Peru State Day Care Center: past, present, future

MEGAN BROWN
Contributing Writer

Nestled in a basement corner of the T.J. Majors building is a campus gem. As you near the doors to the Peru Day Care Center hallway, you often hear giggles and shrills of children’s laughter; perhaps, a couple little tots arguing over the “legality issues” of a toy; or the babbling of an infant, contentedly confined within the bright colors and sounds of their ExerSaucer. Nearing 30 years of service in 2012, the day care looks forward to celebrating its rich history and embraces the community as it works to preserve its future at Peru State College (PSC).

Past
The Peru Day Care Center has become a staple of the PSC campus community since its highly anticipated beginning in 1982. Pinpointed through a survey implemented by the Rural Women’s Education Project in 1979, the lack of child care in the Peru community was identified as one of the major obstacles in attending college for the 112 survey participants.

PSC nurse and first center coordinator, Virginia Miller, recognized that the most taxing problem when beginning the center was financing the project. Throughout the center’s history, it has been a great recipient of community philanthropy through donations of labor, monetary contributions, and equipment. When initially building the center, Peru Kiwanis Club donated construction of exit steps; smoke detectors were donated from the Peru Volunteer Fire Department; legal time to draw up corporation papers was donated from attorney John Chatelain; a chain link fence was donated from the Kiddie Carousel preschool in Auburn; and money was contributed by the Auburn Eagles, Eagles Auxiliary, PEP, Peru Jayceettes and numerous individual donors.

The center’s roots are based in a basic need exhibited by the community: child care for PSC students, staff and community members. Education has been a key value of the center since its opening, as it provided a preschool curriculum for its children. Mrs. Shupe, the first Peru Day Care Center Director, stated that she “believes in quality child care and in a loving and educational environment.” This philosophy regarding the center’s purposes has withstood decades of existence as providing quality child care continues to be the highest priority of its staff.

Present
Since its humble beginnings, the Peru Day Care Center has continued to be a non-profit organization that allows numerous mothers and fathers to earn an education at PSC by providing quality child care at affordable costs while maintaining its availability to PSC staff and Peru community members. Parents know that when at day care, their children are in a safe and loving environment that focuses on stimulating children’s pre-academic performance by providing preschool and innovative learning opportunities.

The Peru Day Care Center is a supporter of PSC student growth beyond just the little munchkins. Throughout its history it has provided opportunities for experience through internships, work study and even early childhood practicums for education majors. It has also been a site for childhood practicums for education students.

Future
The Peru Day Care Center is a support center for PSC student growth beyond just the little munchkins. Throughout its history it has provided opportunities for experience through internships, work study and even early childhood practicums for education majors. It has also been a site for childhood practicums for education majors. It has also been a site for childhood practicums for education majors. It has also been a site for childhood practicums for education majors. It has also been a site for childhood practicums for education majors.

Full time staff members are CPR certified and have impressive years of experience. The center is licensed by the State of Nebraska and Health and Human Services to care for children 6 weeks to 13 years old. The center continues to offer affordable child care with a daily rate of $24.25 per day for infants ages 6 weeks to 18 months and $21.50 per day for children 18 months to 13 years. Hours of operation for the center during the PSC school year are Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and during the summer Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Currently, the Peru Day Care Center has seen a dip in enrollment. For the first time in many years, there is a need for more children to sustain the success of the center. As the Spring 2012 semester at PSC is quickly approaching, the center hopes for an increase in enrollment and the continued prosperity of the Peru Day Care Center and its positive impact on the community.
Residence Life clarifies rules about open heating elements for students in dorms

KARA WESSEL
Contributing Writer

When moving to the Complex residence halls, Peru State College students learn that two of these halls, Pate and Nicholas, contain kitchens in them, creating more of an apartment-like feel to the suite. Living in Pate and Nicholas has always been a reward and privilege for upper classmen. Having a kitchen means you have more freedom and more meal choices, and it is just a fun benefit of being on your own at college.

After moving into Pate and Nicholas, students are reminded of one of the regulations in the housing contract that states that there are to be no “open heating elements” in the dorms. “Open heating elements” are toasters, coffee pots, George Foreman grills and other appliances that expose heat. To create awareness and understanding of this regulation, Assistant Director of Residence Life Seth Bingham answered a few questions about the regulation.

Q: What are some examples of “open heating elements”?
A: Hot plates, any type of coffee maker with an open heating element, George Foreman grills. These are not all, but some.

Q: Why are open-heating elements not allowed in halls with kitchens?
A: They are a fire hazard.

Q: Is a hair straightener or flat iron a hazard?
A: No they are not.

Q: What is the difference between a flat iron and an open heating element?
A: I’m not sure if there is much of a difference but the Residence Life staff is here to keep everyone safe, and I can’t remember a time that a flat iron has caused a fire, but I can remember a time that appliances have. A flat iron is generally thought to be in the same category as cosmetics or beauty supplies, not appliances.

Q: Palmer, Davidson, Clayburn and Mathews residents are this year allowed to have microwaves in their rooms, and they have no kitchens. Meaning, they do not have a table or counter specifically for a microwave. Do you find this a hazard?
A: No, I do not. To clarify the policy, we are allowing 1 microwave per suite, I will say that before, we have had popcorn unattended but I feel that students should be able to have a microwave; we have always allowed micro fridges. Microwaves are not in the same category as open heating elements.

WANTED:
Peru State Times
Ad Manager

* Paid position
* Four issues a semester
* If interested, contact Kristi Nies knies@peru.edu

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 pscetimes@yahoo.com.
Peru State College students Oran Perkins, John Neeman, Ian Cassidy, Miles Koso, and former professor Douglas Devaney set out on a mission to form Kappa Omicron Pho, a chapter of Lambda Alpha Epsilon, a criminal justice fraternity, in Spring 2011. This club is for those who are majoring or minoring in the criminal justice fields. Requirements are the student must keep a 3.0 GPA and also must be a sophomore or above to join. There are also small fees required to join. The total amount is $36 to join and $30 for following years, and possibly dues of $10-$20.

