



The score was close the entire game but #25 Graceland defeated PSC 79 to 76.

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*Butterflies of Southeast Nebraska,
Where and When to see them.*

To be presented at 2:00 P.M. on February 16th, at
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100 Valmont Drive, Nebraska City, Nebraska
See page 17 for more information.

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“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

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Thank You!

Fabulous February!

A Message from your Publisher

Stephen Hassler, Peru, Nebraska

February! The month of love. And I love that Spring comes next month! January was cold, as it should be, but it shouldn't have to be. Oh well, December wasn't bad, and it is Winter.

Migrations begin in February, with the snow geese leaving the area toward the end of the month, and with the sandhill cranes arriving between Grand Island and Kearney in early March. I have found that a week on either side of the first day of Spring guarantees that cranes can be seen there. Plan a visit to the Crane Trust Visitor's Center and the Audubon Center. Take the “Alda Road” exit off I-80 just six miles west of the Grand Island exit.

I personally believe that the snow geese offer a better show, and you don't have to get up early to see them. In most Februaries, once the marsh has thawed, hundreds of thousands of snowgeese stop over at the Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge east of Rulo, Nebraska, near Mound City, Missouri. The shallow marsh has a 10 mile auto tour circling it (one-way, please). When the geese rise up, their honking stops briefly and the thunder of their wings is as memorable as a passing tornado. Bald Eagles' presence is a bonus! Nature is indeed a wonder even in February.

Now pour a second cup of coffee and peruse this issue of “Your Country Neighbor” with it's magazine articles and poetry, rural community news and festivals, and regional photos of wildlife, landscapes and college sports action.

Clip the **Valentino's coupon** on page 10 and **carry it with you!**

And if you travel, please drive safely!

Here is a quote from one of my newsletters.

“We may look different, we may have different beliefs, but we all have souls. There is no difference between a Muslim soul and a Christian soul. If we could see each other's souls, we would not be killing each other over different interpretations of God.”

“Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it because no one else will.”

Ghandi

“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

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Below, PSC v Missouri Valley College
Win 77 - 51 Jan 18, 2025



Above and Below; PSC v #12 Baker University
Win 73 - 63 Jan 29, 2025

High Scorers; #4 Carlos Hines 28 pts., and #15 Donzell Johnson 20 pts.



Bald Eagle near its nest at the
Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge.

4 February 2025 Your Country Neighbor



PSC v Missouri Valley College
Loss 71 - 84 Jan 18, 2025



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True Freedom -- Trumpeter Swans



Two Pots For The Price Of None

Marty Peregoy



These two photos by Marty Peregoy.

Most teenagers look forward to getting their driver's license because of the freedom it offers. For me, it was the freedom to start collecting antiques. I don't know why antiques became such a draw for me. I certainly wasn't a fan of them because they were old. After all, my parents were old, and at age 16, they were severely cramping my youthful style. Perhaps it's because antiques were unique, and I was incessantly curious.

On weekends or whenever I passed an antiques store and could slam on the brakes without getting rear-ended, I visited them. I loved finding things I'd never seen before, or things that I'd seen tucked away in my grandmother's cupboard. I loved guessing what they might have been used for or just holding them and thinking briefly about what hands had used them every day and treasured them.

The children of today's over 70's generation aren't much interested in inheriting the collections of their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents. I know, because my brothers aren't interested, and neither are my children.

When my mother moved to assisted living a few years ago and needed to seriously downsize, I was pretty sure that my brother would get the grandmother clock I'd always wanted. Or the oak table that had been in our basement as children. Or Great Aunt Helen's bedroom set. Nope. My brothers didn't want a thing. My mom's dreams of having a weekend of all her children taking turns choosing items of similar value were dashed.

I took what interested me, and that translated to Two Men and a Truck and some serious moving of things in my house. The first time one of my brothers came to visit after the transfer of antiques, he said, "It looks like a museum in here." I quickly held out my hand and said, "Free will donation, please."

I suppose it does look like a museum. I can count on one hand the items in my house that I bought brand new: electronics, book shelves, and a coffee table. All the rest were previously owned and, I hope, loved.

I'm a big fan of Facebook Marketplace. While most of my floor space is taken and I have to content myself with shopping either for things that hang on the walls or rugs, occasionally I need to replace something, and I haven't completely decorated the out-of-doors yet.

