Changes ahead for Residence Life

MARY JOHNSON
Copy Editor

The 2012-2013 school year will see changes to the Residence Life program, including its staff, programs and new resident governments.

According to Seth Bingham, Assistant Director of Residence Life, there will be a new Resident Assistant (RA) in both Delzell and Morgan Halls, allowing for one RA on each floor. The Centennial Complex will have one RA for each building, except Nicholas and Pate Halls, which will share the senior RA.

The 2012-2013 senior RA is Trevin Nelson. Other Resident Assistants include Jacob Schaben, Paige Meyer, Jenny Trapp, Alexis Fudge, Mary-Catherine Jacobsen, Jacob Acers, Drew Wellenstein, Madison Ferris, Richard Kepford, Ryan Bauman, Michaela Wolverton and Ellen Larson. The mentors for the Fusion program include Cassie Leonard, Danielle Prchal and Christian Panko.

Two new programs, the Wellness Program and the Neighbors Program, will take effect next year. The Wellness Program will take place in Morgan Hall on the third floor, which will include both freshmen and upperclassmen. This program is designed to assist residents in defining their sense of personal wellness. The program will provide any extra equipment (such as an exercise ball) the residents may require in fulfilling their idea of wellness. The second program is the Neighbors Program and will be implemented in the Nicholas and Pate Halls apartment-style living for upperclassmen. This program, while it includes all residents of Nicholas and Pate Halls, does not include mandatory activities; residents will be able to choose which activities to attend. These activities will educate residents about off-campus living issues, such as job hunting, cooking, personal finance, and searching for housing. Bingham said, “The Neighbors Program is designed to provide a bridge from on-campus to off-campus living.”

The already existing Freshmen Fusion program is being expanded to include residents in Morgan and Delzell Halls. The change will not only expand the capacity of the program, adding five to ten more spots, but will also allow participants to live with and interact with others outside of the program.

Residence hall councils for each hall will be implemented in the 2012-2013 school year. The residence hall councils are designed to allow students to have a voice at the local level, according to Bingham. The overseeing residence hall student government, named the Residence Hall Association, will have the power to allocate funds to each residence hall. Any legislation regarding residence halls will now go through this organization.

The hall councils will also be taking over some of the programs the Residence Life program sponsors. These councils will be creating and hosting the more recreational activities, while Resident Assistants will be expected to create educational programs for their residents.

Campus-wide elections for the Residence Hall Association will take place soon. Bingham encourages students to take part in this “opportunity to impact.”

A new Residence Life handbook is being created; however, this will not contain all new policies, but will clarify those previously existing. One change that is being made is the consolidation of the forms required for those living off-campus. The independent living policy will now only require one form to be filled out, the Housing Status Change Request form, according to the Peru State website.

Photos courtesy of Seth Bingham
The Peru State Times

www.peru.edu/psctimes

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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 psctimes@yahoo.com.

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The Peru State Times

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Final Exam Schedule –SPRING SEMESTER 2012

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Final Exams for evening classes are scheduled for 0630 PM on the regular class meeting.

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What is your best memory while at Peru State College?

My favorite Peru memory has to involve two of my old friends from Delzell. After a fun night out on the town of Peru, we returned to the dorm. When we got back, we saw that one of our friends took off and was nowhere to be found. We looked all over Delzell and Peru. Couldn't find him. Turns out he had wandered onto campus and fell asleep on the bench outside of Jindra with nothing to his name but a t-shirt he'd stolen from me. We still don't know how he got back in the dorm.

Jen Wenzel-Johnson
Senior, Criminal Justice Administration

Meeting all my new lifetime friends; doing crazy things, like having laundry basket races down the stairs, having water gun fights, and making all types of ridiculous adventures. For example, when my friends, Echoe, Kristen, and I had a Dog the Bounty Hunter moment with our water gun fight.

Jasmine Schwisow
Senior Fine Arts and Physiology minor

My best memory of college would be the time I hunted down the infamous mountain lion that has been roaming the sidewalks of campus. I also loved running around campus trying to catch Jerry the squirrel.

Bob the Bobcat
Senior Aviation minor

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April 23, 2012
New Student Senate leaders bring a new perspective

SARAH MATHEWSON
Contributing Writer

Ellen Larson and Lexi Neemann have won the Student Senate election for president/vice president for the 2012-13 school year. Larson is a sophomore who is double majoring in Elementary Education and Special Education. She is from Lincoln, Nebraska and graduated from Pius X High School. Larson has been involved in Student Senate since her arrival at PSC. She has served as Freshmen Representative, Morgan Hall Representative, and is currently a Senator at Large.

Neemann is a freshman Psychology major. She is from Sioux City, Iowa and graduated from Bishop Heelan Catholic High School. Neemann has been involved in Student Senate since her arrival at PSC. She is currently a Senator at Large. Neemann will be replacing Daniel Perkins (current President) and Spencer Woltmuth (current Vice President).

Although the girls are prepared to take office, they both know that next semester will hold much more responsibility for both of them. Neemann said that, “We know that next year will be different. We will have to develop a strong sense of time management as they work to improve Senate Vice President, will be honored during their Inauguration on April 22. Larson and Neemann will be replacing Daniel Perkins (current President) and Spencer Woltmuth (current Vice President).

