Your September 2024 Country Neighbor Free! Take One



Autumn Scene along H-136 West of Brownville, Nebraska. August 29, 2024

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



Luna Moth

This image of a Luna Moth, one of the most beautiful insects in nature, was captured by John Lokke while hiking in Indian Cave State Park on August 9th, 2024.

ONTENTS Your Window With a View of Rural America Brownville Destinations......7 Peru City News......8-11 Marty's "Good Neighboring"...9 & Angela's 4-H...11 DiAnna's Book Review.....10 **Valentino's Coupon for up to Six!.....**12 Arbor City News.....14-19 Potholders, Raffles and Quilts! Oh My!......14 Nebraska City's Morton-James Public Library......15 Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce......16,17 Dorothy's "Earning, Learning, And Yearning".......21

Volume Twenty-five, Number Nine

September 2024

"Your Country Neighbor" is delivered to the following communities in Southeast Nebraska & NW Missouri. Auburn • Brownville • Cook • Falls City • Johnson • Julian • Nebraska City

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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

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This Month's Writers & Contributors

Devon Adams 23 Angela Allgood "Peru City News" 11 Stephen Hassler 2, 10, 21 Merri will be back next month. DiAnna Loy "Peru City News" 10 Bruce Madsen "Arbor City News" 19 Nebraska City's Morton-James Public Library 15 Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce 16, 17 Marty Peregoy, "Peru City News" 9 Dorothy Rieke (Passed Away on May 3, 2024) 21 Sylvia Shires 3 Sheila Tinkham 22

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

Windmills are a nostalgic connection to my growing-up years on the farm, and living in this rural area I've found a few that frequently offer a scenic landscape to photograph. This one has been a favorite for me in the past, but this time I believe it's the best H-136 scene I've experienced thanks to the changing of the seasons.

The average life of a Luna moth is seven days. If my friend, John, had gone on his hike a week later, he might not have had the experience, one I have yet to have myself.

Sensational September!

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

Summer always ends too soon for me, but Autumn offers a transition from the vibrancy of Summer to the tranquility of Winter, with its own set of pleasures and opportunities. I enjoy football, especially photographing the Peru State Bobcats right here in Peru, Nebraska. And last year I discovered the magic of Patrick Mahomes, quarterback for the K.C. Chiefs, now two-time winners of the Super Bowl with the goal of a third.

And there's the AppleJack festival in Nebraska City, although technically, two days of that three-day weekend are the last days of Summer this year. And it's the season for harvesting many crops, which means fresh produce like apples, pumpkins, and sweet potatoes are at their peak, and so are farmers markets and Kimmel Orchard.

Happiness is having something to look forward to, and the Fall is the season for holidays like 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.

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.

Sergeant Goings Comes Home A One-Hundred-and-Five-Year-Old Man of Twenty-Two Sylvia Shires

Last week, something unusual happened in our rural community. Our County newspaper reported that the remains of a WWII young soldier of twenty-two years of age that had been listed as Missing In Action for over eighty years, had been identified and returned to his family for proper burial.

Sadly, the article said precious little else about this young sergeant. Not even a photograph of this victim and hero of WWII was provided with the succinct article.

That deeply upset me in two ways.

First, this kind of event is not common and should deserve to be reflected upon. As of 2024, there remain about 73,000 American soldiers Missing In Action from the Second World War. There were 79,000 by the end of the war. That means that in 82 years only 6,000 have been found and identified; that is about 73 per year! How tragic for the families that never got closure!

Second, because I thought we should know more about this young man, who had been among those who gave their all, that we might live in freedom and peace. I felt this was the least we could do to honor his memory. So I searched for him on the internet.

What I learned broke my heart.

His name was White Spotwood Goings Jr. He was born on a farm near Peru, Nebraska on August 29, 1919. He died on July 19, 1942, in Cabanatuan, Philippines. His remains were identified on June 23, 2023, before they were returned home for burial July 26, 2024 in Glenrock Cemetery near Brock. He was a sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Forces. He was awarded the Prisoner of War medal, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

He was among the tragic heroes who fought valiantly in the Bataan peninsula in 1941. After fighting in some of the worst conditions, half-starved, exhausted, and crippled by dysentery or malaria, these men were forced to surrender to Japanese forces in April 1942. Sadly this was only the beginning of a worse nightmare.

I had heard of the infamous Bataan Death March, but I had not realized what a horrific and shameful episode of history it had been.

The Japanese soldiers in charge of these prisoners proved themselves as barbaric as their Nazi counterparts in German extermination camps, beating their charges and killing them randomly, giving them almost no water or food, and even killing civilians who tried to bring them SUCCOR along the way. For about five days, (starting on April 9, 1942) they forced those deprived, weakened, exhausted soldiers to cover 65 miles on foot. Out of 75,000 U.S. and Filipino soldiers captured, only about 60,000 survived the deathly march.

Among them was our young sergeant.

However, the camp in which they were incarcerated was meant for about 10,000, not 60,000 men and their jailors. Food and water were scarce, medical attention Nonexistent, "living" conditions were abysmal, and diseases rampant. Prisoners died at the rate of 400 a day. Think about it; at this rate, in eighteen days, the entire population of our county (Nemaha County, Nebraska), would be completely wiped out.

Our young sergeant held on until July 19th, 1942, before succumbing to malaria.

He was the youngest of nine children, most likely full of dreams and hopes of going to college. All those were shattered as he fought for his country and endured gruesome conditions before death released him of his earthly sufferings.

