

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

(USPS 596-550)

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018

NO. 4

Thomas County Fair Gets Underway Today

The Thomas County Fair is in full swing today, Thursday, July 26, as 4-H entries will be taken at 9:00 a.m. Open class entries may be submitted from noon until 2:00 p.m. The exhibit building will be open from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. this evening.

Fair-goers are encouraged to view the open art and photo show at the Thedford Art Gallery. Viewing times are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Thursday, Friday, and Saturday during fair.

Other events going on for your enjoyment:

Friday, July 27
Noon - 8:00 p.m. - FFA Alumni Concession Stand at Thomas County Fairgrounds.

10:00 a.m. - noon and 2:00-4:00 p.m. - Thomas County Historical Society Museum will be open.

1:00 p.m. - Thomas County Fair Rodeo slack.
4:30 p.m. - Kids pedal tractor pull, Thomas County Fairgrounds pavilion.

5:30 p.m. - Community barbecue at Thedford Golf Course with night golf at dusk.

7:00 p.m. - Thomas County Fair rodeo.

Saturday, July 28
7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - Breakfast at Life Center.

7:00 a.m. - Youth Fishing Tournament, meet at L &



L Gravel
10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. - Sandhill River Tript first annual tube, kayak and tank river triathlon
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Thomas County Historical Society lunch stand at Thomas County Fairgrounds.
11:00 a.m. - Parade - "Anything Goes," with turtle races following at the Thomas County Fairgrounds
12:30 p.m. - Mud volleyball at Thomas County Fairgrounds
1:00 - 5:00 p.m. - Fun jump waterslide at Thomas County Fairgrounds
3:00 p.m. - Tractor pull at Thomas County Fairgrounds
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Kids games, horseshoes, putt putt golf at Thomas County Fairgrounds
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. -

Bingo by Security First Bank at Thomas County Fairgrounds
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Barbecue at Thomas County Fairgrounds
Activities after the barbecue include Masonic watermelon feed, 4-H livestock auction, release of exhibits, and corn hole tournament (open to everyone).
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. - Evening tractor pull at Thomas County Fairgrounds
8:00 p.m. - Midnight - Dueling pianos and beer garden sponsored by Thedford Area Community Foundation at Thomas County Fairgrounds pavilion.
Sunday, July 29
7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. - Pancake breakfast - American Legion.
10:00 a.m. - Community church service on the courthouse lawn.

Local Input Needed For Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Local counties are collaborating with the Nebraska Forest Service to create a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) to effectively prepare for and manage wildfire and to improve communication among agencies that respond to wildfire in the central Sandhills. It is vital that everyone who works with land management, fire, and community preparedness has an opportunity to provide input.

The CWPP area includes all of Blaine, Garfield, Greeley, Logan, Loup, Thomas, Valley, and Wheeler Counties, most of Custer County, and the northeast corner of Lincoln County. Landowners in counties that adopt the plan will be eligible to apply for federal and state cost-share funds for vegetative fuels reduction and other hazard mitigation efforts in at-risk areas within the CWPP boundaries. The plan may also provide increased opportunities for counties, municipalities, and rural fire districts to seek grant funding for activities re-

lated to fire protection.

The plan, part of a statewide network of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, provides readily-accessible information useful to emergency responders from outside the area. The CWPP consolidates and relays critical information needed for responders in unfamiliar terrain. Each county can include details vital to protecting first responders, residents, and property.

A CWPP is a tool for fire departments, agencies, emergency managers, public officials, and land managers to use when addressing wildfire concerns. It contains a fire mitigation plan for each county that includes:

- Community profile (area description, roads, land use, location of at-risk areas)
- Wildfire risk assessment (fire history, fire hazard, protection capabilities and infrastructure)
- Structure analysis (fire risk rating and ignitability)

- Fuel reduction recommendations
- Emergency operations (responsibilities, capabilities, partners, mutual aid agreements)
- Recommendations for improving community preparedness
- Updated contact information and equipment lists for rural fire departments

Feedback from county residents may include topics such as:

- Ingress / egress routes and safe zones for citizens
- Structures and critical infrastructure (highways, cell towers, bridges, schools, etc.)
- Wildland urban interface areas such as homes or developments in high-risk areas
- Natural resources
- Identify high-risk ignition sources and safety guidelines

People may have additional concerns or suggestions. All ideas are welcome. For further information or to provide comments, call 402-684-2290 or email sbenson4@unl.edu

Tractor pull Saturday

The Thedford Fire Department will be hosting the Thomas County Fair annual tractor pull, Saturday, July 28. The Heartland Pullers Association will pull with Borderline Pullers. Added classes will include trucks: improved and pro stock, super stock and modified 4 x 4's, and hot street and open diesel. In addition to the tractor classes there will be

small and big block, light limited super stock, light limited, pro stock, light modified, and Borderline Pullers will have their classes of antique tractors.

Antiques will be from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. with modifieds from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Free will donation admission - "fill the boot." Come out and support the Thomas County Fair tractor pull!

Trade Wars Hurt Agriculture



By Steve Nelson
Nebraska Farm Bureau
President

With lower prices for virtually everything we produce on Nebraska's farms and ranches, the last thing we need are policies that drive prices down even more. Unfortunately, few things create more uncertainty and downward price pressure than a trade war. Each day U.S. trade negotiations fail to advance, and as more retaliatory tariffs are placed on agriculture commodities, the more vulnerable the financial picture becomes for our farm and ranch families.

