

Your
August 2024

Country Neighbor

Free!
Take One



Lilies blooming along a Hiking Trail in Indian Cave State Park. July 19, 2024

Visitors! Tourists! Welcome!
You will enjoy 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!"

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




Red Admiral Butterfly on Cone Flower

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. See more butterfly photos on page 5, and in here all summer long.

Volume Twenty-five, Number Eight

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August 2024

“Your Country Neighbor” is delivered to the following communities in Southeast Nebraska & NW Missouri.

Auburn • Brownville • Cook • Falls City • Johnson • Julian • Nebraska City

Nemaha • Papillion • Peru • Rock Port • Syracuse • Tecumseh • Verdon

Your Country Neighbor

Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

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About the Cover Photos

Stephen Hassler

I don't believe I've seen lillies as beautiful as these. They were growing wild in Indian Cave State Park beside one of the trails (#7 or #9?) in July.

The “Red Admiral” is a jaunty, colorful, and rather common butterfly. It's host plant is the “stinging Nettle.” So if you don't mind that “weed” in your garden, it might attract some of these happy butterflies. This one was on a coneflower in the garden located next to the SchoolHouse Gallery parking lot in Brownville.

There seem to be lots of Zebra Swallowtails around this year. Their host plant is the Pawpaw tree, which is common along the Missouri River. My back page shows a group of them sipping from some wet ground beside a trail in Indian Cave State Park. I consider them the most exotic butterfly in these norther states. They rival the tropic species in beauty and grace.

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Thank You!

Awesome August!

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

August is “Back to School” month, plus football and volleyball and soccer. August will see corn and soybeans changing color as we approach the annual harvest time.

This last full month of Summer often brings some cooler nights. The roadsides are blooming with colorful wildflowers; welcome nectar sources for migrating butterflies. This month, watch for Monarchs beginning their migration to Mexico! Migration through Nebraska peaks about September 15.

July was a warm one. Perhaps you have not experienced nature yet as you might have. I hope you visit some of the trails this month. The wild-flowers and butterflies are especially beautiful this season. Some photos are in these pages, but August most likely will bring special scenes in the woodlands along the Missouri corridor.

Now pour a second cup of coffee and peruse “Your Country Neighbor” with it's magazine articles and poetry, small town news and festivals, and regional photos of wildlife and landscapes.

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

A Message From An Angel

“Lots of things have disappeared in nature. The sad thing is you can never get them back. Keep helping people to grow spiritually and help them to become conscious of the beautiful planet, the nature that God has given them. Help them to stop destroying it.”

*“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 forget
what you did, but people will never forget how
you made them feel.”*

Maya Angelou



The Missouri River viewed from the Overlook in Indian Cave State Park. July 19th, 2024
Reader, my printer limits me to only 12 pages of color, so for pages like this, I am learning “black and white” photography.



High School football camp in the PSC Oak Bowl on July 27, 2024.

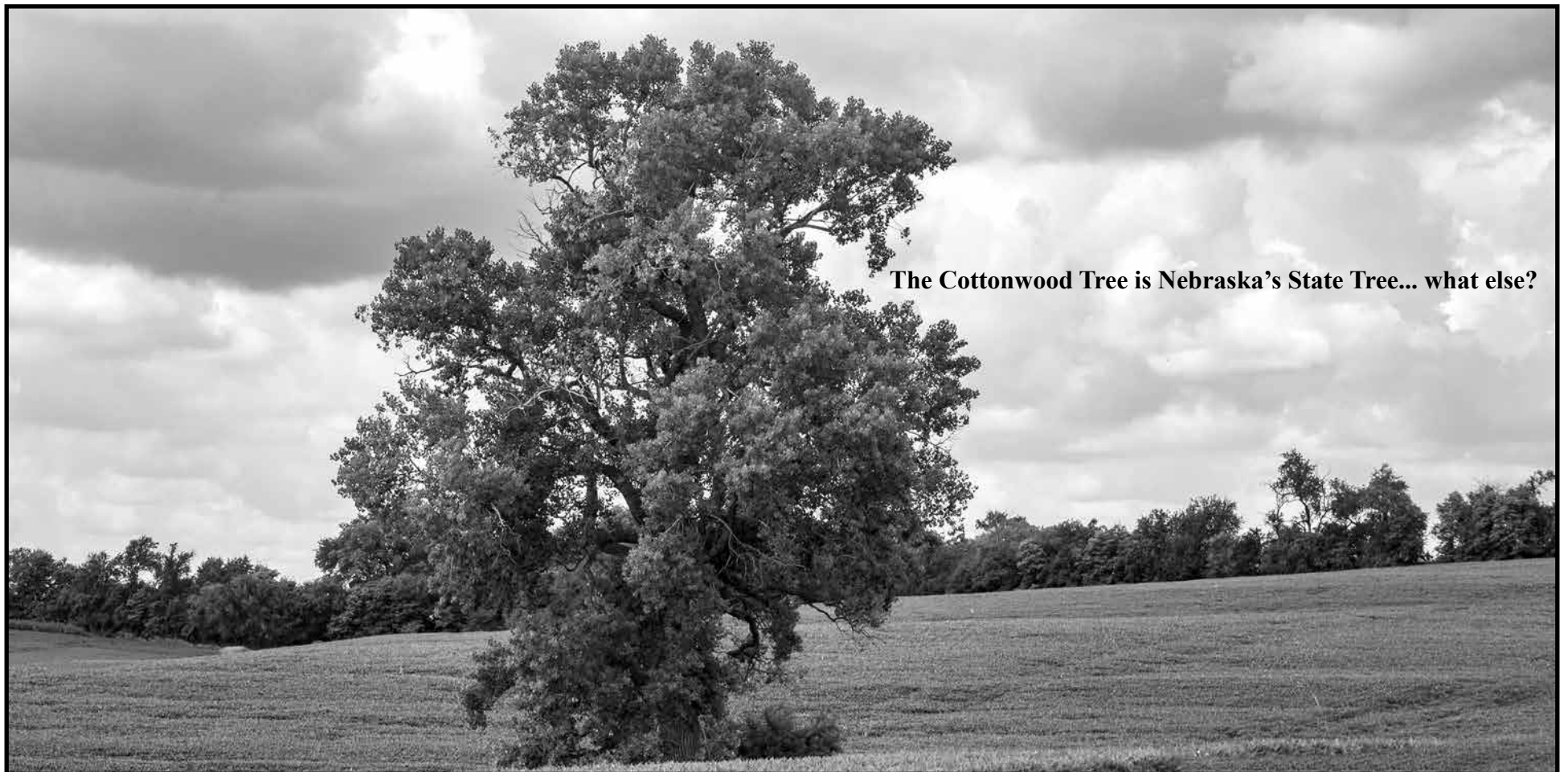
Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson

Are you a souvenir collector? A souvenir does not necessarily have to be acquired while traveling, but I expect most of us associate souvenirs with travel to some place at least a few hundred miles from home. I'm not a huge collector of shelf knick-knacks, so a lot of my personal souvenirs have been Christmas tree ornaments. I can enjoy them for a few weeks each year without having to dust them repeatedly (my least favorite household chore). Being a nature nut, I have brought home Live Oak acorns, sea shells, bits of driftwood and a few pressed leaves as well that clutter up the shelves in my office. I don't feel any compulsion to dust them, however.

Hubby goes a step further and generally buys "consumable souvenirs." No dusting required, EVER. Hubby and I have traveled a fair amount, but the majority of our trips are repeat visits to family near Savannah, Georgia. For the last eight years, we have rented an apartment in the Historic District of Savannah for two weeks in the fall. Hubby's favorite purveyors of candy, coffee and candles, not to mention all the Historic Squares surrounded by restaurants and other shops, are walking distance from our apartment. The ritual of walking to all of those places is a big part of the allure. Dropping in on his "coffee guy" is probably his favorite outing. No trip to Savannah is complete without a purchase of at least five pounds of whole beans to take home.

We typically visit Georgia at Thanksgiving to celebrate the holiday with our daughter and son-in-law. The weather generally cooperates in November so that the only thing being roasted is the turkey. But this year, we have reason to be here in Georgia in July. I seriously do not know how people survive this heat. I also do not know why Hubby decided to add the roadside seafood supplier near our daughter's house to his list of food souvenir purveyors just now. The availability of locally caught red snapper – for less than you have to pay for it back in Nebraska – is the ostensible reason. But, it's a two-day drive back home. And it's very hot. Yes, the snapper is fileted and deep frozen. And yes, we have an Orca cooler big enough to hold fifty pounds of ice to keep it that way. Call me a worry-wart, but this seems like a purchase that maybe should have waited until fall. But maybe snapper is not available then. Hubby has been known to be impulsive on occasion, so it's just possible that his love of snapper overcame his good sense. Time will tell if this turns out well...or smelly.



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The "Silver-spotted Skipper" ranges through most of the United States. This photograph was taken at the Pollinator Garden in Brownville.



The "Red-spotted Purple" butterfly is common along woodland trails.



Even the little "blues," puddle butterflies, seem more numerous this year.



Lady Liberty and Uncle Sam led the 2024 Brownville Freedom Parade.



Actors for the Brownville Village Theatre rode the 'Trolley' in the parade.



Vintage automobiles are a frequent parade entry.



July 4, 2024

The Lyceum Cafe in Brownville is Open Tuesday through Sunday 11am - 2pm
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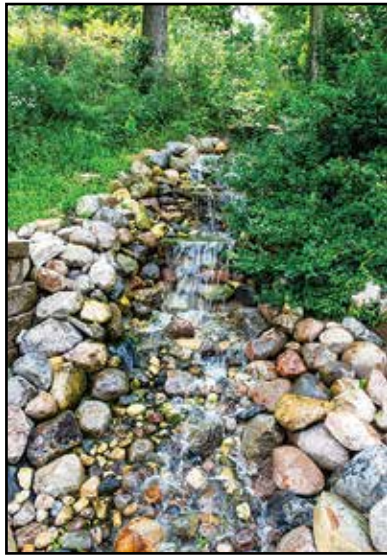
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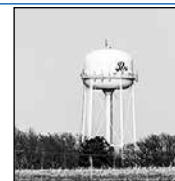
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The "Dickcissel" looks to me a bit like a small Western Meadowlark.
Langdon Bend Mitigation Project, near Brownville, Nebraska.



Marilyn's Freedom Day Entry for the
"Daughters of the American Revolution."



Plum Crazy Lady Coffee and Boutique

Angela Allgood

If you have not yet been to 620 5th Street in Peru, Nebraska, you need to go!

I knew the new store would be awesome because Brenda is an artist and husband Phil does handy work, so I was expecting it to be great. When I walked in the doors, it was more than I expected! You are hit the second you walk in the door with light background music, cushy comfy chairs at the front, and tables and chairs leading to a small kitchen. She also has her little boutique with some very cute tops and shorts that are reasonably priced. My favorites are the hats. She told me she decorated them herself and they are cute!

Brenda said that the name of the boutique is “Plum Crazy.” She went to Idaho with her husband to see his daughter and she fell in love with all the cute boutiques up there. She said she knew that is what she eventually wanted to do, her own boutique. She said she had been in the insurance business for 36 years and she wanted a change. She wanted something she loved doing, and owning a boutique and working on her jewelry and hats was the next step in her life. Everyone thought she was plum crazy to quit a full-time job, hence the name of the boutique!

From start to finish, the building required a lot of remodeling. Phil replaced around 46 floor joists. He worked hard with the help of a lot of people in town. She said they received items from Bob Sherman and Gary Lotter, John McConnaughey, plus Shirley Douglas and Cliff Cooper also helped. Brenda said they tried to help different places along the way as well. She said they bought items from Habitat for Humanity, The Marketplace, and they even found a few things in the building that they kept. They found a light fixture that was there dated 1930, as well as some old beer cans. She said they were the old type that you couldn't just crush and no one knew why an entire bag was hidden under the floor so they kept a few of

Continued on page 10 >>>>>>

A Good Campfire is the Best Part of a Camping Trip

Marty Peregoy

Whether you camp under the stars, under the nylon dome of a tent or under the plexiglass roof of an air-conditioned RV, one thing never changes. Unless there is a ban on burning, there are going to be campfires. You need to be able to build a proper one each and every time, not only for the ambiance, but for warmth and the food associated with it as well.

