Williams ends cross country career with a bang

PATRICK KING
Contributing Writer

Senior cross country runner Sarah Williams, a native of Hiawatha, Kansas K-12 Physical Education major, attended National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championship on Saturday, November 17. “I was really excited to get the opportunity to go back to the championship again. I was excited to see if I could improve my time from when I had run it two years previous,” said Williams.

Williams’ cross country journey came to a close on Saturday, November 17, as she traveled to Vancouver, Washington for the second time in her college cross country career. She placed 189 out of 320 runners with a time of 20:11, which was 35 seconds faster than what she ran two years ago in Vancouver.

She began her cross country career under head coach Mark Carter in Hiawatha, Kansas. He helped encourage her to always do the best that she possibly could. Also, his encouragement helped her to be able to attend Highland Community College for two years before coming to Peru State College. She chose Peru State College on her own, but her HCC cross country coach Tom Bond also played an important role in getting her to come to PSC because he inspired her to continue her career as a Peru State Bobcat.

To get to be able to travel to a NAIA championship is a big deal for any cross country runner, but goals must be reached to be able to get this far. A goal is a challenge that is attainable and helps the student move closer and closer to what they wish to accomplish. Williams focuses on her goals to help her achieve big things, like the trip to the NAIA championship.

“I set my mind on having a successful last cross country season. I set a goal to train hard all year in order to improve my time from the beginning of the season,” Williams said. “It sometimes gets difficult to balance running, academics, and work, but I always make sure I have plenty of time.”

Williams could not have made it this far without dedication to a training process before she attended the NAIA championship meet. Williams’ training process involved doing a lot of long distance and timed runs with Johann Murray, physical education professor and Peru State College women’s cross country coach, throughout the week before attending the championship.

Williams also attributes the help of her fellow cross country runners, her cross country coach, and the help and support of her family always being there to help her during her regular season meets throughout her senior cross country career to her success: “My team, parents and coach have all been very encouraging and supportive. They believed in me at times when I was not sure. If it weren’t for them I would never have accomplished all that I have.”

Williams finished her cross-country career as one of the most decorated cross-country runners at Peru State College, having competed in a total of two national championships. In addition to attending the championship in Vancouver, she also earned the honor of Daktronics –NAIA Scholar-Athlete for her academic achievements.

Beethe, Prchal and Williams 2012 NAIA-Daktronics Cross Country Scholar-Athletes

(Peru, Neb.) – The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) announced Friday that 317 women’s cross country student-athletes have been named 2012 Daktronics-NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

Seniors Kesha Beethe (Tecumseh), Danielle Prchal (Omaha), and Sarah Williams (Hiawatha, Kan.) were the Peru State College Bobcat cross country team members who were honored with the academic recognition.

For Beethe and Prchal, this is their second recognition.

Student-athletes are nominated by their institution’s head coach and must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale and must have achieved a junior academic status in order qualify for the honor.

Bobcat cross country head coach, Dr. Johann Murray, was excited to have three of his runners recognized. Murray said, “As a student-athlete, you have to be able to balance your academics with your sport. It is not easy, but I am very proud of what all three have done to earn this honor. Not only are they members of the cross country team, but they are very active in other student organizations on campus as well. They are truly fine young women who are very deserving of any recognition they receive.”
Letter from the Editor

Kristen Husen
Editor-in-Chief

I would like to start off by thanking our staff advisor, Kristi Nies. If it wasn’t for her, we wouldn’t have a school newspaper. I would also like to thank all of our wonderful staff this year. Your commitment to writing and news is what makes the Peru State Times successful. You have all done an amazing job this year. I would specially like to thank my Assistant Editor, Becky Amen and Layout Editor, Jenny Trapp, for all of their hard work.

I have worked for the paper since my freshman year. I have seen the newspaper go through many changes, from layout design to new staff members. But the content of the paper has never changed. We pride ourselves in delivering newsworthy articles and a bit of comical relief from time to time. I hope you have all enjoyed reading the Peru State Times as much as I have had creating it.

It is time for me to move on to my next chapter in life, the real world. I will finally be graduating after 4 and a half years with a Bachelor’s Degree in Art Education. For this I would like to thank Peru State College. You have not only provided me with a wonderful learning environment filled with master teachers but you have also created an environment in which I have grown into a better person.

It is now time for me to pass the torch to a new Editor in Chief. I know that the new Editor in Chief will continue to create a great newspaper. If you have any suggestions of what articles you would like to see in the newspaper feel free to email us at perustatetimes@gmail.com or post them onto our Facebook page.

The Peru State Times
Editor-in-Chief
Kristen Husen
Assistant Editor
Becky Amen
Layout Editor
Jenny Trapp
Copy Editor
Mary Johnson
Facebook Manager
Kris Nies
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Ama Bikoko

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.

