

Your *Country* Neighbor

Free!
Take One Home!
 November 2023

Your Window With A Country View



Welcome to Nebraska; Missouri River Bridge 'gateway' at Brownville, H-136



Harvest time along H-67 Southeast of Peru, Nebraska

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

Naturally November!.....	2	"The Cemetery" by Bruce Madsen.....	18
Merri's "Diary of a Part-time Housewife".....	3	Inspired Dental , New Advertiser.....	20
Frieda's "Thanksgiving 1929" Part 1.....	4	Dorothy's Thanksgiving Article.....	21
Brownville.....	5	"Window From The Past".....	21
Color Photos.....	1,5,6,7,8,12,17,19,20	Sheila Tinkham's Poems.....	22
Peru City News.....	8-11	Devon's Poetry.....	23
Arbor City News.....	14-19	 Valentino's Coupon for up to Six!	24

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

Auburn • Brownville • Cook • Falls City • Johnson • Nebraska City

Nemaha • Papillion • Peru • Rock Port • Syracuse • Tecumseh • Verdon

Your Country Neighbor

Voices and Views from the Valleys of the Nemaha

Publisher & Photographer, Stephen Hassler

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This Month's Writers & Contributors

Devon Adams 23

Angela Allgood, Peru City News 8,9,10,11

(The Late) Frieda Burston 4

Stephen Hassler 2, 21

Merri Johnson 3

KHN Center for the Arts 14

DiAnna Loy 10

Bruce Madsen 18

Nebraska City's Morton-James Public Library 15

Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce 16,17

Dorothy Rieke 21

Sheila Tinkham 22

Theresa Westfall 9

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

Naturally November!

Stephen Hassler, Peru

Greetings Southeast Nebraska area readers! “Your Country Neighbor” publication is in part, my photo gallery of recent wildlife, landscapes, sports action, and other scenes from around Southeast Nebraska. Plus, each issue includes columns and poetry by local writers and some news from “Small Town America.” Let’s be thankful for these volunteers who bring you entertainment, information, and some news you are unlikely to find anywhere else.

Some readers are finding this paper in Papillion, Nebraska. Welcome!

This being the month of Thanksgiving, I want to express my appreciation to our writers for their generous and invaluable contributions to this publication, “Your Country Neighbor.” I know that thousands of readers in Southeast Nebraska and beyond appreciate them. They don’t hear from you enough; say “Thank you.” And when you can, thank our advertisers for their financial support of “Your Country Neighbor.” Offer special thanks to “Western National Bank” and “Nebraska City Tourism Council” for their support of Peru City News and Arbor City News,” respectfully.

November is the month of our Thanksgiving holiday, but don’t wait until later in the month to count your blessings. I’m hoping “Your Country Neighbor” is one of many things you are thankful for. I’m thankful that in less than two months the days will be getting longer again. But I’m expecting we’ll get some Winter too.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving, and be careful if you travel.

And it’s about that time of year when we can choose to be joyous in the shopping season, or complain about crowds. Your choice. Choose wisely.

Don’t forget to clip the **Valentino’s coupon** on the back page.

Carry it with you!

And enjoy perusing “Your Country Neighbor!”

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Diary of a Part-time Housewife

Merri Johnson, Auburn

Raise your hand if you've shopped for a dress lately. I'm talking about a dress versatile enough to wear to a special occasion, as well as to church on Sunday morning. You know, a dress with that elusive combination of flair and modesty; one that manages to avoid any hint of cleavage, without being prudish; flattering, without being too clingy; classy, but not too sophisticated. And, by the way, it must accommodate mid-riff bulge without being taken for a maternity fashion. So, pretty much a dress that no designer has managed to create yet.

I own exactly one dress that actually fits me, and a second one that I have hopes of fitting into again someday. The dress that fits is solid navy blue and was purchased for a wedding three years ago. I wore it a second time to a funeral. With another wedding upcoming, I thought a somewhat more festive dress would be nice. And since I would be in St. Joseph staying with grandchildren for a week, I figured I had ample time and store selection at my disposal.

I started my dress hunting at a discount store. I think they had a total of three dresses in stock. The second store also had very little selection except for a sale rack that exuded a distinct odor of Febreze. Moving on, I headed for the big Mall where I had purchased the navy dress at Dillard's three years ago. I looked in vain for the Dillard's store and finally figured out that it was caput.

That left J C Penney. I read recently that Penney's is investing a cool ONE BILLION DOLLARS in a turn-around plan. Surely, I could find a suitable dress in a store that was spending ONE BILLION DOLLARS to make itself attractive to shoppers. There actually was quite a selection of dresses (even after eliminating all those covered in sequins), and I even found several that looked promising on the hangars. Alas, few of those were available in my size. I ask you, how can it be that women's fashion merchandizers cannot figure out which sizes are the most popular and then stock more of those sizes than of the other sizes?? All they have to do is look at what's left on the rack at the end of the season to see that "medium" is always sold out!

Four acceptable dresses were available in my size, but somehow in the transference from hangar to actual human, it became clear that they were meant for someone with a much flatter tummy than mine. What looked stylish on the hangar looked dowdy on me. I blame the fact that I am high-waisted... or possibly too thick-waisted.

The long and the short of it is that I gave up on finding a dress and decided to look for bargains on the pants and tops sale racks. Success!! Two pair of comfy, yet stylish, pants and a scoop neck, tailored t-shirt that was only ten bucks! I hit the dressing room to try on the pants, just to be on the safe side, and then went in search of a check-out counter.

I tell you, finding a check-out counter was almost as difficult as finding a dress. I must have wandered around that warren of displays for at least five minutes seeking a check-out counter that did not have a long line. Finally, I settled for being third in line. Unfortunately, number one in line was buying a million items and had to get a tally from the cashier after every item because she had a \$200.00 limit. O.K., I applaud the woman for having a budget, but gimme a break, lady. Could you not have kept your own tally as you were tossing clothes into your cart?! Perhaps calculating percentage discounts on one's own is too much to expect. Whatever. She finally cut it off at \$193.00 and got out of the way.

Right about then I realized that my super-bargain t-shirt was not hanging over my arm with the pants. Oh, no! I must have left it in the dressing room. That shirt was too good a deal to pass up, so back through the warren of displays I went. By the time I found the dressing room, the shirt had been retrieved by the stocker and presumably returned to the sale rack. O.K., I thought, I can find the display and grab another one. Apparently, while I had been looking for a check-out counter, someone moved the display rack!! How can this be? I fast-walked through that maze multiple times, but never found the right rack. Aaaarrggghh!