Last week I saw the most beautiful little pink and green Nippon hand-painted chocolate pot and matching cup. It was advertised as a decorative tea set, and the price was way too low. I messaged the seller and told him that he had a chocolate pot and cup worth about five times what he was asking, and that he might want to raise his price.

Continued on page 7 >>>>

PERU CITY NEWS

Communication • Information • Pride In Community

A volunteer project

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Thank you to everyone who participates!



<<<<< Pots Continued from page 6

He did the unthinkable. He told me that it was his grandfather's and that he was cleaning out his dad's house. Neither of his children wanted anything, so he was just trying to get rid of it. It was mine for free if I wanted to come to Omaha to get it.

My mom raised me to be demure and to protest politely when people want to give me valuable things, but instead, I said, "Thank you! What's your address?" The next day I was at his house with a box and a towel for padding.

As we were carefully wrapping the lid and cup so that it wouldn't get broken, he started telling me about his dad. And then he looked at the floor and the antiques he still had to find homes for. He picked up a white, Johnson Bros. chamber pot and said, "I'll throw this in, too, if you want it."

So that is how last week I came home with two pots for the price of none. I made room for the chocolate pot next to my mom's pink depression glass dishes and the china cups and saucers my dad bought for her one at a time when he traveled. The chamber pot holds a plant and sits on top of the Victrola that my friend Steve gave me when his kids didn't want "that old thing."

I know that my antiques will one day be sold at auction instead of going to my children, but I'm OK with that. If they go to people like me who will love and cherish them and use them till they break, I won't be rolling in my grave. I'll be smiling.

PSC Football

John Chatelain, Omaha

With a 7-3 win loss record (5-2 conference) in 2024 the Peru State College football program is clearly on the upswing. We applaud coach Phil Ockinga, and assistant coaches Sean Wilkerson, Wade Halvorsen, Tanner Stallings and Lou Varley.

The fun of winning is certainly a valid reason to play the game. Teaching 11 young men to overcome self-centeredness and work together ranks higher than winning, however. It pays off later in life when families and careers are built. Teaching how to win or lose gracefully is also important. But there is an even loftier goal than inculcating teamwork and sportsmanship. Assuming it is executed perfectly, every play is designed to succeed. In this age when mediocrity is often deemed acceptable, modeling the pursuit of perfection is the highest objective of a college sports program. PSC's proud football tradition should inspire us all toward excellence today. Let us look at a few great teams of the past.

The 1927 Bobcats outscored opponents 369-7 on the way to an 8-0 season. The single touchdown by Kearney State in the season finale was the only score allowed. Coach Lon Gran saw his team score 70 points or more three times and go over 90 twice. Some consider this the most dominant Nebraska college football season ever played. Nebraska's First College: Shaping The Future Since 1867, p 88.

Coach Al Wheeler became Peru State's football coach in 1938. He struggled through a 1-7 record in his first season, but he had the football program turned around by his second year, finishing with a 7-1-1 record and a conference championship. The Bobcats followed that with a 7-0-2 campaign in 1940. Peru shut out five opponents that year. *Id.* p 97 Peru clinched its second straight conference title with a victory over Chadron State in the season's last game. *Id.* p 105. Coach Wheeler's team won 26 straight games from 1951 to 1954, including consecutive undefeated seasons in 1951 and 1953. Peru's 1950s teams set a standard of sustained excellence. Al Wheeler was a nationally prominent figure in athletics, serving as president of the NAIA in 1953-54. *Id.* p 120-121

In 1980 the Bobcats finished 9-1 and were the first Peru team to land in the final NAIA Top 10. Coach Jerry Joy's team averaged 38 points a game, second nationally, and broke a school season scoring record that had stood since 1927. The defense held seven opponents to 12 or fewer points. The only blemish in the season was a one-point loss. No other opponent came within 10 points of the Bobcats. *Id.* p 168

Tom Shea came to Peru in 1986. During his five years as Bobcat head coach, Shea's teams went 35-17-1. Twice they won the Nebraska College Conference and twice went to the playoffs. When it comes to school pride, nothing quite compares with a national championship. The Bobcats claimed the 1990 NAIA Division II title over opponent, Westminster College of New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, which had six national championships in its history. Peru State completed a 12-0-1 season with the 17-7 victory at UNO's Caniglia Field. *Id.* p 180.

