

Disaster declarations in Thomas Co. will aid with snow removal

The Sandhills received much needed precipitation in a two-day storm that started Monday, January 2 with freezing rain and continued through Tuesday, January 3.

Thedford and Thomas County received the heaviest snowfall and over 18" was recorded.

Thomas County Sheriff Joseph Smith, who is also the emergency manager, said all roads were de-

clared impassable Tuesday and remained closed until Wednesday.

"We had up to 24 inches in the county and disaster declarations for snow removal were signed by Gov. Ricketts and Gov. Pillen to assist us," Smith said. "I cannot thank Senator Jacobson enough for his help in getting this done for us. We are usually self sufficient here, but the assistance from

the state is very much appreciated due to the amount of snow we will have to move."

By Thursday most county roads had been opened and Smith said the snow was heavy with not much drifting. The county is assessing snow removal and a private contractor has also been hired.

A roll over due to icy road conditions occurred during the storm and Thedford Fire & Rescue assisted at the Highway 2 accident. Minor injuries were reported. One semi slid off of Highway 83 and required recovery.

Four-wheel drives were stuck in the Village of Thedford due to deep snow.

Smith said it will take time to deal with this much snow and crews will be working to widen county roads.

Schools were closed Wednesday, January 4, and students gained an additional day of Christmas break. Travel ground to a halt in much of the area, but there were few complaints. Much needed "white stuff" blanketed the Sandhills in a snow event that hasn't happened in quite some time.

Most school and community activities were



COURTESY

Thomas County residents are dealing with up to 24" of snow and Thomas County Sheriff Joseph Smith, who is also the emergency manager, said two declarations signed by Governor Ricketts and Governor Pillen will help aid with snow removal.



LINDA TEAHON

This little fellow in Dunning asked and he received. The Nebraska Weather Service reported that Dunning received 12" of the white stuff in the January 2 & 3 storm.

Daly is newly appointed Thomas County Commissioner

Charles Daly is the newly appointed Thomas County Commissioner and he was sworn in office Thursday, January 6. He replaces John Seeley who was re-elected to the position in the General Election, but resigned due to moving from the county.

Thomas County Clerk Lorissa Hartman was sworn in virtually and then conducted the oath of office to Daly, Lewis Herbaugh, newly elected commissioner, Kurt Arganbright, county attorney, Joseph Smith, county sheriff, Lloyd Smith,

county surveyor, and Andrea Thomas, county treasurer. Pam Moody is the other county commissioner.

A reorganizational meeting and regular meeting of the Thomas County Commissioners followed the swearing in ceremony.

Clerk Hartman said the big story of the day was the disaster declarations for snow removal signed by Gov. Ricketts and Gov. Pillen to help Thomas County. She said it was difficult for her to even get her back door open due to deep snow.

Annual SJNSB Conference In January

The annual Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway conference is being planned for Saturday, January 21, and will take place at the One Box in Broken Bow. New this year will be a photo contest under the theme "Sunny Days and Starry Nights."

The annual business meeting will be held at 11:00 a.m. and the vendor showcase will run from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and there will be awards, a membership incentive drawing, and keynote speaker.

Current SJNSB officers and directors are Linda Teahon, Dunning, president; Bill Burdett, Cairo, vice president; Twila Phillips, Mullen, secretary; Jeanne Davis, Hyannis, treasurer; Terri

Licking, Thedford, historian and director; Linda Lacy, Ashby, Kathie Martindale, Brewster, Mitch Glidden, Mullen, and Pat Bridges, Broken Bow, directors.

This year's Byway Showcase Vendors include:

Lingonberry - Leanne French, Mullen

CaLinda's Pot Shop & Art Gallery - Linda Lacy, Ashby

Donnell Jewelry - Ellen White, Ashby

T's Creative Designs - Teresa Goedeke, Dunning

Mullen Art Center - Nicole Hoffmann, Mullen

Horizon With Out Bounds - Bill Burdett, Cairo

Grand Island Visitors Center - Brad Mellema, Grand Island

See SJNSB Conf.
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New Book Features Growing Up In Halsey