O.K., calm down, Merri... just give it up and check out. If only it were that simple. By that time, I was totally disoriented. The check-out counter I finally found presented a new challenge. The shopper at the head of the line had presented an item that had no tag. No tag! No tag, no scan, no sale. The supervisor was consulted. A trainee cashier was sent to find the rack the untagged item had come from (good luck with that!) and bring back another one containing a tag. Did I mention the trainee seemed a bit dazed and disinterested? No urgency whatsoever. She sauntered off, oblivious to the mounting impatience among the shoppers waiting in line...well, mainly me, but still. She ultimately returned and the sale was completed.

Next customer. I had noticed that the elderly lady right ahead of me already had her item in a J C Penney store bag. Hmm. That could mean only one thing: the dreaded return item. She had her receipt, but, tough luck, the purchase was over 60 days ago. Need to consult the supervisor again. On the upside, the cashier was able to wait on me while the return customer waited for the supervisor to rule on her return request. She did have a compelling reason for failing to beat the 60-day return deadline – sick husband – but, hey, deadlines are deadlines. Anyway, I finally got my two pair of pants paid for and got the heck out of there.

As I was driving away, I thought to myself that I am glad I live in a town where there is no store big enough to get lost in, and that I have no natural compulsion to shop in the first place. Hubby agrees.

Thanksgiving 1929

(The Late,) Frida Burston

A friend asked me what the holiday season was like in my childhood. I thought back, shivered, and said cold.

It was winter. It was in the big depression. What else could it be? Our shoes had been through three or four months of walking to school on weekdays and walking to the library on Saturdays. The uppers could still be shined up with a rag rubbed in shoe polish every week, but the soles and heels were wearing thin. The metal taps on the heels and toes no longer rang bright and clear as we walked across the floor, but were beginning to wear thin at the edges. We watched them carefully – there was a point at which – if you didn't tear the worn remnant of metal off – it would dig into the wood plank floor and catch splinters under it. The splinters catching your fingers when you took the shoes off, and mama would have to burn a needle in candle flame to sterilize it, then ease out the splinters. Not that ease was exactly the word –

At the holiday seasons of my childhood our soles were not quite worn down enough for my brothers to paste rubber soles over them. Later, they would buy thin rubber soles at the dime store, cut them to the right size, and paste them on our shoes over the original soles. By the end of school, we would often have gone through three sets of soles before our growing toes came through the top. But it's a holiday season. The soles were only worn thin enough to let the frozen ground seep through.

So by the holiday season, mama cut lots of innersoles out of newspaper or cardboard to fit all her shoes, and kept adding others on top of them until the bottom ones wore out and let the socks wick mud or melted snow into the shoe. At that point the rubber soles were pasted on the outside, and a new layer of paper was put inside. Why didn't we get new shoes? Oh, come on now! New shoes were for the beginning of school. Who could afford new shoes twice a year? Children didn't grow so fast when there wasn't enough food anyhow. The depression made its own adjustments.

But cold went farther than feet. Cold entered into the flesh and the blood, in the days when winter meant old iron stoves and there was no central furnace. In the little house by the tracks, and in the Civil War house, there was no bathroom either, and no bathtub. Every week or two, endless buckets of water were heated on the oil stove and carried to a zinc wash tub in another room for privacy, and one after the other, we washed off the grime of time with clean water. Then we threw the water out of the window by buckets, to empty the tub for the next person.

Continued on page 22





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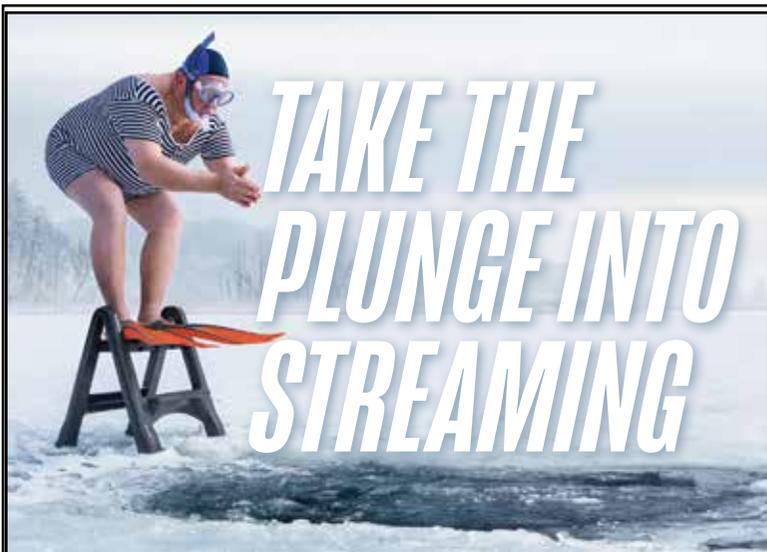
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Peru State College loses to Missouri Valley College 2-3 sets, October 14, 2023.



I found one of the two eagle nests at the wildlife refuge on 10/22. I'll be watching for the residents.



The last two weeks of October provided many rural harvest scenes like this one, and grain-hauling trucks lined up at grain elevators.



Wide Receiver, Jordan Kempf helps set up a field goal for first points scored early in the first quarter, at home on October 14, 2023.