PERU CITY NEWS

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Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

Everyone came together on a cold day early in January to continue our discussion of senior authors with Nancy Wheeler presenting *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger. We join Frankie, 13, and his younger brother Jake in the summer of 1961 in New Brennen, Minnesota. The boys are the sons of the Rev. Drum and his wife. It is a coming-of-age summer for Frankie and though Jake is a couple of years younger, he is never far from Frankie's side. Their sister Ariel is 18 and looking forward to attending Juilliard in the fall. They all live next door to the Methodist church. Rev. Drum's friend from the war, Gus, lives in the basement of the church and provides upkeep and maintenance on the building.

This summer will prove to be a summer of death for the town of New Brennen, in fact before it is over there will be five deaths in the small town. One in the opening pages and one not until the last few pages that is almost glossed over. The first death is that of a ten year old boy named Bobby who Frankie and Jake know well. This death also introduces us to the railroad track and trestle that are on the edge of town. It seems Bobby, well known for his daydreaming, was sitting on the trestle when a train came through. Whether Bobby did not hear the train in time or did not hear it at all was the cause of much speculation but either way, Bobby was gone and the whole town was in mourning. Parents renewed their warnings to the children regarding playing on the tracks and especially the trestle.

The boys learn many things throughout the summer and not all of them good. They learn that their sister sometimes sneaks back out of the house late at night after she has come home on time from a date. They learn that some people are mean just for the sake of being mean. They learn that they can eavesdrop on their father in his office at the church by listening in the basement at some disconnected duct work. They learn that sometimes even people in authority will spread rumors that are hurtful to others just to make themselves feel big without a thought of the consequences. And they learn that things are not always what they seem.

The summer moves along for the boys, and they sometimes do things that they should not and their father deals with them in a fair and just manner. Overall, they accept their punishment in good stead. The boys are often found in the company of Gus. They use him as a sounding board when they do not know what to do in a situation. They also spend time with him when their parents need time to themselves. Gus proves to be trusted confidant and mentor for Frankie and Jake.

One day their sister Ariel starts talking about maybe not going to Juilliard in the fall and then one day Ariel disappears. The family and town are thrown into a darkness that cannot be escaped. Search parties are formed, no one is exempt. Her mother is especially affected and cannot seem to be of help to anyone including herself. When Ariel is found, all kinds of secrets come to light that no one is prepared for, least of all her parents. The boys learn how important family can be.

This book read well and kept me engaged. I could identify with the small-town situations in that area as Frankie was about the age I would have been at that time also in a mid western community. I highly recommend this book.

Happy reading!

Buy Nothing Group Is Alive And Active

Marty Peregoy

I'm a committed Facebook user. It's how I keep in touch with 35 years' worth of former students, colleagues, and neighbors. When I saw the group "Buy Nothing Nemaha County, NE" on Facebook recently, I was curious. "Is the group asking for a boycott of Nemaha County businesses?" I wondered, with one eyebrow raised. I was pleasantly surprised with what I found when I clicked on it. It's a group for giving, asking, lending, and borrowing... with no money involved. I joined immediately.

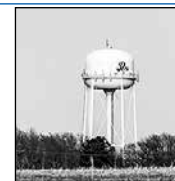
According to Peru's Rachel Snyder, who brought the Nemaha group back to life after several dormant years, Buy Nothing is completely different than buy, sell or trade sites that one normally sees on Facebook. She introduced the group with the following post:

"Gift: Two dozen homemade chocolate chip cookies. Pick up in Peru preferably today so they'll be fresh. If you're interested in these cookies, just comment "interested" on this post. I'll randomly choose a recipient if there are more than one person who could use them! I'll PM them to arrange pickup and... That's it!!! That's how buy nothing works."

Within minutes the cookies were spoken for, and other posts started appearing: a decorative candle, a request for newborn boy clothes, gifts of silverware, two spider plants, a Swiffer Wet Jet, and several board games, among others. Most of those have gone on to new homes as well, although a couple of requests are still unfulfilled. Before moving to Peru, Snyder lived in Omaha and was a member of a group there, which had over 2200 users. She is hoping that the Nemaha County group, which has grown to 150 in a couple of days, will continue to grow. Snyder said that oftentimes people need something for one or two uses, such as the child's highchair she borrowed over the holidays. It doesn't make sense to go out and buy a new one for just a couple of uses. "It also keeps things out of the landfill." What one person thinks of as trash can be brought to life and put back to use," and it's a time- and money-saver as well.

