

THOMAS COUNTY

# Herald

Your Source Of  
News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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## Nebraska byways turn 20

Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway (SJSB) held their annual conference Saturday, January 26, at the Senior Center in Cairo. This year's conference theme was "Grass and Water: Roots of the Sandhills," depicting two segments vital to the region's vast cattle herds. These herds may be seen along the 272-mile stretch of the byway from Grand Island to Alliance on Nebraska Highway 2.

Water and grass were also a part of the program. Grass was celebrated Friday, January 25, at the Grand Theater in Grand Island with the showing of the documentary, "Ocean of Grass" by Georg Joutras. There were 837 in attendance on the three-night run from Friday to Sunday.

Joutras, a professional photographer from Lincoln, became friends with Laron McGinn, an artist with works gracing homes and galleries around the world. They met when both were exhibiting at the Burkholder Project in Lincoln.

McGinn's family ranch is in Custer County. Some of the ranch holdings may be seen along the SJSB. McGinn invited Joutras to the ranch and after almost three years, a 240-page book that precluded the movie, and 10 hours of film whittled down to 84 minutes, documented the story of life on a Sandhills ranch. The film debuted at the Kansas City film festival, and in June, the Nebraska premier was shown at the Tiffany Theater in Broken Bow. The film has been shown in cities across the state of Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming. Over 28 media reviews from newspaper to TV segments are highlighted on the website.

"The byways in Nebraska turn 20 years old this year, and hosting this film located on our byway helped kick off the 20th anniversary in style," said Charity Adams, SJSB treasurer who was instrumental in visiting with Joutras and the Grand Theater Foundation Board to secure the film.

Joutras was to have been the keynote speaker during the convention but was unable to attend. Comments were sent to Adams via email and read.

An annual business meeting and lunch was held during the convention and catered by the local restaurant, The Vault.

Tammy Hendrickson, curator of the Custer County Museum at Broken Bow, highlighted water. Through the Smithsonian 'Museum on Main Street (MoMS) program,' the museum hosted their WaterWays exhibit during August.



COURTESY

**Pictured above l-r: Linda Teahon, Terri Licking, SJSB 2019 president, and Kathie Martindale receiving the award for the Sandhills Heritage Museum.**

They were also only one of six Nebraska sites that incorporated students in the exhibit. A grant, written by Hendrickson and approved, allowed her to approach county schools to do educational videos on water. Students from Ansley, Sargent, Broken Bow and Anselmo-Merna produced videos with topics ranging from irrigation water to the recreational water of the Calamus and Little Blue rivers, as well as showing the importance of the Loup River system and the Ogallala aquifer.

Sandhills Heritage Museum board chair, Kathie Martindale, gave a presentation on the new museum in Dunning. The museum will celebrate its second year this year, but was 20 years in the making.

Award presentations concluded the conference.

The 2018 Individual Friend of the Byway award went to Kevin Howard, past tourism director of Alliance. Howard is now tourism director for Cheyenne County and calls Sidney home.

The 2018 Business of the Byway went to Security State Bank of Ansley. The community opened up and hosted the November meeting of the SJSB and showcased the revitaliza-

tion they are doing in their community. Terri Licking presented the award to Bryan Trimble, bank president, on February 1.

The Byway Community Enhancement award was presented to Sandhills Heritage Museum of Dunning for outstanding working in preserving history of their area. At their ribbon cutting in August, Governor Pete Ricketts, his wife and their two children were on hand to help celebrate the grand opening.

Officers and board of directors for the SJSB for 2019 include Terri Licking, Thedford, president; Bill Burdett, Cairo, vice president; Twila Phillips, Mullen, secretary and grant writer; Charity Adams, Cairo, treasurer. Joining officers on the board are Mitch and Patty Glidden, Mullen; Linda Lacy, past president, Ashby; and new directors, Linda Teahon, Dunning and Kathie Martindale, Brewster.

The SJSB is a 501c3 and holds monthly meetings at various locations on the byway on the second Wednesday of every month. February's meeting was via Zoom with Ravenna Chamber as hosts. If you would like to attend meetings please let one of the officers know and provide your email.

## Sandhills Cattle Association tours three counties



**Pictured above is the Starr family from Cedar Top Ranch north of Ringgold, l-r: Eldon and Kathy Starr, Scott and Raberta Starr and their daughters, Asa and Addison Starr.**

Story & Pictures  
Terri Licking

Sandhills Cattle Association held their 28th annual ranch tour, Saturday, January 19, and toured the counties of Lincoln, Logan and McPherson.

The morning began at Berger's Herdmasters ranch located between North Platte and Stapleton. Coffee and rolls were served compliments of Farm Credit Services of North Platte.

SCA president, Bonnie Downing of Dunning, welcomed the 30 plus who braved the cold to attend. She also introduced Michelle Henry, new office assistant, and helper and photographer for the day. Henry is the daughter of Mike and Gladys (Daigger) Henry of North Platte.