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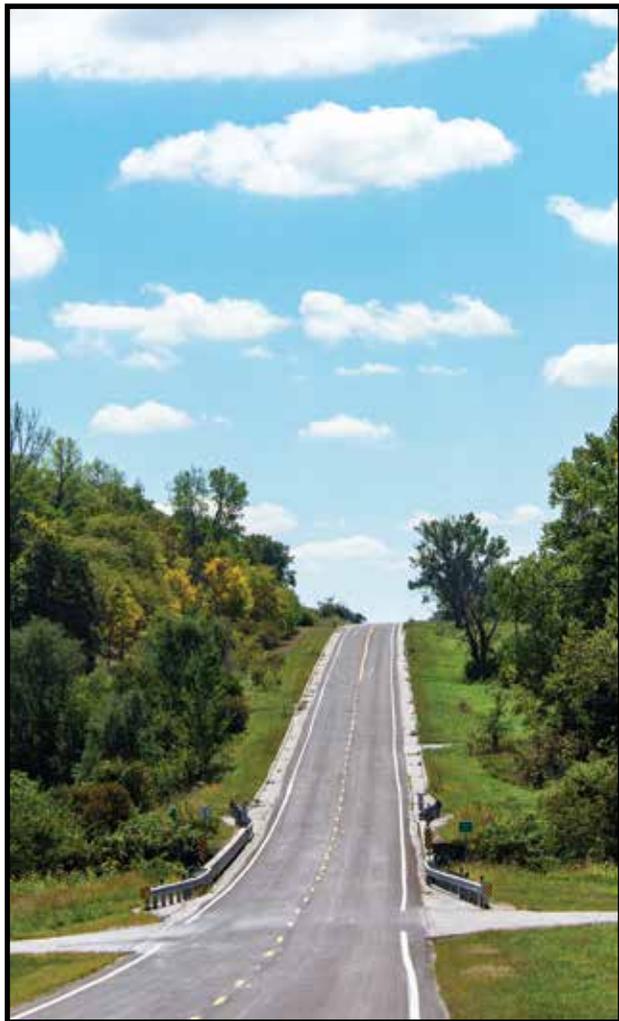


Defensive Back Duke McClinton returns a pass interception late in the game for a touchdown as PSC wins over Graceland University, 37-31.

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H-67 at "Honey Creek." See article page 11.



Photo by Karena Reeves

Kickball in October

Angela Allgood

Peru had three (3) kickball games in the month of October. The last kickball game had more younger children playing. No score is ever kept and it was all in fun! The adults let the kids play in the same game with them and the younger ones had a blast.

Noah Montanelli made an excellent pitcher. He tried really hard to get the ball to the kicker! His mom Sarah Montanelli (Decker) and his aunt Miranda Decker played also. Mom was at first base and Aunt Miranda was in outfield. They were very busy fielding the balls as most of them kicked that way!

Zane Carman and his grandmother Jackie Whisler played in two games. Zane helped the adults in outfield.

Another group that enjoyed the last game of the season was Karena and Brett Reeves Sr's grandchildren. Xander Horton played again and there was also Carter Horton, Mason Norris, and Colton Doty. Carter had a couple of great catches and also pitched for awhile. Colton Doty also pitched for awhile. Janet Hope and Brenna McSweeney were at each of the games having a great time as well.

The kids played really well and it was fun for everyone! Hopefully more games will be played next summer and fall. Kickball and more.



Thank you, Julie!
Thank you for all the
downtown beautification.
All Summer long!

Eclipse Party in Peru

Angela Allgood

Josie Coatney and PALS (Peru Area Locals) had a spur of the moment Eclipse party on Saturday, October 14, 2023.



In attendance were Sara Halvorsen and her two children Addy and Charlie, Josie and her son Wick, Katy and Nick Novak with their kids Vera and Everette, Theresa Westfall, and Cheryl Cotton stopped by to buy a shirt. Cheryl wasn't able to stay to tie dye, so they made a shirt for her!

Josie said, "It was too cloudy to view the Eclipse but we still did the T-shirt dying. It was lots of fun, the kids did spontaneous design and us adults did an eclipse design."



"Hocus Pocus" raffle prizes.
Julia Perry won. See article page 10.

PERU CITY NEWS

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Special Election City Council Members

Angela Allgood

City Council member Marty Peregoy resigned effective immediately on September 21, 2023 and Cate Wyckoff also resigned effective immediately on October 5, 2023.

With those two seats being open, a “special election” was ordered by the Nemaha County Clerk’s office. This election will be a “by mail” election only. Ballots will be mailed out to active registered voters for the City of Peru between the dates of November 20th through 27th. Ballots must be returned to the **County Clerk’s Office by 5:00 pm on December 12, 2023.**

Anyone interested in filing for one of the two vacancies has until November 14, 2023 and the filing fee is \$12.00.

The Peru Cemetery Association

Theresa Westfall

At the next board meeting the Peru Cemetery Association will vote on the future of the chapel at the north end of the cemetery. The chapel has fallen to disrepair after years of neglect. One option for the future of the chapel would be to remove the building, level the ground and possibly replace it with a new public use structure like a cement pad and picnic shelter utilizing some rescued brick from the building. Conversely, the building that lacks water or power, could possibly be stabilized, the roof repaired and windows and doors replaced; continued upkeep would need to be considered. At the annual fundraiser a survey was conducted of attendees, but input can still be made to the Peru Cemetery Association.

The Peru Cemetery Association consists of seven trustees that are residents of Nemaha County, own a lot in the cemetery or have family buried in the cemetery. These trustees are tasked with the perpetual care of Mt. Vernon Cemetery. The Peru Cemetery Auxiliary’s mission is to raise money for the upkeep of Mt. Vernon Cemetery and to help the Peru community in times of need. The auxiliary regularly serves funeral meals when called upon by the community at no cost to the family, though donations are always appreciated.

Hear the Roar!

Angela Allgood

You may not be able to hear the roar and excitement of construction going on ALL OVER campus, but you can hear the trucks full of dirt as they drive by!

The ROAR project has started. They are currently completing the ground work at both the baseball and softball field as well as working at the Oak Bowl. Sampson Construction Lincoln, NE, and Leo Daly Omaha, NE (Architecture). are taking on this big project.

The Oak Hill (married housing) apartments are completely demolished and you can see the dirt work for the dome is in full swing.

The college still has the Quad work going on. Jennifer Rieken, Vice President for Administration and Finance has told me that, “The Quad project will be completed soon but the final date is contingent on weather and contractors.”

For those who do not remember what was happening to “The Quad,” Jennifer Rieken stated, “Peru State College has committed to harnessing the ground’s heat to power its campus. The modern world is gradually recognizing the importance of developing sustainable energy sources. One innovative solution is geothermal energy, which taps into the Earth’s natural heat reservoirs to generate clean and efficient power. This renewable energy source is transforming the way many educational institutions are powered.”

“Not only is The Quad going to be more ‘earth friendly,’ there will also be improvements to help the students. There will be ‘charging stations,’ tall dining tables, and casual carousel tables. Also, the State of Nebraska’s 309 Task Force Division provided funding for ADA improvements for the sidewalks in the quad. Most sidewalks have been poured and are available for use. Retaining walls have been placed and the center seating area is in its final stages. New sod will be installed within the next couple of weeks,” said Jennifer.

