

# Your *Country* Neighbor

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Summer Landscape... more landscapes pages 3, 22, 24



Kid's Fishing Contest, page 8

*Inside, Sweeten your Coffee Break with Voices and Views from the Nemaha River Valleys.*



The "FLYOVERS" (page 18), performed at TREESTOCK in Nebraska City on July 1st, as part of the weekend Independence Day Celebration in Steinhart Park.

Volume Twentyfour, Number Seven



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July 2023

# Your Country Neighbor

Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

P.O. Box 126  
Peru, Nebraska 68421

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[www.yourcountryneighbor.com](http://www.yourcountryneighbor.com)

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Thank You!


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

Ralph Waldo Emerson

*"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."*

Maya Angelou

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## Jubilant July!

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Welcome new Nebraska City area readers! Features included this month are; the "Peru City News," the "Arbor City News," and as usual, my recent photographs, including of Peru's "Old Man River Days," and your favorite monthly columns and poetry. (See list at left.)

Visitors to, and residents of **Papillion, Nebraska** can find "Your Country Neighbor" in the Papillion Library, and at *La Mesa Mexican Restaurant* (voted best Mexican restaurant in Omaha 19 years in a row), located on South 84 Street, in 829 Tara Plaza, Papillion. I've eaten there. The food is good and the prices are reasonable.

Nebraska City's Summer Sidewalk Sale is July 22, 23, and 24. See more about Summer in Nebraska City on pages 16 and 17.

If you haven't already, stop at the winery in Brownville and pick up your free **Brownville Calendar of Events** for planning your summertime fun.

Next month, the **August issue** will bring photos of more Summer wild-flowers, and some of the butterflies if I can find any.

The **UNL Revitalization plan for Peru**, all 112 pages, is on my website, [www.yourcountryneighbor.com](http://www.yourcountryneighbor.com). Link to it from the 'publications' page.

Don't forget to clip the **Valentino's coupon** on the back page (24) and **carry it with you!**

Enjoy July; it's summertime!! Some days will be hot, but remember January? Make a list of what you can't do in January, and DO IT NOW.

Enjoy perusing "Your Country Neighbor!"

Stephen



# Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

Hubby and I recently attended our hometown’s Sesquicentennial Celebration in Aurelia, Iowa, a town of less than 1,000 people in the northwest part of the state. It being June, a pie and ice cream stand in the city park was pretty much obligatory. Our former congregation jumped at the opportunity to participate to raise funds for missions. The church ladies made the pies from scratch, and it was no surprise that they sold out. I do have one complaint, however. I purchased two pie slices, both labeled “rhubarb” for my mom and myself. Upon opening the pie containers, one was revealed to actually be apple!! Homemade apple pie is nothing to sneeze at, but when you have your mouth set for rhubarb and it turns out to be apple, there is just no consolation.

The craving for rhubarb pie is an annual addiction for those of us who grew up on it. It’s like a seasonal allergy, except it’s a good thing. It’s one of those dishes you can really only enjoy in spring and early summer. I’ve tried baking pie with defrosted frozen rhubarb. Not good. Apparently canned rhubarb pie filling is a thing – though I have never personally seen it in a grocery store – but in my opinion, canned pie filling in general is inferior. You might as well just get a pie from the freezer section and save yourself the effort. If I have offended anyone with my pie snobbery, “Sorry, not sorry,” as they say.

Anyway, I gave the rhubarb pie to my mom and I ate the apple. But all was not lost. A long-time hometown friend of mine, who just happened to have baked some of the (genuine) rhubarb pies, gave me a big bag full of beautiful red rhubarb stalks. So, yesterday, I baked a mouth-watering rhubarb custard pie. Hubby had his quota of one slice, still warm from the oven, with vanilla ice cream. That means I get the rest of the pie for myself! If you are familiar with rhubarb custard pie, you know it needs to be eaten in a few days. Luckily, rhubarb is high in fiber and even after adding sugar, a 3.5 ounce serving of cooked rhubarb has only 116 calories. So, I can eat two generous slices a day and still consume

fewer calories than one small, frosted brownie has. Plus, the egg custard adds protein to the nutritional benefits of the rhubarb. It’s practically a meal in itself. It may be the only dessert you can eat guilt-free!

So, why don’t more people like rhubarb pie, specifically, rhubarb custard pie? Oh, sure, some people will stoop to eating strawberry-rhubarb pie, but that’s just wrong. Maybe they think rhubarb is only for country bumpkins, the equivalent of the Southern dish known as poke sallet, which is made from the leaves of the pokeweed gathered out in the wild. While rhubarb leaves are toxic, the stalks are perfectly safe, unlike the part of the pokeweed that humans consume. Pokeweed leaves, I am told, have to be boiled three times to remove the toxins.

You probably think I have a nice rhubarb patch at my house. I am a bit embarrassed to admit that I do not. Not that I haven’t tried. I got a nice starter from a friend, which produced well for a couple of years in a corner of the vegetable garden. But then a certain family member complained that it took too much space, so I moved it to a different site, where it apparently is too crowded and not getting enough sun. I may have to dig up a bit of sod in a sunny spot to transplant it again next spring. (I wonder where?) On the farm where I grew up, the rhubarb grew all along the south side of the garage, with no effort at all. Based on all the HUGE rhubarb plants I see around town, I think I could probably just knock on a door or two, offer a few bucks for a bagful, and get all I need for fresh use up until mid-June. Does that seem country-bumpkin-ish? Or just plain weird? Do I want rhubarb badly enough to be that person?

At this point, I have nearly a year to ponder that question. In the meantime, I will keep singing along with Garrison Keillor: “Mama’s little baby loves rhubarb, rhubarb, beebopareebop, rhubarb pie!”



Familiar Summer Sky

## Po' folks, but not shif'less (a growing-up story from the time of the Great Depression)

The Late Frieda Burstn, formerly of St. Joseph, Missouri

Po' folks, but not shif'less. Very shifty indeed. Mama ripped apart Brother #1's shirts and pants when he outgrew them, and reseeded them inside out for fresher color— by hand, mind you, there being no sewing machine— for Brother #2. Normally, they would then have been ripped apart again and reseeded into dresses for me. But by the time Brother #2 had outgrown Brother #1's clothes, there was nothing but acres of mending and darning to hold the original threads together. So I wore party dresses all the time. Party dresses? Yes.

Mama's cousins back East used to send her a box of their old clothes to cut down for me, every year. Well, what kind of old clothes are always nice enough to give away to your cousins? Clothes you rarely wore, and took good care of, when you did. Party clothes.