The opinions expressed in the Times may not be those of the entire newspaper staff. The Peru State Times is an independent publication funded by student publication fees. The views expressed in this publication, including the contents of paid advertisements, do not necessarily reflect the views of the administration, faculty or staff of Peru State College.

All letters to the editor are welcome, and the writers of those letters need not be students. Letters, cartoons, articles, pictures and any other material submitted to the Times must be signed by individual(s) submitting them and will be published at the discretion of the staff. The Times reserves the right to edit all letters, articles and other submitted materials for grammar, length and clarity. The Times also reserves the right to decline the publication of any materials, including paid advertisements, for any reason.

To reach the Times, send material to the Peru State Times through campus mail or to: PSC Times, Peru State College, P.O. Box 10, Peru, NE 68421 or e-mail us at perustatetimes@gmail.com.
Area jobs available for Peru students

CHLOE LANGFORD
Contributing Writer

I heard “I’m a broke college student” I would be rich. I’m sure we all would be rich if we had a dollar for every time we hear “I’m a broke college student” or “Insert annoying quote about Ramen is all I can eat or afford” and “I can’t afford that, I’m paying for college out of my own pocket”. It is obvious that going to college is quite the expense. After tuition, housing, books, and all the other costs and fees that go along with going to college we all feel like that broke college student, and the unfortunate solution to this? Get a job. You may be saying to yourself “I live in Peru, Nebraska, population -2, how am I supposed to find a job?!” but you see that is why I -2, how am I supposed to find a job?!” after work on campus. This is a lovely solution to this? Get a job. You may be saying to yourself “I live in Peru, Nebraska, population -2, how am I supposed to find a job?!” but you see that is why I -2, how am I supposed to find a job?!”

Work Study is being paid to work on campus. This is a lovely privilege that I partake in. After filling out the FAFSA and all the other awesome paperwork we have to fill out for scholarships and the government, you find out if you qualify for work study. If you do qualify for work study, it’s a whole lot more paper work that you do with the business office. On-campus jobs include working in the library, the CATS building, working for the School of Education, working in the AWAC, working for Residence Life, and many more options. I personally feel that work study is awesome because it’s always very flexible with your schedule and I don’t waste any gas money driving to and from work. I get paid twice a month and it’s always a nice little comfy pad to my bank account. Unfortunately, this year Peru had many students that qualified for Work Study, and a lot of students weren’t able to get jobs because they were filled. If this happens to you, all you have to do is go to the business office and put your name on a waiting list to get placed. If you are one of these students on the waiting list or you don’t qualify for work study, there is still hope for you too. You can get a job off campus; crazy, huh? Brandi Hull and Brook Davis are both juniors here at Peru State College. Both girls work off campus and graciously answered a few questions for me. Brandi works at Cotty’s in downtown Peru; she said, “I like it, it’s not a bad job to have with classes because of the scheduling.” When I asked her how she got the job she said, “I found out about it from my friend Bri. She came in with me to ask about it.” Brook Davis said, “I work at Kids of His Kingdom and I work off campus because there really aren’t many choices here in Peru for jobs. I like it because I love little kids and think it’s a good experience since I’m going to be a teacher.” Brook also heard about her job through friends.

If I was going to sum this article up and give students advice on how to get a job it would be to find out if you qualify for work study. If you do, take advantage of it; you don’t have many options. We are constantly getting emails to our acorn accounts about job openings in the surrounding areas; read those and apply. Also keep your ears open about friends who work at jobs that are hiring, and just listen to the word around town. Also, the cafeteria and Late Night Bob are always looking for workers to help out!

Times editor opening

The Peru State Times is now accepting applications for the position of student editor-in-chief for the Spring 2013 semester.

The student editor-in-chief of The Peru State Times must be a full-time, preferably on-campus, Peru State College student in strong academic standing. Outstanding oral and written communication skills, including advanced grammar knowledge, are essential to the position.

Duties of the student editor-in-chief include, but are not limited to: setting the production and publication schedule for each semester; scheduling and conducting staff meetings at least once per semester; recruiting and training new staff; generating story ideas and assigning stories, photos and graphics for each issue; editing stories for grammar, clarity and factual correctness; overseeing the production and layout of each issue; updating the Times website for each issue; providing instruction and direction for the assistant editor, layout editor, copy editor, distribution manager and staff writers; meeting and communicating on a regular and ongoing basis with the Times faculty advisor; supervising the Advertising Manager; preparing the annual Times budget and semester payroll; and other duties as necessary or assigned by the Times faculty advisor.

The student editor-in-chief will receive a tuition waiver to cover a maximum of 16 credit hours, at the on-campus rate. The student will pay all fees. If the student editor-in-chief already has combined waivers (scholarships, etc.), that cover or exceed 16 credit hours, he or she will only receive a benefit if he or she takes over 16 credit hours. Performance and continuing appointment will be evaluated each semester.