Jennifer concluded by saying, “Though there have been some unforeseen delays in the completion of the project, we are still thrilled about this fantastic improvement to the campus. We hope the success of the project will inspire students, staff, and visitors alike to increase awareness of and advocate for sustainable energy’s possibilities.”

I cannot wait to check out the new Quad on campus!

Peru Community Church Fall Festival

Monday, November 6th.
Serving Lunch @ 11:00 to 2:00
Sloppy Joes, Salads, Desserts.

Servings for Supper: 5:00 to 7:00
Cheeseburger, Chili, Vegetable Soups,
Salads and Desserts.

Free Will Offering.

There will be a Free Will Bake Sale and
a Raffle going on all day.

Drawing for the Raffle Items
will be at 6:45.

By Peru Community Church Women’s Guild

City Council Meeting

Stephen Hassler

It was announced that Santa will visit Peru on Dec 16th. He might, *might*, bring some of his reindeer.

An area professor (not PSC), is being considered as a grant writer for Peru. With college interns assisting, more than one grant could be handled at a time.

City Supervisor (Phil), recommended purchasing a backhoe. The rate for renting is \$5000 per month. Purchase prices range upward from \$60,000 for a good used backhoe.

A Code Enforcement Officer will be hired.

The Market got a break from a costly hiring restriction imposed by their Federal grant.

A Parks & Recreation Commission may soon be created by City ordinance.

Tuesday Literary Club Reads

DiAnna Loy, Tuesday Literary Club

In the book *The September House* by Carissa Orlando, Margaret and Hal Hartman have dreamed their whole married life of owning their own home. They have moved from apartment to house to apartment to house as their financial situation allowed and finally settled into a house with a decent landlord who didn't raise the rent too frequently and made it into as much of their own home as possible. They had one daughter, Katherine, who was grown and out onto a life of her own. One weekend Margaret just happened to look in the real estate section of the newspaper and there was a picture of the Victorian house they had always dreamed of with a price that seemed almost too good to be true. Margaret and Hal scheduled an appointment to view the property and were pleased with what they found. Sure there were little things but overall it was their dream home.

At the beginning of the book, we join Margaret at the beginning of her fourth September in her home. The house has been all she and Hal had dreamed of and so much more. As they were moving in and unpacking they began to notice unusual things. One of the first things Margaret noticed turned out to be their new, or "old" maid, Fredricka. Fredricka came with the house and was not optional. She had been the maid in the house over one hundred years ago and had been brutally murdered. She cooked and cleaned and generally made herself useful but she couldn't leave.

There were other odd things about the house but when September rolled around the fun really started. There was a whole host of damaged children who Margaret referred to as pranksters. Elias was a boy with fangs who liked to bite if anyone got too close to him. Angelica didn't really do anything but point at the basement door but she had an eye that drooped out of its socket. Another little boy had a slice across his belly and his insides kept falling out. Still other pranksters keep showing up as September continues.

But all of these things only happened during September except for the maid. As Margaret and Hal approached their fourth September in the house, Hal announced that he could not live through another September and he was leaving and wanted Margaret to leave with him; he wanted to sell the house. Margaret refused saying this was her house, she wasn't going anywhere. Hal called a taxi and left. Margaret didn't hear from Hal again.

About a week into September Margaret's daughter Katherine calls concerned that she has been unable to contact her father and announces she is coming home to find out what is happening. She has never visited this house and Margaret knows that this means trouble. Since all of the house's oddities get worse and more violent as the month progresses, Margaret tries to figure out how she can keep Katherine from noticing something is wrong with the house.

Katherine comes and files a missing persons report after failing to find her father on her own. She does continue to search, however. She drags her mother to every bar and hotel in town. A break comes when a desk clerk who has denied any knowledge develops a conscience and shares information about her father's short stay at that hotel.

Things are often scary and many times suspenseful. But this is indeed a great Halloween themed read that is this author's debut novel.

Happy reading!

Hocus Pocus Happening in Peru

Angela Allgood

The Merriam-Webster dictionary says that Hocus Pocus is a "sleight of hand," and "nonsense or sham used especially to cloak deception."

"Hocus Pocus is, and always will be, quintessential for any Halloween movie marathon. The stars of the 1993 Disney classic (and its recent sequel, *Hocus Pocus 2*), have a way of letting off witty, funny and downright spooky sayings that have simply made Hocus Pocus one of the best witch movies of all time."

On October 21, Peru got a little taste of "Hocus Pocus." The movie started at 6:30 outdoors on a beautiful Autumn evening! Popcorn, candy, and soda was offered again, and there was also a raffle of the Hocus Pocus movie, a lap blanket, socks, and some candy. Tickets were again sold for \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. The food and raffle money will continue to go towards other movies in Peru. The winner of the Hocus Pocus raffle was Julia Perry.

The Justin Hiykel Memorial Family Movie Night(s) have been a lot of fun for the families in Peru. Theresa plans on having more movies and would love to host winter movies, but with limited funding she will focus on outdoor movie weather!

If your organization would like to sponsor a movie, please contact Theresa. The Justin Hiykel Memorial Family Movie Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100095587271915>

Theresa has found something the people in Peru love! Josie Coatney stated, "It was great! I loved it, I am such a Hocus Pocus fan. It got a little chilly though. But I love that this is an option for me and my family to enjoy just downtown from our house. Great memories with the boys."

PERU CITY NEWS

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The Honey Creek Cabin

by Angela Allgood

Linda Tynon and Jerry Patterson purchased Honey Creek School from Dee Jarvis. It was called Honey Creek School, because it was originally a country school for about 50 years. It was a “project” for Jerry. He likes projects, so when the schoolhouse was finished he built the cabin. It was purchased as a residence but turned into a tourist destination. It opened about 14 years ago and Linda said, “It just happened.”

Linda was working on a travel website and Jerry had finished upgrading Honey Creek School, so he built a cabin (man cave). It wasn't long before Linda, with the encouragement of her friend, Jeanna Stavas from Nebraska City's Whispering Pines BnB convinced her to also make the cabin a BnB and it has been busy ever since.



The Cabin at Honey Creek is always booked on weekends. Most people reach them

through Airbnb. They are listed on the state, county, and Peru websites. Linda said their guests generally come from about a 100 mile radius, mostly Omaha and Lincoln. They say they “need a place to relax and enjoy nature.” It works for them. They rarely see a car and wake up to sunrises, birds singing and a long country road. The day usually ends with a campfire. Many of the guests visit Indian Cave, Brownville, local wineries and restaurants.

