

Your **Country** Neighbor

FREE!
April 2010

Springtime in Brownville



Wine, Writers, & Song Festival Event Schedule is at:
<http://www.brownville-ne.com/main.taf?p=1,3>

The Concert Series has already had two performances in 2010.
<http://www.brownvilleconcertseries.com/performances.html>

Voices from your Valley

Merri's Diary	3
Devon's Poetry	4
"Where Life is Good"	6
Hunting & Fishing Report	9
"The Face of Drought"	10
"April Foolishness"	11
Coupon for Valentino's!	12
Joe Smith; an important Message	12

Voices from the Valley of the Nemaha

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

Writers this month

Devon Adams
Merri Johnson
Shirley Neddenriep
Vicki O'Neal
Karen Ott
Marilyn Woerth
Josh Whisler

Thank You

Copyright 2009 and 2010 by *Your Country Neighbor*. All rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any method without the written permission of the publisher. Ownership of some photos and/or written pieces is retained by the author.

Your Country Neighbor

P.O. Box 126
Peru, Nebraska 68421

countryneighbor@windstream.net

Editor's note:

More than five years of
this publication are online at:

www.yourcountryneighbor.com



U-SAVE PHARMACY

- Same-Day Prescription Mail-Out Service
- Everyday Low Prices!
- Free Delivery Service In Auburn
- Convenient Drive-Thru Window
- We Accept Most Insurance Plans
- We Accept All Major Credit Cards



(402) 274-4186 or (800) 628-6394



2220 J Street • Auburn, Nebraska 68305



RE-ELECT

**Bob E.
Hutton**

Republican
District One County Commissioner

Experience Counts!

- Farmer
- Landowner
- Taxpayer
- Lifelong Nemaha County Resident

Serving on:

*Blue Rivers Agency on Aging Board
Southeast Nebraska Development District
SENCA Board*

"Your Vote will be Appreciated"

Paid for by Bob Hutton, 72546 644 Ave., Nemaha, NE

TINCHER

OF AUBURN
sales and service



\$9850

2007 Hyundai Sonata Low Miles



\$7995

2005 Impala, 80,000 miles



\$4500

2000 GMC Sonoma



\$9495

2005 Chev Equinox



\$5495

2005 Concord - Clean, Loaded



\$8990

2005 Impala 63,000 miles



**WE
FINANCE!!!**

Not Pictured

2002 Ford Taurus	\$6995
2004 Ford Crown Victoria	\$3495
1997 Ford F150 4x4	\$5295
1999 Cadillac Deville	\$3995
1997 Ford Explorer	\$2995
1999 Chevrolet Venture	\$5995
1999 Chevy Suburban	\$4575
2000 Ford Winstar.....	\$3990
1996 Ford Winstar	\$1995
2001 Dodge Ram 4x2 Short Box	\$5990
1997 Jeep Cherokee	\$2750
1984 Dodge 4x2	\$1175

Motorcycles

2007 1300 VTX	\$7950
2007 600 Shadow VLX	\$4950

814 Central Ave. Auburn, Nebraska 68305
402-274-2277

THE HAIR COTTAGE

Shelly Nichols
Peru, Nebraska
402-872-3107

-For All Your Family
Hair Care Needs
-Tanning
-Manicures

Hours:

Tuesday - Friday 9-5; Sat. 8-12:00
After hours by appointment only
Walk-ins welcome



PEGGY KUSER

Certified Public Accountant

916 Central Avenue
Auburn, NE 68305

(402) 274-5106

Fax: (402) 274-2580

HOMETOWN

BRAND CENTER

HOMETOWN BRAND APPLIANCES

GE • Hotpoint • Whirlpool • Maytag
SALES, SERVICE, & PARTS

1011 CENTRAL AVENUE
AUBURN, NEBRASKA 68305
(402) 274-5512

ATTENTION:

50% OFF

STOREWIDE!

Expires April 30, 2010



Neighborhood Closet's Location is

911 Central Ave. in Auburn

Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 2010

Your Country Neighbor

Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson

If there's been a recurring theme in my columns over the past year, it's been *absent-mindedness*, especially as it relates to keeping track of keys. Those of you who read my column regularly may recall that during 2009 both my husband and I suffered the maddening frustration of misplacing our car keys, and worse, the prospect of shelling out \$100 or more to replace them. Fortunately, the lost were found before replacements were purchased.

My husband's episode took an entire column to relate, while mine was covered in a mere paragraph or two in the middle of a story about something else. He has always felt disproportionately ridiculed, so this column should even the score a little. You'll see what I mean.

