

Your
November
2024

Country Neighbor

Free!
Take One



Peru State wins its Homecoming game against William Penn, 28 to 21. Photos page 6.

PSC wins its Season Opener at home. 85 - 54 Photos page 3.

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



It wasn't Arbor Day, but it was tree-planting-day October 2nd in Peru for the Rob Walker Memorial Christmas Tree.

More on page 8.

Volume Twenty-five, Number Eleven

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November 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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www.yourcountryneighbor.com

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About the Cover Photos

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Peru residents, PSC Bobcat alumni, and families of the football players from various parts of the country enjoyed a hard-fought victory for PSC Homecoming, 2024. And the parade was the best I’ve witnessed in decades. Kudos to whomever gathered the bands! I prefer music to sirens.

October 24th was the earliest home game for a Peru State Basketball season that I can remember. There were many fans in the “stands” and it was an entertaining game. I’m looking forward to many more “home” performances in the coming months.

Peru now has a “permanent” Christmas tree downtown near Western National Bank’s gazebo. The “Rob Walker Memorial Christmas Tree” will hopefully light up a page in the December issue of “Your Country Neighbor,” depending on when lit. But most certainly, it will provide a warm glow in the hearts of those of us who knew Rob.

This Month’s Writers & Contributors

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Thank You!

Nourishing November!

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

November is the month of harvests and Thanksgiving meals. And an appropriate time to give thanks for everything and to everyone.

I am thankful for my writers who volunteer monthly messages to their readers. If you would like to thank your favorite writer, send an e-mail to countryneighbor@windstream.net. I will forward it to the writer. Believe me, they don’t get enough appreciation, and November is an excellent time to thank them.

Now pour a second cup of coffee and peruse “Your Country Neighbor” with its magazine articles and poetry, rural community news and festivals, and regional photos of wildlife and landscapes.

Clip the **Valentino’s coupon** on page 12 and
carry it with 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

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

Ghandi

Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

Greetings from sunny Arizona! I guess the weather is pretty nice back in Nebraska right now, too. We drove straight into that Dust Bowl of a headwind all the way down here as we caravanned with my sister, Linda, helping her move to Tucson. Hubby was in the pilot car and we two women tried to keep up. The wind was treacherous, as evidenced by at least two serious semi accidents in Kansas on our first travel day, one of which we drove past only minutes after it happened. Thank God for divine timing on that. In addition to the hazard of swaying RVs and tandem semi-trailers, the wind really cut into the gas mileage. But, we kept it in perspective, being thankful for 21st century modes of travel instead of Conestoga wagons, particularly when the GPS took us on a short-cut which turned out to be a four-mile stretch of unpaved county road, complete with washboard ruts and patchy asphalt.

Both vehicles had GPS navigation systems, but I still tried to keep Hubby in sight to be sure we ended up at the same place. I know from previous experience that operator error can still happen, even when both drivers are allegedly using the identical navigation directions. I won't point any fingers, except to say that I was not the one who committed the operator error. Anyway, Hubby had agreed to keep his speed to five miles over the limit to keep us in sight of each other, but I think he fudged a little. It seemed like we were continually falling behind while Hubby was passing everyone he caught up with. Pretty soon, instead of being right behind him, there were three or four vehicles between us. That led to a minor snag. Hubby slid through a left-turn intersection just before a string of vehicles coming our way required us to wait. It was a fairly long string. But Hubby was monitoring our presence – or lack thereof – in the rear-view mirror, and being a gentleman (most of the time), he pulled over and waited for us. More than once, to be honest.

It can be a little lonely driving solo in the lead vehicle. But Hubby had hands-free phone technology, so he called on a pretty predictable time-table, keeping up a somewhat normal stream of conversation.

Hubby: Have you seen any antelope yet?

Me: (sad voice) Not yet. But Linda thinks she saw a baby one dead on the side of the road.

Hubby: Ignore the GPS for a bit and just follow me through this re-route.

Me: (skeptical tone of voice) Okay....

Hubby: Do you see the rainbow on the right?

Diary, Continued on page 4 >>>>>

PSC Basketball



PSC Volleyball

The Peru State Volleyball team defeated the MidAmerica Nazarene Pioneers in an exciting match after falling in the first two sets.



<<<<< Diary, *Continued from page 3*

Me: Yes. It's been awhile since I've seen one. I hope it is raining at home.

Me: (a few minutes later) Do you see the double rainbow straight ahead?

Hubby: Wow. That's cool.

Me (speaking to my sister): Look, you can see the trees and landscape on the far side of the rainbow, like you're looking right through it. How is it that you can see through a rainbow, but even after you drive past the landmark you were seeing through the rainbow, the rainbow itself is still ahead of you? Far out, man.

O.K., I didn't actually say "far out, man" at the time, but it seems appropriate.

We spent our first travel night at Dalhart, Texas, home of the XIT Ranch and Wood Fire Grill. If you ever travel that way, I personally recommend the Grill. I also recommend nose plugs or mouth breathing on your westward way out of town. There may be more head of cattle in finishing lots at Dalhart than anywhere else in Texas.

Our second night, we blew into Las Cruces, New Mexico, the site of Hubby's panic attack and near heart-attack. I may be exaggerating a little on the heart attack, but the panic was genuine. Linda and I were having breakfast the next morning when Hubby called from our room (frantic tone of voice!) to say he couldn't find his wallet anywhere. It's actually a money-clip, making it easier than a wallet for someone to pick up and stash in a pocket. Anyway, Hubby remembered that he had used it to tip the bartender the evening before, but nobody was on duty in the bar on the breakfast shift. Linda (pondering tone of voice) said that she remembered seeing that money clip the evening before, but where, exactly? Then inspiration hit her. She recalled that we had sat and chatted in the lounge area by the fireplace after supper and that Brad had it in his hand. She abandoned her breakfast and scooted right to the chair Hubby had been sitting in. Mercy of mercies! The money clip was in the chair, partially wedged between the cushion and the arm. All Hubby's cash, plastic and driver's license were secure. Thank God, again, for divine providence.

