

The Inauguration From a Different Point of View



COURTESY PHOTOS

Thedford fifth and sixth grade students enthralled with the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

The Fifth and Sixth grade students at Thedford Elementary were guests in the preschool classroom on Friday, January 20, to watch the Presidential Inauguration.

"When technology failed, the students came down to the preschool room to finish watching the inauguration," said Mrs. Benscoter. Since the preschool was not having class that day, students had plenty of room.

Mrs. Benscoter was moved at the sincere innocence as the students sang "America The Beautiful" with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

As the inauguration continued, students stood at attention when the Honorable Roy Blunt was swearing President Trump into office.

"What a humbling moment," said Mrs. Benscoter, "to watch this young generation take part in what will become their future."



Students standing at attention as President Trump is sworn into office.

10th Annual Polar Bear Tank Race Planned

The Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway is excited to announce the upcoming 10th Annual Polar Bear Tank Race. This unique fun-filled event will be held March 3 and 4, 2017, on the Middle Loup River, north of Mullen. Teams of at least four members race down the river in metal stock tanks with winning teams determined by time. The event kicks off on Friday evening with team registration and a soup cook-off. Soup entries from communities along the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway are taste tested by tank racers and winners selected in the categories of taste, theme, and decorations. Communities and/or individuals are encouraged to enter the soup cook-off contest and help welcome visitors to our area!

Tank race teams meet for breakfast on Saturday morning and load buses to be transported to the river where they are launched in a staggered order. There is even a race category for teams of women. For those teams wishing to enjoy a relaxing float down the river, a non-competitive category is also available. A prime rib awards banquet will be held Saturday evening to conclude the event. The Polar Bear Tank Race offers a truly unique, out of the ordinary winter experience, with teams coming from across Nebraska as well as several other states. Registration is on a first come basis so teams are encouraged to register early, as the number of team entries is limited. For more information and registration forms, please contact

event organizer Mitch Glidden at 508-546-2206 or visit the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway website at www.sandhillsjourney.com.

Winter Ball Set For February 11

The Nebraska Cattle-men, Sandhills Affiliate will hold their annual Winter Ball on Saturday, February 11, at the 4-H Lodge in Halsey.

The social is set to begin at 6:00 p.m. with the meal to follow at 7:00 p.m.

A dance featuring the Sheila Greenland Band will get underway at 9:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$20.00 for members and \$30.00 for non members. for more information contact Tessa Quittner at 508-834-3380 or Craig Miles at 508-748-2297.

New Year, New Members



The Thedford Public Schools Board of Education members are pictured above. New members, Jay Jones and Matt Blackford, were sworn in at the January 17 meeting. Pictured, l-r: Jay Jones, Steve Ahlstrom, Dixie Hoffman, Johnny Mike Lee, Bridget Licking and Matt Blackford.

*Photos & Story By:
Terri Licking*

Thedford Public Schools held their first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, January 17, at Thedford High School. They said good-bye to Ronda Huamann who had been on the elementary school board prior to the consolidation into one school board. She has been a member, between the two boards, for over 20 years.

Two new members were sworn in by Superintendent Eggert to complete the six-member board. Jay Jones, Thedford and Matt Blackford, Brownlee, were elected for a four year term in the November election. Bridget Licking was re-elected and begins her second term on the board.

Officers for 2017 are Bridget Licking, president; Johnny Mike Lee, vice-president; Steve Ahlstrom, secretary; and Dixie Hoffman, remains treasurer.

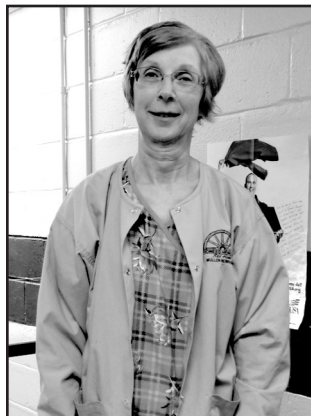
Committee members are: Board Policy - Licking and Hoffman; Safety - Jones and Lee; and Legislative - Ahlstrom and Blackford. Since there is consolidation of sports between Thedford and Sandhills at Dunning, two members from each

board attend co-op meetings to bring pertinent information back to the board. Ahlstrom and Lee are the Thedford representatives.

Some of the business of the evening included maintaining Security First Bank and *Thomas County Herald* as the official financial institution and official newspaper for the school.

Mrs. Jamie Taylor, business teacher, agreed and was approved to move from assistant volleyball coach to head coach for the fall 2017 term. Current head coach, Shawn Harvey, Sandhills school, is retiring from coaching due to health reasons. Taylor will seek out her assistant from the Sandhills school as that is the policy for all of the Sandhills-Thedford Knights sports. Coaches will be one from each district.

Ahlstrom and Lee did bring to their fellow board members discussion on having a joint elementary field day with Sandhills. The S/T Knights athletic director is Thedford principal, Jim York, who answered questions, but remained neutral. After some discussion and weigh-in



Retiring Board Of Education member, Ronda Huamann, will be leaving the board after serving over 20 years.

by all, the consensus was to keep it as is, no joining of the elementary schools for field days.

The board then went into executive session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation.

The next meeting of the Thedford Board of Education will be February 13 at 7:00 p.m. Agenda items must be placed twenty-four hours prior to the meeting by calling the school at 508-645-2614 and visiting with Mr. Eggert. The public is invited to attend all meetings and adheres to the Nebraska Open Meetings statutes.

ULNRD welcomes two new board members

The Upper Loup NRD announces two new directors joining the ULNRD Board of Directors in January of 2017. Connie Cox will be representing Sub-District 4, which includes Blaine County and the southern half of Brown County, and Miles Maseberg will be representing Sub-District 3, which includes Thomas County and the Southeastern corner of Cherry County.

Connie Cox resides 3.5 miles from Purdum on the family ranch. Byron, her husband, served on the ULNRD Board for 24 years. Together, they have three children and six grandchildren. Connie has been working at the Nebraska 4-H Camp for the past 22 years. Her time is devoted to the community and helping people better themselves. When she isn't at camp, she enjoys helping the on the ranch.

Miles Maseberg graduated from Thedford High School in 1997. After high school, he served in the United States Army for 6 ½ years. During this time, he was stationed in Korea, Guatemala, Haiti, Kuwait and Iraq. In 2003, Miles



Connie Cox



Miles Maseberg

was honorably discharged and moved back to become the fifth generation to work on the family ranch. In 2008, he married his wonderful wife, Jessica, who teaches 5th

and 6th grades at Thedford elementary.

Miles looks forward to serving on the Upper Loup NRD's board of Directors.

February 8 or 9 Quicken Workshop for Farm-Ranch record keeping

When commodity prices go down, it's important to keep financial books on the ranch for more than just tax time.

A Quicken Workshop for Farmers and Ranchers will be held at two locations in the Central Sandhills: Wednesday, February 8th at the Thomas County Courthouse, or Thursday, February 9th at the Hooker County Library Basement in Mullen. Each workshop starts at 9 a.m. and will end by noon (CT at Thedford, MT at Mullen).

Nebraska Extension Educators will teach how to use Quicken, a popular commercial record-keeping software package that is user friendly, inexpensive, and (Continued on page 2)

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The people of Custer County are getting prepared for the 2017 Cattle-men's Ball of Nebraska. The 20th annual event will be held June 2 & 3, 2017 at the Lonesome River Ranch, LLC, near Anselmo. See complete story on Page 2.

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