

Forever Stamp Celebrating Nebraska's Sesquicentennial debuted March 1



COURTESY PHOTO

The U.S. Postal Service celebrates the 150th anniversary of Nebraska's statehood with a Forever Stamp. Known for its agricultural, the Cornhusker State became the 37th state of the Union March 1, 1867. The Postal Service traditionally issues commemorative postage stamps at intervals of 50 years from the date of a state's first entry into the Union.

Native Nebraskan photographer, Michael Forsberg, tucked himself among prairie grasses on the riverbank between the cities of Grand Island and Kearney, to capture the stamp image. His photo depicts Sandhill Cranes flying low as they scout for sandbars for nighttime roosts that offer safety from riverbank predators. Annually, more than 500,000 Sandhill Cranes make a stop along the Platte River valley in March and early April for a mid-migratory rest. The timeless spectacle is unique to Nebraska. Forsberg planned weeks in advance for this challenging shot.

The stamp went on sale March 1 at Nebraska Post Offices.

Nebraska Farm Bureau Celebrates Its Centennial; 100 Years of Representing Nebraska Farmers and Ranchers

Farmers, ranchers, and agricultural dignitaries from across the state will help honor the 100th anniversary of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation (NFBF) in a year-long celebration. A new centennial web page is launched and Governor Pete Ricketts issued a proclamation to recognize Nebraska Farm Bureau's 100 years and its ability to unite thousands of Nebraska farm and ranch families under a common banner—doing together what they can't do alone.

"100 years of engagement, 100 years of passion for Nebraska agriculture, and 100 years of representing Nebraska farmers and ranchers, the very people who grow our food, fuel, and fiber. It is not very often that an organization can say they have reached this milestone. I am very excited about our yearlong centennial celebration," said Steve Nelson, NFBF president Feb. 14.

As part of honoring the past, renowned Nebraska sculptor Sondra L. Johnson, of Cambridge, will create a cast bronze bas-relief sculpture to mark the centennial. The sculpture, in the shape of the State of Nebraska, includes the many landscapes and crops found across the state. Looking

to the future, the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation announced the Cornerstone Campaign. "Celebrating Our Past, Building Our Future" is the theme of the fundraising campaign to provide a financial foundation for its programs that promote an understanding of and appreciation for Nebraska agriculture.

"Through our new Foundation, we will equip the next generation of Nebraskans for careers, leadership positions, and consumer roles that intersect with agriculture," said Nelson. "Foundation programs such as Agriculture in the Classroom, student scholarships, and leadership development are an investment in the continued success of agriculture and all of Nebraska."

The cast bronze centennial sculpture and corresponding Cornerstone Campaign donor recognition wall will be installed at the Nebraska Farm Bureau state office in Lincoln. An unveiling is planned for March 30, 2017.

Throughout this centennial year, Nebraska Farm Bureau will hold other statewide events including events for members in Western Nebraska, to be held in Scottsbluff June 8,

Northeast Nebraska Norfolk Aug. 8, and a tailgate will be held prior to the Sept. 22, Nebraska Husker football game against Rutgers in Lincoln. You can find out more about the celebration at our website www.nefb.org/centennial.

"As part of our centennial, Nebraska Farm Bureau continues to look ahead to the next century of possibilities, especially for the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Helping them get excited about agriculture and Nebraska Farm Bureau is vital to strengthening the future of our organization and Nebraska agriculture," Nelson said.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau is a grassroots, statewide organization dedicated to supporting farm and ranch families and working for the benefit of all Nebraskans through a wide variety of educational, service and advocacy efforts. More than 61,000 families across Nebraska are Farm Bureau members, working together to achieve rural and urban prosperity as agriculture is a key fuel to Nebraska's economy. For more information about Nebraska Farm Bureau and agriculture, visit www.nefb.org.

Mulligan named new Stapleton Postmaster

Judy Mulligan will be the new Stapleton Postmaster effective March 18, 2017. Judy and her husband, Mark, live in Thedford.

Mulligan has been with the United States Postal Service for 23 years.

She started her postal career in 1993 as a clerk in Valentine. She carried mail and served as window clerk there. She was appointed Kilgore Postmaster in 1999, Thedford Postmaster in 2013, and Hyannis Postmaster in 2015.

She has also served as officer in charge at post offices in St. Francis, South Dakota, Dupree, South Dakota, and Mullen.

Renee Trosper will remain as head postal clerk at Stapleton, and Jennifer Johnson will continue as postal clerk.

Mulligan's husband Mark, is a fuel delivery truck person for Hodges in Thedford, and he is also a brand inspector. They have three adult sons, Cass on a ranch near Atkinson; Chancey who lives near Valentine; and Caleb who lives in Cozad and is a lineman for Dawson Public Power at Lexington. The Mulligans have one very special grandson, Harper Joseph.

