

Annual tradition continues at Seneca

Some people believe the season of giving begins at Thanksgiving. For a few members of the Seneca United Church of Christ, it began a month earlier.

On the last Sunday in October, members and a few of their friends served a turkey dinner with all the trimmings to an estimated 250 people who came to enjoy good food and fellowship.

LaVina Sevier, in her 80's, remembers moving to Seneca as a young bride in 1962. She immediately began helping with the annual tradition that had been going on long before she came.

Sevier became friends with another young ranch wife, Nadine Andersen, who now resides in the Pioneer Care Home in Mullen.

The two, after all their predecessors were unable, carried the load of organizing, shopping and splitting up the cooking duties between the few volunteers.

Sevier turned the duty over the last few years to Donna Reynolds of Mullen. Reynolds is very adept at large meals. She has catered brandings and area conventions for years.

Sevier is still present the day of the feast - mainly at the sink doing dishes, letting the younger legs do the heavy labor.

"The shopping list varies slightly: nine whole turkeys at 20 pounds each, plus some quarters, cooking split between the volunteers as over 80 pounds of potatoes are peeled, cooked, and mashed. There are a lot of salads, all homemade by many people, as well as the homemade dressing (stuffing), gravy and desserts too numerous to count. The only items purchased besides the table service and drinks were the rolls and corn," Reynolds said.

Reynolds herself was not present the day of the dinner as she was home recuperating from knee replacement.

People come from miles around, and families come back from out-of-state to enjoy the food and reconnect with old friends they see only once a year at Seneca.

It's even become something of a yearly milestone for some clubs in the area. The diverse members of the Lone Valley Club know when their October meeting is. Doris Starr and her husband, Daryl, always host the monthly meeting at their ranch following the dinner.

Along with the meal, a bazaar is held with items brought in by volunteers. Specialty items every year include bagged nuts for holiday baking and jars of homemade horseradish - 108 pint jars this year.

Making the horseradish

is a story in itself as it begins a couple of weeks prior to the dinner. Members congregate at Sevier's home with a hundred pounds or so of horseradish dug up from their ranch or from around the Seneca community. They clean, scrape, cut, chop, mix and cry to get this treasure made.

Seneca straddles the time zone line from CT to MT, and the food line begins at 11:00 a.m. MT.

The line stretches across the old gym floor, and by the time those who live in CT are done eating, Mullen residents start coming after their church services.

This is the only day of fund-raising for the members of the Seneca UCC. Considering the time, effort and labor involved, it is indeed the kick-off event for the season of giving in this Sandhills community.

Public hearing held on wind turbine zoning amendment

The Cherry County Planning Commission met November 6, and due to the number in attendance, the meeting was moved to the Cherry County Courtroom.

Among items on the agenda was a public hearing on the amendment to zoning regulations filed by Wayne Eatinger.

The amendment was submitted in February of 2018 and would repeal section 613 clauses in the county zoning regulations and replace it with language indicating that only personal use turbines of 80' or a lesser height, would be allowed in Cherry County.

Eatinger, a Brownlee rancher, gave his reasons for filing the amendment and why he felt the change was necessary. He also submitted documents he had prepared as testimony for the public hearing, including commentary that would be discussed later by other residents.

Written testimony in addition to that submitted by Wayne Eatinger was received and recorded by Jessica Coyle, zoning administrator, from Craig Andresen, LeRoy Semin, Carolyn Semin, Gary Phipps, Wayne Eatinger, Glenda Phipps, Eve Millar, Tyler Rath, Craig Miles, Dave Hamilton, Bob Stetter, Lana Peterson, Ann Warren, Charlene Reiser-McCormick, Cleve Trimble, and Wanda Simonson.

Those testifying in the open meeting for the amendment were Wayne Eatinger, Craig Andresen, LeRoy and Carolyn

Semin, Mike Young, Wanda Simonson, Joy Miles, Glenna Phipps, Eve Millar, Ann Warren, Craig Miles, Jim Ducey, Tyler Rath, Rick Webner, Gary Phipps, Melanie Coffman, Ronda Kenner, Bob Stetter, Sherri Bacon, Cleve Trimble, Brock Moreland, Charlene Reiser-McCormick, and Jim and Gail Herrmann.

Dave Hamilton spoke against the amendment.

The public hearing ran from 4:30 p.m. until 6:10 p.m.

