

Same location & quality service, new owner

MARCIA HORA

The new owner of Thedford Lumber & Supply knew it would be a great business for him and it needed to stay open for the community. Dave Masek of Purdum purchased Neal Lumber Company from Tim Neal and the business transaction was finalized on February 10, 2023.

"I was getting older and construction was getting less desirable," Masek said. "The lumber yard needed to stay open for area residents and Tim has built it into a great business. I want to continue to offer and build on what Tim has done. As a real estate agent with Agri Affiliates I know that commercial property is difficult to sell and this was a perfect fit for me. With 30 plus years in construction I know that part of it and I also operated a car wash and convenience store in Grand Island and have a little retail experience."

Masek and his wife Brenda, who operates the ranch and is past president of the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association, live seven miles west of Purdum. They were busy preparing for the grand opening on Thursday, April 20, to show some improvements they have made to the business.

New lighting has been installed and the counter has been moved, but customers will still be able to experience the building that has been operational for over 100 years. Credit cards are now accepted and Thedford Lumber is a satellite carrier of Milwaukee power tools through Mills Hardware in Arnold.

"Our new computer system has helped with special orders and it has enabled us to get items in quicker," Masek said. "We now carry a full line of fencing supplies including hedge posts and we have expanded a little on the full line of products Tim carried."

Cody Buesing has been hired to assist in the lumber yard and 'Mike the mascot' is the greeter. The Maseks purchased the border collie, standard poodle cross from Ryan Sexton at the Thedford fire relief fund auction. The Maseks named him Mike after the late Mike Moody who passed away during the Bovee Fire that swept through the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey.

Masek was recently elected Purdum Fire Chief and Mike has already gone on two fire calls.

The lumber yard in Thedford has a long history and was among the early pioneer businesses



MARCIA HORA - THOMAS COUNTY HERALD

Thomas County and surrounding area will continue to be served by a lumber yard as it has for over 100 years. Thedford Lumber & Supply held a grand opening celebration last week. Dave Masek purchased the business from Tim Neal in February of 2023.

in Thedford known as the Doyle and McMillan Lumber Company. John Doyle and James McMillan formed a partnership in the 1880's which continued for over 50 years.

They sold everything homesteaders needed including food, clothing, fence posts, wire, windmills, tanks, horse-drawn mowers, lumber and building supplies.

In addition to his partnership in a thriving business, Mr. McMillan also had the first bank in Thedford and served a term as Thomas County treasurer.

Sanford Larsen purchased the business in 1935 and operated it for 40 years. Larsen removed the old storage sheds and built new storage for lumber and supplies. Tim and Kenneth Neal purchased the lumber yard in 1975 and formed Neal Lumber

Company, Inc.

Tim Neal kept the lumber yard operational in the original store building that has been remodeled and added onto several times until the sale in February of this year to Masek.

The very first lumber yard in the Sandhills area was started by Homer Gage at Dunning before the railroad came through the country. Supplies were shipped into Kearney and hauled over the hills to Dunning by horse and wagon.

Lumber yards in the area were instrumental in the building of communities in the early begin-

nings of the Sandhills. Thedford Lumber & Supply is carrying on the legacy by providing necessities for ranchers, businesses, and residents in this region of Nebraska.

Door prize winners at the open house were Mary Nichols, rake; Joy Miles, extension cord; Kelsey James, set of drill bits; Kort Hamilton, shovel; Jerri Linn, 50' garden hose; and Peg Andersen, 4' oblong water tank.

"Thank you to everyone for attending our grand opening and we look forward to assisting with your building, fencing and hardware needs," Masek said.



MARCIA HORA - THOMAS COUNTY HERALD PHOTOS

Dave Masek and store mascot, "Mike," were on hand to showcase new items, including Milwaukee power tools, that are being offered in the building that has stood the test of time.

Flood Communications Acquires Twister Radio

Flood Communications, Nebraska's largest media company, has announced the purchase of Twister Radio of Gordon and Valentine from DJ Broadcasting owners Jim and Deneen Lambley.

Twister Radio is made up of KSDZ-FM and KDJL-FM and can be heard throughout the Sandhills on 95.5 FM in Gordon and 99.5 FM in Valentine.

"We believe in bringing people and information together. This acquisition in the Sandhills of Nebraska allows us to share more local stories on radio, television and in digital media about the people that make the Sandhills a great place to live and to do business," said Andy Ruback, Flood Communications CEO. "We are honored that longtime and legendary owners, Jim and Deneen Lambley, have the confidence in Flood Communi-

cations and News Channel Nebraska to carry on their legacy of service to the community."

"The American Dream doesn't come with an instruction manual, but we have lived it on the airwaves of The Twister," said Jim and Deneen Lambley. "Radio is our love, but there comes a time in life to retire and pass the keys to the transmitters on. We are extremely pleased that Nebraska's leading statewide broadcaster, Flood Communications, has chosen to add The Twister to their broadcast holdings. We wish them much success as they serve the 14 million acres of real estate our signal covers and the wonderful people in our Nebraska and South Dakota service area."

With the purchase of Twister Radio, Flood Communications will have a total of 25 broad-

cast stations in Nebraska, including 18 radio stations and seven television stations delivering content from border to border. Flood Communications is the largest broadcast company in Nebraska.

Along with the acquisition, News Channel Nebraska is opening a Sandhills News Bureau, it's 11th news bureau in Nebraska.

Flood Communications' recent acquisitions build on the media organization's robust growth. In 2022, Flood Communications acquired KIMB-FM in Kimball, in 2021 it acquired five radio stations in Grand Island/Kearney/Hastings, and in 2019 it acquired panhandle radio stations KSID AM/FM.

The acquisition is expected to close in 2023, subject to customary regulatory approvals.

Area fire departments aid and assist



Photo taken April 13 west of Anselmo on Highway 2 in Custer County. Area volunteer firemen were among departments called to the Cooksley Fire and several others the last two weeks in the area. Custer County Emergency Management Facebook Page Photo

MARCIA HORA

A Red Flag Warning issued Wednesday, April 12, came to fruition as area fire departments were put to the test as large wildfires pushed volunteers to the limit.

Thedford Fire Chief Spencer Burk said local firemen were called for mutual aid to Mullen and Stapleton, and to the Cooksley Complex Fire.

"It's been very dry and we have been busier than we want to be, but that's what we're here for,"

Burk said.

Dunning, Halsey, and Purdum Volunteer Fire Departments were all called to the Cooksley fire and were called for mutual aid to the fire in the Arnold Fire District when lightning sparked a grass fire on the Dunning Road. Other towns assisting were Callaway, Stapleton, Tryon, Brady, North Platte Airport, Hershey, Sutherland, Paxton, Curtis, Maywood, Elm Creek, Amherst, Gibbon, Region 51 Emergency and farmers and ranchers.

Custer County Emergency Management estimated 1,800 to 2,000 acres of grass burned before the Arnold-Duning road fire was contained.

Purdum Fire Chief Dave Masek said trucks were called to a fire south and east of Brewster the week before and Bryan Rodocker, Halsey Fire Chief said they also assisted in a mutual aid call at Kilgore.

Thedford volunteers as-