

THOMAS COUNTY Herald

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News In The Sandhills

THOMAS COUNTY, THEDFORD, NEBRASKA 69166

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14th Annual Polar Bear Tank Race March 4-5, 2022



COURTESY

The Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway is excited to announce the upcoming 14th Annual Polar Bear Tank Race. After being canceled last year, this unique fun-filled event will be held March 4-5, 2022, on the Middle Loup River north of Mullen.

Teams of at least four members race down the river in metal stock tanks with winning teams determined by time. The event kicks off on Friday evening with team registration and a soup cook-off at the new Mullen Community Building located at the fairgrounds west of town.

Soup entries from communities along the Sandhills Journey National

Scenic Byway are taste tested by tank racers and winners selected in the categories of taste, theme, and decorations. Communities and/or individuals are encouraged to enter the soup cook-off contest and help welcome Polar Bear Race teams to our area!

Tank race teams meet for breakfast on Saturday morning and load buses to be transported to the river where they are launched in a staggered draw order. There is even a race category for teams of women. For those teams wishing to enjoy a relaxing float down the river, a non-competitive category is also available. A prime rib awards ban-

quet will be held Saturday evening to conclude the event.

The Polar Bear Tank Race offers a truly unique, out of the ordinary winter experience with teams coming from across Nebraska as well as several other states. Registration is on a first come basis so teams are encouraged to register early, as the number of team entries is limited.

For more information and registration forms, please contact event organizer Mitch Glidden at 308 546-2206 or visit the Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway website at www.sandhillsjourney.com.

NCSA Hosts 9th Annual Winter Ball



NCSA president, John Kraye, and treasurer, Kelly Kennedy, are at the registration table greeting those who braved the weather to make it to the 9th Annual Winter's Ball of the NCSA.

Story & Pictures By:
Terri Licking

The Nebraska Cattlemen Sandhills Affiliate (NCSA) knows how to throw a party, as they hosted their 9th annual winter ball on December 31, 2021, at the new community center located at the Hooker County Fairgrounds, Mullen. The New Year's Eve event brought 2022 in with style.

Deibler's Butcher Block, Mullen, and Chuckwagon 'n Jug owners and helpers, Greg and Dawn Mallory, provided the prime rib meal and cash bar. Members of the area FFA Chapters of Mullen, Sandhills and Thedford, provided assistance.

The event was not held in 2021 due to COVID. The traditional weather for almost all of the banquets has been cold, wind, and snow, as also occurred this year.

The winter ball is the major fundraiser for the NCSA as they seek sponsorships and donations of silent and live auction items. A raffle was held with the winner's choice of a 22-250 or a 6.5 Creedmore rifle. Thayne Rodocker was the lucky raffle winner.

This year's auction saw an influx of over \$4,500, which will help in the awarding of three \$1,000 scholarships to two graduating high school seniors and one to a college student in the NCSA area.

Sponsors helping included Harsh Mercantile,

Purdum; Western Nebraska Bank, Thedford; Daniels Manufacturing and West Plains Bank, Ainsworth; Sandhills Fencing, Purdum; A L Silencer, Stapleton; and Al and Sallie Atkins, North Platte.

Members of the 2022 NCSA board are John Kraye, Mullen, president; Stefani Schaffer, Purdum, secretary; and Kelly Kennedy, Purdum, treasurer. Kennedy's wife, Kat, is the Nebraska Cattlemen Region 2 Vice-Chair of Member Services. Other members include Frank Utter and Eric Schipporeit, Brewster; and Troy Saner and Adam Zutavern, Dunning. New to the board is Natalie Jones, Stapleton and Jim Latoski, Thedford. The Sandhills Affiliate is part

of the Region 2 of the Nebraska Cattlemen. Other affiliates are the Valentine Cattlemen, Bassett and Hyannis Affiliate. The NCSA area includes all of the counties of Blaine, Thomas, and Hooker and parts of southern Cherry and northern Logan.

Rush Band provided the music that brought in 2022.

The NCSA also hosts a summer golf outing at the Dismal River Golf Club in June, and in September will be the third year they will collaborate with the Sandhills Cattle Association to host a fall-feeder calf preview tour.

The annual NCSA board meeting, with election of officers, was held January 17 at the Sandhills Corral, Thedford.



COURTESY

Behind one of the rifles being part of the fundraising effort of the NCSA are board members Troy Saner and Adam Zutavern, both from Dunning.

Women in Ag Conference scheduled in February

The 37th annual Nebraska Women in Agriculture Conference will be held February 24 and 25 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, 110 Second Ave. in Kearney.