With the 2012 elections, seven new Senators at Large were also selected. Those students are Todd Ostmeyer, Richard Kepford, Mallory Sjuts, Lexi Fudge, Lindsey Toman, Dawn Plympton and Brooke Earnest. PSC has also announced the 2012-13 Student Trustee as Joseph Fauver.

Student Senate is one of the most influential groups on campus so that it seems less intimidating to students. “I want people to know they can come to us with anything because we are here to serve them and they need to recognize that their voice can be heard.”

Photos courtesy of Sarah Mathewson

Pet owners who do not follow city laws must deal with consequences

JESSE CARNAHAN
Contributing Writer

Peru ordinances require dog owners to license their pets and keep them on leashes.

Dogs need to be licensed so that the city of Peru knows which dogs have been vaccinated for rabies. Rabies is a disease that is spread through the saliva of infected animals that can cause illness and possibly death. Dogs that haven’t been vaccinated could pose a threat to the safety of people and other animals that come in contact with the pet.

“A pet owner that doesn’t comply with ordinance can be cited,” said Kristie Wemhoff, the Deputy Clerk at Peru City Hall.

“Dogs also need to be on a leash when walking,” said Cindy Moran, the City Clerk at Peru City Hall.

Dogs that get loose may be caught by the city’s workers. These dogs’ pictures are posted in high traffic areas such as the Post Office and Peru City Hall. The dogs are then taken to the Animal Hospital in Nebraska City because Peru does not have a dog pound. Owners that want to claim their dog need to go to Nebraska City and pick the pet up themselves.

Owners of dogs should take the leash law very seriously if they don’t want the hassle of driving to Nebraska City to pick their pet up. Owners should look into purchasing a tie-out lead or fence to retain their pet outside if they don’t want to walk the dog. This would allow the dog to be outdoors without roaming the streets of Peru.

“I see dogs and cats roam the streets of Peru everyday,” said Kirsten Peterson, a student at Peru State College and worker for the Hearts United for Animals (HUA) shelter.

The dogs that roam the streets may or may not have owners that care for them. Unfortunately, many of the dogs that are loose are former pets of college students that do not want or cannot afford the responsibility any longer.

“People who see loose dogs should call them,” said Peterson, “then try and find the owners of the found dog.”

Peterson has quite a process for finding dogs a home. First she takes them home and tries to find the owner. Next she tries to take them to a shelter that has room, preferably HUA if she can. If she can’t take them to the shelter she will find a new owner to take care of them.

Peterson would like to see dogs that have no owners go to HUA. That way they can be adopted to families that will care for them. HUA is a no-kill animal shelter five miles north of Auburn, just off Highway 75. The shelter has strict adoption application requirements to ensure the animals go to safe homes. These requirements include a fenced in yard that is six feet in height, financial stability, and a home inspection done by shelter volunteers. Several roaming dogs find their way to HUA every month.

Another student from Peru took it upon herself to take in a young kitten with no mother from the streets of Peru. The kitten is now spayed, vaccinated, and in a loving home. Dogs and other animals need to be well cared for. They require time, effort, money and a safe environment.

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April 23, 2012
Evaluations enhance teaching methods

SARAH MATHEWSON
Contributing Writer

As the Spring 2012 semester draws to a close, teacher evaluations begin to surface on Blackboard once again.

Teacher evaluations occur at the end of each term. This means that evaluations take place at the end of both Fall and Spring semesters, and also at the end of eight week courses.

"Evaluations of teachers are necessary for the college to measure teaching effectiveness and satisfactory with our instructional activities," said Todd Drew, Vice President for Academic Affairs. As VPAA, Drew personally views each course evaluation.

The evaluations, used to improve instruction, are also used to inform faculty employment, promotion and tenure decisions.

Full-time instructors see their evaluations and are asked to consider their own evaluations as well as their strengths and weaknesses in a meeting with their dean during the annual performance evaluation process.

Adjunct instructors also see their evaluations and their dean may provide follow-up response if there are any concerns.

Instructors who are tenured do not have to evaluate every course section that they teach. After a six year probationary period of constant evaluations, the college backs them with confidence and a thorough understanding of their capabilities.

Drew reported that most tenured faculty members still ask for all of their course sections to be evaluated because they are interested in having the feedback.

Drew stated that, "Each faculty member invests a surprising amount of energy and preparation into teaching a class and they all care about how it worked for students."

Evaluations are often used by individual faculty members to make refinements to courses to constantly improve them. Student comments on evaluations allow students to be very specific about what they like and what they’d propose be different. These are important to instructors who try to provide their students with the best classroom experience they can provide.

Completing course evaluations is mandatory for students at PSC. These evaluations take only a moment of time but are critical to the understanding of the PSC mission as well as promoting a habit of citizenship.

Course evaluations are taken very seriously at Peru State College as the school focuses on teaching and learning. Teachers really do adjust their courses according to the results of the evaluations, so as students prepare to complete their teacher evaluations, they are asked to give genuine thought to their answers as they greatly affect the success of the campus community.