“A bit of history, imagination and a lot of craftsmanship went into building this cozy one room/one bath cabin on the same acreage as the original Honey Creek School. Enjoy cozy country comfort at the cabin at Honey Creek”

https://www.airbnb.com/rooms/6079265?source_impression_id=p3_1694821370_yE0hwaWabWoGQISq

Peru City News
is a volunteer project promoting
**Communication, Information,
and Pride in the Community of
Peru, Nebraska**

4-H Club

Angela Allgood

Cailyn Winkelman is starting a 4-H Chapter for Peru and surrounding areas! “I feel that we have a lot of families in and around town that a 4-H club would be a great asset for our community. Learning life skills and furthering our knowledge and learning new things as individuals are extremely important, especially for kiddos! And with 4-H we can do that!”

In order to have an “official” 4-H club, there must be at least three (3) families and a minimum of five (5) kids total to maintain the chapter or club. 4-H is free to join, but if the Chapter wants to do a bigger project, there may be small dues to help cover those costs. The Chapter must also have a minimum of six (6) meetings a year. To be of age, you have to be eight (8) years old as of January 1. If your child is younger than that, they can join as a Clover Kid.

Cailyn stated that the children who join do not have to have any knowledge of livestock. They will learn about animals and different projects like sewing, cooking, photography, Legos, wood working, horticulture, and many other activities. Any project done can be taken to the Nemaha County Fair.



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

November 2023 Your Country Neighbor 11

Year End Special

\$26,850

Price includes loader, R4 tires, and quick hitch



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ARBOR CITY NEWS

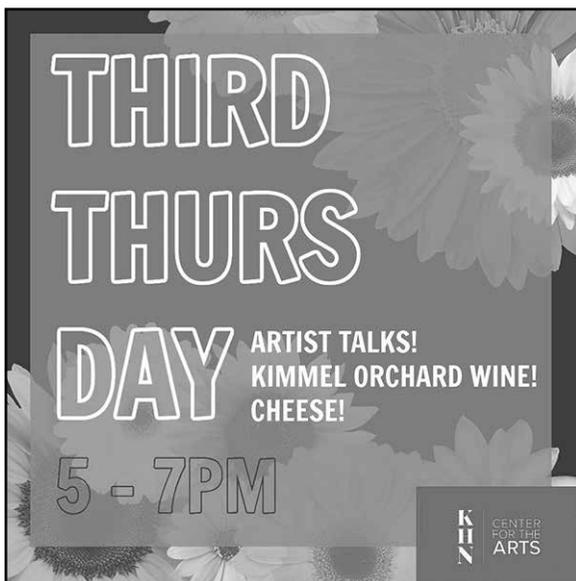
News from Nebraska City



KHN Center for the Arts

Established in 2001, the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts is a renowned Artist Residency program that supports established and emerging visual artists, writers, composers, and interdisciplinary artists from around the world.

Uniquely housed in a residential prairie-style complex, KHN also hosts a public gallery that showcases the work of Nebraska and regional artists, and is home to the Kimmel Permanent Collection.

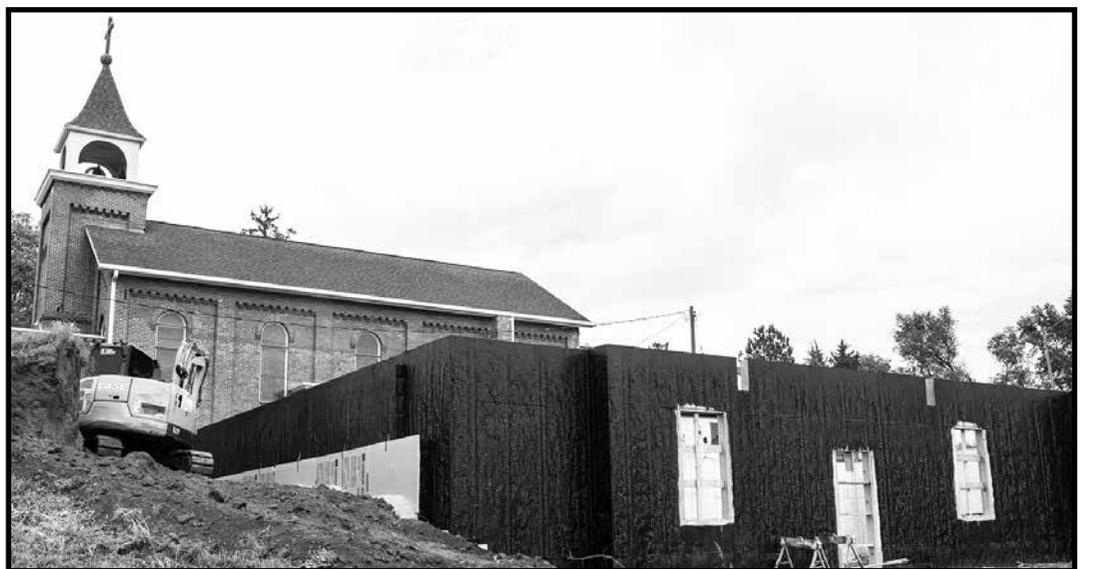


November 16th, 5 - 7 pm, KHN Center for the Arts
801 Third Corso, Nebraska City

14 November 2023 Your Country Neighbor



St. Benedict's Community Center Construction, April 2023.



St. Benedict's Community Center Construction, July 2023,



St. Benedict's Community Center Construction, October 24, 2023.

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City's Morton-James Public Library

November Calendar of Events

Light & Shadow Story Time

Wednesday, November 1
10:00 AM

Paint Together-Turkey

Saturday, November 4
10:00 AM-12:00 PM

Limited spots. Registration required 402-873-5609

Partner required, participants must be 8 years and older for the class.

Library Closed for Veterans Day

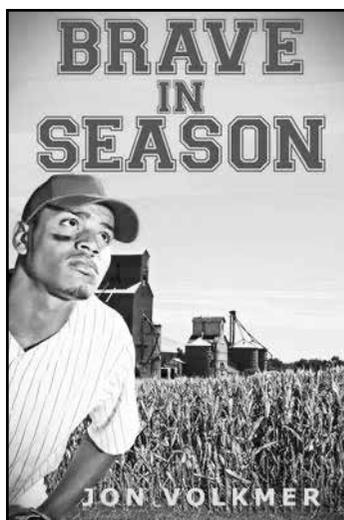
November 10 & 11

Nebraska Library Week 12-18

Jon Volkmer, Author Visit & Book Signing

Brave In Season

Monday, November 13
6:00 PM



Set in Julian, Nebraska this novel explores what happens when an African American railroad repair crew is dropped into a tiny farm community. Can tensions be overcome in that uniquely American way, with balls and bats and a field of green? Based on real events. Volkmer will talk about his research, including interviews with local citizens, his two residencies at the Kimmel Harding Nelson Center and about creating a gripping novel.

