

The Bookworm

You'll Wallow In This Pig Tale

"Lesser Beasts: A Snout-to-Tail History of the Humble Pig" by Mark Essig; ©2015, Basic Books; 310 pages

BY TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER

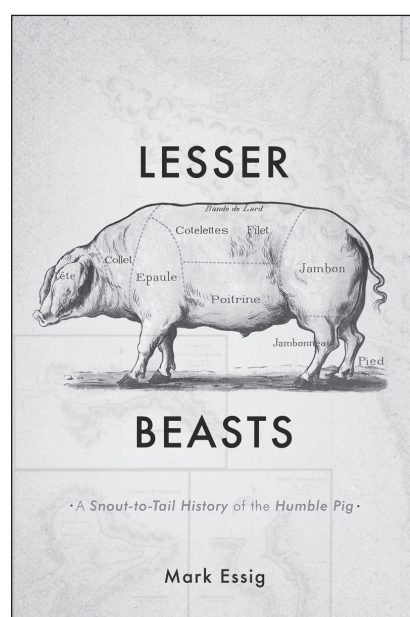
Never have you felt such pain. You were only walking through your kitchen, when you stubbed the Piggy That Had Roast Beef. Yowza, that made you dance. Brought tears to your eyes, too.

Pigs at the end of your feet. Huh. Ridiculous, but there isn't a baby within a mile who won't fall for that game and neither will you, once you read "Lesser Beasts" by Mark Essig.

Many millions of years ago, about 10 million years after dinosaurs died, hooved mammals appeared on Earth. Among them were horses, cattle... and porcine-like creatures that walked on two digits, possessed a sensitive snout, and resembled humans in gut and heart. That creature ultimately became the pig we know.

While dogs were the first animals to be domesticated, pigs "domesticated themselves" about 11,000 years ago. By that, Essig means that pigs hung around humans long enough to know that food was plentiful, so they moved in with us on their own. Humans quickly realized that pigs were easy to keep; says Essig, "if it was biologically possible to raise pigs, people raised pigs."

And that was the case on and off throughout history: pigs were handy and cheap, which was good for the poor but bad for a pig's reputation. Politically, pigs



sometimes "didn't fit" and were ignored as food; other times, they were viewed as a stash of emergency vittles on the hoof. Pigs notoriously eat things that are taboo for us to eat, so they've been called unclean and disgusting. On the other hand, they've saved a lot of people's bacon, in more ways than one.

Furthermore, calling a pig dirty, as Essig points out, is hogwash. Pigs are intelligent and resourceful. They'll seize almost any chance to adapt to their surroundings and can help clear land quickly (some-

times to the chagrin of landowners). They are more fecund than both cows and sheep. And, thanks to our willingness to ask where dinner once slept, little piggies that go to market may enjoy better lives before they join us at the table.

Forget cats online: what make you say "awwwwww" are videos of those impossibly cute piglets with their long eyelashes. Agree? Then "Lesser Beasts" is going to put you in hog heaven.

Starting with a herd of porkers and ending with pleas for compassion, author Mark Essig takes readers on a world tour that starts even before pigs became pigs. That science may be an odd way to start a history book, but it fits — especially since we then head stward to see how hogs have fell into and out of favor with humans. Along the way, Essig fattens up his narrative with little bits of asides; for instance, the first Arnold Ziffel on TV's Green Acres?

You don't want to know... I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It's got just enough lightheartedness in it to be fun, but it's very informative, too. If you love pigs or you've joined the "cult" of bacon, "Lesser Beasts" is a book you'll want to take all the way home.

And about that Piggy That Went to Market? If you're concerned about where he's spent most of his life, look for "Pig Tales: An Omnivore's Quest for Sustainable Meat" by Barry Estabrook. It's a look at corporate farming, pig husbandry, environmental issues, and what's on your plate.

Art Forms

Summer Is Winding Down, But August Will Be Busy

BY JULIE J. AMSBERRY
Yankton Area Arts

How is it already August?! Our weekly Summer Concert Series wrapped up the season this past Tuesday with the magnificent "Main Avenue Warehouse". The concert series started in June with the Yankton Area Summer Band under the organizational hands of Todd Carr, then Kim Olson took the reins and booked our summer pops concerts. Thank you Todd and Kim for another outstanding summer of entertainment!

Two weeks ago, Yankton Area Arts hosted the second Meridian en Blanc. Nearly 250 guests enjoyed a classy picnic overlooking the river while grooving to the sounds of the Bridge City Big Band. It was a perfect evening with dancing, socializing, great wine, and a surprise hot air balloon fly-over! Thank you to all the volunteers, musicians, and guests! Thank you to our featured artists, Jessi Koch, Mallory Schmidt, Sharon Gray, and Cheryl Peterson-Halsey! Thank you to the incredible sponsors of the evening: First Dakota National Bank, the Benedictine Sisters, Anna Lynn Claire Reception & Event Design, City of Yankton, Dakota Beverage, Nissen Wine, Hy-Vee, John A. Conkling Distributing, Mark Hunhoff, Rob Klimisch, Gail & Deb Gubbels, and Gramps Convenience Store! Not only does your support help us pull off an extraordinary evening on the bridge, it means we are able to continue to offer art classes for kids in our community. It also means we are able to support local artists by providing a home at G.A.R. Gallery to exhibit their work, teach classes, and meet for inspiration and organization. Thank you all for your continued support of the arts in Yankton!

