

# Your *Country* Neighbor

**Free!**  
April 2023

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Softball/Baseball Photos on 19&20

Pair of American Bald Eagles, Loess Bluffs National Wildlife Refuge, March 29, 2023.

*Inside, Sweeten your Coffee Break with Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha.*

**NEW!!**

**“Arbor City News” From Nebraska City**

Pages 14,15,16,17

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J. Sterling Morton Mansion

## *Your Country Neighbor*

*Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha*  
Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

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Peru, Nebraska 68421

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**www.yourcountryneighbor.com**

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### **This Month's Writers & Contributors**

Devon Adams 23  
Angela Allgood, Peru City News 8,9,10,11  
Frieda Burston 3-4  
Stephen Hassler 2, 22  
Merri Johnson 3  
DiAnna Loy 10  
Dorothy Rieke 22  
Sheila Tinkham 18

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

To track Covid-19, google; your **county**, your **state**, **covid**.  
(example) otee county, nebraska, covid cases  
**Wash hands often when out in public.**  
**Wear a paper mask or an N95 mask per CDC guidelines.**

## **Here's the April Issue of** *"Your Country Neighbor"*

What is "Your Country Neighbor?" It seems to be part small town newspaper, part photography magazine, parts poetry, human interest reading, and expressions of rural experience, plus 'this and that' commentary. And every month allows each reader to reach out and share with friends, neighbors, and relatives.

Spring is here, and "Your Country Neighbor" is your "2-cups-of-coffee" companion! Enjoy the local photos and articles with a flavor of rural America. Some features included are; "Peru City News," *Peru State College* ballgames, and a **new 4-page NEWS section** brought to you by Nebraska City, the home of Arbor Day! This month this section includes the when and where of Arbor Day activities and events, near the end of April.

Peru State College baseball and softball schedules are on the back page.

You can pick up your free **2023 Brownville Calendar of Events** at the *Whiskey Run Creek Winery* in Brownville. See ad page 5.

You can find **Arbor Day weekend schedules** in a new 4-page section beginning on page 14. Next month I plan to have photos of the Arbor Day Parade.

Don't forget to **clip the Valentino's coupon on page 24 and carry it with you!**

I wish you a happy Easter and a wonderful month!

Stephen

p.s. *By now you shouldn't need any more hand-holding when it comes to vaccines and other prudent behaviors for virus prevention, but for helpful information, visit CDC online at [cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov) for respiratory diseases and influenza reports for your state. Vulnerable folks need to continue to be cautious, especially when others are not.*

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## Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

Greetings from sunny Arizona! By the time you read this, Hubby and I will have returned from our hiatus here on the edge of the Sonoran desert. We have already “adventured” through half of our time here. Other than performing the most basic household chores, we have spent no time on purposeful activities, unless you count looking up directions for the location of our next pleasure outing.

Yesterday we spent the entire day at the Renaissance Festival. We saw more live entertainment in one place than we’ve seen in the last eight years put together, I think. And they were all top-notch performances.

From the jousting tournament to acrobats to “heavy medieval” bag pipers (I kid you not – think “Kiss” in kilts) to belly dancers to falconers to trained cats, it was all fabulous. I even rode on a camel! I rode an elephant once at a Renaissance Festival about 45 years ago, but somehow getting onto and off of the camel seemed like more of a “stretch,” if you know what I mean. Camels are pretty broad and my hips have had 45 years to stiffen up. I recommend limbering up with some horseback riding if you are considering a camel ride. Never mind that the ride lasted all of two minutes. I’m just glad the camel was cooperative.

I think the most evocative experience was the end-of-the-day drumming ceremony. For fifteen solid minutes, eleven drummers playing several different kinds of drums mesmerized the festival goers with what seemed like a completely unscripted performance. It was pure, elemental, percussive nirvana. You just didn’t want it to end. Anyone who wasn’t moving along to the beat must have been extremely self-conscious or lacking all sense of rhythm.

Tomorrow we will add a sixth site to our hiking repertoire. It will be our ninth hike overall. Before you get carried away oohing and awing over our stamina, I must confess that we only hike for about two hours at a time. But those short desert hikes in the springtime are mini-vacations in themselves. The sun and fresh air, combined with the natural beauty of an exotic landscape, are truly a tonic for the body and soul.

Our kids and grandkids will be joining us soon for several days. We will be giving up some serenity having a houseful of people, but we will get to experience this beautiful place through their eyes. That will be the icing on the cake of this vacation.

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## Searching for Soda Biscuits

Frieda Burston, Deceased

When we lived in the house with the big yard in Missouri, I first ate them at Piggy Stewart’s house. (Her real name was Peggy, but after sitting at her supper table, I could see why they changed it. I didn’t blame her. Her mom was a REAL cook.)

I didn’t come across yeast-raised soda biscuits until years later in Texas, when we were crossing the state line on our way to Kansas. The waitress and the cook were both happy to give me the recipe, but got so confused on how much a handful of this or a pinch of that, would be in cups or teaspoons, that we all gave up. It was an old recipe, the cook said, and she had never known anyone to measure.

I could believe it. Mrs. Stewart was not a book-learned woman. She cooked from instinct, and Piggy probably grew up just like her, but somewhere along the line, somebody must have written it down somewhere. If it had disappeared into history without a trace, my heart would be broken.

I ate at Piggy’s house a lot, because we had a big garden in that yard. All the others on our end of the street had a few flowers in the front yard, mostly Railroad Lilies, because cannas grew themselves once you put a bulb in the ground. But the back yard? Everybody had chickens in the back yard, and of course you can’t grow anything around chickens— an apple tree, maybe, or a peach tree, if you put wire around it until it was thick enough to defend itself from the probing beaks. So nobody raised a garden but us.

We had it because it was our living. My grandfather, back in Europe, had signed up for free land in Canada, and all his papers were in order, and the acres waited for him. But a British ship ran into his ship three days out of Germany, and the British ship

Soda Biscuits, *Continued, on next page* >>>>>

picked up everybody and took them in to where it was going— Galveston, Texas. Not Canada.

So my grandfather landed in Texas with a wife and eight children, with nothing but the clothes they were wearing on that day in the fog. His papers were all for Canada, and all the baggage (with his savings sewed into the linings of his best coat), all the baggage was at the bottom of the Atlantic.

The immigration people in Texas didn't know what to do with him. When he said he was a farmer, they passed the hat and put the family on a train to Missouri because it was farming country.