We have three more days here in Tucson before heading back home. I'm not superstitious, but I plan to be extra cautious. I don't know how many more heavenly favors we can expect on this trip.

On that note, I wish you all a Thanksgiving holiday marked by real gratitude for the obvious, unusual blessings in your life as well as the everyday gifts of family, faith and friends.

PSC Homecoming Parade Photos



Happy Thanksgiving

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PSC Homecoming Victory 28 - 21 Over William Penn University



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“Re-enactment” Old Time Autumn Days



It appears that Brownville’s event included this entire family.



The Lyceum Cafe in Brownville is Open Tuesday through Sunday 11am - 2pm
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PERU CITY NEWS

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Planting the “Rob Walker Memorial Christmas Tree”
Shirley Robbins “breaks ground” on October 2nd, 2024.



Harvest Near Peru, Nebraska

On Nov. 5, “Write in” Cate Wyckoff for Mayor of Peru, Nebraska

Stephen Hassler

I believe that it’s vital for Peru that Cate Wyckoff be our next Mayor. We need to write in her name on our November ballots for Mayor of the City of Peru. People in charge don’t always make clear the registration deadlines, nor even if one can register as a write-in candidate.

I expose corruption when I see it, and I see that the old crowd has been violating zoning ordinances again, plus they continuously try to infiltrate and improperly influence Peru’s City Council, it’s committees, and maintenance staff. When not in control, they complain and harass volunteers until good people have quit, and in some cases have even moved out of town. And now history is being repeated, but some candidates are unaware of this history. To be effective, our elected officials must be aware of the mistakes of the past so as not to repeat them.

I sat down with Cate Wyckoff and I am convinced that she is aware of Peru’s problems and what this city needs right now. I can’t in good conscience advertise for anyone whom I believe to be unqualified or under the influence of the wrong people, because the readers of this paper have given me their trust.

As always, one must take action in order to make great things happen. So we must write in our candidate’s name in the blank below those names on the ballot because getting on the ballot is almost a secretive process that benefits the incumbents.

To see Cate Wyckoff’s candidate profile, go to page 15.

VOTE FOR TWO

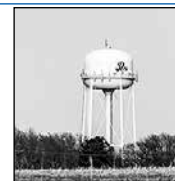
On Nov 5

“Write in” Steve Hassler for
Council Member of Peru.

See why on page 11

“Write in” Amy Arms for
Council Member of Peru.

See her profile in the
Oct. 10, Nemaha County Herald.



The Hankie – A Pocket Wonder

Marty Peregoy

My dad was born in 1922, and the only time I saw him without a handkerchief was in the hospital a few days before he died. When I was seven and learning some responsibility within our household, my mom taught me how to iron my dad's handkerchiefs, and I loved doing it.

It was about that time that I got my first hankie as a birthday gift from my best friend, Patti-Jo. It had two tiger-striped kittens on it, and I still have it. It's tucked up in the miniature Lane cedar chest that girls of my generation got when they graduated high school.

When I was eight, I went to my first funeral. My cousin's Grandma Nora understood the importance of a hankie, even if you were just a wee girl. She took me into her bedroom to the antique dresser and brought out a flowered hankie for me to take to the funeral of my Uncle Frank. I had never met him, and I don't believe I was disposed to cry at that solemn occasion, but if I had been, I would have been prepared.

After my mom gave birth to my twin brothers, she didn't get to come on the camping trips that my older brother and I enjoyed with my dad and the dog at Lake McConaughey. We missed her something terrible, although dad made a mean pancake for breakfast and a passable baloney sandwich and Mrs. Grass's soup for lunch.

Occasionally he'd let us snoop around the bait and gift shop at the dam, and it was there that I picked out a hankie as a gift for my mom. It was white cotton with the floss that changed colors every inch or so embroidered around the edge. To a young girl, it was beautiful. To my mother, I'm sure it was somewhat gawdy. Nevertheless, it was the thought that counted.

About the time I started to age and attend funerals on a more regular basis, I remembered the example of Grandma Nora and my Dad. It was at Dad's funeral that I switched from carrying a pack of tissues to carrying a hankie. I knew that tissues just wouldn't be up to the job of handling my grief at losing him.

Now, when I go to a funeral, I carry several new, neatly pressed hankies for the women in the family of the deceased. I tuck them into their palm in the receiving line mid hug, and I know that they know that it is a sign of my sincerest sympathy: I can't take away the pain, but I can help them cope in one small way.

I shared this story with several friends on Facebook not too long ago, and it was amazing how many people had hankie memories. I invited them to share a memory, and in return I sent them a new hankie that I had ironed to within an inch of its life.

I found out that there is a language of hankies that I never knew about. During the Victorian era, hankies were used to communicate in similar ways to the use of a fan.

I also found out that many of my friends' mothers tied their lunch/milk money into a hankie and sent it with them to school. I suppose the hankie kept the coins together in their pockets or lunch pails. I'm sure that a hankie smelling sweetly of Mom also helped in comforting a nervous student that first week of kindergarten.

Hankie Continued on page 10 >>>>>>

Recipes

Marty Peregoy

Not four feet from my computer and my little desk is my collection of recipes. Yes, there are church cookbooks and the annual compendiums of Taste of Home from 1994-2004, courtesy of my aunt Bernadette, who doesn't cook as much as she used to.

But the real treasures on those shelves are the handwritten recipes of my mom and my grandma, as well as those of close relatives and friends who knew their way around the kitchen. I love cookbooks because I love cooking, and even more than that, I love eating. I can read a cookbook for pleasure as easily as I read fiction, picturing how something would look or taste from the words on a page. But cookbooks are more than just maps for producing a tasty dish. They are also historical records of our heritage and our culture.

I'm willing to bet that at every family celebration meal there are recipes linked to generations

Recipes Continued on page 14 >>>>>>

Peru Community Church Fall Festival

Monday, November 4th
Serving Lunch @ 11:00 to 2:00
Sloppy Joes, Salads, Desserts.

