

Nebraska State Poet, Matt Mason To Be Featured At Anthem Coffee In October

Matt Mason is the Nebraska State Poet and, through the US State Department, has run poetry programs in Botswana, Romania, Nepal and Belarus. Mason is the recipient of a Pushcart Prize and fellowships from the Academy of American Poets and the Nebraska Arts Council. His work can be found in *The New York Times*, on NPR's *Morning Edition*, in *American Life in Poetry* and more. Mason's fifth book of poetry, *Rock Star*, was published by Button Poetry in 2023.

Shortly after founding his own independent press, Morpo Press, in 1997, Matt started The Poetry Menu, a comprehensive website that lists every poetry event in the state of Nebraska. In 2011, he helped bring the Louder Than a Bomb teen poetry festival to Ne-

braska, establishing an Omaha chapter that now includes participants from more than 35 high schools in Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa. His work with Slam Poetry also led him to found the Omaha Healing Arts Center Poetry Slam, which takes place on the second Saturday of every month. Matt currently serves as Executive Director of the Nebraska Writers Collective and resides in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife, poet Sarah McKinstry-Brown and daughters Sophia and Lucia.

Matt will be reading from his five books and spending time in conversation and with your questions on Tuesday, October 10, at 6:00 p.m. at Anthem Coffee, 59295 NE-2, Thedford. Come enjoy an evening of poetry and coffee.



COURTESY

Cherry County State Park Areas, WMA's Temporarily Banning Campfires

Nebraska state park areas and wildlife management areas in Cherry County are temporarily banning campfires as drought conditions have triggered extreme fire danger.

The following areas will have campfire bans until further notice:

Merritt Reservoir State Recreation Area
Cottonwood Lake SRA
Bowring Ranch State Historical Park
Smith Falls State Park
Anderson Bridge, Ballards Marsh, Big Alkali Lake, Borman Bridge, Chat Canyon, Cottonwood/Steverson, Merritt Reservoir, Rat and Beaver Lake, Schlagel Creek, and Shell Lake WMAs

Additional parks may be added if drought conditions persist. Because of regularly changing conditions, guests also should call park areas prior to arrival to determine whether a fire ban is in effect. Parks will make determinations by working with local emergency managers and fire departments.

Those recreating in areas where campfires

are allowed should use extreme caution and take precautions, including keeping fires small, contained in provided fire rings, always attending fires, and having a bucket of water or a fire extinguisher nearby in case of

spread. Campfires should be properly extinguished with water until all coals have completely cooled.

For more information about the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, visit OutdoorNebraska.gov.

Ricketts Introduces Social Security Check Tax Cut Act

On September 14, U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts (R-NE) introduced the Social Security Check Tax Cut Act. The bill begins a total phase out of federal taxes on Social Security benefits. The bill was modeled after a successful effort to eliminate state taxes on Social Security benefits initiated when Ricketts was Governor of Nebraska. The Social Security Check Tax Cut Act is the third piece of legislation in Ricketts' "Proven Nebraska Solutions, Ready for America" package.

"All Social Security benefits should be completely tax-free. My bill helps us get there in a fiscally responsible way," said Senator Ricketts. "During my time as Governor, we provided major relief to seniors by phasing out state taxes on Social Security benefits and its time the federal government did the same. By passing this bill, we can take the first step in boosting the retirement income of millions of seniors in Nebraska and across the country."

As Governor in 2022, Ricketts signed LB873 into law to phase in the elimination of state taxes on Social Security benefits over a period of years. The Social Security Check Tax Cut Act would similarly phase out federal taxes on Social Security benefits, beginning with a 10% cut in year one and increasing to 20% in year two. Congress can continue phasing out the tax by 10% a year and make all Social Security income tax free by 2035.

Landowners interested in Special Landowner Deer Season must update profile

Landowners interested in the Special Landowner Deer Season must access their customer profile and update their land information on the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's new permit system, which went live in 2023.

For information on how to complete the process, search for "Landowner Permits" at OutdoorNebraska.gov.

Landowners will find these changes for 2023:

Land information now is selected using parcel IDs or an interactive map in the "Land Area Summaries" section.

Land areas and immediate family now must be listed on the Qualifying Landowner's profile.

The Special Landowner Deer Season gives a qualifying landowner a three-day season on his or her property preceding the regular firearm deer season.

The \$8 Special Landowner Deer Permit is valid only for the three-day season: Nov. 4-6, 2023. It is not valid for the November firearm

season, and it is not valid as a Limited Landowner Permit.

