

Your *Country* Neighbor

Free!
June 2023

Auburn • Brownville • Cook • Falls City • Johnson • Nebraska City • Nemaha • Peru • Rock Port • Syracuse • Tecumseh • Verdon



American Bald Eagle near its nest in a Cottonwood tree, May 2, 2023.



PSC Grads, pages 20 & 21

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



Great Blue Heron - May 22, 2023

Joyous June!

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Welcome new Nebraska City area readers! Features included this month are; Peru State College Graduation photos (pages 21 & 22), the “Peru City News” section, the new “Arbor City News” section, and as usual, my recent photographs. Enjoy this Southeast Nebraska magazine with it’s photos, poems, and your favorite columnist(s). And note the Summertime festivities!

See pages 16 and 17 for Nebraska City’s new Summer festival, **TREESTOCK**, on July 1st and 2nd, and if you found this issue early enough, you could still make it to **Old Man River Days** in Peru, June 2, 3 and 4 (see activities schedule in the May issue). Stop at the winery and pick up your free **Brownville Calendar of Events** (including the July 4th Brownville Freedom Run).

In July there will be more color photos, so look for rural scenes, area wildlife, and who knows? I’m still planning.

The UNL Revitalization plan for Peru, all 112 pages, is on my website. Link to it from the publication page on www.yourcountryneighbor.com

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

Have a Happy Father’s Day, and I hope you enjoy June as much as I will.

Your Country Neighbor

Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler




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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

“Here’s to the crazy ones, the misfits, the rebels, the troublemakers, the round pegs in the square holes ... the ones who see things differently -- they’re not fond of rules, and they have no respect for the status quo. ... You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them, but the only thing you can’t do is ignore them because they change things. ... They push the human race forward, and while some may see them as the crazy ones, we see genius, because the people who are crazy enough to think that they can change the world, are the ones who do.”

Steve Jobs

Now you can order Sheila’s first book of poetry;

“Seeing God in the Everyday”

by Sheila Tinkham

\$20.00 includes shipping. Send Check with your name and address to;

Sheila Roessle

4248 Ridgeview Drive

Lincoln, NE 68506

sheilamariatinkham.yahoo.com

The World Health Organization has declared an end to the public health emergency of international concern and the world now must transition from emergency mode to management of **Covid-19**, because this virus is still killing and it’s still changing. In the last week of April, 2023, Covid-19 claimed a life every three minutes. Thousands remain on life support and millions more continue to live with the debilitating effects of post-COVID-19 conditions. At least we have learned not to make the same mistakes next time... let’s hope.

Visit Falls City!

John Philip Falter Museum



1622 Stone Street
402-450-3724
curator@johnphilipfaltermuseum.com
johnphilipfaltermuseum.com

2023 Summer Hours:
May: By appointment only
June - September 1st open
Thursdays-Sundays from 1pm - 4pm
Falls City's hometown world-renowned
illustrator produced 129 covers for the
Saturday Evening Post magazine.

Gatherings Market



1524 Stone Street
gatheringsmarket@gmail.com
www.gatheringsmarket.com

Store Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am - 5pm;
Saturday 10am-2pm

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Richardson County Historical Society Museum



14th & Chase Street
402-245-4407
rchs@sentco.net
<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nericch/>

2023 Summer Hours:
April to October open Wednesday-Friday from
2pm - 4pm. Other times by appointment.

Inside the three large buildings, are the notable
contributions of this extreme southeast county to
Nebraska's story. These include the Lewis and
Clark Expedition, the Iron Monument, the Jim
Lane Trail and the Underground Railroad.

Heartland Fine Arts Gallery



1620 Stone Street
2023 Summer Hours:
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am - 4pm
Saturday 10am - 2pm

The Falls City Art Association sponsors the
gallery for artists from the tri-state area where
their works are available for purchase.

Stalder Gallery



1400 Stone Street
Inside the Falls City Library and Arts Center

2023 Summer Hours:
Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm
Thursday 9am - 6:30pm
Friday 9am - 5:30pm

Stalder Gallery hosts 6-8 exhibitions a year
from artists and venues across the U.S. as well
as music, film and humanities events.

Collections Museum



1601 Stone Street
2023 Summer Hours:
Tuesday-Friday 10am - 5pm;
Saturday 10am - 2pm

Museum featuring collections of relics and
collectible items. Also an official designated site
as a stop on the Underground Railroad through
the National Park Service Network to Freedom.

To find more information on Falls City
attractions, restaurants, shopping and lodging
visit fallscityareachamber.com

PAUL FELL'S HUSKER NUTZ



FROM THE PAGES OF
HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE

2 Day Cartooning Workshop led by Paul Fell July 17 & 18th from 10am to 3pm at the Falter Museum

Open to first 16 participants, grades 6th
through adult.

Email Dobey at dobey.haws@gmail.com or call/text
402-450-3724 to reserve your spot!

The fee, art materials and lunches are funded by
the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation.

June

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

June is named after Juno, the wife of Jupiter
She is the goddess of marriage and childbirth
What a wonderful idea the Romans had!
To honor motherhood, marriage
And in June father's day arrives
And marriage takes two
So let us all hail June
And realize July heat is hot on her tail....

June

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

You capture my heart with wind and sunny days
I could savor your longer days and your future
July ripe with corn and hot dogs and fireworks
Wow! June I am alive
So no fear
July has a whole month before he arrives
4th of July hot on his derriere....

KJ Whitehorse Bar & Grill

402-872-7291

On Sunday, specials do not apply, but Grill is open 1 - 6

Noon Lunch Specials Tuesday - Friday

Dinners Tuesday thru Saturday 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Tuesday Night is Mexican Night - Open 11am - 10pm

Wednesday Night is Burger Night Open 11am - 10pm

Thursday Night is WINGS - Open 11am - 10pm

Friday Night is Fish Night - Open 11am - 1am

Saturday Night is Fried Chicken and Prime Rib - 11am - 1am

Closed Mondays

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Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

As a subscriber to the Omaha World-Herald, I make a point of reading "Ask Amy" in every edition. Mostly because it's entertaining to read people's ridiculous questions on relationships. "Dear Amy, I'm beginning to wonder if my abusive, two-timing boyfriend is really right for me." Ya think?! Sometimes I really do learn something, especially when I initially disagree with Amy's advice, but later concede that her viewpoint has merit. But her response to a reader's party etiquette question today is not one of those times.