Recently, Yankton Area Arts named Pam Kallis as the Art Advocate of the Year! Pam is a costume artist who for twenty years, has worked on an incredible amount of theatrical productions



Julie
AMSBERRY

throughout the community. Not only is she an artist, she supports and understands the value of arts in our schools and communities! Congratulations Pam and thank you for your part in advocating for arts in our community!

Currently on exhibit at the GAR Hall Art Gallery is the 11th annual Mighty Mo' Photo Show. This year's theme: "A River for All Seasons" has produced some of the most vibrantly colored photos to date! This annual, juried exhibit highlights the work of both professional and amateur photographers. Each year local businesses sponsor the Promise to Purchase awards. Businesses participating this year are First National Bank, Shur-Co, Home Federal, and Avera. Three photos will also be announced as Best in Show, Honorable Mention, and People's Choice at a reception tonight, Friday, Aug. 7, from 5-7 p.m. All photos were judged based on theme, composition, lighting and originality.

Look closely at the summer long interactive art installation "Modify. Dotify." when you visit the gallery. Kids of all ages have had a good time creating paw prints, lines, turtles, ghosts, an owl, the solar system, a dinosaur and so much more! Each visitor is given 12 brightly colored stickers to put anywhere in our white art studio. There is still time to participate! We are open Monday-Friday 1-5 p.m. and Saturdays 1-3 p.m.

Riverboat Days and Summer Arts Festival will be held Aug. 21-23 at Riverside Park. YAA has been hosting the arts portion of the festival for more than 30 years. We strive each year to provide the community a variety in unique, hand-made and handcrafted items to peruse

and purchase. Since January, artists have been applying to the Summer Arts Festival. Our committee members and jurors have pored over applications, photos, and websites in an effort to showcase 120 artisans in jewelry, wood-working, pottery, furniture, home and lawn décor, jams and jellies, clothing, watercolor, and the list goes on! To see a complete list of vendors, please visit our website: www.YanktonAreaArts.org and look for the "SAF" tab.

In addition to all our new and returning art vendors, Mogen's Heroes will provide music for festival goers to dance to on Saturday at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and again on Sunday at 1 p.m. Mogen's Heroes is a fine-tuned trio that has been pleasing Midwestern audiences since 1978. Like the South Dakota weather, they are apt to change styles instantly. Founded by Waubay, native John Mogen (keyboards), the group also features Bill Hoffman (drums and a Redfield native) and Denny Gale (guitar and a Wagner native). This threesome thoroughly enjoys having fun with music, blending humor with harmonies to please all ages. Mogen's Heroes will perform on the west end of the park by the Territorial Capitol building. The festival opens on Friday evening at 6 p.m. We look forward to seeing you at the park!

Judging from the length of this article, maybe I can see why the summer has flown by! I hope you are having as much fun as I am! You can stay up to date on all things YAA at www.YanktonAreaArts.org or by following us on Facebook or Twitter.

Yankton Area Arts is a non-profit arts organization located at 508 Douglas Avenue in Yankton. The G.A.R. Hall Art Gallery is open to the public free of charge from 1-5 p.m. weekdays and from 1-3 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call the YAA office at (605) 665-9754 or email yaa@iaw.net.

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**FRIDAY, AUGUST 21ST - 11:00 AM
REAL ESTATE SOLD FIRST
RIDGE KITCHEN LUNCH WAGON**

The real estate consists of a 3 Bedroom Ranch Style Home with attached oversized single garage. The floor plan includes a spacious kitchen with formica built-in cabinets, built-in island and eating nook and dinette area, large living room with front entrance, 3 Bedrooms w/ closets, full bathroom, Utility/Craft Room with Washer & Dryer hookups and rear entrance. The features include 1656 sq. ft. of living area, built in 1955, late model refrigerator, range, washer & dryer included. Vinyl Permanent Siding, 70' x 150' corner lot, 20' x 24' attached single garage plus a 20' x 24' detached single garage/shop, partial basement w/ forced air natural gas furnace, window A/C and good location. It has an assessed valuation of \$39,230, and the annual real estate taxes are \$922.78.

To view the home, call Mark or Emily Guthmiller at 605-387-5562.

Legal: Lot 1 and the South 28' of Lot 2, Block 6, Andreas Mettler's 5th Addition to the City of Menno, Hutchinson County, South Dakota.