Custodial Staff maintains the integrity of the school

CHLOE LANGFORD
Contributing Writer

Let’s all be honest for a minute. Most people have gone to the bathroom and thought, “Ew. Glad I don’t have to deal with that.” or made a mess and thought, “Well, I don’t have to clean that up. Someone gets paid to do that.” The truth of the matter is that someone does have to clean up the nasty showers, vomit and all the other messes that college students are leaving behind, and it’s not always easy or pleasant. The people that have to do that are Peru State College’s wonderful custodial staff. Some people may assume that custodial staff members are unhappy with their job, but the information from the interviews conducted tell a very different story.

PSC’s custodial staff consists of 12 full-time employees, and one part-time employee. The full time employees arrive at 6:00 a.m. and get off at 3:00 p.m. All the custodians agreed that their favorite things about their job were working with the students, the people on the campus and their custodial team. Of course when investigating the pros, the cons always help shine some perspective. The most common answers for least favorite aspect of being custodial staff were cleaning bathrooms, cleaning up vomit and students being disrespectful.

If anyone is wondering how they can help to make the custodial staff’s job easier, here are a few suggestions from the team themselves: respect your surroundings, put trash in trashcans, pick up after yourself, don’t touch the windows so much, please flush the toilet when you’re done and just give them a smile to make their days even brighter. PSC’s custodians are regular people. They like to hang out with their families and friends, go fishing and camping, and watch sports.

One custodian said, “Here at Peru, a custodian is not just someone who cleans but someone who gives and cares about what others need.” It’s not just the custodians’ campus to take care of, but everyone’s.
College students should help the less fortunate

JACOB BUSS
Contributing Writer

Lately around campus there have been several programs to help benefit third world countries and people who are less fortunate than us, such as the Reaching Out Beyond Our Borders, KONY and the Day Without Shoes programs. But as college students, why should we care about these things, especially when we are in Peru, Nebraska, and they are in Africa?

Some people would say that we should not worry about programs like these because it will never affect us, and that we should only worry about the people directly around us. Though it is true that helping those in Africa will probably never directly affect us, and that we should help the people around us more, it is still important to help those in third world countries. Those who are around us who need help have more than they realize. I’m not saying their lives are perfect, but what I am saying is that there are programs set up by the government and local communities to help them get what they need. They are going to have a pair of shoes to wear, they will have clothes, and they will have safe drinking water. People in third world countries don’t always have these things, and there are not always programs set up to help them. Dawn Plympton, the founder of the Reaching Out Beyond Our Borders, said, “If we allow ourselves to see the problems of someone else who has far less than us, then we are more able to find a new perspective that allows for an easier solution to our own complicated problems.” I see this as being very wise and very true. Sometimes what people need is a humbling experience or realization. So what if you don’t have the latest gadget or you can’t afford that new pair of shoes at the Buckle when you already have five other pairs of shoes sitting in your closet? When was the last time that you stopped to appreciate the fact that we have drinking water that is safe or that we have food to eat? True, compared to other places it may not be the best, but it is still safe; in different places around the world, they don’t have this luxury. They have to worry about parasites, deadly bacteria and many other things every time they take a drink of water or eat.

The world right beyond Peru, Nebraska, may not seem that bad, but once you go beyond the United States and into other parts of the world, things aren’t so pretty. So even though we aren’t directly affected by helping these people, it is still part of our human obligation to help them. We need to care for and assist those who are less fortunate everywhere. This has nothing to do with religion or politics, but just with the kindness of human nature and caring for everyone, despite our differences.

Bad language habits harm others: Take the pledge to stop

CHLOE LANGFORD
Contributing Writer

Any of my friends could tell you countless times where I have heard a stranger say the R-word and I have turned around and given them a speech. In class, when people say it, everybody’s heads turn toward me to see what I’m going to say. If you haven’t caught on the R-word is “retarded,” and there is nothing that upsets me more than hearing it come out of someone’s mouth. As a Special Education major, you might think I’m biased, but that is not it at all. Everyone who is a friend of mine has heard this speech a million times, but it is time that everyone understands where I’m coming from.

Imagine this; your science teacher decides to spring a chapter test on you and you lean to your friend that sits across from you and you say, “That’s so retarded!” When you say that something is “retarded,” what are you saying exactly? You are saying that something is stupid, dumb or slow. The word “retarded” is considered to be hate speech. When you say that a movie was retarded, it’s not a joke or funny. It is harmful to those who have disabilities and to people who know a handicapped person and love them. Personally I’ve never liked the R-word but it was not until my senior year that it honestly hurt my feelings to hear it. I had an internship at Trumble Park Elementary school in Papillion, Nebraska. I worked in a kindergarten classroom, but the majority of my time was spent with a little boy, TJ, who had Downs Syndrome. We would spend about an hour and a half working on simple tasks, like being able to identify different emotions, reading simple words and talking about the weather. I have never met someone who had to work so hard just to do simple tasks that we take for granted every day. I remember one day, one of the paras walked in and was talking about how she had curled her hair, but it just looked retarded. Right when she muttered the words, I looked over at TJ who had been writing his sight words on a little marker board. I saw the look in his eyes. He felt ashamed. He was embarrassed and you could tell he felt like an outcast. From that day on, when anyone said “retarded,” whether it was a family member, a stranger or a good friend, I was going to say something about it. The Special Olympics uses the term “intellectually disabled.” The organization encourages people to use it too. The Special Olympics also encourages people to take the R-word pledge and vow not to say the word again. The campaign, called “Spread the Word to End the Word,” aims to eliminate the R-word from everyday speech. So here, on Peru State’s campus, I encourage everyone to take the R-word pledge, and spread the word to end the R-word.
Single Mom: Are imaginary friends childhood confidants or terrifying foes?