I never knew of him before I read the article in the newspaper, but I think of this young man who would be 105 today. At the time he was a POW of the Japanese, my father was a French officer, POW of the Germans. I am grateful my Dad survived, married my mother, and provided me with a wonderful life, but he also made sure that, even though I was born in 1956, I would look at all the documentaries on WWII that were available. He wanted me to know how crucial the Allies victory, in Europe and in the Pacific, had been for all of us, coming generations later, who could enjoy freedom and life in all its beauty and richness. He wanted me to remember, so such horrors as those this young, brave sergeant endured, would never be repeated.

Although it is heart-wrenchingly true that some human beings continue today to commit atrocities in mass, like terrorists, or as individual murderers, we must never forget what we owe to those who have so selflessly fought in their time, even giving up their future, so that our present would be free, meaningful, and yes, happier.

Thank you Sergeant Goings for your bravery and your selflessness.



Sergeant Goings

Sources

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Join Peru State College for Community Night and Tenth Anniversary of Oak Bowl Renovation

It's hard to believe it has been ten years since the historic Oak Bowl underwent a massive transformation. But it has been!

Peru State College, its Athletic Department, and the Foundation are inviting all Bobcat alumni and friends to a celebration at the first home football game of the 2024 season, on Saturday, September 7. The Bobcats will be facing Central Methodist (MO.). Game time is 6 p.m.

The Athletic Department is hosting its "Community Night." All kids will get in free. There will be a face painter and ballon artist and concessions will be handled by Game Time Eats. The Foundation will be saluting its Oak Bowl donors that evening in their suites.

Fundraising for the major renovation of the Oak Bowl began in the early 2010's. The \$9 million dollar project was part of a campus-wide master plan completed in 2012. While the State of Nebraska provided the majority of the funding, the College and Foundation secured the additional funds necessary for the present-day facility which is still considered to be one of the best stadiums in the NAIA.

The results of the project were dedicated in the Fall of 2014 which provided an artificial turf field, landscaping, lighting, and seating for 2,000 fans. Additionally, new construction provided for concessions, a souvenir store, restrooms, suites for special guests, and much-improved press box facilities.

A record of 2,934 were in attendance when the Oak Bowl was reopened. It would be great if the record attendance was challenged for the ten-year party!

For more information, contact the Athletic Department at 402-872-2350 or the Foundation at 402-872-2304.



Oak Bowl - Circa 1910

Oak Bowl - Recent

Does it make good financial sense to lock in a natural gas rate for the Winter months?

Locking in a natural gas rate for the winter months can be a smart financial move, but it depends on a few factors:

Current Market Rates: If natural gas prices are currently low or stable, locking in a rate could protect you from potential increases. On the other hand, if prices are high, you might end up paying more than if you waited and the rates dropped.

Historical Trends: Look at historical price trends for natural gas. If prices usually rise in the winter and you expect this trend to continue, locking in a rate now could save you money.

Your Usage and Budget: Consider how much natural gas you typically use and how a lockedin rate fits within your budget. If you use a lot of natural gas, even small fluctuations in price can have a significant impact on your overall costs.

Economic and Weather Conditions: Unpredictable weather patterns or changes in the economy can impact natural gas prices. If there's a possibility of a particularly cold winter or economic instability, locking in a rate could provide some financial security.

In summary, if you believe natural gas prices might rise and you're comfortable with the terms of the contract, locking in a rate could be a good idea. If you're unsure, it might be worth doing more research into current and projected natural gas prices.

4 September 2024 Your Country Neighbor

This September Honor the Workers A message from all of us at STRIGGOW'S SOUTHSIDE BODY SHOP INC. **All Makes & Models Collision Work Frame Repair Body Work Glass Installation** Welding Open 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM Monday - Friday (402) 274-3614 2000 N Street Auburn, Nebraska **OREGON TERRACE APARTMENTS** 7th & Oregon Streets in Peru, Nebraska 🎓 Ġ 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 **CRESTVIEW SQUARE APARTMENTS** 2 & 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS AVAILABLE Electric stove, refrigerator and garbage disposal Water, sewer, garbage removal, lawn care and snow removal furnished Laundry Facility On Site

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Rent based on gross income and family size Rental assistance available for qualified applicants

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For Applications Call Lydia at 402-274-5460





Introduction of players, first homegame, August 23, 2024.



Peru State wins home opener 3 - 1 over Southwestern College (KS).



PSC v Southwestern College (KS)



The first and only Monarch that I've seen this season (as of August 30), was this beauty during my last trip to Omaha.



The last days of August saw Golden Rod displays around SE Nebraska.



Some varieties of sunflower have been blooming all through August.



Flu Shots Now Available! No Appointment Needed.

Zero Copay with most Insurance Plans. Increased Dosage Available for 65 & over

Flu can be wild. But a flu vaccine can tame flu's more serious symptoms — reducing the risk of serious illness and flu-related hospitalization in children.

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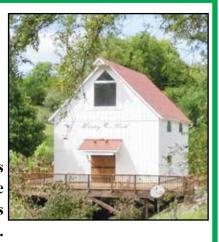


The recent "Super Moon." I'm still learning night photography. Settings need to be such that some horizon can be seen.

Whiskey Run Creek

Wine-Tasting Hours: Thursday through Sunday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday through Wednesday

Our tanks are brimming with the freshest wines from this year's exceptional harvest. As these wines ferment, they're developing complex flavors and aromas that will soon captivate your palate.



