

Nebraska Hereford Crossroads - HC#8



Eva Bowring holding the halter of one of their herd bulls.

Terri Licking
Photos & Story

The Nebraskans for Hereford Heritage hosted their eighth Hereford Crossroads celebration at the Connot Auction building in Valentine on October 8. The nickname coined in the first one at Thedford in 2015, lived up to its moniker as there were 88 in attendance at the Nebraska Hereford

"family reunion." This was three more than the cutoff ticket sale count of 85. Bordertown Steakhouse and Saloon, Kilgore, catered the melt-in-your mouth prime rib meal.

Hereford Alley stretched from Valentine to Thedford on U.S. Highway 83 in the 1950's to the late 1970's due to the number of seed stock producers and commercial cattlemen who had their Here-

ford cattle dotting the Sandhills for 65 miles. Members on hand were Richard Brown, Lincoln, chairperson; Linda (Clouse) Teahon, Dunning, vice-chairperson; Dixie Hoffman, treasurer; and Terri Licking, secretary, both of Thedford; and Ken Stephens, Valentine, who has emceed all of the Hereford Crossroad

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RJ Lovejoy and his family, wife Cheryl, and son Chris and daughter Jody.

Lolley's Handcrafted Donation Helps Sandhill Cancer Fund



COURTESY

Pictured are members of Security First Bank and Valentine Livestock, who were the winning bidders on Swede Lolley's hand crafted wood hay hauler, l to r: Steve Brown, Trent Solida, Lisa Bellin, Greg Arendt, Swede Lolley, Tom Cooper, and Josh Krueger.

Laura Vroman

There are toy trucks, and then, there are works of art! In this case, we're referring to the meticulously detailed, hand crafted, wood hay hauler and pup trailer created by Swede Lolley as a work of art.

He creates and designs wooden trucks and trailers and when it's time to sell his calves at the Valentine Livestock Auction, the works of art are auctioned off with the proceeds going to the Sandhills Cancer Fund.

This year there were two local businesses who teamed up and with a winning bid of \$4,600 won the hay hauler...then donated the hand crafted semi back to the Sandhills Cancer Fund for a raffle they will have this winter.

"I don't know how many hours Swede put into this. His attention to detail is amazing," said Sandhills Cancer Fund Treasurer Berniece Rhodes. "Every one on the committee feels we are very blessed to have the support from him and his wife Charlene."

Security First Bank and Valentine Livestock Auc-

tion were the purchasers who donated it back to the Sandhills Cancer Fund - which helps people on their journey with cancer. Actually their mission statement reads: Providing support to Sandhills residents on their journey through cancer treatment.

Sandhills Cancer Fund is a 501(c)3 tax deductible charitable organization covering a 10-county area in north central Nebraska. More than \$345,000 has been given to cancer patients in the Sandhills area since the beginning 12 years ago. So far this year they have helped 57 individuals with more than \$41,000 in donations.

In the past, they've had one annual fund raiser, however, with the drought this year they didn't think it was wise. Other fund raising plans are in the works. The chili cook-off at the Elks Club in Ainsworth was held November 19 sponsored by Brown County Hospital. Plus the SCF committee is hoping to have Dueling Pianos this spring along with Corks and Kegs. Both are still in the planning stages.

Back to the generosity of Swede Lolley, the creator of the hay hauler and pup; this isn't his first donation. In fact it's most likely his sixth donation to the Sandhills Cancer Fund, but he's not sure he remembers. Berniece said she remembers a barn, and other semi trucks - a cattle pot was featured in the November 6, 2019 edition of the Valentine Midland News. Lolley explained then that he turned to woodworking after stress filled days driving a blade and getting an ear full because the roads weren't smooth enough, or the snow not removed quickly.

"I worked for the highway department and people would stop me and they were chewing me. I came home wound up tight as a top and this relaxed me. And I guess it was a relief," Lolley said of creating wooden items - some donated to Make A Wish in Sioux Falls, SD.