According to Snyder, an additional benefit of the group is that it can make the users feel like a tight-knit community. "You get to meet people when exchanging things," she said.

If you'd like to become part of the Buy Nothing community, just search for Buy Nothing Nemaha County on Facebook, click on "join group," answer some simple questions, and then wait for administrative approval. It should then show up in your feed. Snyder has listed some helpful tips in one of the posts, and you can private message her if you have questions.



You, too, can become a parli-pro - Part II

Marty Peregoy

Last month's article discussed the six-step process of making a motion and the typical language used when doing so. This month we'll take a look at two kinds of motions: main and subsidiary motions.

While the main motion introduces a new item, the subsidiary motion changes how to handle the main motion and must be dealt with before voting on the main motion. Following are five types of subsidiary motions, some of which are probably familiar, and others that are more obscure.

Lay on the table – the subsidiary motion of laying something on the table, often referred to as “tabling,” is never used to kill a motion, although it's often used as such incorrectly. Its purpose is to deal with an interruption. This often occurs when a guest speaker attending the meeting must leave at a specific time, and an item must be discussed before they do.

When something is tabled, the group intends to discuss it at the same meeting, just not immediately. It allows business to be set aside for something more immediate. It requires a second and a majority vote, but there is no debate, and it is not amendable. Typical language used: “I move to table ABC...”

Once the interruption has been dealt with, a motion to “take from the table” brings the discussion back to exactly where it was before it was tabled. It requires a second, cannot be debated or amended, and if the vote is not favorable, the action item is not discussed. Typical language used: “I move to take from the table ABC...”

Postpone the motion – is used when the group does not want to deal with the issue at the current meeting. The motion can be to postpone to a specific date or time or to postpone indefinitely. It requires a second and can be debated but not amended, and it requires a majority vote. Typical language used: “I move to postpone ABC till next month's meeting (or indefinitely).” When the maker of the motion is allowed to speak to his/her motion, the reason for the proposal will most likely be given.

Refer the main motion to a committee for review – is used when the business at hand is more appropriately handled by a committee. The motion can be debated, amended, and requires a majority vote. Typical language used: “I move ABC to a committee for review,” and can contain the name of the committee, if it already exists, or suggestions for who should be on the committee if it does not.

End the debate by moving to the previous question – is used when the debate has gone on for an extended period of time without much progress and needs to come to an end so that the issue can be voted on and the group can move on with the rest of the agenda. The motion requires a second, but cannot be debated or amended, and it requires a two-thirds vote. If the vote is favorable, debate ends immediately, and the group votes on the motion. Typical language used: “I move the previous question,” “I call the question” or “I move to end debate.”

Limit or extend time for debate – is used when an issue looks like it may go on for some time, multiple people have asked to be recognized and wish to speak on the issue, or you want to end debate but not abruptly out of courtesy to the many people still wanting to speak. A second is required, and although it cannot be debated, the time limit can be amended. It requires a two-thirds vote. Typical language used: “I move to limit debate to ABC more speakers” or “I move to limit the debate to ABC more minutes.”

In part III, how to amend motions and points of order will be discussed, as well as the notion of general consent. If you're interested in more detailed information, there are numerous slide presentations on-line, as well as numerous cheat sheets that can be printed and taken to meetings where parliamentary procedure is used. An excellent resource is The Law of Order Blog by attorney and Professional Registered Parliamentarian Sarah E. Merkel at <https://civility.co/blog/>.



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Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson

Every so often Hubby becomes obsessed with a kitchen gadget or food preparation technique.

You may recall reading previous columns about his quest for the perfect spatula and non-stick frying pan a few years back. Riveting reading, I know. We ended up with at least five new spatulas and more frying pans than we can use at one time.

Then, for a while, he was all about hard-boiled eggs, specifically, how to cook them so that they would peel easily. The experts' recommendations covered all the bases.

Use fresh eggs.

Use old eggs.

As soon as the water boils, cover the pan and turn off the heat for 15 minutes.