Those speaking to prohibit industrial wind turbines and for the amendment reiterated what had previously been stated at other hearings including preserving the unique Sandhills, avoiding impact on tourism and recreation, impact on communities and landowners, effect of turbines on animals and people, conflict of interest by Cherry County Commissioners and waiting until a new commissioner is in office, an assessment compiled on the potential impact to the endangered whooping crane, a drop in land values due to wind turbines, opposition to the R-project and the need for it for the wind turbines, health and livestock problems and negative economic development impact, decommissioning of the turbines, how turbines will affect the golf course, and how the turbines do not bring in long-term jobs.

Cattleman Bob Stetter, who has been an activist at many public hearings at Valentine, said he

would never take any amount of money for turbines on any property he ever owned.

"Cherry County is cattle country and not a place for industrial wind turbines," he said.

It has been stated there are two visions for the county. One future would mean no turbines in the county and the other would result in wind turbine facilities and associated industrial power lines crossing the land.

The Cherry County planning and zoning board voted unanimously to table the vote on the amendment to Section 613 until the next meeting scheduled for December 4, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Cherry County Courtroom. A public hearing on the amendment to Section 613 filed by William Weller will be held at this time and discussion and action taken on amendment to Section 613 filed by Wayne Eatinger.

Weller's amendment would change the wording in the zoning regulations from utility grade wind energy conversion systems to industrial grade wind energy conversion systems. This amendment was submitted July 19, 2018.

Understanding Your Ag Taxes Better

An introductory course covering Schedule F is scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at the

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Honoring Our Heroes



JAMIE TAYLOR PHOTO

Dixie Hoffman presents a flag to Cinch Reiser as part of the Veterans Day program at Thedford Public Schools.

Kennedy Part Of Young Cattlemen's Conference Class

Nebraska Cattlemen announced the 2019 class of the Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC). YCC nominees were accepted from throughout the state and selected by committee to participate in the two-year leadership program.

The Class of 2019 includes: Quentin Dailey, Lexington; Tony Elting, Hebron; Marc Hanson, Fairbury; Kat Kennedy, Purdum; Clayton Krause, Hemingford; Dane Miller, Wisner; Grant Potadle, Herman; Misty Stauffer, Ashland; Brock Terrell, Hay Springs; Janessa Updike, St. Paul

"There was an outstanding set of applicants for the YCC program; making the discussion process difficult," stated Ken Herz, Nebraska Cattlemen Vice President. "I am looking forward to working with this group of young leaders as they participate in the YCC program. The beef industry will remain strong with the next generation of Nebraska Cattlemen gaining industry knowledge and building their leadership skills."

The goal of the Young Cattlemen's Conference is to expose young and emerging leaders to a variety of areas of the beef industry and provide them with necessary leadership tools. During the two-year program, YCC members are provided training on professional communication, given the opportunity to tour multiple Nebraska-based agriculture production facilities and learn to navigate state agencies and legislative processes.

All of this could not happen without generous sponsorship from Farm Credit Services of America and Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation.

Raths Attend Western Junior Livestock Show



COURTESY PHOTO

Tyler Rath is pictured above with his Reserve Grand Champion Breeding Heifer, Eos, at the 81st Annual Western Junior Livestock Show in Rapid City, South Dakota.

The Western Junior Livestock Show was held on October 9 through the 13th in Rapid City, South Dakota, at the Central States Fairgrounds. Four-Hers from North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado traveled to compete in the Livestock Show, Livestock Judging and Consumer Science. The Western Junior Livestock Show was organized in 1937, and is a volunteer based 4-H youth organization that is geared towards helping young people become self-reliant, productive, contributing members of the agricultural industry.

Tyler and Chase Rath exhibited this year in the WJLS's 81st Livestock Show. Tyler Rath received a blue ribbon in Senior Showmanship. Tyler won his division in the Breeding Heifer Class with his heifer, Eos, and continued on to win Reserve Champion Breeding Heifer overall.

Tyler was also awarded the Stan Allen Memorial Scholarship. The Stan Allen Scholarship was created in memory of a man who was a "dedicated supporter and advocate for kids in agriculture, sharing his love of livestock and passion for animal husbandry with all."

Chase Rath exhibited this year as well and received Reserve Champion in Senior Showmanship and a blue ribbon in his division of the Market Heifer Class with his heifer, Abigail.

Both, Tyler and Chase, received the Top Herdsmanship Award and plan to attend again next year.

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News Briefs

The Thomas County Library has been holding Storytime Hour at the Library in Thedford. The children have been reading new and exciting books, along with lots of fun playing Bingo to learn their upper and lower case letters and their numbers.

They celebrated Halloween by wearing their costumes, and for Thanksgiving they made hand-print turkeys.

Storytime is held every Monday morning at 10:00 a.m. at the Library in Thedford.