Your October 2024

Country Neighbor Free!

Take One







PSC under the lights, first home game, 35 - 3 against Southern Methodist U, page 5

The Nemaha County Saddle Club Hosted the Rodeo. See page 3.

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



Nebraska City Middle School, AppleJack Parade More parade photos on page 17 & 18.

Your Window With a View of Rural America Opportune October!......2 Merri's Diary......3 Peru State College News Items......4 PSC Sports Photos, Football & Volleyball............5.6 Brownville Destinations......7 **Peru City News**......8-11&14 Valentino's Coupon for up to Six!......12 Write-in Candidate for Mayor of Peru.....15 **Arbor City News**......16-19 Nebraska City's Morton-James Public Library......16,17 APPLEJACK PARADE PHOTOS!.....17,18 Dorothy's "The Brandeis Tea".....21 "Window On Fifth Street"21

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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

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www.yourcountryneighbor.com

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This Month's Writers & Contributors

Devon Adams 23 Stephen Hassler 2, 8, 21 Merri Johnson 3 DiAnna Loy "Peru City News" 10 Bruce Madsen "Arbor City News" 19 Nebraska City's Morton-James Public Library 16, 17 Marty Peregoy, "Peru City News" 9, 10, 14 Dorothy Rieke (Passed Away on May 3, 2024) 21 Sheila Tinkham 22 Cate Wyckoff 15

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

About the Cover Photos

Stephen Hassler

PSC scored 19 points in the first quarter of the first home game (September 7th), allowing me to get several action photos of pass receptions, many of which were for touchdowns.

This year's rodeo was the best I've ever been to. Lots of skilled competitors and a variety of events. Congrats to the Saddle Club!

I believe Nebraska City's AppleJack festival may have broken its attendence record. Lots of people on a beautiful day for a parade.

That was a great September. October could be amazing if the wind and rain hold to a minimum, and dare I wish for the colors to hold out through Thanksgiving? Why not? Thay did last year.

pportune October!

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

Happiness is having something to look forward to, and Fall is the season for the holidays of Halloween and Thanksgiving, which come with fun traditions, festive decorations, and opportunities to spend time with family and friends. So once Labor Day has past, and the kids are acclimated to school, make your plans.

Peru's "Trunk or Treat" is in the planning and an idea of decorating downtown Peru for Halloween is being talked about.

Now pour a second cup of coffee and peruse "Your Country Neighbor" with it's magazine articles and poetry, rural community news and festivals, and regional photos of wildlife and landscapes.

Clip the **Valentino's coupon** on the center-page 12 and carry it with you!

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

Ghandi

Like many people our age, Hubby and I are long-time watchers of the evening game show Wheel of Fortune. I suppose that marks us as hopelessly middle-class, or worse. But that's a risk I'll just have to take. If there is any credit in NOT being a daytime game show junkie, I'll take that. I've never been particularly interested in those. Of course, having been employed most of my adult life, there really wasn't much opportunity to watch daytime TV of any sort. Of course, I'm not completely unfamiliar with The Price Is Right and Let's Make a Deal, etc., etc., but I don't recall being particularly drawn to the hosts of any of those programs. Perhaps if I watched a few re-runs, I might have to concede that the host made the show as much as the premise of the show itself.

Which brings me back to Wheel of Fortune. Have you watched any new episodes since Pat Sajak retired? I hardly recognize the show. What were they thinking, ditching the old set for this new lame, nondescript backdrop? The old set had beautiful images of the trips that could be won and was just generally warm and welcoming. The new set has all the charm of an Etch-a-Sketch drawing. It's probably computer-generated. Could it be that the producers are on a cost-cutting kick?

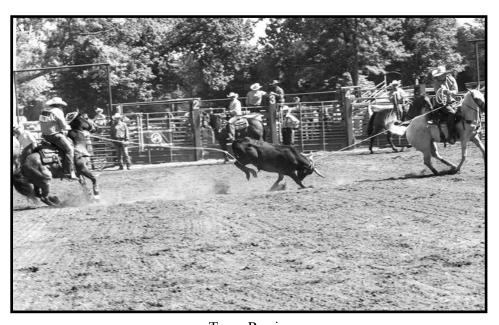
And what's up with some of the prizes? The other night, I could have sworn one of the prizes on the wheel was \$10,000 worth of Kombucha. Are you kidding me!? Who would want \$10,000 worth of health drinks? How long would it take to drink \$10,000 worth of Kombucha? It's supposed to be tasty, but I tried a supposedly healthy tea at a café in Savannah, Georgia (which shall remain nameless, primarily because I can't recall the name just now) and it tasted like boiled hay. Not that I've ever tasted boiled hay, but it smelled like it was made from boiled hay. Anyway, according to Wikipedia, "Kombucha is a sweetened black tea that is fermented by a symbiotic culture of bacteria and yeast (SCOBY). It is thought to have originated in China and has various health claims and potential risks." I don't think Pat would have promoted a potentially risky prize!!

