

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019

NO. 16

Seneca makes plans for Annual Turkey dinner

Plans are in the works for the annual turkey dinner and bazaar to be held Sunday, October 27, at the Seneca Auditorium. Serving will begin at 11:00 a.m. MT.

Jars of horseradish that the Seneca Women's Fellowship is known for will be sold along with baked goods and a silent auction.

The price is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children, 12 and under. Children, ages 4 and under eat free. The dinner is hosted by the Seneca UCC Women's Fellowship.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Annual Turkey Dinner



Nebraska DMV Debuts New VicToRy Software



The Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles will debut a new vehicle registration and titling system in all 93 counties in the state on Tuesday, October 15.

State DMV officials will complete installation of the VicToRy software package in treasurer's offices including Thomas County on Monday, October 14.

The new software will replace computer programs that state and county motor vehicle employees have used since the early 1990's said DMV Director Rhonda Linn.

The upgrade will increase the types of services available on the state DMV online services page which now allows vehicle owners to renew registrations and order specialty plates.

Extensive training and testing was carried out by hundreds of users, including Thomas County Treasurer, Andrea Thomas and office assistant, Melissa Smith, who

attended training sessions in North Platte.

"The new system will streamline the process and it will be good for everyone once we get it implemented," Thomas said. "We ask people to have patience as we get the system in place."

VicToRy will handle more than 2.5 million vehicle registrations and nearly \$720 million in titling and registration fees, whether online or in county treasurer offices.

Thomas County Receives Dividend Check

Thomas County has received another membership dividend, this time in the amount of \$2,369, from the Nebraska Inter-governmental Risk Management Association (NIRMA), the county's property, liability and workers' compensation coverage and risk management services provider.

The dividend was part of a \$1 million distribution shared with 80 Nebraska counties and seven county-associated agencies during NIRMA's annual membership conference Oct. 3-4 in York.

With this latest distribution, Thomas County has now received a total of \$62,117 in dividends since becoming a member of NIRMA in 1989. NIRMA is able to issue

these dividends, in part, due to favorable claims development, investment income earned on behalf of its membership, as well as the members' ongoing

loss prevention efforts.

NIRMA is owned and governed by the 82 member counties and 20 county-associated public entities it serves.

Hunter Safety Course Offered At ULNRD Office

On Saturday and Sunday, October 26 and 27, a Firearm Hunter Education Classroom course will be held at the Upper Loup NRD Office in Thedford.

The class will begin Saturday at 1:00 p.m. CT. The State of Nebraska requires hunters age 12 through 20 who hunt any species to complete the

course. Anyone younger than 11 may take the course, but will not be certified. They must also be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Anyone under 18 must give the instructor a signed and completed Parental Release Form. Please register online for this event at outdoornebraska.gov

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Hot topics spark Governor's town hall meeting



COURTESY

An estimated 70 people were on hand at the town hall meeting held at the Upper Loup NRD meeting room in Thedford, Wednesday, October 9. Information was shared on the proposed R-project and industrialization of the Sandhills through wind farms, both opposed by the majority of those in attendance.

MARCIA HORA

Governor Pete Ricketts was met in Thedford by a group of peaceful demonstrators along U.S. Highway 2 showing their disapproval of NPPD's proposed R-project line through the Sandhills and industrialization of the area through wind farm development.

An estimated number of 70 people gathered in the Upper Loup NRD meeting room to hear Governor Ricketts' vision and plan to Grow Nebraska and his four pillars for prosperity.

Governor Ricketts said his four pillars include developing and connecting Nebraska's work force; running state government more like a business by making it more effective, efficient and customer focused; providing sustainable tax relief; and promoting Nebraska's products to countries around the world.

On display were Nebraska's three Governor's Cup awards for the most economic development projects per capita of any state in the nation. Nebraska is first in the nation for fiscal condition according to George Mason University's Mercatus Center, second best for regulatory environment by Forbes' measure and second best for cost of doing business in CNBC's rankings. The state is third best in the nation for wage growth and fourth best for workforce participation. Forbes lists Nebraska as fifth on its "Best States for Business" list.

"Thank you for a great turnout here in Thomas County," Governor Ricketts said after his introduction by Sallie Atkins of Halsey. "This has been an extremely tough year for Nebraskans weather-wise, from flooding, cold and wet conditions, and a bomb cyclone. Add to that low commodity prices and it has been a very challenging year in agriculture."

Governor Ricketts went on to say he is working diligently to help develop



MARCIA HORA - THE STAPLETON ENTERPRISE

Sallie Atkins of Halsey introduces Governor Pete Ricketts at the town hall meeting in Thedford.

Nebraska's workforce.

"We have great careers in our state that you don't need a four year degree for. I am encouraging 7th and 8th graders to look at careers they can pursue in high school and go on to achieve at community colleges," he said. "There are some great apprenticeship programs in Nebraska that allows students to earn an income while learning new skills."

The governor has stream-lined agency operations and merged agencies. It used to take 90 days to obtain a nursing license. It now takes 46 days. The state is providing better service while controlling costs.

"I cannot stress enough that the only way we can achieve sustainable tax relief is to control expenses in government," Governor Ricketts said. "Our budget was growing 6.5% a year and since I have been governor it has averaged less than 2.4% per year. This has allowed us to put more money into the property tax relief fund."

The governor went on to say the school aid formula needs to be reformed.

"It is going to be very difficult to obtain 53 votes in the legislature to make progress in passing bills that make sense in the way of property tax relief."

A top priority is promot-

ing Nebraska globally. Governor Ricketts just returned from a trip to Vietnam and Japan to promote the state's ag products.

"Vietnam wants our products and a growing middle class there is in need of our high quality beef, pork and soybeans. Japan is purchasing a lot of our beef in spite of tariffs. By reducing those tariffs to Japan they will purchase even more. We need to increase our exports and diversify our markets now more than ever, since China has not been a fair trading partner. We also need to say thank you to Germany for creating opportunities here in Nebraska for our people."

The hot topics during the question and answer session centered around Nebraska Public Power District's 345 KV R-project that is sited from the Gerald Gentleman station in Sutherland, will pass through Stapleton and continue down U.S. Highway 83 north to Thedford before heading east into Holt County.

Thomas County and area residents expressed their concern over the dishonesty of NPPD and their silencing of Nebraska Fish & Wildlife.

When told that wind farm sitings are to be

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Hillcrest Cemetery Tour

The Thomas County Historical Society held their first cemetery tour several years ago at the Hillcrest Cemetery, Thedford.

Members have decided to do another tour and the date of Sunday, October 20 has been set.

The public is invited to come to the Hillcrest Chapel at 1:00 p.m. CT. Some of the histories revisited at grave sites will

include lives of three young residents - taken way too soon.

There will be a golf cart for those who have trouble walking. Chairs at each of the sites will allow one to rest during the narrative.

Refreshments will be served after the cemetery tour at the Thomas County Historical Society Museum. Prizes will be

awarded those who participate in a scavenger hunt.

All are invited to learn more of the history of the Sandhills area. Lifetime membership into the Thomas County Historical Society is only \$50. We look forward to taking a stroll down memory lane with you on Sunday, October 20 at the Hillcrest Cemetery, Thedford.

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