



### Visitors! Tourists! Welcome!

You will have a good time exploring communities in the Valleys of the Nemaha River. Take this free publication home and use it as a reference when planning your next visit to this charming area.

### Readers!

Returning this month are most of your favorite Nemaha Valley columnists, and others! This 24-page issue can be your 2-cups-of-coffee companion.

### Viewers!

In this issue you will find wildlife photos and other images of rural America.

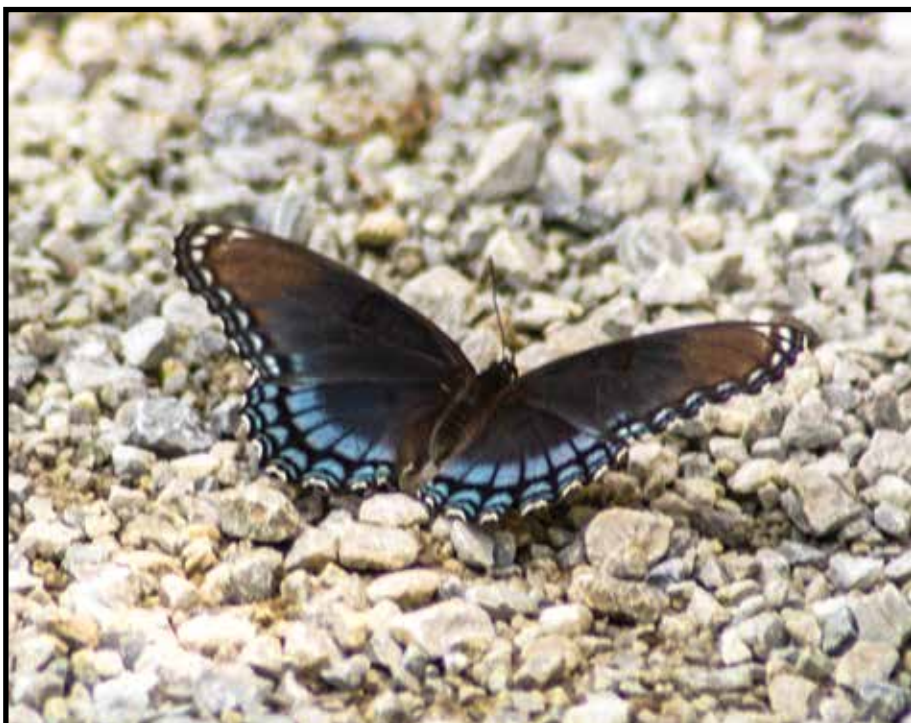
### Shoppers!

Keep up with local businesses and news of what's special this month. Please thank them for advertising in  
**"Your Country Neighbor!"**



Gearing up for a water fight. See page 8 for Summertime fun!

**Sweeten your Coffee Break with these Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha River.**




On the Steamboat Trace, June 23, 2024, also page 6.

The mild Winter has allowed more butterflies to survive than in other years; some in a dormant state (like hibernation), others as a chrysalis, or an egg. The result has been a greater butterfly population this Spring. Watch for more butterfly photos (p 6), and in here all summer long.

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“Your Country Neighbor” is delivered to the following communities in Southeast Nebraska & NW Missouri.  
**Auburn • Brownville • Cook • Falls City • Johnson • Nebraska City**  
**Nemaha • Papillion • Peru • Rock Port • Syracuse • Tecumseh • Verdon**

*Your Country Neighbor*

*Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha*  
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**This Month’s Writers & Contributors**

Devon Adams 23  
Angela Allgood 10, 11  
Stephen Hassler 2, 21  
Merri Johnson 4  
DiAnna Loy “Peru City News” 10  
Bruce Madsen “Arbor City News” 19  
Nebraska City’s Morton-James Public Library 15  
Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce 16, 17  
Marty Peregoy, “Peru City News” 8, 9  
Dorothy Rieke (Passed Away on May 3, 2024) 21  
Sheila Tinkham 22

Thank You!

*“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead  
where there is no path and leave a trail.”*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*“People will forget what you said, people will for-  
get what you did, but people will never forget how  
you made them feel.”*

Maya Angelou

About the Cover Photos

Stephen Hassler

Kids and adults experienced a new activity at Peru’s “Old Man Rivr Days” annual celebration. It was water-fighting downtown on 5th Street. Teams tried to move a barrel suspended above the street using fire hoses.. See photo on page 8 and story on page 11.

The Red Spotted Purple butterfly is one of the earliest butterflies to appear in the Spring. That’s because it doesn’t migrate. Its caterpillar wraps itself in a leaf and spends the Winter in a dormant state, kind of like hibernation called Diapause.

The “Question Mark” butterfly (page 6), ‘hibernates’ in its adult form. On a warm, sunny day in Winter you might see one sunning itself as you hike along a woodland trail, such as the Steamboat Trace.

The photo on the back cover is of one of the contestants in the OMRD fishing tourna-  
ment. The story of the tournament and prizes are included in the artcile on page 11.  
Photo of the grand prize winner is on page 8.

**Jaunty July!**

A Message from your Publisher, Stephen Hassler, Peru, Nebraska

Summertime is in full swing. After three days of YCN deliveries I will pho-  
tograph the July 4th Brownville Freedom Parade, and that’ll be right after  
running their annual Freedom run. I hope you all enjoy the fireworks. Be  
careful!

Now pour a second cup of coffee (or tea), at Brookshire Coffee in Peru, or  
Diana’s Tea Shop in Papillion (I corrected the hours of business in the ad on  
page 20), and peruse “Your Country Neighbor” with it’s magazine articles  
and poetry, small town news and festivals, and regional photos of wildlife  
and landscapes.

The relatively mild Winter locally, resulted in a higher survival rate of  
emerging butterflies this Spring. Let’s watch to see if they produce offspring  
in greater numbers than recent years.

Clip the **Valentino’s coupon** on the back page and **carry it with you!**

***Your Country Neighbor***  
**Your “2-cups-of-coffee” companion**  
**including local photos and articles**  
**with the flavor of rural America.**





The PSC 'Dome,' just east of 5th Street in Peru, was inflated June 27. It covers a 70 yard practice area for football and is an overall multipurpose addition to Peru State College Sports.

## HISTORIC BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA'S **FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION**

Thursday, July 4th, 2024

[www.brownville-ne.com](http://www.brownville-ne.com)

7:00 AM Freedom Run departs from corner of H-136 and Main St  
10:00 AM Parade on Main Street between 6th street and Hwy 136  
8:30 PM Fireworks Cruise on Spirit of Brownville (Boarding at 8)

FREEDOM FUN RUN - STRUT YOUR MUTT DOG SHOW - LORETTA'S DONUTS - PARADE  
BREAKFAST BY LOCAL EASTERN STAR CHAPTER - PATRIOTIC PROGRAM AT BOETTNER PARK  
REFRESHMENTS & CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES - QUILTS OF VALOR PRESENTATION - FIREWORKS!!!  
MUSEUMS OPEN - SCENIC CRUISE ON SPIRIT OF BROWNVILLE  
MOTHER TALISA'S WOOD FIRED PIZZA - BROWNVILLE VILLAGE THEATRE MATINEE

## Over The Hill

Devon Adams

The old road follows the hills as they rise and fall in a scenic pattern along the river valley. Bottom land lays flat and fertile with rows of corn and beans that are lines too straight to be a form of nature. At the base of the bluffs, where limestone shelves protrude below the crumbly soil and trees grow tall and lean out away from roots until they're almost growing sideways.