MEGAN BROWN
Contributing Writer

Most children have an imaginary friend at some point while growing up, so when Kamber started talking about “Swiper the Fox” from Dora the Explorer as if he were really there, I was not very concerned. However, as her obsession with Dora and sneaky Swiper deepened, she became fixated on her mission to thwart the evil bandit fox.

I hoped that with time she would lose interest in Swiper. Unfortunately, her deep-seated fears only intensified. She began yelling “Swiper, no swiping, Swiper, no swiping!” towards the window when we drove to school. Then Kamber began to have trouble sleeping. She woke me up nightly around 2:30 to 3:30 a.m. terrified that Swiper was in her closet. After I tried to purify her closet with the “Swiper, no swiping” chant, she usually refused to return to her bed and climbed in with me. Then by 4:00 a.m. I was usually fed up with getting kicked in the face by tiny feet, so I relocated to the couch. At that point, the fictional Nickelodeon character was really starting to tick me off.

When I genuinely became concerned about Kamber’s fear of Swiper, was on an afternoon a few weeks ago when I picked her up from Day Care. Kamber and another girl were the only kids left in the Day Care and when I went to take Kamber home, I found them both huddled in the kitchen. Both kids were telling me that Swiper was going to get them. That’s right, my daughter had convinced her friends that Swiper was coming for them.

KARA WESSEL
Contributing Writer

Peru State College hosted three speakers within the Distinguished Speakers Series (DSS) within the school year of 2011-2012. These speakers were Dennis Richardson, Sonia Nazario and Ralph Nader. This year’s DSS has gone very well. Each speaker is very successful in their job and spoke on their own views and experiences in the world. Each speech focused on a different matter happening in the world today.

Dr. Richardson’s speech was titled Malaria, Water, and Worms: High-Impact Health Initiatives in Sub-Saharan Africa. This speech touched on how to help others in underdeveloped countries. Richardson is a distinguished helminthologist (helminthology is the study of worms, according to dictionary.com) and professor of biology at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, Connecticut, and focuses on helping people in Africa.

Sonia Nazario, a world-traveling journalist, spoke to Peru State College on January 23. She spoke about her career as a journalist and shared stories about her life. She also shared facts about her novel Enrique’s Journey, which became a national best-seller and won two awards. Nazario has spent more than 20 years writing about social issues in the world, such as drug addiction and hunger. Nazario was once a finalist for a Pulitzer prize and she won a George Polk Award in 1994.

World-traveling journalist Anthony Shadid was scheduled to speak at PSC. Unfortunately, Shadid unexpectedly passed away from an asthma attack in eastern Syria on February 16. His spot as a distinguished speaker was filled by Ralph Nader.

Nader, the last distinguished speaker, is a former candidate for president who spends his time informing people about government issues and strategies. Nader has been honored by Time Magazine as One of the 100 Most Influential Americans of the Twentieth Century, and as One of the 100 Most Influential Figures in American History by The Atlantic. Nader is also the author of a novel, Only the Super-Rich Can Save Us. This book describes a “practical utopia,” stating what improvements can be made to society. A few of Nader’s other best-selling books are Crushing the Party: How To Tell the Truth and Still Run for President, Winning the Insurance Game and Getting the Best from Your Doctor.

“First the committe selects a theme for the year. Once we have a theme identified, we begin brainstorming potential speakers which fit into that theme. We also contact speaker agencies and ask for recommendations of speakers that would fit the theme and are within our budget. We try to keep the theme and the speakers relevant to today’s current issues,” said Michaela Willis, Vice President of Enrollment Affairs.

According to Willis the 2011-2012 theme was focused on humanitarian efforts and social justice. The 2012-2013 theme is going to be “Revolutions.”

RAEANNA CARBAUGH
Contributing Writer

April 27, 1994

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela was sworn in as the very first black president of South Africa. After spending 27 years as a political prisoner of the South African government, Mandela worked towards peace and healing. Mandela was elected into office by a landslide vote from the public. The election was the very first multiracial election. It took three days and 19,726,579 votes, with only 193,081 votes rejected. While in office, Mandela worked hard to bring together the country and end apartheid. Now, because of this remarkable event, April 27 is a public holiday called Freedom Day in South Africa.
He Said/She Said: Does hitting “like” make you a social activist?

BROOKE ASHFORD  
Contributing Writer

Everybody has seen the pictures of abused animals or exploited children that circulate on Facebook every day. Just because you see these pictures and you click the “like” button does not mean that makes you a social activist. First and foremost, the prefix to the word is “act,” which implies you have to get out of your chair and do something. The hundreds of semi-acquaintances that you have as friends on your Facebook page will now be able to see that you “like,” the picture of a little girl fighting to receive a free heart transplant; you did not help her get a new heart.

