

Aquarium Makes A Splash At Thomas County Library



COURTESY PHOTOS

Pictured above are the afternoon preschool students who visit the library. Children enjoying the fish are, Luke McIntosh, standing next to aquarium. Back row, l-r: Vinney Johnson, Trevor Dykstra, Danieca Burk and Maciel Vargas. Front row, l-r: Grady Licking, Mary Licking and Emerson Pettit.

Mike and Janice Hodges recently donated their aquarium to the Thomas County Library. The cabinet was made for them by Roy Licking and they wanted to donate it to the library so that the children of the area who go into check out books can also enjoy the fish.

"The kids love seeing the fish at the library," stated Marcy Andersen, Thomas County Librarian. "This one had a ship that the wheel turns and makes bubbles for the fish. The kids think that is SO COOL!"



The morning preschool students posing with the newly installed aquarium are, l-r: Paisley Ray, Hugh York, Cinch Reiser and Jasper York.

Program Set for Cow-Calf Conference in Goodland

"Succeeding in a Challenging Beef Industry" is the focus of the 2017 Tri-State Cow-Calf Symposium and Trade Show scheduled for Friday, February 10 in Goodland, Kansas.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. MST with the program from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Goodland Elks Lodge. The biennial symposium is held in conjunction with a trade show. Attendees will have time to visit with industry representatives and view their materials throughout the day.

The event rotates between Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado and is a joint effort between K-State Research & Extension, University of Nebraska Extension and Colorado State University Extension. The goal is to provide a venue to share both research data and ideas that can help producers be more successful in contributing to the world's food supply and to their local communities.

The program begins with a discussion by John Holman, K-State cropping systems agronomist, on integrating crop and livestock systems. A panel of producers will follow and share their experience with this process. Panel members will include representatives from Maddux Cattle Company, Wauneta, Nebraska, and CSF Farms, Siebert, Colorado.

With cow-calf producers dealing with higher costs and tighter margins than a few years ago, Erin Laborie, University of Nebraska beef systems extension educator, will share ideas on the use of



KENDRA CUTLER PHOTO

technology to improve cowherd efficiency.

Attendees will learn about the "U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef" from a producer and roundtable member, Debbie Lyons-Blythe, Blythe Family Farms, White City, Kansas, and Clayton Huseman, roundtable member and Kansas Livestock Association executive director-feedlot division.

"Sustainability isn't just a buzz word that is the current focus of our society. It is an important topic; one that farmers and ranchers take very seriously," said Lyons-Blythe.

Chuck Schroeder, University of Nebraska Rural Futures Institute executive director, will talk about the "Future of Rural America: Opportunities and Challenges." The Palisade, Nebraska, native has served in a number of leadership roles including the founding CEO of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and president and executive director of the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Schroeder was also involved with his family farming, ranching and cattle feeding enter-

prise, Schroeder Cattle Co., for about 30 years until it sold in 2004.

The program includes a panel discussion among producers charged with discussing how they are diversifying profit centers in their businesses. Panel members will include Gary Teague, Teague Diversified, Fort Morgan, Colorado and Ron Maifeld, St. Francis, Kansas.

Pre-registration is \$30 if paid by February 5. Registration will be available at the door for \$35. Included in the registration fee are trade show activities, coffee and rolls, meal and presenter handouts. Complete program information and registration forms are available online at www.sunflower.K-State.edu or www.KSUBeef.org.

For more information, contact Marty Fear, Sunflower Extension District livestock agent, at 785-332-3171 or Dr. Sandy Johnson, NW Area livestock specialist, at 785-462-6281.

The program is sponsored by K-State Research and Extension, Farm Credit of Western Kansas, Bank West of Kansas, Western State Bank, The Bank and First National Bank.

Sandhills/Thedford holds 'Black Out'



JAMIE TAYLOR PHOTO

Black Out Cancer was held Friday, January 13 in Dunning when the Sandhills-Thedford Knights and Lady Knights hosted the Anselmo-Merna Coyotes in basketball action. T-shirts were sold, with the funds raised going to support the 20th Annual Cattlemen's Ball, which will be held June 2 & 3, 2017 at the Johnson Ranch near Anselmo. This year's theme is '4 A Cure'. Pictured above are the Sandhill-Thedford and Anselmo-Merna players, and community members with their Black Out Cancer T-shirts.

Gibbons graduates from basics

COURTESY PHOTO

Ashley Gibbons has graduated from Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Academy in San Antonio, Texas. She was home for Christmas and spent time with her family.

Ashley is the daughter of Wayne and Julie Gibbons, and the granddaughter of Beth Gibbons, all of Crawford.



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Obituary

- Kathleen A. Bowdish

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Calling All Babies Of 2016



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Year In Review Addition

An addition needs to be made in the Herald's 2016 "Year in Review."

Thomas County said good-bye to Laurence Bernard "Bud" Pearson, 91, who passed away July 21, 2016. Bud and his father, DB Pearson, put their heads together and developed the first "automatic" head gate. A full line of cattle handling equipment was the outcome. Pearson Livestock Equipment is a brand that is recognized and sold around the world and continues to be known for its high quality, innovative design and reasonable price. Bud moved the factory from the ranch in 1963 to the east side of Thedford. He was very active in his community. Bud

was a lifelong member of the Bethel Assembly of God Church in Thedford and he was a 70-year-member of he Thedford American Legion. He enjoyed life and helped many others do the same. Bud was known for his great stories, ranging from Boy Scout canoe trips to Canada, elk hunts to Colorado, Army MP stories in Hawaii, cowboy experiences on the ranch, flying airplanes, golfing, prairie fires, stock show experiences and tricks played on others while working the booth and annual Pearson Livestock Equipment employee campouts at Lake McConaughy. He was laid to rest in Hillcrest Cemetery, Thedford, with military honors.