Recently I was talking with two friends. One was relating a recent incident of double-jeopardy lockout. Not only had she locked her keys inside her house, but her fail-safe back-up plan of entering via the garage door key pad was thwarted by the coincidental death of the key pad battery. I've been known to make use of that plan myself. (Note to self: change key pad batteries pronto.)

The other friend then shared an old tale of locking her then-toddler son inside a running vehicle and having to call her husband to the rescue. I could relate to that one, too, having had a similar experience myself about 25 years ago. But, if memory serves, I called the police to unlock my car and rescue my trapped son and his cousin. I shared that story with my daughter-in-law once. It didn't take long to discern that if I wanted to be entrusted with the care of my granddaughter, it would be better not to "share" memories of parenting screw-ups of that sort.

Anyway, back to the conversation with my friends. Several rounds of stories of locking oneself out of the house or locking children inside vehicles were exchanged, with much nodding of heads in agreement and laughter at the predicaments we had all gotten into, and fortunately, out of, with no harm done.

I mostly listened, feeling vindicated in the company of these women who are considered quite capable in most respects, yet are prone to momentary lapses of attention when it comes to keys. But to my chagrin, neither of them confessed to having to call a professional locksmith to open a car door. I would have to own that embarrassment all by myself.

It happened just a few weeks ago. I had spent a long day in a professional workshop and was making one more work-related stop on my way home. I pulled into the parking lot, turned off the car, and then was apparently distracted by something that kept me from immediately pulling the keys out of the ignition and depositing them in my purse.

I stepped out of the car, and thinking I was being prudent, decided to lock it. I pushed the button on the door, slammed it shut, and went inside. Not until an hour later, when it was time to leave, did I realize what I had done.

By then, it was 5:30 p.m. The locksmith I called sounded *just a little annoyed* at being called out, but he came right away. He was friendly and efficient, motivated no doubt by the smell of a \$55.00 service call for half an hour's effort. And I'm including his driving time and paperwork in that half an hour.

But what could I do? I was stuck in Lincoln. Calling my husband to rescue me was out of the question.

So, there you have it. I didn't really *lose* my keys; I could see them dangling from the steering column, just a few feet from me. Yet, I couldn't retrieve them on my own.

When I told my daughter about it, she gave me a stern lecture on always securing the keys as soon as I turn off the ignition. Point taken. I expect I will not hear the end of this from my husband any time soon, now that he has read this column. I suppose I have it coming.

Poetry by Devon Adams

GRASSLAND

The new blades burst from the winter prison,
reaching for the sun with their green fingers.
Wind breath blows sea ripples in waves
across the rolling prairie fields of brome
and blue stem, making the land move,
even as it is anchored in place.
And below the sky, down in the soil,
are the long roots that weave themselves
through the underground, creating a
buried land of pale strings that send
their dreams of dancing up through
the dark toward the golden light.

PENCIL PORTRAITS

BY DEVON ADAMS



Artist Devon Adams will do a pencil portrait of *children, adults, graduation, wedding, pets, & wildlife.*

Order your portrait by mailing your photograph(s) and your check for the applicable amount as shown in the price list below.

8" x 10"	\$30.00
11" x 14"	\$65.00
16" x 20"	\$120.00

Size given is the mat size
(e.g., 8 x 10 mat has a 5 x 7 portrait).
Add \$25.00 for each additional figure to
be included in the portrait.

buckskinz@windstream.net

Devon Adams P.O. Box 192
402-209-9377 Peru, Nebraska 68421

COMING SOON

Those of us who live in the ground
appreciate the thick white blanket
that has covered us all winter.
We were still trying to grow, last fall, when
the November soil was warm and dry,
and sunshine filled the clear skies.
Then the weather flipped into snow mode.
Through all the blizzard nightmares
that raged over us with evil intent,
we were protected beneath this insulating
layer, listening to the distant screams
of the invading arctic demons.
They wanted to hunt us down and kill us,
but we were hidden under their heavy boots,
waiting until they retreated north across
the desolate frozen sea of snow.
Now that the earth has leaned away from winter,
we are exercising our cramped muscles,
so we'll be ready to push up through
weary soil into the early warmth of afternoons
that soften the brittle edges of winter.
Watch for our fresh faces, coming soon,
as our petals flare into bright color splashes,
and we return your welcoming smiles.

SEE ME FOR YOUR INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL REVIEW.

Together we'll prioritize your
needs and help you plan your
financial future. Schedule your
free review today.

