



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



Johnson Eagles in PSC Homecoming Parade



Not many food sources available for nourishing the migrating Monarchs during October, but the roses were still blooming during PSC Homecoming, October 4, 2025.

CONTENTS

Your “Window With a View” of Small Town and Rural America

Homecoming Parade Photos.....	1,3,11,16
“November”.....	2
Brownville’s Cultural Life	4
“Haunted?”.....	5
Peru State College Sports <i>Photos</i>	6,13
“Statue of St. Clare Returns” by Marty Peregoy	7
John Chatelain’s “The Peru Lumberyard.....	7
DiAnna’s Tuesday Club Book Review	8
♥Valentino’s Coupon for up to Six!	10
Flag Bearers and Cheerleaders.....	11
Historic Fiction; <i>Prairie Love, Letters, & Westward</i>	12
Katy Haberman’s “This Old River”.....	13
Shiela Tinkham’s “November”	13
Nebraska City Morton-James Public Library Calendar	14
Heritage Guild Quilting at AppleJack	15
Bruce Madsen’s “I Am A Veteran”	16
Devon Adams’ Poetry & Portraits	18
Merri’s Diary	19
“Window On Fifth Street”	19

Christmas

IN BROWNVILLE

The Brownville Historical Society
invites you to Celebrate
Christmas in Brownville
Saturday, December 6th

Bake Sale - 2:00 to 4:00
Santa Claus in the Wheel Museum - 4:00 to 5:00
Soup Supper - 5:00 to 7:00

“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

P.O. Box 126
Peru, Nebraska 68421

countryneighbor@windstream.net

www.yourcountryneighbor.com

Copyright 2023, 2024, 2025 by *Your Country Neighbor*.
All rights are reserved. No part of this publication may
be reproduced in any form or by any method without
the written permission of the publisher. Ownership of
some photos and/or articles is retained by the author.

ADVERTISING RATES ARE ON PAGE 10

This Month’s Writers & Contributors

Devon Adams 18
John Chatelain 7
Nancy Feeney 15
Katy Haberman 13
Stephen Hassler 4, 19
Merri Johnson 19
DiAnna Loy 8
Bruce Madsen 16
Morton-James Public Library Calendar 14
Marty Peregoy 7
Sheila Tinkham 13

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

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

November

by a country neighbor

If November doesn’t linger—it settles in, steady and sure. The leaves that clung too long finally scatter, swept into corners and carried down the streets by restless winds. The fields grow bare, the last of the harvest hauled away, and the stubble rows gleam with frost in the morning light. Mornings are sharper now—your breath visible before sunrise—and evenings come on fast, sending folks indoors earlier than they’d like.

Porch pumpkins collapse in on themselves, and the first snowflakes sometimes tease the air, not enough to stay, but enough to remind us of what’s coming. Jackets become coats, and gloves aren’t just an afterthought anymore. The steering wheel is cold. Across the countryside, grain bins are locked tight, firewood is stacked at Casey’s, and the squirrels have finished their frantic work.

This is the month when the kitchen becomes the warmest room in the house. Coffee seems stronger, soups and stews more welcome, and the calendar begins to fill with the gatherings of Thanksgiving. Church basements bustle with turkey dinners, pies are tallied and traded, and conversations circle around family, weather, and holiday plans.

On Friday nights, football turns final—the end of the season, the last band performances, the last cheer under cold bleachers. And when the dark closes in, there’s comfort in familiar places; a table at Valentino’s, plates filled from the buffet or a hot pizza shared among friends, a small ritual that feels larger when the nights are long.

November is the appropriate time of the year to thank the writers of the columns in “Your Country Neighbor,” and all the contributors for their time and their writings which bring joy, nostalgia, and sometimes a tear to the residents of southeast Nebraska who are the treasured readers of this special publication. Thank you and have a very Happy Thanksgiving!

Your Country Neighbor
is online at;
www.yourcountryneighbor.com



Johnson-Brock's High School Marching Band
in the PSC Homecoming Parade.



Humboldt - Table Rock - Steinauer Middle School Marching Band
in the PSC Homecoming Parade.



Mike and Jan Guilliatte, Grand Marshals
PSC Homecoming Parade



Blayne Behrends

Agent

website: blaynebehrends.com

2210 J Street

Auburn, NE 68305

402.274.5121



Here to help life go right.®



**BookShire Coffee
Food & Beverages
Books & Board Games**

**Entrance of Peru
OPEN**

Tue-Fri 7:30am-1:30pm

Wed 5:00pm-10:00pm

Sat/Sun 9:00am-2:00pm

BRANSON, MISSOURI

Enjoy a spacious two-bedroom condo (sleeps 6)
in the heart of the theatre district with
shows, museums, golfing, fishing, hiking,
zip-lines, mountain coasters, water slides,
amusement parks and more.

Contact CHATELAIN PROPERTIES, LLC

for your nightly rental reservations.

402-964-2013 john@cga.law

OREGON TERRACE APARTMENTS



7th & Oregon Streets in Peru, Nebraska



1 Bedroom Apartment Utilities Included

- Affordable quality living
- Rent based on income
- Applications will be placed on waiting lists
- No pets
- Handicap accessible

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

For Applications Call Lydia at 402-274-5460

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



River Crossing Antiques

Open Tue - Sun
11:00 am - 5:00 pm
402.825.3981

127 Main Street
Brownville, NE 68321

Alice Ann (Lockwood) Minick and Brownville’s Cultural Life

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Alice Ann Minick played a significant role in Brownville’s civic and cultural history. In 1879, she took the lead in reviving the old Brownville Lyceum, giving the community a forum for lectures and learning. Around the same time, she became director of the Brownville Library Association, which maintained a collection of about 1,000 books in an old bank building. These efforts kept intellectual and cultural life alive in a town that had already seen its river-port glory years pass.

After the death of her husband, Captain John S. Minick, she pursued law and eventually made her mark nationally as one of the early women admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. Yet she always remained tied to Brownville. When she passed away in 1938, she was laid to rest beside her husband in Walnut Grove Cemetery, a quiet reminder of a woman whose influence reached far beyond her small-town home.



