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Public invited to new fire hall open house



COURTESY PHOTO

The new Thedford Fire Hall has been completed and volunteers are in the process of moving equipment to the new location on Highway 2. Everyone in the area is invited to a community appreciation supper and open house, Friday, November 10, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Thedford Firemen and EMT's will be serving soup and sandwiches at the new fire hall. Stop in and enjoy a nice warm bowl of soup, sandwiches, and dessert, while touring the building.

Thedford Fire & Rescue squads are so grateful to Thedford and the surrounding communities for the support that has made this five-year building project become a reality. If you are not able to attend the open house on Friday, soup and sandwiches will be served Saturday, November 11, and Friday and Saturday, November 17 and 18 for area hunters and the public. All are welcome!

Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame Nominations due December 31

Time is quickly running out for the public to submit nominations for the 2018 Nebraska Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame. Nominations are due by Dec. 31, 2017.

Started in 2006, the Sandhills Cowboy Hall of Fame continues to honor the men and women who have made a lasting contribution to the Sandhills and our cowboy way of

life.

Nomination forms are available by contacting any Board Member or Executive Secretary Rod Palmer at Box 127, Ainsworth, Nebraska or calling 402-387-2212.

Nominees must be 50 years or older or deceased.

The nominee must fit the following criteria:

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Thedford man not seriously injured in train accident



THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PHOTOS

Zachary Call of Thedford was driving this 1994 Dodge pickup when it collided with a Burlington Northern train, 2.7 miles east of Thedford.

Zachary R. Call, 25, escaped serious injuries in an accident Tuesday, October 31 at approximately 10:40 a.m.

Thomas County Sheriff Gary Eng said Call was southbound on a private drive into the Flying A Ranch when his vehicle was struck by an east-bound BSNF train. Call was taken to Great Plains Health in North Platte by Thedford Rescue.

Two horses in the trailer were killed in the accident.

Call was later released from the hospital and sus-



Call's 1993 horse trailer following the accident on Tuesday, October 31.

tained cuts and bruises. The 1994 Dodge pickup were a total loss.

Birthday Celebration Benefits Thedford

TERRI LICKING

Shirley Whitaker of Thedford, recently celebrated her 80th birthday. Her six children and other family members came to town, not only to help her enjoy this milestone birthday, but to also finish the wooden carving from an old tree she received a couple of years ago. The carving sits outside her front door and it has been enjoyed by those driving through town. Shirley also enjoys looking at the carving from 'the inside out.'

Shirley's daughter Lucy Thierer of North Platte, explained the beginning of the project. "Mom had a big old cottonwood that had to come down. I had seen some of the Rick Burgess wood carvings around North Platte. I asked Rick if he could come and perhaps do a carving. I asked for an eagle with wings spread, but the tree could not handle that, so he made an eagle with a fish at the base."

The carving took over a week to complete, but the finished landscape that really enhances it was finished by the family when they came to help their mother and grandmother celebrate her birthday. Family members came from Colorado, Arizona, Missouri, and Texas, as well as Nebraska to mark her special day.

Son, Dan and wife, Jeanie (Wernke) came from Bellevue, and he and his siblings, along with Lucy, include Barb Prickett of Colorado Springs, Jeannie Hartmann of North Platte, Mike of Elgin, TX and Jeff of Colon, NE. They all agreed they could not have gotten the project completed without the help of Louie Herbaugh and the landscaping rock he provided.

"It was causing problems to mow around, so we decided to rock the area." Shirley always has a well-manicured lawn with a menagerie of lawn ornaments so a few deer around the eagle's base added completeness. She has had many people stop to inquire about the carving or just get out and take photos.

Visitors to the State 4-H Camp in the forest near Halsey has another carving completed by Burgess. It is a bear holding a 4-H clover.

The eagle carving sits between the Thedford Art Gallery on the east and the Thomas Co. Historical Society on the west. Ewoldt's Grocery, is across the street south and has seen some positive economic impact because of the carving.

On the block south of the Gallery, on the southwest corner of the courthouse square sits the Haumann sisters' historical marker and the life-size bronze of the sisters done by Linda Egle.

The community of Thedford is grateful and appreciative to the Whitaker family for this 'present' that will be enjoyed by many for years to come. Happy 80th birthday, Shirley!



Whitaker family members stand with the eagle in front of their mother's home in Thedford, l-r: Jeff Whitaker, Dan Whitaker, Lucy Thierer, Shirley Whitaker, Barb Prickett, Mike Whitaker and Jeannie Hartmann.

Annual Foundation Banquet Set

The Thedford Area Community Foundation Fund (TACFF) board has announced the date of its annual fundraiser. This year's event will be held Saturday, November 18, at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. The night will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour and supper at 6:30 p.m.

There will be no passing of the hat this year. "This was a good money maker, but it has run its course," stated one of the board members. Some of the items up for sale during the live auction will include a trailer to haul a go-cart or fencing supplies, guns, cattle feed, and vacation packages.

Tickets are \$30 per person and can be purchased from any of the board members, which includes: Marcy Andersen, Bob Broweleit, Dixie Hoffman, Rose Gift, Richard Jameson, Jay Jones, Russell Licking, Shirley McIntosh or Jamie Taylor. Any of the above members will also take donations of items for the live and silent auctions.

The funds raised go towards the betterment of the area organizations in Thedford, Halsey, Seneca and southern Cherry County at Brownlee. One of the projects TACFF is looking at is a community center, which has been high on the list of pursuits from the surveys they have conducted.

For the betterment of our area, come and support the Thedford Area Community Foundation Fund on Saturday, November 18, 2017. Working together, we all benefit.