If you wait until you reach the campsite to gather firewood, you will likely be disappointed. Firewood needs to be dry, and whether or not you like toting an axe or portable saw in your camping gear, spending considerable time searching for a dead tree is probably not your children's idea of a good time. And the small bundle you can buy for \$5+ at a state campsite is only going to last you a couple of hours.

For the best campfires throughout your outdoor adventure, bring properly dried smaller logs from home – ones that you can start when it's time for supper or s'mores, but that will be totally gone when it's time to put out the fire at bedtime.

Being able to reliably start the fire is the first step to success. You can have the kids search for dried pine needles and small dried sticks to use as kindling, but a grill lighter with a long wand in combination with some fire starters made from things you have in abundance at home will easily make you king or queen of the campfire.

Start saving your dryer lint, cardboard egg cartons, and candle/Scentsy wax now. As you clean out your dryer's lint trap after each load, put the lint in one of the egg-shaped carton compartments. When you have a carton full, you'll top off each compartment with melted wax. I routinely find partially burned or unwanted candles at yard sales. Sometimes you can get an entire box for free. If you have wax stuck in small glass candle holders, just put them in the freezer overnight, and the wax will shrink and be easily removable. You can also add dried, grated orange peels or essential oils such as citronella to your cartons of lint to make the campfire smell good and repel bugs.

Wax catches on fire easily – that's why you use it. But you don't want it to catch on fire while you're making your fire starters. Set your lint-filled egg carton on some newspapers to protect your countertop. Place a tin can of broken up candles or leftover wax melts in a pan of simmering water on your kitchen stove. Using a hot pad or gloves, pour the melted wax into the compartments on top of the lint.

When the wax has hardened, break off an egg every time you need a fire starter. Each one will burn 10-15 minutes. I often go around a campsite and hand them out to people who are struggling with their fires. If their wood is dry, the egg will start it. They'll often come back the next night for another egg and instructions on how to make them.

Last of all, remember that a good fire begins and ends with safety. Make sure that your fire is out by smothering it with dirt or water before you go to bed. Stir it with a stick to make sure it's out. An animal digging in the fire ring for fallen food or a strong wind can unearth hidden embers and rekindle the flame, posing a danger for everyone. As Smokey says, “Only you can prevent forest fires.”

Using wax and lint has the advantage of not adding the nasty smell and chemicals of lighter fluid to your fire if you're planning on using it to cook your supper or a treat. In next month's article, I'll include recipes for cooking over the fire with pie irons and dutch ovens. If you have a campfire recipe you love, email it to me at peregoymarty@gmail.com, and I'll include it in the article.

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Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

Australia was our destination for the July meeting of the Tuesday Literary Club. Dorothy Chase chose the book *Shallows* by Tim Winton as the book she reviewed. *Shallows* is set in Angelus on Australia's western coast. Author Tim Winton was the winner in 1984 of Australia's prestigious Miles Franklin Award.

The Coupars have lived in Angelus for generations. We join them with Daniel Coupar having his daughter Queenie and son-in-law Cleve Cookson in for a visit. Daniel has left the journal of his father, Nathaniel Coupar, out in an obvious place for Cleve to find and encourages him to read it. As Queenie and Cleve leave to return to the Coupar house that has been there for generations and is where they live, they quarrel as Queenie doesn't want Cleve to read the journals. There is a history in the Coupar family of the men reading the journals to the exclusion of all else including paying attention to their wives. The argument ruins their first wedding anniversary which is the next day.

Cleve wants to read the journals as Daniel has told him that the Coupars have been a proud family. They have not loved; they have had plenty of passion, but not love. The journals told of suffering and despair. The whalers of that time were supposed to have backing and supplies from a company but the men felt forgotten and neglected; it has been a long time since they have received any support. Land-based whaling had been a tradition in the Angeles region for more than 150 years.

Cleve was a night watchman at the harbor which gave him a good amount of time for reading. Queenie was a tour guide for the Tourist Bureau. Other characters in the book include Hassa Staats, bigot and owner/operator of the Bright Star pub; Rev. William Pell, 72, ready to retire in 6 weeks; and Des Pustling who pretty much owns the town, wears a girdle, and has teeth that keep falling out and regrowing, set after set after set.

It has not rained in Angelus for years and the whales have not come so the town has been in a slump but this year the rain has come and so have the whales. But along with the whales, comes a group of anti-whaling activists. Queenie is compelled by her conscience to join the protests against Cleve's wishes. She packed a duffle and was gone. She believes she is doing this to make amends for the crimes of her whaling ancestors. The protesters follow the whaling ships and try to interfere with them trying to spear the whales. Many of the protesters would get sea sick because of the rough water. Of course, the townspeople enjoyed hearing about this.

Cleve and Queenie do reunite in the end and that might be one of the redeeming qualities of the book.

Kind readers, I wish there were a guarantee that came with every book that one selects that says you will enjoy the book... alas, there is not. I found this book to be tedious and lacking in forward movement. I kept waiting for the real plot of the book to take shape. From talking with Dorothy Chase, she agreed with me on these points. I tried to listen to this book as an audiobook and it never grabbed my attention. I then borrowed Dorothy's copy of the book and read that but the type was so small that it was a chore to read each word. This is a book, neither Dorothy nor I would recommend.

Happy reading!

<<<< Plum Crazy *Continued from page 9*

them as well. She also stated that as they went to take down a wall, they hit solid cement. The story was that someone had tried to break into the bank from that building and that cement was what they used to cover the hole. Brenda said she wanted to leave it exposed as another rich part of the history of that building. She also has what she thinks is an original Brach's Pure Candies exclusive display case that she filled with some older candy. The building is also ADA compliant. There is a ramp in back of the building and you can drive through the alley to get upstairs as well as having a ramp in front.