Even the contestants in this first week without Pat seem lack-luster, and let's just say it: not impressive. With Pat's knack for conversation and gentle humor, each contestant was revealed as a unique individual. And even the biggest goofs, worst spellers and most egregious nincompoops became loveable and deserving of our sympathy as Pat consoled them when they messed up.

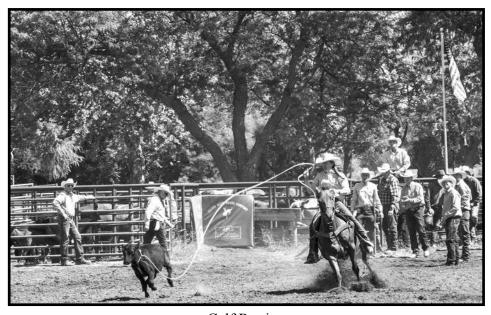
I have nothing against Ryan Seacrest, but I can't give him a big thumbsup, either. Maybe he just needs a little time to warm up to his role. I suppose he wants to put his own stamp on the show. If being the living embodiment of an AI game show host is what he's going for, he's doing great. So far, the new Wheel just isn't the show we looked forward to night after night, without Pat. He was one of the rare breed who could combine spontaneous (and always wholesome) wit with true humanity. I sure hope he is enjoying his retirement. As for me, I may have to revert to reruns.



Bronc Riding



Team Roping



Calf Roping

PSC NEWS

A Natural for PSC Foundation: Gorynski 'Perfect Fit' for Board

There are certain specific traits that make up the ideal candidate for board membership on a charitable, non-profit organization like the Peru State College Foundation. Its newest director, Alec Gorynski, pretty much checks all the boxes.

Gorynski, who recently joined the Greater Omaha Chamber and Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership as its Senior Vice President for Economic Development, began his three-year term on the volunteer Peru State Foundation board in May. He is, in the words of Foundation Chair Jeff Greenwald ('71), "as close to a perfect fit as we could hope for." A 2007 graduate of Peru State and until July President and Chief Executive Officer of the Lincoln Community Foundation, Gorynski has always retained a deep affection for his alma mater. His resume reflects progressive growth, be it in finance, economic development, government, or non-profit philanthropic groups.

Gorynski understands the unique demands of work in the public sector, having twice worked in Omaha city government. While the Peru State Foundation is not a public agency, Peru State College itself certainly is, and his experience will be valuable. "I am a proud alumnus of Peru State College. With my professional experience in philanthropy, it will allow me to contribute to my alma mater," Gorynski said. "The Foundation has done a great job of raising funds for students and the campus; I'd like to help add some structure to the fundraising strategy."

Gorynski had led the \$225 million Lincoln Community Foundation for the past two and a half years, managing a staff of nearly 20 professionals whose mission involves inspiring the community to give, act, and lead.

In other words, Gorynski knows firsthand how successful non-profits work. The Peru State College Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation whose only mission is to provide assistance and support for Peru State College, established in 1867 as Nebraska's first public institution of higher education. The Peru State College Foundation has over \$22 million in assets and is led by an all-volunteer board and a staff of four.

Prior to his work with the Lincoln Community Foundation, Gorynski was Vice President of Community Development, Corporate Philanthropy and Social Responsibility for First National Bank of Omaha, President of the FNBO Community Development Corporation, Vice President for Community Affairs at Bank of the West, and Deputy Grant Administrator for the City of Omaha Mayor's Office.

Community service is at the heart and soul of a successful non-profit, and Gorynski has helped found three community development financial institutions. He's been appointed by the Nebraska Governor to two state boards, and has held numerous board, officer, and committee roles with multiple foundations and community development organizations.

A native of Lincoln who grew up in Topeka, Kan., he learned of Peru State when a high school friend and his family moved to Southeast Nebraska. The friend was headed to Peru State, and his family invited Gorynski to live with them while attending Peru State.

"The size of the campus" was a big attraction for Gorynski, "The small student body gave me an opportunity to get to know a lot of people."

Though a criminal justice student, Gorynski had "the opportunity to be involved in a lot – theatre, student government, intramurals – and I had a great relationship with my professors."

Current professional community service activities include treasurer for the Nebraska Arts Council and President for NAC Development Corporation, and board member for Public Art Lincoln, and Lincoln Community Learning Centers. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Gorynski and his wife Laura have three children, Jamie, Ben, and Claire.



Peru State College Foundation's newest director Alec Gorynski.

Peru State's Recent Swenson Awards

The Peru State College Foundation and the Athletic Department had planned to recognize its past and current outstanding student-athletes at its football game. However, continuous lightening forced the eventual cancellation of the game that evening. Nearly 20 previous Swenson winners, along with family and friends, and the newest Swenson winners braved the weather and anticipated a halftime recognition.

The newest Swenson awardees were presented their awards during the weather delay. Named 2024 winners were Lara Wells of Girard, KS and Skyler Wilson of Omaha.

The Foundation presented each honoree with a medal and a watch through the Swenson Endowed Fund.