Those interested in applying for the position are asked to submit a cover letter explaining why you are applying for the position, a resume and two (2) writing samples to Faculty Advisor Kristi Nies by Friday, Dec. 7, 2012. Writing samples may be from a high school publication, short papers or essays from a college class, or articles from The Peru State Times or another student-run collegiate newspaper.

Application materials can be submitted to Nies at knies@peru.edu or Peru State College, Attn: Kristi Nies, P.O. Box 10, Peru, NE 68421. Materials can also be hand delivered to Jindra Fine Arts 139. Contact Nies at 402-872-2281 or at the email address provided with questions.
PSC Residence Life Department plans a number of changes for campus

SARAH MATTHEWSON  
Contribution Writer

There are many changes in sight for the Peru State College Residence Life Department. As the new Residence Life Office has been partially restaffed, Kristiaan Rawlings, Dean of Student Life, and Somaly Nuth, Assistant Director of Residence Life, both joined the PSC staff at the beginning of the current school year.

As many students already know, the Residence Life Office is working on implementing themselves into the club scene and will be much more active in future semesters. As they center around ensuring that students living in housing are getting the best possible experience, the RHA has been looking into the students’ request that weekend visiting hours be expanded to include Thursday in Eliza-Morgan and Delzell Halls.

Earlier this semester, Eliza-Morgan and Delzell residents were invited to an RHA meeting to discuss concerns with this rule change. The residents were also invited to vote for or against the rule, a decision which will be revealed at a later date.

Peyton Kuker, a freshman Elementary Education major and Eliza-Morgan resident, stated that, “Adding Thursday into the weekend rules is a great idea as long as each resident remembers to be courteous to the people who do have class on Fridays.” The rules aren’t the only changes in review for these housing units. At the beginning of the year, a movie theater was added to Delzell.

Robert Georges, freshman Elementary Education major and Delzell resident, stated that, “The movie theater provides a fun space for everyone to hang out. It’s really nice because we get to have Halo tournaments for everyone to join in on.”

The Residence Life office has an obligation to provide students with a safe and educational environment in which to live. As a result, the staff has reviewed judicial process. Sanctions will now result in the requirement of educational gains rather than community service.

Somaly Nuth, Assistant Director of Residence Life, stated, “With different staff comes different expectations.” The Residence Life program has seen many changes, and will undoubtedly see many more.

If students are interested in joining the Residence Life team, they may choose to become a Resident Assistant for their residents hall. Applications for the 2013-14 RA positions will be available by the beginning of December.

Students who have questions or concerns are invited to contact Somaly Nuth at snuth@peru.edu.

Distinguished Speaker Dr. Shirin Ebadi set to talk about the awakening of Iran

MEGAN BROWN  
Contribution Writer

The Peru State College Distinguished Speaker Series has hosted numerous outstanding speakers on campus. The bar for excellence has been set high and anticipated speaker Dr. Shirin Ebadi is sure to impress. Monday, February 25, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the College Theatre, Ebadi will be discussing the awakening of Iran, a story of revolution and hope.

Ebadi’s character is determined to find justice regardless of personal struggles or consequences.

Dr. Ebadi was born in northwest Iran in 1947, in the city of Hamedan. Her family moved to Tehran, Iran’s capitol city, when she was one year old. Ebadi’s foundational beliefs of equality were nurtured during her childhood. She and her brothers were treated the same by their parents. As she grew, she began to realize that most Iranian girls were not treated as she was. The Iranian culture holds girls to a different standard and expects them to be quiet and obedient. An outstanding student, Dr. Ebadi was encouraged by her parents to become a lawyer. At only 22 years old, Ebadi became the first woman in Iran’s history to serve as a judge.

Throughout her service as a judge, Ebadi continued her education through Tehran University and earned her doctorate in law in 1971. A quick ascension to success was threatened in the 1970’s when Iran was thrown into turmoil with the dismantlement of the monarchy lead by the Shah. In 1979, the Shah was overthrown. The world looked towards the Middle East and hoped for the rise of a democratic Iranian government.

Instead, the Ayatollah established the religious governmental regime. Rapidly, women’s rights were eliminated and it was no longer legal for women such as Dr. Ebadi to serve as judges in Iran.

Outraged by this injustice, Ebadi requested an early retirement and took care of her daughters at home while writing books and developing a plan to get her career back. In 1992, after her plans to return as a judge were repeatedly blocked, Ebadi was successful in getting a lawyer license and set up her own practice. As a lawyer, she focused her talents on cases that involved the unfair treatment of women and children.

In consequence to her daring work, Ebadi was arrested and began to receive threats of prison and even death from the Iranian government. Despite the clear danger, she continued with her mission. In December 2008, the Iranian government shut down Dr. Ebadi’s Center for Defenders of Human Rights, raided her private office, and seized her private computers and files that housed important information in regards to victims that she was defending. She has since lived in exile in the U.K. and is unable to return home to Iran, where her husband still resides.

