

Early Morning Derailment Rocks Thedford



KENDRA CUTLER PHOTOS

The derailed and mangled cars of the east bound Burlington Northern Santa Fe train that derailed early Thursday, morning, April 20 inside the city limits of Thedford. The derailment is still under investigation and clean-up continues. This picture was taken at the south end of Maple street in Thedford.

An east bound Burlington Northern Santa Fe coal train derailed in Thedford early Thursday morning, April 20, 2017. Sixteen loaded coal cars were involved in the derailment that happened at 4:48 a.m.. on the south end of Maple street in Thedford. “Fifteen cars were left on their sides and one car remained upright,” according to Andy Williams, Director of Public Affairs for the Nebraska region of the BNSF railroad. “No injuries or personal property damage was reported.”

The cause of the accident was still under investigation and crews were able to get main line one open and running late Thursday evening.

Train traffic was halted between Lincoln and Al-

liance as both main lines were down. BNSF and sub-contractor crews remained on the scene assisting with clean-up work and laying of the

new track.

Sub-contract crews were back on the job Monday morning, April 24 to haul out the spilled coal and continue cleaning-up.



A contractor helping to clean up the derailment in Thedford. This excavator is shown on a huge pile of coal that was spilled in the derailment.



An excavator picks up and moves a wrecked coal car, before beginning the work of cleaning up the spilled coal.

Nutter & Pokorny Selected For All-Star Football Game

The players have been selected for the East and West teams for the 39th annual West Nebraska All-Star Football Game. The 64 members of the all star football teams were nominated by their respective high school coach and selected by the all star coaches.

Glen Lipska from Leyton High School will lead the West team. This is Coach Lipska's second time serving as a coach in the game. He previously served as an assistant coach for the West team in 2009.

The West assistant coaches are; Blake Beebout from Valentine High School, Cody Gamble from Leyton High School, and Jamie Slingsby from Chadron High School.

Jacey Nutter and Cade Pokorny, both senior members of the Sandhills-Thedford Knights were selected to play on the West Nebraska All-Star team.

Ryan Jones from Maxwell High School will lead the East team in 2017. This will be Coach Jones's second time coaching in the West Nebraska All Star Game. He served as an assistant coach for the East team in 2015.

The East assistant coaches are; Jason Hale from Holdrege High School, Paul Heusinkvelt from Overton High School, and Mike Kozeal from Twin Loup High School.

The 2017 West Nebraska All-Star Football Game will be played Saturday, June 10, 2017 at Bearcat Stadium in Scottsbluff, NE. Game time is 7 p.m. MDT.

A portion of the proceeds from the West Nebraska All-Star Games benefit local organizations. In 2016, a total of \$2,750 was donated to three local organizations.



THEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL PHOTO

Number 14, Jacey Nutter and No. 22 Cade Pokorny stop a runner during regular season action this fall.

Rain Helps Firefighters Douse Natick Fire

Rain and favorable weather conditions led fire officials at the Bessey Ranger District of the Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands (NNFG) to predict 100 percent containment of the Natick Fire by later Thursday, April 20, 2017.

The Natick Fire, now determined to be human caused, started late Monday afternoon, April 17, seven miles west of Halsey and ten miles southeast of Thedford and burned completely on US Forest Service Lands. According to fire officials it burned 202 acres in thick timbered areas and grass understory of the forest and no structures were threatened or evacuations required.

Julie Bain, Bessey District Ranger said, “Our area partners really contributed to successful suppression of the Natick fire with no injuries. Volunteer Fire Departments (VFDs) from Mullen, Halsey, Dunning, Thedford, Stapleton, and Brownlee were vital to the initial response on this fire; and yesterday we greatly appreciated continued assistance from the Halsey, Thedford, and Dunning VFDs. The University of Nebraska 4-H Camp provided vital support to all firefighters and crews by providing housing and meals.”

Bain also noted that the Nebraska National Forests & Grasslands firefighters received critical support from South Dakota Wildland Fire, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and both Nebraska and Kansas US Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Thanks to assistance from Mother Nature, we expect to release most of the firefighters and other resources later today. NNFG fire crews will continue to monitor and mop up the burned area,” said Bain.

All roads are now open. The Natick Campground will be opened tomorrow. Bain urges visitors to be cautious as fire vehicles and other personnel may be working in the area.

Bain asks that anyone with questions, including about road closures, to please call the Bessey Ranger District office at (308) 533-2257.



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- Central Sandhills Extension Public Notice
- Thedford School Board Proceedings
- Thomas County Noxious Weed Notice
- Thomas County Courtesy Notice

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Support The Superheros Of The Sandhills Saturday, April 29

Activities begin at 9:00 a.m. @ THS Old Gym
See Page 7 For More Details