Whiskey Run Creek

WINERY & DISTILLERY

Wine-Tasting Hours:
Thurs through Sun 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Closed Monday through Wednesday

Saturday, December 6th
Christmas in Brownville
30% off our wines all day!
Except those already discounted.

Whiskey Run Creek Winery & Distillery

Be Sure to Visit Us Throughout
This Holiday Season
Select your Favorite Wines for
Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years!

‘Like us’ on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WRCWinery/

402-825-4601 702 Main Street
www.whiskeyruncreek.com Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Alice Minick came to Nemaha from New York when she was 12 years old, in a covered wagon with her parents. Alice passed in 1938 and is buried next to her husband in Brownville’s Walnut Grove Cemetery.

Flatwater Folk Art Museum

An art collection of vernacular expressions and creations reflecting the human spirit and the passion of common folk celebrating the diverse and universal traditions of life’s experiences, ceremony and rituals.



Open Most Fridays, Saturdays,
and Sundays 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
And by appointments for
private viewing.

609 Main Street, Brownville, NE

Groups & Tours Call 402-825-4371

ENVIRONS ART

- Working Studio
- Art Gallery
- Organic Botanicals
- Original Landscapes



Open Fri, Sat, 11am - 4pm or by appt.
Second & Main, Brownville, Nebraska

www.environsart.com
816-210-3634



Cody's
USAVE
Pharmacy

It's that time again...
Medicare Part D Open Enrollment
runs now through December 7.

Plans don't stay the same, but
your neighborhood pharmacy does.

At USAVE, Cody can review your cover-
age and walk you through your options.

Local help. Local answers.
Stop by today.

Auburn (402) 274-4186 • 2220 J St.
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
Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 - 6:00, Sat 8:30 - Noon





inspired DENTAL

General & Cosmetic Dentistry
Maribel Caudillo, DDS, practices a full scope of general and cosmetic dentistry with expertise ranging from dental implants to dentures, crowns and root canals. Dr. Caudillo and her team can now provide a wide variety of dental solutions to create healthy smiles that will last a lifetime.

Today's advanced dental treatments and materials can give you a healthier, more complete smile that can last you a lifetime. Your Papillion & La Vista, Nebraska dentist, Dr. Caudillo, can help revitalize and maintain your teeth and gums, giving you the smile you've always wanted.

- Invisalign
- Fillings/Restorations
- Dental Sealants
- Crowns
- Dental Implants
- Bridges
- Tooth Extractions
- Gum Disease Therapy
- Migraine/Headache Relief
- Dentures
- Porcelain Veneers

Inspired Dental
108 Cedardale Road Papillion, NE 68046
402-932-3317 www.InspiredDentalOmaha.com
Visit us on Facebook

Haunted?

by a wandering neighbor

The Recluse of Belmont Street

In the northeast corner of Lincoln, Nebraska, near the edge of the old Belmont neighborhood, stood a house that generations of teenagers dared each other to approach. It belonged to Mary Partington, a quiet, deeply religious woman who, through no fault of her own, became the center of one of Nebraska's strangest—and saddest—urban legends.

Born in the late 1800s, Mary Partington lived alone in a modest home built in the early 20th century. After her parents died and her siblings moved away, she remained behind, devoted to her Catholic faith and increasingly isolated from the world. She had no electricity, no indoor plumbing, and no interest in modern conveniences. To the neighborhood kids, she became something of a mystery. They called her, “the witch of Belmont.”

Teenagers whispered that she cast spells. That she lived with ghosts. That she never aged. In the 1950s and '60s, her home became a popular dare destination—especially on Halloween. Some swore they saw candles flickering in windows long after midnight. Others claimed they knocked and ran, only to hear a strange voice calling after them. And then came the night that legend turned into tragedy.

October 25, 1961

Three teenage boys from Lincoln set out to harass Mary Partington, thinking it would be a harmless prank. They brought a gun—perhaps as a prop, perhaps as a threat. When she didn't respond to their calls, one of them fired through her window. The bullet struck Mary in the stomach.

She survived—but the public didn't forget. The news shocked Lincoln. Suddenly, the eccentric old woman wasn't a character from a ghost story; she was a victim of a cruel and reckless act. The boys were arrested. One served time in juvenile detention.

In the years that followed, the myths only grew more tangled. Some versions of the story said the boys went insane. Others claimed that anyone who entered the house afterward suffered strange visions or dreams. Still others said Mary forgave her attackers and returned to live in the home until her death in the late 1960s.

After her passing, the house was abandoned for a time, then eventually torn down. Nothing remains on the site but a patch of grass and a few old trees. Yet the story of Mary Partington lives on in whispers—passed down through high school locker rooms, campfires, and internet threads.

What makes her story endure is not just the strangeness of her life or the cruelty of that October night, but the way it blurs the line between folklore and fact. Mary wasn't a witch. She was a devout woman, alone in a changing world, made monstrous by the fears and imaginations of those who never bothered to know her. And maybe that's the real haunting.

November 2025 Your Country Neighbor 5



Drive Safely!

A Message from all of us at
STRIGGOW'S SOUTHSIDE BODY SHOP INC.

All Makes & Models

- Collision Work • Body Work
- Frame Repair • Welding
- Glass Installation



Open 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM Monday - Friday
(402) 274-3614 2000 N St., Auburn, Nebraska



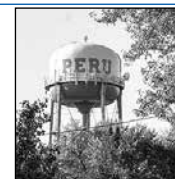
Peru State College v William Penn University W, 3-0
September 26, 2025



Peru State College v Graceland Universtiy (Iowa) L, 19 to 31
October 25, 2025



Peru State College v Union Adventist University W, 120 to 67
October 23, 2025



Peru Educational Forum Schedule Changed

Due to the illness of the presenter for the Peru Educational Forum on Medicare/Medicaid renewal, it is being rescheduled to a later date in October. Please watch PeruEducationalForum on Facebook for up-to-date information.

This change in schedule will likely lead to a change in date for the Marilyn Gilbert auto care presentation as well.

Statue of St. Clare Returns to St. Clara's Catholic Church

Marty Peregoy, Peru

September 4th, the bells of St. Clara's Catholic Church in Peru, Nebraska rang out as the restored statue of St. Clare came home once again, this time for good.

