New staff bring a fresh perspective to Peru State College

As the 2012-13 school year began, Peru State College welcomed many new faces to campus. The first of the new employees to arrive on campus over the summer was Dean of Student Life, Kristiaan Rawlings, with a start date of July 1.

Rawlings comes to PSC from the Santa Fe University of Art and Design in New Mexico, where he served as Director of Campus Life. Rawlings, his wife Selina and his daughter Sarai were thrilled to move to the area as they now live in between their families in South Dakota and Indiana. Rawlings noted that Sarai already has a legion of friends and potential baby-sitters in Morgan Hall.

Although his job description is similar to that at his prior institution, Rawlings noted that he has found numerous differences in the two schools and is fortunate to have such wise department veterans, insightful new staff members, and outstanding leadership from Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Michaela Willis.

The superb staff is not the only impressive characteristic of PSC, however.

“Although it sounds cliché,” Rawlings said, “I am continuously impressed with our student leaders. Peru offers a close-knit community feel, perpetuated by the administration’s ability to warmly connect with all campus constituents.”

Peru also gives Rawlings a chance to practice one of his favorite hobbies: running. In 2011, Rawlings ran the Boston Marathon and finished 4th, 626. Though this was not the gold medal marathon he hoped for, he ran the Arizona Dirt Trail Marathon two weeks later and accomplished his gold medal goal. He has now taken to enjoying daily jaunts on the Steamboat Trace Trail here in Peru.

In the event that students would like to contact the Student Life office, they should call the office at 462-872-2246, or email Dean Rawlings himself at krawlings@peru.edu.

Rawlings is just one of the many employees at PSC who are here to serve the students. Another new employee has previous experience on campus.

Daniel Fender, a PSC graduate, took office August 1 and serves the students in these three areas: Student Counseling, Withdrawal Counseling and Probation Advising.

Fender is a licensed mental health practitioner in the state of Nebraska and is here to help students cope with stress and anxiety as well as provide short term psychotherapy.

Though he was once found residing in the depths of Delzell Hall, he can now be found in CATS 203 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Fender has an open door policy and wants students to feel comfortable dropping by and talking about their well-being.

Though they hold a great deal of importance to PSC employees, current students are not the only focus of employees at PSC. Morgan Boyack, the new Director of Admissions, oversees interaction with future students.

Boyack took office at PSC on July 2 and established an immediate goal of increasing freshmen and transfer enrollment.

Prior to PSC, Boyack served as the Director of Admission at Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas.

“Making the switch just felt right,” Boyack said. “I’ve been impressed with the overall beauty of the campus since my arrival.”

As the Director of Admissions, Boyack got to jump into the swing of students full fledge during New Student Weekend. Boyack went head first into the rush of the weekend and the excitement of having students back on campus; he also went head first down the banana slide with the incoming freshmen!

Boyack has much enthusiasm for his job and PSC and encourages anyone with a passion for the college to come speak with him about visiting their high school to talk about PSC.

Students who are interested in contacting Boyack can e-mail him at mboyack@peru.edu.
Homecoming activities spread spirit throughout the Campus of A Thousand Oaks

JESSICA MERRILL
Staff Writer

It’s that time of year again! Peru State’s 2012 Homecoming is just around the corner. With the theme this year being “Sea of Blue,” Bobcats will celebrate with a week of fun-filled activities, prizes, and of course, free t-shirts!

The week will begin on Monday, September 24, with daily events sponsored by Campus Activities Board, better known as CAB, during lunch hours and in the evenings. Scheduled acts will occur Tuesday, September 25, with hypnotist Chris Jones, Thursday, September 27, with stand-up comedian Seaton Smith, and finally, on Friday, September 28, CAB will be having their annual homecoming dance on the quad where America’s Got Talent’s Josh Vietti, hip-hop violinist, will be performing alongside the DJ. More events will include the Powder Puff football game on Friday, along with a pep rally to be scheduled.

The week will conclude with the annual Homecoming parade, BBQ lunch on the quad and the football game. The Student Senate sponsored parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 29, with Senator Lavon Heidemann acting as the Grand Marshall. Prizes will be awarded for best decorated car, float and classic car. Student Senate President, sophomore, and classic car. Student Senate President, sophomore, and junior class attendants at half time. CAB and Student Senate encourage students to attend every event to show support for the Bobcats!

After the parade is over, students, alumni, faculty, staff and community members are invited to enjoy the tailgate on campus with festivities including face painting, inflatable obstacle courses, pictures with Bob the Bobcat and many more activities! At this time, there will also be a BBQ meal provided from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., which will be free to all.

The volleyball game will be at 1:00 p.m. and the football game at 2:00 p.m. The football game will take place in the historic Oval Bowl before the renovation begins later this fall, and Peru State Bobcats will be taking on Graceland University. Coronation of Homecoming King and Queen will be announced, along with the presentation of freshmen, sophomore and junior class attendants at half time. CAB and Student Senate encourage students to attend every event to show support for the Bobcats!

The Peru State Times
www.peru.edu/psctimes

The Times, the official student newspaper of Peru State College, is published four times per semester by Peru State College students. The Times office is located in the College Publications Office in Room 126 of the AV Larson Building.

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Sapp Bros. pledge $500,000 to Oak Bowl

(Peru, Neb.) Peru State College (PSC) today announced that Bill and Lee Sapp of Sapp Bros. Travel Centers and Petroleum have pledged $500,000 to the college’s Oak Bowl Project, the largest single non-estate gift in the institution’s history.

Lee and Bill Sapp are donating the funds to honor their mother, Emilie Hubka Sapp, and sisters Veloura Sapp Barnard and Zelma Sapp Drake, all of whom attended Peru State and taught in Nebraska country schools.

