The Inside Out Program benefits learners both from Peru State College and Tecumseh State Correctional Institution

Jamie Drake
STAFF WRITER

The Inside Out Program presents an opportunity for Peru State College students interested in the criminal justice system to take a class within the Tecumseh State Correctional Institution, alongside convicted felons.

“The Inside Out Program is the opportunity to take 15 Peru State students over to the Tecumseh Prison and attend a class along with 15 inmates and learn about the criminal justice system from different perspectives,” said Chelsea Arguello, sophomore Psychology and Criminal Justice major.

The class is taught by Dr. Kelly Asmussen, Professor of Criminal Justice at PSC.

“In a typical class we all [students and inmates] sit every other in a circle. So it would be inside student [inmate], outside student [PSC student], and so on. Then we just have class. It’s very interactive. Everyone participates. Sometimes we just talk in groups or sometimes we will get out of our seats and participate in big group activities,” said Arguello.

“This program gives Criminal Justice and Psychology majors a chance to step outside of our textbooks and lecture classes. We get to see the criminal justice system first hand and not just read about it out of a book,” said Brooke Earnest, junior Criminal Justice Counseling major.

“Our class session starts off with everyone interacting and conversing with one another. Dr. Asmussen starts our class off with a question, we pass a hackie sack around the room and whoever has it, speaks. We then usually break up into groups of four (2 inside, 2 outside) and discuss topics that are on our worksheets. We discuss the worksheet with the whole group. This may happen a few times, depending on the topic and/or worksheets. We then get back into a big group and continue with discussions, followed by a question to answer with the hackie sack. Each class does vary depending on the topic. Some days we are on our feet doing activities. Now that we are getting closer towards the end of the year we have been brainstorming our ideas for our final project. Our final project has the ability to be varied depending on the topic. However, we have to disagree, give respect, receive recognition for your turn to speak and DO NOT interrupt, we have a hand signal for those straying from the conversation or repeating themselves, we expect to learn something each class session, we focus upon helping everyone feel accepted, to come to class prepared to learn and willing to engage, but most of all, to make the learning FUN,” said Dr. Asmussen.

“The Nebraska Department of Corrections has a large number of institutional rules the “outside” students must learn and know, so they are required to attend approximately 20 plus hours of training I provide the students prior to the end of the first semester. Thus, students are already learning about and focused upon, correctional practices and policies before they are even officially enrolled in the spring course,” said Dr. Asmussen.

“There are rules for the program to protect both the inside and outside students. We have a dress code and we are only allowed to know and use first names. We are not allowed to look people up or to have contact rather then in the class,” said Arguello.

Along with the mandatory rules of the program, there are also rules enforced within the classroom by Dr. Asmussen in order to create and keep a fun, interactive, and non-judgmental learning environment.

“The class agrees to a set of Rules of Dialogue; LISTEN, we agree to disagree, give respect, receive recognition for your turn to speak and DO NOT interrupt, we have a hand signal for those straying from the conversation or repeating themselves, we expect to learn something each class session, we focus upon helping everyone feel accepted, to come to class prepared to learn and willing to engage, but most of all, to make the learning FUN,” said Dr. Asmussen.

The Inside Out Program is offered as a three-credit course during the spring semester. However, you aren’t allowed to freely enroll in this course; there is a lengthy application process.

“I start recruiting/advertising the course in early October, as I have several necessary steps in order for students to be accepted into the course. I have prospective students, both “inside” and “outside”, fill out a 3 page questionnaire that helps me more fully understand the reasoning behind their interest in the course. This course is very intense due to the location, thus I must be very sure that each student has the right temperament, the necessary focus, a great attitude, a willingness to learn in this type of situation, motivated to attend every class, and have no other motivations or focus. I start the training process for those selected as soon as I can in the fall,” said Dr. Asmussen.

“My favorite part of this class is every week as I write my journal (homework assignment for the class we do every week) I look back at the first day and see how far that I have come. I never stepped foot into a prison before this class and now the “inside” students are my friends. I have learned so much from the “inside” students about everything. I love getting to know the inside guys, they are genuine nice human beings. My favorite experience is knowing that when I take my path after graduation into the criminal justice field that this experience will help me do the best I can at my job because of the things that I have learned from my friends in the Inside Out class,” said Earnest.

“If interested in this program for next spring, stop by Dr. Asmussen’s office in TJ Majors.
Don’t be just another “poor college student” anymore

Chloe Langford
STAFF WRITER

“Money can’t buy you happiness,” said no one ever. Let’s get real here: money is important and essential to life. We have to pay for our education, food, living, and cars. Life in general just has a price tag, and to top it off it’s not a sin to want a new top and maybe to eat out once awhile with your friends, but as a college student you probably suck at saving your money. No worries though, after you read this article you will be on your way to a comfortable lifestyle and a cushy bank account. Saving money starts with learning to manage your money.

