

Notices

- Madron Ranch LLC
Notice Of Organization
- Thomas County
Commissioners’
Organizational Meeting
- Thomas County
Commissioners’
Proceedings
- Village Of Thedford
Board Proceedings
- Village Of Thedford
Rate Increases

Index

Legal Page	2
Community	
Calendar.....	2
Social Side	3
L.J.’s Column	3
Opinion Page.....	4
Comics	4
Classified Page.....	5
Business Directory	5
Statewide	
Classifieds	5
School News	6
Sports	7
Obituary.....	8

Obituary

- Phyllis Kramer

Mobile Food Pantry in Thomas County

Hunger is as real in farming communities as it is in urban food deserts. Across the Heartland, thousands of children, families and seniors struggle with regularly obtaining the food they need to be healthy. Food Bank for the Heartland is committed to helping those in need in rural communities.

Food Bank for the Heartland is hosting its second mobile food pantry in

NRD Director Filing Open For The 2018 Election

NRDs are local government entities with broad responsibilities to protect our natural resources. Major Nebraska river basins form the NRD boundaries, enabling districts to respond best to local needs.

Under Nebraska state law, NRDs are charged with: erosion prevention and control, prevention of damages from flood water and sediment, flood prevention and control, soil conservation, water supply for any beneficial uses, development, management, utilization, and conservation of groundwater and surface water, pollution control, solid waste disposal and drainage, drainage improvement and channel rectification, development and management of fish and wildlife habitat, development and management of recreational and park facilities as well as forestry and range management.

Upper Loup NRD is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors. The district is divided into 5

sub-districts; two board members are elected from each sub-district, and one at-large member is elected. Candidates for sub-district board positions must reside in the sub-district for which they are elected; the at-large board member must reside within the boundaries of the ULNRD. Directors serve four-year terms, with half of the Board seats up for election every two years.

The ULNRD Board of Directors is responsible for reviewing operations, aiding in establishing District and conservation policies, voting on policies, and adopting the budget. The Board holds regularly scheduled monthly meetings on the second Thursday of every month at the NRD office in Thedford.

Citizens interested in serving on the Upper Loup Board of Directors must file with their local County Clerk by the following dates: Incumbents February 15, 2018 and non-incumbents March 1, 2018.

ing the food they receive. No identification is required to receive food.

Food Bank for the Heartland’s mobile pantry program delivers food directly to communities that have a high need but limited food resources. The one-day distribution is free, and in Thomas County will include spaghetti, tomato sauce, canned pork and beans, cereal, pancake mix and

(Continued on page 8)

Nutter Retires From Pioneer Memorial Rest Home

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Picture & Story
By: Gerri Peterson

Not many people can say by retirement that they spent their entire career working at the same place. But Marian Nutter can.

After 43.5 years, Nutter retired from Pioneer Memorial Rest Home this week.

A Thedford High School graduate, Nutter graduated with her RN diploma from St. Francis School of Nursing in Grand Island in 1974.

She married her high school sweetheart, Mark Nutter in 1973, and they moved back to Thedford when she was done with school.

She’d barely settled in when Pioneer Memorial’s Director of Nursing at the time, Harriett Stull, called her to ask when she could start work.

“I don’t think I ever even filled out an application,” Nutter said with a laugh.

The rest is history.

She began working as a staff nurse at the nursing home, then as a nurse at the hospital when it reopened, then back to the nursing home when the hospital permanently closed. She was the Director of Nursing for eight and a half years and retired as the MDS (Minimum Data Set) Coordinator.

A MDS is an assessment required by the government on each resident. Nutter has done the MDS part of her job for over 30 years.



Marian Nutter retired from Pioneer Memorial Rest Home after 43.5 years of service.

“I like doing the MDS and looking at everything with a resident. You look at the whole person.”

Nutter said nursing was something she always wanted to do.

“I never thought about doing anything different,” she said.

“This job has really been a blessing to me. This facility is a blessing to the community and the surrounding communities. Besides providing jobs, it also allows the residents to be close to home and their families.

Getting to know the residents and their families has enriched my life and I’ve learned a lot. Every year I learn something more.”

Nutter has seen many changes in her career field over the years, with one of the biggest changes being more and more paperwork and regulations.

“We used to just concentrate on taking good care of our residents, now all of the paperwork is taking time away from that.”

Nutter isn’t going to miss her 33 mile one-way commute to work. She plans to spend her extra time doing more of what she enjoys - following grandkids, gardening, sewing and reading. She’ll also be asked to help Mark out more on their ranch.

They have six grandchildren, from a high school freshman to a second grader.