After a six-month restoration process by artist Mary Ann Chaney, the statue was wrapped in bubble wrap and blankets and loaded into the back of her hatchback for the trip from Chaney's home in Omaha to Peru.

Chaney holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from the University of Nebraska and a teaching endorsement from Peru State College. She owned and operated the Chaney Gallery in Brownville and in Omaha's Old Market. It was those ties to Peru that led Peggy Groff to call upon her in 2024, requesting her help to restore the statue.

The date on a stamp on the statue's base

St. Clara Continued on page 8 >>>>

The Peru Lumberyard

John C. Chatelain, Omaha

The Peru Lumberyard was located across Main Street, Northeast of the KJ Whitehorse Bar and Grill. My memory of the impressive old place is somewhat vague. What I recall more vividly, however, is hearing my parents grouse about the money they had lost as stockholders in the company. They never disclosed the amount, but it must have been significant, because they were disgruntled over it for years.

According to Ernest Longfellow, H. M. Mears had started the lumberyard. Likely, it was near where the river had been in the early days. The location had also housed a canning factory, an ice plant, a cider and vinegar plant, and an apple pumice drying plant.

By 1942, the Peru Lumber Company was making one-piece farm buildings. It was then owned by the Rivett Lumber and Coal Company of Omaha, which owned twelve other yards in Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.

Peter Holdorf came to town as manager for the company. He saw the possibilities for profit in manufacturing farm buildings in the shop to be delivered to the farms. He hired Murray Williams, Floyd Ivers and Longfellow to construct twenty-foot square hog houses, brooder houses, grain bins, corn cribs and garages. They were one-piece structures on skids, which could be moved from place to place on a farm. Lumber was scarce due to WWII, so materials were salvaged from an old grandstand in Auburn, a large church in Stella and a large farmhouse. The buildings were made of good lumber. They were sturdy and durable.

Initially, the biggest problem with ready-built structures was loading and unloading them. The problem was solved by Jim Cotton. One end of the building was jacked up with two bridge planks under it, the ends of which rested on the back of the truck. The truck backed slowly up under the building. To unload, the planks were pulled away from the truck until their ends rested on the ground. With the planks firmly attached to the truck, the driver drove slowly forward, letting the building settle gently to the ground.

By 1945 the business had grown to a quarter million dollars in sales per year. The territory had been fifty miles around Peru. Holdorf aggressively expanded the company to include the entire United States. He hired two engineers, two salesmen, an office manager, a bookkeeper and more carpenters.

Upon the death of Mr. Rivett the various yards came up for sale. Holdorf organized a company to take over the Peru operation. Stock was sold in Peru and nearby towns.

Transporting the buildings to dealers to such faraway places as Montana and Pennsylvania proved unfeasible. Rapid expansion and excessive overhead was fatal to the company. Yard employees were laid off in December, 1952. The Peru Lumber Yard was sold at a tax sale.

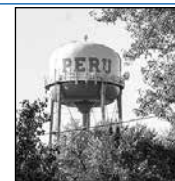
Many stockholders in Peru and the surrounding area lost money when the company folded. According to Longfellow, Peru had benefited from it, despite the losses. The company had been a good citizen, a source of employment and energy for community projects. In the flood of 1952, lumberyard employees helped out. When Old Man River Days was first proposed, Holdorf and other lumberyard employees took leading roles in making it a success. Dr. George Wiggins was aided by the company when he started a small hospital at the corner of Fifth and Main. The company had also been active in paving Fifth Street and other streets in Peru. My parents' loss did not affect their friendship with the Holdorfs. They stayed in contact even after Pete and Helen had resettled in Lincoln.

Across the Wide Missouri, Peru, Nebraska 1854-1991, by Ernest Longfellow, pp 174-178

PERU CITY NEWS

Communication • Information • Pride In Community

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



Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

As we wind down our year exploring senior authors, our whole club read the same book. That book was “Brave in Season” by Jon Volkmer. We were pleased to have Renee Szenasi lead our discussion. Renee arranged to have Mr. Volkmer join us via zoom as we meet at the home in Julian which is where the book was set.

The book opens as the railroad gandies are based in the town of Julian, Nebraska as they are retooling the railway from the gauge that was originally used to the new gauge that trains are now using. Gandies are the workers who laid and maintained railway tracks before that process was mechanized. It was a tiring and dirty job and one that had to be done with great precision or the men involved could be injured badly. As the group of men, referred to as “Gandy Dancers” moved in unison, the caller or lead crewman, would chant or sing to the crew to help maintain the appropriate speed and to uplift the spirit of the gandies. The crew has been working their way north, pulling their sleeping cars with them as they go, staying in each town or city long enough to finish that portion of the railway and then moving on to the next town. The gandies have just arrived in Julian and are getting settled in to their camp to be ready to start work the next day.

This book is the story of those gandies as they settle in, meet people, forge friendships, advance the railroad, and learn new ways to spend their leisure time. One of the first gandies the town people meet is Jerome. Jerome has ventured into the general store/post office to see if there is a way he can arrange to have his pay automatically sent to his wife in Omaha. Jerome introduced himself to Dave the owner and postmaster and asked if he had any mail for him in general delivery. There wasn’t any. He asked his question about his pay and found that would take further investigation by Dave, the store owner. The last thing Jerome did was to ask if he could buy a pack of Doublemint gum. That was Jerome’s way of testing the waters in a new town. If they would sell him gum, they would allow blacks to buy in their stores. We must remember times were different then. Jerome bought his gum and was on his way back to their camp.

The gandies went about fitting into the town. Jerome as the oldest tried to set an example for the others. Sam was the youngest and struck up a friendship with one of the local girls when she saw him sitting by himself reading a book of poetry. One of the other men was given a softball by Dave at the general store and educated in the ways of fast pitch softball one afternoon. After that much of the gandies free time was spent perfecting their skills on their makeshift ball field.

This book of historic fiction goes on and on with all of the interactions between the gandies and the good citizens of Julian. It is interesting and easy to read. But there is another book lurking under the surface if you want to slow down and read a little deeper. The residents of Julian in 1950 were characterized as good people who didn’t consider themselves to be racist. But most of them had never had that tested in that they lived in Julian, Nebraska where no people of color lived at that time, and thus, they had very few, if any, interactions with individuals who were different from them. Good or bad that is just the way it was. They wanted to be good people but sometimes they didn’t know how to act. This book presents the learning process that exists on both sides when this happens, and it does it well. This book is definitely worth reading, especially being set locally.