Perhaps you have read the column titled "A guest waffles on potlucks and raffles." Clever title, I have to say. The writer of the letter is annoyed by a friend's tradition of hosting potluck parties for her grandchildren's birthdays and graduations, complaining that "I feel that if you are having a party, the guest should not have to bring a dish." I can almost hear the whine in her voice. I obviously do not know all the details of this situation, but no one is forcing this guest to accept the invitation to these parties. Hosting a party is a lot of work and serving even ten guests a full meal is expensive. Perhaps the reader's friend could have afforded to cater or prepare all the food herself, but maybe not. I myself spent a good two hours today preparing a big batch of meatballs and Asian cabbage salad to take to a potluck event tomorrow. I didn't calculate the expense, but \$25 is probably not far off the mark. In case you're wondering how meatballs and cabbage salad can cost that much, the salad is not your Bar-B-Q joint variety of coleslaw. It has lots of extra yummy ingredients, which Hubby does not like. So, when I get the chance to take a salad someplace, I make this one, hoping to have some leftovers to enjoy later. But I digress.

The tone of a potluck meal is intimate and informal. I'm guessing these parties are just for a select group of family and friends. "Annoyed" could try taking the high road and feel honored to be included instead of peeved over being asked to bring a dish. Perhaps the grandchild's parents are unable to pull off much of a party and the grandmother is doing her best to make these occasions special for them. Heck, maybe she's even raising these kids! There is no suggestion that the hosting grandmother is manipulating people into buying her grandchild a gift. Also, no mention of whether the annoyed guest ever invites her friend over for a meal, potluck or otherwise. Amy's response put all the onus on the grandmother with her reply that "guests should always feel special, welcome and valued – and not just for their three-bean salad. That's where your friend has faltered."

I throw the yellow flag on both the reader and Amy!! Maybe potluck Grandma is a manipulator. In that case, don't accept the invitation to the party. But if you do accept, remember the party is for the child, not for you, so get over yourself and be a gracious guest. You might just become a part of that child's happy childhood memories. Conversely, your disgruntled attitude might come across to the child, which would be a sad legacy to leave.

In this season of graduations, showers and weddings, let's all go to parties in a generous frame of mind, or just stay home.

HISTORIC BROWNVILLE, NEBRASKA'S FREEDOM DAY CELEBRATION

Tuesday, July 4th, 2023

Brownville Honors The Nemaha County “Giving Hope” Cancer Fund

FISH FRY - FREEDOM FUN RUN - STRUT YOUR MUTT DOG SHOW - DONUTS - PARADE
BREAKFAST BY LOCAL EASTERN STAR CHAPTER - LUNCH BY NEMAHA FIRE & RESCUE
KETTLE CORN - PATRIOTIC PROGRAM - SOUTHEAST COMMUNITY BAND - FIREWORKS!!!
BEER GARDEN - MUSEUMS OPEN FREE - RIVERBOAT RIDE - MUSIC AT THE THEATRE
Full schedule at www.brownville-ne.com

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www.yourcountryneighbor.com



White Egret, May 2, 2023



Whiskey Run Creek
Winery & Distillery

Whiskey Run Creek

WINERY & DISTILLERY

Wine-Tasting Hours:

Thursday through Sunday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Closed Monday through Wednesday

Join us for the
**Brownville Freedom Day
Celebration, Tuesday, July 4.**
We will be open
11:00 am to 6:00 pm”.

The weather is great for a glass of wine on the
deck with a view of the waterfall, rustic well,
and the Whiskey Run Creek landscape.

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This little Wren is not a vegetarian, so why is it at my bird feeder? It dips upside-down to get insects that must be underneath.



All sorts of utility lines, pipes, and cables could be buried on your property. In some cases, they're close to the surface and easily damaged by even shallow digging, which can result in service interruptions to your neighborhood.

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!



919 Central Ave., Auburn, NE 68305
www.pnpt.com

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School's Out!



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Flatwater Folk Art Museum

Open Most Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 P.M.
And by appointments for private viewing.
609 Main Street, Brownville, NE 68321 402-825-4371

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



*Appointments for Groups & Tours Welcomed
Please call for information: 402-825-4371*



Cardinal, late Spring - May 23, 2023

I believe these are daisies. I plan to download an app that identifies plants by snapping a photo with a 'smart' phone, and then compares the image online for identification. Next time?



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Flowers growing downtown

Angela Allgood

Everytime I go downtown, I smile at the pots of flowers and I look at the latest ones Julie Cotton has planted. And, I love the black fencing around the sidewalk flowers...how cute!

Let's do a Peru Pride moment and thank Julie for her hard work. I talked to her and wanted to do an article on her because she does her part to help make downtown Peru a little nicer.

Julie told me she started this back when she had her salon in town. Back then, it was an "Adopt a pot" program. She stated that she moved away for awhile but started right back up when she moved back to Peru. She stated it has probably been a year.

She said she has help from Jerry Patterson to water the flowers, Janet Hope has given her perennials, Traci Robertson helped take the rocks out of the areas in the sidewalks. She also stated that she volunteers and cleans up around the Bee.

I asked her how other people could help. I wanted to know if she could use flowers, seeds, or money to get more flowers around downtown. She stated that all of that would be nice. She also talked of newer pots.

So, if you enjoy the flowers downtown as much as I do, let's help Julie by donating flowers, seeds, or a few dollars here and there to help with new pots, more fencing, or other cute ways Julie can dress up the flowers downtown.