Bill Sapp said, “Our family understands the importance of education. During the Great Depression, our father, a cattle feeder, lost everything. Our mother, being a very positive person, encouraged our children to go to college as an education is something no one can ever take away. We are making this gift to honor our mother and sisters who spent their lives educating others.”

Lee Sapp said, “Our family is very important to us. I couldn’t have had a better mother and sisters. All of our accomplishments are due to their strength, love, faith and focus on the importance of education. By helping Peru State, we are helping students throughout southeast Nebraska get a quality education at a reasonable price.”

PSC President Dan Hanson said, “Thanks to the generosity of Bill and Lee Sapp, Peru State is another step closer to realizing an important vision for our future. I want to thank them for investing in the future of our college, students and southeast Nebraska. Their gift is a wonderful way to honor their beloved mother and sisters who dedicated so much of their lives to teaching others.”

Earlier this year the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 968 which appropriates $7.5 million toward the Oak Bowl’s renovation. Total costs for the Oak Bowl project, including a Fieldhouse, are estimated at $14 million. To complete the project in its entirety the college is working to generate private gifts and donations.

Hanson said, “The state’s willingness to invest in our future is largely due to the college’s progress and forward momentum over the past several years. This is an exciting time for Peru State and we look forward to making a facility enhancement that is a critical part of our comprehensive campus improvement plan.”

For more information regarding the Oak Bowl project or how to help in the early stages of this process, contact the Peru State College Foundation at pscfoundation@peru.edu or 402-872-2304.

Music majors make an effort to prepare for recitals

MICHAELA WOLVERTON
Contributing Writer

Every major at Peru State College has specific requirements in order to graduate. Recitals are one of those requirements for any student with a music major.

Student recitals are another way for music students to get better at performing in front of an audience.

On the occasional Thursday at eleven in the morning, music majors gather in the Jindra Recital Hall to either participate in or watch a student recital. Months of preparation go into that Thursday morning.

Music majors choose a primary instrument -- brass, woodwind, percussion, piano, or voice -- and take individual lessons with professors specializing in that instrument.

Dr. Thomas Ediger and Ms. Debra DeFrain teach piano lessons, Ms. Anne Sheedy-Gardner teaches woodwind instruments, Mr. Kenneth Meints teaches brass instruments and, new to Peru State College, Dr. Jacob Bartlett teaches vocal lessons.

The lessons not only assist students in bettering their musical skills, but also help prepare them for recitals.

Preparing for a recital is more than just having a thirty minute or hour long lesson with an instructor. After all, those lessons only happen once or twice a week. It takes a lot of personal preparation to be fully ready for a recital performance.

Students have to prepare the proper attire. Jeans and a nice t-shirt are not an acceptable option. In preparation of what to wear for a recital, students look in the semi-formal area.

Men are likely to be seen wearing dress pants, a button-up shirt, and usually a tie/vest combination. Women usually go with a skirt/shirt combination or choose to go even more formal with a dress. Of course, dress pants and a nice shirt are also a good option.

Color isn’t a large thing to worry about, although concert black or other dark colors would be good to consider.

Once the outfit is picked out, recital students then pick a piece from the repertoire built by them and their instructor. Once the piece is chosen, students practice and sign up for accompaniment times with DeFrain or David Norris. An accompanist keeps students from playing the same pieces by themselves, over and over again.

But practice doesn’t just happen by going over the piece dozens of times a day. Simply sitting down and listening to the piece, which generally is easy to find on YouTube, also helps. For those who play an instrument, it helps to listen to the piece and silently “practice” along with your instrument.

Mental preparation is by far the easiest step to being fully ready for a recital: simply breathe, relax and focus.

Intern Spotlight

Senior exercise science major Colby Tucker from Caldwell, TX interned at Utah State University Athletes this summer through Peru State College’s internship program. About his experience, Tucker said, “During my internship, I really learned what it takes to build and maintain a successful strength and conditioning program at Division 1 level. There is more than just coaching involved in maintaining a Division 1 program. Cleaning and keeping the weight room organized is a big key to having everything run smoothly.”
Homecoming traditions continue

EMILY CROM
Contributing Writer

With Homecoming set for September 29, several groups on campus are busy preparing for the week’s festivities. These groups include the Peru Theatre Company and the Peru State College Marching and Jazz bands, both of which have been focusing on upcoming performances.

As is tradition, the Peru State College Marching Band, under the direction of Dr. Patrick Fortney, will march in the Homecoming parade on the morning of Saturday, September 29 at 10:00 a.m.Immediately following the parade, the Hoyt Street Jazz Ensemble, also under the direction of Dr. Fortney, will make its appearance during the tailgate on the Quad. This jazz ensemble will provide entertainment throughout lunchtime, right in front of the Jindra Fine Arts building.

The Marching Band will perform once again at the football game in the Oak Bowl, which kicks off at 2 p.m. They have been preparing a halftime show featuring classic rock tunes from artists like Led Zeppelin. The band will also do their part in firing up the fans as they play some familiar pep band tunes throughout the game.

This play is based on the true story of Sadako Sasaki, a young girl affected by the bombing of Hiroshima during World War II. Sadako --- only two years of age at the time of the bombing --- loses her grandmother due to the disaster. Years later, as a 12-year-old girl, Sadako is diagnosed with leukemia as a result of radiation exposure from the atomic bomb.

Like the band, the Peru Theatre Company (PTC) has been hard at work, preparing for Homecoming week. This year, the featured play is student-directed by Lomus Khatiwada. Khatiwada chose to direct a play titled A Thousand Cranes by Kathryn Schultz Miller.