KOP’s current president is Perkins, a senior criminal justice major from Atlantic, Iowa who is highly involved with Peru State College. He said he had always wanted a club that focused solely on criminal justice at Peru State College. “[It] would open interest to different criminal justice fields to our criminal justice students,” Perkins said. He also said the group will be a mentoring group to those who are having trouble in criminal justice classes or need help setting up interviews.

Being so new, the club’s events are still being planned, but Perkins said “the sky’s the limit”. Vijay Sharma, a new criminal justice professor, is the club’s faculty advisor. Professor Sharma is a former criminal defense attorney in Cook County, Illinois, where he defended criminals for misdemeanors and felonies.

“My hope is for a deeper understanding of what it means to be in criminal justice and how one decision can effect a person’s life either in a positive way or a negative one,” Sharma said of his goals for KOP. He said his hope for this club is to help create the people who are going to be leaders in the field.

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How to effectively study for finals

BECKY AMEN
Assistant Editor

With the prospects of snowdays, holidays, and the end of the semester to think about, concentrating on studying for finals can be difficult. However, there are some ways to help you focus on projects and studying.

Make sure everything is in order before you start studying. If you’re missing notes, copy a classmate’s down before you sit down to study so there aren’t any holes in your information.

Don’t cram. It’s tempting, but it’s easier and better to study for ten minutes every day for two weeks than three hours right before the test.

Avoid distractions. If you’re working on your laptop, close out Facebook. Log out if you have to.

Consider talking to classmates and creating a study group. However, make sure the group stays focused about studying and less about socializing. If this will prove a challenge, talk to Marie Meland, Tutorial Services Coordinator, about getting a tutor to whip your group into shape and give some tips.

Even if you aren’t interested in a group, walk-in tutoring schedules can be found at https://www.peru.edu/cats/tutoring.htm.

Many people find studying in their Residence Hall room, where there may be the distraction of a roommate, difficult. Other people find studying in an area which is too loud or too quiet may be difficult. In any case, thinking about what distracts you and where might be a better place to study helps tremendously.

For those who like to study in the library, it will have special hours for finals.

Friday, Dec. 9 - 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 10 - 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 11 – Noon – 10:00 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 12 - 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 13 - 7:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.
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Madrigal Singers bring holiday cheer to campus

CARRIE TRECZEK
Contributing Writer

With the entrance of frosty crispness in the air, holiday tunes are sure to start a-ringing, at least they are with the Peru State Madrigal Singers.

The Madrigal Singers are hard at work preparing for the annual Holiday Madrigal Dinner, a Renaissance-themed feast.

“The Madrigal Dinner is the perfect way for people to start the holiday season,” said Madrigal Singer Daniel Perkins.

Attendants of the dinner are seated as if they are in the great hall of a castle. Soon, the Madrigal Singers appear in the Royal Procession singing the traditional “Masters in the Hall.”

Rebecca Trecek, a member participating in her third Madrigal Dinner, said that her favorite parts of the dinner are “the ceremonial elements. I like the procession the best.”

When asked why audiences should come, Trecek said “because it is one of the few Christmas events available on campus.”

Throughout the evening, each audience member will receive a three-course meal including a salad, main dish, and dessert.

Of course, the Holiday Madrigal Dinner wouldn’t be complete without the entertainment! In addition to the madrigal pieces learned earlier in the semester, the Singers will also perform both traditional Christmas carols and a few parodies of carols.

An element that sets this dinner apart from Holiday Madrigal Dinner’s past is the opera. Each year, the Signers perform an original opera written by Dr. Thomas Ediger. This year, the Singers will perform three scenes from previous dinners’ operas.

In addition to the music, Perkins said that audiences will see “vibrant costumes and decorations.”

The Holiday Madrigal Dinner will also have not one, but two locations this year.

The dinner will be held on Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10 at Peru State College in the Student Center. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. The Royal Procession begins at 7 p.m.

Tickets, on sale now, are $30 per person. Checks and credit cards are accepted. For reservations, contact PSC Director of Choral Studies and Professor of Music Dr. Thomas Ediger at 402-872-2253 or tediger@oakmail.peru.edu.

As something new this year, the dinner will also be held Sunday, December 11 at Camp Catron in Nebraska City. The Royal Procession will begin at 5:00 p.m. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. This performance is sponsored by the Apple Corps Men’s Barbershop Chorus. For tickets/reservations to this event contact any Apple Corps member or call Don White at 402-873-7900.

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He Said/She said: How to manage your time (or not)

KYLE AMEN
Distribution Manager

If there’s one thing I’m really good at, it’s being late to everything. Whether it’s class or meeting up with my wife somewhere on campus, I’m almost always late.

While that should bother me, it doesn’t in the slightest. I guess you could say I live by the motto, “Being late is better then never.”

My family was very weird when it comes to time, and I’m like that as well. If someone says to be there at 5:00, I don’t even leave until 5:50. Most of my friends know that they need to constantly remind me if I ever want to be close to the time that I need to be there. Even today, I was supposed to meet a friend to play some video games. I arrived an hour later. Whoopee.

My wife is the complete opposite of me in terms of time. She is the type of person that wants to arrive an hour before class starts. When we get ready to leave, she is always ready to go while I’m just starting to figure out where my glasses are. If not for her, I would be even more late than I already am.

If I’m late, I’m late. I really don’t care as long as what I have to do gets done by the end of the day. Being a commuter, I always see people wizz by me to get to class even though they are already late for it. Speeding for a class that l’m already going to be late for is pointless. Why bother? All you are going to end up doing is rolling your car or hitting a deer.