She has a light menu with water, soda, nachos, candy, tea, cinnamon rolls, smoothies, coffee, cappuccino and a few more items. I myself had a smoothie. I highly recommend the strawberry banana! I have not even mentioned the cute clothes. She said she will order new clothing items as needed so if you see something you like, you might want to go buy it soon!

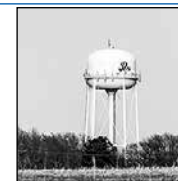
We have not even talked about the second floor. Let's go upstairs! She has two rooms with tanning beds, each with their own theme. She has a 28 bulb bed and a 30 bulb bed. One room is a "Hippy" theme and the other room is a "beach" theme. Of course, both are tastefully decorated. There is also a big room where they are not sure yet what is going to happen. They are thinking of a meeting room or storage. Right now, it is a catch-all room. A cool thing up there is that they have theater seats from the old theater that was in town. They are wrought iron and have been refurbished. They are stunning. I wish I had a place for a row of them!

"Plum Crazy Lady" will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 8-5 pm. She says she already has a few organizations that want to meet there and her bookings for the tanning beds are good. She is excited about the boutique and is glad she can give to her community.

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Sourdough bread has popular following in Peru

Marty Peregoy

I first heard of sourdough in Willa Cather's book, *My Antonia*, when the narrator, Jim Burden, says, "I remember how horrified we were at the sour, ashy-grey bread [Bohemian immigrant Mrs. Shimerda] gave her family to eat. When she took the paste out to bake it, she left smears of dough sticking to the sides of the measure, put the measure on the shelf behind the stove, and let this residue ferment. The next time she made bread, she scraped this sour stuff down into the fresh dough to serve as yeast."

As my students and I read the book, we were determined to try our hand at sourdough, despite its grim description. I mixed up a starter of flour, water, sugar, and a little fresh yeast and set it on the windowsill in the classroom to ferment. Within a week, the upper hallway of the schoolhouse smelled a bit like a brewery, and a classroom breakfast of sourdough waffles was planned.

Real, authentic sourdough is a far cry from Cather's description and my classroom experiment using yeast. The sourdough of today uses little or no baker's yeast found in packages on the shelves of grocery stores. It is leavened by a combination of wild yeast and lactic acid bacteria found in the flour. And the loaves are works of art: big round boules of tangy bread with artistic carvings etched on their surfaces.

The loaves are richer in nutrients, lower in sugar, and more digestible due to lower amounts of gluten than those of yeast-made bread. And they are available in Peru, fresh from the oven of Kelsey Sayer.

Sayer has been turning them out in her commercial kitchen outside of Peru for the past few months, and according to reports from those who have ordered them, they are fabulous. Her current products include sourdough artisan loaves, sourdough banana bread, and sourdough pretzel bites, and new flavors are coming soon. They are extremely popular. In fact, a Facebook post for the week of April 15th garnered 17 orders and a host of compliments.

Peru State College's (PSC's) Joanna Evans is also a producer of sourdough, but only for her family table. She received her sourdough starter and the recipe from The Nutmeg Inn in New Hampshire when she stayed there and had it for breakfast ten years ago. Her starter travelled to Ne-

braska, in the cooler with soft drinks when she and PSC's President and husband Dr. Michael Evans moved to Peru, although she also has a starter in Maine ready for bread-baking there when she is in town. That's how much she values the recipe and the bread.

Evans says she doesn't bake the bread often due to her busy schedule, but when she does, it's a favorite. Her sourdough starter spends most of its time waiting in the refrigerator. In fact, Evans thinks it has probably been waiting about eight months this time.

Most sourdough loaves are round in shape and are baked in either Dutch ovens or clay pots that have a lid and can stand high oven temperatures. They also often have a unique beauty from coating the raw dough with flour and then scribing it with a lame, a type of razor. The cut areas of the bread rise at different levels than the uncut areas, and the design really stands out due to the contrast between flour dusted and bare dough.

Sourdough is not hard to start or keep, but you must be patient. It contains wild yeast organisms and requires feeding with a mixture of flour and filtered water before letting it sit on the counter to get bubbly and activate. It's then ready to use.

If you'd like to try your hand at it, several recipes and videos can be found on-line by searching Google, Pinterest, or other cooking sites. And if you ask on Facebook, you just might find someone willing to give you a starter.

Peru City News

is a volunteer project promoting

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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
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Peru Community Church
520 Nebraska Street

Pastors Raymond & Rebecca Girard
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August 2024

Your Country Neighbor 11

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July was a good month for wildflowers, especially in Indian Cave State Park.



Red-winged Blackbird.
Langdon Bend Mitigation Project, near Brownville, Nebraska.

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DeFreece Tabbed to Serve Peru State Foundation Board

DeFreece, President of CHI Health St. Mary's Hospital in Nebraska City, will serve a three-year term. The Peru State College Foundation is a private non-profit corporation established in 1955 to provide assistance and support for Peru State College, which was established in 1867 as Nebraska's first public institution of higher education.

"Dan's background, experience, and dedication to community service makes him an excellent addition to our organization," noted Jeff Greenwald of Lincoln, current Chair of the Foundation Board. "He joins a strong group of directors serving us."

"I am a firm believer in the power of education," DeFreece said of his decision to serve on the all-volunteer Foundation board. "Access to high quality, affordable education is important for the future of our state."

Though not an alumnus of Peru State, DeFreece is certainly familiar with the College. He has had relatives attend, including brother Steve of Tecumseh, a '93 graduate. DeFreece recalls running in high school track meets which Peru State once hosted when ironically, Foundation Executive Director, Ted L. Harshbarger, was one of his track coaches.

DeFreece is familiar with small four-year liberal arts colleges, having graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan University. He obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, completed his residency in family practice for the Lincoln (Neb.) Medical Education Foundation, and has a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

With more than 24,000 alumni and friends and more than \$20 million in net assets, the Peru State Foundation assists the College in achieving its mission of providing quality education, programs, and services. It is a self-supporting and independently governed corporation established solely for the benefit of Peru State College and its students, faculty, staff, and programs.



