He’s old but a boy at heart  
when he spies one  
still plays his part  
it’s great fun  
almost an art.

“A penny saved  
is a penny earned”  
this maxim he’ll rave  
this lesson he’s learned  
‘cause hard times he’s braved.

He served in a war  
then lived on the street  
the poorest of poor  
but fate brought a treat  
he’s poor no more.

His childish ways  
all that penny collecting  
saved the day  
again made him sing  
boy, did it pay!

As if it was planned  
spied a 1944 steel wheat penny  
held in his hand  
didn’t look worth any  
but sold for \$100 grand!

*This fictional poem was inspired by National Lucky Penny Day, which is May 23rd. The value of the penny is not fictional.*

## Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

Another April shower is in progress as I write this. We have already recorded six inches of rain since March 13, but our garden topsoil was dry after those few warm and windy days.

Our timing on outdoor work this week turned out to be good. Of course, we had the benefit of an actual forecast of rain holding off until today to take advantage of. The cucumber and squash trellises along with hog panels for tomato supports are all installed, neat and tidy, with nary a weed to be seen. My paternal grandparents would be proud.

We purchased tomato and pepper plants a week ago, as well as a few annual flowers. So far, I have set them on the east patio to do some sunbathing each day and then brought them in each night. That does get tedious. But it is much too early to put tomatoes and peppers in the ground.

Last spring, my rhubarb was off to a great start when we got hit by multiple nights of freezing temps, effectively ending my dreams of rhubarb custard pie – my absolute favorite. I am not going to let that happen this year. I mounded a pile of dry leaves up around the stalks and secured a plastic bag with landscape staples to pull up over the top if needed. For the past two weeks I have scrupulously checked the predicted overnight lows and tucked my rhubarb in before sundown to be on the safe side.

Hubby planted a peach tree last spring, so we are monitoring the blossoms this year. So far, two are partially open, but have not been damaged. I suggested wrapping them all in individual “quilts” of cotton balls. Hubby rolled his eyes and said it wasn’t necessary. I am not so sure. The seven-day forecast is calling for 30-ish overnight temps yet into next week. I am keeping my fingers crossed that the cool daytime temps will keep the rest of the buds good and tight. But if they do pop, I may have to sneak out there and swaddle all seven of them.

If my ministrations toward plants seem excessive to you, my only explanation is that I was born with a steel trowel in my hand. To call it silver would imply that I was born into a family of means, where gardening meant playing with your hybrid orchids in your own greenhouse. Not so. I was born in the early 1950s on a small farm where a vegetable garden was as much an expectation as a necessity. While I don’t recall helping my mother in the garden as a child, if I was out there, I was probably doing more harm than good. My mother tells a story of her own childhood gardening lessons. In the story, her mother put several of my mom’s eleven siblings to work weeding the beans. When they were done, there wasn’t a single bean plant that hadn’t been uprooted. Being the saint my widowed grandmother was, she didn’t even scold them. I’m thinking my own mother learned that lesson and kept me and my four sisters out of the garden.

I have gardened a lot as an adult, sometimes stupidly, sometimes with success. It’s all good. I’m happiest when my hands are in the dirt, accomplishing something worthwhile in the fresh air and sunshine.

May all your gardens be bountiful this year!





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This Mariachi Band held a concert after the Arbor Day Parade.

## Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

My view through my window on Fifth Street has frequently revealed starting points for destinations dreamed of, and also the peace of mind that life right now is good, and could be better. For me personally, I dream about new adventures with a special someone, a drive through the country, a movie with buttered popcorn, dinner at a nice restaurant. I see morning conversations with coffee, holiday dinners with turkey, and holding hands while watching TV.

With the coming of Spring, and a break from this "real" Winter we've been having, I've begun to peer through my window on Fifth Street wanting a refreshing view of the outside world. Then after being temporarily distracted by tulips, daffodils, and maybe some wild phlox, I'll again realize that shoveling snow, ice scrapers, and cold has given way to mowing, garden tools, and rain.

Seasons. Rebirth. The cycle of life. These and related thoughts are in my mind as I peer down the slope of time, looking back on past events and memories. I have a different respect for life now that I measure it in decades rather than in school vacations or football seasons. So as I look up the slope of time toward the few decades that I trust I have left, my view does not include rafting on the farm crick (or creek), or bringing the cows home to be milked, no more building treehouses, catching toads on summer evenings, or fishing with a safety pin. Not even touch football with my college friends on Saturday afternoons. And there is a realization that I no longer want to do those things anyway. They are in my view looking backward, not forward.

