

Peru State to honor Dale Thomas

(KLZA)-- The Peru State College athletic department and the Peru State Foundation will be hosting Dale Thomas Night on Saturday, September 3, at its first home football game. Thomas, longtime public address announcer for Bobcat football, passed away unexpectedly on December 1, 2021.

As a part of the event, all area first responders are invited to attend the football game as guests of the College and Foundation in recognition of their important volunteer service to their respective communities. Peru State will be hosting Central Methodist at 6 p.m. in the historic Oak Bowl. Gates will open at 4:30 p.m.

Thomas followed his grandfather and father into service with the Auburn Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad in October of 1978. Later, in the early 80's, he became an EMT and went on numerous calls over the years. Thomas was either the chief or assistant chief for over 20 years. After 9/11, Thomas was one of six Auburn volunteer fire fighters to volunteer at Ground Zero.

He will be remembered by Peru State football fans for his “colorful” announcing of the Bobcat games. Thomas was a big Bobcat fan but was quick to acknowledge good plays of the opposing team. He would add flair to the game by adding some special nicknames to the Peru State players. Occasionally, Thomas would assist the officiating crew with a call as well.

Thomas was very proud and supportive of his entire family. Suzzy, his wife of 41 years, and his children Katy (John) Billings and Ryan, along with his grandchildren, brothers, sister, mother, mother-in-law, and many cousins and other relatives plan to pack the Oak Bowl that evening.

In addition to the Thomas recognition, the athletic department will be recognizing its Swenson Award winners at halftime of the football game.

Many Signals Communications