Loren and Peggy Berger met while attending Kansas State University. Loren hails from Kansas, and Peggy from South Dakota. They now own the ranch they began leasing and have expanded the operation. The couple will celebrate 45 years of marriage this spring. Loren realized early on that offering the Simmental-Angus composite to commercial cattlemen was an alternative to straight bred bulls and could simplify a breeding

program, as well as provide value in heterosis, superior quality of an offspring with traits from both parents.

Their 25th annual Berger's Herdmaster bull sale was held February 9, 2019. This will be their last sale as they have leased their land and livestock to their longtime herdsman, Tyrell and Deandra Rousey.

"Peggy and I grew this ranch from the ground up. Tyrell began here as an intern while yet in college 15 years ago. He has a keen eye for cattle and will continue the Simmental-Angus genetics in 2020 at their first Rousey Simmental-Angus sale. We will still help, but will enjoy more travel time to see our grandchildren," Loren Berger said.

Tyrell went on to explain the transition process that has been two years in the making.

The SCA attendees enjoyed the warmth of the Berger's sale barn/shop building. The building easily could hold their sale, but they have sold their bulls at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, as it has been a better fit for their customers. Following the ranch history, Loren and Tyrell led visitors to see some of their sale bulls up close and view their calving facility.

The group traveled

gravel roads for a short drive to Lincoln County Feedyard, LLC. Steve Scholz, manager/owner gave a two-hour in-depth look at the 40,000 head capacity feedlot.

"We have 60 to 70 employees who do it all whether it is the construction phase or the feeding phase. Everything is in house," Scholz said.

He led the group to the year-old data facility, one of the largest, if not the largest in the United States.

"We bought the Smartfeed brand because it is made in America. It measures total daily feed intake of the calves on an individual basis, with a scale around the water trough as well. What makes this facility state of the art is that other than the cold Mother Nature puts on the animal, other weather variables are eliminated, including snow, wind and rain, as this area is under cover."

Cattle can get out in the sunshine if they desire, as it is open on the east side.

Other highlights Scholz took the group to was the new hydraulic sorting facility.

"No one has to get in with the calves and get kicked or run over. The chute is all hydraulic and measures the animal

See SCA Tour Page 8

## Twelve acres burn at Bessey Ranger Dt.

The Halsey and Thedford Volunteer Fire Departments were called to assist with a human caused fire at the Bessey Ranger District, Saturday, February 2.

The fire was noticed at approximately 8:00 p.m. The fire departments were excellent partners

assisting forest service personnel equipped with type 6 engine response and vehicles equipped with sprayers.

Approximately 12 1/2 acres on the south end of the Bessey Ranger District burned.

### News Briefs

#### Pesticide Training Dates

Certification for private pesticide is needed for landowners buying and applying restricted use pesticides on their land. To register for local trainings, call the UNL-Central Sandhills Area Office at 308-645-2267.

February 19: Logan County Courthouse, Stapleton.

February 21 & March 14: West Central Research-Extension Center, North Platte.

### Notices

- Notice Of Trustee's Sale, Seneca, Nebraska
- Thomas County Delinquent Tax List
- Thomas County Six Year Road Plan Notice
- Thedford Public School Board Of Education Public Notice
- Thomas County Courthouse Lawn Care Bids Wanted
- Board of Equalization Proceedings
- Thomas County Board Of Commissioners Proceedings

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## Teahon Crowned Spelling Champion

Charlsie Teahon, daughter of Tedd and Julie Teahon and a seventh grader at Sandhills Public Schools, is the 2019 Spelling Bee Champion.

Charlsie will be competing in Omaha this spring at the Nebraska State Spelling Bee.

Shelby Schukei, a sixth grader and the daughter of Ed and Tricia Schukei was the runner-up.

Class winners for the annual Spelling Bee, which was held Tuesday, February 5 were:

Second Grade - 1. Braydyn Hickman; 2. Sophia Glidden; 3. Hunter Bray

Third Grade - 1. Paizley Zutavern; 2. Matelyn Zutavern

Fourth Grade - 1. Kallan Cox; 2. Shaylee Milleson; 3. Thatcher Teahon.

Fifth Grade - 1. Rylyn Moody; 2. HayLynn Glidden; 3. Connor Sutton; 4. Peyton Saner.

Sixth Grade - 1. Shelby Schukei; 2. Kyle Cox; 3. Tyson Hickman.



SANDHILLS SCHOOL PHOTO

Seventh Grade - 1. Charlsie Teahon; 2. Rhett McFadden; 3. Zoe Barela; 4. Ella Stithem

Eighth Grade - 1. Emily

Leach; 2. Colin Winkelbauer; 3. Taylor Weber.

Additional pictures may be found inside this issue.