For a while the road is gravel, used by many cars and trucks, and winds along the rows of crops on the level of the bottom. It bends around the hills, and trees are reaching far out, high above its well-worn tracks. But then another trail turns away from gravel and into dirt. It climbs the bluff and comes up to the high and windy pause above where the view is long and lovely. Rumpled quilts of hills and fields are stitched with timber patterns all down their steepest sides. They roll away into the blue distance, these waves of wind blown dust that catch the slanting sun and curve in shadows.

The worn and rutted path has seen years and years of tires and hooves and rain that cut it deeper into the soil. Some spots have ten-foot banks, with pasture grass and old wood posts and wire dangling over the edge, up there where the road used to run. And along the sides of the road are fresh cut canyons in the mud of spring. Soon the county grader will have to level out the dirt and deepen further the ribbon of the road. Then more rain will carve away the soil and send it gushing to the bottom of the slope, around the bend and into the thirsty creek. The narrow passage grows deeper with the years, and also becomes narrow as trees and bushes grow along the fences. Birds like to sit on wires and drop seeds that turn into groves of wild plum, radiant in white blooms and drunk with perfume that scents all the air around. The tiny glowing perfect plum fruit comes in August and remains in memory all year long.

Sumac follows fences and tries to crowd the road away with its translucent scarlet leaves of autumn. Not far from the tire tracks on the road are mushrooms hiding in the timber growth, taunting hunters in the spring and growing into spongy shapes beside the fallen trees, sweating in the heat and moisture of April days that follow showers. Beside them, hanging on fern-like stalks, are delicate pink breeches left by tiny Dutchman.

All the woodland floor is a fancy carpet made of violets set inside their shiny leaves as if a florist created bouquets and brought them to the country from the shop. The air is full of floating cotton from the lofty trees with waxy leaves that talk. In the fall are decorations wrapped through bushes and climbing over trees on snake-like vines that hold the Carmine reds of bittersweet. The damp soft banks along the road are topped with milkweed plants whose heavy flowers droop with nectar and are hung with iridescent butterflies.

## Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson

As a retiree and merely a part-time housewife, I have the luxury of not needing to set an alarm clock on most days. But, if I need to be sure I'm up by 7:00 a.m. or earlier, I rely on the alarm. I am not one of those people – like Hubby – who have an alarm clock in their heads. Hubby insists that he was always awake before the alarm rang at 5:00 a.m. when he was still employed. And even now, he doesn't set an alarm except for REALLY important early obligations.

I require either light – preferably daylight – or an alarm clock to wake up. I must have thick eyelids. At this writing, we are approaching Summer Solstice, with sunrise occurring early enough to wake me by 6:00 without an alarm. Some mornings, I hear the robins chirping before daylight. I glance at the clock and see that it's only 5:30, which, of course, is really only 4:30 by the sun. (Hubby hates it when I refer to "sun" time. If it was up to me, I'd eliminate daylight saving time.)

Still, when I needed to be sure I was up by 6:15 yesterday, I set the alarm out of an abundance of caution. It was a good thing, too, because yesterday was overcast, and I was still asleep when the alarm rang.

I hit the snooze once. On the second ring, I stumbled out of bed and got showered. I guess I had been up for about half an hour when I walked into the kitchen and noticed that the clock said it was 5:56 a.m. Wait. What? I checked another clock. Same thing. How can it be 5:56 when I got up at 6:15? Is time running backward? So I returned to the bedroom and checked my alarm setting. It was properly set. What gives? That's when I noticed that my alarm clock was an hour fast.

Hubby was up by that time, getting his morning dose of political talk TV. "Do you know what the actual time is?" I asked. He replied in the affirmative. "Why don't you go back to bed?" I asked. "Might as well stay up now," he answered, not altogether cheerfully. Good grief, I'd unintentionally gotten up at 5:15, and it felt like it. I would have gone back to bed myself except that my hair was wet. You know what happens if you lay down for half an hour with wet hair. You end up having to wet it all over again to undo the damage.

So, I sat on the sofa, closed my eyes and leaned back, allowing just the back of my neck to make contact with the cushion. This is going to be a very long day, I thought to myself.

I am still not sure how my bedside clock came to be an hour fast. Or why that meant it was actually only 5:15 when my 6:15 alarm was going off. If I think about it hard enough, maybe I can figure it out. But as I write this, the light is starting to wane due to cloud cover, although it's really only 6:45 p.m. sun time. Daylight Saving or Standard Time, my powers of concentration are tapped out.

As it happens, I need to set my alarm for tomorrow morning. I'd better go do it right now while I can still think clearly enough to NOT mess it up!



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The Annual PSC Alumni Banquet, June 2024 Omaha, Nebraska



John Chatelain (left), was elected President of the Omaha PSC Alumni.  
John is a native of Peru, Nebraska.

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President Evans shared information regarding Peru State College  
challenges, successes, and future plans at the Omaha Alumni Banquet.





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**Offer Good Through July 2024**



This image shows why the “Red-spotted Purple has “red-spotted” (red-orange), in its name.

The butterflies on this page were taken along the Steamboat Trace on June 21, 2024.

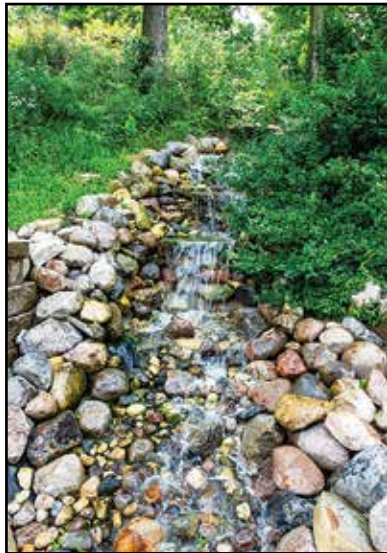


The name of the “Question Mark” butterfly (above), is due to the markings on its lower underwing (below).



The Lyceum Cafe in Brownville is Open Tuesday through Sunday 11am - 2pm  
 Plus Saturday Evening 5pm to 8pm with Prime Rib Buffet!  
 Anita Robertson, Owner, 228 Main Street, Brownville, Nebraska 402-825-2221





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## OLD MAN RIVER DAYS

Always such a great time, but this year, above average fun.



Renley Dean, only 4 years old from Beatrice, Nebraska, won a fishing boat with her huge 14 ounce crappie! See story on page 11.



Kids' water fight, a fun, first-time event.

Inset shows fishing tournament prizes.