The train fare lasted until St. Joe. No one there knew what to do with him either. Someone remembered an abandoned farm on the edge of town, passed the hat again, and took them out to the empty barn, because it was built better than the little house. The bigger boys salvaged apples from the old orchard and peddled them house to house, and so they managed to survive until spring, when Grandpa planted a garden— Grandma pulling the plow because they had no horse, and the children trotting behind to drop in the seeds and cover them up carefully.

That was in 1900. Grandpa got older and the children grew up and went their own ways. By 1926 my father was huckstering fruits and vegetables from a wagon, while my mother and brothers worked the garden from which he sold.

We always planted more than we needed. When the garden produced more than enough, Mama packed up baskets to send the neighbors, with a bouquet from our front yard. And when there was a good run of fish in the Missouri River, somebody would come over with some fat fish. Somebody would bring over a jar of dandelion wine that had been overlooked by the Prohibition Agents because it was “medicinal.” Someone

would send a bag of fresh eggs.

This was not the barter system that the books talk about in small towns. Barter is commerce. This wasn't Commerce. This was Sharing. Everybody did a little more of what they did best, so that they would have enough over to give to someone else.

Piggy's mother did nothing best but cook, so that was what she shared. Her house was a mess, but her husband and sons never noticed that the house was a mess. Their dirty socks stayed on the floor where they took them off. Until they were out of socks, they just walked around them. As long as food was on the table when they came in hungry, everything was fine. And food was ALWAYS ready. To have me eating at their table was a tribute to Piggy's mother and a vindication of their own judgement. The whole family rejoiced to see me putting away those yeast-raised soda biscuits.

When I grew up and took Domestic Science courses at Missouri University, I asked my professors where I could find the recipe for that happily remembered treat. They were shocked at the idea of using yeast and soda both to raise the biscuit dough. I would be mixing two different systems, chemical and bacterial, and they would cancel each other out. It would taste awful, they told me, I wouldn't like it at all.

I said, “Oh!” and backed off. I felt they wouldn't have approved of Piggy's Mom and her messy house. They might even have wiped the plates surreptitiously with their handkerchiefs if they had found themselves at her table. But I'm still looking for that recipe.

***Publisher's note: Frieda passed more than a decade ago. I trust that she and Piggy are sharing soda biscuits together, wherever they are now.***

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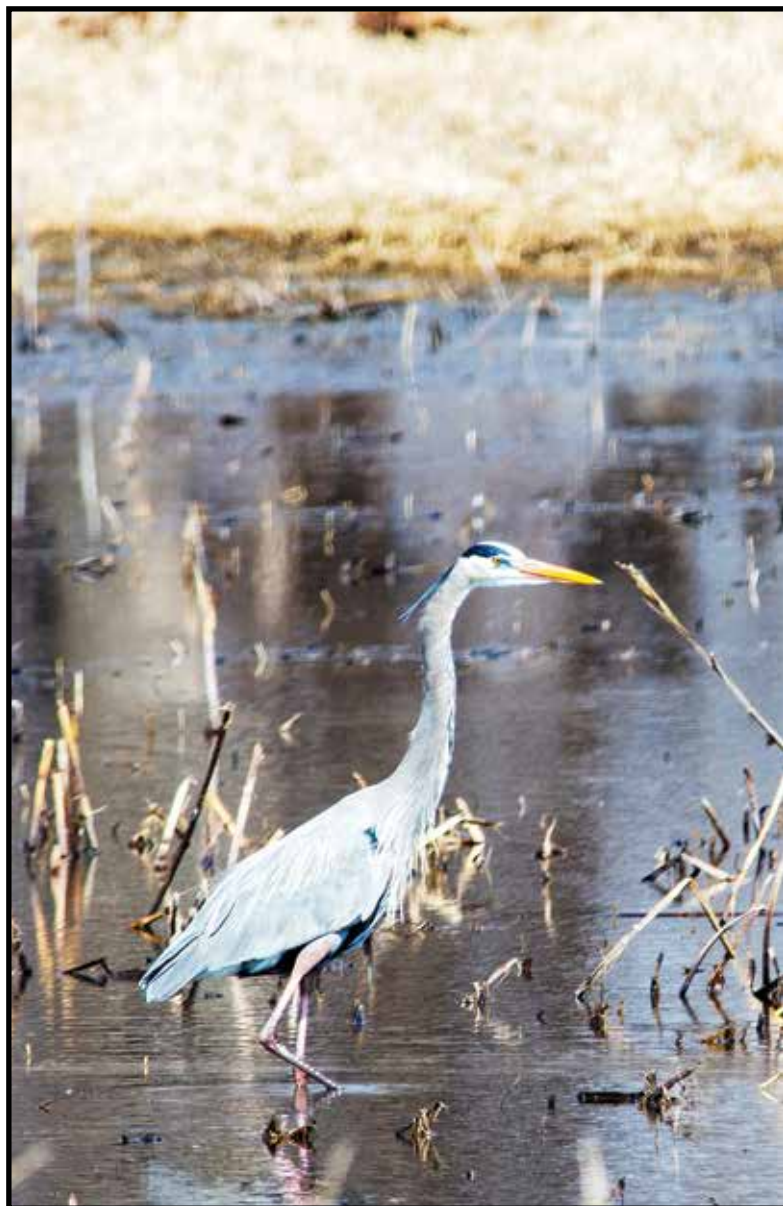
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Julian, Nebraska; small town, big heart.



Great Blue Heron, Wildlife Refuge, March 29, 2023



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That's why every digging job — from planting a bush to installing a fence — requires a call to 811 to have utility lines marked. Simply tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you'll be doing. The affected local utilities will send a locator to your property, free of charge. Then you'll know what's below and be able to dig safely.

As one of your local service providers, we thank you in advance for your cooperation!



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I've forgotten the name of this exotic looking duck. A hunter would know.



I was surprised when visiting the Wildlife Refuge that there still some Snow Geese around at the end of March.



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# PERU CITY NEWS

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## City Maintenance Worker

The City of Peru is accepting applications for a full-time, permanent City Maintenance Worker. Applicant must live in or near Peru, as this position is required to be on call every other week. Starting pay for this position is negotiable and is based on experience with a \$.50 increase after 90 day learning period. Benefits include sick leave, vacation, life insurance, and AFLAC if desired. Retirement plan available after one year. Individual must be able to obtain pesticide applicator license within 120 days of hire and Grade IV Water Operator License within six months of hire. The City of Peru requires a pre-employment drug screen and conducts random drug screens for all employees. For further job description details, please call 402-872-6685. Send resumes to City of Peru, P.O. Box 369, Peru, NE 68421 or email [cityclerkcityofperu@gmail.com](mailto:cityclerkcityofperu@gmail.com).