So every year Mama unpacked a box of gorgeous bead-encrusted glamor-fabric dresses, and every year I helped her turn them into my school dresses. Mama would sit by the kerosene lamp at night, and snip the threads holding on one bead at a time. I'd catch them and corral them in paper twists to save for stringing fun. Then Mama would take the dresses apart, wash them to remove the thread holes, and turn them into my school dresses. So while other girls wore cotton dresses their moms had put together from sugar bags or flour bags, I went around NOT playing games because my party dress fabrics would come apart with any strain. I had to be on my best behavior all the time.

Now Mama had left behind some friends in the old neighborhood, when we went to Kansas and lost everything. She hadn't lost the friends, and when the holiday season rolled around at the end of summer, Mama used to take us kids, load us with garden goodies, and walk back to visit the old friends. Then others would gather, and the ladies would shoo all us kids out to go play and let them saucer their tea in peace and quiet.

This year the older boys tore off up the hill behind the houses and into a neglected dirty little woods. The older girls followed. I was trailing everyone because I had to be careful of my dress— a pale green little cloud of ruffles blowing around me. By the time I got into the woods, I saw them headed for an old shack. The boys ran in through the door and were frolicking around on the warped pine floor. The girls couldn't jump

from the ground to the front stoop, so the girls ran around to the window at the back.

The other girls climbed in through that window, but it was too high off the ground for me. The land sloped up at the side, so I went that way. There was a splintery window frame there that I could climb through, but it would ruin my dress. What to do? I looked around to see who was watching. The boys had jumped out of the shack and were running uphill again. The girls followed. If I didn't hurry, I'd be alone, lost in the woods. There was no path around the house. I had to go through.

I reached under my dress to my cotton petticoat, and rolled it up around my chest with my dress inside. Then I scrambled over the window frame. Splinters tore into my belly button, but I couldn't stop to cry. My dress was safe. I ran through the house, jumped out of the door, scrambled up out of the pit, and ran after the vanishing crowd.

That night when Mama helped me take off the fragile green dress, she saw blood on my petticoat, and found the splinters embedded in me. She went for the splinter-needle and burned it to sterilize it. Then she operated, while I cried buckets. Creolin was more merciful than iodine, but it burned too. She burned the needle again and stuck it into an old candle to keep it sterile. Po' folks Emergency Medicine. I went to sleep in an old outworn, outgrown shirt of my brothers', but I spent most of the night running after the crowd in my sleep. I still spend some sleep time chasing through woods after glimpses of disappearing feet—

# HOMETOWN

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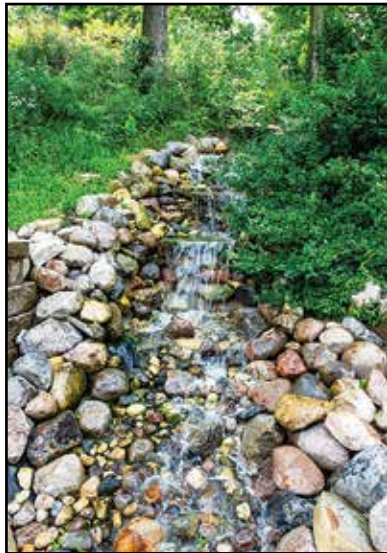
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## Old Man River Days in Peru, June 2023



Kid's Parade



Fishing Contest at Duck Creek Lake



Participants in the Kid's Parade



Burke's Winning Bluegill



Water Fun!



# PERU CITY NEWS

*Communication • Information • Pride In Community*



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## Peru Progress

Angela Allgood

Peru has a new storage unit for boats, RV's and cars.

Community Food Committee (PCIG) has planned a few community meals.

Dates will be given soon.

a) August

b) September

c) November -- Thanksgiving dinner for those who cannot be with loved ones over the holidays (dates will be given soon).

Have you seen the houses on 6th street? The landlord is fixing them up nicely.

The abatement issues are in their next stage (see the *Abatement Action* article p. 11).

There is a new free book library at Sid Brown Park in the shelter.

The current hole at the street in front of Sid Brown Park is getting a drop inlet.

## ImPERUving as oNE

Angela Allgood

ImPERUving as oNE has re-grouped and is focusing on businesses currently in town and those wanting to come to Peru.

In order to help direct travelers to Peru, their first big project is to put up signs along the highways. DJ Schmidt with "The Market" has been looking into TOD signs (a TOD sign is; Tourist Oriented Directional Sign (TODS) Programs for the State of Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Transportation). The group is wanting to put one on Highway 75 and Highway 67. There is a yearly fee for each business that wants to be advertised on the signs. Each business will have to fill out their own application and the process can take up to 3 - 4 months. They only put up these signs in the Fall and Spring.

The group has decided to focus on getting more information, seeing how many businesses would be interested and then doing fundraisers to purchase the signs.

On a different level of "signage," it was discussed that during the week students begin moving in, the group will place fun little signs around town that say, "112 steps to the grocery store or 50 steps to a church, etc. Just something fun that lets students know Peru has the basic amenities for them (church, groceries, and a place to eat).

Another project the group is working on is a flyer or brochure to pass out to college students and their parents to list all the amenities that Peru has to offer during the four years they make Peru their home.

Be on the lookout for different fundraisers and let's help our businesses and town grow and prosper.

## What I Learned at City Council

Angela Allgood

The new Deputy Clerk is Tera Eden. Council is looking into hiring her full-time and providing insurance for any employee working 30 hours per week or 130 hours per month (The Affordable Care Act requires employers to offer health insurance )

City Council is going to revamp the water bill process from the day you move to Peru and fill out paperwork to the process of collecting delinquent bills. Once they revamp the process, it will go to vote and become a new Ordinance for Peru.

The City of Peru is seeking applications, letters of interest, and compensation for an independent contractor for City Zoning Administer (commonly referred to as the building inspector). All applications and letters of interest shall be submitted to Peru City Hall. For further questions please call Peru City Hall at 402-872-6685.

There are two (2) candidates to fill the position of Council Member Spencer Vogt. Interviews were conducted and a decision will be made during a Special Council meeting on July 7 at 4 pm. The candidates are Phil Wemhoff and Theresa Westfall. The Mayor will appoint one and they will fill Vogt's position until the next election.

Maintenance Director Darrin Reeves talked about three (3) bids for UTV's. Council / employees would like the UTV's for less gas usage, better to get into alleys and other spots, and they can use them to read meters. Darrin stated that they could use their attachments on the UTV (mosquito sprayer, etc.). He gave bids for a Polaris, Kabota, and Kawasawki. No action was taken.