Servings for Supper: 5:00 to 7:00
Cheeseburger, Chili, Vegetable Soups,
Salads and Desserts.

Free Will Offering

There will be a Free Will Bake Sale and
a Raffle going on all day.

Drawing for the Raffle Items
will be at 6:45.

By Peru Community Church Women's Guild

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Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

October marked the end of our year and our Foreign Places theme with the book *Tears of the Giraffe* by Alexander McCall Smith; Cecilia Marnell led our discussion. This book is the second book in Smith's *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* series but can stand alone nicely.

As the book begins, we join Mma Ramotswe, the owner of the Detective Agency, and Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni, proprietor of Tlokweng Road Speedy Motors, to find that Mma Ramotswe has agreed to marry Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni and Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni is having a hard time believing that this is true. Does that sound cumbersome? I think it does but that is how Mr. Smith writes in this book; he always uses the characters' complete name, never using a first name or nickname. The storyline of their engagement is only one of the storylines that runs through the book.

The story of *The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency* and their cases is another of the storylines. One case is that of an American mother looking for her son who disappeared in the area ten years ago; she accepts that he is probably dead but even if that were the case, she would like to know what happened to him. The other case is a gentleman who thinks his wife is cheating on him and wants the detective agency to find out what is really happening. Of course, there is a child involved so the situation must be handled delicately. And then there's the secretary at the agency who dreams of becoming a detective.

We also have the story of Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni's maid who is not at all happy to find out that our two main characters are planning to marry. It seems she is not a very good maid as the house she is responsible for is beyond filthy, but Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni doesn't say anything to his maid because he is more than a little intimidated by her; in fact, he is downright afraid of her. Mama Ramotswe does not have the same problem and immediately starts to call the maid's attention to her deficiencies. The maid begins plotting of ways to break up the engagement. If the engagement moves forward, the maid will be unable to conduct her side business that she runs out of her employer's home while he is at work. There has a lucrative side business of entertaining male callers in the home and using her boss' bed for further entertainment purposes. She comes up with a foolproof plan but alas, it seems that the "friends" she enlists to help her have grudges of their own to settle and the plan soon runs afoul.

Then there is the college professor who has been exchanging not entirely wanted advances with his female students in exchange for grades that may have been deserved anyway. He engages in his little blackmail scheme once too often and finds out what it is like to have the tables turned on him.

Let's not forget the storyline of the orphanage and Mrs. Sylvia Potokwane who manages both the children and the business end of things. She could win awards for her fundraising methods. Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni has been running out to the orphanage when he gets a little stressed at his garage and helping to keep their water pumping system operational and the orphanage van running. But will he find himself agreeing to take home two orphans? And talking about Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni's stress...He has two interns at the garage that he has to go back after they are done and redo most of their work. He doesn't know if they will ever be qualified to be mechanics.

All in all, I found all of the side storylines to be a little distracting but most of our group liked the book.

Happy reading!

<<<< *The Hanky, Continued from page 9*

I can still remember my fourth-grade teacher, Miss Carlson, who tucked her hankie inside the band of her wristwatch, as did my Aunt Helen. They would be amused to know that women's garments still do not contain as many handy pockets as men's do.

I have always wondered if the heroes of last century's movies carried two handkerchiefs – one for them to use and one for the distraught young woman they would run into at any second. At the first drop of a tear, out would come the pristine handkerchief, with the words, "Here. Blow!" And the woman would use it. And then return it. That still wrinkles my brow. I can't say that anyone has ever offered me a hanky when I badly needed one other than my dad. It was not only a great sneeze/tear catcher it made a dandy bandage and a great washcloth when combined with a little saliva.

I can remember stopping in a small town for Mass on the way home from a weekend camping trip with my dad. He suggested that I wear his hankie on my head, since I was without a head covering of my own. I declined, probably because I thought he intended me to just set the ironed square atop my head rather than unfold it and drape it.

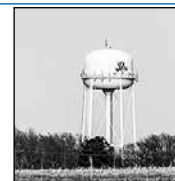
As I write this, I am reminded that my mother brought me a hanky she found in my grandmother's purse after her death. It is a treasured memento of her. She, too, always carried a hankie.

As I sit here reminiscing, I realize that both my purse and my pockets are devoid of hankies. And that's a shame. What a lovely testament to my long-gone relatives if I were to tuck one into my purse. I'll chat with you again next month, I'm off to find a hankie.

PERU CITY NEWS

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Write in Steve Hassler for Council Member of Peru, Nebraska

505 Washington Street, Peru, Nebraska 68421 28 years in Peru

The Peru City Council needs to improve communication between residents and the city office, help direct city growth, and improve communications between the City and Peru State College.

I helped create Planning and Zoning ordinances, was past President of the Zoning Commission, fundraiser for the Peru Depot Trailhead project, Chair of the Peru Community Impact Group (PCIG), and helped bring Terrace Heights Village housing to Nemaha County.

While on the City Council I would address zoning, the budget, city improvement grants, landlord-tenant relations, and city-college relations.

I intend to obtain a utility discount for seniors, and investigate the conceivability of a charter school for Peru. Long term, I will explore how Peru might be a destination for young families, address the needs of seniors, and parents with school age children, develop unused City properties if feasible, and locate unmetered water which is a significant loss of revenue for the City.

Residents know that I am not afraid of public debate, nor am I afraid of confronting those with corrupt values that benefit themselves at the expense of the timid, the elderly, or children. I've had business experience as an insurance agent, realtor, loan officer, publication entrepreneur, instructor at Peru State College, owner of "Peruse Books & More," and owner of "Your Country Neighbor."

I see a need to restore confidence in city government, a need to better communications between the city office and Peru residents, and the need to improve budget accounting. And by the way, these issues must be addressed by the new Mayor of Peru, and that needs to be Cate Wyckoff. Write in Cate Wyckoff for Mayor.