While being late can ruin your chances at a job, or losing points in a class, it isn’t a big deal. You can always find a new job and you can almost always make that time up outside of class somehow. It just isn’t a big deal.

At this point in your life, you just have to accept that this is who you are. Find a job where it doesn’t matter if you are late as long as the work gets done. Let the teacher know that you will try your best to be on time. I know that about myself. I have tried to get better at time management and all that, but it just doesn’t work for me.

National Novel Writing Month inspires writers to complete a novel within the confines of November

BRIANNA URRUTIA
Contributing Writer

Thousands individuals across the country have been fast at work this past month at creating a world that is not their own; be it demons being hunted down for their power, angels falling from the heavens to save mankind or even creating a romance that will make hearts melt. Here is a word of caution: one does not want to risk disturbing these individuals who are hard at work trying to get their characters to behave well enough to do as they’re told for fear of being turned into a character who is brutally murdered within the pages of a book.

National Novel Writing Month—also known as NaNoWriMo—may just be one of the most anticipated events within the month of November, alongside the long awaited Thanksgiving dinner. Writers across the world gather together to participate in this celebrated month long event. The festivities began at 12 am sharp on November 1, in which writers are encouraged to reach the goal of completing a novel consisting of 50,000 words—approximately 175 pages—from scratch by 11:59:59 on November 30.

While many–non-writers see this as a waste of time, it is not. Writing is the key element in life. It helps individuals broaden their imagination, as well as challenge their creativity, as well as giving the author(s) an escape from the real world. By allowing an individual to create a land that is everything they’ve been dreaming about for years, this is their chance to make it a sort of reality. Freedom of Speech allows writers to go above and beyond in what they write, giving them that ‘out’ that they’ve been searching for.

While NaNoWriMo begins to come to an end, that doesn’t mean the creativity needs to, for there is always next year, and the year after that and the year after that, etc, etc. So, pull out that pen and paper and let your creativity wreck havoc on your mind. You won’t regret it.

MICHAELA WOLVERTON
Staff Writer

This topic is such a big deal to me, I even considered it a “deep, dark” secret and posted it on an album full of my secrets on Facebook. I hate being late. Absolutely, one-hundred percent, HATE it. It is the worst feeling in the world to know that you are late to something because not only is it a waste of your time to not be on time, but it’s a waste of someone else’s time, too.

If you hadn’t noticed, time is a pretty big deal in the whole “being late” versus “being on time” argument.

Being on time is one of the most important things in life, and I’m completely serious with that statement. If you’re late to work too many times, you get fired. If you’re late to class too many times, you get docked attendance points, which lowers your overall grade. If you’re late to a movie, you miss the previews.

Do you see where I’m going with this?

But don’t think that showing up right on time is acceptable, either. If your appointment is at one in the afternoon, be there no later than 12:50. Ever hear the statement “If you’re on time, you’re ten minutes late”? It’s TRUE. Remember this ladies and gents. Because if you’re late to something important, that is one of the first impressions people will have on you.

“Oh, look, it’s the unreliable person who’s always late.”

Is that what you want people to think of you for the rest of your life? Of course it isn’t! So start the being-on-time trend early, and stop being so late to everything.

Besides, as a girl, being late is one of my biggest fears.

Am I right, ladies?
Campus striving to be eco-friendly reasonably

AMANDA SKIPPER
Contributing Writer

Peru State College may never join the ranks of the extremely environmentally conscious for many reasons.

Delzell Hall, the T.J Majors building, the Student Center, and the Administration Building still need to be renovated and improved for energy efficiency. The heating and cooling systems in all of the buildings, except for Jindra Fine Arts, still need replaced.

“The school can’t afford to make all of those upgrades,” said Dr. Dan Hansen, President of Peru State College.

PSC gets the money for upgrades and renovations, like the recent renovations of Jindra Fine Arts, from outside sources like government grants. The college itself cannot pay for these upgrades.

As for installing solar panels on all of the buildings to make them self-sustaining, this doesn’t seem feasible either.

“It must not be cost effective yet because you don’t see a lot of buildings doing that,” Dr. Hansen said.

Campus Services already implements some green cleaning products in their maintenance duties.

Deb Morris, the head of janitorial services, said about the green chemicals:

“It doesn’t clean as fast and takes more man-power to clean. With the other stuff you just spray and wipe it clean. You can’t do that with the green. It takes more time.”

There are a lot of people on the janitorial staff, but there are not enough to compensate for the extra time if they would switch to all green chemicals.

Campus Services does not currently use energy efficient equipment, because of the extreme difference of cost. An eco-friendly floor scrubber from Damier costs $10,000, compared to a floor scrubber from another company that costs only a couple thousand dollars.

Textbook publishers are not offering a lot of green options right now, either.

“You know, I’ve never noticed when we buy books that the publisher offers recycled books.” Me-linda Longnecker, the manager of the Bobcat Bookstore, said.

For all of those students who advocate for printed material versus digital, sleep soundly because it does not look like printed books are going anywhere.

Angela Zarybnicky, a junior education major from Odel, said, “I’m a print book person, because I like having things in front of me, like I can flip through them easier.”

Oran Perkins, a senior criminal justice major from Atlantic, Iowa, said, “It’s easier to go to the library and get a book out.”

Peru will not be supporting an organic menu for the cafeteria either.

“For the cafeteria to go green it would take a different supplier, there are some foods you just can’t get organic, it would decrease the menu significantly. It would cost more money because organic food is more expensive and we would have to find a reputable supplier close by,” said Matt Pasma, Director of Dining Services.