Daryl and Peggy Long Donate 26 Acres of Land to Peru State College

Peru State College is thrilled to announce a generous donation of 26 acres of land from longtime supporters, Dr. Daryl and the late Peggy Long. This substantial gift, located adjacent to the college campus, represents a significant potential expansion of the college's footprint, and opens exciting new opportunities for the institution's growth and development.

The Longs have been dedicated advocates of Peru State College for many years, consistently supporting the College's mission to provide high-quality education and foster a vibrant learning community. Their latest contribution is a testament to their unwavering commitment to the college and its students. Dr. Long taught at Peru State for 50 years teaching chemistry, energy, and math among many other subjects. Mrs. Long taught for many years in area school districts.

"Peru State College is thrilled to receive this generous gift from Daryl and Peggy Long," said President Michael Evans. "This property will impact the College far into the future, and we're eager to start thinking about how to use it well to benefit our students. However we use it, this land will always be called the Long Farm, and we will install a bronze plaque recognizing Daryl and Peggy for their impressive contributions to Peru State. We are grateful for their kindness and support."

It is his late wife who Dr. Long credits for their ability to be financially successful as she taught and worked while he was completing his doctoral studies. Fortunately, they were able to grow their funds which have been used to provide not only the recent gift of land, but many other gifts to Peru State.

Dr. Long commented, "Peggy and I always believed in the power of education and the positive change it can bring to individuals and communities. Peru State College has a special place in our hearts, and we are honored to contribute to its growth and future success."

The Longs were the grand marshals for the 2017 Peru State homecoming parade. Most recently, Dr. Long was recognized with the College's Distinguished Service Award in 2022. Over the years, the Longs have provided two different sculptures, the "Power of Thoughts" statue sits in the lobby of the Jindra Fine Arts Building, while the "Cat in the Hat" statue is nestled in the Sesquicentennial Plaza next to the Performing Arts Center. Recently, Dr. Long formalized two endowments through the Peru State College Foundation which will provide continual support for the College's etiquette/financial planning dinners and to assist with the distinguished speaker series on campus.

Nestled in the hills of historic southeast Nebraska, Peru State College offers a mix of innovative online and traditional classroom undergraduate and graduate programs, including online graduate degrees in education and organizational management.

ARBOR CITY NEWS

Morton-James Public Library Calendar of Events August 2024

923 1st Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410

For questions call 402-873-5609 or visit morton-jamespubliclibrary.com

Extended Gallery Exhibit

Refreshing like a tall glass of ice tea, Susan Moore's "Sumptuous Indulgence" at Morton James' Kimmel Gallery has been extended through August 30. These watercolors are explorative and expressive. Moore focuses on the senses of indulgence through the viewers' own nostalgic memories of Sunday morning breakfast or refreshing summer brunches. Moore expresses her works through vivid colors and complex blending techniques. Indulge in these tasty paintings as you reflect on your own memories of sweet treats with friends.

Chess Club

Every Thursday 4:30-6:00 PM

Farmers Market Storytime

Thursday, August 1 4:30 PM

Humanities Nebraska

Dust Bowl Descent presented by
Bill Ganzel

Thursday, August 1 7:00 PM

Paint Together 8+ years old with partner.

Call for reservations; 402-873-5609
Saturday, August 3 10:00 AM-Noon

"Bring Your Own Book" Club

Sunday, August 4 2:00-3:30 PM

Lego Club

Monday, August 5 3:30-5:00 PM

Story Time

Wednesday, August 7 10:00 AM

Yarn Crafters Club

Wednesday, August 7 1:30-3:00 PM

Card Club

Thursday, August 8 1:00-3:00 PM

Build-an-Animal: Frog

Call for reservations 402-873-5609
Saturday, August 10 10:00 AM

Library Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 14 4:00 PM

Farmers Market Storytime

Thursday, August 15 4:30 PM

Writers Workshop

Saturday, August 17 10:00 AM

Lego Club

Monday, August 19 3:30-5:00 PM

Book Club

The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot
by Marianne Cronin
Tuesday, August 20 2:00 PM

Story Time

Wednesday, August 21 10:00 AM

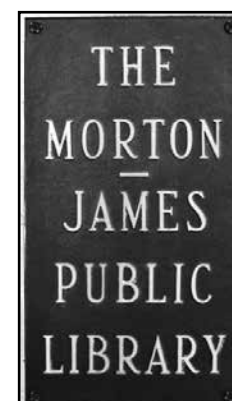
Evening Book Club

I Will Find You by Harlen Coben
Wednesday, August 21 5:30 PM

Library Hosts

Farmers Market Storytime

Thursday, August 29 4:30 PM



ARBOR CITY NEWS

Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce

HERITAGE NEEDLEWORK GUILD'S QUILT AND NEEDLEWORK SHOW IS APPLEJACK TRADITION

By Nancy Feeney

If strolling past scores of colorful quilts and amazing needlework is your idea of a fun time, then you need to add this event to your Nebraska City AppleJack Festival 'must do' list.

Browse through the rows upon rows of quilts and needlework items on display at the 2024 Annual Heritage Needlework Guild's Quilt and Needlework Show. With well over 100 items on display, this is one of the largest quilt and needlework shows in southeast Nebraska.

Held in the lower level of the Bethel Church at 2400 Central Avenue, Nebraska City, the dates for this year's Heritage Needlework Guild's Quilt and Needlework Show are Sept. 20, 21 & 22. Show hours are Friday 4-7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Over a hundred Guild member-made items will be on display, including bed quilts, baby quilts, wall quilts, table runners and toppers, needlework, wearable items and bead work. Quilts made by Guild members throughout the past year at various workshops and member challenge projects will be featured.

Cheryl Harms, a 60-year resident of Nebraska City, was named the 2024 Heritage Needlework Guild Member of the Year. Dozens of pieces representing two decades of her quilting will be on special display during this year's show. Her favorite technique is wool applique. Using both wool and cotton in fall colors and earth tones, Cheryl has created scores of quilts, wall hangings and throw pillows.