Terms: Cash sale with a \$10,000, nonrefundable downpayment the day of the sale and the balance on or before September 15, 2015. A warranty deed will be provided, title insurance will be utilized with cost split ½ to buyer and ½ to seller. Possession granted upon final settlement. 2015 RE Taxes prorated to possession date. Sold subject to confirmation by the POA, Wieman Land & Auction Co., Inc. representing the seller in this transaction.

HOUSEHOLD & COLLECTIBLES: General Small Chest Freezer; Lazyboy Reclining Sofa; Loveseat & Recliner, Maroon; Brown Hideabed Sofa; Arm Chair; 3 Pc Bedroom Set (no bed); Full Bed w/ Box Spring & Mattress; 3 pc bedroom set w/ Twin Bed; Wood Dining Table w/ 2 Chairs & Hutch; End Table Set; 3 – Wood Shelving Units; Oak Entertainment Center; Lane Blonde Cedar Chest; RCA Color TV; Wood Gun Cabinet; Blonde Desk; Corner Table; Hamper; Folding Tables; Folding Chairs; Record Cabinet; Pots & Pans; Dishes; Kitchen Utensils; Fuller Vacuum; Asst of small electric appliances; Bedding; Xmas & Holiday Decs; Games; Luggage; Garage Items; Garden Hose; Few Hand & Garden Tools;
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES: Oak Flower Stand; Hall Tree; Baskets; Silverware; Fancy Work; Glassware; Stewware Glasses; Costume Jewelry; Misc. Other Items;

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Yankton Library Board To Meet Aug. 12

The Yankton Community Library Board of Trustees' regular meeting is set for 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 12, at the Library meeting room, 515 Walnut. For further information, call 668-5275.

Rubber Duck Fundraiser Slated Aug. 13

Which lucky duck will be the winner? Will it be a nurse duck, a big hair duck, a super hero duck, a firefighter duck, or one of a number of other special ducks? Yankton County Parents as Teachers will be sponsoring their inaugural Lucky Lucky Rubber Duck Race on Thursday, Aug. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at the Memorial Park Pool.

The Grand Prize winner for the fastest duck will go home with \$250 while the slowest duck will capture a prize of \$25. Ducks are being sold for \$5 each, a quack pack of \$6 for \$25 or a flock of 25 for \$100. Celebrity Jumpers will be on hand to make some waves and propel the ducks through the deep end.

If you are interested in purchasing a duck or ducks, you may contact Deanna Branaugh at 605-661-4833 or from any of the Parents as Teachers board members. Limited number of ducks will be available that evening prior to the event.

Parents as Teachers provides information, support and encouragement to families through home visits and classes in order to promote child development during the first three years of life. Families interested in being involved in the program can call 605-661-4833.

2015 State 4-H Dog Show In Mitchell

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State 4-H Dog Show will be held at the SDSU Extension Davison County Center in Mitchell Aug. 22.

"Youth will have the opportunity to show off their skills in training and teamwork during a variety of events, including obedience, rally, agility and showmanship," said Kathryn Reeves, SDSU Extension 4-H Science Field Specialist.

Details for registration and what is expected are located in the Contestant packet, located at the iGrow 4-H & Youth community page.

Many volunteers are needed for the show. Each county is expected to provide assistance in the different rings based on the number of entries they post (one hour for each eight entries).

To volunteer in a ring or with set up or tear down, e-mail Reeves at Kathryn.reeves@sdstate.edu.

Budweiser Clydesdales Slated For Norfolk

NORFOLK, Neb. — The world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales, the symbol of quality and tradition for Anheuser-Busch since 1933, are scheduled to make several appearances in Norfolk, Nebraska, between Aug. 20-23 including a special parade honoring our veterans and active duty military.

Eagle Distributing & the City of Norfolk present the "Salute to Our Heroes" parade to be held Sunday, Aug. 23, in Norfolk. The parade will begin at 2 p.m., and will feature the World Famous Budweiser Clydesdale eight-horse hitch.

The Clydesdales' appearance in Norfolk is one of hundreds made annually by the traveling hitches. Canadians of Scottish descent brought the first Clydesdales to America in the mid-1800's. Today, the giant draft horses are used primarily for breeding and show.

Horses chosen for the Budweiser Clydesdale hitch must be at least three years of age, stand approximately 18 hands — or six feet — at the shoulder, weigh an average of 2,000 pounds, must be bay in color, have four white legs, and a blaze of white on the face and black mane and tail. A gentle temperament is very important as hitch horses meet millions of people each year.

A single Clydesdale hitch horse will consume as much as 20-25 quarts of feed, 40-50 pounds of hay and 30 gallons of water per day.

Each hitch travels with a Dalmatian. In the early days of brewing, Dalmatians were bred and trained to protect the horses and guard the wagon when the driver went inside to make deliveries.

The Budweiser Clydesdales can be viewed at the Anheuser-Busch breweries in St. Louis, Mo.; Merrimack, N.H.; and Ft. Collins, Colo. They also may be viewed at Grant's Farm in St. Louis and at Warm Springs Ranch, the 300-plus acre Clydesdale breeding farm located near Boonville, Missouri.

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