I'm a Nebraska native whose education began in a one-room country school. I am a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha. I am owner-publisher of "Your Country Neighbor," a Southeast Nebraska monthly publication since February 2002. I have lived near the Atlantic Ocean, the foothills of Colorado, the desert of Arizona, and in the hill country of Texas, but my favorite place in the world is my front porch in Peru, Nebraska. Thank you for considering me for Peru City Council.



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

November 2024 Your Country Neighbor 11

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JOHN DEERE



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<<<<< Recipes, *Continued from page 9*

back and the countries they came from as emigrants. In my family, we served Oyster Stew on Christmas Eve for years, even though very few of us ate it. It was a link to my grandfather's Irish heritage, which discouraged Catholics from eating meat on Christmas.

When I was a child, my Dad's Aunt Helen was associated with making poppyseed birthday cakes with caramel frosting, peppernuts for Christmas, and killer pickled beets. She was German, her husband was Czech, and they had no children or grandchildren, so we were happy to stand in for them. I have been searching for the perfect recipes for years, and only recently found pickled beets that tempt me to eat an entire jar.

When my mom's sister, Martha died, it was very important that Chicken Wiggle be served at her funeral luncheon. I had never heard of it, but all of her grandkids and dinner visitors knew that if you had supper at Jack and Martha's house, that was more than likely what you were eating for supper. Her send-off wouldn't have been complete without it.

What I'm realizing is that the time to pass on those treasured recipes is now. Sorting through our recipe collections or starting one not only gives us the opportunity to talk with our extended family about what they have loved, it also provides a way to start new cooks in the family off on the right foot. And if you've been wanting someone younger to take on the family holiday meal, teaching them how to cook all the favorites is the first step.

I encourage you to go through those recipe books that were so precious to someone and find the additions that were hand-written in the margins. Don't pass up the opportunity to really look through that recipe file of your grandma's. You will find the names of her dearest friends written on the corners of the recipe cards.

Recipes link us to our culture, our family, our friends, and our community. I encourage you to share those recipes and the memories that go with them whenever possible.

Chicken Wiggle

- 1 ½ pounds ground pork sausage
- 1 ½ pounds lean ground beef
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 small can/jar chopped pimientos
- 1 can sliced mushrooms
- 1 package dried egg noodles
- 3 or 4 cans cream of chicken soup

Brown beef and sausage with onion, green pepper and celery. Drain grease. Cook noodles according to package directions and drain while meat is browning. Combine meat, remaining veggies, noodles and soup in large bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. Pour into one or more greased casserole dishes. Bake at 350 degrees for an hour.

Making The Old New Again

John Chatelain, Omaha

My connection to Peru dates back to around 1898, when my grandparents, Julius Caesar and Clara Charlotte Chatelain relocated to provide higher education for their children. Grandpa emigrated from Switzerland where he had learned the watch and jewelry trade. For 50 years, the family operated a jewelry store, which stood just south of what is now Western National Bank, on the west side of 5th Street. My dad (Ralph), his two brothers (Verne and Harold) and sister (Ruth) all graduated from the college and had teaching careers. My mother, Maxine, attended Peru State College as did my brothers (Paul, David, Stephen) and I.

About 5 years ago Jean and I were having lunch with President Hanson in Omaha. We understood the college was thriving, but expressed concern about the housing situation in Peru. Dr. Hanson's opinion was that more people would move to town if houses were available. Because we had owned and managed properties in Omaha for a number of years, we felt comfortable taking on a Peru project.

First, Jody Adams of Bernard Realty found the "Deck House" at 1212 7th Street for us. Next, we purchased the beautiful craftsman bungalow at 1121 5th Street, known as the "Fike House." Jean thought the house at 1102 5th Street was cute so we purchased it from Vince Henzel. We only had weekends to work on the properties, so each renovation lasted about 12 months.

Early this year we noticed the sad and lonely old house resting on a trailer just over the hill north of my family farm, which lies on the east edge of Auburn. I contacted Ryan Balsensperger of Ensor Movers, Inc. who indicated the house was available and we were able to acquire lots 4 & 5, Block 197, Neal's Addition (1116 5th Street) to Peru.

The structure made its triumphant entrance into town in June and rolled onto its new foundation on October 2nd. Everyone we have worked with on the project, including OPPD, the Balsenspergers, Kevin Barrett, Chester Bohling, Justin Caspers, Paul Catlett of Catlett Surveying, CB Plumbing, Rimero Gamez, Norman Farmwald and Dave Pieters of Pieters Construction, Inc., have been fantastic. The born-again house will soon make an excellent home for someone.

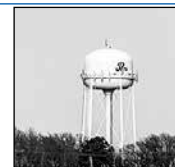
There must be something special about the place, because after all these years of practicing law in Omaha, I am still drawn to Peru State College and the Town of Peru.

Publisher's note; It is intended that the progression of the development of John's "born-again house" be shown in photos in the next issue. Look for them in the Peru City News section of the December issue.

PERU CITY NEWS

Communication • Information • Pride In Community

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



Write In Cate Wyckoff for Mayor on November 5th

Submitted by Cate Wyckoff

Peru needs a strong leader with a solid understanding of finance and management and the willingness to listen to the citizens of Peru to discern their hopes and needs for the future. We need to examine our current situation, both financial and the willingness of the citizens to be involved in the future development of the city. Once we understand where we are, we need to make a solid plan to move forward.

-Elected to Peru City Council in 2022 (resigned in protest of the previous City Clerk's refusal to provide financial information prior to budget vote).

-Served as temporary City Clerk in 2023 – I attended the City Clerk Academy at the Nebraska League of Municipalities where I gained a deep understanding of the fundamental organization of a city and the administration of city government.

-I have an education in accounting. I understand finance and the need for Peru to review its financial practices and bring its spending in line with the needs of its citizens.

-Began and led a successful business with 7 employees for 30 years. – I have proven to be a successful leader with skills in organizational management.

-As a private citizen I have been attending most City Council meetings and many committee meetings to keep informed of the city's operations.

-There needs to be a thorough investigation of the city's financial situation. The accounting of the past had some mistakes and there still doesn't seem to be a complete understanding of Peru's financial situation even by its CPA and current council and mayor.