Two other big features of the Quilt and Needlework Show are the Raffle Quilt and the Raffle Baskets. This year's Raffle Quilt measures 90" by 70" and is called "Twinkle Twinkle." The quilt pattern was designed by Wendy Sheppard, pieced by Margaret Om and machine quilted by Valerie Duncan. Raffle baskets full of fabric, yarn, pattern books, and other sewing goodies are assembled by Guild members. These baskets contain a variety of



The Heritage Needlework Guild Quilt and Needlework Show has been a part of Nebraska City's AppleJack Festival for more than 40 years.

sewing and needlework items, such as fabrics, yarn, pattern books and handy sewing tools. They follow varied themes such as Baby, Christmas, Huskers, etc. Tickets may be purchased at the show.

Since last year's addition of selling member-made potholders was such a huge hit, Guild members are busy making more for this year. These make perfect gifts for anyone you know who cooks, bakes or grills, no matter the age. They cover an amazing width of themes and shapes, ranging from sports teams, children-themed, whimsical and elegant. There will be something there to inspire all the cooks in your life, making them great gifts for Christmas, birthdays, bridal showers, hostess, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

This show is handicapped accessible and there is plenty of free parking at Bethel Church. Entry is \$5 at the door for the day. There is also an \$8 weekend pass available. The money collected from admission, the raffles, and potholder sales assists the Guild with its

community service projects, such as donations to area food banks and patriotic lap quilts for veterans.

Put a trip to the 2024 Annual Heritage Needlework Guild Quilt and Needlework Show on your AppleJack weekend activity list and enjoy the many items on display.



Cheryl Harms of Nebraska City is the 2024 Heritage Needlework Guild Member of the Year.

ARBOR CITY NEWS

Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce



NEBRASKA CITY

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5K Fun Run | Parade | Bull Riding | Car Show
Wine Tastings | Flea Market | Water Barrel Fights

SEPTEMBER 27-29
ALL ABOUT APPLES

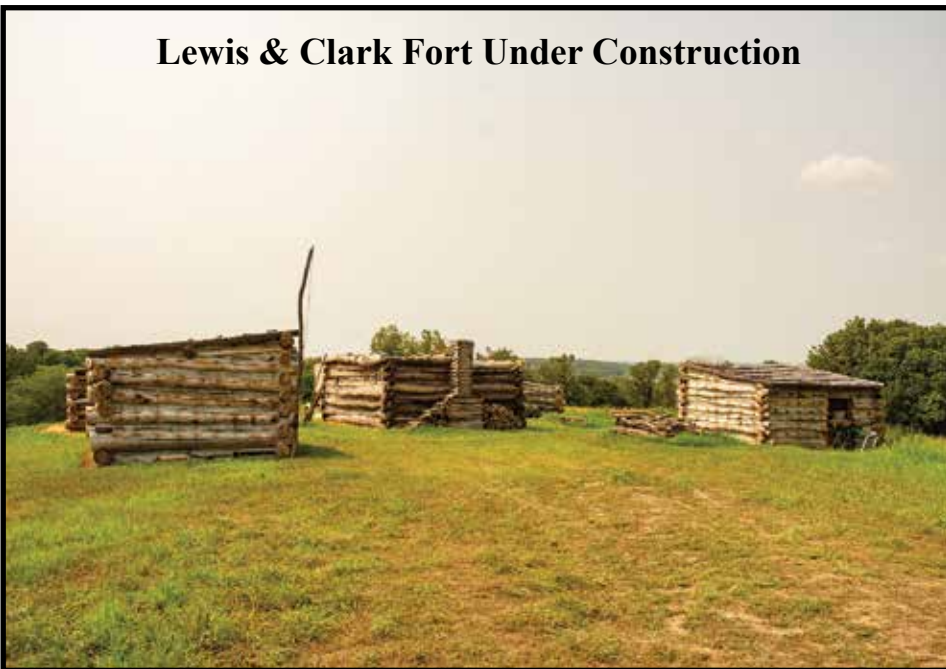
Apple Jamboree | Hayrack Rides | Cider Stroll | Live Music
Hispanic Heritage Event | Apple Bites Food Passport

APPLE JACK festival 2024

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Lewis & Clark Visitors Center 20th Year Anniversary.



Aug 23; 5 to 7 pm, Special Sneak Peek of Replica of Fort being constructed at the Lewis & Clark Visitor Center
Aug 24, Re-enactors, fifteen 15-minute programs for Students.
Aug 25, Re-enactors for Public.

ARBOR CITY NEWS

LARSON MOTORS INC



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Arbor City News

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



Apples are turning at Kimmel Orchard.

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City

The Windmill

Bruce Madsen

In all my travels around the countryside,
I've realized things have changed
Although my travels may not extend far nor wide
I've noticed the landscape has definitely been rearranged

What used to be is no longer there....
Now I know a few skeletons may still exist
But to help us keep what's left, there's not really a prayer
No matter how we feel or try to resist, progress persists

Through all the years that have faded past
The reason for their existence has diminished and died
Once so important to a time that didn't last,
So important to a time full of promise and pride

Silhouettes that reached toward a clear blue sky
Structures of wood and steel that were dominant and real
They dotted the valleys below and hills up high
And were topped with a wind driven, spinning wheel

And the wind, sometimes, just as gently as a sigh
Gave life to the land and all creatures around
It gave hope and it gave promise and an answer to why
People came to this country to live, and to settle down

Water is what this poem is about
A liquid as important as the shiniest gold
And how it came to the surface with an almighty shout
To all who would listen and create a life to behold

Water and wind striving together
A partnership you might have thought hard to last
But they worked as one, depending on each other
So now, as I said, they're part of the past

So, travel here and travel there,
Look in the valley and look over the hill
Something is missing, the landscape is bare
In a way, it's sad, the end of an era, almost gone, the windmill.

Share this publication with friends.