State Farm

Blayne Behrends Agent website: blaynebehrends.com

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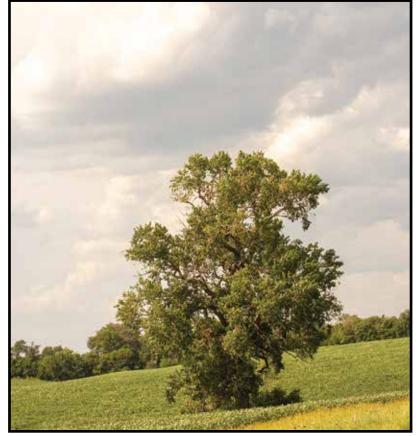


127 Main Street Brownville, NE 68321

Country Furniture Original Paint Smalls Open Tue - Sun 11:00 am - 5:00 pm 402.825.3981



The Lyceum Cafe in Brownville is Open Tuesday through Sunday 11am - 2pm Plus Saturday Evening 5pm to 8pm with Prime Rib Buffet! Anita Robertson, Owner, 228 Main Street, Brownville, Nebraska 402-825-2221



In addition to the changing colors of the trees, notice the shading in the skies.

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





PERU CITY NEWS

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The water tower and college gym as seen from the "S curve."

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 read Cate's complete announcement, copy this address into your browser;

www.yourcountryneighbor.com/cate.pdf

Welcome Traci

Traci has been promoted to fill the position of City Clerk in Peru, Nebraska. Congratulate her when you see her next, and give consideration while she undergoes her training. That shouldn't last long considering she has held the position of Deputy Clerk for some time.



Peruvians, remember the Fall Flea Market in Brownville this month. Ad on page 12.



This minimum maintenance road is directly south of Peru.

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Good Neighboring Marty Peregoy

When I was a child, a spinster lady named Hazel lived next door. My brother and I adored her, despite the fact that she chewed with her mouth open, which gave us the opportunity to see cottage cheese cycling north to south in her mouth like white sponges in a front load washing machine. She seemed to enjoy the company of children, and we took every opportunity provided to interact with her.

She had been raised in the South, so her vowels were long and languid. It was the sixties, so she wore dresses and Chanel No. 5 every day, and her small, white house was spotless. She ran a hair salon from her basement, and the smell of permanent wave solution and Aqua Net assailed your nostrils the minute you stepped inside her back door.

She had never learned to drive, so one of our favorite treats was to ride downtown with her in a taxicab. She would wear white gloves and a sophisticated little hat, and if we were lucky, we'd stop at the bank that gave my brother and I pastel-colored candy straws for being well behaved. I still remember shopping at downtown's Miller & Paine, where she bought me a Beverly Hillbillies coloring book. What care I took to stay inside the lines as I gave Ellie May lovely yellow hair, and Miss Clampetts, a non-descript light brown!

Hazel's lack of personal transportation was opportune for other reasons as well. My dad used her garage to build and hide presents, including a home-made wooden canoe for his and my mom's 8th anniversary. That canoe accompanied us on many tent camping trips to Gavins Point Dam, and when I was in my 40's and my dad had passed on, a friend and I loaded the canoe on top of my Subaru and drove it from Lincoln, Nebraska to Hillsdale, New York where my brother's property had a small pond.

When I was five, Dad built me a pink and black child-size oven and wardrobe out of plywood in Hazel's garage. He must have moved it to our house the day before Christmas, because my backyard neighbor and best friend in the whole world, Patti-Jo, took me downstairs and showed it to me. Despite that, I still believed it was made by Santa's elves when I found it in front of the upstairs fireplace on Christmas morning – perhaps the sleigh was full, so they dropped it off a little early.

We were all a little disappointed when Hazel asked my dad to teach her to drive for her 40th birthday. Soon her garage contained a dark green Chevy Nova, and our taxi trips ended. When I see a modern-day teenager driving a souped-up Nova, I think of her. It amazes me that someone we thought old at age 40 bought a car with that much power.

Her house and my parents' house were built by the same builder and were very similar, but she had the luxury of a parental inheritance and no mouths to feed, so hers had an air of luxury that my parents' did not. While the French doors to our patio were smudged with fingerprints and led to a yard with a swing set and a tree house, hers had shiny brass handles and opened onto a yard with pink and white peonies, which she would cut and give to us for our schoolteachers every spring.

She kept a dish of peppermints in her beauty salon, and I loved to sit under the bubble of an empty hair dryer while she made pin curls out of the sparse pink, lavender and blue hair of old women who had been attaining beauty at her hands for more than two decades. If I asked permission, I could have a peppermint to suck on as I watched.

It was on one such occasion that I sucked the striped candy into my windpipe and began to choke. I remember her frantically pulling me into the back room by my arm and tipping me over the industrial gray trash can whose edge came just to my rib cage. It was several years before the discovery of the Heimlich maneuver, but between the inflex-ible edge of the garbage can and her thumps on my back with the heel of her hand, the candy was dislodged, and I was able to breathe.

Being single, she often had leftovers gone questionable, which she brought over to our black lab beagle mix in spare cottage cheese containers. He loved her as much as we did, although for different reasons, and he never seemed to mind that she called him Fritzy rather than Friskie.

Both of our yards were enclosed by a low, white picket fence, and occasionally Friskie would jump from our yard to hers just to be sociable, but most of the time he was working his way to the third house's unfenced yard and the company of female dogs. Back in the 60's neutering was rare, and most people believed in letting a female have a litter of puppies before spaying her. Many of the puppies in our neighborhood were black with a white chest and a white tip on their tail. It wasn't until my brother and I were teenagers that we learned why our mother flew into a tizzy when Friskie put his paws on my brother's or my waist and joined our musical Conga line.