-An objective inquiry into the proper level of staffing for the city. How do we staff the city compared to other comparable cities? Do we have the proper number of employees for the work to be done? How does our city payroll compare to that of other cities of the same size?

-Continuation of the improvements to Peru's infrastructure. Our streets need more repairs and it's time to take a look at the future needs of our water and sewer systems.

-Planning for future growth of business and housing in Peru. As a college town, the city has many "student rentals" which must be considered differently than other long-term rental situations. The large number of students, added to the stable residents of this community, should be able to support a few more businesses. How can this be accomplished? I would try to facilitate a city-wide discussion of these matters.

-Peru must be a community concerned with the needs and hopes of the diverse generations living here. We have a large population of elderly people, many of whom are low-income. We also have a large and ever-changing population of students at the college. There are a few families who would be the "middle" of these groups. We need to take a hard look at the divergent needs of these populations and find ways to satisfy as many of them as possible through better communication, infrastructure improvements and community building.

-Transparency in every aspect of city government must be an overriding priority. The people of Peru should expect no secrets and no surprises from City Hall.

-Peru City Hall must be made available free of charge for community groups and gatherings once again.

We must;

1) Request that the Nebraska State Auditors perform a full audit of our accounts so we can start fresh, with full understanding of our financial situation.

2) Review, with City Council and input from citizens, the proper staffing of Peru and decide if we need the same/more/or fewer employees.

3) Work with our Streets and Roads Committee to help them continue the good work of improving our infrastructure.

4) Begin the process of planning for the replacement of all water and sewer lines in Peru. This will be a long process taking many years to complete and the financing for such a huge project will need to be considered as a long-term investment in our future.

5) Establish a code of conduct and ethics for all elected officials and employees of the city.

Also;

1) Establish a good financial footing for Peru so that we can improve the city's essential services while keeping our city's property taxes as low as possible.

2) Improve the appearance of Peru's downtown business area in order to attract a few more viable businesses.

3) Help Peru realize that "Better, not Bigger" may be the best way for us to move into the future. Emphasize pride in the appearance of our city through incentive programs for keeping up yards, painting homes, etc. The city needs to maintain its own properties to the highest standard to set a good example. "Bigger" isn't always better. Growth brings added strain on infrastructure and can destroy the culture of a small town. Peru is a community and needs to expand on the friendly nature of its citizens. We have many empty lovely older homes which need repair and to be lived in and loved by families. We need responsible growth led by citizens of Peru. Adding huge blocks of "condos" or apartments, planned and paid for by

Cate, Continued on page 19 >>>>>

ARBOR CITY NEWS

Morton-James Public Library Calendar of Events November 2024

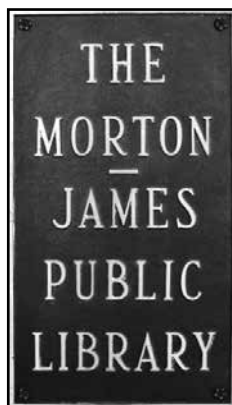
All activities held at Morton-James Public Library (unless otherwise noted) 923 1st Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410

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

“Bring Your Own Book” Club

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

Sunday, November 3 2:00-3:30 PM



Penguin Stuffed Animal Workshop

Limited seating. Call to register!

Saturday, November 9 10:00 AM

Library Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 13 4:00 PM

History of Nebraska City News Press with Julie Davis

Thursday, November 14 7:00 PM

Lego Club

Must be 8 years and older to join. No registration.

Monday, November 4 3:30-5:00 PM

Writers' Workshop

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

Saturday, November 16 10:00 AM

Story Time-Hooray for Hats

Ages 2-6. Families Welcome! No registration.

Wednesday, November 6 10:00 AM

Lego Club

Must be 8 years and older to join. No registration.

Monday, November 18 3:30-5:00 PM

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, and MJPL will have some patterns available. Free to attend.

Everyone welcome 15 and older!

Wednesday, November 6 1:30-3:00 PM

Book Club- A Silken Thread

by Kim Vogel Sawyer

Tuesday, November 19 2:00 PM

Story Time-Rock Your Socks

Ages 2-6. Families Welcome! No registration.

Wednesday, November 20 10:00 AM

Chess Club

Every Thursday 4:00-6:00 PM

Evening Book Club-Where the Forest Meets the Stars by Glenda Vanderah

Wednesday, November 20 5:30 PM

Humanities Nebraska-

James Whitcomb Riley, the

Fiddling Children's Poet with

Deborah Greenblatt

Thursday, November 7 7:00 PM

Thursday, November 28-30

Library Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

NCTC Tree Lighting-Take and Make Kit -Winter Gnome

Saturday, November 30 4:30-6:00 PM

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City

The Veteran

Bruce Madsen

Up to right now and to way back before
I have been everywhere fighting a war
I came from here and I came from there
I really just came from almost everywhere

From cities and towns and country side farms
Villages and Hamlets filled with amazing charm
I came from all over, not one place alone
There is not one place that I couldn't call home

I was there when we fought the " Great War "
Barbed wire and trenches, it was a deadly chemical war
I was at Bella Wood and the Battle of the Marne
And I got killed in the forest at Argonne

That war was deadly, a merciless hell
Bullets everywhere and exploding shells
Scared to death, maybe going insane
I was almost relieved when my death finally came

Although I was dead, I wasn't at all through
'Cause now I was fighting in World War II
This was a long war that was to protect our nation
And, I was in it for the long haul, in for the duration

I was Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines,
The purpose was clear, never unseen
Our country was threatened by a malicious foe
We had to send a message back to Tokyo

Then the Germans came and got into the mix
And then there were many more deadly conflicts
Bataan and Guadalcanal were a killing fest
But so was the Bulge, the bridge at Remagen and all the rest

At Hacksaw Ridge my life was saved
By a medic whose beliefs he would not waive
He said there was no way that he would carry a gun
But he did his part when the battle was done

