

Homecoming Royalty Crowned

The 2023 Knights' Homecoming was held on Thursday, September 21 in Thedford. The Lady Knights volleyball and Knights football teams hosted the Hyannis Longhorns. The girls won their game on Thursday. The boy's game was postponed due to weather and they defeated the Hyannis Longhorns on Friday, September 22 in Thedford.

Royalty for both Thedford and Sandhills were crowned following the volleyball games in the Thedford High School gymnasium. Courts for both schools were announced to a large crowd.

Following the coronation their was a dance at Thedford High School.

Many homecoming activities took place during the week of September 18 and they included color wars, mathalete vs athlete, blue collar vs white collar, hippie day, old person day, as well as games and other activities to round out the week of celebration and festivities. Students and staff enjoyed decorating the schools and partaking in the dress-up days.



Photo By: Jamie Taylor

The 2023 Thedford High School homecoming court, pictured above, was announced on Thursday, September 21 were: l-r: Attendant, Connor Cooksley; Crownbearer, Wiley Zimmerman, son of Trent & Bobbi Zimmerman; King and Queen, Zeb Wilde, son of Bert & DaNell Wilde and LaTajanae Robinson, daughter of Robert Robinson and Jessica Vostrejs; Crownbearer, Isabella McLeod, daughter of Michael & Brittney McLeod; Junior Attendant: Karley Haake

Greene Named 2023 Educator Of The Year

Hall of Fame and Conservation Award Winners Recognized for Success



COURTESY

From left, Upper Loup NRD Resources Technician Lexi Spurlin; Upper Loup NRD Director Judy Ridenour; Zeta Greene; and Upper Loup NRD Director Chris Higgins.

Natural resources stakeholders and subject matter experts were in Kearney for the annual Nebraska Natural Resources Districts (NRDs) Conference at the Younes Conference Center Sept. 25-26, 2023.

The conference brought together NRD employees, directors and others integrally involved in conservation, technology and policymaking. The event kicked off with the Ron Bishop Memorial Golf tournament on Sunday, Sept. 24, to raise money for the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) Foundation.

Natural resources partners opened the conference on Monday with updates from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources.

Topics included an overview and discussion of successful natural re-

sources programs, new technologies and research for future programs. Panelists at the forum provided insight on water quality, groundwater management, and natural resources projects.

Recognizing citizens for their conservation efforts, Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts also presented awards during the noon luncheon Monday, Sept. 25. Winners include:

2023 Tree Planter of the Year: Brian Moes Family - Osmond, Nebraska

2023 Community Conservation Award: Bob Hansen - Coleridge, Nebraska

2023 Water Conservation Award: Dave Condon - Creighton, Nebraska

2023 Soil Stewardship Conservation Award: Daryl Obermeyer - Brownville, Nebraska

2023 Director of the Year: Marcel Kramer, Lewis & Clark NRD - Crofton, Nebraska

2023 Educator of the Year: Zeta Greene, Sand-

hills Public Schools - Dunning, Nebraska

A silent auction for the NARD Foundation, which supports natural resources youth programs, was held Monday afternoon, followed by a dinner banquet. Nebraska Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelley gave the welcome during the banquet and three NRD Hall of Fame inductees were recognized including:

Darwin Anderson, Columbus, Nebraska (2023 NRD Director, Lower Loup NRD)

Kent O. Miller, North Platte, Nebraska (2023 NRD Employee, Twin Platte NRD)

Jim Cannia (posthumously), Aqua Geo Frameworks (2023 NRD Supporter)

The annual NRD Conference was presented by Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts with a range of local and national sponsors. Approximately 400 natural resources stakeholders were expected to attend the conference.



Sandhills Public Schools Photo

The 2023 Sandhills High School Homecoming court was, l-r: King - Rhett McFadden and Queen - Charlsie Teahon. Front row, l-r: Pages - J.W. Hall, Ellie Hanson and Lyla Stithem

Invite young Nebraskans to build community with us

Jeff Yost, President & CEO, Nebr. Community Foundation

The 2023 Greater Nebraska Youth Survey makes me incredibly hopeful for the future of our state. Along with our partners at the Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, we have surveyed over 3,700 middle and high school students in the past four years to better understand their priorities, values and desires and how

they truly feel about the places they call home.

The middle and high school students surveyed in 2023 (from schools in Arcadia, Crofton, David City, Diller-Odell, Imperial, Ogallala, Ord, Paxton, Pender, Shickley and Stuart) echoed many of the findings from previous surveys, such as the majority (58%) reporting they are extremely or somewhat likely to live in the area they live in now. Seventy-two percent do not recognize a negative stigma with remaining in

or returning to your hometown - something that has undoubtedly shifted in the past decade. These students don't know the future, but they have faith in Nebraska being a place they want to call home as they embark on their careers and begin their adult lives.

We believe these young people are on to something very important. Today we can live and

See Young
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