

Niobrara Tribune

Where Lewis & Clark passed, paddlewheel boats crossed,
and a town survived three moves by always looking to the future.

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Instant Messages

Town Website
www.niobrarane.com
School Website
<http://teacherweb.esu1.org/NiobraraPublicSchools>
Facebook Page
[facebook.com/niobrarane](https://www.facebook.com/niobrarane)

Red Check, Deadline

If you have a red check in the upper right hand corner of your Tribune, that means it's time to renew. Please see Page 3 for rates and information. Deadline for news, thank you, photos and items of this nature is Monday at 5 pm.

School Starts

School starts at Niobrara Public Schools on Aug. 14. School begins at 8:10 am and ends at 3:52 pm Monday through Thursdays. Fridays, school starts at 8:10 am and ends at 2:08 pm. Heat will be monitored the first week of school. The school will be dismissing early if heat becomes an issue. Parents will be notified by the School Messenger calling system.

Ponca Pow Wow

The annual Ponca Pow Wow is being held at Niobrara, August 9, 10 and 11 at the pow wow grounds three miles southwest of town.

Buffalo Cookouts

The Saturday night buffalo cook-

Summer Friends

German couple draws looks with unique RV

By Valorie Zach
Tribune Editor

Christine and Peter Lambertz, of Neuss, Germany, usually get a lot of stares when they pull up in their unique camper. They don't mind. In fact, they say it makes their journey easier, because the behemoth motorhome is an instant conversation starter.

The Lambertz's were tucked away in a primitive camping spot at Niobrara State Park Sunday evening, enjoying the meanderings of several wild turkeys. They had backed into their camping space, and their camper, which resembled a giant military truck, was facing the road. Across the top of the windshield in big letters was a website address. www.dergrossewagen.de

"It means 'The Big Vehicle,'" explained Christine, as she came running out from her seat at the picnic table.

The four-wheel drive motorhome, which for the most part, the Lambertz's made themselves, was shipped here from Germany. They are school teachers. He's a retired physical education teacher, and she's a biology and English teacher on a year-long sabbatical. The couple has been touring the country. **Continued on page 12**



Christine and Peter Lambertz, Neuss, Germany, are used to stares, as they travel the countryside in their 4x4 giant-sized motorhome, which they built themselves. Photo/Niobrara State Park

Big RV

ring in the U.S. since last July and will be returning home soon.

This is their second year-long trip to North America. The first was from July 2009 to July 2010. Their four-wheel drive motorhome allows them to travel off the beaten path, and that's how they wound up in Niobrara.

Friends asked them, after having spent one year here earlier, why they wanted to return for a second year-long trip. "There is just so much to see," Christine said. "The traveler sees what he sees. The tourist sees what he has come to see," is their traveling theme song.

They are on their way back to Baltimore. Their journey started last July in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada where they toured the authentic provinces first. This is their first visit to Nebraska.

The Lambertz's have a detailed website, one in German and another in English, with travel logs, blogs and photos.

This is the fifth motorhome, the couple has built together. They started with a smaller Volkswagen van in 1979 and kept graduating to a more convenient size. Ever since they met, traveling has been one of their favorite hobbies.

They chose this type of a vehicle because they wanted to be able to drive anywhere they chose, and because they wanted to have sufficient amounts of water, fuel and food for longer trips.

trips.

They also felt that traveling on long distances should be comfortable. Their motorhome has a built-in double bed, a big kitchen and refrigerator, an oven, an indoor shower, and a big shelf filled with books about birds and wildlife and nature.

They built the chassis and had the cabin made by a company called "The Fehntjer." The motorhome is 21.6 ft long, 7.8 ft. wide and 10.8 ft. high. The "der-grossewagen" gets 12 miles per gallon of gas, Christine related.

"It's very comfortable," she added.

"We didn't really want to have it (the motorhome) this big," Peter said, "but the smaller ones were just as expensive, so we said, 'why not?'"

The storage space is under the fixed bed and allows room enough for a boat and bicycles, lots of water, food and supplies.

"We are independent and don't have to go to a campground," Christine said. "This is all self-contained," she said, pointing out the solar panels on the roof.

They have traveled to Iceland and to Africa with this motorhome, and have the photos of those adventures on the walls of their camper.

Nearing the end of their trip, Christine said they must arrive in Baltimore five days before the shipping of the motorhome. It will be shipped on August 29, she said. "We have a visa for it," she added.

"We saw so many interesting things," Peter said about this trip. "Every state is different."