"I am looking forward to serving the community of Stapleton and meeting everyone. I know the post office is a vital part of our lives and I want to continue to provide the best service possible to everyone," Postmaster Mulligan said. "We do plan to relocate closer to the Stapleton area in the future."



COURTESY PHOTO

SJSB Holds Annual Meeting



TERRI LICKING PHOTO

Blowing out the candles on Nebraska's 150th birthday cake, 1-r: SJSB president, Linda Lacy, NE Tourism Commission staff member, Alex Duryea, SJSB director, Charity Adams, and Twila Phillips, SJSB secretary

TERRI LICKING

The Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway (SJSB) held its annual meeting at the Winter's Building in Hyannis recently. The American Legion Post Auxiliary women provided the lunch prior to the annual meeting and the supper for the awards banquet that concluded the evening.

Theme for the day was "Happy 150th Birthday, Nebraska" and was an official 150th event, one of the first in the state.

The SJSB is 272 miles long on Nebraska state Highway 2 from Grand Island to Alliance, promoting tourism through grass roots volunteers.

During the annual meeting the 2017 budget was adopted; new officers elected included Bill Burdett, Cairo, vice-president and Patty Glidden, Mullen, treasurer. They join SJSB president, Linda Lacy, Ashby, and Twila Phillips, Mullen, secretary. Re-elected for a three-year term as directors were Mitch Glidden, Mullen and Tom Witt, Thedford.

Director Kevin Howard, Alliance opted not to serve again so a new director from the Alliance area will be sought to replace him.

Other directors include Charity Adam, Cairo and Terri Licking, Thedford who also is the SJSB historian.

On behalf of the SJSB, President Lacy thanked the outgoing officers for their years of service –

Jeanne Davis, Hyannis and Helen White, Thedford, vice-president and treasurer, respectively were given a round of applause and SJSB mugs.

After the meeting and lunch, three informative presentations were given.

Alex Duryea, Ecotourism Consultant with the Nebraska Tourism Commission explained what comprises Ecotourism, "Eco stands for ecology – so could be defined as travels into natural settings – hiking, biking, bird watching, butterfly gardens to name a few – all could be included into Ecotourism."

He informed the attendees of the Agri-Eco Tourism Conference which was held in Broken Bow, February 21 through the 23. This is a state-wide conference held for the first time in central Nebraska off I-80 or U.S. 30. The SJSB hosted a continental breakfast at their visitor center, 'the Barn' on the morning of the 23rd.

Rick Maas, Broken Bow, coordinator of the SJSB Visitor Center gave his 2016 report. "The Barn as we lovingly refer to it, saw 1,752 visitors in 2016, substantially more than (Continued on page 2)

American Legion Aux. Meets Febr. 13

American Legion Auxiliary, Steidley-Kayton Unit #230 met on February 13, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Six members were present for roll call.

Treasurer's report was given. The beginning balance was \$1,878.95. The CD totaled \$3,000.49. Also there was \$102 to deposit for the hall rent and dues. The amount of \$195.50 was paid out to the Village of Thedford for water/sewer, and \$75.00 from American Legion for Girl State from Daughter's of American Revolution since there are no Boy's State applicants.

Membership: nine Lifetime members, two paid up for Life, four Juniors, and 39 Senior.

Communications: 2018 Data membership form

was discussed: Local dues \$2.75, State \$10.25, National \$9.00. Junior dues will not change; They will be \$2.50 for local, \$1.25 state, \$1.25 national.

District President: District #5 is third in the State; District #5 meeting is March 4th in Tryon.

Scottsbluff Veteran's Home is in need of seed packets; Quilts of Valor are being made to give to veterans if anyone would like to make some.

Veteran's Day went well. Discussion on tray favors and Girl's and Boy's State and member list updates. Audrey Jones will keep the extra building key.

The application to Girl's State was reviewed and will be sent in by March 1.

The next meeting will be on March 13 at 3 p.m.

Inside This Issue

Boys end season in Subdistricts



Lady Knights end season District Champs. Headed to State.

See Page 9

School News

Upcoming Activities At Thedford & Sandhills

Index

Legal Page.....	2
Social Side.....	3
Over The Hills	3
Happenings	3
Opinion Page	4
Comics.....	4
Odds & Ends	4
Classified Page.....	5
School Activities	6
Knights Sports	7
Church Page.....	8
State Congrats.....	9

Notices

- Marilyn J. Swisher Estate
- Notice Of Organization Triple G Redimix, LLC
- Notice Of Organization G.C. Holdings, LLC
- Thomas County Commissioners' Proceedings

Recipes

Corn Recipes Page 8