

Dunning Christmas Extravaganza



Wakely Bradley greets the crowd of shoppers with a wave and smile at the Dunning Christmas Extravaganza.

Story & Photos By
Linda Teahon

The annual Dunning Christmas Extravaganza held Saturday, December

2, was deemed a huge success by vendors and organizers.

The historic Dunning Community Hall was completely filled with 20+



A large crowd was on hand to shop the many vendors at the Dunning Christmas Extravaganza. The event was held at the historic Dunning Community Hall, which was built in 1938 by the WPA.

Chips & Salt-Sa Hits The Highways



Thedford Public Schools

Thedford fourth grader, Bridlelyn Gonzales is pictured in front of the newly named NDOR truck, Chips & Salt-Sa. Bridlelyn had the winning name in the NDOT snow plow naming contest.

Thedford Public Schools fourth grader, Bridlelyn Gonzales' entry in the Nebraska Department of Transportation snow plow naming contest, was chosen as the winner.

Chips and Salt-sa will be on the road this winter with NDOR employee, Ed Shukei, driving. He will clear roads for travel

from Thedford to Halsey and Dunning to Brewster.

The NDOT employees came and awarded Bridlelyn with an official naming sign and a toy snow plow. All the fourth graders got to sign the inside of the snow plow and honk the horns on the truck.



Thedford Public Schools

Members of the Thedford fourth grade class signing their names inside the new Chips & Salt-Sa snowplow.

vendors. Crafted wood items, food, pottery, jewelry, and Christmas decor were just some of the items offered. Books by Nebraska authors John Hunt and Alan Bartels were very popular with attendees.

Shoppers came by the dozens throughout the entire day. The weather

was sunny, helping to put shoppers in the buying mood.

Santa attended and brought treats to the delight of many children.

This event is one of the final holiday community activities on the Sandhills National Scenic Byway for last-minute Christmas shopping.



Authors John Hunt and Alan J. Bartels stand in front of the Dunning Community Hall. They were part of the Dunning Christmas Extravaganza.



Santa had to walk the last few blocks to the Community Hall while his reindeer waited at the Middle Loup River.

Gingerbread Creativity

Story & Photos By
Terri Licking

Two new traditions got their start at this year's 'Old Fashioned Christmas' in Thedford. One needs a lot of work to increase numbers, while the organizer of the other was blown away by the response.

The Ugly Sweater contest had less than a handful of entries while the gingerbread house contest drew 21 entries. Sandhills Corral is where the houses are on display until the end of December. Patty Jo, 'PJ' Higgins cooks at the restaurant and brought the idea to the Service Club who sponsors the annual Old Fashioned Christmas.

"The event was on the promo flyer, but I also sent flyers to the school. All the houses began with kits I purchased. Several wanted to build their own houses, and maybe next year, that might be an option, but having everyone begin the same was key. Also, I did not stress all décor had to be edible, so that might be another addition for next year. Those interested re-



Some of the 21 gingerbread houses entered in the first year of the contest. They are on display at Sandhills Corral near Thedford until the end of December.

imbursed me as their cost to enter the contest. Then the creative juices started flowing. Twenty-one total entries and only four

adults."

The houses will be on display during business hours and all are encouraged to come in and vote

for your favorite. Go to the Sandhills Corral Facebook page where PJ will highlight a different house daily.