In the same respect, you could call yourself a writer because you update your Facebook status with what you consider clever quotes at least ten times a day. You could even call yourself an accomplished musician because you have the highest score in your dorm on Guitar Hero. It is not how good you are at dreaming about doing something, it is how much you actually do to make it happen that makes you an activist.

There have been many cases where important topics have been made public because of Facebook circulation. When you click, “like,” you do help in circulating the information that someone else has already taken the trouble to create. The “Kony 2012” video brought awareness to the kidnapping and exploitation of children, and gained huge popularity through Facebook and YouTube. The tragic death of Trayvon Martin has been brought to the public’s eye through outlets such as Facebook, but that is because someone else saw a need and acted on it by posting online and circulating it, not because you saw it and “liked,” it.

It doesn’t take a lot to help in a small way, but you do need to act. Think about that the next time you see something of great magnitude while you are Facebook stalking, and ask yourself if you are simply satisfied with just clicking, “like”?

JACOB BUSS  
Contributing Writer

Facebook politics, as I like to call them, are sometimes even more complicated, heated and just plain stupid than the presidential election. Does it mean anything when someone likes a post, a cause or a picture on Facebook? I think it does. It may not seem like it, but doing that has the potential to do a lot of good.

With one of Facebook’s recent upgrades, when someone likes a cause, picture or status it is shared with other people saying that someone liked it, giving another person a chance to see it and develop their own opinion about it. In all of the circulation that these posts can do, it is bound to inspire someone to take more action other than just sharing it with their friends. Somebody may not know about a particular cause or how to help with it, but once they see something about it on Facebook and find a way to establish a connection with someone else who supports the same cause, it could lead to that person becoming the next great leader in fighting for their cause.

Another point that can be made for Facebook politics is that it does spread information around a lot faster and informs more people about what is going on in the world. Gone are the days of the younger generations being clueless about what is going on in the world. The great thing about things on Facebook is that there is less of a chance of them being one-sided simply because of the amount of people giving input on them. This can make Facebook a better news source than the major news channels because generally they have a political tilt to them because they go for ratings and viewers, and not always what the truth is or the entire news story. True, there can be a lot of nonsense and fake stories posted on Facebook, but people need to be smart enough to figure out what is real and what has been posted by The Onion. Facebook is great for many things, and it isn’t just networking anymore. It has become a powerhouse on which people thrive and can become educated, whether it be on who just had a baby or about how there are starving children in Africa that nobody is really paying attention to, other than Sally Struthers.
The Music Department rocks out the old traditions while starting new ones

JACOB BUSS
Contributing Writer

What a busy year it has been for the Peru State College Music Department. While continuing traditions, some new things were done, and it made for some new, exciting things coming for the department.

Probably the biggest thing for the music department was getting to use their brand new building that everyone loves, the Jindra Fine Arts Building. Also, this past fall, the concert band began working until June 22nd. We salute two marching shows this year, after marching band season, the concert band began working very hard on learning new music, which was very difficult.

In total, they had five weeks to learn music that some people take up to three months to learn, marking them as a force in the collegiate concert band world, which is an accomplishment considering that a few years ago when Dr. Patrick Fortney first came to Peru State College the band had been playing junior high level music. The concert choir, madrigals and Hoyt Street Jazz Ensemble also continued to push their limits and achieve new and greater heights in their play and performance. At the state music convention in November, the music education students were recognized as some of the best collegiate students in the state of Nebraska, with the Nebraska Music Educators Association’s Chapter of Distinction Award.

Throughout the year, besides having the large ensembles perform, we had numerous senior music education students give their senior recitals, which is their last big music performance at Peru State College. In total, there were five senior recitals in the fall and spring semesters. This has been a landmark year for the entire music department, and it will continue to grow and become better and better all the time.

Brownville Concert Series Announces 2012 Season

The Brownville Concert Series announces its 22nd sensational season of outstanding musical talent in a mix of genres including New York Cabaret, Jazz, Classical, Rock and Bluegrass. Exceptional musicianship presented in a small, intimate venue produces an experience unlike any other. Brownville audiences are up close and personal with the artists, become part of the show, and feel enveloped in the music. This year, season passes are available to all eight shows for just $130.00 until April 22nd and 7 shows until June 22nd. We salute two former Brownville performers for this year’s Grammy Award Nominations for Best Album, Tierney Sutton and Karrin Allison. Check out this year’s stars and “Come to the Cabaret!”

Bearfoot: Drawing from a broad range of music styles, including bluegrass, old-time, folk, country, Cajun blues and western swing, the female-fronted acoustic quintet delivers a powerful live show. June 22nd & 23rd at 7:30pm and June 24th at 2:00pm

Robert Bonfiglio: He can play spellbinding classical lines with superb technique but also “knock the socks off” anyone listening with his down-home, foot-stomping Delta Blues encores. He will be accompanied by Stephen Benson, guitar. July 15th at 2:00pm

Joe Cartwright Trio: Kansas City Jazz at its best! Joe Cartwright on piano, Danny Embrey on guitar, Tyrone Clark on bass, Mike Warren on drums, and featuring the sensational vocalist Stephanie Moore. It doesn’t get any better than this! August 10th & 11th at 7:30pm and August 12th at 2:00pm