Judy Coe sent paperwork and requested that Council talk about the possibility of looking to name part of the Highway after Herbert Brownell Jr. Council member Peregoy said she would do some research into options; 1) the

*Continued on page 10 >>>>*



# PERU CITY NEWS

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## Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

Our group met at the home of Melva Sage in Brownville where Susan Pease talked about *The Life of Pi*, the book and the movie. The book was written by Yang Martell and released in 2001; the movie was released in 2012. The book was a winner of a Man Booker Prize in 2002; over 15 million books have been sold.

Young “Pi” Piscine Molitor Patel lived with his family in Pondicherry, India where his father was the manager of a zoo. His father taught him about the aggressive biological features of the zoo animals. Through several experiences with the Hindu, Christian, and Islam faiths, Pi decided to practice all three religions. He told his parents, “he just wants to love God.” In the mid ‘70s, Pi’s father decided to sell the zoo and emigrate to Canada with a number of the remaining zoo animals. There was a storm at sea, the ship was lost and Pi managed to escape in a 26’ lifeboat with a spotted hyena, an injured Grant’s zebra, and Orange Juice an orangutan). There was also a tiger named Richard Parker who Pi helped board the lifeboat.

Eventually, the animals ate the one below on the food chain leaving the hyena. This was when Richard Parker emerged from his hiding place under a tarp and took care of the hyena leaving only Pi and Richard Parker in the lifeboat. When Pi was able to explore the rations stored in locker on the boat, he found enough canned water to last 93 days, 31 cartons of sea rations, 12 solar stills, several rain catchers, and 1 God. Pi made a raft of many life jackets strung together and tied to the bow of the boat; this became his safe place where he knew Richard Parker could not get him. Pi began to train Richard Parker to take a submissive role and was soon able to assert himself as the alpha animal so they could share the lifeboat.

Pi and Richard Parker finally reached land... Mexico. Richard Parker headed into the jungle without a backward glance. Hours later, Pi was found and taken to a hospital. When Pi told his story of survival to Japanese officials who were investigating the shipwreck, they rejected it as unbelievable. Pi told his story again substituting people’s names for the animals. The officials saw the similarities between the two stories and decided they believed the one with the animals; neither story could be proved and neither story explained the shipwreck. Pi, Piscine Molitor Patel, Indian citizen, has an astounding story of courage and endurance in the face of extraordinarily difficult and tragic circumstances.

The book in a comparison to the movie...At the 85th Academy Awards, the movie received 11 nominations and 4 awards. When the writer realized the animal story may be an allegory for the human story, Pi says that it does not matter which story was true because his family died either way.

The author, Yang Martell, summarized his book in three statements: “Life is a story.”; “You can choose your story.”; and “A story with God is better story.”

## Peru City Council *continued from page 9*

spur from the highway to Casey’s, 2) putting up a sign at the home currently owned by the Wyckoffs. Cate is a Council member. Mayor Pease noted that it was expensive.

Councilmember Marty Peregoy has been accepted by Council as an Independent Contractor for the Grant-writing coordinator duties. This is an interim position and will be for three (3) months. The grant coordinator position is VERY important to Peru’s success and future. The City is taking applications for a Grant Coordinator. Please call the City Hall at 402-872-6685 or [cityclerkcityofperu@gmail.com](mailto:cityclerkcityofperu@gmail.com) for more information.

The street will be closed within the KJ Whitehorse bar area for two events. There will be a street dance on July 22 and Midget Wrestling on August 16. Mark your calendars and remember the area from the corner of 5th and Main to 607 5th will be closed off to through traffic starting at 5 pm both dates.

## Cemetery Auxiliary

Theresa Westfall

Peru Cemetery Auxiliary’s Annual Memorial Day Fundraiser was a pancake feed again for 2023. Four volunteers, including Dave and Susan Pease, Marty Peregoy and Theresa Westfall, served pancakes, scrambled eggs, and sausages to nearly 200 individuals in the community. This was the biggest turnout the auxiliary has seen in the past few years. Phil Wemhoff, grounds keeper for the cemetery, displayed a bench made by Arcs and Sparks that Phil has donated to the cemetery, as some existing benches in the cemetery have deteriorated and need replacing. The bench has been installed and can be seen at the cemetery. Some of the donations from this year’s fundraiser will fund additional benches to be installed for cemetery visitors. If you are interested in donating funds for additional benches, donations are appreciated at any time and can be mailed to: Peru Cemetery Auxiliary c/o Theresa Westfall, PO Box 453, Peru, NE 68421. Peru Cemetery Auxiliary would like to thank all those who came out to donate in person or mailed in donations for the fundraiser.



## Abatement Action

Angela Allgood

City Council voted action be taken on 600 5th Street and 913 6th street as a nuisance and shall be removed by the property owner or representative. If the property owner fails to do so within sixty (60) days, the City of Peru is permitted to clean-up and remove property and structures. The cost of clean-up by the City shall be charged to the property owners.

The owners of 909 6th Street were at the meeting and Council took action to let the owners enter into a rehabilitation agreement with the City. The City is allowing the owners to clean up and remove property and structures that are a nuisance at their own cost. The owners were given no less than sixty (60) days. If the owner does not show progress towards the rehabilitation to the nuisance property, the terms of the agreement state that the City can abate the property and assess costs to the property owner or the real estate.

Morgan Ritchie, City Attorney reported to PCN;

1) The actions taken by the Council on 600 5th Street and 913 6th street were (a) Ordering that the property located at 600 5th Street, Peru, including structures thereon are a nuisance and said nuisance shall be removed and abated, and (b) Ordering that the property owner or a representative thereof be required to remove and abate the nuisance from the described premises, and if the property owner fails to do so within sixty (60) days, the City of Peru is permitted to clean-up and remove property and structures constituting the nuisance on the premises, and the cost of clean up by the City shall be charged to the property owners and the subject real estate pursuant to Neb rev stat. 18-1722.

2) The actions taken by the Council on 909 6th Street under (a) were the same, but for (b) the Order was that the property owner or a representative thereof remove and abate the nuisance from the premises, giving the property owner at least sixty (60) days to abate the nuisance from the premises, and if the property owner or a representative thereof fails to do so, the City of Peru, is permitted to clean up and remove the property and structures constituting the nuisance on the premises, and the cost of clean-up by the City shall be charged to the property owners and the subject real estate pursuant to Neb Rev Stat 18-1722, subject to a rehabilitation agreement being signed by both the City and the property owner, giving the property owner more time to abate the property so long as they can make a showing that progress towards rehabilitation is being made, with a term stating that if the property owner fails to comply with the rehabilitation agreement the City may abate the property, assessing the costs to the property owner or the real estate.