“Happy reading!”

<<<< St. Clara *Continued from page 7*
reads, “Copyright 1923, Deprato Statuary Co. Chicago – New York, USA.” The St. Clara statue was a gift to the parish from the Peru College Catholic Students Association many years ago, although the exact date of the gift is unknown.

The trip to Chaney’s home for restoration was not the statue’s first visit away from St. Clara’s Church. Over the years, the statue suffered extensive damage from wear and tear, including a family of mice taking up residence.

Her robe was broken and cracked, revealing her horse hair and plaster foundation. One spoke of the monstrance, the figure she holds in her left hand, was missing, as was her index finger. The wrist and sleeve of her right arm were cracked, as was her humeral veil. She had some facial damage as well.

Because of the statue’s poor condition, several years ago it was removed from the sacristy to spend several years stored in the bell tower. During much of that time Margaret McConnaughey was responsible for cleaning the church. When her husband passed away, McConnaughey asked if the statue might come to stay in her house, where it could perhaps lessen the sense of loss she felt.

The statue remained in McConnaughey’s home until shortly after

St. Clara *Continued on page 9* >>>>

PERU CITY NEWS

Communication • Information • Pride In Community

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



<<<< St. Clara Continued from page 9

her own passing, when it was returned to St. Clara's, and its poor condition was noted.

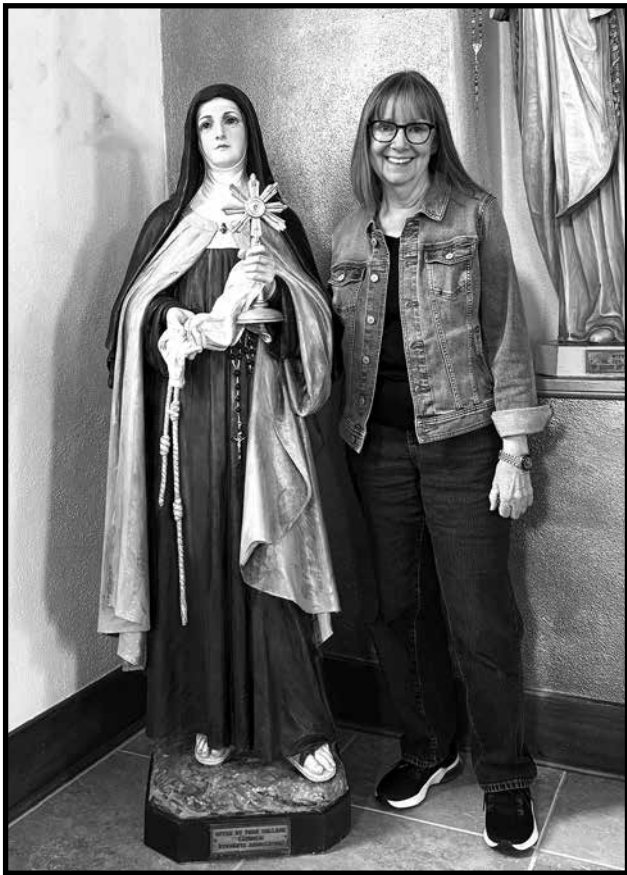
Once it was moved to Chaney's home for restoration, it underwent extensive cleaning prior to its repainting. In order to maintain the integrity and originality of the statue, only areas needing restoration and fresh paint were restored. The process was painstaking due to the need for natural light and good atmospheric conditions conducive to the drying of plaster. You might wonder why the statue is of St. Clare, while the church is named St. Clara's. The answer lies in the Spanish translation and pronunciation of St. Clare – Santa Clara. The feast day of St. Clare is August 11th, and her name means The Brilliant One. One has only to look at the human-like glass eyes of the statue to see that her name is appropriate.



Photo by Marty Peregoy
John Chaney and Tim Pugh move the padded statue through the church doors for the first time in several years.



Photo by Marty Peregoy
PSC students ring the church bell to welcome the statue back home.



Restorer Mary Ann Chaney stands next to the restored statue of St. Clare.
Photo by Peggy Groff



Road to Peru

Get Winter Ready

Take Advantage of Great Deals on Compact Utility Tractors and Gators Today!



JOHN DEERE



AKRS

Valentino's®

*The Best Pizza Ever Made
- Guaranteed!*



Purchase Gift Cards Totaling \$50,
and Receive a \$5 Gift Card Free!



\$1.00 OFF THE GRAND BUFFET!!

Use This Coupon For Up To 6 People!

Good Through December 31, 2025



Redeemable Only at Valentino's in Nebraska City.
(402) 873-5522 1710 South 11th, Nebraska City, NE 68410

\$1.00 OFF THE GRAND BUFFET!!

Dine in!

**Our Grand Italian Buffet
Includes Pizza,
Salad & Dessert!**

And Another Great Favorite!

**Country Style
Fried Chicken!!**

Always Fresh, Never Frozen

With Sides of Corn, Biscuits,
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Valentino's of Nebraska City
1710 South 11th Street
Nebraska City, NE 68410
(402) 873-5522

Full Page Ad \$350

1/2 Page Ad \$200

1/4 Page Ad \$100

20% Discount for 3-Months

4-Color is

NO EXTRA

CHARGE

WHEN PAID IN ADVANCE

B&W Options

50% off!

countryneighbor@windstream.net

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



October 4, 2025 -- Peru State Homecoming morning just before marching down 5th Street.



Valley View Apartments
(High Rise) • 1017 H Street • Auburn, NE

Carefree Living!

**Low Income
One Bedroom Apartment
Beautiful View**

**No More Snow Shoveling
No More Lawn Mowing**

- Utilities Paid
- Appliances Furnished
- Building Security
- Laundry Facility
- Assigned Parking
- Activity Room & Library



Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9:00 to 4:00
(402) 274-4525



PROUDLY SERVING 11 COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT
NEBRASKA AND KANSAS



Scan to visit our website
and learn more about all the
products we offer!