This reporter will see how we can set something up for financial donations and seeds and let everyone know! Let's get excited! I see changes happening in Peru!



Each sidewalk garden with black fencing is Julie Cotton's project.



Photo by Kirsten Reeves

Family Fishing

Angela Allgood, as told by Kirsten Reeves

Jamie Reeves and his family caught a 48.5 lb. Blue fish! The boys were really excited as the fight to reel it in started. Jamie said as soon as he started to pull the line in, it felt like dragging a log, and he knew it was a big one. Kirsten grabbed the net and Jamie started pulling it in. It would thrash every time it broke the surface of the water! It was so big it almost wouldn't fit properly in the net.

Kirsten said that they cleaned it and will donate all the meat to be served for the OMRD Peru Fire Department fish fry.



The City paid for these flowers and the College Students planted them.



What a storm! Story on page 11
Photo by .Kelly Adams

Graduation

Angela Allgood

Graduation ... Commencement ...

Completion of study by a student mostly celebrated after high school and college, however, many youngsters "graduate" from Kindergarten and other grade levels.

Graduating to most people is a sign of accomplishment. Mostly it is a celebration of surviving four years of high school. Pimples, lots of homework, and classes that were totally not interesting. For parents, it is a celebration of pride. Their child actually getting through high school after all the struggles, or their child's name on scholarships, or dreams of furthering their education.

Graduation from high school or college is a major step. For high school students, it means two or four years away from home. It can also mean a path to a career. No matter what graduation means to you, you should feel proud, honored, and accomplished!

Here at Peru City News I asked people to tell me who was their graduating student. Kelly Adams wanted to give a shout out to her grandson Easton Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Auburn High School. The family is very proud!

Drive-In Movies

Angela Allgood

Do you remember them? Did you go to any?

I asked several Peru City News readers, and everyone “heard” of them, and it seemed only the younger generation did not have the pleasure of going to one. I only remember going once. I was pretty young, but I remember my mom popping up a big bag of popcorn (like paperbags from the grocery store) and a full jug of juice. It was great. I remember my dad rolling down his window and a young lady walked up to our car with a metal box. I listened as she told my dad to hang it from his window and roll it back up. I watched him do just that and then came the noise. I was so impressed and excited. The next thing I knew, the huge screen in front of us started showing pictures and the metal box was talking in the car.

It was loud and staticky, but it was fun. At least what I saw of it. I don’t remember much after the picture started. I assume I fell asleep, probably all that juice my mom warned me not to drink all at once, but I was out. That was my memory.

Several people I asked, had their own memories, but we all agreed on one thing, it was fun. The drive-ins need to come back so the younger generation can enjoy them! Sarah Montanelli said that when she lived in Wisconsin there was one open during the summer and they went a few times. Kelly Adams also said she had gone to one in Nebraska City out by the bowling alley area. I got information from Kimmie Vogt who had been to the drive-in in Lincoln on O street when she was a kid, as well as a drive-in 15 years ago in Houston Texas. She said it was pretty humid, so humid the popcorn was stale by the middle of the movie. Amanda Everhart Neal said she had been to a drive-in once when they lived in Texas almost two decades ago and would love if there was one closer to us. Now those are memories.

Brenda Wemhoff said a bunch of her friends used to go. They would see who had the biggest car and pile in. During intermission they would go from one friend’s cars to someone else’s to visit. Sometimes they took lawn chairs or a blanket and sat outside. She couldn’t remember all the movies they saw, but she thought one was Smokey and the Bandit. Again, great memories that the younger generation missed out on.

I think the history of the drive-in movies is fascinating. “The first true drive-in theater (as we know them today) was opened on June 6th, 1933 in Camden, New Jersey, however, the first real drive-in theater was opened by a gentleman named Richard Hollingshead. Richard began experimenting with showing movies in the driveway of his home. He got hold of a movie projector which he placed on the hood of his car. He tied a movie screen to some trees and put a radio behind the screen for sound. He tried several setup variations before he found what he thought was the right configuration of projector, screen, sound and spacing between cars. With that he applied for a patent for a drive-in theater in 1932 which was granted in May of 1933. Shortly thereafter in June of 1933, he opened his first drive-in which was called the Automobile Movie Theatre. His slogan for his drive-in theater was, “The whole family is welcome, regardless of how noisy the children are.” Hollingshead never made a profit with his Automobile Movie Theatre and sold it several years later to a new owner who moved it to another location. But regardless of Hollingshead’s failure to make a profit, the concept of the drive-in theater had caught on and expanded rapidly. By 1940 there were over 20 drive-ins that had opened across the United States from the East Coast to the West Coast. Eventually, Hollingshead’s patent was ruled invalid in 1950 and therefore anyone could open a drive-in theater without having to pay royalties to Hollingshead for his patent.

With his patent ruled invalid, drive-in numbers exploded and peaked in the late 1950’s – early 1960’s. During this time, there were over 4000 drive-in theaters across the United States. But the golden age only lasted a decade or so and in the 1970’s the number of drive-ins began to decline rapidly for three reasons; 1) Daylights Savings Time 2) introduction of VHS movies 3) increasing land values.

The closures continued into the 1980’s and 1990’s. Then in the late 1990’s and early 2000’s, drive-in theaters started to make a comeback with several closed drive-ins being renovated and re-opened and even several new drive-ins being constructed during this time. For a period going into the 2000’s, it looked as if there was going to be a drive-in comeback. But once again, the drive-ins were dealt a crippling blow. The movie industry started converting their movies from film to digital in the early 2000’s. This let families watch movies in the comfort of their own homes.

You can go to <https://www.driveinmovie.com/history-of-drive-ins> to learn more.

Double Up Food Bucks

Angela Allgood

The Market has launched a program called Double Up Food Bucks. This is a federally funded program through the USDA that works in conjunction with EBT/SNAP benefits.