3) The next step is for the City to send out bids. The buildings will need an asbestos inspection done before the structures are demolished. This does not mean that the City will own these properties. The properties will still belong to the record title holders, who will still be required to take care of their property. However, costs of the City doing this work will be assessed to the property owners and/or assessed to the real estate via special assessment (which attaches a lien on the property). If the special assessment goes unpaid, the City may foreclose on that special assessment. If the property is foreclosed upon, there would be a sheriff's sale of the property and the proceeds of the sale, up to the special assessment amount, would be awarded to the City.



St. Clara's Catholic Church  
604 6th Street

Pastor Fr. Timothy Danek  
Mass - Sunday 8:30 am

Confessions - Sunday 8:00-8:20 am



Northridge Church  
808 5th Street

Pastor Daniel Hutchison  
Services - Sunday 10:00 am



Peru Community Church  
520 Nebraska Street

Pastors Raymond & Rebecca Girard  
Services - Sunday 10:45 am



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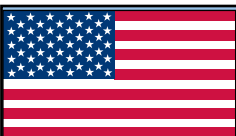


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**The Average Joe . com**

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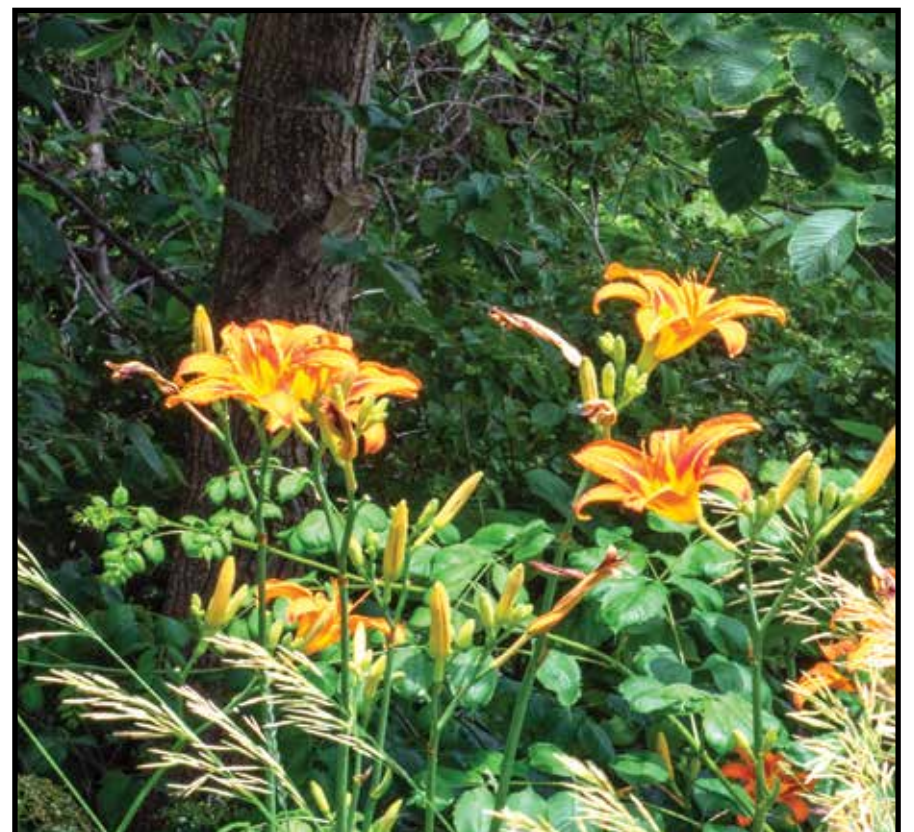


**DEMOCRACY WORKS.**



**We have lines waiting.**

**Waiting to get in.**



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Turnkey Business Opportunity.  
Steakhouse & Lounge, with Gazebo and 4 rental units.



1223 Q St., Auburn \$625,000

28-Room Motel including  
2 bed/2 bath living quarters with open floor plan.

**Both for \$900,000 = \$50,000 discount!**

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This is vacant land on  
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1017 5th Street, Peru  
Must Be Sold Together -- \$140,000  
5 bedroom, 2 bath 2,016 sq ft Home



1023 5th Street, Peru  
5 apartments 1,568 sq ft



1100 Central Av, Auburn \$130,000  
Commercial property, 2 overhead  
doors, office space, corner lot.



910 10th St., Auburn \$20,000  
5 Bedroom, 2 bath.



1604 G Street \$259,000  
3 bedroom, 2 bath on  
approx .35 acre  
2-car garage



820 Central Avenue

[www.americandreamrealestatecompany.com](http://www.americandreamrealestatecompany.com)

Auburn, Nebraska 68305



## WRITER(S) WANTED

Are you a Nebraska City resident?  
If you can write a letter or an email,  
you are invited to volunteer any  
news item(s) of interest for the  
"Arbor City News" section of  
"Your Country Neighbor."  
You will be considered for publication  
in a future monthly issue.  
The deadline for August is July 21st,  
and for September it's August 20th.  
Several writers have improved their  
craft by making contributions to YCN.

Contact information is on page 2.



**Valley View Apartments**  
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**Low Income  
One Bedroom Apartment  
Beautiful View**