The singular ambition of an organization should be for its members to succeed in the foundational goals of their group and its mission. The Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) chapter at Peru State College has truly exceeded this objective by promoting member success at the local, state and national levels. PBL is an association comprised of members pursuing a career related to business. It has blossomed into a high achieving group on campus. Local members once again attended the National Leadership Conference and established themselves as a group to be recognized with 3 members earning first place, 7 placing in the top 10, and 15 that placed in the competition in San Antonio, TX. Kesha Beethe, Will Fogle and Alex Klippert were all first place winners. Mary Martin, Jamie Theye, Andrew Conn, Mallory Lemppa, Andrew Staudt, Debbie Tracek and John Beal placed in the top 10. As a chapter, PBL was honored with the Hollis and Kitty Guy Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit in recognition of their achievement.

Guiding members down the road to success at the National Leadership Conference is a yearlong process. This hard work begins in the PBL meetings, which are biweekly on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. in TJM 326. During these meetings, members plan community service and fundraising events. The fundraising events, such as their upcoming Silent Auction at the Peru State College Homecoming, provide funds for the expenses of financing member travel to state and national conferences. PBL also anticipates having a spaghetti feed in the spring semester. Engaging in community outreach is another goal of PBL. Members participate in a trash pick-up twice a year. The second step to attending the National Leadership Conference is for members to participate in the state contests hosted in Kearney, NE. During this competition, contenders engage in various categories and forms of individual and group assessment, which include online tests, presentations, and production tests for topics such as community service, future business executive, and future business teacher. At the state conference if a competitor place in the top three in individual or top two in group, he or she qualifies to attend the national conference.

PBL president Jamie Theye reflected on the summer and her anticipated future success of the group and stated, “I am extremely confident in our member’s abilities. Our capacity to thrive in state and national competitions, I feel, is evidence of PBL’s excellence. Next year’s National Leadership Conference is in Anaheim, CA. With 12 veteran members and 15 new members, I expect that we should qualify just as many people.”

The confidence in PBL and its membership is indicative of the positive attitude of the group and its expectation of perpetual success for the future.

Beethe, Fogle, and Klippert claim National Business Contest championships

MEGAN BROWN
Advertising Manager

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Was ObamaCare the right way to go?

TEDD MERILL
Contributing Writer

A hot issue in this election is the facts and myths surrounding Obama’s Health Care for America Reform commonly known as ObamaCare. This is entirely my opinion and does not represent all the views for the Peru State Times. All information that I provide is from www.obamacarefacts.com, www.dailyfinance.com, and The Washington Post.

In 2010, the Obama Administration came out with a plan to reform health care in the United States. I believe that health care is greatly flawed in a good portion of its aspects. I don’t think this was the proper time to try and change something as big as health care, not with over 8% of the U.S. population unemployed and no end in sight to the recession we are currently under, but I do commend President Obama in seeing a problem and coming up with a plan to fix it. I think that more information should have been provided to the public to avoid all the scrutiny and myths that have been swirling around lately. It seems that everyone rushed to get the bill passed and most Congressmen will admit that not all of the 955 pages of the report were read. I do not appreciate that at all. It is Congress’ job to pass laws and bills and make sure everything is in order before a bill or law is passed. I don’t know if it was laziness or being in too much of a hurry and skipping some small details, but it definitely seems like some things were overlooked. I decided to address some main points that I found about ObamaCare and share my thoughts about each one. Here are some main points of ObamaCare provided by www.obamacarefacts.com:

“ObamaCare’s goal is to provide affordable health insurance for all U.S. citizens.”

I know this is true. The President is trying to make the U.S. a better place by helping everyone. I don’t see President Obama as a heartless socialist that many people make him out to be. He will do what’s best for the country as a whole.

“ObamaCare does not replace private insurance or Medicaid.”

It should not have to replace private insurance. Some private insurance companies provide excellent care at very good rates; some do not. That’s just how it goes. I was hoping Medicaid would be improved with Healthcare Reform.

“Affordable health coverage means American’s and families pay what they can afford.”

I have some problems with this statement. It does not say what type of coverage people on low-income receive. Meaning if a family of four only has a household income of say $30,000 do they receive the same type of care as a family that makes $250,000 a year? Everything I have read does not go into great detail on that which is kind of worrisome.

There are many other facts and points, but this would take up several pages for this paper. I encourage everyone to read the facts and myths for themselves and see if ObamaCare was the right way to go.

World of Warcraft: Don’t judge a person by his or her hobby

CHLOE LANGFORD
Contributing Writer

Eleven million people play World of Warcraft; 11 million plus one as of September 1. Yes, it is true: I, Chloe Langford am now spending my free time playing WOW. In my defense, though, let me explain how I got to this point.

It all started around last March when I started hanging out with my boyfriend. He is addicted to World of Warcraft. While I would sit and do my homework, he would log into WOW and zone me out for hours. I would have to repeat his name 6 or 7 times before he’d respond, and when I would want to go out and do something or watch a movie I would get a lot of “One more battleground then I’ll log out” and a lot more “Ten more minutes and I’ll be done” and even more “Hold on…”

As you can imagine I was livid. I hated WOW and thought my boyfriend was the biggest nerd ever. He was always bothering me to get an account, but I refused to saying that I didn’t want to pay for it and that I didn’t want it to break my computer. Then last Saturday it happened.

We were both getting over bronchitis and didn’t feel like doing much of anything. After watching the South Park episode that makes fun of World of Warcraft, my boyfriend suggested that I should just start playing WOW. I was quiet for a minute pondering the idea and finally said okay. He was so excited that we started the download right away. What happened next couldn’t have been predicted by Nostradamus. I was hooked.

This game has everything! I get to design my own character, I can get pets, make jewelry, and I can even go shopping for clothes that give me powers. Now why am I telling you that I’m officially addicted to WOW and just as nerdy as my boyfriend? Because the point of this article is to say that not everyone that plays games is a zitty fourteen-year-old boy who has no friends or a morbidly obese middle aged man who has no social skills.

I don’t think I should be embarrassed that I have a WOW account, and I think we need to give the gamers a break, but the most important lesson, in my opinion, is that you shoulden’t knock something until you try it. I encourage everyone to try something they’ve been bashing on whether it’s something to eat in the cafeteria, a new fad that everyone’s into or even a video game.
Figures from history: Who was the real life Superman?

