

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

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THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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NO. 41

One last weekend winter blast

Another weekend storm wrought havoc on the region. The two day storm, Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14, left downed power lines and broken poles in its wake.

Thomas County Sheriff Gary Eng responded to assist with traffic control as a vehicle that had been completely covered in snow was dug out with a Bobcat. Sheriff Eng said the vehicle was west of the Hooker-Thomas County line on Highway 2. The motorist had been rescued. Several motorists were reported stranded west of Mullen.

"There was a lot more snow and deep drifts in Mullen," Sheriff Eng said. He estimated snow totals to be around 8" in the Thedford area. Mullen reported 14" of snow with reports of up to 18" in the surrounding area.

A head-on crash was reported in Logan County and was investigated by Logan County Deputy Sheriff Dalen Wood. The accident occurred at approximately 6:45 p.m. Friday, April 13. Arnold Fire & EMS transported four people to the Callaway District Hospital where they were treated and later released.

Austin Starr, 23, of Arnold, was driving a 2002 Chevrolet Tracker, owned by Eldon Starr of Stapleton, and westbound on Highway 92, when the vehicle crossed the center line due to road conditions. The vehicle stuck a 2013 Dodge Journey SUV driven by Frank Hauser, 68, of Arnold. The drivers and Ellie M. Karweik, 23, of Arnold, a passenger in the Starr vehicle, and Sue Hauser, 66, a passenger in the Hauser vehicle, were transported. All four were wearing seat belts and all four air bags deployed. The vehicles were estimated as total losses and were towed later due to the lack of availability of tow trucks and weather conditions.

Rick Nelson, general manager of Custer Public Power District, reported power outages from Stapleton to Taylor and south. There were some customers without power



COURTESY PHOTO

Crews work on Highway 2 in Hooker County to free a car engulfed in a snowdrift after it was abandoned during the April 13 and 14 blizzard.



MIKE NEEDS PHOTO

Custer Public Power crews work on downed power lines Sunday, April 15, at 3:30 p.m. east of Arnold at Pleasant Hill. Rick Nelson, general manager of CPPD, said over 100 transmission line poles and an estimated 100 distribution line poles were broken off from Stapleton to Taylor and south in the service area.

Tuesday morning, April 17, as crews worked diligently to restore electricity. It was estimated 100 poles broken on distribution lines and over 100 poles on transmission lines.

"We have a lot of work to do in the days and weeks ahead," Nelson said. "It will be two weeks before things settle down and get back to normal."

Nelson said he gives a lot of credit to linemen for working in extremely adverse weather conditions

and to CPPD customers for their patience.

"We have the best customers in the world. We just hope to be able to keep the power on as we continue to repair poles and downed lines."

Power was out in the Stapleton area ranging from an hour and a half to a day and a half.

Mike Needs of the Stapleton Service Center said they were working north of Arnold late Monday night, April 16, to restore

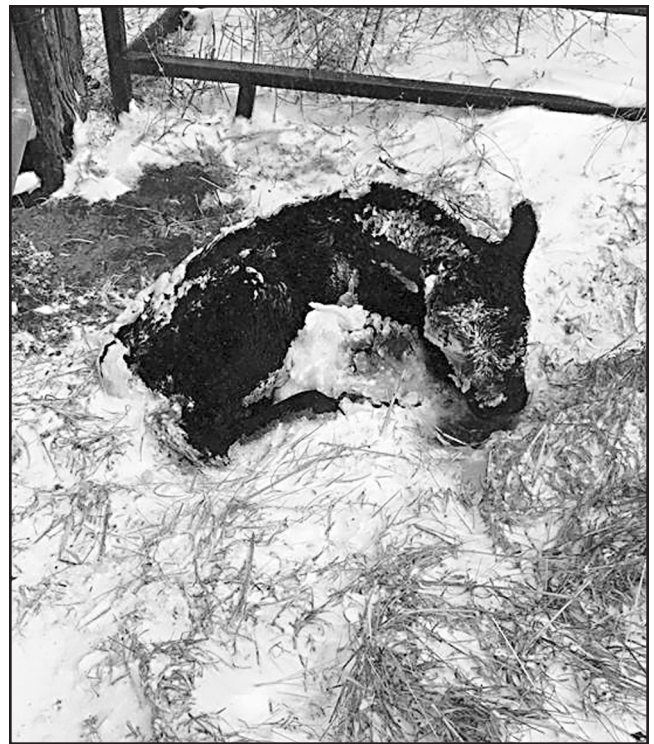
power there. He estimated 20 poles broken off in the Garfield Table area and there was wire damaged in that location.

