

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

(USPS 596-550)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2020

NO. 27



A Look Back At 2019... Through The Herald Pages

As 2019 comes to a close, and a new decade approaches with the start of 2020, the *Herald* looks back at a year that brought changes and economic growth in the Thomas County area.

Lt. Governor Mike Foley attended ribbon cuttings in December, 2018, and Thedford showcased many of the improvements being made.

NPPD's R-project continued to bring controversy. It was announced construction would begin this fall on the line that would follow U.S. Highway 83 up through the Sandhills to Thedford.

Preserve the Sandhills and Save the Sandhills continued to try and stop industrialization of the Sandhills through wind turbines.

Student and athletic successes were archived in pages of the newspaper.

We said good-bye to many good friends and loved ones, welcomed new babies, and celebrated weddings and engagements.

Wild Nebraska weather was registered throughout the state. From blizzards in the west to a "bomb cyclone," in the east, much of 2019 was marked by flooding, rain, and hail. County roads were washed out in the area and water ran over highways, including U.S. Highway 83 north of Thedford.

Some of the highlights of 2019 included:

Business

Ribbon cuttings were held for C.A.R.S., Dollar General, With Love Co. Photography, and Prairie Feed Supply. Ewoldt's Grocery held a grand reopening event to show off their improvements. Lt. Governor Foley was pictured in one of the Thedford Fire & Rescue trucks housed in the new fire hall on the east edge of Thedford.

NPPD awarded Forbes

Brothers Timberline Construction, Inc. of Rapid City, SD, a contract of \$264,999,990.00 to begin construction of the R-Project transmission line.

Western Nebraska Bank donated \$500.00 to the Sandhills Public Schools for school debit card participation.

For the fifth year, the *Thomas County Herald* received awards at the Nebraska Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

Chad and Becci Sutton and their boys, Connor and Mason, found peace in the Sandhills as they opened up a new business at Halsey - Sandhill Suttons Speed & Supply.

Brando's Bunkhouse opened in Dunning, as Linda Clouse Teahon returned home to Blaine County and immersed herself in various projects.

The Sandhills Heritage Museum at Dunning, completed many renovations and work began to turn the old bank vault into a theater where movies can be shown.

Pearson Livestock Equipment hosted a delegation from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

Dunning was moving forward and recently installed a "Welcome to Dunning," sign and held a Christmas "Extravaganza." A small house arrived in December and would be the future home of returning resident, Tim Buchtel.

Sports

The Lady Knights basketball team took first place honors in the Perkins County Holiday Tournament.

Marlee Taylor joined the 1,000 point basketball club during the game against Cody-Kilgore.

Qualifying for state track were Charlie Collier, Marlee Taylor, Madison Marten, Kylie Hewett, Trae Hickman, Gage

Haake, and Matthew Dailey. Charlie Collier won a silver medal in the 200 and a bronze in the 100. Gage Haake brought home a bronze in the 110 meter hurdles. The Lady Knights scored 17 team points and ended in 12th place at state. The Knights scored 10 points at Omaha and ended in 26th place.

All-around saddle winners at the Thedford High School Rodeo were Sage Miller of Springview and Lauren Lehl of Alliance.

Cauy Pokorny won the first performance in the steer wrestling at the National High School Rodeo Finals and ended the rodeo 11th in the average. Spencer DeNaeyer rode one bronc at nationals and ended up 35rd in the average.

The Knights ended their football season with an 8-1 record. Their only loss came in the Class D2 state football playoffs when they lost to Mullen, 12-18.

Government

Newly elected and re-elected Thomas County officials were Gary Eng, sheriff; Jim Purdum, new county commissioner; John Seeley, commissioner; Kurt Arganbright, county attorney; Lorissa Hartman, clerk; and Andrea Thomas, treasurer.

Thedford School board members sworn into office were Jay Jones, Steve Ahlstrom, Dixie Hoffman, Bridget Licking, Spencer Burk, and Matt Blackford.

William Joseph Smith II was sworn in as a full-time Thomas County deputy sheriff.

Central Sandhills Extension saw changes as Bethany Johnston moved to Burwell and Sue Pearman retired from her duties as 4-H and Youth Extension Educator.

Upper Loup NRD welcomed new board members, John Kraye and Patrick Wright.

The Upper Loup NRD Learning Center and

meeting room was now available for use.

The Thomas County Airport received a \$4.365 million DOT grant.

There was a new 4-H livestock show arena at the Thomas County Fairgrounds through the efforts of the Thomas County 4-H Achievers.

Nebraska Supreme Court Justices made a stop in Thedford and Brenda Cochran, clerk magistrate for Thomas, Logan, McPherson and Hooker counties received an "Above and Beyond Award."

Amanda Davis of Hyannis was the new 4-H Extension Assistant for the Central Sandhills Extension Area.

The 2020 Greener Towns program recently awarded landscape funding to eight projects in seven communities in Nebraska. Thedford was one of the recipients of funding that will go to improve local green infrastructure for pollinator habitat, manage stormwater or accomplish other economic, environmental, aesthetic and social goals.

Governor Pete Ricketts made a stop in Thedford to visit constituents.

Organizations

The Thedford Area Community Foundation Fund advisory committee announced their 2018 fundraising banquet had netted \$59,000.

Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway observed 20 years. Sandhills Heritage Museum received an award from SJSB with Linda Teahon and Kathie Martindale receiving the plaque from Terri Licking, president.

Twelve years of the Polar Bear Tank Race was observed March 1 and 2 at Mullen.

The 62nd annual Thedford Alumni banquet was held under the theme, "Remember When."

Tony Booth was grand

marshal of the 2019 Thomas County Fair parade.

Plans were finalized for the first annual Thedford 2 Halsey kayak race.

The Preserve the Sandhills benefit auction drew over 200 people and the generous donations and contributions would go to preserve the scenic and pristine beauty of the Nebraska Sandhills.

The 2019 Thedford Area Community Foundation banquet and fundraiser drew over 200 people and the net proceeds of the night were approximately \$40,000.

Thedford hosted their annual "Old Fashioned Christmas," with Santa and Mrs. Claus making a stop. Carver Abbott brought his team and gave wagon rides.

Deaths:

Kenneth Eugene Giles, January 7.

Bernard Douglas Leshner, February 15.

"Doc" Larry Isom, February 26.

James Howard Hazen, March 5.

Jerry Lee Merz, March 10.

Agatha S. Forsyth, March 25.

Thomas D. Leshner, March 26.

Norma Lee Kemp, April 29.

Joyce "Marlene" Madron, May 10.

George Arthur Schaeffer, May 24.

Susan E. Childers, June 6.

Rosa Lee Hamilton, June 18.

Stanley Rex Pettit, June 26.

Cleo D. Haynes, July 3.

Horace Mickle Nelson, July 16.

Marilyn Harwager, July 8.

Maxine Elaine Bradley, July 29.

Monica Harvey, August 2.

Dalene Hanna, August 6.

Judy Louise Edelman, October 7.

Mabel Huffman Rodcker, October 18.

Sue Fay Johnson, October 25.

Hazelle M. Finney, November 4.

Melvin D. Blauvelt, November 1.

Karl F. Marten, November 15.

Tom Prentice, November 20.

Marilyn Anderson, November 28.

New Arrivals

Taylor Jo Zlomke, born January 30, to Scott and Tiffany Zlomke.

Thirty-four babies were featured in the "Babies of 2018" Valentine section in the *Herald*.

Coleman Welby Sierks, born May 2, to Cody and Charlie Sierks.

See Looking Back Page 8

NPPD issues apology letter

JAMES DUCEY

The Nebraska Public Power District has provided a letter of apology dated November 22 to Ronald and Marlene Haake. The letter came following private property trespassing and illegal destruction of a section of fencing on the Haake Ranch in southern Holt county.

Tom Kent, vice president and chief operation officer of NPPD, has been apprised that a subcontractor had mistakenly gone onto the Haake property.

In response to this, Kent indicated three actions would be taken to ensure this does not happen again.

A project-wide stand down was held with discussion around what happened and why. The contractor will upgrade its field equipment to include appropriate landowner data to help ensure team members only enter property where access has been granted.

Morning meetings will be held to ensure activities planned for the day

will be conducted on properties where easements have been acquired or permission to enter a property has been granted by the landowner.

In the future, no gates will be installed along common fence lines until both landowners have granted an easement.

Kent summarized the letter with these comments, "It is never our intent to access properties where we do not have an easement of permission to do so. Unfortunately, these events let you down and did not live up to my expectations for landowner relationships as we want to develop good landowner relationships respecting your property now and in the future."

Tony Baker, legislative aide for Senator Tom Brewer met with Kent, according to an email from the senator's office. The company representative was very apologetic for what happened regarding the gate work, Baker said.

Baker also made it very clear that Senator Brewer will formally ask the Attorney General to investigate NPPD if this should happen again.

Logan & McPherson County Farm Bureaus to sponsor cow/calf symposium

A new event is being sponsored by McPherson and Logan County Farm Bureau in January.

A cow-calf symposium will be held at the Staple-

ton Community Center, Tuesday, January 7, from 2:00 until 5:00 p.m. CT.

The symposium will bring together friends, family, and others in-

involved in the cattle industry for an afternoon of speakers and discussion on the latest happenings in the industry.

A social hour and supper will follow and this will support local FFA and 4-H programs.

The cost is \$10.00 per person for the social hour and supper. Topics include: • Beef/cattle market outlook. • Beef cattle management. • Risk management and marketing strategies. • Value-added precision

technologies.

The symposium is free.

Please RSVP to Tammy Fiechtner at 402-302-9494 or email her at tammyf@nefb.org.

The symposium is being sponsored by Superior Livestock, Ed Sowders, representative; Farm Credit Services of America; Chris Balcom, Western AI Service LLC; Ag West Feed & Supply; North Platte Stockyards; Extreme Ag, Inc.; Nebraska Land Brokers; and Bull Barn Genetics.

Index

Legal Notices.....	2
Calendar.....	2
Social Side.....	3
Opinion Page.....	4
Men of Tundra.....	4
Classifieds.....	5
Knights Booster.....	6
Symposium.....	7
Calling All Babies.....	8

Notices

- Notice Of Organization Hello Gorgeous, LLC
- Notice Of Organization Schaeffer Beef, LLC
- Village of Thedford Proceedings
- Notice of Organization Mike Dent Land & Cattle, LLC