*The program is only available at independent retailers like The Market (large grocery chains are not eligible to participate)

*The program is designed with 3 goals: 1) promote healthy eating 2) support local farmers/growers 3) support independent grocers

*For every \$1 an EBT customer spends on fresh produce, they receive \$1 back to use now or on a future purchase of fresh produce (earning up to \$20 per day)

*Essentially it’s a “Buy One, Get One FREE” program for fresh fruits and vegetables purchased at The Market

*The program is active in Peru right now for any EBT/SNAP customers

If you need more information or help with this program, employees at The Market will be able to help you.

Peru City News
is a monthly news section in
Your Country Neighbor
A Southeast Nebraska
Regional Magazine (w/News)

Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

At the May meeting of the Tuesday Literary Club I presented *Are You There God? It's Me Margaret* by Judy Bloom. This has long been a favorite book of mine and it is not the first time our group has looked at this book. We also discussed this book when we spent a year discussing banned books. This book shows up on the books that are most requested to be banned frequently, if not annually. But that's a discussion for another time.

In preparation for this discussion I read the book again and went to see the movie of the same title that has recently been released. Both are good but there are differences. We discussed some of the differences at our meeting. I have to admit that none of the changes they made when they made the movie substantially affected the plot of the book.

The book starts with 11 year-old Margaret Simon returning from summer camp and moving from New York City where she has lived in an apartment her entire life. The family moved to New Jersey where they will live in a house and own a car. It was quite a change for her to adjust to. On top of that, she went from seeing her Jewish Grandmother who she dearly loves from almost daily to far less frequently as her Grandmother doesn't drive and thinks trains are dirty.

In the beginning of the novel the changes in her life begin. During the unpacking a neighbor girl her same age comes to see if she would like to come run through the sprinkler. Thus Margaret makes her first friend. (By the way, the first friend you make in a new place isn't always the best friend you'll meet as Margaret will learn.) The girls are in the same room in 6th grade at school and it helps Margaret to feel comfortable as school starts the next Monday.

Margaret's father is Jewish and her mother is protestant. This has played an important part in her upbringing. Her parents have decided to raise Margaret without instruction in either religion and let her decide when she gets older what religion is right for her. Margaret has been thinking about this. When her teacher assigns her class a year-long project of their choosing, she decides her project will center around finding the religion that is right for her. She sets about visiting the synagogue with her grandmother and several churches with her friends from school. She does this without explaining the reason to her parents. Margaret does pray and when she prays, she says, you guessed it... "Are you there God? It's me, Margaret." After each church visit she tells God that it was nice but she didn't find him.

The book also discusses many issues that preteens face such as shopping for bras and "becoming a women". Parts of this are quite serious and parts are hilarious in the way they are presented. The girls often discuss their bodies and how they are changing. Many feel that this could be part of the reason that the book is requested to be banned from middle school libraries; although girls of this age are exactly who this book is written for and is perfect for. The book handles these topics appropriately. The book also describes the class going to their first dinner party without adult supervision!

I feel both the book and the movie are worth the time. The book is short and a quick read for most adults. My daughter read it when she was the appropriate age and I don't remember how long it took her but not overly long. The movie is of normal length and will have you laughing and crying at alternate turns.

Happy Reading

Peru Progress

Angela Allgood

- 1) ImPERUving as oNE met, re-organized, and is wanting to bring back the Pride of Peru. The organization has re-organized to help existing businesses (brick and mortar/home businesses/ag related) and bring in new businesses. They are working on a few projects now and more will be discussed in future issues.
- 2) Welcome three new employees to the City of Peru!
 - a) Maintenance Supervisor Darrin Reeves.
 - b) Kessler Whisler, new city maintenance employee
 - c) Tori Schuetz, City Clerk/Treasurer
- 3) Things on the north end of town are starting to progress a little (see City Council article for more details)
- 4) PCIG is gearing up for community potlucks (See future articles for more information).
- 5) KJ Whitehorse has opened for lunch as well as supper. Stop in and see their specials. Lunch is served from 11-1 Tuesday - Saturday. They are also open now on Sundays from 1-5 or later.

4th Semi-annual Peru Spring Plant Exchange

Angela Allgood

I went downtown to the semi-annual plant exchange just as it was about to close. Theresa Westfall said it was another successful event and it was growing more each time.

They did not have many plants left after 10:00 am, but I wanted to know what the tall plant was. When I asked, three people at once said it was tall phlox! I learned something new, because I did not know phlox grew tall. I thought it just stayed close to the ground.

I'm telling you...these ladies are full of knowledge of flowers and there are always some great plants to take home.

What I learned at City Council

Angela Allgood

- 1) **NEW LAW:** You must have your dog chained up when outside and on a leash when walking. Your dog also needs to be licensed. Fines will be assessed.
- 2) City of Peru has hired
 - a) Maintenance Supervisor Darrin Reeves.
 - b) Kessler Whisler, new city maintenance employee
 - c) Tori Schuetz, City Clerk/Treasurer
- 3) Spencer Vogt has resigned as a City Councilmember. If you are interested in being the interim councilmember, please visit the City Hall during office hours.
- 4) A clothing allowance / uniform (shirt) was discussed for the maintenance workers. The cost of this will be looked into.
- 5) 8 of 16 people still want to be a part of the buy-out for the north end of town. The next step is a Title Search which has begun, and Appraisals, then offers can be given to the owners.
- 6) Peru is considering the Midwest Assistance Program GIS mapping of Peru water lines. This is computerized for the future. It will be easier to locate if maintenance workers terminate, and will be 98% accurate. The cost is \$500 a year.
- 7) City of Peru will be advertising for a Building Inspector. Jake Armknecht has resigned.
- 8) City of Peru and Auburn Board of Public Works will sit down and write out a contract regarding what the Peru maintenance workers will be in charge of and what BPW will be doing when the new water system is up and running.
- 9) The water system is ahead of schedule. They are 75% complete.

What a storm!