Even though PSC can’t be a completely green campus, there are things that the administration, Campus Services, and Dining Services are doing that are greener.

Campus Services is trying more green chemicals that may not clean as quickly, but they are cleaner for the air and they are trying more and more alternatives to harsh chemicals.

Dining Services all ready uses some organic foods, like the lettuce and veggie burgers.

Dining Services also sells the used cooking oil to a company and those funds go back to the school. They also use things that are biodegradable.

The administration is working on getting recycling on campus and they are looking into more building projects to make campus more energy efficient.

And the building projects do not affect the cost tuition, but the money comes from state grants or contributions. And any money saved will go directly back into the school.

PSC may never be a completely green campus but there are things that everyone can do to be more environmentally conscious.

“As we look at new projects over time we will look for solutions that are more energy efficient, because it makes more sense. As the cost of those installations go down it becomes more affordable to make those kinds of upgrades.Over time, as we redo buildings, we look at that as at least an alternative,” said Dr. Hanson said.

I am revealing two of my dirty little secrets. First, I have had an on and off again relationship with watching Glee since the show began.

Glee’s Season 3, Episode 4 depicted a scene where Puck, the biological father of baby Beth who was adopted by Shelby Corcoran, sings Foreigner’s “Waiting for a Girl Like You” to the baby. This moment solicits Shelby’s truth as she admits, “It’s everything I wanted: to be a mom. But, it’s just so damn hard!” hard to do it alone: the mess, the stickiness, the crying, books about ducks wearing clothes, trying more and more alternatives that costs only a couple thousand dollars.

Textbook publishers are doing that are greener.

Campus Services is trying more green chemicals that may not clean as quickly, but they are cleaner for the air and they are trying more and more alternatives to harsh chemicals.

Dining Services all ready uses some organic foods, like the lettuce and veggie burgers.

Dining Services also sells the used cooking oil to a company and those funds go back to the school. They also use things that are biodegradable.

I’m a print book person, because I like having things in front of me, like I can flip through them easier.

Regardless of the success I achieve, loneliness sometimes creeps up to serve as a reminder of my past insecurities. These vulnerable moments rattled my confidence and crippled my self-worth. Perhaps the most difficult challenge as a single parent is not overcoming the insatiable loneliness, but is instead learning to forgive those who wronged me in the past and allowing old wounds to at long last heal.

I try to instill virtuous morals and guide Kamber to do the right things.

Regardless of the success I achieve, loneliness sometimes creeps up to serve as a reminder of my past insecurities. These vulnerable moments rattled my confidence and crippled my self-worth. Perhaps the most difficult challenge as a single parent is not overcoming the insatiable loneliness, but is instead learning to forgive those who wronged me in the past and allowing old wounds to at long last heal.

After a long friendship and many months of dating, he called to let me know he was leaving and had met someone else. Nearing the end of my first trimester and devastated, I vowed to never speak to him again. My pregnancy progressed with my senior year. Five days after my high school graduation I went into labor and delivered Kamber without the presence of her father. I can rationalize that he was not mature enough for the relationship; however, the nagging question of “why wasn’t I good enough” continues to haunt me. This feeling of inadequacy has translated into many facets of my life and has permeated my confidence as a whole.

My love for my daughter is boundless. I strive to be a good student and make a positive impact as a local leader. I value community outreach and seek opportunities to volunteer my skills and services to help others. As a parent, I try to instill virtuous morals and guide Kamber to do the right things.

Regardless of the success I achieve, loneliness sometimes creeps up to serve as a reminder of my past insecurities. These vulnerable moments rattled my confidence and crippled my self-worth. Perhaps the most difficult challenge as a single parent is not overcoming the insatiable loneliness, but is instead learning to forgive those who wronged me in the past and allowing old wounds to at long last heal.

November 28, 1994- Jeffrey Dahmer, the man who murdered 15 men, was murdered himself while spending 15 consecutive life sentences.

November 28, 1984- Native Americans of the Southern Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes were massacred by a band of Colonel John Chivington’s men in Sand Creek, Colorado.


November 29, 1994- Lewis Washkansky was the first human ever to receive a heart transplant in Cape Town, South Africa.


November 29, 1947- Marlon Brando’s famous cry of “STELLA!” became an iconic hit when the Ethel Barrymore Theatre performed Tennessee Williams’s play A Streetcar Named Desire.

December 1, 1955- The woman who refused to give up her seat, Rosa Parks, ignited the bus strike when she became jailed.

December 3, 1947- Marlon Brando’s famous cry of “STELLA!” became an iconic hit when the Ethel Barrymore Theatre performed Tennessee Williams’s play A Streetcar Named Desire.

December 3, 2009- Amanda Knox was convicted of killing her roommate in Perugia, Italy.

November 28, 1864- Native Americans of the Southern Cheyenne and Arapahoe tribes were massacred by a band of Colonel John Chivington’s men in Sand Creek, Colorado.

November 28th- December 25th

History
PEAKS fitness challenge helps students become healthier

SARAH MATHEWSON
Contributing Writer

The PEAKS Fitness Challenge, hosted by the Physical Education, Activity, and Kinesiology Students of Peru, will be announcing their winners in December. The challenge was created as a service learning project for the PEAKS club members.

To compete in the challenge, students and community members formed teams of five people. Once the teams signed up, they were assigned two student trainers to guide their progress. The trainers suggested healthy eating habits as well as created personalized fitness programs based around fitness levels and ability.

When the challenge began, individual and team body fat was measured and calculated. The trainers then figured out how many calories the individuals had to burn to lose a pound of fat. Measurements began on day one and will continue on a weekly basis until the end of the challenge.

Brooke Earnest, a sophomore Psychology major and Criminal Justice minor, said that she likes participating in the challenge because it “makes you feel very confident about yourself and it’s awesome to see results.”