So I am thinking that a cherished past must be set aside for the wondrous future. A past not to be forgotten, but neither to remain in the way of moving forward. With every sunrise, new wonders are presented for living; and the precious present is always the best place to be, especially when viewed through my window on Fifth Street.

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# Peru State College Men's Baseball

PSC *Bobcat* Baseball Photos -- April Home Games

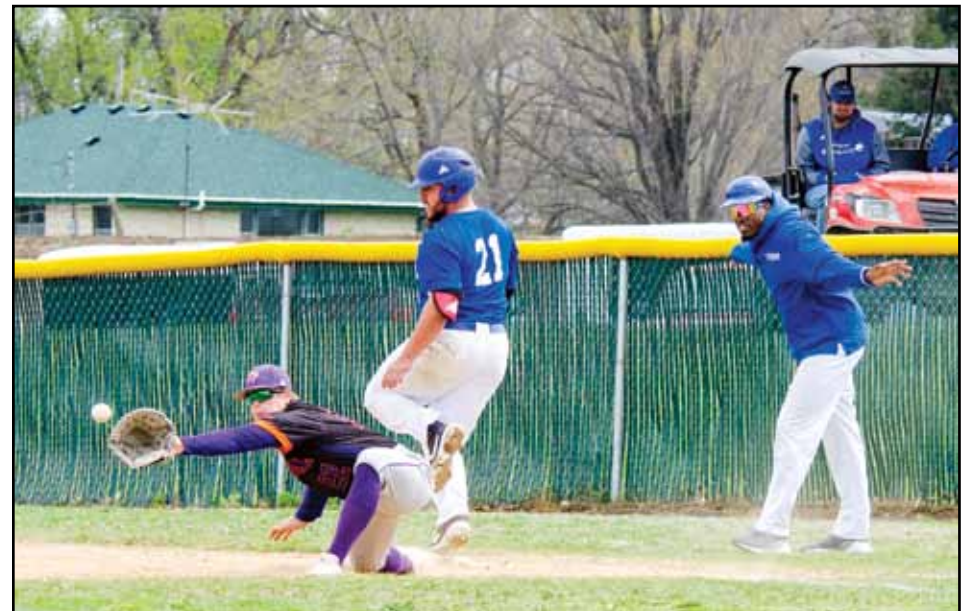
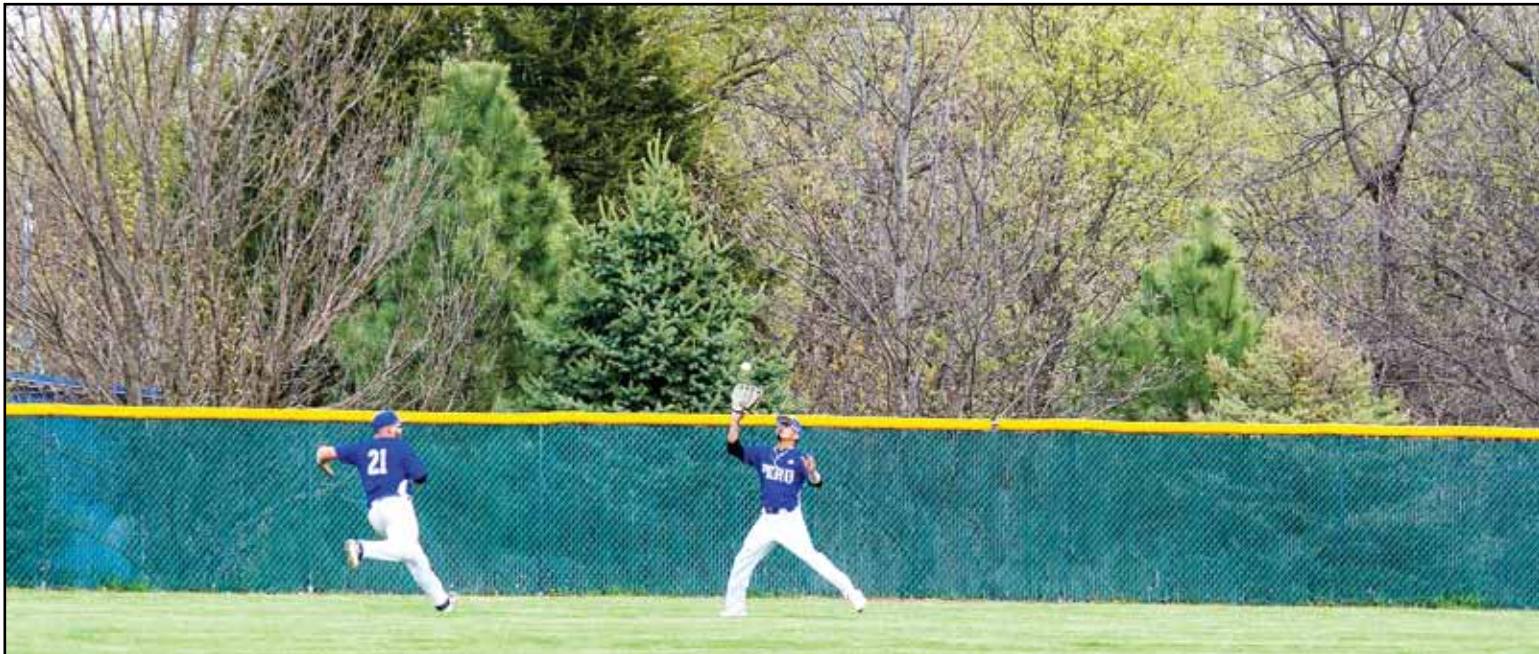