Simmer the eggs for 15 minutes, then rinse under cold water.

Add vinegar to the cooking water.

Tap the eggs with a knife to loosen the shells.

Roll the eggs between your palms to loosen the shells.

Start peeling from the big end.

Start peeling from the small end.

Apparently, peeling hard-boiled eggs is more of an art form than a science.

Hubby pursued all the advice, with some success, but never found the foolproof method he was looking for.

But don't count him out. Just because he failed to master peeling hard-boiled eggs doesn't mean he gave up on eggs. He just shifted gears to poached eggs.

He was on a poached egg kick once before, decades ago. We had one of those el cheapo egg poacher pans that you can get for five bucks at a dollar store. As I recall, it produced an acceptable poached egg. But for some reason, the pan is MIA now. Not to worry, though. Modern cooks scoff at the idea that you need an old-fashioned poaching pan and a stovetop.

Hubby turned to the Internet and found a novel approach using our Ninja toaster oven. Say what? A toaster oven? To poach an egg? That's right, fellow oldsters. Well, technically, you're supposed to use a Ninja air fryer. But how much difference can that make, right? Toaster oven ... air fryer. Whatever. Hubby was not deterred.

Aside from not using exactly the right cooker, he followed the directions to a T. But for some reason, the eggs took longer to cook than expected, and the custard cup got a teensy bit hotter than expected, and the water splashed out of the cup and burned his finger, and the egg did not slide out of the cup quite as promised. But other than that...

I don't think Hubby will be using that technique again. For about two minutes I considered giving him one of those old-fashioned el cheapo poachers for Valentine's Day. Too late. He had already gone online and ordered the latest and greatest model for himself. Maybe I can find some exotic eggs for him instead.

Thinking in the Rose Garden (Israel, 2006)

Frieda Burston

I sat in the rose garden just thinking, and this little old lady came and sat by me. "I'm a friend of a friend," she said. "I understand. I went through this too. There's nothing left but prayer."

I said, "No. I quit talking to God when my husband died after only three months of cancer, and He didn't do a thing to save him." She said quietly, "Would you rather your husband had suffered for three years, like your daughter is doing?"

That shook me up considerably. I thought about it and I thought about it. Maybe I had done God an injustice. Maybe I should have thanked Him for taking Abe so quickly. I decided I'd go back to services and see what came to me in the congregation. There is a beautiful little synagogue here and a lady cantor who leads the services, and I had avoided it, God and I not being friends any more.

I went. Now my argument is not with God but with the prayer book, which is too civilized for me. The ME that went into the sealed room when Saddam threw SCUDS at us, was not the same ME that came out of it. My feelings about War and Peace changed in those hours of huddling by the radio in a gas mask. The ME that went in was a scared rabbit, hoping desperately that the floor wouldn't crumble under my feet and the ceiling wouldn't bury me.

The Me that came out was angry clear through. What right did anyone that far away have, interrupting my life like this? Every time the sirens blew us into the shelter, my fury rose. Why did we just sit there and take it? Our army knew where Saddam's 12 underground palaces were, why didn't the US give us permission to fly through their lines to bomb the air conduits into the palaces?

The Allies said No, we must play the game right. We are civilized people. We might hurt innocent women and children, and what would we think about ourselves then? Playing the game right is still the way that we civilized Jews are thinking, and I don't know where we picked that up, unless it's the British legacy from World War I, which the generation before us said was The War to End All Wars. We certainly didn't pick it up from the Bible, which tells us page after page, "Choose Life" — if someone comes after you with a rock, choose life and find a club to knock the rock out of his hand. Have to bash his head in to make him drop the rock? Sorry 'bout that.

This prayer book has all the proper Hebrew and Aramaic prayers and hymns that it has had since the tenth century.