RAE CARBOUGH
Contributing Writer

In New York, on September 25, 1952, Superman was born — or at least the actor who portrayed Superman. A man of many talents, Christopher Reeve was an actor, film director, producer, screenwriter, author and activist. After graduating in 1970 from Princeton Day School, he started his acting career in community theatres before going on to college. Though Reeve received many acceptance letters from various universities, he finally chose Cornell University because, as he claims, it was closer to New York.

Without hesitation, Reeve joined the Cornell University theatre department where he was discovered by the well-known talent agent, Stark Hesseltine. After meeting, Hesseltine and Reeve decided that Reeve would continue school while auditioning for summer work in New York on a monthly basis. Thanks to this effort, a star was found and was pushed further into the world of theatre.

The very next summer, Reeve received a contract with the San Diego Shakespeare Festival partaking in such parts as Edward IV in Richard III, Fenton in The Merry Wives of Windsor, and Dumaine in Love’s Labour’s Lost. This very talented man did not stop there. As time went by and his talent became obvious, Reeve took three months off of his junior year in college to go to Europe to study and participate in the many different productions in Scotland and England. Once back in New York, Reeve auditioned for Julliard, competing against 2,000 other freshmen for 20 spots. Reeve, along with Robin Williams, were accepted into the Julliard Advanced Program. There his talent flourished, and by the end of his time at Julliard, Superman was about to be born into film.

Once the first Superman became a hit, the sequels kept coming. Sadly, not all of the Superman movies were box office hits, and the series ended. Luckily for Reeve, being a talented man, work was not hard to find in between the Superman movies. He also starred in other works like Somewhere in Time, a romantic fantasy, and many other plays. Even though Reeve had tasted the Hollywood life, he stuck with his theatrical roots.

Reeve picked up many different hobbies while working in show business. One of his most life-changing hobbies was horseback riding. After having to learn for a film, Anna Karenina, he picked up horseback riding as a sport, along with other sports such as windsurfing, cycling and mountain climbing. In May of 1995, Reeve fell from his horse and sustained a severe spinal injury making him a paraplegic. This did get him down; however, instead of sulking, Reeve became an activist for spinal cord injuries and pushed to help with new stem-cell research. He was elected as Chairman of the American Paralysis Association. As a real life Superman, Reeve helped to co-found the Reeve-Irvine Research Center and founded the Christopher Reeve Foundation, which is dedicated to find treatments and cures for paralysis.

Christopher Reeve passed away on October 10, 2004.

Information courtesy of www.chrisreeveme.com

POLITICS: How Democrats and Republicans differ when it comes to policies in the school

JACOB BUSS
Contributing Writer

The national elections are everywhere: television, the radio, Facebook, Twitter, even Instagram. And everytime you hear one thing, there is someone saying that what you saw is false. But what is true? That is a question that confounds people and can be next to impossible to figure out! So what I have done is analyzed the Republican and Democratic Party platforms and found out what each party thinks on several hot topics. So in this and the next issue I shall do my best to enlighten what each party stands reform and the economy. All the hot topics. So in this and the next issue I shall do my best to enlighten what each party stands. I would recommend going to the public to look at, at all times.

The Democrat Party has some of the same ideas, and some very different ones. Like the Republican party, the Democratic Party believes in encouraging more STEM teachings, but on top of that they want to prepare 100,000 math and science teachers over the next decade helping to create those STEM teachers. The party wants to create the world’s highest proportion of college graduates by 2020 making American once again one of the leading academic countries. To bridge the gap and better prepare students for college more options for low-income students are supported such as magnet schools, charter schools, teacher-led schools, and career academies. There are two big points within the platform that affects teachers. One is more stringent teacher evaluations, but to the point where it can help struggling teacher improve and create a better classroom. Another big point that is mentioned is to reduce the number of teacher layoffs.

There is more to what both parties believe about education reform, but what I have done is highlighted what I felt were the main points to be addressed. Both platforms are available for the public to look at, at all times. I would recommend going to the New York Times Website and type in the search bar “2012 political party platforms.”
Healthy eating tips for students trying to lose weight

ALLIE BUESING Contributing Writer

Forget counting calories. As many of us have heard, to lose weight we must burn more calories than we eat. As a result, we must count every calorie we put in our mouths and calculate every calorie we burn. This can be a tough challenge, especially for busy college students. Instead, try making cleaner, healthier eating choices.

Harvard University conducted a study and published it in the Journal of American Medical Association. The study found that the kind of calories the body gets may affect how people burn their body’s energy. In the study, researchers put 21 overweight adults on three different diets for four weeks. One was a low-fat diet in which participants reduced dietary fats and consumed whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. Another group was put on a high-protein, high-fat diet and very little carbohydrate. The third group was put on a low-glycemic diet, which means they replaced some grain products and starchy vegetables with vegetables, legumes, fruits, and other foods rich in healthy fats.

The low-fat dieters’ bodies burned fewer calories than the low-carb and low-glycemic index diets. The low-carb diet burned the most calories but increased markers of stress and inflammation in the body, which can lead to cardiovascular disease and other health problems. The low-glycemic diet proved to be the best. It helped burn more calories and did not increase markers of stress and inflammation.

In order to follow a low-glycemic diet, get rid of all processed food. Take a look at the list of ingredients. If there are more than 10 ingredients listed and you cannot pronounce half of them, it is probably not healthy for you. Especially try to avoid anything that contains something that is hydrogenated or has high fructose corn syrup.

Another good tip to follow is to make healthier carbohydrate choices. Try to replace grain products and starchy vegetables with legumes, fruits, and less starchy vegetables. For example, try replacing white pasta with a vegetable such as spaghetti squash instead. If you do choose a grain, make sure it is a low-glycemic grain such as brown rice or wheat bread.