Kids painted rocks at Peruva Palooza Summer Camp. Josie Coatney took these photos.  
The rocks will go in a Kindness Garden at Sid Brown Park; Story page 10.



### Peru Is One Highly Creative Community

Marty Peregoy

You may have heard that the communities of both Nebraska City and Brownville have been certified Creative Districts by the Nebraska Arts Council. According to the Council, "They provide significant economic impact by creating purposeful spaces like art galleries, theatres, and music venues, attracting employees and businesses" to their communities.

While the depth of commerce needed to become a certified Creative District like Brownville and Nebraska City is beyond Peru's reach, it's time for the residents of Peru to be recognized for the depth and breadth of their artistic talents. This resilient little town near the river is home to a plethora of artists who work in wood, plants, textiles, photography, paint, words, food, and more.

There is a place for that recognition, and it happens every year in Nemaha County. It's the



# PERU CITY NEWS

*Communication • Information • Pride In Community*

A volunteer project

supported by the Peru Community.

Thank you to everyone who participates!



<<<< Peru is Creative *Continued from page 8*  
County Fair, scheduled for August 11-14 at the  
county fairgrounds in Auburn, Nebraska.

Back in the day, as people like to say, County  
Extension groups were abundant in Nemaha  
County, and residents of the various small towns  
would meet monthly in their groups to learn and  
excel at canning, gardening, flower arranging,  
sewing, baking, etc. The goal was the coveted  
best-of-class rosette and perhaps a small mon-  
etary premium for distinguishing yourself from  
others in your class.

While extension groups are a thing of the  
past, Open Class Static competition for the  
Nemaha County Fair is open to any person,  
regardless of age, living in Southeast Nebraska,  
and encompasses "Home Economics, General  
Area, Horticultural and Agricultural exhibits",  
according to this year's Open Class Book:  
[https://nemahacountyfair.org/wp-content/  
uploads/2024/03/2024-open-class-book-large-  
pages.pdf](https://nemahacountyfair.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-open-class-book-large-pages.pdf).

It's the perfect opportunity for the talented  
folks of Peru to represent our town by showcas-  
ing their skills. Furthermore, the sharing and  
practicing of those talents could give commu-  
nity members the opportunity to do more than  
that. Those who would like to, could get togeth-  
er monthly for dessert, learning, and show and  
tell. It could be an opportunity to engage with  
neighbors and get reacquainted.

It's also a great place to find a mentor. In-  
terested in learning to make a rocking horse for  
the new family member? Want to learn how to  
refinish that antique that's been languishing in  
your garage for years? Wish you could make de-  
licious, flaky pie crust? It's possible for a Peru  
Creative Community Group to help you with  
that, should the community decide it wants one.

If you're interested in helping start such a  
group for Peru adults of both genders, contact  
me at; [peregoymarty@gmail.com](mailto:peregoymarty@gmail.com) In the  
meantime, why don't you take a look at the  
open class book and think about the excitement  
of earning a rosette or a ribbon at this year's  
county fair. Top exhibits go on to be exhib-  
ited at the Nebraska State Fair. Submission of  
county entries is between 8 am – 11:00 am on  
Saturday before the fair starts.

Interested in displaying your skills without  
the hassle of judging? "All Lots and Classes  
listed in the fair book under Static displays can  
be put on exhibition. They will not be judged  
and will not be eligible for premium."

## Today On The Hobby Farm:

Marty Peregoy

It is beautifully cool this morning. Two days ago it was so hot in the chicken house that the recently-feath-  
ered chicks were panting. I was afraid they wouldn't figure out how to come and go up the ramp if I opened  
the door, and that I'd have to army crawl through the pen at dusk to gather them and return them to the pent-  
house. But I knew they needed the fresh air, so I opened it and crossed my fingers.

This morning when I brought my coffee outside (wet chair- don't care), they were on the ground floor freak-  
ing out over the neighbor ducks, but looking healthy. I'm thinking it's time to introduce them to Giada.

Giada is the surviving chicken from the first batch of three raised this spring. She has been couch-surfing  
with Moby Duck and Saltine Quacker for a couple of weeks while the young chicks, Domino and Poppy,  
have been getting used to the chicken house. I was afraid she would hurt them, so I wanted to give her a  
chance to adjust. The two pens share a wire wall, so they aren't a complete surprise.

It hasn't been a happy visit for Giada. There is no roost in the duck house, and she has stayed inside in the  
corner the entire time. When I carried her out today, I could see that Moby had pulled out a few feathers  
from the back of her neck in an attempt to make her a "sister-wife." She clucked all about it as I returned her  
to her own home and lectured her about the need to be nice to the new chicks.

I popped her in the door of the penthouse, and she immediately startled at the chicks in the feedbowl (who  
wouldn't?) and gave one a defensive peck. However, after her sight adjusted to the dark, she followed them  
to the corner and looked them over without further menace. If chickens can sniff, then that is what she is  
doing.

For safety's sake, I'm monitoring from the patio. I don't hear any blood-curdling chicken screams, although  
I would be hard-pressed to hear them over Saltine Quacker and birdsong. Saltine sounds like a 50's house-  
wife from a sitcom, with constant commentary on the weather, the food, her husband and the neighbors. To  
be honest, she has something to quack about, as her husband has a wandering eye and last night's rain has  
turned her bowl of feed to soup.

After five minutes, I look inside the penthouse, and Giada is on the roost by the exterior door. The chicks are  
in the doorway to the ramp, and all is well. Poppy occasionally wanders a few steps down the ramp and then  
back inside. Domino is a "fraidy-chick" and is less adventurous. She is, however, a good follower, so I think  
my army-crawling days won't soon be repeated.

The rain is starting up again, and I hear the sound of my honeybees as they buzz around the numerous  
shallow bee fountains and seem intent on drowning themselves in the ducks' bathtub instead. I'm wearing  
an alluring mixture of pajamas, citronella and lemongrass due to the mosquito population, and the scent of  
lemongrass is very similar to their queen's pheromone, so it disconcerts them a bit. So far none are stuck in  
my hair.

My marigolds, cone flowers, roses, spiderwort, bee balm, lilies, and mossrose are blooming, and the zin-  
nias are just ready to bloom, so the bees have a lot on their to-do list. I'd like to take a peek in the hive, but  
they're less social on rainy days due to not being able to be out and about as much. I have to have  
faith that they know what they're doing and not annoy them.

I've just finished my pot of coffee, and it's probably time for me to start my day. My list of things  
to do is long, with weeding, refilling bird feeders and cleaning up after the new kitten's attempt  
to unearth the roots of each houseplant. I'll get started right after I pick a bowl of strawberries for  
breakfast.



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## Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

For our June meeting, Jana Smith took us to Germany and WWII with the book, *An Elephant in the Garden* by English author Michael Morpurgo. Though not a long book, this one is well worth the read.

The story of the elephant is told by Lizzie, a resident in a nursing home in Canada who is befriended by a nurse and her young son during a snowy winter. When school is called out because of heavy snow, Karl goes with his mother to work at the nursing home. After playing in the snow, Karl visits Lizzie. It is during this time Lizzie begins telling Karl the story of the elephant in her garden in Dresden, Germany when she was 16 years old.

