

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD NEBRASKA 69166

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Artist receives sponsorship for one heart submission

Area resident and artist, Roberta Barnes, had two submitted proposals accepted for the Nebraska By Heart project. The 6-foot fiberglass hearts will eventually be displayed throughout the state.

The goal is to have 93 sponsored hearts, representing the 93 counties in Nebraska.

Rose Gift, Thedford art teacher, has been working to raise funds to sponsor a heart design for Roberta Barnes.

Roberta's two proposals are "Western Gothic: Big Skies and Big Hearts" and "Solomon Butcher." Each fiberglass heart will cost \$3,000.

"I would like to announce I found out I received sponsorship on my Nebraska By Heart submission entitled 'Western Gothic: Big Skies, Big Hearts,'" Roberta Barnes said. "My sponsorship came from a gentleman over by Lincoln, but a super big thank you to Rosalea Gift for all her support and to community members who 'liked' and shared the Nebraska By Heart Information."

Barnes went on to say she would invite everyone to help gain sponsorship for a wonderful Broken Bow senior, Abby Olson, who would like to leave a legacy by creating a heart. "Please help us in that cause. Your support also helps others in need. Thank you everyone who supported me with my submission," she said.

Nebraska has many diverse regions. One of the larger areas of Nebraska, the Sandhills, encompasses the north and west central regions of the state. Barnes believes this region is one of Nebraska's best kept secrets. Most travelers speed along I-80 and never get a chance to experience the splendor of the Sandhills, Barnes said.

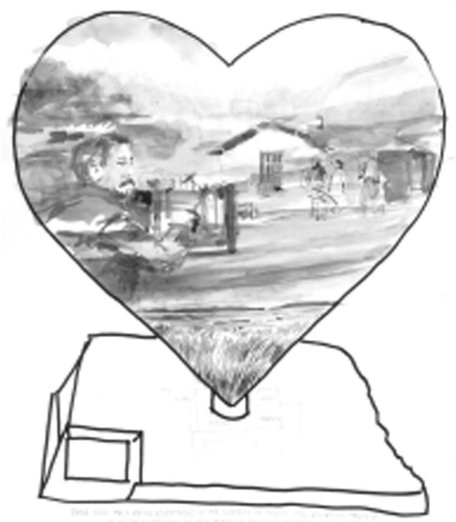
The Sandhills region embraces a culture all its own. It's the beginning of the west where the cowboy way of life is common to all who live there. Many ranches are managed and operated by a team - the husband and wife. They work side-by-side through the good times and the bad times. This is brought out in "Western Gothic: Big Skies and Big Hearts."

The front side of the heart parallels the concepts expressed in Grant Wood's American Gothic. The ranching couple is saddled up in front of the barn ready for the day's work. On the backside, the day is represented through an early morning scene of moving cattle to new pastureland.

The base of the sculpture highlights the livestock brands from the Sandhills region.



Western Gothic: Big Skies and Big Hearts.



Solomon Butcher

'Nebraska Stories' Returns for Eighth Season on NET

The popular NET television series "Nebraska Stories," debuts its eighth season at 8:00 p.m. CT, Thursday, January 12, and will continue to air Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. with shows repeated Mondays at 9:00 p.m. during its 15-episode season.

Through engaging storytelling and beautiful visuals, "Nebraska Stories" explores who we are as Nebraskans and features a variety of topics including art, nature, food, science and history. Story highlights for the coming season include an intimate portrait of philanthropist Walter Scott Jr., a fresh look on rodeo through the lens of a photographer, a visit to the

Flatwater Folk Art Museum in Brownville and a profile of the non-profit Hear Nebraska founder Andy Norman.

The "Nebraska Stories" premiere includes these compelling stories:

- "The DeWitty Settlement" near Brownlee was the longest lasting, most successful black settlement in Nebraska. Descendants of DeWitty and Brownlee gathered to celebrate their shared history during the recent dedication ceremony for a new state historical marker commemorating the settlement.

- "Cosmic Films" in Lyons is a film studio owned by resident Bill Hedges. He converted the

town's movie theater into a world of futuristic sets where he plans to shoot a sci-fi series co-starring his cat.

- "Pellet of Poison" on the Omaha Indian Reservation (near Walthill) explores the intertwining of two remarkable women - the first Native American doctor and a Nobel Prize winning scientist. In 1915, Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte was dying of cancer and the famous Madame Curie sent a special package from France to the reservation for her.
- "Play Me I'm Yours" in Omaha celebrates a mix of art and music as artists decorate pianos which were rolled out around

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Broken Bow Law Firm changing name

The Munson & Peterson law firm has a new name, Munson & Tobey. Amanda Tobey joined Munson & Peterson in late May 2016 and was named a partner at the beginning of the new year. Cheryl Munson's current partner, Gary Peterson, left the firm December 31 to take over the law firm of Gregory Jensen in Ord.

Ms. Tobey is a Custer County native and attended Anselmo-Merna Public Schools. She chose to move back to the area so she could be closer to family. Her parents, Ron and Kim Tobey of Merna, are the owners of Blue Sky Express, LLC, a trucking business.