Dragons Love Tacos Story Time

Wednesday, November 15
10:00 AM

Evening Book Club

The Last Thing He Told Me by Laura Dave
Wednesday, November 15
5:30 PM

Build an Animal-Kitty

Saturday, November 18
10:00 AM

Limited spots. Registration required 402-873-5609

Storyteller Pippa White

“Memories of the Titanic”

Sunday, November 19
2:00 PM

The most famous ship and the most famous sinking, but despite the tragedy, there were survivors and those survivors have remarkable stories of that night to share. White calls her One's Company Productions “part theatre, part storytelling, part history.” She has toured to over 30 states and performed at universities and colleges, conferences, performing arts centers, museums, libraries and festivals.

Book Club

Green Lights by Matthew McConaughey
Tuesday, November 21
2:00 PM

Library Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

November 23-26

Adult Crafty Class

Wednesday, November 29
6:00 PM

Chess Club

Every Thursday
4:30-6:00 PM

**All events held at Morton-James Public Library
923 1st Corso. 402-873-5609**

ARBOR CITY NEWS

From Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce



NEBRASKA CITY PLANS ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOPPING AND EVENTS

Whether you personally put up your holiday decorations as soon as the calendar flips to November or you wait until after the turkey is digested on Thanksgiving weekend before breaking out the garland and tinsel, there is no denying that Christmas seems to come quicker every year. For retailers, holiday plans need to be ready to implement as soon as the Halloween skeletons are put back in the closet.

"In today's world of big box stores and online shopping, it's more important than ever for locally-owned businesses to be fully engaged heading into the holiday season," said Nebraska City Tourism & Commerce Director Amy Allgood.

About a dozen years ago, in an effort to combat the chaos that is Black Friday, a marketing movement called *Small Business Saturday* was born. "The idea of *Small Business Saturday* is to encourage people to shop locally and support the businesses of their neighbors and friends," Allgood said. *Small Business Saturday* is a registered trademark of American Express. "A couple of years ago, we started a holiday shopping promotion

to piggyback onto that idea and now have a whole event built around it."



SHOPPING PROMOTIONS:

SHOP NEBRASKA CITY FIRST - From November 13 to December 3, shoppers receive a Proof of Purchase voucher for every \$25 they spend at participating locations. Those vouchers are turned into the NCTC office. On Tuesday, December 5, winners are drawn from the collected vouchers and paired with gift baskets (\$50 value) donated from the participating businesses.

TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS WITH HOLLI DAY - An online event that was born during COVID, NCTC's *Twelve Days of Christmas with Holli Day* features pictures of a toy elf, named Holli Day, posing at various retail shops throughout Nebraska City. The images are posted on the NCTC Facebook page weekdays from December 7-22. The post includes info about the store and a question that can be answered in the Comments section. The public is invited to comment - one will be selected at random to be the winner and that person is invited to the NCTC office to select a snow globe. Inside the snow globe is a gift certificate (or two!) to one of the participating businesses.

OTHER EVENTS:

TREE LIGHTING AT THE OTOE COUNTY COURTHOUSE - The public is invited on Saturday, November 25, to the lawn of the Otoe County Courthouse for the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The event includes a free chili feed, ornament giveaway, live music, crafts, and a visit from Santa Claus. It is scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m.

A detailed Calendar of Events can be found at NebraskaCity.com/calendar.



DON'T JUST SIT THERE. DO SOMETHING.

Find your fun in Nebraska City
this November!

From museums to shopping to outdoor adventures, no matter the weather, Nebraska City is the place to be this fall! Join us for Small Business Saturday on November 25th!



VISIT THE HISTORIC HOME OF ARBOR DAY!
WWW.NEBRASKACITY.COM



Arbor Lodge, a slightly different view, October 24, 2023

ARBOR CITY NEWS

News from Nebraska City

The Cemetery

Bruce Madsen

On this windy hill as I walk alone
I meander through and look at all these gravestones
Different shapes, different sizes of limestone and granite
Each with a name of the one beneath it

There's a story I'm sure, each one could tell
About their life on earth before their final farewell
I know some were rich, I know some were poor
But each had a reason and a purpose to be accounted for

This little cemetery, like so many others
Is made up of Dads, Moms, Sisters and Brothers
Whole families are here in a united way
After lives were led, they came back to stay

There are many names of those I never knew
I wonder what they were like and what did they do
Some were pleasant and happy I'm sure
Others maybe sad, with a depressed demure

There are businessmen, farmers, and housewives too
Lawyers, soldiers, and probably a drunk or two
All did what they did in order to survive
The ways of the world that affected their lives

I stand and wonder of those that have past
Were they friend or foe and did they amass
What it takes to keep a memory alive
To keep the spirit free to those who survive

And over there, alone in the corner
Just one little stone represents its owner
Potters Field is where he lies permanently
That's what happens when you don't have a family

I also recognize the ones that I've known
Who lay here beneath this field of stone
Friends of mine, plus family too
And others I knew before their life was through

And now, I come upon a vacant lot
When someday, I guess, it will be my plot
It's close to the ones who gave me life
It'll be marked with a stone, that represents my afterlife

But now I guess it's time to leave, as my meanderings are done
I'm just reminiscing by the glow of the setting sun
But someday, I'll be back to stay in this place
'Cause it's where I belong when I'm done with this race



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ARBOR CITY NEWS

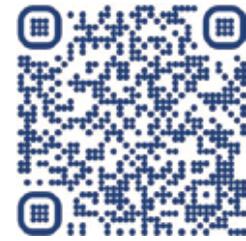
News from Nebraska City



1651 South 11th St. Nebraska City 402-873-6925



Mindy Chesterman
Sales Manager



Debra Chesterman
Owner

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St. Benedict's Community Center is nearing completion.