As Lizzie begins her story, we find Lizzie, her younger brother Karlie, and her parents, living in Dresden tired of the war but happy to be together as a family. That is until one day Lizzie's father is called to fight in the war and is sent to the Russian front. There is little news of his well-being, and the family has a tough time staying positive. Lizzie's mother takes a job as a zookeeper to help provide for the family. The entire family becomes especially attached to an orphaned elephant named Marlene. As the war moves ever closer to Dresden, the zoo director explains the plan to destroy the animals in the event that the city is bombed. This is necessary so that none of the animals end up breaking from their cages, running through the city, and harming innocent people. Lizzie's mother persuades the zoo director to allow Marlene to come live in the family's walled garden since she is only 4 years old and not a threat to anyone. Marlene comes with a large supply of potatoes, her favorite food.

As predicted, Dresden is bombed and the family, including Marlene, flee the city. Unlike many others, they have a destination in mind, their relatives' farm. Their mother remembers a shortcut, but even that is still a long way when walking with an elephant and a young boy who has problems with asthma. When they reach the farm, they find it deserted except for a Canadian navigator, Peter, whose plane was shot down and has been hiding in the farm's barn. Peter eventually earns the family's trust and puts his life at risk to help them continue their journey to freedom.

The story tells of their travels, mostly under cover of darkness, foraging for food when they can. Karlie is allowed to ride on Marlene's back so that he can keep up with the rest of the group. Along the way Karlie becomes ill and the family stays with a countess who arranges for a doctor to treat him. When they leave the countess, they take with them a group of 20 school children who are a choir, as they continue to search for the Allies.

Peter helps the group find the Allies, but new challenges arise. The group is separated, Peter goes to the military camp while the family is sent to another camp for civilians. They try to maintain contact but that is ultimately lost. After a considerable length of time, they are reunited, and Lizzie and Peter are married and move to Canada which is Peter's home.

This book is a wonderful read and illustrates the importance of love, resolve, and hope in any endeavor.

Happy reading!

## Peruva-Palooza Summer Camp

Angela Allgood

Summer started off with Nick and Katy Novak hosting a BBQ gathering at their home. The next summer event is a Summer Reading Camp Program! Josie Coatney had the idea because people did this in Verdon when she was growing up. She talked to Katy Novak about it and soon, Kirsten Reeves and Sara Halvorsen joined in on the idea.

Welcome to Peruva-Palooza Summer Camp! The camp is intended to be both educational and fun. There are eight (8) programs on Wednesday evenings in June and July (excluding July 3). Each program will have a theme and a location in Peru. A book will be read and a craft/activity will go with the theme.

As of the date of this article, two Peruva-Palooza dates were finished. Each date has had between 15 and 20 kids in attendance. Katy Novak did the first Peruva-Palooza. She read one of her kids' favorite books about an invisible kindness bucket. Susan Pease donated rice krispies and it was at the Peru ballfield. The second program was done by Sarah Montanelli. Her program was about emotions and how to handle them and their activity was to draw an emotion on paper with crayons. Theresa Westfall donated popsicles.

Josie Coatney has the next program. She told me she was also reading a book about kindness through their community. For their activity, Josie is having the kids paint rocks and a Kindness Garden will be put at the Sid Brown Park. Fast Global Solutions donated the sign that will go up. Other programs will be as follows:  
June 26. Kirsten Reeves will be doing the program at the Peru Bark Park.  
July 17. Hope Keiler will be doing her program at Duck Creek.  
July 24. Cassie Shaw will be doing her program in Brownville.  
July 10th and July 31st. We need volunteers to help with programs.

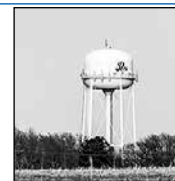
Anyone interested in volunteering, go to:  
"Peru Area Locals - PALS" on Facebook.



# PERU CITY NEWS

*Communication • Information • Pride In Community*

A volunteer project  
supported by the Peru Community.  
Thank you to everyone who participates!



## Old Man River Days, Always Such A Great Time

Angela Allgood

There were new committee members this year with new ideas as well as the old favorites. The kids fishing tournament was a success again this year. I keep saying that Kirsten Reeves and family could not outdo what they did the year before, but they prove me wrong. This year, they did it again and outdid last year. Kirsten said that 61 kids registered and 49 kids actually checked in.

This year, David Armstrong from The Crappie Shed in Sterling, Nebraska and a lot of donors helped purchase and donate a two-seater boat with trolling motor, battery and two life jackets. Participants also received fishing poles, night crawlers, and many other prizes!

The biggest catfish was 10 pounds and the second largest was 8 pounds. Someone caught a Sunfish at 0.94 pounds and Renley Dean, a young lady only 4 years old, from Beatrice, Nebraska won the boat with her huge 14 ounce crappie! She caught the biggest crappie. Her dad said she was so excited she was jumping up and down. He stated that was the first fishing tournament they had ever been in. Gavin Palmerton had the second biggest at three ounces.

The scavenger hunt was done again this year and the clues led you to find 12 gnomes (actually 11 because one was stolen) Everyone was a winner and received prizes. Shelly Hastings stated that there were a lot of kids teams.

A new event was the water fights. Cailyn Winkelman said there were several kids and adults there, but not enough for teams. That didn't stop the fun. There were enough people there for teams of two adults and two kids. They rotated the kids so that everyone could have a chance to play. Everyone had a great time. Jody Hardy stated that "she had the time of her life" because the water fights brought back great childhood memories.

The silent auction has been done in the past, but had a new person run-

ning it. Nick Novak was in charge this year and said there were a lot of great baskets and items. There was a cutting board and wooden bowl from Randy Perry, PSC gear, soap and self-care basket from Fork and Tiller, lots of assorted gift cards, a kids summer fun bag and a lot more. The auction brought in \$600 and will be used for next years' OMRD festival!

One more new and fun event at Old Man River Days happened at KJ Whitehorse. Staff set up "Beerlympics." It was eight fun stations and you had to pass each game before you moved on to the next one. There were around twenty people from Burr, Lorton and surrounding areas that showed up to play Whistle in the Bottle, Beer Pong, Wheel of Rings, Carry the Bottle, Beer Tab Snap, Flip the Bottle, Zig Zag and Tilted Table. The person who went through the stations the quickest had a time of 3.25 minutes and the latest was seven minutes.

The loved vendor fair was held at Northridge Church this year. The vendors loved being in the cool building.

This has been one more year that Katy Wessels and her newer committee members have done a great "Old Man River Days!" If you have ideas or want to be involved next year, please notify Katy Wessels.

## *Peru City News*

is a volunteer project promoting

Communication, Information, and Pride in the Peru Community.

Peru City News is supported by the Peru Community.

Thank you to everyone who participates!

Share this publication with friends.

