

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

Your Source Of
News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018

NO. 36

Annual Easter Egg Hunt Set

The Easter egg hunt, sponsored by the Thedford Service Club, will be held April 1 at 2:00 p.m. CT on the Thomas County Courthouse lawn. Participants need to be there and ready to go by 1:45 p.m. Everyone should meet on the street side of the Thomas County Library. Age groups will be divided there and sent to their area to gather Easter eggs. Arrangements have been made, as in previous years, to move the Easter egg hunt indoors in case of inclement weather. All donations to the Easter egg hunt are greatly appreciated. Monetary and candy donations can be dropped off with Michelle McIntosh at the County Salon. Monetary donations can also be placed on the Service Club account at Ewoldt's Grocery. Contact Michelle McIntosh at 645-2585 or Kevin Hood at 645-2504 for more information.

Sandhills High School Sending Speech Team Members To State

The Sandhills High School speech team competed in the District D2-5 competition in Broken Bow on Monday, March 12. The team ended the day in fourth place with 163 points.

Ansley was the winning team with 422 points. Loomis was second with 232 and Loup County took third place honors with 182 points.

Sandhills students qualifying for State Speech include:

Brayden Rhoades, Serious Interpretation Of Prose Literature, second. Bryan Zutavern, Extemporaneous Speaking, third.

Oral Interpretation Of Drama team, Amanda Payne, Paige Martindale, Dylan Lister-McIntyre, Johannah Christie and Bryan Zutavern, third.

The 2018 NSAA State Speech Competition will begin on Thursday, March 22, at the University of Nebraska-Kearney campus.



CELESTE ROGERS PHOTO

Members of the Sandhills High School speech team who are headed to the 2018 NSAA State Speech Competition in Kearney on March 23 are, l-r: Bryan Zutavern, Dylan Lister, Johannah Christie, Paige Martindale, Amanda Payne, and Brayden Rhoades.

braska-Kearney campus.

The Class D2 section will begin on Friday, March 23 with the competition getting underway at 8:30

a.m.

The NFHS Network Live Webcast will have the NSAA Speech Championships live. You can find

this at <http://www.nfhsnetwork.com/associations/nsaa>

The NSAA Speech Championship Awards

Ceremony will be Webcast Live on NET and you can watch this at <http://netnebraska.org>.

Polar Bear Tank Race marks 11th year



LINDA TEAHON PHOTO

Sons and Daughters of Liberty, all teachers from Omaha and Council Bluffs, IA, dressed as Thomas Jefferson, Betsy Ross, Lady Liberty and other patriots - waving the flag proudly as they begin to enjoy the Middle Loup River for the first time.

The 11th annual Polar Bear Tank Race was marked with geese flying overhead and a fun affair March 2 and 3. It was also the first year all activities were held in one location. The new Hooker County Community Center, located at the fairgrounds west of Mullen, was the site for this year's event. One attendee said it was "very nice!"

Hosts and organizers,

Mitch and Patty Glidden, with help from family, friends, and a few Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway members, made it another momentous day. The weather cooperated and racers did not need coveralls or coats, as the temperature on race day neared 70 degrees. The states of Colorado, South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, and of course Nebraska, were represented

this year.

The fun began on Friday evening with the soup cook-off. The winner was brought in by SJSB member, Pat Bridges. Her "Wickedly Evil" chili must have been good as there wasn't any left. The Randolph girl's team, Blackbirds, won best-dressed table. They decorated their table with four and 20 blackbirds and their outfits included

wings. Luckily the wind was not hurricane force like a few days later.

Professional chef for the Sandhills Golf Course, Devon, with his "salmon chowder," won best tasting.

Even the other entrants admitted voting for his soup for best tasting.

Devon has opened the Meadowlark Café, serving food and drinks and keeping the door open, for all to enjoy the art of the Mullen Art Center, which is located in the back of his café.

Kyle Hoyt, Mullen Art Center member said he doesn't know what will happen to the café when Devon goes back to being chef at the golf course.

"We don't know, but hopefully we will find an answer to keeping the doors open."

The café is located in downtown Mullen, a few doors west from Macke's Grocery. Devon was open on Sunday, and served breakfast for participants before they headed home.

The race was on - Saturday, as four men's teams and three ladies teams raced against the clock. The "Maybe Team" clocked in the time of one hour six minutes and 42 seconds. When they regis-

tered, Denny Whitfield, leader and participant all 11 years said, "Maybe they would float this year, or maybe they would race."

