

Shoemaker models at Nebraska State Fair

Sue Pearman,
CSA Extension Educator

Blaine County 4-H member, Terra Shoemaker, was among 153 4-H members who participated in the Nebraska State Fair 4-H Fashion Show at Grand Island on Monday, September 4. Four-H members modeled for a panel of judges and for a crowd estimated at 1,000 during the Nebraska State Fair.

Terra received a blue ribbon for her modeling in the State Fair 4-H Fashion Show. Terra constructed a turquoise print dress in STEAM Clothing 2: Simply Sewing.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kelly Selected As Nebraska Bankers Association Agri-Business Recognition Award Recipient



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured above is Michael Kelly receiving the Nebraska Bankers Association Agri-Business Recognition Award. Pictured l-r are: Shelly Kelly, Dan Kelly, Tom Kelly, Michael Kelly, Ryan Hunter and Marcy Hunter.

Michael J. Kelly, owner of Kelly Ranch LLC and investor in Western Nebraska Bank, was recently acknowledged by the Nebraska Bankers' Association (NBA) for his numerous contributions to the state of Nebraska and to the agricultural industry.

Kelly, is a rancher and banker. The Kelly Ranch founded in 1885, and now in its fourth generation of family ownership, continues to practice the traditional, hard-working ranch culture. Mike is more devoted than ever to protecting the fragile Nebraska Sandhills' ecosystems that have provided his and many other Ne-

braskans their livelihood.

After graduating college, Mike moved home to the family ranch and also worked in town at the local bank. With a goal to get involved with banking again in 2010, Mike assembled a group of investors with strong agricultural and banking backgrounds to purchase Curtis State Bank (now Western Nebraska Bank). Today, the bank is a full-service, community bank that specializes in agricultural lending with four locations in Curtis, North Platte, Paxton and Purdum. Since 2010, the bank has grown from 25 million to over 100 million. Mike is dedicated to

his family including his wife Cynthia, son Dan Kelly and wife Shelly who live on the ranch at Sutherland, son Tom Kelly who works at the bank in Paxton and daughter Marcy Hunter and husband Ryan who both work at the bank in North Platte. Mike continues to improve local communities through banking resources for ranchers and farmers, preserving the Sandhills' natural resources and protecting the integrity of Nebraska's grasslands.

Congratulations to Mike Kelly as the 2017 recipient of the NBA's prestigious Agri-Business Recognition Award.

We Love Trees!

"He who plants a tree, plants a hope." – Lucy Larcom, Plant a Tree

Nebraska's Natural Resources Districts have been planting hope since 1972. According to nrd-net.org since its inception, Nebraska's NRD Conservation Tree Program has assisted in planting 95 million trees and each year NRD's help landowners plant more than a million trees. This year the Upper Loup NRD assisted landowners in planting around 30,000 trees throughout the district.

Trees provide many benefits to landowners alike. Shelterbelts help protect

property whether it be homes or livestock, from destructive elements such as wind and snow. Trees and shrubs also help to reduce heating and cooling costs, prevent soil erosion, and provide wildlife habitat.

The ULNRD provides many different tree services including machine planting trees and installing mulch to prevent weeds around newly planted trees. Hand plant trees can also be purchased from the ULNRD. The Upper Loup NRD also provides information

about how to care for your newly planted trees. Some tree planting services may qualify for federal or state aided cost-share as well. Please contact the office at 308-645-2250 for more information. Most trees supplied from the ULNRD originate from the Bessey Nursery in Halsey so species are subject to vary from year to year.

Along with these services, acreage and residential landowners have the opportunity to participate in the Yard Enhancement Program through the Upper Loup NRD. Through this program landowners can apply to receive 50% cost share with a maximum of two trees and \$200 per year to purchase trees for their yards. There are stipulations to this program including the plan must be inspected and approved by a ULNRD technician and trees must be purchased from a reputable nursery.

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2017 Homecoming Royalty Crowned Following Football Game

The 2017 Sandhills and Thedford Homecoming Royalty was crowned, Friday, September 8 following the Sandhills-Thedford vs. North Central football game.

Jaylee Simonson, daughter of JW and Cindy Simonson, was crowned Queen for Sandhills High School and Ridge Anderson, son of Kevin and Jody Anderson was chosen as the King.

Crownbearers from Sandhills Elementary School were Harper Zutavern, daughter of Chelsea and Rory Zutavern and Jose Melindez, son of Jose and Maricella Melindez.