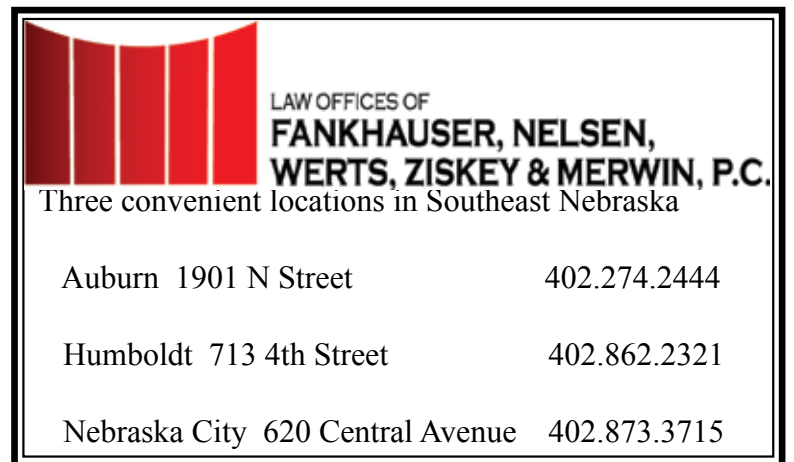


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Arbor City News

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

FARMERS UNION PAC ENDORSES PRESTON LOVE FOR SENATE

U.S. Senate candidate Preston Love announced an endorsement from the Nebraska Farmers Union PAC:

“I’m running for Senate to represent all Nebraskans. I know we deserve access to affordable healthcare, reproductive rights, voting rights, and thriving economies in our rural and urban areas of the state. I’ve spent my career as an educator, community and faith leader, and advocate to advance these issues. I’m ready to take our fight to Washington.

I’ve been honored to receive many endorsements throughout this campaign, including the Nebraska State Education Association, SEIU, the AFL-CIO, the Sierra Club, the Communication Workers of America, and the American Retirement Association. I’m proud to announce an endorsement from the Nebraska Farmers Union PAC.”

John Hansen, Secretary of the Nebraska Farmers Union PAC, said, ‘For 111 years, our organization has been serving family farm and ranch agriculture in our non-partisan way. Our working relationship with Preston Love goes back nearly 40 years. We know and trust him to focus on ways to help ensure the quality of life basics of all Nebraskans from young to old are met. Preston Love’s lifetime commitment to working for economic and social justice for all Nebraskans tells us where his priorities are, and will be.’

Those are strong words of encouragement from the farmers, and I’m grateful to have their support. My opponent served as the Governor of Nebraska for eight years, and as Senator for two, but failed to secure support from the farmers who contribute so much to our local economy. This endorsement shows that everyday working people in Nebraska are ready for a change in leadership.

As Senator, one of my first priorities will be to commission a comprehensive and bipartisan needs-assessment study in each of Nebraska’s three Congressional Districts. Researchers working on these studies will be charged with preparing a report and recommendations on how the government can better serve the unique needs of constituents in each district. I will use these findings as a basis for setting priorities as I work to be a Senator that puts people first.

Preston Love is challenging Senator Pete Ricketts for the U.S. Senate in November 2024. Love is a community advocate, adjunct professor teaching political science at the University of Nebraska Omaha, and a five-time published author who has worked in communities across Nebraska. You can learn more about the Preston Love for Senate campaign at www.Love4Senate.com.



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<<<<< Cate, Continued from page 15

outside investors, as has been suggested, is not the best way for us to move forward. "Better, not Bigger" will bring greater prosperity while maintaining the character of Peru.

4) Stabilizing the water and sewage infrastructure of the city must be a priority for Peru. The devastating floods of the past will recur and we must be prepared to handle the consequences.

For Your Consideration;

- 1) Experience in Peru's city government. I know from first-hand experience how city government works and what the day to day concerns of the people of Peru are and how they must be addressed.
- 2) I have had experience with hiring, firing, and managing a group of people to accomplish a common goal. Since it was my own business and my own money, I have been extremely sensitive to maximizing efficiency in a work force while maintaining a pleasant work atmosphere. It is important that the people who work for you are motivated to keep their positions. I have had the same loyal employees for decades.
- 3) I understand finance and I am extremely conservative with other peoples' money.
- 4) I have innovative ideas on networking with state and federal governments and private industry to obtain benefits for the city of Peru.

Three Vital Issues;

- 1) A murky financial situation. The city must clear up its finances and make all financial information available to all citizens.
- 2) Infrastructure. We are making improvements but the city still looks a bit rough. Plans are under way for street repairs and replacement and more needs to be done.
- 3) Long-term planning for appropriate growth. We cannot allow outside investors who see the profit in renting to college students control the future of Peru. Peruvians need to set their own priorities and keep control of our own city. We have seen the damage which can be done when someone from outside the city, our previous City Clerk, takes over and uses the city to their own advantage. We must take care that this doesn't happen on an even larger scale with unchecked investment in large rental property development.

And Finally;

I love Peru. It is the most welcoming, friendly place I have ever lived. I would come to this position with the eyes of experience and the soul of innovation. As an older person, I have gained some insight into how people work together to accomplish shared goals. I have seen other cities pull themselves up and become lovely, livable places without losing their core values and without becoming gentrified and pricing their citizens out of the marketplace. I am constantly learning and reading about new ways to do things and applying common sense to complex problems to come up with solutions. I believe that Peru is beautiful as she is, and that it is important to maintain our traditional values and the lovely architecture and landscape we have while looking at ways to improve incrementally in the future concerns of the people of Peru are and how they must be addressed.

P o e t r y

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by Devon Adams, Peru

SMOKE SPIRALS

Ribbons of fragile smoke are wrapping around all of the trees on the block, as a pile of crisp leaves turns into flaming fragments of Summer. Tomorrow 's forecast is for a chilly rain that will erase the last of the bright Autumn colors. A wood fire next door is glowing with embers and flames, releasing scents that pull poignant memories out of our hearts. Once again we are the kids from yesterday, toasting marshmallows and hot dogs, thinking that we have forever to savor our lives.