Remember, fats won’t make you fat. Instead of using ranch dressing on your salad, try replacing it with a healthy fat source such as olive oil with balsamic vinegar.

I also want to applaud the sense of community I witnessed at the balloon rising for Tyler Thomas. As people in college, we tend to think we are bulletproof. Death is something we try not to think about because it is supposed to happen to us in 50 or 60 years and even then we may still fight it. Yet part of life is death; humans are not meant to be immortal. At the balloon rising, I saw a community come together and celebrate a life that was precious, unique and loved. In my culture, when someone dies, the entire community comes together and celebrates the life of the person with their family. You may have not known the person personally, but as long as they were part of the community or a relative of someone in your community everyone will come and celebrate that life. We do this so that the family and friends left behind can, in my language, “Azasale bwino, asaliwala anu”. This means that they can stay well and never forget the person who has died.

Well, I look forward to learning more about the American culture, and seeing the best and the worst this country has to offer. As the say in my country, Tovonana!

At Home Beginner Crossfit Workout

Crossfit is a growing trend in fitness. Crossfit workouts are high intensity, power-based exercises that are effective for burning a high number of calories in a short period of time while simultaneously improving aerobic fitness and promoting the anabolic hormones.

• 10 burpees (Kick your feet out behind you in pushup position; then jump your feet back in so you are in a squat position. Then jump straight up as high as you can and repeat.)
• 20 squats
• 30 sit-ups
REPEAT THREE TIMES

Africa to Peru: An international student’s perspective on culture shock and cultural differences

AMA BIKOKO Contributing Writer

For those of you who don’t know my name, I am Ama Bikoko. I am one of the very few international students who attend college at Peru. I hail from the small village of Malawi. For most of you, the first thing you think when you hear Africa is mud huts, wild animals, starving children, impoverished nations, dictators, war and diseases. I am here to tell you that there are those things, but there are also cities, modern homes with A/C, movie theaters, grocery stores, cars, television, music, art and rich cultures that have spanned thousands of years. One of the first Universities in existence was formed in Timbuktu, Mali. The Nile is the longest river in the world. Lake Victoria is the second largest freshwater lake in the world and four of the fastest land animals live in Africa. The point of the matter is that there is so much more to this continent than what American media has portrayed.

Culture shock is common for everyone who moves into a different culture. It may occur on a small scale or a large scale, but it happens to everyone. Since I have been here, I have not had McDonald’s, Burger King, Papa John’s, Wendy’s or any of the fast food restaurants that this country has to offer. I am taking that as a good thing, health-wise. However, it has shocked some people I have met so far that I have never had those things. I had Cheetos and Ramen noodles for the first time the other day. I must say the noodles were awesome, and the cheetos were good as well. The thing that shocks me most about American food is how processed everything is. Back home, most of the food I eat is organic, and I know where it came from.

The second shocking thing I have found here is how nearly everyone I have met so far has the incessant need to cuss. I have heard more swear words in the last couple days I have been here, that I have heard my entire life. From my travels, I have learned that American food is how processed it is, sports have the ability to bring people together in unimaginable ways. I experienced my first American football game when our football team played Baker University. I was told that American football is the most common sport in the United States. Yet, at this home game, I heard Baker fans a lot louder than I heard Peru fans. Back home, when we play football (what you call soccer) when it is game day, everyone is out in colors, and people have vuvuzelas and drums and we just celebrate the opportunity for the community to come together and have a time of fellowship over a good game of football. I, however, must applaud the dedication people in the great state of Nebraska, more especially the students of Peru State College, to the dedication shown to the Nebraska Corn Huskers. Another thing I must applaud is the general friendliness at PSC. It is always nice to come to a new, strange place and meet friendly people. Ending on a more solemn note, I also want to applaud the sense of community I witnessed at the balloon rising for Tyler Thomas. As people in college, we tend to think we are bulletproof. Death is something we try not to think about because it is supposed to happen to us in 50 or 60 years and even then we may still fight it. Yet part of life is death; humans are not meant to be immortal. At the balloon rising, I saw a community come together and celebrate a life that was precious, unique and loved. In my culture, when someone dies, the entire community comes together and celebrates the life of the person with their family. You may have not known the person personally, but as long as they were part of the community or a relative of someone in your community everyone will come and celebrate that life. We do this so that the family and friends left behind can, in my language, “Azasale bwino, asaliwala anu”. This means that they can stay well and never forget the person who has died. I saw that sense of community at Peru, and I was truly touched.

Well, I look forward to learning more about the American culture, and seeing the best and the worst this country has to offer. As the say in my country, Tovonana!

1’a long plastic instrument blown by football fans to make a loud trumpeting sound.
Bobcats look forward to second season in HAAC

TEDD MERILL
Contributing Writer

The Peru State Bobcats went 2-8 in their first season in the Heart of America Athletic Conference. Now in came Athletic Director and Head Coach, Steve Schneider. The offense has switched from the pistol to an option style that focuses on the run first, then pass. The defense has gone from the traditional 4-3 to the 3-4. Everything has seemed to be revamped and spirits are high among players, coaches and loyal Bobcat fans.

Fans got a small preview of what the team can do in the week one game versus Dakota State University in Madison, SD on August 25, which the Bobcats won by a score of 34-27. The Bobcats did not fare so well in week two against #18 ranked Baker University at the Oak Bowl on September 1 falling 34-13. The score does not tell the entire story of the game. When the Bobcats played Baker University last season, they gained a total of 111 yards of total offense to Baker’s 468 yards. It’s a different story this year, as the Bobcats gained 248 yards to Baker’s 396 yards. The Bobcats also improved greatly on their third down efficiency going 4 of 12 compared to 1-15 last year.

