

Area Businesses Hit With Thefts

Story By:
Marcia Hora

Burglaries at three locations are under investigation by the Nebraska State Patrol and McPherson County Sheriff Tom Burch and Thomas County Sheriff Joseph Smith.

Trent Neal, owner of Neal Oil in Tryon, said his business was burglarized early Monday morning. A person or persons used a wheel waiting to have a tire put on it to break out the window and door to gain entry.

Thomas County Sheriff Smith said Ewoldt's Grocery, Thedford, and the Double T Bar in Halsey were also hit. Ewoldt's Grocery had two doors broken out to gain entry and the Double T had a door and window broken.

All three scenes were similar in the way entry was gained and each business had a minimal

amount of cash taken.

"We are increasing patrol in the villages and counties," Sheriff Smith said. "The state patrol investigator is assisting with the cases and we are working on leads."

Valley County Sheriff Casey Hurlburt reported in the January 26 issue of *The Ord Quiz* his county was experiencing a marked increase in local cases of burglary and theft in the area, usually in rural locations, which are directly related to the drug activity which has been escalating. Many of these criminals are not only coming into our county from elsewhere, they are actually living here, he said.

"As sheriff, I want these criminals to know that if you come into our county, or if you live in our area and are associated with these illegal activities, we are going to catch you."

The Valley County Sher-

iff's Office recently hired Deputy Shaun Muncy, who has also had K9 training and is well known for recognizing drug activity due to previous experience on the I-80 drug corridor.

Among busts in Valley County made by K9 Deputy Brendan Molden included Joseph L. Duran, 36, a transient on January 22. He was booked into Valley County Jail for felony possession of a controlled substance, both meth and cocaine, possession with intent to distribute, tampering with physical evidence, possession of a deadly weapon by a prohibited person, escape, and resisting arrest, and Toni S. Hopkins, 30, of North Platte, booked into Valley County Jail for felony possession of a controlled substance, criminal impersonation and obstructing a police officer.

Locals Honored At SJNSB Conference



SJNSB officers pictured l-r: out-going president Terri Licking, Thedford; incoming vice-president Bill Burdett, Cairo; incoming president Linda Teahon, Dunning; secretary Twila Phillips, Mullen; treasurer Jeanne Davis, Hyannis; directors Kathie Martindale, Brewster, Pat Bridges, Broken Bow, Patty Glidden standing in for husband Mitch, Mullen, and Linda Lacy, Ashby.

Story & Pictures By:
Linda Teahon

The Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway annual conference was held Saturday, February 5 at the One Box in Broken Bow. Throughout the afternoon a vendor showcase was offered by a variety of vendors. Meetings were also held to offer assistance and ideas to byway members and guests.

The evening banquet was well attended by members of the byway and friends. Keynote speaker was Kerri Rempp Executive Director of Northwest Nebraska Tourism from Chadron.

Officers were introduced including: out-going president Terri Licking of Thedford, incoming vice-president Bill Burdett of Cairo, incoming president Linda Teahon of Dunning, secretary Twila Phillips of Mullen, treasurer Jeanne Davis from Hyannis, directors Kathie Martindale of Brewster, Pat Bridges of Broken Bow, Mullen resident Patty Glidden standing in for husband Mitch and Linda Lacy from Ashby.

Award winners were Crossroads Toyota of Grand Island, Business of the Year; and Friend of the Byway, Bill Burdett with Horizons Without Bounds tours from Cairo. The Byway Enhance-

ment Award went to the community of Halsey. President Linda Teahon presented the award to Karen and Jim Swisher of Halsey. Swisher Haying creates the hay bale art displayed for various holidays throughout the year. Many other local Halsey residents plant and maintain flowers around town.

The Frontline Award went to Patrick Elgin of Alliance employed by Mi

Ranchito.

Alicia Clark of Thedford received a \$500 entrepreneurial grant award from Terri Licking. Alicia is in the process of opening a coffee shop in Thedford.

The Sandhills Journey National Scenic Byway is Nebraska Highway 2 stretching from Alliance to Grand Island. Businesses along the byway look forward to a busy tourism season this year.

Youth Make Valentines For Nebraska Veterans



JAMIE TAYLOR PHOTO

Over 25 elementary and preschool students gathered at the Thomas County Library to help make Valentines for Nebraska veterans.

By: Jamie Taylor

Twenty-seven preschool through sixth grade elementary students gathered after school on Thursday, February 3, at the Thomas County Library in Thedford, to make Valentines for Nebraska veterans.

Shaniya Albertus, 4H/Youth Development Assistant in the Central

Sandhills Nebraska Extension office, organized the event and also hosted similar events in Hyannis, Mullen, and Dunning.

"I want to thank all the youth and volunteers who helped make this event successful," Albertus said.

The kids created as many cards as they wanted for veterans and the Extension office will

be sending them to veterans in area nursing homes, as well as veterans nursing homes for Valentine's Day.

In addition, Thedford's eighth-grade computer class also created digital cards and printed them for the event. Throughout the four workshops over 150 cards were made which will be sent to the veterans.

Campaign for Nebraska Legislative District 42

By: Terri Licking

Three candidates are vying for the Nebraska Legislative District 42 seat now held by Senator Groene of North Platte who is term limited out.

District 42 now consists of counties previously in the 43rd District including Hooker, Thomas, McPherson, Logan, and a split in Perkins County. Elsie and Madrid will join the 42nd while Grant is in the 44th District.

Senator Tom Brewer's 43rd District now also encompasses all of Custer County and he will be serving his final four years.

Voters in District 42 will decide between three candidates, Chris Bruns, Brenda Fournier, and Mel McNea, all of North Platte, and all are Republicans.

Because the Unicameral is non-partisan, the top two vote getters in the



TERRI LICKING PHOTO

The three candidates for Legislative District 42, l-r: Mel McNea, Chris Bruns and Brenda Fournier

May 10 primary will continue to campaign for the November 8 general election.

A look at the three candidates:

Chris Bruns currently chairs the Lincoln County board of commissioners and is one of the youngest to be elected commissioner. He served 10 years in the Marines and returned to North Platte in 2018 to ranch and raise

his family which includes his wife Ashley and their three children.

Bruns is not one to shirk in taking on tough challenges and leading from the front. His has experience in combat operations and has led international humanitarian operations in the Marines. He has helped