DOWN IN THE VALLEY

Where the river flows slowly and the snow falls softly, the critters of the wild are aware of the danger of strange sounds and scents. Big boots on long legs are making tracks, carrying guns. It is the season to try not to die, so every nerve is on alert among the targets. A sudden startle or flutter of wings or a snort and a stomp are early warning systems before the bullets slice through the silence.

ECHOES OF TRAUMA

Like a long hall in a big building, your secret brain stores memories that you don't know you have. There are doors into yesterday that are closed, but not locked. If you open them, you will enter parts of your childhood that were so painful and terrifying that to survive, you actually had to forget. But now you are an adult and can go back and rescue the child that never felt safe. That child is you, still waiting for someone to care enough to love them.

WINGS

The sky is full of stars as the night wings fly under the moon in wavy V's undulating in an endless river of geese moving to the beat of the earth as it tilts and rotates in it's seasons. Wild cries float down on the wind and fall softly on the prairie grass, like letters from sky soldiers flying away from Winter.

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EVENING SETTLES

The day is distilled, like a fine wine is finished, polished off with a sheen of soft gold light and dust motes floating freely in quiet air. A hush descends as noise recedes into calm. This is earth meditating and doing deep breathing exercises. Stop and listen and relax. God is speaking.

<<<<<< Veteran, *Continued from page 17*

And I was there for all of these
Just call me a battle hardened enlistee
And yet again I met my dilemma
'Cause I was shot dead,on Iwo Jima

Again and again in the years that came
I was to fight in Korea and then Viet Nam
In places whose names were hard to pronounce
The fighting was hard, but of what I had, I gave every ounce

Viet Nam was a war like no other
You couldn't tell one from another
The North, the South, from wherever they came
Their causes were different, but they all looked the same

I've been around the world so many times
Serving my country in my youthful prime
Been to Grenada, Kuwait, Iraq and Iran
Spent way to many years fighting in Afghanistan

Lebanon, Libya, there's just no end
How long will it be before I'm needed again
But I will do my duty if my country should ask
I just hope its worthwhile before decisions are cast

Sometimes I came home, sometimes I didn't
Wounded, maimed, and sometimes in a casket
But I did my job and I did it well
Many times from the throes of Hell

So, I may be dead and in the ground
But my spirit is free and is still around
And whatever may come to this nations door
I hope the Veteran never has to ask, "What the Hell did I die for?"

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>

Worker Bee

Janet Sobczyk, (c) 2024, Omaha

Small patch of wild daisies
still blooming in late September
amidst straggly weeds
beside walkway behind retreat center,

I pause to focus on their beauty
examine fragile white petals
appreciate their hardiness
in the chill of autumn.

Calmly notice a bumblebee
settled on one, quietly sipping
I recall that as a girl
it would have frightened me away!

But today I can linger
try not to disturb it
content to stay, the bee and I
for a brief moment.

Fall's cool air surrounds us
thoughts of leaving the retreat
returning to work
swirl and distract me.

The phrase "busy as a bee"
comes to mind so I pause
look again, does it seem hurried?
no, its movements are steady, deliberate.

The retreat had questioned
how do you see your work?
maybe as a burden, or a calling
but can you see it as a gift?

I wonder, a bit inanely
how does that bee see its work?
what it does is pure instinct
just doing what needs to be done.

How much of life is spent that way?
just maintaining, surviving,
without much thought
or pause for reflection.

But today I'm taking a pause
today I'm watching a bee
like a child, in the moment
feeling blessed by this tiny gift...
and grateful for the gift of work.

“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**

November

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

November was the ninth month in Roman days
January and February were added by Caesar
I like November and its breezy Fall days
To me Thanksgiving is a sumptuous holiday
A cornucopia of food and family
And friends gathered together
To thank God for all our blessings.
Notman Rockwell captured the essence of the holiday...
Nature herself paints the fiery trees
And greets us with an icy kiss
Fall fades into winter
And like one chapter ending
We wait
Suspended
For the icy kiss of old man winter
To tiptoe into our living room
And embrace us with his frosty arms....

November

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

Squeezed between Christmas and Halloween
She holds her own, November
She swirls the breezes
Bringing snow and ice
And football rivalries
And the all American holiday of Thanksgiving
We, like the Pilgrims, give thanks
For God, for friends, for family, for life itself
And like those pilgrims
We look for our Squanto the Wampanoag leader
Who taught the Pilgrims how to fertilize corn with fish
And joined the first Thanksgiving
And provided deer
We too play games different games
like board games and television football games.
And November proud to have such a sumptuous Holiday
Loosens her belt
And plunges into deep December...

Share this publication with friends.
It's online at;

<http://www.yourcountryneighbor.com>

Photo at right; “Brotherly Love”



Proverbs To Ponder

Dorothy Rieke

I am not Irish, but I have known some people with Irish ancestors. The following are a number of Irish proverbs. These Irish proverbs will help us if we know them and apply what they say to our lives. Someone once observed, “You have to know the past before you can live successfully in the future. It’s true that our ancestors worked to help succeeding generations live better lives. They employed much common sense. Their knowledge and what they accomplished help us daily.

Irish Proverbs

“He who keeps his tongue, keeps his friends.” Isn’t this true? We do have to be careful with what we say. The tongue often gets us into trouble. Think before you speak.

“May your house be too small to hold all your friends.” Friends are as valuable as gems. They support, advise, and offer company. A man without friends is like a bird without a nest.

“Just because your face is wrinkled, it doesn’t mean that you are not young at heart.” Remain active and interested in life. Retirement does not mean sitting in a chair all day. It means getting out and doing. It means following your heart and doing the things you always wanted to do but did not have time for them. With planning and work, you can make those dreams come true during retirement years.

“Life is like a cup of tea. It is all about how you make it.” All of us are in charge of our lives and our well-being. Determine your destiny which is personal for each of us. At times, life takes work and planning to make it what you want it to be.

“Value what you have.” We never miss some things until they no longer exist. Value what you have today and care for it. Be thankful.