Being on your own for the first time, it is not unusual to be tempted to go out and spend your life’s savings on all the things your parents never let you have before (like that lava lamp, x-box, erotic poster, etc.), but we want to avoid all the money troubles that many college students find themselves stuck in.

The first step in managing your money is to open a bank account; it’s a good idea to bank with a credit union that is close to you or a bank/credit union that your family banks with.

The second and most important thing about managing your money is to not get a credit card. I know that free Frisbee and pos money is to not get a credit card. The second step in reaching that cushy bank account is getting organized. Track your spending. Tracking where and how you spend your money will help with the prevention of overdrafts, and it will help you detect your own spending patterns, and maybe you will realize what you need to change. Make a budget. At the beginning of the month estimate how much money you need for essentials (food, gas, bills, etc) and make sure to leave a portion to fun money, even it’s just ten dollars.

As a college student, it feels like everyone wants your money, but here are a few tips and smart ways to save money on campus. Buy used textbooks, you don’t need new text books and at the end of the semester, you can sell them online for more than you paid. Don’t use your car, especially in Peru. The whole town is only a mile long walk places. It saves you a lot of money when it comes to gas, car repairs, insurance, and parking tickets. Don’t hang out with the rich kids. We all have that friend that’s parents hand them $50 a week just for being them. Hanging out with these big spenders can lead you to spend more than you can afford.

Get the most from your PSC ID. Peru is always offering free bowling nights and free movie nights, take advantage of that. This might come as a surprise, but if you take care of yourself in your personal life, you won’t need to spend as much money on yourself. A healthy body is a lot easier and cheaper to take care of than an unhealthy body. There are five easy ways to be healthier in college.

So go to class, get involved on campus, stay active, eat healthy, and limit your vices. By learning to manage your money, getting organized, and changing up your campus and personal life you will find yourself on your way to a comfortable lifestyle and a cushy bank account.

Don’t find yourself dealing with money troubles, and on top of it all impress your parents with your awesome money habits!
Peru State students get ready to “Shine On” at Spring Fling

Grace Cole
STAFF WRITER

It’s that time of year again. Spring Fling week is almost upon us. Get ready to throw on your boots and your Stetsons because in preparation for celebrity performers Florida Georgia Line, this year’s theme is “Get Your Shine On.”

“CAB is excited for this year’s Spring Fling week since it includes our celebrity performer,” said the Student Activities Coordinator Chelsea Allgood. “We’ve tried to plan our events around the country genre in anticipation of their arrival.”

Though the schedule for the week has not yet been set in stone, the members of CAB have come up with an exciting list of activities for students to participate in. Locations for these events are to be announced. Starting Monday, April 8, during lunch there will be Bobcat Karaoke. At dinner will be Aqua for Africa.

On Tuesday, April 9, feel the love with the HUA Puppy Kissing Booth during lunch. Then at dinner, visit more furry friends at the Farm Animal Petting Zoo.

Wednesday, April 10, gets a little messy starting with the lunchtime activity, a Pie Eating Contest. Then get ready to release your inner redneck at the Honky Tonk dinner. Finally, the day wraps up with a bonfire from 8-10 p.m. This will include hayrack rides and, of course, marshmallow roasting and s’mores.

On Thursday, April 11, take a step back in time by taking Old Time Photos with all of your friends at lunch. Then over dinner will be the sixth and final Championship Series event, Mud Wrestling. That’s right, you get to roll around in mud and get a shot at winning $300.

The week wraps up on Friday, April 12, with the long awaited arrival of Florida Georgia Line. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. First, we will see Chase Rice perform beginning at 9:00 p.m., followed by Florida Georgia Line at 10:00 p.m. The concert will end at 11:00 p.m.

This year’s lineup promises to be both entertaining as well as very exciting, so be sure to bring your friends and get ready to “Get Your Shine On.”

Campus Crusades for Christ tell President Obama to stand against slavery

Kyle Amen
FACEBOOK EDITOR

On March 13, Campus Crusades for Christ took part in the End It Movement. This movement helps gather awareness and help stop people who are enslaved, involved in sex trafficking, and other forms of slavery.

The movement involves standing for 27 hours straight, which went from 7 p.m. the one day to 10 p.m. the following day.

Cassie Leonard said, “We are trying to gather support for this petition, which will then be sent to the President of the United States. The ultimate goal is to pick between 5 and 15 different countries where there is a lot of slavery. As of right now, we have 83 signatures so far!”

More information about the movement and its goals can go to www.ijm.org or any of the other organizations involved in this movement.

SSS hiring part-time tutors

SSS, PSC’s TRIO program, wants to hire PSC students who excel in particular subjects in order to provide one-on-one tutoring to SSS participants.

