

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

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NO. 32

Distribution Center Nearing Completion

MARCIA HORA

Completion is nearing on the new Masterhand Milling distribution center located east of Thedford on Highway 2.

Masterhand Milling is operated by Elite Endeavors, LLC, a family-owned pellet mill, producing 100% dried distillers grain cubes, pellets and creep feed for use on the ranch.

Owner, Dusty Turner, grew up on a ranch in the Oklahoma panhandle, running a cake and grass cattle operation. After college, Turner began his career in the cattle feedyard business. In early 2006, the ethanol industry began to see substantial growth. Turner, along with many others in the beef industry, soon realized the distiller's grain co-products out of the ethanol plants could serve as a beneficial feed product.

In an effort to reduce freight costs of shipping product from distant plants, Turner approached the city of Liberal, Kansas about building an ethanol plant that would benefit both feedyards and local farmers. A team was assembled and Turner co-founded Conestoga Energy Partners, LLC, building a 55-million-gallon ethanol plant in Garden City, KS. A short time later, a 110-million-gallon plant was added at Liberal, KS.

Today, dried distillers grains have revolutionized the way cattle are fed in the feedyard, and have become the leading natural protein supplement in the feed bunk.

The goal at MasterHand Milling is to bring a high protein, high energy feed ingredients to the ranch in a form that is consistent and carries a standard that ranchers can depend on.

The concentrated supplements offer a minimum 31% protein and 9% fat (dry matter basis), approximately double the energy percentage found in regular corn. The cubes are also high in phosphorus, making them a perfect match for the calcium-rich grass in the Nebraska Sandhills.

"Having this distribution center will help us make deliveries to our customers, saving on delivery costs and time," Angie Florea, owner of The Feed Bunk in Stapleton said.

The Feed Bunk is one of several area distributors for Masterhand Milling. Other distributors include Vinton Feeds, Mullen, and Sandhills Premium Feed & Supplement, Thedford.



TERRI LICKING PHOTOS

The crane is in position to lift the bins into their permanent positions. The new Masterhand Milling distribution center is operated by Elite Endeavors, LLC, a family-owned pellet mill.

Middle Niobrara NRD receives recycling grant

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Director Jim Macy has announced the awarding of \$2,491,087 in 57 grants for litter cleanup, recycling, and public education programs and activities. Funds for the Litter Reduction and Recycling Grant Program are generated from a fee charged to certain manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers of products that commonly contribute to litter. The program has been providing grants annually since 1979.

"There were many outstanding applications submitted to NDEQ this year," Macy said. "The grant awards will support

many important local efforts to recycle and reduce litter across the state."

Middle Niobrara NRD of Valentine was awarded a \$100,215.00 recycling grant to be used to purchase a trailer with spreader to increase the amount of woody biomass chips on fields and

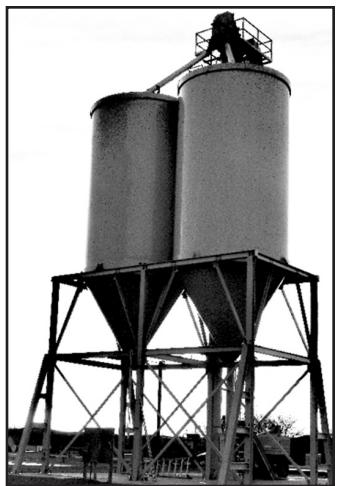
tree rows. Tree removal will increase grazing and grassland, and reduce fire risk.

Recycling efforts that promote the purchase of recycled content products continue to receive priority for funding. NDEQ awarded 26 grants in the recycling category, totaling \$1,326,206.

Spring tree orders

The Upper Loup NRD continues to sell and plant trees to property owners across the district as it has for the past 40 plus years. Upper Loup cost-shares on hand plant orders of at least 100 trees or shrubs and machine planted trees or shrubs of at least 200 trees.

Call Shane at the Upper Loup NRD and he will assist you in deciding which tree species will work best for you, draft planting plans, and assist in filling out the cost-share forms. The order deadline for trees and shrubs is February 1, 2017.



YEAR IN REVIEW 2016

January

Thomas Peterson, a senior at Sandhills High School in Dunning, was nominated by U.S. Senator Deb Fischer as a Nebraska service academy nominee.

Retiring extension board members, Russell Licking, Adam Zutavern and Dane Peterson, were honored by the Central Sandhills Extension board.

Pearson's Inc. in Thedford hosted an open house January 12 to showcase their newly renovated facility. On hand for the debut was Lt. Governor Mike Foley.

Sandhills Family Dental Clinic of Mullen announced they would expand their clinic and had added a second chair to serve their patients.

Hoffman Ranch of Thedford was co-owner of the reserve senior champion Angus bull at the 2016 National Western Stock Show.

Deaths: Zita Mae Thomas, January 15; Cynthia Jo Dunker-Halstead, January 16.

February

Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway held an annual meeting, workshops and awards banquet in Hyannis. SJSB officers pictured were Twila Phillips, Linda Lacy, Jeanne Davis, Helen White and Terri Licking.

Thirty-six babies adorned the pages of the special Valentine's Day issue sponsored by local businesses.

Thedford students and staff showed support for the McKinley Holt family.

Shaylee Scranton, Mikayla Rinestine and Gentry Sherman, with their sponsor Mrs. Taylor, were pictured working the registration table for the American Red Cross blood drive.