“Don’t fear an ill wind if your haystacks are tied down.” Be prepared. Don’t worry about things until they are in evidence. These proverbs make a lot of sense. Indeed, they represent what we call common sense. In other words, common sense is sound and prudent judgment based on a simple perception of the situation or facts. Employ these proverbs, and see how your life benefits.

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

Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

The view through my window on Fifth Street has not changed a whole lot in 28 years. One would likely see more changes looking in the other direction. There is the dome, of course, that now covers the old “practice field.” And the Longfellow house is gone, replaced with a parking lot. But there are more children. In four directions from my window, and within two blocks, there are four families with children, my estimate is 11 total, and I’m not counting college students. So I thought this might be a good place to quote one of the newsletters I received recently. Here it is;

The Birthrights of Children

Every child is born defenseless and innocent.
We must always strive for peace so we can give our children a future of love, justice, and freedom.

These are the birthrights of every child born into the world:

1. Every child has the right to life.
2. Every child has the right to be a child.
3. Every child has the right to be treated equally.
4. Every child has the right to not be discriminated against because of religious beliefs or creed.
5. Every child has the right to be loved and cared for.
6. Every child has the right to be part of a family.
7. Every child has the right to have a home.
8. Every child has the right to have food and water.
9. Every child has the right to clothing and warmth.
10. Every child has the right to breathe clean air.
11. Every child has the right for nature to exist.
12. Every child has the right to be happy, to laugh and play in a safe environment.
13. Every child has the right to be born into a peaceful world.
14. Every child has the right to be free and not be a slave.
15. Every child has the right not to live in fear or terror.
16. Every child has the right to a full education.
17. Every child has the right to reach their full potential.
18. Every child has the right to full medical care.
19. Every child has the right to participate in all sports.
20. Every child has the right to see and touch trees, plants, animals, rivers, lakes, and to see them free of pollution.
21. Every child has the right to have their birthrights placed first, before money and material things, because every child is the biggest and most precious asset of mankind.

WRITE IN
“STEVE HASSLER”
FOR PERU CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
November 5th

LARSON MOTORS INC



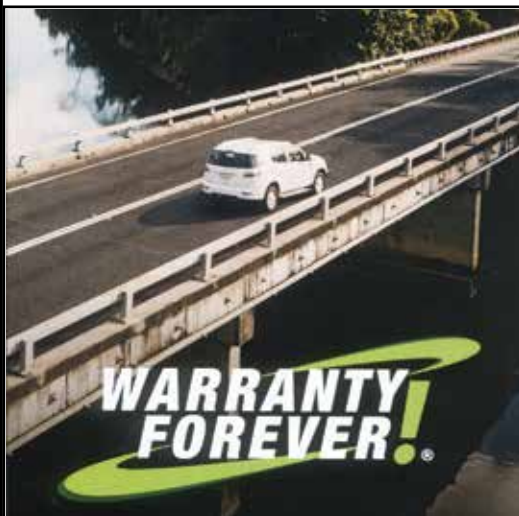
LARSON CARE Maintenance Plan
1 Year Subscription

Free Pick-up And Delivery!

STANDARD*	STANDARD 3K**	DIESEL*	RAM TRUCK*
Service Every 5,000 Miles	Service Every 3,000 Miles	Service Every 5,000 Miles	Service Every 5,000 Miles
unlimited Lube, Oil, & Filter Change Multi-Point Inspection Tire Rotation 10% Off Service 1 Replace Engine Air Filter	unlimited Lube, Oil, & Filter Change Multi-Point Inspection Tire Rotation 10% Off Service 1 Replace Engine Air Filter	unlimited Lube, Oil, & Filter Change Multi-Point Inspection Tire Rotation 10% Off Service 1 Replace Air Engine Filter	unlimited Lube, Oil, & Filter Change Multi-Point Inspection Tire Rotation 10% Off Service 1 Replace Air Engine Filter
TODAY'S PRICE: \$99.99 YOU SAVE: \$110.91 BASED ON 2 VISITS/YR	TODAY'S PRICE: \$119.99 YOU SAVE: \$256.81 BASED ON 4 VISITS/YR	TODAY'S PRICE: \$299.99 YOU SAVE: \$133.33 BASED ON 2 VISITS/YR	TODAY'S PRICE: \$399.99 YOU SAVE: \$89.62 BASED ON 2 VISITS/YR

* Larson Care subscription services can be redeemed when your vehicle's electronic oil service reminder falls below 10% or when the manufacturer's oil change service interval has been reached since your last oil service visit. Includes up to 6 quarts of oil max. All included plan services designated as "Unlimited" must be performed during an oil change service visit.

** Larson Care 3K plan subscription services designated as "Unlimited" can be redeemed every 3000 miles since your last oil change service visit. Includes up to 6 quarts of oil max. All included plan services designated as "Unlimited" must be performed during an oil change service visit.



HOW IT WORKS

Simply follow the customary maintenance schedule and Warranty Forever® will pay for all repairs to the covered powertrain components of your vehicle for as long as you own it.

WHAT IT COVERS

ENGINE Engine block and all internally lubricated parts

TRANSMISSION Case and all internally lubricated parts

DRIVE ASSEMBLY Front and rear drive axle housing and all internally lubricated parts

This is an overview of coverage. Actual contract coverage, limitations and exclusions may apply. Purchase of the program is optional and not required to obtain financing. See your service agreement for details.

Replaced parts or components will, at the administrator's discretion, be new, used or remanufactured parts or components of like kind and quality compatible with the original design specifications and wear tolerances of the vehicle and will comply with applicable state and federal laws.

The provider of this service agreement is Portfolio Services Limited, Inc. 14651 Dallas Parkway, Suite 502, Dallas, TX 75254

In Oklahoma and Washington, the provider is NWAN, Inc. PO Box 30308, Cleveland, OH 44130

COVERAGE SO GOOD YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE ON IT.

**NO COST TO YOU
UNLIMITED TIME
UNLIMITED MILEAGE
NO DEDUCTIBLE**

For more information, call Todd at Larson Motors | 402-873-5507