The qualifying landowners may designate permits to themselves or immediate family members to hunt on their property only during the Special Landowner Deer Season. A landowner or immediate family member may have no more than one permit per calendar year.

More details about the permit and season:

The qualifying landowners and immediate family may have up to eight of these permits for \$8 each.

The definition of immediate family is spouse, child, stepchild, spouse of child or stepchild, grandchild, step grandchild, spouse of grandchild or step grandchild, sibling sharing ownership or spouse of sibling.

No more than two permits may be issued to persons age 19 or older and no more than six permits may be issued to persons younger than 19.

The bag limit is one whitetail or mule deer of

either sex. The permit counts against the two-buck permit maximum.

Only weapons legal for archery and firearm seasons may be used.

Permits are valid only on the land owned or leased by the qualifying landowner that is listed on the permit.

Resident qualifying landowners must own or lease at least 80 acres of farm or ranch land used for agricultural purpose. No more than one permit can be issued per 80 acres.

Nonresident qualifying landowners must own at least 320 acres of farm or ranch land used for agricultural purpose. Leased land does not qualify. No more than one permit can be issued per 320 acres.

Land leased for hunting or recreational purposes does not qualify for landowner permits.

Applications are online at OutdoorNebraska.gov and must be mailed or brought into Game and

See Deer Season

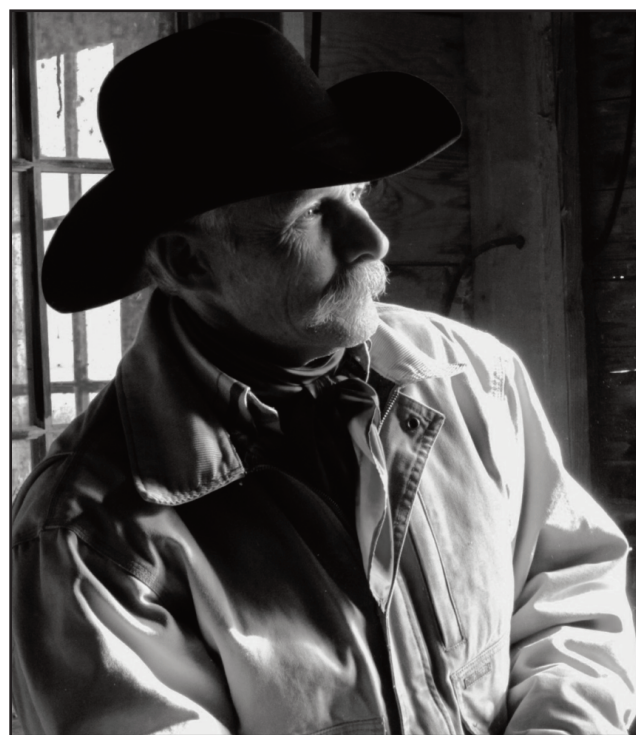
Page 6

Nebraska Author Releases Book

Nebraska Author, M. Timothy Nolting just released his newest book "...By the Way They Treat Their Horses" this book is published by Austin Macauley Publishers and is available on Austinmacauley.com and Amazon and all major booksellers in paperback and Ebook.

About the book

"Maria knew not to ask Eli where he would be going or when he might return. She felt certain that her birthing time was very close and hoped that Eli might be home early. Then she found herself hoping that he would not be coming home at all." Oklahoma Territory 1889: Eli Brandt is a cruel and profane tyrant, quick tempered and physically brutal. A victim of her abusive husband, Maria endures his frequent rages with a futile hope that things might somehow change. Both Maria and their son Jacob endure years of Eli's cruelty and suffer his punish-



ments until Jacob rebels in defense of himself and his mother and their lives are forever changed.

About the Author

M. Timothy Nolting and his wife, Deb, reside on a small acreage adjacent to

the Village of Bushnell, Nebraska. An aspiring writer since his high school days, Tim was born and raised in Northeastern Kansas as a fourth-generation mem-

ber of a farm/ranch family. Migrating from Kansas to Colorado and finally to the high plains of Nebraska, Tim enjoyed a professional career that allowed him to travel the U.S. and abroad. However, he claims that his most favored place is where he is now, with family nearby. Tim is recognized regionally for his writing and presenting cowboy/western poetry, and for short personal and historical essays, which have been published weekly in several local newspapers and periodicals. Tim's long held interest in the history of the American West and observations of human nature conspired to create this novel, *...By the Way They Treat Their Horses*. Tim is currently writing an autobiographical narrative as well as an historical non-fiction work of the range cattle industry beginning in the late 1860s, across the Nebraska Panhandle and adjacent regions of Colorado and Wyoming.

