

THOMAS COUNTY

Herald

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News In The Sandhills

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NO. 7

Governor Ricketts & First Family Make Stop At Blaine Co. Fair



TERRI LICKING PHOTOS

Cutting the ribbon at the Sandhills Heritage Museum, l-r: Teresa Goedeke, Lois Gordon, Kathie Martindale, Gov. Ricketts, JeanAnn Teahon, Vicki Webb, Miss Burwell Rodeo, Eva Oliver, NE Hereford Association queen, Kendi Miligerl, Linda Teahon, Dale Spencer and Gerri Monahan.

TERRI LICKING

The Blaine County Fair concluded Saturday, August 5, and for the first time ever the octogenarians can remember, a governor came to visit. This year's fair ended in grand style.

Governor Ricketts, accompanied by his wife, Susanne and children, Roscoe, Margot and Eleanor, used train, plane and automobile to make it from Gering to Dunning. The family was traveling on the Union Pacific's 'Nebraska 150 Express,' a whistle stop tour by train across the state, reminiscent of train travel in the 19th century. The family embarked from the train to fly to the Thedford airport, 27 miles west of Dunning. They were picked up there by two of his drivers, where they traveled the Sandhills Journey Scenic Byway west to Dunning.

Governor Ricketts was invited to cut the ribbons on two new venues on Main Street. The Sandhills Heritage Museum (SHM) opened during the Memorial Day weekend. The museum houses memorabilia of the history in the area, as well as a display highlighting the Hereford breed. Herefords made Nebraska the "Beef State."

Prior to the ribbon cutting for the museum, Governor Ricketts received a guided tour from SHM board chairman, Kathie Martindale of Brewster. Linda Teahon, Chadron, Purdum, Dunning, told him about the efforts of the Hereford Crossroads committee. They are working to preserve the breed's history.

Sandhills Blessings, a custom quilt and sewing business opened its doors July 1. A work in progress, owner Teresa Goedeke makes cus-

tom quilts, T-shirts, and can even imprint water and coffee mugs. She is emblazing some of her shirts with a community logo and time of totality for the upcoming total solar eclipse. Husband, Mike, when not working for Minert-Simonson Ranch, welds home decor items using horseshoes and other metals.

Governor Ricketts was assisted in the ribbon cutting by Eva Oliver, Merriman, Miss Burwell Rodeo Queen, and Kendi Miligerl, Ravenna, Nebraska Hereford Association Queen, as well as the SHM board members, Martindale, Teahon, Goedeke, Lois Gordon, Vicki Webb and Jean Ann Teahon.

The Goedeques and queens helped Governor Ricketts cut the ribbon when they traveled to the end of the block for the Sandhills Blessings ribbon cutting. Roscoe's highlight of the trip was sitting on Joe 'J.T.' Bradley's horse, Tonto, while Ty Bass and his horse, Spud, looked on. The two local cowboys were National High School rodeo participants. J.T. ended up 8th in the all-around standings.

Upon his arrival, Governor Ricketts wasted no time meeting, greeting and shaking hands with those who came to see him. He visited with Blaine County Foundation board members on ways their small community could pursue funding for housing and other community enhancement projects.

Prior to the ribbon cuttings, Governor Ricketts commended the efforts of community members, in not only opening doors on new businesses that bring a positive economic impact to the area, but he also commended the SHM board members for their challenging work and achievement of a 20-year

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Nebraska's first family with the Blaine County Foundation members who served the barbecue at the Blaine County Fair. Roscoe Ricketts, Amy Simonson, Kristi Hafer, Shelly Mulligan, Elaine Zutavern, Pam Moody, Governor and Susanne Ricketts, Becky Collier, Donna Kennedy, Sue Clark, Margo Ricketts, Dawn and Ron Hasebroock and Eleanor Ricketts.

Thomas County wraps up 2017 Fair



TERRI LICKING PHOTO

Squeaky clean prior to their first mud volleyball match, the Donald Bump team consisting of, l-r: Chelsey and Josh Delaney, Courtney and Brad, Jack Moody and Tanner Drews.

By Terri Licking

Thomas County concluded their 2017 fair edition, Sunday, July 30. This was the first year for a major change. After the 11:00 a.m. parade Saturday morning, July 29, all activities moved out to the fairgrounds. In prior years, the Thomas County Historical Society conducted their lunch stand on the courthouse square and the turtle races were held on the lawn between the library and courthouse. Louie Herbaugh hosted his annual youth fishing tournament, and the Thedford Life Center provided breakfast. The Eastern Star ladies held a combined bake and garage sale in the Masonic Lodge following the parade.

