

# OUR TOWNS Cedar County

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## Etched For Success

### Hartington Artist Turns A Hobby Into A Business

BY LINDA WUEBBEN  
P&D Correspondent

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Angie Peitz is a stay-at-home mom in Hartington and she loves it.

"When my kids are sick, I am here," Peitz said. "I feel it's a blessing."

But Peitz has also started a business that she runs from the comfort of her home, Etched Impressions. She is as busy as she wants to be and still a strong mother figure in her family.

Etching has been a pastime and hobby in Peitz's life since she was living at home with her mom and dad in St. Louis and attending high school.

"I was in every art class there was in school; I loved it," Peitz said.

As a senior, she created an independent study at her high school and signed a contract to finish five projects using paint and sculpture as the mediums.

Also at that time, a neighbor lady took Peitz under her wing and showed her the fine art of etching. She worked for the lady in her spare time and grew quite comfortable completing etching projects and designs.

After high school graduation, Peitz attended Augusta Technical College in Augusta, Ga., which led to an associate degree in graphic arts. She worked on newspaper ads and some graphic design but found it a very difficult field to break into, as most employers wanted five years of experience.

But all that time, Peitz was still etching with aluminum oxide as a hobby. She had a small etching machine and eventually became an owner of a sandblasting machine in 1990.

"I thank God for technology," Peitz said. She sees how her etching capabilities increased with

each etching upgrade she has made.

In 2000, Peitz moved back to Nebraska where her parents are from originally. She has many fond memories of visiting her grandmother in Hartington. She operated a small business in Coleridge that offered a variety of vendors a place to showcase their wares. When the business became too much of a project along with her family, she let the 57 vendors involved know she was moving on and closed the doors.

A local Hartington businessman, Keith Eickhoff, invited Peitz to do some wholesale etching in his athletic clothing business site. She tried it and realized she was more interested in completing projects with a personal touch.

"I try to touch each person's heart with the etching I do," Peitz said. "It's what I strive for."

Peitz then had an opportunity to take a business class through Northeast Community College called Northeast Nebraska Edge. It was designed to interest people in becoming entrepreneurs.

"The class showed me how to write a business plan," Peitz said. "I looked at my etching hobby and decided anything which worked as well as that out of my home was worth turning into a business."

Peitz started making glassware and mementos for area celebrations like centennials. Belden was the first and she handcrafted glass mugs and plates, which were very tedious. Brass stencils were used and the glass items were done in stages. Her talent is spread primarily by word-of-mouth but she does have a website, [www.etchedimpressions.net/](http://www.etchedimpressions.net/).

Peitz caters to almost any whim with her personal etching designs. She uses several mediums like ceramic, wood, metal,

glass and mirrors. She has etched ultrasound photos on sun-catchers and baby birthdates, with weight and length, details on glass baby bottles. Memorial vases are popular. Wine glasses and beer mugs are personalized just like cake pans, pocket watches and golf tools. She offers specialty gifts for the wedding party — both male and female.

There are four sandblasting machines in Peitz's basement including a portable model she can take to a site for an etching project. One machine fills one wall and is used for gun-cabinet glass doors or business doors. It's a no-waiting process when her 12-year-old daughter Mia comes down to help mom with one of her projects. The daughter completed a framed glass etching for the Cedar County Fair last using a coloring book page that she converted to a stencil and so the art talent is passing on to the next generation.

Peitz's biggest project to date was the sandblasting of the private office doors for the governor's mansion in Lincoln. The Hartington 125th Centennial Committee proposed the project idea to Peitz, and she worked with Gov. Dave Heineman's wife, Sally Ganem, to find the right design for the doors. The design for Nebraska used on the state quarter collection was agreed upon and the doors were shipped to Hartington for Peitz to work on.

The etched graving on the doors is a memorial from the city of Hartington to the three Nebraska governors who were Hartington natives: Ralph G. Brooks, Dwight W. Burney and Charles Thone. Peitz also did glass etching on the doors in the new Cedar County Courthouse addition.

Soon Peitz's parents will be moving back to Hartington as her dad is retiring from ADM. While she was perfecting her etching tal-

ents over the years, the process fascinated her dad and now he will work with her in his retirement.

"My dad tells his co-workers if they think his boss now is hard, wait till he gets to Hartington and starts working for his daughter," said Peitz with a laugh.

Last summer, Peitz hired a high school girl to work with her in her business.

"If I can interest a young person and show them how easily my hobby worked as a home business, it will be like a full circle for me; and make me very proud," Peitz said.



PHOTO: LINDA WUEBBEN

Angie Peitz of Hartington displays one of the glass etchings she creates in her home-based business. One of Peitz's biggest projects was sandblasting the private office doors for the governor's mansion in Lincoln.

## Out On The Town

**JUNE 25, 26, 27**

**LAST SONG**

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Students \$2.00 Adults \$4.00

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6:00pm

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- Hy-Vee, Yankton • Western Trails, Yankton

### Open House On Highway Improvements At Laurel

LAUREL, Neb. — The Nebraska Department of Roads will hold an Information Open House Tuesday, June 29, regarding the replacement of the North Logan Creek Bridge on U.S. Highway 20 (US-20) north and east of Laurel. The open house will be held from 4-6 p.m. at the Laurel Community Learning Center, 5th & Wakefield Streets, in Laurel.

Construction will be entirely in Cedar County; however, the detour route will affect Dixon County. The proposed project will construct a new two-lane bridge replacing the existing bridge on US-20, also known as the 872nd Road. The new bridge

will span North Logan Creek in the same location but will be approximately three feet higher. As a result of the new bridge height, about 0.28 mile of US-20 will be rebuilt.

Construction will necessitate temporary detouring of US-20 traffic. Local traffic will be maintained. The official detour will involve Nebraska Highway 116 through the town of Dixon.

Detour route maps and information will be available at the open house. The proposed construction is scheduled to take approximately six months.

Acquisition of new right-of-way is

expected from two tracts. Minor impact is anticipated to wetland areas, which will be mitigated at the Tarnov Wetlands bank or other locations as needed.

Personnel from the Department of Roads will be available to answer questions and receive comments about the project. No formal presentation is planned.

Information regarding the project will be available after the meeting on the NDOR website at [www.transportation.nebraska.gov/projects/](http://www.transportation.nebraska.gov/projects/) by clicking on the "Laurel NE" link.

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**Thursday**

4-7pm – Hamburger/  
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**Friday**

Ribs or Menu  
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Free Dance – Lynn Dvorak

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