Dr. Ebadi has published over 70 articles and 13 books dedicated to various aspects of human rights. She was named by Forbes Magazine as one of the 100 Most Powerful Women in the World and Britannica’s 100 Most Influential Women of All Time. For her efforts to promote human rights, Dr. Ebadi was awarded the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize.
Eight ways to feel better about yourself, naked or otherwise

MICHAELA WOLVERTON
Contributing Writer

Motivation is a word that many college students use. Whether it’s to study, exercise or even get up in the morning, students tend to need motivation.

One summer, I was sitting in a laundromat, waiting for clothes to finish drying. I forgot to take a book with me, so flipping through the magazines provided was my only option. I finally found a magazine with an interesting title on the cover: “22 Ways to Look Better Naked!” I smiled to myself, thinking “Oh, what a cute, confidence-boosting title on the cover: “22 Ways to Look Better Naked!”

I was sorely disappointed.

Sure, part of my brain went, “Gee, Michaela. Did you really expect a magazine full of make-up advertisements to have something actually beneficial?” But the other part just got frustrated. Three or four of the 22 pieces of advice were decent, at best. They were actual exercise plans or decent skin care tips. But the rest were overly cosmetic. “Try this lip gloss!” “Get a spray tan!” “Buy new clothes!” Which to me, the clothes one was the one that made the least sense. You’re trying to look better naked. How do clothes help with that?

The article didn’t teach me anything about actually feeling better about myself. It made me think I needed more makeup, fancier clothes and shinier hair.

Society today makes women -- and men -- feel the need to be something they are not in order to be successful and beautiful. But I am here to tell you: that is definitely not the case.

You are beautiful because of who you are. Who you are today is exactly who you are supposed to be, so if there’s something you dislike, you have the power to change it...in a positive manner.

So I sat in the laundromat, still waiting for the seven minutes of dryer time to be up, and I felt cheated. Reading that article that only made me feel bad about myself had taken up a good five minutes of my life that I wasn’t going to get back, and I spent another few minutes actually considering taking those steps to look better. But then I thought more along the logical side of things, and it just didn’t make any sense. For example, my skin is quite pale. If I were to get a spray tan, I’d turn orange -- not that spray tans have anything to do with you. I were to get a spray tan, I’d turn orange -- not that spray tans have anything to do with you.

And Lord knows I don’t need anymore clothes in my closet. So I began to think of a new list. And I came up with the following:

1. Take a hot, relaxing bath or shower. 2. Instead of poking at what you can improve in the mirror, smile at yourself and say “Hey, I look great today.” 3. Eat your favorite fruit. Fruit is both delicious and healthy for you. 4. If you’re having an off day, talk with your closest friends about anything but whatever’s throwing you off balance. Sometimes forgetting is the best solution. 5. Go for a walk outside on a nice day. Between the good weather and getting your heart pumping, you’ll feel great. 6. Have FUN. Instead of worrying about what other people are thinking, worry about whether or not you’re enjoying yourself. If you aren’t, do something to fix it. 7. Watch a sunset. If you’re feeling bold, you can do this naked, but I recommend wearing clothes unless you’re in the privacy of your own backyard with a very high fence. 8. Stop telling yourself you can’t and start saying “I can.”

And overall, just remember: makeup, spray tans, new clothes...those are temporary fixes to feeling better and confident about yourself. A permanent fix requires more attention to your inner self AND outer self combined. Do things for you first, and you’ll begin feeling a lot better.

Facebook etiquette

JESSICA MERRILL
Contributing Writer

Imagine this if you will: You sit down at your desk after a long day of school, practice, socializing and all the other crazy things that come with being a full time student and log onto Facebook. You browse through your newsfeed and find some really risqué pictures from last weekend. They’re pretty hilarious, right? Maybe for now they are, but it’s important to remember that the things you post on Facebook could potentially affect your future, even now.

A few things to remember before you upload a picture of your best friend doing a keg stand is that employers do look at your Facebook page, whether you think they do or not. And I promise it’s not a good first impression to make. During a brief interview with Dean of Student Life, Krista Rawlings, he told me that in the past, he has been on search committees for positions to fill that have completely disqualified potential candidates because of the content on their Facebook. Also, keep in mind that about 1 out of every 5 relationships start online and if a potential suitor sees a bunch of disgusting photos of you, he or she might not want anything to do with you.

Next, there are the statuses you post, and the comments you make on others’ statuses. I completely understand that sometimes you get frustrated with professors, school work, even your boss, but it’s so important not to post about it on Facebook. Even if you don’t have that professor as a friend, chances are you have at least one employee of the college on your friends’ list and they could see that and spread the word. There’s also the matter of being unprofessional as well. It gives you a bad reputation when you post negative things about other people and like I said before, if a potential employer checks your Facebook out and sees you posting rude things about your current boss, they probably won’t be keen to let you on their staff.