Angela Allgood

If someone tells you to build your house on a hill because you will not be drowned ... not sure that is the total truth. Recently we had a heck of a storm in Peru. I was told we had 2 1/2 inches of rain and it felt like it was in a 10 minute span. I looked outside and water was accumulating rather quickly in my yard. I had to go out and make a path in the yard so that it would go down the sidewalk and not under the house. Then, I moved my car down off the hill and had to wait inside while hail pelted my car.

Then, I heard the sirens. Neither the rain nor the hail bothered me, but I hate hearing those sirens. I have not heard them in Peru for a long time, and that is what made me nervous. I talked to Kimmie Vogt, and she said that her family has lived in Peru for 8 years and she doesn't ever remember the sirens going off. Her family stayed in their basement for awhile.

Sarah Montanelli so stated that was the first time either of her boys heard the sirens go off, so the family explained the difference between a watch and a warning and what to do when the sirens go off.

After the rain, I went straight to the plants that I had planted only a couple of days before. They were beaten up badly. I feared they would not come out of it. Sarah Montanelli said that her flowers also took a hit, but her 2-year-old redbud tree sprouted a lot from the moisture. Since the storm, I will admit that my flowers are doing much better! With the moisture and the sun that followed, I am really happy with my flower garden right now.

But remember, you are not safe even on a hill when that much water comes down in that short of a time.



St. Clara's Catholic Church
604 6th Street

Pastor Fr. Timothy Danek
Mass - Sunday 8:30 am

Confessions - Sunday 8:00-8:20 am



Northridge Church
808 5th Street

Pastor Daniel Hutchison
Services - Sunday 10:00 am



Peru Community Church
520 Nebraska Street

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

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"Your Country Neighbor"
You will be considered for publication
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July's deadline is June 23rd.
The deadline for August is July 21st.
(But keep in touch just in case.)
Several writers have improved their
craft by making contributions to YCN.

Contact information is on page 2.



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ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City

From the Orchard

Dena Stevenson

“Bee” Fruitful

Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard has a valued partnership with the UNL Bee Lab. Bees play an important role in ensuring there is a plentiful apple harvest. Bees in the United States are responsible for one-third of the pollination for food production. The UNL Bee Lab manages two resident apiaries on site at Kimmel year-round. An apiary is a collection of beehives of honeybees. The Bee Lab coordinates with Kimmel during the growing season and provides additional apiaries for pollination of Kimmel fruit crops to maximize production of fruit.

The Value Of Apiaries



Photo: A skep is a straw or wicker beehive. Visitors at Kimmel can see skeps in the Bee Lab at the Kimmel Education and Research Center located at the orchard.

The UNL Bee Lab conducts ongoing research at the apiaries located at Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard and other locations. This research helps the UNL Bee Lab learn more about stressors that are impacting the health of pollinators. The Entomology students seek to better understand the various stressors impacting pollinator health and identify solutions to keep healthy bee populations. The UNL Bee Lab provides outreach and education through the Great Plains Master Beekeeping Program to increase pollinator knowledge of the public and provide resources to beekeepers. Educational Programs are offered by the Bee Lab at Kimmel during the growing season.

Upcoming Learning Opportunities at Kimmel

- **Beekeeping Basics**, Friday, June 30, 10 am – 3 pm, \$40/person + \$15 for additional family members.
- **Exploratory Beekeeping**, Saturday, July 22, 10 am – 12 pm, \$10/person

For registration information:

<https://entomology.unl.edu/beelab/unl-beekeeping-workshops-2023>

or call Kimmel Orchard, 402-873-5293.

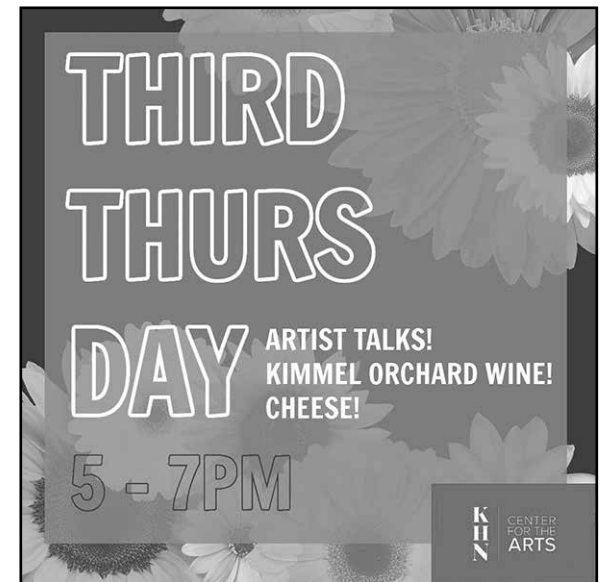
Importance of Pollinator Gardens

The orchard continues to build upon our pollinator plantings to enrich the food sources and living environment for the apiaries located at Kimmel Orchard & Vineyard. These gardens help ensure the bees have access to a habitat that keeps them healthy. Pollinator gardens supply necessary food resources, nesting habitats, water, and a pesticide-free environment for the bees to live.

If you are a gardener, you will want to check out the Nebraska Pollinator Habitat Certification Program.

<https://extension.unl.edu/statewide/douglas-sarpy/nebraska-pollinator-habitat-certification/>

The program provides a list for plant selection and gardening practices that can make your garden eligible to be listed as a Certified Pollinator Habitat in Nebraska.



June 15, 5 - 7 PM KHN Center for the Arts
801 Third Corso

Mission & History

The mission of the **Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts** is to support established and emerging writers, visual artists and composers by providing working and living environments that allow uninterrupted time for work, reflection and creative growth and to present and support arts-related programming that expands public awareness and appreciation of the arts.

Since 2001, KHN has hosted more than 50 working artists each year which include a combination of visual artists, writers, composers, and interdisciplinary artists. Each has found privacy in which to create along with ample opportunities to interact with fellow artists in a vibrant and friendly community located in the rolling bluff country of eastern Nebraska.

The Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts is a program of the Richard P. Kimmel and Laurine Kimmel Charitable Foundation.

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City's Morton-James Public Library

Free Events at Morton-James Public Library

ALL SUMMER LONG...Morton-James Public Library has Pickle Ball kits and Disc Golf kits for check out to MJPL card holders.

Borrowed Light and Other Things

Marcia Wilson Holliday

June 1-30 during regular library hours in the Kimmel Gallery

During a two-week residency at Waubonsie State Park, Holliday was able to explore the vast array of texture, color and patterns found there. She accomplished this by observing with a sketch book and camera while hiking trails and off trails. Collecting items that were used to make marks and prints on a variety of surfaces to express the beauty that is missed when we don't take time to truly see. Similarly, by weaving manmade fiber onto fallen tree limbs Holliday demonstrates the harmony between our life and the natural world.

Writers' Workshop with Special Guest Kiersten Modglin

Join us to get feedback on your own writing and to learn more about the craft of writing!

Everyone is welcome to join in this series of workshops!

Saturday, June 3 10:00 AM

Teen Manga Maven

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, June 6 4:00-5:00 PM

Writers' Workshop with Special Guest Terry Wolfisch Cole

Join us to get feedback on your own writing and to learn more about the craft of writing!

Everyone is welcome to join in this series of workshops!

Saturday, June 17 10:00 AM

Book Club

The Confession Club by Elizabeth Berg

Tuesday, June 20 2:00 PM

Teen Manga Maven Class with Special Guest Victoria Jamieson

New York Times Bestselling Author and Illustrator Victoria Jamieson will visit via zoom for an illustration workshop. All welcome to attend!

Tuesday, June 20 4:00-5:00 PM

Evening Book Club

The Searcher by Tana French

Wednesday, June 21 5:30 PM

Bubble Station at Community Picnic: play with our bubble wands and listen to a story about bubbles! Sunday, June 4th from 12:00-2:00 PM at Wildwood Park all ages welcome.

YOUTH SUMMER READING PROGRAM

Reading Club:

Register for Summer Reading Club starting on June 1st. Kids from Pre-school through Highschool log books read in June and July for a prize at the end of the summer. Reading logs will also be available starting June 1st.

Summer Reading Special Guest Presenters:

Talewise (Science + Storytelling) at the Library all ages welcome.
Thursday, June 1 10:00 AM

Wildlife Encounters at the Library all ages welcome.
Tuesday, June 6 10:00 AM

Jeff Quinn Magic at the Library all ages welcome.
Monday, June 12 10:00 AM

Princess Story Time with Fairytale Omaha at the Library all ages welcome.
Wednesday, June 14 10:00 AM

Prehistoric Pep Rally at the Library all ages welcome.
Thursday, June 22 10:00 AM

Make your own friendship bracelets at the Library all ages welcome.
Monday, June 26

Farmers Market Story & Craft Time:

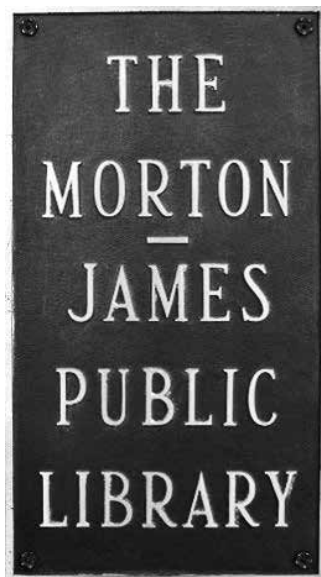
Come see us at the Nebraska City Farmers Market from 4:30-5:30 to do a craft or pick up your free craft supplies: June 1, 15 & 29

Summer Story Times every Wednesday at 10:00 AM

June 7 Guest reader: Keep Nebraska City Beautiful at the Library
June 14 Princess Story Time with Fairytale Omaha at the Library
June 21 Guest reader: Lifetime Vision at the Library
June 28 Story Time at the StoryWalk at Steinhart Park
(Central Avenue side)

Morton-James Public Library 923 1st Corso, Nebraska City, 68410
402-873-5609

Mon-Thurs 9-6; Friday 9-5 and Saturday 9-1



Arbor City News

is a monthly news section in

Your Country Neighbor

A Southeast Nebraska

Regional Magazine (w/News)

ARBOR CITY NEWS

Summer Fun From Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce

TREESTOCK: NEBRASKA CITY'S NEW SUMMER FESTIVAL

Nebraska City has a new summer festival! In 2021, the Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce office and several volunteer organizations joined together to create a festival centered around the 4th of July. Named the **TREESTOCK INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**, this new event features a weekend of live music, a cornhole tournament, a color run, beer garden, carnival, food trucks, car show, golf, swimming, a dunk tank, a community worship service, a waffle feed, and - of course - fireworks! Nearly all the events take place in Nebraska City's Steinhart Park.

For 2023, **TREESTOCK** will be on Saturday and Sunday, July 1 and 2. Saturday starts with an all-ages Color Dash hosted by Nebraska City's Wellness Center. The Dash starts in the Steinhart Aquatic Center for the wet portion of the event; as the one-mile route snakes through Steinhart Park, participants will encounter slime, colored powder, bubbles, paint, and more.

The festival continues with the Beer Garden. The Treestock Beer Garden will house two major events on Saturday; one is a fundraiser Cornhole Tournament. Walk-up teams are welcome! The other major event in the Beer Garden Saturday is live music. A wide variety of music by regional bands, including The Hangin' Cowboys, Mike Semrad and the Riverhawks, and the Talbott Brothers, make up the all-day concert that afternoon beginning at 1 p.m. and concluding at dusk - just before the fireworks! There is no fee to enter the Beer Garden and enjoy the music; identification will be checked at the entrance.