HELP WANTED

SSS Tutors receive many benefits:
- Flexible hours
- Pay
- Resume booster
- Opportunities to build skills

For more information, contact Tadivos Gabre, Math -Science Skills Specialist.
CATS 009
(402)872 -2305
tgabre@peru.edu

Above, Campus Crusades for Christ (CRU) collects signatures for their petition to be sent to President Obama and representatives stand for 27 hours straight to raise awareness. Photos courtesy of Ama Bikoko and Kyle Amen
PSC Theater presents Mr. Marmalade; begins search for next season’s shows

Jessica Merrill
COPY EDITOR

As another school is coming close to the end, it is time for the theater department to start figuring out the productions they will be putting on next year. Every year, the theater puts on three main stage productions and one student directed plays. Along with this, they also have many other events such as their Haunted House and 24-hour Theater. The theater director Joshua Young and technical director Devon Denn-Young will announce next season’s production list at the end of the year theater banquet. For main stage productions Josh, Devon, and theater students put up a list and add names of scripts that they would be interested in performing starting in January once they return from the theater festival they attend every year (KCACTF). Once the list of desired scripts goes up, they are all read through and the best are chosen. In an interview with Josh Young, he stated that theater is not so much interested in profit from their shows; rather they look for an educational aspect and most every year has a certain theme they like to follow. With shows like Eat and Mr. Marmalade, it is clear to see that the theme for this year is “coming of age” and “growing up.”

Mr. Marmalade was shown on March 21st 24th in the college theater and had a cast of eight total students. These students included Amanda Burke, Chloe Langford, Grace Cole, Michael Casavant, Kellan Garber, Thomas Horky, Danny Moberly, and Levi Kraw. Garber played Mr. Marmalade and the cactus, while Horky played Bradley and the sunflower-all four characters imaginary friends. The two were double cast in the play, as Young says, to show that all imaginary friends are simply different variations of the same people yet no other known casting of this show has done the same form of casting. Young says that he chose this cast because they were the best and most suited for their roles. He tries to challenge each of his theater members to work out of their comfort zone and make every role an individual challenge.

The costumes and scenery are to the credit of Devon Denn-Young, who created the concept of the set to be very child-like and immature in the real world and to have main character Lucy’s imaginary world to be mature and realistic. The same is said for the costuming in that the real world is very bright and lively, whereas Lucy’s world is formal and serious. When asked why such a controversial play was chosen, Young simply responded that it was a genuinely well-written play that he was in love with. The play came out of the student suggestion last January after the group returned from KCACTF and it is not only an amusing, dark play; it puts a different spin on things that our society does not like to discuss like child suicide, death, absent parents, immature sex and Young points out that none of the issues in the play were over-exaggerated nor is the theater department condoning any acts in it; they are merely approaching it in a light-hearted way that will hopefully make it easy to talk about.

“Mr. Marmalade is a savage black comedy history of New Jersey. Mr. Marmalade is a savage black comedy about what it takes to grow up in these difficult times.”

Internship Spotlight

Darrick Raemakers is a senior Criminal Justice major from Columbus, NE. He interned for the University of Nebraska-Lincoln police department in Lincoln, NE. About his recent internship, he said, “The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Police Department was a great experience for me. I learned so much valuable information from the officers and my supervisor that will help me later on in my career. Everyone that is involved with this department are all very professional and made me feel like I was actually a part of the department, and not just an intern. I would recommend all criminal justice majors to consider this department for an internship.”

PSC Art Student Exhibition
March 11-29, 2013

“The Man, the Myth and the Legend” by Jenny Trapp

“Still Life” by Brandi Hull

“Synesthesia Abbie” by Mary Fiedler

“Chair” by Rachael Blair

Trinity Lutheran Church
Christian Growth Hour 10:15 AM
Regular Worship Services Begin Each Sunday at 9:00 AM
634 Alden Drive - Auburn, NE
Opposing Opinions: Legalization of Marijuana

Ama Bikoko
STAFF WRITER

In our world today there are countless debates that are going on. One of those debates is the legalization of marijuana. Currently, the US federal government views marijuana as a controlled substance and bans it. However as of 2012, 18 states and Washington D.C. have legalized it for the use of medical purposes and the states of Washington and Colorado became the first’s states in history to legalize marijuana for recreational use. Despite it being legal in certain states, the Federal government can still prosecute people on a federal level for the possession of marijuana. So the question that remains is should marijuana be legal for recreational use?

I believe the answer to that question should be no. Firstly, the scientific facts still remain that marijuana can be a gateway drug. Also the side effects of long term marijuana use, like memory loss, metabolism inconsistency, slowed reactions, and possible brain damage is still possible. In 2012, statistics released by the Drug Enforcement Agency showed that where there is extensive marijuana use, there are also other drugs such as cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine present.

Secondly, marijuana is a drug, and drugs are addictive. Someone who is addicted to a drug has a harder time making well and informed decisions because their ability to think logically is eliminated when they are high. Thirdly, the use of marijuana will have a border effect on society and does not just affect the user. What will happen if a person shows up to work high? What happens if a person drives while they are high?