Applications will be accepted through

April 20, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

The City of Peru is an equal opportunity employer.



More April 'Trace' info on page 11.

## Downtown Revitalization

The City of Peru, UNL, and SE Nebraska Development District

have partnered together to create the City of Peru Downtown Revitalization Plan. This Plan will be used to apply for future funds that support the growth and development of the community's downtown area. This includes the City's pursuit of Community Development Block Grant funds. This plan recorded the current condition of Peru City's downtown, analyzed the community's economy, history, and social/cultural features, and identified potential threats and opportunities within the downtown area. Based on these data and findings, this Plan established key goals for the downtown area and recommendations for future improvements.

The final plan will be completed and mailed out the week of April 24th and digital copies will be emailed to everyone on the mailing list.

The artist Lorado Taft, upon his visit was so impressed with the scenery in and about Peru, and the interesting history, he said, "The inspiration coming from this spot ought to bring forth artists and authors." -- It has, and it continues. Furthermore, Peru State College brings forth athletes and scholars.

In pages 7, 8, 9, and 12, the **Peru City News** is revealing a community that is a desirable place to live in Southeast Nebraska!

Experience the hills of Peru.



Story on page 9.

## Purchase, Rehab, Resell

Angela Allgood

The City of Peru received a grant through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to purchase, rehabilitate and sell up to three homes in Peru to single families. The Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and Peru State College Foundation donated the match amount (a total of \$50,000) for the grant.

The Southeast Nebraska Development District (SENDD) is administering the grant on behalf of the City. If a homeowner is interested in selling their home as part of this program, they need to contact the City of Peru office. SENDD will work with a local appraiser to provide an appraised value of the house, and an appraised value after the rehabilitation. The City will offer to purchase the home based on the appraised value. Once a home has been purchased, SENDD will work with subcontractors to rehab the home. The State of Nebraska only allows \$25,000 for rehab costs.

Potential buyers can contract to buy the homes from the City and provide their own preferences of paint color, etc. Also, they may qualify for down payment assistance through the program.

For additional information, contact the City office at [cityclerkcityofperu@gmail.com](mailto:cityclerkcityofperu@gmail.com) or (402) 872-6685.



## Fifty Years Of Service In Peru

Angela Allgood

It has been 50 years since the beginning of the Peru Rescue squad.

Chief Ken Johnson called the first business meeting of the Peru Rescue Squad to order at 7:30 pm, March 19, 1973. Members at that time were Otto Giesecke, Brad Johnson, Dean Mathis, Margaret McConnaughey, Don Yates, Bob McAdams, Richard Hinkle, Ken Johnson, Denny Meyers, Harold Sherman, Jack Reeves, Paul Lorenz, and Jan Fritz.

The initial charge for a trip to the closest hospital was \$15 and if you wanted to go to an alternate hospital, it was \$25.

By 1976 Denny Meyers was President. It was reported that in March of 1976, there were five fires; one restaurant and personal property of four people.

Miranda Decker is a current member of the rescue squad who received her EMT license in 2016. She joined the rescue squad a couple years prior as a driver until an EMT class came along that fit her schedule. Without going into details (because of HIPPA rules) she stated she had more vivid memories than others. Those were ones where you wish you could have done more. Many times she wishes she could have followed up with patients, but many, "We never see after."

### Peru Clean-Up Day

Angela Allgood

Mark your calendar! Peru Clean-Up Day will be Friday, April 28, 2023 starting at 9 am. at City Hall.

If you have items you want hauled away at this time, please set them out on your curb by 9 A.M. and a team will be around to collect items.

Need help moving an item? Call Angela at 402-414-0318 before the 28th and she will put you on the "help" list.

Keep your eye open for more information posted around town, on the City webpage, etc.



Fifty years of service in Peru!



Members & visitors view photos, discuss progress.



## Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy

At the March meeting of the Tuesday Literary Club, Valarie Able talked about the book “Women Talking” by Miriam Toews. There is a movie of the same name that is currently in some theaters.

*\*Please Note\** Before I begin my review of this book, I feel obligated to point out that this book is about a group of Ultra-Conservative Mennonites located in a remote region of Bolivia. This group is in no way indicative of any of the Mennonite or Amish groups or individuals I have encountered in my travels or the places in which I have lived. Please take that into consideration as you read my review or if you decide to see the movie.

Women Talking is a fictionalized account of a two-day meeting held by nine women from an Ultra-Conservative Mennonite group in Bolivia. These women are meeting because they have finally decided they have had enough of the beatings, incest, and rapes that have been occurring within their group from 2005–2009. These women have all been victims of this violence. The Bishop of their group refused to do anything about this violent behavior or report it to the local law enforcement because he didn’t want the local authorities to know what what was going on in their community.

The victims of this abuse usually wake in the morning covered in bruises and injuries but have no idea how any of it happened. When reporting this to the Bishop they are told any one of a number of things from it is their imagination to the devil did it to make them atone for their sins. When one woman finds that her three-year-old daughter has been sexually assaulted and has a venereal disease, she attacked the man that attacked the girl with a scythe. The Bishop called in the local authorities to come arrest the eight men involved for their own protection. The men are arrested and taken into town while the rest of the men follow along to see what they need to do to post bail. While the men are all in town, the women begin meeting to decide what course of action they need to take.

One of the women asks the local school teacher, a man, to attend the meetings to take minutes in English. It is deemed alright for him to be at these meetings because he is considered less than a complete man because he just teaches school and is not a successful farmer. The meetings are held in the hayloft of one of the farmers barns. The women decide they have three choices: 1) Do nothing, 2) Stay and fight, or 3) Leave. After two days of meetings the women decide they must leave and that they should do it in the night before the men return from the town.

The book ends as the school teacher is watching out of the hayloft window as the women are leaving the community. There is a line of buggies stretching away down the road. The school teacher is reminiscing on his life as he wishes the women well. In 2011 the men involved were sentenced in the Bolivian courts to extended prison sentences.

Mrs. Able had not seen the movie and thus could not compare/contrast the book to the movie. She stated that she didn’t know if she could watch the movie. I will say that I will not watch the movie.