The Bobcats are in one of the toughest and most physical conferences in NAIA. Peru State plays four teams ranked in the Top 25 for NAIA, which include #18 Baker University, #15 Benedictine, #9 Missouri Valley, and #5 Mid-America Nazarene.

When asked about the HAAC overall, Ryan McClarty Sr., CB., Science Major, said, “It’s a lot easier this year, next year, or five years from now has yet to be seen, but the objective is to be one of the upper teams in NAIA overall.” AD/ Coach Schneider went on to say, “We’ve made some adjustments scheme on offense and defense based on our first year experience in the HAAC.”

When asked about the expectations on this season AD/Coach Schneider said, “We have a mission statement and some goals laid out our objective are to prove each week.” The team goals are to out-prep our opponents each week on the practice field, in game preparation and in the weight room; own the Oak Bowl; achieve established goals on offense, defense and special teams; respond in positive manner to adversity whether it be on the field or off; be unified; and represent the team, college, and HAAC with class.

“Take care of the little things, the big things will take care of themselves; the success on a Saturday afternoon will eventually come if we’re taking care business during the week of preparation,” AD/Coach Schneider went on to say.

Ryan McClarty said, “We want to be 5-0 at the Oak Bowl, we want to go to the playoffs HAAC champs, we hope we make the playoffs and do big things there.”

Energy is high for the 2012 Peru State Bobcats. Motivation is higher. The Bobcats are out to prove that they belong in the HAAC and in the same league as some of the top teams in NAIA. They ask for the support of fans. Players and coaches know how supportive the Bobcat faithful are and are asking for high attendances not only at games at the Oak Bowl, but also on away games for anyone that can attend.

Bobcat volleyball kicks off new season

PATRICK KING
Staff Writer

The Peru State Bobcats hit the court September fourth for their conference opener of the season under new Head Coach Melvin Balogh.

The Bobcat volleyball team consists of five seniors that are trying to end their Volleyball season with a bang this year. The five senior players consist of Emily Maresh (Libero), Tara Gonzalez (outside hitter), Becky Boshart (defensive specialist/ outside hitter), Katelyn Donovan (outside hitter) and Alicia Petak (outside hitter).

Along with the returning senior players, the team also has a few newcomers including transfer students Brittany Peterson and Bre Brandt. Also, the team has gained two new freshmen, Lindsey Nelson and Mallory Hull.

The Peru State Bobcats are looking to improve their record of 11-18 under their new Head Coach this year.

The team took the court their first conference game of the season against the Missouri State Vikings. The first game of the season didn’t quite go as the Bobcats had hoped. They started off their conference season with a loss to the Vikings, making the Bobcat record 1-6 overall and 0-1 in the conference.

The Bobcats started off with a little bit of a rocky start in the first game, but pulled themselves together in the second game to take it into overtime; however, they could not quite pull it off. With hopes to win a game, the team put one paw in front of the other to win the third game. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful and came home empty handed.

The Bobcat offense was led by Tara Gonzalez and Brittany Peterson, who both finished the game with a total of seven kills each. Also, Peterson ended the night with a .466 attack percentage and no attacking errors. This average is established just like the .300 batting average in baseball.

Adding to the total kills, Lindsey Nelson finished the game with a total of seven kills.

Courtney Jurek helped to start the Bobcat team on the right paw by leading the team in assists with a total of 19. She also had the Bobcats’ lone ace of the match.

The team wouldn’t be able to do it with only offense though. They were led defensively by Emily Meresh, who had a total of 19 digs in the first conference game of the season. Meresh was also the top passer in service receptions of the match, leading the team with 25 good passes.

Meresh was followed by Becky Boshart, who helped add to the total number of digs with 10 and added 17 good service receptions. Kate Donovan also helped add to the total, adding eight digs and 15 good service receptions.

Unfortunately the Bobcats couldn’t quite pull it off.

Support your Bobcats at their next home game on September 19 at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. in the AWAC.
Williams fourth in Northwest Bearcat Open

(Peru, Neb.) – An unexpected detour of about 20 minutes. Could not find where to get numbers for the runners. A new 6K course instead of the expected 5K. A slightly wet golf course. A lost shoe. The shoe found. Those were just some of the highlights of the Peru State College (PSC) Bobcat women’s cross country at the Northwest Missouri University Bearcat Open held at the Maryville, Mo., Country Club on Friday night.

However, the big highlight was the fourth place finish by Bobcat senior Sarah Williams (Hawatha, Kan.). Williams ran the 6K in 23:34.7 on a course that left the golf course and went into a hayfield for a loop. Williams was just 46 seconds behind the winner, Brittany Poole of Northwest Missouri State University and was the top NAIA runner against primarily NCAA DII competition.

With one runner injured, the Bobcats did not have a team score.

Mertens and Drumm PSC’s Swenson Award winners

(Peru, Neb.) – Jake Mertens (Hastings) and Lyndsay Drumm (Bennington) were recognized as the 2011-12 Bert Swenson award recipients at halftime of the recent Peru State College (PSC) football game against Baker University.

Swenson Award

Each year since 1925, outstanding student athletes have been presented with the Bert Swenson award in recognition of their participation in athletics, outstanding character, personality, service, and loyalty to Peru State College. The award was created in memory of Bert and Stella Swenson’s 13-month old son, Bert Jr., who passed away.

Bert Swenson, Sr., was a football great who graduated from Peru State College in 1909. The Shickley, Nebraska, native served as the football team captain and class president during his senior year at PSC. In 2009, Mr. Swenson was honored posthumously with his induction into the PSC athletic hall of fame.

In 1999, it was determined to recognize one female and one male student-athlete to receive the award, which is selected each year by the Peru State College athletic department. Each head coach can nominate an individual his or her program who exemplifies the standards established for the honor. The athletic department staff selects the winners by secret ballot. The winners are each presented with a watch provided by the Swenson family through the PSC foundation.