WE LIVE WHERE YOU LIVE!



Patrick Castle Ins Agcy Inc
Pat Castle, Agent
Auburn, NE 68305
Bus: 402-274-5121



LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR,
STATE FARM IS THERE.™

Providing Insurance and Financial Services

Consult your tax or legal advisor for specific advice.
State Farm • Home Office: Bloomington, IL
FD3623 10/03

HOW FAR?

So much for modern civilization,
which is only as close as
conveniences that work.
When roads disappear behind
snow drift mountains, and
power lines collapse with ice,
we find ourselves isolated in
cold houses in places that
we don't recognize anymore.
Oh pioneers, you folks had
the key to living simply,
with enough wood for winter,
ready for the cookstove and
the fireplace, and a fruit cellar
full of staples, the sweat of summer
distilled into bottled gardens.
Barns were full of hay and grain,
with animals blowing warm breath
into miniature fogs from welcoming bleats,
and neighs, and moos and quacks and clucks.
News was strictly local, being the day by day
existence of the family, and close neighbors.
Their lives were like puzzle pieces that
fit next to our lives, completing a tight
community that depended on each other.

JANA SMITH
DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE

NEMAHA COUNTY
ASSESSOR

QUALIFIED

****Certified to perform the duties of Assessor.
****Current 60 hours continuing education
required for re-certification.

EXPERIENCED

****19 years as Nemaha County Deputy Assessor.
Your vote on May 11th will be appreciated.



Come Join Us for
An Exquisite Dining Experience
at
The Brownville Lyceum Restaurant

Best Prime Rib in the Tri-State Area
Friday & Saturday Evenings

Daily Lunch Specials
Tuesday through Sunday

Hours
Tuesday through Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Friday & Saturday Eve 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