## Knock Knock

Angela Allgood

Why did the chicken cross the street? To get to the other side ... Duh!

What’s the difference between the bird flu and the swine flu?

One requires tweetment and the other an oinkment!

Okay, so maybe I shouldn’t quit my day job to become a comedian, but my jokes will get me started with National Humor Month! We start the month off with April Fools Day and from there, the whole month of April is about us telling our best jokes!

In April 1976, Larry Wilde, author and humorist started National Humor Month to bring the therapeutic value of humor to public awareness! Did you know that laughter is the best medicine? How do you feel after a good laugh? Better right? I know I do! I will even say, “Thank you, I needed that laugh.” After a stressful day or even a “sad” day, a good laugh can relieve stress and help “heal” us emotionally and physically.

I challenge each of you to say one joke a day to a friend, colleague, even a total stranger and make their day. They may roll their eyes if it is a corny joke, but I bet they at least smile if they don’t do a big belly laugh.

## Peru Trailhead

Peggy Groff

The Nemaha NRD, the City of Peru, and local residents have been working diligently to restore the Peru Trailhead. There are some exciting things happening in April. In addition to the cleaning of the area, and the NRD 5K Depot Dash on April 15, a donor is providing a "bike repair station." This will give bikers an opportunity to fix minor repairs as they ride the Steamboat Trace. Community members will be cleaning the kitchen, restoring the bulletin boards, and continuing with general restoration.

Saturday, April 22, is "National Rails to Trails Day." At the Peru Depot, there will be a family event starting at 10:00 a.m. Adults and children can stop by the trailhead and make wildflower seed balls. All supplies will be provided. Participants will be able to take their wildflower seed balls and toss them on the sides of the trail and hikers and bikers will enjoy them as they bloom season to season. Also, on April 22, Brownville will be hosting a clean-up project on the future site of the Brownville trailhead, and bluebird houses will be placed at the Nebraska City Arbor Spur.

## Order Up!

Angela Allgood

Have you heard the exciting news? Zach Reeves has sold Zach's Bar & Grill to Jay Allgood and his wife Kim. These two are no strangers to owning a food business as they had the KJ Whitehorse Bar and Grill in Johnson, Nebraska.

They did a soft opening at 5 pm, Wednesday, March 29 with hamburger specials! Kim and Jay said, "It went well for our first night."

March 29 to May they will be open at 4 pm for supper hours. In May, hours will change to be open for lunch and supper hours.

### KJ Whitehorse hours:

**Monday -- Closed**

### Specials

**Tuesday -- 4-10 pm -- Taco Tuesday**

**Wednesday -- 4-10 pm -- Burger Night**

**Thursday -- 4-10 pm -- Wing Night**

**Friday -- 4 pm to 1 am -- Fish Night**

**Saturday -- 11 am to 1 am -- Pan Fried Chicken Dinner**

**Sunday -- breakfast buffet 11 am to 1 pm and it is also "Sunday Funday" from 1-5 pm.**

KJ Whitehorse is excited to support their community. They were part of the Happy Bunny donations for the Easter Egg Hunt, they are already stepping up to help with "Old Man River Days," and other events that are popping up in Peru! If you have an idea that they can help you with, contact Jay or Kim at 402-872-7291 (KJ Whitehorse).

Come and support KJ Whitehorse in downtown Peru, Nebraska.

## What I learned at City Council

Angela Allgood

Stephanie Holmes gave an update for the Bark Park. She stated that Peru State College was donating fence. They have received \$4,500 in donations and \$1,000 in grant money. Ms. Holmes asked if the City maintenance guys could help them put up the fence. She stated that OPPD and Black Hills offered to provide the equipment. The city maintenance guys will mow and maintain the property.

Council members talked about demolishing the property known as the "Jack Jean property". Council members would like to put up a building with a roof and two sides to store the salt, sand, and gravel.

The City of Peru is taking applications for four positions. They are looking for a full time Clerk, a part-time Deputy Clerk, a Grant Coordinator, and a Maintenance worker. For more information go to [perunebraska.org](http://perunebraska.org) and you will find more under "announcements."

Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging offers Peru residents transportation, handyman work, and other services (see next months article about Blue Rivers).

In the March paper it states that you are allowed Guineas within city limits. However, that statement is wrong. There are NO guineas allowed in city limits.

If you have not licensed your pet, please do so. Paperwork is online at [perunebraska.com](http://perunebraska.com) or you can go to City Hall. You will need a copy of their updated shots (rabies).



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

Pastor Daniel Hutchison

Services at 808 5th St. Sunday 10 am



Peru Community Church

520 Nebraska Street

Pastors Raymond & Rebecca Girard  
Services - Sunday 10:45 am

“Your Country Neighbor” is delivered to the following communities in Southeast Nebraska & Missouri.

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Turtle sunning itself at the Wildlife Refuge



Snow Goose, 'blue' form, Wildlife Refuge

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5 bedroom, 2 bath 2,016 sq ft Home



1023 5th Street, Peru  
5 apartments 1,568 sq ft



1100 Central Av, Auburn \$130,000  
Commercial property, 2 overhead  
doors, office space, corner lot.



910 10th St., Auburn \$20,000  
5 Bedroom, 2 bath.



1604 G Street \$259,000  
3 bedroom, 2 bath on  
approx .35 acre  
2-car garage



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[www.americandreamrealestatecompany.com](http://www.americandreamrealestatecompany.com)

Auburn, Nebraska 68305



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# ARBOR CITY NEWS

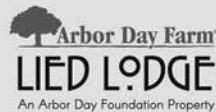
News from Nebraska City's Lied Lodge & Arbor Day Farm



Getting away doesn't have to mean going *far away.*

Springtime fun abounds at Arbor Day Farm. Experience Treetop Village®, explore a historic mansion, hike wooded trails, and savor local flavors. Complete your journey with a stay at Lied Lodge.

Your adventure awaits; find it at [liedlodge.org](http://liedlodge.org).



Nebraska City | 402-873-8733



Lewis & Clark Visitor Center, 100 Valmont Drive, Nebraska City

Join us in celebrating Arbor Day Weekend (April 28–30) right where it all began at Arbor Day Farm, Nebraska City!

There are many ways to celebrate:

- FREE admission to Arbor Lodge Mansion on Arbor Day (April 28)
- Discovery rides
- Guided orchard tours
- Wine tasting
- Tree climbing
- Farm & Forest dinner
- One-of-a-kind Treetop Village

Whether you plant a tree in your own yard or join us at Arbor Day Farm, there are so many ways to say Yes to the power of trees this Arbor Day.