For some people, marijuana will be a gateway drug, and that can lead to more violence associated with drugs. Then there is the issue of second hand smoke. Marijuana still has the same toxic effect on cells just like tobacco has. There may be a rise in health care costs to combat to effects of the dangers that will arise from people being irresponsible while they are high. Another reason is that the legalization of marijuana may increase the chances of kids getting access to the drug. If a substance is legal, it is easy for people who are not allowed to take it, to get it. Finally, what message are we sending to the next generation? Is it okay, to send the message that drug use is acceptable and to have law enforcement agencies support that. Marijuana is a big deal and can have a lot of bad consequences. If marijuana is as good as some people say it is, it would have been legalized a long time ago and there would not be a debate about it all.

There are 17.4 million regular marijuana users in America.

In 2010, there was a 28% increase in Washington State drivers impaired by marijuana.

Marijuana is ranked as the most popular illegal drug used in the U.S. More than one-third of Americans have used marijuana.

Jacob Buss
STAFF WRITER

The war on marijuana is a multi-billion dollar trade that has gone on far too long. Having the US government consider marijuana an illegal substance it is taking up much of the tax payers money, crowding our prison systems, and taking up the time of our law enforcement and none of that is necessary. Physically there is nothing wrong the consumption of marijuana, it is just moral issues that people seem to have with it.

Marijuana also has shown to have health benefits for people with terminal diseases. Plus the United States is mission out on billions of potential tax dollars as well as thousands of new jobs.

When it comes to the consumption of marijuana it is no more dangerous than drinking or tobacco which is regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration. In fact, marijuana is safer to smoke than cigarettes because it is all natural with no added chemicals. Marijuana has also been shown to have positive effects of people who have cancer, AIDS, glaucoma, as well as other diseases. It can be used primarily as pain management, and can help to re-establish a patient’s appetite.

In the realm of criminal justice, marijuana is a constant debate. In 2009 National statistics showed that there were 87,200 arrests related to marijuana, 775,000 of them for possession alone, not sale or manufacturing. This leads to questioning if tax dollars are reasonably being used to process these cases. Then with crime and violence, both within the U.S. and at the U.S.-Mexico border, are greatly increased due to illegal selling and buying of marijuana. Legalization would logically end the need for such criminal behavior.

Then there is the potential money and tax dollars that could be made from the production and selling of marijuana. Other than the part of the plant used for consumption, there is also the hemp. Hemp is an extremely versatile agricultural product, and can be used for a very large variety of things. Hemp can be used to make paper, fuel, body products (hemp is a great moisturizer), the list goes on and on. And the tax dollars that could be made from the selling of this has astronomical figures, in addition to that there would be a large amount of jobs that would be created with opening this up for production.
Healthy student: Relax! It’s stress awareness month

Allie Buesing
STAFF WRITER

April is stress awareness month. As college students, I don’t think we ever experience stress – yeah, right. For most college kids, stress could be their last name: student loans, homework, social life, sleep, extra-circular activities, family and the list goes on. It feels like life gets busier every day, and along with life comes stress. Finally we reach a breaking point, then we turn to unhealthy habits to distress. There are many healthy ways to relieve stress other than turning to a McDonald’s Big Mac and 32oz. Mountain Dew.

Get your life organized to prevent stress. If we know our schedule and plan our day out, it can really prevent from stress building up. Make sure to fill out our calendar so you know exactly how much and what you have going on each week. Personally, each night I like to write out my schedule and to-do list for the next day. For my schedule I write everything done from my classes, when I am going to do homework, when I have free time and when I am going to exercise. I write a to-do list so I know exactly what I need to get accomplished, so I don’t procrastinate and do it last minute. When we save projects for last minute we tend to stress about them more.

For many, their schedules are so busy that exercise is their last worry. Exercise can actually help release that stress. Exercise can release endorphins into the brain, which improves your mood. Even if it’s just a 15 minute walk it still gets you away from your stressful life and lets you take time to think to yourself. Healthy foods like whole grains and protein can improve your mood and give you long-lasting energy to tackle everything that comes your way during the day. Foods that are especially effective for stress-busting include blueberries, salmon and almonds, according to scientists. Once in a while though we need that little treat to help release stress. Which honestly a little treat is not going to hurt you as long as you stay in control. For example when your stress and really want ice-cream don’t go buy a pint of ice cream to calm your stress. Get a small 8 oz personal size ice-cream and that will usually calm those cravings and prevent overeating. For example when your stress and really want ice-cream try choosing healthier items to calm your stress. Get a small 8 oz personal size ice-cream and that will usually calm those cravings and prevent overeating. For example when your stress and really want ice-cream try choosing healthier items.

Most importantly however the positive in it. Yes, you can find the positive and enjoyment in everything you do. Even if it is the worst moment of your life, I am sure you can find the positive in it.

Healthy student: Relax! It’s stress awareness month
Africa to Peru: Differences we have make us unique, provides new viewpoints

Ama Bikoko
STAFF WRITER

There are many things in life that we don’t get to choose. Those things range from our families and genders to what we wore for the first few years of lives. We are born into certain situations, and we have no control over that. What we do have control over however, is how we let those situations define us.