The winners of the challenge will be determined by determining which team burned the most calories, and they will win gift certificates to the book store. Currently, there are 70 individuals signed up for the challenge. Of the 70 individuals, there are 14 teams. There are also 16 trainers involved.

The amount of interest that the challenge sparked within the campus is impressive. Dr. Kyle Ryan, the PEAKS club advisor, said the club had to actually turn away people who wanted to participate because there weren’t enough trainers for all the interested teams.

Dr. Ryan also stated that this is a great experience for the PEAKS members because it allows them to take the knowledge they have learned up to date and apply it in real-life scenarios. The “hands-on” experience will help the members develop practical understanding.

Wade Halvorsen, a senior K-12 Health and Physical Education major, says that he enjoys being a trainer for the fitness challenge because “it is a rewarding experience seeing satisfaction in clients.” He also said that the experience provides personal improvement.

The trainers, of course, do not get paid. The training schedules are built around the trainers’ and participants’ schedules, as school comes first.

PEAKS is an open club, and new members are always welcome. The only requirement for joining PEAKS is having taken Physiology of Exercise, or being currently enrolled in the class. The club meetings are Tuesdays at 11 am in TJ Majors room 104.

Campus remembering Tyler Thomas

The campus community will come together on Wednesday, November 30 to mark one year since the disappearance of Peru State College student Tyler “Ty” Thomas.

Several activities are planned:

*Tell Someone In Your Life Thank You: A table in the Student Center will have note cards and envelopes available so members of the campus community can write a note of appreciation to someone in his or her life who is important. The College will mail the letters the following morning. Please bring the address of the individual. The note cards and envelopes will be available from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

*Letter of Support to Tyler’s Family: Letter writing materials will be available for members of the community to write letters of support to Tyler’s family. The notes will be delivered to Tyler’s family by members of the PSC Black Student Union.

*Say a Prayer for Tyler: At 7 p.m. in the Live Oak Room, a prayer vigil will be held. The vigil will be led by Pastor Tony Sanders from the Koinonia House of Worship in Omaha.

Thomas disappeared from campus on December 3, 2010.

*Ties for Ty: wear a neck tie to honor Tyler. Student Senate will also have purple available for the campus community to wear.

This Day in History

December 5, 1945

At about 2:00pm a group of five Navy Avenger torpedo-bombers took off from Ft. Lauderdale Naval Air Station. They were going on a three hour training mission. This was called flight 19, and it was scheduled to take the 120 miles and then return the base. They never returned. All of the flight crew went missing. Before all contact was lost, the leader of flight 19 reported that his compass and the back-up compass were malfunctioning. These men of the mariner were never seen or heard from again after 6:20pm. The Bermuda Triangle is a very mysterious place where over the course of history many have ended up missing.

December 23, 1888- Vincent van Gogh, a Dutch painter, was suffering from severe depression and he cut off part of his ear.

December 13, 2000- Seven convicts broke out of the maximum-security prison in South Texas. This started a huge six week man hunt.

December 10, 1901- The prize that many people strive for in life was given away for the first time. Thus the birth of The Nobel Prize came to play and was awarded in Stockholm, Sweden. This was named after Alfred Nobel who was the inventor of dynamite and other explosives.

December 6, 1873- The murderer known as The Boston Belfry killed his first victim, Bridget Landregan.

December 8, 1980- Singer John Lennon of The Beatles was shot by an obsessed fan in New York City.

December 16, 1944- The Germans launched the last major offense of the war at the Battle of the Bulge.

December 14, 1799- George Washington died at the age of 67 in his home of acute laryngitis.

December 12, 1980- The famous mind of Da Vinci which was found in his notebook was sold for 5 million dollars by Armand Hammer at an auction.

December 14, 1799- The only requirement for joining PEAKS is having taken Physiology of Exercise, or being currently enrolled in the class. The club meetings are Tuesdays at 11 am in TJ Majors room 104.

December 15, 1980- Five Avenger torpedo-bombers took off from Ft. Lauderdale Naval Air Station. They were going on a three hour training mission.

December 13, 1997- The torpedo-bombers took off from Ft. Lauderdale Naval Air Station. They were going on a three hour training mission. This was called flight 19, and it was scheduled to take the 120 miles and then return the base. They never returned. All of the flight crew went missing. Before all contact was lost, the leader of flight 19 reported that his compass and the back-up compass were malfunctioning. These men of the mariner were never seen or heard from again after 6:20pm.
Flood waters leave, but those with damages stay for the long haul

BROOKE ASHFORD
Contributing Writer

The flood is over! Of course for most of us the effects of the flood will remain for a very long time. The roads and lands will have to be rehabilitated. Homes will need repaired, decontaminated, or even rebuilt. Businesses must start from scratch and families must adjust to a new way of life.

Thankfully the highways and Interstates have opened back up and the lengthy, dangerous detours are no longer required. When I drive to PSC, it doesn’t take me half of the day nor does it require so much gasoline and money; however, due to the fact that Highway 136 was predicted to stay closed through December, I made plans for day care or taking time off of work to regularly attend classes, so it is still a struggle to be able to get to school.

I am grateful that crews were able to open the highway that leads from Missouri to Nebraska, but I am disheartened when I look out my window at the river bottom land and see all of the destruction left behind from this summer’s flood.

There are about 10 miles between I-29 at Rock Port and the Brownville bridge, and every inch of that land is filled with reminders of the devastating flood waters. The first thing that catches my eye is the pure lack of color; there are no greens or yellows of plant life. After spending four months in disease infested flood waters most everything maintains a dark, putrid brown tone. The road itself is marked with temporary asphalt that outlines the repairs to the flood damaged portions of the highway. The crews are still working tirelessly to dump load after load of dirt into the sink holes that are still pushing river water under the road. Sump pumps are working overtime to divert the water through natural and man-made ditches away from the highway and back in to the fields.