Hazel loved Christmas. She used to pin a pair of tiny silver bells to her slip with a safety pin each December, and hearing them, I'd be fooled into delighted cries of, "Santa's coming! Santa's coming!" Every Christmas she invited my family over for an elegant little celebration, and my older brother and I would stand in the kitchen and beg to be allowed to play the golden bell that hung in the doorway to the dining room.

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 a "write-in" candidate for Mayor.

Vote November 5th!!

Attention Landlords

Help improve the living conditions and overall experience for tenants, including students, 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.

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



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Tuesday Literary Club Reads DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

As hard as it was for me to write last month's review, because I did not care for the book in any way, it is a pleasure for me to write this month's review because the book was a pleasure to read. So much so, that since I read it when it was first published in 2009, I have now read it three times. Susan Pease selected The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows as her contribution to our theme of foreign authors/settings. It is a work of historical fiction and was a wonderful addition to our readings. It is a well recommended read.

This book is set in St. Peter Port on Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands in the England Channel. Guernsey has a rather unusual relationship with England, and if that piques your interest, I encourage you to dig further. The main character of the book is Juliet Ashton. Juliet is an author and journalist trying to earn a living after the end of World War II. Juliet becomes interested in Guernsey when she receives a letter from Dawsey Adams, a farmer who lived through the German occupation of the War on Guernsey, and still lives there. Dawsey had been given a book written by Charles Lamb which had once belonged to Juliet in which she had written her name and address in the fly leaf. How this shy farmer got up the nerve to write to an unknown woman is beyond me, but he did, and it set off a series of written communication between not only the two of them, but between Juliet and the entire Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, as well as a few other members of the community.

Juliet had been looking for a topic for her second book, and after months of letter writing and receiving from the members of the Society, she became so enthralled with the island and its citizens that she began to think that her book might be heading in that direction. With the blessing of her publisher and the inhabitants of the island, she headed off on the mail packet for the island.

Arrangements had been made for her to rent the cottage owned by an islander, Elizabeth McKenna, who had been arrested by the Germans during the War and sent to a prison on the content and not heard from since. A dinner party was held in Juliet's honor the night she arrived, where she met most of the Society members including Amelia, Kit, Eben, and Isola. Kit is Elizabeth's daughter whom the community has been raising since her mother was arrested. Kit seems quite happy and well adjusted being taken care of by everyone in their turn, even if she is a bit outspoken and precocious. Juliet is soon very fond of Kit and begins spending much time in her company as well.

In June of 1946 the members of the Society received a letter from Remy Giraud, who had been Elizabeth's roommate in Ravensbruck Concentration Camp where Remy had witnessed Elizabeth's death while trying to protect another prisoner. Of course, there was much sadness, but there was also closure. Kit's father was a German soldier who had also died. Members of the Society travel to visit Remy and bring her to convalesce on Guernsey. Juliet realized bit by bit that she did not want to return to London but wanted to stay on the island. She wanted to adopt Kit and marry Dawsey. She would write the book with Elizabeth at its center just as Elizabeth was the center of the St. Peter Port community.

Happy reading!



It is irresponsible to fine Peru residents \$150 for beautification issues when so many city-owned properties remain overgrown. Some owners have been stressed thinking they needed to consider selling some of their acreage because they can't afford to meet standards of enforcement, not having been notified that agricultural zones are exempt. A council member implied that a local paper ought to provide notices to residents, but no one provides information to this publication. This publication has never received a press release from Peru's city office. I get them from PSC and Nebraska City sources, but Peru residents have to depend on rumor and hear-say.

The beautification ordinance has been on the books for sometime, but what is new is the method of enforcement. Fines and enforcement methods were not well thought out, have been irresponsible, unfair, and arbitrary. It's more like bullying. We've had people in the City administration like that before. It's time to clean house.

I have to ask if someone is benefiting from the action. Are there conflicts of interest? Who's getting paid, and are city employees or friends profiting from residents' grief? If the City is awarding private contracts for work or equipment, the City should ask for bids.

Another issue; Recently the City issued building permits in violation of zoning ordinances. When history is forgotten or ignored, history repeats itself, and some residents bank on this. The City Council voted to revise the zoning of those properties <u>after</u> the fact. At least that reduces the possibility of law suits -- hopefully.

The Zoning Commission is to be consulted before issuing building permits when there is a conflict between zoning laws and changes in property use. The Commission's duty is to approve or reject recommendations from the Zoning Administator, aka "building inspector," and not to take direction from him or her.

It is the City's duty to notify neighboring property owners of proposed changes in property use. It would be helpful if responsible parties had copies of the zoning map(s), although much has been misplaced, lost, or removed from the city office by those who would rather not be bothered with due process. It's possible that the Civil Engineering firm that consulted with Peru in 2000 and 2001 might have document copies.

Expanding the message of a Zoning Commission member, "How can we fix this?"

Answer; by writing in Cate Wyckoff for Mayor. Vote November 5th! **PERU CITY NEWS** Communication • Information • Pride In Community

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



Peru Bobcats 4-H Club

Angela Allgood

Cailyn Winkelman started a new 4-H club for Peru kids on October 16, 2023. There are currently eight (8) families involved and 16 children. Eight (8) of those children are Clover Kids (Clover Kids are a non-competitive 4-H group that is between the ages of 5-7 years). The other eight (8) children are between the ages of 8-18 and are in 4-H.

The 4-H club chose the name Peru Bobcats 4-H Club and the children represented Peru very well during the County Fair for their first year of competition.