Jake Mertens

Mertens is a 2008 graduate of Hastings St. Cecilia High School and is the son of Pat and Cathy Mertens. Last spring, Mertens graduated with honors from Peru State with a degree in sport management and exercise science.

He was a four-year starter on the Bobcat football team. He was named to the Capital One Academic All-America All-District 6 team. This was the first COSIDA honoree in over 15 years for Peru State College!

Presently, Mertens is working at the Bank of the West in Omaha.

Lyndsay Drumm

Drumm is a 2008 graduate of Bennington High School and is the daughter of Susan Drumm. Last May, Drumm graduated with honors from Peru State with a degree in marketing.

The two-time Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athlete was a four-year pitcher on the Bobcat softball team. Following the season, Lyndsay earned honorable mention in the HAAC. She was among the HAAC top 20 leaders in conference play in 12 different categories. Drumm finished in three Bobcat career categories upon the conclusion of her career - innings pitched, strikeouts, and wins.

In May, Drumm was named to the Capital One Academic All-America All-District 6 team. This was the first COSIDA honoree in over 15 years for Peru State College!

Presently, Drumm is working at the Bank of the West in Omaha.

Northwest Missouri won the meet with 19 points, followed by William Jewell College with 70, Grandview University with 71, and Highland Community College with 79. Forty-five runners started the race.


Prechal and Beethe ran pretty much side-by-side until about the last half-mile when Beethe lost her shoe. Bobcat teammate Penny saw Beethe ahead of her losing her shoe and picked it up on the way to her finish.

Next Saturday, Sept. 15, the ‘Cats will be participating in one of their larger meets of the year when they run in the Woody Greeno Invitation-al in Lincoln, Neb., which is hosted by Nebraska Wesleyan University.

Swenson Award Group (l to r): Head softball coach Mark Mathews, PSC First Lady Elaine Hanson, President Dan Hanson, Lyndsay Drumm, and Pat Mertens - representing his son, Jake.
Letter to the Editor: From the Nest of Jerry Thesquirrel

Dear Editor,

I have never written one of these before, and I do not know the proper etiquette for a “letter to the editor.” Regardless, here I go. Pardon my rambling for I am a little rusty — I am a squirrel after all.

My name is Jerry Thesquirrel. I am writing this letter in light of my absence on campus this Fall. I have been on the Campus of a Thousand Oaks my entire life. Really it has been part of the “family business.” It has been my responsibility to be the campus squirrel -- the mascot really. Unfortunately, I was driven off campus by the crazy stray cats that think they “run the place” — pardon me but that’s MY job! They claimed that this town wasn’t big enough for the two of us. They made threats on my life that were so nasty that I do not dare go into detail in this sweet little college newspaper.

For our safety, Sandy, my wife, and I have decided to lie low for a bit, and we have gone into the Squirrel Protection Program. I understand that once this letter is published in the Peru State Times, we will once again be given new identities and such, but I felt that our story needed to be told.

I have a friend on the inside who has told me that all of you are talking about the lack of squirrels on campus this semester. I am going to let you all in on a little secret. Now, do not think I am crazy because it is the honest truth — Sandy and I were the only squirrels on campus. There are no others! I took care of them long ago. I am nuts for nuts. I stole all the others’ nuts, causing them to go nuts. And nutty squirrels without their nuts are just nuts, so they ran away in a nutty mess. And if that didn’t get rid of them… I had other methods. Muahaha.

It was part of being a part of “Thesquirrel” family. My father taught me what his father taught him and so on and so forth.

There could only be one squirrel (and of course, my lovely lady). Once I graced Peru State College with my beautiful face and bushy tail, my father was able to retire, and it was my responsibility to be “the” squirrel. But now that those darn, filthy, demented kitties have driven my wife and myself out of town, ya’ll don’t have any squirrels.

I have let my family down, but more importantly, I have let the students of Peru down and my lovely Morgan Hall ladies.

I fully understand that this is probably a hard concept to grasp, that there are no squirrels on campus because the only two have been forced to hide away for a bit. The way Sandy and I pulled it off was by the fact that we got around! We were always on the move. The only time we took a rest was to eavesdrop on the drama and happenings of Morgan Hall. After all, our house was in the big tree right outside the front door. Some days it was hard to escape the drama. I remember one night one of the regulars went completely nutty and climbed into our tree. It was a bit much back then but, oh, how I miss those times and all the stories that those girls would tell.

I will be back, with vengeance. I have nuts — to find. I am nuts. I will always be nuts, and I will be back for my nuts! That is not only a promise to the people of Peru and my Morgan gals, but it is also a threat to those yucky fur-balls. Sleep with one eye open little kitties. I need my nuts.

Love always and forever,
Jerry Thesquirrel.

Parker’s Smokehouse offers quality Barbecue for a high price and poor service

JENNY TRAPP
Layout Editor

KYLE AMEN
Distribution Manager

For those of you who get sick of cafeteria food, you might try out a few restaurants in the surrounding areas. Keep in mind that most restaurants are usually a 10 or 20 minute drive away from Peru, Nebraska City, which is about 20 miles away, has a wide variety of restaurants, including Parker’s Smokehouse, which is one of the best barbecue restaurants around.

One of the most well known aspects of Parker’s Smokehouse is the wide variety of sauces they have to offer. There are five sauces available. When you arrive, the waiters will usually ask you if you have been there before. If you haven’t, they will go through the “sauce tour.” The feature sauce, which changes every month, is currently the spicy honey mustard. The other sauces include hot and spicy, liquid gold, Texas red, and the original sauce. Each sauce is meant to be served with certain items on the menu, but you can use them for any item on the menu as it adds just the right kick.

Parker’s Smokehouse serves a vast amount of meats, which include barbecue ribs, brisket, chicken, and hamburgers. Be careful what you choose, however, as the order is usually not how you want it. The medium meat is sometimes under-cooked, while the well done sometimes gets cooked too well.