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www.InspiredDentalOmaha.com
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This Monarch was in my sister's garden in Omaha on October 20th, the latest I have ever seen a Monarch butterfly this far north. I hope she makes it to a freeze-free zone soon.

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Happy Thanksgiving



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Being Thankful Is A Year-Around Activity

Dorothy Rieke, Julian

This year we may have problems being thankful. The pandemic virus, the shootings, the war in Ukraine, the court actions involving our Congressmen, and other news items are discouraging.

Indeed, with all this bad news, we need positive attitudes looking on the bright side keeping our minds clear of negative thoughts. We need to focus our minds on thankfulness and appreciation of what we have and what we are.

Have you ever thought of all the little things that we should remember when we are being thankful? I believe there are little things that we should remember when we are thankful and more important things to be thankful for. For example, what about fuzzy socks, hot chocolate, holidays, food, sunsets, long weekends, dancing in the kitchen, pets, favorite books, indoor plumbing, clothing, blankets, and other items?

How about the more important phases of thankfulness in our lives? Neighbors, hugs, family, family gatherings, grandparents, friends, parents, vacations, freedoms, seasons, good health, natural resources, government, medicine, siblings, abilities, talents, good deeds, and all the good people in our lives.

Also, let us be thankful for our minds that allow us to store memories, and make decisions.

Actually, realizing the good in our lives is the foundation for abundance. As Voltaire once observed, "Appreciation is a wonderful thing. It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well."

But what about being thankful the year around? This is the ultimate in behavior. Focusing on thankfulness daily keeps us in an appreciative mood. Truthfully, daily thoughts of gratitude help us recognize the positives in our lives instead of focusing on the negatives. And being thankful will definitely make us happier.

"Reflect upon your present blessings of which every man has many, not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some." Charles Dickens.

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

Window From The Past

Stephen Hassler, Peru

When I was in the first or second grade, I seldom had homework except for "Numbers." "Numbers" involved many demeaning, laborious tasks of counting pictures of pennies and dimes and other coins; of counting a row of three trees, then another row of six trees, and putting them all together and counting nine trees. I suppose that was the way the concept of addition was introduced to me. But I was bored. And not only did I have to study numbers at school, I sometimes had to do a lesson at home. I preferred to chase butterflies around the school yard's blanket of dandelions, put them in a jar and feed them blossoms.

My mother was nurturing and understanding, and knowing that numbers were important, I guess she wanted to motivate me. She told me that I was good with numbers just like my father. My father sat at the dining room table nightly with his long heavy ledger of long green pages with so many lines up and down and across, where he would write with his 'Pioneer Seed Corn' pencil, the numbers that said how much fertilizer cost, and numbers of bushels of corn that were in the south 40 or the west 40. I was relieved that I was good at numbers, but I really preferred collecting butterflies.

I remember having trouble with multiplication and division in the fourth grade, fractions in the fifth grade, and square root in the eighth grade, but I persisted because I was convinced I was good at numbers. Eventually I learned those concepts, and when High School Geometry came along, learning it was just a matter of time, so I spent a lot of time on Geometry, and learned a lot of it. Trigonometry was difficult, Calculus in college nearly defeated me, but I spent half my time on Calculus that semester, because I knew I could master it, eventually. Finally, I had a college degree in Mathematics. I was ready for anything.

But I had this new car with monthly payments and a car insurance rate for age-22 males, and I was out of college and out of work. It was time to find a job. My car was my life, and I had to make those payments. After a frustrating period of several weeks, a referral agency sent me to an advertising company. The man who became my 'boss' had a math degree as well, so I guess he must have thought I had to be good at something. And so began my career in advertising, marketing and sales.

After my children were raised, I went back to school, looking for a better career than sales. I decided I would get a Masters Degree in Math, and teach college. After all, Mom said I was good at numbers.

After several years of going to graduate school part time, and working at MacDonaldis and doing substitute teaching, I was fortunate to get a position teaching college algebra at Peru State College. That was the best part time job ever! But one day, I got the wild idea of publishing a newspaper, which turned out to be an even better part-time job.

I had to learn to take pictures, which was fun. I started by taking photos of businesses for ads, then barns, windmills, and other country scenes, then birds and trees and butterflies and wildflowers. Butterflies! I had collected butterflies every summer from the first grade to my junior year in High School. I wanted to be a biologist who went on journeys following butterfly and bird migrations, but I was good at numbers, and numbers were more practical in life than butterflies. How was one to make a living collecting butterflies?

These days *Your Country Neighbor* has plenty of advertising, so I can spend more time taking pictures. Weekly, I attend that outdoor classroom on the trail, along the roadside, near the water, watching for the Red-tailed Hawk, the Indigo Bunting, the Bald Eagle. But the Tiger Swallowtail butterfly's display of delicacy and beauty makes me feel like a kid in the schoolyard chasing across the dandelions after a pair of powerful, lacy wings belonging to an earthbound angel, dancing in the air with a little boy.

It has taken me about forty years to learn a lesson that might be of value to you, your son, your daughter, your husband. When you are struck by a dream, follow that dream. If you don't, it will follow you. It will haunt you the rest of your life until it has the opportunity to strike you a second time. And it will knock you down, turn you around, and make you start all over again.

<<<<< *Thanksgiving, 1929 Continued from page 4*

Naturally there was no heat in that room. The stove had to be in the room where the family sat to do homework, sewing, eating, etc., or fingers froze. At the holiday season, it was so cool that you could climb into that tub of hot water, rub the black crust off a few patches of skin, and be ready to climb out of already cold water inside of three minutes.

Ninth Street in Saint Joe in the 1920s didn't get excited about winter holidays. There had been a small depression in 1921, Richard flattened us and a lot of other people. No one had really recovered from it very far. They haven't recovered very far from World War I earlier, either, before the big depression hit. Most of the folks on ninth Street worked in the factories a few blocks away or on the railroad. They were doing good to hold onto the little houses they had started buying before the great war. So of course they didn't go in for fast living and spending. They did everything carefully, and they took a long time doing it. Everything was thought about first.

Thanksgiving, like Columbus Day, was mostly a school holiday. Children learned songs and poems about it. They made turkeys out of pinecones at school, and tried to persuade Mom to stuff a turkey and invite the cousins to dinner. But not every mother was willing to break the budget by buying a turkey and feeding a lot of no'ccount relatives when they'd have to go down to the dime store and buy extra dishes too. School things belong at school, home things belong at home. Thanksgiving was nice for the Pilgrims, not so great for Ninth Street.