Check out our events calendar at [arbordayfarm.org](http://arbordayfarm.org) to learn more.

904 Central Avenue Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410  
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# ARBOR CITY NEWS

*News from Nebraska City's Morton-James Public Library*

923 1st Corso Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410

Still Lifes MONA Collection In Kimmel Gallery  
April 4-May 2, 2023

“The exhibition Still Lifes from the MONA Collection, has been organized by the Museum of Nebraska Art as part of the ARTreach program, bringing original art to communities throughout Nebraska. Visit [mona.unk.edu](http://mona.unk.edu) for additional information.”

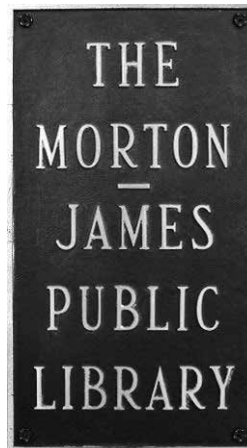


Photo courtesy of York University Traveling Children's Theatre

## April Activities at the Morton-James Library

Singing in the Rain Story Time  
Ages 2-6 Families Welcome  
Wednesday, April 5 10:00 AM

Chess Club  
Meets Every Thursday 4:30-6:00 PM

Humanities Nebraska Program  
Music from Around the World with  
David Marsh  
Thursday, April 6 7:00 PM

Youth Easter Party  
All ages Welcome  
Saturday, April 8 10:00 AM

Book Club  
No Better Friend by Robert Weintraub  
Tuesday, April 18 2:00 PM

Teen Manga Maven Class  
Teens Ages 13+  
A 10-session class to improve storytelling and character design in a manga perspective. Focuses on how to use both art and writing skills to develop and design a story.  
Tuesday, April 18 - June 20 4:00-5:00 PM

Flowers in Bloom Story Time  
Ages 2-6 Families Welcome  
Wednesday, April 19 10:00 AM

Evening Book Club  
Girl, Forgotten by Karin Slaughter  
Wednesday, April 19 5:30 PM

Chloe Neill Author Visit,  
a Nebraskan author.  
We'll talk about books and writing.  
Everyone Welcome  
Thursday, April 20 5:30 PM

Arbor Day Book Event Thursday, April 28  
9:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Closed Friday  
Saturday, April 30 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Free Will Donation for all items  
in the Book Room

Arbor Day Coloring for Ages 6 and under  
Saturday, April 29 10:00 -12:00

Japanese Calligraphy Program  
Mariko Nagai is  
the Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI)  
Coordinator at the  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
She will be teaching a lesson in calligraphy  
for people age 7 and older  
Saturday, April 29 10:00 - 11:00

York University Traveling Children's Theatre  
production of *The Commedia: Pinocchio*  
at Northside Elementary 1200 14th Avenue  
Everyone Welcome  
Saturday, April 22 10:00 AM

The Pinocchio story told here by Columbine, Arlequin, Punchin, Rosetta, and Pantalone follows the events of the original Collodi tale. With the unique spirit and fun of commedia dell'arte, Pinocchio springs to life from a block of wood and gets swallowed by a great fish; the fish is a beautiful prop that Pantalone frets will get dirty.

Commedia dell'arte, Italian for “comedy of the professional artists,” was a popular form of improvisational theatre that began in Italy in the 15th century and continued in its appeal for centuries. At that time, all performances were unscripted and held outdoors, with only simple props and no scenery. The influence of commedia dell'arte is evident in much of our contemporary comedy, most notably, the great commedia artists of the 20th century, the Marx Brothers.

For more information  
[www.morton-jamespubliclibrary.com](http://www.morton-jamespubliclibrary.com)

# ARBOR CITY NEWS

*News from Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce*



April 28th - 30th, 2023

A LOVE OF TREES THAT GOES WAY, WAY, WAY BEYOND HUGGING.

For more than 150 years, folks in this small town on the Missouri River have faithfully planted trees.

Oaks, pines, maples, elms, willows, sycamores. Flowering trees, conifers, deciduous. What started as a plan to make the empty plains welcoming to settlers and provide shade, shelter, and building materials has turned into a quest for environmental preservation – a chance to enrich the earth for future generations.

Along the way, what became known as Arbor Day grew into a weekend-long celebration. And not only in our own community... Arbor Day may have started in the small town of Nebraska City, Nebraska, but it is now recognized in all 50 states and in many countries around the world.

Come and visit us this Arbor Day! Make a weekend out of it; stay a few days, visit some museums, shop a bit, see the sights... plant a tree!

Check out all our fabulous Nebraska City Museums!  
Make a weekend out of it and book an overnight stay!

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023

Children's Programs at Arbor Lodge State Park  
Continuing a tradition that started more than 150 years ago, local school children will celebrate Arbor Day with an educational and entertaining field trip to Arbor Lodge!

Commemorative Tree Plantings

The 2023 Arbor Honoree and Tree Planter of the Year will be recognized at a Commemorative Tree Planting (time and location to be determined).

SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2023

Arbor Day 5K

Run or walk in the footsteps of J. Sterling Morton! This family- and pet-friendly 5K starts at 9 a.m. by the Whispering Bench in Arbor Lodge (pre-register at [NebraskaCity.com/festivals](http://NebraskaCity.com/festivals) to guarantee a t-shirt).

Home, Craft, & Garden Market

From 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., browse vendor stalls at the Eagles Club (600 1st Corso) - there will be everything from homemade crafts to things for your garden to home improvement booths!

Parade

Enjoy the Arbor Day Parade! Happening at 1 p.m., the parade route is on Central Avenue from 16th Street east to 6th Street. It features local businesses, organizations, and individuals with a variety of vehicles, trailers, and floats.

Arbor Day BBQ

A family favorite is making a comeback! The Arbor Day BBQ returns this year Saturday evening to the Memorial Building (810 1st Corso) with amazing food, fun activities, and live music!

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 2023

Fly-In Breakfast

Sponsored by the Nebraska City Jaycees, the annual Arbor Day Fly-In Pancake Breakfast is a popular tradition. Come out to the Nebraska City Municipal Airport for a short stack and watch the planes!

Arbor Day Open

Do you Disc Golf? There's room for everyone - from novice to pro - at the Arbor Day Open Disc Golf event! Shotgun start at 9:30 a.m. at Wildwood Park.