402-825-4321
228 Main Street, Brownville, Nebraska
Anita Robertson

Firearms • Ammunition • Black Powder
Archery • Tackle & Bait



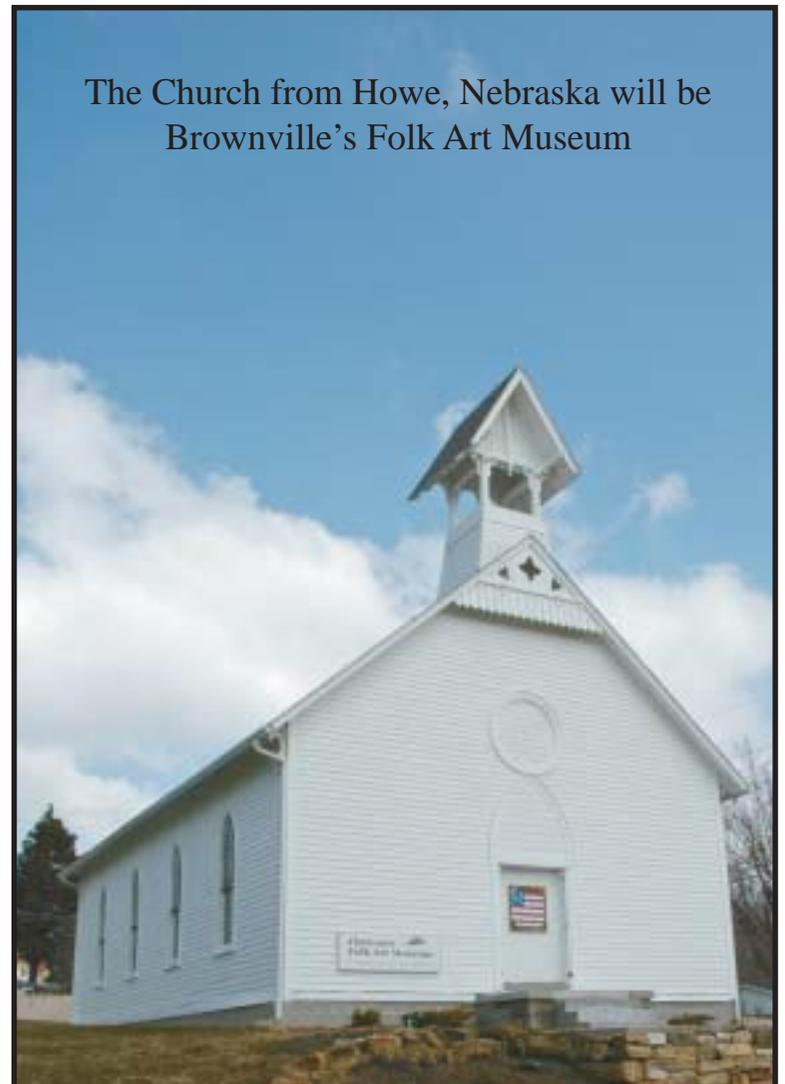
Certified Gun Smith

**Hunters
Headquarters**

Martin Kelsay, Owner

1004 22nd • Auburn, NE • 402-274-5165

The Church from Howe, Nebraska will be
Brownville's Folk Art Museum



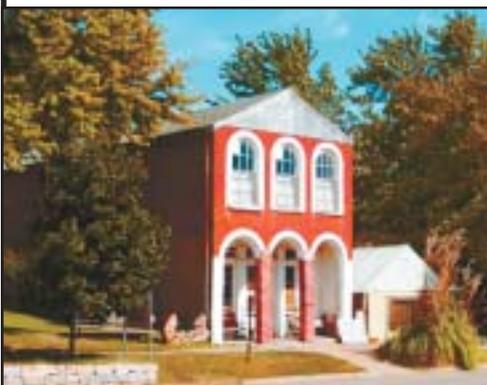
Brownville Mills

Nebraska's Oldest Health Food Store
In Nebraska's Oldest Town

Various Dried Fruit
Nuts
Bulk Spices

Chokeberries, Gummies, and Juice
(Exotic term for Chokeberry is Aronia)

**Processor & Distributor of
Organic Foods**



(402) 297-1521

116 Main Street
Brownville, NE 68321

Mon through Sat 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

www.BrownvilleMills-Ne.com



JOHN DEERE

Stutheit Implement Co.

Stutheit Implement Company

Locations in Auburn and Syracuse

Auburn, NE on Highway 75
800-456-9916 or 402-274-4941

Syracuse, NE on Highway 50
800-374-4630 or 402-269-2241



Pre-owned/Demo Compact Utility Tractors

(S) JD 650 tractor	756 Hrs 4wd 60" deck	\$7,000
(S) '04 5220	MF 480 Hrs w/ldr	\$26,000
(S) '83 4050 Quad	5000 Hrs	\$30,000
(A) '91 Bobcat	742B skidsteer 1016 Hrs	\$13000
(A) NH 910 Windrower	9"	\$3400
(A) 3-Wheel Hay Rake		\$950
(S) PK 3pt Sprayer	35' Boom	\$1200
(S) Rhino #350	7' Rear blade	\$600
(A) Frontier	72" Finish mower	\$1095
(S) BEF-CO	60" Tiller	\$850
(A) JD	# 31 Post Hole digger	\$600
(S) 62 JD 3010	Gas Tractor	\$4950

(A)uburn and (S)yracuse Locations
www.stutheitimpl.com

Pre-owned/Demo Garden Tractors

(S) Everride	ZKW2352 hornet 52"	\$5250
(A) JD Z445	54" deck	\$3500
(S) JD X585	48" deck	\$5400
(A) JD X485	54" deck	\$7500
(S) JD 175	38" deck	\$500
(S) JD 445 AWS	54"	\$4200
(A) JD Z820A	40 Hrs 48" Deck	\$9300
(A) JD 757 Z-turn	306 Hrs 60" Deck	\$7150
(A) JD Z810A	48"	\$6950
(A) Kawasaki Mule	3010	\$8000
(A) 98 JD 4X2 Gator		\$4000
(A) 07 JD HPX 4X4 Gator		\$9950
(A) 07 JD XUV Gator	4X4	\$9450

Several Used Gators in stock. Call for details.

Where Life is Good

by Marilyn Woerth

Within our three acres we have built a children's garden. As doting grandparents this area has been expanded every year almost as much as our two grandsons have grown. A simple sign, "kindergarten" marks the area formed and enclosed with the weeping branches of several forsythia bushes. When the grandsons reached five years of age, grandpa went, well, completely crazy.

The twenty-something-year-old maple next to the children's garden soon became an extraordinary tree house with (taking a deep breath) a rock wall, tube slide, fireman pole that dumps into a spider web, that dumps into a two-ton sandbox (you could lose a child in that sandbox). Phew, and he loves this tree house as much as any child that has played among its branches. Grandma has not been as enthusiastic.

My chief concern has been where the maple is situated. It is growing at the back edge of the yard proper where our land slopes down into a ravine. The only way into the tree house is the rock wall which is less than six feet high. Besides the rock wall you can achieve descent with the tube slide or the fireman's pole which is located on the downward slope of the yard (about a nine foot drop). Did I mention I was afraid of heights?