- Henry Montanelli: Air Rifle Contest
- Lily Edwards: 2 foods exhibits and Horse Show
- Lyla Pond: Clover Kid Pet Show
- Kinley Pond: Archery Contest
- Peri Sayer: 11 exhibits in the 4-H Building in Foods & Photography
- Quinlee Sayer: 17 exhibits in the 4-H Building in Foods, Home Design, Photography, Textile Arts, and Visual Arts
- Ramsie Sayer: 6 Clover Kid Exhibits in the 4-H Building
- Clancy Winkelman: Archery Contest, Air Rifle Contest, ATV & Tractor Driving Contest and Livestock Judging Contests
- Gabriel Winkelman: Archery Contest, Air Rifle Contest, ATV & Tractor Driving Contest and Livestock Judging Contests

SPECIAL AWARDS:

- Quinlee Sayer received a TOP Award in Crocheting for her Granny Square Crocheted Bag
- Peri Sayer received a TOP Award in Food Preservation/Drying for her Dragon Fruit Fruit Leather

STATE FAIR QUALIFIED

- Peri Sayer's Dragon Fruit Fruit Leather qualified to go to State Fair
- Quinlee Sayer's Strawberry & Pineapple Fruit Leather qualified to go to State Fair
- Quinlee Sayer's Visual Arts Exhibit, Sprayed Painted Planet, qualified to go to State Fair and received a purple and special recognition at State

Congratulations to all of the kids on awards and qualifications! Such a great accomplishment in the first year!

If your child is interested in joining the Peru Bobcats 4-H Club, the 4-H year runs October 1st through September 30th. 4-H Age is determined by the youth's age on December 31st. Contact Cailyn Winkelman by email at cailynwinkelman@gmail.com or her phone number is 402-297-1008.



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 2024 September Your Country Neighbor 11



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JOHN DEERE

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"Your Country Neighbor" is delivered to the following communities in Southeast Nebraska & NW Missouri.
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Free Admission 8-5 Daily www.BrownvilleHistoricalSociety.org

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12 September 2024 Your Country Neighbor

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September 2024

Your Country Neighbor

ARBOR CITY NEWS

"Potholders, raffles and quilts! Oh, my!"

Heritage Needlework Guild's Annual Show Delivers a Fun Time

Nancy Feeney

Just like Dorothy and Toto discovering the Land of Oz, you will be dazzled when you step inside the Heritage Needlework Guild's annual show held during the first weekend of Applejack Festival in Nebraska City.

You will find yourself surrounded by scores and scores of colorful quilts and amazing needlework items. Take your time browsing through the rows upon rows of colorful items on display at the Heritage Needlework Guild's 2024 Quilt and Needlework Show. With well over 100 items on display, this is one of the largest quilt and needlework shows in southeast Nebraska.

Held in the lower level of the Bethel Church at 2400 Central Avenue, Nebraska City, the show dates are Sept. 20, 21 & 22. Show hours are Friday 4 - 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., and Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. There is plenty of free parking and the show is handicapped accessible.

Adding to the fun are two raffles: the annual Quilt Raffle and the Basket Raffles. Tickets for both raffles are \$1 each or \$5 for 7. It's the best deal in town!

Another interesting area to browse is the Member-Made Potholders booth. Everyone occasionally needs to use a potholder! Right? Why not have potholders in your kitchen that express your personality? These make great gifts for anyone you know who cooks, bakes or grills, no matter their age. These creative potholders cover many themes, sizes and shapes, ranging from sports teams, children-themed, humorous and elegant. There will be something there to inspire all the cooks in your life, making these potholders great gifts for Christmas, birthdays, bridal showers, hostess, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Guild member Anna Sasse, Nebraska City, was vacationing in the well-known quilt town of Sisters, Oregon when she first saw potholders offered for sale at an outdoor quilt show. "People knew they had to get to the quilt show early to get their pick of the potholders," Anna said. "They just flew off the shelves!"

Anna suggested the Guild sell potholders as a fund-raiser at last year's show, and it turned out to be a huge success. Expect to see even more potholders this year covering many themes, shapes and surprising designs. Potholders made great gifts for many occasions. Expect to find sports teams, superhero themes, children themes and just downright pretty potholders. You are sure to find potholders that will inspire all the cooks in your life, no matter their age. They make handy gifts for Christmas, birthdays, bridal showers, Mother's Day, Father's Day, as well as hostess gifts.

Potholders sell for \$5 each. Just like the raffle quilt and raffle baskets, proceeds from the potholder sales go to fund the Guild's many community service projects, such as lap quilts for veterans in senior living and donating cash to area food banks.

Come join us in the land of color and thread! Put a trip to the 2024 Annual Heritage Needlework Guild Quilt and Needlework Show on your Applejack weekend activity list.

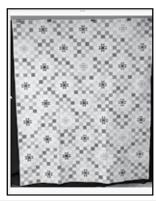
See Admission Coupon for "Quilt and Needlework Show" on page 18.



Show and Tell at a recent meeting with Lori Neeman and Paula Waterfield Kopf.



CherylHarmsofNebraskaCitywasnamedthe2024 Heritage Needlework Guild Member of the Year.



This year's Raffle Quilt measures 90" by 70" and is called "Twinkle Twinkle."



At last year's show, attendees gathered around to see the colorful display of quilts on stage created by the 2023 Members of the Year.

Members of the Heritage Needlework Guild display their "Blocks of the Month."