The Swenson Award has been given annually since 1925 in memory of Bert Swenson, Jr., infant son of Bert Swenson, Sr., an outstanding football player in 1909.

This Halloween Watch Out For Trick-or-Treaters



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PSC v Southern Methodist University Under the lights, first home game, 35 - 3







October 2024

Your Country Neighbor

Peru State Volleyball v Mount Mercy University (Loss, September 27, 2024)









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OLD TIME AUTUMN Weekend (See details below and ad on page 12)

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Old Time Autumn at the Birds Nest Trading Post

Beaded Skull Art & Turquoise Jewelry by Kathy Ackland

Saturday, October 12, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Elaborate beadwork on various skulls and turquoise jewelry will be available for viewing and purchase.

Blacksmith Brian Johnson

Sunday, October 13, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM Don't miss this hardworking handcrafted opportunity. Works will be available for viewing and purchase.

See more Old Time Autumn details in ad on page 12.

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



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Marty's raffle article is on page 14, for the *Rob Walker Memorial Christmas Tree*

Attention Landlords

Stephen Hassler

Help improve the living conditions and overall experience for your tenants, and be included in a "Preferred Landlord" list to be presented in this publication in 2025 if not before.

Tenants will be asked to partake in an anonymous survey to rate their landlords in overall satisfaction regarding the quality of maintenance, responsiveness, and safety.

The "list" is expected to be updated at least twice a year.

This initiative has the potential to greatly benefit both students and landlords.

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

"The people of Peru deserve a welcoming city hall with employees who treat everyone with respect. City Hall's job is to facilitate the wishes of the community, help things run smoothly, and maintain and improve the infrastructure of the city. The people of Peru deserve to be able to bring their grievances, their concerns and their ideas without fear of retribution, and with expectation of polite consideration."

To see Cate's profile, go to page 15. Or copy this address into your browser;

www.yourcountryneighbor.com/YCN/WyckoffProfile.pdf

On Nov 5, "Write in" Steve Hassler for Council Member of Peru.

"There needs to be improved communication between residents and the city office. I intend to help direct city growth and to also improve communications between the City and Peru State College.

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

I intend to obtain a utility discount for seniors, investigate the conceivability of a charter school for Peru, and how Peru might be a destination for young families, as well address the needs of seniors and of parents with school age children.

I want to raise confidence in city government, improve communications between the city office and Peru residents, and improve the budget accounting process.

I'm a Nebraska native whose education began in a one-room country school, a graduate of the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and the owner and creator of "Your Country Neighbor," a Southeast Nebraska monthly publication since February 2002, that promotes small town and rural living. I have lived near the Atlantic Ocean, the foothills of Colorado, and in the hill country of Texas, but my favorite place in the world is my front porch in Peru, Nebraska."

Please write in my name for Council Member. Let's work together for a better Peru!

Vote November 5th, or ask your county clerk for a mail-in ballot.

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Good Neighboring continued from September issue

Marty Peregoy

A golden jingle bell hung from a satin rope as its clangor, and if you pulled it, the music box hidden inside would play Jingle Bells while the clangor shrank back to its original length. We never grew tired of listening to it, but I'm sure our parents and Hazel did not feel the same way.

As the only unmarried child, Hazel had inherited her parents' furniture when they died, and her house was filled with antiques. Her beautiful walnut dining room table was covered with finery befitting a Christmas party. A crystal punch bowl of eggnog stood at one end, surrounded by crystal cups for the adults, and red and white Santa head mugs for the kids. There were decorated sugar cookies, fudge, dried fruits, nuts, smoked salmon, and for adults, a bottle of brandy to "season" the eggnog. In retrospect, I imagine grateful customers who had been beautified for their own Christmas parties provided much of the food.

My brother and I would fill our plates with the sweets and carefully carry our half-filled mugs of eggnog by their Santa cap handles to the living room, where we sat near enough to the stereo to stare longingly at the Christmas decorations on top. Back in the 60's stereos and televisions were housed in solid wood cabinets and were massive pieces of furniture. It wasn't uncommon for a stereo to occupy a two-foot by six-foot area, while a television was approximately four-foot by two-foot. It was on these pieces of furniture that most women placed their prized knickknacks.

On Hazel's stereo were two items that drew us like magnets: a stuffed Santa and a miniature ceramic Christmas tree. Santa wore a pink satin suit, glossy, patent leather boots and belt, and had a beard of angel hair - a fiberglass concoction that would give you splinters if you touched it. My mother had a similar Santa dressed in ordinary red velvet, from which we got our splinter information firsthand. The Christmas tree was glossy green ceramic studded with plastic bulbs through which the light inside the tree shone out in colors of red, purple, green, orange, and white, amid the puffy layer of glittery, painted snow.

Holiday music played softly on the stereo – that year's Firestone Christmas Album given free with a tank of ethyl at the neighborhood gas station. Dean, Bing Dinah and Mitch serenaded us as my brother and I used a moistened fingertip to pick up any random cookie crumbs that had escaped our mouths and our mother's horrified eye.