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City

Our Street

Bruce Madsen

The street on which we reside is very unique
It's sort of by itself, on the way out of town
And those who live here on this street
Are good neighbors and friends as anywhere around

I am not used to having people so close
It's a change from country life where I used to be
The open spaces are what I like the most
But now it's hard to step outside and take a pee

Moving to town I guess is not so unbearable
Although it did take time for some adjustment to realign
My thoughts as to what might be comparable,
To the farm life, that I left behind

We have a Doctor, a Mortician, and a third term Mayor
An Engineer and a Computer Tech involved in the world of information I never found
Plus a couple of retirees that add a little flavor
To this street of ours on the North side of town

These are not complaints of which I speak,
Or wishing that somehow we could move back
But I was never in favor of living on a dead-end street
But as luck would have it, now we live at the end of a Col-de-sac

On our street you'll be traveling Northbound
You'll be able to find us I bet
Just drive down to the turn around
Last house on the left is where we'll be found at "121 No Outlet"

Arbor City News

is a monthly news section in
Your Country Neighbor

A Southeast Nebraska

Regional Magazine (w/News)

<<<<< Frieda *Continued from page 12*

But the English translations which we recite— not being able to read the original language of the Bible— often don't match their Bible originals at all. I remember thinking how beautiful and inspirational these English renderings were— before I went into the Sealed Room, and before I quit riding buses, and before I worried about rockets falling closer to Rehovot. Opening these same books after twenty years of running from Arab attacks, I find it incredible that we can still be teaching our children such twaddle, when the world has changed so much outside us.

The original prayer books were written at the time of the Crusades. When the body count was in, Crusaders had killed more Jews and other Christians than they had killed Muslims. Islam spread further, and the Crusaders crawled back home to spread leprosy and intolerance in Europe.

Small wonder that the words we said most often were psalms and hymns expressing the pain of personal loss in the words of 2000 years earlier. Back before King David's time there were prayers that God break the enemy's head before the enemy broke ours, and we used those words. We did not hide our horror at seeing our babies torn apart or our elders tortured. We did not play the game correctly by turning their honest language into the language of diplomacy and soft-speak. Read it.

These translations of sweetness and light were correct in my younger days, because they were part of a general movement to inspire new generations to advance civilization. The League of Nations, the World Court, the UN— all of these things had a place. But that was when the Arabs were just a bunch of poor smelly nomads who wandered above pools of oil they never dreamed of. Now that Iran has a corner on the oil market, and a religious leader who says their Mahdi (their Messiah) is coming right now and is bringing His own Apocalypse with Him in the form of nukes on Israel and the USA, someone ought to look at all the prayer books in the civilized world, Jewish, Christian, and other. We may want to change some of our translations back to what they were before civilization set in.

Now that I'm talking to God again, I'll ask about our Choosing Life, or Choosing Civilization. Meanwhile, our time-counting goes on, another year starts. No one knows how it will end, but we say: "May you be inscribed in the Book of Life for a year that is All Good." You, too.

Regards, Frieda

ARBOR CITY NEWS

Morton-James Public Library Calendar of Events February 2025

All activities held at Morton-James Public Library (unless otherwise noted) 923 1st Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410

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

Lego Club-Must be 8 years and older to join.

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

Story Time Ages 2-6. Families Welcome!

No registration.

Wednesday, February 5 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, whatever you need to make your yarn craft. Club members will be here to help those beginning. Free to attend.

Everyone welcome 15 and older!

Wednesday, February 5 1:30-3:00 PM

Chess Club

Every Thursday 4:00-6:00 PM

Humanities Nebraska Program

Mad Queen of the Prairies:

The Frenzied First Years of the Nebraska Territory
presented by Jeff Barnes.

Thursday, February 6 7:00 PM

Youth Valentine's Day Party

Saturday, February 8 10:00- 11:00 AM

Writer's Workshop-Join us to get feedback on your own writing and to learn more about the craft of writing.

Saturday, February 15 10:00 AM

February Puzzle Tournament

Sunday, February 16

Registration required.

Call 402-873-5609 for details.

Check in 12:30PM

Competition 1:00-4:00 PM

Lego Club

Must be 8 years and older to join.

Monday, February 17 3:30-5:00 PM

Day Book Club

Dreamland by Nicholas Sparks

Tuesday, February 18 2:00 PM

Story Time

Ages 2-6. Families Welcome!

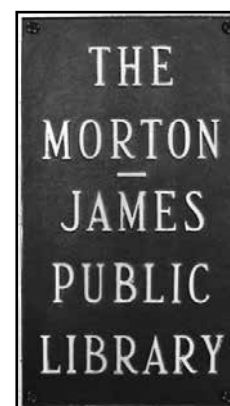
No registration.