Unrest in our trade relations is impacting Nebraska. June and July have been brutal to Nebraska farmers, with cash corn prices down roughly 14 percent and cash soybean prices down 20 percent between June 1 and

July 12. The prices livestock farmers receive for pork are also lower than they were a year ago. While there are many factors in markets, trade tensions are leading contributors to this downward price push. From a big picture perspective, the value of exports equals roughly 30 percent of Nebraska farm cash receipts. In other words, trade is of vital importance to the future of agriculture, I am not just talking about farmers and ranchers. A downturn in the agricultural economy also affects agriculture related, and main street businesses in communities across the state. In Nebraska, that is one out of every four jobs.

It's also critical to note that trade relations aren't just a short-term issue. Misfires in trade policy can have long-term im-

pacts. There are plenty of competitors in the global market looking to displace American agriculture and lost markets aren't easy to recover. It can take years to do so; if it can be done at all.

Negotiation, not tariffs, provide the best path toward solving trade issues, particularly as it relates to our allies to the north and south, as well as with our partners in the Pacific Rim such as Japan. Clearly, issues with China must be addressed, yet it's crucial the president not forget China is the largest customer for U.S. soybeans and the third largest trading partner for Nebraska agriculture commodities and goods.

Some in the administration, including White House Trade Advisor

See Trade Wars Page 8

Quilting Journey Trunk Show To Be Held During Cherry County Fair

Julie Lechner of Grand Island
Featured Speaker

A Trunk Show featuring Julie Lechner will be held August 8 at 8:00 p.m. at the Cherry County 4-H Building at the Cherry County Fairgrounds, Valentine. This show will be held in conjunction with the Cherry County Fair.

Julie Lechner of Grand Island, grew up in northern Nebraska on a dairy farm. She learned to sew in 4-H with the help of her mom and other leaders. Home Economics class in school was a wonderful opportunity to further her sewing skills and help classmates put in zippers! She made many garments over the years, including wedding dresses, bridesmaid dresses and clothing for her family.

She took her first quilt class in 1996. In 2008 and many projects later, she had the opportunity to



COURTESY PHOTO

purchase a basic long arm and was in love with quilting. She started quilting for friends and others. In 2014, she purchased a computerized long arm. It was exciting to learn new techniques, designs and help others complete projects.

She is a past president of the Midwest Machine Quilters and Prairie Pioneer Quilt Guild. She was awarded Commercial Quilter of the year for

2016 and 2017 at the Nebraska State Fair. This honor involves being judged the best commercial quilter out of 21 different classes of numerous quilts.

Quilting has been a fabulous experience for her. Julie says, "I have made many wonderful friends and lots of opportunities have opened up to me. The world of quilters is a loving and supportive group no matter where they are. I still take classes when I can, as I love to learn new techniques from the many talented teachers available."

I have lived in Grand Island with my husband, Doug, for 28 years. I'm mother to 4 children and grandmother to 7. Please join us for a fabulous evening of beautiful quilts. Call Debby Galoway, 402-966-3471, for more information.

Loup 2 Loup Open Road Race August 9

On August 8th more than 140 high performance cars will converge on Arnold for the 18th annual Sandhills Open Road Challenge.

The event will begin on Thursday, August 9, with the 22-mile Loup 2 Loup Open Road Race between Halsey and Purdum.

A volunteer breakfast with assignments will take place at 6:30 a.m. at the Halsey Elementary School.

The road will close at 7:30 a.m. and the Loup 2 Loup Race will start at 8:30 a.m.

Lunch will be served in the Halsey Community Building after the race.

The one mile shoot-out, held 14 miles north of Cozad on Road 421, will take place Friday, August 10, at 8:00 a.m. The road will close at 7:30 a.m.

Breakfast by Main Course Catering will be served at the shoot-out location.

Lunch will follow the shoot-out at the Callaway Community Center at noon.

The car parade and show will begin at 2:30 p.m. at Arnold and the burnout contest is at 4:00 p.m.

Volunteers will be meeting at 6:00 a.m., Saturday, August 11, for assignments and breakfast at

the Arnold Community Center.

Cars and drivers will line up Saturday, for the 8:30 a.m. start of the 56 mile open road race between Arnold and Dunning.

The event will culminate Saturday evening with a free will donation barbecue and awards ceremony in the Arnold City Park.

A free street dance will follow east of the American Legion building.

A complete schedule of SORC events may be found inside this issue or by going to www.sorc-race.com

Sponsors, contributors and volunteers make SORC possible.

Notices

- Thedford Fire Hall Public Auction
- Thedford School Board Proceedings
- Thomas Co. BOE Proceedings
- Thomas Co. Commissioners' Proceedings

Inside This Issue

- Happenings On The Hill Nebraska Timeline
- Odds & Ends
- Dave Says
- Life's Outtakes
- Gov. Ricketts Column
- Deb Fischer Column
- Obituary For Allen LeRoy Wolfenden

News Briefs

The Sandhills High School FBLA will hold a Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 1, 2018, from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Dunning Open Bible Church. See complete story inside this issue on page 10.