We saw Hazel frequently throughout the year, but what I most looked forward to was the one night when it was my turn to spend the evening at her house without my brother. I felt very grown up watching TV on her color set – we had only a small black and white - and eating popcorn in the living room.

On her coffee table was a cigarette holder in the shape of an elegant woman's head and shoulders. Back then, cigarettes were the height of sophistication, and everyone, including the President's wife, smoked. Hazel bought women's cigarettes in pastel colors of pink, lavender and mint with shiny gold-covered filters.

Years later when I was in my twenties, I purchased some pastel cigarettes from Cliff's Smoke Shop in downtown Lincoln and relived those childhood moments. In my forties, I happened upon a ceramic Christmas tree in an antique mall, and that resides on my buffet each Christmas, accompanied by fond thoughts of Hazel.

Now that I am close to the age of Hazel when she passed on due to cancer, I find I can relate to her in even more ways. She used to invite me to her basement to thread her sewing machine needle, which back then was a "piece of cake." I was remembering those halcyon days of dependable eyesight just last Tuesday as I tried to thread the sewing machine for the fourth time without success.

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

Candidates for Peru City Council are;

Katy Novak & Cate Wyckoff for Mayor

There are three candidates registered for two open council member seats.

Amy Arms, Steve Hassler, and Theresa Westfall for Council Members

Steve and Amy are "write-in" candidates for Council.

Cate is the "write-in" candidate for Mayor.

Vote November 5th!!

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Tuesday Literary Club Reads DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

As we near the end of our year of Foreign Authors/settings, Val Able chose The Women by Kristin Hannah for this month's book selection. Much of this book takes place in Viet Nam in the mid to late 1960s. Those of you who lived through this period will recognize much of what happened and much of what might not have been reported in the news.

We begin in 1966 with our heroine, Frances McGrath or Frankie attending her brother's going away party. He has enlisted in the military and will be leaving soon for Viet Nam. Finley and his best friend, Rye are late for the party. Frankie wanders to the den and studies what she calls the Wall of Heroes. One wall of the den is filled with pictures of the men in her family who have served honorably in the armed forces. She wonders if there could ever be a woman on the wall.

After Finley leaves for Viet Nam, Frankie needs to fill her time and since she has been told that only the careers of nurse, teacher, or housewife are acceptable for her, she enrolls in college to become a nurse. After graduation, she obtains a job in a hospital but finds she is not allowed to do anything except empty bedpans, fill water glasses, and handout magazines. She is frustrated and wants to make a difference for the soldiers in Viet Nam, so she enlists in the Army a nurse. She thinks at least she will be where her brother is and helping the soldiers. As she is giving her parents her news, a courier arrives with the news that Finley's helicopter was shot down and there were no survivors. Grief stricken; her parents are furious with her for enlisting. Frankie heads to Viet Nam anyway, feeling that is the only way to help her country and honor her brother's memory.

Frankie's time in Viet Nam was no walk in the park. She was housed in filthy, crowed, and flimsy structures. Nothing was ever dry. She and the other nurses did their best to keep things as clean as possible and support each other in much less than ideal conditions. They were often in the operating rooms day and night with little to no rest. When they had time, they would try to reassure soldiers who they knew would not make it. At times they were assisting in operations with shells exploding right outside the tent.

After two tours in Viet Nam, Frankie decided it was time to go home. Her parents were not happy to see her. She found out that none of their friends even knew she had been in Viet Nam. Her parents had told everyone she was studying/vacationing overseas because they were ashamed she was serving in Viet Nam. There would be no picture of Frankie on the Wall of Heroes.

Frankie suffered from nightmares and PTSD. When she tried to go to therapy groups or other forms of help for veterans, she was told, "There were no women in Viet Nam." You need to go somewhere else. Frankie has an extremely challenging time adjusting to to life back in California. She does make it through but determines to make it better for other women returning home. She is eventually able to develop a facility where women can come and live together with others who are facing the same challenges. They all work together and help each other; each receives the help they

This was an extremely well researched and written book. It was a good read, if at times, a hard one. Having lived through this era and having a brother and friends in Viet Nam, it brought back memories that were not always joyful. Even so, this book is worth reading.

Happy reading!			

Fall has reached Peru

Marty Peregoy

And, just like that, it's fall; the cycle of beginning and ending continues. Burr Oak acorns and black walnuts have been falling for several weeks now, and working on projects in the garage, I can hear them land with varying degrees of thud to thunk on the roof. The driveway is covered, and wild turkeys and deer, not to mention squirrels, are taking advantage of the literal windfall. I'm taking advantage of the viewing opportunities from my upstairs window.

One morning this past week, I awoke earlier than usual to witness Mother Nature's fall ritual. I came out onto the deck just in time to see the white tail of a deer go around the corner - he had been feasting. While I froze in place, hoping he would return, I heard a sound I didn't recognize. It was reminiscent of the sound my brother made when he wanted to annoy me in the back seat of my parents' 1963 Buick – the sound of a clucking tongue leaving the roof of one's mouth.

