

Enterprise, Herald score state press awards

Journalists from across the state of Nebraska gathered Friday and Saturday, April 21 and 22, for the 2017 Nebraska State Press Convention in Lincoln.

First, second and third place winners of the Nebraska Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest were announced during the Saturday evening banquet at the Country Inn & Suites-North.

More than 5,800 separate entries, representing nine dailies and 63 weeklies, were judged by members of the Kansas Press Association.

The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News and Thomas County Herald brought home three first place and two second place wins in Class A.

The Enterprise won first place in the Specialty Pages division for their

Calling All Babies of 2015 entry by Marcia Hora and Kendra Cutler and second place in that category to the Thomas County Herald for "Salute to Our Veterans" by Marcia Hora and Kendra Cutler.

The judge commented they loved the feature of celebrating all the babies born in 2015.

The Enterprise took second place in the reader interaction/contest for their "Blast from the Past" feature by Marcia Hora and Kendra Cutler.

"Wonderful idea for engaging with readers. The paper gets lots of credit, and the readers do the legwork. It's a very adaptable promotion, and I think would work at nearly any paper in the country."

The Thomas County Herald won first place for the best single retail advertising idea, black and white

with "Christmas in July" by Marcia Hora.

"Very eye catching heading. Clear message and nice use of whitespace."

The Herald took first place in the advertising campaign category with Marcia Hora's "Sandhill Smiles" ads for the Sandhills Family Dental Clinic.

Highlight of the Friday evening banquet was the welcome and speech by Governor Pete Ricketts, prior to the awarding of the Omaha World Herald community service and service to agriculture awards.

Peggy Year, co-publisher of the Hartington Cedar Co. News, was elected president of the Nebraska Press Association.

The NPA membership includes 165 weekly and daily newspapers with a total paid circulation in excess of 450,000 persons. It was founded in 1873.

Final blood drive of school year deemed a success

The final Red Cross Blood drive of the 2016-2017 school year was held Monday, April 24 at Thedford High School. The students needed 54 units to receive a Red Cross funded scholarship that will be awarded to Thedford High School seniors that help with the blood drive. The goal was exceeded with 67 units being given that day and the school will be presented with \$2,500 worth of scholarships.

The Nebraska Cattle-men's Association was also on hand and brought beef for those giving blood to enjoy. They provided brisket sandwiches for the donors and blood drive workers.

The next community blood drive will be held July 3 at the Thomas County fairgrounds near Thedford.



JAMIE TAYLOR PHOTO

Thedford High School students helping with the blood drive by checking in donors were, l-r: Hannah Higgins, Sidney Lange, Kyra Miles and Jentri Sherman.

Higgins signs with Concordia University

Rebecca Higgins, daughter of Chris and PattyJo Higgins, and a senior member of the Sandhills-Thedford Lady Knights Basketball team has signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Concordia University at Seward.

As a senior member of the Sandhills-Thedford Lady Knights, Higgins averaged 8.9 points and 5.7 assists per game. She also averaged 5 rebounds and 3.1 steals per game. She played in 103 varsity games over her high school career.

Higgins scored over 900 points in her high school career and was 28% from the three point line, 66% from the free throw line

and 37 % from two-point range.

Higgins was also a member of the 2015, 2016, 2017 Class D2 State qualifying Sandhills-Thedford Lady Knights.



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured above is Rebecca Higgins, front center with her parents PattyJo and Chris Higgins. Pictured standing in back is a Concordia University coach and Knights Head Coach, Jordan Arensdorf.

Upper Loup Scoop

Upper Loup NRD Resource Technicians Attend Training

Shane Young and Jake Ginkens of the Upper Loup Natural Resource District attended a Natural Resources Groundwater Technician training on Tuesday, February 27 at Kearney.

Topics discussed at the training included, chemigation, water quality monitoring, static water level measurements and Geology. Flow meters, as well as, well licensing and certification requirements were also discussed.

Technicians must receive 12 hours of continuing education every two years and this certification helped meet those requirements.



COURTESY PHOTOS
Shane Young



Jake Ginkens

Spring Trees Available

Trees provide important benefits such as protecting homes and livestock from wind and snow, helping to reduce heating and cooling costs, preventing soil erosion, and providing wildlife habitat. The Upper Loup NRD offers tree program services including: planning, planting, weed barrier installation or weed control,



and drip irrigation. The Upper Loup

NRD is still selling trees for the spring planting season. These trees are bare root and will be 2 years old. The ULNRD has a variety of hardwoods, conifers, as well as shrubs available. To purchase trees contact the ULNRD office at ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org or phone 308-645-2250.