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# ARBOR CITY NEWS

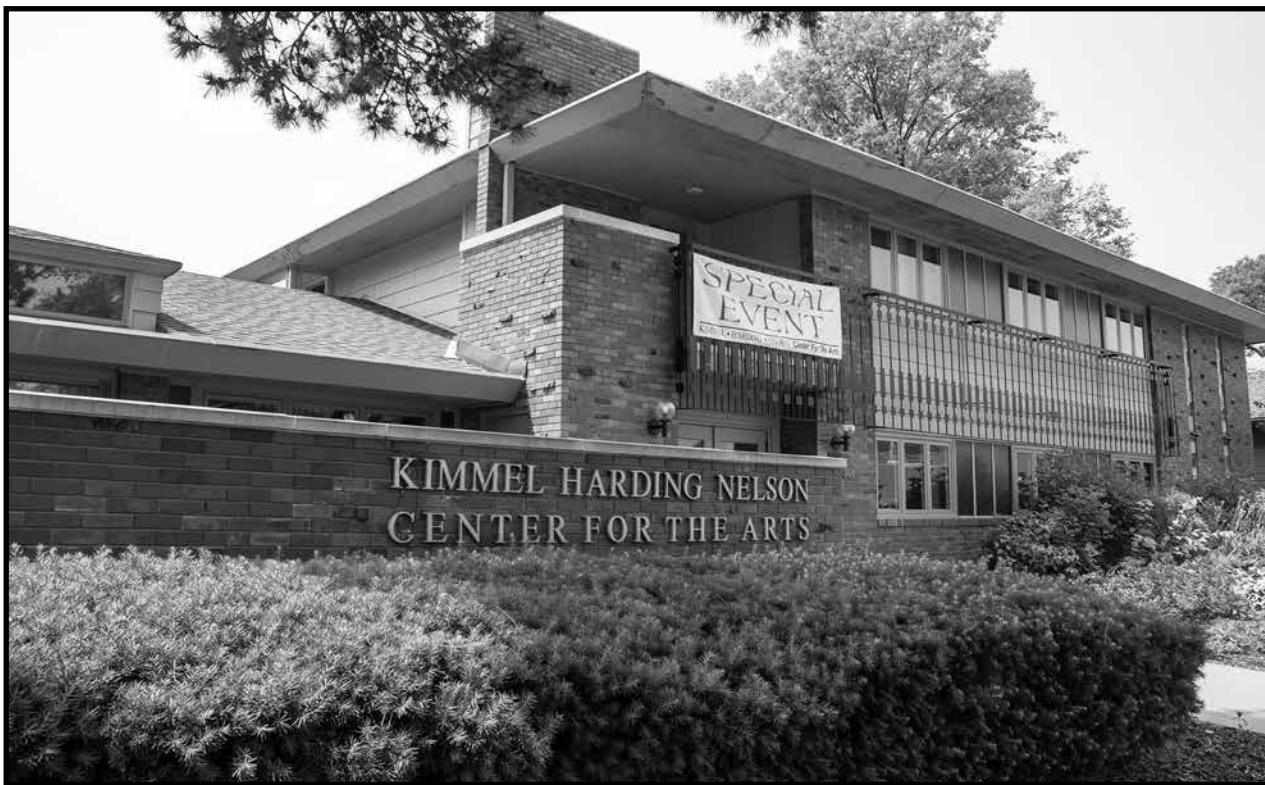
## *News from Nebraska City*

### The Kimmel Foundation

The Richard P. Kimmel and Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation, Inc. is a private philanthropic foundation created by Richard P. Kimmel and his wife, Laurine Kimmel. It became active after Richard Kimmel's death in 1996.

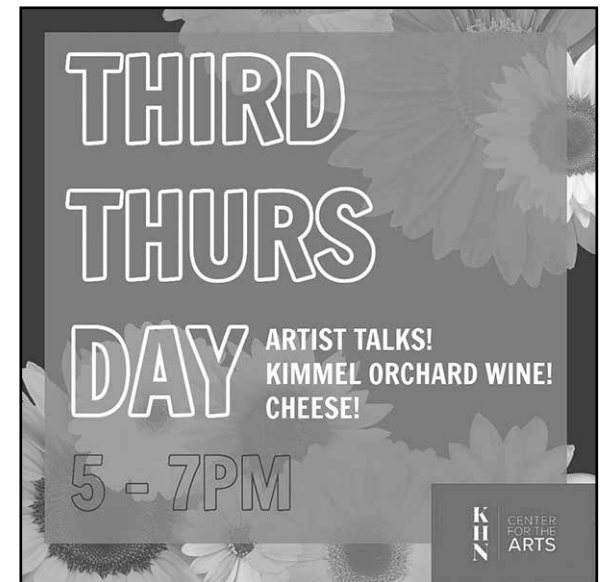
Throughout their 66 years together, the Kimmels worked to improve the quality of life on farms and in communities, and were always mindful of the needs of the less fortunate. The Foundation they created helps ensure that their lifelong ideals will benefit many more in generations to come.

Today, the Kimmel Foundation supports a variety of charitable causes in Nebraska and Iowa including youth organizations and agricultural programs, higher education and public schools, interpretive history projects, libraries, the visual and performing arts, health services and academic scholarships.



The Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts is a program of the Richard P. Kimmel and Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation, receiving full financial support and administrative oversight from the foundation.

For more information, please visit the following website;  
<https://www.kimmelfoundation.org>



June 15, 5 - 7 PM KHN Center for the Arts  
801 Third Corso

### Mission & History

The mission of the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts is to support established and emerging writers, visual artists and composers by providing working and living environments that allow uninterrupted time for work, reflection and creative growth and to present and support arts-related programming that expands public awareness and appreciation of the arts.

Since 2001, KHN has hosted more than 50 working artists each year which include a combination of visual artists, writers, composers, and interdisciplinary artists. Each has found privacy in which to create along with ample opportunities to interact with fellow artists in a vibrant and friendly community located in the rolling bluff country of eastern Nebraska.

The Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts is a program of the Richard P. Kimmel and Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation.



# ARBOR CITY NEWS

## *News from Nebraska City's Morton-James Public Library*

923 1st Corso, Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410

**July 2023**

**Treestock** Come see the Library area at Treestock!

Enjoy the Bubble Station and receive free 4th of July grab bags while supplies last!

Saturday, July 1 4-7 pm at Steinhart Park Central Avenue side.

### **Writer's Workshop**

Join us to get feedback on your own writing and to learn more about the craft of writing! Everyone is welcome to join in this series of workshops!

Saturday, July 1 10:00 AM

### **Morton- James Public Library Closed**

Tuesday, July 4

**Craft Take and Make Kits available at the Library during each week of July.**

### **Beach Themed Story Time**

Wednesday, July 5 10:00 AM

### **Chess Club**

Every Thursday 4:30-6:00 PM

### **Ice Cream Themed Story Time**

Wednesday, July 12 10:00 AM

### **Farmers Market Story & Craft Time**

Thursday, July 13 4:30 PM

### **Writer's Workshop Special Guest Matt Mason, Nebraska State Poet**

Join us to get feedback on your own writing and to learn more about the craft of writing! Everyone is welcome to join in this series of workshops! Saturday, July 15 10:00 AM

### **Book Club**

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

Tuesday, July 18 2:00 PM

### **Story Time & Sidewalk Chalk Activity**

Wednesday, July 19 10:00 AM

### **Evening Book Club**

Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt

Wednesday, July 19 5:30 PM

### **Paint Together-Summer Besties**

Join us to paint a canvas picture...all materials provided and free to everyone 8 years and older. Refreshments will be provided. Must register 402-873-5609, limited spots available.