ARBOR CITY NEWS

Morton-James Public Library Calendar of Events September 2024

923 1st Corso, Nebraska City, NE 68410

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

"Bring Your Own Book" Club

Join us for a silent reading book club

Bring your own e-reader, book, or grab a title from our shelves and enjoy an hour of quiet reading time. Read what you want, no discussion required. Optional social time at end. Free and open to the public all ages 15+.

You are welcome to bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Sunday, September 1 2:00-3:30 PM

Library Closed for Labor Day Monday, September 2

Story Time-Let's Read All About WormsAges 2-6. Families Welcome! No registration.Wednesday, September 410:00 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, September 4 1:30-3:00 PM

Chess Club All ages welcome. Every Thursday 4:00-6:00 PM

Humanities Nebraska-Monsters Within-Monster Stories and

What They Mean presented by Christopher Krampe Thursday, September 5 7:00 PM

Scrapbooking Club

Bring your own project to work on.
We provide paper/stickers/tape/markers and scissors. All ages 15 and older welcome
New members will receive a scrapbook to fill!
Bring your own pictures!
Saturday, September 7 9:00 AM-Noon

Card Club

Come to meet new people and to play any card game you'd like... ages 19 +

Thursday, September 12 1:00-3:00 PM

Lego Club

Must be 8 years and older to join. Monday, September 16 3:30-5:00 PM

Book Club The Cartographers by Peng Shepherd Tuesday, September 17 2:00 PM

Story Time-Leaves & Trees Story TimeAges 2-6. Families Welcome! No registration.Wednesday, September 1810:00 AM

Evening Book Club The Measure by Nikki Erlick **Wednesday, September 18** 5:30 PM

Harry Potter Party

Costumes encouraged, but not required. Arrive anytime between 6 to 7:30 pm. Enjoy food, various magical activities, a scavenger hunt and a free swag bag. Event is free and open to the public. Families welcome! Friday, September 20 6:00-7:30 PM

AppleJack Youth Craft & Color

All ages welcome. Coloring page and wooden apple ornament to color available.

Saturday, September 21 10:00 AM-Noon

Writers' Workshop

Join us to get feedback on your own writing and to learn more about the craft of writing. Saturday, September 21 10:00 AM

Adult Dream Catcher Craft Class

15 and older. Must register to save your spot. Limited seating available. Call 402-873-5609 to register or email cfoust@mjpl.org **Tuesday, September 24 7:00 PM**

Nebraska City News Press Reception

Come help celebrate the oldest paper in Nebraska with a special visit from Lee Bachlet, CEO of Cherry Road Media. Bachlet will speak to the present and future state of local news and why Cherry Road Media has decided to invest in local papers across the country. Wednesday, September 25 5:00-7:00 PM

Mark your calendar! November 14 at 7 p.m., reporter Julie Davis will present a brief history of the News-Press, and the Kimmel Gallery will host a special "Nebraska City News-Press: Past, Present, and Future" exhibit in December.

ARBOR CITY NEWS Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce

NC'S APPLEJACK 2024 HAS **POTENTIAL TO SET RECORDS**

September equals AppleJack in Nebraska City, and festival organizers are anticipating a banner year.

"If the weather is good, we should have record crowds," said Amy Allgood, Nebraska City

Tourism & Commerce Executive Director. "It's really coming together."

Since 1969, Nebraska City has celebrated the fall harvest at its local orchards with the award-winning AppleJack Festival, normally held the

third weekend in September. For the past several years, the festival has expanded to encompass two weekends.

Allgood said the reasons 2024 could be such an auspicious year have everything to do with old traditions, new adventures, and - oddly enough - Nebraska football.

"With the Husker game on Friday night that first weekend [Sept. 20], Saturday is open for Nebraska fans to spend the day in Nebraska City instead of Lincoln," Allgood said. "Plus, we continue to offer fun, family-friendly traditions that have made AppleJack such a popular festival to begin with."

Allgood said those traditions include the parade, car show, carnival, craft fairs and a flea market.

plus all the apple-themed activities happening at Kimmel Orchard, Arbor Day Farm, and Wostrel Family's Union Orchard.

"These are the things I remember doing with

my family when I was a kid and they are what I took my kids to when they were young," she said. "They are timeless classics."

> However, as with any good event, Allgood acknowledges there is

always room for growth and improvement. With that in mind, organizers have added new opportunities in recent years, most of those taking place in downtown Nebraska City during the second weekend of the festival, on September 28 and 29.

On Saturday the 28th, the Nebraska City Creative District will host the Apple Jamboree. This free event, geared to kids, includes a petting zoo, carnival games, face painting, and art. Later that afternoon, adults are welcome to participate in the AppleJack Cider Stroll while enjoying a downtown beer garden. Musician Lucas Minor will be performing live that evening. Sunday the 29th will be day two of the Apple Jamboree and the introduction of the Apple Bites Adventure, an apple-themed food passport that encompasses eight Nebraska City eateries.



Chad's Kitchen of Nebraska City served "Walking Caramel Apples" last year. Food, including festival food trucks and apple-themed options at local eateries, remains a popular draw for AppleJack.

A Couple of Hanyaks will provide live music in the beer garden that afternoon. Both the Cider Stroll and Apple Bites Adventures are ticketed events.

"The main point is to celebrate the apple harvest and have fun doing it," Allgood said.

Details about the 2024 AppleJack Festival can be found at NebraskaCity.com/festivals.

The AppleJack Car Show (far left) takes over Central Avenue in downtown Nebraska City as part of the Sunday events on the Traditional Weekend (September 20-22). The Cider Stroll (left) was introduced last year and deemed successful.