If someone posts something rude or controversial on their status, it’s okay not to comment on it and tell them so. They already know that what they’re saying is going to affect people, and chances are, they probably don’t care that you’re taking offense to it. When you post a status and someone puts a nasty reply on it, just delete the comment! You don’t have to egg their bad mood on. Finally, if you don’t want to hear someone’s opposing opinion on something you feel strongly about, your best bet is not posting about it because out of your 500+ Facebook friends, at least one of them will probably disagree with you.

While posting crazy pictures and trying to look like you don’t care what people think when you post offensive statuses might be fun right now, don’t forget that it could affect your future. My suggestion is to keep it clean on Facebook, and if you don’t want to do that, there’s also the possibility of creating a second Facebook page that can be your “professional” account. My personal philosophy is to never post anything my grandma would be upset to see.

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Figures from History: Joe Biden, current Vice President

Joseph Robinette “Joe” Biden Jr. was born November 20, 1942 in Scranton, Pennsylvania to Joseph Robinette Biden Sr. and Catherine Eugenia “Jean” Biden. He was one of four children born in the Biden household. He has one sister, Valerie Biden Owens, and two brothers, James Brian Biden and Francis W. Biden.

As a young boy, Biden attended Archmere Academy, where he excelled in sports, such as football and baseball. Even at a young age, Biden understood the idea of equality. As he participated in an anti-segregation sit-in, he found that he was a natural born leader in the world of politics.

After graduating from Archmere Academy, Biden attended the University of Delaware in Newark, where he spent more time playing football and fraternizing than he did his studies. Biden graduated from the University of Delaware 506th in his class of 608 with a double major in Political Science and History, thus giving him a Bachelor of Arts.

From there Biden went on to further develop his education at Syracuse University College of Law. Biden described law school, “the biggest bore in the world,” but with all-nighters, and a second chance on a law review paper, which was accused of being plagiarized, Biden graduated with his Juris Doctor, and graduated 76th of 85 in his class. One interesting fact about Biden is while he was in school, he had received five student drafts for the Vietnam War, but the Selective Service found him to be not available for service due to having asthma as a teenager.

While he was in school, Biden found a sweetheart, and married her August 27, 1966. Biden met Nelia Hunter in the Bahamas on Spring Break from Syracuse. After overcoming Hunter’s parents’ reluctance to accept a Roman Catholic, the two got married and had three children, Joseph R. “Beau” Biden III, Robert Hunter and Naomi Christina. Establishing a family and graduating school was just the very beginning of Biden’s full life.

In 1969, Biden started to practice law in Wilmington, Delaware, where he was a public defender with his own firm, Biden and Walsh. After a while Biden found that he was not fond of corporate law, and didn’t find that criminal law paid enough, so he began to manage properties to earn more money. From 1970-72, Biden acted as the Democrat Representative for the New Castle County Council.

In 1972, after his experience in not only politics again, but in politics again, and had three children, Joseph R. “Beau” Biden III, Robert Hunter and Naomi Christina. Establishing a family and graduating school was just the very beginning of Biden’s full life.

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Women’s basketball team takes win over Tabor College

Patrick King
Contributing Writer

Peru State College women Bobcats started off the basketball season strong with a 77-70 win over Tabor College at home on November 2.

The game started out well as the Bobcats began with a 10-0 run before the visiting BlueJays could even get on the scoreboard. Adua- go Osuala (Lakewood, Colo.) was the first player to put the Bobcats on the board with the first points of the 2012-2013 season after Peru forced a turnover. Hitting the next bucket of the game was Ayana Smith (Colorado Springs) which gave the lady Bobcats a 4-0 lead. Then, off of a rebound from Smith, Karlee Stuart (Las Animas, Colo.) pulled up for a jumper to give the ‘Cats a 6-0 lead.

Senior Courtney Ward (Bartlesville, Okla.) got an offensive rebound and put it back up for her first basket of the season making it 8-0 PSC. Then, off the assist from Smith, Ward scored again giving the Bobcats a 10-0 lead.

Tabor was able to cut the lead to 10-7 with 15:27 left in the first half. The teams started to exchange baskets for seven minutes before the Bobcats were able to go on a 8-0 run to make the score 31-15 with 6:47 left in the half. Smith had two buckets and a basket each adding a basket.

Peru led 39-22 before Tabor closed the half with a 10-3 run making it just a ten-point lead as the Bobcat’s went into the half with a lead of 42-32.

Starting the second half Tabor was able to cut the lead to 46-42 with 16:41 left in the game. The Bobcats were able to respond with a little 5-0 run of their own though to go back ahead 51-42 at the 14:36 mark.

In the next 90 second, PSC was up 55-43, but saw the lead dwindle down as the BlueJays outscored the Bobcats 11-2 over the next three minutes. With 9:22 remaining, the BlueJays were only down 57-54, but that is the closest the BlueJays would ever get.

The Bobcats were able to develop a 12-point lead at 75-63 with 55 seconds left on the clock before holding on to claim a 77-70 victory.