The rest of the menu offers a good selection of items. There are plenty of appetizers, such as the bacon cheese fries, to try before your meal. There are also a wide variety of desserts if the meal doesn’t quite fill you up. Vegetarians should keep in mind one or two options on the menu, one of which is a garden burger. It is quite good.

The service isn’t the greatest in town. It’s very slow even when there are only a few people inside. The waiters are nice, but there isn’t much personality to them. Parker’s is also on the expensive side in terms of pricing.

Most items on the menu are $8 or more, as just about everything is a type of meat.

Overall it’s a very good restaurant. The service and pricing could be improved, but that doesn’t change the fact that it’s a very good restaurant to at least try out.

The hours are Monday through Thursday 11 a.m. until 9 p.m., while Friday and Saturday are 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Parker’s Smokehouse is located in downtown Nebraska City.
When You Were Mine

I guess I never noticed how dark
it gets at night
But that’s when you were still here
making the darkness seem bright
They say all good things must come to an end
And it looks like this time,
they’re right again
Sometimes I wonder if you’re thinking about me
It’s funny how short forever can be
But let’s not dwell on old memories and just try to move on
Unfortunately that’s easier said than done

Whenever I hear the door, I pray
to see you standing there
Wanna hold you in my arms
And your eyes haunt my dreams
when I lay down in bed
I can’t go back to that park because
it reminds me of you
And I reminisce about the things we used to do
Though your memory warms me
when the cold winds come my way
I can’t help but feel heartache when I think of our happy days
But I still go back to that night you told me all your secrets
I hope you know that my time with you is something I’ll never regret

Whenever I hear the door, I pray
to see you standing there
Wanna hold you in my arms again, but they still remain bare
If only I could see your face or hear your voice one more time
Then maybe I’ll stop wanting to go back to when you were mine

The songs that you sung me are stuck in my head
And your eyes haunt my dreams
when I lay down in bed
I can’t go back to that park because
it reminds me of you
And I reminisce about the things we used to do
Though your memory warms me
when the cold winds come my way
I can’t help but feel heartache when I think of our happy days
But I still go back to that night you told me all your secrets
I hope you know that my time with you is something I’ll never regret

Whenever I hear the door, I pray
to see you standing there
Wanna hold you in my arms again, but they still remain bare
If only I could see your face or hear your voice one more time
Then maybe I’ll stop wanting to go back to when you were mine

You always want what you can’t have
But what if it’s something that you once had?
I’ll just keep the memories instead
And try not to think about the promises we never kept

Whenever I hear the door, I pray
to see you standing there
Wanna hold you in my arms again, but they still remain bare
If only I could see your face or hear your voice one more time
Then maybe I’ll stop wanting to go back to when you were mine

Grace Cole, Sophomore Liberal Arts Major

A Modern Myth (retold)

Welcome to the Universe, have you come to Search and Destroy?
do you have an Alibi that will help you Escape the Night of the Hunter?
pushing you Closer to the Edge?
From Yesterday, they deemed themselves Kings and Queens during the Buddha for Mary...while the Hurricane crept...
93 Million Miles to the Edge of the Earth...
This is the End of the Beginning...with a Brand New Name...a Beautiful Lie...the Hunter, Savior, the Fantasy, The Story...
The Echelon formation...the Mission has Fallen into Oblivion...
The Vox Populi have come back to Year Zero...to the Battle of One...
The Stranger in a Strange Land knows not of what he seeks...but yet...knows that Attack is near...
The Kill is inevitable...there is no turning back...
The planet will continue to R-evolve around 100 Suns...
This is War...
There is no stopping it...
What is this dream?
Bri Urrutia, Sophomore Language Arts
Dear Maebelle,

Where can a single lady go to meet Mr. Right?

Single-and-not-loving-it

Dear Single,

As far as Peru State College goes, it’s practically in the middle of nowhere -- which, being a student here, I’m sure you’ve noticed. This college isn’t like a cliche movie or TV show college. There aren’t hip clubs; there’s only one bar in the town, and it’s generally not filled with many students on a typical business night. Even in the surrounding areas, there isn’t much to do. So I guess my advice would be a different college or maybe the Internet. The Internet would probably be your cheaper option.

Mae

Dear Maebelle,

How come no one at the Complex knows how to park right?

Perfect-Parker

Dear Perfect,

Because the church that owns the lot won’t let us pave it and put in lines. As far as driving skills go, I don’t have any real answers. Maybe they park poorly so people stay away from their cars, that way hit and runs aren’t as likely. But with the new security cameras, that shouldn’t be much of an issue anymore.

Mae

Dear Maebelle,

So I have a crush on this guy and I have liked him for a long time, but he doesn’t know I exist. How can I get his attention?

Invisible-Miserable

Dear Miserable,

If you’ve had a crush on him for a long time, and he still doesn’t know you exist, I’d definitely start by breaking the ice and trying to get to know him. I promise that talking to someone isn’t as difficult as it sounds -- start small. Say “hi,” maybe throw in a “how are you today?” or “what’s up?” or some other form of conversation starter. And then go from there. Who knows? Maybe once you get to know him better, you’ll realize you’re better off as friends. And if things go better than that, well, we’ll be happy to answer your questions about planning a wedding. I’d definitely recommend searching things on Pinterest, but that’s just me.

Mae

Dear Maebelle,

Our cable sucks. Why do we only have the worst channels available?

Gleek-4Ever

Dear Gleeky,

Well you have to pay for Netflix because the college does not have that kind of funding. Plus think about some of the weird things that would wind up on the instant queue from college kids. It is too much of a risk. The channels are better than having, you yourself, pay 90 bucks a month for unlimited cable. You are better off than if you lived on your own, plus you have HBO. Become a True Blood, Game of Thrones, and an Empire Boardwalk fan and you will be fine.

Mae

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