Coffee in hand and clad in pajamas, I quietly crept to the front porch steps to listen some more and see if I could identify it. Within a couple of minutes, two turkeys appeared in my lower vard. Twice this fall I have counted a flock of thirteen, so I wondered if these were two of that band. I had no idea that turkeys made a sound other than a gobble, but indeed, the sound was coming from them.

As I watched, I noticed the sound was coming from high in the trees as well – very high in the trees. I'm no good judge of distance, but the rustle of leaves and the clucking noise led me to believe there was a turkey about 30 feet up. Who knew turkeys could fly? Not me. No wonder my little flock had managed to avoid the growing coyote population.

It wasn't long before I noticed rustling in a couple of other trees, and soon ten turkeys had crept into the yard. That number must have inspired confidence in the tree dwellers, because they came winging down to the ground. A bird that size needs quite a long runway, but their descent was graceful, despite their size.

I quickly counted, and once again I had

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<<< Good Neighboring Continued from page 9</p>

And how lucky we were to have someone who would loan us ingredients when we were in the midst of a recipe and had run out. Not long ago I was leafing through my 92-year-old mother's recipe file, and I found a card titled Hazel's Beans in my dad's handwriting. Hazel was a fabulous cook, and she did impressive things like put capers in her tossed salad - things we had never heard of and thought very chic.

Sometimes I wonder what it was that Hazel got from us, other than a barking neighbor dog, kids hanging over the picket fence asking endless questions, and free driving lessons and threaded needles. In retrospect, I'm thinking that perhaps she knew what it was like to have grandkids, even though they weren't really hers. And you can't undervalue someone with whom to share neighborhood news as you hang sheets on the line in your respective yards, or whose kids sell Girl Scout Cookies and Boy Scout Popcorn, and who haul off all the pop bottles in your garage with their red wagon.

My Grandma Margaret called that "neighboring." You fulfilled your responsibilities to those on your block, and they fulfilled theirs to you. You didn't always agree with their religion or their politics, and sometimes they dressed their kids funny, but when push came to shove, you had their backs. You knew that responsibility was sacrosanct, and you helped, even when it was a little inconvenient.

Every year around Halloween, you exclaimed how their kids had grown, and you handed out their favorite candy. And every Christmas, you got a plate of Christmas cookies that had clearly been decorated by those kids in return, and the sons of the family cleared your sidewalks free of charge. It was kinder time. A simpler time. A wonderful time. I'd love to see neighboring become the ways things are done around here once again.

On Your Ballot Write In Steve Hassler For City Council Nov. 5

(Thank you!)



St. Clara's Catholic Church 604 6th Street Pastor Fr. Timothy Danek Mass - Sunday 8:30 am Confessions - Sunday 8:00-8:20 am



Northridge Church 808 5th Street Pastor Daniel Hutchison Services - Sunday 10:00 am



Peru Community Church 520 Nebraska Street Pastors Raymond & Rebecca Girard Services - Sunday 10:45 am



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Brownville Historical Society Old Time Autumn

Civil War Reenactments Saturday October 12

8-9:30 Cars, Carriages & Coffee 10-2:00 Museums Open 10:00 Street Battle, Reenactors 11-12:30 Chicken lunch, donation 1:00 1st Neb Volunteers Brass Band 2:30 Battle by Civil War Reenactors 6:00 Concert: Bluegrass Band 7:00 Cannon firings at River's edge

Sunday, October 13
Demonstrations and Speakers
All day on Main Street
Sponsored by Brownville Fine Arts

Paid for by Nemaha County Visitor's Committee

See also the Brownville page 7.

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



<><< Fall Continued from page 14 a flock of 13. They slowly wandered over to the base of the oak tree, where my dog noticed them from the fenced yard and scattered them all with just one bark.

Leaves are beginning to accumulate in my fenced area, and I leave them, as they are winter cover for the many bumble bees that feasted on my cone flowers and bee balm this year. I neither rake nor mow in spring until I see them in flight once again. My female honeybees kicked the drones out of the hive just this week, downsizing so that they can more easily keep the temperature of the hive a balmy 97 degrees throughout the winter. They have already begun to seal the cracks and crevices of the hive with propolis. I helped by closing all but one of the hive's openings. Their comings and goings are beginning to taper off with dearth – the cessation of pollen and nectar in flowers. As the temperatures drops, they will gather in a ball with their queen at the center, and the worker bees will vibrate their flight muscles to raise their body heat to around 111 degrees.

I have begun supplementing their diet of previously gathered honey with 2:1 sugar water and some additional nutrients. They are much testier when I open their hive every other day to top up the feeders. The small colony will consume more than two pounds of honey a week during winter. And because they didn't store enough due to the rainy late start this spring and the unexpected disappearance of their queen, my job as keeper is to give them what they need now.