She has two siblings who live in the area, Melody Hansen of Stapleton and Justin Tobey of Broken Bow. She also has a sister, Rebecca Vondrak,



COURTESY PHOTO

Amanda Tobey, left, joins Cheryl Munson in her practice in Broken Bow.

who lives in Gillette, Wyoming. Ms. Tobey is engaged to Tony Hammond, service manager at Gateway Motors in Broken Bow.

Ms. Tobey has experience in all aspects of litigation, including motions practice, discovery, settlement negotiations, hearings, and trials.

Nebraska Agriculture Leaders Outline Principles for Property Tax Reform

Leaders of Nebraska agriculture organizations who represent tens of thousands of Nebraska farmers, ranchers, and livestock feeders have come together to outline principles to guide actions on comprehensive tax reform for Nebraska. The principles are targeted at addressing Nebraska's current tax system, which has led to an imbalance and overreliance on property taxes to fund government services, said Dennis Fujan, president of the Nebraska Soybean Association, Jan. 10.

"With the legislature convening, it's important we collectively share where we believe the discussion on tax reform needs to go. Our principles provide parameters for the critical discussions that need to take place this session," said Fujan. "It's also important Nebraskans know we believe tax reform should benefit all Nebraska property taxpayers, including Nebraska homeowners and businesses."

The Agriculture Leaders Working Group which developed the principles, include member-elected leaders from the Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Corn Growers Association, Nebraska Farm Bureau, Nebraska Pork Producers Association, Nebraska Soybean Association, and the Nebraska State Dairy Association. The group has been meeting for several months to discuss priority issues for Nebraska agriculture, specifically tax reform and property taxes.

The Agriculture Leaders Working Group principles for tax reform state:

1. Tax reform, whether through legislation or ballot initiative, should seek a more balanced tax system to fund government services and education and benefit all property owners, including agriculture, residential, and commercial property. Collections from property,

sales, and income taxes shall share the burden with none of the three individually exceeding 35 percent of the tax liability.

2. Agricultural property owners currently pay a disproportional amount of the total property tax liability. All future property tax relief produced at the state level must seek to reduce this proportional share.

3. Tax reform should encourage fiscal responsibility and be revenue neutral. Actions to achieve such measures may include new tax sources or modify existing revenue sources to provide dollar for dollar reductions in property taxes.

4. Reform must ensure adequate funding for high quality education for Nebraska students, but reduce the reliance on property taxes for educational funding.

5. Tax reform must provide fiscal restraint in government spending, including budget growth limitations.

"With property taxes comprising 48 percent of the combined collections of property taxes, state sales tax, and state income tax, it is critical we work to re-balance the tax burden in a way that benefits all Nebraskans. These principles will move us in that direction," said Steve Nelson, Nebraska Farm Bureau president.

While members of the Agriculture Leaders Working Group organized to identify ways to work

together on issues across both crop and livestock sectors, it became apparent in discussions that property taxes and tax reform is the top issue.

"Property tax and the need for tax reform has been at the forefront of every conversation we've had. It's time fixing this issue moved to the front of the Legislature's "to do" list. We're committed to working with the governor, the Legislature and others to make it a reality," said Troy Stowater, Nebraska Cattlemen president.

Those participating in the Agriculture Leaders Working Group include:

Troy Stowater - Nebraska Cattlemen, president; Galen Frenzen - Nebraska Cattlemen, president-elect; Dan Welsely - Nebraska Corn Growers Association, president; Steve Ebke - Nebraska Corn Growers Association, past president; Steve Nelson - Nebraska Farm Bureau, president; Mark McHargue - Nebraska Farm Bureau, first vice president; Russ Vering - Nebraska Pork Producers Association, president; Darin Uhlir - Nebraska Pork Producers Association, vice president; Kevin Peterson - Nebraska Pork Producers Association, vice president; Dennis Fujan - Nebraska Soybean Association, president; Dwaine Junck - Nebraska State Dairy Association, vice president; Doug Temme - Nebraska State Dairy Association, past president

Notices

- West Central Area On Aging Notice To Bidders
- Planning Commission Public Notice
- Notice Of Renewal Of Retail Liquor License
- Central Sandhills Extension Public Notice
- Be An Informed Citizen Read The Public Notices & Proceedings

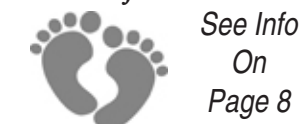
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Calling All Babies Of 2016



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Recycling Guidelines

All area residents are reminded that the Upper Loup NRD recycling program guidelines need to be followed. As of Summer 2016, the Upper Loup NRD only accepts the following materials: plastics number 1, plastics number 2, paper, cardboard, aluminum and tin.

Plastics MUST have a number 1 or 2 on the bottom of the container. They DO NOT accept plastic bags of any kind, unless you have shredded paper in a plastic bag. They also do not accept styrofoam of any kind