Our Catholic neighbors weren't even sure that Thanksgiving should be celebrated in public schools, anyhow. Thanksgiving was a protestant holiday – who were the pilgrims anyhow except people who didn't want to be Catholics? And those hymns that children learn to Thanksgiving in public schools, they weren't in Latin, were they?

Part 2 of Frieda's article will be Continued in the December issue.

November

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

November
Novem meaning nine in Latin
But you are not ninth in my heart
Why?
I inhale the odor of pumpkin pie
And feel turkey sated and full of tryptophan
Leaning back, full belly to watch football
Play a few card games
And tuck into an apple pie as high as the sky
Mounded a la mode, vanilla ice cream
Melting into my mouth like a fresh kiss
Giving Thanks for family and friends
Giving thanks for another year
As an American
For only in America do we gather around the table
Pray and give thanks
And thank God
For the overflowing feast
The cornucopia of life
Glad to be American
Glad to celebrate Thanksgiving day!



Milkweed 'silk' shimmers
in the Autumn sunshine.

Fall

Sheila Tinkham, Lincoln

The soft waves of cool air ruffle my hair
The heat dissipates and like a school girl
I pack away summer ready to read the month of Fall
Novo means new in Latin
Let us start anew
New ideas
New habits
New actions
Fill your mind and heart with the possibility
That you can embark on New dreams,
New adventures
Create a new you
Have faith
Each day starts anew
Remember November
Embrace the Fall.
Say yes to life's adventure.
For November beckons eager to dance...

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by Devon Adams, Peru

FAMILY STYLE

As the story goes,
the bride and groom
trade holiday dinners
with his and her
family until he and
she have children.
Then they go if the
kids aren't sick,
and keep going
until the kids are
older and into clubs
and teams. Gramps
and Grams start to
get lonesome when
the grands are too
busy to visit. Grandma
misses cooking her
famous fried chicken
and apple pies,
and holidays seem
bleak. Down the road
the little ones grow
into big ones and
marry and make
some great grands.
Then they go to their
moms and pops for
dinners, and the great
grandparents get to
come because they
can't drive anymore
and someone comes
to get them. Welcome
back to the family!

FIND THE PATH

You can break a trail,
or just follow the one
that's already there,
if you can find it.
Summer splendor
is hard to penetrate,
with walls of weeds,
and vines and brush
so green and lush.
Winter barren is not
so bad, because all
the trails are visible,
but they're not even
close to straight. They
intertwine and intersect,
double back and forth,
go up and down hills
and banks, over rocks,
through creeks and
draws and ravines,
and into clumps of
plants that stab you.
Spikes and needles
mark your trail with
blood, and fabric torn
and ripped and hung
as signs that you went
past. Or you were lost,
or not lost. All the critters
were there, watching,
laughing, as you followed
their own particular paths.

THE FIRES OF AUTUMN

Suddenly, a bright
yellow leaf plopped
down by my feet.
It was as if it came
to greet me at the
door of Autumn.
In a few days there
were more than
before, and the
green house of
Summer was being
redecorated in
flaming shades
of bright orange,
rust, scarlet and
yellow. Soft light
fell from a mottled
sky and made for
mellow afternoons
of burnished bronze.
Fickle weather can
steal the golden
days or forget to
freeze for a month,
letting the precious
perfection continue.
Remember the
glow as we go into
Winter, and gaze at
campfire embers
that are echoes of
vanished warmth.

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SNOW BOUND

It's calm and clear
here on the prairie,
but it's only morning.
In the distance of
afternoon, a haze
will smudge the
edge of the earth
where it touches
the vault of sky.
Blue will lose it's
hue to a heavy
gray, like an old
wool blanket is
being pulled over
the fields. It will
be dark before
sundown as wind
starts creeping
and seeping into
the house. The
air will fill with a
dense mist before
it turns to snowflakes
falling fitfully at first,
and then in massive
sheets of white
obliteration. We
will be staying still
until the snowplows
show us how to find
the road to tomorrow.

LEARN TO LISTEN

There is a voice
that lives in your
heart. It knows
all about your
feelings and
emotions.
Childhoods full
of pain and fear
can make you
disappear inside
yourself, so that
no one can find
out who you
really are.
You hid so well,
for safety's sake
that when you're
grown, you don't
know how to find
the child behind
the mask you
learned to wear.
But that child is
still there talking
to you through
your feelings. You
just have to learn
to listen. Because
that voice is you.

Share this publication with friends.

Send them this internet address;

www.yourcountryneighbor.com

MEN'S

NOTHING LIKE HOME GAMEDAY

WOMEN'S

MOUNT MERCY UNIVERSITY
NOV. 18 | 4PM

GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY
NOV. 29 | 7:30PM

BAKER UNIVERSITY
DEC. 6 | 7:30PM

MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE
DEC. 9 | 4PM

CULVER-STOCKTON COLLEGE
DEC. 16 | 2PM

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY
JAN. 3 | 7:30PM

PARK UNIVERSITY
JAN. 15 | 7:30PM

BENEDICTINE COLLEGE
JAN. 17 | 7:30PM

MIDAMERICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
JAN. 31 | 7:30PM

CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY
FEB. 3 | 4PM

WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY
FEB. 17 | 4PM

CLARKE UNIVERSITY
FEB. 24 | 4PM

COLLEGE OF SAINT MARY
NOV. 4 | 5:30PM

DOANE UNIVERSITY
NOV. 8 | TBA

AVILA UNIVERSITY
NOV. 10 | 5:30PM

MOUNT MERCY UNIVERSITY
NOV. 18 | 2PM

GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY
NOV. 29 | 5:30PM

BAKER UNIVERSITY
DEC. 6 | 5:30PM

MISSOURI VALLEY COLLEGE
DEC. 9 | 2PM

CULVER-STOCKTON COLLEGE
DEC. 16 | 12PM

GRACELAND UNIVERSITY
JAN. 3 | 5:30PM

PARK UNIVERSITY
JAN. 15 | 5:30PM

BENEDICTINE COLLEGE
JAN. 18 | 5:30PM

MIDAMERICA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY
JAN. 31 | 5:30PM

CENTRAL METHODIST UNIVERSITY
FEB. 3 | 2PM

WILLIAM PENN UNIVERSITY
FEB. 17 | 2PM

CLARKE UNIVERSITY
FEB. 24 | 2PM

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