My thoughts have turned to food storage for winter as well. The crock pot has moved to the front of the shelf, and I am stockpiling home-canned meat, broth, and veggies from the garden. It's amazing how good frozen cucumbers and onions can taste when eaten in the cold of winter. And grated zucchini is welcome in a muffin or bread at breakfast or as gifts for neighbors.

Pearl, the outdoor cat whose job it is to keep the mice out of the upholstery shop in winter, is also being readied for the cold. The stairway to the garage attic has been pulled down, and her house has been filled with Styrofoam and leftover upholstery foam and placed in a sunny window upstairs where she can look down on the comings and goings without venturing outside. Finally, the electric bowl warmers for the chickens and ducks have been cleaned and plugged into regulators that automatically come on when the temp reaches 34 degrees. With red heat lamps in the chicken house, egg production should continue for most of the winter, and Moby Duck and Ritz Quacker will keep each other warm with their natural down "coats."

Fall has always been my favorite time of year, and although I'm sad to lose the bone-deep warmth of summer and face the deep cold of winter, I know that Nature will once again offer her beautiful vistas of frosty windowpanes, animal tracks in the snow, and the opportunity to pick up winter pastimes to enjoy anew, as I wait for the cycle of seasons to switch once again.

Quilt Raffle Update

The Rob Walker Memorial Christmas Tree

Marty Peregoy

The Rob Walker Memorial Christmas Tree has been purchased and is awaiting planting. It is a relatively slow-growing blue spruce that will reach a maximum height and width of 15'x12'. It's currently a little over five feet in height and should grow about six inches per year. Pruning will help it retain its current Christmas-tree shape.

Sales of quilt raffle tickets for the queen-size quilt will go on sale October 1, 2024. Tickets will be \$1 each or \$20 for 25 tickets. The drawing will be at the tree-lighting ceremony on December 8, 2024 in the lot adjacent to Western National Bank. The time will be announced at a later date. You need not be present to win.

Tickets will be sold in person at various locations in Nemaha County or by contacting Marty Peregoy at 402-560-2034 or peregoymarty@gmail.com starting October 1, 2024. A web site announcing the dates and locations of ticket-purchasing opportunities when sales open is available on Facebook. Search Peru Quilt Raffle from the Facebook site. It contains additional photos of the quilt, the tree, and information about those who constructed the quilt.





Above
Quilt Image
(Color image is on page 8)

LeftRob Walker Memorial
Christmas Tree

Write In Cate Wyckoff for Mayor November 5th 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.

Qualifications;

- -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.

Issues to address while serving as mayor

- -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.

-First year goals

- 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 situa-
- 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 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.

-Goals During Four Year Term

- 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 bocks of "condos" or apartments, planned and paid for by 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.

Continued on page 20 >>>>>

Morton-James Public Library Calendar of Events October 2024

923 1st Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410 For questions call 402-873-5609 or visit morton-jamespubliclibrary.com

Story Time

Ages 2-6. Families Welcome! No registration. Wednesday, October 2 10:00 AM

Yarn Crafters Club

Join us to work on your crocheting or knitting skills and projects. Club is for all levels of crafters. Bring your own hooks, yarn, needles, whatever you need to make your yarn craft. Club members will be here to help those beginning, and MJPL will have some patterns available. Free to attend. Everyone welcome 15 and older!

Wednesday, October 2 1:30-3:00 PM

Chess Club Every Thursday 4:00-6:00 PM

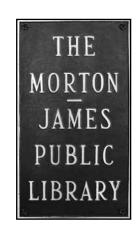
Humanities Nebraska- Life and Legacy of Annie Oakley
by Charlotte Endorf
Thursday, October 3 7:00 PM

Paint Together- Halloween theme Saturday, October 5 10:00 AM

"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, October 6 2:00-3:30 PM



Lego Club

Must be 8 years and older to join.

Monday, October 7 3:30-5:00 PM

Wednesday, October 9 Library Closes @ 3:00 PM

Thursday, October 10 Library Closed for Staff Training

Book Club- Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt Tuesday, October 15 2:00 PM

Story Time

Ages 2-6. Families Welcome! No registration. Wednesday, October 16 10:00 AM

Evening Book Club-This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger Wednesday, October 16 5:30 PM

Writers' Workshop

Join us to get feedback on your own writing and to learn more about the craft of writing. Saturday, October 19 10:00 AM

Lego Club

Must be 8 years and older to join.

Monday, October 21 3:30-5:00 PM

Trick-or-Treat Through the Library Thursday, October 31 5:00-6:00 PM

Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce

Jaymi Victor - October Gallery artist at Kimmel Gallery at the Morton-James Public Library October 7-31

Jaymi Victor is drawn to bright colors, and birds are one of her favorite subjects. Victor enjoys exploring and incorporating different textures like the hardness of a beak versus the softness of feathers. She paints to capture the beauty she sees.

Victor's current mediums include oil, watercolor, colored pencil, and pastel on natural surfaces including paper and wood panel.

She continues to be influenced by nature and by artists Albrecht Durer (woodcarvings) and Alan

Woollett (graphite and colored pencil drawings). Victor creates art to hang on her walls, and for family and friends. Jaymi Victor is excited to continue learning new mediums and expanding her subjectmatter.