Now when you are five years old and looking down into the spider web from the top of the fireman's pole, you might be a little bit intimidated. With grandpa at work, grandma decided to take things into her own hands, literally. What better way to show my grandson how to overcome his fear of heights than by conquering my own.

Joining the youngest of our grandsons we both looked down the pole into the rope spider web. "Do you want to go first?" I asked. The little blonde head moved horizontally, "No grandma, you go first." Fear gripped my face and my grandson could sense it for he soon became my coach and cheerleader. "You can do it grandma. Come on grandma. See, just get the pole and go down. It's easy." Yeah, right kid. If it's so easy why didn't you go first? But I kept chickening out. After about ten minutes and sensing my grandson growing boredom, I bravely pulled from my inner strength and wrapped my arms and legs around the fireman pole and faster than two blinks was down the pole.

My cheerleader was very overwhelmed, "Grandma you did it. See, I knew you could do it." "Yeah, grandma did it," I responded. "Now it's your turn to come down." His little blonde head shook horizontally and down the tube slide he went.

Grandpa is thinking about adding a zip line. Guess what grandma thinks about that? Where facing ones phobias is part of the good life.

Whether it's buying, selling or looking for a place to build, let *The American Dream Real Estate Company* be your first choice.



Andrea Mellage, Sales..274-8557
 Mark Rippe, Sales.....274-8150
 Carla Mason, Broker....274-1817

OFFICE...274-4410

<p>TWO BEDROOM CONDO</p> <p>\$169,900</p> 	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>\$130,000</p> 	<p>SINGLE FLOOR LIVING!</p> <p>\$118,500</p> 	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>\$145,000</p> 
<p>1617 Q Street</p> <p>2-bedroom, 2-bath Condo, large living room, 1-car attached garage.</p>	<p>2511 O Street</p> <p>3-bdrm, 2-bath, 2-car garage, lots of updates, newer roof.</p>	<p>2618 T Street</p> <p>2 bdrm, 2 bath. No steps. Patio, 36" doors, fenced yard, appliances.</p>	<p>615 15th Street</p> <p>3-bdrm, 2 bath, open Liv & Din rms, fireplace, kitchen remodel, 2-car garage, fenced back yard, great view.</p>
<p>All Your Wants & Desires</p> <p>\$189,900</p> 	<p>DUPLEX!</p> <p>\$147,500</p> 	<p>NEW JOHNSON LISTING</p> <p>\$98,000</p> 	<p>NEW LISTING</p> <p>\$79,900</p> 
<p>2516 M Street</p> <p>3-bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, family room, storage, deck & patio, 3-car garage.</p>	<p>714 & 716 15th Street</p> <p>Live in One - Rent the Other. Both 2-bed units w/basements...one finished. Kitchen and Bath updates.</p>	<p>205 Chestnut St.</p> <p>3-bdrm, 2 bath, full basement, 1-car & 2-car garages, alley access.</p>	<p>1303 13th Street</p> <p>Beautiful Victorian Charrmer. Oak flrs, 4-bdrm, 1 1/2 bath, main flr laundry, open staircase.</p>



www.americandreamrealestatecompany.com

820 Central Avenue

Auburn, Nebraska 68305



The Brownville Theatre's Season begins in June



Try the Farmer Omlet for Breakfast or the Jack Daniels Philly for Lunch

Get your Finger Sandwiches, Salad, Hot Wings, and more for your Parties; call for details!

Reunions • Birthdays • Anniversaries

402-274-2446 1223 J Street Auburn

INSOMNIA

by Shirley Neddenriep

Insomnia came to tug at thoughts
... pain's sharp point
blunted by a thousand nights of thought
no longer pierced nor jagged
the place is calloused, impregnable
time and pain, inflictor,
rounded itself.
The circling thoughts
have rounded the edges
so pain no longer pierces
no longer stabs
no longer hurts
as insomnia healed in its deadening way
its dulling of one's senses
the once known love

Is gone.

Insomnia came to

tug at thoughts . . .

I heard the owl crow

the harbinger of night.

As dawn broke

The owl and I, we slept.

Neighborhood Closet II

1220 Central Ave., Nebraska City

A gently-used clothing store that provides both a place to donate items which are no longer needed, and a place to purchase quality clothing at low prices.

Our Store Hours

Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

BLUE VALLEY

tele-communications

Telephone Service • High-Speed Internet • BVtv

- Web Hosting
- Key Systems
- Competitive Long Distance
- Computer Repair



We Live Here Too. We've Gotta Do It Right!