Saturday, July 22 10 am – Noon

### **Circus Themed Story Time**

Wednesday, July 26 10:00 AM

### **Farmers Market Story & Craft Time**

Thursday, July 27 4:30 PM

### **Writer's Workshop**

Join us to get feedback on your own writing and to learn more about the craft of writing!

Everyone is welcome to join in this series of workshops!

Saturday, July 29 10:00 AM

All activities are at MJPL, 923 1st Corso unless otherwise indicated.

Donna S. Kruse, Director  
Morton-James Public Library

923 1st Corso

Nebraska City, NE 68410

Office: 402-873-5609

Email: [dkruse@nebraskacity.com](mailto:dkruse@nebraskacity.com)

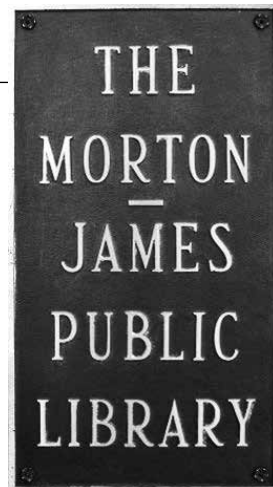
[www.morton-jamespubliclibrary.com](http://www.morton-jamespubliclibrary.com)

"Home of Arbor Day, Where Great Ideas Grow"

**July 2023**

**Your Country Neighbor**

**15**





# ARBOR CITY NEWS

*Summer Fun From Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce*

## BEATING THE HEAT WITH A SUMMER FULL OF ACTIVITIES WHY THIS SMALL TOWN WORKS HARD AND PLAYS HARD

It's summertime in Nebraska City, and like many small towns in the Midwest, the days are filled with the sounds of chirping birds, growling lawn mowers, and the joyful shrieks of children at play.

July is a month to slow down; the year is half gone. For those who have kids at home, the busy-ness of school is on pause. And while there may be a camp or two scheduled, ball and swim programs are wrapping up, meaning more lazy nights at home.

With nearly six more hours of daylight than during the winter months, July is the perfect time to create new habits. Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce Marketing Director Tammy Partsch says the NCTC office thinks about the extra sunlight when planning summer activities.

**“By offering a variety of events and activities for our residents and tourists alike, we are creating a community that can grow into the future,” Partsch said.**

“We want to help lay the foundation for an active and healthy lifestyle,” Partsch said. “By offering a variety of events and activities for our residents and tourists alike, we are creating a community that can grow into the future.”

Summer activities include a leisure pickleball league to take advantage of the new courts, installed last fall thanks to a grant from the Steinhart Foundation. The Steinhart Aquatic Center itself has expanded hours for adult lap swim and water aerobics. The local golf courses offer league nights and tournaments for players of all skill levels.

For families, the Downtown Summer Movie Series offers free entertainment on Saturday nights. The Morton-James Public Library's Summer Reading Programs are geared towards readers of all ages. Nebraska City's museums are filled with educational and unique displays.

Finally, local retailers come together every July for the Summer Sidewalk Sales. This event (July 20-22, 2023) is a bargain shopper's delight!

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



**ABOVE:** The Pickleball courts in Steinhart Park, which opened in the fall of 2022, are utilized nearly every day.



**BELOW:** Nebraska City boasts three golf courses.



**LEFT:** Local retailers participate in the Summer Sidewalk Sales - this year, the event is July 20-22.

**RIGHT:** The Downtown Summer Movie Series offers a free outdoor screening of a family-friendly film every Saturday night during June and July.



# Summer fun in Nebraska City!



TOURISM & COMMERCE, INC.

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



## NEBRASKACITY.COM



A Customer leaves the Farmers Market, June 22.



“Heartland Workers Center” Ribbon Cutting Ceremony  
Central 611 Professional Building



Nebraska City Farmers Market, Thursdays, 3:45 - 6:00

810 1st Avenue, through August 24th



# ARBOR CITY NEWS

## News from Nebraska City

### What did you have for Breakfast Today?

Submitted by Mark Kattelman

A strong connection has recently been discovered between an unhealthy breakfast and many health-related problems.

Our body consists of 100 trillion cells which need 114 various nutrients.

What you ate yesterday consists of two major groups:

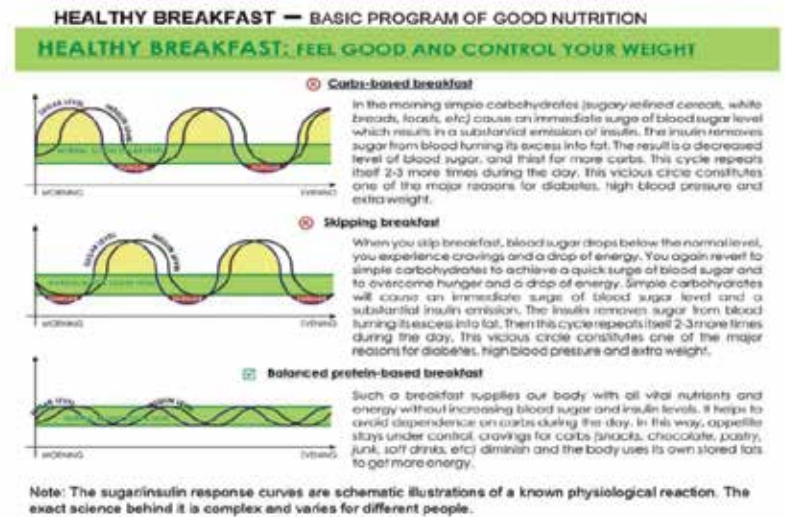
The first supplies the ENERGY (proteins, fats, carbs)

The second supplies BUILDING MATERIALS (amino acids, vitamins, minerals)

You spent energy yesterday when you were awake, and your body used the building materials at night to regenerate itself. Additionally, your body has used over 1 liter of water during the night through breathing, sweating and the morning visit to the bathroom. So your body wakes up on “empty”. Thus, your body wants you to get all the nutrients, energy and water it used up yesterday to “refuel” for today! You may not feel hungry or thirsty in the morning, but it’s only a matter of time.

There are 3 types of “modern” breakfasts:

1. Carb-based breakfast
2. Skipping breakfast
3. Balanced, protein-based, breakfast



Share this experience with others by sending this link;  
[www.yourcountryneighbor.com](http://www.yourcountryneighbor.com)



The “FLYOVERS” performed at TREESTOCK in Nebraska City on July 1st, as part of the weekend Independence Day Celebration in Steinhart Park.

