

Ribbon Cutting For Thedford's Newest Business

Pictures & Story By:
Terri Licking

Thedford's newest business held a grand opening celebration Thursday, December 1, in conjunction with Thedford's "Old Fashioned Christmas."

Alicia Clark, owner of Anthem Coffee, said her husband, Adam, children Anna and Caleb, and her parents, Chris and Kim Abbott, Hyannis, helped support and encourage her to fulfill her dream of opening a coffee shop.

Thedford Service Club sponsored a ribbon cutting and those on hand were Richard Jameson, Jay Jones, Alice Hodges, Pastors Coral and Les Parmenter, and Anthem Coffee customers, Tami Miller, Mullen, and Betty Schubauer, Valentine.

The Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway held a ribbon cutting for the new business on October 13 as a 'soft opening'

before the business officially opened October 18. Jeanne Davis, Hyannis, treasurer of the SJNSB presented Clark with a check for \$500.00 as being the recipient of the Entrepreneurial Grant awarded yearly to help a new business on the byway.

Clark said in the six weeks she has opened the business has far exceeded expectations. She tries to utilize as many local businesses as possible and Ewoldt's Grocery supplies her milk.

"In just the first four or five days we used 40 gallons of milk," Clark said. "That's unbelievable."

Anthem Coffee hours are Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Daily soup and sandwich specials are also available. You will also find a variety of lattes and frappes. A drive-through is available and you can call ahead to order at 308-645-2381.



Thedford Service Club members welcomed its newest member business, Anthem Coffee on December 1. Pictured at the ribbon cutting are, l-r: Richard Jameson, Alicia Clark, owner with scissors, Coral Parmenter Alice Hodges, Les Parmenter, Jay Jones, Tami Miller and Betty Schubauer.

Commissioner resigns

A vacancy exists on the Thomas County Board of Commissioners after the resignation of John Seeley effective November 30, 2022. Seeley sold his ranch in Thomas County and is relocating out of the county. Thomas County Clerk, Lorissa Hartman said letters of interest for the position are being taken at this time. State Statute requires the County Attorney, County Treasurer, and County

Clerk appoint a commissioner to fill the vacancy. Seeley was re-elected and Lewis Herbaugh elected to the board at the November general election. Pam Moody is the other Thomas County Commissioner. Seeley's term runs through January of 2028.

Please contact the Thomas County Clerk's office for more information on the vacancy.

Katie Olson, a member of Holt County Farm Bureau, was elected as the First Vice President of Nebraska Farm Bureau (NEFB) at their Annual Meeting in Kearney, Dec. 6. Olson has been a Farm Bureau member for nearly 20 years. She and her husband James grow corn and soybeans and raise cow/calf pairs near Atkinson.

The NEFB First Vice

President will work closely with the NEFB President and Board of Directors while serving as the Chair of the organization's Political Action Committee and State Legislative Policy Committee. Olson succeeds Sherry Vinton of Whitman, who resigned her role in Nebraska Farm Bureau to become the State Director of Agriculture under Governor-elect Jim Pillen's administration. Vinton will be the first woman to lead the Nebraska Department of Agriculture.

"We are extremely excited that Governor-elect Pillen has chosen Sherry Vinton to be Nebraska's next Director of Agriculture. Sherry is a true friend and ally to Nebraska farm and ranch families. We know Sherry

will work hard to represent farm and ranch interests in the Pillen administration as we work together to grow agriculture in our great state. We look forward to working with Sherry in her new role. We also want to thank current Director of Agriculture Steve Wellman for his service. We've been fortunate to have had the opportunity to work closely with Steve during his tenure and thank him for his commitment and support of Nebraska's farm and ranch families," said Mark McHargue, Nebraska Farm Bureau president.

Other elections include two members of the Farm Bureau Board of Directors being re-elected, South Central Region Di-

rector David Grimes of Minden, a member of Kearney/Franklin County Farm Bureau and Youth At-Large Director Lance Atwater of Ayr, a member of Adams-Webster County Farm Bureau. Dawn Kucera of Madison, a Madison County Farm Bureau member, ran unopposed and was elected as the Ag Promotion At-Large Director. Bree DeNaeyer of Seneca, a Cherry County Farm Bureau member, was elected as the North Central Region Director. Steve Stroup of Benkelman, a Dund County Farm Bureau member was elected as the Southwest Region Director.