Open Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

785-799-3311 • Toll Free 877-876-1228 • www.bluevalley.net

1559 Pony Express Highway Home, Kansas 66438

Whiskey Run Creek
VINETARD & WINERY

All our wines remain at the
low price of just \$15.00.

Visit us for a special wine
tasting experience.

Browse our gift shop and ask
about our tours.

April Wine-Tasting Hours:

Wed - Sat 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sun 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays
(Open Mondays on Holiday Weekends.)

Reserve the 'Loft' for your meeting or celebration.

Catering can be provided.
Call 402-825-6361

(402) 825-4601
www.whiskeyruncreek.com



Whiskey Run Creek Winery in Brownville

Our Current Wine List

Apple Raspberry • Chambourcin • Chardonel

de Chaunac • Concord • Edelweiss

Frontenac • Historic Brownville • LaCrosse

Levi's Reserve • Marechal Foch

Northern Red • Pymment • Riesling • St. Croix

1854 • Robert's Back 40

702 Main Street
Brownville, Nebraska 68321

Whisler's Hunting & Fishing Report



by Josh Whisler
(Photo provided by Author)

Fishing:

The Missouri River is well over flood stage now with the recent snow melt and rain runoff. When it decides to settle out is anyone's guess. The flooding has been minor but minor still is not good for low lying ground that is now and will be for sometime a wet bog. Heat is the main ingredient right now to dry some stuff up. Clear skies mean that it isn't raining, adding more water to an already messy Missouri River Bottom. Though it is good to see all the snow gone, it was a good thing it left slowly or the flooding could have been a lot worse. With the snow melt and change in the weather came the water fowl migration back north. And I'm talking droves of birds that haven't been seen in this area for decades. The skies have been literally blacked out by geese at times and the noise is incredible. Along with the water fowl come the Bald Eagles. They seem to be everywhere you look, anxiously waiting for a straggler or weak bird to present itself as an easy meal. Pretty amazing to see the seasons change so drastically but like some say, it's long past due. I have to agree the winter has held on what seems like an eternity. Soon the river will return to normal and things will dry out to get back into fishing. Until then we will just have to wait and see.

Hunting:

Spring Turkey Permits are available now! Permit sales started the second Monday of January - permits are available to buy. This year each hunter

may not have more than three (3) spring turkeys. Permits are for One (1) male bird or bearded hen. And the Spring Turkey Permit is now statewide.

NEW for 2010:

Youth permits (resident or non-resident) are \$5.00.

Restrictions on draw weight of archery equipment has been lifted (no bow draw weight).

Spring Turkey Seasons:

Youth Archery———March 25th – May 31st

Youth Shotgun———April 10th – May 31st

Archery ———March 25th – May 31st

Shotgun———April 17th – May 31st

Winter is finally ending and spring activities are starting to kick in. Fishing and turkey hunting will be upon us soon and it's time to get ready. So get sharpened up on your turkey calling and restock your fishing tackle box because it's right around the corner. You can never be too ready. Remember, I'm not an expert but I have my share of luck. I wonder if the experts are having any luck today? So until next time "Happy Hunting & Fishing."



This month's picture is of The Meriwether Lewis River Dredge Exhibit at the Brownville State Park. The Park's boat ramp is covered and it almost looks like the Meriwether Lewis could float off as well.

FARMERS BANK OF COOK
Growing in Southeast Nebraska



FDIC
INSURED



Main Office
Cook, NE 68329
864-4191

<p>Bank of Peru Peru, NE 68421</p> <p>Citizens State Bank Virginia, NE 68458</p> <p>State bank of Liberty Liberty, NE 68381</p> <p>Wymore State Bank Wymore, NE 68466</p>	<p>Tecumseh Branch Tecumseh, NE 68450</p> <p>Louisville Branch Louisville, NE 68037</p> <p>Syracuse Branch Syracuse, NE 68446</p>
---	---

The Face of Drought

by Karen Ott



In some parts of the world March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb; on the high plains the lion eats the lamb and picks his teeth with the bones.

The weather has been absolutely horrible, complete with gloomy grey skies, snow every other day, and mud up to our eyeballs. Spring might be just around the corner but in our case she's bound, gagged, and locked in the back of winter's trunk.

Temperatures certainly can't be called warm but they're high enough to take the frost out of the ground, turning fields and dirt roads turn into bottomless pits of thick mud. Dale tore the transmission out of his pickup this week during one of his many 'calving checks' and was forced to walk home, the muck sticking to his boots until they were the size of basketballs. I told him to think of the experience in terms of a challenging fitness routine...like running bare-foot along a Hawaiian beach. He wasn't impressed by the flippancy of my analogy.