Wednesday, February 19 10:00 AM

Evening Book Club- The Martian

by Andy Weir

Wednesday, February 19 5:30 PM



Author visit: Mary Connealy Limited Seating Sunday, February 23 2:00 PM

Mary Connealy writes romantic comedies with cowboys and is celebrated for taking her readers on a fun, action-packed adventure. She is a two-time Carol Award winner, and a Rita, Christy and Inspirational Reader's Choice finalist.

Books will be available for purchase at the event.

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City

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I want to believe this is a Golden Eagle; very rare in this area. But it could be a juvenile Bald Eagle which has not developed its white head and tail. It's size is what intrigues me. The Golden is a little larger than the Bald Eagle, and this one looks huge. Any "birders" reading this?



I believe this is a Golden Eagle; rare in Southeast Nebraska.

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

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City



On January 20, 2025, the Trump administration issued a series of executive orders that mark a pivotal moment in the national conversation around immigration. While these orders aim to fulfill campaign promises, they also significantly escalate deportation proceedings, placing further strain on already overburdened immigration courts. In this moment of uncertainty, the Heartland Workers Center (HWC) reaffirms its commitment to protect human rights processes, while empowering families and institutions to navigate these challenging times with resilience and confidence.

Preparedness: A Path to Empowerment. HWC recognizes that preparedness is a vital tool in times of uncertainty. By equipping individuals and families with the knowledge and resources they need, we can ensure that communities are not only informed but also ready to face potential disruptions.

For more information or to request a “Know Your Rights” workshop near you, please call 402.933.6095 or email: hsti@OSHABilingualTraining.org

The Heartland Workers Center's mission is guided by three foundational pillars: **Leadership Development** – Identifying, training, and empowering community leaders to organize around issues that matter most. **Worker's Rights** – Advocating for safe, fair, and equitable workplaces. **Civic Engagement** – Promoting informed participation in the democratic process to strengthen communities. Lina Traslaviña Stover, Ph.D. Executive Director Heartland Workers Center www.heartlandworkerscenter.org

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The only Bald Eagle I found at the Refuge on Jan 28.
After several photos, he(?) left.



Colorful Nature Presentation Of Butterflies Native to Southeast Nebraska



Prepare to make the most of Spring 2025
Attend a Free Presentation of
***“Southeast Nebraska Butterflies,
plus Where and When to see them.”***
by Wildlife Photographer, Stephen Hassler
Lewis & Clark Visitors Center
100 Valmont Drive, Nebraska City, Nebraska
Sunday, February 16, at 2:00 PM.

Butterflies are beautiful pollinators. Some, like the Monarch, are known to migrate, but others enter a state of “diapause,” similar to hibernation, and come out of shelter on warm days in March, and sometimes February, along most wooded paths and hiking trails near the River.

I have selected approximately 125 of my best photographs from thousands that I have taken over the last 20 years; Monarchs, Swallowtails, Fritillaries, and more, featuring 25 different species native to Southeast Nebraska. Be prepared to be a guide for your children or grandchildren when hiking and gardening this year.

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A COLD HEART

A hearty party isn't a sure thing if you were born in February. The calendar will always make you older, but the bolder move is to plan a party and then make it happen. That can involve trucks and tractors and ski's and sleds and beds on the floor, and more. It's easy to doubt and chicken out. But the wealth of the warmth of love and devotion will keep the memory bright in the flight of time.

TICK AND TOCK

There is a fight tonight about who is right. A child says he "can't wait" until his birthday comes. Time is too slow. The old man says that he can't find the years in-between. How can he be so gray today? He was lean and mean and fought all the blocks in his way. But the clock on the wall knows more than them all. Time doesn't run and it doesn't crawl. It just hangs on the wall.

by Devon Adams, Peru

MOSSY

Up from the creek, on the bank by the oak, is a slice of soil, soft as a sponge with leaves left from frost. It is moist from a thaw that came in with a south wind and a kiss of sunshine. Warmth wrapped around the ground and grew some green in the spot that is hot. The moss is soft and springy and new, like a carpet square from a store.

LOVE LASTS

Way back when life was young and time was forever, they met and said, "We're set." They stayed in a trance and danced their lives to the tune of love for all the years that came after. And the music goes on.