Over spring break, I had the opportunity to have my first American home cooked meal. The difference between how dinner is typically conducted here and back home in Malawi was really fun to experience. A typical dinner time in Malawi is a lot different. To begin with, when people are ready to gather to eat, there will be somebody holding a small bucket of water and a hand towel, in order for people to wash their hands. That person will then proceed to go from person to person so that they can wash their hands. They will start with the eldest people first. When everyone’s hands have been washed, one of the elders will be asked to say a prayer for the meal. When the prayer is finished people will take their seats. Once they have taken a seat, they will be served a plate of food from; again starting from the eldest to the youngest. When everyone is done eating, a person with a bucket of water and a hand towel will come out again so that everyone can wash their hands again.

It is always interesting to see how something as simple as dinner can be so different from place to place. Another simple difference that I have recently become more and more aware of is the use of different terminology for the same things. For example, what most Americans call fries, back home they are called chips, what are called chips, back home they are known as crisps. I think the best difference of terminology that I have come across so far, is the use of the word geezer. I was sitting in a room with a people discussing the different sounds that can be found in a building. It was then described to me how boilers usually make the most noise. I was really surprised that boilers were still made here. I then had explained to me what a boiler is. I then made note that they were describing a geezer. I got strange looks in the room again; I was then told that a geezer is an old person. I was adamant about the fact that a geezer is not an old person but, a water heating system that is installed buildings.

The more time I spend here, the more I realize that the differences we have make us unique. They provide us with a different viewpoint of certain things. Some of our differences we are born into, others we develop. In the end, we all have something to offer each other, as long as we willing to understand our differences.

This is an a-MAZE-ing peacock!
Peru State Baseball celebrates recent accomplishments

Patrick King  
STAFF WRITER

Marshall Klontz (Auburn, Wash.) unofficially, for the first time in at least nine years, pitched a complete no-hitter game. The Bobcats faced the Graceland Yellowjackets on Saturday, March 16. Klontz came with a gem in game one of two against the Yellowjackets as the Bobcats won 2-0. The Bobcats were also able to take the second game of the day 5-2, to open Heart of America Athletic Conference play with two wins. With these two wins the ‘Cats are able to improve their record to 6-7 overall and are 2-0 in the HAAC.

Graceland on the other hand fell to 8-7 overall and 0-2 in the HAAC. Game one action Peru State was able to score a run in each the first and second inning, which proved to be enough to give the Bobcats the win over the Yellowjackets. Tyler Croushorn (Omaha) was able to single up the middle to the game started. After two outs Croushorn stole second and then went to third when Ronald Tanner (Haverton, Pa) came in to pinch run for Tyler Croushorn (Las Vegas, Nev.) dupli- cate Voigt’s double, but down the left field to drive in Voigt. At the end of five innings the “Cats would have the lead 5-0.

In the top of the sixth, the Yellowjackets would finally get on the scoreboard and were aided by a Bobcat error. They would be able to score two runs to cut the Bobcat lead to 5-2. Neither team then scored the rest of the game. The ’Cats scored their five runs on 11 hits and committed three errors. Croushorn was three of four and Voigt two of four to lead the hitting for Peru State. Both of Voigt’s hits were doubles, as well as, one of Croushorn’s. Voigt was credited for two RBI.

Brandon Mear (Orange Park, Fla.) got his first start on the mound and pitched six innings to get the win. Mears gave up four hits, two runs-one earned, and struck out five. Tim Patterson (Valdosta, Ga.) threw for two innings and gave up one hit and struck out one. Brent Brown (Hemet, Calif.) came in the final inning and earned the save. Brown gave up no hits and struck out one. Be sure to come out and support your fellow classmates as their season slowly progresses.

Additional information for this article was obtained using press releases.

American Red Cross Club

Wants you to give blood

When: April 9th
Where: Student Center Live Oak Room
Time: 10:00-4:00

Goal is to collect 55 pints.
Please donate!
Any questions please contact:

President: Devin Hart- dehart@campus.peru.edu
Club Sponsor: Angela Allgood- aallgood@peru.edu

Club meets 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6pm in the curriculum level library

Above, Marshall Klontz smiles because of his no-bitter against Graceland University.

Above, Jake Wright catches against Graceland.

Photos courtesy of Alyssa Rodriguez
Oak Bowl renovations push forward despite requiring additional funds

Kara Wessel
STAFF WRITER

Last fall Peru State said goodbye to the only Oak Bowl it has ever known. So how is the renovation progressing?

The expected completion date for the improved Oak Bowl is now mid-November. So far, demolition, dirt work, tree protection and site utilities have begun.

Currently, Peru is in the process of selecting turf for the field. Renovations that have yet to start are concrete work and retaining wall construction.

After securing $9 million to cover the field and stadium improvements, the College is still seeking funding raising efforts for the $5 million that is still needed to complete the project.

“I am excited for the completion of this phase of the project and am hopeful we will be able to complete the entire project through fund raising efforts,” said Michaela Willis, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs at Peru State College.