It's online at;

<http://www.yourcountryneighbor.com>



St. Clara's Catholic Church

604 6th Street

Pastor Fr. Timothy Danek

Mass - Sunday 8:30 am

Confessions - Sunday 8:00-8:20 am



Northridge Church

808 5th Street

Pastor Daniel Hutchison

Services - Sunday 10:00 am



Peru Community Church

520 Nebraska Street

Pastors Raymond & Rebecca Girard

Services - Sunday 10:45 am

July 2024

Your Country Neighbor 11



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This deer was racing along the road I was driving, at the Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge.

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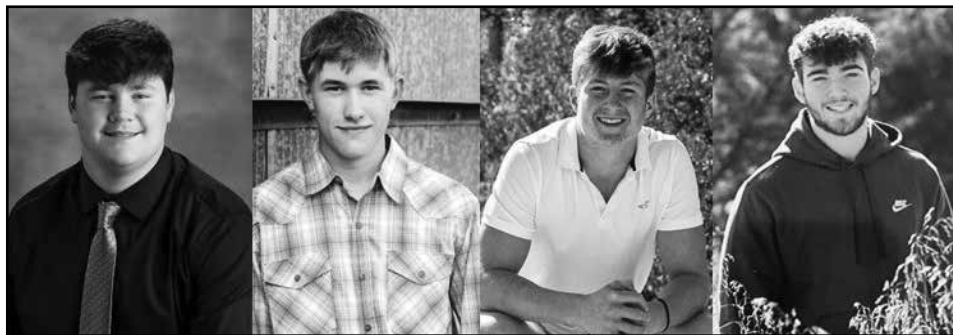


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# ARBOR CITY NEWS



Benjamin Chaney   Jake Bebout   Jackson Kreifel   Nathan Dia

## NCCFF Announces the First Winners of Dixon Scholarships

Submitted by Nancy Feeney

A new scholarship offered by the Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund will help put technical training within the reach of more people in the community. Following the specific wishes of an anonymous donor, this scholarship, called the Dixon Scholarship, is specifically designed for Nebraska City students and/or workers of any age who are pursuing or wish to pursue careers in technical fields such as agriculture, skilled trades and technical sciences, health care, manufacturing and transportation.

These \$1,000 Dixon Scholarships will be offered every six months to residents of Nebraska City or graduates of any high school located in Nebraska City. The first recipients were recently selected by the NCCFF Scholarship Committee. **These winners are; Nathan Dia, Jake Henry Bebout, Benjamin Chaney and Jackson Kreifel.**

Jake Bebout is a 2024 graduate from Lourdes Central Catholic High School. He will attend Southeast Community College in Milford to study Diesel Ag Mechanic or Ag Technician.

"I have lived in Nebraska City since 2011," Jake said. "I like the small community here and how nice everyone is, especially with community projects or events." Jake encourages other people to apply for this new Dixon Scholarship. "Filling out the application takes very little time and is very beneficial in the long run."

Jackson Kreifel is a graduate of Nebraska City Public High School. He will be attending the Southeast Community College to study Electrical and Electromechanical Tech. "I plan to return to Nebraska City where I will hopefully get a job with a local electrical business."

"I think the Dixon Scholarship is amazing!" Jackson said. "I am so thankful to have earned it and could not be more blessed." He thinks more tradespeople could make a great impact in this town. "Thank you so much for these great opportunities that will help set me up for life."

Scholarship winners Nathan Dia and Benjamin Chaney are both 2024 graduates of Nebraska City Public High School. They will be studying Electrical & Electromechanical Tech at Southeast Community College.

Any Nebraska City resident pursuing a certificate, diploma or associate degree program at any publicly accredited Nebraska community college or technical school is eligible to apply for this new scholarship. If no candidates residing in Nebraska City apply, then the scholarship may be awarded to residents of Otoe County. Applicants must intend to live and work within the state of Nebraska. Scholarships may be renewed upon re-application and satisfactory academic progress, with preference given to renewing students over new applicants.

**The next application deadline is August 1.** Applications can be downloaded at [nebraskacitycommunityfoundation.org](http://nebraskacitycommunityfoundation.org). To request an application by email, contact [ncccommunityfoundationfund@gmail.org](mailto:ncccommunityfoundationfund@gmail.org)

*The Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund is a local, non-profit organization focused on investing in the people of Nebraska City and inspiring a culture of giving by developing knowledge, skills, leadership and the commitment necessary for community engagement. Since its founding in 2000, NCCFF has invested over \$6.2 million in the people of Nebraska City. The Nebraska City Community Foundation Fund is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation. Learn more at;*

**[www.NebraskaCityCommunityFoundation.org](http://www.NebraskaCityCommunityFoundation.org) or [www.facebook.com/NCCFF](https://www.facebook.com/NCCFF).**



## Empowering Communities: The Heartland Workers Center's Journey Towards Justice and Equity

The Heartland Workers Center (HWC) began with a simple yet powerful vision: to create an equitable society where every worker's voice is heard and respected. Founded on the principles of workers' rights and civic engagement, HWC has grown into a dynamic organization dedicated to empowering individuals and strengthening communities. "Our focus on civic engagement and leadership development transforms lives and builds stronger communities," says Executive Director Lina Traslavina Stover.

HWC's reach extends across various locations, with dedicated organizers in Omaha, Nebraska City, Schuyler, Fremont, West Point, and Columbus. These organizers tirelessly mobilize local residents, focusing on identifying and developing leaders, and encourage civic engagement. Their work ensures that even the most underrepresented voices have a platform and are empowered to make meaningful changes in their lives and communities. Leadership development, civic engagement, and workers' rights are at the core of HWC's mission. The Health & Safety Training Institute, one of HWC's key initiatives, provides essential training to ensure safe and healthy workplaces. Through workshops, community events, and direct support, HWC inspires individuals to take an active role in shaping their futures.

In Nebraska City, organizer Andrea Hincapie plays a crucial role in advancing HWC's mission. Andrea tirelessly mobilizes local residents, encouraging them to engage in civic activities. Her work ensures that even the most underrepresented voices have a platform and are empowered to make meaningful changes in their lives and communities.

Together, the HWC team embodies the spirit of the organization, working relentlessly to build a more inclusive and equitable society. Their combined efforts have transformed countless lives, fostering unity and resilience within the community. Visit [heartlandworkerscenter.org](http://heartlandworkerscenter.org) to learn more about their incredible work and how you can get involved. Join HWC in their mission to create a better tomorrow for all.



# ARBOR CITY NEWS

## Morton-James Public Library Calendar of Events July 2024

923 1st Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410

For questions call 402-873-5609 or visit [morton-jamespubliclibrary.com](http://morton-jamespubliclibrary.com)

Susan Moore

“Sumptuous Indulgence”

July 5 – 30 Art Exhibit in Kimmel Gallery @ MJPL

### Lego Club

Must be 8+ years to join

Monday, July 1 3:30-5:00 PM

### Independence Day Story Time

Story Times are geared for ages 6 and under. No registration.

Families welcome!

Wednesday, July 3 10:00 AM

### Yarn Crafters Club

Join us to work on your crocheting or knitting skills and projects. Club is for all levels of crafters. Bring your own hooks, yarn, needles. Club members will be here to help those beginning. Free to attend. Everyone welcome 15 and older!