Victor hopes that her work inspires others to find beauty in the world.







Photos from the AppleJack Parade, September 21, 2024







October 2024

Your Country Neighbor

News from Nebraska City

Photos from the AppleJack Parade, September 21, 2024















News from Nebraska City

The Question

Bruce Madson

Can a farmer write a poem to express his wit and humor

Trying to say what's on his mind with complete and rhythmic canter

Using synonyms and antonyms and ideas that are asunder

While searching in his deepest soul for thoughts of simple wonder

But most of us who till the soil, do not exercise our mind,
With words that express our intelligence or thoughts of a different kind
We plant our crops and watch them grow, hoping we can find
A pot at the end of the rainbow that's full and silver lined

But the life we chose is one of labor

You know, work real hard and the rewards you'll savor

For years and years, we've heard this banter

Things will get better, Farmers are in God's favor

And it's true we think, as time goes by
That next year will be better
And again, we do the best we can
Right down to the letter

So, it's up at dawn and go like hell

There's just no time to be bitter

There's an inborn drive that makes us go

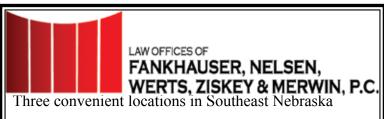
And in no way, am I a quitter

And this has been my life, for decades or so

Counting all my money, making lots of dough

Yet it seems I have none when I figure my cash flow





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<<< Cate, Continued from page 15

Strengths in seeking elective office

- 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. I believe the following are the three most important issues facing Peru at this time.
 - 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.
- 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.

What else?

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.

THE BRANDEIS TEA

Dorothy Rieke

Teaching was always a pleasure, but it was also hard work. A break for Teachers' Convention came during late October. Sessions were held in Omaha, Lincoln, and other areas. This break from the daily routine of school was welcomed by most teachers and students.

Truthfully, how often, during those days, did teachers get to travel to the big cities? Not too often in my experience.

The children were always pleased to have time away from the work in classrooms. The weather was usually good at that time of the year, so much outdoor play took place.

Teachers' Conventions meant listening to others tell their experiences in classrooms and how they dealt with problems. Some, with no classroom experience, told teachers how to teach. Textbooks were often on display.

Each year I attended the convention, Brandeis sponsored an afternoon tea for teachers on the top floor of their department store. A tea was something new to a rural school teacher, but I was intrigued with the idea of attending such an event. Talk about high society!

Late one afternoon after the sessions, I went to the store to attend the tea. How excited I was! I rode in the elevator to the top floor. When the elevator door opened, I saw a crowd of teachers, and a long table set for a tea party. There were coffee and tea pots, plates of decorated cookies, and silverware all positioned on the white table-cloth.

The crowd of attending teachers sat down on chairs positioned in front of a small stage. Soon women in beautiful, fashionable wool suits and silk dresses entered the stage one by one.

As I sat there, looking at those models wearing expensive clothing, I thought of the cost of those garments. I also thought of the buckets of coal I carried in from the shed to heat the large stove in the schoolroom. How would those suits work when I played softball with the children? And, most important, how would I afford one of those suits with my salary of \$135 a month?

After the fashion show, the crowd moved to the tea table. Each guest had the choice of hot tea or coffee. Cream and sugar were positioned nearby. Beautifully decorated cookies were on a large platter. There was also a dish containing small bottles of perfume. One teacher took five or six of those bottles. At that time, perfume was a luxury item, but most women liked perfume. That perfume, I discovered later, was not the lovely Evening in Paris perfume. It smelled like dirty dish towels! I imagine that those bottles had been around for a long time. Also, the decorated cookies tasted like they had also been in storage. Truth be told, it was good that Brandeis featured this occasion each year, It provided a bit of high society for all of us.

Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

I have observed my community through this window on 5th Street for more than two decades. And I have presented some of my views in this column when I have been inspired. Recently I was "inspired" to run for a council member position for Peru in the upcoming November 5th election, as a "write-in" candidate.

I have not been able to affect much change through the city office, so I'm running for an inside job.

For many years I have observed some Peru residents contribute in amazing ways to their community and to their neighbors. I've also observed some despicable people use their friends and relatives to promote the agendas of a selfish, disruptive few.

When I have noticed these violations of common decency, I have tried to do something about it. Some might remember my county newspaper, "The Nemaha County Voice" in which I exposed county and city officials trying, too often successfully, to skirt around rules, laws, ordinances. When confronted, they started false rumors to discredit those who would oppose their selfish actions. Expect to hear unusual accusations in this campaign month.

I know people, and you do too, who wanted to serve this community but were harassed by false rumor to the extent that they quit their volunteer work, or even left town or their job.

But as long as there is a rumor or two about me, at least I know a helpless elderly person is not getting targeted, or their grand-children are not being bullied at school, or a small business is not being black-balled. Fortunately for me, my publication, "Your Country Neighbor," is dependent only on moral, supportive advertisers who have been loyal to YCN for decades!