# J.J. Palmtag INC

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# ARBOR CITY NEWS

*News from Nebraska City*



1651 South 11th St.  
Nebraska City  
**402-873-6925**  
Debra Chesterman, Owner



**Summer Savings Event for the Month of July**  
**Buy a 2013 or Newer Car, Truck, or Suv and**  
**Receive a 6 month Unlimited Mileage Extended**  
**(Warranty) Service Contract AND a \$100 Gas Card!**

“Offer valid on a variety of in stock options. Offer valid only with purchase. Financing available with approved credit.”

- Flexible monthly payments with approved credit.
- New inventory
- Great Selection
- Located next to Arby's

If we don't have it,  
we can find it for you.

Tell them  
*Your Country Neighbor*  
sent you!



Arbor Lodge with Peonies in bloom, May 17, 2006



# Peru State College Annual Alumni Banquet in Omaha on June 8th



Conversation



Cuisine




Community



## Registration for Summer & Fall Terms Going on Now!

Summer Classes Start May 15  
 Fall Classes Start Aug. 21  
[southeast.edu/admissions](http://southeast.edu/admissions)



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**FANKHAUSER, NELSEN,  
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 Three convenient locations in Southeast Nebraska

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Humboldt 713 4th Street	402.862.2321
Nebraska City 620 Central Avenue	402.873.3715



## Tired of Multiple Trips for Prescriptions?

**MEDICATION SYNCHRONIZATION**  
 1 Trip, 1 Day a Month  
 “Med Sync” for All Your Refills!

## Cody’s USAVE is now in Two Locations!

**Caring For You, And About You**  
 Dedicated To Providing The Best Healthcare for You and Your Family.

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[www.codysusave.com](http://www.codysusave.com)  
 Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 - 5:30, Sat 8:30 - Noon

**Nebraska City (402) 873-3397 • 1821 S 11 St**  
[www.codysusavenebraskacity.com](http://www.codysusavenebraskacity.com)  
 Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 - 6:00, Sat 8:30 - 1:00



## America Is For All Of Us!

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

Years ago, one of my favorite poets, Henry Van Dyke, wrote a patriotic poem which I have remembered and valued. This poem is about love of country. I believe that we need that today in our country. For some, patriotism is “out of style.” It has been left in past times as a memory rather than a current practice in our lives.

We all recall reading about the Boston tea party, the Revolutionary War, and the fight for liberty from England. How do we as citizens exhibit our patriotism now?

In this poem, Henry Van Dyke, an educator and a diplomat, tells the story of just returning from Europe. He is thrilled to be on his way home to the United States. He feels that this country has something to offer that all the European countries do not. America, for him, is looking toward the future while Europe is still in the past. He contrasts his beloved America with European countries. See the following:

### America For Me

Henry Van Dyke

‘Tis fine to see the Old World and travel up and down Among the famous palaces and cities of renown, To admire the crumbly castles and the statues and kings. But now I think I’ve had enough of antiquated things.

So it’s home again, and home again, America for me! My heart is turning home again and there I long to be. In the land of youth and freedom, beyond the ocean bars, Where the air is full of sunlight and the flag is full of stars.

Oh, London is a man’s town, there’s power in the air; And Paris is a woman’s town, with flowers in her hair; And it’s sweet to dream in Venice, and it’s great to study Rome; But when it comes to living there is no place like home.

I like the German fir-woods in green battalions drilled; I like the gardens of Versailles with flashing fountains filled; But, oh, to take your hand, my dear, and ramble for a day In the friendly western woodland where Nature has her way!

I know that Europe’s wonderful, yet something seems to lack! The Past is too much with her, and the people looking back. But the glory of the Present is to make the Future free - We love our land for what she is and what she is to be.

Oh, it’s home again, and home again, America for me! I want a ship that’s westward bound to plough the rolling sea, To the blessed Land of Room Enough, beyond the ocean bars, Where the air is full of sunlight, and the flag is full of stars.

---

Share this experience with friends  
by sending them this link;

**[www.yourcountryneighbor.com](http://www.yourcountryneighbor.com)**

## Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Not only are there “sights” through my window on Fifth Street, there are “sounds.” And lately they have been sounds of Summer.

Some sounds are the usual, like dogs barking, but there is a different chattering in the trees of baby birds begging their parents to feed them. Their parents try to ignore the kids in order that they learn to feed themselves.

There’s bicycle traffic with kids I didn’t know lived in town, the new neighbor’s children playing on a new swing set in their backyard, and the annoying hum of construction machines.

I hear an occasional tree frog, and soon there will be cicadas. Evenings bring the cricket-chirping, and in early morning the owl is a welcome sound for me. The Robins wake up first, calling the sun to rise even before the rooster..

On weekends, motorcycle traffic passes by, heading downtown, and group get-togethers bring gossip. Leo (remember Leo?) used to complain about their “discussions” down at the old Cottonwood Cafe that Esther used to own. I asked Leo, “Why do you think they do that Leo?” He responded, “Oh, I just don’t think they have enough to do.” More appropriate chatter comes from backyard grilling of hamburgers and the all American hot dog.

In late June I hear fireworks set off by individuals impatient for the 4th of July, an annual catastrophe for the canine community, but a visual wonder for the more human animal.

Summer also brings the not so pleasant weather sounds of thunderstorms; lightning cracking and thunder booming, sometimes accompanied by ominous sirens of warning.

More welcome is the gentle rain in late afternoons; a monotone symphony of a hundred thousand splashes just outside my window on the streets and sidewalks. Also pleasant is the rustling sound of leaves during a Summer breeze.

Listen to the warm. Enjoy the sounds of Summer. January’s snow is silent, but its howling is ominous. And there is nothing like the precious present.





Nebraska Sunset

You can order Sheila's latest book of poetry;  
"Through my lens:  
Poetry and Photos, January through December,  
a year full of wonder and beauty."

by Sheila Tinkham  
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others by sending this link;  
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## July

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

You captivate me, July  
Named after Julius Caesar  
Hot dogs roasted, hamburgers sizzling on the grill  
And if I am lucky, Hershey's chocolate melted on a marshmallow  
S'more indeed

Yet the fireworks, the stars dazzling  
This young country  
Created by the Declaration of independence  
And John Hancock defiantly writing large and grand  
Ready to be hung on the noose as traitors  
I tip my hat to you  
The brave men who risked all  
Betsy Ross who sewed the flag  
And our anthem created during the war of 1812  
The flag waving fiercely from Fort McHenry  
And Francis Scott Key wrote, "O say can you see...  
What so proudly we hail'd"

But what brings tears to my eyes was that flag  
Was held aloft by American soldier after soldier  
Torn to shreds by cannons  
That flag continued to fly  
And the British never got the surrender of America at Fort McHenry  
God bless America!  
Happy Birthday!