Wed. July 3, 1:30-3:00 PM

### Library Closed for Independence Day

Thursday, July 4

### “Bring Your Own Book” Club

Join us for a silent reading book club. Bring your own e-reader, book, or grab one from our shelves and enjoy an hour of quiet reading time. Read what you want, no discussion required. Optional social time at end. Free and open to the public all ages 15+. You are welcome to bring your own non-alcoholic beverage.

Sunday, July 7 2:00-3:30 PM

### Mr. Oakley’s Pirate Story Time

Story Times are geared for ages 6 and under. No registration.

Families welcome!

Wednesday, July 10 10:00 AM

### Chess Club

All ages welcome

Every Thursday 4:00-6:00 PM

### Card Club

Come to meet new people and to play any card game you’d like...ages 19 +

Thurs., July 11 1:00-3:00 PM

### Lego Club

Must be 8+ years to join

Monday, July 15 3:30-5:00 PM

### Book Club

Sparrows in Terezin by Kristy Cambron

Tuesday, July 16 2:00 PM

### Fish & Snail’s Adventurous Story Time

Story Times are geared for ages 6 and under. No registration.

Families welcome!

Wednesday, July 17 10:00 AM

### Evening Book Club

The Wife Before by Shanora Williams

Wednesday, July 17 5:30 PM

### Farmers Market Story Time

Corner of 8th & 1st Corso

Thursday, July 18 4:30 PM

### Vintage Vibes Soiree

There will be food, a scavenger hunt, prizes, themed tables and fun facts from the decades between 1910-1970!

Come dressed for your favorite decade (encouraged but not required!)

Call for reservation!

Ages 19 and older.

Friday, July 19 6:00-8:00 PM

### Author Visit--Victoria Alexander

Presentation followed by a Question and Answer period.

Sunday, July 21 2:00 PM

### Circus Story Time with face painting by Clown Rudi Patudi.

Story Times are geared for ages 6 and under. No registration.

Families welcome!

Wednesday, July 24 10:00 AM

### Let’s Color Our World Story Time

Geared for ages 6 and under.

No registration. Families welcome!

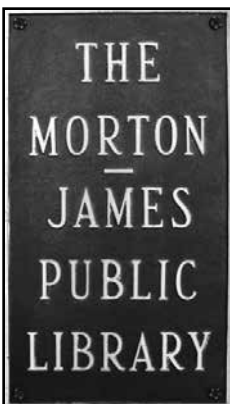
Wednesday, July 31 10:00 AM

### Adult Wreath Craft

Free and open to all ages 19+

Must register

Wednesday, July 31 7:00 PM



# ARBOR CITY NEWS

*Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce*

# LEARN AND ENJOY THIS SUMMER IN NEBRASKA CITY

For many families, summertime provides the chance to slow down and relax from the hectic pace of the school year. Sure, there are ball games and swim meets and vacations and camps... well, maybe slowing down isn't an option!

Nestled on the far eastern edge of Otoe



County, Nebraska City is the perfect place to spend time during the hot summer months. In addition to offering a variety of recreational activities for all ages, the city is teeming with museums, parks, and shops. In fact, in 2014, Smithsonian Magazine named Nebraska City one of the "20 Best Small Towns to Visit" in America.

A frequent stop for visitors is the Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Center. This unique museum is dedicated to the flora and fauna of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803. The Lewis & Clark Center hosts "Saturdays with a Soldier" on the second Saturday of each month and features displays, reenactments, and storytelling.

Another popular museum is the Kregel Windmill Factory Museum. Located on Central Avenue, this

one-of-a-kind museum offers a snapshot of industrial life in the late 1800s and early 1900s. A block away is the Nebraska City Museum of Firefighting, which highlights the history of the state's oldest fire department.

The Arbor Day Farm Tree Adventure is one of the best places to spend a summer day. Whether you are bouncing your way through the Treetop Village, playing in the Nature Explore Classroom, or strolling through the Arbor Lodge mansion, the property is a must-see location in Nebraska City. Special events take place weekly; visit their website at [arbordayfarm.org](http://arbordayfarm.org) for information.

---

For a complete list of summer activities in Nebraska City, visit **[NebraskaCity.com/calendar](http://NebraskaCity.com/calendar)**.



**TOP LEFT:** Wildwood Historic House offers guided tours. An Art Barn behind the house is loaded with wares from local and regional artists.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** The Tree Adventure at Arbor Day Farm boasts the Treetop Village, which features 11 treehouses over three acres all connected by suspended walkways.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** The Missouri River Basin Lewis & Clark Center hosts "Saturday with a Soldier" on the second Saturday of each month, complete with storytelling and demonstrations.



# ARBOR CITY NEWS

Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce



TOURISM & COMMERCE, INC.

# Summer fun in Nebraska City!

SIDEWALK SALES | GOLF | PICKLEBALL  
DOWNTOWN MOVIES | FARMERS MARKET  
STEINHART AQUATIC CENTER



## NebraskaCity.com



“BMX Freestyle” show was a crowd pleaser.



Local singer, Tanner Simrell opened “TREESTOCK LIVE”



# ARBOR CITY NEWS

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## Arbor City News

is a monthly news section in  
*Your Country Neighbor*  
A Southeast Nebraska  
Regional Magazine (w/News)



The 'balloon houses' at TREESTOCK



# ARBOR CITY NEWS

*News from Nebraska City*

## AGE

Bruce Madsen

OK, So tell me, What am I supposed to do?

I feel my life is knocking on September  
And sometimes its hard for me to remember  
The years back when I was young and tender  
And was eager to learn all that the world would render

Its not that I feel as though my purpose is through  
But some days its very hard to find something to do  
There should be something that would bring to light  
Whatever I achieved or at least, what I've done right

So I piddle with this and I piddle with that  
Trying to look busy and committed to task  
To look in my eyes you'd think I was all concentration  
But look closer and you'll see my frustration

I can remember way back in my prime  
When I was in a hurry all the time  
From one job to another, on a dead run  
The day was never long enough to get it all done

Now, the years went by and it seems I got old fast  
And one day I realized my prime wasn't going to last  
I had to slow down, I just wasn't the same  
My body was telling me that I should refrain

From the work I was doing to make my living  
And find an easy chair and enjoy the comfort it would be giving  
A hard change, it's true  
But it's something most of us have to go through

We don't really regret the transition  
We just have to buckle up and accept the situation  
I do feel my reason for being here is not yet through  
And I'm thankful that over the years I've developed a hobby or two

But my current plan now is to keep looking busy  
Keep myself sane and not go crazy  
To be a credit to the world and to be productive  
Not to get sedentary and be self destructive

To this end I will accept my fate  
And be thankful I lived long enough to appreciate  
Although being old is not my ideal  
My age made me realize how thankful I feel

The life I led and the work I've done  
Hopefully it made this world a better one  
So no, you don't have to tell me what to do  
I'll figure it out as I go through