Andrew Tyson, Pianist: A First Place winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions and the 2011 Brownville Concert Series Performance prize, he plays with a subtle range of dynamics and kaleidoscope of color plus depth of emotion. September 23rd at 2:00pm

Kim Smith starring in “Misfit”: A celebrated Australian cabaret performer, Smith charts a dark and whimsical path through a ruined, musical landscape of disfigured pop and peculiar period treasures, mischievously proving that misfits have more fun. October 12th & 13th at 7:30pm and October 14th at 2:00pm

Taxi Driver – A Musical Ride: Seven musicians will take you on an excursion into the world of rock music. They will thrill you with music from the 50’s to the present - Classic Rock, Motown, Country, Dance and New Hits. November 9th & 10th at 7:30pm and November 11th at 2:00pm

The Gala Christmas Show: After the wonderful reception of the 2011 Gala, we asked Master Showman Eric Michael Gillett to produce an entirely new show for 2012 with La Tanya Hall, Mariann Meringolo, Scott Tucker and Jeff Cubeta. December 14th & 15th at 7:30pm and December 16th at 2:00pm Purchase Passes and Tickets online at www.brownvilleconcertseries.com or call the box office at 402-825-3331. Cabaret tickets are $23 and concert tickets are $17 ($12 for students).

The Nebraska Arts Council (www.nebraskaarts council.org), a state agency, supports this program through matching grants funded by the Nebraska Legislature: the National Endowment for the Arts and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. The Mid-America Arts Alliance (www.maaa.org) was created to support and stimulate cultural activity in communities throughout Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Texas.
Football team embraces new head coach

SARAH MATHEWSON
Contributing Writer

On March 6, 2012, Peru State College announced Athletic Director Steve Schneider as the new Head Coach for the Football Program.

The Fall 2011 semester was a time for growth for the PSC Football team as they encountered their first experiences in the Heart of America Athletic Conference (HAAC). Their overall record was 2-8.

As the year draws to a close, the PSC football team has been busy working hard and preparing for a better season in the 2012-13 school year.

Next season, Schneider hopes to provide a positive experience for student athletes while equipping them with the skills they need to have success both on and off of the football field.

Last season, the team earned the title of NAIA Scholar Athlete Team. This means that as a whole, the team had at least a 3.0 GPA. Randy Doran, running backs Coach, stated, “Being considered an NAIA scholar athlete team is a major accomplishment. You can’t expect to compete in the HAAC unless your team is mentally tough, and that starts with getting things done in the classroom.”

Schneider hopes to maintain and build upon this success as well as continue their outreach to the community, while working for more wins and the Conference title.

Former Head Coach Terry Clark set a solid foundation for the Bobcats throughout his 9 years as Head Coach at PSC. Schneider will be adding years of experience to Clark’s Program. Previoulsy, Schneider served 11 years as the Football Head Coach and Athletic Director at Midland University.

Last season, Schneider served as the Bobcat’s Offensive Coordinator. Next season, Schneider will take over as Head Coach as per request by former Head Coach Terry Clark.

Clark felt he could positively impact the defensive team, but he couldn’t focus on them as Head Coach. “I think it is great that AD Schneider has taken over the Head Coaching duties as this allows me to concentrate on being the Defensive Coordinator,” said Clark.

“This change will be very positive for the program.”

“The switch] allows Clark to focus on defense, which gets that side of the ball extra manpower and will enhance quality of play on defense,” reported Schneider.

“My strengths are public relations and player development, and, as Head Coach, I can focus on that.”

Lou Varley, full time Assistant Coach and Recruiting Coordinator, believes that the staffing change will allow the team to utilize the strengths of the staff and better serve the student athletes.

“In essence, we gain another full-time coach and this will pay dividends in nearly every facet of preparing a team for success,” said Tight End Coach Tom Wickard. “It’s another strategic step in the foundation for a successful program.”

The staff change is not the only exciting new twist for the PSC Football Department. On April 2nd, 2012, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman signed approval of LB 968. This appropriations $7.5 million toward a renovation of the Oak Bowl. Though this is just over half of the estimated $14 million complete project, this is a huge accomplishment in the plan. The college is currently working on generating private donations. For questions regarding the project, or how to help with the project, contact pscfoundation@peru.edu or call 402-872-2304.

The upcoming seasons provide room to develop a stronger sense of Bobcat Pride. As always, the coaches and players value and appreciate the support of the campus community. The Oak Bowl is a beautiful venue to both play in and attend a game in, so come check out the Bobcats in action next Fall!

Bobcat golfers start season on a good foot

MATT JURGENS
Contributing Writer

The 2012 spring session of the Peru State Bobcats golf season is underway. So far the team has experienced mixed results and will look to learn from its early outings and build toward a strong showing in the second part of the season.

The Bobcats started the season off on the right foot, winning a dual against College of St. Mary’s. The Bobcats downed St. Mary’s by nearly 30 strokes, 354-382 at the Table Creek Golf Course in Nebraska City. The 354 score marked a new team record for the Bobcats.

The Bobcats had three golfers score under 90, led by Jordan Schaardt who posted the lowest score of the dual with an 84. She was joined by Courtney Musgrave, who shot an 85 and Katie Potter with an 87.