Since this is the first major renovation on the Oak Bowl since it was constructed in 1900, there is high anticipation by both students and staff of Peru State College.

“I think the one thing I am excited about for the new improvements on the field is having lights for a night game. I believe that a night game at Peru would be one of the craziest games ever played here. It would bring everyone back to playing under the lights, a lot of emotion that will make for an exciting game,” said JD Faxon a junior Elementary education major. “It will be my senior year on the field, so to end my career here at Peru State College on a new field will enhance my football career.”

Faxon’s enthusiasm about the football field’s lighting is shared outside of the football team, as the lighting will be useful for other activities.

“Once complete, the Oak Bowl will serve the College in a variety of ways including use by intramurals, student activities, and more. Having an outdoor space with lights will be a great benefit of the facility and will meet a current deficiency for the campus. We also hope to see increased use of the facility by the surrounding communities for athletic competitions and events,” said Willis.

Softball team struggles toward success this spring season

Patrick King
STAFF WRITER

Peru State Softball team came down swinging on March 13 against the Lady Braves of Ottawa University.

**Game one action**

The Bobcats started the first game strong as they scored the first but unfortunately the only run of the game. The score came by the process of Toni Moffat (Morden, Alberta Canada) reaching first base on a walk in the bottom of the fourth to increase Peru State in the lead 2-0. Two outs later, Moffat came home on an Abbie Moser (Lincoln) single to put the Bobcats ahead of the Braves 1-0.

The Bobcats would unfortunately not have their lead long as the Lady Braves scored a run in the bottom of the first to tie the score all up and then took the lead for good in the bottom of the third with two runs. Later, Ottawa was able to score two runs in the fifth and four in the sixth to win the game 9-1 in six innings.

Peru State College scored its lone run on three hits and committed no errors.

The leaders of the ’Cats were Moser who had two hits and Bodyk one to lead the ’Cats. Moser was the one that credited with the lone RBI (run batted in).

Devon Massengale (Elkhorn) pitched for the Bobcats and unfortunately gave up seven hits in five innings, including five earned runs. Massengale was able to strike out three. Trista Hutchings (Cambridge, Ontario, Canada) pitched the final two-thirds of an inning, giving up 5 hits and four earned runs.

**Game two action**

Ottawa took control of the second game early with the Bobcats scoring runs late in the game.

Peru State was able to score in the first inning to take an early lead. Traci Bohlmeyer (Fairbury) was able to reach base on a bunt. Toni Blackwell (Papillion) then laid down a sacrifice bunt that allowed Bohlmeyer to advance to second. Moffat reached on a walk and Marash was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Moser then singled to left driving in Bohlmeyer to make the score 11-7 though.

Unfortunately for the Bobcats, the Braves would add five in the bottom of the fourth to increase their lead to 11-3.

The Bobcats would get a few runs back in the top of the fifth to make the score 11-7 though. In the bottom of the inning, Ottawa would be able to counter with 2 runs to make their lead 13-7.

The Bobcats weren’t quite finished though as Blackwell and Marash were able to score two runs, in the top of the sixth. Making the score of the game 13-9.

Ottawa would then be able to score two runs in the bottom of the sixth to make the lead 15-9 and then were able to hold the Bobcats to zero runs in the seventh to take the game.

The leaders for the Bobcats’ were Mares and who was three for three with two runs and one RBI and Moser who was two for four with two RBI.

Lauren Johnson (Seward) Threw on the mount for Peru State the entire game. Johnson gave up 18 hits, 15 runs, and struck out two players.

Additional information for this article was obtained using press releases.
Prequel to Wizard of Oz series not so “Great and Powerful”

Kyle Amen
FACEBOOK EDITOR

Despite the fact that L. Frank Baum wrote 13 sequels to the legendary Wizard of OZ series, there were no plans for a prequel. Oz the Great and Powerful, directed by Sam Raimi who’s most famous for the Spiderman trilogy and the Evil Dead series, takes up the reigns. Will it live up to the classic Wizard of OZ movie or just fall flat?

Oz, played by James Franco, works for a traveling circus. He dreams of being rich, famous, and becoming the great man he always wanted to be. Oz is actually a bit of a crook. He uses the same line with every woman he meets, cheating his partner out of money, and taking advantage of everyone around him. After a visit from the woman he loves, he begins to question his life. Take the simple life or stay in show business?

He doesn’t have much time to think about it as the strongman of the circus is after him. Fleeing away, he hops into a hot air balloon and off he goes into the near-by tornado. This opening shot is filmed in 4:3 black and white, the format used in the 1930s. After being sucked up by the twister, the world fills with color and the screen expands into a beautiful aerial view of Oz.