Bobcat Baseball Earns Votes in NAIA Baseball Coaches’ Preseason Top 25 Poll

(Peru, Neb.) – After making history last season as the first team from Peru State College (PSC) to participate in the NAIA National Baseball Championships, the Bobcats have earned preseason votes in the NAIA Baseball Coaches’ Preseason Top 25 Poll released on Tuesday, Nov. 13.

The ‘Cats earned 44 points, good enough for 30th overall in the rankings.

Bobcat baseball head Coach Wayne Albury was pleased with the preseason recognition. Albury said, “It is good to get the early recognition, but our team will have to respond and work hard prior to the actual season starting to live up to this initial poll.” Albury continued, “We lost a number of key players from last year, but we believe we have a good recruiting class, so we will see what happens when we open up next spring.”

The only other Heart of America Athletic Conference (HAAC) team in the rankings is the Avila University Eagles. The Eagles received ten points in the voting, good for 38th.

Defending national champion Tennessee Wesleyan tops the 2012-13 NAIA Baseball Coaches’ Preseason Top 25 Poll, the national office announced Tuesday. The Bulldogs, who outscored their opponents 68-32 over six games en route to the program’s first-ever Avista-NAIA World Series title last season, were awarded 17 first-place votes and 528 points.

It is the second No. 1-ranking for Tennessee Wesleyan since the 2000 season.

LSU Shreveport (La.), which reached the semifinals of the NAIA World Series last season before falling to Tennessee Wesleyan, jumped one position from the 2012 postseason poll to No. 2 with 501 points. The Pilots return NAIA First Team All-America selection Kyle Pearson, who led last season ranked amongst the top 15 nationally in doubles (22), runs scored (66), total bases (151), home runs (14), slugging percentage (.712) and RBIs (66). He also boasted a perfect (1,000) fielding percentage en route to a mention on the Rawlings-NAIA Gold Glove Team.

Third-ranked Lee (Tenn.) tallied the two remaining first-place votes and 493 points, while No. 4 Oklahoma City and No. 5 Rogers State (Okla.) garnered 486 points and 454 points, respectively, to round out the top five. It’s just the second-ever top-five mention for Rogers State. The ninth-seeded Hillcats played Cinderella at last year’s national championship by unexpectedly reaching the title game.

No. 11 Concordia (Calif.) and No. 15 Sterling (Kan.) boast the best improvement amongst ranked teams with each program advancing five spots.

Ranked seventh in last year’s postseason poll, South Carolina Beaufort dropped a poll-high 14 places to No. 21. The Sand Sharks finished 2012 with a 41-18 record and made the program’s first-ever appearance in the Avista-NAIA World Series after winning the title at the Hardeeville Bracket of the National Championship Opening Round.

Five newcomers join the ranks: No. 17 Bellevue (Neb.), No. 19 St. Francis (Ill.), No. 22 Freed-Hardeman (Tenn.), No. 23 Doane (Neb.) and No. 24 Madonna (Mich.). Of the quintet, only St. Francis and Doane were not ranked last season.

Sixteen of the 21 baseball conferences/independents/unaffiliated groups are represented throughout the Top 25, led by four squads from the Sooner Athletic Conference - Oklahoma City, Rogers State, No. 10 Oklahoma Baptist and No. 16 Lubbock Christian (Texas). The Southern States Athletic Conference and The Sun Conference are second with three teams each.

The poll was voted upon by a panel of head coaches representing each of the conferences/independents/unaffiliated groups. The first regular-season Top 25 will be announced on March 26, 2013.
Vol. 90     Issue 4 Peru State Times

10

Halo 4 rewards online players, but cuts plotline short

KYLE AMEN
Distribution Manager

When Bungie announced they were splitting apart from Microsoft, Halo fans everywhere felt heartbroken that their favorite space marine, Master Chief, would never get another chance to shine. Microsoft wasn’t going to let one of the greatest game series ever just die, so they created 343 Industries, quickly setting them to work on Halo 4. Would it all come together to make Halo 4 great?

Halo 4 once again brings back Master Chief and his AI Cortana. Master Chief has been floating on an abandoned ship for almost four years with Cortana active watching the entire time. Cortana, however, is dying, her life already extended past where it should have ever been, is dying, her life already expended.

The other online aspect is “Spartan Ops,” a series of cooperative missions. These missions can either be played by yourself or with others. These are offered in episode form, spread out over the next few months. It keeps things fresh and keeps players coming back.

When the thrills of the campaign are over, there are plenty of things to do still. The multiplayer is now known as War Games. Portrayed as a training exercise program, players take control of a Spartan soldier and battle in the standard list of matches, such as “Capture the Flag” and “Deathmatch.”

Players earn XP, which could then be used to buy armor upgrades.

The game is very balanced, weapons and vehicles each having their specific set of strengths and weaknesses. The graphics are good, but vary depending on where you are. The sound effects are some of the best in any game out there, with a masterpiece music score. It just makes the game all that more interesting.