MYWNB.COM



A Prairie Love

Chapter Eight: Chores and Choices
March 1924

The sun had finally begun to rise before Cora left for school, and though snow still lined the ditches, the air had softened. Robins hadn't yet returned, but one could believe they might.

One Saturday, Lyle arrived with a hammer tucked into his belt and a determined look in his eyes. "You still want to help me build it?" he asked. "The cabin?" Cora hesitated only a second. "Yes. If you'll let me measure twice."

So they began—clearing brush, marking out the shape with string and stakes. She brought biscuits and pickled beets from her root cellar; he brought boards from a neighbor's unused barn. They worked without needing to fill the quiet.

Beyond the grove, the old windmill creaked gently in the warming breeze, as if turning an eye toward this new beginning.

As they sat on the ground eating lunch, Lyle asked, "Do you think you'd ever marry a man who doesn't own a truck?" "I might," she said, smirking. "If he had a good saw."

He laughed, but the moment wasn't a joke. He looked at her again—truly looked—and she knew it wasn't only a cabin he was building.

Later that night, alone with her lantern and her thoughts, she wrote in her journal:

"A man may build four walls, but it's his heart that fills them."

Spring was near. And something new was rising.

To be continued...

Your Country Neighbor
is online at;
yourcountryneighbor.com

Letters from the Prairie

February 10th, 1888,
Nemaha County, Nebraska
*Seventh Letter from Anna Wilhelmine Bauer
to her sister, Klara in Germany*

My dearest Klara,

The prairie has turned cruel this month. Snow lies deep as fences in places, and the wind—my God, the wind—howls like wolves across the open fields. A blizzard last week nearly took Johann when he went out for firewood and lost his way between barn and house. I stood at the door with a lantern until I saw his shape stumbling back, white with ice. We prayed together, then thanked God for the rope he'd tied from porch to shed, as if he'd sensed the danger coming.

Inside, we do our best to stay cheerful. I've taught the children a counting game with buttons and made a checkerboard from flour sack squares. Lena has begun to write her letters with a piece of charcoal, and Jakob pretends to read the Bible upside down, which sends us all into fits of laughter.

Our neighbor, Mr. Reitz, came over on snowshoes to bring us fresh milk after one of our cows calved too early and didn't make it. His visit reminded me that kindness still travels through the drifts, no matter how deep.

Evenings are hardest. The nights stretch long, and we often gather close to hear Johann read from the Psalms. I mend socks and listen to the wind scratch like claws at the walls. And yet... sometimes I feel strangely strong, as though this land is making something solid inside me.

I've hung dried corn and lavender near the stove, and the scent comforts me. Spring will come. The earth cannot stay asleep forever.

Write soon, and tell me the smallest things—what you saw out your window, what you're reading, even how your shoes feel after the rain. It helps more than I can say.

Always yours, Anna

Westward With Lewis & Clark Chapter 5: The Mound Above the River

*July 11, 1804 — Near the mouth of the
Big Nemaha River, present-day Nebraska*

We made camp today on an island opposite the mouth of a river the locals call the Ne-ma-haw. The men, weary from days of rowing, welcomed the rest. Captain Clark took a small party ashore to explore. They returned with tales of a high mound overlooking the river, offering a vast view of the surrounding plains. Clark surmised it to be a burial site, a sacred place for the native peoples. As dusk settled, the sky came alive with birds darting and diving along the riverbanks. Their nests clung to the cliff faces, and their calls echoed across the water. The men watched in silence, momentarily forgetting their fatigue. In the quiet of the evening, I pondered the lives of those who once stood atop that mound, gazing over the same landscape. The river flows on, bearing our journey forward connecting past and present. — Elias LeGrand

Chapter 6: The River Takes Its Toll

*Summer 1804 — Just north of the Nodaway
River, Western edge of the Missouri Territory*

We lost a man today.

Not to death—thank the Almighty—but to the river's stubborn will. The keelboat slewed broadside in a treacherous bend, striking an unseen snag beneath the muddy surface. We lurched hard enough to throw two men to the deck and slosh a good measure of water into the hold. One of the dugouts broke free and spun helplessly toward shore. It took the better part of an hour to right ourselves.

Clark was quick to shout orders, voice hoarse but steady, and the crew responded as if the river might swallow them next. York and another strong-backed oarsman leapt into the thigh-deep water without waiting to be told. They braced the dugout while others heaved rope and pole. I helped bail—buckets passing hand to hand, arms slick with sweat and grit.

No man cursed the river out loud, though I think every one of us did so inwardly.

Later, when the worst had passed, Clark gathered us under a cottonwood whose roots hung half-bare from the waterline. He took the moment not only to assess damage but to remind us of our task.

"We were not promised an easy journey," he said. "But we were promised purpose."

No one answered, though several men nodded. Private Reuben Field had torn a muscle in his shoulder during the heaving, and Lewis examined it with care. The pain made Field grimace, but he bore it like a soldier.

The wildlife shifted too. Since dawn, we'd seen fewer birds overhead. Even the wild turkeys, which had so boldly strutted near our campsites a few days prior, now stayed hidden. But as we made camp that evening, a lone fox stepped to the river's edge across from us, its pelt catching fire in the setting sun. It watched for a time, then vanished into the reeds.

I sometimes wonder what we must look like to the beasts that call this wilderness home—our sweat and smoke, our noise and steel. Strangers. As the evening cooled, Drouillard told a story of a trader he once knew who'd been turned around in these very woods, mistaking the winding river paths for familiar ones and ending up three days off course. "You can follow the river," he said, "but don't ever trust it's leading where you think."

Clark listened quietly and nodded.

That night, I wrote again in my journal—though I keep it tucked deep beneath my gear. I write not because I expect anyone to read it, but because the days are too full to carry in one man's memory. There are sights here that should not be forgotten.

Tomorrow we move again—toward what, I cannot say.

But I will watch.

And I will remember.

— Elias LeGrand

To be continued...