Both the lunch stand and turtle races moved to the open air pavilion at the fairgrounds. Many skeptics of the move changed their minds.

"This is the Thomas County Fair, not Thedford fair. We have a beautiful fairgrounds and we needed to do this," Jay Jones said. He was one of the volunteers helping each of the fair days in some capacity. A member of the Thomas County Historical Society, Jones grilled hamburgers, brats and hot dogs for the or-

ganization and had trouble keeping up with demand at the new location.

Mark Nutter, turtle race organizer, along with his wife, Marian, enjoyed having the turtle races out at the fairgrounds. The circle was expanded, spectators had chairs, and the shade for everyone was appreciated. The Thedford Art Gallery, located just across from the courthouse square in Thedford, was open on Sunday until 9 p.m. and did have more sales that day.

The antique tractor pullers returned for a second year with a new track built just for them west of the pavilion.

Local puller, Wayne Licking brought in his old 706 German diesel to try, and enjoyed learning what is involved in the pulls.

Youth had a Friday evening pedal tractor pull under the pavilion and not on the street downtown. Mid Nebraska Pedal Pullers, Bruce and Cindy Ash of Arcadia, loved having the kids pull there.

"Shade is very much appreciated," Bruce said.

They pulled between the two rodeo performances sponsored by the Thomas County Ag Society. A Friday community supper of hamburgers and hot dogs were held at the golf course. This was followed

by the ever popular night golf. More golfers than ever had fun this year.

The Nebraska Putt Putt mini-golf course of Anselmo set up in front of the arena on Saturday. Gretchen Mak organized the mud volleyball tournament for young adults. The Ag Society, with the help of Sandhill Oil, made two courts so two games could be played at the same time. The tournament was limited to nine teams and all money went back to the winners. Older 'kids' could be seen enjoying the water slides from North Platte and cooled off younger youth. Toddlers enjoyed the kiddie pools and looked for treasure in the sand pool.

The Cowboy Mounted Shooters were new to the fair this year. Local CMSA member, Melanie Bernhardt, member of the Nebraska Cowboy Mounted Shooters, organized the event. A Thedford High School alum, Kelcee Dickman Jacobsen was one of the 15 riders. Kelcee and her husband live and farm at Franklin. Her parents are Monte and Leslie Dickman and they also do CNMS.

"We are not as competitive yet," Leslie Dickman said.

Kelcee received the ladies championship and

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What's in a Name?

NRD, NRCS, FSA, DEQ. If you're in the ag industry or have anything to do with natural resources (which we all do) then you have probably heard these acronyms before, but what do they mean and stand for? Let's start with one we should all know! NRD which stands for Natural Resources District. Last week's article spoke about what NRDs are and what they do. If you missed that article visit upperlounprd.org and check it out! Next is another office located in Thedford. NRCS stands for Natural Resources Conservation District. This is a federal agency that's mission is to help people conserve and improve natural resources. Some examples of NRCS programs are CSP or Conservation Stewardship Program and EQIP or Environmental Quality Incentives Program.



NRD
Upper Loup
Natural Resources District

Another agency is the FSA or Farm Service Agency. This is also a federal agency. Both NRCS and FSA are part of the USDA or United States Department of Agriculture. The FSA controls CRP or the Conservation Reserve Program as well as provides Beginning Farmers and Rancher loans.

Next, we have state agencies. DNR stands for the Department of Natural Resources. DNR is charged with protecting and regulating the states surface water. This agency issues surface water permits, floodplain management, and insures the safety of dams in the state. The NeDEQ or Ne-

braska Department of Environmental Quality is another state agency. The NeDEQ was created to protect Nebraska's air, land and water. This agency has recycling programs and grants, as well as waste management projects, and emissions testing.

All in all, when it comes to agriculture and natural resources there are a lot of players in our court to help producers and landowners do what's best for our land, air, and water. If you have any questions or want more information call the Upper Loup NRD at 308-645-2250 or visit upperlounprd.org!

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Eclipse Activities

There will be no preschool at Thedford Public Schools on Monday, August 21. All other students in grades K-12 will be dismissed after third period, 10:45 A.M. and will return during seventh period, around 2:00 P.M. Destination is Russell Licking's ranch located 25 miles south of

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