Renewing Chemigation Permits

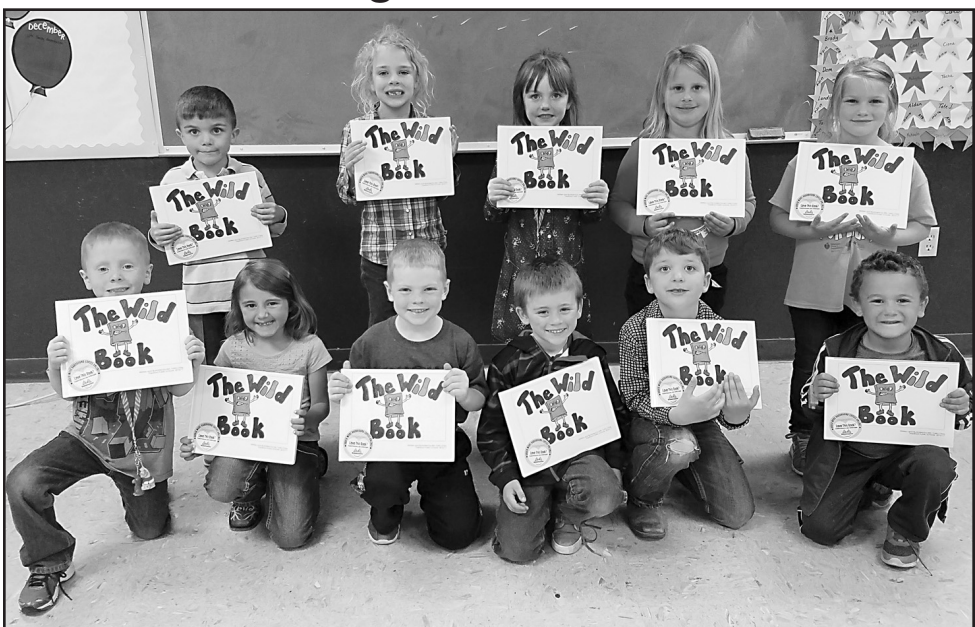
Irrigators who are applying chemicals through irrigation systems and were permitted in 2016 must renew their chemigation permits by June 1st. There is a small fee to renew permits, and permits not in by June 1st will be charged a late fee.

All persons who have chemigation permits on file at the Upper Loup NRD will receive renewal permit applications in the mail shortly. Irrigators can begin chemigating once a renewal permit has been approved. Inspections are required every 3 years for renewal permits.

Anyone planning to apply chemicals through an irrigation system that was not permitted in 2016, must apply for a new permit prior to applying any chemicals this year. New permit applications can be made and returned to the ULNRD office and will require inspection.

Anyone wishing to apply for a permit or needing more information on the chemigation program contact the Upper Loup NRD office at 308-645-2250 or email ulnrd@upperloupnrd.org

Thedford Kindergartners Published Authors



THEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOL PHOTO

Members of the Thedford Kindergarten Class who got their books published recently are, back row, l-r: Haxton Hoffman, Jordee Johnston, Emma Ray, Kaley Rasmussen and Jozy York. Front row, l-r: Tylynn Dykstra, Tatum Connell, Caleb Clark, Emmett Sprague, Quinten Dailey, and Bronc Reiser. Not pictured: Jordyn DeNaeyer, Tate Koubek and Addy Soper.

The Thedford Kindergartners recently studied the writing process and how authors write stories. As they learned about this process, they were able to write a story as a class.

Their book, *The Wild Book*, is about a book who feels lonely in the library. The book turns wild and goes on many adventures. In the end, he is still lonely. He decides to rewrite his story and return to the library. At the library, kids love his adventures and he is checked out all the time.

The students had fun writing and illustrating

their story.

Students in Mrs. York's classes have been doing

this for seven years now and look forward to this experience every year.

Thedford to hold Preschool & Kindergarten Open House

Thedford's Preschool and Kindergarten Open House will be on Friday, May 5, 2017 from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. This will be a come-and-go opportunity for students to see the

classroom, meet the staff, and for parents to get the needed paperwork to enroll their child.

If you have any further questions please call the elementary at 645-2214.

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