Good thing they chose to race. Other members included Kyle and Tracy Whitfield and Colby Walton.

The Americans made the women's team's best time of one hour, 21 minutes and 14 seconds, also known as Crazy N Tankin. The latter name is what the ladies came up with when they registered, but they changed it by race weekend. Lonna Clegg, Cindy Wiley, Hannah Funnadey, and Ricci Robertson were the members. A total of 17 tanks went into the water and the majority were 'floaters' who just came to enjoy the Middle Loup River, the Sandhills scenery and the hospitality.

Other teams included: Second place men's - River Renegades with father/son, Troy and Colton Mack, Jonathan Carlson and Matt Hollaway with a time of one hour and 11 minutes. They were in a photo finish, pulling

ahead at the last second to third place team, the Dilly Dallies with members Roy, Sandra John-Paul and Laura Lehn, Alli Foy, and Tyler Corradi.

Fourth place went to the Big Dog team of Dennis Tribble (Big Dog), Jay Johnson, Mike Drake, Tony Curtis, and Brice Johnson.

The Happy Tanks placed second for the women. Team members were Mary Ann Carlock, Cindy Fernandez, Sheila Standlea and Shelley Mayfield.

Snowflakes on the Loup took third with members Jolene Stavropoulos-Kuhn, Larrene Hibbs, Julie Meyer, Janelle Gerlach, Diane Brozek, Laurie Pothoff, and Trina Brown.

Floating teams and their members were:

Axline team from Dorchester, a/k/a Beauty and the Beasts, as Sharon "MiMi" Axline was the only female with her hubby, Harold, and other friends.

The Jolly Rogers - Dan Burlanek, Kevin and Kenny Beranek, Gary Heidbrink, Tim White, and

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National Forest Surveys Coming Your Way

This year the Nebraska National Forests and Grasslands is conducting National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) surveys across all of its units. NVUM surveys are conducted every five years on all national forests and grasslands in the nation. These surveys will take place at randomly selected locations on the Buffalo Gap and Fort Pierre National Grasslands in South Dakota and the Oglala National Grassland and Nebraska and Samuel R. McKelvie National Forests in Nebraska.

Visitor counts are done to look at recreation trends over time. The information is used for forest/grassland planning and for local community tourism planning. It provides managers with an estimate of how many people recreate on federal lands and what they do when they visit. Other important information collected includes how satisfied people were with their visit and the economic impact of recre-

ation visits on local communities. The more information we know about visitors, especially their satisfaction and desires, the better the forest and local community providers can meet their recreational needs.

Interviewers conducting the surveys will be wearing bright orange vests and be near "Traffic Survey Ahead" signs. Interviewers are eager to talk to visitors about their visit as they exit the forest or grassland. If you see a survey in progress, please pull over for an interview. The survey takes less than ten minutes and is voluntary and confidential. It's important for interviewers to talk with local people who use the forests and grasslands, as well as out-of-area visitors.

If you have any questions about this program you can visit the National Visitor Use Monitoring web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum/> or call Julie Johndreau at (308) 432-0300.

Trainer working to help elite wrestlers in medal pursuit

Terry Grindstaff, PhD, has held onto a dream for a long time. The physical therapist and certified athletic trainer hopes to one day work the mats as a medical professional at the Olympic Games with the USA Wrestling Team.

Grindstaff, an associate professor of physical therapy at Creighton University School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, served earlier this year as a medical volunteer for USA Wrestling as the 23-athlete team competed in the Ivan Yarygin Golden Grand Prix in Krasnoyarsk, Russia, a major international tournament that kicks off the wrestling season.

Grindstaff wrestled collegiately at Dakota Wesleyan University. He filed applications in 2004 to become a part of the U.S. Olympic Committee's volunteer medical pool and USA Wrestling's medical team. A year later, he was accepted into the pool and participated in training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.

In 2009, Grindstaff took his first international trip with USA Wrestling. He's taken a trip with the team every year since.

The senior-level athletes who wrestled in Russia in January will one day represent the U.S. in Olympic and World Championship competition. Grindstaff hopes he's right alongside them when that day comes.

Grindstaff's primary role is injury management. Other responsibilities include nutrition, recovery, and emotional support.

Grindstaff and his wife, Jill live in LaVista. Jill is a niece of Rosalea Gift of Thedford.

"He goes overseas once a year and works with Olympic hopefuls. He also goes to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs," Gift said.



COURTESY PHOTO