After this opening, the movie becomes somewhat of a disappointment. In between the opening act and the finale, it becomes a snooze. Oz seems to suffer the same fate as many prequels lately. It tries too hard explaining things that don’t need explained, such as why the witch is green, the Wizard’s projector machine, and so on. It jumps between being in league with the classic to a parody of sorts. This is rather sad considering the cast is fantastic. James Franco literally steals the show in almost every moment, as well as the rest of the cast. This is impressive considering just about everything they are interacting with is CGI.

The music is fantastic, which is a given considering its Danny Elfman. The sound is equally amazing. The only technical part that suffered was the incredible amount of CGI. Due to the style that it is in, it makes it hard to connect to the CGI characters.

Being a huge Sam Raimi fan, I was so pumped for this movie. It’s a great series, a well-known director, and a brilliant cast. I was expecting something dark and more serious. At times that is very true, especially considering the PG rating. Some parts will make you jump, but that’s it. However, given the uneven tone and over-use of CGI, it’s very hit and miss. It’s worth a watch, but don’t expect greatness.

New SimsCity release disappoints fans, although the game has amazing new features

Taylor Sirman
STAFF WRITER

If I were to ask many people my age: “What was your first game on PC?” Many would respond with SimCity, be it the original or 2000.

For the past 10 years the world has not seen a proper SimCity title. However, that all changed this month with a reboot of the series.

SimCity at it’s core is a great game. The gameplay is easy to understand, but still deep and intuitive. Sims rush about your city trying to find work, shopping, and amusement. The whole game feels more alive than previous titles and the vibrant color scheme really emphasizes this.

On top of all this, you are no longer bound to the strict grid system of previous games. This allows you to create curved roads and interesting city layouts. All of this helps add to the game to create one of the best city builders out there.

Unlike previous SimCity games, you are also able to interact with an online community. You can create or join a region that allows other players to build cities within your region. Eventually you can create advanced trade networks and specialized cities with the ultimate goal of nurturing many cities that all help each other.

But all is not well in the land of Sims.

On the first day of launch many people were unable to actually play the game. This is due to the always-online DRM which is mandatory to play SimCity, despite it being a mostly single player experience.

Even though the game itself is a blast, aside from a few traffic glitches, the entire experience is held back by server problems and questionable decisions.

There is no offline mode so that you can just build a city by yourself, achievements are completely broken, and some of the online interactions don’t even work that make it necessary to build a healthy region. This is a $60 dollar game and these problems should be non-existent in this age of beta testing.

The worst part about this game is that it is fantastic, but getting to the actual content can be such a hassle that it just doesn’t seem worth it.

SimCity is a really fun game with hours upon hours of play time but struggles on a fundamental level. I’d say if you want to play a SimCity game, go play SimCity 4. It’s $40 less and a near perfect city builder.

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Celebrity Gossip: Bachelor results, Boy Meets World rules, Biebs’ hamster dies

Michaela Wolverture
LAYOUT EDITOR

It’s that time again, Bobcats. Celebrity gossip. Now I know what you must be thinking: “But with the bombshell about Fall Out Boy getting back together, what else could possibly be important?” And believe me when I tell you: Not a whole lot. But rumors fly and pictures get taken, so that’s what I’m here to report.

First things first -- Bachelor results. Warning, a spoiler is coming up if you’re bad at keeping up with television episodes. So stop reading if you don’t want to know. Seriously, if you don’t want to know Sean (“The Bachelor”) Lowe’s decision, quit reading this article and go work on the puzzle.

Still reading? He chose Catherine Guidici and proposed to her on the spot, then when she said yes and expressed her love they rode off into the sunset on elephants. And you’re still sitting on campus, reading this paper. Yup. Life’s good.

Even more breaking news, Justin Bieber’s hamster died recently. He gave PAC, the hamster, to a female fan named Tori McClure and told her to take care of him. She was successful for a year, but hamsters don’t have the largest life span and teenagers don’t have the largest attention span so...death inevitably happened. But PAC lived a good year, and we wish him well in that giant hamster ball in the sky.

According to TMZ, Kris Humphries (Kim Kardashian’s short-time husband) was trying to say Kim fraudulently induced him to marry her. However, producers of the show recently admitted that Kris proposed and Kim was completely caught off guard, but she felt her reaction wasn’t good enough and asked to re-shoot the scene. This basically proves Kris’s accusation wrong, and now he’s screwed. Such is life.

Rider Strong, actor who played Shawn Hunter on Boy Meets World, has told reporters that he has no official involvement in the new show Girl Meets World. Girl Meets World is going to be about Cory and Topanga’s daughter, and Cory is the new Mr. Feeney according to sources -- he became a teacher. Strong says he’d be interested in a guest spot, as he’s been wondering “where our characters ended up after all these years.” We’re curious too, Mr. Strong. We’re curious too.

Remember the story about Britney Spears’s puppy? Well, apparently he’s not a good stress relief with his soft fluffy fur -- Spears recently walked out of her judging seat on The X Factor because a contestant butchered her song “Hold It Against Me.” Funny...her songs were pretty butchered to begin with, so this contestant must have been awful. And that’s it for celebrity gossip this time around. The Peru State Times Spies STILL haven’t returned. We’re beginning to worry, but we are positive all is well.