It's difficult to imagine that with the wet conditions in the valley our watersheds would be in need of snow...but they are.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's March 1 forecast is better than most end-of-February data over the past decade, but the overall forecast of the spring runoff in the North Platte River basin is below average. News that water storage available for delivery to North Platte River irrigation districts is down two percent from the February report is worrisome...but not as much as in recent years; last year's timely rains, and farmer conservation, left storage water in the system for 2010 use. Still, the up and down health of the watersheds is a concern for panhandle irrigators... especially in the face of ground-water pumping restrictions.

We sold a hundred head of cattle this week to a local feedlot and were pleased with the price we received. During years of drought and red ink the United States cattle-herd number dwindled to a level not seen since the 1950's, and the low inventory has finally affected a positive price movement. In true rural fashion the deal Dale made with our neighbor was sealed with a handshake...without a lawyer

present or a written contract.

We're fortunate to live in a part of America where a good name is still the best collateral a man can own.

Corn prices hit the skids when the 20-plus percent of the 2009 corn crop still standing in mid-western fields was reclassified as safe and secure in "on farm storage." I don't know who came up with the idea that snow drifts were as good as grain bins, but whoever it was should have his (or her) head examined; it was a case of agricultural Tom-foolery beyond compare.

Dale checks our binned corn weekly for storage problems.....unlike some local farmers who answer the question, "How's your corn holding up?" with "It was good when I put it in." By keeping a close eye on the temperature and moisture we hope to avoid any nasty surprises come spring when the weather warms. He 'cored' a bin he thought might be experiencing problems and was pleased when the corn

came out in good shape: clean, dry, and free of mold. That's something to be thankful for.

I'll be ordering baby chicks tomorrow, which means my weekend will be spent preparing the brooder house for their arrival. We haven't had fried chicken for months as my family refuses to eat a 'town' chicken; nothing will do but home-raised. Unfortunately, when it comes butchering time they're like the lazy critters in the children's tale 'The Little Red Hen'....excuses fly far and wide when asked to help with the awful job, but when the food appears on the kitchen table they eagerly chomp down the results of someone else's labor without a thought.

I can't blame them....I don't enjoy butchering chickens either.

I'm off to bed and a few hours sleep before tomorrow's demanding schedule calls my name.

Karen

Melinda D. Clarke, CPA

Tammy Westhart, Accountant

Combined: 18+ years experience

Services offered:

- Income Tax (Individual, Business, Corporate, Non-Profit)
- Financial Statements
- Business Planning
- Payroll (including direct deposit) & Bookkeeping (services tailored to your needs!)

Areas of personal experience we bring to our business:

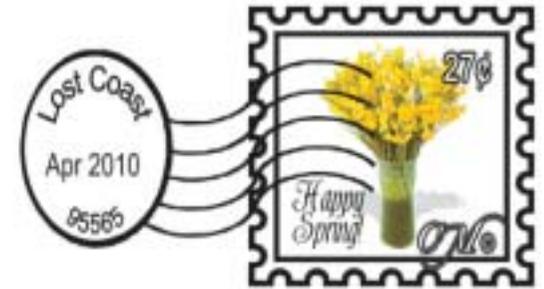
- Entrepreneurship
- Non-Profit
- Governmental
- Electrical
- Refrigeration
- Agriculture
- Restaurant
- Military
- Construction
- Railroad & Transportation

Phone (402) 274-3342 • Fax (402) 274-3362 • E-mail silvermdc@alltel.net
1415 19th Street • Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Old Home Place
390 Daffodil Lane
Lost Coast

April Foolishness

By Vicki O'Neal



Springtime....

It has a strange effect on us. Folks act crazier than usual. Kids run wild. Men are strange. Housewives turn loopy.

Like me.

All by myself, yesterday, I went to a pond and played in the water like a kid. I caught frogs in the sunshine. Built dams in the stream. Threw rocks.

But then a frog got squished and died. As if that wasn't bad enough, my Cell phone slipped out of my brassiere and went plunk in the pond water.

I snatched up the Cell fast, but not fast enough. It went to beeping and squeaking. Turning off and on... I've never seen a Cell phone carry on like that. It's worse than a dying frog.

In despair, I watched it struggle. Then Celly died right there in my hand...Just like the frog.

I was beside myself. Still am.