The rest of my life and whatever time I have due  
The example I set will be honest and true  
I'll do the best I can without dismay  
And pray its good enough when comes my final day



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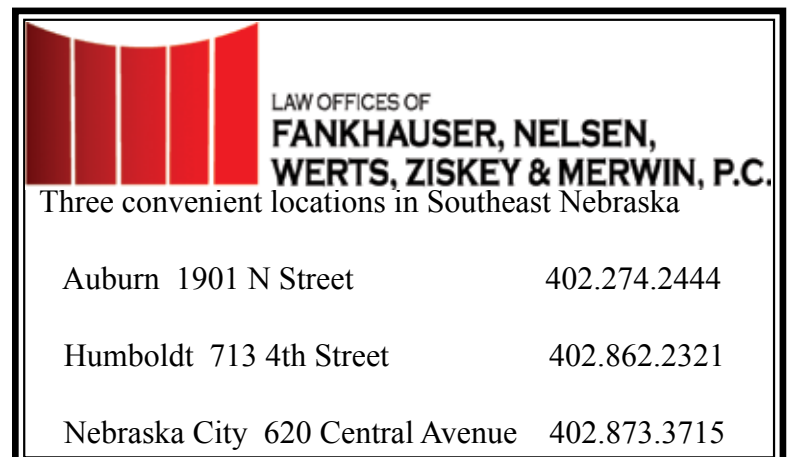


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## Window On Fifth Street (with notes from 2003)

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Summer has just begun, and already I am regretting that it will be over too soon. For me, months go by as quickly as counting six, seven, eight... June, July, August... then a season passes, then a year. Behind are memories, a few journal entries, some laughter, some tears. More laughter than tears is better. That means happiness.

My observation is that happiness and contentment depend on the basics; good times with family or friends, satisfaction gained from helping a friend, a child, an elderly person. Or satisfaction from bettering oneself by education or experience, or by creating something; a poem, a chair, a child.

Looking out my window on Fifth Street I don't see what a lot of people see. They see the community they grew up in. I don't have the emotional ties that go with that. I have moved around and feel very fortunate that I have had the opportunity to live in several different parts of the country, but sometimes I envy those who live in the same area where they grew up.

I would think there would be pain associated with the realization that some people have, regarding yesterday and today. Some must feel they are victims of the times (like being on the wrong side of the "Dome," see page 3). It seems to me that there are two sides when it comes to sticking around; one group chooses to stay, one wishes it could leave. Family can affect both situations. Not all of those who have had the opportunity to grow up in a rural setting, want their children or grandchildren, to have the same experience. Others encourage their offspring to stay, or at least return if they have already moved away. It seems young people graduating from high school or college want a job immediately. They want to begin their careers, and in some cases, to get married or pay off their education loans. So the question in their mind is, "Can I get meaningful employment here, or must I go elsewhere?" If their family has a successful business, perhaps a farm operation or a retail operation, then they might help continue it. If they become disillusioned with their lives, then the best educated, the best motivated, will set different goals for themselves and will find the means to achieve them. That usually means relocation, but could also mean local entrepreneurship, if there is local opportunity.

Whose responsibility is it to create opportunity for our children? Is it easier to attract new people to our community, or keep those who are already here? It seems easier to keep on doing what's been done before, but one definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, expecting different results.

I can admire those who would stand against the wind, individuals with an emotional connection to their community who have a desire to change trends. I watch them out of curiosity. I'm an interested observer of changes; seasons, opportunities, and growth, having "been there." And I have a good view through my window on Fifth Street, on the better side of the "Dome."

## A Tornado Scare

Dorothy Rieke

On the last day of July, my husband and I had the scare of a lifetime. A tornado damaged our farmstead and made us of fearful violent storms for the rest of our lives.

Kenny had just returned from plowing the west field. He stopped the tractor and jumped down to the barnyard. After he turned off the tractor, I asked, "What is it going to do, Mr. Weatherman?" Kenny always watched the skies and often was right in his weather predictions.

Kenny answered, "We will get rain this time and some wind."

Well, we certainly did! We had five inches of rain, strong, destructive winds and large hail that afternoon.

Almost immediately, rain began to fall, and then wind increased bringing large hail with it. The large hail pelted us as we ran for the house. Then, I thought of my young chickens. They would not have the sense to run to the chicken house. I began gathering them and making loud sounds to scare them to shelter.

The large hail, pelting me on my head and shoulders, finally drove me to the house. Heavy, cold rain soaked my clothes.

Both of us passed the spacious cave located by the back door forgetting the safety it afforded.

As the storm progressed, roaring round the house, we noticed a stream of water running across the bedroom floor. That water was coming in around the window frame. We rushed to get towels to soak up the water.

Those heavily blowing winds, destructive hail, and rain seemed to last for a long time. Finally, the storm slowed, and I walked to the back door. There, I saw the fright of my life.

Our well-constructed hen house was gone! My soaked hens were squatting outside in the weather.

I screamed, and Kenny came running. Together we saw that parts of the well-built machine shed were gone, and the cattle shed was cut in in half. The corn in the nearby field was only stalks. The ground was littered with leaves and broken boards. Later, we found that the garage was moved, and a corner of the house foundation was knocked out.

Kenny was paid 35 cents an hour to clean up a mess that was scattered a quarter of a mile away. Pieces of nail-filled broken and split boards littered the barnyard and the north field. It was a terrible mess!

Of all the corn he planted, he only shucked one wagon load. We continue to be thankful today that our lives were not lost in that horrible storm. Beware of tornados and take all precautions. Your life may depend on it.

---

*Dorothy was deceased in May 2024. She always worked ahead and has provided "Your Country Neighbor" with articles for the rest of the year.*



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Auburn • Brownville • Cook • Falls City • Johnson • Nebraska City • Nemaha • Papillion • Peru • Rock Port • Syracuse • Tecumseh • Verdon

4th of July

Sheila Tinkham

There are men and women who bear the scars of  
defending this country.

Skyler Brown got his leg torn up  
falling from a truck in army exercises.

Many surgeries later  
he still can't walk right.

His doting wife Tanya Rathman helps support him with her  
Walmart job.

There have been many men and women like Skyler from the  
original 4th of July when the Declaration of Independence was  
signed in large cursive letters by John Hancock,  
so the British could read his name without spectacles.

Let us all write with big letters  
How great, how wonderful this country is, this land of liberty.  
Happy 4th of July!

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First Friday

Sheila Tinkham

Joy and her husband Bob  
and their friend Becky  
create an oasis of dinner and dance every First Friday in  
Lincoln, Nebraska  
at Auld Rec Pavilion.

Becky and Joy and Bob decorate all the tables with a theme.  
Joy cooks a fabulous main course and everyone brings a side.

Rita greets you at the door with a warm smile,  
takes your money, and later she totals the attendance.

For 10 dollars you have a wonderful meal,  
good conversation and you wile away three hours dancing to  
line dances, Latin dances,waltzes and standards  
sung by Jimmie Mack.

Jimmie Mack amazes one with his lilting voice and command  
of the Mike.