Best of the Midwest Bloody Mary Competition

Think you make the best Bloody Mary around? Enter our Best of the Midwest Bloody Mary Competition - either as a professional bartender or as an individual!

Or, if you'd prefer to be a taste-tester, there's room for you, too! This event is Sunday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Eagles Club. Live music!

For details on all these events and more, visit  
[NebraskaCity.com/festival/arbor-day](http://NebraskaCity.com/festival/arbor-day).





Join us in  
**Nebraska City**  
 for  
**Arbor Day 2023!**

**APRIL 28 - 30**

Tree Plantings | Parade | Fun Run  
 Arbor Day BBQ | Food Trucks | Craft Fair  
 Best of Midwest Bloody Mary Championship

For details, visit [NebraskaCity.com/festivals](http://NebraskaCity.com/festivals)  
 or scan this QR code.



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## April

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

She is shy, yet courteous  
Always bringing bouquets of flowers.

She is coy

Why?

Being named after Aphrodite, the goddess of love  
In Roman times she opened many festivities  
Including the founding of Rome.

April, April, April

I like you

To me you speak of spring and love

And new birth

And I will take your many contradictions

And fall in love with you once again.

Wiling away the hours until May, gentle May arrives...

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by sending them this link;

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# Drink Responsibly ARRIVE HOME SAFELY!

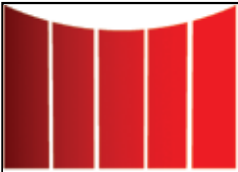
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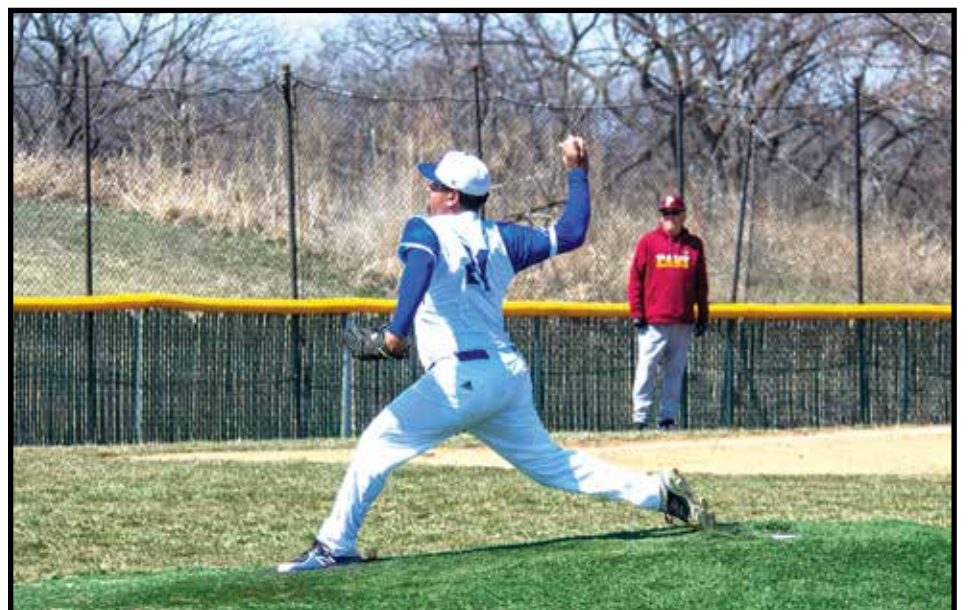
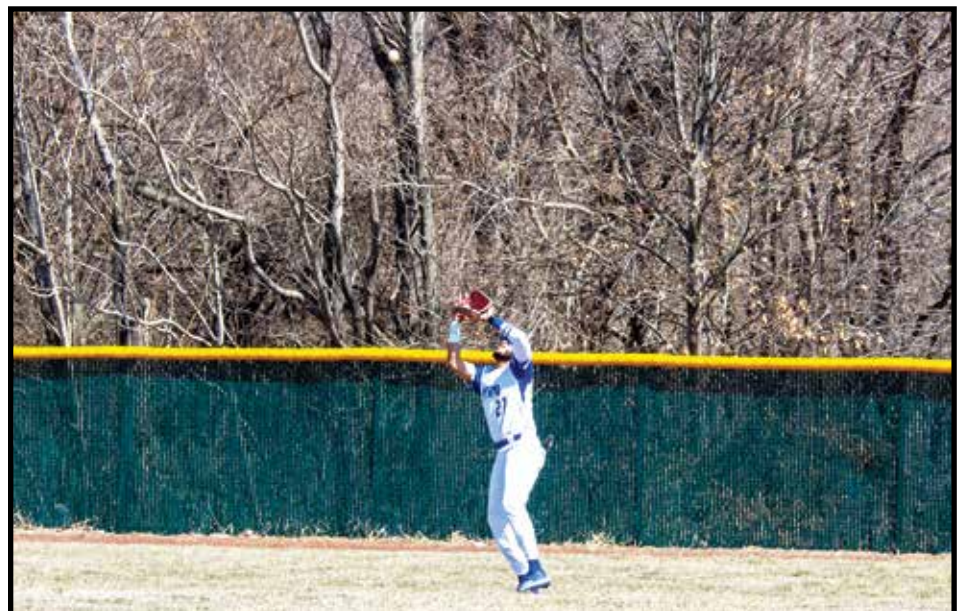
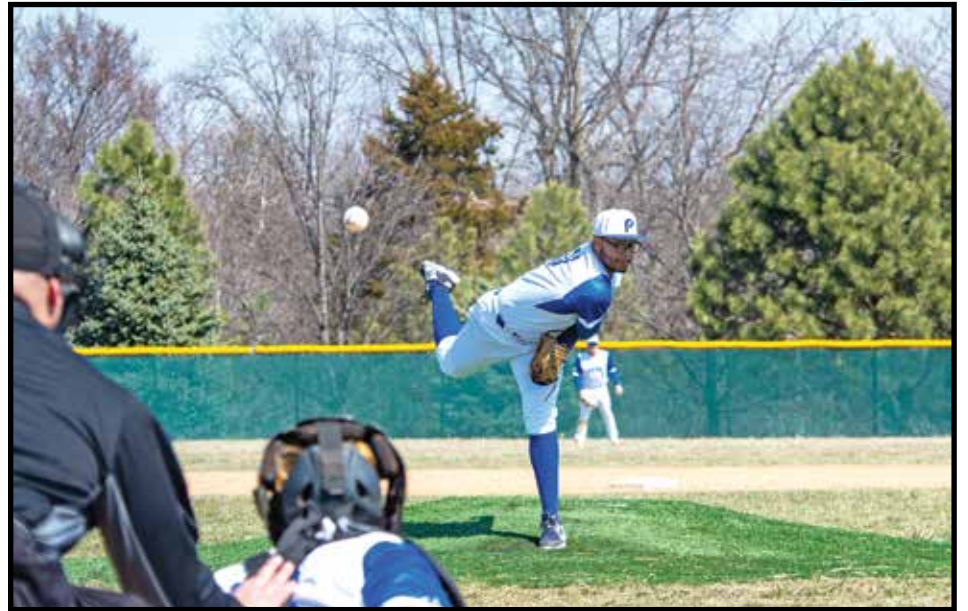
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- Applications will be placed on waiting lists
- No pets
- Handicap accessible