I haven't told my husband yet. You can't tell a man those kinds of things...that his wife plays in pond-water. Kills frogs. Drops Cell-phones from her brassiere. It's too much....just too much for any man.

Michael's already struggling. He suspects we have serious marital problems, I'm sure.

The other day, I called him at work. I'd been working in the garden, and I was fuming. "I need you to bring me home some beer!"

"Beer!...What?!"

"Yes, beer!" I said. "I'm throwing a party."

Michael sounded cautious. "Darling. You know we don't drink beer."

"No—but the slugs do!" I said. "They're destroying my garden. I'll booze 'em up and they'll drown. It's an old home-remedy, you know."

"Oh...right!" He sighed. "Ok, honey. I'll bring you some beer, if that's what you want."

Poor thing. He's becoming more and more leery of my behavior in general. Spring-time only makes matters worse.

Take last week, for example. It was a lovely spring morning and I was eager to resume the transplanting I'd started the day before...My husband had other ideas.

"Sweetie..." Michael said, "You know that big black masonry tub sitting near the potted trees? I need you to fill it with water and—"

I caught my breath. "Oh no!" I stared at him horrified, then burst into tears.

"What on earth?" He reached for me, but I only cried harder.

"Oh Michael! I didn't know that big black pot was your masonry tub! You mix cement in it?"

"Yes, of course...!" He groaned. "Aw honey! You didn't put drain holes in my \$100 masonry tub!"

"S-s-s-sorry...!" I sobbed. "But the spruce tree needed a new pot so bad...It was just bursting out of the old one! I know how it feels to be claustrophobic!"

Poor Michael. I'm always ruining his stuff. Running over things in the driveway...Spilling and dropping and losing stuff...

Last month, though, I experienced a new low.

There I was in my car—parked on the side of the road, searching frantically—while my husband's voice talked to me from far below.

He sounded calm and cool and collected, as usual.... "Take a deep breath, dear."

"But darling, I'm trying!..." I pushed my hand further down the crack in the seat. "If I can just grab you—Ouch!"

It wasn't working. I could hear him slipping...Sliding even farther....down...down.

"Oh, what can I do?" I said with rising hysteria. "I can't even see you any more...and here I am, parked on the side of the road. Cars are coming around the curve and we're going to get hit... But don't panic, darling. I'll get you out!"

"I'm not panicking," said the tiny voice on the speaker phone, "but it sounds like you are. Just calm down—"

"Oh no! You're disappearing! Your voice is getting smaller and smaller. What if I can't get you out?"

"I'll be all right," he said.

"Are you sure? You're not panicking?"

"No."

"Well...I know you're not panicking for yourself....but what about for me? I could get hit by these cars—and you don't even care? That shows that we have serious problems in our marriage, I'm sure!"

Problems, indeed.

I don't know how it can get much worse... But I reckon it could, folks. I reckon it could.

Springtime has just begun...!

Vicki O'Neal
www.VickiO'Neal.com



Kansas Sunrise

Carefree Living



Valley View Apartments

(High Rise) • 1017 H Street • Auburn, NE

Carefree Living!

Low Income Elderly or Disabled

One and Two Bedroom Apartments
Call for Availability

No More Snow Shoveling
No More Lawn Mowing

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

Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9:00 to 4:00

(402) 274-4525



Brownville Mills

Processor & Distributor of
Organic Foods

Open Daily 9:00 to 5:00 • Closed Sundays

Nebraska's Oldest Health Food Store

In Nebraska's Oldest Town

Main Street in Brownville

(402) 297-1521

www.BrownvilleMills-Ne.com

Valentino's®

The Best Pizza Ever Made
- Guaranteed!



Valentino's of Nebraska City
1710 South 11th Street
Nebraska City, NE 68410

Stop in and have your fill of
The Grand Italian Buffet!
Includes Pizza, Salad & Dessert

\$2 off Dinner or \$1 off Lunch; limit 6/coupon
Good Through May 31, 2010



Redeemable Only at Valentino's in Nebraska City.

(402) 873-5522 1710 South 11th Nebraska City, NE 68410

\$2 off Dinner or \$1 off Lunch; limit 6/coupon



For Joe Smith's Readers

Joe has been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrigs Disease). He is in a wheelchair now, can only walk a few steps, isn't able to swallow well, so is on a feeding tube, and can't speak clearly. He hasn't lost his crazy sense of humor, and says at least he still has the use of his right hand. He says he must be really lucky, because only one of every 100,000 people gets ALS and he is that one.

Joe would appreciate cards. His address is 62638 730 RD, Johnson, NE 68378