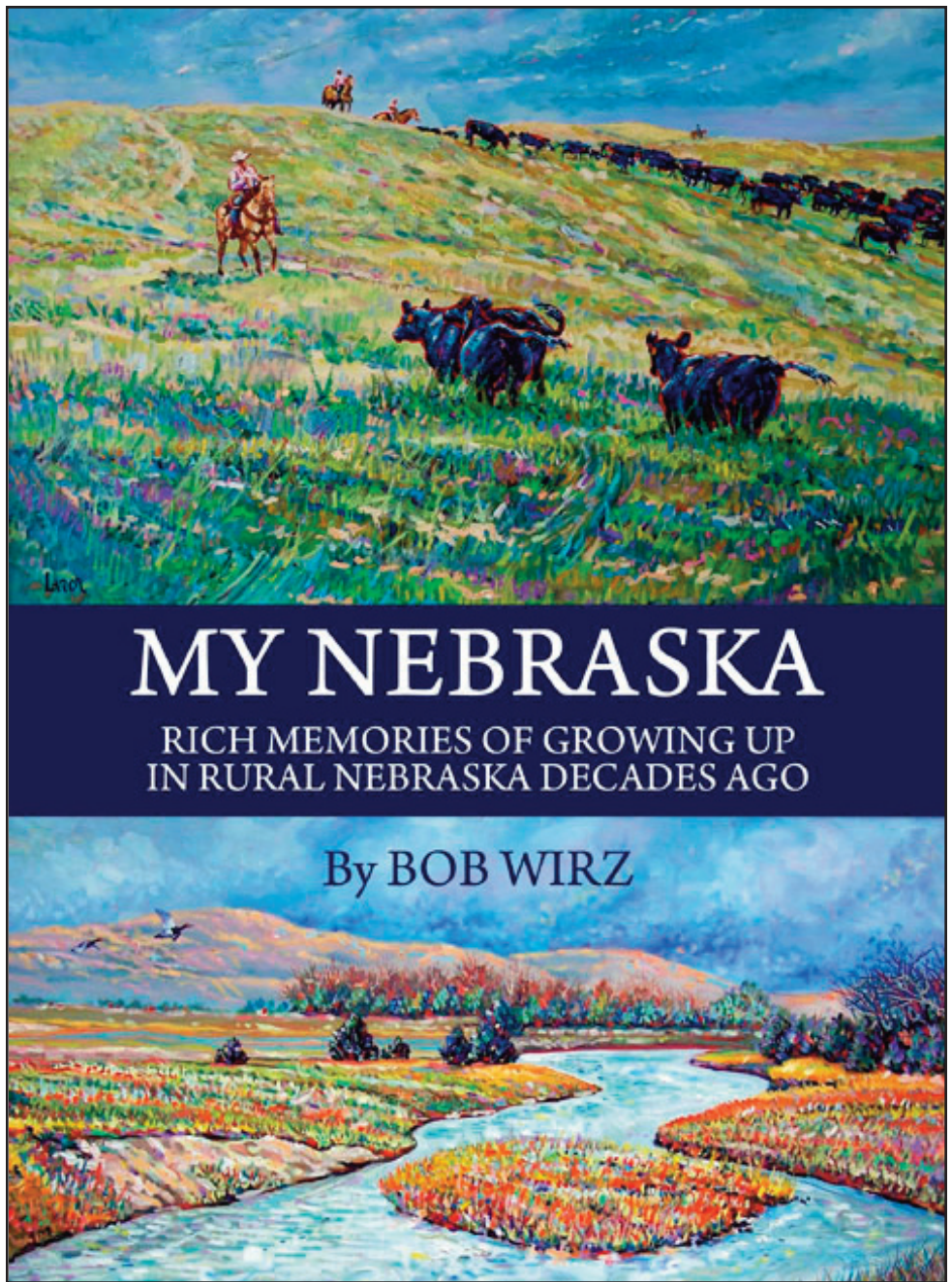
What was it like growing up in a Sandhills village with less than 150 residents? You can find out by reading Halsey's native son's newest book, "My Nebraska: Rich Memories of Growing Up in Rural Nebraska Decades Ago." Bob Wirz, 85, gives you a glimpse of what it was like in rural Nebraska in years gone by. Wirz shares his memories of growing up in Halsey in the 1940's and 1950's in a newly published 142-page book produced by Torrance Publishing in Pittsburgh, PA.

Wirz was able to live his passion of working at the highest levels of baseball and later developing his own sports public relations and marketing company. He shares memories of everything from counting millions of tiny trees to playing grassroots baseball where the age of teammates might run from the early teens to the 50's. In the pages you will discover what young people, actually those of any age, did for work and fun.

The colorful cover of the book features two paintings from Laron McGinn, Dunning rancher/artist depicting the beautiful landscape of rural Nebraska and the ranching lifestyle sets the tone for the 5 x 8 book also filled with meaningful pictures.

It is "a wistful and endearing love letter to Nebraska filled with memories shared by generations raised in small towns throughout the Midwest," praises Shari Veil, who heads up the journalism and mass communications department at the University of Nebraska where Wirz graduated in 1959.

This is Wirz's second



COURTESY PHOTO

book, following up on his "The Passion of Baseball" about a career spent almost entirely in sports with stints of media work and highlighted by 16 years in the major leagues from the Kansas City Royals to the Baseball Commissioner's office in New York City plus recent decades of running his

own sports public relations and marketing company.

The author has lived in Connecticut since leaving the Midwest in 1974, but has "persistent lovely thoughts" of Nebraska "and I want to share them with my fellow Cornhuskers, the honest, hard-working, and down-to-

earth people who populate or have previously populated this area."

Copies may be ordered at dorrordr@dorrancepublishing.com or by calling 1-800-788-7654 and are available at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble (BN.com).