November
Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

One chapter closes
Another begins
The end
Turn a page
Let go
What was yesterday can't be repaired
Let go
Move on
Turn another page
Memories
Reminisce
Let go
Move on
The wisdom of Age
There are always new Problems
Worries
Savor the good...
Kiss and hug your loved ones
There are people with no taxes or problems
The Dead, the buried
Those who lay in cemeteries never Fret
Hug your family
Be kind
Life is too brief
Like a millisecond of time
Carpe Diem
Turn that page
Forgive
Forget

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

THIS OLD RIVER
Katy Haberman, Brock

This old river---it belongs to no man, no city, no state---
It refuses to even follow a civilized course,
But goes where it damn well pleases.
Some years it is content to restrict itself to within the straight and narrow,
Cutting along swiftly and efficiently with its load of detritus and debris,
And some years it bucks and kicks and breaks out of its traces
To rampage at will over roads and fields
Just to let people who is really the boss.
This old river is, in turn, beautiful and serene.
Its cottonwoods glistening grandly at its sides,
Or sullen and ugly,
With muddied banks and ravaged shorelines.
Sometimes it calls out, “Come catch fish!
Come travel my long stretches
In your fancy boats and water skis!”
And sometimes it says, “Come near if you dare!”
There is an ancient river god who still lurks
Somewhere in a deep spring or underneath a rocky shelf
Known only to the huge, long-whiskered cat fish or the muddy hellgrammite.
He just cannot be satisfied to stay at peace for a long time,
But must, by nature, wreak a little havoc, once in a while,
As seasons wax and wane, and centuries pass into oblivion.



Rachel Brown's

FARM, PET AND PLANT CARE

Loving, Efficient, and Reliable In-Home Care

Rachel is known for her friendly, loving approach and rock-solid reliability. With years of hands-on experience, she offers peace of mind while you're away.



Who and What Rachel Cares For

Rachel provides in-home care for a wide range of animals and plants, including:

DOGS & CATS Horses & Goats CHICKENS & SMALL LIVESTOCK Houseplants & Gardens

Whether it's feeding, watering, cleaning, or companionship, your animals and plants stay healthy and happy in their familiar environment.

How It Works

Rachel travels to your home and provides professional care based on your specific needs.

- * Daily or scheduled visits
- * Customizable care plans
- * No need to transport your pets

Pricing

Affordable rates based on:

- Number of care visits
- Roundtrip mileage to and from your location

You'll receive dependable service at fair, transparent prices.

Why Choose Rachel?

- In-home care tailored to pets, farm animals, and plants
- Trusted by K9 professionals and farm owners alike
- Efficient, reliable, and full of love

Have questions? Ready to book?
Rachel will get back to you promptly.

rachelbrowncares@gmail.com
website: RachelBrownCares.com

CALL:
402-824-0978

Servicing the towns, cities and villages of:

Auburn, Nebraska City, Peru, Brownville, Brock, Johnson, Nemaha, Rockport, Glenrock, Julian, Lorton, Plattsmouth, Syracuse, Tecumseh, Humboldt, as well as adjacent locations.



Rachel Brown's
FARM, PET AND PLANT CARE

ARBOR CITY NEWS

Morton-James Public Library Calendar of Events November 2025

All activities held at Morton-James Public Library (unless otherwise noted), 923 1st Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410
For questions call 402-873-5609 or visit morton-jamespubliclibrary.com

All Programming is Free and Open to the Public

Stuffie Pajama Story Time

Saturday, Nov. 1 10:00AM

Color and read a story to your stuffies then leave your stuffies for a sleepover in the library. If you can't make the storytime, stop by between 9:00-1:00 on Saturday, November 1 to drop off your stuffies for the stuffed animal sleepover.

Lego Club

Monday, Nov. 3 3:30PM - 5:30PM

Free build with Lego's at the club or bring your own sets to work on. Ages 8 and older. No reservations, free to attend.

Story Time

Wednesday, Nov. 5 10:00AM

Join us to read stories featuring fun squirrel friends! We will also sing songs, learn a few signs in American Sign Language and make a paper tree craft. Story Times are geared toward children ages 2-6. Families welcome!

Yarn Crafters Club

Wednesday, Nov. 5 1:30PM - 3:00PM

This 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 is welcome who is 15 and older!

Story Time NEW TIME!

Thursday, Nov. 6 4:00PM

Join us to read stories featuring fun squirrel friends! We will also sing songs, learn a few signs in American Sign Language and make a paper tree craft. Story Times are geared toward children ages 2-6. Families welcome! Free, no registration

Humanities Nebraska - Dr. Randall Snyder "And All That Jazz"

Thursday, Nov. 6 7:00PM

A survey of the development of American jazz from the late nineteenth century to the present, with special emphasis on its African American origins and the stylistic idioms of individual performers. This is a free program!

Build an Animal -Bear

Saturday, Nov. 8 10:00AM - 11:00AM

This program is for children ages 18 and younger. Build a stuffed brown bear! Limited spots available. Must register ahead of time in person or by calling the library at 402-873-5609. This program was made possible through MJPL's Harry and Grace Moller Endowment.

Library Closed - Veterans Day

Tuesday, Nov. 11 All Day

Library Board Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 12 4:00PM - 6:00PM

Romantasy Build a Dragon

Thursday, Nov. 13 6:00PM - 7:00PM

This program is for adults ages 19 or older. "Romantasy" is a genre that blends fantasy and romance. The romantic element is a central driving force of the plot, often set in a fantasy world with magical elements. Enjoy Romantasy? Your Dragon Awaits! Craft your own dragon companion and make a bookmark while discussing your favorite Romantasy books! Limited spots are available, and registration is required. Visit the library or call us at 402-873-5609 to sign up.

Kids K-Pop Dance Party

Friday, Nov. 14 5:00PM - 6:00PM

This program is for kids ages 5-10. Calling all Huntrix and Saja Boys fans - join us for a party inspired by the film K-POP Demon Hunters! Kids are invited to sing and dance along to music from the movie while enjoying coloring pages and snacks. Free! No registration or library membership required. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Writers Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 15 10:00AM

Join us for a roundtable-style writers workshop! Share writing and give feedback to others. Zoom option available. Please email mjplibraryww@gmail.com to have a Zoom link sent to you if you cannot attend in person. Bring a short piece of your writing to share! This program is for writers aged 18 and older.

