

SJNSB Conference in Broken Bow

Linda Teahon

Snow packed roads could not stop the enthusiasm of attendees at the annual Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway conference held in Broken Bow at the One Box Convention Center, Saturday, January 21st. Sunny Days, Starry Nights was the theme.

Fourteen vendors showcased their items and shoppers were pleased with the quality and variety of items brought to the show.

Speakers in the afternoon included Gerri Proctor from the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey. Many people came especially to hear her comments about the forest moving forward after the two forest fires this summer. All were happy to hear that the lookout tower will be rebuilt.

Jenna Bartja from Nebraska Tourism spoke in the afternoon about tourism in Nebraska. She was the keynote speaker later in the evening during the banquet. Her informative talk centered

around dark skies and how tourism is being impacted from people wanting to see star lit skies.

Awards handed out during the banquet included: Friend of the Byway-Individual went to Mike Evans of Broken Bow. Mike dedicates countless volunteer hours to The Barn tourism location at Broken Bow. Frontline Employee was awarded to Joyce Richardson from Runza in Broken Bow for her friendly and helpful attitude toward her customers. The Byway Enhancement award went to the Sandhills Chamber of Commerce of Hyannis. They have contributed to the new SJNSB phone app. The Spur in Dunning received the Business Award. James and Jody Swisher were on hand to receive the award. The Spur is a much needed business in the area for dining and fuel. Linda Teahon, president of the Byway made the presentations.

A photo contest was held with entries coming in

See SJNSB
Page 12



COURTESY

James and Jody Swisher, owners and operators of The Spur in Dunning, receive their Business Award from SJNSB President, Linda Teahon, right, during the annual Sandhills Scenic Byway conference held in Broken Bow on Saturday, January 21.

Western Nebraska Bank Opens Branch At Sandhills Elementary School



COURTESY

Members of the Sandhills Elementary school staff and students along with staff from Western Nebraska Bank in Thedford, held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Western Nebraska Bank branch at Sandhills Elementary school. Pictured above during the ribbon cutting were, l-r: Western Nebraska Bank representative, Rachel Cox, Myah Glidden, Charlie Smith, Hazen Clark, Bristol Fink, Saije Bray, Rafe Larsen, Caden Winkelbauer and Western Nebraska Bank representative, Michelle Milleson.

Sandhills elementary students are being introduced to the world of finance with the help of Western Nebraska Bank personnel, fourth grade teacher, Cindy Simonson, and Dr. Jennifer A. Davidson, Associate Professor of Practice in Economics, College of Business, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Nebraska Legislature gave final approval May 20, 2021, to a bill intended to improve the personal finance skills of Nebraska students. Under the bill, financial literacy includes knowledge and skills regarding budget and financial record keeping, taxes, debt, savings, risk management, insurance, investment strategies and establishing, building, maintaining and monitoring credit. LB452 passed on a 49-0 vote.

"Because of this focus by the legislature we felt it very important to teach our kids at a young age to be fiscally responsible," J.D. Furrow, Superintendent

of Sandhills Public Schools said. "Our fourth grade students are the clerks and with oversight from Western Nebraska Bank, it has opened up a whole new learning experience for the entire elementary. We have had almost 100% participation and students are depositing into their savings accounts regularly."

Western Nebraska Bank personnel who helped make all of this happen include Marcy Hunter, Rachel Cox and Michelle Milleson. The newest branch of WNB opened its doors Wednesday, January 11, 2023 with a grand opening and ribbon cutting held Tuesday, January 17 at Sandhills elementary.

The Knights Branch is now open once a week for students to deposit into their savings accounts. Incentives will be provided as students reach various savings goals. Students obtained parental permission to participate.

The branch will be staffed by a bank repre-

sentative and fourth grade student tellers who went through an interview and training process with the bank. Tellers help students balance their accounts for the duration of their time at the school and upon graduation, student savings members receive a check back for the total amount they have saved.

"We've partnered with Sandhills elementary and the Nebraska Council on Economic Education to open these student branches which allow us to integrate money management into our students' lives. These branches are designed to introduce the concept of saving early, demonstrate that it should be part of their financial plan for their future and increase parental involvement in savings and banking. It can also provide an opportunity for them to discover careers in the area of banking and finance,"

See Bank
Page 8

Thedford Rescue Squad Installs New Stryker Power Load System



COURTESY

Members of the Thedford Volunteer Rescue Squad present for the installation of the Stryker Power Load system at the Thedford Volunteer Fire Station were, l-r: Jemma DeNaeyer, Sandy Heavican, Pat Neben, Gordon Needs, Loren Eaton, Brenda Corbin and Shirley Hanna.

Thedford Volunteer Rescue Squad is proud to announce the installation of a Stryker Power Load system in one of the department's ambulances. Of the two ambulances, one is already equipped with a powerload and has proven to be a great asset.

This rescue equipment enhances the safety of both EMS providers and patients by hydraulically lifting patients up to the level of the transport. The providers will still manually move the patients into and out of the patient care compartment.

This rescue equipment will be instrumental in reducing workplace injuries and fatigue to emergency personnel who must otherwise physically lift the entire weight of the patient and stretcher before loading into the truck.

"Everyone is excited to have this new piece of equipment" said EMS Captain Loren Eaton. "The equipment will be extremely helpful, especially when it's only a two-person team getting a patient in and out."

The systems can safely accommodate up to 370 pounds of weight, including the patient, cot and any additional equipment such as monitors and oxygen tanks. They meet SAE J30 27 dynamic crash test standards and additionally minimize the risk of patient drops by providing continual support until the wheels are on the ground.

The Thedford Volunteer Rescue Squad response area includes all of Thomas County, the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey and southern

Cherry County, approximately 1,700 square miles.

Rescue Captain Loren Eaton wishes to thank the Thomas County Commissioners (APRA Funds), Sandhills Area Foundation based in Valentine, Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation based in North Platte, Thedford Area Community Foundation, and KBR Electric based in Ainsworth. This project was paid for solely with grants and donations to keep our volunteers and patients safe while helping with volunteer recruitment and longevity.

For more information on the Stryker Power Load systems or their recent installations, please contact Loren Eaton at thethfordems@gmail.com.