SEPTEMBER 20-22

Traditional AppleJack

SEPTEMBER 28-29

All About Apples

ARBOR CITY NEWS Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce





Fountain at Wildwood

One of Nebraska City's Community Gardens.

ARBOR CITY NEWS

Heritage Needlework Guild

Quilt & Needlework Show



Fri. Sept. 20 4 - 7 pm

Sat. Sept. 21 9 am - 5 pm

Sun. Sept. 22 10 am - 4 pm

Held at: Bethel Church Nebraska City

2024 Raffle Quilt \$5 at the door

🖈 Raffle Quilt 🛠 Raffle Baskets

🛠 Unique Potholders for Sale

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countryneighbor@windstream.net



18 2024 September Your Country Neighbor

Include Arbor Lodge Mansion in your Applejack experience this month.

ARBOR CITY NEWS News from Nebraska City

ME Bruce Madsen

I've always had this feeling It hits me in the early fall I get all elated, my senses reeling My inner self stands proud and tall

It has to do with a job well done When the best you could do stares back at you Fields of green blessed by the rain and kissed by the sun And the reason I'm here, falls into view

If you've spent your life working the land You may know the feeling 'cause it's hard to hide To look at what was done by your hand Gives you satisfaction, contentment and a great deal of pride

For me it happens every year On a hill in my pick-up, looking through the windshield I admire the visions that do appear With the arms of Mother Nature, gently caressing the fields

Now I'm not naïve enough to think I did it all myself I surely had some help from a much higher power Although I may not have a great amount of spiritual wealth I still give a thankful prayer to the man in the tower

And next year, I assume, I'll again feel this same way 'cause its been like this ever since I got my start And I think it will probably stay with me till the end of my days 'cause it's hard to change a pattern, or the feelings in the heart.







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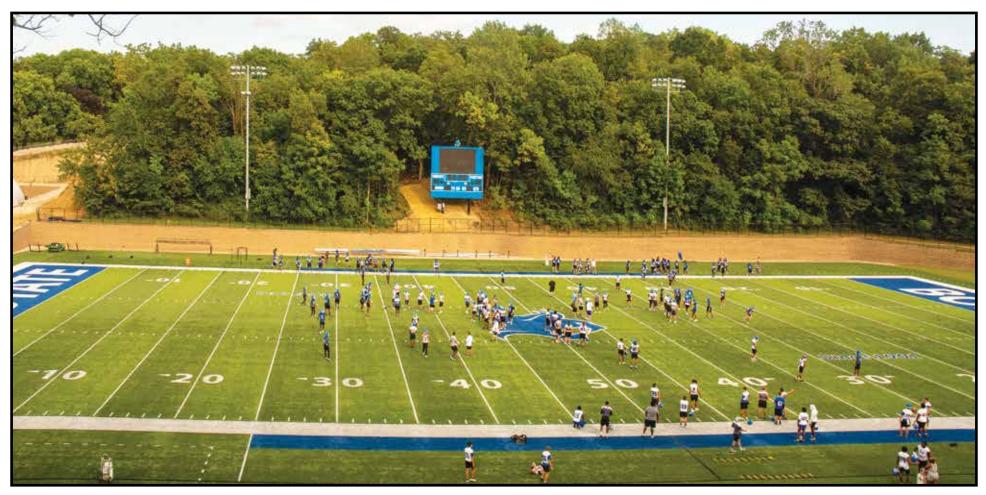
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Football practice in the Oak Bowl. The new scoreboard is seen just beyond the 50 yard line.

Learning, Earning, And Yearning

Dorothy Rieke

Christopher Morley once observed, "There are three ingredients to the good life; learning, earning, and yearning." This is, indeed, one suggestion for a happy life. Truthfully, all these play ever-important roles in preparing us for the good life, one filled with hope, faith, and achievement.

Because lives today are greatly enhanced with knowledge, it must be cherished and utilized. Gaining knowledge is sometimes just a matter of education. However, other kinds of knowledge are extremely important to our progress toward aspirations and goals. Common sense and enlightenment are important. As Shakespeare once observed, knowledge is "the wing wherewith we fly to heaven."

Being knowledgeable is imperative in society today as our plans, goals and futures depend greatly on acquired knowledge. Knowledge makes possible the completing of tasks and progressing to more challenging activities. Knowledge also represents a priceless treasure to be utilized over and over. It is often followed by the creation of skills, adeptness, and competence. It is versatile and, at times, triggers perseverance in our pursuit of working, loving, and living.

Earning, generally necessary for our existence, means "to receive as return for effort." Who doesn't like to experience the results of labor? These results may include a compliment, advancement, or even a boost in self-esteem. Earning generally requires effort and certain attitudes, including being passionate about steps to be taken before completion.

Earning often represents a "pay-off" for our intense efforts. It is the ultimate in achievement and the bonus for hard work. Yearning is a matter of "longing persistently." Who hasn't yearned for a special condition, item, or consideration. Yearning intensifies our desires and brings us closer to peace of mind and fulfillment. Our lives are often engaged in yearning. Wanting is part of life. Without desires for certain things or conditions, our lives would be less exciting, interesting, and compelling.

The results of fulfilling your yearnings can be satisfying by creating feelings of enjoyment. Accomplishment based on initial wants means more than incidental good luck. Instead, it creates a sort of self-reliance, a self-esteem, and an improved self-respect. It promotes good feelings and a sense of achievement and progress.

Leaning, earning, and yearning ---what a winning combination!