Halo 4 marks the return of Master Chief, as well as the debut of 343 Industries. They are already hard at work with Halo 5, coming to the new Xbox sometime in the future. Halo 4 showed that they are a force to be reckoned with, creating a game few studios can deliver.

Photo courtesy of halofanforlife.com

Poetry Corner

“Prisoner of My Own Mind”

J - I’m a prisoner. A person who is stuck with twisted thoughts upon this crazy world.
I close myself behind closed doors so that no one has to see my true colors.
Z - Can I escape from the darkness a metaphorical harness that I embrace as I pace steps visually inside my own mind. When I speak, words don’t come out instead screeching of deathly sorrow comes out. I’m a prisoner of my own mind.
J - Not a prisoner of crime or misbehavior. I’m a prisoner of myself. I’m digging in this cold earth, trying to find myself and my purpose. Time is ticking and I’m just slipping suicidal thoughts through my mind. I want to be whole and come at peace with my mind.
Z - My mind says one thing while my body says another. How about you lock me in a jail cell and throw away the key. So you can see the monster inside of me that society has placed on me.
J - Put me in a padded cell so I can face my darkest secrets. I feel myself starting to lose it in this cell.
Z - I fear death is certain so I close the curtains an sit in a corner where the morgue needs a coroner
J - I’m banging on the steel bars begging for forgiveness. My legs and arms are tied together, making seem that my mind is in its own power.
Z - It feels as if I’m in a box with three holes breathing deeply for air. My mind is running into a puzzle of truthful thoughts where the happy sing sorrow and where nobody sees tomorrow.
J - I’m a prisoner of the worst kind. A prisoner of sorrow, forgiveness, and death. Can’t you see that I’m starting to go crazy? This padded cell is starting to turn different colors. My head is spinning with different thoughts. My skin is starting to wrinkle. I can feel myself age by the second.
J - I’m a prisoner just dying to be young. With everything around me I’ve lost track of time. I’m locked away in my own head. Throw me into solitary confinement and forget all about me.
Z - Both - It seems that no one hears my story or my pain. It could years that I’ve been trapped away in my own mind. But wait aren’t I just a prisoner of my own mind?

Janessa Davis , Freshman Criminal Justice Major and Zachary Muschall, Freshman Undecided

Coming Soon

Films

Dec 14
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

Dec 19
Zero Dark Thirty

Dec 21
Jack Reacher

Dec 25
Django Unchained

Les Miserables

Jan 11
Gangster Squad

Feb 14
A Good Day To Die Hard

March 8
Oz: The Great and Powerful

March 29
GI Joe: Retaliation

The Host

April 19
Oblivion

May 3
Iron Man 3

May 10
The Great Gatsby

Pacific Rim

May 17
Star Trek: Into Darkness

The Dark Tower

Games

Nov 19
A Letter to My Dog: Notes to Our Best Friends

- Robin Layton, Kimi Culp, Lisa Espamer

Nov 26
Doctor Who: When’s the Doctor?

-Jorge Santillan

Ask For It

-Sylvia Day

Dec 10
Two Graves (Special Agent Pendergast Series #12)

- Douglas Preston, Lincoln Child

1 Funny: A Middle School Story

-James Patterson

Dec 17
Safe Haven

-Nicholas Sparks

Dec 24
Star Wars: Scoundrels

Timothy Zahn

Dec 31
A Memory of Light

Robert Jordan

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

-Sherman Alexie

Nov 18
-Just Dance 4

-Assassin’s Creed III

-Nov 20
-Hitman: Absolution

-Playstation All-Stars

-Nov 21
-The Walking Dead: The Game Episode 5: No Time Left

-Nov 27
-Mass Effect 3: Omega

-Dec 4
-Far Cry 3

-Elder Scrolls V: Dragonborn

-Jan 15
-Devil May Cry

-Sniper: Ghost Warrior 2

-Feb 5
-Dead Space 3

-Sly Cooper

-Feb 26
-Bioshock Infinite

-Mar 3
-Tomb Raider

-Nov 18

-Nov 20

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Letter to the Editor: Goodbye from the Old Oak Bowl

JENNY TRAPP
Layout Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to formally say goodbye. Goodbye to the old me, that is. Hopefully I will look so different - so much better - that you will hardly recognize me. The next time you see me, I will look like a whole new person!

Everyone could use a little time in the beauty shop - especially someone as old as me. I know, we are always telling our young people to “love yourself” and “be proud of who you are.” But, at my age, time has had the upper hand and I just do not look pretty anymore. I know I am unique and a beautiful creature, but I simply do not like myself or how I look anymore. I have been needing something new in my life, and I think I finally found it.