It's online at;

<http://www.yourcountryneighbor.com>



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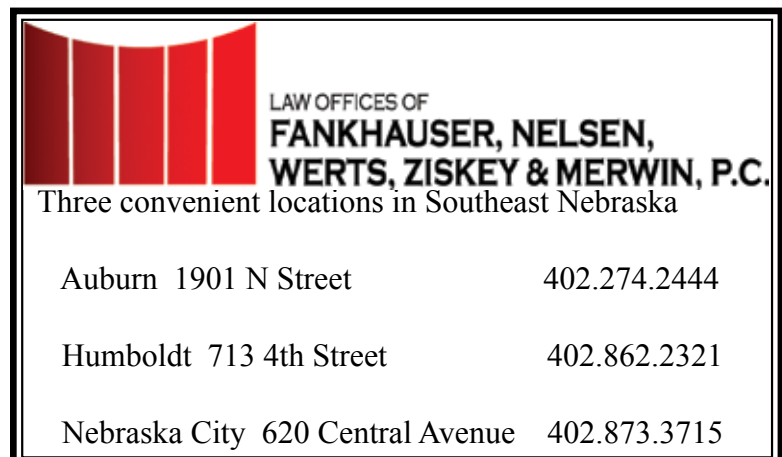


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Zebra Swallowtail butterflies sipping from moist scrub grasses along a trail in Indian Cave State Park. July 19.2024



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Window From The Past

Stephen Hassler, Peru

The following is an article I wrote several years ago and have reprinted here a few times. I think it's always appropriate this time of year.

As I look out my window on Fifth Street, the season is “back to school” with school buses, football practice, and cruisin’. The freedom to get in a car and go anywhere I wanted was once just an anxious teenager’s dream. Now, whenever I want, I can take my comfortable Buick with air conditioning and stereo sound and tour the rural countryside, or visit friends anywhere. This is one freedom I cherish but often take for granted. Before I received my driver’s license, I didn’t have that freedom of movement.

Before I had a driver’s license, travel was viewed from the back-seat of a ‘57 Ford Fairlane. Often, a parent’s head would obstruct my view, so I just looked out the side window and watched my world go by at about 45 miles per hour. There were the ever-changing fields of grain and grasses, the lavender of blooming alfalfa or the gold of ripening oats. Now and then there would be a train passing by on the tracks that ran parallel to the graveled country road.

As my father steered into town, we connected with the highway and coasted down the hill to the traffic light and the drive-in on the corner. High School kids stood around in small groups with their red and black letter-jackets sipping Cokes and Pepsi’s and Dr. Peppers and munching on hamburgers. Some sat in cars and leaned out of windows in conversation, listening to the latest Bobby Vinton song or the Beach Boys on the radio. I wanted one of those red and black school jackets. This was a new town, a bigger school, and new friends. I was fifteen and dreamt of going to college, of breaking out of my rural world and into the real world of NASA missions, the nuclear age, and new cars.

It was the 60’s! But my 60’s were not the images I saw on the new color TV in the old Iowa farmhouse where I was painfully trying to grow up. My world was the school bus before dawn ten miles from my home-room. My world was trying to learn chemistry and geometry, while having to learn English Composition. My world was one of solitude and three wishes; I wished that I were a star on the basketball team, that I were popular enough to go out on Saturday nights with the prettiest girl in school, and that I would get my name in the paper as one of those on the semester honor roll.

Those three wishes were never heard by any Genie in my world. And so for me, growing up in the 60’s amounted to getting my homework done and not getting beat up. It helped a lot that I got a car my Senior year. That old ‘53 Chevy was freedom from school buses, and freedom to go see friends if the urge came up. It was independence and image; it added a new dimension to my life. Occasionally, during lunch break, I would drive a few friends around town; me, showing off my ‘wheels’, and them, going for a ‘joy ride.’ And if we saw another group doing the same, an exchange of horn honks was not only a greeting, it was like saying, “How about this? This is living!”

So when you look out your window on your street, try not to shake your head in disgust at those teenagers who might seem a bit noisy. Not all of them are popular or athletic, and few are geniuses. But they are all struggling to fit into a world so much bigger than they are. They are trying their wings. They are exploring freedoms withheld from them while they were children. They are beginning to experience what you and I take for granted; freedom is fun!

Secrets To Living

Dorothy Rieke

Most of us realize that life should be something different from plodding along day after day doing the same tasks with a sense of duty and boredom. Work is necessary, but with work must come relaxation, sense of accomplishment, and the joys of living.

In fact, life represents an adventure that depends on our input and participation. A positive attitude plus certain ingredients makes life enjoyable and interesting. Accepting challenges and seizing opportunities while savoring the very essence of your days makes life an interesting journey.

The following make life more interesting:

LOVE ALL AROUND. Love is an essential ingredient in life. Through love for others, many good deeds and kindnesses materialize. Love affects people in positive ways by creating warmth and concern.

MINIMIZING LIMITATIONS. Our limitations are hindrances and stumbling blocks to completion of goals. Determination overturns limitations and impediments. Work to eliminate any weaknesses and maximize your abilities.

KEYS TO LIMITLESS TREASURE. Self-fulfillment, self respect, and a sense of caring and concern for others are a few routes that lead to tranquility and contentment which is a sort of natural wealth.

RECOGNIZING NEEDS. Recognizing needs and fulfilling them is all important in reaching your potential. Identify needs to reach goals.

REMOVE GUILT. Guilt, an exercise in futility, serves no purpose but to influence future actions negatively and put at risk your present and future. In other words, make peace with your past.

PEACE OF MIND. Peace of mind is being at ease with your circumstances. Peace of mind, leading to attainment, is necessary to the “good life.” Feel too blessed to be stressed.

YOU CAN IF YOU WILL. Attitude plays a role in results. With the right attitude, preparation, perseverance, and time, much can be accomplished. Think “My purpose is reaching goals while holding on to my integrity and self-respect.”

SELECTING LIFE’S BEST. Some question what is the best?” Life’s best is serving others with useful, beautiful acts; life’s best is fulfilling your dreams; life’s best is being satisfied and cheerful.