Amanda Burk
English Education
Freshman

Don’t Wish on the Clock

The streetlight cast droplets of fluorescence onto your face to cure your drying eyes. We’ve done this before, enough times that I know we’ll stand still so long that the lamp will go out as the sun rises across the Missouri.

I’d like to ride into the sunrise with you, so I could show you the jigsaw puzzle memories of my home town: the marching band graffiti on the back of the coffee shop, the rock walls behind the library like discarded paperbacks that line the creek, and the untethered tetherball chain that clanks against the pole on the playground; accompaniment for tumbleweeds and imagined cowboys.

But home is highways away, so I’ll stare at you in silence to watch the streetlight drip onto your denim shoulders.
Dear Maebelle,
I’m a little stressed, Ms. Maebelle. I just don’t understand what’s going on. I thought college is what happened after graduating high school, but I’ve been here for four years and it’s not any different. Sure, the classes take up less of my day and it costs a bit more money than my free education for my high school diploma. But the people… there are still cliques, and there are still rude people. I guess my question, Maebelle, is why? Why do other people get pleasure in bullying someone they don’t even associate with?
Sincerely,

Ready to Graduate…from HS again.

Dear Stuck In High School,
I’m sorry to say, but it won’t get much better after graduating college, either. Cliques exist everywhere. There will always be someone in your life — be it directly or indirectly — that chooses to be a mean person, rather than acknowledging the fact that if they dislike someone they can just take the bigger step and ignore them completely.

That being said, the good news is that unless this person you’re talking about gets a job in the same exact building as you, you will most likely be free of them come May 4. And that’s a silver lining, right?

I wish I could tell you why some people get their rocks off when it comes to bullying, but I don’t have a direct answer. Perhaps they had a bad experience with bullying, therefore they feel justified in treating someone else the way they used to be treated. Or, in all honesty, perhaps they are just a genuinely bad human being. Those do exist, despite what people try to preach. Just be the bigger person and ignore them. Your ignorance towards them is real in comparison to their fake higher authority over you — don’t let that authority exist, and there’s nothing they can do to bring you down.

And if all else fails, you can always do what the average person does these days and post about your problems on Facebook or Twitter, but don’t say names because then you’re being bold. I mean, not standing up to someone directly definitely isn’t cowardly. Don’t worry about it. You’ll be alright.

Seriously though, just ignore them. Chances are you’ll end up in a better place than they will in the long run… unless their goal is the street corner. Who knows, these days?
All my love,

Jenny Trapp
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ask Maebelle
Baby, what’s your sign?

Taurus April 20- May 20: You will find $20 in your pocket. Hit up the nearest thrift shop and get some new threads. It will be awesome! On your way make sure to listen to “Thrift Shop.”

Gemini May 21- June 20: It’s fine by me if you never leave.

Just kidding! You got to get out of here. You can’t live here forever. Move on. Make sure to listen to “Fine by Me” on Tuesday.

Cancer June 21- July 22: You are hanging out with a new kid in town, looking like a couple big-footed clowns. You can say anything you want to but there is no way anyone else can have you. For the record, she wants you back. You will realize you made a huge mistake while listening to “Want You Back.”

Leo July 23- Aug. 23: You can’t win the game without a certain someone. You can run but you can’t fly…. people can’t fly. You will get emotional next time you listen to “Without You.”

Virgo Aug. 23- Sept. 22: “1,000 Miles” is your jam! You are on your way home, just making your way through the crowd. Time will not pass you by so don’t try falling into the sky. Live in the memories. Never loose your smile.

Libra Sept. 23- Oct. 22: It is all coming back to me now. When you touch me like that and hold me like this, you kind of freak me out. Take a step back! No one wants to be creeped out. Even Celine Dion would find it a bit odd.

Scorpio Oct. 23- Nov. 21 When you look around and all you can do is tear up. Know there is more to it than the secrets and lies. Find the strength and hope in the day. ‘N Sync are your main “go-to” guys when you are feeling down. Give “This I Promise You” a listen.

Sagittarius Nov. 22- Dec. 21 Your soul is old. Your eyes are full of sunsets and daytime sky. All you need to do is wait patiently and do not give up. Always remember that Jason Marz won’t give up on you!

Capricorn Dec. 22- Jan. 19: Go ahead and do your thing! You have your own new dance. Do not be afraid to walk it all by yourself every once in a while. Line dances can be fun. Do the “Cupid’s Shuffle” for some much needed fun.

Aquarius Jan. 20- Feb 18: The song “Don’t Stop Believing” will inspire you. You were not born to sing the blues…save that voice for the showers. You are just a streetlight person (what does that even mean?) The movie comes to an end and it just might be time to stop believing. Just kidding. Keep the hope.

Pisces Feb. 19- March 20: You are the type of person people search for. You are nearly impossible to find. No worries friend, you will see another day. Your lucky song is “Fall for You.”