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# Peru State Men's Baseball





# Peru State Women's Softball





# Peru State College News



## **PSC Faculty Member Awarded Clark P. Read Mentor Award**

Dr. Richard Clopton, a Professor of Biology and Downey Family Honors Chair at Peru State College, was the recipient of the Clark P. Read Mentor Award from the American Society of Parasitologists in College Station, Texas, in July of 2022. Dr. Joanna J. Cielocha, Associate Professor of Biology at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri, presented the award. Dr. Cielocha is a former Peru state graduate, faculty member, and mentee of Dr. Clopton.

Dr. Clopton is the 19th recipient of the Clark P. Read Mentor Award and “the first to be recognized for mentoring primarily in an undergraduate institution.” Dr. Clopton “has mentored 41 undergraduate students in his research program. These graduates have served as co-authors or lead authors on 17 manuscripts ... and 32 of the 41 students ... have gone on to pursue graduate-level education.”

Dr. Clopton currently “teaches ... serves as an advisor to biology majors and has other service-related obligations.” He is credited with over 60 scientific publications and has presented papers and spoken at numerous seminars throughout his career. In 2017 Dr. Clopton received the Barb Lewellen Award, which honors an outstanding faculty, staff member, or administrator who has distinguished themselves through the betterment of students and student life at Peru State College. He received the Peru State College Teaching Excellence Award in both 2017 and 2004 and was named the Downey Family Honors Chair in Science in 2002.

*This press release was contributed by Peru State College Copywriter, Paul Rieken.*

## **Harrison Gift Helps Peru State Project ROAR Ahead**

A savvy investment decision early in Carlos Harrison’s career has paid big dividends later in his life. Now, the Shenandoah, Iowa, resident has decided to pay it forward to his alma mater, Peru State College.

Harrison, a 1951 Peru State graduate, gave the College stocks he has held since the 1950s, and the gift yielded more than \$630,000. He designated \$536,000 to Project ROAR, Peru State’s campaign to build five new health and wellness-related facilities at Nebraska’s first college.

It is the largest gift from an individual the campaign, launched late last summer, has received to date, according to Peru State President, Dr. Michael Evans.

“Peru State College is deeply grateful to Carlos for his vision and his generosity,” Evans said.

“Project ROAR is focused on students’ physical and mental well-being. Carlos’s gift will have an enormous impact on Project ROAR, on our students, and on this College for decades to come.”

## **Seven Peru State WBB Players Named NAIA Scholar-Athletes**

The NAIA national office recently announced its scholar athletes for women’s basketball. Seven Bobcat basketball players were named NAIA Scholar-Athletes. Alexis Witter (Falls City), Josiee Sobotka (Tobias), Julie Miller (Easton, Kan.), Lexie Jones (St. Joseph, Mo.), Maddy Duncan (Hamburg, Iowa), Natasha Deal (Winnebago) and Sam Stewart (Mount Ayr, Iowa) were all named NAIA Scholar-Athletes.

For the NAIA’s full release click here: <https://bit.ly/3yJzTUM>.

## **Phi Alpha Theta students attend National Conference in New Mexico**

Dr. Jason Phillips and Dr. Kathi Nehls took seven students to Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honor Society), National Biennial Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico in January. Students presented papers from upper-division courses, and capstone papers.

All students presented well and expertly fielded audience questions. Students also visited the Museum of Nuclear Science and History and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center during their free time.

## **39th Annual Peru State College District History Day Contest**

Peru State College hosted its 39th Annual District History Day Contest. The College was the host to 100 students in the region competing for a spot at the Nebraska State History Day contest on April 1, 2023.

Individuals or groups compete in five different categories: Exhibit, Documentary, Website, Paper, and Performance. This event was back in-person for the first time since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

## **Peru State Men’s Basketball Historic 2022-23 Season**

The Peru State men’s basketball team’s historic season came to an end last month in the second round of the NAIA National Tournament to Jamestown. The Bobcats accomplished new heights for this program under new head coach Roman Gentry, interim assistant coach Damion Witty and graduate assistant Brody Anderson this past season.

The Bobcats finished with a 25-8 overall record this past season. The 25 wins is tied for second most all time all long with Newt Kyle’s 1950-1951 teams and John Gibbs 1996-1997 team. Peru State also finished with a 17-5 Heart of America Athletic Conference record which is also tied for most all time.

## Florie's Easter Hat Rivalled All The Others

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

Our friends, the Pactions, lost their farm during the Great Depression. They experienced a heart-breaking foreclosure farm sale, a depressing move to town, and years of disappointments and discouragements away from that farm. Some men, like Robert, were “born to the soil” and were not happy doing anything else.

Some time later, the family returned to our community to live in a small house. Money was scarce; hope was less.

One day, Mother and I were invited to go to the big city of Omaha with Mrs. Florie Pactions, her daughter, and son-in-law. Since I loved going to Omaha, I surely wanted to go. The big stores, the merchandise, and the people were all intriguing to me.

Kresges was the “dime” store in downtown Omaha. We were looking around in Kresges when Florie exclaimed, “I’m going to have a new Easter hat!”

In the Forties, many women had new Easter hats partly because the weather was changing from winter to spring, and their dark-colored felt winter hats were uncomfortable during warm days. Also, most women wanted something new and pretty for Easter.

Most of these hats were reasonably priced, as money for hats was down on the list of necessities. However, women of that time also wanted to look pretty wearing stylish Easter hats.

Kresges had, among other “dime store” items, forms for hats. Florie bought a hat form and some 5- to 6-inch long strips of pastel-colored silk flowers designed for hair arrangements.