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

Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

The view from my window on Fifth Street has changed recently as students return for the 2024-2025 school year at Peru State College. And now, there's the white "dome" which can be viewed about a block further east of my window. Inside the dome is a practice field with 70 yards of artificial turf that is essentially a copy of a portion of the football field in the Oak Bowl. There's more work to be done before completion, so what other uses of the facility are, I have yet to investigate, but I am looking forward to finding out.

So far this Summer, I've been disappointed in my number of butterfly sightings. April was a peak, at which time I was encouraged, but I only saw my first Monarch in this area last week. At least it appears that migration has begun through Nebraska.

I don't have a "bucket list," but I think of certain visual experiences as my personal "wonders of the world." They include a Monarch migration covering a tree or bush, the scent of a blooming alfalfa field and of wild phlox in my yard in early Spring, a yellow "antique" rose bush in early June, the rings of Saturn, a Zebra Longwing (butterfly), and I should include the rising harvest moon. Those are some sights and smells. As for sounds; the call of the western meadowlark, the Spring morning song of the little house wren, the quaking leaves of the Cottonwood tree. I might also mention the lonely whistle of the steam locomotive that I used to hear late at night through my bedroom window of the old two-story Iowa farmhouse.

I hope September is a "wonder" for you.



My cat likes my window on 5th Street." September 2024 Your Country Neighbor 21

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Highway 67, on my way home to Peru from a Brownville photoshoot.

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

http://www.yourcountryneighbor.com

September Sheila Tinkham

Seventh month

September means seven in Latin It morphed to the 10th month when the Roman calander changed from ten months to 12 months January and February were added by Julius Caesar in 46BC The new calander was the Julian calander Before this winter months weren't included in calander, only harvesting and planting months. But to me September was always the beginning The beginning of Fall The beginning of School Heat dissipated and slid into cooler nights Full of hot cider delight New books, New teams, New clothes I just want to wrap my arms around September And give her a big warm squeeze And whisper welcome Summer has been too hot and humid And my eyes are glazed with sweat and heat And now I can cheer my favorite teams Go Big Red! Go Peru Bobcats! Tough love Sheila Tinkham Everyone wants words of comfort and kindness But I have learned far more from tough love Kay Montes, my Greek neighbor from Savannah, "Sweep your porch! Do something." She was lovely with dark hair and eyes and like magic would transform into a raving beauty When she got ready for Greek Orthodox church or a date Every time I see a old fashioned southern porch I think of her and George, her very plump enormous cat who was doctored with olive oil to keep the hairballs from building up, George was always cramming his large frame onto the porch trying to find a perfect spot to sun, Kay would sigh and say she tried to give George Away but he came back to her, dodging cars and stray dogs to arrive back at her door Be polite I would ask the African violet lady Mrs. Robbins who raised hundred of African violets on her porch, each from one single leaf that would grow a root, To watch my favorite show Chips Cuz she had a lovely color tv not like our black and white And every week she gave me a glass of stale coke and stale sugar cookies And each week I ate and drank, they being presented as really as if I were a queen I never complained and thanked her And she was cool because she had been part of the Lawrence Welk show audience and gave money to sponsor a child in Africa... Listen Mrs. Brogden an older southern lady who had a coke and whisky toddy each night Eyed my gangly ten year old self up and down "Not bad but you have knobby knees" I wasn't sure at ten what knobby knees were But I listened and did not respond Mrs. Brogden helped my Mom design my princess peacock blue dress She was kind and patient and wonderful with my Mom ... And today my doctor Dr. Van Ert gets impatient, but he as an old fashioned doctor who tells you the truth Like a dollop of medicine taken with sugar Sister Consuela, the Irish sister who taught Flannery O' Conner the writer Just smiled and seemed the epitome of irish kindness and warm hugs...

And my hubby Richard who has taught me that hard work and Perserverence are far more important than anything..

Tough love

Poetry O_{APPLE CRISP} The kitchen is warm with

The kitchen is warm with a flavor of home and comfort. Out of the oven is seeping sumptuous, savory, flavors of apples all nestled in a ruffled crust, pleated just so, like a fancy skirt. It has slits cut in the top for scents to escape and float to all parts of this old farm house. And in the freezer waits a big tub of salted caramel ice cream, ready to be served with drooling good pieces of steamy pie. Yummity-yum-yum!

OUT OF THE OVEN

Like a hot apple pie set on a windowsill to cool, September starts out steamy, but cools fast in the chilly nights. It is a sumptuous feast of colors painted by fingers of frost that throw a glow around like party decorations. Crisp winds rattle the dry leaves until the air is full of noise, and leaves start falling one by one. The air is electric with a buzz of static and energy from the far north of the infinite Canadian prairie.

by Devon Adams, Peru

GROUNDERS

They fall with the full weight of their rich and juicy bodies. Worms here and there, scratches and nicks and pecks all over, but the apples are all treasures that will wait for the first snow that flies. It will bring birds to the ground looking to go on a weekend drunk spree. They will suck up the fermented fruit like it is a fine wine or liquor, made on a special order for them. Hangovers don't count when you're having fun!

PIECES OF THE PIE

Now we cut out the slice for September of the pie that is a year of months. Each one has a special flavor and aroma, that has to wait for the turn of the earth to present itself. Not always exactly the same, they are always on time, ticking along with the precise breathing of the universe, or multiverse, or illusion that we fondly call the space that surrounds our tiny lives.

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CIDER BY THE FIRE

The evening curtain closes tight around the campfire, as the flames catch and reach for the stars that are clear cut diamonds. The local owl is sounding his watch and waiting for a victim to wander into death. Hot dogs pop and sizzle. Toasts are raised with full cider mugs clinking among friends who savor the flavor of fall and all that it means.

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