The first time I drove the highway I could see white flecks of plastic littered everywhere. I realized that these were the remnants of defeated sandbags that exploded under the pressure of the mighty river. There are deep scars cut through the once fertile fields where in some places river water still flows forcefully while other spots are marked with gaping cavities straight through the earth. The remnants of grain bins appear to be crumpled like tin cans and a rust covered propane tank sits awkwardly by the side of the road far away from its original home. Twisted metal, mangled tree limbs, and misplaced fence posts float along and scatter across the muck. Many of the buildings and homes are just dilapidated shells waiting to be pushed over. The buildings that were lucky enough to remain standing are now marked with a moldy water line.

Along that small stretch of highway sits the village of Phelps City. Multiple generations of my family once inhabited this place and until recently many of my relatives still lived in this sleepy little area. Phelps had never been a bustling metropolis but it was still home to many people. The homes that are left standing are now just filled with mold and water. Most likely Phelps City is gone forever.

I use to be ashamed to admit that I was from a farming community in the Midwest. I made it very apparent that I was civilized and modern and would never be thought of as “small town” or “country.”

Even though at times I am exasperated with small town life, the effects of this summer’s flood has made me realize that I was wrong and wouldn’t want to live any other way.

They say in the wake of a disaster the true colors of a man show. I discovered how brave and resilient these “country folk” could be. I experienced first hand as farmers who had lost their homes and most of their livelihood buckled down and work as hard as ever to protect the harvest of their remaining crops. I watched families gather their possessions and start from scratch. I saw people open their homes or businesses in whatever way they could to help each other out.

Now that the water has receded and things need to be put back together, there are no cries for help or signs of defeat, there is only the strong will to survive that is embedded in most of the area’s citizens. These small town country folk have wasted no time in putting their lives back together. Some situations will not ever return to normal but people are making the best of what they have.

On one of my drives to PSC I was gawking out of the window when I noticed a crumpled American flag twisted up in the mud and slime lying in a field. Through all of the muck that covered that flag, I could still see white stars. I couldn’t believe that this flag had survived such an ordeal. This flag symbolized the spirits of the people that have lived through any disaster and even though scarred, they make it through.

I am inspired when I see how much the human spirit can take and it gives me hope that no matter what is thrown at us, my fellow human beings will be inspired to stand together and face adversity with optimism and perseverance. I am and always will be proud to say that I come from a small country town in the Midwest where everybody knows everybody and no one knows a stranger and when one person is suffering we all suffer and fight together.

As flood waters recede, the afflicted try to get back to normal

JONATHAN ROBERTSON
Contributing Writer

The main body of the flood has finally receded back into the Missouri River. With this has come the normal flow of traffic this area is accustomed to. Businesses that had to close due to the poor conditions are once again open, and the other businesses that struggled to continue operating are once again receiving regular flows of customers.

As the businesses are once again thriving, the local people are doing better as well. Although many lost their homes and livelihoods, life does go on. Many people had to make sacrifices to survive through the tragedy. I know a few families where the main source of income was from businesses in Nebraska. It is surprising how many people work at Cooper Nuclear Station in Brownville. These poor people had to drive hours out of their way to get to work, and most stayed in hotels during the work week to cut out driving. They had to sacrifice time with their family and their hard earned money to work.

As a student my main struggle had been actually focusing on on-line classes. A classroom style setting is where I am most comfortable and feel like I will do the best. Another issue I have faced is financial struggle. I work at the McDonald’s at the Rock Port exit on I-29. With two of the main roads people traveled being closed, the hours available to staff have been cut back quite a bit.

More than anything I look forward to heading back to Peru for at least one more semester. I enjoy the atmosphere of the campus, as well as the students. It is a very comfortable and calm place. I know eventually I will have to leave the campus and move onto a different school to follow my goals, but I will enjoy every moment I get to attend this fine institution.
PSC Volleyball Coach Baack Resigns

(Peru, Neb.) – “Lexie Baack, Peru State College (PSC) Bobcat volleyball coach, has announced her resignation at the end of the contract year,” stated PSC athletic director, Steve Schneider.

Schneider added, “We appreciate Lexie’s six years of service which saw her teams win 91 games and compete in several of the conference tournaments at the end of the year.”

Baack’s 2011 team finished with an 11-18 record making her overall record as a Bobcat coach with 91 wins and 97 losses. This was the first year for the ’Cats with 91 wins and 97 losses. This overall record as a Bobcat coach includes six anticipated honorees later this fall.

A native of Hibbing, Minn., Baack previously served as the assistant women’s volleyball coach at Mayville State University in Mayville, N.D. She was also a camp director for three summers with Pacesetter Sports Camps of Minnesota and a Junior Olympic volleyball coach in Maryville and Nashwauk, Minn.

Baack earned her bachelor of science degree in education from Mayville State University in 2005.

“After six years with the Bobcat volleyball program, I am sad to end my run at Peru, but am also very happy to see the success and strides that the program has made in the past few years,” said Baack. Continuing, Baack added, “This is due to the tremendous amount of talented and dedicated student-athletes that have walked through our doors. They have made the program what it is today. I will miss working so closely with these hard working young women.”

Schneider noted that the College is taking an aggressive approach in the search process to replace Baack with the intent of hiring someone to start the second semester.

Daffodils will bloom at Arbor Lodge thanks to PSC Athlete

(Peru, Neb.) – In the park that features the home of J. Sterling Morton, the founder of Arbor Day, daffodils will bloom a plenty next year thanks to the work of Dr. Joel Lundak and Peru State College (PSC) student-athletes.