Royalty crowned for Thedford High School were Hannah Higgins, daughter of Chris and Patty Jo Higgins, Queen and Ben Masten, son of Ron and Cindy Masten was honored as King.

Crownbearers were Mary Licking, daughter of Riley and Melissa Licking and Grady Licking, son of Russell and Bridget Licking.

The Knights lost their Homecoming game 22 to 44 on the Dunning football field.



SHIRLEY HANNA PHOTOS

Pictured above is the 2017 Sandhills High School Homecoming court, back row, l-r: Queen, Jaylee Simonson and King, Ridge Anderson. Front row, l-r: Crownbearers, Harper Zutavern and Jose Melindez.



2017 Thedford High School Homecoming royalty, l-r: Grady Licking, Ben Masten, King; Hannah Higgins, Queen and Mary Licking.

Acre Certification Sheets

Attention irrigators: Please fill out, sign, and return your acre certification sheets you received in the mail from the Upper Loup NRD as soon as possible.

We are trying to receive the most updated information about these acres and your help is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Man With The Cross

Walter Master's message is simple. "Jesus loves you." He's been saying it to people in a profound way since 1996. That's when Masters felt God calling him and his wife, Tammie, to share the good news.

"I wasn't sure at first how we were to minister, but I knew it wouldn't be in a traditional way," Masters said. "It wasn't until 1999 that I picked up the cross and started carrying it."

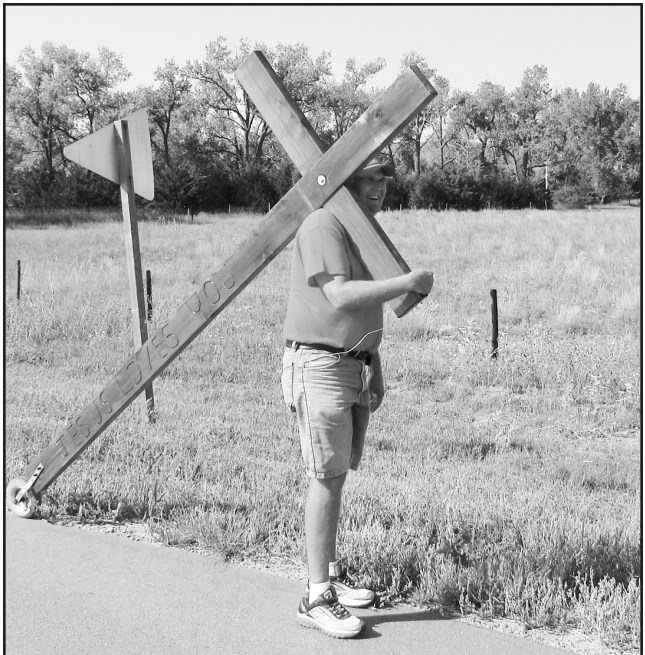
The Masters and their two daughters, then 4 and 5, started on a journey that would take them through 30 states, mainly in the southwest United States.

Walter carries the cross, and Tammie serves as support person with a camper and truck.

"Our family discouraged us. They felt we should serve the Lord in a church. But we felt God called us to the streets," Walter said.

The Masters took a leap of faith and struck out to share the gospel. The couple ministered in parking lots or wherever they could. They felt strongly called to minister to youth during spring break. They continue to go to South Padre Island where they spend two to four weeks each year. There is no preaching or condemnation.

"We just share the love of Christ with them, and



MARCIA HORA PHOTO

A man carrying a cross down Highway 83 last week made for quite a few calls to the newspaper office. Walter Masters carries a cross to relay a simple message - "Jesus loves you."

this year there were kids lining up for me to pray for them," Walter said.

This is the third year the Masters have traveled on Highway 83. They began at Brownsville, Texas, and stayed the night in Stapleton with Pastor Eric and Dawn Mockaitis.

"Joe Salisbury called me to tell me about this man carrying the cross on the highway and I just had to find out more," Pastor Eric said.

The Masters shared the night in the Mockaitis

home and enjoyed fellowship before heading out on the highway again Tuesday morning, September 12. Their final destination will be the Canadian border.

"Carrying the cross opens a lot of doors," Walter said. "It's exciting how God works. Some people wave and others stop. Our prayer is that in some way we touch their lives. We rarely get to hear the rest of the story."

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