# Peru State College Men's Baseball

PSC *Bobcat* Baseball Photos -- April Home Games







# PSC Women's Softball

April 3, PSC *Bobcats* v Missouri Valley College *Vikings*, W, 8-1  
Visit [pscbobcats.com](http://pscbobcats.com)



Throw to 2nd; First Out Of Double Play



Tyler's Home Run



## April 2, PSC *Bobcats* v Evangel University *Crusaders*, L 4-8





# Peru State College News

## Bobcat Golf Classic Will Be Held May 28

Peru State athletic department officials have announced their annual spring Bobcat Golf Classic will be held Friday, May 28.

Brenda Lutz, tournament director, and Wayne Albury, athletic director, are happy to be able to have the tournament on its “normal” date and time of year after having to move last year’s event to October due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There will be a slight change in the day’s event as registration will begin at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start to begin at 9 a.m. A lunch will be provided following the tournament. There will still be a silent auction and other opportunities for all to participate in that day.

This is a fun tournament where those interested in Bobcat athletics can come and meet with various Bobcat coaches. You can connect with your fellow alumni and friends and compete for hole and flight prizes.

The cost is \$400 per team of four or \$100 per individual which includes green fees, carts, and the meal.

For more information about the golf tournament, please contact Brenda Lutz at **402-872-2350** or **at [blutz@peru.edu](mailto:blutz@peru.edu)**.

The registration deadline for the tournament is Friday, May 14.

## Phi Beta Lambda brings home 36 awards including 10 first place finishes from State Leadership Conference

Eleven Peru State College students competed in the 2020-2021 Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) State Leadership Conference. Peru State’s PBL chapter earned 32 top-eight awards including ten first place finishes this year, a chapter award and three additional awards.

Dr. Sheri Grotrian, professor of business and PBL advisor, shared, “While our number of student participants may be lower than previous years due to the pandemic that has somewhat curtailed student engagement, I am extremely proud of those who chose to participate and excel in this statewide competition. As we all have seen in this last year, the virtual work environment has become more prevalent, so this virtual competition provides yet another real-world application for these students to experience.”

In each event, the top two places in production or performance events or three places in objective tests are automatically eligible to compete at the National Leadership Conference, which will be held virtually this June. At this time, seven students have automatically qualified for Nationals. Students may compete in only two events at Nationals, and since Peru State has several students with options, other students may advance in the standings as participants decide which events they will enter.

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 since 2016.

## President’s and Dean’s List Fall 2020 semester.

Students representing Nebraska, 23 other states, Puerto Rico, and six foreign countries were on the lists.

To make the President’s List, students must have a grade point average of 4.0 for the semester, have completed at least 12 graded credit hours during the past semester, have no incomplete grades for the semester and be seeking their first degree.

To make the Dean’s List students must have a grade point average between 3.50 and 3.99 for the semester, have completed at least 12 graded credit hours during the past semester, have no incomplete grades for the semester and be seeking their first degree.

For the complete release, please go to:

**[peru.edu/news/2021/  
Fall2020PresidentsandDeansList.html](http://peru.edu/news/2021/Fall2020PresidentsandDeansList.html)**



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