I have always been a bit cautious when it comes to plastic surgery, but when you are as old as I am, some things are necessary. I am old, cracked and tired. Everyone could see it. I was so ashamed of myself. I was a mess! I was uneven - a little lopsided, if you catch my drift. Countless men have had their way with me. I let people walk all over me. Kids play on me as if I was some kind of jungle gym or playground. I love being the hostess for all the parties in the fall. Everyone in the town comes to visit me and to see my beautiful face. Soon I will have that beautiful face!

Do not get me wrong: I love all the men in my life, all my visitors and even the kids, but everyone can see that my age was showing. I have had no major work done since 1900. For all you non-math majors, that’s 112 years! I need a few things nipped and tucked and a couple things lifted and even replaced. I hope to feel young again. You do not get as old as I am without looking a bit like a hot mess.

October 20 was the last party I threw. It was a blast and such a beautiful fall day! My boys were there, both the current men I am seeing as well as a few of my former guys. The others who were in attendance got into the spirit and really had a great time. I even ran out of seats so people had to sit on the floor - yet no one seemed to mind. It was the picture perfect day, minus the fact that I looked tired and old. That is why I am so anxious for my first party after the operation.

This operation is going to cost me a pretty shiny penny. The doctors have quoted the extensive face lift and other work I am getting done to cost about $14 million. I am a legend. People talk about me all the time. I know I am kind of a big deal. Let me be honest, I am the center of so many Bobcat memories for people and we all know it. I deserve the best. I used to be so hard on myself. I was so self-conscious, I could hardly look at myself in the mirror. But one morning I woke up and decided I deserved to be happy and look amazing! Even though I was terrified to go under the knife, I know I will be so much better for it after this experience.

Unfortunately, I am almost as broke as a Peru State College student. Luckily, I have some amazing friends who are helping fund this operation. Two of my best friends, Bill and Lee Sapp gave me $500,000 for my work. Even State Senator Lavon Heidemann secured $7.5 million in state funds to help with my operation. A lot of my friends have helped me raise money for this extensive experience. I could not be more grateful! I am still accepting donations if anyone wants to help an old lady look pretty again.

So, say goodbye to the old me. I can not wait for everyone to see the new and improved me. I am sure to be a beauty yet again. Do not worry, I will be my same old self. I will not loose what makes me unique or so memorable. That is something that has been built into my soul. I just need a little time under the knife, and then I will be like new again.

See you later,
Ms Bobitta Oak Bowl
PSC Oak Bowl

Brrr.......
Q: I have this really bad habit of skipping all of my classes, or only going to one a day, or something like that. But I’m getting scholarships, so it’s not like I’m wasting money, right? I guess I just need advice on how to better motivate myself to go to classes.

A: Well, if you’re getting scholarships, that should be motivation enough. Those can get taken away, y’know. And your degree should also be motivation. I know, I know...”C’s get degrees” and all that jazz, but you should probably know what you’re talking about or else your degree will do you no good when it comes to job interview time. So get off your lazy butt and go to class.

Q: I hate writing in pen, but pencils smudge and that drives me nuts! Suggestions?

A: Get a laptop or tablet and type your notes. That way you’ll have them around all the time and have no real excuse to not study. “Oh, I lost my notebook...” Sure you did. See, if you type your notes, you’ll always have them at hand because you’re always on the internet these days anyway. Therefore you can always study and get better grades!

Q: What’s the best thing to do if I’m sick? T’is the season.

A: Soup, orange juice and medicine. If you don’t feel better after trying a few over the counter options, go see a doctor. There’s one on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or there’s a family clinic in Auburn. But don’t just think you’ll “walk it off,” because in your process of walking it off you will get everyone around you sick. So man up and go see the doctor and get some real medicine to cure you of your ailment. Otherwise you’ll just keep getting sick. And that isn’t fun. T’is the season for turkey and Santa, not coughing and sneezing.

Q: What are some resources an Undecided major can utilize to their advantage to help them pick the right major?

A: Well, there is a wonderful woman you can talk to about that. Her name is Alice Holtz ad she does all the career stuff. Also, go to the CATS building and talk to them there. I am almost positive that is what their job is. I also suggest taking some classes that dabble in a little of everything, find your niche and roll with the punches- but not literal punches because I believe that would be quite painful.

Q: I am pushing past the Freshman 15 into the Freshman 30.

HELP!!!!

A: Here at Peru State College we are lucky enough to have a built in gym- into the school grounds- and if you haven’t caught what I am talking about I am talking about the massive amount of hills everywhere! But if that doesn’t help, walking, eating right and excercise is always a great thing. Stop in and go to the workout room in the AWAC, while you burn those carbs you can look at some man candy. *wink*

Q: I am running out of money, and my parents won’t give me any, where can I get a job?

A: Well dear, there are jobs everywhere on campus and off campus, as long as you look in the right places. The cafeteria is always hiring fresh faces, to serve that mind control chicken, and offices all over campus are looking for work study students. If you are looking off campus I would try to stick close to Peru because that commute can be killer. Try Auburn, Peru and Rockport, they are the closest and have quite a few places.