By Artist, Devon Adams
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Send to:

Devon Adams
P.O. Box 192 Peru, NE 68421

adamsdevon07@gmail.com 402-209-9377

COLD DIAMONDS

The ice factory has exploded with crystals that float on the air. Diamond bright, they aren't for sale and can't be held in your hand. The sky is so bright that the night was a lie. A whisper of wind on a branch knocks loose more sparkles of frost that glide to the ground, all turning around, like authentic gems from a shop on a block in New York.

A “Window” From The Past

Stephen Hassler, Peru

The following article is not my favorite, but is probably my best. I might have re-printed this article more than twice, but I am just not as inspired on a monthly basis as other writers in this publication are, so if you are disappointed by my repetition, be patient with me and consider the many new readers who have been drawn to “Your Country Neighbor” since this article was last published. Thank you.

One evening on my porch in early Spring it felt like a quiet Summer evening; seventy degrees and very still. It was between dusk and darkness, and the birds had ceased their evening chatter. My laptop computer and I were in a comfortable chair not quite of living room quality. As the darkness approached, the street lights awakened with a gentle glow, then brightened to half-way. The gray-blue sky darkened to a satin black, and the silhouettes of the trees blended into the dark, distant hills.

The sudden change in light made me feel as if there were some other place I should be, as if I were staying up late on a school night and my mother would catch me at any moment. I paused to deepen my awareness of the magic feeling, but moment by moment my eyes registered fewer and fewer shapes and the stillness said nothing to my ears. Various memories teased my senses. One was of my father carrying milk pails to the milk-house, the country yard-light illuminating the side of the barn, the warm white stuff, sloshing over the rims, and kittens scampering at his heels. Another was of me with my first steady girlfriend watching a full moon rise over the Missouri River, and below the overlook, a barge’s pusher-tug swept its spotlight from one bank to the other while chugging up the river.

There seem to be moments in my memory that would leave holes in my life if they were absent; special Summer evenings, perfect Friday afternoons, or a Winter’s snowfall watched through my dining room window. When life is tedious such moments are like beacons that flash, and then they are gone, but they are reminders that there is more in life than tedium.

I went to visit a friend the other day. It was late morning, but he had fallen asleep with the television on. These days he was more of a tired soul than the friend I used to joke with, have lunch with, visit with... and now he was becoming one of those special moments... a late evening silhouette soon to be one with the darkness, a hole in my life.

I closed my computer and went inside, knowing that the magic was gone until next month or next year when a pointed awareness would make me wish I could stop time and make the feeling last. Time doesn’t stop, but that in turn guarantees that tomorrow will bring more possibilities of special moments, as well as all the rest of life that happens before dusk, before we fade away into the dark.

February

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

Valentine’s Day

There was a St. Valentine of Terni
But first in Italy there was the festival of Lupercalia
In this “fun” festival boys and girls would put their names in a box
And be paired up for two day sex flings
The Pope disliked this pagan idea
So named St. Valentine
who was beheaded because he kept marrying men when
the Emperor wanted single men for his army
Before he died, he wrote a note “from your Valentine”

Candlemas

Christian tradition Blessing of candles
Celtic holiday called Imbolc halfway between
winter solstice and spring equinox
February 1st, first day of Spring,
the day honoring St. Brigid the patron saint of Ireland
Brigid was named for the fire goddess of the Celts
And created a Monastery in Kildare that created
the illuminated illustrated Book of Kells
which I saw in person and is amazing, glows
She asked for land the amount of her cloak
And as her three friends held the corners
It spread for miles and miles
She inspired many Irish women to become
nuns cloistered and sisters working in community

Groundhog Day

The movie is right about some facts
Pennsylvania Dutch Die Grundsau The Groundhog
If the groundhog sees its shadow six more weeks of winter
Goes back in burrow
German tradition February 2nd
brought to United States from Germany and
Netherlands where hedgehogs were used
The groundhog is only right 30 percent of time
But considering how accurate weather forecasts are
This is a pretty good average

President’s Day

I remember when there was a George Washington
Day February 22nd and an Abraham Lincoln Day February 12, hon-
oring the President that created the United States and the President
that saved the union from total division
I don’t give a rat’s arse about the others,
mostly mediocre run of the Mill Presidents...
It is like honoring a hitter who bats 200
in the Baseball Hall of Fame...
stop commercializing holidays...
give me back Washington and Lincoln’s birthdays.

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