The Mike Sitz Angus Ranch held their 43rd annual bull sale with 72 coming two-year-old Angus bulls selling for an average of \$6,705.

Lowell Minert was elected to the Nebraska State Fair executive board at the annual meeting in Grand Island.

Nebraska beef was back in Thedford Schools after approval was made at a recent school board meeting.

Deaths: Eugene E. Johnson, February 12; Shirley Gerene (Stewart) Jenkins, February 8.

March

Avery Taylor joined a very prestigious club. On Friday, February 12, during the Cody-Kilgore game, Avery put in her 1,000th career point.

Kermit Paxton, 101, was the oldest gentleman residing at Linden Estates in North Platte, and was crowned, "Mr. Valentine." A Democratic party cau-

cus would be held March 5 in Thomas and Blaine counties.

It was announced that the dedication ceremony for the DeWitty Historical Marker would be held in April.

Dylan Andersen was chosen to play in the all-star game set for June 18 at Hastings College. Coach Josh Deines was selected as an assistant coach for the West Team.

Thedford High School students participated in a vision workshop conducted by Jana Jensen.

Thedford High School had their best turn out for an FBLA event in school history. Over 250 people attended the donkey basketball game that raised about \$1,000.

Jacy Hafer and Shaylee Scranton qualified for the state speech meet.

A strong spring storm marched across western and north central Nebraska, closing roads, schools, and businesses on March 23.

Deaths: Jacqueline "Jackie" Odell Hanks.

April

Clancey Hesseltine was selected by the Steidley-Kayton Post #230 Auxiliary to represent them at the 2016 American Legion Auxiliary Girls' State in Lincoln.

Participating in the Blaine-Thomas Counties 4-H speech contest were Shad Wakely, Chase Rath, Tyler Rath, Jordee Johnston and Shaylee Mille-

son. It was a "Super Hero" Saturday in Thedford as student organizations sponsored their second annual event to raise funds for the Sandhills Cancer Fund, Inc.

Broken Bow Medical Clinic announced it would close its doors on June 30.

A historical marker dedication ceremony on U.S. Highway 83 near Brownlee was the culmination of a dream that began many years before by Stew Magnuson. The marker would stand as a testament to DeWitty, an African American Settlement in the Sandhills.

Emory Daly, Red Edelman and Vern Dent were among locals to be inducted into the Nebraska Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame.

An investigation into a complaint by property owners resulted in denial of private property access to the Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD).

A mild earthquake was felt near Thedford. The quake registered 3.2 in magnitude and occurred at 12:07 a.m. Monday, April 11.

Emily Masten and Michael Bencoter were chosen prom queen and king. The announcement

was made at the Sandhills-Thedford junior-senior prom held at the Nebraska 4-H Camp at Halsey.

Deaths: Wayne "Tuffy" Barent, April 7.

May

Thedford High School staff and students hit the town running and six groups of students raked lawns, washed windows, cleaned out gutters and flower beds, and other miscellaneous tasks.

Troy Fields of Halsey had one of his artworks displayed in the annual All Student Juried Art Show.

Five seniors were taking their sports careers to the next level.

Madison and Avery Taylor signed with Chadron State College and would play basketball. Dylan Andersen would play football at Peru State.

Michael Bencoter would join the Laramie County Community College rodeo team. Boyd Sawyer would be competing in steer wrestling and saddle bronc riding on the Odessa College Rodeo team in Texas.

Members of the Haumann family were pictured in front of the newly installed Nebraska Historical Marker at the Thomas County Courthouse square in Thedford.

Paula Rhian was honored for 37 years of teaching.

Keith George of Killeen, Texas, was seeing Highway 83 from the seat of a little red Corvette and was featured on the front page of the *Herald*.

Deaths: Jean A. Hora, May 18; Estele Mae Roseberry, May 29.

June

Madison Taylor and Sydney Wells were awarded Consolidated Companies, Inc. scholarships.

Nebraska High School rodeo athletes finished at the top of their high school graduating classes. They were Morgan Eggleston, Arnold; Hannah Harwager, Stapleton; Jada Jensen, Bingham; J.W. Schroder, Taylor; and Cade Svoboda, Ord.

Memorial Day was observed with ceremonies at Hillcrest Cemetery and at the Purdum Cemetery.

Boyd Sawyer was the all-around cowboy at the Thedford High School Rodeo.

A countywide reappraisal was being made in Thomas County under the contracted work of Joe Wilson of Tax Valuation, Inc.

Sidney Lange and Shaylee Scranton were participants in the Masonic All-Star marching band.

C Bar C hosted youth for the 28th year of Rodeo Bible Camp.

Halsey elementary received assistance from Loup 2 Loup road race funds to put a new roof on the school building.

The Thomas County Fair Building in Thedford was filled June 22 with concerned and interested persons who wanted to learn more about the Nebraska Public Power District's 220-mile-long 345,000-volt R-project and the proposed 60 MW wind farm southwest of Kilgore.

Matt Blackford (1996) presided over the business meeting of the Thedford High School alumni (Continued on page 8)

Notices

- Thomas Co. Com. Notice To Bidders
- Thedford Schools Notice To Bidders
- West Central Area On Aging Notice

Calling All Babies Of 2016



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• Cooper Mattox Libeau

Sports



Lady Knights Take Top Honors

At Holiday Tourney. Story Page 7