P o e t r y

by Devon Adams, Peru

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SPACE TO SPARE

The infinite blue dome of sky is a vast silk sheet waving above the old hill near the river. The horizon line marks the edge where land blends into distance, and reality is lost in a haze of dust and vapor. The weathered stones set in rows have been in place in this cemetery for so many years that names and dates are hard to read. New markers come to join the crowd now and then, as people reach a turning point. They go to a different plane of existence that is just beyond our perception, over there where the sky fades into dreams, and there is so much space for all of us.

PAY ATTENTION!

Have you ever driven ten miles and then realized you didn't see it go by? You were on auto pilot but your mind was somewhere else. Do we ever know exactly where we are in the course of a day? Are you back at home in your childhood on on a really bad day in your life? Or are you lost in the glory of a football game on a Friday night? Do you ever wonder if what you do today has it's roots in how your family functioned? Can you be present in the moment without your past thoughts intruding? Food for thought: and it may be food you hated, like brussel's sprouts!

MULBERRY LANE

The country lane is lined with trees that reach long leafy fingers over the dusty track to touch each other. They are family and have lived here for so long that some fence posts are wrapped in living bark. In this month of summer, berries dangle like ornaments from branches drooping from the weight, as birds pop the purples in their mouths. The doe and her twins are eating fallen fruit, as Mama raccoon and her babies climb and test the limbs before they reach for more. Come on over and join the picnic!

By Artist, Devon Adams  
PENCIL PORTRAITS OF  
PEOPLE, ANIMALS, & BUILDINGS  
*Drawn from your photographs.*



Send to:  
Devon Adams  
P.O. Box 192  
Peru, NE 68421

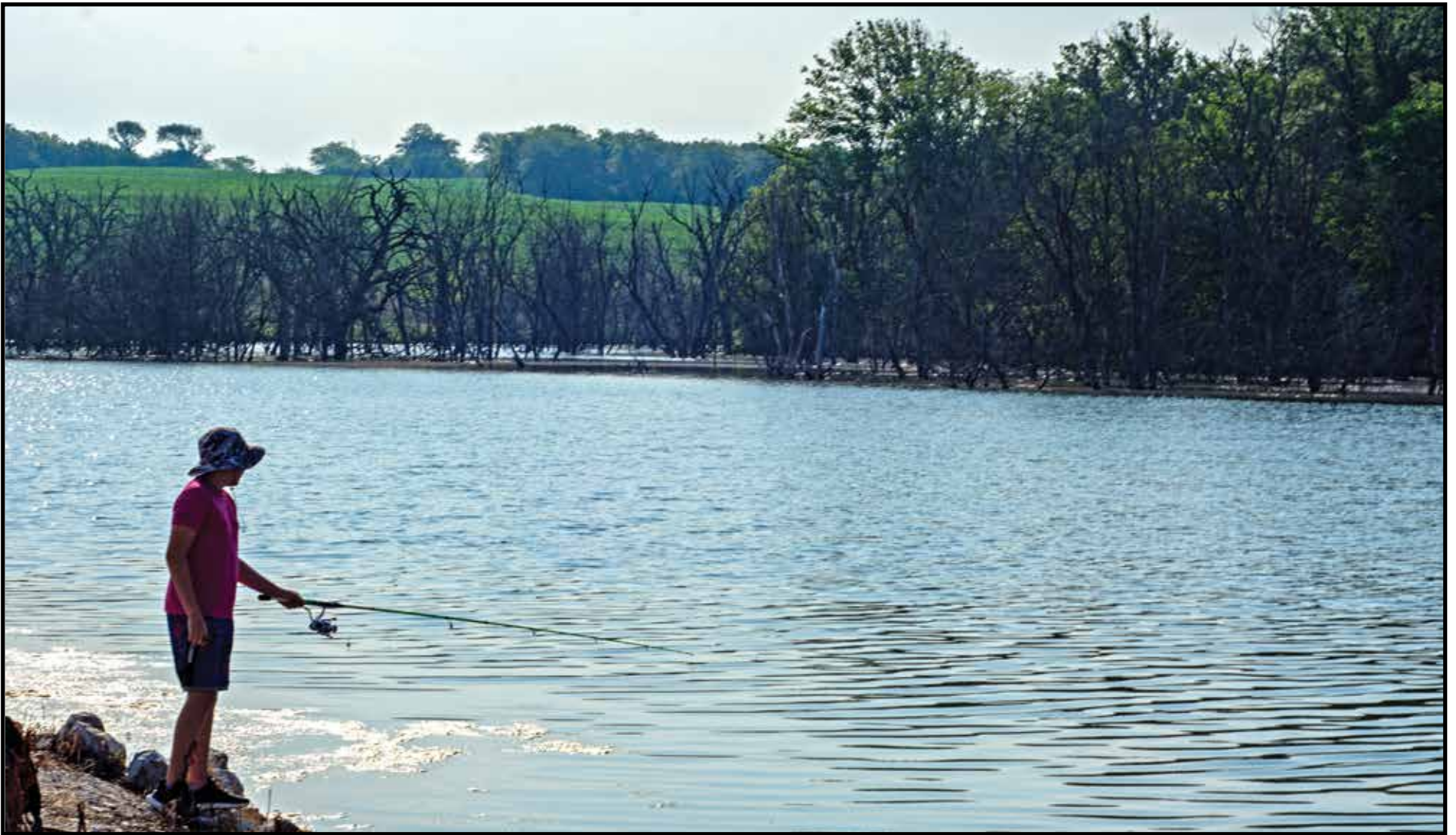
402-209-9377      8x10 mat size \$25.00  
adamsdevon07@gmail.com      11x14 mat size \$35.00  
16x20 mat size \$55.00

FLY FOREVER!

The noise on the block sounds like guns, but peace isn't always quiet. Celebrate our freedom loudly and long, and be prepared to fight for what is right and fair. Battles also come with words for ammo, and truth can be a casualty if we don't pay attention to the facts. Our flag is all we need to remember why we fought for independence in our hearts and minds and lives.

POLLEN SOUP

Take a deep breath of summer at your own risk. The air is full of things your grandmother didn't even know existed: microscopic bits and pieces that lodge up there in all the halls and spaces inside our skulls. They get in and don't want to come out. So we fill our counters full of sprays and pills and prescriptions for shots that hurt, and hope for better days when breathing is easy and not so sneezy!



Duck Creek Recreation Area, June 4, 2023

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