On Easter morning when we arrived at church, we were amazed to see Florie's beautiful hat. With her special talents, she had artistically arranged those pastel bands of roses, violets, and daisies over the frame. Pink delicate-appearing roses and stunning white daisies were side by side. Tiny purple violets were nestled among them. The hat resembled a miniature bouquet of fresh flowers perched on the back of Florie's head.

During the Great Depression days and after, we learned to get along without much beauty. However, Florie's hat was a lovely concoction demonstrating that with creativity and determination, one could attain beauty with little expense, and of course, beauty often led to happiness.

This is a true story, but I changed the names. Have a great day!  
Dorothy

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## Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Someone I know had Covid several months ago, and the person's senses of smell and taste have not returned yet. That made me wonder if a memory of a scent would change if the senses stopped working. That got me thinking of what smells I wouldn't want to forget; fresh baked bread, lilacs and roses, alfalfa blooming. Alfalfa might be my most favorite. I can't imagine it right now. It's been a long time since I've even seen an alfalfa field in bloom. There are fewer such experiences because farmers have learned that the best time to cut is early in the bloom for nutrition's sake, so alfalfa fields are just not in full bloom for very long before they are cut.

I would miss the smell of approaching rain; the smell carried on the wind after the drops “kick up dust” early in the storm. The wind carries that scent ahead of the falling rain, and when that happens, it's my favorite part of the storm until the rain stops and the sun comes out, leaving a shimmer on grass and leaves, and everything clean.

I would miss black raspberry ice cream. Can you even buy that any more? I can make it by mixing black raspberries from my yard with vanilla ice cream. I should do it more often. I like the taste as well.

Old hardware stores smell good to me. I think it has something to do with the wood floors or their finish.

Who wouldn't miss the smell of Christmas trees (and most pine trees)? But the trees at Christmas just smell better.

I would miss the smell of four o'clocks. It takes me back to the memory of my mother's garden spot in the front yard, and of the no-worry, country experience of a kid growing up on a farm, smelling the sweet fragrance in the evening, and wondering at the hummingbird moth flitting from flower to flower.

I forgot my mask a couple of times earlier this month during my deliveries to a dozen cities in “Your Country Neighbor” territory, and as a result, I came down with a mild case of Covid. Fortunately, I can still smell and taste everything as usual. But I will be more attentive to mask-wearing. Back to basics. Happy Spring!!

# P o e t r y

by Devon Adams, Peru

# O e t r y

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## PIECES OF YESTERDAY

An old attic album crumbles and falls into the mold on the floor from the leak in the roof. The house has a mouse in every room and a skunk on the steps in the hall. The windows have cracked and crashed and slivers of glass are sharp, as they lay by crusts of ceilings that aren't up there anymore. Faded photos are scattered all over, pieces of memories lost in the dust.

## FOG AND FROGS

The buzz in your ear is a mosquito wanting to drink your bright red blood. The hollow croak in your other ear is the echo of a frog on a log in the fog of the marsh. Turtles talk, and only other turtles listen, but when bullfrog boys sing bass in the swamp, everyone hears, all through the night, every night, and there's no off switch.

## FEATHERS AND EGGS

Little peeps seep into the warm air from a tiny nest, the best that could be built by Mom and Dad. Fragile eggs are cracked as baby birds come out of hiding. Pink bare bodies wiggle and giggle. Mom will shortly stuff some wildly wiggling worms down their tiny throats, but as soon as they swallow they'll ask for more than before. As the days of May are coming near, feathers sprout and grow. Dad is in a busy tizzy, going buggy in his search for meals, until one day the kids fly away into a life of their own. Do birds babysit their grandkids?

## ROOTS AND BONES

The eye in the sky of the pewter moon looks down on the garden by the barn. Today was a shower of sunbeams warming the loose dark soil under the roses. Roots are starting to crawl around, and they find things as their white fingers twist and touch in search of nutrients. Now they've found the silent bones of a little beagle who used to live out here on the farm. He likes the company of a living, growing being as it wraps him in a knitted sweater of life.

## PETALS AND POLLEN

Carpets of petals glow in the lavender light of evening, as a slight breeze ripples the stalks and makes them dance. Twirling and whirling, they are so pretty to see, but the pollen that comes loose is no good use for some humans who sneeze with the greatest of ease. Their eyes cry and drip drops as tears slide over skin and fall on the floor. Oh, to be in a blizzard again, with only snow to show on your beet red nose.

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## BOBCAT SOFTBALL HOME GAMES

### FEBRUARY

TUE 28 Briar Cliff Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

### MARCH

SAT 11 College of St. Mary 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

TUE 14 Midland Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

FRI 17 University of Jamestown 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

SAT 18 Hastings College 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

SUN 19 Morningside Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

### APRIL

SUN 2 Culver-Stockton College 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

SAT 8 Missouri Valley College 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

WED 12 Benedictine College 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

SAT 22 Central Methodist Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

SUN 23 Baker Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

SAT 29 William Penn Univ. 2 p.m.  
4 p.m.



## 2023 SEASON

## BOBCAT BASEBALL HOME GAMES

### MARCH

SAT 25 Park Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

MON 26 Park Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

### APRIL

SAT 1 Clarke Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

SUN 2 Clarke Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

SAT 15 Mount Mercy Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

SUN 16 Mount Mercy Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

WED 19 Midland Univ. 2 p.m.

WED 29 Graceland Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

SUN 30 Graceland Univ. 1 p.m.  
3 p.m.

See full schedule for both teams at:  
[WWW.PSCBOBCATS.COM](http://WWW.PSCBOBCATS.COM)

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### City Maintenance Worker

The City of Peru is accepting applications for a full-time, permanent City Maintenance Worker. Applicant must live in or near Peru, as this position is required to be on call every other week. Starting pay for this position is negotiable and is based on experience with a \$.50 increase after 90 day learning period. Benefits include sick leave, vacation, life insurance, and AFLAC if desired. Retirement plan available after one year. Individual must be able to obtain pesticide applicator license within 120 days of hire and Grade IV Water Operator License within six months of hire. The City of Peru requires a pre-employment drug screen and conducts random drug screens for all employees. For further job description details, please call 402-872-6685. Send resumes to City of Peru, P.O. Box 369, Peru, NE 68421 or email [cityclerkcityofperu@gmail.com](mailto:cityclerkcityofperu@gmail.com).

Applications will be accepted through  
April 20, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

The City of Peru is an  
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