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, Nov. 18 2:00PM

The Long March Home (One Book One Nebraska) by Marcus Brotherton & Tosca Lee. Afternoon Book Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 PM. Anyone can join and there is no registration. New members are always welcome! Book lists for the year are available at the Library

Story Time - Grateful for Pie

Wednesday, Nov. 19 10:00AM

Join us to read pie themed stories, learn some signs in American Sign Language, and sing a song or two. We will then make a paper pie craft and fill it with all the things we are grateful for! Story Times are geared toward children ages 2-6. Families are welcome! Free, no registration.

Evening Book Club

Wednesday, Nov. 19 5:30PM

Happiness Falls by Angie Kim Evening Book Club meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 PM. Anyone can join and there is no registration. New members are always welcome! Book lists for the year are available at the Library.

Story Time - Grateful for Pie

Thursday, Nov. 20 4:00PM

Join us to read pie themed stories, learn some signs in American Sign Language, and sing a song or two. We will then make a paper pie craft and fill it with all the things we are grateful for! Story Times are geared toward children ages 2-6. Families welcome! Free, no registration.

Library Closed (Thanksgiving)

Nov. 27 - 29 All Day

Pamela Garnick
Artist in MJPL's Kimmel Gallery
November 1-26

THE
MORTON
JAMES
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City

Having run out of color pages last month with AppleJack Parade's marching bands, here are a couple of amazingly colorful displays from the Heritage Guild's Quilt Show.



Heritage Needlework Guild's Quilt Show at AppleJack, September 20, 2025.

Heritage Needlework Guild Nnncey Feeney

The 200 colorful and diverse quilts and other needlework put on display by the Heritage Needlework Guild during the 2025 Applejack Festival in Nebraska City, showcased a fascinating array of designs and patterns. During this 3-day show, over 300 people came to admire them. The word is definitely out that this is one of the best quilt and needlework shows in southeast Nebraska. Many thanks go out to the Guild members who work so hard to make this show happen.



Mantenga su lugar de trabajo seguro, saludable y productivo

**10-HRS DE ENTRENAMIENTO
OSHA EN ESPAÑOL INDUSTRIA DE
LA CONSTRUCCIÓN**

El Instituto de Entrenamiento de Salud y Seguridad es un programa del Heartland Workers Center

LIMITE DE 20 PARTICIPANTES

Para más información visite:
heartlandworkerscenter.org
Email: hsti@OSHABilingualTraining.org



**LAW OFFICES OF
FANKHAUSER, NELSEN,
WERTS, ZISKEY & MERWIN, P.C.**

Three convenient locations in Southeast Nebraska

Auburn 1901 N Street 402.274.2444

Humboldt 713 4th Street 402.862.2321

Nebraska City 620 Central Avenue 402.873.3715



GOLD KEY REALTY

Personalized Service, Exceptional Results

402.890.6433

www.nehouses.com

Helping Southeast Nebraska



Heritage Guild Quilt Show at AppleJack, September 20, 2025.

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City



Above and Below
Nebraska City Pioneers Homecoming Parade



OPPD Power Plant as viewed from the Steamboat Trace.

I Am A Veteran

Bruce Madsen, Nebraska City

When I signed my name on the official form;

I had no idea it would last this long
But it's been forever since I've been gone
And in no way was it ever considered a vacation
I was there to serve and protect no matter what the duration

George and I crossed the Delaware back in the day
When the Continental army held the Brits at bay
We didn't win all the battles, but we did win some
And the Redcoats were defeated when the war was done

I didn't realize that this was going to be the rest of my life
The terror, the conflicts, the mental strife
With the Indian Wars and then Britain again in 1812
Then to fight Mexico for boundaries, we were compelled

The Civil War almost killed us all, 700 thousand casualties claimed
Soldiers like me were killed, wounded and so many of us maimed
One side fought for the right to secede
While the other side fought for the right of slaves to be freed

World War 1 was next in line
I was one of a million troops sent over to realign
The dissension between our allies and the power of Germany
A terrible war with Hell and death being my only company

World War 11, Korea, and Viet Nam came after
Each achieving their own share of worldly disaster
Families torn apart by death and destruction
So many lives, dreams and hopes were, "Killed in Action"

It won't end, conflicts will still come
The job of having peace in the world is never done
The millions of us who were called upon
Are all very proud of our legacy and proud to be called "Veteran"

We have always been there, our country to serve
Sometimes with apprehension but always with steel in our nerves
We have served our country, proud men and women that we are
And in the future, there will still be more of us to come, forever raising the bar

I AM A VETERAN

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City

Arbor City News

a monthly news section in

*Your Country
Neighbor*

A Nebraska Regional
Magazine (w/News)



Arbor Lodge; ask about their Holiday plans.

J.J. Palmtag INC

Find your
HAPPY
place!

www.Palmtag.com



The 'American' Painted Lady has larger "eyespot" on its hind wings.

P o e t r y

O
e
t
r
y

b
y

D
e
v
o
n

A
d
a
m
s,

N
e
b
r
a
s
k
a

C
t
t
y

by *Devon Adams, Nebraska City*

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

They are the ghosts of night,
traveling on hidden tracks in
the sky, calling to each other
in the heart-rending voices of
disembodied souls on a journey
only their instinct can map.
They have magic wings that
carry them thousands of miles
across the face of a planet that
is moody and dangerous. To
stand in the dark and look
up into the waves of invisible
geese passing over, is to be
in the presence of an infinite
destiny written in the stars.

BLINDS

It's time to hunt and
the blinds are up,
covered with camo.
Here come the hunters,
with all their gear, ready
to hide inside with their
dogs, ready to wait and
wait and -----think.
So you talk and joke,
but a door opens anyway
and pulls you into a
room full of memories.
You have a permanent
mental blind built to
hide you from the pain,
but then some guilt sneaks
out and grabs you by the
throat. And all of your
guns can't shoot down
the tears and regret.

BLUE HORIZONS

Dreaming about the sea
and the sound of the
sea, and the smell of the
sea is only real when you
see the blue water.
Then you are walking
in the sand, smelling
salty fish, picking up
shells and precious
sea glass, with its frosty
fragments glowing from
sunshine like precious
gems. The sound of
the surf is a swish and
a boom and a crash,
accented by shrieking
swooping gulls, their
wings flashing silver
sunlight on the wind.

By Artist, **Devon Adams**

PENCIL AND WATERCOLOR

PORTRAITS OF

PEOPLE, ANIMALS, WILDLIFE & BUILDINGS

Drawn from your photographs.