Just two days after the victory, the Bobcats were back in action at the Nebraska Wesleyan Invite, looking to carry momentum from the dual win. Unfortunately, Peru was dealt a heavy blow as Schaardt was forced to withdraw from the tournament with a case of stomach flu. Schaardt attempted to play through the illness, completing the first 15 holes of the first day before having to exit.

The team struggled without its captain as Peru finished 11th overall out of a field of 12 teams with a score of 779. Leading the way for the Bobcats was Musgrave who shot rounds of 85 and 96, for a total of 18. That score only placed her 25th among the field.

Schaardt was again out of action in the Bobcats’ next out-
**Peru Theatre Company does Greek tragedy**

Written by Euripides and translated by Robert Cannon, the play *Andromache* tells about the aftermath of the Trojan War. *Andromache* (Davina Andrew) was the wife of Hector of Troy, who died in battle during the Trojan War. After the war she was given to Neoptolemus (Jacob ‘Guppy’ Diedrichsen), the son of Achilles, as a concubine and bore him a child (Alyssa Karasek). Neoptolemus’ wife, Hermione (Raeanna Carbaugh), had not yet had a child. Hermione went into a fit of jealousy and rage, claiming that Andromache had put a spell on her womb to make it barren. Hermione asked her father, Menelaus (Xavier Gibson), to help her seek revenge.

*Andromache* featured a Greek Chorus (Cassie Eilers, Grace Cole, Michaela Wolverton, and Mary Dann) who accented the action of the play by speaking out the internal crises of the characters and making motions which reflected their words. The chorus members held those positions for long periods of time without moving. The costuming had a modern spin on the traditional Greek style. Each costume was unique and reflected the status of the character. The characters who had held high stations had elaborate costumes, while characters from more common backgrounds had interesting, but less extravagant, clothing. Although the play was written around 530 BCE, *Andromache* addresses many topics which are still applicable today. Any audience can certainly relate to emotions such as love and jealousy. Hermione’s emotions overtook her and caused her to throw off the shaky balance her husband had been keeping, while Andromache’s emotions encouraged her to sacrifice herself so her son might live.

**Casablanca still enjoyable**

*KARA WESSEL  Contributing Writer*

*Casablanca*, starring Humphrey Bogart (Rick) and Ingrid Bergman (Ilsa), is a true classic. The movie takes place in Casablanca, Africa, in 1941 during World War II and was directed by Michael Curtiz.

Rick is a night club owner who never “sticks his neck out” for anyone until the woman he loves shows back up in his life. Now they are not only dealing with their fears of being “captured,” but they also have to worry about dealing with their past together in order to be on good terms again. *Casablanca* tells a story of how love can give people a change of heart during a time of war and disaster.

Now, what makes *Casablanca* a classic? To be a true classic, a movie needs to have a good solid plot, a little something for every type of movie watcher, and elements that lead up to a unique feel. *Casablanca* has all of the above! *Casablanca* shows that there is still hope and love even in a time of war and destruction. It also shows how scary and destructive life can be while in the time of war. Everyone can relate to being afraid, especially when in a time of war. Everyone can relate to wanting to help someone they love, especially in a time of war.

The unique quality that *Casablanca* has is the romantic tone that the movie is set in. Some of the elements that help achieve the romantic quality are the music, language and time period. Rick’s café American creates the feel of the 1940’s by showing an old fashioned, clean-cut good time. The piano player is always playing a beautiful song in the back and everyone knows everyone. The language is nowhere near censored, yes, we hear threats and such, but the language is not near as vulgar as what can be heard in movies and shows today. The black and white picture is a dead giveaway of the time period. The style and attitude that the characters have are also a reflection of the time period.

Ilsa’s character is elegant all on her own, with her style and poise. The character is adored for her charm and sophistication. Rick too is an example of the 1940’s. His character is tough, outspoken and well respected.

So why is this movie a classic? It’s simple: the time period. *Casablanca* is a good, down-to-earth movie with just enough twists and turns. As the cliché goes, nothing is like it was back in the old days.
First Pokémon sequel releases this fall

MICHAELA WOLVERTON
Contributing Writer

Pokémon is a game that has been played for many years. It's an anime, a card game, and a video game popular with the older generation it started with as well as newer generations of children.

Video games always come out in a specific set. There's Red, Blue and Yellow; Sapphire, Ruby and Emerald; Gold, Silver and Crystal; Diamond, Pearl and Platinum; and this consistent series that the game follows is why after Pokémon Black and White, Gray was the anticipated next release.

It's why fans of all ages were surprised to hear the new announcement by Game Freak, the game developer. The Pokémon Black and White games are going to have a sequel, set to release this summer in Japan, and in the States over the fall.

A Pokémon sequel has never been created, not counting the endless movie series. In the video game world, it is almost unheard of. Fans of the game – while slightly wary – are indeed excited about this new idea.

The game itself is set to be two years after the original Black and White series, in the same region of Unova. The plot itself will be the same as any Pokémon game: defeat your rival, defeat the antagonistic Team ( whose name has yet to be revealed, although in Black and White were known as Team Plasma), and become the Pokémon Champion by defeating the Elite 4.

Though the difference about this play through is the setting, and the fact that half of the region you travel will be frozen. The new legendary, Kyurem, is an ice-type dragon Pokémon, though whether his type has anything to do with the frozen region is unknown.

