

Thedford & Dunning participate in “Christmas Village Shop Hop”

Pictures & Story By:
Terri Licking

Thedford Service Club sponsored their annual “Old-Fashioned Christmas” on Thursday, December 1. It was also a first for Thedford this year as they were one of 10 villages coming together to showcase “Christmas Village Shop Hop.”

The idea for the collaboration came about after Arcadia’s “Christmas in the Village” last year. Steve Dodson, Spiritual Outreach Overseer for Forged in Faith Ministry from Arcadia and others knew additional area communities held special events to entice local shopping.

“Small businesses in small communities help encourage local shopping and this was the reason we began to look at this cooperative effort,” Dodson said. “By word of mouth we collected 10 villages in central Nebraska

to showcase their Christmas season craft and vendor shows. Yes, it resembled the popular Nebraska Junk Jaunt held every September, but with real treasures and gifts. We offered a passport program so we wanted to make it easy for shoppers to attend at least three events so they could be eligible for prizes if they submitted their passport. Thirty-four passports were submitted and enough prizes were collected so all will receive a prize.”

Thedford kicked off the “Shop Hop” on Thursday, December 1 and the other craft and vendor shows were held Saturday, December 3. Other towns participating in addition to Thedford were Ansley, Arcadia, Dunning, Elba, Loup City, North Loup, Rockville, Sargent and Taylor. Other sponsors helping with promotion and marketing included Simply Sunflower, The She Shed Crafters, Pop-

corn County USA, Main Street Gallery, Greenland Construction, K Freeman Photography, Bare Naked Scents, Outlaw Steaks, Lazy D, Sweet & Spicy Sisters Creations, Jennifer Smedra, CPA, BF Beef, Corner Shop, author John Hunt, and Wolfgang Chip Repair.

A meeting to discuss next year’s Christmas season “Village Shop Hop” will be held in January with the date, time and location to be announced.

“We had other villages interested, as well as extending the shopping time frame. This will be discussed in January. If your village is interested in participating in the 2023 Christmas Village Shop Hop contact Steve Dodson at 308-202-0175.

Thedford’s annual event was complete with Santa and Mrs. Claus who came into town by way of Doc Petrie, DVM. They rode in style in a restored 1929



Santa and Mrs. Claus listen to the wish list from 3-year-old Jace Thomas, son of BJ and Andrea Thomas.



At Dunning, Santa came to town by a local teamster, Toby Hunt of Brewster, and his team of Blondie and Red. Riding shotgun with Toby was his dog, Tess. Rides around town were given throughout the day.



KAYCEE HOFFMAN

It’s official - the Christmas season has come to Thedford when the tree on the courthouse lawn in Thedford is lit.



A bird’s eye view of the vendors in the Community Hall at Dunning. There were 17 vendors along with a lunchstand.



Heston Licking, son of Russell and Bridget Licking, shows the content of Santa’s sacks enjoyed by the recipients.

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Made Sweet by April was one of the vendors who saw brisk business in the Masonic Lodge, Thedford, during their annual Old Fashioned Christmas on December 1. Location was key as parents waited in line there for their kids to see Santa.



Service club member, Shannon Ahlstrom is shopping with Anita Keys at Keys Canning booth. Products are made by Anita Keys, Elsmere. Keys Canning also was at the Dunning Christmas Extravaganza on December 3.