When the PSC Professor of Psychology participated in the UNL Extension Division Master Gardener program, he initiated a planting program at the invitation of Arbor Lodge State Park in Nebraska City as part of the continuing community service program.

Approximately 2,400 daffodils were planted the first autumn with PSC student-athletes helping to plant another 2,400 for naturalizing this autumn. Daffodils are especially appropriate because they are deer and squirrel resistant and they multiply.

Kelly Bequette, PSC Foundation Advancement and Alumni Relations Coordinator, worked with Lundak and the athletic department and initially lined up the men’s basketball team to help earlier in the fall. Most recently, the members of the baseball team assisted and on Friday, Nov. 18, weather permitting; the football team will also do some planting.

Bobcat men’s basketball player, junior Connor Smith of Lincoln enjoyed the experience. Smith said, “It was a good team-bonding trip for those of us players and coaches who went and helped. It is always good for the team to do something for a community.”

Tim Patterson, sophomore baseball player from Destin, Fla., echoed Smith’s comments about helping with the community. Patterson commented, “It is great to help out a community, and in particular, to do something which will have a lasting effect. In this case, helping out a state park is something great to do and for others to remember in the future. Also, it is good to let the community see us contributing in a different way.”

This past spring, daffodils could be seen blooming the whole month of April and were at their peak at Arbor Day.
Assassin’s Creed: Revelations Review

KYLE AMEN
Distribution Manager

Assassin’s Creed: Revelations came out on November 15th. For fans of the series, this is a must. As for everyone else, do yourself a favor and go play some more Skyrim.

Once you start go into details, Revelations is the worst in the franchise. The story might be great, the locations fun to explore, and the charming main character Ezio keeps things interesting, but that’s about it. Ubisoft literally throws every idea they ever had into this game and it comes out a mess.

Ezio is now an old man. However, he is still capable of being the assassin we all know and love. The story sets up for the third Assassin’s Creed very nicely, as well as resolving the plot from the previous games. When it boils down to it, everything is great except for the core mechanics of the game and pacing.

One of the more prominent features Revelations has to offer is a hook attachment, allowing quick access over walls and the sides of buildings, and bombs. While the hook feels great and a excellent addition to the series, most would be disappointed in what this game has to offer, which isn’t much. Ezio simply has way too many tools at his disposal. Most would simply use his hidden blades and not even touch the bombs. Why offer all that equipment if nobody is going to use it?

The pacing is also terribly off from the previous games. While building up Assassin Den, a new tower-defense like feature, is fun, the rest of the story and pacing are way off. One minute it’s going slow and steady, while the next the building you are in is collapsing. There just isn’t any buildup. As for graphics and audio, Revelations is looking really outdated. The game engine has been used in every Assassin’s Creed game so far. Hopefully with the third game being in development, Ubisoft can put some more life into the series. Audio is as great as it always is, with the sound track being some of the best in the video game industry.

Assassin’s Creed: Revelations is a game that should have taken more time in development. It seems rushed, with many issues. However, the good outweighs the bad. It definitely needs a look at if you are a fan of the series.

Home Alone Holiday Favorite

KARA WESSEL
Contributing Writer

The holidays are just around the corner, which means so are all of our favorite holiday movies! One of my personal favorites has always been Home Alone. Although I have seen it about 50 times, it never gets old. Home Alone is a true classic that I think will always have a place in everyone’s heart.

Home Alone is a story about the McAllister family going on vacation when they accidentally leave their 8 year old son Kevin (Macaulay Culkin) behind to fend for himself. Being the independent and sarcastic kid that Kevin is, he makes the best of his alone time. He does laundry, orders pizza, goes to the grocery store and keeps himself well entertained. Everything goes great until Kevin discovers that there are burglars that are trying to rob his house while his family is away. Being the fearless, spunky kid that he is, Kevin takes control of the situation and finds unique and humorous ways to fend off the burglars.

This movie is one for all ages, and appropriate for the whole family to enjoy on a cold, snowy day. There are tons of humorous scenes that will make anyone laugh. The movie is just pure innocence, appropriate for all viewers, and there is a strong feel of family throughout this movie. Home Alone is a true classic in all sense of the word.

Grandaddy relives the past for its fans

TRENT GROOMS
Ad Manager

Grandaddy has made it almost two decades flying under the radar, but with their re-release of their album “Sumday,” they are resurfacing in the spotlight of the indie rock scene. “Sumday,” originally released in May of 2003, was Grandaddy’s third studio album. The album was named number seven in CMJ New Music Report’s “Top albums of the year” and was a huge hit amongst the independent music scene. It wasn’t until the album was released in the United Kingdom that it gained more recognition. After only being released for a couple of months, the album made it to the number 22 spot, making it the band’s highest chart placing album in their history. Frontman Jason Lytle said the album “represents the closest I’ve been to singing in the first person, writing passionately.” With this album came a new direction Grandaddy began to head. Their first few EP’s and full length albums were more experimental. “Sumday” has a much more “pop-rock” feel to it, with catchy hooks and beats, you find yourself dancing along to. It’s been eight years since “Sumday” was released and it’s now being reissued along with Grandaddy’s first two studio albums on vinyl. In the spirit of reliving the past, Grandaddy also put old T-shirt designs that have been sold out for many years up on their website http://grandaddy-music.com/. Although everything at the moment is sold out on their website, they are reassuring their fans that there is more to come.

Peru State Anima-
Breaking News: New Classes Offered

JENNY TRAPP
Layout Editor

Peru State College is excited for their new line-up of classes that are to be offered for the Spring 2012 semester.

Classes to be introduced this upcoming semester are Introduction to Restful Napping, Analysis of Coloring and Advanced Crumpling. Peru State is the first college in the world to introduce classes with such subject matter and with this style of learning within the classroom. Rather than lectures, these will be activity based classes. Students will learn by doing rather than by listening to professors.