Linemen from Thedford were called down to assist at Stapleton and to help with emergency repair work.

Stapleton Fire Chief, Frank Kramer, was out all day Saturday, April 14, plowing roads to allow Custer Public Power access to restore power. Mike Needs said Eldon Christensen of Stapleton, and John Beshaler of Arnold, also helped plow snow.

There was no significant reports of livestock losses due to the storm as ranchers had made preparations in advance and moved cows and calves to sheltered areas.

Area schools closed in advance of the storm, and track meets, proms and brandings were postponed. Highways and Interstate 80 were closed in some areas Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Motorists are reminded when travel advisories are issued, travelers should heed the warnings and not put themselves and rescue personnel in danger.



ANGELA KRAMER PHOTO

Area ranchers made preparations prior to the impending storm that raged Friday evening and Saturday morning, April 13 and 14. The wet snow came at a most inopportune time for those in the height of calving season.



MIKE NEEDS PHOTO

Mike Needs, Custer Public Power District lineman with the Stapleton Service Center, submitted this photo of ice that had built up on lines during the blizzard and ice storm that hit the area Friday and Saturday, April 13 and 14. This picture was taken Sunday, April 15.

Blaine & Thomas Counties Hold Public Speaking Contest

Blaine and Thomas Counties held their 4-H Public Speaking Contest, April 6th at the Community Building in Halsey. Nine 4-H'ers participated in the contest informing the audience about their 4-H projects in the Junior and Intermediate Divisions, or reciting poems in the Clover Kid and Novice Divisions.

Shaylee Milleson and Terra Shoemaker received Purple ribbons and were selected by the judge to go onto Regional Speech Contests. They were also named Champions in their respective divisions. Shaylee Milleson encouraged 4-H'ers to "Try Something New" and described how she prepared her horse for the Horse Show in the Junior Division. Terra Shoemaker, talked about preparing her goat "Moana" for the livestock show in the Intermediate Division.

Also in the Intermediate Division, Lola Smith received a Red ribbon for her speech, "How 4-H Inspired Me to Cook." In the



COURTESY PHOTO

Those participating in the contest were, back row, l-r: Shaylee Milleson, Terra Shoemaker and Lola Smith. Front row, l-r: Shay Amos, Chandler Pettit, Emerson Pettit, Jordee Johnston, Etta Schneidereit, Gussie Schneidereit and Zane Schneidereit.

Junior Division, Shay Amos presented her speech "What 4-H Means to Me" and Zane Schneidereit described his 4-H goals now that he is no longer a Clover Kid, in his speech, "I'm a Real 4-H'er Now." Both received a Red ribbon.

In the Novice Division, which is for Junior 4-H'ers presenting their first speech, Chandler Pettit received a Purple for her

recitation of a Shel Silverstein poem. Clover Kids - Jordee Johnson, Emerson Pettit and Etta and Gussie Schneidereit recited poems in the Clover Kid Division and received Clover Kid ribbons.

Thanks to Thedford Speech Coach Jane Haake for judging the contest and sharing some good comments on presenting speeches with the 4-H'ers.

Wind whips grass fire

A large grass fire was whipped by high winds Wednesday, April 11, as area fire departments battled the blaze between Halsey and Dunning.

The call came in at approximately 6:00 p.m. and departments responding included Thedford, Mullen, Purdum, Halsey, Dunning, Anselmo, and Brewster. Sargent and Taylor firemen were on

their way, but were turned back as the fire had been brought under control. Casey Williams of Broken Bow assisted with his plane and the Nebraska National Forest at Halsey sent fire trucks. "The fire really took off due to the high winds estimated at around 40 miles per hour," Dunning Fire Chief, Kevin Anderson said.

Some houses were evacuated, including the home of Ted and Julie Teahon.

"Ted was going out to fight the fire and was told to have his wife Julie evacuate," Anderson said.

A landowner was burning trees in a pile under snow cover. The fire later rekindled.

No structures were lost.