Nebraska City's Bethel Church is a Treestock partner and hosts a Family Fun Day on their property just across the street from Steinhart Park. Their activi-

ties on Saturday include bounce houses, a watermelon feed, dunk tank, food trucks, vendor fair, and - new this year - helicopter rides. Other Saturday happenings include a small carnival and the Steinhart Aquatic Center, Nebraska City's pool that includes a zero-depth entry, lazy river, water slides, and diving boards.

As day turns to night on Saturday, July 1, the Nebraska City Jaycees host their annual Ice Cream Social in the air-conditioned Steinhart Lodge. Live music is a part of the Social, with performances by the Southeast Nebraska Community Band and Nebraska City's two barbershop choruses. Saturday's festivities end with a bang at dusk with the Jaycee's Fireworks Show, best viewed from the baseball diamond, the terraces outside the Steinhart Lodge, or by renting a lounge chair in the Aquatic Center.

TREESTOCK continues into Sunday, July 2, with a free early morning Show & Shine Car Show. The Beer Garden from Saturday is now the site of a waffle feed and Community Worship Service.

For more information about the 2023 Nebraska City **TREESTOCK INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**, visit NebraskaCity.com/festivals.



Mike Semrad and the Riverhawks, out of Lincoln, (above) have been repeat acts at the first two Treestock events in 2021 and 2022. They are scheduled to perform again on July 1, 2023.

Below, about one hundred people attended the Community Worship Service in Steinhart Park on Day 2 of the 2022 Treestock Independence Day Festival. Several local churches cancelled service so their congregants could attend the ecumenical service in the park organized by Nebraska City's Ministerial Association. The ReLeasT Prison Ministry Band was featured during the service.



ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City



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CARNIVAL BEER GARDEN
CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
& FIREWORKS

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JULY 1 & 2



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Fish Pond in Arbor Lodge State Park

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City



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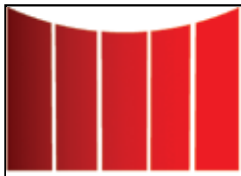
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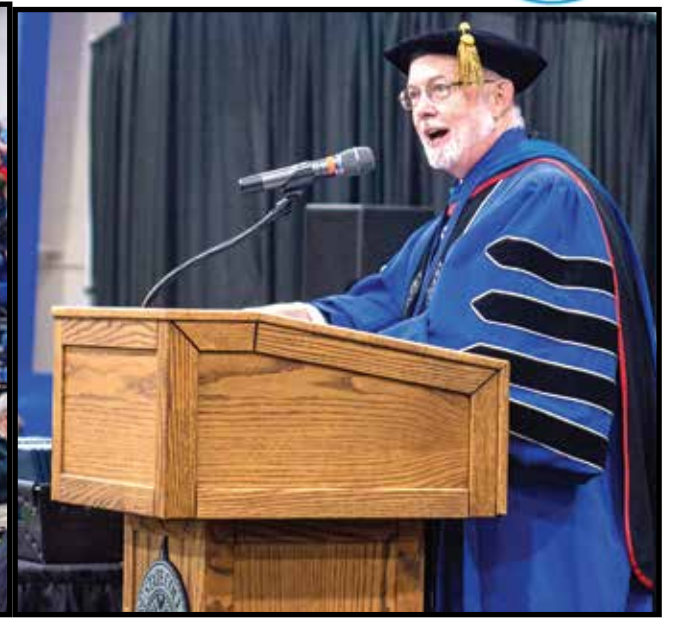
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Peru State College Graduation Day! Celebration Outside...





Peru State College News



2022-2023 FBLA Collegiate State Leadership Conference

Congratulations to the 12 students who competed in the 2022-2023 FBLA Collegiate State Leadership Conference. Peru State FBLA had all students place in the Top 10 this year! The statewide conference was held in Kearney, Nebraska.

Dr. Sheri Grotrian '02, their adviser shared, "Based upon placements and type of event, a few students are automatically eligible to compete at the National Leadership Conference, which will be held in Atlanta this June. At this time, 4 students have automatically qualified for Nationals, and several others may be "moved up" soon. Students can compete in only 2 events at Nationals, and since students will have options, other students may move up in the standings as participants decide which events they will enter."

Peru State College alumni were involved at the FBLA Collegiate State Leadership Conference. These judges included: Ted Harshbarger (not present, but reviewed production events), Emily (Slama) Ethington (not present, but reviewed production events), Alex Wessels, Jennifer (Clark) Roth, Hannah Chubbuck, Trey Nelson, and Tristen Nelson.

Ohlde and Rothschild Earn Heart All-Conference Honorable Mention

Earlier this month the Heart of America Athletic Conference released its All-Conference Selections for softball. Shortstop Ellie Ohlde (Fairbury) and catcher Carlye Rothschild (Eros, La.) were selected Heart All-Conference Honorable Mention.

Ohlde played in 44 games this season with 21 runs, 35 hits, six doubles, two triples, two home runs and 10 RBIs. She had a batting average of .263 and an on base percentage of .347 and a slugging percentage of .383. She also stole three bases.

Ohlde had a fielding percentage of .882 and had five double plays on the year.

Rothschild played in 36 games with 10 runs, 20 hits, four doubles, one home run and four RBIs. Rothschild had a batting average of .235 and an on base percentage of .316 and a slugging percentage of .318. She stole one base.

Rothschild in the field had a fielding percentage of .983 with 93 putouts, 11 runners caught stealing and only two errors all season.

Peru State College and the Peru State College Foundation celebrated Project ROAR with three groundbreaking on Saturday, April 29.

A ceremonial groundbreaking took place in March which included officials from the Nebraska State College System and the Board of Trustees.

The April 29 groundbreakings were for Bobcat alumni, family, and friends to kick off the first construction of brand-new buildings at Peru State for the first time since 1980. With a \$15 million-plus estimated cost, Project ROAR is the largest construction project – both in terms of cost and square footage – in Peru State's entire history.

The event was coordinated around the final home athletic events on the campus for the 2022-23 year.