We hear so often what is wrong with the world,  
but every First Friday from 7 to 10, the dancing lives on here  
in Lincoln, Nebraska...

***Your Country Neighbor***  
**Your “2-cups-of-coffee” companion**  
**including local photos and articles**  
**with the flavor of rural America.**

**A note from your publisher;**

I recently re-connected with a writer who used to  
submit poetry to this publication, but took a break for some  
family time. For those of you who might miss  
Janet Sobczyk’s poetry, you will enjoy her website at;

<https://momsmusingsblog.blogspot.com/search?q=ycn>

Share this publication with friends.

It’s online at;

<http://www.yourcountryneighbor.com>

# P o e t r y

## O e t r y

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### CAMP CATNIP

My cats love summer.  
There is a reason for  
their favorite season.  
It is green and smells  
mighty minty. It has a  
hollow square stem  
that pops when you  
pick it, and it gets a  
little slimy when you  
stomp on it. But the  
aroma and the taste  
would be illegal if cats  
could be charged with  
being drug addicts.  
Intoxicating in so many  
ways, kitties sniff it,  
eat it, roll on it, and  
then go into a druggie  
dream state, with eyes  
unfocused and limbs  
loose and lethargic.  
Simply stoned!

### TIME LIES

When I was  
small and all  
I had to do was  
play and grow,  
the folks who  
loved me were  
all tall. They  
seemed to me  
to be the same,  
that is, OLD.  
As I grew I never  
lost the idea  
that I didn't  
change. Now  
I know what  
they knew then.  
We all get old,  
in body if not  
in mind. But I  
don't have to  
like it!!

by Devon Adams, Peru

### SUMMER SPLENDOR

Down in the meadow  
is a lark with lilting  
lovely lines of music  
falling onto the breeze  
and sailing over the  
grass to me.  
I smell the roasted,  
toasty taste of sun-  
cured stalks of brome  
mixed with a summer  
cocktail of intoxicating  
alfalfa, cut and drying  
in the field.  
Life is at the max of  
being rich and full,  
as if it were a splendid  
smorgasbord set with  
all the flavors and tastes  
of the season.  
Sip the summer wine  
and give a toast to the  
magic of our prairie life.

### STAR BRIGHT

On a clear night in July  
look past the haze of  
bottle rockets and big  
blasts of fireworks.  
The real show is out  
there past the rim  
of the earth, deep in  
the black of infinity.  
We still can't find  
the edge of the  
universe. Probably  
because there isn't  
any edge. We wish  
to know why we are  
here on this magic  
blue planet, but the  
answer may be that  
why isn't important.  
Simply BEING here  
is enough for forever!

By Artist, Devon Adams  
PENCIL PORTRAITS OF  
PEOPLE, ANIMALS, & BUILDINGS

*Drawn from your photographs.*



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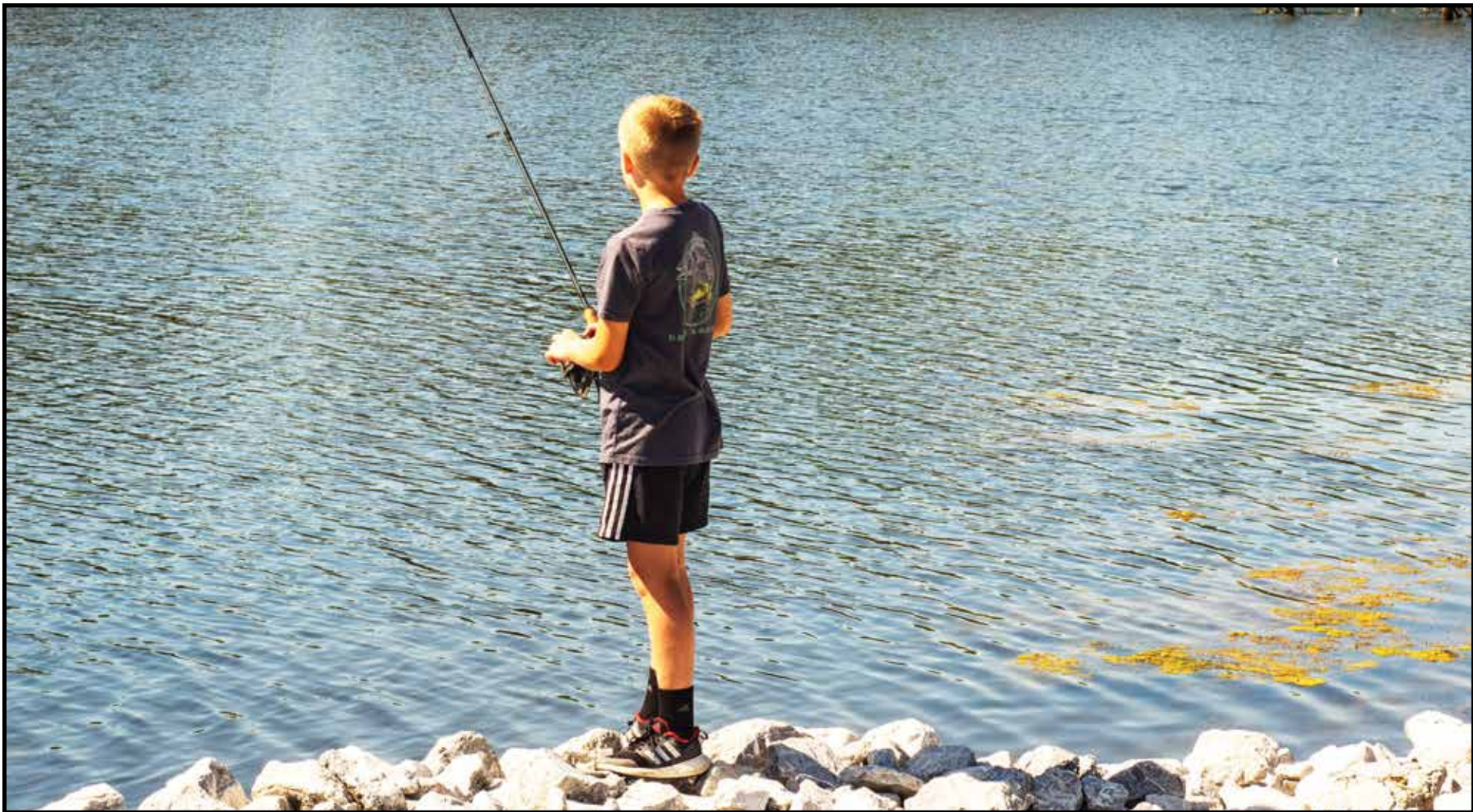
adamsdevon07@gmail.com

### FLOWERS IN A FIELD

In a meadow  
by a back road  
that is lonesome  
every day, grows  
a mass of Black-  
eyed Susans that  
only butterflies  
and bees can see.  
It is planted by  
an unseen hand  
to cherish missing  
people who are  
never going home  
again. Their souls  
can wander here  
and rest in peace  
forever.



Summer-time Fishing at Duck Creek Recreation Area, Peru, Nebraska



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