Their daughter Tricia Buell lives with her husband Chad on his family’s ranch near Rose, Nebraska, and teaches in Bassett, Nebraska, as the Media Specialist and Librarian. They have four children.

Their other daughter, Michelle McIntosh, lives with her husband Brent north of Thedford on his family’s ranch and she

owns the Country Salon in Thedford. They have two children.

Nutter said while she is looking forward to retirement, she will miss the staff and the residents and their families.

“I work with some really great people. I’ve made friends in the community and gotten to know people that I wouldn’t have known otherwise.”

“She’s been the glue that has held this place together for the past few years,” RN Supervisor Belinda Coble said. “She’s been my mentor and it’s hard to see her go.”

Coble will take over Nutter’s position. Previously Coble was the Assistant Director of Nurses for almost 15 years under Nutter.

One of Coble’s first memories of Nutter was when Coble was a new, nervous nurse, in the dining area.

“I was standing there not really knowing what to do and Marian came over to me and said, here, if you need something to do, these trays need picked up.”

Trying to stay busy has always been Nutter’s way.

“When I grew up, it was always all hands on deck,” Nutter said. “Everyone worked until it was done, whether or not it was your job or not.”

So that’s what she has tried to instill in other nurses.

It seems fitting that one of Nutter’s last days at Pioneer Memorial was Christmas Day.

Working the holidays has never bothered Nutter.

“It’s all about the mindset. You come in saying you’re going to have a good day. Big deal that it’s a holiday. The residents live here every day. It all comes back to the residents.”

Upper Loup NRD’s efforts to decrease Eastern Red Cedar Invasion

The Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) is a tree native to much of Nebraska and is one of the few conifer species that grows well in our sandy soils. Historically, cedar windbreaks have been used in the Sandhills as protection around houses and as protection for livestock from storms. However, it has been rapidly expanding into locations and habitats where it was formerly rare or unknown. When this happens, it can threaten livestock production, grassland wildlife, water resources as well as public safety from wildfires. Thus, becoming an increasing ecological and economic issue.

Cattle production declines as much as 75 percent after grasslands are invaded by cedar. Cedars shade out grasses beneath their canopies, directly removing grass available to cattle, while also reducing grass health and species diversity.

Cedar invasion also affects the ability to reduce the risk of, and suppress, wildfires.

Cedar invasion reduces water availability because of its increased water use and interception compared to

(Continued on page 8)

Call Competes In Bull Fighters Only At Vegas

This Story Is Being Reprinted With Permission From Bullfighters Only & The Hooker County Tribune
By: Ted Harbin

A year ago, Zach Call had to battle through the Wild Card Round in order to advance to the Las Vegas Championship’s final round.

He managed to avoid it this year, posting a solid 79-point fight to win his section Wednesday afternoon during the first of two Preliminary Rounds of the Bullfighters Only Las Vegas Championship at the Tropicana Casino and Resort.

“I had a solid little bull from Brett Hall’s string, and he gave me an honest shot to win it,” said Call, who will be joined on Championship Saturday by the other two winners from Wednesday, Jimmy Essary and Cody Emerson.

Now the three bullfighters will await Thursday’s second Preliminary Round and Friday’s Wild Card to see who else will make it to the final day of the 2017 season.

“I think having a little bit of a break from it is going to be the key to being healthy for the short round,” said Call of Mullen. “I’m a little sore, but not bad.”

Call had the best bullfight in his three-man bout, but he still was a bit overwhelmed by his



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TODD BREWER PHOTO

Zach Call competing at the Bullfighters Only Las Vegas Championships at the Tropicana Casino and Resort.

bull, which hooked him and pushed him into the panels. Call rebounded and was able to finish his bout well.

“I think there were a couple of mistakes I had that hurt my score,” he said. “I thought when I threw that fake that I should have had him make a round with me. Getting hooked confirmed that.”

He hopes to clean up those mistakes by the time the final round arrives at 2 p.m. Saturday.

“It’s just about having a confident mind when you walk into the arena,” Call said. “That’s so important, especially when you’re talking about these bulls we have here.”

When he wasn’t in the arena, Call watched many of the top young bullfighters in the game as they battled through last week’s qualifiers. The entire five days of BFO action has been world class.

“We’ve sold out the crowd almost every day, and the location at the

Tropicana and being on the strip is awesome,” he said. “There have been some handy kids, and you can see the ones that are ready to be at this level. The bulls we’re running at this event are a little stronger than what we’re used to, but this is the next level.

“The guys that get up after taking a hooking will eventually figure it out, because they want to be out there.”