Overall, it seems as though the sequel will be just like any other Pokémon game, except with a “2” tacked on to the title. No one is really sure quite yet if it being a sequel will make much of a difference in game play. While I’m hoping it does, I am also just excited for the next Pokémon game to be out so I can procrastinate further on my homework and become the very best!

Punk’d leaves viewers in hysterics with celebrity antics

BROOKE ASHFORD
Contributing Writer

MTV has decided to reincarnate an old favorite. The show Punk’d has now been revived for a ninth season and is proving to be as entertaining as its original predecessor.

In true caught on tape fashion, embarking by shows such as Candid Camera, the new season of Punk’d has its viewers rolling with laughter. This Punk’d is not hosted by Ashton Kutcher, but he is the executive producer, so the show does not stray far from its original format. Instead of Ashton himself punking celebrities, each week a different celebrity gets the chance to punk other famous people of their choosing. This tactic allows for a more accessible and unsuspecting victim pool.

The first episode of season 9 Punk’d debuted on March 29, 2012 with Justin Bieber at the show’s helm. His punk on Taylor Swift, although a little cruel, was truly hysterical. Bieber also attempted unsuccessfully to punk Rob Dyrdek, but redeemed himself by pulling one over on performer Shawn Kingston. Bieber was the first Punk’d celebrity to pull a switcheroo and turn a prank around on Miley Cyrus. I won’t give out any spoilers for those of you who want to watch the show. Although Bieber seemed genuine in his desire to prank, his acting abilities were lacking so it is a good thing he maintains his career as a musician.

Future episodes will air on Thursday nights and will have guest hosts such as Miley Cyrus, Kelley Osbourne and Bam Margera. The pranks are more outrageous than ever and some even seem to be a little disturbing, but still amusing. Punk’d is a trail blazer in its ability to pull off large movie effects while making fools out of today’s most popular celebrities. People do unthinkable things when they are put in to awkward and surprising situations and, as human nature dictates, we can’t help but watch and enjoy as others, especially those more fortunate than ourselves, suffer under the pressure of a prank. The ninth season of Punk’d has started out with some promise so let’s hope it lives up to expectations.
Times includes purposeful errors

JENNY TRAPP
Layout Editor

Peru State Times has admitted to intentionally including multiple spelling, grammar, and other errors in their monthly papers to see who reads the material. Every issue since the beginning of time has had at least one error in the paper. Although misspelled words are a favorite error of the newspaper staff, there has also been improper usage of punctuation, missing story titles and improper capitalization.

"When someone complains about an 'error' we have made, it gives us such a joy and sense of accomplishment because then we know that people are reading what we work so hard on!" explained a staff writer.

In one issue there was ten errors, which was a new record for the Peru State Times, although only seven were brought to our attention. The next time you are reading the Peru State Times and see an error, make sure to complain about it to a staff member. It will make them feel accomplished.

Finals are canceled

Finals are canceled for the Spring 2012 semester. Due to the lack of snow days this winter season, the school only sees fit that the students get to enjoy those extra few days that they would get off during a normal Nebraska winter.

Although finals are canceled, the school year does not end any sooner than it did before. Rather, student are expected to stay on campus until the end of the semester and simply goof off and spend time with their friends.

This event is sponsored by Student Senate and CAB. There will be events on the quad at all hours of the day and night. One event that seems to be getting the most publicity is the book burning ceremony.

The college wants all students to stop wasting their days indoors studying and go outside and play! You’re only young once.

Fall 2012 semester will see several additions on campus. One is a taxi service that will allow students living at the Centennial Complex to receive a taxi ride from their building to the heart of campus.

The service is being offered by the company TooLazyToWalkTwoBlocks Taxi. This service will appear to be free of charge; however, the cost has been worked into the fees in the tuition.

Tuition will raise roughly $3000 per student in order for this to be a success. All students will see the increase in tuition regardless if they live off campus, at the complex, or in one of the other two dormitories.

This is a great opportunity for our campus to expand and grow. This service is something that is unique to a campus our size and administration hopes that it will help Peru State College seem more appealing to prospective students.

New Reality Show: Only in Peru

Auditions will begin during dead week for a new reality show that will be aired on MTV next Fall. The show will begin to film during New Student Weekend and will film for eight weeks.

MTV Producers are asking for six males and seven females. They are wanting a variety of students between the ages of 18-25. Filming will consist of 24/7 action. However, filming students going to class will not be shown, because, let’s be honest, no one really cares about going to class.

Producers hope to create a drama filled series that will run for 20 episodes. They hope to catch students doing things that only happen in Peru.

For example, catching students riding on the “townies’” lawn mowers because they received parking tickes.

Each episode will have a different theme. One of the episodes that has been pitched is an episode dedicated to chasing squirrels around campus. Jerry, the Morgan Hall Squirrel, will be the guest star, if he can be caught.

Other stars that have been booked to guest star are Charlie Sheen, Lindsay Lohan, Justin Bieber, Miley Cyrus, Betty White, Becky Amen, President Obama, Ellen Degenres, and Darren Criss.

If you are intrested in auditioning for the reality show contact Josh Young, Theatre Director. Auditions will be held Friday April 27th at 10am in the third floor bathroom of Morgan Hall.