Students will participate in active research studies related to the benefits of sleep, relaxation of coloring and stress relieving benefits of crumpling.

These classes are only being offered to the super seniors this year as a test study for they are only here still because they do not want to go to the real world yet. They must fill out liability waivers to participate in the crumpling course. The school is not liable for any injuries associated with this style of dancing, pencil sharpeners or comas that are onset by too much sleep.

Be looking for updates on the progress and research information gained by these select students. If there is enough of a benefit, the school plans to implement new graduation requirements that include the above classes.

Breaking news: Unique snow removal

The maintenance staff has been considering new and exciting ways to remove snow from the sidewalks for this harsh winter that we are surely in store for. There have been many suggestions such as heated sidewalks, canopies to cover the walkways when it snows, and a daisy chain effect of umbrellas to cover the entire campus to shield it from snow.

Although all the above listed suggestions were highly considered by both the maintenance staff and the administrative staff, there was a much more reasonable and cost effective option that they agreed upon.

Each student will be assigned one square of the sidewalk that they will be responsible for. They must clear the snow or ice from the pavement fifteen minutes after the first snowflake falls. If there is anyone who fails to comply with the new responsibility, they will be fined for every minute that they are late. The school hopes for this to eliminate the pressure put on the maintenance crew, instill responsibility in the students and increase the school’s overall revenue.

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Breaking news: Earthquake hits Peru?

Peru, NE experienced an earthquake in the beginning of November. Students and staff alike were caught off guard. While there were some who reported not feeling anything, there were others who said that they were effected more drastically.

There was an group of students watching a movie in the theater when the even happened. They explained that the movie projector began to shake uncontrollably. Others report that their shampoo bottles fell down. Was this an earthquake in Peru, or was it an aftershock of a much larger one that hit down in Oklahoma? None of the above!

This mystery has been solved. Peru was not impacted by an earthquake of any form or after shock. Rather the local elephant farmers lost control of their flock and there was a stampede that ran through the campus. Luckily no one was harmed in this event. This story has a lesson for all to learn: always be on the look out for loose elephants!

Breaking news: Plan to eliminate parking issues

With the commuter population growing and the spike in the lethargic attitude of Centennial Complex students, Peru State College administrators have decided to expand parking options for all students.

The current plan is to transform the commuter parking lot, the lot that is across the street from A.V. Larsen Fine Arts Building, into a four story parking garage. Building supplies and the cost of labor will be funded by the money made through parking tickets received within the last two months. There will be more than enough funds to complete the project.

While the structure is being built, students will be forced to find alternative parking or heaven forbid, they may even have to walk to campus from the Complex. After that, parking will never be an issue for Peru State College ever again!

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Breaking news: Unique snow removal

The maintenance staff has been considering new and exciting ways to remove snow from the sidewalks for this harsh winter that we are surely in store for. There have been many suggestions such as heated sidewalks, canopies to cover the walkways when it snows, and a daisy chain effect of umbrellas to cover the entire campus to shield it from snow.

Although all the above listed suggestions were highly considered by both the maintenance staff and the administrative staff, there was a much more reasonable and cost effective option that they agreed upon.

Each student will be assigned one square of the sidewalk that they will be responsible for. They must clear the snow or ice from the pavement fifteen minutes after the first snowflake falls. If there is anyone who fails to comply with the new responsibility, they will be fined for every minute that they are late. The school hopes for this to eliminate the pressure put on the maintenance crew, instill responsibility in the students and increase the school’s overall revenue.

Peru State College is excited for their new line-up of classes that are to be offered for the Spring 2012 semester.

Classes to be introduced this upcoming semester are Introduction to Restful Napping, Analysis of Coloring and Advanced Crumpling. Peru State is the first college in the world to introduce classes with such subject matter and with this style of learning within the classroom. Rather than lectures, these will be activity based classes. Students will learn by doing rather than by listening to professors.

Students will participate in active research studies related to the benefits of sleep, relaxation of coloring and stress relieving benefits of crumpling.

These classes are only being offered to the super seniors this year as a test study for they are only here still because they do not want to go to the real world yet. They must fill out liability waivers to participate in the crumpling course. The school is not liable for any injuries associated with this style of dancing, pencil sharpeners or comas that are onset by too much sleep.

Be looking for updates on the progress and research information gained by these select students. If there is enough of a benefit, the school plans to implement new graduation requirements that include the above classes.

Breaking news: Earthquake hits Peru?

Peru, NE experienced an earthquake in the beginning of November. Students and staff alike were caught off guard. While there were some who reported not feeling anything, there were others who said that they were effected more drastically.

There was an group of students watching a movie in the theater when the even happened. They explained that the movie projector began to shake uncontrollably. Others report that their shampoo bottles fell down. Was this an earthquake in Peru, or was it an aftershock of a much larger one that hit down in Oklahoma? None of the above!

This mystery has been solved. Peru was not impacted by an earthquake of any form or after shock. Rather the local elephant farmers lost control of their flock and there was a stampede that ran through the campus. Luckily no one was harmed in this event. This story has a lesson for all to learn: always be on the look out for loose elephants!

Breaking news: Plan to eliminate parking issues

With the commuter population growing and the spike in the lethargic attitude of Centennial Complex students, Peru State College administrators have decided to expand parking options for all students.

The current plan is to transform the commuter parking lot, the lot that is across the street from A.V. Larsen Fine Arts Building, into a four story parking garage. Building supplies and the cost of labor will be funded by the money made through parking tickets received within the last two months. There will be more than enough funds to complete the project.

While the structure is being built, students will be forced to find alternative parking or heaven forbid, they may even have to walk to campus from the Complex. After that, parking will never be an issue for Peru State College ever again!