While he was undergoing physical therapy at Cherry County Hospital, he met Myki Van Winkle, a Sandhills Cancer Fund

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NE Public Power District's Renewed Bid For R-Project

Input is needed on the Nebraska Public Power District's renewed bid for an incidental take permit application in connection with the proposed R-Project transmission line.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced plans for a 30-day public comment period beginning Friday, November 18 through 10:59 p.m. CST December 18. The service will take the comments into consideration for its supplemental environmental impact statement in response to NPPD's permit application.

Public comments may be made online or through the mail. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also host two virtual public meetings at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. CST December 8. The meetings will be available at fws.gov/project/r-project-transmission-line and at public libraries in North Platte, Thedford and Taylor.

The proposed R-Project is a 226-mile-long, 345-kilovolt transmission line that would cross portions of the Sandhills in north-central Nebraska. The proposed line would start at NPPD's Gerald Gentleman Substation near Sutherland and go north to a substation in Thomas County near Thedford.

The line would then extend eastward to another substation in Holt County. There it would connect to the Western Area Power Administration's existing Fort Thompson-to-Grand Island line on the eastern border of Holt County.

NPPD has been working on the revised conservation plan to incorporate new information obtained in the roughly two years since a Colorado federal judge vacated a 2019 Fish and Wildlife Service environmental permit for the R-Project.

The plan also includes continued evaluation of the risk of whooping cranes colliding with R-

Project lines over the 50-year life of the project, as well as potential impacts on cultural and historic resources.

The judge said Fish and Wildlife's order granting the permit did not review possible routes to avoid O'Fallon's Bluff, despite saying in its final environmental impact statement that running electrical lines over it would have "a long-term, high-intensity indirect (visual, auditory and atmospheric) effect."

Thousand of wagons on the Oregon-California Trail crossed the bluff from 1843 to 1866, cutting deep dips that remain today. It parallels Interstate 80 to the south between Sutherland and Hershey.

NPPD said the R-Project is needed to enhance the reliability of the electric transmission system, relieve congestion from existing lines and provide

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Christmas Tree Cutting Permits On Sale Online or at Offices in Halsey & Chadron

Christmas tree cutting

permits are on sale beginning November 21 and are conveniently on line at Recreation.gov and at two of the Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands (NNFG) District Offices: the Pine Ridge and Bessey Ranger Districts in Chadron and Halsey, respectively. The \$10 permit entitles the purchaser to harvest one ponderosa pine or Eastern red cedar, measuring up to 20 feet tall. Maps are available on-line or attached to the permits purchased in the offices to identify selected areas for tree harvest for both of the Ranger Districts and Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest.

The permits are available online at Recreation.gov for \$10 plus a \$2.50 processing fee, or at the following offices for \$10 Monday through Fri-

day:

- Supervisor Office/Pine Ridge Office at 125 N. Main Street in Chadron, NE 8:00 - 4:30 MST.

- Bessey Office at 40637 River Loop Road near Halsey, NE 8:30-5:00 CST. PLEASE NOTE: permits at the Bessey Ranger District are only being sold online or at the office. People can call 308-533-2257, or come to the office to get a permit.

The on-line Recreation.gov site has very specific instructions and maps on where to cut, tree selection, tips on how to cut and transport them. It is important to carefully read the overview, need-to-know information prior to purchasing. Trees must be for personal use, not for resale. Permits from online sales must be printed and displayed on the dash of the vehicle. Tags purchased in person

must be clearly displayed around the stem of the tree before leaving the cutting area.

The Forest Service is the official featured agency to celebrate the Every Kid in a Park Initiative for November and December. Fourth graders that have a Every Kid Outdoors pass are eligible for a free Christmas tree permit. Apply for the free permit by entering the pass or voucher number with your purchase. If your fourth grader does not have a Every Kid Outdoors pass, they can obtain one via this link: Every Kid Outdoors web site. Or if 4th graders would rather visit a District Office, print the paper voucher and bring it with you to a District Office or the Supervisor's

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