The two-day conference will feature over 20 workshop sessions where attendees will learn how to better manage risk, improve their farms and ranches and become more successful operators and business partners. Three keynote speakers will address the conference over both days.

Katie Dilse, a North Dakota farmer and national speaker, will open the conference with a keynote on the importance of work that women in agriculture do every day. Dilse was named one of the Top 40 under 40 by Business Watch magazine for her professional development, community contributions and influential

voice.

Carey Portell, an author and cattle farmer located in mid-Missouri who will close the first day, will speak about how she has overcome barriers after a fatal drunk-driving crash and is now thriving with disabilities.

Maggie Holub, a Nebraska crop farmer, will speak on Feb. 25, telling her story of returning to the farm after her father passed away. She will discuss balancing the farm, fitness and a full-time career with Farm Credit Services of America.

"We are excited to be hosting the conference in person this year," said Jessica Groskopf, director of the Nebraska Women in Agriculture program. "While we are thankful that we could meet online last year, it just can't replace the face-to-face interaction that makes this conference so great."

Registration for the conference will open on Jan. 4, on the Nebraska Women in Agriculture website, wia.unl.edu. The cost to attend is \$150 for participants who register on or before Feb. 9. Registration increases to \$175 on Feb. 10. Scholarships are available for students, and more information about applying can be found on wia.unl.edu.

Since 1985, Nebraska Extension's Women in Agriculture program has sought to provide educational opportunities for all Nebraska women interested in developing agricultural management skills, through unbiased, research-based education. The program provides leadership, learning experiences, support and networking avenues to empower women to compete and survive in this challenging and complex industry.

Lincoln County Cattlemen To Host Candidates Forum

Lincoln County Cattlemen have scheduled a candidate forum to be held January 20th at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds, North Platte. Candidates for Governor, State Legislature and State School Board will all be attending. Moderators will be asking the candidates questions, but spectators will have the opportunity to submit questions to be asked.

The Gubernatorial candidate forum will begin at 5:30 with candidates Blood, Connelly, Herbster, Lindstrom, Ridenour and Thibodeau planning to be in attendance.

There will be a short break at approximately 7:00 p.m. and then the

second forum will begin at 7:30 for State Legislature and School Board candidates. The confirmed candidates for the second forum are Bruns, Fournier and McNea for

State Legislature District 42 and Stevens and Tegtmeyer for State School Board District 7. There will not be a meal and the forum is open to the general public.

Central Sandhills Extension To Sponsor Valentines For Veterans

Join the Central Sandhills Extension office in creating handmade Valentine's Day cards to send to Nebraska Veterans. This community service project is an opportunity to give back to those who have served in all branches of the military. The workshop is open to all youth; you do not need

to be enrolled in 4-H to attend. Locations and dates are as follows:

Mullen Extension Office: Jan. 31, 3:30 p.m.

Hyannis Schools, Ag Classroom: Feb. 1, 3:30 p.m.

Thomas Co. Library: Feb. 3, 3:30 p.m.

Sandhills High School Library: Feb. 4, 5:00 p.m.

The Dunning workshop will also double as open enrollment. If you have questions about enrolling your youth in 4-H, come talk with Shaniya. Pre-register before day of workshop by calling 308-645-2267. Youth under the age of 8 must have a helper present.

Gov. Ricketts: Supreme Court Right To Strike Down Biden's Overreach

Recently, Governor Pete Ricketts issued a statement following news that the United States Supreme Court has blocked the Biden-Harris Administration's vaccine mandate for private employers of 100 or more workers.

"The Biden Administration's OSHA vaccine mandate for private employers was illegal and authoritarian," said Gov.

Ricketts. "The Supreme Court has rightly struck down this stunning overreach of federal power. Letting the mandate stand would have created a dangerous precedent. Any future administration could then declare an emergency, publish OSHA rules, and force private businesses to enact federal policies. Thank you to Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson and his team for helping block this overreaching mandate."

The Governor also commented on the Court's 5-4 decision to uphold the federal vaccine mandate for Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) healthcare workers.

"At a time when the State of California is telling infected healthcare workers to care for patients, it defies logic to force unvaccinated doc-

tors and nurses to get COVID-19 shots. Especially when many of these medical professionals can prove they have developed a degree of natural immunity to the coronavirus. The Court's narrow ruling on the mandate for CMS healthcare workers is disappointing for thousands of women and men who've heroically served on the frontlines of the pandemic for nearly two years. I encourage anyone who has not gotten the vaccine for religious or medical reasons to seek an exemption."

Calling All 2021 Babies

No matter where you live, if you were born in 2021, you can be featured in The Stapleton Enterprise/McPherson County News and Thomas County Herald.

See the ad inside this issue for Information.