Project ROAR contributors threw out the first pitches/passes. 1951 graduate Carlos Harrison of Shenandoah, Iowa; the first pitch for the baseball game. Carlos, 94 years young, has respectfully requested to be a little closer to home plate for his pitch! For the softball game, Dobey and Butch ('69) Haws of Lincoln tossed the first pitch. Prior to the start of the spring football game, Jerry ('64) and Christina ('88) Joy of Stella and Paul ('67) and Arlene ('67) Fell threw a few passes.

Each groundbreaking featured brief remarks from President Michael Evans, representatives from the respective teams, and a Foundation member.

Those Wonderful Fathers

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

Fathers come in different shapes, sizes, and ages. Their occupations are as varied as their personalities and demeanor.

The one thing all fathers have in common is their children. Instinctively, they want the best for them. In fact, many fathers often go to great lengths to provide for their children by sacrificing for them. They forgive, appreciate, accept, enjoy, and value their offspring.

Fathers who become responsible parents see to the welfare of their families by not only providing for them but serving as an example for behavior.

The “good father” figure reduces problems with his children by example and guidance. Children also exhibit better social skills and behavior with interested, involved fathers.

Fathers have certain traits in common even though their lives may be completely different. One is sacrificing. Fathers often go without to provide for their families. They are interested in their children’s lives helping when possible. The following are traits exhibited by “fathers who give their all” to their families:

Fathers supply needs for his family. This includes food, shelter and clothing. Education, training, and other items are also supplied according to circumstances.

Fathers display good attitudes and set examples. Grumpy people seldom win popularity contests. Attitude influences others’ outlooks and moods. Helping with household chores and yard work means involvement with family members and making things move more smoothly.

Fathers should cooperate with wives on matters of children’s discipline. A united front is often needed to cope with problems.

Fathers are responsible for providing food, shelter, and clothing for their families. However, much more is evident in most fathers’ lives. They don’t hesitate to put family members’ wishes and concerns ahead of their own, they provide counseling and guidance, and most importantly, they set good examples for living.

Their rewards are the pleasure they experience in their wife’s and children’s accomplishments, their pride and their family, and the wonderful memories of all stages of their family life.

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by sending them this link;

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Window On Fifth Street

Stephen Hassler, Peru

My view through my window on Fifth Street has frequently revealed starting points for destinations dreamed of, and also the peace of mind that life right now is good, and will be better. For me personally, I think about new adventures, new destinations, and especially, new friends. I see morning conversations with coffee, and holiday dinners with turkey.

With the arrival of Spring, and a break from that “real” Winter we’ve been having, peering through my window on Fifth Street, I’ve been observing a refreshing view of the outside world. After being temporarily distracted by tulips, daffodils, and wild phlox, I now realize that shoveling snow, ice scrapers, and cold has given way to gardens, mowing, and rain.

Seasons. Rebirth. The cycle of life. These and related thoughts are in my mind as I peer down the slope of time, looking back on past events and memories. I have a different respect for life now that I measure it in decades rather than in school vacations or football seasons. So as I look up the slope of time toward the two or so decades that I trust I have left, my view does not include rafting on the farm crick (or creek), or bringing the cows home to be milked. No more building treehouses, catching toads on summer evenings, or fishing with a safety pin. Not even touch-football with my college friends on Saturday afternoons. Now there is a realization that I no longer want to do those things anyway. They are in my view looking back-ward, not forward.

So I am thinking that a cherished past must be set aside for the wondrous future. A past not to be forgotten, but neither to remain in the way of moving forward. With every sunrise, new wonders are presented for living; and the precious present is always the best place to be, especially when viewed through my window on Fifth Street.

Enjoy June!

P o e t r y

by Devon Adams, Peru

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DADDIES FOREVER

We are children forever, in the hearts of our fathers and deep in our minds, where conscious thoughts aren't always allowed. Triggers will always lead us back to scenes from our past, when we were always the "little people" looking up at the tall ones who ruled our lives. Good or bad, the memories stay forever, and in an instant we ride a Star Trek beam back to yesterday and can feel what we felt then and there in that place that has made us what we are.

FEATHERWEIGHT CLASS

Summer is in session and all the players are here to make the most of the days of long sun and soft nights. They compete against time to raise their families in the midst of forces that try to destroy them. No more than feathers in the wind, the micro class of birds are only fragments of ounces fighting against giant blasts of storms and heat and hail that will come and come again. They don't think about being brave. It's just what they are.

SYMPHONY OF GRASS

Under the big blue of the infinite sky is a prairie billowing with long wild grasses that undulate and breathe, like a blood and flesh galloping horse. The wind plays the blades and tassels like fine instruments, creating mystical, musical melodies of soft sighs, sweet lies and magic moments when the earth sings.

BUTTERFLIES IN BLOOM

They are a moving garden, delicate and bright, fragile as a thought. Each wing is perfect in it's shape and function, not to mention the beauty of colors blasting out from geometric lines and patterns that rival all the flowers which are rooted and cannot sail away in the sea of summer air.

NIGHT LIGHTS

Have you seen them yet? They're drawing pictures in the air, connecting dots of lights, one by one. I don't need to see the lines of drawings though, because the lights make a magic show for me. It is a language that I can't speak, talking light to light.

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SUMMER SPLENDOR

Like a lush painting of a summer day, we love to remember the best and forget the worst. Fighting against blasts of zero frozen air, as our boots lose their grip on the icy steps and we plummet into a brick wall, we fight the pain and imagine we are on the deck with an icy drink dripping down our arm in ninety degree heat, as the oriole sings a ballad about his lovely lady. Never mind that in the next instant a gang of yellow jackets hits us with painful injections of venom, or that we fell off the deck into the rose bush with the longest thorns. It's the fantasy that counts.

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July's deadline is June 23rd.
The deadline for August is July 21st.
(But keep in touch just in case.)
Several writers have improved their
craft by making contributions to YCN.

Contact information is on page 2.