WATERCOLOR

8x10 mat size: \$45

11x14 mat size: \$70

16x20 mat size: \$100

PENCIL

8x10 mat: \$25

11x14 mat: \$35

16x20 mat: \$55

Send to:

Devon Adams

1220 Oak Street, Apt. A, Box 9
Nebraska City, NE 68410

adamsdevon07@gmail.com 402-209-9377

RADIO MUSIC

Memories triggered by a
song in the night, coming
from yesterday, when you
were young and time was
forever: Music was a constant
companion as we hurried
through our busy days.
Impatient to get on with
our lives, we didn't realize
that each day WAS our life.
But the radios that were
part of homes and cars and
businesses were playing
songs that play back
our feelings and thoughts
even today, and cause
hearts to skip beats once
more, like they did when
we first loved and lost
and survived and thrived.

MILKY STARS

So many of them,
and so far away
that they look
smudgy up there
in the night sky.
We can't hold
a huge telescope
up to our eyes,
to clarify, so we
just pretend one
of the alien races
dumped all their
milk cans in the
same place and
let it run into a
space ditch. And
now we have a
"Milky Way" Trail
of Stars on a country
clean night.

Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

As of this writing, we are enjoying another spot of glorious fall weather. Every few days another group of migrating robins almost tricks me into believing I have slept away the winter and awakened into spring. Robins are not terribly vocal this time of year, but they are dashing about among the trees as if it is mating season. Probably just chasing insects. For a number of weeks birds were eerily absent around here, so the fall robins are welcome, even if they don't contribute a lot to the sound-scape. The Carolina wren is still singing but, without other song birds, the quiet chirps and tapping of the woodpecker types is audible.

It's too bad fall color around town is not as glorious as the weather. Perhaps if we had a frost the chlorophyll production would shut down, allowing the summer greens to be replaced by the fall palette. That may not be the correct scientific explanation for leaf color change, but you can Google it if you're curious. I typically collect fall leaves while walking around my neighborhood to send to our daughter, who lives in Florida. With October waning, I was going to have to make some extra effort to accomplish that. At any rate, we had heard a rumor that Indian Cave State Park was quite colorful, so we took a drive to check it out.

We have both been too gimped up to hike the past several months, so we were eager to at least enjoy a peaceful, open-windows drive through the Park in search of red and orange and gold.

As we approached the entrance to the park, we could see that, aside from roadside sumac, the leaf color was pretty muted, not at all what we were hoping for. Oh well, maybe we'd spot some migrating fall warblers or other birds instead of colorful leaves.

Boy, were we shocked to enter the park and find it totally over-run with humans! RVs, campers, and tents were crowded into every available open space, not just the designated camping areas. We had stumbled into the park's annual fall celebration. I'm happy for all the revenue the park collected today, but the crowds were anti-thetic to my idea of what State Parks are about, which in my mind is getting AWAY from people and CLOSE to nature. It was not surprising that the bird feeding station was deserted. You can typically see several species there even if you don't see any birds elsewhere in the park. Not today.

I've heard it said that timing is everything in life. Today, our timing was off. We did collect a few leaves that I'll press and mail to our daughter, for an exorbitant amount of postage, I might add. But tradition is not to be abandoned just because of a little expense. There will come a time when an envelope of fall leaves from Nebraska does not arrive in Florida. But that time is not yet!

Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

I'm watching Autumn through my window on Fifth Street. The snowfall of yellow leaves, the soaring of snow geese occasionally honking during their passage. Students' footsteps echoing Autumn's pace—life in transition, youth on a path, all seen from my window on Fifth Street. Plus the calm, drifting cumulus clouds, which in memory, contrast with the dark foreboding predictors that were of Summer thunderstorms. All part of the seasonal rhythm of Autumn, not to mention the recent, pleasant appearance of Monarchs passing through and Eagles following the geese.

My squirrels don't seem to be acting as urgently as I believe they should be in their preparation for the coming months. And I am reminded that I, too want to prepare; for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the beginning of the New Year. Winterize the car, change the furnace filter, put away the lawn mower and weed cutter, clean the rain gutters, and move my porch chair inside. And the emotions developed during evening breezes on my porch, I'll replace with the excitement of K.C. Chiefs football games warmed by my cozy fireplace.

And in the midst of it, there is the simple pleasure of coffee with friends. We linger longer at the table this time of year, talking about football, holiday plans, and sometimes nothing at all—just glad for the warmth of the mug in our hands and the company across from us. Those conversations, like the geese overhead, mark their own kind of migration—carrying us from the hurried energy of summer toward the slower, more thoughtful days of Winter.

The year is shifting, and so are we, in ways large and small, from my business of Summer activities to my reflective stillness by my window on Fifth Street.

The season doesn't ask much of us—only that we notice, prepare, and be ready for what comes next.

"Your Country Neighbor"
is online at;

www.yourcountryneighbor.com



Larson Motors

NEBRASKA CITY, NE



We are thankful for you!

At Larson Motors, we're grateful for our loyal customers and the community we serve.

As the holidays approach, we invite you to stop in, say hello, and take advantage of our ***November specials*** designed to help you get ready for the season ahead.

Offers valid through November 30, 2025. Must present or mention coupon at time of service or purchase. Some exclusions may apply. See Larson Motors for details. One coupon per transaction.

Larson Motors • Nebraska City, NE • 402-873-5507 • www.larsonmotorgroup.com

\$750 off

Any Pre-Owned Vehicle Purchase

(Valid on most makes & models. Must present coupon.)

\$250

Trade-In Bonus

(Valid on all makes & models. Must present coupon.)

\$25 off

Complete Interior & Exterior Detail.

(Valid on all makes & models. Must present coupon.)

\$10 off

any Oil Change

(Valid on all makes & models. Must present coupon.)

\$25 off

Coolant or Transmission Flush

(Valid on all makes & models. Must present coupon.)

\$500 off

on any Extended Vehicle Protection Plan

(Valid on all makes & models. Must present coupon.)

(402) 873-5507 1801 Frontage Road P.O. Box 580 Nebraska City, NE 68410

Visit us at www.larsonmotorgroup.com or "Like" us on Facebook