All terms on the Nebraska Farm Bureau Board are for three years.

Nebraska Farm Bureau Elects New Leadership

Over \$100,000 raised for Sandhills Fire Relief



COURTESY

Over 350 people were in attendance at the Sandhills Fire Relief fundraiser held November 11 at the Thomas County Fairgrounds Event Center.

There were silent and live auctions, a Facebook auction, and donations collected at the door and it has been reported over \$100,000 was raised to help local ranchers and local fire departments who responded to the Bovee Fire on October 2 that started in the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey.

More than 18,000 acres of forest and private land was burned in the blaze.

Ranchers not only lost their pasture, but fences, and their winter feed source.

Some of the money will go to the Nebraska Cattlemen Disaster Relief Fund. Relief applications will be taken until December 31, 2022. Membership with Nebraska Cattlemen is not required for an appli-

cant to receive relief. Applications may be found on the nebraskacattlemen.org website and submitted to Nebraska Cattlemen, 4611 Cattle Drive, Lincoln, NE 68521. Proceeds raised at the fundraiser will also be distributed to six local fire departments that responded to the fire and includes Anselmo, Dunning, Halsey, Purdum, Brewster, and Thedford.

Donations for the auc-

tions were provided by local businesses, fellow ranchers, and citizens in the area.

Along with the auctions a supper was provided by Slow Poke BBQ and live music performed by Borderline.

Organizers extend a thank you to everyone who assisted to make this event a success to benefit ranchers and fire departments in the area.

SJNSB Photo Fundraiser

The Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway is sponsoring a photo contest fundraiser to enhance their photo gallery on their website and app.

The theme is "Sunny Days, Starry Nights," and there are two categories (daytime or nighttime photos) from the SJNSB and or its corridor.

There is a \$5.00 per photo entry fee and you may enter as many photos

as you wish. Photos of four years or less are preferred.

Send 8 x 10 photo entries to Terri Licking, P.O. Box 62, Thedford, NE 69166 and make the check payable to Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway. Place photos in a plastic sleeve before mailing and use photo mailers.

The contest will end January 11, 2023 and entries

postmarked or received after January 11 are ineligible.

This is a 50/50 contest and all images will have photo credit, but will be joint property of the photographer and SJNSB to use for promotional and marketing ventures.

For more information and an entry form email Terri Licking at twlicking@gmail.com

TACF banquet brings in \$40,000

Jay Jones

The annual Thedford Area Community Foundation banquet was held November 19 at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. This year an entrée of roast pork was added for those who preferred something different than prime rib. The meal received many favorable comments and by all appearances, everyone enjoyed the meal and cash bar as they prepared for the auction and entertainment.

Two hundred tickets were sold in advance and with the exception of a few last minute no-shows due to illness, the turnout was very robust. There

were over 150 live auction items ranging from barbecue pits and gift certificates to fire arms and tons of mineral and cattle cubes. There were nearly 40 silent auction items, along with door prizes, balloon sales and LOTTO tickets from the Nebraska Lottery.

Entertainment was provided by emcee, Russell Licking, who created an "Escape Room" theme

with multiple safes, which when the code was cracked, yielded several hundred dollars in cash for the team who completed the task.

At the end of the night, the amount taken in at the event was around \$40,000 for the foundation coffers. Thank you to everyone who attended, donated, and purchased auction items to assist the TACF fund.

Christmas Greetings of the Season

Creative Printers will have an early deadline for the December 29 and January 5 issues of *The Stapleton Enterprise-McPherson County News* and *Thomas County Herald*.

The deadline will be noon Thursday, December 22 and Thursday, December 29 for the holiday issues.

Creative Printers and Herbie's Speakeasy will be hosting a customer appreciation Thursday, December 29 from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. This will be a thank you to our subscribers, advertisers and shoppers for their support in 2022. Please join us for free refreshments

and food samples.

The December 22 issue will feature business and individual greetings of the season and feature area students at Stapleton, McPherson County, Sandhills and Thedford schools.

Christmas break will be Thursday, December 22 through Monday, January 2, at Thedford Schools. School will dismiss at 2:14 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21, and school resumes Tuesday, January 3.

Sandhills Public Schools will Christmas carol after practice Wednesday, December 21, and have an early out that day.