WALL -TO -WALL HAPPINESS. Happiness is peace of mind, contentment, joy, and gladness. It is within each of us in our ways of thinking and acting. In other words, we are in charge of our own happiness. Happiness makes itself known in our daily lives as we help others, accomplish or profit from a set of circumstances, and as we make each day special. Dreaming while we are awake constitutes happiness.

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

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

Catch and Release

Janet Sobczyk, 2024

“Hey, Pete!

Come catch this tiny moth in the bathroom
quick, right there on the wall
wait! where’d it go?”

His quick eyes scanned the room
soon found the Common Tan Wave
uncommonly small, wings folded
trying to blend into a cream wall.

I backed away
to let him stalk the prey
knowing it would be safe in his young hands
certain my clumsy ones would damage wings.

Held the door open for his exit outdoors
watched as he slowly released curved fingers
expecting a fast flutter to escape
but it didn’t.

I moved up close to join Pete’s gaze
upon this tiny visitor
as it gently stepped along his finger
to the tip and paused.

Seemed to be probing his skin
with its almost invisible feet
was it tapping out a thank-you
like a silent Morse-code?

Or (more likely)
smelling the apple Pete had been slicing?
In a moment it gracefully lifted off
flitting across the deck.

We went back inside smiling
back to the morning routine
pleased to do a good thing
for a common little creature.

A note from your publisher;

For those of you who want to read more of
Janet Sobczyk’s poetry, you will enjoy her website at;

<https://momsmusingsblog.blogspot.com>

August

Sheila Tinkham

August means "respected and impressive"

Named after Emperor Caesar Augustus

Born Octavian

He reigned 40 years

All the while

Remaining behind the scenes while it seemed as if the Republic were still
run by senators and legislators

He was smart

His great Uncle Julius Caesar was murdered on the ides of March,
the fifteenth of March

Because Caesar made himself dictator, not a salad

Caesar had overthrown the Republic which had run Italy through
representative government from 509 BCE to 27 BCE

Almost 500 years the Roman Republic had two consuls, the senate com-
posed of magistrates always patricians and former assemblymen, and
the assemblies composed of people elected by people and magistrates in
charge of certain areas of Roman life

There were two types of people in Rome: patricians, the elites and land
owners, and plebians, the common people.

Octavian before he changed his name fought the War of Actium between
his rival consul Mark Antony and his love Cleopatra and himself,
the other consul

Octavian won the naval battle off the coast of Greece near Acarnania
After losing the war, both Cleopatra and Mark Antony were in Egypt and
they committed suicide by poison from the bite of an asp

40 years of peace and Augustus died in his bed

But in reality he was still a dictator

As the saying goes an iron hand in a velvet glove

Enjoy the heat of August well named after Caesar Augustus.

August

Sheila Tinkham

August I want to wrap my arm around your heat

And inhale

And save your memories of ice cold watermelon and buttersoaked corn
For an ice cold day in December

When the heat and languor and hot dogs smothered in ketchup mustard
and sauerkraut

And baseball games that ease into the night like a conversation with a
long lost friend

Can warm my soul and dispel the ice and snow and

Bring August back to life...

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by Devon Adams, Peru

AUGUST TWILIGHT

Something is strange
 on this this dusky day.
 Shadows have longer
 fingers reaching farther
 across the tired grass.
 The fiery disk of the sun
 is so much lower than
 before, when summer
 was a hot number, with
 flowers in her long grass
 hair and a tan on her
 bare beaches.
 Temperatures were hot
 at 3:00 and now
 they're not at 5:00.
 Doves are mourning
 the passing of the year,
 with soft coos that
 echo through the trees.
 Soon the moon will
 rise in full face silver
 and harvest will be next.

ANGELS

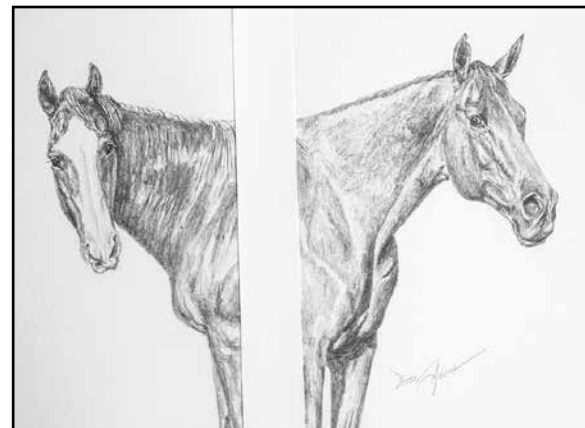
Sometimes you can
 hear the rustle of
 their wings, when
 they are near.
 Or feel a warmth
 beside your chair.
 Or see them whole,
 when they pull you
 out of chaos. Never
 doubt that they are
 always there!

STAYING FREE

That is our task.
 Winning freedom
 once wasn't enough.
 We have to win it
 every day.
 City councils,
 school boards,
 county, state and
 national elections
 all count.
 It doesn't always
 take a war to lose
 a whole country.
 Like sand trickling
 through your fingers,
 your rights can drain
 away a little at a time,
 and it's gone before
 you know it.

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BEST FRIENDS

We never get old,
 even if we die,
 because our best
 friend will always
 think of us as young.
 And if they go first,
 we still picture them
 as we used to be.
 Whether we travel
 in night dreams with
 our friend, or in day
 dreams that can be
 triggered with a
 glance at photos or
 keepsakes, the two
 of us are once again
 together and there is
 no space and time
 that separates us.

SUMMER FINALE

Seeds were sown,
 the sun has shown,
 rain fell down, and
 plants grew up when
 light was long.
 Now days are
 shorter, nights longer,
 and crops and fruits
 are ripe and ready
 to be picked, peeled,
 canned, cut, dried,
 baled, shucked and
 sold.
 Summer is a dream
 lost in fluffy clouds,
 sunshine wine, and
 rainbow skies.
 Our memories are
 longer than the seasons
 and ripen with age.



Julian's festival on July 13th included this car show, and the cheeseburgers were amazing.

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