A civilized community takes care of its children and its elderly. And when one selfish member or group puts itself above the common good, they remove freedoms from the most vulnerable. Sometimes property, sometimes health or peace of mind; values that most people cherish, especially if they have little else.

Expect to hear more lies this month and on up to November 5th, nor will they stop there. It's what they do. The rumblings of fear and anger lead to hate. My advice is to follow your heart. That's where love comes from.

WRITE IN
STEVE HASSLER
CITY COUNCIL

Nov. 5th

"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

Columbus Day

Sheila Tinkham

1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue
Three ships the Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria
A voyage of 3 months and thousands of miles
Found Dominican Republic
Love him or hate him
Columbus transformed both the New and Old World
Brought diseases and guns and horses to America
Brought corn, potatoes, tomatoes to new world
And to France from Native Americans the ideals of liberty and
freedom...

Columbus was a red-headed, very learned man from Genoa, Italy... he had married a prominent Spanish lady, so that may be why Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand funded him after England, Portugal and France had said no. Columbus sailed for 4 voyages to the new world and in 1500 was thrown in chains in Hispaniola... the boats or ships were small and crowded. The voyage made by the stars and the sextant... knowing the date of a lunar eclipse gave Columbus food and help as he blamed the eclipse on his angry God...

October 12 is Columbus day, a brave erudite man Who changed the course of history.

Your Country Neighbor

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

Halloween Sheila Tinkham

All Saints Day is November 1st
Created to divert attention from Halloween
The new holiday was hallowed eve day before all saints day
But Halloween and fear and ghosts and goblins
Goes way, way back to Ireland and Samhain
It was a dark festival celebrating the dead by sacrificing many
Animals and offering crops probably to pacify the dead spirits.
And it had been celebrated for hundreds and hundreds of years
To Christianity the name Halloween was conceived for this
Pagan holiday

One of the most celebrated holidays of the year...

October

Sheila Tinkham

The eighth month of the original Roman calendar
Famous holidays Octoberfest
Octoberfest created in 1810
To celebrate the wedding of two German royals
Prince Ludwig of Bavaria with Princess Theresa
There was held a horse race and drinking
Then to boost the local economy Octoberfest began with stalls
selling food, beer and merchandise...
Today one does not need to be royal or German
To enjoy the festival
Raise a glass and drink wine, beer, or grapefruit juice
Slainte to your health!

Poetry

by Devon Adams, Peru

WORDS IN THE WIND

I look inside my mind to see what I think about life and death and all that is in-between. Like a fresh spring seeping from a green hill, thoughts gush out onto the paper and become real things that I can give away to anyone who cares. And I hope those words become tiny seeds that grow into ideas that continue to blow in the winds of change that swirl in the hearts and minds of people who want to find peace and serenity in the midst of chaos.

HUSH

We are drinking the last of the summer wine. Cleaning out the shed to store our garden tools and all the noisy motors that till and mow and harvest. Scraping off the dried dirt to sharpen and oil the shovel blade. Picking apples for pies and cider and sauce and table snacks. Raking countless leaves that lose their blush in the first cold rain. Watching in awe as a golden harvest moon rises through the dust of harvest. Then we will listen for the quiet pause before the snow.

PLAN AHEAD?

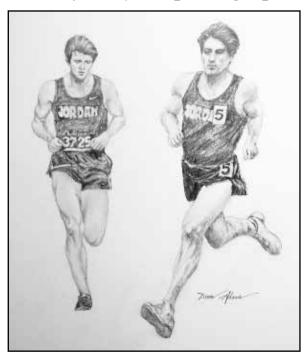
Some of us like to make plans for a year at a time, on a large calendar, with lots of room to list each separate hour of every day. I wonder about that. Does it make you feel safer? Can you not improvise and adapt to changes? Is it like a spell that you cast to keep your life level? Would you be more at peace if you could accept the random rhythm that is real life? I wonder.

GOOD TO GO

So, we never know what comes next, until it hits our gut. Good or bad, it's coming on a ghost train that makes no sound and shines no light. No way to think ahead or stop the course of time. So hold each second close because it's on a bullet path to yesterday. Pack your mental bags with good to go clothes so you'll be ready for whatever comes.

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ONLY NOW

So much for sweat and steam and flowers in the rain. Gone are early dawns, with sunsets staying up 'til dark. Now the corn is dry and weeds are sowing next year's wild and random patterns in the wind. Frost is edging red crisp sumac leaves and knitting lace on morning windows, before the sun appears. Bright cold air is clean and sharp inside your lungs, as Autumn witches test their brooms and ride across the pristine moon.

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Multi-Point Inspection

Tire Rotation

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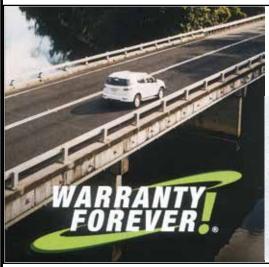
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